

The

ROCKET

PRESS

Volume 6, Issue 1
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Your School. Your Magazine.

Safety First

District implements increased security
and communication measures (Pg. 8)

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inaugural season

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transitions to podcasts

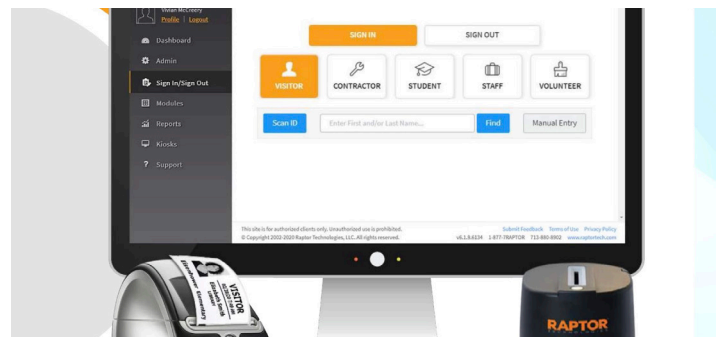
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YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR MAGAZINE.

ROCKET LIFE



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The Rocket Press is the official news magazine of Rose Hill High School that is published four to six times a year. The Rocket Press is a student publication, written and produced by students. Opinions expressed in The Rocket Press are of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the USD 394 Board of Education, the administration, the faculty or the adviser.

WRIGHT SETTLING IN AS FOOTBALL COACH

by reese goetz, staff reporter

In June of 2023, Landon Wright accepted one of the biggest coaching positions at Rose Hill High School. Being hired late in the summer as the head football coach, Wright stepped into the role quickly and took charge.

“I got here the second week of summer weights which wasn't ideal, I wish it could have been a lot sooner than that, but the summer went very well and the players have responded very well and put together a very solid summer worth of work,” Wright said.

Even with a quick turn around, the football players kept open minds to a new beginning, and it's been a relatively smooth transition. Starting lineman Dawson McNaul has been more than impressed with Coach Wright.

“The transition with Coach Wright has been great,” McNaul said. “He's really a ‘player's coach’ and works hard everyday to get the most out of us. Not just as players, but people and students as well.”

Wright and his wife, Heather, and four children moved to Kansas late June. With the fast move, the transition from Texas to Rose Hill wasn't easy, but Wright knew exactly what he wanted out of the team.

“The transition has been very good, mostly everyone has been very welcoming,” Wright said.

The Rockets had a tough start to the season, with losses to Collegiate and Andale, but have a conducive schedule the rest of the way. With a strong senior class, Wright has high expectations and hopes for the rest of the season.

“I expect the team to go out and fight every single day in practice and in every game no matter who the opponent is,” Wright said.



COACH WRIGHT WITH THE 2023 SENIORS

HOLDAWAY MAKING WAVES AS NEW MATH TEACHER

by lucas brown, staff reporter

Amber Holdaway, who previously taught middle school math at Rose Hill Middle School, was hired over the summer to take over recently retired Dan Cole's position. Holdaway took over all the algebra classes.

"I taught eighth grade for two years and this is my first year at the high school," Holdaway said. "I really like being at the high school and teaching upper level math and working with older students."

Holdaway always knew that education was going to be the career choice for her, and she is positive that she chose the right age group as well. It all started with a positive influence at a young age.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher since I was in kindergarten because I fell in love with school and my first teacher," Holdaway said. "In high school I found that I really liked math. I started college to be an elementary teacher but found that I was good at tutoring my peers and decided to switch over to secondary math teacher."

While high school has been a change for Holdaway, she has thoroughly enjoyed getting to spend her long day teaching the subject she loves with a good group of students.

"I have really great students and algebra is some of my favorite math so it's been really fun," Holdaway said.

MANDY JONES FILLS IN BIG SHOES

by lucas brown, staff reporter

After the 2022-2023 school year, secretary Vickie Hull retired. Rose Hill started to look for a new secretary and found one pretty quickly since she worked in the district already. The school eventually hired Mandy Jones as the new head secretary.

Jones has been in the school district now for ten years and worked as the Health Aid at Rose Hill Primary School. She revealed she loves working in Rose Hill since her kids go to school here and she has known most of the students since they were kids.

