

# ROCKET NATION

WITH DIANE DUCEY



As a person who has been in a media career since 1989, summer festival, fairs and 4th of July committee members depend on my connections and insight to publicize these upcoming events. It's a lot on my plate and I'm trying to get better at time management, organizing and delegating tasks so I can tend to these pressing messages and not slip up on my "real job" duties! I keep telling myself the priority is the paycheck but this volunteer "to do" list needs immediate attention to be effective in a few weeks when it's "go time"!

Susan Plackett has been instrumental in roping in details for a flyer and placemats for area restaurants and businesses to distribute to potential festival goers. I've been doing a few "sales calls" with other committee members to get sponsorship levels (\$100, \$250 & \$500 preferred) explained and get logos from them for our digital platforms to display. Technically speaking,

it should be easier than the booklet we've put together for years to spotlight Tolono Fun Day's theme ("Throw Back") and Grand Marshal's ("our Boom Boom Boys") but I'm just needing more help to gather information and execute the plan! (DianeDucey@yahoo.com to assist me and reach out!)

Meeting "Tito" that used to help Arcola's Jaycee's do a certified Kiddie Tractor pull had me walking the West Side Park "Big Diamond" and explaining how Kristina Toney's Girl Scout Troop # were going to sign kids up and explain the age categories, etc so they could start taking information for the pull to begin at 1pm (over by 2pm). We got to talking, sharing pictures of all their "officially sanctioned kiddie tractor pull" events and this will be a lot more advanced than our past guy that retired... it should be a wonderful event for local kids!

"Summer Skyz" helicop-

ter rides Saturday June 25th should start after noon from East Side Park for \$40 per person, which is a neat "bucket list" experience to see our hometown with a birds eye view! The beer tent downtown with music from local bands starts late Friday afternoon June 24th. Volunteer shifts are being determined for helping there, or as a parade marshal along the route, perhaps helping with set up and take down or operating the 8 passenger shuttle golf cart rides from East Side Park to West Side Park going by Bussey Bank (where people can park).

Details are coming together and I hope friends in my hometown and other Unit 7 Villages will also help promote on marquees, in church bulletins, sharing e-mail announcements with employees or putting up posters and signs! Thanks to all those using their skill set to help us succeed!



Lori & Mike Woodworth will be leading June 24 Golf Cart Parade again this year!

## Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Peoria May Activity Report

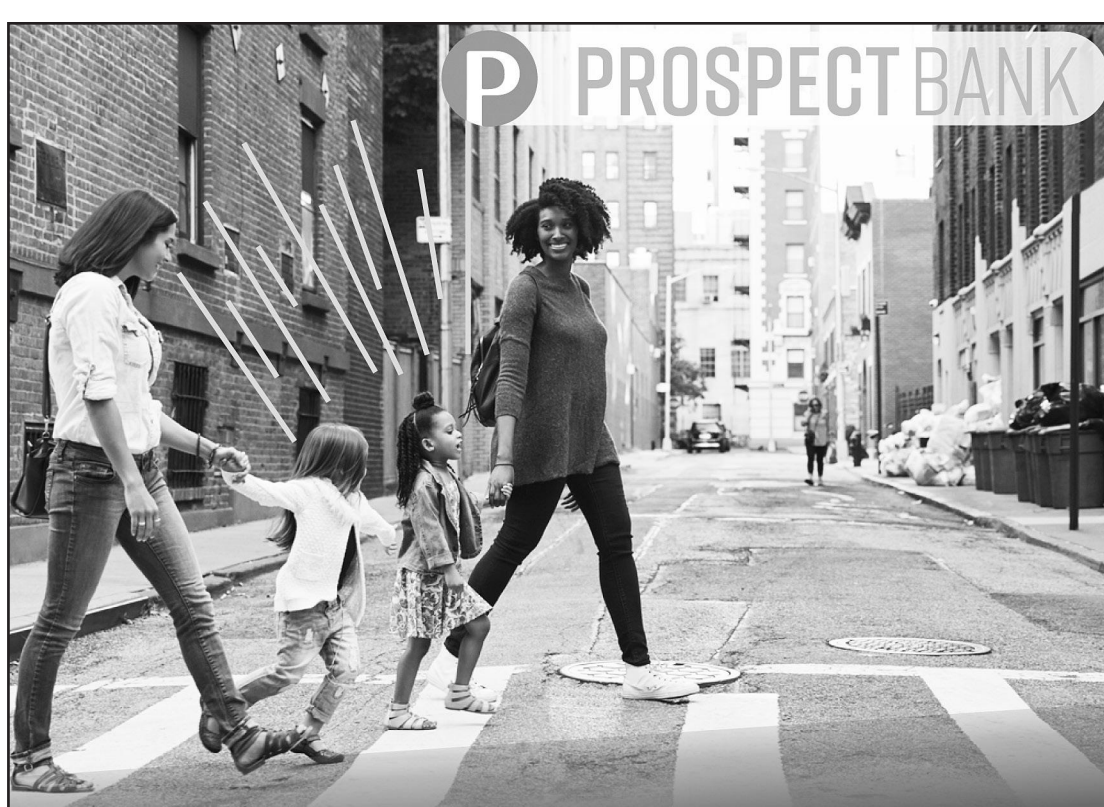
St Patrick food Pantry was open 8 times in May: Closed Memorial Day. 11 volunteers provided 94.25 hours of service. The US postal Service held their annual food drive the weekend of 5/14 and donated locally to the Giving Place in Tolono, The Giving Place could not store the amount given them, so they contacted the Pantry and the overflow was transferred on 5/21 to the pantry. Pantry volunteers came in early on 5/23 to sort and stock that donation. Eastern Illinois Food Bank delivered 1,057 pounds of food including 500 pounds of meat on 5/27 at a

