

the
Rocket Press

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At Last!



Bond issue passes, 65-35!

CONTENTS

NEWS

4 - Intermediate school mourns over tragedy

6 - Teachers have responsibility to help those grieve

COVER

8 - Long last: School bond passes

10 - Students embrace the opportunity to vote



SECURE

TODAY

SOAR

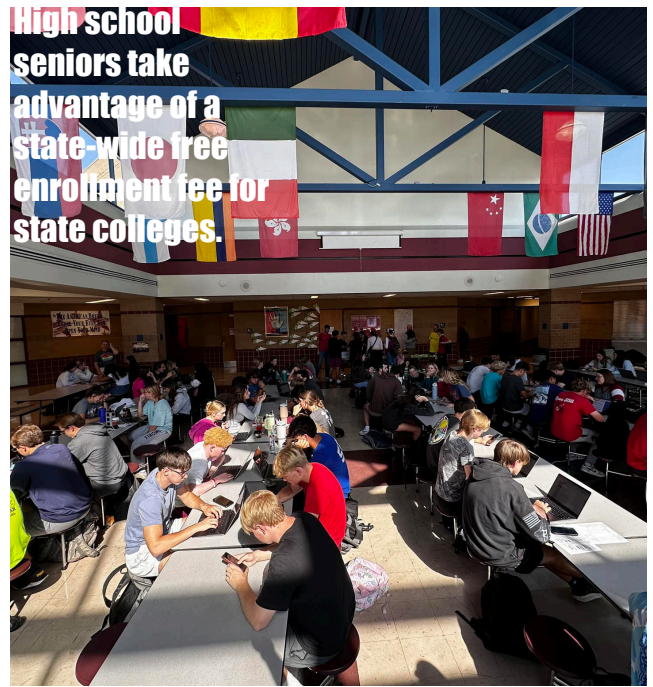
TOMORROW

OPINION

12 - Thoughts from a Rocket: How much do you pay attention to politics? Why?

YOUR SCHOOL. YOUR MAGAZINE.

ROCKET LIFE



STAFF

REPORTERS

KIMBERLIN
LOVELL
DANIELLE
MCPHERSON

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.

District mourns over tragedies

by danielle mcpherson, reporter

In September two tragedies struck the community of Rose Hill. There were remains of a little girl found at a local home and a few days later there was a car accident involving the death of a fifth grade student.

Unfortunately these casualties happened only a couple days from each other but the people of Rose Hill came together and navigated it as a town.

“Last week was quite a week, kind of one that just didn’t want to end,” said Superintendent Chuck Lambert on a September episode of the "At the Hill" podcast. “But what I like here is that people stick together really well and handle it through.”

Lambert has been in education for 34 years, with those years comes many victories but also many struggles. No one wants to get good at handling the hard times because that means you’ve experienced the bad way too often.

“I do know that over the years, now I think it’s been 34 years, and in those 34 years I’ve lost eight students,” said Lambert. “And it never gets easier. You see it’s hard on the family and everybody, but our hearts sure go out for what went on and if anybody needs any help we will sure help out where we can.”

When there is a tragedy that happens with a school district there are many ways to handle it. But as a role model and a protector for these kids, administrators and teachers always want to put the kids and their feelings first.

“One of the things that we have to do is we meet as a team when we find out

something like that happens and we try to get facts,” Lambert explained. “We basically have a crisis response team, so in this case we got together on Saturday morning right away and then we started talking about what we were aware of and what was going to be the best approach for helping students, staff, and family through that, and also being sensitive to what was going on. That’s usually the steps you go through.”

It can be hard as a leader to know just the right things to say and act exactly like how the kids need you, too. But thankfully Lambert dealt with that week like a true leader.



ROSE HILL

Strong

Community rallies together amidst tragedy

Teachers help in the grieving process

Amidst sorrow and despair, USD 394 staff rally to help students

by kimberlin lovell, reporter

There are countless shows and movies where people see what happens in small towns and nobody thinks it will never happen in real life.

Unfortunately, that's what happened in Rose Hill when police discovered the body of a little girl in September. Unfortunately two days later, 5th grader Eli Henrickson was killed in a car accident when a wrong-way driver struck his family's vehicle. His father was also tragically killed.

Teachers found themselves in the position of having to help grieve students during these unthinkable times, while also navigating their own grief

"Eli was way beyond his age," Jasmin Kingsley, one of Eli's teachers, said. "He always had the best stories and the facts on anything and everything."

