

Fall in the Stateline:

APPLES, Markets, and Hometown Traditions



By Alycia Dioneda Schneedle,
Rockton-Roscoe News Associate Editor

Fall in the Stateline is here, which means it's time to trade flip-flops for flannels and enjoy the season. From orchards to festivals, shops to scenic walks, there are plenty of ways to celebrate autumn close to home.



Local Apple Orchards

Edwards Apple Orchard - Poplar Grove

Edwards Apple Orchard West - Winnebago

A fall tradition for families across the region, both orchards are open for the season 9am-6pm. Visitors can pick apples, sip cider, and enjoy hot donuts from the fryer. The market barns are stocked with produce, sauces, and baked goods to take home. Locally known for their family-friendly activities, wagon rides, and petting zoos.

Roscoe Lions Fall Festival, Sept. 5 to 7

The Roscoe Lions Fall Festival returns to Leland Park from Friday through Sunday, September 5 to 7, 2025. The event features carnival rides, food, games, live music, two parades, bingo, and a pancake breakfast.

(please turn to page 2)



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Roscoe Community Market

September 7

On Sunday, September 7, the Roscoe Community Market will set up at Louie's Tap House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market brings together vendors, artisans, flowers, and food in a lively neighborhood setting.

Hidden Creek Estates Fall Dinner

September 24



Hidden Creek Estates in Roscoe will host a Harvest Moon wine dinner on Wednesday, September 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests can celebrate the season under the stars in a clear-top tent while enjoying a five-course tasting menu paired with wines from Ettore Germano of Piedmont, Italy. Reservations are required.

Pumpkin patches and local stops

Fall is a great season to wander our local villages. In **Rockton, Settlers Park** is a favorite for a walk among changing leaves, and **Main Street shops** welcome visitors with seasonal décor, coffee, and baked treats. **South Beloit's Nature At The Confluence** offers trails and river views. Find seasonal dishes at **Shorty's Kitchen**.

For pumpkin season, families can head east to Lindberg Pumpkin Patch in Caledonia, which opens Friday, September 12, and runs daily through October 31, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The patch has pumpkins, gourds, wagon rides, corn mazes, baked goods, and a play area for kids.

Pumpkins, donuts, and flannel weather-fall in the Stateline feels like home wherever you spend it.



Plan Now for a Fabulous Fall

Edwards Apple Orchard
7061 Centerville Road, Poplar Grove, IL
Open Daily 9am-6pm | edwardsorchard.farm

Edwards Apple Orchard West
8218 Cemetery Rd., Winnebago, IL
Open Daily 9am-6pm
www.edwardsorchardwest.com

Hidden Creek Estates (Reservations)
13276 White School Road, Roscoe, IL
815-242-2099 | hiddencrk.com

Roscoe Community Market
Sun. Sept. 7, 11am-3pm
Louie's Tap House
5689 Elevator Rd, Roscoe, IL
www.facebook.com/groups/roscoecommunitymarket

The Lindberg Pumpkin Patch
Open Daily 9am-6pm
Sept. 12th - Oct. 31st, 2025
3178 IL Rte 173, Caledonia, IL
lindbergpumpkinpatch.com



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Fall Festival

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Balsley Printing, a business that has thrived for 113 years through four generations, is marking a new milestone with its latest expansion. Owner/President Sam Balsley recently announced the acquisition of a fourth location, Rockford Litho Center, further cementing the company's legacy of endurance and innovation.

What began as a humble operation in Rockton, Illinois, has evolved into a regional printing powerhouse. Balsley Printing now encompasses the Rockford Litho Center, Freeport Press, GEM Printing in Beloit, and its original Balsley Printing location, with the newest addition expanding its footprint. This growth allows the company to continue offering high-quality services with a personal touch.

Sam mentioned, "For over 40 years, Rockford Litho Center has been a staple in the printing community and the Stateline area. They have exemplified the highest quality products and customer service. Our values aligned perfectly. We both pride ourselves on our attention to

detail from concept to final product with a focus on customer care. We are not online stores. We are an extension of our clients' team. Rockford Litho Center can now offer clients graphic design, wide format products, promotional items, and mailing services. We can now offer clients additional print size options and new bindery

services. Seems like a perfect match."

Balsley Printing's commitment extends beyond its products, focusing on strong relationships with its diverse clientele. The company prides itself on collaborating with small businesses, schools, and nonprofits in the Stateline

community, helping them with everything from brochures to custom packaging. Its expanded capabilities also allow it to partner effectively with national companies, showcasing its versatility and reach. This blend of tradition, innovation, and community focus has been the cornerstone of its century-plus success.

Balsley Printing Acquires Rockford Litho Center

By Harold Bone, Managing Editor, Rockton-Roscoe News



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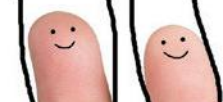




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2025 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULES



HONONEGAH

Date	Time	Opponent	Home/Away
8-30-25	12:00 pm	Rockford Auburn	away
9-5-25	7:15 pm	Jefferson	home
9-12-25	7:15 pm	Harlem	home
9-19-25	7:15 pm	Guilford	away
9-26-25	7:15 pm	Freeport (homecoming)	home
10-3-25	7:15 pm	Rockford East	away
10-10-25	7:15 pm	Boylan Catholic	away
10-17-25	7:15 pm	Belvidere North	home
10-24-25	7:15 pm	Belvidere	home

