



Southern Champaign County TODAY

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Better Newspapers Inc.

July 15, 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.

Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Discusses Energy Aggregation, Village of Sidney 50-Year Time Capsule, and Community Building Rental Fees

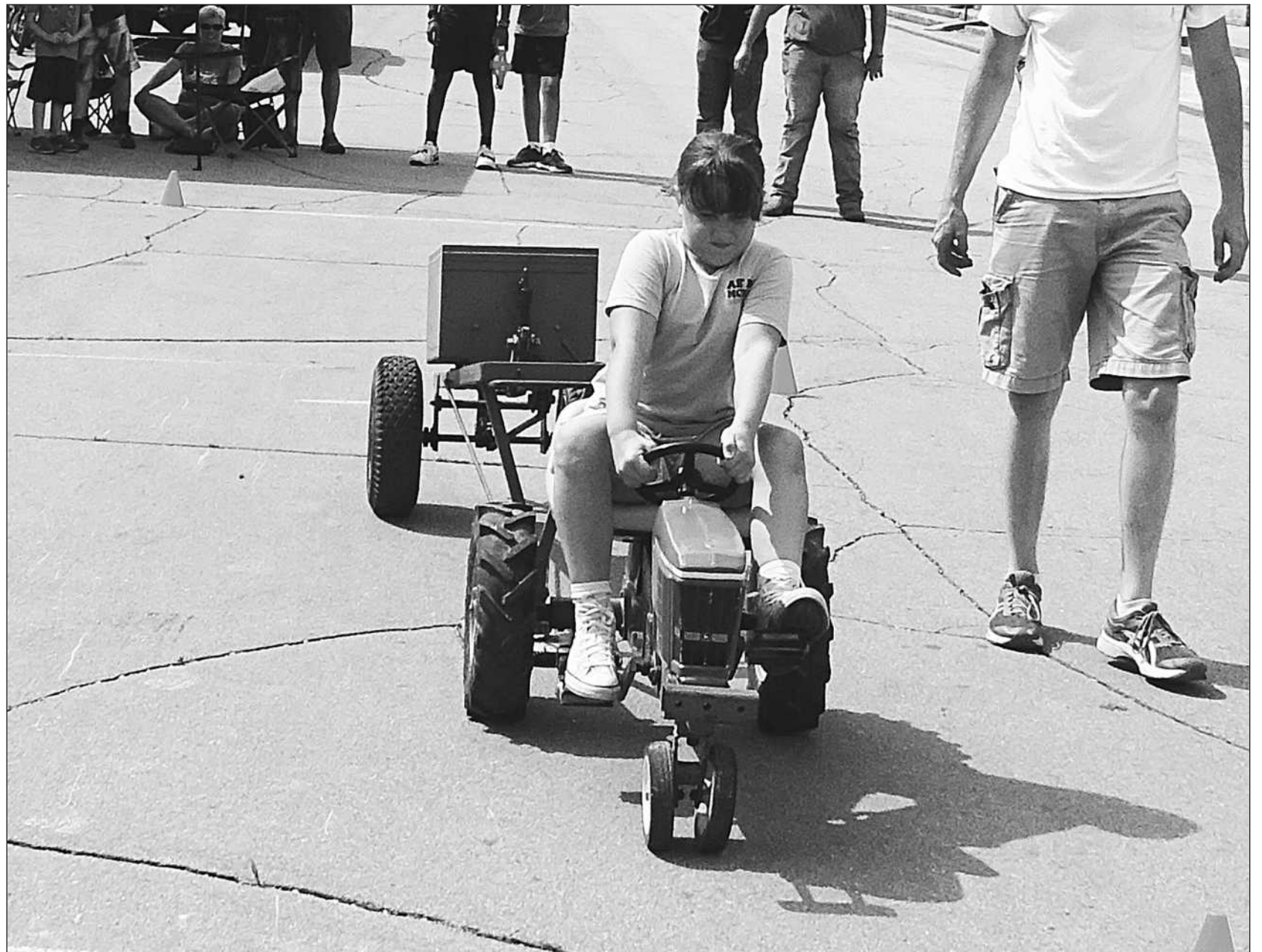
The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees met on Monday, July 6 in the Sidney Community Building meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Village of Sidney President John Finn brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. following the recitation of the pledge of allegiance by all in attendance and a roll call of trustees in attendance to include Trustees Matt Laurent, Bret Harris, and Leroy Schluter. Trustees Donna Hooker, Dan Gadeken, and Tyler Bickers were not in attendance.

