

Toluca H.S. Class Of 1967 Holds 59th Reunion At Mona's



The Toluca High School class of 1967 met at Capponi's Restaurant in Toluca on Sunday, June 14th to celebrate their 59th class reunion.

Pictured in front from left to right: Marsha Yocum Piraino, Jilene Warfield, Judy Litchfield Neff, Jane Lakemper Aussieker, Mary Lutz Miller, Sylvia Crank Limes, Judy Heck Wince, LuAnne Schwab Aberle. Back row: Jim McBride, Wayne Craig, Frank Schwiderski, Gary Paulsen, Joe Althaus.

2026's Most Patriotic States in America

There are many different ways to express patriotism, from hanging up a flag or attending a parade to voting, joining the military or actively working to improve conditions for your fellow Americans. Being a patriot means loving your country and its people while also recognizing its flaws and striving to make it the best it can be. And there's no better time to get into the spirit of patriotism than July 4th, the most patriotic day of the year.

In order to determine where Americans have the most red, white and blue pride on Independence Day and during the rest of the year, WalletHub compared the states across 13 key indicators of patriotism. Our data set ranges from the state's military enlistees and veterans to the share of adults who voted in the 2024 presidential election to AmeriCorps volunteers per capita.

"The most patriotic states have a lot of residents who serve or have served in the armed forces, high voter turnouts during elections, and a high share of the population

volunteering with national or local organizations. Patriotism also isn't concentrated in any one particular area – the top states are located in vastly different geographic regions."

Chip Lupo, WalletHub Analyst

Most Patriotic States	
State	Score
1. Virginia	70.07
2. Montana.....	67.90
3. Vermont.....	66.56
4. Colorado.....	64.46
5. Oregon.....	62.46
6. North Dakota.....	60.63
7. Washington.....	60.27
8. Maryland.....	59.92
9. Minnesota.....	58.66
10. New Hampshire.....	57.64
11. Utah.....	56.22
12. Alaska.....	56.14
13. Kansas.....	55.20
14. Hawaii.....	54.82
15. Wyoming.....	54.09
Least Patriotic States	
36. Ohio.....	43.66
37. Illinois.....	43.15
38. Pennsylvania.....	43.08
39. Mississippi.....	42.71
40. California.....	39.58

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Toluca Red Cross Blood Drive Is June 24

Don't forget the Red Cross Toluca blood drive is June 24th at the Toluca American Legion Hall, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. You can register yourself by going online to redcross-blood.org, select the Toluca blood drive and then choose a time slot. Or you can call Tim and Carla O'Connor at (815) 452-2529. It doesn't take that much time out of your day to donate. If you reduce your intake of caffeine - coffee, tea, chocolate and increase the amount of water you drink, your hemoglobin level will be sufficient and the process will go faster! You will receive a \$15 e-card by coming to donate. It will also make you eligible for a drawing of \$7,500!

You can raise your iron and therefore, your hemoglobin level by eating ready-to-eat cereal, shrimp, watermelon, beans, beef, rice, potatoes, to name a few. Again, drink plenty of water in the days leading up to the drive. Your donation can help 3 people when your pint is split into its 3 components. Summer is a time when injuries from vehicle accidents, farming and boating accidents occur more frequently. Everyone probably knows someone that has or has had cancer. Cancer patients require more blood than patients with any other disease. Please consider donating. Thank you.

Fredericks Family Honored With June Yard Of The Month Award By Toluca Coal Mine Assoc.



The Toluca Coal Mine Association is proud to announce that Joyce and Bernard "Jet" Fredericks on the corner of Railroad and Walnut Streets have been selected as the June Yard of the Month winners.

Their charming home, featuring a large wraparound porch, has been admired by residents for many years. Overlooking the railroad tracks and crossing, the property captures the character and charm of a bygone era. One can almost imagine a family gathered on the porch, waving as steam engines rolled through town.

Since purchasing the property nearly 13 years ago in Toluca's "Old Town" neighborhood, the Fredericks have worked diligently to enhance its beauty. Improvements include the addition of three flowering trees, rose bushes, expanded flower beds, and an assortment of statues and decorative items that add character and interest to the landscape.