"Yes, It has been fun to learn new things that occur in the High School building."

Jones stated, "Also seeing some of the students I had when they were in Elementary School."

While Jones will miss working with the younger students in the primary school, she can't wait to see the older kids and getting to know them and working with them. Jones will be learning a whole new position and job since moving up from being the health aide, but she is excited to learn a new position and meet new people.

If you ever want to meet our new secretary, she works in the office and she can't wait to meet new students and get to know them.

LAMBERT MAKING MARK ON USD 394

by hayden swope, editor-in-chief

A huge change to the Rose Hill District came early February when Chuck Lambert was hired as the superintendent for the 2023-2024 school year. Traveling back and forth from his home in Nebraska, Lambert wasted no time to come and get to know the students and staff of Rose Hill, before his time even started.

“The first official day was July 1, which was a Saturday,” Lambert said. “Even though I had been helping out unofficially for several months before, I was really excited for the first day even though it was a Saturday.”

The small town school has been an adjustment, but one of Lambert’s favorite things he’s gotten to do is show off the positives of being a Rocket.

“The first couple months have been spent getting to know people and learning how things work,” Lambert said. “I have been able to do this through meetings, office visits, classroom visits, riding buses, attending practices and having an “open door” policy. My focus these first couple months has been seeing what we do great and then the plan is to make sure as many people as possible know what that is.”

With the learning process of four new

schools, Lambert gives weekly updates to the community of Rose Hill, called “120 seconds with Superintendent Lambert.” These updates are only the beginning of sharing information, and Lambert intends to make sure every Rocket is noticed.

“I believe it is my responsibility to make sure ‘our story’ is being told as I would prefer we tell our story and put out what great things are happening,” Lambert said. “The awesome thing is that in the first four weeks it is easy to see what we are great at and I plan to promote those things soon.”

Only being in the office for a short time, Lambert has already made an uplifting impact to the district, and getting to see the students’ and employees’ smiling faces daily has been something he looks forward to everyday.

“It seems like each day brings my attention to many highlights that are happening in each building,” Lambert said. “Every employee and student has been so friendly to me and that is definitely my favorite part of the job.”



MR. LAMBERT VISITS WITH THE AT THE HILL PODCAST

APPS, PROTOCOLS PUT IN PLACE FOR DISTRICT SAFETY AND COMMUNICATION

by hayden swope, editor-in-chief

A new change came to the Rose Hill School District shortly after new Superintendent Chuck Lambert stepped into office. New safety measures were put into place in every building, but the biggest changes came at the Primary school.

Lachlan Jones was hired over the summer break as the security greeter at the Primary school. Instead of giving the office staff the chore of ringing people in, Jones' job is to welcome the guest into the school while also running a background check.

Jones being hired is just one layer to Lambert's increased security plan.

"The picture with the five buttons is an app that the teachers will have on their phone that they can push in case of an emergency," Lambert said. "It is the Raptor Emergency Alert. It also has a 'team assist' button. When the button is pushed the appropriate personnel will be notified of the situation and receive GPS coordinates. The 'Visitor Management' system will do an immediate background check on anyone that visits within a matter of seconds from their drivers license."

Not only is the physical safety of the schools being improved, but the

communication between teachers and parents has a whole new face as well.

Coming in early October, USD 394 is launching a new parent-teacher communication app. "Rooms" combines a digital classroom as well as a way of communicating between parents, students, and teachers.

"The 'Rooms' app and 'Apptegy' app will make it so we can communicate with families on a regular basis with PDFS, pictures, links, etc," Lambert said. "It will give us a great opportunity to share "our story" every day."

Hoping to have a successful launch, District Technology Director Greg Walls has been preparing all teachers and staff for the new implementation.

"All teachers and administrators are currently receiving training on Rooms," Walls said. "We plan on launching the new platform to parents, students, and the community on Oct. 2. This is part of a larger plan to launch a new mobile app and website. The design work for the website will begin in January. The new mobile app can be downloaded now."

