

Columns

Pumpkin pie, hunting season, football, etc.

Community Center nearing completion

It seems impossible, but the time of the grand opening for Villa Grove's Community Rec Center is approaching.

Richman's sports complex, which sits on land the city purchased using an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant in 2000, will be the site of a state-of-the-art recreation, fitness and meeting center unlike any in the area.

The project, which has been on the books since 2014, has faced delays since its inception, including previous city councils' hesitance, delays in grant funding, and the pandemic, but the wait should ultimately be

worth it. Hopefully, generations of Villa Grovians and from the surrounding area will be able to take advantage of the unique programming opportunities that will be made available. I know I plan on waddling around the indoor walking track when it becomes too cold to stay outdoors, and I will gladly pay whatever nominal fees needed for the privilege, just as I did for my kids when they were participating in summer rec or school extracurricular activities. Heck, I remember paying \$75 a month for my son to take martial arts classes, twenty years ago, and having to drive him to Urbana to work out twice a week, to boot.

Football is here

It's game week! The Blue

Hook, Line and Sinker

By Tony Hooker



Devils will play host to Sullivan Okaw Valley on Friday, and it will be a stern test for the Grovers, as they once were known. SOV returns a ton of starters from a 2022 squad that just missed the IHSA playoffs, and they'll be looking to make hay in their first season in the Lincoln Prairie Conference, after playing for the past several years in the

Central Illinois Conference. The LPC also welcomes Nokomis to the fold, making for a schedule that will feature only conference games for the first time. Speaking of the Central Illinois Conference, Tuscola will play a heavy early slate of nonconference games since SOV and St. Teresa are no longer members. The Warriors will look to con-

tinue their longstanding success by equaling or building upon last season's 9-3 campaign, which saw them reach the IHSA 1A quarterfinals. Arcola, which missed the playoffs last season, will be looking to bounce back for new head coach Steve Snider. Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond should still be a load, even with the loss to graduation of Kaden Feagin, who has taken his talents to the University of Illinois.

Hunting season is starting

For those who prefer outdoor pursuits, squirrel season is rolling along smoothly since it opened on August 1, and Dove season will open on Sept. 1.

Fall is coming

Although I always look at the end of summer with a touch of dread, fall truly is a pretty awesome season here in Illinois. Bonfires, football, chili, s'mores and time to get back in the woods. It's all great, but there is one thing that I dread about the coming of Autumn. The invasion of the pumpkin spice. Pumpkin spice lattes and pumpkin spice candles and pumpkin spice pot-pourri. They even make pumpkin beer, which I tried once, and only once. I like a tiny piece of pumpkin pie, buried under a three-inch mound of whipped cream, but that's about as far as my pumpkin tolerance will take me.

Raid on a Kansas newspaper defies logic and the law

Chief of Police Gideon Cody
Marion Police Department
112 N. 5th Street
Marion KS 66861

Dear Chief Cody:

On behalf of the Illinois Press Association, I write to join the chorus of journalism associations around the nation that are outraged by your actions to raid the office of the Marion County Record and the home of its co-owners. The correspondence from The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and others very accurately establishes that the actions of your office are violative of very well-established press freedoms.

Your actions, and the unfortunate death of Mrs. Meyer, caused me to recall the story of Elijah Lovejoy, also a victim of an effort to silence an American newspaper. If you have not yet done so, I urge you to learn this bit of American history. Mr. Lovejoy was murdered by a pro-slavery mob, while defending his anti-slavery newspaper in Alton, Illinois. The mob tossed Lovejoy's press (actually three of them) into the Mississippi River. One of those presses sat in the office of the Alton Telegraph as a reminder

to all. A monument to Lovejoy was erected in the city.

While the actions of your office leading up to the raid are of grave concern, your inability or unwillingness to explain your actions compounds the aggravation. Obtaining and executing a warrant, without the need for an underlying affidavit, and conducting a search of a newsroom and the publishers' home should be unthinkable. Overbroad. Chilling. Invasive into newsgathering. All the descriptors used by the courts over the years are brought to mind.

And to think this was brought about — as best we can tell — by the newspaper being advised of a public record of a driving conviction of a local resident. Under what theory is possession of a public court record a crime?

You and your office should apologize to Mr. Meyer and his staff, the newspaper, and to your community for your egregious actions. You can't fix this, you can't hide from it. You should own it, apologize, and resign.

