

ROCKET NATION

WITH DIANE DUCEY



The patriotic party was great the last weekend of June with our Tolono Fun Day festival. Some of my favorite moments came Friday June 25th when the beer tent had "8up" rocking the stage and hungry music lovers were enjoying "Beer Belly BBQ" from Sean Talbott who is such a great griller and smoker based pit of TraXside. Proceeds from the sandwiches, raffle tickets and the cow drop all help our funds for 2023 planning! We had very creative decorations for the golf cart parade that was winding around Tolono's westside and the prize winners included Kristina Toney who also had a float in the 11am parade Saturday the 26th! She got her girl scout troop to hop off their float at the end and head to the big ball diamond to begin assisting Tito and Terry with the sanctioned and official "Arcola Kiddie Tractor Pull Circuit" that had 5 groups of kids under 12. We were glad when the team at Martin Equipment helped sponsor our event with a John Deere replica tractor nearby as the "pull" began. Mother Nature had another idea with her lightening that cut the competition short, though. At least we had some participation medals to hand out to some of the upset children to ease the sudden cancelation emotions.

After a shower blew through it was part two of 'Tolono Fun Day'. The music acts on stage were terrific! Lisa and Tomcat, the rockin' "Ancient Ways" and then "the Singing Main of GNN" getting us in a patriotic frame of mind. Boy Scout troop 66 retired the colors and the fantastic firework show began. Right before the show we had our raffle drawing and Steve Beckman a retiree, won



Dale Rascher pictured above with **Diane Ducey** was drawn for the Tolono Fun Day \$2,000 and \$1,000 raffle prizes. Photo by Susan Plackett.

\$500. Captain Jack's Treasures in front of Walmart in Savoy sponsored our tickets being printed up and Eastern Engineering helped out our festival, too! The second AND third prize went to the Rascher family! We even shook up the box of entries between pulling each winner! It was neat to see a family that does so much for our community winning a total of \$3000! I've seen Barb and Dale volunteering at the Masonic Hall for the monthly breakfast, gardening around downtown and working at the "Giving Place" just to name a few service opportunities they've taken on!

Another person who has given a lot to our Tolono parks, Scott Remole, ended up winning the Cow Drop! \$310 went his way after he bought a square, as "Betsy" munched on grass in the penned in area by the Scout

cabin in the late afternoon. She is due to have a calf soon, and we were worried when she laid down on the job! We are grateful that ag teacher Rich McCabe connected us to Maggie Meharry who was able to transport and cow sit a few hours so that the fundraising event was successful!

There are so many aspects of our event and I want to thank the dozen or so volunteers who navigate so much to make this event run smoothly. I do hope we get enough donations to make it happen the last weekend in June 2023. If you didn't have a chance to give, mail at check to Tolono Fun Day P.O. Box 975 Tolono, IL 61880 or be a part of the sponsorship and coordinating efforts by reaching out to TolonoFun-Day@yahoo.com

McKayla Norton Graduates from Lakeview College of Nursing

(06/27/2022)-- McKayla Norton of Philo, IL, was recently recognized for graduating from Lakeview College of Nursing.

Norton earned a bachelor of science in nursing degree through the College's Danville location.

Norton is a 2017 graduate of Unity High School in Tolono, IL. She graduated from Parkland College in Champaign, IL, in 2019.

She is the daughter of Jason and Stacey Norton of Philo, IL.

Lakeview College of Nursing offers a bachelor of science in nursing degree. It is a single-purpose, private institution that has specialized in nursing education in the Danville, IL area since 1894. Lakeview began offering the program in Charleston, IL, in the fall of 2001.



Josie Carmien and Olivia Kieffer Named to Deans List

Josie Carmien Named To President's List at Miami University

OXFORD, OH (06/21/2022)-- Josie Carmien was named to the Miami University spring 2021-22 President's list.

Miami University students who are ranked in the top three percent of undergraduate students within each division for the spring semester 2021-22 have been named to the President's list recognizing academic excellence.

Carmien, from Philo, IL, is earning a B.S. in Kin, Nutr &

Health degree in Kinesiology.

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of nearly 19,000, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Olivia Kieffer Named to Southeast's Spring 2022 Dean's List

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

(06/24/2022)-- Olivia Kieffer of Pesotum, IL, has been named to the Southeast Missouri State University Dean's List for academic achievement during the spring 2022 semester.

Students named to the list earned at least a 3.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, completed at least 12 hours of standard graded credit, achieved no grade below a B and received no failing grades in enrolled, credit/no credit or pass/fail courses.

Cramer Talks About His Booming Career cont'd from pg 4

by not making mistakes and you put on a quality show every night?

What would you tell someone who wanted to go to work in this field of entertainment?

I would tell them to be patient. It just takes time to become good at it. I don't know if it's as much about having a passion for fireworks. To me, it's about caring about what you're doing. No matter what type of show or who the customer is, you put in

the full effort all the time. My mindset was always that I'm going to do the best I can, no matter what.

One final question. What can folks expect here at Richman Park in Villa Grove on July 1?

