

# Rocket Rundown



By Olivia Witheft

This week baseball had four games, softball had five, and track and field both had meets Friday. Baseball started the week against the Mahomet Bulldogs. The Rockets won 7-1. They played Mattoon on Friday with similar results (13-1). On Saturday, they played three games in a round robin tournament. They played Teutopolis and Sacred Heart Griffin. They won over the wooden shoes 7-6 and beat the previously ranked #7 Cyclones 3-0. Next week, the team only plays two games. The first game on Monday is against Prairie Central then

on Friday they play St. Thomas. Softball started their week on Tuesday against Central. The team lost to the Maroons 2-1, but didn't let the loss keep them down for their Thursday game against PBL. The Rockets brought what they didn't Monday and beat the Panthers 15-0. They played Paris on Friday and won again 8-1. On Saturday, they had two games. The first was against Teutopolis in a higher scoring game. The Rockets won 15-6. They also played Marengo and won 8-4. This week they play three games. They play Prairie Central Monday, Normal

University Wednesday, and St. Thomas Friday. Girls Track and Field hosted an Invite on Friday. The team did outstanding and the girls 4x100 broke a school record with a time of 49.11. The boys also had an invite on Friday at Monticello. Though there were no first place finishes, Camden Fairbanks placed second in the 1600. Next week there are four track meets. The girls have a meet in St. Joe on Tuesday and a meet on Friday in Glenwood Chatham. The boys host an invite on Friday and on Saturday they compete in Monticello.

# Look for Mizar the apron star

## In the night sky

By David Leake



Around 9pm this week, look high in the northeastern sky for the familiar seven stars forming the Big Dipper, seeming to stand on its handle. Notice how the handle curves downward and to the right, pointing towards the bright orange star Arcturus. Note the star at the bend of the Dipper's curved handle. This star is called Mizar; Arabic for "the apron." Look closer to see if you can see Mizar's companion star, Alcor. Together these stars have been used as a test of eyesight. Can you see both stars? If you own a telescope, point it at Mizar and you'll see it's a double star - there's a second star in

the field of view. It's estimated over half the stars in the sky have companions. Our Sun is sort of the "oddball" being alone. Mizar is actually a quadruple star system, though a telescope will only show two stars. Those two take thousands of years to orbit each other and, though they appear nearly touching,

they are roughly 35 billion miles apart. Mizar is 83 light years from us.

David Leake is the retired Planetarium Director of Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College and co-founder of the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society, Inc.

# This Week at the Tolono Library

We are wrapping up National Library Week with some exciting activities! Thursday, April 23rd is "Take Action for Libraries" Day and the Friends of the Tolono Library are "taking action" by selling small planters that you can decorate and plant at the library starting at 3:00 that day. Small planters are being sold for \$1.00 and larger ones for \$5.00; we will supply paint, markers, soil, and seeds for you to get your special plant started. Keep the plant for yourself or give it as a May Day or Mother's Day gift! Friday, April 24, we are ending National Library Week by "Finding Our Joy" in our library and celebrating by wearing the library colors (red, blue, and/or yellow). What better way to celebrate the joy you find in libraries than by stopping by for a special story time at 10:00! Bring your babies and toddlers for a story, songs, and

crafts. On Saturday, April 25 we are welcoming Doug and Jenny Walk to the library to give a special presentation for those of you interested in gardening but don't know where to begin. The Gardening for Beginners program starts at 10:00; you can register online or by calling the library. Saturday also rounds out the week with the Youth Free Make from 1:30-3:00. This will be our last "Youth Free Make" starting in May, look for our new bi-monthly Youth Tinker Club where kids age 6-11 can come and use our tools to put their creativity to work. Check out the events calendar on our website for all of the up-to-date information on what's happening at the library, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

**Hilary Reinhart, MSLIS**  
Community Engagement Librarian

# Tea parties are about more than tiaras and tutus

I went to the Princess Tea Party not knowing just what to expect. I'm not a prince or a king, so I knew I'd be a little out of place, but my camera and press bona fides let me into a lot of places where I otherwise would not go.

The name of the event, hosted by the little misses from the Camargo Woolly Worm Festival, offered some clues. I expected to see little girls dressed up for a regal good time. Mostly, I expected to be able to get a cute picture for the newspaper.

Having raised a princess, I know a little something about girls. Until they reach middle school, where peer pressure really starts to kick in, there are some fairly universal likes and dislikes. Many of them love dressing up, playing pretend, eating sweet treats, coloring and crafting, and socializing. And having their picture taken.

All those boxes were checked off as the Home-

## Ramblin' Man

By David Porter



town Grounds event center was filled with tiaras and frilly dresses.

I want to tip my hat (for lack of a crown) to the Woolly Worm queens who interacted with the younger girls and kept the party going. I'm sure they had help. There were plenty of parents keeping tabs on their girls. Perhaps one of the queens' mothers, or a committee of moms, took charge of the planning, but it wasn't apparent in the short time I was there. The queens had it under control.

There were a lot of positive lessons to observe.

Community service, charity, civics, socialization, organization and planning, commitment and so on. While the event surely was a highlight for the girls attending, it was a valuable experience for the queens. I'm sure they were happily exhausted by the end of the day.

