



Journal Entries

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.

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.

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 to 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.

Senior Services

Family Service Senior Resource Center is providing van transportation for Douglas County residents age 60+ for the Black Horse Powwow in Taylorville on Saturday, June 3. Seating is limited, please call (217) 599-1324 to reserve a seat and schedule the trip.

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 signup link at <https://www.facebook.com/tuscolagsaboosterclub>.

Story time

Camargo Township District Library will be holding story time every Thurs. from 3:30 to 4:30.

Tuscola Public Library Events

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

Contact

If you have any information you would like included in Journal Entries or would like to submit a photo to the community page, please send an email to dominik@thetuscolajournal.com



DURING A CAR CRASH SIMULATION, a Carle AirLife helicopter landed on the Villa Grove football field, demonstrating how medical crews transport injured patients to the hospital. Students were shown the demonstration prior to Prom, to encourage healthy decisions. *Photo by Dominik Stallings.*

Villa Grove School solar leasing agreement was turned down

By Gabriella Agius

During the Villa Grove Board of Education meeting on May 15, the Board was met with updates regarding the solar project.

QFB Energy notified members that the leasing agreement that was proposed was turned down by the bank. The Board will need to be updated on different options for claiming the tax credit.

QFB Energy is waiting for guidance from the Department of Treasury on how to proceed with direct payment for solar for nonprofits. The solar project interconnection agreement and leasing agreement are still in progress, so the district isn't committed to anything at this time.

The Board is still interested in so-

lar, but the project will be on pause while things are being looked at.

The Board was visited by faculty about concerns with cell phone usage at school. Callie Parr spoke on the amount of unconsented posting of fellow students, faculty, and staff. The usage has become unmanageable and has caused disruption in the classroom. Confiscation often results in "tantrums and rages, even in high school students."

Bryan Murawski was next to speak on phone usage, providing examples of disruptions. One student brought their phone into the ACT exam, resulting in their removal and their test being invalidated. Another student utilized their smartwatch during a final exam, looking at a study guide and

cheating.

The Board has not approved changes to the handbook yet, but will vote at a later meeting.

Proposed changes to the cell phone usage policies are as follows: cellular devices need to be off and in the student's locker from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. The only exception to this is lunchtime, when high school students are allowed to have their phones. Upon the fourth offense to this policy, the student will have to turn their phone in at the office every morning.

Other changes include the combination of elementary, junior high, and high school handbooks. This will create a district handbook. Inserts will be added to differentiate between elementary and junior high/high school.

Principal Jones also proposed an updated GPA scale. This will make class ranking more equitable. Weighted classes will now be worth six points, unweighted will be worth four points, and general classes will be worth five points. This will remain on a five-point scale.

Other changes are to be made to the handbook but will be addressed and approved at a later meeting.

The Board approved the amended budget for the fiscal year ending June 20, 2023, liability insurance package renewal, and superintendent contract renewal.

The Board also approved giving authority to Superintendent Munson
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VGJH student earns second in national competition

By Dominik Stallings

Villa Grove Junior High student Kori Russell earned second place in a nationwide photography contest run by Jostens.

The company provides merchandise for graduation, such as yearbooks, frames for diplomas, class rings and more.

"It was super exciting. I didn't think I was going to win or that it was a big deal. I was just told to enter my photo," said Russell.

Russel is an eighth-grade student who sometimes helps out in the yearbook class run by Brian Cordes. She's been helping out since seventh grade when she started learning how to operate a digital camera.

"I've always liked photography. On my phone, when me and my mom go flower shopping, I take closeup pictures, it's different on an actual camera but it's awesome," said Russell.

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KORI RUSSELL'S PHOTOGRAPH won second place in the nationwide Jostens photo competition. Villa Grove high school students pull on a rope during a game of tug of war, during the 2022 homecoming. *Photo by Kori Russell.*

The Cage moves to new location in Tuscola

By Dominik Stallings

Locals are able to hone their baseball and softball skills at The Cage, a training facility in Tuscola.

The Cage moved from Tolono in Champaign County into Tuscola's downtown area at the beginning of May. They are now located at 125 W. South Central in Tuscola.

Ryan Tabeling, the owner of the Cage, said the building he was leasing in Tolono was sold. Luckily for him, Brett Adkisson reached out to him and showed him the space on South Central. Tabeling said he saw the possibilities in the new space and within a week, he started moving forward with the move.

"It's always nerve-wracking to make a move," said Tabeling.

He's now moved his business

twice, and each time, he's been worried about losing some of his clients. Every time he does move, coincidentally a bit further south each time, he finds new ones. He first started out in Champaign 15 years ago with his brother Shawn Tabeling. They opened up the business in a small warehouse with two cages. They both wanted to open a business for their children when they played travel ball.

"It was basically just finding a way to find opportunities to help the local programs in the area," said Tabeling.

Folks who have used The Cages' services before will see the same familiar faces. Donna Dibise, Eddie Edwards, Riley Myers, Andrew Erickson, Erin Walker, Shelby Mar-

tell and Jon Fisher are the instructors, teaching aspiring players how to play better. Each instructor has experience in playing softball, baseball or coaching the sport.

"We have a current clientele which is really loyal to us, a lot of that is just how good our instructors are. That's how our business has been able to maintain over the years," said Tabeling. "The number one thing is giving clientele good instruction and feedback."

Instructors cant teach one-on-one and in small groups. Tabeling said that they also do clinics for fielding, hitting or pitching, pretty much anything baseball or softball related. They are also going to

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Ryan Tabeling