



The JOURNAL

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Journal Entries

Pancake Breakfast

The Tuscola American Legion Pancake and Sausage Breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 8 2023 from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Tuscola Community Building. Donations accepted.

Track and field clinic

Track and field clinics happening at Villa Grove schools, presented by Briana Ritchie, IHSA All-Stater; Briana Dixon, IHSA state champion; Alyssia Williams, IHSA state champion and Murray State track and field athlete. Sprinting clinic on July 12 from 9 - 11 a.m. Jumping clinic on July 13 from 9 - 11 a.m. Open to all athletes entering 4th-8th grade. Contact Ellen Zimmerman at ellenzim@yahoo.com to attend.

Dress to Success

Join Douglas County Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Recovery Navigator, Darlene Smith, and Workforce Development Career Coach, Jenna Slaughter, for Dress to Success. The program will discuss tips and tricks on how to shop for business casual clothing on a budget, as well as provide information on basic interview etiquette and resume development. You will also have the opportunity to "shop" in the business attire closet filled with donated, gently used business attire clothing and pick out a few items to take home, free of charge! July 27, 1 - 4 p.m. at Workforce Development on 401 S. Main Street, Tuscola.

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 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Tuscola First Christian Church at 100 Church St., Tuscola.

Story time

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

ALL 'HAIL' BREAKS LOOSE



SMOKE, HAIL AND THUNDERSTORMS caused chaos in Tuscola, Villa Grove and the rest of region in the last week. Hazardous smoke covered most of Canada, the midwest and the eastern part of the country. Three-inch hailstones hit parts of Tuscola and a thunderstorm caused harm to trees and buildings across the region. *Top photo by Doris Elmore, Middle and bottom photos by David Porter.*



SMOKE COVERS THE VIEW of the grain elevators from U.S. 45 near Tuscola. The smoke is coming from Canadian wildfires that have been burning since late April. Air quality can decrease again if no wind clears up the smoke before the fires are extinguished. *Photo by Dominik Stallings.*



A PART OF THE FENCE surrounding the tennis courts in Ervin Park in Tuscola were caved in by tree. *Photo by David Porter.*

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By Dominik Stallings

Canadian wildfire smoke, fist-sized hail and hurricane-force winds converged on Douglas County last week, bringing with it irritation, astonishment and severe wind damage to trees and homes. No injuries were reported.

Much of the Midwest, Canada and the eastern part of the United States was left breathless by the Canadian wildfires that have been burning since late April. The historic wildfires have already surpassed a record 30,000 square miles

of burned area. That is nearly as large as South Carolina.

The smoke from the fires has resulted in some of the worst air quality in the world in the United States and Canada. Tuscola, Villa Grove and the rest of Douglas County have also been affected by this smoke reaching "very unhealthy" levels, according to the Illinois Air Quality Index. The American Lung Association warns that air pollution can lead to a number of diseases that affect health and lead to premature death.

A severe thunderstorm pushed back the smoke out of Douglas County. One of the worst storms in the area's recent history arrived Thursday afternoon. The same morning, hail, almost the size of baseballs, hit parts of Tuscola with northside residents reporting the largest ice balls. That was followed up by heavy rain and winds reaching 80 MPH. The derecho winds (a line of intense, widespread, and fast-moving windstorms and sometimes thunderstorms that moves across a great distance and is character-

ized by damaging winds) blew over several semi-trucks near Tuscola on the southbound lanes of Interstate 57, downed powerlines and damaged trees.

Fire Department Chief Brian Moody said fire crews went out to secure the areas and also stopped fuel leaks from the blown-over semi-trailers. Moody said that fire crews helped secure downed powerlines around the city as well.

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Stitchin' Sisters piecing together ways to honor those who served



Karen Robinson (seated), left to right, Sue Miller, Marge Herrmann, Theresa Lueth, Trisa Martin

By Tony Hooker

For a little over a year now, a group of ladies who call themselves the TQC Stitchin' Sisters have dedicated their time and talents to creating beautiful quilts to honor veterans. I recently sat down with five of these lovely ladies to discuss the project.

The ladies, Trisa Martin, Theresa Lueth, Marge Herrmann, Sue Miller and Karen Robinson, who were quick to point out the contributions of others, including Peg Warriner, Barb Charter, Janet Tendick, Mary Schultze, Dianne Wilcoxon, Glenna Mooney and Judy Gillins, formed just over a year ago, in May of 2022.

Like most good ideas, the quilts of honor project formed organically. "We decided that we wanted to give back to

somebody who had given so much for us," Lueth said. Martin added they wanted to focus on local veterans.

"We wanted to help our little town and the towns around us," she stated.

The process for becoming a recipient of one of these beautiful works of art is quite simple.

"As long as you've been in the service or are currently serving, you're eligible," Martin said. "Someone has to give us your name and we put you on the list."

Although the group has only been active for around 14 months, they've been quite productive, having already given away 38 quilts.

"We have 10 that we're finishing up now," Martin quipped.

According to Miller, the time to complete a quilt basically de-

pends on the type.

"If you do a panel, which already has a design, it's not too bad, but if you do a piece quilt, it might take you a couple of months," she said. A piece quilt, just like its name implies, is one that is formed from individual pieces, like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Sometimes even for the experts, piece quilts can be quite formidable.

"I've quit doing one because it was 64 pieces per block, and I decided that was too much!" Miller added with a laugh.

Though there are many ladies involved in the project, they generally work on their own designs, rather than all working on a single project.

"These ladies donate their money and their time and then we usually quilt them for them. We put labels on the back of

them and we've got some ladies making them (labels). Theresa's (Lueth) going to make them too," Martin exclaimed.

For these ladies, the experience is a personal one, with several of them saying that their husbands had served in Viet Nam and other locations.

"We all have family members or friends who have served," Karen Robinson stated.

For these ladies, sewing and quilting have been a part of most of their lives. Martin and Robinson are kind of the newcomers of the group, having been quilting for 19 years, while Lueth has been at it for 40 years.

Miller says she got her start in high school.

"I started when I was a junior

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