

Pillow fight!

Feathers may fly as the Kane County Cougars go for a different kind of record

The Kane County Cougars are inviting fans to help break the world record for the Largest Pillow Fight Aug. 11. Participants are encouraged to pre-register on the Cougars' Web site (Kccougars.com) but can also register at the door for this fun-packed night at Elfstrom Stadium. Potential record breakers are asked to bring their own pillows to receive wristbands that will allow them on the out-field for the fight.

"It's just one of those fun world records that our fans would get excited over," says Shawn Touney,

media relations coordinator for the Cougars.

Jeff Ney, the Cougars assistant general manager, says they need 3,800 participants to break the current record, but they are shooting for 5,000. The fight is expected to last a minute or two, but don't worry about being knocked off your feet; organizers plan to divide and supervise the field according to various levels of pillow-fighting intensity.

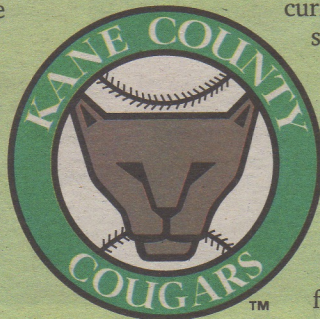
The game, against the Peoria Chiefs, starts at 6 p.m.

Kids can run the bases and enjoy a rock 'n' roll-themed fireworks show

and a performance by the Jesse White Tumblers after the game. Fans will enjoy the pre-game autograph session and Back to Bed's giveaway: miniature pillows to the first 2,000 fans.

Editor's Note: The Cougars have rescheduled the peanut-free game night for Aug. 7 because the July 9 game was rained out. No peanuts or peanut-related culprits will be allowed in the stadium for this all kids-friendly ball game.

Bethel Swift



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Calendar



Photos courtesy of the Lincoln Park Zoo

Cats!

Lincoln Park Zoo invests \$1.75 million to better showcase endangered species

If you missed the grand opening for the renovated portions of Lincoln Park Zoo's Kovler Lion House, you may want to stop by and see what zoo officials and visitors are raving about.

"It's been a big hit," says Jack Wlezien, a spokesman for the zoo. Most of the animals are Asian cats, with the exception of a pair of puma cubs (from North America) and a red panda—a raccoon-like animal weighing only 7 to 15 pounds.

The youngest inhabitants are three sibling Pallas' cats who were rescued by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department after their mother was killed in the wild. At 18, Afghan leopard Christian is the oldest resident.

The collection of animals has rarity in common. Three of the species (red panda, snow leopard and Pallas' cats) are participants in a multi-zoo breeding program. Educational activities are going on all the time at the exhibit and a special docent is usually on hand to teach kids more about the endangered cats on display.

Other improved features of the exhibits include more space and creative landscaping to make the animals feel more comfortable and more visible to zoo patrons. "Cats sleep all the time. They're still doing that, but we're giving them areas where they can be seen," Wlezien says.

Bethel Swift

A day with the wild

Meet and greet newborn wildlife during family day open house

Celebrate Grandparents Day where the wild things are—at the Big Run Wolf Ranch, 14857 Farrell Road, Lockport.

Take a guided (or unguided) tour and see horses, llama, peacock, lynx, wolves, chickens, raccoons and skunks at the ranch. Kids can take pictures with the animals and splash in the creek to look for frogs or baby ducks.

The open house, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 9, costs just \$1 and includes a DJ and the opportunity to meet a baby cougar, wolf pup and baby groundhog.

Ranch owner John Basile will wrestle Kuma the Bear five times dur-

ing the open house and kids can help Kuma shower by squirting the bear with hoses.

Jim Nesci will be on hand with his reptile collection of cold-blooded creatures: tortoises, alligators and 20-foot-long snakes for a lecture and show.

Food, drinks, T-shirts and other merchandise will be for sale to help fund this nonprofit facility event. Throughout the day, you can also participate in a raffle and hear kid-friendly lectures on wildlife.

For more information, call (815) 588-0044 or go online at bigrunwolf-ranch.org.

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Photo courtesy of the Big