



Journal Entries

Family Service Resource Center

Family Service Resource Center invites residents of Douglas co. age 60 and up or those with a disability to join us for "Expressive Arts" on Wed., June 21 at 1 p.m. at the Newman Regional Library, 207 S. Coffin, Suite D.

United Methodist Church events

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.

Dine with a Doc

Senior Education Ministries, Inc. in partnership with the Tuscola Community has scheduled: Dine with a Doc Tuscola on the 4th Thursday of every month (except November and December when the program will be on 3rd Thursday due to the holiday) from 11:30a-1:30p at the Tuscola First Christian Church at 100 Church St., Tuscola.

3 on 3 Basketball, soccer, pickleball

Sign up is now available online for Sparks in the Park 3 on 3 basketball and soccer. A pickleball tournament has also been added to the Sparks in the Park line up. Visit the City of Tuscola Facebook page for more details.

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.

Blood donation

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

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kamryn Kresin of Tuscola, Ill., who was named to the McKendree University's President's List for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the spring 2023 semester.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sophia James of Tuscola, IL, who was recently recognized for graduating from Lakeview College of Nursing (LCN). James attended at the Danville, IL location of LCN.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rachel Champagne of Villa Grove. Rachel was one of three students to receive the Peer Award during the 2023 Lake Land College Associate Degree Nursing pinning ceremony.

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

Dive into summertime



THE TUSCOLA POOL is filled, and city officials are hopeful that it will open on Wednesday, June 21, just in time for the official first day of summer. Keep an eye out for any updates on the City of Tuscola Facebook page. Photo by Jaclyn Henry.

Council approves Caboose refurbishment, acceptance of splash pad donation, and street name change ordinances

The Villa Grove city council met on Monday June 12, convening at 6:08 pm with all members present.

The consent agenda, containing the minutes of the May 8th regular meeting, the May 8th closed ses-

sion and the May 22 regular meeting, along with Authorization of the payment of bills in the amount of \$230,718.98 was passed unanimously.

Administrator Athey then made

her report, noting that there would be a train derailment exercise on June 21. She also noted that the Gaga Ball court had been installed and that there is to be a budget meeting on June 22.

Chief Rea noted that any future new hires would be signing a reimbursement agreement, stating that they would reimburse the city for

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Villa Grove School Board approves handbook changes

By Gabriella Agius

At their May meeting, the Board discussed possible changes to the School Handbook, a highlight being an updated cell phone usage policy. This policy change came after many teachers in the district felt as though the current policy causes great impediment to learning within classrooms.

The Board approved changes at the June meeting. A key change was the implementation of a District handbook as opposed to separate Elementary and Junior High/High

School handbooks. Students will now receive a District handbook with the appropriate insert.

A new system for weighted vs. unweighted classes will be put in place. This will affect future GPA's for students. Unweighted classes will still count as credit for graduation, they will not earn as many GPA points. Unweighted classes include but are not limited to: Foundation Math, Life Skills, World History, Special Needs Math, Special Needs Science, Special Needs English, Biology Concepts, and Vocational Business. Weighted

classes will remain the same as before, with Forensics being removed from the list. This new system will not go into effect immediately, but will be in place for the incoming Sophomores, the Class of 2026.

A new policy was also implemented for college days. Students will now have an opportunity to have three pre-approved college days that will not count toward the allowed maximum of eight excused absences per semester.

If a student is tardy three times in a day or within one week, they will

be given detention.

For final examinations, there will only be two testing days instead of three. However, these examinations will now only be ten percent of a grade as opposed to the prior twenty percent. All students will have to take final examinations, the only exception being second semester seniors.

A new policy for study hall periods was put in place. Students with an A or a B in all of their classes will be permitted to leave for the eighth

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Gilbert Nieto III's hauling business is cleaning up

By Tony Hooker

When Gilbert Nieto III was playing sports in high school, he was known for hauling in passes and pulling down steals and rebounds.

Now, with his company, Nieto Hauling, he's pulling down old walls and hauling away unwanted items for others. I recently caught up with him to talk about his latest venture.

Nieto, who has been open for business for about two years, says that making money is just one reason why he got into this particular trade.

"I like helping people out. I like to make money, and it's just part of a side hustle that I like to do. I did it out in Florida when I was living there, and I brought it back home to Illinois. I got my own dump trailer two years ago and started renting it out," he said.

Gilbert was first introduced to the business concept when he moved to Florida for a time to work a construction job.

"I worked for my buddy's dad for about a year and a half. My buddy Andrew Donathan's dad had a construction company down there and he asked me down to go to work. I've always wanted to do construction, so I said yes and moved down there. We lived in Navarre and then Pensacola. That's where we had our son," Nieto said.

It was there that the seeds of having his own hauling company began to germinate.



Gilbert Nieto III

"We did a lot of demo work. A lot of tile jobs when we were down there. I like to demo," Nieto enthused when asked about the work. "We hauled a lot of stuff," he added when asked if Navarre being an Air Force town contributed to the type of work he completed.

Like many who have trekked to other states, the call to be with fam-

ily became too strong for Gilbert and his wife Sabrina and their son, and so they returned to Villa Grove. They've since added another son to their growing family, as well.

For Nieto, a hidden benefit of his side gig is that he is constantly meeting new people and making new friends.

"I've met so many new people

and made so many new bonds," he said.

Of course, any time you're starting a new venture, there will be speed bumps that arise, and Nieto has experienced a few on the way. One of his biggest learning curves has been knowing exactly how much to charge for his services.

"Oh yeah, I underbid all the time," he said with a laugh when asked about unexpected hurdles. Of course, with a business like his, his equipment is also under constant strain.

"I just got two flat tires last week. I just paid \$1500 to get the truck fixed," he noted.

Nieto and his wife are currently handling the work responsibilities, but he has called on buddies to help out with larger items, on occasion, and with a small operation like theirs, the plan for now is to limit the area which they cover to Campaign and Douglas counties, with a touch of the corner of Vermillion and Edgar counties thrown in.

For now, the plan is to keep the hauling business as a side hustle along with his full-time forklift and training job at UNFI, but he does plan on expanding the business, eventually by being able to offer roll off dumpsters and other services.

"In ten years, I want to be the Douglas County Dumpster King," he said with a laugh when discussing his future plans, and with his continued hard work.