cost of \$584.30. A donation of \$35 was received from the family of Millie Hilligoss (deceased) who had been a pantry recipient. Volunteers have decided to provide another food box give-away in late June to provide food for July 4th celebrations. Those boxes will include Hamburgers and buns, hot dogs and buns, condiments, chips, baked beans, and cookies. Volunteers will assist with book bags on June 17th.

Senior Luncheon was held on May 11th with 41 guests in attendance. The entree of meat loaf was provided by Catholic Charities via

United Way funds. 5 birthdays were celebrated and 20 door prizes were distributed. Entertainment came from the St Thomas School Chapel Choir in Philo. The school had a fund drive to raise money for new basketball uniforms and chrome books, so a collection was taken and over \$150 raised from guests at the Luncheon! The next Luncheon will be held June 8 and feature Bingo as the entertainment.

Jan Blaney and Angelica Toliver attended the Eastern Illinois Food Bank Annual Conference on May 10 in Urbana.



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## Reflections of the Softball Season with Coach Davis

Unity Softball Coach and Physical Education Teacher, Aimee Davis, writes a special summary article after their season wrapped up in early June, 2022.

What a ride! These last few months of the softball season have been fun, yet challenging. Our team, our school, our community has been through a lot. At times, "athletics" was simply an outlet from all the "other stuff". We knew our softball team was full of talent and only missing a few from last years State run. The senior class did not give up hope- in fact, rose to the occasion. They led with honor,

faith, and hope that we would get back to where we wanted to be. That place being the IHSA State Series, hopefully, bettering our 4th place finish from last year. The eight seniors set goals at the beginning and the underclassmen jumped on board. There were three main goals, to win at least 27 games, to finish in to top of the Illini Prairie Conference, and to do better than last year. Every single one of those goals were reached. Our record was 27-9, we finished in the top 3 of the conference and we bettered our State appearance with bringing home 3rd place.

To say I am proud to be a small part of this program and community is an understatement. The seniors will always be a huge part of our school, our community, and the softball program- making program history two years in a row. These girls have turned into young women leaders and for that, I'm grateful. They will each go their separate ways. Three of them continuing on with their softball careers, and five of them going on to do great things in college and beyond. They each have left a mark on Unit 7 and there fellow teammates and will be missed.



Unity Softball Team managed to conquer the goals they set for themselves at the beginning of the season. One of those goals: a better finish in IHSA than the 2021 4th place finish. The team finished their season winning 3rd place at IHSA this year, congratulations to the Unity Softball Team for a great season of crushing their goals!



Unity Softball Team set common goals and worked through many obstacles to achieve their winning season. Photo courtesy of Aimee Davis.

## Arthur Seeks June 25 Freedom Celebration Parade Entries

Entries for Arthur's 2022 Freedom Celebration Parade are being accepted.

Individuals, organizations, churches, and businesses interested in participating in the parade should call Stephanie Wierman at 217-620-7460 to request a form or stop by the Welcome Center at 106 E. Progress to pick up a form.

"Take Pride in America" is the theme for the 28th annual parade.

Sponsored by Arthur Area Association of Commerce, the line-up for the parade will begin at 12:45 pm in the

old Progress Tank Facility (402 East Progress St.) and the parade will begin PROMPTLY at 2:00 pm. Only parade participants are allowed in the line-up area. Drop off area for parade participants will be at 402 East Progress St., which is the entrance to the plant.

The Freedom Celebration Parade route will run west on Progress Street to Vine Street, turn left on Vine and travel through downtown Arthur. The parade route turns left from Vine on Logan Street and then left again on Pine Street back to Progress.

The Arthur American Legion Post #479 will be handing out American flags along the parade route again this year.

People are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs to watch the parade anywhere along the route with their families, friends and neighbors. Kids and kids at heart don't forget to bring the candy bags!

Parade entries should remember to report to for line up between 12:45 and 1:45 p.m. on June 26.

**it's your time.**

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