



# The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

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## Journal Entries

### Fall City Wide Garage Sales

Fall city wide garage sales for Tuscola will be September 15 and 16. Look for our ad in future editions to get your place on the map!

### Immanuel Lutheran Church conference

Join Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, for a one-day conference "Not Ashamed: Sharing the Good News in a Bad News World," with lunch included at the Tuscola Community Building. For more information and to sign up visit [immanueltuscola.org/not-ashamed-conference/](http://immanueltuscola.org/not-ashamed-conference/) or call (217) 253-4341.

### 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](http://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.

### 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.

### Dine with a Doc

Dine with a Doc has been cancelled in August and will return in September.

### Camargo Woolly Worm queen pageant

The Camargo Woolly Worm Committee is busy planning fun family events for the festival Saturday, Oct. 7

The Woolly Worm queen pageant is Saturday, Sept. 16

All events are held at Opal Thompson Park in Camargo. Mark your calendars now!

### 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](mailto:dominik@thetuscolajournal.com)

\$1.50



## Tuscola Council approves lone bid for downtown improvements Final cost expected to be between original estimate and the bid

By David Porter

Phase 2 of the City of Tuscola's downtown improvements plan will cost more than what was first imagined, but how much more is to be determined.

The lone bid for the work came

in at \$1,316,887.36 from Feutz Construction, Inc. in Paris. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$1,063,700.

Drew Hoel, city administrator, explained that there was an anomaly in the bid that could lower the

final cost by as much as \$170,000. Pricing for light fixtures was not available in time for the bidding, he said, so the contractor put in a "placeholder" of \$24,500 per fixture. The engineer's estimate is \$1,500 per fixture, Hoel said.

Hoel continued that the costs would be adjusted as the project progresses. The city can use change orders make the adjustments.

With projects of this size and scope, change orders are custom-

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THE 'AGAINST THE GRAIN' MONSTER TRUCK jumps into the air during before smashing down on three sedans. The crushing took place during the RC Fest 2023 in Wimple Park in Tuscola. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

## Recreation department receives \$1,300 donation

The Villa Grove city council met on July 24th for their monthly Committee of the Whole meeting, with all members present other than Alderman Derek Johnson.

After saying the pledge, Mayor Eversole Gunter called for public comments and finding none, moved to administrator reports. Administrator Jacki Athey reported that her focus had been on the budget and audit. "Our follow up drafts should be filed on time," she

noted. Athey then made a parks and recreation report in Director Sur-owka's absence. She noted that the recreation department had received a \$1,300 donation from the Cisna family in Dennis Cisna's name, and that a plaque commemorating the gift will be hung in the new community center.

She said that the batting cages and divider curtains had been ordered, necessitating change order

#12 for the council to grant a consensus on. She then noted that a key card entry system had been purchased for the community center.

Chief Rea made a short report, noting that his staff is preparing for the annual Ag Days Celebration.

Public Works director Mixell said his staff was working on the set up for the Rodeo. He also noted that he would be starting

the mosquito fogging process this week. Finally he said that he and his staff's involvement in Ag Days would be minimal with them being available to assist where needed. He also pointed out that city wide cleanup day is scheduled for July 28.

Mayor Eversole Gunter had no report, and the meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

## Local library to host free laundry event

By Gabriella Agius

The Camargo Township District Library and the Little Free Pantry of Villa Grove are coming together to host a "Back to School Laundry Bash" at the Villa Grove Laundromat. The event will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 9 from 2-6 p.m.

Both the Library and Little Free Pantry are always looking for new ways to help the community. With this event, they hope to help families get caught up on laundry before the new school year starts.

"We're just wanting to do something for the community

that will help relieve financial burden on families," said Sonya Williams. Williams runs the Little Free Pantry of Villa Grove.

Other Little Free Pantry's in the US have had a free laundry day, so Williams and Jackie Wells, Library Director, decided the community would benefit from

the event. Donated laundry supplies, such as detergent and dryer sheets, will be available to those participating.

The event will not only have the ability to take care of laundering needs, but will also host story time for children to enjoy. Megan

Happ of Megan's Corner Salon donated certificates for two free haircuts, so families who attend the event can have an opportunity to win a free haircut, as well. Families can also participate in a backpack giveaway.

Families that attend the event must live in the Villa Grove School district and must sign up ahead of time at the library. Families can either call or visit the library in person to sign up. All sign-ups will be kept confidential. Each family is limited to six loads. This should allow for three families every half hour.

The Little Free Library is coming up on its five year anniversary. They are always in need of donations. However, in extreme heat, they ask that patrons hold off on donating canned goods. Instead, you can donate shelf stable boxed foods, like pasta. The Little Free Pantry is also in desperate need of hygiene items. The pantry also requests that patrons do not donate expired food.

For their five year anniversary, the Little Free Library will also be having birthday bags available to

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RC FEST FOUNDER ADAM MUNDS gives away two RC trucks to two young fans, Gideon Ramey (right) and Gabriel Reis (left) after the monster truck crush. Munds wanted to impart the same love of RC and monster trucks he has to the younger generation. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

## Tuscola RC Fest brings out the big toys Event lives up to the name 'creators of chaos'

By Dominik Stallings

RC Fest went a size larger than usual this year.

The radio-controlled vehicles are usually one-tenth the size of the models they mimic. The vehicles can perform all sorts of stunts, jumps, terrain crawling and races. Broken axles, drive shafts and popped tires are par for the course, but that's also where the fun lies for many enthusiasts.

"The atmosphere out here is great. RC is a great way to bond," said Munds.

This year, a monster truck showed an onlooking crowd what 11,000 pounds of heavy machinery can do

to three sedans. The cars crushed and buckled under the weight of the massive machine as its engine roared and revved.

Brad Shippert is the owner of the truck and performed the show at RC Fest. The festival is a family-friendly event that shares the fun and excitement of the hobby. It also serves a good cause; they bring people in for a blood drive for ImpactLife, the blood product provider in Illinois, as well as donations for the organization.

Shippert said he was happy to participate in the festival for Adam Munds, the event organizer and found-

er, because of their similar background.

Shippert was in need of a life-saving blood transfusion in 2020 during a stay at OSF. Shippert was diagnosed with Leukemia. Shippert said the doctors believed he wouldn't have survived a flight to Chicago hadn't he gotten the infusion in time.

After eight and half months of chemotherapy, he received a stem-cell transplant from a donor in Poland, allowing him to recover. He returned to the monster truck entertainment industry in 2022.

"None of this would be possible without a life-sav-

ing donation," said Shippert.

Munds was also in need of a blood transfusion. When he was born, he had a dangerously low platelet count. Blood platelets form clots and stop and prevent bleeding. Without the life-saving transfusion, he wouldn't have survived.

With RC Fest, Munds wishes to help others receive those same transfusions. According to Munds, ImpactLife was completely booked with appointments.

RC Fest donated \$4,311 from proceeds last year and over \$22,000 since RC Fest

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