



# The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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## 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>.

### 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.

### Tuscola United Methodist Church events

The Tuscola United Methodist Women will be hosting a brunch at The Smith House, Tuscola, on Sunday, June 11 at 10:30 a.m. All proceeds go toward local missions. Due to limited seating, the reservations will be taken in order received. Please contact Janet Butler at 217-253-5107 to make a reservation.

The TUMC TBS is June 20-22 from 6-7:30 p.m. Theme for this year is "Pets Unleashed: Where Jesus Cares FUR You!" Join for three nights of Faith and Fun with snacks, games, prizes, Bible Stories, pets and music. June 22 Pauly's BBQ Food Truck will be in the church parking lot.

### Flag retirement

TK Martin Post 10009 is performing a flag retirement ceremony at 6 p.m. at Erwin Park on June 14. The Auxillary will be handing out free hot dogs at 5 p.m. on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### 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.

### Story time

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

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Jake Reed for placing on the Spring 2023 Dean's List at DePaw University, in Indiana.

Congratulations to Cameron Ochs for placing on the Spring 2023 Dean's List at Southeast Missouri State University.

### Blood donation

Tuscola Methodist Church is hosting a blood drive with ImpactLife on June 27 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 901 N. Prairie St.. Appointments require, call 800-747-5401 to make an appointment.

### Corrections

We have reprinted the photos of awards given out at the Villa Grove Banquet on May 27. Dr. Steven Leon's name has been correctly printed.

We are also reprinting the VG class of 2013 reunion photo with names.

The VG class of 1988 photo has been reprinted with the correct class year.

### Villa Grove class reunions

If you have a class reunion photo, you'd like to run. Please email us at [dominik@thetuscolajournal.com](mailto:dominik@thetuscolajournal.com)

We are looking for names of people in the 1983 class reunion photo that was taken last week.

## Dumpster divers' delight at TCHS School dumps old furnishings to make way for new

By Dominik Stallings

Tuscola High School's construction work has been in full swing since May 30. As part of an original \$11 million construction contract and an additional \$5.5 million contract, Omni Energy is renovating the ag

classroom, cafeteria and stage, and several other infrastructure projects, such as air conditioning installation throughout the high school.

According to an email from Superintendent Gary Alexander, the current ag classroom and shop will

move to the space that was ag three years ago. The cafeteria will move to where the current ag classroom and shop is and will have a mixture of old and new equipment.

Tuscola residents have noted that the school was seemingly throwing

away large amounts of wood materials from the former industrial arts program, as well as chairs and tables and other equipment.

Board Secretary Darold Spillman  
**See CONSTRUCTION page 4**



CHAIRS AND DESKS are stacked on the grass in the parking lot on the southern side of the school. Photo by David Porter.



CHAIRS AND DESKS stick out of the dumpster in the parking lot on the southern side of the school. Photo by David Porter.

## Historic Flesor's receives \$40,000 national grant



Flesor's Candy Kitchen

Flesor's Candy Kitchen received a \$40,000 "Backing Historic Small Restaurants" grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, through the financial service corporation American Express.

Flesor's Candy Kitchen is one of 25 recipients to receive funding from the collective one million dollars.

"This year's restaurants embody the unique stories of how local businesses empower communities, sustain cultural traditions, and extend family legacies," said Katherine Malone-France, Chief Preservation Officer, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Devon Flesor, the owner of Flesor's Candy Kitchen, said, "It's fantastic because we couldn't afford to do this work ourselves. We would have ignored it as long as we could since we don't have the extra money,"

The \$40,000 is going toward the outer facade of the original building.

**See FLESOR'S page 8**

## Jarman Plaza opens new gym in Tuscola

By Dominik Stallings

Relentless Gym, a new fitness facility in Tuscola, opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 3. Visitors were able to see the facilities and enjoy free sandwiches provided by Tuscola's Kirby Foods.

Building Owner Chris Robinson gave tours of the Jarman Plaza, with his ongoing revitalization project happening all across the old hospital. Relentless Gym is open 24/7 for

### Offers personal training, fitness classes and yoga

members and offers all the usual gym equipment that you might find elsewhere. The space is easy to find. You can find treadmills and other training equipment immediately on your right side when you walk into the building.

Stuart Wolf, Cam Fry and Sierra Fry provide personalized training with N.O.W: Nothing Over Will. They

also offer small group classes Monday through Thursday with high-intensity training. Missy Shunk also offers personal training through Missyfit Personal Training.

Each provides a personalized workout experience through different packages to fit individual needs. For more information on personal training, you can visit

their Facebook pages.

If working out on your own or with a personal trainer doesn't quite fit you, you can join a fitness class with Amber Seip, who hosts strength and conditioning classes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:45-6:30 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 a.m. and 4:45-6 p.m. For more information, you can

**See GYM page 8**

## Stone: Using music to help himself and others

By Tony Hooker

The actual number varies a bit, but that's not really the issue. The fact is that more than 15 veterans take their own life every day, and that's too many. There was a time when country musician David Allen Stone could have been one of them. I recently talked to him about just that, and about how he was able to fight back his demons after returning home from Afghanistan, his career, and much more.

Stone, who serves as a First Sergeant in the Illinois National Guard, returned home to Hutsonville six years ago after deploying to Afghanistan with his unit, and soon many of the issues that plague returning soldiers started to haunt him. In a way, those struggles are what have brought him to this point in his career. "I was struggling with depression and alcoholism, and I started writing a song," Stone exclaimed. I didn't really finish it until a few years



DAVID ALLEN STONE performs in the Villa Grove Plaza during the Beehive Veteran Reunion on May 27. Photo by Tony Hooker.

later, when a good friend of mine named Tyler Zellers took his own life." The Song, called "Bury These Burdens," is about suicide awareness and prevention among soldiers, and the loss of his friend compelled him to finish it.

For Stone, music is what saved him from a fate like that of his buddy. "Music literally saved my life," he stated, "because I can put all the emotions that I'm feeling into my guitar."

Not content to simply write the song, Stone soon found himself in Nashville, Tenn., where he recorded it and also made a video. "It's available on all music streaming platforms," said the artist, who is quick to point out that he's a country singer but will cover the occasional rock and roll song.

Stone has also been involved with TV.

"There's a television broadcast  
**See STONE page 8**

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