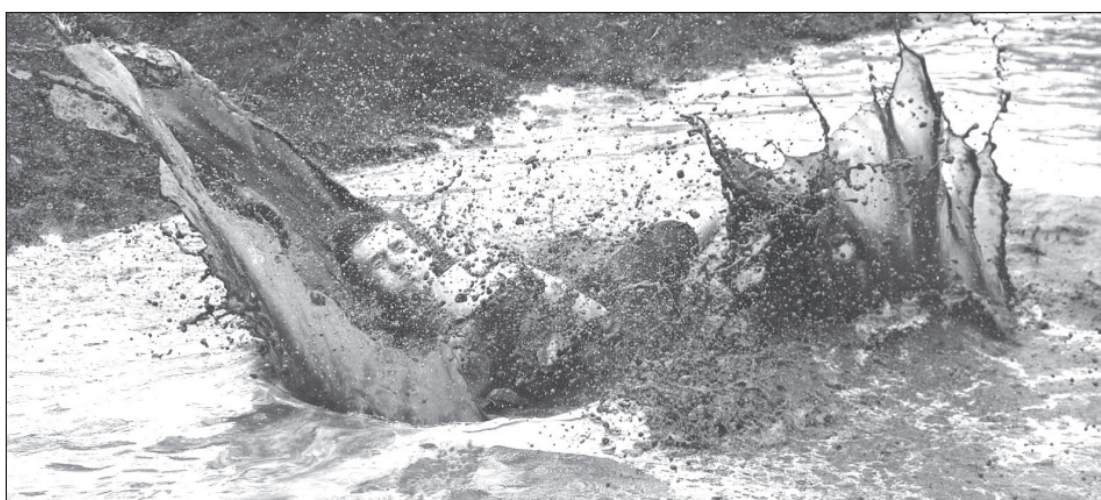




EAMON REEDY LUNGES INTO THE MUD to hit the volley ball while, Bekka Bloom, Jazmine West and Sidnie Barnes get in on the fun during the Sparks in the Park mud volleyball tournament on July 8. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



JESSE Gire makes a big splash as he attempts to return the volleyball to his opponents. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



JOHN KENNEDY (right) plays pickleball against Justin Quick (left) during the first pickleball tournament during Sparks in the Park. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



Letter to the Editor

Dear editor,

I must commend the City of Tuscola, Sponsors and Volunteers for putting on another great Sparks in the Park event this year.

I found the new inflatables a big hit for all the kids in town! Speaking of youngsters, I, as well as all my pickleball friends, were especially impressed with all the kids that

were participating in the first ever Sparks in the Park Pickleball tournament. We thought it was just us "experienced & well aged" players that played. Nice to see the younger generation getting out and enjoying themselves playing pickleball.

Finally I have to give a big shout out to Brayden Gough and his mom Angie who ran the tournament. Since it was

the 1st ever event they did a fine job keeping everyone organized and they even came up with sponsors. I can see an even bigger turnout in the future so hopefully they can carry on with this event in the future.

Jim Grimm & his Monday Night Pickleball Friends

Storm

From page 1

took immediate action. For Rea, damage assessment was paramount.

"I went out and drove around town looking for (street) blockages and relayed what I found to Beth, and she relayed it to public works, and they went out and started doing what they could, 15 or 20 minutes after the wind stopped blowing," Rea noted.

For Athey, she immediately reached out to EMA director Chana Ray.

"I've worked with Chana (Ray) the director of the Emergency Management Agency for so long that she just told me to let her know whatever we needed. On Friday, she sent over a form and I had the guys (Public Works) go around and give me a list of addresses that had damages. They documented where they had seen damage when they were out, and that gave EMA a list of targeted addresses

when they went out on Sunday and talked to residents to get more information," she said.

The situation was complicated a bit by the fact that both the mayor and the public works director were out of town when the storm hit, but thankfully, the public works staff were more than up for the task.

"The public works guys knew what to do, and they took it upon themselves and went out and got it done," Chief Rea said. They concurred, noting that they responded to each situation as it arose.

"The guys were kind of chasing their tails, with all that was going on. The first priority is to clear roads," Athey noted.

Athey was also quick to point out that even though he was out of town, he had made his employees aware of the situation.

"Even though he was gone, Mark had kind of prepped the guys to be ready. There were preparing for the Freedom Celebration and put that on hold and started going around and

checking drains, trying to anticipate any water flow issues," Athey said. She was also quick to point out that the public works department was on the job as soon as possible.

"The first call I got was from Blake (Wilhelm) letting me know that we needed to get something out about Henson Road being closed because of the big tree being down, and it just kind of went from there," she claimed.

As always, the community stepped up when needed the most.

"The community did an amazing job. You would see someone post something (on social media) and immediately someone would respond," Athey enthused.

As for the immediate future, things remain uncertain.

There has been no declaration of a disaster, though it could come in the future. As far as local responses, Athey was determined to note that resources will soon be available.

"It will be nice when the Community Center is open, because it will have a generator and will be a resource for the community to use. It will be a safety place for people to get cooled off or warmed up and find an outlet to charge their phones," Athey proclaimed.

Finally, Athey was quick to note that this was a very unusual event.

"We know that there are so many people who lost all of their food. It was just odd timing because we were going into a weekend and a holiday, and the power outage wasn't the entire town off for five days. It's been very hard to put anything out for the public, because it was a very odd storm.