For all HHS Fall Sports Schedule, visit Hononegah.org

SOUTH BELOIT

Date	Time	Opponent	Home/Away
8-29-25	7:00 pm	Christian Life	home
9-6-25	1:00 pm	Orangeville	away
9-12-25	7:00 pm	Rockford Christian	home
9-20-25	2:00 pm	Harvest-Westminster	away
9-26-25	7:00 pm	Hiawatha	away
10-3-25	7:00 pm	Alden-Hebron	away
10-10-25	7:00 pm	Abundant Life (homecoming)	home
10-17-25	7:00 pm	West Carroll (Senior Night)	home
10-24-25	7:00 pm	Polo	away

For all Sobo Fall Sports Schedule, visit sbhs.sb320.org

EVENT

EVENT



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As September brings the anticipation of fall colors, it also brings with it the long-awaited announcement of who will win the famous Painted Rock Snake Competition sponsored by the Roscoe Gardening Club. All summer long, artists, both young and old, expressed themselves with painted rocks to help their communities grow a rock snake. It is a friendly, engaging, summer long competition between Roscoe and Rockton and the 2025 event looks to have been even more successful than 2024.

The Rock Snakes were housed at Talcott Free Library on Main Street, Rockton, IL and the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department in Roscoe, IL. Throughout the summer, the snakes took on a life of their own. As Fire Chief John Bergeron states, "the Harlem-Roscoe Fire personnel

SNAKES ALIVE!

Roscoe and Rockton Compete in Painted Rock Snake Event

By Lisa Brown, Roscoe Gardening Club



have been having as much fun watching the snake grow as probably those who are painting the rocks and placing them. It was always a surprise when we would go to look at the snake and see how much it has grown. I know we would like to thank everyone who helped make the snake grow the past few months."



ROSCEE



ROCKTON

The Rock Snake competition kicked off on June 1, 2025, and wrapped up on August 31, 2025. The winner, the community with the most rocks making up the snake, will be announced shortly after Labor Day on the Club's Facebook page, Roscoe Gardening Club. Rockton won the 2024 competition, so the 2025 competition has been fierce. Roscoe Gardening Club hopes to keep this family friendly summer project going well into the future.

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ROCKTON

Jack Lovejoy Memorial Golf Outing
Sept. 6, Macktown Golf Course
rocktonlions.com/jack-lovejoy-golf-outing

Fall Prairie Harvest Day – Sept. 27, 9 am – 12 pm
Nygren Wetlands, www.naturalland.org

Vintage Shop Hop – Oct. 3 & 4
downtown businesses
www.facebook.com/vintageshophopevent

Rockton Fire Dept Open House
Oct. 5, 11 am – 1 pm

Last Roar Care Show – Oct. 5
Taylor Company lot, www.lastroarcarshow.com

Rockton Township Historical Society
Santa's Attic Sale – Nov. 21 & 22, 9 am – 4 pm

Macktown Living History
Macktown After Dark – Sept. 6 \$
Archaeology – Sept. 14
Frenchman's Frolic – Oct. 18 & 19
Lincoln & Liberty – Nov. 7-9
www.macktownlivinghistory.org

American Legion Post 332
Wrong Event Party – Sept. 6, 8 pm
Puzzle Races – Nov. 18, 6 pm
Thanksgiving Dinner – Nov. 27, 1 pm
221 W. Main St, Rockton, 815-624-7350
www.rocktonlegion.org



VILLAGE of ROSCOE

55th Annual Roscoe Lions

Sept. 5-7, Leland Park, see ad

Roscoe United Methodist Church
Pancake Breakfast – Sept. 7
7 – 9:45 am, Leland Park \$

Roscoe Township Historical Society
4th Annual Antique Sale
Oct. 4 & 5, 9 am – 3 pm
Roscoe Community Center

4th Annual Roscoe Truck or Treat
Oct. 18, 3-6 pm, Porter Park
www.roscoeil.gov



SOUTH BELOIT

SouthBeloit.org

Nature at the Confluence

Food History Lecture – Sept. 6, 1-2:30 pm

Community Fire & Drum Circle
Sept. 11, 6:30-8 pm

Creatures of the Night – Sept. 26, 6-7:30 pm \$

Bird Club Field Trip to Nygren Wetland
Oct. 3, 7:30-9 pm

Dia De Los Muertos La Catrina Workshop
Oct. 24, 6-8 pm \$

Alebrijes Art Trail Exhibit – Oct. 25, 2-4 pm

Little Scientists: Fire
Nov. 20 & 22, 10-11 am \$



South Beloit High School

Sept 24-25	Parent/Teacher Conf
Sept 26	No School
Oct 13	No School
Nov 10	No School
Nov 26-28	No School



South Beloit Jr. High School

Sept 24-25	Parent/Teacher Conf
Sept 26	No School
Oct 13	No School
Nov 10	No School
Nov 26-28	No School



Hononegah High School

Oct 1	Late Start
Oct 9	Parent/Teacher Conf
Oct 10	No Students
Oct 13	No School
Nov 5	Late Start
Nov 14	No School
Nov 26-28	No School



Stephen Mack Middle School

Oct 10	No Students
Oct 13	No School
Nov 13	Parent/Teacher Conf
Nov 14	No School
Nov 20	Parent/Teacher Conf
Nov 21	No School
Nov 26-28	No School



Roscoe Middle School

Oct 10	No Students
Oct 13	No School
Nov 13	Parent/Teacher Conf
Nov 14	No School
Nov 20	Parent/Teacher Conf
Nov 21	No School
Nov 26-28	No School



Willowbrook Middle School

Oct 10	No School
Oct 13	No School
Nov 13	Parent/Teacher Conf
Nov 14	No School
Nov 20	Parent/Teacher Conf
Nov 21	No School
Nov 26-28	No School

EVENT

St. Andrew's Common Ground

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11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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