

# ROCKET NATION

WITH DIANE DUCEY



Did you happen to watch the Oscars? The fashions on the red carpet always interest me just before Prom season gets underway, and here in Rocket Nation that's the first weekend in April! Of course, the 2022 Academy Awards honoring some great films, directors and actors as well as music was overshadowed by "the slap heard around the world". Hollywood's biggest stars, like Will Smith (53), sitting close to the stage, became a target for comedian Chris Rock (57) as he pointed out Will's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith's bald hairstyle is a look that would be good for "G.I. Jane (1997) 2". Maybe the comedian didn't realize Jada (50) lives with an autoimmune disorder called alopecia that effects follicles and results in hair loss. Her daughter, Willow (21) encouraged her to shave her head and embrace the look in 2018, seven years after her

song "Whip My Hair" hit the music charts. This got people talking about situations where we've reacted with an outburst that may be unkind, when someone you love is being harassed. Granted, this was a joke and at first, we see Will sort of laughing, until he sees his wife's painful look. I wouldn't have gone up and hit anyone for a disparaging remark, because it's not in me. Men are known to be protectors though, and Will did play a remarkable "Ali" in 2001. In fact, after the incident, he went on to win best actor for his role in "King Richard" playing the famous tennis player Williams sisters father that kept them focused and determined to win. A tearful apology was made to the academy that overshadowed his triumphant moment. There's a lot of irony in the situation that occurred Sunday night March 27th that

we can learn from with good sportsmanship, kindness, love, perhaps self control and approaching someone directly and communicating your feelings in a calm atmosphere, apologizing and forgiveness: all great character lessons to talk about with your family or friends. At least the night's final "best picture" award with Lady Gaga (36) and wheelchair bound actress and dancer Liza Minnelli (76) was a nice wrap to the turbulent awards show. "Cabaret" with the 50th anniversary in 2022, had the showbiz legends on stage together with some nice moments of love, empathy and dignity where it could have been awkward. As the nominees were being shown on the screens, Gaga says "I got you" to which Liza smiles and says "I know". Kindness and respect wins.

## Elyse Knudsen Named to All Region Women's Basketball Team

- Illinois-Millikin University sophomore guard Elyse Knudsen (Philo, Tolono Unity H.S.) was named to the 2021-22 D3hoops.com All-Region Women's Basketball Team on March 15. Knudsen was selected as the Player of the Year in Region 8 and named to the All-Region First Team. Last month, Knudsen was named the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) Lori Kerans Player of the Year and was a unanimous All-Conference First Team Selection. Knudsen led the conference in scoring in 2021-22 averaging 19.9 points per game. She was fifth in the CCIW in field goal percentage shooting 47.3 percent on the season. Knudsen was fourth in conference in assists with 82 and fifth in steals with 59.

Overall Knudsen averaged 20.8 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. Knudsen is currently ranked second in NCAA Division III in field goals made with 248 and third in total points with 623. Knudsen averaged 28 points per game in the Big Blue's three games in the recent NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament. Millikin University is a private, comprehensive university with a diverse student population of approximately 2,200 undergraduate and graduate students. A Millikin education features Performance Learning, a unique learning approach offered only at Millikin that gives students the chance to build the confidence and skills to succeed before and after graduation. Millikin offers more than 50 majors in the College of Fine Arts, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Professional Studies and Tabor School of Business, and is located on a 75-acre residential campus in Decatur, Ill.

The Big Blue were Co-CCIW Regular Season Champions with a 14-2 record. Millikin University is a private, comprehensive university with a diverse student population of approximately 2,200 undergraduate and graduate students. A Millikin education features Performance Learning, a unique learning approach offered only at Millikin that gives students the chance to build the confidence and skills to succeed before and after graduation. Millikin offers more than 50 majors in the College of Fine Arts, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Professional Studies and Tabor School of Business, and is located on a 75-acre residential campus in Decatur, Ill.

# Unity Student Council Weekly Senior Spotlight



**Senior Spotlight**  
Who did this grumpy girlie grow up to be?  
This week's senior spotlight is...  
Bridget Henry!  
Plans after graduation:  
"My plans after graduation are to go to Parkland to study

psychology then to a 4 year school after that!"  
Best StuCo Memory or favorite thing about StuCo:  
"My favorite memories from student council are filling the pop machine in my study hall with my friends."  
Why join Student Council?

"I joined student council because Mrs. Meyer made me and I wanted a chance to spend more time with my friends."  
(Editor's note: She wasn't forced to join, but Mrs. Meyer recognized that she'd be a great addition!

