

**Scout**

From page 1

mitment was a bit more substantial. "It took over 100 hours to complete it," He said.

One aspect of the Eagle projects that not everyone might be aware of is that the projects are 100 percent funded by the scouts themselves. The projects themselves cost each scout a substantial amount, over \$400. A portion of the funds came from their scout accounts, which they contributed to through candy bar and popcorn sales, as well as other fundraising activities.

Scouting has been a big part of these young men's lives for many years, and

all three plan on continuing their involvement even after they pass their boards and are designated as Eagles.

"Yes. I would like to continue helping younger scouts by sharing my knowledge. I might be a leader when I have my own kid," Bennett commented. Carroll concurred, stating that he plans on being involved in scouts for as long as he can, even after he ages out. Reyling, on the other hand, still has four years to decide and said that he hasn't given it a lot of thought.

Of course, along with the pride that comes with a job well done, all three scouts have seen a more pragmatic side of earning the highest designation in Boy Scouts.

"It's an honor and respon-

sibility, but at the same time, it gives me a huge advantage in life. A lot of job and college applications look for that sort of thing," Reyling enthused.

All three scouts have been contemplating what the future might hold, with Carroll and Bennett both leaning toward careers in the trades.

"I'm still trying to plan all that out. I plan on going into the trades, because I'm actually really good at working with my hands. That's why I chose a hands-on project like this," Bennett stated. Carroll said that he's considering a career in HVAC but hadn't looked too far beyond that. Reyling, on the other hand, said that he wants to go to UIUC and get a degree in mechanical engineering, with a focus on automotive.

The trio were all quick to thank their dads for their assistance and encouragement. "I think the biggest thing pushing me through has been my Dad. He has been with me through the whole thing, and it would be really great to get that accomplishment for him," Carroll stated when asked about what had been his biggest motivation for finishing his project.

All three young men were quick to state that their time in scouting had been interesting and rewarding, and Carroll summed it up best at the end of his interview, "I highly recommend scouting to anyone who may be interested. It's not for everyone, but I think everyone should give it a try."

# Newspaper wins award at the IPA's annual convention

The Tuscola Review, now part of The Journal, picked up a first place award Friday at the Illinois Press Association's annual convention in Bloomington.

The award was for best local editorial and compared the cost of high-end scoreboards for the high school to buying a Lamborghini for a driver's

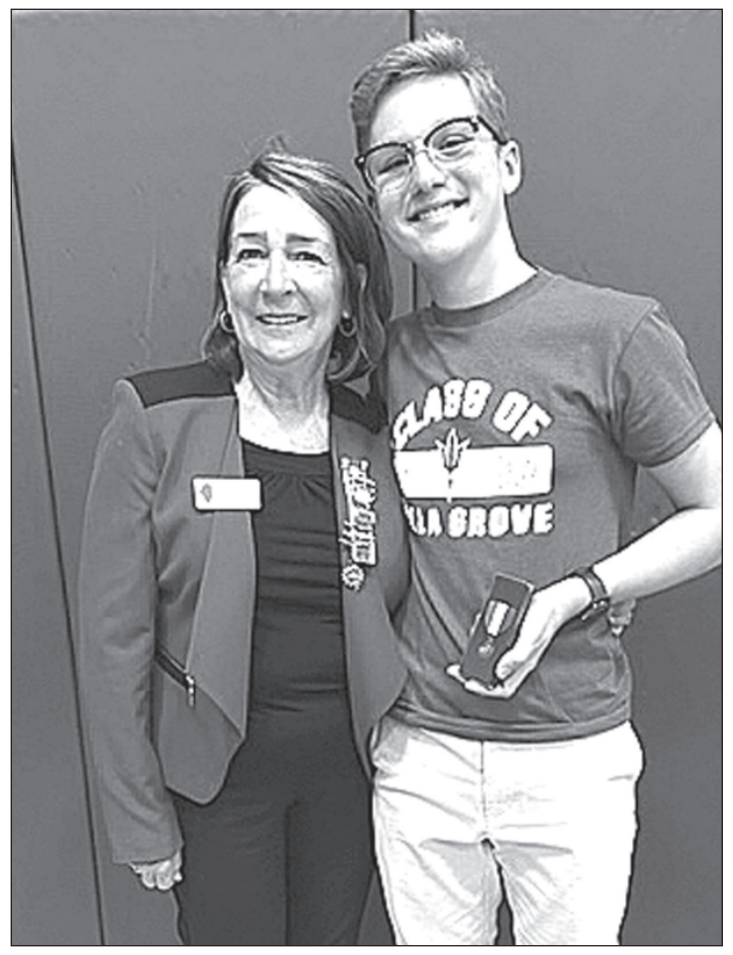
ed car. David Porter, The Journal's regional managing editor, wrote the editorial and also picked up a fourth place award for best original column.

# 2023 Villa Grove DAR History Award given to Owen Kneer

For 45 years, it has been an annual tradition with the Stephen A. Douglas Chapter NSDAR to award an American History medal to an eighth grade student in each Douglas County schools during eighth grade promotion exercises. The Grace Jared Award recognizes the student who is outstanding in his/her awareness in and knowledge of American history and current events and for the student's leadership and citizenship skills.

This year's American History medal was awarded to Owen Kneer, son of Robert and Nicole Kneer.

2023 Douglas County students recognized were: Arcola: Gavin Storm; Arthur: Cameron McGill; Atwood: Ben Newhouse; Shiloh: Alison Cash; Tuscola: Ethan Hegarty.



