

What's Happening... Community Report

Camargo Township District Library Corner

Summer Reading Tuesdays in June 10AM to 11:30AM at the Camargo Township District Library
 2nd Tuesday June 11th, Mr. Steve Music Magic, Ballooning and more
 3rd Tuesday June 18th Scovill Zoo Animal Fun
 4th Tuesday June 25th, Terre Haute Children's Museum several interactive stations will be set up. Pre register by June 1st for a chance to win a Monicals gift card.

Local FFA: State Winning Team



VG JH FFA Conduct of Chapters state winning team and first place chair.

Villa Grove Band; Spectrum Releases First Album

With a name like "Spectrum" you can expect a band to draw from a diverse portfolio when they're putting together their debut album. The band, whose roots are right here in Villa Grove, doesn't disappoint. Their album, named "Nick of Time" in a clever nod to their "experience on earth", hits on everything from hard driving political statements to breezy tropical flavored ditties, and pretty much everything in between. The opener, "Don't Take My Money", is a hard driv-

ing rocker that touches on the discord that is so prevalent in the blue-collar Midwest. The keyboard refrain in the song is faintly reminiscent of "Golden Country", by another Central Illinois band, REO Speedwagon, and like its predecessor, the call for social and political change is driven home by the sublime guitar work. In a complete 180, the second song, "Paradise", moves away from the discord of the opener and finds the singer expressing his contentment with his life and family, find-

Week Two of CTDL Summer Program: Pirates of the Caribbean and Balloons



Week 2 of Camargo Township District Library Summer Reading, themed after the Pirates of the Caribbean. The kids enjoyed a program with Mr. Steve who does music, magic, ballooning. Photos Courtesy Camargo Township District Library.



Summer Baseball in Full Swing



The Villa Grove VFW summer baseball teams played at Henson Park.



Hook, Line and Sinkers

the opposite sex while being happily betrothed. For listeners of a certain age, the final verse has an undeniable ring of truth to it. Hot flashes, indeed. Song number five, "My Child", is an undeniable tip of the cap to the power of parenthood, both the triumphs of watching them grow up, and to the fervent wish that it not happen so quickly. Lead singer Kevin Gaddis' voice is a perfect foil for the guitar work, and I'm not going to lie and say that it didn't touch the heartstrings of this father and grandfather. The first thought I had when listening to the sixth song on the CD, an instrumental, was "This is a really frantic song," only to discover that I wasn't the only one, as the band named it "Frantica". The keyboards step to the front at times on this frenetic jam, with the guitars and percussion adding an emphatic assist. Fun stuff. "The Edge", the CD's seventh cut, is an all-out rocker about young love lost and its hook is so addictive that I found myself humming it

for days after listening to the disc. No matter how content we are, we've all had that "one that got away" that we are inclined to wonder about on occasion, and this song perfectly captures that feeling. The instrumental break is another opportunity for the keyboards to share the spotlight with the guitars, and it all comes together nicely. Probably my favorite song on the CD. Song number 8, "She Cries", is a nod to a lonely lady dealing with the pain of a broken home. To me, the harmonizing on the chorus, along with the lyrics, is the strength of this cut. Woody's Boogie is, as the name implies, a romper of a boogie woogie dance number, designed to get folks up and moving. October Skies, the second instrumental on the disc, has a distinctly jazz feel to it and is a sophisticated counter to the romp and roll present in the previous cut. The song, which stands alone from the others as far as genre, highlights some very nice guitar picking and is a wonderful

addition to the collection as a whole. The final number, "What You're Doin' to Me", brings the entire piece to a close. To me, this song has a very 70's vibe, and is the closest thing to a pop number to be found on the entire album. Again, the saxophone touches, countered by the lead parts, add to the fun of the number. I count most of the members of this band as friends, so I am sure that I'm guilty of a certain amount of familiarity bias as I write this, my first album review, but I encourage you to buy the disc and give it a listen. Spectrum will be rocking the stage at Ag Days on August 3, as well. Spectrum is : Tom Tewell, lead & Rhythm Guitar, Mark King, Bass & backing vocals, Dave Stephens, Drums, Mary Tewell, keyboards & backing vocals, Kevin Gaddis, Rhythm & Lead Guitar and Lead Vocals, and Mytchel Freeze, Saxophone. All songs were written by Gaddis, except for "October Skies," Gaddis/T. Tewell, and "What You're Doin' to Me," by Gaddis/Michael Murphy.

