



## Pool opening makes a big splash



THE TUSCOLA POOL opened its doors June 21 after a several week delay due to a broken pump. Liberty McFarland tries out the inflatable obstacle course now available at the pool. Submitted photo.

## Journal Entries

### Mo-Do concert tickets on sale

Concert tickets for Moultrie-Douglas Co. Fair headliner Warren Zeiders will be on sale at the Arthur Rotary fireworks on Saturday, July 1. Tickets will be available from 4-6 p.m. at the fair office located in a ticket booth near the pool with a blue fair office flag. Tickets are cash only.

During fair week, concert tickets will be sold from the fair office, which will be a small building near the park restrooms. Tickets discounted July 5-7 and full price on Saturday, July 8, day of the concert. This will again be cash only. An ATM will be available on the fairgrounds.

Zeiders concert will begin at 8:30 p.m. A local favorite, Silver Lake, will be the opening act at 7:30 p.m. Silver Lake will also perform at the beer garden after the Zeiders concert. For more information or to buy concert tickets on line, visit our website: moultriedouglascountyfair.org.

### '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 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 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.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Mckinlee Miller of Tuscola, Illinois, a senior majoring in Nursing at Illinois Wesleyan University for making the Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year.

### Story time

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

### 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 City Council approves repair costs

By David Porter

The City of Tuscola on Monday approved payment on several improvement projects, some planned but many not.

Pump repairs at the swimming pool at Ervin Park came in at \$10,930 to Layne Christensen. The water main repair on Main Street at the railroad tracks cost

\$13,101.48 to Cross Construction. Cross will also be paid \$64,346 toward Phase 1 downtown alley improvements. Clark Dietz will be paid \$22,130 for Phase 2 engineering and was approved for a \$10,000 addendum, which is for green space design. Roof repairs at the library came in at \$21,666.06 to I-57 Roofing.

City Administrator Drew Hoel said in his written report that the water main repair was considerably less costly than he anticipated. He said he presumes that's because the contractor did not bill for its subcontractor's work that failed and caused the water main break and subsequent boil order.

Mayor Dan Kleiss commented

that he was glad there were "no surprises" with the library roof.

He added that he appreciates everyone's patience and efforts in regard to the pool pump, which delayed opening day by a couple of weeks.

He said he watched part of the repairs being made and that it was

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## Tuscola School Board passes 2022-2023 budget

By Dominik Stallings

The Tuscola Board of Education passed the 2022-2023 budget during its June 26 meeting.

Superintendent Gary Alexander said that he had to adjust some of the budget due to backpay for some paraprofessionals and salary for the teachers.

Alexander said he also adjusted the legal fees amount but it was in favor of the district since they didn't utilize as much of the fees as previously estimated. Alexander adjusted the capital projects as well as transportation to be more accurate.

In other news, the Board approved hiring Special Ed. and Student Services Coordinator April Jackson.

The Board approved the non-certified 2023-2024 salary schedule.

The Board approved the High School Dean of Students contract for Justin Bozarth.

The Board approved Press Policy 111. The Press Policy essentially is a policy guidebook and guides the board to make changes and have lawyers review policies to ensure they are in compliance.

The Board approved a 5 percent pay raise for North Ward Principal Jason Wallace and East Prairie Principal Jared Vanausdoll. Vanausdoll will receive another 4 percent pay raise in the 2024/2025 school year. Wallace's contract will have expired by then. Technology Director Jeremy Rodebaugh will receive a 4 percent pay increase. The school nurse, Aja Bozarth, will receive a 4 percent pay increase.

In the superintendent's report, Alexander said they are

still waiting on sales tax income from Champaign County, but are only expecting a small amount of around \$300. Sales tax income reached the \$1 million threshold. Alexander thanked Love's Travel Stop for reaching that milestone.

Alexander said the bills were higher this month because of the Teacher's Retirement System (RTS). He explained that they used to pay teachers throughout the school year, monthly until August. Now RTS makes the school district pay in June, causing the bills to appear higher.

The Board approved the consent agenda, which included the previous month's minutes, monthly reports from the treasurer and bookkeeper and bills for \$2,089,834.

\$971,397 was for construction

expenses, which included the second part of the scoreboard payment. Also in the bill was payroll in the amount of \$649,835 and operation expenses for \$468,601.

Alexander commented on the construction work and noted that work seems to be going at a better pace than last year. He believes this is due to Omni using more manpower. He said he saw roughly 30 people working inside and five to seven outside. He compared that number to the five to seven total workers last year.

In regard to rumors about school not starting on time, Alexander assured that the rumors were false and school would begin on time.

Wallace said in his report that

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## Local florist supports Tuscolian after brain tumor discovery



Carol Kellogg Tewell, Gage Belskamper, Linda Kocher

By Tony Hooker

Becky Lietz is one Tuscola girl who has always put others in front of herself.

Becky Hettinger, as she was known during her high school days at TCHS, was an original Team Kika angel when support was needed. She has also been long known for her work and support for Forty Martyrs Catholic Church and as a long-time employee of Tuscola schools.

Suddenly, it's her that needs love and support. On May 15, after experiencing stroke like symptoms, she was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. As is almost always the case in small towns, the city reacted immediately and is doing what they can to help, even though she no longer resides in Tuscola. I recently caught up with her adopted daughter, Tammy Martin, along with some of her friends at A Bloom Above and

Beyond, to find out what was happening.

She had no idea that the cancer was afflicting her, until the middle of May.

"She started having trouble with her left side, dragging her foot, and she went to the emergency room and ended up in the hospital for a couple of days. They then took her to Indianapolis and found that she had an inoperable tumor on her brain," Martin said. Of course, her treatment started almost immediately.

Back home in Tuscola, the wheels began to turn, trying to find ways to support her, even though she was no longer living in town.

"Carol (Kellogg Tewell), Donna (Dietrich) and Ellen Lynch came up with the idea to do the t-shirts. My daughter, son and law and I have a T-shirt company in the back, and we've just kind of been publicizing it through Facebook un-

til today, with this interview," Linda Kocher, the owner of A Bloom Above and Beyond said. "My Daughter, son in law and I have a t-shirt company in the back, and we've just been publicizing it through Facebook until now."

Of course, with her not living in state, the normal lines of support for someone in Becky's situation haven't been easily accessed. "She's currently living out of state, in Indiana, so it's been hard to start a meal train or something. We can't do any of that," Tewell revealed.

When asked if there would be any fundraisers in addition to the t-shirt sales, Kocher wasn't sure.

"Right now, we don't know. It all hit quick," she exclaimed.

For the folks at the shop, which has been in business for 16 years, the most important thing is trying to support a friend. Not only had she been a

client and a friend, but she had also occasionally found herself on the other side of the counter.

"She had helped with the shop here and there when it was in a different building," Tewell said.

Her friends have asked for any support that the community can give for Lietz, whose large family includes brothers Steve, Larry and Kenny, and sister Kathy Hettinger Page. Sadly, Lietz lost her biological daughter to cancer, as well.

As for the current fundraising effort, there's still time to contribute.

"We're doing pre-orders until the middle of next week, to be sure that we have the sizes that we need. They'll be available next weekend, but we'll still be taking orders. It just might take longer for them to be ready," Kocher stated. "People can contact Donna, Carol, Ellen or myself here at the shop to place an order."