

Rocket Rundown



By Olivia Witheft

Softball played just three games this week because of prom on Saturday. They started their week against Prairie Central. They won the game a whopping 3-0, and this set the tone for their week. On Wednesday, they played U-High. They won 2-0 and both Reece Frye and Danika Eisenmenger had an RBI (runs batted in). The game against STM, Friday, had to be moved from STM to Unity because of field conditions. Maybe this gave the team a home field advantage because I don't know what else would explain the 11-0 win over the

Sabers. Kenley Harris hit a homerun during this game as well. Let's hope they carry this attitude into their four game week this week. They will play Pontiac at home on Monday, St Anthony on Tuesday, Central Catholic on Thursday, and on Saturday they play SHG at home.

Base only played two games last week, also because of prom. Their first game was against Prairie Central on Monday. The Rockets won 10-2. They also played STM on Friday, which surprisingly had the exact final score. This week is busy with Pontiac

Monday, St. Anthony Tuesday, Central Catholic Thursday, and Coal City Saturday.

On Friday both boys and girls had a meet, but they were separate. The girls competed in the Glenwood Lady Titan Invite. One first place finish, Emma Swisher in the 200m but the 4x100 placed second as well as Pound in the 3200m, Swisher in the 100m, and Schlittler in the 200m. The boys hosted an invite Friday. The long distance guys did the usual Fairbanks placed first in the 800 and Crowe placed first in the 1600 and 3200m. Carter

Schmid also placed first in the 300m hurdles. Saturday there was a freshman/sophomore meet in Monticello.

It was a major success with nine first place finishes and three second place finishes! This week there's a Salt Fork

meet for JV, the Urbana University Quad Track meet, then the Spartan Classic and Lady Sages Invite on Friday.

Look for Aldebaran near Venus

In the night sky

By David Leake



Tonight, look westward after sunset for the brilliant planet Venus. As the sky gets darker, you'll see the star Aldebaran to the left of Venus. The star is the reddish eye of the bull Taurus, which was high in the sky in the winter time. Much higher in the sky, above the three belt stars of Orion, we find the planet Jupiter, situated among the stars of Gemini. Keep an eye on these two planets over the next couple of months. The pair will appear to close in on each other, with Venus appearing to move fast-

er than Jupiter. Venus will invade the constellation Gemini about May 20th. By June 7th, the two bright planets will be side by side in the west. And just to put a cherry on top,

Mercury will be below and to the right of the pair. You can see why the name "planet" means "wanderer." And you can watch them as long as you take note each week.

Prepare to be a-MAY-zed this month at the Tolono Public Library

May is here, and we are bringing back the tradition of May Day Baskets at the Tolono Library. "May Day baskets, typically filled with flowers and tokens of affection, are secretly left on a recipient's doorknob or porch—often accompanied by a quick ring of the doorbell before the basket-giver disappears." (history.com). On May 1 from 3:30-4:30, children are invited to stop by and create their own May Day Basket to brighten a neighbor's day as we welcome spring flowers and some long-awaited warmer weather.

If your kids are more interested in making something they can use over and over, we will be making kites at the library on Saturday, May 2 from 1:00-3:00PM. Create your own kite from newspaper and dowel rods, then find a clear place to fly it; May is the perfect month for kite flying!

The Low-Key Book Club (LKBC) will meet on Monday, May 4 from 5:30-6:30. We will be discussing His-

torical Fiction books before shifting gears to May's theme. But don't worry if you didn't read or finish your book! Join us anyway and get all kinds of options to add to your TBR.

The beginnings of our America 250 celebrations are kicking off this month with our Teen Rebellion 1776 Book Club. Open to teens/pre-teens 6th grade and up, we will be meeting every other week through May and June reading Laurie Halse Anderson's novel Rebellion 1776. Request your copy of the book from your library today!

Finally, seniors, don't forget to join us for Coffee Talk on Wednesday, May 6 from 9:00-10:00AM. We will be joined by Maggie Wachter from Second Nature Honey to discuss her BeeKeeping and how bees make honey.

More details on these and all our events can always be found on our website, www.tolonolibrary.org/events.

Wired for chaos — the rabbit hole of home repair

Even downhill, I've never had much luck rolling an actual snowball. Anytime I start a project, though, the proverbial snowball slide is easier, faster, and almost inevitable.

