



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!

Tuscola Kiwanis Club garage sale

The Tuscola Kiwanis Club is holding a garage sale at the Community Building on Friday, Aug. 18, 8-4 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 19 8- 2:30 p.m. Proceeds will provide funding for TCHS scholarships & programs that benefit the children of our community.

Candlelight vigil for overdose awareness

Join Douglas County Recovery-Oriented System of Care Council for a candlelight vigil for overdose awareness. Multi-generation guest speakers from the Scribner family will speak. Aug. 30, 7-8 p.m. at the Douglas County Courthouse.

Please email photos of loved ones to lscribner63@gmail.com.

Candles will be provided.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Marissa Russo for making the 2023 NJCAA All-Academic Third Team. Athletes with 24 credit hours with 3.60-3.79 GPA are congratulated.

Free back-to-school haircuts

Tuscola First Christian Church's Flourish Women's Ministry is providing free haircuts by licensed cosmetologists at the Shed behind First Christian Church, 100 Church Street, on Aug. 20 from 1-5 p.m. Students should arrive with clean hair. A parent must accompany the student during the visit. You may call the church office at 217/253-2394 to indicate interest. Haircuts will be done on a first come, first serve basis.

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/ 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 and use code 71203 to locate the drive.

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



HERE COME THE QUEENS! This year, Claire Meyer (center) won 2023 Miss Tuscola. On the left, Joslyn Steffens won 2023 Little Miss Tuscola. Julianne Steffens won 2023 Junior Miss Tuscola at the Miss Tuscola Pageant on Friday, Aug. 4. Photos by Rachel Ray.

Collection of stories from Villa Grove Ag Days

By Tony Hooker Alpha dog targets laser tag audience

Justin Penrod and his brother were looking for some sort of entertainment avenue that they could do as a family.

In 2009, with the improved technology of laser tag equipment, they found the perfect combination, and Alpha Dog Entertainment Mobile Laser Tag was born, in Springfield, Mo.

Justin, who now resides in Ludlow, IL, began the Illinois branch of the family business a few years later.

"Here in Illinois, I've had this company since 2012," he stated.

Penrod, who said that he and his brother just "jumped into it" when laser tag started becoming popular, is on the road quite a bit with his venture.

"I do roughly 60-70 events per year," he noted. "I'm gone pretty much all summer and throughout the wintertime too. In the wintertime, we're mainly doing things inside like church lock ins or school functions and things like that."

What probably seems like an

ordinary week for Justin was anything but for Villa Grovians.

"This is our first time here in Villa Grove, and we're looking forward to getting some folks out here, enjoying it," he said.

Hauling Axe LLC Have axe, will travel

While some folks dream of building their own business through a food truck or bricks and mortar structure, Indianapolis resident Nicholas Hunt had a different sort of dream.

And so, about a year and a half ago, his company, Hauling Axe LLC, a mobile axe throwing cage, was born

"The idea kind of sprang up about 3 or 4 years ago, and I finally bought a trailer and started building on it," he recalled.

As with many such small business ventures, the entire operation was created by his hard work.

"Everything, signs included, I built by hand," He said.

How did he find himself in Villa Grove, a couple of hours west of his home? Family connections, of

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COWBOYS from South Plains Rodeo Company competed in saddle bronc riding for the first rodeo during Villa Grove Ag Days. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



THE RODEO began with a parade around the arena. The field next to the soon-to-be Community Center was used for the event. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

