

The Wenona Food Pantry Relocates To The Bi-Centennial Room Until New Facility Is Built

Dear Community Members,
We would like to inform you that the Wenona Food Pantry's previous location has been sold, requiring us to relocate. As an interim solution, the Pantry is now operating out of the Wenona Bi-Centennial Room at 205 1/2 South Walnut, ensuring continuous service for our clients. Following careful deliberation, our organization has determined that constructing a permanent facility will best serve the needs of our community. Accordingly, the Pantry has purchased the former Georgetown lot from the City of Wenona, which has remained vacant for some time.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the development of a 30x40 building will require funding in the range of \$75,000. The building will be constructed by Gochanour Construction. We encourage the community to come together in support of this important initiative. We are pleased to announce that a

generous pledge of \$20,000 has already been received, initiating our fundraising campaign. Our objective is to complete the transition to the new facility in early summer 2026, ensuring uninterrupted client services.

We invite you to participate in supporting this project. Contributions can be made at or mailed to Eureka Savings and Loan, attention Wenona Food Pantry Building Fund, Box 489, Wenona, IL 61377, or to Sandy Naylor at Box 533, Wenona, IL 61377. For further information, please contact Sandy at 815-853-4206.

Thank you!
Sandy Naylor Director
Please use this form to contribute to the Wenona Food Pantry's new facility project. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Donor Name:
Mailing Address:
Phone Number:
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Donation Amount:

Toluca Public Library Announces Tiny Art Show And Open House In The Coming Year

The Toluca Public Library will host a Tiny Art Show this February, featuring artwork created by community members of all ages.

Participants are invited to pick up a Tiny Art Show Kit from the library and create their own small work of art to be displayed during the show. Each kit includes a 4 x 6 canvas, acrylic paints, and a paintbrush.

To help artists get started, the library will sponsor a Tiny Masterpiece Workshop on January 7 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The workshop will introduce basic acrylic painting techniques. Attendance is optional, and those unable to attend may still participate by picking up a kit at the library during regular hours.

The Tiny Art Show will open

in conjunction with the library's Open House on February 4 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Open House will highlight recent changes at the library, including a reorganization of the collection and the introduction of a new circulation system designed to improve accessibility for patrons.

All completed canvases submitted for the Tiny Art Show will be displayed during the Open House and throughout the exhibit.

For more information, visit the Toluca Public Library or contact the library at 815-452-2211.

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It Happened 10 Years Ago

(From Toluca Front Page)
Crank were crowned the king and queen at the annual Fieldcrest High School Prom.

...At a special meeting, the Midland School Board named Midwest Construction of Morton as the Building Construction Manager for the new elementary school.

...On Monday, May 12, the Toluca Fire Department was called to a massive blaze at the Calvert-Froehlich Funeral Home in Toluca. Eventually a total of nine different fire departments were at the scene. The fire completely destroyed the structure.

...The Midland School Board employed **Bill Wrenn** as the district's Superintendent, to replace **Rolf Sivertsen** who accepted the Superintendent's position at Canton.

...**Dylan Herridge** and **Megan DeSmet** were named king and queen at the annual Midland High School prom.

JUNE

...**Annette Baldwin** was named the winner of the **Dick Bernardi** Spirit Scholarship. The award was presented by **Alex Stoeger**, General Manager of Ajinomoto Windsor in Peoria.

...Fieldcrest Superintendent **Daniel Oakley** addressed the Board about the establishment of attendance centers in the district. According to Oakley, the optimal arrangement would be to have the K-3 in Toluca, 4-8 in Wenona with the high school in Minonk. The Elementary South building in Minonk would be permanently closed.

...**Megan DeSmet** and **Jenna Rock** were named co-Valedictorians at Midland High School.

...The Lacon Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon to welcome The Hair Shack to Lacon. The Hair Shack, owned by stylist **Amy Prueser** was located at 130 Fifth Street in Lacon.

...Toluca Postmaster **Elizabeth Uphoff** retired after 29 years of service to the postal service, the last 11 as the Postmaster in Toluca.

...Construction on a hog facility located just outside of Wenona along Sandy Creek got underway. This was nearly two years after plans for the facility were announced.

...Wishing Star Boutique opened their doors in Lacon. The owners, **Tabatha Medina** and **Brianna Dugan** had a similar store in Peoria Heights.

...**Kourtlyn** and **Kendall Hattan** of Lacon competed in the US Tumbling and Trampoline championships held in Knoxville, TN. Competing as an advanced beginning, Kendall was awarded the first place trophy and was crowned National Champion. Kourtlyn competed as a beginner and was awarded the third place trophy. Both girls had to qualify at the state level.

JULY

...At their regular meeting, the Fieldcrest School Board approved the implementation of the Attendance Centers but voted the option which would keep all four buildings open.

...The Lacon City Council approved the purchase of \$9,000 for the parking lot at the corner of Fifth and Washington in Lacon, the site of the former Loy's Store.

...**Morgan Knoblauch** of Oglesby was crowned the M-P Fair Queen. **Brooklyn Thompson** of Henry was crowned Little Miss and Junior Miss was **Nadia Kesling**, also of Henry.

