



# Toluca Coal Mine Association Announces The Winners Of Christmas Light Up Toluca Contest

The Toluca Coal Mine Association is announcing the winners of the 2025 Christmas Light Up Toluca Contest. The displays were judged by members of the Fieldcrest Interact Club on Monday, December 22. The city was beautifully decorated this year with many outstanding light displays. After much deliberation, the judges chose the winners to be as follows

**Business Best Decorated Winner (\$50)** - St. John's Lutheran Church  
**Residential Best Decorated Winner (\$50)** - Evelyn Ramirez  
**Residential 2nd Place Decorated Winner (\$40)** - Jim and Rita Vallazza  
**Judges' Choice Winner (\$50)** - Sydney Reichman and Koy Allen  
The Toluca Coal Mine Association would like to thank everyone for helping to make Toluca beautiful for the holiday season.



Business Best Decorated Winner- St. John's Lutheran Church



Judges' Choice Winner- Sydney Reichman and Koy Allen



Residential Best Decorated Winner- Evelyn Ramirez



Residential 2nd Place Decorated Winner- Jim and Rita Vallazza

# It Happened Back In 2016

As we start the year of 2026, it's always interesting to look back on what happened just 10 short years ago, so here we go.

...Early January flooding of the Illinois River caused some minor problems. Marina Road was underwater and water covered the road on Route 17 near Sparland. The road was not closed but was one-way traffic for a number of hours. The crest in Henry was 29.79 feet, just under the major flood classification.

...Fieldcrest High School had their first ever Athletic Hall of Fame induction in January. Among those to be inducted were **Principal Lorin Stevens, Kurt Barth, Laura Forrest, Ray Cirks, Ben McKay, Jake Martin and Brian Peterson.**

...Midland Superintendent **Rolf Sivertsen** announced that he had accepted a job as superintendent of the Canton Union School District. Sivertsen came to the Midland District in the 2000-01 school year as the high school principal. He was named the superintendent at Midland starting with the 2007-08 school year.

### FEBRUARY

...The entire Midland School District was closed following a special board meeting where testing results were released which showed high levels of mold and lead at the Midland Elementary building in Lacon.

...Community members and teachers worked throughout the first weekend in February to move classes out of the Elementary

Building in Lacon because of the mold issues. The contingency plan called for all elementary classes to be moved to Sparland and the fifth grade class would be moved to the high school. At this point there was no timetable for the length of this arrangement.

...At a special board meeting on February 8th, school architects **Tom Cox** and **Chuck Bennett** unveiled to the board what a \$4.1 million, 12,000 square foot addition to the Sparland Middle School would look like should the March 8, \$9.8 million dollar elementary building referendum fail. At the same meeting, the architects also unveiled drawings of what the proposed \$9.8 million dollar building would look like.

...The Fieldcrest Lady Knights dropped a 61-50 decision to Peoria Christian in the championship of the 2A regional held at Peoria Christian. **Gwen Lohr-Fandel** tallied 20 points for the Lady Knights who finished the season at 16-12.

### MARCH

...The Fieldcrest Knights dropped a heartbreaking 56-55 decision to Bishop-McNamara in overtime in the 2A regional championship game hosted by Fieldcrest High School. **Drew Barth** led the Knights with 19 points. **Jonathan Panzica** and **John Pickard** added double figure scoring. The Knights finished the season with a 20-9 record.

...**Luke Shofner** and **Miranda Shofner** were named the king and queen at Midland's winter formal held at Lake Wildwood.

...The Midland Timberwolves saw their season come to an end in the regional semi-finals where they dropped a 53-33 decision to Flanagan. **Will Holler** and **AJ Foster** shared the scoring honors with 8 points apiece. Midland finished the season at 4-25.

...In the March election, 65.5% of the voters in the Midland School District turned out and approved the Elementary School referendum by a vote of 1,411 to 1,131 or 55.5% of the vote.

...The Midland T-Wolves baseball team started the season with a win when **Nathaniel Schackow** pitched a 2-hit shut-out in a 10-0 win over Ridgeview. **Will Holler** had four hits and two RBI's for the T-Wolves.

### APRIL

...It was announced in mid-May that effective May 2nd, the Sparland Post Office would be permanently closing. A sign on the door noted issues with the lease. All postal services for Sparland residents would be handled by the Lacon Post Office.

...At a special meeting of the Midland Board, the board accepted the resignation of **Tiona Kimble** who had served on the board since 2013.

...Longtime businessman **Bob Wall** passed away at the age of 79. Bob partnered with insurance agent **Walter Head** to form the Head & Wall Insurance Agency that operated in Lacon for over 40 years.

### MAY

...**Jeremy Sullivan** and **Oliva** (Continued On Page 4)

# Marshall County Court News

### MARRIAGE LICENSE

Jeffrey Michael Boyles. Dawn Renee Briggs.

### LAND TRANSFERS

Grantor: Peter Anthony Click. Sarah Kathryn Greenhagen. Grantee: Amy Lynn Mock, Timothy Michael Mock. Santa Fe the 1st Add Block 40, Lot 3. Block 40, Lot 4. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Scarlett Palm. Grantee: Scarlett R. Palm Tr. Lacon (Original Town) Block 22, Lot 7. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Scarlett R. Palm. Grantee: Scarlett R. Palm Tr. Section 19, Township 30N, Range 2W, Govt Lot: -SE-SW. Section 19, 30N, 2W, -SW-SE, Notes W 1/2, Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Esther Vazquez Tellez. Grantee: Heather E. Peterson. Santa Fe the 1st Add, Block 78, Lot 3. Block 78, Lot 4. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Janice R. Hewett, Rex A. Hewett. Grantee: Laurie Ann Rice, Richard John Rice. Lloyds Add Lot 3. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Gavin Halsne, Olivia Halsne. Grantee: Kairlyn Asher, Zachary R. Asher. Section 19, Township 30N, Range 1W, Govt Lot: -SW-SE, Notes 1.00A. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Benjamin E. Dodge Tr., Julie E. Dodge Tr. Grantee:

Charlotte Fehland, James Fehland Sr. Hopewell Estates Lot 205, Trust Deed.

Grantor: Scarlett R. Palm, Troi Palm. Grantee: Pamela Ray. Lacon (Original Town) Block 73, Lot 2, Notes E100'. Block 73, Lot 3, Notes E100'. Block 73, Lot 6, Notes N10' by 120'. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Kenneth A. Schmil-

(Continued On Page 2)



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*Have a Happy New Year!*

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