Being a bigger company, we have the benefit of having multiple suppliers. Different manufacturers produce different kinds of products. Variety has always been a key factor in fireworks shows. We always

carried at least a year's worth of inventory. That's what difficult for a lot of smaller companies. So, we can prepare different shows for whatever the customer wanted us to do. It's always the music that dictates what fireworks you're going to use. You have to have a soundtrack first and then we actually program the type of fireworks to the type of music. It's not something where you just start shooting fireworks up in the air!

Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Celebrates 91 Years July 5-9, 2022 Arthur, IL

www.moultriedouglascountyfair.com

TUESDAY, JULY 5
8:15 a.m. - 4-H Small Animal Exhibit
6-10 p.m. - Carnival Rides
7 p.m. - Miss & Little Miss Fair Queen Pageants
North Grand Stand - \$7 each

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
8:15 a.m. - 4-H Large Animal Exhibit
6-10 p.m. - Carnival Rides - POP Night - \$20
6 p.m. - 4-H Project Auction - South Livestock Bldg.
7 p.m. - Junior Miss Pageant
North Grand Stand - \$7 each

THURSDAY, JULY 7
6 p.m. ITPA Tractor Pull
(South Grand Stand)
Gate \$15.00 each - Children 6-12 \$5.00 - 5 & under FREE
6-10 p.m. - Carnival Rides POP Night - \$20
7:00 p.m. - Sisters and Company FREE - Midway Stage

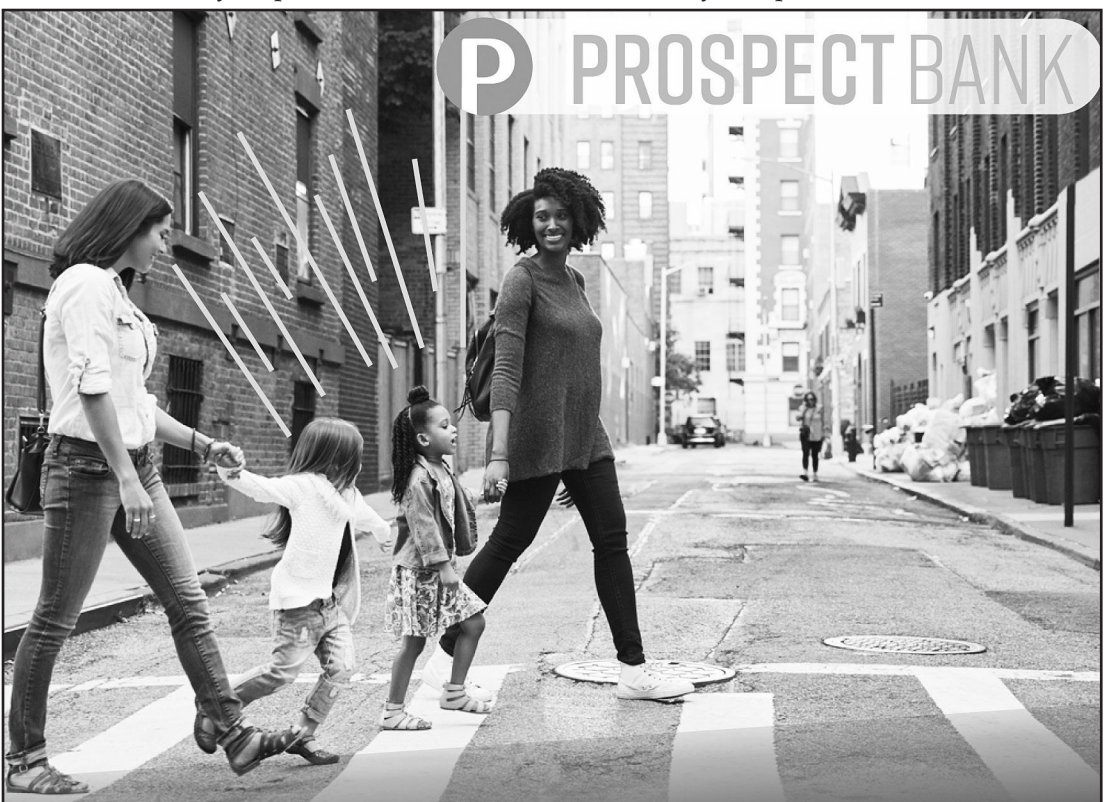
FRIDAY, JULY 8
5 p.m. - Hog Show
5 p.m.-1 a.m. Beer Garden Open (9 p.m. Krash Course)
6-11 p.m. - Carnival Rides POP Night - \$22
7 p.m. - Battle Creek (Country)
FREE - Midway Stage

SATURDAY, JULY 9
9:30 a.m. - Baby Pageant Registration
10 a.m. - Baby Pageant - Main Stage - \$5 each
10 a.m. - Beef Cattle Show
11 a.m. - Sheep Show
5 p.m.-1 a.m. Beer Garden Open - Feudin' Hillbillies - Following Concert
DIAMOND RIO IN CONCERT
7:00 p.m. - Feudin' Hillbillies
8:30 p.m. - Diamond Rio
\$20.00 (Advance & Online Sales) \$25.00 Day of Show



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