

Rocket Nation

By Diane Ducey



Tolono

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area of the park. The Firefly company sending the drones up say that those homes that have back yards facing that work area will be looking more directly up at the configurations and may not like that vantage point, comparing it to sitting in the front row of a movie theater. The drone launch area will be in the field at the end of West Walnut as the technicians lay out a big tarp to set them on before rising 400 feet in the air to do their various programmed patterns with good viewing and a sound track heard in West Side Park. Because of the big crowd anticipated, 3 8-passenger shuttles will be used to pick up people parking at Busey and 1 of the shuttles plans to go to East Side Park to pick up people in the parking lot.

Saturday, June 27th the 7am flag ceremony takes citizens back to the root of Fun Day with patriotic remarks and a blessing on the day. Veterans are honored at the military memorial at 7am and everyone's encouraged to have breakfast at the Masonic Lodge downtown between 7:30-10:30am. Raffle tickets (\$10 each) will support the future festival fund with the top prize of \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500 and a \$300 gift card from Walmart in Savoy being chosen before the fireworks show at 9:15pm as local scouts retire the colors. The band "We Got Covered" plans to play patriotic songs as people gather with their lawn chairs and blankets to see the Patriot Pyros show. The main stage will feature banners with Philo Exchange Bank and KAAMS Automotive getting

special placement of their logos with Monical's Pizza and of course the Village of Tolono, Fire and Police Departments and other sponsors who are contributing to the success of this event taking place the last full weekend in June.

Grand Marshals for the Tolono Fun Days parade will be members of the Tolono Historical Society and Veterans Museum (be sure to let the advisory board know you plan to come and ride) with line up at 10am and it starts at 11am. For those who would like to sign up and volunteer for a shift, reach out to any Tolono Fun Day committee person who has the link with options on various shifts including selling pork chop sandwiches and meal deals in the park, collecting donations, being a golf cart shuttle driver and working the kids games in the afternoon between 2-4pm. The Kiddie Tractor Pull (sponsored by Martin Equipment) has a 12:30pm registration at the Large Diamond and the pull starts at 1pm. The Cake Walk and Kids Games happen in the afternoon, too. The Betty Harden Memorial Cow Drop (squares are \$10 each and can be bought now, sometimes it's sold out by the time the cow arrives) has been over by the petting zoo in the past and inflatables and attractions can be tapped into as well grabbing something to eat, drink getting something from the couple dozen vendors as well as listening to music and enjoying a cold beverage in the pavilion for those 21+. TolonoFunDays.org is where you can find more details or contribute! Looking so forward to all the festivities! Thank you to everyone who's been helping make this a special year with America's 250!

Oran Varela named to Graceland University's President's List

The honor roll lists for Graceland University's 2026 spring term have been announced, and Oran Varela of Tolono, has been named to the President's List.

Graceland University students with a perfect 4.0 grade point average are named to the President's List. Congratulations, Oran! Graceland commends you on your academic success.

The Graceland University President's List students represent a diverse range of aca-

demic disciplines, reflecting Graceland's commitment to a well-rounded and comprehensive educational experience. Their achievements highlight the University's dedication to providing a challenging and intellectually stimulating environment that nurtures the growth and development of future transformational leaders.

For more information, visit www.graceland.edu and follow Graceland University on Facebook for additional student achievements.

Tolono Historical Society Presents

Keith Harden

Solo-acoustic

Join us at the

Tolono Township Hall

(across from Busey Bank)

111 E Holden
Tolono IL 61880

June 24
12:00 – 1:00pm

Museum

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ingfoss, Gus & Gladys Maggio, Frankie Reifsteck, Betty Samson, and Doris Smalley. While 21 folks pioneered the Society's first year, only two of the twenty-one remain active. Eighteen are deceased. This small group of Tolono area-residents formed an organization to preserve Tolono history. This endeavor began while Bill Kirby, visiting with friends who liked to tell stories of Tolono-past, decided to form a "Society."

It started with collecting old photos & memorabilia documenting Tolono's 1856 founding. Items emphasizing agriculture, Lincoln history, railroads & trains... were brought to life through old newspapers & items collected.

Barbara Barnhart mentioned that "researching the history of our community is a way to reinforce who we are." Five U.S. Presidents had visited Tolono: Abraham Lincoln, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, & Ronald Reagan. Several other dignitaries have stepped foot on Tolono Township soil. "Even if all we do is to provide resources for future Historians seeking out Tolono information, we will have done our job."