...The Midland Board approved a bid of \$228,900 from Iron Hustler of Peoria for the demolition and removal of the Midland Elementary building in Lacon.

...Toluca welcomed **Lucky Singh** as the new owner of the Toluca Supermarket. The store had been previously owned and operated by **Mark Cherny**.

AUGUST

...It was announced that a new package liquor store would be opening at the Lacon Marina in the building owned by the city on the south side of the marina. **Scott Ellison** was planning on opening "Speakeasy Package & Pour" later in the summer. It would be managed by **Malin Cremeens**.

...Ninety-six year old **Henry Thomas** received a long overdue silver star while acting as Grand Marshal at the annual Old Settlers Parade. Just as the parade was starting, he was surprised when the golf cart he was riding in was stopped and **Lt. Colonel Steve Leon** of the Illinois National Guard presented him with the silver star, a medal he earned in World War II but had never received.

SEPTEMBER

...It was announced that the tavern formerly known as Tim & Cindy's Main Street Pub had been purchased and would be reopened as Oliver's Pub in time for the annual Labor Day Celebration. Oliver's operated a similar bar/restaurant in Peoria Heights.

...The Fieldcrest Knights opened their 2016 football season with a 65-0 win over Flanagan-Cornell. Quarterback **Cam Grandy** rushed for 101 yards and two scores and passed for 88 yards and two scores, all of that coming in the first quarter as the Knights led 32-0. Grandy was lifted after the first quarter.

...The River Valley Falcons got their season underway as they played host to Luther North, falling 47-0.

...It was announced that Hardin Industries in Lacon was acquired by Millstone Capital Advisors. **Dale Hardin** opened up Hardin Welding on Main Street in Lacon in 1979. In 1999, he moved his operation out to the industrial park in Lacon and with the construction of some steel building, opened Hardin Industries.

...The City of Lacon entered into a TIF redevelopment agreement with Chillbilly Holdings of Chillicothe. Under the agreement, Chillbilly Holdings would renovate the Woolen Mill building and water tower to provide 13 loft apartments, retail/commercial stores and a bread and breakfast facility. The total cost of the project was estimated to be \$3.3 million dollars.

...In the annual men's Bocci Ball championship in Toluca, **Dan Engel** of Bloomington and **Dallas Engel** of St Paul, MN captured the men's title, defeating **Joe Bartman** and **Andy Clanin** in the championship match. In the women's division, **Teresa Mickels** and **Nancy Biagini** were crowned champions after defeating **Haley Whittington** and **Brittney Furler**. The Youth Champions were **Jordan Hochecker** and **Skylar Nix**. They de-

feated **Derek and Trent Durham** in the championship match.

...It was an all-Turnball final at the Lacon Country Club when **Scott Turnbull** won his third overall title, defeating his son, **Cam Turnbull** 7-6 in the championship match. **Michael Winkler** won the A flight title when he sank a 15-foot putt on the second extra to defeat **Jerry Adolphson**. **Austin Bessler** of Chillicothe was the B flight winner, defeating **John Brian**, also of Chillicothe.

OCTOBER

...**Mitchell McKay** and **Emma Fortner** were named the King and Queen at the annual Homecoming Dance.

...**Chase Parkinson** and **Samantha Wier** were named the King and Queen at the annual River Valley Falcon Homecoming dance held at Midland High School.

...At their October meeting, the Toluca City Council employed **Nathan Guest** as the new Police Chief, replacing **Terry Ryan** who resigned after a dispute over police duties at the Labor Day beer tent.

NOVEMBER

...The Fieldcrest Lady Knights captured their 4th straight 2A regional volleyball title with a 3-set win over El Paso-Gridley. Fieldcrest's **Gwen Lohr-Fandel** led Fieldcrest with 22 digs and 2.5 blocks. **Emma Fortner** had 40 assists while **Lexi Jochums** had a team high 13 digs.

...The Community was saddened to hear of the death of Marshall County Clerk **Melody Weber** at the age of 58. She previously also served as City Clerk or Lacon.

DECEMBER

...For the third year in a row, the Midland Timberwolves came away with an 0-5 record at the Keller Classic basketball tournament in Kewanee. **Will Holler**, **Kieran Sloan** and **Zach Weber** were the only T-Wolves to tally in the double figures through the five games.

...**Jill Piper** was appointed by the Marshall County Board as the new County Clerk, replacing **Melody Weber** who had passed away. Piper had worked in that office for the past 18 years.

...Midland announced that **Logan Pyles**, **Allison Darlington** and **Kai Wiest** were named the latest Illinois State Scholars at Midland High School.

...Five candidates filed for three seats on the Midland County Board. Candidates filing were incumbents **Bernie Cargol**, **Jay Riddell**, as well as newcomers **Bridget Nine**, **Summer Traver** and **Cheryle Wood**.

The Fieldcrest Knights sported a 3-5 record after finishing fourth in the annual Colmone Tournament, **Derek May** and **Cam Grandy** led team in scoring over the four games.

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