

In Remembrance of those who served



The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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Journal Entries

Graduation Sections

See our graduation sections C and D in this week's edition! Congratulations graduates!

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 go 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.

Nifty Fifties

The Villa Grove Nifty Fifties will hold this year's luncheon at the Villa Grove Christian Church, 704 S. Sycamore St on Saturday, May 27 beginning at 11:30 a.m. A box lunch will be provided.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Victoria Cisney and Justine Kauffman for making the 2023 Spring Dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University.

Congratulations to Dalton J. Hoel and Noah Charles Pierce for graduating from McKendree University.

Queens in the Corn

Queens in the Corn tickets are on sale. The drag show will take place at 7 p.m. on June 10 at the Tuscola Community Building. All ticket proceeds benefit rural LGBTQ youth. More information can be found on the Queens in the Corn Facebook page.

Farmers Market

Tuscola's 1st Friday Farmer's Market will take place May 2 from 5- 7:30 p.m. in downtown Tuscola.

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
Book Discussion, American nations, May 31, 6 p.m.

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



TUSCOLA 2023 GRADUATES took a photo with this year's kindergarten class on Honors Day, May 19. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.

Tuscola School District receives \$1 million tax bump

By Dominik Stallings

Tuscola School District received a large payment of over \$1 million in Personal Property Replacement Taxes (PPRT) last month, according to Superintendent Gary Alexander. The payment brought the total PPRT revenue to over \$4.5 million.

"It's a lot more than estimated," said Alexander.

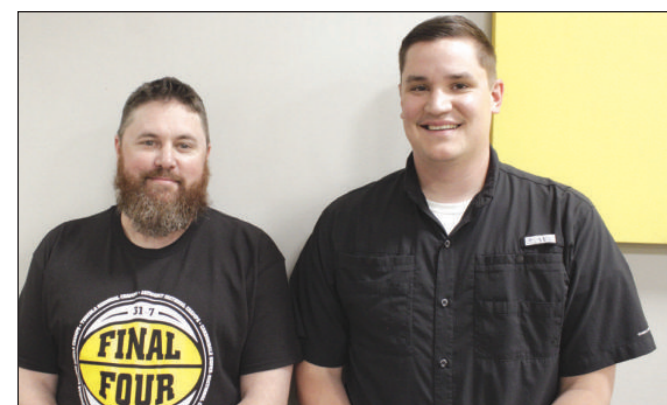
But he added that people shouldn't expect large numbers like that going forward. However, he still appreciates the revenue, which has been added to the amended tentative budget, which can

be viewed for 30 days before the next budget hearing in June. In the amended tentative budget, which was approved in the meeting, were also changes to ES-SER expenditures as well as other miscellaneous budget items.

Tuscola School Board swore in and welcomed its new members, Rusty Yantis and Judson Wienke, at the May 24 School Board meeting.

At the meeting, the Board approved the retirements/ resignations of Beth Gibson, a teacher at East Praire, Kristen

See BOARD page 4



NEWLY SWORN IN Tuscola school board members Rusty Yantis and Judson Wienke. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Tuscola pool opening likely to be delayed

By David Porter

The Tuscola swimming pool opening will likely be delayed, City Administrator Drew Hoel said Monday at the Tuscola City Council meeting. The main circulating pump is busted.

Hoel said he does not yet have an estimate of the cost of the time needed to make the repair. City Foreman

Denny Cruzan said it's dependent on being able to find the parts that are needed to make the repair. Once the parts are in, the repair should not take long, he said.

In other business, the Council declared a 2016 police car to be surplus property to be sold. Hoel said the car is parked at the south fire station with a for sale sign on it.

The Council approved spending \$104,500 for a used bucket truck. It's a 2010 International 105 with a 105-foot extension.

Alderman Troy Rund questioned spending that much on a truck that is more than 10 years old.

Cruzan said he found a 2-year-old truck that was priced at \$480,000.

Hoel said the truck has low miles

and low hours of usage. He said he hopes the city will get 10 years out of it.

The truck will replace a 1993 model that the city bought used and has had for about 10 years. Cruzan said he will ask the Council to declare that truck as surplus after the newer truck arrives.