## Rocket Replay

By: Sarah Rink



Last Friday, Unity Vocal Rush held their final performance as a free public show in the Polly Anderson Auditorium at Unity High School, drawing a significant audience to celebrate a successful season and all the hard work that went into it. They also performed at Unity East on Thursday along with the high school band as part of the returning arts tour to both grade schools. The show choir performed their competition set and the band performed a selection of songs from their pep band set list to the third, fourth, and fifth grade classes, led by their directors Brain Krafcsisin and Jerry Cardiff respectively.

Outdoor track, along with baseball and softball, have also begun their seasons as the weather warms up and the student body prepares for spring activities. It's Student Council Week at Unity High School, with themed days for the week, a blood drive, and the return of Unity's "Great Auction" on Thursday. Unity has not been able to hold this event for the past two years, so most students are participating in it for the first time. Students will bring money and various teachers and classrooms will provide services and items (mainly food) for the entire school to bid on. This year, the primary charity is Prevent

Child Abuse America, and most of the proceeds from the auction will go towards that. Students will also have the chance to participate in a blood drive this week, another simple way to help those in need. Any student above the age of sixteen with parental consent that is also medically eligible to donate is allowed and encouraged to. Due to a national blood shortage, donations are needed more than ever, so if you are able, don't miss a chance to potentially save lives. Students and teachers are looking forward to a week of public service and fun events at Unity High School, so there's a lot to look forward to this week.



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## Heritage High School Third Quarter Honor Roll

HERITAGE HIGHSCHOOL HONOR ROLL  
March 28, 2022  
Third Quarter:  
High Honors:  
Freshman: Klayton Junglas, Bailee Lubben, Hunter Montgomery, Kamble Pearman, Gracyn Tate, Loran Tate, Alexandria Tatman, Mykayla Thomas, Olivia Wallace, Addison Weisman, Kashton White  
Sophomores: Aidan Ashbrook, Julian Campos, Savannah Gilliland, Gwendolyn Happ, Riley Miller, Lillian

Montgomery, Isabella Reed, Mary Roland, Donald Ruwe  
Juniors: Owen Ashbrook, Katelyn Bensyl, Paige George, Katelyn Learned, Adena Paul, Hannah Segroves  
Seniors: Alyson Davis, Samuel Gilbert, Kolton Junglas, Kiley Knoll, Brodie Meneely, Konner Pearman, Torie Rothermel, Brianna Struck, Madeline Thompson, Cole White  
Honors:  
Freshman: Desirae Collins, Cole Hancock, Robert Holloman, Chelsey Losee, Emilia Lysohir, Kaliyah

Lysohir, Jeremiah Nickelson, Jazmine Skinner, Zaien Smith, Kamryn Soard, Brennan Struck, Madisyn Wilson, Wyatt Jones  
Sophomores: Nathan Eldridge, Destanee Morgan, Madisyn Rauckman, Cohen-Sands, Courtney Sanford, Dillon Woodmansee  
Juniors: Skyla Ahlden, Heidi Likeric, Ben Shanks, Cassandra Shanks  
Seniors: Jordan Eldridge, Madison Mahaffey, Lillian Ploense, Tristan Sands, Jared Wallace

## Active Senior Republicans Meeting Scheduled for April 4

The Monthly meeting of Active Senior Republicans in Champaign County for seniors seeking information, fellowship and fun will be held on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. meeting time (Social time from 9:00 to 9:30.) The meeting will be held in the Champaign Public Library, located at 200 W. Green St. in Champaign in teh Robeson Pavilion Room A & B Coffee and snacks will be provided. This months guest speakers will be Jesse Reising,

Regan Deering, and Matt Haussmann, Republican primary candidates for the newly redrawn 13th Congressional District One of the most gerrymandered districts in the nation, two of three outlets rate the 13th as "leaning Democratic." But it could turn out to be a tossup, considering President Biden's unpopularity. Republicans of all ages are encouraged to attend and ask questions of the candidates. UPCOMING EVENTS: May Meeting: May 2

June Meeting: June 6 For questions please contact on of the following members: Penny Porter, Co-President PHONE: 217-390-7247 EMAIL: penny.porter48@gmail.com J.C. Reitmeier, Co-President: PHONE: 217-694-4192 EMAIL: reitfam4@hotmail.com Rhonda Wrona, Vice President: PHONE: 217-714-5807 EMAIL: rhondawrona@gmail.com We hope to see you there!

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