



The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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Journal Entries

ImpactLife Blood Drive

Tuscola United Methodist Church will host a community blood drive with ImpactLife, the provider of blood components for local hospitals. The blood drive will be from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday, August 24 at 901 N. Prairie St., inside Fellowship Hall. To donate or for more information, please contact ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 71203 to locate the drive.

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.

Dress for 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.

RC Fest

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 b

Villa Grove Ag Day breakfast

Villa Grove VFW Auxiliary is hosting the Annual Ag Day Breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 5. Breakfast will be available at the Villa Grove VFW Hall from 6-10 a.m.

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

\$1.50



Jarman Plaza opens up new luxury apartments

By Dominik Stallings

The Jarman Plaza opened its doors to new luxury apartments last week on July 21.

Property owner Chris Robinson said that 16 units, a mix of studio apartments, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, are now available.

Robinson said the Plaza eventually will have 25 different apartments available. The last nine are

planned to be finished by September.

The apartments are on the second floor of the former hospital. Studio apartments cost \$900 per month. One-bedroom apartments cost \$1,000, and two-bedroom apartments cost \$1,200. All utilities, water, electricity, garbage and internet are included in the price tag.

Tenants are able to use coin-

operated laundry inside the building, or they can buy their own washers and dryers and connect them to hookups in the apartments.

As a tenant, you also receive access to the Relentless Gym on the first floor. If you really want to sweat, saunas are now open and also included in the rent.

Pets aren't strictly forbidden at the Plaza. Robinson said he would

make decisions regarding pets on a case-by-case basis.

The first floor is home to a variety of different businesses that have opened throughout this and last year.

Several businesses have offices in the Jarman Plaza: 217 Mortgage, Special Olympics head office, Birth to Five Illinois and Re-

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CHRIS ROBINSON stands in front of the Robinson Estates sign by the Jarman Plaza, formerly known as the Jarman Center. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Tuscola High School receives temporary air conditioning

By Dominik Stallings

Construction at Tuscola High School and East Prairie Middle School has been coming along at a good pace, according to Superintendent Gary Alexander. One construction item that will be technically missing in the classrooms is the air conditioning although a work-around is planned.

Alexander said that the administration worked with Omni last Sep-

tember on ordering the monitors, but manufacturing was not able to quite keep up.

The monitors for air conditioning are set to arrive on Sept. 7. Until then, students and staff will have temporary mobile air conditioning units in the classrooms. Alexander said that the monitors do not take long to install once they arrive.

The East Prairie school gym and

cafeteria are experiencing similar air conditioning issues and are also expected to receive regular air conditioning in September. However, the reason for that is that the units for that area were ordered later.

"There's nothing we can do, but I appreciate Omni taking the initiative and putting those portable units in there," said Alexander.

For other construction projects,

Alexander said Omni is 98.8 percent sure that the gym will be ready by the time school starts.

The senior hallway seems to have been completed. Alexander said he saw them cleaning up, the last time he checked it.

Board Secretary Darold Spillman commended Omni for their flexibil-

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Vacuum repair store set to open in downtown Tuscola

By Dominik Stallings

Downtown Tuscola's newest business addition is arriving in early August. Evan's Vacuums will provide repairs for vacuums and other small appliances. The store is located at 117 W. Sale St. and is open Monday through Friday, 9-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. - noon.

Owner Greg Evans will also sell refurbished vacuums, carpet and hardwood floor cleaners.

Currently, Evans is still working on moving things around in the new space and getting ready for business.

Opening his shop has been a dream for Evans. He's always been passionate about repairing vacuum cleaners and worked on them with his grandfather, Harold Evans, while he was growing up.

The two of them used to go

around and pick up vacuum cleaners that were in or next to dumpsters. At home, they would take them apart and work on refurbishing them back to working order. Even in Kindergarten, Evans loved to take the appliances apart and put them back together.

"I just think they're fun to work on," said Evans.

Evans' passion even landed him in front of Jimmy Kimmel, where he demonstrated different attachments for vacuum cleaners and even his unique skill of differentiating different cleaners based on just their sound. During his interview, he said he started collecting the machines when he was quite young.

Evans said he enjoys seeing all the different types of vacuums and figuring out how they

work. Evans is also an avid collector. He said he's amassed a collection of about 2,000 vacuums so far. He has all sorts of different types of vacuums; it's difficult for him to decide which he likes best. He even owns some of the earliest models from the mid-1800s. Back then the first vacuum cleaners were used manually and were more akin to big sweepers with rotating brushes and bellows.

Evans is mostly self-taught. A lot of the skills he learned were passed down from his grandfather Harold, who worked as an electrical inspector in Tuscola for some years.

"He knew a lot of about everything," said Evans "He showed me everything I needed to know, and that's how I learned about

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Greg Evans, in front of a row of refurbished vacuums.

New commander elected at Walter Jones VFW post #2876



VILLA GROVE VFW MEMBERS, Trustee Ross Run, Chaplain James Culp, Veteran Service Officer Terence Naddy, Commander Charolie Burris, Quartermaster Mike Leon, Jr. Vice Cdr. Mary Hite, Sr. Vice Cdr. Greg Storm

By Tony Hooker

They say that change is inevitable, and so it is with the Walter Jones VFW post #2876.

Charolie Burris was recently elected as Post Commander, and I caught up with her to discuss the Villa Grove post in greater detail.

Burris, who has been in charge since June of this year, said that her initial election term is a short one.

"The officers serve for a period of one year. We have elections every year," she noted.

However, she can run for re-election if she wishes. She was quick to point out that running the post is far from a one woman show, and that most po-

sitions are volunteer in nature.

"Everything that we do is volunteer. Nobody is paid to be officers and to run this VFW. It's all volunteer status. I'm the commander. Greg Storm is our Senior Vice Commander, our Junior Vice Commander is Mary Hite, Michael Leon is our Quartermaster, and our Chaplain is James Culp. We have three trustees, Andrew Bessent, Ross Rund and James Parsley," she relayed.

The post has served Villa Grove for nearly 100 years, and Burris foresees no major changes, but instead will try to focus on and improve the things they're currently doing for the most part.

"I want to focus on the different programs that the VFW does for the community. Our mission is to foster comradery among veterans of overseas conflicts, to serve our veterans, the military and our communities, and to advocate for all veterans. Since one of our focuses is on the community, there are several programs that I want to focus on. The patriot's pen contest for 6th through 8th grade students whose essays compete locally, regionally and nationally for a \$5000 scholarship. There's the Voice of Democracy, which is an essay contest for 9th through 12th graders to compete locally,

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