See POOL page 10

Learning about the U.S. and Spain through foreign exchange

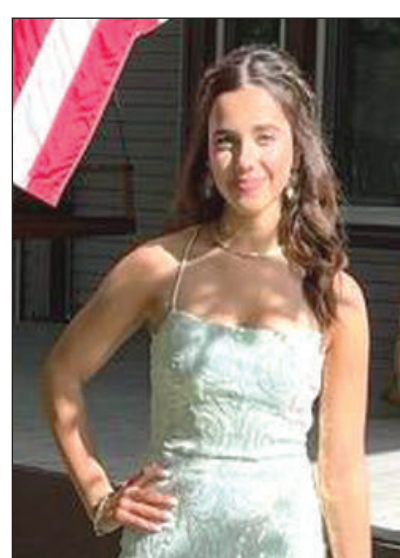
By Dominik Stallings

It's going to be hard for Olivia Coll Rubio to go home once she walks across the stage during the Tuscola graduation this coming weekend.

The sophomore is a transfer student from Alegete, Spain, which is close to Spain's capital, Madrid.

Throughout her year, she had the opportunity to experience some of the best things high school life has to offer, homecoming, prom, the basketball team going to state and even traveling across the country.

Her favorite week during her exchange year was homecoming. Rubio said she had lower expectations for the event since she didn't



OLIVIA COLL RUBIO poses in front of the American flag, ready for prom.

know what it would be like. For her, Homecoming was an exciting surprise. She enjoyed powderpuff football and other school events during spirit week. Bonfires, dinner and spending time with friends made the week even better.

She also enjoyed prom, which she thought was very much like what she's seen in movies.

Another memorable experience for Rubio was going to state for basketball with the rest of the school as well as Carbondale for Super Sectionals this year.

The trip to Carbondale was filled with excitement as the Warriors grew closer to competing in the state championship. The win

for the boy's basketball team gave her and other students the chance to see the state competition at the State Farm Center in Champaign.

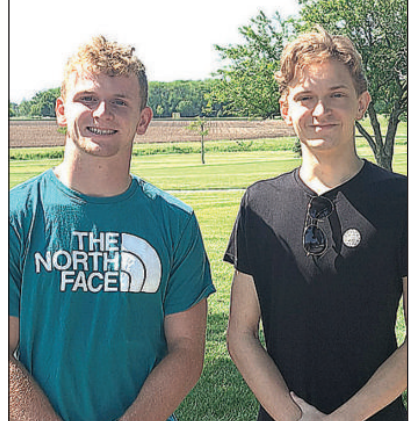
In Spain, they don't have school-sponsored team sports. Rubio recalled that students who do sports outside of school usually don't get as much support as students do in the States. They usually just go to whatever event, possibly with parents, and leave as soon as they're done.

Rubio compared her school life to Spain's school system. It was one of the biggest changes for her when she traveled here. She found it was a bit more fun to attend classes

See EXCHANGE page 10

A look ahead with 2023 VG Valedictorian and Salutatorian

By Tony Hooker



Luke Zimmerman and Jesse Bessent.

When speaking with Luke Zimmerman and Jesse Bessent, it quickly becomes apparent that their personalities are quite different. Luke, the VGHS class of 2023 Valedictorian, is gregarious and outgoing, seemingly seeking opportunities to engage and help his fellow man. Jesse, the VGHS Salutatorian, on the other hand, is much more reflective. I recently caught up with the pair to talk about their paths to academic success, what their future holds, and much more.

For both boys, the pursuit of academic excellence has been ongoing for most of their academic careers. Luke said he started focusing on homework around the 3rd grade, and Jesse reported a

similar awakening. Both students were quick to point out the role their parents have played in their dedication to the books. "My parents basically told me that I had to get good grades if I wanted to do something with my life, so I just focused on it." "It was about the same deal with me," Bessent stated. "My parents just told me to get good grades and I listened."

For Zimmerman, one key, yet often unrecognized factor weighed in on his academic success over the years. "A little bit of it is blind luck," he said when asked about the keys to his performance. "It helps if you're smart, to an extent." Of course, he also realized that hard work was the main contributor. "I do study quite a bit, and if I

don't know something, I go in and ask about it and learn it and then I'm ready for the test." Bessent too stated that hard work was the key. "If you understand it, you understand it, and if you don't you force yourself to through study, because focusing on the future is really important with that."

For each, good time management is a necessary skill. Besides his academics, Bessent has a part time job at Tri City CC and was a member of the golf team, while Zimmerman participates in seemingly every sport, as well as helping with Villa Grove's special Olympians, FFA and many other activities. Interestingly, the two young men's dedicated time to

See Future page 6

\$1.50

