

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!

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!

A Pace for Pety and Jake's Jog

Be BRAVE is hosting two community fundraiser races at Tuscola High School on Sept. 30. A Pace for Pety will start at 9 a.m. and Jakes Jog will start at 10 a.m.

Camargo District Library Events

Storytime starts Sept. 7 at 3:30- 4 p.m.
Adult Bingo, Sept. 6 at 1 p.m.
Kids Craft, every second Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Adult craft, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m.
Adult craft, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m.

Tuscola Public Library Events

StoryTime with Miss Erin every Tuesday 10:00 a.m.
Goodnight StoryTime Sept. 7 6:30 p.m.
Youth Bingo Sept. 11 4:00 p.m.
Lego Club Sept. 12 4:00 p.m.
Exploring Cinema: The Conversation Sept. 13 6:00 p.m.
Chess Club Sept. 21 4:00 p.m.
Travel Club: Weekend Getaway Sept. 26 5:00 p.m.
Book Discussion: Song of the Lark Sept. 27 6:00 p.m.
Once-Upon-A-Time Story & Craft Sept. 27 4:00 p.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



The vine of drug addiction



LINDA SCRIBNER, right, lights the candle of Elizabeth (Scribner) Ingram during the Aug. 30 overdose awareness candlelight vigil. Linda her son, Adam and granddaughter Makenna shared stories of how addiction and overdose affected their lives. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

By Dominik Stallings

"Because the problem with addiction is that it creeps in. It gets in all the little cracks and crevices, just like the roots of a vine. It shoves itself in every single tiny space that it can and tries as hard as it can to spread and grow. But it won't do that to me because I am a survivor of addiction," said 13-year-old Makenna Scribner.

Makenna said it might sound strange, coming from a 13-year-old, but she said she keeps surviving because her father, Jacob Scribner, died from a methamphetamine overdose when she was 9 years old on May 28, 2019.

Local family shares stories on Overdose Awareness Day

Makenna told her story, along with her grandmother, Linda Scribner, and uncle, Adam Scribner, during the Aug. 31 candlelight vigil at the Douglas County courthouse.

Linda described how the two deaths affected her family, her personal life and herself. Adam is a person with lived experience and recounted his viewpoint of living with substance abuse. He has been in recovery for heroin since 2019, starting his sobriety

on the day his brother died.

The Douglas County Recover Oriented System of Care (ROSC) organized the event. Douglas County Sheriff Nathan Chaplin presented a mayoral proclamation, dedicating Aug. 30 as drug overdose awareness day in Tuscola.

"The bravery I've seen today is immeasurable," said Chaplin.

The three Scribners weren't the only ones to speak at the event. Stacy Welch, founder of the

non-profit organization Shalynn's Hope, read a poem.

Rachel and Mike Haste from the Camargo Victory Church and the Celebrate Recovery program also read a poem about addiction and recovery.

With the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Alex Ruggieri led vigil attendees in prayer.

Photographs and names of people lost to drug overdose were displayed on a TV screen during the vigil.

In 2014, the large family with six children, Adam, Elizabeth, Ja-

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Villa Grove Community Center slated for November

The Villa Grove City Council met Aug. 28 for a regular meeting.

Mayor Cassandra Eversole-Gunter called the role at 6:09 p.m. and found that Alderman Matthew Pangburn and Chief of Police Robert Rea were absent.

The Council then heard from Administrator Jacki Athey, who noted that she had found the economic development conference to be filled with ideas and information that she will be able to use in the future for

the city. She also noted that she and Jessica are in the middle of planning for the future, and that she was beginning to work on future tax levies and the 2025 budget.

Recreation Director Bethany Surówka then made her report, noting that the rooftop units had been installed, and that the building would be enclosed in about three weeks, which would allow the interior to be completed. They continue to eye the end of November as a potential

completion date. She also said that she's in the process of planning an open house event for some time before the holidays. Finally, she stated that she had recently signed an extension of the intergovernmental agreement between the city of Villa Grove and the school district. The extension is good through 2026.

Marc Mixell then made his report, stating that road repairs were ongoing. He also noted that storm cleanup was complete, and that the

water meter replacement project was going well, with different crews coming to town for different phases of the project. Finally, he noted that the tree removal project had been postponed and that there were 14 or 15 trees that are scheduled for removal.

The Council then approved an ordinance which sets the FY 2024 budget and then approved Athey's attendance at the treasurer training institute to be held in November.

Introducing Villa Grove school district's new teachers

By Tony Hooker

Emma Harris

Emma Harris recently began her career at Villa Grove as a special education teacher. She recently took a few minutes to answer some questions about herself.

Where did you graduate from High School? College?

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

In 8th grade I knew I was really into education. Freshman year of high school I attended a church camp called Baby Fold. We work with an alternative placement school during the week providing a fun week of activities to kids with various disabilities. This camp freshman year was when I knew I wanted to teach special education and I got to return as a counselor this year!

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

My mom is a teacher and growing up I always loved to help in her classroom and hear about things going on at the school.

What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

Building relationships with each and every student as well as seeing them master a skill they have worked so hard to master.

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

I love to attend any and all sporting events, especially college sports! You can also catch me going for walks or spending time with my friends.

Taylor Pruitt

Taylor Pruitt is now the social worker at Villa Grove Schools. She recently took some time to answer a few questions about herself.

Where did you graduate from High School? College?

I graduated from Heritage High School in 2016. I went to Parkland College and graduated with my associates in 2018. I ended up changing my teaching major to social work and graduated with my bachelor's degree in 2021 from Illinois State University. I got my Master's degree from The University of Illinois in 2023.



Emma Harris



Taylor Pruitt

When did you know you wanted to be a social worker?

I knew I always wanted to help people but I was not sure how to do that as a job. Once I found out about social work, it was a no brainer that it was the career for me. I liked being with children and the idea of being able to help them succeed as well as help their families, I knew it was the career for me.

Was there a particular person who influenced your choice of careers?

The person who influenced me to be a social worker was Troy Jens. I always admired how he would go over and beyond to help people. He taught me the importance of taking care of people and being there for others when no one else is. Sadly, he is no longer with us, but every day I am reminded of the person who made me love this career.

What is your favorite part of being a social worker?

My favorite part of being a social worker is being the person people can depend on. Not everyone has that person they can talk to or rely on. It's a heartwarming feeling when people come to you for guidance and trust you.

What do you like to do when you're not at the school?

I like to spend time with my friends and family. I enjoy watching my favorite rom com tv shows, watching YouTube, taking walks, going on trips, and playing with my cat Evie.