



CITY-WIDE MAP IN THIS EDITION!
SEE PAGE 9

Journal Entries

Free laundry event

Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) is sponsoring a free laundry event with Lighten Your Load Laundromat and Laundry Love. The event will take place 4-7 p.m. Sept. 14 at 201 S. Main Street., Tuscola. People can have up to six loads washed. Free detergent will be provided at the event as well. Last loads must be in by 6:15 p.m. You can pre-register by calling Colleen at (217) 253-4137 extension 1225 or email colleen.lehman@douglascountyil.gov.

TCHS Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame will welcome four new members this Homecoming at TCHS. The Induction Luncheon will be held at Ironhorse Golf Club by the TCHS Alumni Assn. on Sept. 23 at 11:30 a.m. Make reservations by Friday, Sept. 15 to Marci Shoemaker at 217-621-2458. Dr. Rick Burns, Dr. Brian Harris, Steve Hilgendorf and Greg Hastings will be introduced to the "distinguished graduates" group.

Camargo Woolly Worm Festival

The Camargo Woolly Worm festival will be Saturday, Oct. 7. The Woolly Worm queen pageant is Saturday, Sept. 16. The Woolly Worm Festival will have lots of fun free events: Aikman wildlife show, magician, balloon twister, bingo for adults and much more.. 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.
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.
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.

Free firewood

Denny Cruzan, Tuscola city foreman, said there's an abundance of firewood available at the city's landscape waste facility, which is a fancy way of saying the burn pile behind the animal shelter. Residents may help themselves, Cruzan said.

The area is accessible just south of the railroad tracks east of Prairie Street. Bring your own saw and take what you need.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jennifer Gwinn of Tuscola for being named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Summer 2023 President's List.

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@tetuscolajournal.com

Tuscola man injured in ADM explosion

By Dominik Stallings

Eight people, including a Tuscola man, Yoan Heredia, were injured in an explosion at 7:11 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) plant in Decatur.

Ambulances transported six of the eight injured to Decatur Memorial Hospital. Medivac helicopters later transported four to a trauma center at Springfield Memorial Hospital. Medievac transported Heredia to St. Vincent Hospital Burn Center in Indianapolis, Ind.

According to a Facebook post by Heredia's wife, Whitney Heredia, Yoan currently has second- and third-degree burns on his hands and face, as well as some spots on his legs.

Whitney's sister, Halle Mann, created a GoFundMe page to col-

See **EXPLOSION** page 4



TUSCOLA KEY CLUB student members gathered early in the morning on Sept. 11 to put up United States flags. Attached to the flags are tags with the names of Illinois services members killed in action. Putting up flags above are Tessa Brooker, Jocelyn Ford, Ella Mayfield, Kenna Clodfelder, Alyson Brucker and Natalie Hasting. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Tuscola says 'yes' to another RC-Fest

By David Porter

Adam Munds was back in front of the Tuscola City Council Monday to seek permission to plan another RC Fest for next summer. The festival showcases remote-controlled cars, trucks and boats.

Munds said it's good, family fun. He plans on bringing back the monster truck demonstration, and he wants to add a sand racing feature next year. He also holds a blood drive in conjunction with the event.

He said this year's event was the biggest yet with 189 participants from 17 states with 524 entries. Even if you're not a participant, it's a fun event to watch, and food vendors also are on site.

Mayor Dan Kleiss said he did not

know of any negative issues with the event, and City Foreman Denny Cruzan agreed. The organizers put in a lot of work to prepare Wimple Park for the event and clean up afterwards.

Kleiss said Munds is one of the best at keeping the Council informed, which he said the city appreciates. He told Munds to "plan away" for next year.

The event is scheduled for July 27-28, 2024 at Wimple Park located east of Hillcrest subdivision off Egyptian Trail.

In the consent agenda Monday, the city approved a fundraising event for the Class of 2026 at Festival Corner during Homecoming this month. They also approved the use of park-

ing spaces for a sidewalk sale Sept. 22-23 for Shimmer & Sheek Boutique.

