



Journal Entries

Fall city-wide garage sales

Fall city-wide garage sales for Tuscola will be September 15 and 16. Mail in the cutout on the back page to get your star 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 on Aug. 26. 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.

Cub Scout Pack 50 scouting night

Cub Scout Pack 50 will be hosting scouting night on Tuesday August 29th at the Villa Grove United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. Parents and potential members get a chance to see what Cub Scouts is all about.

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 lscrisbner63@gmail.com. Candles will be provided.

Camargo Woolly Worm queen pageant

The Camargo Woolly Worm festival will be 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!

Camargo District Library Events

Storytime starts Sept. 7 at 3:30- 4 p.m.
Adult Bingo, every first Thursday at 1 p.m.
Kids Craft, every second Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Adult craft, every first Thursday at 10 a.m.



LEFT, THE NEW \$250,000 DAKTRONICS SCOREBOARD is being installed by a construction worker on Aug. 19 at Tuscola High School.

Above, construction workers work on the new press box sitting atop the new bleachers. Submitted photos.

Vault Gallery 10 year anniversary

The Vault Art Gallery in downtown Tuscola has good reason to celebrate its 10th anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 26 — and that's because there have been times that it seemed like it might not survive at all.

"Every time there's turmoil or we lose a group of artists, I think, 'Oh, no, how are we going to survive this?'" says longtime Vault artist and board member Joanna Drost of Sullivan. "But we've managed to hang in there somehow. We always get new artists to replace those who leave. I guess it's a leap of faith. The only way the Vault stays open is that we have artists there who want to keep it open."

Read more in B Section

Caboose restoration project finishes in Villa Grove

During the Aug. 14 Villa Grove City Council meeting, the council heard a report from Berton Rund and Mike Cline regarding the caboose restoration project at Henson Park. They noted that even though the project used twice as much paint than the amount estimated, it came in around \$3,000 under budget, with the total being around \$21,458. Mayor Eversole Gunter was pleased with the results.

"It looks great, thank you for your efforts," she said.

Administrator Jacki Athey is working with Bethany Surowka on finalizing numbers for the new community center.

Chief of Police Rea gave a short report, noting that both Ag Days and the Rodeos had gone very smoothly, with no issues or concerns. He also noted that the owners of the Henson House were collaborating with a contractor to

have the fallen tree removed.

Surowka then made her report, stating that summer camp had ended, as had the wiffle ball league, whose champions earned a t-shirt to commemorate their victory.

Surowka talked about some upcoming events in Villa Grove.

She noted that the Zest For Life Center would be hosting a fall craft event, as well as a "Melon Mingle", where Melanie will be focused on all things watermelon. She also

said that there will be a free nutrition workshop later this fall. Weekly Euchre games would be returning in September, and that a nominal fee was being considered. Alderman Blaney then commented that she didn't think it was a good idea, and it was agreed that the issue would be looked into.

Pickleball seems to be growing in popularity, as 17 people par-

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Villa Grove school board receives state grants

By Gabriella Agius

"There's a couple of really bright spots to the start of this year," said Superintendent Carol Munson.

The school district received the Healthy Meal Incentives Grant as well as the Teacher Vacancy Grant during the Villa Grove School Board meeting on Aug. 21.

The Healthy Meals Incentives Grant is provided by the USDA.

This grant allowed the district to receive a new oven and refrigerator. A salad bar is also on its way. With these modernized appliances, the district hopes to expand current offerings and provide new, healthy options for the district.

The Teacher Vacancy Grant is provided by the Illinois State Board of Education. This grant will help recruit and retain teachers in the district. Through this

grant, the district hopes to provide support for current staff as well as fill open positions.

The district held the annual budget hearing. Evidence Based Funding is up slightly from last year and the estimated Property Tax Levy is at a 2 percent increase. The Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CP-PR) will see a decrease by about 30 percent. This is due to districts receiving more than should

have been allocated in previous years. Overall, Superintendent Munson said the tentative budget ended up "much better than anticipated."

The tentative budget was approved, as well as the final reading of PRESS Plus Issue #112. The Board also approved the permanent adoption of tuition waivers for district staff. This waiver

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NORTH WARD First graders Jillian Stanley, Logan Riggerback and Ceci Porcay play with stuffed animals during recess on the first day of class at North Ward Elementary on Aug. 21. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



NORTH WARD FOURTH-GRADER JACK BUBB constructs his garage for a mansion made out of magnetized blocks on the first day of class on Aug. 21. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

The Villa Grove Girl Scout mantle of leadership

By Tony Hooker

From its humble beginnings in Savannah, Ga. in 1912, when 18 members joined the first troop under the watchful eye of founder Juliette "Daisy" Low, to today, with 2.5 million members, the Girl Scouts have made a difference in girls' lives.

Villa Grove has two great young leaders in Cassie Kenton and Samantha Webster, who recently took time out from their busy lives to chat with me about why they took on the mantle of leadership, what their future holds, and so much more.

The two are newcomers to

the scout scene, but they've jumped in eagerly, according to Webster.

"This was actually our first year being leaders," Webster related. "Our girls did one year before that."

Ironically, although they're having a great time and doing a great job as leaders, neither have much of a background in girl scouts.

"I was (in scouts) for about half of a year before I moved to a town that didn't have a troop," Kenton related with a laugh.

It's the scouts themselves that make up both ladies' favorite part of being a scout

leader.

"The girls make your day. I teach college-aged students, so I'm ready for fun at the end of the day, Webster stated.

As for Kenton, her favorite part of being a leader is the creativity that her troops employ.

"My favorite part is hearing the different ideas that they come up with when we present a problem or a situation to them," she said.

Of course, there are many levels of girl scouts, and Webster and Kenton are focused on the younger, beginning ages currently, with their focus being on Daisy Scouts,

whose members are in kindergarten or 1st-grade, with 2nd-grade "brownies" also in their troop.

As always, the community's involvement is above average, with the troop hosting 10 members.

"We have about 10 members," Webster related. I've seen pictures and videos showing troops of from 3-10, so I think we're on the larger side."

One recent fun activity the girls took part in was earning their safety training badge by spending some time with the

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A Villa Grove Girl Scout learns to use fire fighting equipment. Submitted photo.