Village of Sidney President John Finn asked if there was any public comment.

Sidney resident Kurt Foster reported that the walk bridge located at the corner of North David and East Bluff Streets southeast cement wall is coming away and causing problems with the sidewalk

See VILLAGE on page 4

Food, games, vendors, music, parade, and more at upcoming July 24 – 25 Sidney Fun Daze!



BLAST FROM THE PAST! Scarlet Huff pedals hard to her first-place win in last year's Saturday, July 26, 2025 Sidney Fun Daze kiddie tractor pull seven and eight-year-old category! This year's 2026 kiddie tractor pull will take place on Saturday, July 25 at 10:00 a.m. *Photo by Ann Rhoton.*

By Ann Rhoton
SCCTP News Correspondent

The Sidney Fun Daze 2026 taking place on Friday, July 24 – Saturday, July 25 with events on Friday from 2:00 – 11:30 p.m. and a full day of activities on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. is almost here!

Friday activities start at 2:00 p.m. with Lego Derby build, tune, and practice at the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street and continue with the beer tent opening at 5:00 p.m. on South David Street in downtown Sidney.

Vendors on Byron Street will be open from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Jonathan Poulter will perform at the beer tent from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., The B-Sides Champaign will perform at the beer tent from 8:30 – 11:30 p.m., and a movie will be shown at the Sidney Community Building parking lot located at 211 East Main Street at dusk.

Saturday will provide a full day of activities starting with breakfast being held at the Sidney United Church located at 501 East Main Street from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Car show registration takes place from

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on South David Street in the downtown area, vendors open at 9:00 a.m., a kiddie bike parade and kiddie tractor pull registration are at 9:30 a.m., and the tractor pull begins at 10:00 a.m. in the downtown South David Street area.

The beer tent opens at 10:00 a.m. and registration for the bag tournament will take place from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Lego Derby check-in and practice at the Sidney Community Building located at 211

See FUN DAZE on page 3

Rocket Nation

By Diane Ducey



As the publicity chair for the Champaign County Freedom Celebration committee, my fellow volunteers are getting me their summary reports about East Central Illinois Premier Patriotic Party on the 4th of July with America's 250th as the theme.

Our parade organizers Marie Polk and historian Lynda Umbarger just got me information about some of the winners with the Champaign County Freedom Celebration committee: Trophy winners & categories were as follows: The President's Trophy went to the Champaign County History Museum The Theme Trophy (America's 250) went to Girl Scout Troop 2222

with this festival scene involving a 5k/youth run, parade and evening program with a fireworks finale! Leslie Landreth from St. Joe had a small devoted team assisting on creating 4 floats on flatbed trailers with a salute to our veterans and heroes, a happy birthday America cake, Stars and Stripes festivities as well as being "American as Apple Pie" with a nod to sponsors like Curtis Orchard, Kraft-Heinz, Busey, Keller Williams Realty and U of I Credit Union. The City of Champaign really came through in support this year. Of course, U of I liaison Stacey DeLorenzo was on board making sure event details followed the rules we know in Lot

1st place float: Fair Queen and Judges Choice went to Perfect Timing Dance Academy

Current board president, Lisa Davis worked with past board presidents Pam Luke-mire, Gus White and his mother Estella as well as treasurer Margaret Givens who have all been involved in the idea of promoting our community-wide freedom as Americans

31 near Gies Memorial Stadium and the State Farm Center when we go to Illini games and fans do their tailgating as we had food vendors to add to the patriotic parties. Volunteers were pleased with the variety of entries with sponsors, service groups, non-profits, music and floats and tried to mix up the diverse entries to give viewers a fun experience. We appreciate those who are adapting to the online sign up procedures, payment and the email that is sent to the person in charge of the unit who looks over the rules and understands our policies before the event so there are no misunderstandings when getting lined up.

With the 5k back 7/4/26, organized by Tina Ammermann and her husband David with assistance from 2nd Wind Running Club and Body N' Sole, 441 registered with 432 who raced. Male winner: Jack Fisher with a time of 16:13, Female winner: Morgan Johnson with the time 17:57 and the Walk Winner was Steve Blanke with the time of 37:01

As the publicity chair, I was navigating the weather challenges as we worked closely with U of I police Captain Joe McCullough and Lt.

See ROCKET NATION on page 4

Just a Reminder...

Our New Deadline Is Approaching!

Ads, Legals, Submitted Photos and Editorial Deadlines will be noon Friday starting our next edition.