Say "hello" to Parent-Teacher Chat



Chat



Events



Documents



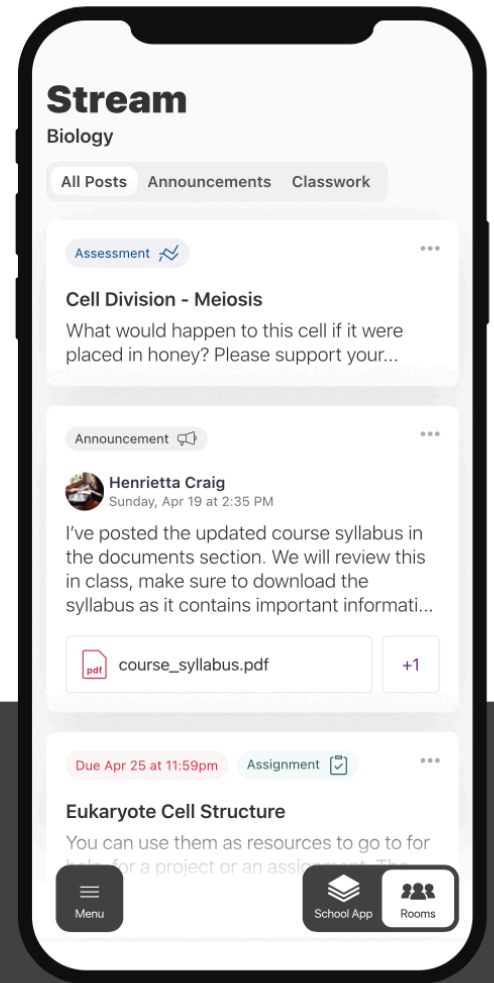
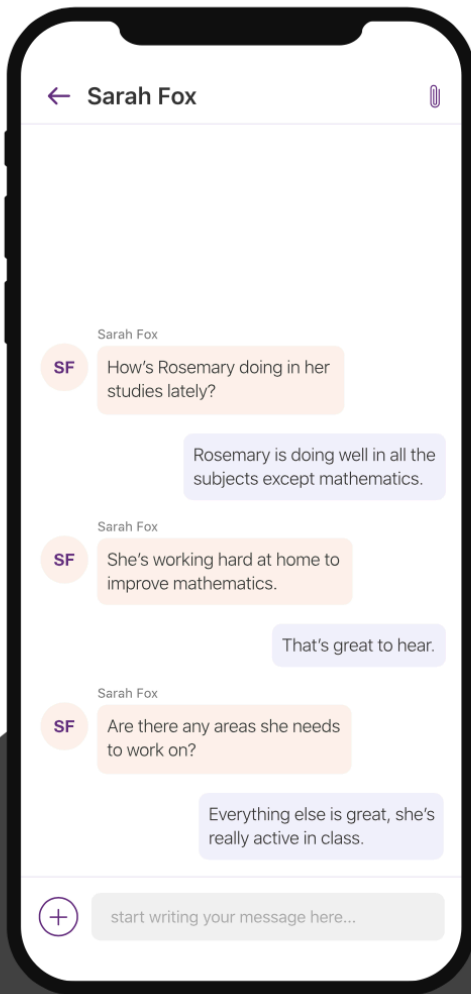
Stream



Classes



Notifications



Download the **Rose Hill USD 394** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.

LADY ROCKET GOLF UNDERWAY

by reese goetz, staff reporter

Last winter, girls golf was approved by the Board of Education for the upcoming 2023 fall season. A large number of girls jumped on the opportunity, and Jaci Weber took over the head coaching position.

“I am very excited to be the head coach for the very first girls golf team at Rose Hill High School,” Weber said. “I think it's wonderful that the girls are able to represent their school while competing against other schools in the surrounding area. I am looking forward to teaching the fundamentals of golf to a new generation of female golfers.”

Weber's golf experience goes way back, starting in high school playing on the boys varsity team, similar to what the Rose Hill girls golfers did for many years.

“I have a long history with golf,” Weber said. “I've played golf since I was six years old. As a junior golfer I won the Kansas State Junior Girls' tournament three years in a row. I competed nationally in golf tournaments representing Kansas in many of them.”

The season started off strong, with freshman Hannah Reeves and senior Maddy Vaughters leading the way.