VBS Fun Happening at Victory Church



VBS fun at the Victory Church of Camargo

Peering into the Past



Pancake Queen Joan Wegeng, 1952. Photograph Courtesy of Camargo Township Library.

Wise or Otherwise cont'd from pg. 4

because I am flip-flop challenged. On a scale of one to ten, when it comes to clumsiness I am a nine. Slap a pair of thongs on my big old water ski feet (I could probably ski on them) and it pushes me right over the top. I fell out of the chair the other day just putting a pair on, true story. Okay, that is not a true but it is not far from the truth. Now, enjoy your raggedy jeans, torn blouses, ugly socks and thongs this summer. If you need any more "back in my day" fashion advice (think parachute pants, tank tops, terry cloth everything, halter tops, outlandish color combinations and big hair because we were cool just like you) I'll be sitting here putting new tennis balls on my walker.

"Meet the Fockers" was the number one movie of the year. Gwen Stefani was out to prove that she ain't no "holla-back girl," (Unless your name is Blake Shelton, apparently), 50 cent was paying a visit to "the candyshop" and Kanye West was lamenting the fact that some folks are in in just for the money. Although to be truthful, a "Gold Digger" would probably be the least of Mr. West's problems today. Oh, and the Villa Grove High School softball team went 24-4 and won a regional title. The last VG SB team to do so until this season. The year? 2005, of course. Given that it had been 14 years, it seemed appropriate to take a look back at that special team, and with the invaluable help of Mrs. Sara Jones, I was able to do so. It all started on the mound for the 2005 Blue Devil nine. Andrea Brown was the undisputed queen of the hill, going 23-3, fanning 181 batters while walking only 16 in 152 innings, flame throwing her way to an ERA of 0.60. According to head coach Phil Durland, it all started with her. "Andrea went undefeated in conference that season. She changed

speeds really well and had a good rise ball. She was a competitor. She wanted to WIN!" Durland said, laughingly. After earning an opening round bye as the second highest seed behind host Westville, the Blue Devils opened regional play by facing tough conference foe in Arcola. "We weren't even picked to win the regional," Durland said, "but we beat a tough Arcola team to get it started." Hannah Keeny led the way offensively, going 2-4 with an RBI, and Kelsey Irwin drove in a pair of runs. Brown got the win, fanning six and allowing only two hits in the 3-0 victory. The win set up a Saturday morning contest versus Paris, who had upset the host school 3-0 to earn their way into the championship game. Brown was again dealing, fanning 11 and allowing only two hits as they won 4-2. Offensive stars for the Blue Devils included Irwin, who smashed a solo homer in the fifth inning to get VG on the board. Keeny, Aubren Apgar, Kaci Sigris, Sara Williamson and Mandy Blackburn also had hits, with Blackburn contributing an RBI. An often overlooked aspect

of the 2005 squad was its defense. "Brown made the pitches, but she had a outstanding defense backing her," Durland said. Durland mentioned Mandy Blackburn's solid work behind the plate as a catalyst, and Hannah Keeny (outfield) and Kelsey Irwin (infield) joined Brown as first team all-conference selectees, and Aubren Apgar was a second team all-LOVC selection infielder. Sara Williamson got a second team all-conference nod as a utility player. The team had hitters up and down the line-up, as Irwin's .419 batting average barely topped Apgar's .382 for team best. Keeny was right there as well, hitting .380. Other .300 hitters for the Blue Devils included Williamson at .369, Sigris (.367) Blackburn (.321) and Lydia Renken (.306). They were a special group, according to Coach Jones, and Coach Durland concurred. "They were a lot of fun. They never beat themselves, and we had a good run." The Blue Devils would go on to lose the sectional opener 3-1 to Maroa-Forsyth.