



Southern Champaign County TODAY

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Better Newspapers Inc.

June 24, 2026



Menards Food Drive

June 1 until July 31, 2026. Your local Menards home improvement store is now serving as a drop site for a local food pantry during the months of June & July, 2026. We're excited to participate in this wonderful opportunity while lending a helping hand to the community during the next three months.

Menards offers a wide variety of non-perishable food items that can be donated to the food pantries, from boxes of cereal to cans of soup that can be found in our grocery department for immediate donation. There is a large collection box near the exit doors to place donations.

Please contact Menards Spokesperson, Jeff Abbott, at jabbott@menard-inc.com or 715-864-2658 for more information.

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.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 holds discussion

By Ann Rhoton SCCTP News Correspondent

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 met on Monday, June 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney.

Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch brought the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. following opening ceremonies and a prayer being given by Post 433 Chaplain Fred Olds with twelve members and one guest; your correspondent in attendance.

Commander Hensch asked members if they had read the Monday, May 18 meeting minutes that had been emailed or mailed to post members and if there were any additions or corrections. There were no additions or corrections and the meeting minutes were approved following a motion from Post 433 legionnaire Mel Goodman and a second to the motion by Post 433 legionnaire Mike Shepard.

Commander Hensch introduced and thanked your correspondent for attending the meeting and reporting on it.

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Rocket Nation

By Diane Ducey



The rich history of our country is being celebrated this Summer with America's 250th birthday! The Champaign County History Museum had a wonderful display at the Champaign Public Library for four days including the Declaration of Independence, signed documents with George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and the Thomas Payne book "Common Sense" as over 1,400 visitors looked at the exhibit. It's amazing to think of

how our nation's forefathers wrote so eloquently to break off from Great Britain and come together after so many intense battles for our freedom. I want to thank those volunteers who brought on such a unique opportunity for us to get a glimpse of this moving display as we ramp up towards a great 4th of July. The Champaign County Freedom Celebration committee asked members of the museum to

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SINGER KATIE FORD, announcer/radio personality Diane Ducey, President of Tolono Fun Day Jeff Hahn and his wife Rena with their grand kids, selecting raffle winners before the fireworks.



2025 Grand Marshal's Dale and Virginia Stierwalt with their (now adult) kids Douglas and Peg.

Winston's Old Bank and Sidney Saloon Street Fest

By SCCTP News Correspondent Ann Rhoton

Saturday, June 20 started out cloudy, but the sun was coming out by 7:30 a.m. to make for a beautiful day in downtown Sidney and your correspondent hopes that folks were able to come to downtown Sidney and enjoy some great music and camaraderie!

Winston's Old Bank and the Sidney Saloon hosted a Saturday, June 20 Street Fest in the downtown Sidney area between Byron and Railroad Streets from 2:00 – 10:30 p.m., the weather could not have been better for the event, and many enjoyed music in the sunshine and under the stars!

The Back Porch Boys were performing some wonderful music from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. when your correspondent was able to attend and I hope readers enjoy the photo of them performing published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign

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Sammy and the Coaltrain perform Saturday, June 20 at the Winston's Old Bank and the Sidney Saloon sponsored Street Fest in downtown Sidney. Photo provided by Greg Rhoton.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 American Flag Retirement Ceremony

The Second Continental Congress approved the design of our National Flag on June 14, 1777.

National Flag Day was established when President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation on May 30, 1916 establishing a National Flag Day on June 14 in honor of when the Second Con-

tinental Congress first approved the design of our first United States of America National Flag.

Congressional legislation designating June 14 as National Flag Day was signed into law by President Harry Truman on August 3, 1949. The legislation also called upon the President of the United States to issue a

National Flag Day Proclamation every year.

Our American Flag also has its own pledge, the Pledge of Allegiance, its own song our national anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key, and its own flag code.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 held an American Flag

retirement ceremony in honor of National Flag Day on Sunday, June 14 at 5:00 p.m. in front of their Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney. It was a beautiful evening for Sidney American Legion Post 433 members, Post 433 Auxiliary Unit 433 mem-

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Our schedule has changed —
All ads, legal notices, submitted photos, and editorial copy will need to be in by 12 noon Fridays. Thank you for your help, and we look forward to your submissions. Email office@thecounty-chronicle.com.