After these tragedies, the town came together to rally around each other in support in the toughest week Rose Hill has ever had. Teachers and students were then given opportunities to talk to guidance counselors. A GO FUND ME page was set up along with a meal train to cover food and expenses for the families.

“Teachers rallied around each other to provide support to students and other teachers who might be feeling the sadness that one would expect to occur during a traumatic event,” Kindergarten teacher Nancy Carr said. “No one is ever ready when tragedies like these occur, but I feel like our community always comes together to help where there is a need.”

It is always a beautiful thing for communities to come together during times like this. The school district came together with love and support for the ones who hurt the most. This shows how great a small town can unite into one because no one could ever expect anything like this.

“It was one of those tough weeks,” Superintendent Chuck Lambert said “I do really appreciate everyone here who is so friendly and thoughtful and helped everybody through it.”

Henrickson was described as a kid full of light and love. He was always putting a smile on people’s faces and just wanted to see you smile. He was always the first person to help if someone asked and always had a new story to tell everyday he came to class.

“He sure knew how to make you laugh and was always willing to help others no matter what.” Kingsley said.

Nancy Carr has had two children graduate from the Rose Hill School District and currently has three children in the district.



BOND, SCHOOL BOND

District to receive much-needed additions and renovations

by danielle mcpherson, reporter

The USD 394 Bond Issue voted and passed 65-35 on Tuesday, November 5. This Bond Issue focuses on safety and security.

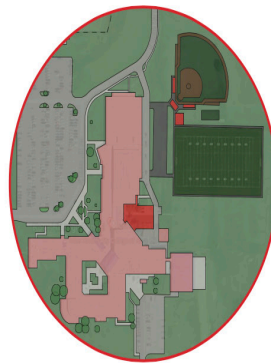
“The focus of the bond is going to be on safety and security,” Superintendent Chuck Lambert said on the At The Hill Podcast. “And there’s no storm shelters, so then we’re also trying to add one here, but to have dual purpose.”

The Bond is also specifically highlighting the high school, which hasn’t had any renovations for many years. The only part of the high school that has been touched for the past couple of years is the main gym, but the FACS



Rose Hill Middle School

- Tornado Shelter
- Expanded Learning
- Safe and Secure Entrances
- Playground Improvements



Rose Hill High School

- Tornado Shelter
- Expanded Learning
- Safe and Secure Entrances
- New Wrestling and Weight Rooms
- Renovation to Auditorium
- New Multi-use Turf Field for PE/Band/Soccer/Football
- New Softball Field
- General Improvements and Finish Upgrades



**Rose Hill Primary/
Intermediate Schools**

- Tornado Shelter
- Expanded Learning
- Safe and Secure Entrances
- Playground Improvements

room and auditorium are in need of upgrades, as well as the cosmetics of the school.

“A focus here at the high school is really on there hasn’t been much renovation done here... it needs some love and the theater is not in a good shape, so that would be a big priority of it,” said Lambert. “So I’ve had the experience of doing two theaters so I’m kind of excited if we get the chance, what we can do with it. Because you’re all in there and the plays I saw here were amazing so far and the concerts were amazing, why not have a venue that matches your talent.”

There is also a lot of space that isn’t being used year-round that the Bond Issue is turning into practice fields and giving our athletes their own personalized space.

“As for right outside if you're involved in activities, we’re looking at putting up a soccer practice field that would also be there for band, PE, football, all of that,” Lambert explained. “And then also having a softball field here on the campus that would be turf, and I know for some of the people that are saying ‘oh I’m a senior I’m not going to see any of this’ - there’s a chance if it passes our goal would be to get the soccer field and softball field done by April 1.”

With this new Bond Issue there is something for every school and almost every student at the high school. These changes would be very impactful and important to the students and teachers every day.

“This bond issue - what I like about this one - each school has something for them in it, and especially at the high school there’s something for almost each student,” Lambert said.

- All buildings will have a **safe/secure entrance added.**
- **Storm shelters will be implemented at all three buildings, with each one serving a dual purpose.** The elementary tornado shelter will also be used for preschool expanded learning (flex room). The middle school tornado shelter will be used as an educational space where an entire grade can meet. The high school tornado shelter will also serve as a weight room/wrestling room and band room addition.
- **Playground surface replacement and some equipment renovation.**
- Renovation of the High School including the **Auditorium, FACS (Family and Consumer Science) Room, science rooms, various other rooms and hallways.**
- **Addition of turf softball field and a turf practice field** to be used for soccer/band/PE/football.

