



The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

Volume 19, Issue 28 | July 12, 2023 | thetuscolajournal.com

Journal Entries

Villa Grove Ag Days

Villa Grove Ag Days will be held August 4th and 5th. This year will be bigger and better! Don't Miss It.

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 for 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 Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30.

Corrections

The photograph of last week's hail photo on the front page was by Mike Carroll, not David Porter. The photo of the tree collapsed on two houses in Villa Grove is by Dominik Stallings.

We reprinted Margie Carter's story from the July 7 edition.

Family Service

Senior Resource Center

"Family Service Senior Resource Center-Tuscola Tours is inviting Douglas Co. residents age 60 and up or those with a disability July 18th for an outing to Effingham's Historical County Museum followed by a lunch stop at Pinky's on Lake Sara. Free van transportation is provided. You will be responsible for the cost of your lunch. Seating is limited. Call Connie to reserve your spot. 217-898-3321 or 217-599-1324

Tuscola Library Events

- GoodNight StoryTime
- July 13 at 6:30pm
- Crafter's Corner
- July 17, 5pm
- StoryTime
- July 18, 10 a.m.
- Science Fun
- July 19, 4 p.m.
- Chess Club
- July 20, 4 p.m.
- Name That Tune + Pizza!
- July 21 at 5:30pm
- (Registration Required)
- Story Time
- July 25, 10 a.m.
- Travel Club
- July 25, 5 p.m.
- Music discussion July 26, 6 p.m.



Veterans lead the front of the Independence Day parade held in Tuscola on July 4th. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Tuscola City Council hears a 'hen-teresting' proposal

By David Porter

With a handful of supporters behind her, Sara Rusher asked the Tuscola City Council to consider allowing chickens to be raised within the city limits.

The Council discussed the idea briefly without making any commitment, but Mayor Dan Kleiss expressed interest in discussing the matter further.

He said most of the "cackling and

What will they 'cock-a-doodle' do?

squawking" happens when such an ordinance is considered. But he said he has heard little objection in towns that have adopted chicken ordinances.

Several area communities, including Urbana, allow chickens in town. Many do not allow roosters, which tend to make more noise.

Thus, the allowed chickens are for hen laying and not reproducing.

Andrew Bequette, city attorney, said he has drafted chicken ordinances for Arcola and Garrett but has never had to take anyone to court for a violation of the ordinance.

Rusher, who is new to Tuscola,

said she kept six chickens for several years at her home in Colorado. She never had any complaints from neighbors, she said, and the neighbors appreciated the fresh eggs.

She presented the Council with an "informal" petition of about 100 names of people supporting the idea. She said she has started a conversation about it in Facebook and

See **CHICKENS** page 6

90 years in the making —

Marion Anderson celebrates birthday with her 15 kids

By Dominik Stallings

Doctors told Marion Reinhardt that she couldn't have any children after removing her appendix. At that moment, she decided that she didn't want to get married.

In 1951, she was living in Rhode Island. Marion, her sister and her mother all went square dancing. After an afternoon of dancing, the three of them decided to treat themselves to coffee and pie at a cafe. The dancing never stopped for Marion; the cafe had a dance floor and it didn't take long before James Anderson asked Marion for a dance.

It didn't take long for Marion to decide that she did not enjoy the way James danced with her. He danced too

tightly and she didn't like the way he was holding her. After the dance, he sat down and talked with Marion's mother. Marion herself turned her nose up to James.

James was still in luck as Marion's mother took a liking to the young man. Marion's family didn't have a phone at the time and gave James the number of the neighboring Zuccardy family. Marion still remembers the number that was given to James, "1462W." James wrote down the number on his knuckles.

James did not make it easy on himself when he courted Marion. He called the Zuccardys at 6:30 a.m. When Mar-

See **ANDERSON** page 2



MARION ANDERSON SHARES LAUGHS with her daughter Marion Anderson behind her and Debbie Anderson-Shields in front of her. They are looking at old photos. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Anatomy of a storm response in Douglas County

Public administrators share their story

By Tony Hooker

According to the internet, "Derechos (pronounced like "deh-REY-chos") are fast-moving bands of thunderstorms with destructive winds. The winds of a derecho travel at least 58 miles per hour and have been recorded as fast as 130 miles per hour. That's as fast as some tornados! But instead of spiraling like a tornado or hurricane, the winds of a derecho move in straight lines. That's where the storm gets its name; the word derecho means "straight ahead" in Spanish."

Regardless of what they're called, Douglas County experienced this weather phenomena last week. Call them straight line winds, or inland hurricanes, or whatever you want, it took a herculean effort by the public works and public safety departments across the county to respond to their damaging forces. Here are the stories of Villa Grove's public servants as they faced the storms.

The city wasn't caught unaware, as Chief Bob Rea and Administrator Jacki Athey both began monitoring the storm three hours before it hit.

"We checked it out on radar, and we realized that it was going to be something that we hadn't seen in a while, if ever before. It was just this big ball of what they call a bow echo that was headed this way. The radar was tracking that it would be here in an hour or 45 minutes, and it was here in 20. I told Beth (Elston) to come down to the city building and we would all just hunker down there. I was driving on Hayes Road while it was moving in and it was coming in behind me and it was blowing things around in the sky, so I decided I better sit this one out, so I stayed in the city building until it was done," Chief Rea related.

As the storm moved on, both Rea and Athey

See **STORM** page 3



Donny Patton, Johnny Shanks, Public Works Director Marc Mixell, Blake Wilhelm

