

# Rocket Rundown



By Olivia Witheft

Spring sports are in full swing now that spring break has passed and we're onto Easter break. Last week was incredibly busy. Track and Field had two meets, one being the indoor state meet. The girls competed in Clinton on Monday, where there were some last minute qualifiers for Top Times on Saturday. Top Times was an overall success and hints towards great things for the rest of spring. Girls 4x400 got seventh, girls 4x200 got seventh, Ava Jones placed 8th for long jump, Jillian Schlittler placed 2nd in long jump, the boys 4x800 got 8th, and

Emma Swisher placed 9th in the 200. Track and Field has the week off from meets to prepare for the outdoor season.

Baseball played four games this week. Their first game of the season was against Oakwood, where they won 10-0. Westville on Tuesday was similar. The Rockets won 4-0. Clinton, Wednesday, put up a fight, but it didn't last long. They fell to the Rockets 2-7. The Rockets had their first conference game this season. They played against IVC on Saturday. They lost 4-8 to the ghosts. Next week Varsity

takes on Effingham Thursday and a double header on Saturday against Neoga and Iroquois West.

Softball played two games this week, since their Friday game was postponed. Their first was against the Mahomet Bulldogs. Unity beat the Bulldogs 10-0. Both Harris and Jamison hit home runs this game. They played Westville away and won 15-3 with three home runs! The home runs were scored by: Bickers, Frye, and Harris. The team will play Oakwood on Monday, Normal Community on Thursday, and Washington High School on Saturday.

# Troop 55 helps with egg hunt



**CUB SCOUT PACK 55 and Troop 55 hosted their annual Egg Hunt near their Scout Cabin in West Side Park Saturday March 28th with over 100 participants. Submitted photo.**

Troop 55 of Tolono had 8 scouts from the Unit 7 school area, helping place eggs for various age categories to hunt on Saturday March 28th at 10am in West Side Park. With around one hundred participants, Scout leaders commented that "This could be the best turn out yet!" Young members were in charge of the event from start to finish, from cleaning and stuffing eggs with candy and prizes, to hiding the eggs for the different age groups. With a motto to "leave a place better than how you found it", Scouts spent the second half of their Saturday cleaning around the scout cabin and they chopped

wood (for sale at the Scout cabin, there's a money drop box or you can Venmo; all sales are Scout's Honor). Then they helped out with the Tolono Public Library's Community Garden ground breaking with Scout, Andrew Berkey, taking on this endeavor as his Eagle Scout project. Next weekend, the scouts will be delivering mulch on April 4th. There's still some available, so reach out if you're interested in purchasing some premium mulch that can be delivered right to your door for \$6 per bag, or if customers pick up at Unity High School it's \$5.25. Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade that are

interested in joining scouts, please consider Pack 55 or Troop 55 (boys and girls 6th grade through 18 years). Joining scouts can give your child the chance to build confidence, learn teamwork, and develop practical life skills. Through fun outdoor adventures, hands-on activities, and community service, kids grow into responsible, capable, and curious individuals that gives members a rewarding experience to help shape character, build leadership skills, and foster friendships that can last a lifetime. For more information, call or email Michel Stringer 309-287-4484 stringerm@unity.k12.il.us.

# It's an EGG-stra special week at the Tolono Library

By Hilary Reinhart, MSLIS  
Community Engagement Librarian

There are some EGG-stra special activities happening at the library this week! This Friday, April 3rd at 10:00 we will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt for the little ones. If the weather cooperates, we will do it on the lawn behind the library next to our newly constructed Community Garden; however, we can always move it indoors if needed. Either way, join us on Friday to see how many eggs the kids can find! Then for the adults on Saturday, we will be hosting the REEEC from the University of Illinois to lead us in Pysanky (Ukrainian) Egg Decorating. The class is already full, but if you're interested, be sure to join the waitlist.

On Monday, April 6 at 5:30, LKBC (the Low-Key Book Club) will meet. We all read a mystery or detective novel in March, and we will talk about each one we read and how they compared. We will also discuss ideas for our April book theme, which will be historical fiction. This book club is very low key. Everyone is welcome whether you have read a book or not. Join us!

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who helped us with the construction of our Community Garden. The Friends of the Tolono Library spear-headed the project, particularly the brick pathway. With the community's support in the Brick Sale, the Friends group raised over \$1,000 to help fund the project. Boy Scout Andrew Berkey, along

with Boy Scout Troop 55, took on much of the planning and physical labor of the garden bed for his Eagle Scout project. He will also be working on the plants for the initial planting of the Garden. Watch our calendar for a date in May when the community will be invited to come out and help us plant! Most excitingly, through working with both the Friends group and an Eagle Scout project, we were awarded \$1,130 grant from The Home Depot Foundation which significantly contributed to the funding of the garden including the Home Depot volunteers who came out on Saturday to help in its construction. We can't wait for you all to reap the benefits of our new garden that everyone is welcome to use and enjoy.

# Learn something new every day

It seems like the older I get, the more I embrace learning new things. I like to think that my brain will work longer if I keep exercising it. I don't have the same passion for my arms and legs.

