



Journal Entries

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>.

Farmers market

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

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.

Senior service event

Family Service Senior Resource Center and Moose Lodge bring you Movies at the Moose. Join us the first Wednesday of the month for a free movie and snacks for those over 60 or with a disability. Call Connie to save a seat. (217) 599-1324.

Queens of the Corn

Queens of 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.

Recovery-oriented education

Upcoming topic: Pathways to recovery, discussions may include medication, assisted treatment, twelve steps programs and more. June 21 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Camargo Township District Library.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Emily Kemp for receiving the Behavioral Science Award from the Millikin University.

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



FOLLOWING TRADITION, the graduating seniors of the TCHS 2023 class sprayed silly string on each other at the end of the ceremony on May 27. *Photo by Rachel Ray.*

Villa Grove Ag Days to include rodeo event

Villa Grove City Council heard a presentation from South Plains Rodeo Company during their May 22 meeting. The company plans to host a rodeo during Villa Grove Ag Days.

Garrett Miller and Caleb Garrett from South Plains Rodeo Company presented their plan to the council. Miller noted that plans were being put in place and that they would be hosting a traditional IPRA

event on Friday night and a "ranch rodeo" on Saturday of Ag Days. He noted that his company currently hosts 16 professional rodeos and all of the Indiana high school rodeos. Bruce Allen from the Ag Days steering committee, questioned whether the rodeo would compete with Ag Days events. Miller assured him that it would work in conjunction with Ag Days rather than against it. He noted that some

of his other events drew between 2500 and 3000 people and that they could potentially be Ag Days customers since his events only last two hours. The council then discussed having some sort of shuttle to run people between the two events.

In other business, Allen requested the use of city streets and properties for the annual event, to be held on Aug. 4 and 5. He not-

ed that Clay County Amusements was no longer in business and that Connor Family Amusements would now present the carnival. He also noted that more vendors and food options would be available in 2023. He also noted that they were discussing with area residents about hosting the car show, which had been an annual

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VILLA GROVE SENIORS of the 2023 class throw up their caps and release a burst of confetti to celebrate their graduation. *Photo by Dominik Stallings.*

Tuscola School District principle's report

In the Principal's reports, North Ward Principal Jason Wallace thanked PTO for their involvement in the Tiger Trot and TCHS for providing facilities. They raised \$17,000 through the event and also received a \$1,000 donation from McDonald's for McDonald's Day. The restaurant gave every student burgers, apples, and cookies and donated four bikes.

Wallace said the field trips went well and applauded the fourth grade for their exemplary behavior.

Wallace was also happy with the third and fourth-grade choir and their musical, which featured a plethora of Disney movie songs.

He also congratulated Miley Renels and Owen Lauwers for being selected by North Ward Staff as rep-

resentatives for the school at the IPA breakfast at the I-Hotel. He said that they showed great growth from the event.

He was also pleased with the Big Buddies event and said it was fun to seniors are often like the younger kids, which is a positive. The Senior Walk was also a great tradition, according to Wallace.

He thanked to all the paraprofessionals, teachers, Aramark staff and subs at North Ward.

East Prairie Principal Jared Vanusdoll thanked students, parents, staff, Gary Alexander, the school board and community members for making the year successful. He also

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Burnett inducted into VGHS Hall of Fame

By Tony Hooker

I never knew Ralph W. Burnett, but knowing his family lineage, he probably would have wondered what all the hubbub was about. But surviving World War II prisoner of war camps and returning to Illinois to carve out a career as a very successful farm advisor, realtor and businessman is a pretty big deal. Big enough to be selected as this year's Villa Grove High School Hall of Fame inductee.

According to his biography, Ralph was born on the family farm northwest of Villa Grove, where he lived with his brothers John and Mark and sister Anne. Like many farm kids growing up in the 30's and 40's, the Burnett kids attended a one room schoolhouse, with theirs being located in Crittenden township. Ralph then matriculated to Villa Grove high school, where he excelled, especially in science and was awarded the annual Outstanding Science student



PAM SIGLER with Hall of Fame inductee Ralph Burnett plaque accepted by nephew Steve Burnett. *Photo by Dominik Stallings.*

award for his efforts.

Ralph graduated in 1941 and attended the University of Illinois, graduating with a degree in Agriculture in 1943. At that time, he was called to serve his country in the great war, and enlisted in the US Army Air Force, where he served as a waist gunner in B17's. It was here that Ralph's hard-working farm upbringing would serve him well.

After making one successful sortie with the B17 it's crew, Ralph's second mission would not end so well, as the Flying Fortress was shot down over France, resulting in him being captured by the Germans. For nine months, he was a POW, marching over 600 miles and being crammed onto train cars like cattle. Ralph's empathetic nature came to the fore, time and time again. He referred to the food they were served as "slop" and would eat only enough to subsist,

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