“My goals for this season are to embrace the value of a team and good sportsmanship, learning the rules and etiquette of golf, focusing on personal improvement in their golf game, and to have fun,” Weber said.

SOCCER ALUMS COME BACK FOR PRESEASON GAME

by kimber lovell, staff reporter

On Saturday, August 19, 2023 the soccer team held their yearly Alumni Soccer game. Players from previous years who have played with Coach Jerry Treat started at Rose Hill 20 years ago. Coach Treat began coaching back in 2003.

“It is something that is special to a small town like Rose Hill,” head coach Jerry Treat said.

Rose Hill is a small town and when programs get to have people come back and show the new players how they used to play, it's a special feeling. Alumni as far back as we as the 90s come and play against the newer players. The players prepare for the game the same way they prepare for every other game and Coach Treat said the players benefit from playing with the Alumni.

“The alumni are our family and are an essential part of our heritage,” Treat said.

With many seniors graduating this year such as Ethan Brooks, Jace Beery, Scotty Carr, Logan Parker, Anthen Arheart, and Cameron Herrold, playing with alumni is special because after this year, they will be Alumni to the other players. Brooks has played soccer all four years of high school and has played the Alumni game every year since.

“It is always fun hanging out with old friends at the alumni game,” Brooks said. “Reconnecting with teammates and just getting a good laugh.”

The game benefits the seniors before they leave high school and start a new chapter in their life. Whether it's playing soccer in college or just playing on the sideline, the team benefits from playing with past players and players that they call friends.

ROCKET PRODUCTIONS TRANSITIONS TO PODCASTS

by teagan ibarra, staff reporter

For years, Rocket Productions has stuck to the same cycle of all video shows and segments. The journalism teacher, Matt Browning, knew it was time for a change.

Podcast equipment was ordered at the end of last school year, and recently came in for the broadcast class. After a few weeks of waiting, the class is starting to get into the swing of things.

“Mr. Welch got a special grant to be able to pay for the podcast equipment,” Browning said. “Last spring, I went to Clearwater High School and saw their podcast set up and really enjoyed it. With podcasts being the big thing right now, eight to ten minute podcasts are better than long videos.”

The shows that were all video were transformed into podcasts, and the hosts got a new challenge of learning the new setup.

“So now we have four podcasts,” Browning said. “At the Hill, talks to teachers at the high school, The Rockets Sports Updates with Hayden Swope, talks to athletes at the high school, and On the Clock that Dawson McNaul does for national sports. We also do lots of behind the scenes stuff. All podcasts can be found on Spotify, Apple music and anywhere you can find podcasts.”



Run, Kimber, Run!

by kimber lovell, staff reporter

While I do love writing for the magazine, I love running the most. I have been in cross country since my freshman year after Coach Brandon Barger convinced me to run because my brother Samuel runs. I have made numerous friendships over the years due to cross country and I would not change it for a thing. Since freshman year, I have joined numerous clubs and extracurricular activities which has made me more involved and feel more accomplished.

Senior Hayden Swope got me back into dance after I had quit two years before I joined. I never wanted to dance again after I quit tap dance, and I had never tried jazz dancing before and it was something I was never familiar with. I tried out for the team and made it. The team coached me and taught me new things about dance. Eventually, Hayden Swope helped me join more clubs like Stuco and FBLA.

My brother was always in Stuco and he loved it and so I did not join because it was his thing. Then I was convinced to join my sophomore year and I had a lot of good laughs and some fun and fantastic adventures. Freshman year I joined FBLA, or Future Business Leaders of America, with some friends because it was a newer club to the school, so they were looking for people. I had a lot of fun at the competition and got to learn new things throughout the experience.

It's safe to say that I loved joining clubs even though I was very nervous and hesitant to join. I feel very proud of the fact that I branched out and tried new things. Every activity I've joined has made an impact on my life and how I live my life.

I've gone through the younger years of my

life not wanting to do anything because I was always focused on tap dancing and not anything else because we were about to start competitive tap dance before COVID hit and we were not allowed to go to other states to compete. While this disappointed me and then I ended up quitting because I started to get too focused on my short lived volleyball career, I kept going and trying to branch out more.

