

the
Rocket Press

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Merry Christmas

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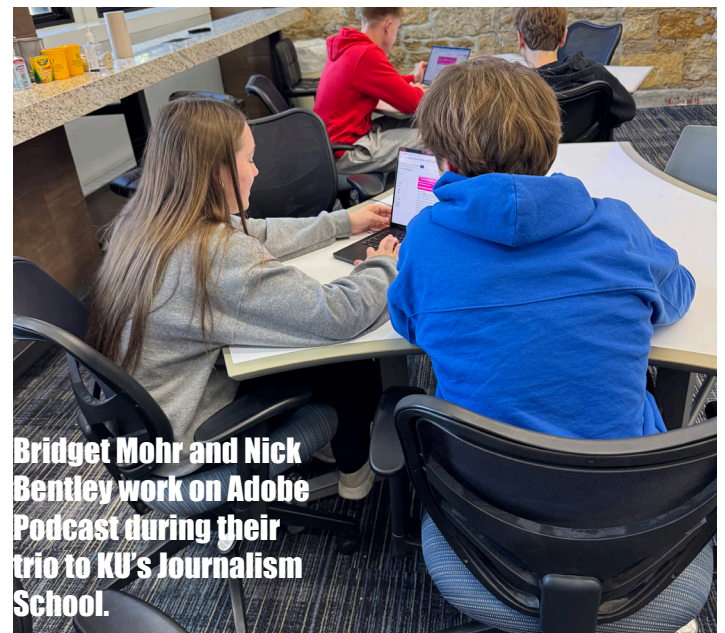
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ROCKET LIFE



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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.

Boys soccer wins state championship

by kaitlin mcilrath, reporter

What started as a team with something to prove from falling short last year, ended as a story the whole community will remember. This year the 2025 Rose Hill Varsity Soccer Players fought their way to the top, bringing home a state title.

The Rockets defeated Baldwin 3-1 for the school's third state soccer championship.

"I am still upset about last year's loss and still haven't got over it yet, but the title this year did help some," said head soccer coach Jerry Treat.

After many weeks of late nights, packed bleachers, and nail-biting finishes, Treat was proud of all the hard work the boys had put in this season. It ended in a state championship and Treat couldn't be more pleased with each and every one of them.

"They finally came together as a team and started to play for each other," said Treat.

In the end securing a state title wasn't just a win on the field for these boys, but a moment of redemption, teamwork, and trust.

Jordy Kaba scored two goals in the championship game, with Ethan Helget scoring the additional goal.

"(They are) hard-working, talented players who are fun to watch," Treat said.



Football program has best season since 2021

by jocelyn davis, reporter

The Rose Hill Rocket football team had their most successful season since 2021.

The football team went 6-4 this year, with a big win against Wellington getting the Rockets a home playoff game for the first time since 2021.

This was head coach Reece Petty's first year at Rose Hill and he was very impressed with the community.

"Rose Hill cares about and supports their football team very well," said Petty.

There were a few changes Petty had to make to have a successful season.

One of these being that most of the teams he coached in the past threw the ball the majority of the time, whereas this year they ran the ball nearly all of the time.

"I think a major reason (for the success) was our players' experience level," said Petty.

Most of the players played last year as sophomores and juniors, meaning they have played a couple years of varsity and have some experience.

First team all-league selections were K.J. Jones, Luke Nottingham, Colton Bailey, Remington Merlau and Kai Kirchhoff-Jones. Second team all-league selections were Sebastian Bentley, Leven Jones, Myles Easley, Abe Piper and Joshua Herrera.

"We had a group of tough, hard nosed kids who came out on game day and gave it their all," said Petty.

This determination helped the team get through some hard games with wins.

Petty said there will be a lot of changes in the off season to help get an even better record next year.

"There are still a bunch of culture shifts we need to make and improve upon. This will be our main focus," said Petty.



Girls cross country qualifies for state meet

by staff reporters

Heading into the Class 4A regional meet, the Rose Hill girls cross country team was not favored to be one of the three qualifying teams for the state meet.

“I was not expecting the girls to go to state and it was very surprising because we had to beat Andale,” said Barger

The goal for both the boys and girls teams is always to get to state, but the regional the Rockets were assigned to was strong.

What made qualifying for the girls team even more satisfying was the fact the girls team had a disappointing end to the 2024 season, after making it to state as a team in 2023.

“I was very excited because the girls didn't get to go last year,” Barger said. “It was very close last year but only three teams qualified for state and it was very shocking for them (not to go).” The last time we went to state was two years ago when Mya McCrea and Kimber Lovell qualified for state, and the last time they went as a team was in 2023.”

