

# ROCKET NATION

WITH DIANE DUCEY



It seems like when we get into Spring, the pace really picks up! I'm happy that faithful friends are taking the lead to help others in Southern Champaign County. The Giving Place is open 4-6pm on Wednesdays in downtown Tolono. Catholic Charities has their Food Pantry on Monday nights and Friday mornings at St. Patrick's in Tolono, and the 1st Tuesday of the month (May 3rd) at noon, the St. Nicholas Charity on Wheels gives out baby supplies and toiletries to those in need. For years I've been involved as emcee for the Steak Dinner coming our way Sunday May 1st between 4:30-6:30pm at the Philo Tavern as a fundraiser for Catholic Charities and these efforts to serve our community.

Sports programs have supportive relatives and friends running around to get to games and track meets as well as extra curricular activities that are so important to students these days. My son, Aidan, has been working at Salt and Light in Urbana and assisting a few hours a week at the Champaign County Humane Society. He has hopes of finding a real job inside the next few years after building up his skill set and gaining more confidence learning how to listen to his supervisor then execute that plan successfully. We're looking into summer jobs now and took a tour at Parkland College today (room D-120) with their new SWFT (Support for Workforce



April 21 Unity's Hall of Fame inductees Charles Kemper, Lisa (Karcher) Flavin and Troy Cardinal stand with their awards in the main hallway they walked so often as Rockets back in the day.

Training) and Adult Education Center getting a grant (\$1.2 million) from the Illinois Workforce Equity Initiative to help enhance skills and provide mentorship, tutoring and free classes for residents in our districts facing challenges.

Unity's National Honor Society induction ceremony and honoring three alumni chosen for the Unity Hall of Fame happened on Thursday April 21st. My son Aidan loved hearing the motivational speeches from friends of mine from another chapter of life: Charles Kemper, Lisa Flavin and Troy Cardinal. Last time I saw Troy, his family was at East Side Park near "Cardinal Court" that was dedicated in their honor with his dad Rod being a Tolono Park's commissioner for years. His brother, Brian, such a stand out basketball player who set

records at Unity, then Purdue then onto the NBA where his Dallas Maverick's team won the championship in 2011.

It's ironic that inside the last week, I've talked to several volunteers putting together an effort to make the basketball court near West Side Park's tennis court revamped. There are lots of improvements being planned as folks take action over the next few weeks. Would you like to be a part of this new wave of community service minded citizens who are taking action on Saturdays and get some jobs completed? How about taking note of a few shifts on June 24th and June 25th to make our Tolono Fun Day Festival run smoothly? Or get your businesses involved in these projects? Feel free to reach out now: DianeDucey@yahoo.com Thanks!

## Rocket Replay

By: Sarah Rink



This week at Unity High School, students within the music program are preparing for several upcoming events, such as the Spring Musical, Spring Concert, and the return of a well-loved event, Jazz & Java. The Spring Concert's date has been moved to May 10th, where there will be performances by the concert band and choir as well as awards for students in both groups.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Unity High School will be performing Pippin, their Spring Musical. Pippin tells the story of a young man

searching for a purpose in the time of the Holy Roman Empire. The show is full of comedy and heart, performed by the talented students at Unity High, who are excited to share the magic of this show with their fellow students and anyone who wishes to come. Tickets are available online for pre-order and at the door. Come see Unity High's production of Pippin this weekend at the Polly Anderson Auditorium.

Last week at Unity, there were several new inductees into the Unity chapter of the National Honor Society. The

list of inductees is as follows: Analyse Carter, Desiré De Los Santos, Natalie Ellars, Brooke Hewing, Caroline Jamison, Eden Johnson, Cassidy Keller, Caelyn Klepanski, Reagan Little, Jacob Maxwell, Tatum Meyer, Eric Miebach, Lauren Neversman, Dalton O'Neill, Abigail Pieczynski, Anna Polonus, Ava Price, Briana Ritchie, Issac Ruggeri, Aubrey Sanders, Olivia Shike, Carsyn Smith, Ruby Tarr, Andrew Thomas, Breanna Weller, Erica Woodard, and Abigail Woolcott. Congratulations NHS members!

# Unity Student Council Weekly Senior Spotlight



Who did this silly sweetie grow up to be?

This week's senior spotlight is...Ellie Eastin

Plans after graduation:

"I will go to Parkland for two years to get my Associates. I will then transfer to a university (I don't know which but I want it to have a pretty library). I want to major

in criminal justice administration and double minor in communication and social/civic engagement."

Best StuCo Memory or favorite thing about StuCo:

"When we did the haunted house a few years ago and somebody said 'nobody better grab my ankles'...so of course I grabbed their ankles and they

screamed like a little girl and fell to the floor."

Why join Student Council?

"I joined because I wanted to help around the school (and my mom made me and I was too scared to quit while Mrs. Seiler was in charge and then I grew to like it)."

(Editor's Note: Mrs. Seiler was not scary!!)

## Unity Conference Band Members Perform in Illini Prairie Conference



2022 Conference Band members from Unity performed for other member schools in the Illini Prairie Conference on April 25 at Olympia HS.

## Active Senior Republicans Meeting Announcement

The monthly meeting of Active Senior Republicans in Champaign County for seniors seeking information, fellowship and fun is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. meeting (Social time from 9:00 to 9:30.)

We will meet at the Champaign Public Library; 200 W. Green St. in Champaign in the Robeson Pavilion Room A & B coffee and snacks will be provided.

Guest speaker is set to be State Representative Brad Halbrook, 102nd District on the topic of the Budget and Bills--Horrors Passed by the Illinois State Legislature

Note: The Champaign County Republican Central Committee is collecting canned fruit and vegetables to donate to the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Please bring a can or two to this meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Meeting June 6, Meeting July 11

For questions please contact: Penny Porter, Co-President by phone: 217-390-7247 or e-MAIL: penny.porter48@gmail.com

J.C. Reitmeier, Co-President: Phone: 217-694-4192 e-MAIL: reitfam4@hotmail.com

Rhonda Wrona, Vice President: PHONE: 217-714-5807 e-MAIL: rhondawrona@gmail.com

Arthur's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual

# QUILT SHOW

April 28-30, 2022  
Thurs - Fri - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Sat 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

In conjunction with  
AN OLD-FASHIONED QUILT AUCTION  
SAT. APRIL 30 AT 12:00 PM

Amelia's Dancing Stars (Queen Size)

**FEATURING:**

- Vendor/Market Area
- Quilt Raffle Drawing (AMELIA'S DANCING STARS - Qu. size)
- Old-Fashioned Quilt Auction (Sat. Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Handicapped Accessible
- Plenty of Parking
- Lunch - 11:00AM - ??

**Admission \$5.00**

Sponsored by: Arthur Area Association of Commerce

At the  
**OTTO CENTER**  
Located at 2056 County Road 1800 East ~1/2 mile South of Downtown Arthur  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 217-543-2287 OR LOG ON TO [www.arthuril.us](http://www.arthuril.us)

# COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

IN HONOR OF Earth Day!

## MAY 4, 2022

### 9AM-3PM

KANSAS 9AM - NOON  
BROCTON 9AM - 2PM

Drop your shredding by any Prospect Bank location, we will ensure safe and secure shredding on us!

\*\*Please call your local branch for drop offs of more than 2 boxes/garbage bags full

The Opportunity Bank | [BANKPROSPECT.COM](http://BANKPROSPECT.COM)

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