



Journal Entries

Superintendent Pay Increase

The Journal obtained a copy of the superintendent contract addendum, which was approved April 24. The addendum entails a pay raise for the superintendent. From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024: 5 percent; From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025: 6 percent. The superintendent will receive a 6 percent raise each year after 2024 until 2027.

Operation Honor Guard

Veterans will be in the SavMor parking lot to collect donations for Operation Honor Guard on May 10. They will be in the lot from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

USI Retirees Breakfast

Anyone who worked for the company USI, Quantum, Equistar, LyondellBasel (or any of its other names) in Tuscola is invited to attend a retiree's breakfast at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur on Wednesday, May 17 at 8:00 a.m. Please call Dan Miller at 217/649-9656 with any questions.

Nifty 50s

The Villa Grove Nifty 50s are seeking a leader for the upcoming annual meeting. Please call (217) 832-9770 or (217) 840-9566 if you are interested.

Veteran Reunion

The Korner Beehive is hosting the third annual Beehive Veteran Reunion on May 27 in partnership with VFW Post 2876. Logan Chapman, David Allen Stone, Spectrum, and Ancient Ways will bring live music at the plaza. Vendors will be available along Main Street. Admission will be to Charity and the Villa Grove Community Building.

Villa Grove Alumni

Villa Grove Alumni can attend a banquet at the school gym celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Villa Grove Basketball and Baseball State Championship on May 27, with dinner at 6 p.m. Class reunions will be throughout the afternoon. Some events require admission. Call Pam Long Sigler at (217) 832-9067 or Sandi Anderson Cruzan at (217) 369-1661 for more information or reservations.

Summer Art Camp

The Vault Art Gallery in Tuscola is hosting a summer art camp June 12-16 with the theme of Humans and the Environment. Class size is limited to 15 students per session. For more info, contact Debbie Nivens at the Vault Art Gallery (217) 722-2187.

5K Run/Walk

The third annual Pound the Pavement for Pride 5k Color Run/Walk is looking for runners to sign up for the 5k. The race will be on June 10 with a 7 a.m. registration and 8 a.m. start at the Tuscola Community Building. More information and sign up link at <https://www.facebook.com/tuscolagsaboosterclub>.

Dine with A Doc

Senior Education Ministries is hosting Dine with a Doc in Tuscola on the 4th Thursday of every month (from 11:30a-1:30p at the Tuscola First Christian Church located at 100 Church St. Tuscola.

Tuscola Public Library Events

Youth Bingo, May 8, 4 p.m.
Lego Club, May 9, 4 p.m.
Goodnight Storytime with Mr. Wallace, May 10, 6:30 p.m.
Storytime, every Tuesday at 10 a.m. with special guests
Exploring Cinema, The Grapes of Wrath, May 3, 6 p.m.
Travel Club, Northern France, May 23, 5 p.m.
Book Discussion, American Nations, May 31, 6 p.m.
Library Book Sale, May 15-20



VETERANS, left to right, Troy Gray, Dave Olson, Charolie Burris, Ron Floyd and Mary Hite lead the front of the Loyalty Day Parade in Villa Grove on May 6. A gallery of parade photos can be found on page 10. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Old water main break causes loss of water services

By Dominik Stallings

Tuscola lost water Saturday night when an old water main broke at 7:30 p.m. underneath the railroad on Main Street.

Water service came back at 11:30 p.m. later that night under a boil order, which was lifted at 3:38 p.m. on Sunday.

According to City Administrator Drew Hoel, the city found a leak underneath the railroad coming from an old cast iron pipe with no valves.

Denny Cruzan, city foreman, said newer water main pipes are encased, meaning they are pipes within a pipe; but the older mains that run under the tracks are not.

Due to a lack of an encasing pipe, the leak could not be repaired. The crew continued to perform a line stop to shut off the pipe that morning. The city has previously installed two other water mains at the Niles and Washington crossings, so stopping the line would not have impacted water service significantly.



THE CITY HOOKED UP A THIRD PUMP to try to remove water from a pit at Main and South Central. Foreman Denny Cruzan said the repair would take only about 15 minutes if they can clear enough water out. Photo by David Porter.