The \$19,995,000 will be amortized over sixteen years and the mill levy will not increase past the current mill levy of 17 mills.

| Property Value | Current Tax Going to the Bond Fund | If Bond Issue Passes & Valuation Stays the Same | If Bond Issue Passes & Your Valuation Goes Up |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| \$100,000.00 | \$195.50 | \$195.50 | \$198.43 |
| \$150,000.00 | \$293.25 | \$293.25 | \$297.65 |
| \$200,000.00 | \$391.00 | \$391.00 | \$396.87 |
| \$250,000.00 | \$488.75 | \$488.75 | \$496.08 |
| \$300,000.00 | \$586.50 | \$586.50 | \$595.30 |
| \$350,000.00 | \$684.25 | \$684.25 | \$694.51 |

Students embrace the opportunity to vote

by kimberlin lovell, reporter

Many seniors at Rose Hill High School had the opportunity to vote for the very first time in the 2024 election and had the opportunity to do something that makes a difference in our country.

“It felt very good to be able to vote,” senior Kadance Heumann said. “Growing up everyone always talks about what you get to do when you turn 18 and voting is always the first thing that comes up.”

Many might feel nervous for it being the first time but many seniors seemed thrilled to vote for the first time and felt it was a rather exciting and brand new experience.

“I was so excited to vote,” senior Nathan Jones said. “I'm glad that I have the opportunity to voice my opinion on something so meaningful for my country.”

With voting comes an opportunity to voice your opinion about who the next President of the United States should be, as well as a variety of local elections. This could be scary for a first time voter because their vote says a lot, so each senior looked into everything about each presidential candidate and why they should become president.

“I look into their policies and their past decisions when working in other positions for the government,” senior Shailey Holland said.

However, this does not mean this will not come without necessary and unnecessary advice and bias from many other people. They will try to sway a person one way without asking how that person actually feels and letting them find your own way. Many seniors will then go to their parents for advice because that is the advice they all turn to for situations and big decisions like this.

“The advice that was most helpful to me is to vote for someone you share values with, and is capable of making a change for the better,” Jones said.



THOUGHTS

from a Rocket...

HOW MUCH DO YOU PAY ATTENTION TO POLITICS?



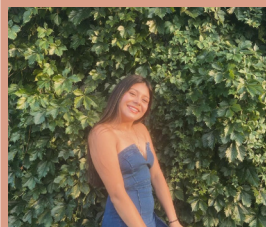
"I DON'T PAY A WHOLE LOT OF ATTENTION TO POLITICS BECAUSE FIGHTING OVER WHO CAN 'MAKE THE COUNTRY BETTER' SEEMS POINTLESS TO ME. I DO HOWEVER LIKE TO LISTEN TO WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY AND WHAT THE NEWS IS SAYING. IT'S FAIRLY INTERESTING TO ME."

-SENIOR NAVIA GARCIA-BEBEK



"I PAY ATTENTION TO POLITICS QUITE A BIT NOW - WAY MORE THAN I USED TO. I WANT A BETTER ECONOMY FOR MY KIDS LATER ON IN LIFE. THOSE ARE THE REASONS I PAY ATTENTION AND THERE ARE PLENTY MORE."

-SENIOR ASHER MUNN



"AS SOMEONE WHO IS A PART OF A SMALL TOWN THAT HAS PEOPLE WHO ARE INTO POLITICS, I DON'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT IS GOING ON WITH POLITICS. MAYBE THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, I WILL EVENTUALLY CARE MORE ABOUT POLITICS."

-JUNIOR NATALIE RODELA-HERNANDEZ



"I PAY WHAT I THINK IS AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION TO POLITICS. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT POLITICIANS ARE PLANNING FOR THE COUNTRY OR STATE'S FUTURE SO THAT YOU CAN BE PREPARED. HOWEVER, AS FAR AS NATIONAL POLITICS GO, I DON'T REALLY SEE THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF VOTING, AS LOBBYING AND CORRUPTION ARE SO POWERFUL THAT JUST ABOUT ANY POLITICIAN IN WASHINGTON WILL JUST BE BOUGHT BY THE DONOR WITH THE MOST MONEY."

