



The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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Journal Entries

Villa Grove Ag Days

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

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.

Fried chicken dinner - Toys For Tots

T.K. Martin VFW and Auxillary 10009 are hosting a fried chicken dinner on July 23 from 12 - 3 p.m. at the Tuscola Community Building. They are seeking donations of new unwrapped toys for "Toys For Tots."

RC Fest 2023

RC Fest will be taking place July 29 and 30 in Wimple Park in Tuscola. Activities featuring RC- vehicles will take place all day, including a 'Monster Truck' event on Saturday, July 29. Impact Life will be on site to take blood donations as well.

Correction

The correct name for photo of the soccer player in the July 12 edition is Emma Wright.

Family Service Senior Resource Center

Family Service Senior Resource Center and Moose Lodge bring you Movies at the Moose. The date has been changed to Aug. 9 for the August movie. Movie starts at 12:30 p.m.

Douglas Co. residents age 60 and older or with a disability, are invited to join us for a free movie and snacks.

Call Connie to save a seat. (217) 898-3321 or (217) 599-1324

\$1.50



TUSCOLA WARRIORS won the Central Illinois Girl's Softball League Championship after beating Urbana's team twice. First 6-4, then 20-17. Back row, left to right, Delaney Yantis, Catie Gibson, Izabella Taylor, Sawyer Cleland, Jaycee Cleland, Kenzi Cleland, Bella Wishard, Ava Whitson, Emily Veach, Coach Kayli Heckler, Coach Mark Stahler, Coach Samantha Green. Front row, left to right, Coach Jack Ledbetter, Caitlynn Hays, Lidia Manzella, Rixie Lyon, Montse Xolo, Jocelyn Ford, Isabella Dueker, Bayleigh Taylor. Not pictured are Maddy Ramos and Allison Pettry. Submitted photo.

Villa Grove Community Building equipment arriving early

Rooftop units for the Community Building that were supposed to be delayed until September will be delivered next week, according to Program Director Bethany Surowka

At the Villa Grove City Council on July 10, she said she scheduled to meet with the project management team, and would try to get more information about a potential opening date at that time.

Surowka said the derecho had damaged the flag poles at Richman

Park, and that they would have to be replaced. She noted that the recreation website would be going live very soon and that people could expect to register for events when it goes online.

She then reported that pickleball had begun and that it convenes on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. at Richman Park. Finally, she commented that whiffle ball was set to begin in two weeks but that teams were still able to sign up and that she was in the process of completing a policy

and procedures manual.

City Administrator Jackie Athey noted that the audit will begin on July 17, and the land purchase should be finalized soon. She is collaborating with Director Surowka on a budget for summer recreation and the Community Center. Finally, she confirmed that the TIF consulting company was working on plans for new development of the property that is being purchased.

Chief Robert Rea said he was close to hiring a former Champaign

County Deputy Sheriff to work part-time for the city. He said he interviewed two candidates for the full-time position that had recently opened. He also noted that although the Subway and Longview State Bank had been recently burglarized, the suspect was apprehended within 24 hours.

Public Works Director Marc Mixxel said that the Public Works department had been working on cleanup

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RISE launches new outpatient substance use services

RISE Behavioral Health and Wellness is thrilled to announce the launch of our transformative outpatient substance use services. With deep compassion and a commitment to integrated care, we aim to provide a lifeline of support to those grappling with substance use disorders, while recognizing the essential connection between mental health and addiction.

For far too long, individuals battling substance use disorders have faced an uphill battle in their journey to recovery. A fragmented healthcare system, societal stigmas, and limited resources have often left them feeling isolated and unsupported.

However, today marks a new chapter—a chapter where we stand united, committed to offering a holistic approach that uplifts the mind, body, and spirit.

Our outpatient substance use services are built upon the understanding that addiction is a complex issue intertwined with adverse and traumatic experiences. By addressing multiple facets, we can help individuals reclaim their lives and rebuild a future filled with hope and resilience. Through evidence-based practices, personalized treatment plans, and a network of compassionate professionals, we are breaking down the barriers that have hin-

dered progress for far too long.

One of the key aspects of our program is the integration of mental health services alongside substance use treatment. We recognize that mental health disorders often coexist with addiction, exacerbating the challenges individuals face. By providing comprehensive support, we aim to break the cycle of self-medication and offer a path to true healing.

Our outpatient services encompass a wide range of treatment modalities tailored to each person's unique needs. From individual and



Amina Feder

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Villa Grove School Board continues summer projects

By Gabrielle Agius

The Villa Grove School Board met on July 17 and discussed various ongoing projects throughout the school district.

