## ROCKET NATION

Wrapping up February had some promising moments interacting with people in the community that are stepping out, volunteering and getting involved for positive change! Citizens were turning out for the meeting on changes in our water system in downtown Tolono and the Tolono Park District is facing some shifts in leadership with Randy Grace stepping down after decades of service and maintenance in our parks and recreational spaces. These were some of the topics that came up as the Masons hosted their 4th Sunday of the Month 8am-12pm breakfast that I attended and enjoyed catching up with neighbors and

Some "recycled teenagers" brought up being at the 55+ Good Samaritans Luncheon at the St Patrick's Parish Center on Wednesday March 9th and asked about the Irish Sing-a-long after we eat starting at 11:30am!

There were visits about Tolono Fun Day's planning progress for June 24th and 25th with a "Throw Back" theme as the committee with over a dozen people coming to the meetings (twice what we usually have attending!) brought up some of their favorite memories from back in the day and had suggestions for Grand Marshals! Some parents of younger kids thought an overnight in the park may be a neat experience, watching the movie outside then camping in a tent! We have some of the Unity Class of '83 leading the charge on getting a beer tent in downtown Tolono again with some great bands to perform if we can keep things in our budget! We had a presentation for fireworks and it looks like we'll need a great fundraising effort with the proposal of having \$12,000 worth of pyrotechnics

to shoot off! A new treasurer that manages Busey, Megan Reimer, was telling us about the mobile app and how easy it will be for Busey customers to give with Zelle moving money from a persons account to the Tolono Fun Day account as a fast, simple way to support our festival!

One of the highlights at the end of February was the turn out and donations that came in for the revised "All Out A'cappella" after a pandemic hiatus! It was so great to hear and see the talented singers perform in Unity's "Polly Anderson" Auditorium. A few of the Rockets I talked to will be in the play "Footloose" this weekend 3/3-5 at the Virginia Theater and are excited about the last weekend of April doing the show "Pippin"! Just in case you missed the opportunity to support or want any details: UnityMusicBoosters.

## Rocket Replay By: Sarah Rink This week the Rockets wresfemale state champion from Unity, but also the fifth wres-

tled their way to third place at the IHSA team state finals dual, winning against Vandalia and Harvard, but losing to Yorkville Christian, the firstplace team. They received third place at this competition in 2020, this year their wins against Harvard coming from Trevor McCarter (113), Ryan Rink (132), Tavius Hosley (145), Kyus Root (170), Grant Albaugh (182), Nick Nosler (195), and Karson RIchardson (285). In more wrestling news, Lexi Ritchie became the first girl to win an IHSA state title at Unity during the first IHSA Girls State competition on Saturday. She is not only the first

tler from Unity to ever win a state championship, the last being Juan Moline in 1991. She feels proud to bring the legacy to the school, saying "I'm one step in the direction for all the boys and girls coming into the program to win one.

All Out A Cappella also went off without a hitch this Saturday, bringing in a sizable crowd to watch local collegiate A Cappella groups perform at the Polly Anderson Auditorium at Unity High School. Groups such as the University of Illinois's very own Rip Chords, No Comment, and Xtension Chords returned

with another AOA regular. QB from Elmhurst College to perform another year. This year, the list of acts also included Secondary Dominance, a new A Cappella group from Illinois State University who were just as outstanding as the rest of the returning acts. UHS's Surreal Sound and a group from Unity West's fifth grade class also sang, some of the fifth graders performing on stage for the first time. The event brought college students and parents alike together for a night of comedy and music, and the support for Unity's music programs was apparent.



Unity Rockets Wrestling team pose with their hardware at the IHSA State Finals.



\*Subject to credit approval. Private Mortgage Insurance may be required for mortgages exceeding 80% of Loan to Market value or selling price, the lesser of the two. Loan must close to waive appraisal fee. The reduced annual percentage rate of 0.125% will be applied at the time of rate lock.