It started with changing out the range hood. Simple enough. Just two wires. But the power on the new hood is on the right. The power comes in on the left.

The right way to fix that is difficult, time-consuming, and more expensive. So, of course, I did it the other way, which was drilling a hole through the back of the new hood and adding a length of wire around, through, and under, and hiding all that behind the vents.

We used the light on the old range hood as a night-light, but the new model doesn't have a dim setting. It's either on or off, and "on" is bright enough to guide an airplane through a blizzard.

So, we switched to using the light on the refrigerator, but it's too dim, and the col-

Ramblin' Man

By David Porter



or of the light is off-putting. Depressing, actually. Plus, if we ever need to replace that bulb, it looks like an engineering degree would be required.

So, while my wife was out of town for a few days, I decided to surprise her by putting a dimmer switch on the light over the sink so we can use it as our nightlight. I decided this when I found an old dimmer switch in my toolbox.

Light switches are pretty easy to swap out. Well, most light switches.

This one was paired with an outlet. No big deal. I took the plate cover off expecting to find maybe four wires. Instead, there were six with

the light pulling its power from the outlet.

That many wires require more space in the electrical box. Plus, the housing on a dimmer switch is much larger than a regular switch. Add to that, the dimmer switch is white, and the outlet is brown.

I rummaged through my toolbox and found a white outlet, so I switched that out, too. Got it all put together only to learn that the dimmer switch doesn't work, and two of the screws were stripped.

Luck was on my side, though, as I found another dimmer switch in the garage.

Now, why would I have

all these extra parts lying around? Well, my dad was an electrician. These things just happen.

Long story short, I ended up redoing the whole thing four times over several hours until I got a combination that worked. What started out as a simple repair turned out to be an all-night test of patience. But it's all working now, and I found everything I needed in the garage, bolstering my argument that we should never throw anything away.

I could just tell my wife that it was easy peasy, smooth sailing, and a testament to my skill and efficiency. Except she knows me. She knows better.

© Copyright 2026 by David Porter who can be reached at presseditor1@gmail.com. On the plus side, I didn't electrocute myself or burn the house down. We count the wins, not the losses.

Philo Library hosts BYOB Club May 5

I know we had a lot of runners in the Christie Marathon on Friday and Saturday this week. Congratulations to everyone who ran/walked the courses or even helped out with the races. You did great and the weather was pretty darned perfect as well..

First, let me remind you that BYOB Club will meet on

Tuesday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. BYOB in this case meaning "Bring Your Own Book". We decided that not everyone likes the same thing and we want people to enjoy what they read., Thus the "bring your own" or come without a book if you prefer. We're looking forward to sharing info like - what genre do you

like? did you read a memorable book - good or bad? what's the best book you've read? Some questions to think about. This is an unstructured event with the goal to share a love of reading.. Light refreshments will be available. If you would like to attend but can't the first week, let us know, it's

possible that the day of the week or time may change and we don't want anyone to miss out.

Another future announcement is that we are working on Summer Programs and hope to have a flyer going home through the schools by mid-May. We will also have information available

on our home page and Philo Watch. A few things that are definitely booked are June 2 "Read with the Dogs" come and meet Bear and Poppie. The next week a stuffie sleepover is scheduled for June 8-9, and there are three Champaign County Forest Preserve presentations in the month of June. Watch

this column, stop in the Library and pick up a schedule, or check on-line. We have a lot of other things planned, just not set in time yet - preschool programs, Summer Reading programs for all ages with prizes, and more. Thanks for reading, hopefully I can give you more program information next week.

Southern Champaign County
TODAY
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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<p>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 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>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Non-Denominational) "Come Rejoice With Us" 701 N. Sycamore Street Villa Grove, Illinois Phone (217) 832-5231 Fax (217) 832-9348 website: www.fccvg.com e-mail: fccvg@frontier.com Minister—Mike Zylstra e-mail: fccvgmin@frontier.com Open communion observed weekly Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 1st & 3rd Sundays 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>COUNTRYSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1807 County Road 1000N, Urbana Between Sidney and Philo Rev. Jeff Stahl E-mail: cumc.office99@gmail.com www.countrysidemethodist.com 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 & up) 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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