Individually, Mya McCrea finished seventh, Emersyn Herod took 14th, Sian Hoang took 19th and Rylee Wooten took 20th.

Reeves, Hobson make 4A golf tournament

by emme mcnaul, reporter

Teegan Hobson and Hannah Reeves qualified for the Class 4A Golf Tournament in Hutchinson.

“Qualifying for state felt incredible. It was one of those moments where everything I've worked for finally came together, and it made all the early mornings and long practices feel worth it,” said Hobson.

The senior explained how all of her hard work and dedication for golf paid off.

Hobson said it was fulfilling to see so much passion and liveliness at the advanced level of the state tournament.

“The atmosphere was a mix of intensity and excitement. Everyone was locked in and focused, but there was also this really cool energy knowing we were all competing at such a high level,” said Hobson. “There were a few moments I wish I could take back, but I'm proud of how I competed and kept my head in it. Playing at state was an accomplishment in itself.”

Overall, Hobson was satisfied with how she played at the state tournament, through the ups and the downs she “kept her head in it”.

From her freshman to senior year Hobson has said she has grown substantially and will forever be proud of her growth and accomplishments in her career.

“I've grown a ton, not just in skill but in confidence and patience. I'm more consistent, better at handling pressure, and I've learned how to stay mentally strong even when a round isn't going perfectly,” said Hobson.

Reeves explained her reactions to qualifying for state, which were a mixture of emotions.

“When I qualified for state I was both shocked and happy. My main goal for this season was to make it to state since in the past years I had not qualified,” said Reeves. “The atmosphere of the state tournament was both good and bad, it was thrilling being there. But the weather and course was not in my favor so I didn't do as good as I could have.”

All in all, Reeves said she was happy with her growth over the season, especially her growth emotionally.

“I've grown a lot over this season, not just with skill but also with my emotional capacity for the game. I've been more grounded with focus and not allowing bad shots get to me,” said Reeves.

Podcast students visit KU journalism school

by danielle mcpherson, reporter

On Wednesday, November 12th, seniors from Rocket Productions podcasting class visited the University of Kansas' journalism and broadcasting school.

The first part of the visit consisted of a presentation about Adobe Podcasting, which is a free software in Adobe that allows for easy podcasting with amazing results.

"We were taught how to use Adobe Podcast, which we will start using next semester. This software is really good with the post-production aspect of podcasting," said Matt Browning, Rocket Production Advisor. "If there is any imperfection with the recording, Adobe Podcast will be able to take that imperfection out. Right now with what we are doing, the post-production side of things is where we struggle."

After the presentations the students took a tour around KU's broadcasting studio and soundproof video recording rooms. KU has really impressive technology that allows them to produce quality shows quickly.

"Since I have a background in broadcast journalism, I really loved getting to tour their broadcast studio," said Browning. "Their equipment and setup was exceptional. It kind of makes me want to go back to having a news show again."

The aspect that stood out most to the students who went on the trip was being able to talk to college students who could answer questions for them. The college students knew a lot and showed that high school and college doesn't have to be this super big jump.

"It was obvious the people we spoke to were incredibly knowledgeable. They provided helpful tools and insights we will be able to use here," said Browning. "KU's journalism school is highly thought of around the country and after being there for a few hours, it's easy to see why."

Football, boys soccer to have changes to schedule in 2026

by jocelyn davis and kaitlin mcilrath, reporter

The football schedule and boys soccer schedules will have a new look to them in the 2026 season.

Some of these changes will include the football team playing three new teams: Winfield Augusta, and Chanute, which will replace McPherson, Independence and Circle.

"Winfield and Augusta are two teams we see more often on film playing against common opponents since they are local," said head coach Reece Petty.

Whereas Winfield and Augusta are local, Chanute is a longer trip like Independence which it is replacing.

"Going to Chanute will be an opportunity to get on the bus and go play a really good football team that we don't usually see until we face them in the playoffs," said Petty. "There are a lot of quality opponents on the schedule next year, but we always look forward to competing against quality opponents."

For the boys soccer team, some differences will include not participating in the Goddard/Campus Tournament.

Derby will be one of the new competitors next year. Head soccer coach Jerry Treat is very excited to play against them..

"I have coached for almost 35 years and even though they are down the road from us, I have never coached against them before," said Treat.

Eudora, Goddard Eisenhower, Wichita Heights, Dodge City and Andover Central will all be new teams that the Rockets will face in the 2026 season.

