

Tuscola Warrior offense not enough against the Shelbyville Rams

By Lenny Sementi

Shelbyville defended their home grid iron this past Friday night pulling away from Tuscola in the second half handing Tuscola its first conference loss of the season. The host Rams took over after a first half shootout finding the end zone on three of their first five drives after the break despite a big night from the black and gold's QB Jordan Quinn. The senior rushed for 50-yards

and a score on 15-carries and completed 15 of 26 passes for 183-yards and a score.

He found classmate Austin Cummings 8-times for 153-yards and a touchdown. He also connected twice with both Zach Rennels and Jayden Connor for a combined 25-yards. Dylan Graves had a big night on the ground for coach Andy Romine gaining 127-yards on just 9-carries including

a long of 78-yards and two scores.

Graves scored the first touchdown of the game on a 13-yard run capping a 10-play drive following the opening kickoff. Shelbyville returned the ensuing kickoff deep into Warrior territory and then took advantage of an errant punt snap to put a pair of scores on the board traversing short fields on back-to-back drives to take a 22-7

lead after one. Quinn pushed the next one into the promised land on a 1-yard plunge and Graves was the next to venture into the end zone cutting the host Rams lead to two 22-20.

Shelbyville then struck gold on an 81-yard pass play and stopped the Warriors in the red-zone as time expired to take a 28-20 lead into the break. After the bands left the field it was all Rams with

three straight scoring drives to blow the CIC showdown wide open. Quinn and Cummings wrapped up the scoring connecting on a 39-yard scoring strike to make it 50-28.

Brady Cain led the way on defense collecting a game high 15-tackles from his middle linebacker position. Cummings was next up with 7-stops, followed by JJ Reynolds with 7. Nate Thomason

ended his night with 6-tackles while Graves added 6 to his season stat sheet.

"We did some really good things on offense," stated coach Romine. "Might have been a different game had we not given up to big special team plays in the first quarter. We are young on defense and revamped last week but we saw some good things and hopefully we can build on that in the future."

Villa Grove School Board revises agreement with police department

Superintendent Carol Munson voices her concern with the solar project

By Gabriella Agius

The Villa Grove Board of Education approved a revision to the intergovernmental agreement between the district and the city on September 18.

The agreement included the appointment of a School Resource Officer (SRO). However, due to shortages at the police department, the SRO has been called back to full-time duty at times when they are normally present at the district. When this occurs, the police chief will fill in at the district as needed. With this revision, the district will provide for one hour of the police chief's pay

if they were to fill in at the district.

Superintendent Munson provided updates on the Solar Project. For the ground solar panel array, the transformer on the football field was to be used. However, due to incompatibility issues, QFB hoped to utilize the transformer at the back of the building. Due to this change, this would double the run length. This change would cost around upwards of \$103,000. This line would run under the back parking lot and sheds, which already house many elements. Dr Munson said she had "grave reservations" about utilizing

this area for the project.

Munson noted that she had reservations about the entire project and wanted to discuss it with the board. This comes after issues with financing early on in the project, as well as several costly changes. The government funding is still unclear, as well. The board agreed that the project should be put on hold, but is not opposed to utilizing green energy in the future.

The district has now fully withdrawn from Egyptian Trust with no penalties imposed. =

For the elementary principal report, Mr. Beck thanked

everyone who helped plan and attended Open House. Fall tutoring has begun, grant funded by ISU. This is the second year the district will have tutoring available for 3rd through 6th grade students.

The district will have a full ALICE drill on October 13. This will involve students being evacuated to the First Christian Church of Villa Grove, meaning 130 will be blocked off during the drill.

For the junior high and high school principal report, Mrs. Jones thanked everyone who participated in stadium seat installation. Jones also discussed bringing a pro-

posal to the October meeting for the prospective student ambassador program. These students would be invited to BOE meetings to act as liaisons for the board and student body. Arcola is planning on introducing a similar program and has shared their outline with the district. For the 8th hour incentives program, Jones said the incentive is going well. This new system allows students with all A's and B's to leave campus for 8th hour. This allows students who need assistance to get it more easily and provides an incentive for students to keep their grades up. Grades are checked every

Friday morning. Students are not required to leave. Board member Tom Lillard asked if parents should permit their students to leave. Board president Jim Clark suggested that parents be sent an email in case they prefer their student to stay at school for the 8th hour period. If parents request their student to not participate in this incentive, they can notify the school.

The board also approved the tentative date of high school graduation. The tentative date is May 26, 2024 at 2 pm.

Tuscola Methodist Church to host infomational program on indigenous people

By Dominik Stallings

Tuscola United Methodist Church's Christian Justice Committee is hosting its next informational program about Native Americans at 6 p.m. on Oct. 1.

Jenny Bisonette, a social worker at the Lac Courtes Oreilles tribe, will speak about the general history of tribal communities, historical trauma and how it impacts Natives today. Bisonette said she will also

talk about the many positive things happening in Native communities, such as language revitalization.

Bisonette said that she wants to help bring more awareness about Native Americans, their history and how they live nowadays partly, because of her high school education. Bisonette, who grew up in Tuscola only learned about Native American's association with European colonists through

Thanksgiving.

"I think in the general society, people don't really know that each tribe is different. If you just don't know, you might think that all the Native people are the same. That's just not accurate and I hope to paint a little bit more of an accurate picture," said Bisonette.

After high school, Bisonette learned more about the history of tribal communities. Her interest was piqued

and she decided to pursue a master's degree of Social Work and Native American Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She was offered an internship at Lac Courtes Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

"My purpose is to not make people feel bad or guilty, but with the purpose of this group is to raise awareness. And that's what I feel like I can speak to, about

Native communities," said Bisonette.

While she doesn't consider herself an expert on Native American culture, Bisonette has been in working at Lac Courtes Oreilles for 25 years and is also married to tribal member and dean of students Jason Bisonette.

The program is the third in a series that has previously covered and learned more about the LGBTQ community and human trafficking.

Betsy Stuerke, with the Christian Justice Committee, said the next program will be about unhoused people and take place in January.

"We're just scratching the surface with any of these (programs), but we hope it's something that can be informative if you come with an open mind. People often have misconceptions about these topics and we want to clear those up," said Stuerke.



2023 WOOLLY WORM FESTIVAL ROYALTY. The 2023 Miss Woolly Worm Festival pageant was held on Saturday, September 16 at the Camargo Park. Pictured are the newly crowned queens Little Miss Charlotte Franklin of Tuscola, Junior Miss Alyssa Adkins from Villa Grove, and Miss Addisyn Wilson of Villa Grove. Submitted photo.




CINDY PRINGLE (left) and Kirby Pringle (right, sitting) show the last remaining monarch butterfly rescued from the destrpollinator garden outside the Vault. The Pringles showed their shortfilm "Saving Monarchs," in which they emphasized the importance of pollinator gardens and their benefits. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

The Tuscola Community Foundation

Open House

Sunday, October 1st
3:00 - 5:00 PM

Hors d'oeuvres & Beverages
Flesor's Candy Kitchen
101 W. Sale
Tuscola, IL



Tuscola Community Foundation

Find out more about the Foundation's mission.
Hear from grant recipients.
Celebrate the Foundation!

WealthAdvisors Investment Services located at:



We wish to welcome
Claude Wilson,
Financial Advisor,
to our team.

"I'm excited to assist clients in investing according to their values!"



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