March 2-8

Tonight's New Moon means you'll start seeing the crescent Moon in the evening sky probably by Friday. But, since Jupiter passes behind the Sun on Saturday, the Moon is alone after dusk.

Check out the thick crescent Moon next Tuesday evening as it sits between two four times older than the Ple-

star clusters: the Pleiades or Seven Sisters above and the V-shaped Hyades below. The Hyades are one of the closer star clusters to us at 150 light years, compared to 430 light years for the Pleiades. The Hyades are an older star cluster with an age estimated at 625 million years, roughly

iades. The Hyades consists of several hundred stars but the brightest in the vicinity, the reddish Aldebaran, is actually a foreground object, roughly 2.5 times closer than the rest of the cluster. In Greek mythology, the Hyades and Pleiades were maidens who were halfsisters. Check em out in the sky this week and next!

## Unity Coaches Provide **Snapshot of the Fall Season**

By Diane Ducey

An end of season statement from Unity coaches, looking back on the season.

Boys Basketball with coach Matt Reed:

Unity Basketball ended their season with a record of 19-10, losing to St. Joseph-Ogden in the regional championship. The Rockets haven't won 19 games in a season since winning 24 games in the 2011-2012 season. Blake Kimball, a senior, averaged 17.8 points per game. Trustan Price, the other senior, had an excellent senior season. At one point in the season, the Rockets won 9 games in a row.

"We had a great season..... just didn't end how we wanted it to. The kids played well together and elevated the program to what we hope can continue to be a solid

basketball team year in and

year out. After only winning 3 games last year, it was quite an accomplishment to get to 19 this season. I'm very proud of their efforts".

Unity Girls Basketball with Coach Dave Ellars:

Unity Girls Basketball had a great season. They finished 22-9, 7-3 – 3rd Place in the Conference.

They finished 1st at the Lady Falcon - Bunnies Classic, 3rd at the Bismarck-Henning BSN Classic Girls Basketball Tournament.

We had great leadership from our Seniors and they will be missed.

Seniors; Hailey Flesch, Gracie Renfrow, Erika Steinman, Maddie Reed, Taylor Henry, Calli Chandler, Savannah Alagna, Bridget Henry.

Underclass players; Lauren

Miller, Addison Ray, Katey Moore and Raegen Stringer.

The girls basketball season ended with a tough loss to a very good Pana team in the Regional Championship

Coach Ellars is also proud of his teams work of court, "True definition of a student athlete" congratulating the efforts for their work in class coming in with a cumulative GPA of 3.72 on a 4.0 scale with 4 ladies boasting a 4.0 GPA.

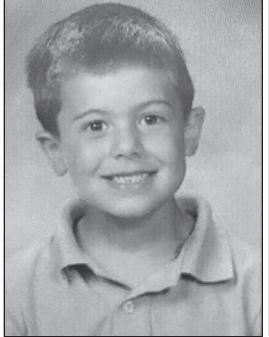
Rockets Wrestling with coach Logan Patton:

The wrestling team ended its season with 8 boys state qualifiers, 3 state-runner ups and 3rd place in team state. The dual team record was 34-4. The girls side of wrestling had 2 state qualifiers and 1 champ in Lexi Ritchie.



Photo left: Trustan Price of the Unity Boys Basketball team. Photo Above: Unity Girls Basketball Team.

**Unity Student Council Weekly Senior Spotlight** 





Who did this blissful boy grow up to be?

This week's senior spotlight

Phillip Hartke!

Plans after graduation: "I plan to get a 4-year degree

in civil engineering and eventually own my own business." Best StuCo Memory or fa-

vorite thing about StuCo: "My favorite student council memory was participating in the haunted house event

(every year)!"

Why join Student Council? "I joined student council to be involved as a positive influence on my school and community."

## RETIREMENT ANSWERS

Do you need help with figuring how much you can spend per month at retirement without running out of money?

Do you need assistance deciding how much &what to invest your retirement assets or rollover

If you want someone to help you find the answers to these questions call:



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