

**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

6/3 & 6/4 Arthur Strawberry Jam Festival and Strawberry Social

6/6 Village of Sidney Board Meeting @7pm

6/8 Dr. Nathaniel Hearne Speaking at Otto Center 6:30pm

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@thetuscolajournal.com

**Explosive History of the Boom Boom Boys of Tolono**

Tolono Fun Day is being held on June 24 and 25th this year. This week we take a look back at how it all started with the fireworks display and the volunteers behind it.

In 1977 the Tolono firemen were asked if anyone would be interested in taking over shooting fireworks for Tolono's 4th of July celebration. Up until then three Tolono firemen had shot shows for the Village independently. Damian Donberger and Larry Swope volunteered to learn how to shoot at that time. Donberger continued that challenge for the next 40 years, taking charge of making sure shooters were properly trained in safety and performance, and licensed through ATF. Several years later they were asked to join with other Tolono Community Fund-raising groups to become a combined all-town celebration called "Tolono Fun Day" on the 4th of July. This small band of shooters became known as "The Boom Boom Boys."

Over the years many shooters have joined the Boom Boom Boys to shoot shows, some for a long period of time, attending yearly the Lincoln training/test shoots. Those with over five years of experience were: Damian

Donberger, Jeff Reed, Doug Dillavou, Gene Creek, Denny Davis, Tom Reese, Jeff Gooch, Tom Musson, Scott Hughes, Ken Bragg, Troy Creek, Debbie Musson, Ron Reis, and Dan Crowley. Others included: Larry Swope, Dwight Harden, Mick Humer, Dale Grimm, Dave Ellars, C.K. Bennett, Bob Scott, Jordan Creek, Jason Brandon, Ian Creek, Jake Bragg, Chris Cooper, Mark Gentry, Brad Clemmons, Dusty Crowley, Mike Grove, and Sean Talbot.

The Boom Boom Boys volunteered all of their time towards the Fun Day effort in shooting shows for IL Fireworks, and Rich Brothers, until they became long-term affiliated with S & N Display Fireworks. The Village of Tolono bought all the fireworks until Fun Day took over fundraising. The Boom Boom Boys helped with this by walking parades, building floats (once winning 1st place), collecting at the Park on the 4th, selling raffle tickets (such as golf carts), working the Fun Day Beer Tent, along with buying and shooting extra fireworks.

For the good of the community, when they did receive compensation, they offered it back in many ways. One of their first projects was buying and installing



playground equipment and ground cover for the Tolono Park District's Tot Lot. Other projects that were undertaken by the Boom Boom Boys were: Building a shed for the Park, donating money to the Fire Protection District to buy an air-compressor, and to the Park District for the Veteran's Memorial upkeep. They gave monetary help for food for the Tolono Catholic Charities and the Giving Place. They were involved in the purchase and installation of a new door for the scout cabin, and gave donations to the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troops, and Men's Time Center. They also gave monetary support to the "40 & 8" Veteran's Parade group

who offered Nursing Scholarships, gave Camp scholarships for a child with special-needs, and held fundraisers for help with a child's medical care. They also donated labor to shoot shows in other towns. One of their more recognized efforts was purchasing and shooting fireworks for Unity's football games, tournaments, playoffs, and to recognize those returning home from special Unity events. Among other endeavors, they donated the sign on Route 45 to honor "Past, Present and Future Firefighters."

Donberger remembers that when they began, they used steel mortars, then cardboard, before shooting the pvc fire-

rated 40-gauge plastic. The biggest shell they ever shot in Tolono was a 16" which was shot in 1997 during his 20th year of shooting fireworks. Over the years, he recalls shooting in various towns and places throughout the area. Some of those were in Arcola, Bement, Bethany, Centralia, Lake Mattoon, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sidney, Westville, Urbana Country Club, Loda, Bayles Lake, Lodge Park, Monticello, Allerton & Weldon.

