



SECTION

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Connecting our communities

September 13, 2023



Local documentary to debut at The Vault

TUSCOLA - A new documentary film, "Saving Monarchs," will be shown from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 16) at the Vault Art Gallery in downtown Tuscola. The event is free and open to the public.

The new film by Cindy and Kirby Pringle focuses on the pollinator garden at the Vault and saving the monarch caterpillars and eggs from the ongoing construction of the new green space between the Vault and the Community Building. The Pringles were able to save more than 25 caterpillars and eggs from the milkweed that was destroyed in the construction process.

"Saving Monarchs" also looks at the importance of pollinator gardens, not only to help increase the population of monarchs, but also other pollinators including bees, moths and other butterfly species. Pollinator gardens also can help counter global warming because their deep, massive

root system pulls carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and stores it in the soil. Some studies suggest that native prairies can store nearly as much carbon as a forest system.

The Pringles will also have books and greeting cards available, along with free milkweed seeds for fall planting.

In addition, Sara Holmes will be teaching a class, "Blending, Meditation and Chakras for Beginners," from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, at the Vault. She has a few openings remaining (there is a class fee).

Also, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Vault is the monthly acoustic jam, a free event that features musicians from throughout Central Illinois playing a variety of music.

The Vault Art Gallery is located at 100 N. Main St., downtown Tuscola, and to find more information and upcoming events go to www.facebook.com/vaultartgallery or call 217-722-2187.



THE WORLD FAMOUS LAWN RANGERS from Arcola perform their signature broom toss during Saturday's Broom Corn Festival parade in Arcola. Perfect weather and new entertainment acts helped the city draw a big crowd for the annual festival. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Homeowner assistance program closing end of October

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) announced that the Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund (ILHAF) will no longer accept applications at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

The fund awards up to \$60,000 to eligible homeowners for past-due mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance and homeowner association fees.

Homeowners are eligible if their household income is less than 150 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). Homeowners must live in the property as a primary residence and have experienced financial hardship directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic after Jan. 21, 2020. Homeowners must also be past due on at least one mortgage loan, property tax, prop-

erty insurance or home association fee.

"Any homeowner struggling to make their monthly payments due to lingering fallout from the pandemic should not hesitate and reach out today to see if you are eligible for this free assistance," said IHDA Executive Director Kristin Faust. "There is no guarantee of additional funding from Congress, so do not

miss out on this opportunity and visit www.illinoishousinghelp.org today to see if IHDA or any other state of Illinois resources can help."

Payments are made directly to the mortgage servicer, taxing body or other eligible entity once a homeowner's application has been approved.

ILHAF is funded through federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Illinois Amish Heritage Center to host program on quilting techniques

By Crystal Reed

The Illinois Amish Heritage Center will host Sharon K. Jack of Country Home Quilting and More from 10:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, on their campus. The cost includes admission to the campus and the program. (See ad below)

Jack will be doing a techniques demonstration on the evolution of quilting techniques from how her grandmother made quilts and how she makes quilts. She will have

samples of the different tools used as well as display boards.

Jack will also have four different types of sewing machines on hand, including a hand crank, featherweight, 301A and a modern one. She will demonstrate them, and there will be fabric there to demo different techniques and for anyone who wants to try sewing to do so. She will also bring different styles of quilts to display during the program.

Types of quilts on display will be nine patch block, paper

piecing block, machine applique and string piecing.

She learned to sew from her grandmother but wasn't very good at a young age. Jack remembers her grandmother taking out the stitches when her granddaughter would show them her work. She started sewing clothes at the age of 10 in 4-H for herself and eventually started to do so for her daughters and other family.

Jack belongs to the Sew Happy Stitchers in Mt. Zion, Sew Happy Hearts Quilt Guild

in Neoga and Quilts Etc. in Charleston. Over the years she has taught quilt classes in Arthur, Decatur, Mt. Zion, Clinton, Flora and Olney. Several times a year she hosts quilt retreats at Camp One Way in Mt. Auburn. Jack hosts retreats at Camp One Way because it holds more

people than her home. She is also contracted to do a lecture and teach a quilt class for the Hearts n Hand Quilt Guild in O'Fallon in November.

Jack noted that her favorite part of quilting is creating the quilt tops and picking the fabrics.

The Illinois Amish Heritage Center is located between Arcola and Arthur on Illinois Route 133. To register, contact Sharon Jack at (217) 521-0674.

For more information on the Illinois Amish Heritage Center visit www.illinoisamish.org or visit them on Facebook.

BRIEFS

Senior trip to Pumpkin Patch

Family Service Senior Re-

source Center — Tuscola Tours is inviting Douglas County residents age 60 and up to join them Sept. 20 for an outing to The Great Pumpkin Patch and Homestead Bakery. The trip

is at no cost which includes transportation, but there is a small senior fee to enter The Pumpkin Patch, and lunch is on your own. Seating is limited. Call Connie to reserve your spot at 217-898-3321 or 217-599-1324.

Weather forecast

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 72. North wind 6 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 16 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. East northeast wind 7 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 72.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 75.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.



Illinois Amish Heritage Center

Conveniently Located Between Arcola and Arthur on Route 133
Facebook: Illinois Amish Heritage Center and Museum • www.illinoisamish.org

Evolution of Quilting Techniques Demonstration Saturday, September 30

Talks at 10:30 and 1:30
at Illinois Amish Heritage Center

- Several sewing machine demonstrations
- Fabric technique demonstrations
- Display boards
- Quilt displays

Call Sharon Jack to register
(217) 521-0674

Normal \$10 campus fee applicable and will include the quilting sessions and tours



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