



The JOURNAL

HAPPY LABOR DAY

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. Mail in the cutout on the back page to get your star on the map!

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.

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.

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



Tuscola looks for competitive insurance quotes

By Dominik Stallings

Tuscola City Council approved sending a notice of potential withdrawal to the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) to find better insurance rates.

City Administrator Drew Hoel said the city has been a member of the IMLRMA for over 20 years. According to Hoel's report, the city solicited competitive bids for insurance coverage two years ago but stayed with the IMLRMA at a locked-in rate for two years.

Hoel said the decision allowed the city to save between \$25,000- \$30,000. The city must notify IMLRMA before Sept. 1 to find potentially competitive bids again. If the city chooses to remain with IMLRMA, it can decide to withdraw the letter.

In other news, the Council approved an amendment to an agreement for professional services with Milano & Grunloh Engineering, which works on the Water Improvement Project for the Meadowview main and master meter station. The amendment added non-discrimination clauses to comply with grant application guidelines. Fees and scope of work remain the same, said Hoel.

Council member Tim Hoey asked when the project is expected to start. Hoel said they are waiting on the grant agreement from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEA). The formal notice of the grant award came a few weeks ago, but Hoel estimates it will be 30-60 days until the paperwork arrives.

Police Officer Taylor White submitted a notice of resignation and has taken a job at a different police department.

"He was a nice asset to the city and the police department. But I understand him being interested in bigger and better things," said Mayor Dan Kleiss.

The city will continue searching for a new

See COUNCIL page 3



THIS VIEW was taken Monday evening from the middle of the east tier of new bleachers at Tuscola High School. Spectators there will be able to see only a small part of the school's new, \$250,000 scoreboard. The view worsens as one moves west toward the press box. Stan Wienke, former head football coach, addressed the School Board Monday to outline deficiencies in the improvements. Photo by David Porter.

Former coach outlines flaws in Tuscola sports improvements

By David Porter

Tuscola High School's new quarter-million-dollar scoreboard is touted as being one of the largest in the state; certainly the largest downstate for a school of this size. But not all of the fans will be able to see it on game day.

Stan Wienke, former head football coach for Tuscola, addressed the School Board Monday night to express disappointment with the improvements made on the sports field. He said 14 percent of the new bleachers "are useless" due to obstructed views.

On the east side of the bleachers,

dozens of spectators in the upper tiers will not be able to see the scoreboard, and many will not be able to see the whole football field.

At the top of the bleachers is a standing area with a ledge referred to as a drink rail, which Wienke said he thinks is useless. Half of that area on the east side is blocked from a view of the scoreboard.

Further, Wienke said, the scoreboard and parts of the field cannot be seen from some of the rooms inside the new press box. The people running the controls for the scoreboard won't be able to see it, he said.

Track meets will also be affected.

Wienke said the start or finish of some races won't be visible from all bleachers or all seats in the press box.

"Who was on the committee?" he asked. "Who signed off and OK'd the mess we now have?"

The placement of the press box is illogical, Wienke said, because it is placed in the bleachers and not behind them. The placement took up space where another 110 seats could have gone, he said.

As it is, the new bleachers have less seating capacity than the old ones, which have been moved to the visitors' side. There is bleacher

seating on either side of the press box while there are stadium seats in front, of which more than a dozen were stolen before they were installed. They have been replaced for now with blue seats mixed in with the black seats.

He said he's glad to see some improvements and the the scoreboard is great. His "concerns and disappointments are with the press box and bleachers.

He said the old bleachers would seat 720 spectators; the new ones will hold 637. "We paid a six-figure

See PRESS BOX page 3

Meeting the new Villa Grove teachers

By Tony Hooker

David Behm

If you said that David Behm was born to be an educator, you wouldn't be too far off. He grew up watching his father serve as a public-school administrator.

Where did you graduate from High School?

Georgetown High School College?

I ran track and cross country at SIU-C, I graduated with a degree from Shimer College.

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

I grew up in a teaching family, I was studying education policy and decided I needed to teach before I pursued that. I loved it so much

I abandoned the policy route.

Was there a particular person who influenced your choice to teach?

My Father. He was Superintendent of school for 28 years and growing up with that connection to service and the community.

What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

Working with kids that struggle and seeing them flourish.

What do you like to do when you're not prepping/teaching?

I have a sophomore daughter who plays Volleyball and track. I also cycle and run. I have been a distance coach for most of my adult life and

am still very involved in the High School and Collegiate running community.

Hunter Dorman

Hunter Dorman comes to our community from Texas, where he attended a high school that has over 3000 students and nearly 200 teachers.

Where did you graduate from High School? College?

I was born and raised in Houston, Texas. I went to Langham Creek High School, which is a school in a district northwest of Houston. After high school, I went to the University of Houston where I earned a degree in music education with an all-level music certification.

See TEACHERS page 8



David Behm and his daughter, Deri Behm



MADDOX REEDY maneuvers his grand champion Land of Lincoln steer during the Illinois State Fair Hall of Champions Auction on Aug. 14. See back page for more on Reedy and his steer. Submitted photo.