Cross country eventually became my sport and something I learned to excel in. I have to work mentally and physically even after starting out as a terrible runner who did not know what she was doing. Working hard has made me to the point where I am happy with where I am at mentally and physically.



Emme McNaul - Student of the Month

Q: How is high school different from middle school?

A: High school has been different from middle school because I have had way more freedom.

Q: How do you balance school and playing sports?

A: I balance sports with school by making sure to set times for all my things for the day.

Q: What has been your favorite thing about high school so far?

A: My favorite thing about high school so far is sports and meeting new teachers.

Q: What sports/clubs are you involved in and which is your favorite?

A: I am involved in volleyball and it's my favorite!

Courtney Wilson - Teacher of the Month

Q: How has Rose Hill been so far?

A: Rose Hill has been amazing so far! I have enjoyed getting to know all my students and the culture of the town!

Q: How has it been switching from student teaching at the middle school to full time teacher at the high school?

A: It was an adjustment going from middle school to high school, but I wouldn't change a thing about it!

Q: What's your favorite part about teaching at Rose Hill?

A: My favorite part about teaching at Rose Hill is getting to know my students and being able to help them when they apply for college applications. It hasn't been long since I was in their shoes, but I think that's the best part of it all.

Blake Struble - Athlete of the Month

Q: What sports are you involved in?

A: I play football and baseball.

Q: What has been your favorite sports memory in your four years?

A: My favorite sports memory was when we played Abilene in the playoffs last football season where I had three interceptions and Mr. Madison was the happiest coach in the world.

Q: How do you balance school and playing sports?

A: I just try to stay as organized as possible and to keep on top of my homework assignments to make sure I don't fall behind in anything.

Q: What are your goals for the football season this year?

A: My goal this football season is to have ten or more interceptions, if possible even lead the state in interceptions which would be about two a game.

ROCKET LIFE

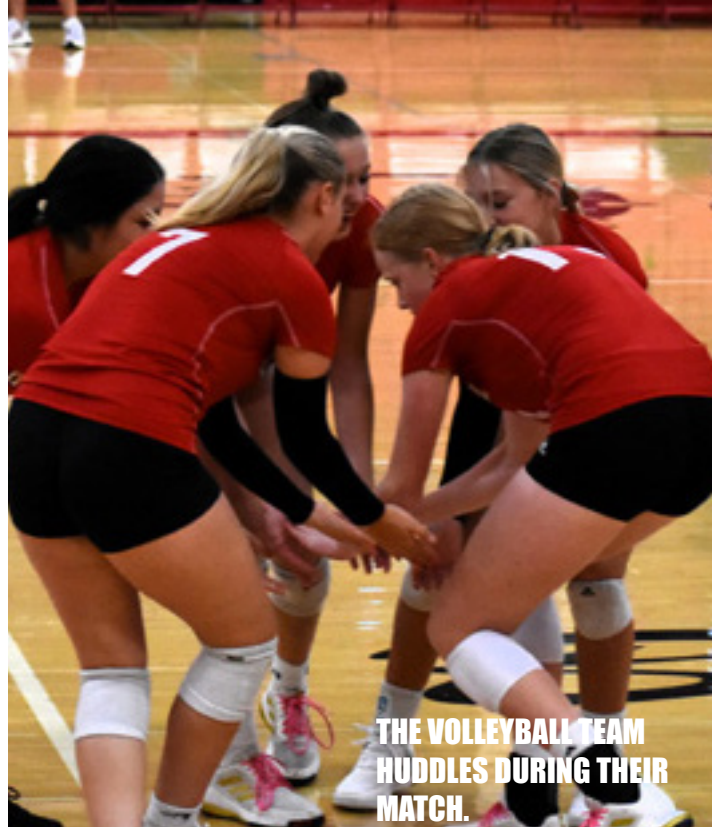
SAM LOVELL, ALEXA MARSHALL AND JONAH LEMASTERS URGE THE CROWD AT THE FIRST PEP RALLY OF THE YEAR.



STUDENTS POSE FOR A PHOTO AT PARTY AT THE TURF.



SENIOR ALEXA MARSHALL RUNS AT THE WAMEGO INVITATIONAL.



THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM HUDDLES DURING THEIR MATCH.

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