



# Southern Champaign County TODAY

TAKE  
YOUR  
FREE  
COPY!

Vol. 56 No. 18

Better Newspapers Inc.

May 13, 2026

## SOUTH COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Email: office@thecounty-chronicle.com

### Fun Day

#### Committee Meeting

Third Thursday of every month Tolono Fun Day Committee Meeting 6:30 at the Police Station.

### Tolono Food Pantries

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

Every Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Giving Place is open in Tolono to help families in need of food items.

### Unit 7 events

#### this week

5/17 Unity Graduation (Rocket Center) 2pm

### May is National Mental Health Awareness Month

# 988

## SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TO OUR COLUMNISTS: 10 a.m. Friday prior to publication

### Weekend weather

Friday, May 15 — High 76, Low 61 / 38 percent chance of showers in the morning. Winds at 18 MPH.

Saturday, May 16 — High 85, Low 63. Partly cloudy. 17 percent chance of rain. Winds at 17 MPH.

Sunday, May 17 — High 84, Low 65. Partly cloudy. 23 percent chance of rain. Winds at 17 MPH.



**SERVICE WITH A SMILE.** Left to right: Tom Talbott, Brett Franzen, Glenn Dillman, Steve Herriott, and Melinda Talbott serve up food at the Saturday, May 2 Sidney Lions Club Fish Fry. Photo by Ann Rhoton.



**SIDNEY LIONS CLUB** members serve up a meal to a large crowd at the Saturday, May 2, Sidney Lions Club Fish Fry. Photo by Ann Rhoton.

## Sidney Lions Club hold annual fish fry

By Ann Rhoton  
SCCT News Correspondent

The 67th annual Sidney Lions Club donations accepted all you can eat fish fry took place on Saturday, May 2 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Sidney Community Building located at 211 E. Main St. in Sidney.

A large crowd attended

and enjoyed a fish dinner that included deep-fried Alaskan pollock, tartar sauce, potato salad, coleslaw, and pork and beans along with chocolate cake and cookies.

Dinner was served eat-in or to-go, and working on the serving line were Sidney Lions Club members

Tom Talbott, Brett Franzen, Glenn Dillman, Steve Herriott, and Melinda Talbott.

Sidney Lions Club President Bill Hensch and Sidney Lions Club member Dennis Riggs gave the community an opportunity to purchase Sidney Lions Club 2026 Christmas Cash

– New Year's Dash raffle tickets at this year's fish fry. If you didn't make it to the fish fry or just want more tickets, they can be purchased from Sidney Lions Club President Bill Hensch or from any Sidney Lions Club member.

Proceeds from the fish fry go toward Sidney Lions

Club college scholarships and the Sidney Lions Club eye glasses program.

The Sidney Lions Club is always looking for new members. Those interested in becoming a Sidney Lions Club member can give Sidney Lions Club President Bill Hensch a call at (217) 649-6989.

## Sidney holds inaugural Spring Fling

By Ann Rhoton  
SCCT News Correspondent

Here at last! The inaugural Sidney Spring Fling event brought to you by The Goose & The Gander, LLC and the Sidney Improvement Group took place on South David Street in downtown Sidney on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The event was a huge success with a large crowd attending throughout the day and, with it being Mother's Day weekend and Mother's Day the next day, it provided folks with a wonderful opportunity to shop for Mother's Day gifts and enjoy a weekend in downtown Sidney!

There were around 31 vendors in attendance at the event, too many for your correspondent to visit with everyone, but I was able to take the time to shop and visit with a few of them.

Amy's Sweet Delights was at the event with some awesome cakes, cookies, and sweet rolls for sale



**SHOPPING IN FULL SWING** at Saturday, May 9 Inaugural Sidney Spring Fling event brought to you by The Goose & The Gander, LLC and the Sidney Improvement Group. Photo by Ann Rhoton.

which were spectacularly packaged for special gift giving. Amy and Ryan Wagle are the owners of the business based out of Royal, Illinois. I also found while visiting with them that they were voted the News-Gazette People's Choice #1 Bakery for both 2024 and 2025!

Skylar Farris, owner of Liberty Print & Stich based out of Mahomet, Illinois, was at the event with some of his custom apparel. His business is veteran-owned and family-operated.

The Junk Mavens located at 214 South David Street in Sidney, as well as set-

ting up as a vendor, had a soft opening of their soon-to-be-open business. Your correspondent took a peek inside and was blown away as to what they have done with the renovation of the building and how different it now looks! They feature antiques, glass ware, an-

tique plates, bowls, pottery, and more.

Sidney business Split Ends owner Laurie Callaway and her husband are setting up an antique shop at the south end of the Split Ends building located at

See **SPRING FLING** on page 6



**INSIDE THE JUNK MAVENS** soft opening at the Saturday, May 9 Inaugural Sidney Spring Fling event brought to you by The Goose & The Gander, LLC and the Sidney Improvement Group. Photo by Ann Rhoton.



**LEFT TO RIGHT** Amy and Ryan Wagle of Amy's Sweet Delights pose for a photo at their booth at the Saturday, May 9 Inaugural Sidney Spring Fling event brought to you by The Goose & The Gander, LLC and the Sidney Improvement Group. Photo by Ann Rhoton.



## Our schedule has changed —

All ads, legal notices, submitted photos, and editorial copy will need to be in by 12 noon Fridays starting with our next edition. Thank you for your help, and we look forward to your submissions. Email office@thecounty-chronicle.com.