Donberger and Denny Davis recall their time with the Boom Boom Boys as some of the most memorable and gratifying experiences. The shooting was sometimes very intense with some venture of risk, but always fun. The camaraderie was great... as was the forming of new relationships with fellow-shooters and others affiliated with fireworks. "It was always fun to hear the excitement of the crowd cheering us on before and after all the shows. The kids were always thrilled, and so many tell us now how they enjoyed those days when the Boom Boom Boys shot 'the BEST fireworks show in the area' in Tolono." The Boom Boom Boys disbanded in 2017.

**IDPH Issues Update on Potential Cases of Severe Hepatitis in Children in Illinois**

A total of nine potential cases have been reported to IDPH Dating to January; Illinois Healthcare Providers Advised to be on the Lookout and Report Potential Cases to Public Health Authorities

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today that it has received reports of a total of nine patients under investigation for severe hepatitis in children under ten years of age, up from three that were reported in April.

The cases date back to January, and the most recent had the onset of symptoms in May.

Two-thirds of the children tested positive for adenovirus, a common virus that typically causes cold- or flu-like illness. Five patients were reported in northern Illinois, two were in the western part of the state and one each was reported in the central and southern parts of the state. All of the children were hospitalized, and one needed a liver transplant. No deaths were reported.

The IDPH update follows a recent briefing by the CDC about a total of 180 pediatric patients under investigation over the past seven months across the United States.

IDPH has been working with Illinois healthcare providers to learn of other suspected potential cases in the state and has asked providers to be on the lookout for symptoms and to report any suspected cases of hepatitis in children of unknown origin to local public health authorities. IDPH is working with involved local health departments to collect and send available specimens to CDC for further laboratory testing to look more closely at the virus genome and other potential pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2.

The CDC said that symptoms of hepatitis, or inflammation of the liver, include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, light-colored stools, joint pain, and jaundice and can be caused by viruses. These cases appear to have an association with adenovirus 41. Adenoviruses spread from person-to-person and most commonly cause respiratory illness, but depending on the

type, can also cause other illnesses such as gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach or intestines), conjunctivitis (pink eye), and cystitis (bladder infection). Adenovirus type 41 typically presents as diarrhea, vomiting and fever, and is often accompanied by respiratory symptoms. While there have been case reports of hepatitis in immunocompromised children with adenovirus infection, adenovirus type 41 is not known to be a cause of hepatitis in otherwise healthy children.

CDC has been working with state health departments to identify additional U.S. cases, and to learn what may be causing these cases. At this time, CDC said it believes adenovirus may be the cause for these reported cases, but investigators are still learning more - including ruling out other possible causes and identifying other possible contributing factors.

CDC is asking physicians to consider adenovirus test-

ing using PCR or NAAT on respiratory samples, stool or rectal swabs and whole blood for pediatric patients with hepatitis of unknown origin, and to report any possible cases of hepatitis of unknown origin to CDC and state public health authorities.

In addition, CDC is encouraging parents and caregivers to be aware of the symptoms of hepatitis, and to contact their healthcare provider with any concerns. CDC continues to recommend children be up to date on all their vaccinations, and that parents and caregivers of young children take the same everyday preventive actions that it recommends for everyone, including washing hands often, avoiding people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching the eyes, nose or mouth.

For more information, go to: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00462.asp>

**"Friday Night Lights" Dr. Nathaniel Hearne to Speak at Otto Center**

Dr. Nathaniel "Coach" Hearne, who played an important part in the lives of those football players which the film "Friday Night Lights" was all about, will speak at the Otto Center on Wednesday, June 8 starting at 6:30 p.m.

Hearne will present an educational seminar, "Encouraging & Influencing Our Children", along with his real-life story and experiences and untold stories from behind the Lights movie.

Tickets are \$25 per person, 18 and under are free, may be purchased in advance or

at the door. To buy tickets or for more info contact Matt Schlabach at 217/268-3820.