Hoel said that the contractors did everything they could to prevent the pipe from breaking. He said the water main broke because a piece of

the contractor's equipment was destroyed while working on the leak.

"We had to shut it off and shut off the valve coming into town or it was

going to do it for us," said Hoel.

After the water service was online, the city issued a city-wide boil order. Several businesses had to close or reduce their services over the weekend.

Hoel said because of the citywide loss of water pressure, the city had to test the water twice due to Illinois EPA requirements. The water tests and sampling have to be performed by a certified lab outside of Tuscola and require bacteria to grow in a petri dish. The whole process can take up to 18 hours. Cruzan said testing is normally constrained to regular business hours but that the company made an exception to expedite water service to the city. Both tests passed, which allowed Tuscola to lift the boil order Sunday afternoon.

Mayor Dan Kleiss said there is a lot of good information about boil orders on the city's website at tuscola.org.

City opens church time capsule to find waterlogged papers

By David Porter

A small crowd gathered at Tuscola City Hall Monday evening in anticipation of the opening of a time capsule from the old Presbyterian Church.

The copper box was found inside the cornerstone of the building, which had not been used as a church for many years. After serving as a retail outlet under

the name Castle Mall, the building was unoccupied when it burned last year July 9. The city acquired the property to ensure its timely demolition in April of this year. The wrecking crew found the time capsule and gave it back to the city.

The box was crammed full of old newspapers including the Tuscola Journal Republican, The

Tuscola Review and a couple of Chicago newspapers.

Most of the papers were from 1902, when the contents were sealed, but the Review was a special edition published in 1899 containing photos and drawings of local homes, businesses and people. Also in the box were publications from Tuscola High School and several local churches.

Unfortunately, the contents were waterlogged. The fragile pages were stuck together. Mayor Dan Kleiss and Treasurer Alta Long spent nearly an hour after the meeting carefully separating pages and spreading them out to dry in an effort to preserve the papers.

Judy Landeck asked the Council to see **TIME CAPSULE** page 9

Human trafficking victim advocates to give presentation

Tuscola United Methodist Church will host speakers Kara and Paul Doan on Sunday, May 21, at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The speakers are directly involved in disrupting the cycle of Human Trafficking.

Kara Doan, a former teacher, is the CEO and co-founder of Restoration 61, a nonprofit organization that

changes lives by disrupting the cycle of human trafficking. Paul, her husband and co-founder, is leaving his nursing career to join her full-time.

Both Paul and Kara Doan will come using a video/ power point program and will provide brochures, and information on a table.

Several years ago, National United Women in Faith had this subject

as a priority; it was not eliminated but has increased. Human trafficking is the buying and selling of individuals to engage in some form of labor or commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

The nonprofit organization Restoration 61, with a base in Naperville, is dedicated to restoring lives affected by human trafficking and

exploitation and to impacting communities to take action. Their services include crisis intervention, advocacy, case management, groups, clinical services and outreach. One of the volunteers said, "Don't think it is not in your town, and I-57 is used for the transportation of victims caught up in this horrific industry."

See **TRAFFIC** page 9

History of Villa Grove alumni reunions

By Tony Hooker

In 1904, Theodore Roosevelt was president and the Japanese and Russians were at war with each other.

You could buy a Cashmere or Worsted Suit for a haberdashery on Main Street for around \$10. The

Villa Grove Gazette, a precursor to the Villa Grove News and the Journal, editorialized about the need

for a new school for Villa Grove, as the one in old town was too crowded for the 300-500 students who were expected to attend in the fall. Six passenger trains a day, three headed south and three headed north, left the Villa Grove station.

Also in 1904, the Villa Grove school alumni association held their first end of year banquet, an event that has taken place annually

ever year since, except for the two covid years of 2020 and 2021.

Alumni, as it is known to all, will once again be taking place on May 27 and according to Pam Sigler, a special recognition will be given to the one hundredth anniversary of the VGHS boys' basketball state championship and to other successful high school teams.

Sigler, who has been involved

in planning alumni events for over forty years, has seen interest in the events rise and fall over the years. "We used to send out over 1800 invitations for the event, back in the 90's," Sigler said.

In 1954, over 400 people returned to Villa Grove to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the event, which included the class of '29

See **ALUMNI** page 9