

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
REMEMBER AND HONOR

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

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**SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**

**South County  
SPOTLIGHT**

St. Patrick Catholic Charities - Tolono IL Free Food Pantry Every Monday from 5-6:30 and Friday 9-10:30 -Located at the Parish - providing Fresh produce, meat and pantry items. Serving all of Champaign County

VFW of Villa Grove Bingo Every Friday Night @ 7pm

The Giving Place is open every Wednesday from 4pm-6pm in Tolono to help families in need with food items.

3rd Thursday of every month - Tolono Fun Day Committee meet at 6:30 @ Police Station

5/28 Vintage Baseball games in Philo begins at 11am

5/30 Memorial Day

5/30 Ducey Memorial Day 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament and basketball court dedication ceremony at West Side Park, Tolono

6/6 Village of Sidney Board Meeting @7pm

6/20 Sidney American Legion Meeting @6pm

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to see featured in Spotlight email us at: jamie@thetuscotajournal.com

**Memorial Day Services and Ceremonies of 2022**

By Ann Rhoton SCCT News Correspondent

America pays tribute to its fallen military heroes on Memorial Day Monday, May 30. The following are some local Memorial Day observances being held in honor of our fallen military heroes. Your correspondent hopes readers will be able to attend one of these ceremonies or to take part in the 3:00 p.m. local time national moment of remembrance established by congress during which folks are asked to take the time for a one-minute moment of silence to remember the service men and woman who have paid the ultimate price for our country.

Surrounding Areas – Pre-Memorial Day, Sunday, May 29, 2022

- The Penfield/Gifford American Legion Post 1153 and Auxiliary Unit 1153 will host a Memorial Day ceremony at 12:30 p.m. at the Penfield Veteran's Memorial located on the I. & I. grounds in Penfield, a 1:00 p.m. ceremony at Wells Cemetery, Penfield, and a 1:30 p.m. ceremony at Huls Cemetery in Gifford.

Surrounding Areas – Memorial Day, May 30, 2022

- The Sidney American Le-

gion Post 433 will have their Memorial Day ceremony at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Sidney beginning at 10:00 a.m. Minister Doug Krukewitt of the Sidney Christian Church is the guest speaker. A 21-gun salute will be fired by the Sidney American Legion Post 433 Color/Honor Guard followed by the playing of Taps.

- The Philo American Legion Post 1171 will host Memorial Day services at 9:30 a.m. at the Philo Veteran's Monument in downtown Philo followed by a 10:00 a.m. ceremony at the St. Josephs Cemetery also known as the Immaculate Conception Cemetery located by the Immaculate Conception Church in Bongard, a 10:30 a.m. ceremony at the Calvary Cemetery located one mile east of Philo, and an 11:00 a.m. ceremony at the Locust Grove Cemetery in Philo. There will be a guest speaker at the 11:00 a.m. ceremony.

Veterans' graves will be marked with an American Flag, names will be read, and a 21-gun salute will be fired followed by live Taps being played at each cemetery and at the Philo Veteran's Monument in downtown Philo.

- The Penfield/Gifford

American Legion Post 1153 and Auxiliary Unit 1153 will host a Memorial Day ceremony immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Memorial Day Mass at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church at the St. Lawrence Cemetery south of Penfield around 10:45 a. m.

A second ceremony will be held at the veteran's memorial in the Werner Roessler Memorial Park in Gifford at 12:00 p.m.

- The Atwood American Legion Post 770 will host their Memorial Day ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at the Mackville Cemetery. The American Legion Post 770 Color/Honor Guard will post the colors, Peggy Hubbard will be the keynote speaker, and a reading of the veteran's roster for the Mackville and Lake Fort Cemeteries will take place. The Atwood American Legion Post 770 Color/Honor guard will fire a 21-gun salute, taps will be played, and Pastor Mike Drake will give the benediction that will be followed by the Atwood American Legion Post 770 Color/Honor Guard retrieving the colors.

- The Rantoul American Legion Post 287, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6750, and the Fourth Degree Knights of

Columbus will have an 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day ceremony at the Maplewood Cemetery on Rt. 45 north of Rantoul.

- The Homer American Legion Post 290 will host an 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day ceremony at the G.A.R. Cemetery in Homer. A free will offering (donations of choice) smorgasbord will follow the ceremony at the Jack Ellis Community Center. The Smorgasbord is sponsored by the American Legion Post 290 Auxiliary Unit 290.

Savoy – Memorial Day, May 30, 2022

- American Legion Post 1492 will have an 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at the Savoy Veteran's Memorial located in front of the Robert C. McCleary Municipal Center at 611 N. Dunlap. Diane Ducey will be the MC and there will be several guest speakers including Savoy Village President John Brown, Post 1492 Commander Bo Henry, Post 1492 Chaplain Bud Vandiver, and keynote speaker Past American Legion Department of Illinois Nineteenth District Commander Cheryl Walker. Scout Troup 13 will post colors and perform Taps at the ceremony.

Champaign-Urbana – Memorial Day, May 30, 2022

- Memorial Day observances begin with a 9:00 a.m. ceremony at Woodlawn Cemetery put on by the Champaign Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5520. VFW Post 5520 Commander Adam Yau will be the guest speaker, clergy will be present for a prayer, and a 21-gun salute will be fired followed by live Taps.