"I am looking forward to playing Eudora on opening night next fall since Coach Erpelding is a friend of mine. His teams are always well coached and he is competitive," said Treat.

To give a present or receive a present: Which do you prefer?

by kaitlin mcilrath, reporter

As December rolls around, the holiday season often reveals how both giving and receiving gifts play important roles in creating the spirit of Christmas.

There is a special feeling that comes with the act of gift giving but this can look different for everyone.

McKenzie Minks, a senior at Rose Hill High School, likes to give out gifts for the holidays. Whenever she hands out gifts during Christmas time Minks feels a special connection with these acts.

“I like seeing the people I love being happy because of something I did for them,” said Minks.

The best Christmas gift Minks has ever given was a personalized blanket she bought for her grandma. This blanket held lots of memories with recent and previous pictures of her and her brother.

“She uses it all the time, and everyone who sees it compliments it,” said Minks.

For others, Christmas isn’t just a holiday but it’s the joy of unwrapping gifts that make the season feel so special.

Adyson Shallah, a junior at Rose Hill High School, likes to receive gifts for the holidays rather than give them out. This act of thoughtfulness brings Shallah happiness; making her feel like she’s cared about.

“My favorite types of gifts are thoughtful ones, either homemade or bought but something I know got a lot of thought put into it,” said Shallah.



Christmas break a time for students to recharge in different ways

by danielle mcpherson, reporter

Everyone's Christmas break looks a little bit different, whether you're away or at home. Senior Lilly Carr plans to have a very chill Christmas and only leave the house when she goes to play volleyball.

"Over Christmas break I'm going to hang out with my friends and family," said Carr. "I'm also going to volleyball practice and my team is having our first tournament."

For kids with families far away or siblings who have gone off to college this time of year is very special because they are able to see their loved ones. Just like Junior James Bilby whose brother is coming home for a short period. And to end Bilby's holiday break he will be spending it with the rest of his family.

"My plans over Christmas I am going to be mostly spending time with my brother Adam as he will only be here for a short period of time," said Bilby. "I will also be staying in town over Christmas break along with having fun with the rest of my family."

Sophomore Sebastian Rodriquez plans to hang out with friends, with the hopes of snow and enjoying the outdoor activities that come along with the colder weather. A big part of Christmas is seeing family, and luckily for Rodriquez his family is coming to town.

"I plan to hopefully hang out with some friends of mine. I also hope it snows so I can go sledding and have snowball fights. I will be hanging out with some of my friends outside of school, and some family on Christmas Eve," said Rodriquez. "I am not going anywhere for Christmas break, but some of my family is coming to town for Christmas from out of the country."

Freshman Audrey Markley is going to travel to Kansas City and see her family, then come home for a very special tradition of a gingerbread house competition. The Markley family continues with other traditions on Christmas Day spending the rest of their break together.

"I plan to spend my Christmas break with my family. I am traveling to Kansas City to celebrate with them. When I get home I have a gingerbread house competition with friends that I am going to win," said Markley. "And on Christmas Day I will be home enjoying traditions with my parents and sister."



A Christmas editorial from Jocelyn Davis

Ever since I was little I loved Christmas - the lights, the time spent together as a family, and making so many memories.

Looking back on my childhood there are so many treasured recollections.

Every year my cousins, brothers and I would go to my grandparents house for a sleepover, where we would decorate cookies, watch movies, and just play together.

My Nana would bake the cookies and we would get to decorate them with the frosting she made. There were many different shapes of cookies, snowman, stars, candy canes and a couple others.

While looking back on this memory, I had thought about how my mom had always made every Christmas special.

When she would always have her old ornaments with a story behind them or having family movie nights over winter break watching Christmas movies.

My favorite thing my mom would do is one Christmas she had a scavenger hunt on Christmas morning. She or "Santa" had hidden our presents all around the house and there were clues to find out where they were.

Now I get to watch her do the same thing for my little brothers. She makes it magical.

She always found the funniest and most creative ways to hide our Elf on the Shelf and found fun activities for us all to do as a family.

Another fond memory from the past would be waking up before the sun came up on Christmas morning with my brothers.

We would always wake up early and have to wait for my parents to be able to open up presents.

That was always my favorite thing, being able to be around my family and favorite people throughout the best time of the year.



ROCKET LIFE



Kenzie Minks signed to play softball at Allen County Community College.



Mady Bischler puts up curtains for the 2025 Snoball Dance.

ROCKET LIFE



Bridget Mohr signed to play softball at Walters State Community College.



Sebastian Bentley celebrates his 100th win at the Battle of the Best Tournament in Colorado.

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