**RYKER REYLING AND RYAN REYLING stand by the newly built flag retirement box on Main Street in Villa Grove. Photo by Tony Hooker.**

**City**

From page 1

Hoel said the projects were estimated at \$2 million but that was purposefully optimistic. He said he doesn't like to publish a more realistic estimate because he wants contractors to sharpen their bids. He said that after talking to the engineer, he had hoped for a bid closer to \$3 million, "and here we are at 3.4."

The city has planned to bid the projects separately but no one bid on the street shed when it was first advertised. The bid was let a second time, and the city "tracked down contractors" and asked them to bid, he said. When the price came in at \$1.4 million, the city rejected it.

The numbers are "crazy," Hoel said. He said he does not expect prices to come down significantly in the near future.

Since the street shed and firing range had such little interest, the city bundled it with the fire station. Being a bigger project, the package saw more interest from contractors, Hoel said. Still, only two submitted bids.

He told the Council that he thinks the bid of \$3.4 million reflects the market and is appropriate for the scope of work. He added that the city has the cash on hand to pay for the projects without raising taxes.

"I'm not excited about the number, but I think it's an accurate number," Hoel said. One option for the city would be to throw out the bids and start over, he said. "I'm not recommending that."

He said he thinks the street shed value represents about \$1 million in the overall bid, a reduction of \$400,000 from the previous bid. Part of that reduction is due to a change in specifications for the firing range, he said. The city is going with concrete block instead of poured concrete for the range, which will be built inside the street shed.

However, the overall price grew by \$464,609 with the addition of a training facility at the fire station. That was bid as an alternative, he said. He said he thinks the training facility, which will include a small kitchen, is needed and will be well utilized.

The fire station, to be built in front of the existing south-

side station, will have three truck bays including two drive-through bays. It will include shop space and a training area. The training facility space will be set up for classroom style training.

Kleiss said he thinks the projects are worthwhile and will meet the needs of the city for many years to come ... "well beyond my lifetime."

In other business, the city declared a second squad car as surplus property and is offering it for sale. This one is a 2015 black Chevy Impala. In his written report, Hoel said there is a third Impala that the staff will ask the Council to declare as surplus property in the coming weeks.

A draft of the city's annual appropriations budget is now available to the public on the city's website and at City Hall. Treasurer Alta Long explained that the appropriations budget sets the maximum the city could spend in any department and this has "inflated numbers." It is different from the

actual budget, which reflects what the city expects to spend.

The Council also

- approved its annual maintenance engineering contract with Jim Crane and its resolution for maintenance, which appropriates up to \$80,100 in motor fuel funds;
- voted to destroy executive session recordings as allowed by law (Hoel noted that there was only one executive session to review, which was held to discuss employment terms for a police officer);
- approved a permit for American Patriot Pyro for the city's fireworks display to be held July 8 (the city is spending \$30,000 on the display);
- approved annual appointments to the tourism board; and

• approved the consent agenda, which includes final payment to B&T Drainage for Joint Water Agency (Tuscola and Arcola share a pipeline) water main in the amount of \$8,051.56, fundraising for Kiwanis Kids Days Oct. 27-28, a

Community Building rental for a wedding reception June 23-25 for Nathan Bromm, Sparks in the Park street closures and 5k run July 8, and a 5k run for Cure for Vanishing White Matter Disease (a genetic disorder that affects the nervous system).

Randy Hastings, Drew Hoel, Donna Kidwell, Michele Black, Devon Flesor and Bill Hill were appointed to the tourism board.

The city also noted that there will be a reception 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at City Hall for Angie Gordon's retirement.

In his written report to the Council, Hoel said deliberations continue toward the possible sale of the outlet mall to local investors, who he said "are still actively en-

gaged and enthusiastic."

He also said it appears that the city will receive a loan from the Illinois EPA for water system improvements with "favorable interest rates and substantial principal forgiveness."

Also, downtown improve-

ments, including green space development, are nearing the final design stage and bids are expected to be let toward the end of June with possible acceptance at the July 24 City Council meeting.

**REAL ESTATE**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DOUGLAS COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**LOANCARE, LLC,**  
**Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**  
**FRED L. METHENY;**  
**Defendant(s).**  
**CASE NO. 2022FC13**  
**Property Address: 303 N. Main Street Tuscola, IL 61953**  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE**

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on March 30, 2023, I, Sheriff Nate Chaplin of Douglas County, Illinois, will hold a sale on July 11, 2023, commencing at 11 AM, at the Douglas County Courthouse, 401 South Center Street, Tuscola, IL 61953, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit: Commonly known as: 303 N. Main Street, Tuscola, IL 61953 P.I.N.: 09-02-34-129-002

First Lien Position; Single-Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$57,011.12

IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.

Terms of Sale: CASH - 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of **Douglas County**. The person to contact for information regarding this property is: Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit [www.dallegal.com](http://www.dallegal.com) 24 hours prior to sale. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC  
 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120  
 Naperville, IL 60563  
 (630) 453-6960  
[midwestpleadings@dallegal.com](mailto:midwestpleadings@dallegal.com)  
 Published: 5/31, 6/7, 6/14/23

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\*Subject to credit approval. Term of loan is maximum of 7 years. Borrowers required to make a monthly interest only payment (Minimum Payment of \$50/mo). Annual Fee of \$35.00. Additional requirements may apply. May result in a balloon payment. \*\*Closing costs are various expenses or outside fees incurred when a borrower closes a new loan. These expenses / fees may include the cost of a mortgage title policy or search, charges for preparation and recording of mortgage or security documents, appraisal fees, loan processing, flood determination charges and other similar real estate related expenses.