Sincerely,
Donald M. Craven
President & CEO
Illinois Press Association



CROSSWORD CLUES

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Russian painter
- 6. Very fast jet
- 9. Philippine municipality
- 13. Intestinal
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Algerian coastal city
- 16. Vomit
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Ghanaian currency
- 19. Improved the condition of
- 21. Int'l association of interpreters
- 22. Infections
- 23. Dish made with lentils
- 24. Thou
- 25. Former CIA
- 28. Unit used to compare power levels
- 29. Members of Pueblo people
- 31. Myanmar monetary units
- 33. Polished
- 36. Signed a contract
- 38. Nothing
- 39. Once-ubiquitous department store

- 41. Neural structures
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 46. Longing
- 48. Senior officer
- 49. Levels of frequency
- 51. Bird's beak
- 52. Move rapidly downwards
- 54. Koran chapters
- 56. Stretches out
- 60. Top of the human body
- 61. A Chinese temple and Indian town are two
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Sea eagle
- 64. Dry
- 65. Zodiac sign
- 66. "Horizon Call of the Mountain" character
- 67. Have the ability to
- 68. Take somewhere

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Iron Man" actress Leslie

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13											
16											
19											
25	26	27	28								
31											
36											
49	50										
54											
60											
63											
66											

- 2. Wings
- 3. Adjust the spacing
- 4. They're usually locked
- 5. Atomic #43
- 6. Wise individuals
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 9. Confines
- 10. Colorless crystalline compound
- 11. Unsatisfactorily

- 12. Plant of the parsley family
- 14. Determines time
- 17. Causes the birth of
- 20. Small ornament on a watch chain
- 21. Richly decorated cloth tapestry
- 23. Vito Corleone was one
- 25. Igbo musical instrument
- 26. Put in harmony
- 27. Japanese alcoholic drinks
- 29. Tinseltown

SUDOKU

2		1				9	5				
9			6		7						
4	7						8				
5	9					3	4	2			
7		4									
	8									3	
5						6	2				4

- 30. Closes tightly
- 32. Songs sung to one's lover
- 34. One thousandth of an inch
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Baby's eating accessory
- 43. Very long periods of time
- 47. Small block of wood
- 49. Town in Surrey, England

- 50. Enquiry
- 52. Murdered
- 53. Bura-...: Chadic language
- 55. Crater on Mars
- 56. Mammal genus
- 57. Sock
- 58. Make
- 59. Stony waste matter
- 61. Partner to cheese
- 65. Pound

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
It is time to recharge your batteries this week, Aries. It may be challenging to slow down, but that is just what you need to do or you are going to run out of steam on your next project.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Early on this week you may start out in a bit of a funk, Taurus. That all will change with some words from a friend that will help your mood bounce in the other direction.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, the side of your brain responsible

for pragmatism has been working overtime. You are ready to solve any problems and find answers to most questions.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cooperation from others has been hard to come by lately, Cancer. That could lead to some conflicts along the way. Collectively you will have to find some middle ground.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
You could be focused on things in the past this week, Leo. This could start you on a trek to track down mementos in a home or to visit an antiques shop to make some purchases.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, there is still a lot to learn, but you have the time right now to pay attention to everything around you to glean what you can. Never stop gathering information.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Even if others make suggestions, use your own judgement regarding how to spend time this week, Libra. You may want to eschew all responsibilities for something fun.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Seek new places for any sort of inspiration, Scorpio. You never know what you may uncover unless you visit new places

instead of your old haunts. Start exploring this week.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Some outside energy has muted your normally boisterous personality, Sagittarius. You may want to skip out on social scenes and spend some time at home in the coming days.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Strong opinions rule the day, so convincing others could be especially difficult in the days ahead. Wait some time and they try again, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, there will be some measure of public speaking or performance in your near future, and it is likely giving you a bit nervous. No one will judge you, so try to lighten up.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you could encounter more oddballs than normal in your daily routines. From customers making scenes to quirky coworkers, you might need to be patient and open-minded.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- AUGUST 20
Robert Plant, Singer (75)
- AUGUST 21
Usain Bolt, Athlete (37)
- AUGUST 22
Dua Lipa, Singer (28)
- AUGUST 23
Jeremy Lin, Athlete (35)
- AUGUST 24
Sofia Richie, Model (25)
- AUGUST 25
Blake Lively, Actress (36)
- AUGUST 26
Macaulay Culkin, Actor (43)