For Athey, the long-time city administrator, the event was a reminder that each event is unique.

"Whatever you think you know, it is going to be something different," she said with a laugh.



Tuscola

Sunday, July 9
Tuscola Police were called to the 400 block of North Niles at 8:14 a.m. regarding a noise complaint.

Tuscola Police were dispatched to the 300 block of East Pembroke at 8:35 a.m. regarding a fallen tree on a powerline. Police put out barricades and notified Ameren.

Tuscola Police were called to the 400 block of North Niles at 10:52 a.m. regarding an alleged aggravated battery.

Tuscola Police performed a welfare check on a resident in the 300 block of South Parke Street at 12:55 p.m. Police were unable to contact the resident.

Friday, July 7
Tuscola Police were called to the Tuscola Boulevard at 4:58 p.m. regarding alleged shoplifting. Police made contact and found no stolen property.

Tuscola Police were called to the 300 block of North Carico regarding a loose dog. The animal slipped off the leash and pinned a kid on the ground, leaving scratches on the back of the child.

Tuscola Police were called to the 800 block of East Pembroke regarding an ordinance complaint for an off leash dog.

Tuscola Police were dispatched to the 100 block of East Southline Road at 9 a.m. regarding alleged criminal damage.

Emergency Medical Services were called to the 500 block of East Northline Road at 1:42 p.m.

Tuscola Police performed a welfare check in the 900 block of East Daggy at 9:27 p.m.

Thursday, July 6
Tuscola Police found a solicitor going around door to door without a permit. At the corner of Newkirk and Court Street. Police told the person to pack it up for the day and how to obtain a permit.

Tuesday, July 4
Tuscola Police were called to the 700 block of North Parke regarding a verbal domestic dispute at 9:20 p.m.

Tuscola Police performed a welfare check in the 300 block of East Sale at 3:45 p.m.

In addition,
Traffic stops- 13
Assist- 3
Informational- 8
Returned property- 4
Traffic control- 2
Domestic dispute- 3
Motorist assist- 1
Public service escort- 1
Suspicious person- 4

Villa Grove

The following is Villa Grove Police Department for July 2-8:
Verbal Warnings-1
Written Warnings-5
Traffic Citations-1
Civil-4
Domestic-1
Theft-1
Assist Douglas County Sheriff's Office-2
Assist Arrow Ambulance-1
Disorderly Conduct-2
Animal Complaint-2
Juvenile-5
Violation of Order of Protection-1
Suspicious Person-3
Ordinance Violations-3
Burglary-2
Warrant Arrest-1
Mental Subject-1

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Camargo United Methodist Church
103 E. Main Street
Camargo, IL 61919
Church—832-9388
e-mail: umccamargo@gmail.com
Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Pastor - Lenny Summar
Traditional Worship - 9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10:30
"Come just as you are to worship"
Open Communion first Sunday of each month
Prayer Group - Meets after Sunday Service.

First Baptist Church
300 E Daggy, Tuscola
Pastor: Mike Wilder
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
217-417-6842

First Christian Church
(Non-Denominational)
"Come Rejoice With Us"
701 N. Sycamore St.
Villa Grove, Illinois
Phone(217)832-5231
Fax (217)832-9348
Website: www.fccvg.com
E-mail: fccvg@frontier.com
Minister- Mike Zylstra
E-mail: fccvgmin@frontier.com
Open communion observed weekly
Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m.
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
1st & 3rd Sundays 6:00 p.m.

First Christian Church
100 E. Church St., Tuscola
253-2394
Sunday Worship services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.
Youth Group 7th-12th @ 6:33 Sundays
After school program
5th-6th girls, Wednesdays
www.fccuscola.com

Tuscola United Methodist Church
901 N. Prairie Ave.
253-4232
Sunday Worship Services:
9:00 a.m.

First United Pentecostal Church
1 South Pine Street, Villa Grove
Wheelchair Accessible
Where Lives are Changed!
Pastor Jerry L. Conner
Church 832-7071 • Residence 832-8577
Sunday School—10:00 a.m.
Worship Service—10:00 a.m.
Evening Evangelistic Service—6:30 p.m.
Monday, 1st one of each month
Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 p.m.
Monday—Friday
Ladies Prayer Group—9:00 a.m.
Tuesday Youth Service—7:00-8:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study—7:30 p.m.
Free Home Bible Study
We welcome you to worship with us in all of our services

Forty Martyrs Catholic Church
201 E. Van Allen St
Tuscola, IL 61953
Pastor: Rev. Angel Sierra
Office Phone: 217.253.4412
Sacrament of Confession:
Saturdays 5:00 pm
Or by appointment by calling the church office: 217.253.4412
Week-day Mass Times:
8:00 am Monday, Thursday & Friday
Weekend Masses:
5:30 pm Saturday
8:00 am Sunday

Immanuel Lutheran Church
600 E Northline Rd.
Tuscola, IL 61953
217-253-4341
Services: Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
208 N. Pine Stret, Villa Grove
Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeanefo
Office: 832-8352
Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:30pm
Email: villagrovehume@gmail.com
website: sacredheartandstmichael.com
Mass Times: Saturday: 4pm
Sunday 10:00am
Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume
8:00am
PSR:
Sunday 9:00-9:45 am