And hats off, too, to Home-town Grounds for creating a safe space where such events can take place. I can't imagine that it's much of a financial windfall, but the value far exceeds dollars and cents.

A lot of little girls undoubtedly went to sleep Saturday night happy and worn out. Perhaps some lasting friendships were made.

There is plenty of negativity in the news these days. It was refreshing to take part,

at least for a few minutes, in something that was pure frivolity marked by innocence and awe.

Events like this strengthen a community. They instill a sense of belonging and make people feel good about the place they call home.

Earlier in the day, the Women's Club marched for child abuse awareness - certainly an important and worthy cause. The Princess Tea Party was the antithesis of that.

The earlier event was a reminder that bad things happen that we need to work toward resolving. The Tea Party was proof that good things are happening, too.

Both events do share a commonality, which is the love and care we have for our children. Here's looking forward to more of the good things.

© Copyright 2026 by David Porter who can be reached at [presseditor1@gmail.com](mailto:presseditor1@gmail.com). I'm more of a court jester than a knight in shining armor, but both will get you a seat at the party.

# New books available in the Philo Library

There are new books in the Philo Library adult collection. Large Print books are "Lady Tremaine" by Rachel Hochohauser - a classic fairytale is fractured and retold once again. Lady Tremaine is a widow with three daughters who she would like to marry off. The book reimagines the myth of the evil stepmother at the heart of the world's most famous fairy tale. It is a battle cry for a mother's love for her daughters, and a

celebration of women everywhere. David Baldacci has a new large print "Hope Rises" an FBI informant has had everything he held dear ripped away by the head of a global criminal operation and he has become something he never thought he'd be - he's angry and wants revenge.. A new light mystery, "Booking for Trouble" by Jenn McKinlay is sitting on the shelf just waiting to be taken home. The setting is a coastal Con-

necticut town and the two small islands just off shore. The library director, taking a cue from the bookmobiles other libraries use to reach out to people, is taking her book-boat to visit the people on the islands. She and her husband, who's also the book boat captain, discover a body on the rocky shore of one of the islands.

Another book that's not brand new, but new to us and in high demand, is "Drown-

ing in Paper Flowers" by E.L. Westbury. I know several of you in our Library District have shown interested in this book. Let us know if you're one and we'll put you on the list of readers waiting to read this book.

That's all for today, be sure to check with us regarding the BYOB Club and also summer programs. More on those next week. Until then, thanks for reading.

## BYOB CLUB (BRING YOUR OWN BOOK)

No assigned book, come and chat about books you are reading or have read and get ideas for future books.

**Tuesday, May 5 @ 6 pm**  
**Philo Library Meeting Room**  
**Light Snacks provided**

Southern Champaign County **TODAY** BUSINESS DIRECTORY

VETERINARY SERVICES	EYE CARE
<p><b>Four Counties Mobile Veterinary Services</b></p> <p>Kathleen M. Mcmanamon, DVM</p> <p><i>House and Farm Calls</i> <i>Small Animal and Equine</i></p> <p><b>Hours:</b> Monday-Friday, Noon-8 p.m. Saturday, By Appointment Phone: (217) 834-3472</p>	<p><b>CHITTICK FAMILY EYE CARE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult &amp; Pediatric Eye Care</li> <li>Contact Lenses</li> <li>Custom Vision Correction</li> <li>Digital Retinal Exam</li> <li>Glaucoma detection &amp; management</li> </ul> <p>10 West Adams Villa Grove, IL 61956 Office: 832-2111</p> <p><b>Hours: Mon - Fri 8 - 5</b> <i>Medicare assignments accepted/Health Alliance Provider</i></p>

**To list your business, contact**  
Stephanie Wierman, 217-620-7460  
[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 Pastor Rev. John Sharp Sunday Schedule Service - 9 a.m. Sunday school and Bible classes - 10:15 a.m. (Aug. - June) Adult Bible Study Wednesdays - 9 a.m. (Aug. - June) Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. Second and Fourth Saturdays (Lincoln Street Lounge) •Youth Group•Sewing Circle• •Men's Club• Call the church office for more information.</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Non-Denominational) "Come Rejoice With Us" 701 N. Sycamore Street Villa Grove, Illinois Phone (217) 832-5231 Fax (217) 832-9348 website: <a href="http://www.fccvg.com">www.fccvg.com</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvg@frontier.com">fccvg@frontier.com</a> Minister—Mike Zylstra e-mail: <a href="mailto:fccvgmin@frontier.com">fccvgmin@frontier.com</a> Open communion observed weekly Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m. 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 Rev. Jeff Stahl E-mail: <a href="mailto:cumc.office99@gmail.com">cumc.office99@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.countrysidemethodist.com">www.countrysidemethodist.com</a> Worship Coffee Hour- 8:30 a.m. Worship-9:00 a.m. Nursery Available during worship Wednesday Wednesday's Bible Study 1:30pm Facebook Devotionals on Thursdays - 1:30 Crossroads Youth Group meets on the last Sunday of the Month from 5-6:30pm; dinner is provided. (Ages 7 &amp; up) Please contact the office for more information 217-688-2422 "Love God; Love Each Other"</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**To add your church to the directory, email:**  
[office@thecounty-chronicle.com](mailto:office@thecounty-chronicle.com)