I was thinking this evening about my goals and what drives me to keep learning new things. This week, I taught myself how to make a video trailer for a book I'm working on.

I dabble in writing and publishing. When you don't make any money at it, it's dabbling.

For my last book, I hired a professional to make a trailer for me. I posted it to social media to try to drum up sales.

I was pretty disappointed with the final product after paying \$200 to have it done. It was obvious that the person who made it didn't read the book. They might have read an AI summary. They hit on marketable aspects, like a police investigation, but in doing so, they missed what the book is actually about.

It was like building a trailer for Die Hard to promote The Andy Griffith Show. Yeah, both have cops, but one is not like the other.

I figured I'd need to sell 50 books to break even on the trailer, but the trailer didn't move the needle on sales.

## Ramblin' Man

By David Porter



So, part of my goal in making my own video is to save money. I do my own layout and cover design, too, so my costs are low. Yet, it can't be all about the money. I pay people to do a lot of things that I could do myself. I don't mow my own yard or work on my own car.

There are a number of reasons for that. I don't have time. I'm not efficient or good at it. I don't want to invest in the proper tools. I don't have the storage space for such tools.

Mostly, though, those are tasks that bore me. They're good exercise for the body but less so for the brain. To be fair, it takes brains to do those jobs, and there are lessons learned, so I guess that leaves us with boredom.

It occurred to me that learning is the goal. Exploring new horizons. Expanding my world. Other clichés I can't think of right now.

I am at that age where I feel like I have accumulated a fair amount of knowledge, although quite a lot of it is already obsolete. Maybe that's part of it — fear of being obsolete myself.

Part of it is probably ego. Books leave a lasting legacy, although I'm not sure my books are the legacy I want to leave behind.

So, let's go with learning. That seems noble.

I rank learning right up there with happiness and kindness. Enriching your own life and the lives of others sounds like good goals to me.

Learn something new every day. That's the goal. I recommend it.

© Copyright 2026 by David Porter who can be reached at [presseditor1@gmail.com](mailto:presseditor1@gmail.com). There are some lessons that I never seem to learn.

# Philo Library will be closed next Sunday, in observance of Easter

Philo Library's staff met this week to discuss what we can do with/for our patrons this summer. I would still like to have a presentation by someone who is well-versed in gardening - flowers, veggies, and herbs. If you know someone who fits this description, please either ask them if they would be interested or let me know (217-684-2896). I am thinking about an hour's time total

on a Sunday afternoon or weeknight with a question/answer session followed by a seed/plant exchange.

Other activities discussed include Read with the Dogs, a Summer Reading Program for all ages - read and be rewarded, programs for pre-schoolers, a Stuffedie sleepover, painting for school age kids and adults, in-house presentations from the Champaign County Forest

Preserve, etc. Some of these activities will take place during the month of June and others will be throughout the summer. Let us know if you have ideas of what YOU would like to see and also what days/times are better for you than others.

Next week I should have new books to tell you about. So, until then, thanks for reading!

Southern Champaign County  
**TODAY**  
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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[stephanie@thecounty-chronicle.com](mailto:stephanie@thecounty-chronicle.com)

## Area Church Services

<p><b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 390 CR 2400E, Broadlands (217) 834-3289</p> <p>Pastor Rev. John Sharp</p> <p>Sunday Schedule Service - 9 a.m. Sunday school and Bible classes - 10:15 a.m. (Aug. - June)</p> <p>Adult Bible Study Wednesdays - 9 a.m. (Aug. - June)</p> <p>Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. Second and Fourth Saturdays (Lincoln Street Lounge)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Group • Sewing Circle •</li> <li>• Men's Club •</li> </ul> <p>Call the church office for more information.</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Non-Denominational) "Come Rejoice With Us"</p> <p>701 N. Sycamore Street Villa Grove, Illinois Phone (217) 832-5231 Fax (217) 832-9348</p> <p>website: <a href="http://www.fccvg.com">www.fccvg.com</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvg@frontier.com">fccvg@frontier.com</a></p> <p>Minister—Mike Zylstra e-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvgmin@frontier.com">fccvgmin@frontier.com</a></p> <p>Open communion observed weekly</p> <p>Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>Jr. &amp; Sr. High Youth Group 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>COUNTRYSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1807 County Road 1000N, Urbana Between Sidney and Philo</p> <p>Rev. Jeff Stahl</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:cumc.office99@gmail.com">cumc.office99@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.countrysidemethodist.com">www.countrysidemethodist.com</a></p> <p>Worship Coffee Hour- 8:30 a.m. Worship-9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Nursery Available during worship Wednesday</p> <p>Wednesday's Bible Study 1:30pm Facebook Devotionals on Thursdays - 1:30</p> <p>Crossroads Youth Group meets on the last Sunday of the Month from 5-6:30pm; dinner is provided. (Ages 7 &amp; up)</p> <p>Please contact the office for more information 217-688-2422 "Love God; Love Each Other"</p>
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**To add your church to the directory, email:**  
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