Back row: Virginia Lovingfoss, Mark Lovingfoss, Anna Jane Bretzlaff Front row: Janet Cler, Frankie Reifsteck, William Kirby, Barb Barnhart, Marcia Davis



Wilma Lee Woolard, Ralph Woolard, Betty Samson, Bill Kirby, Marge Bialeschki, Doris Smalley, Gladys Maggio, Anna Jane Bretzlaff, Barbara Barnhart

A t tend a library program– Earn a summer Reading Badge

Did you know that you can earn badges throughout the Summer Reading Challenge by attending programs at the library? This week we have several programs coming up that will help you meet your reading challenge goals. First, this Thursday, June 18 from 4:00-5:00 we will be hosting the Terre Haute Children's Museum for their Interactive Lab: Diagnosing the Garden. Gardens and greenery can often be home to wilting flowers or dying leaves. Even the youngest children have a chance to save struggling plant-life through

the power of observation! In this hands-on activity, children conduct field research as plant biologists. Using their tools and science skills. They will look over plant "patients" outside to determine if they are missing something in their environment. Everyone will get a chance to share what they discover, and the young scientists will use their observations to create real solutions! This is a great way to have fun while being a life-saving biologist!

Later that same evening, from 6:00-7:30, stop by for Trivia Night. This month's

theme will be based on the television show RuPaul's Drag Race. Get your queens together, dress accordingly, and show off your knowledge of the show!

On Saturday, June 20 bring the kids back to see the Champaign County Forest Preserve's Micro Marvels from 11:00-12:00. Kids will have an opportunity to explore all different kinds of bugs and creepy crawlers from 11:00-12:30.

On Monday, Joanna Wang from Three Berry Flowers will be here to show you the best

way to arrange those beautiful bouquets. Please be sure to register for this event, so that she knows how many supplies to bring.

Registering for events is always helpful so that we know how many supplies to purchase, and many events are subject to cancellation if we do not have enough registered participants. So, if you plan to stop by, make sure you let us know! You are register for an event by visiting our website at tolonolibrary.org/events or by calling the library.

The Sidney Scoop

By Ann Rhoton
Phone 217-688-2812



Both the Sidney American Legion Post 433 Sunday, June 14 Flag Day American Flag Retirement Ceremony and Monday, June 15 regular monthly meeting should have taken place. Look for a feature and a report from your correspondent in next week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 are running a meat raffle again this year. There are 750 tickets to sell; ten tickets per book for \$10.00 a ticket.

The meat being raffled is beef, the winner will be announced at the end of the

Saturday, July 25 Sidney Fun Daze Car Show, and the winner can take the meat or a cash amount to be announced.

Tickets can be purchased from Sidney American Legion Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch who can be reached at (217) 649-6989, Sidney American Legion Post 433 Adjutant/Service Officer Bill McLane who can be reached at (217) 390-2196, or any other Sidney American Legion Post 433 member.

Winston's Old Bank and the Sidney Saloon are teaming up to host a Saturday, June 20 Street Fest in the

downtown Sidney area between Byron and Railroad Streets from 2:00 – 10:30 p.m.

The Back Porch Boys will perform from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m., Sammy and the Coaltrain will perform from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., and Braden Pridemore will perform from 8:00 – 10:30 p.m. Bringing your own lawn chairs to this event is recommended.

Come to downtown Sidney on Saturday, June 20 from 2:00 – 10:30 p.m. and enjoy some great music and camaraderie!

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sid-

Parkland College Announces Spring 2026 Dean's List

To honor outstanding scholastic achievement, Parkland College has named the following students to its Spring 2026 Dean's List. To make the list, students must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 grade scale for the semester in which they are being honored. Students who earn less than 12 hours in that semester can make the dean's list by achieving a 3.5 cumulative GPA for 12 or more hours in the academic year. Dean's list-eligible courses are 100-level courses

or higher, e.g., ENG 101.

Students, we are proud of your diligence and determination in your educational endeavors! Congratulations!

Sidney
Allison R. Fenter
Emma D. Fish
Kadence L. Goff
Brooklyn M. Haas
Cameron E. Kaiser
Tyler S. Liffick-Worrell
Carson M. Parker
Heather A. Schwartz
Tolono
Elsa Burnside

Lydia M. Case
Elle M. Cheely
Krystal A. Crossin
Kade R. Dubson
Brooke L. Hewing
Shelby R. Hoel
Abel S. Jeurissen
Jolie K. Meyer
Tatum E. Meyer
Gabe R. Pound
Garrett F. Richardson
McKayla R. Schendel
Joshua D. Stricklin
Lynnndsay J. Talbott
Olivia D. Tempel
Madysen A. York

Logan A. Zumbahlen
Philo
Brenlee G. Dalton
Estella K. Dodd
Chloey R. Duitsman
Crewe W. G. Eckstein
Reese Frye
Jocelyn C. Lefairvre
Lexington R. Mahaffey
Charlie L. Ray
Bailey E. Rice
Gillian Rice
Tanner C. Siems
Evan E. Vlahovich
Kyleigh J. Weller