- The AMVETS Post 3 will host their annual 10:30 a.m. Memorial Day service at Grandview Memorial Gardens located on Rt. 150 west of Champaign. Senior Listed Leader Navy Mobile Unit Craig Witts will be the keynote speaker. The Toast of Champaign will sing, the Heritage Girls will help with the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Boy Scouts will help with the service. The Richard L Pittman Marine Corps League Detachment #1231 will present the colors and a 21-gun salute will be fired by the Champaign Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5520 that will be followed by the playing of Taps.

- Memorial Day will be observed by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 630 with an American Flag raising at 11:45 a.m. followed by the playing of

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**Sidney American Legion Discusses Poppy Distribution and Memorial Day Program**

May 16 Sidney American Legion Post 433 Meeting Coverage – by Ann Rhoton SCCTP News Correspondent

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 met on Monday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney.

Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch brought the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. following opening ceremonies and a prayer given by Post 433 Chaplain Fred Olds with 11 members and one guest; your correspondent in attendance.

Hensch asked if members had received a copy of the Monday, April 18 meeting minutes that were emailed or mailed to post members and if there were any additions or corrections. There were no

additions or corrections and the minutes were approved following a motion from Commander Hensch and a second to the motion by Post 433 Finance Officer Dannie Cline.

Post 433 Finance Officer Dannie Cline gave the finance report for May. The report was approved as read following a motion from Post 433 Adjutant Bill McLane and a second to the motion by legionnaire Robert Reifsteck.

Commander Hensch reported that he had one name of a person in Sidney who is eligible to attend American Legion Premier Illinois Boys State taking place from June 11 – June 17 according to information found at <https://illinoisboysstate.org/>. The eligible candidate will confirm if interested by Wednesday,

May 18.

Post 433 Adjutant Bill McLane reported the post has 62 members.

Sick Call, Relief, and Employment was discussed.

Post 433 Service Officer Bill McLane reported on problems with trying to help a member of the post get hearing aids.

Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch reported under the service officers report that he and his wife Shari and Post 433 Adjutant/Service Officer Bill McLane and his wife Post 433 Judge Advocate Susan McLane will be attending a dinner in Gibson City with the American Legion National Commander to accept an award for Bill and Susan McLane for their Post 433 membership efforts.

Participation at the May 18

Operation Honor Guard at the Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Mahomet, May 20 and 21 Post 433 poppy distribution, placing American Flags on the headstones of veteran's graves at the Sidney Mt. Home Cemetery on May 25, participation at the May 26 WDWs/WHMS/WKIO Multimedia Group Champaign County American Legion Posts Poppy Distribution Day Drive Through, and the 10:00 a.m. Post 433 Memorial Day Service at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Sidney were discussed under Old Business.

Post 433 Adjutant Bill McLane reported that the Sidney American Legion Post 433 had received a yellow ribbon from the American Legion Department of Illinois for 100% membership under

Communications.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch brought the meeting to adjournment at 7:00 p.m. following a motion from Post 433 Adjutant Bill McLane, a second to the motion by Post 433 Second Vice Commander Glen Dillman, and closing ceremonies and a prayer from Post 433 Chaplain Fred Olds.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney on Monday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m. Prospective new members are always welcome and encouraged to attend and all monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held at the Post Home.

**Private Christian School Option Opening in Newman**

By Tony Hooker Staff Writer

This is the second part of a series of stories about Christian Alternative Schools. Last week, Dr. McCarty, from Side-ll's Faith Christian Academy was the focus. This week, we'll hear from April Lee, the president of the board of the East Central Illinois Christian School, a new Private Religious School located in Newman, which will welcome its first class of students in September.

April, what is your role at ECICS?

I am the president of the board that has gathered together to start the school.

Are you a Newman resident?

No, I'm from Oakland.

Are you planning on building a new school west of Newman, where the sign is?

There is a plan for that, but for the immediate future, we're using a building down town that we're currently renovating.

Nationwide, it seems like there's been a real trend toward private, Christian based schools. Where do you think that's coming from?

The research that we've done shows exactly what you said, that across the nation, Christian schools are popping up everywhere. I think people are tired of the government telling them what to teach their kids and how to teach it, and they're really disgusted with public schools. Sex ed. Revisionist history. It's honestly been going downhill since they took the bible and God out of the public schools.

Why Newman?

Because they don't have a school in their town. Twenty



The new floor of the East Central Illinois Christian School

years ago, I taught in the grade school there, and in Shiloh. I was the music teacher so I went back and forth. They shut down that building and turned it into a community

center. It's a really nice community center, with a library. They have a memorial, with all their old high school pictures in one of the rooms, and the gym is a nice structure for

people to rent, but not having a school hurts their businesses. I think we're already boosting their businesses by being in town. We feed our volunteers in their restaurants, some days.

I don't think that people realize how vital a school is to a community. Everything that occurs in a community filters through the school. Would you agree?

Yes.

Do you have a target enrollment in mind?

To start off, we're looking at 25. We can house 50 in the building we're currently in. When we outgrow that building, which we intend to do <laughs> we're planning on building a new building out there on the highway. The land's been donated.

Is it scalable? If 300 people wanted their children to come

to ECICS, could you accommodate them?

I'll tell you what I do know. We have an association with Arthur Christian School. My two older boys, whom we home schooled, played athletics there, and my youngest son is now enrolled there. They moved from a very small building into a wonderful building with a large gym, and after three years, after covid and all the restrictions, they had to add on a whole wing because their enrollment had doubled.

This isn't a fad, right? It's not going to be a flash in the pan.

We spoke to the Classical Christian Education Association, a national association. We had a phone conversation with the man who started it in Idaho, and he told us that normally they

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