For Joyce, the home holds special memories. She grew up in the house during the 1950s when it was owned by her mother, Gladys Zenzen. Both Joyce and Jet were raised in Toluca and take great pride in maintaining their property and contributing to the community's appearance.

Upon receiving the award, the Fredericks expressed their appreciation, stating, "Our roots are still at this location, along with all the flowers and plantings. Our family loves Toluca. This recognition has a special meaning to us."

The Yard of the Month and Most Improved Yard awards are sponsored by the Toluca Coal Mine Association and the City of Toluca. Residents are encouraged to nominate deserving properties through City Hall or by contacting Barb Dahlbach at (815) 303-2850.

While Yard of the Month is awarded regularly, the Most Improved Yard award is reserved for homeowners who have gone above and beyond in improving and beautifying their property. If you know someone who has made exceptional improvements to their yard, please consider submitting a nomination.

School Cell Phone Ban Among Education Bills To Pass

by Peter Hancock, Capital News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker says he intends to sign legislation imposing a statewide ban on cell phones and other wireless communication devices during instructional time in public schools and charter schools.

Although many districts in Illinois have already adopted more stringent bans of their own, Senate Bill 2427 would require all school boards to adopt policies that at least meet a minimum standard, beginning in the upcoming 2026-2027 school year.

That includes prohibiting students from using wireless devices during the regular school day, including instructional time, recess, lunch and time passing between classes. But it does not include before - and after-school activities or off-campus learning activities.

The bill provides a variety of exceptions to the ban such as when their use is needed for the student's health management, for special education purposes or because the student is also a caregiver for a family member.

Wireless communication devices are defined as any portable wireless device that can provide voice, messaging or other data communication between two or more parties. That includes cell phones, tablet computers, laptop computers, gaming devices and wearable devices such as smart watches.

"Every parent and educator knows the damage that unchecked screen time and social media can do to our children and how disruptive they can be in school," Pritzker said in a statement. "The bipartisan support for this effort reflects the urgency educators and families across Illinois feel."

The bill prohibits schools from using fines, fees or law enforcement officers to enforce the ban.

The bill passed the House in April, 102-3. The Senate concurred in the House version of the bill Sunday, 55-2.

Marshall County Court News

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Jeremy Dreckman (D). Chrissie Dreckman (P). 6/9/26 "dissolution of marriage/union"

FINES LEVIED

Tyler J. Monckton 3/27/26 by County Traffic "drvg under influ of alcohol" 6/9/26 fine \$2,660, 12 months supervision.

Austin L. Greenwell 12/15/25 by County Traffic "speeding 35+ mph over limit" 6/10/26 charge amended "driving 21-25 mp above limit" fine \$251.

Lazeric R. Jackson 3/17/26 by IL Sec. of State "electronic commu device" 6/9/26 fine \$375, 90 days supervision.

Joshua J. Johnson 4/14/26 by County traffic "driving 21-25 mph above limit" 6/10/26 fine \$164.

Angeline S. Shuck 4/29/26 by County traffic "disregard stop sign" 6/9/26 fine \$375, 90 days supervision.

Bruce A. Smolucha 5/7/26 by County Traffic "operate uninsured mtr vehicle" 6/9/26 fine \$375, 90 days supervision.

Anthony D. Hueramo 5/8/26 by County Traffic "driving 21-25 mph above limit" 6/7/26 fine \$164.

Shao Feng Huang 5/16/26 by County Traffic "driving 15-20 mph above limit" 6/5/26 fine \$164.

Vinutha Sprinivasa 5/21/26 by County traffic "driving 15-20 mph above limit" 6/9/26 fine \$425. 90 Days supervision.

Nicholas C. Giello 5/22/26 by County Traffic "driving 15-20 mph above limit" 6/5/26 fine \$164.

LAND TRANSFERS

Grantor: Cheryl L. Phelps Ind. Admin., Gregory A. Phelps. Grantee: Cheryl L. Phelps. Hopewell Estates, Lot 30. Administrator Deed.

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