Truck or Treat hours were set for 5:30-7:30 Oct. 31.

In other business, the city declared a 1993 Ford bucket truck with a 75-foot boom as surplus property and will offer it for sale.

The city hired Kyle Sweeney part-time to clean the Community Building as needed. City Administrator Drew Hoel said the position will be for four to six hours per week but could expand to include other buildings. Sweeney works full-time as a custodian for the school district. His wage was set at \$25 per hour.

Jacob McGinness was hired as a patrol police officer at a wage

of \$27.70 per hour. He is already trained and has worked as an officer in Palestine for the past three years. He succeeds Taylor White

The request to allow chickens to be raised in town was put to rest. The city will not pursue an ordinance to allow it at this time.

While there was no vote taken nobody said they would like to continue the discussion. Tim Hoey said he wants things to stay the same as they are, and Mike Morris said he had received only negative comments regarding the issue.

City Attorney Andrew Bequette gave an update on the Castle Mall property. The city raised the former

See **COUNCIL** page 8

New water-bottle filling station for North Ward

North Ward Elementary will be one of 70 Illinois schools to receive new water bottle-filling stations as part of the H2O On the Go grant program, an initiative created by Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation and Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation to encourage students to drink more water. Illinois elementary, middle, and high schools selected statewide for this program will have existing water fountains replaced with new water bottle-filling stations. Additionally, students will receive toothbrushes and reusable water bottles.

H2O On the Go provides great-

er access to fluoridated drinking water for Illinois students and encourages them to choose water instead of sugary beverages like soda, juice, and sports drinks. Drinking fluoridated water strengthens teeth and can reduce cavities by nearly 25 percent. According to Delta Dental of Illinois' 2022 Children's Oral Health Survey, 62 percent of Illinois parents reported that their child currently has or has experienced a dental issue, the most common being cavities. A recent study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that increasing water ac-

cessibility for children had a direct correlation with improved hydration and overall health. Drinking fluoridated water also enhances energy, improves attention spans, and facilitates learning.

"Since the program began in 2020, H2O On the Go has expanded access to clean drinking water in nearly 300 Illinois schools," says Lora Vitek, executive director of Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. "We're proud of the program and partnership with the Illinois Children's Foundation."

"We are thrilled with the program's impact on thousands of Il-

linois students," says Heather Higgins Alderman, Illinois Children's Foundation President & CEO. "Expanding access to clean water not only encourages healthier choices but also enhances overall well-being in the state."

In addition to providing access to drinking water, the water bottle-filling stations are certified to reduce lead and other harmful contaminants from water, as well as help reduce waste and promote conservation efforts.

Young Tuscolian sets his eyes to the sky



AJ COADY AND HUNTER BRANCA stand in front of a 1946 Aeronca light aircraft. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

By Dominik Stallings

Tuscolian Hunter Branca received the \$11,000 Ray Aviation Scholarship from the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 29 in Cham-

paign. Branca is the second person to be awarded the scholarship from Chapter 29. Noelle Ramaly was the first person awarded and finished her final test a day before Branca was announced as the next recipient.

"I'm very thankful to be awarded the scholarship. I can't thank the Lord and the people running things enough. I'm very thankful and very blessed to be chosen," said Branca.

Branca's dream is to fly for aerial agricultural application, commonly known as "crop dusting." Pilots fly low to the ground over farms in order to apply crop protection products such as insecticides, fungicides or fertilizers.

"My family thinks it's awesome, but they're scared for me. Crop dusting is a high-risk job, but they understand the passion. They understand the benefits and they're happy with how I'm going along with things," said Branca.

The \$11,000 scholarship will cover the recent high school graduate's pilot's license expenses including instructor fees, fuel, and ground school.

Branca was able to get into the air and discover his passion for aviation through pilot and mentor

See **TAKE-OFF** page 2