



**'ANGELS
LANDING'
AT JOLLY
LIGHTS**
Page 2



**THRILLING
WIN SENDS
TROJANS TO
PLAYOFFS**
Page 8

Tama-Toledo News Chronicle

Friday, October 17, 2025 www.tamatoledonews.com Vol. 6 - No.42 • \$1.00



PHOTO BY JONATHAN MEYER
New Life Evangelical Free Church Pastor Steve Brant and his wife Amy pose for a photo during the church's 10th anniversary celebration last Saturday. New Life is located at 211 W. 13th St. in Tama.

New Life Evangelical Free Church celebrates 10 years

JONATHAN MEYER | CORRESPONDENT

Free Clare's tenderloins, Dave's mini donuts, and live music drew dozens of community members to New Life Evangelical Free Church's parking lot Saturday evening. The gathering wasn't just a fall cookout – It marked ten years since the church's first service, celebrating a decade of faith, fellowship, and service in the Tama-Toledo community.

The celebration, held Oct. 11 from 4 to 7 p.m., featured live music by Sean McFarlin, free food, and delicious donuts. Pastor Steve Brant said the event reflected one of New Life's central values: building relationships through service.

"We just wanted to do something that engages the community, because that's a huge part of who we are," Brant said. "And we wanted something for our church body to celebrate and praise God together."

NEW LIFE | P5



NEWS CHRONICLE PHOTO BY MICHAEL D. DAVIS
After discussion and debate by both the Tama County Board of Supervisors and the Toledo City Council, the city council voted 3-2 on Tuesday to install stop signs at the intersection of Ross and Ann streets running both east and west.

A stop sign of the times

Proposed placement of stop sign on Ross Street in Toledo attracts controversy

MICHAEL D. DAVIS | CORRESPONDENT

For several weeks, over four different meetings, the proposition of a stop sign has divided the county like little else.

After the city of Toledo received a slew of complaints about speeding on Ross Street, they went to the county, asking them to place a stop sign just outside the city limits. Ross Street has seen an uptick in traffic recently due to a detour for a bridge replacement on the Duponda, also known as Highway E43.

Throughout the meetings, several citizens have voiced their opinions on the possibility of a stop sign on the road. The necessity of the sign, the hindering nature of the sign, and the placement of the sign were all among the people's complaints. Some brought up the fact that Miss Lacy's Preschool is located on Ross Street. A few mentioned the Preschool as a reason to have the

SIGN | P2

WEEKEND FORECAST:

Saturday: **SUNNY**
High: 71 / Low: 45

Sunday: **SUNNY**
High: 64 / Low: 43



Printed with
Color Soy Ink
Read and Recycle

AREA DEATHS:
Anne Ramsdell
Rigoberto Garcia
Deeanne Lasley

Contact Us:
Tama-Grundy Publishing
PO Box 1300
Marshalltown, IA 50158

For general inquires
call 641-753-6611

For billing or
subscriptions
641-753-6611

Community weighs in on former middle school sale at public hearing



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MEYER
Katherine Ollendieck spoke on behalf of the city of Toledo in her new position as Toledo Economic Director. Voicing support of the project from the city of Toledo if the developer can deliver as he intends.



Kathy Holtz shared her respectful concerns with the sale and expressed being concerned with the unknowns.



District bus driver and community member Dale Peterson shared his opinion with the board, supporting the sale of the property and welcoming the proposed children's home.



Toledo Mayor Brian Sokol made remarks during the hearing.

JONATHAN MEYER | CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 30 community members filled the board room this week to share their views on the proposed sale of the former South Tama County Middle School, voicing both optimism and caution about what could become of the century-old building on South Green Street.

The public hearing, held Monday evening, is part of the required public process before the district can finalize any sale. No vote was taken and discussion followed in the regularly scheduled board meeting. Board members reiterated that another hearing will be held once a revised purchase agreement is published, likely in November or December, depending on public notice deadlines.

Public hearing recap

Board President Elizabeth Dolezal

opened the hearing by outlining procedures and emphasizing that everyone would have three minutes to speak. The room included neighbors to the middle school property, Toledo city officials, and parents representing youth and recreation programs who use the middle school gym.

"This sale is something we've anticipated since 2022," Dolezal said. "Not everybody's going to agree on the same solution, and it's a community resource that we have had for a great deal of time, so we're here to listen today about how people feel about the proposed sale."

The district has listed three parcels in Toledo: the main building, the green space to the East of the building, and the old football field. After months of discussion, one potential buyer — Southfork Premier Properties, LLC of Missouri — emerged with an offer to purchase the proper-

ty for \$20,100, proposing one of two redevelopment paths: an international school or a children's home.

Community questions and concerns

Residents who spoke shared a mix of curiosity, support, and skepticism.

Several nearby homeowners said they wanted more information about the buyer and assurances that the project would not leave the neighborhood with a deteriorating structure.

"I just don't want another issue like the Montour school in Toledo," Robert Manfull said.

Others questioned what the building's "end user" intends to do. "Is this going to be a school for older kids? For younger ones? What's the purpose?" were all questions attendees asked. "We need to know who's coming into our community."

HEARING | P7

Holy Grounds Coffee Shop opens in Toledo

JONATHAN MEYER
CORRESPONDENT

The new Holy Grounds coffee shop in Toledo is officially open, bringing a mix of fresh flavors, faith, and community focus to the area. The location marks an expansion of the Holy Grounds brand, which first began operating earlier this year in Marshalltown.

Located at 100 W. High St. in Toledo, Holy Grounds offers a full menu of espresso drinks, breakfast items, and specialty beverages in a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere. The shop is open Monday through Saturday and closed on Sundays.

General Manager Beau Wills has been part of the company since its start and now oversees day-to-day operations in Toledo. He said the business was founded by Steve Slifer and Matt Wilder with a goal of building strong connections in every community where they set up



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MEYER
General Manager Beau Wills poses with a fresh drink in front of the counter at Holy Grounds Coffee's new Toledo location.



Customers came in to enjoy a wide variety of drinks and food items during the Holy Grounds grand opening in Toledo last Saturday.

HOLY GROUNDS | P2