-JUNIOR MATTHEW WEBER

ROCKET LIFE



Reese Gunnarson watches Kadance Heumann serve the ball in the Rockets game against Wellington on Oct 1.



Coach Madison, Samuel Lovell, Kimberlin Lovell and Coach Barger take a photo after the two qualify for the 4A State meet.

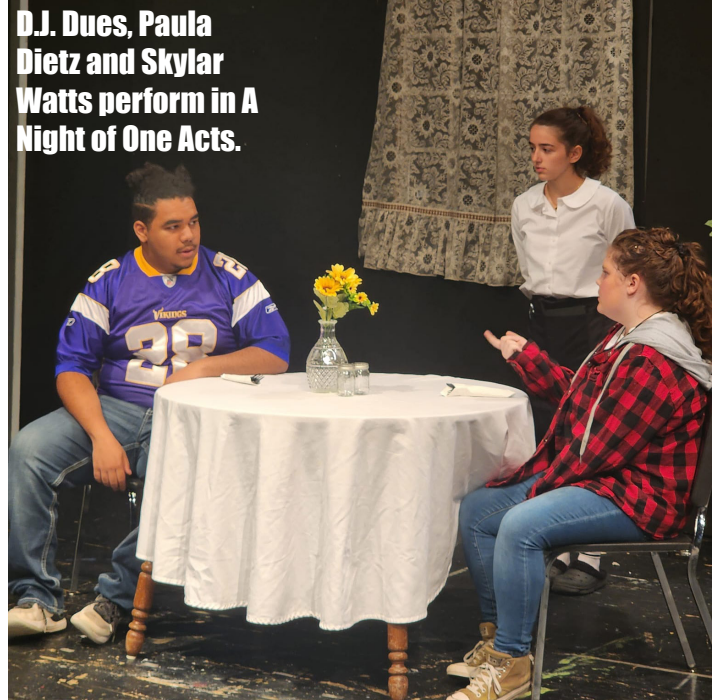


Cale Koehler scores a goal and gets swarmed by his teammates in the Rockets game against Wichita Classical.

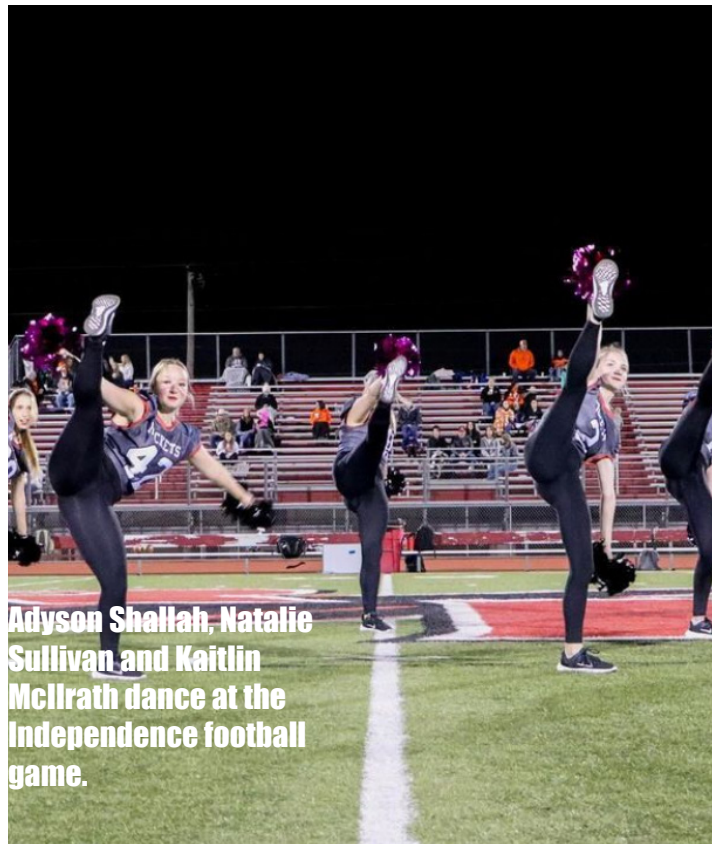
ROCKET LIFE



Senior Trey Campbell was selected to the South Central KMEA for the second year in a row.



D.J. Dues, Paula Dietz and Skylar Watts perform in A Night of One Acts.



Adyson Shallah, Natalie Sullivan and Kaitlin McIlrath dance at the Independence football game.

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