For the Superintendent's report, Dr. Carol Munson provided updates for the district's summer projects.

For the baseball field updates, the nets and cables have been received. The poles continue to be manufac-

tured.

Board member Tom Lillard noted that for the softball field, the pitchers mound and home plate were not aligned. Also, the concrete on the home plate had begun to deteriorate. Munson said she would look into the issues.

For the window and door replacements the windows have been abated and are being installed, start-

ing July 17. The doors have not been delivered as of yet, but should be delivered in the next couple of weeks.

The district did have some storm damage from the severe thunderstorm that hit the area on June 29. The district lost power for several days so frozen and refrigerated items had to be discarded. The district had damage to an electric meter, electric pole, and some gutters.

Principal Bobby Beck reported that the outdoor basketball courts were repainted as well as installation of a "Gaga ball pit" on the playground.

The Board approved the first reading of PRESS Plus Issue #112 as well as the extra duty roster for the 2023-2024 school year.

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Summar's here— Methodist pastor describes his journey

By Tony Hooker

Like so many of us, Pastor Lenny Summar took some time to find his true path in life as a Methodist Minister. I recently caught up with him to discuss how he came to be the pastor at the Camargo Methodist Church, his "unconventional look" and much more.

For Summar, for most of his young life, he was busy living, and he chose to ignore his calling.

"I was actually called as a kid, but I never answered it and then again, I was called in my twenties, but I ignored it then, too. I guess I had to walk in the wilderness for 40 years like the Israelites," he said with a laugh.

Because it was so real, he remembers the exact moment that the calling happened.

"In 09, I couldn't ignore it. God saved me from me. I went

to the Methodist Church here in Bement, where my family was attending without me. I would go occasionally if the girls (his daughters) were singing in a Christmas Special or something. My wife was attending and trying to get the kids into church, and I went in and was sitting there, trying to watch them sing, about 4 rows in and I had a "John Wesley" experience where I actually felt the Holy Spirit come into my body. You talk about change. You can't ignore God when that happens. Like I've always said, wherever it would have occurred I would be serving in that church, but I'm going to serve wherever I'm called to serve. I was called into this ministry to come beside Jesus and his ministry. It isn't my ministry and so in today's world, he saved me for this time, I guess" Summar

stated.

One thing that's for sure is that Methodist minister wouldn't be high on the list of things that he resembles.

"From the world's point of view, that would be a pretty safe assumption, with all this hair and the beard," he said with a laugh.

Like his call to the ministry, his decision to keep his long hair and bushy beard was one that he felt divine inspiration for.

"There's a story behind it, too. I used to grow a big beard every winter and cut it off in the spring, and I went to cut it one day and I couldn't, and God was talking to me. I shut them off and said, 'why? and He said it would open doors.' I don't know. I think it makes me more relational to people."

Along with the hair and the beard, another remnant of his col-

orful past that people can relate to is the tattoos that adorn both his arms.

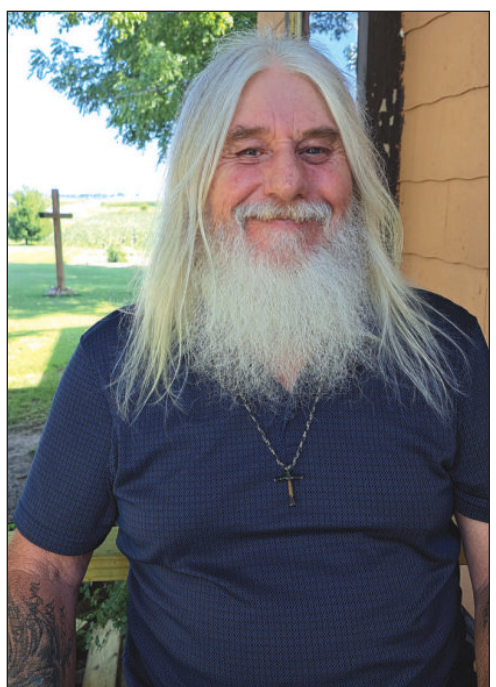
"The ink is kind of in the middle, kind of getting hit by Satan the last time. You know how it is to be a redneck! said Summar with a laugh, "People don't get the concept of how a person like me can be a pastor, I think.

I had to go through the struggles I had to go through and learn the lessons from them, because that's what makes me relational to all people. I can talk to older ladies, little kids and everyone in between," he said.

As part of his "walk in the wilderness," Summar worked in a variety of manufacturing jobs before he found his calling.

"I was a jack of all trades, and

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Pastor Lenny Summar