## ROCKET NATION

Thanksgiving is great! I think of how grateful I am for family, friends, co-workers and the people who make holithe library December 2nd.

day events happen in our area! Xander Hazel is the director for Champaign Center Partnership and is pulling together details for me to "call out the parade" as it goes by downtown Champaign on Saturday November 25th at 6pm, then our 'friend from the North Pole' hops off the last lit entry to join me on the balcony above Big Grove Tavern and count down to light the huge Christmas Tree in the plaza. It's a similar scene on a smaller scale in downtown Philo the next day, Sunday November 26th at 5pm. I'll take my post near our radio studios across from the Philo Tavern to talk about sponsors and participants in the hometown parade!

Philo Exchange Bank has their 1st Saturday of December "Breakfast with Santa" event at the Philo Gym/Franks Center from 9-11am with gift donations helping kids in need in Unit 7. \$5 donation at the door gets a kid tickets to choose games, crafts, something random from the Angel Tree or a donut/drink. Sidney's Hometown Holiday has shopping stops, open houses, cookies and cocoa and after the 5pm parade, pictures with Santa at

Saturday December 9th is Tolono Fun Day's "Christmas in Tolono" with a bunch of stops for visitors from 9am to 9pm. Vendors at the Town Hall and Masonic Lodge have their items on display to buy from 9am-3pm. St Patrick's Parish Hall has donuts and drinks 9am-11am with "make and take" ornaments. Tolono's Library will have trains on display and be the headquarters for the start and finish of the "Horse and Carriage Rides" (15  $\,$ minutes for 4 adults \$40, sign up link on Tolono Fun Day Facebook page) The Baptist Church is doing pictures with Santa 1-4pm while the Heritage Girls help with crafts for the kids. Presbyterians have pallets to pick up now in their driveway as you get creative and try to win their decorating contest ahead of their Nativity Play at 2pm. Arbor Rose at 503 S Bourne will have cookies and hot cocoa and let small groups, friends and families pose for a Christmas picture in front of their holiday backdrop. At least three businesses in the downtown area, where the old VFW and Fountain of

Life church used to be, will be having open houses and opportunities to explore and buy gifts.

The live tree, planted years ago with the Cunnington family donations, will be covered with lights and the community can put their homemade ornaments on it for the season as we tap into the "Tree Lighting Ceremony". Unity West 5th grade choir will sing carols at the Masonic Lodge downtown after 5:30pm as local girl scouts and Tolono Fun Day volunteers serve hot drinks and treats. Awards will be given out to the best lit and decorated houses after judging takes place on Friday December 8th after 6. Creative new members to the organizing team have visited our five Tolono Taverns to get them to prepare a "Signature Cocktail" for those who want to do the Tolono Bar Crawl and RSVP on the facebook page. After the 6pm Tree Lighting, walking to the two places near the library and staying for a half hour or so then going near the tracks by the post office before walking over the tracks to two establishments off Route 45 will be a lot of fun and prizes will be handed out at each location for the best ugly sweater!

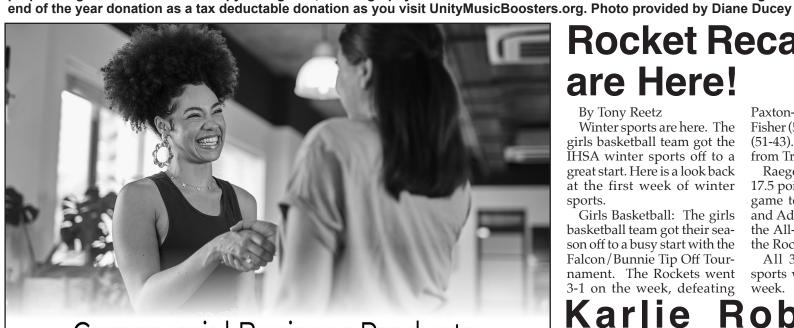
## Homer Historical Society **Uncovering Lost Names with Foil**



Mystery and Intrigue for Unity Drama Clubs Presentation of Clue



"CLUE" was presented by the Unity Drama Club Thursday November 16th and Friday November 17th at 7pm, then the Saturday November 18th 2pm mantinee. The show had around twenty actors on stage and ten students on the production crew behind the scenes supporting the cast by moving around sets they created, getting props arranged for different acts, helping with lights, costumes and make up. In her seventh year of being Unity High School's Art teacher, Taylor Marcel has been the director of various productions for the Drama Club for three years. The program for the "Clue" gave great insight to those involved in the Fall play and hinted at a great Spring Musical that typically comes our way in late April. Ms. Marcel mentions being proud of the Rocket thespians hard work to create smooth transitions, even after facing challenges with a complete change in the play that was chosen! Anyone interested in supporting music, acting or various aspects of Unit 7's Fine Arts programs can do an online search for more details. At the beginning of this month started the Unity Music Directors Fund Drive helps with scholarship money as well as the bands instruments and repairs, uniforms and Color Guard props along with Chorus music copywriting fees, choreography for "Vocal Rush" showchoir and their costumes. Giving Tuesday is coming up November 28th, or consider an



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## **Rocket Recap: Winter Sports**

are Here! By Tony Reetz

Winter sports are here. The girls basketball team got the IHSA winter sports off to a great start. Here is a look back at the first week of winter

Girls Basketball: The girls basketball team got their season off to a busy start with the Falcon/Bunnie Tip Off Tournament. The Rockets went

Paxton-Buckley-Loda (51-27), Fisher (56-23), and Shelbyville (51-43). Their only loss came

from Tri-Valley (42-28). Raegen Stringer averaged 17.5 points per game in the 4 game tournament. Stringer and Addison Ray both made the All-tournament team for

the Rockets. All 3 of Unity's winter sports will be in action next

\*\*Congratulations to Brock Suding for being named to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association first team All-State team linebacker. Brock will be honored before the IHSA 3A State Championship game on Friday at ISU. Eric Miebach was also named Honorable Mention All State.

## 3-1 on the week, defeating week. Karlie **Roberts Receives Nursing Scholarship**

(11/16/2023)-- Lakeview College of Nursing in Danville and Charleston, IL, announced numerous scholarship awards for the Fall 2023

Karlie Roberts, of Sidney, IL, received the Paul Michael and Mary Jayne Sherksnis Scholarship. Roberts attends

DANVILLE, IL classes on Lakeview's Dan-

ville campus. Lakeview College of Nurs-

ing Scholarships are made possible by generous donations to the College's scholarship endowment fund. Scholarships are awarded based on criteria established by the donor and each applicant's financial need and/or academic merit.

Lakeview College of Nursing offers a bachelor of science in nursing degree. It is a single-purpose, private institution specializing in nursing education in the Danville, IL, area since 1894. Lakeview began offering the program in Charleston, IL, in the fall of 2001.