Dr. Hearne grew up in poverty and hated school but with a few encouraging teachers love and compassion, he turned his life around and has led countless individuals to excel past their expectations.

As assistant offensive line, defensive Line, and strength & condition coach, he instilled a love of honor and sportsmanship in the lives of the young men he coached.

The Permian High School legendary ("Mojo") football

program for 35 years achieved a winning percentage of 88.9 from 1980-1989, they won more football games than any other high school football team in Texas. The program was named Team of the Decade in 1989 with a record of 122 wins and 11 losses, won 6 State Championships, and was named National Champions twice.

Dr. Hearne was named Outstanding Principal of the Year for the Ector County Independent School District and Administrator of the Year for the Hurst-Euleuss-Bedford ISD.

**Strawberry Jam Festival and Social**

What better way to celebrate late spring and early summer than with America's favorite fruit, the strawberry, along with some great food and a variety of vendors.

The start of festival and fair season in the Heart of Illinois Amish Country is set for this Friday, June 3 and Saturday June 4.

With all the unique stores in downtown Arthur you certainly don't want to miss their special sales and sidewalk sales. You will not go away empty handed or hungry as vendors will fill Vine Street selling a variety of goods and a wide array of food choices! Fresh local strawberries will be on hand for sale both

days out front of Heartland Deli and Delights as well as strawberry baked goods and jams. Inside you will find featured hand dipped strawberries & cream ice cream along with many other flavors of the famous treat by Yoder's Southern Creamery.

Pony rides will be available on Saturday only from 10 am-3 pm for the children. We'll have close to 400 strawberry pies made for this year's Strawberry Social. The social is held on Saturday, June 4 at the Otto Center.

This year 125 flats of strawberries (1,000 quarts) have been purchased from Shady Crest Market and the Arthur Produce Auction for the pies

and to put on top of the 1,000 shortcakes made for the Social.

An all-day bake sale will start on Saturday at 8 am with fresh made Amish baked goods.

Lunch will be served from 11 am-1 pm with sandwiches along with freshly made shortcake and soft-serve ice cream on top. The evening meal will start at 4 pm with grilled chicken, baked beans, and noodles.

The mini auction will begin at 6 pm with the proceeds from the sale going to help defray expenses for the Haiti Benefit Auction.

**Unity Spring Sports Season Updates to Celebrate**

Rocket Recap By Tony Reetz  
The Spring Sports Season at Unity High School is wrapping up but there is a lot of success to be celebrated. Here is a look at how the spring teams are faring:

Boys Baseball: The Rockets finished 25-4 and Illini Prairie Conference Champions. They lost to Gibson City Melvin Sibley in the Regional Semi-Final.

Girl Softball: Unity softball is getting hot at the right time. The girls won their second consecutive IHSA Sectional Championship on Saturday defeating Effingham St Anthony 3-2. They followed it up with a 3-1 Super-Sectional win over Macomb at Millikin University on Monday and will return to the State Semi-Finals in East Peoria this weekend for the second year in a row. They are guaranteed an IHSA trophy. It is just a matter of which one.

Boys Track and Field: The



Rockets finished 6th in the Sectional and had one state qualifier. Jacob Maxwell brought home a 7th place medal in the 2A discus.

Girls Track and Field: Unity finished as Illini Prairie Conference Champions for the second year in a row. They also finished as Sectional Runner-up for the second year in a row and qualified 11 girls in 7 events for the IHSA 2A

State Finals. Bringing home medals were the 4x800 team of Josie Cler, Camryn Reedy, Emily Decker, Ashlyn Denney and Arianna Pruitt-LeFaivre (4th). Cler, Puitt-LeFaivre, and Denney team up with Bri Ritchie and Lauren Miller to bring home 5th place medals and a new school record in the 4x400. Kayla Nelson also brought home a 6th place medal in the 200.