



Southern Champaign County TODAY

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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.

Caregivers group

If you are caring for a loved one (spouse, parent, child with a disability, etc.) there is a caregivers group where people share experiences, suggestions, and resources. They meet at the Zest for Life Center in Villa Grove, 610 East Harrison at 1:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. They are a free and informal group. If you have questions, text or leave a message at 217-369-7071.

Schools to get funding increase, but less than some had urged

By PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois

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SPRINGFIELD – Illinois lawmakers passed a budget Monday morning that includes a full \$350 million increase in Evidence-Based Funding for public schools, money earmarked specifically for the neediest school districts in the state.

That includes a restoration of the \$47 million for property tax relief grants called for in the formula that lawmakers passed in 2017 — a program that lawmakers paused in this year's budget and that Gov. JB Pritzker had recommended not funding again in the upcoming fiscal year.

But that is still far less than what many education advocates had urged lawmakers to pass. Those groups, which included teachers' unions from some of the state's poorest districts, noted that as the state enters its 10th year of funding under the EBF model, most school districts in Illinois are still significantly underfunded.

"Today's budget proposal reflects not enough compliance with the state's own evidence-based formula, not enough revenue for schools and services, and not enough courage from the governor and lawmakers at a time when it is needed more than ever," Stacy Davis Gates, president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers and Chicago Teachers Union, said in a statement.

Overall, the budget calls for just over \$10.8 billion in state funding for the Illinois State Board of Education, which oversees the state's public school system. That's about \$120 million more than

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Memorial Day Services and Ceremonies



SIDNEY AMERICAN LEGION Post 433's oldest member 104-year-old George Hawthorne and his son Kirk Hawthorne attend the Sidney American Legion Post 433 Monday, May 25 Mt. Hope Cemetery Memorial Day program. Photo by Ann Rhoton.

The sounds of 21-gun salutes, the playing of Taps, and the performance of patriotic music could be heard all over Champaign County as many remembered our fallen heroes on Memorial Day.

It was a beautiful morning for the Sidney American Legion Post 433 hosted 10:00 a.m. Memorial Day program at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Sidney.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch welcomed the very large crowd in attendance at this year's program and Post 433 Chaplain Fred Olds offered an opening prayer.

Commander Hensch introduced the long list of dignitaries in attendance at the program asking them each to stand up and be recognized before introducing keynote speaker Pastor Doug

Krukewitt of the Sidney Christian Church who gave a very inspiring message.

Singer Pam Dillman performed a beautiful version of the Irving Berlin composed song "God Bless America", asking those in attendance to sing along on the chorus.

Commander Hensch then talked about the Civil War cannon that Sidney resident Jim Wood had restored and, at his request, brought to the program to fire four volleys in remembrance of the four past members of the Sidney American Legion Post 433 who gave their lives in defense of the United States of America.

The four cannon volleys were fired in honor of Sidney residents Charles Reese, Private 1st Class – United States Marine Corp., Thomas Leeper, Lieutenant –

United States Army/Air Corp., Jackie McElwee, Lance Corporal – United States Marine Corp., and Glenn David McElroy, Lieutenant Colonel – United States Army.

The cannon volleys were fired by many of the dignitaries in attendance to include News-Gazette Vice President of News and host of the WDWS News-Gazette Radio show Jim Rossow, News-Gazette Editor and host of the WDWS News-Gazette Radio show Jeff D'Alessio, U.S. Congresswoman Mary Miller representing Illinois's 15th District, and State Representative Chris Miller representing Illinois's 101st District.

Cannon owner Jim Wood and his assistants Scott Rohl and Randy Werremeyer helped the dignitaries fire the cannon.

Sidney American Legion Post

433 Auxiliary Post 433 Unit member Janet Brown and Sidney American Legion Post 433 Judge Advocate Susan McLane laid a wreath and presented an American Flag at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 Honor Guard consisting of Bill McLane, Susan Mantell, Glenn Dillman, Susan McLane (American Flag), Fred Olds (Legion Flag), Mel Goodman, Mike Shepard, Jerry Akers, and David Dillman (Captain) fired a 21-gun salute followed by Owen Schiff playing Taps.

Post 433's oldest member 104-year-old George Hawthorne and his son Kirk Hawthorne, Sidney American Legion Post 433 Historian Rollo Katterhenry, and

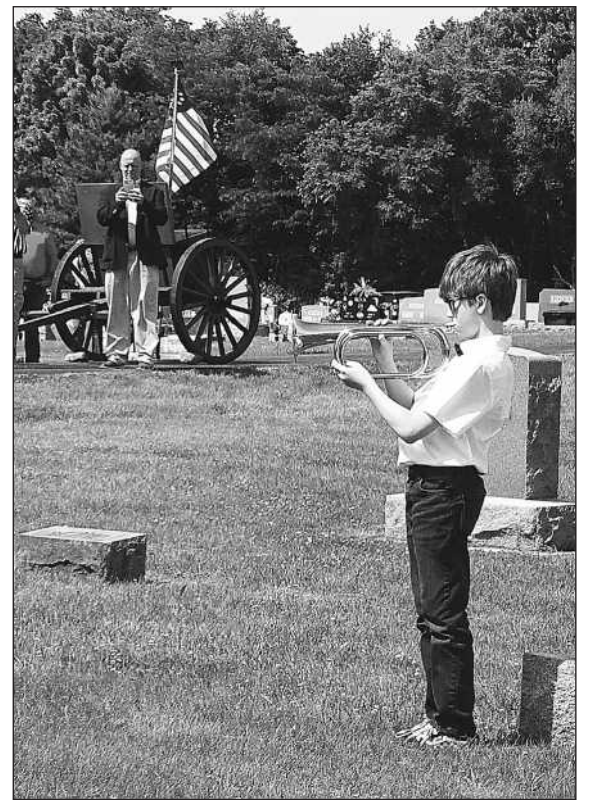
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SIDNEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH Pastor Doug Krukewitt speaks at the Monday, May 25 Sidney American Legion Post 433 Memorial Day program. Photo by Ann Rhoton.



SALUTING THE DEAD at the Monday, May 25 Sidney American Legion Post 433 Memorial Day program left to right Sidney American Legion Post 433 Honor Guard members Bill McLane, Susan Mantell, Glenn Dillman, Susan McLane (American Flag), Fred Olds (Legion Flag), Mel Goodman, Mike Shepard, Jerry Akers, and David Dillman (Captain). Photo by Ann Rhoton.



OWEN SCHIFF plays Taps at the Sidney American Legion Post 433 Monday, May 25 Memorial Day program at the Mt. Hope Cemetery. Sidney resident Jim Wood's Civil War cannon can be seen in the background. 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.