Yearbook Theme Development

“Call Me By My Name”

Rock County High School

Class D

Sole Contributing Student: Emily Sybrant

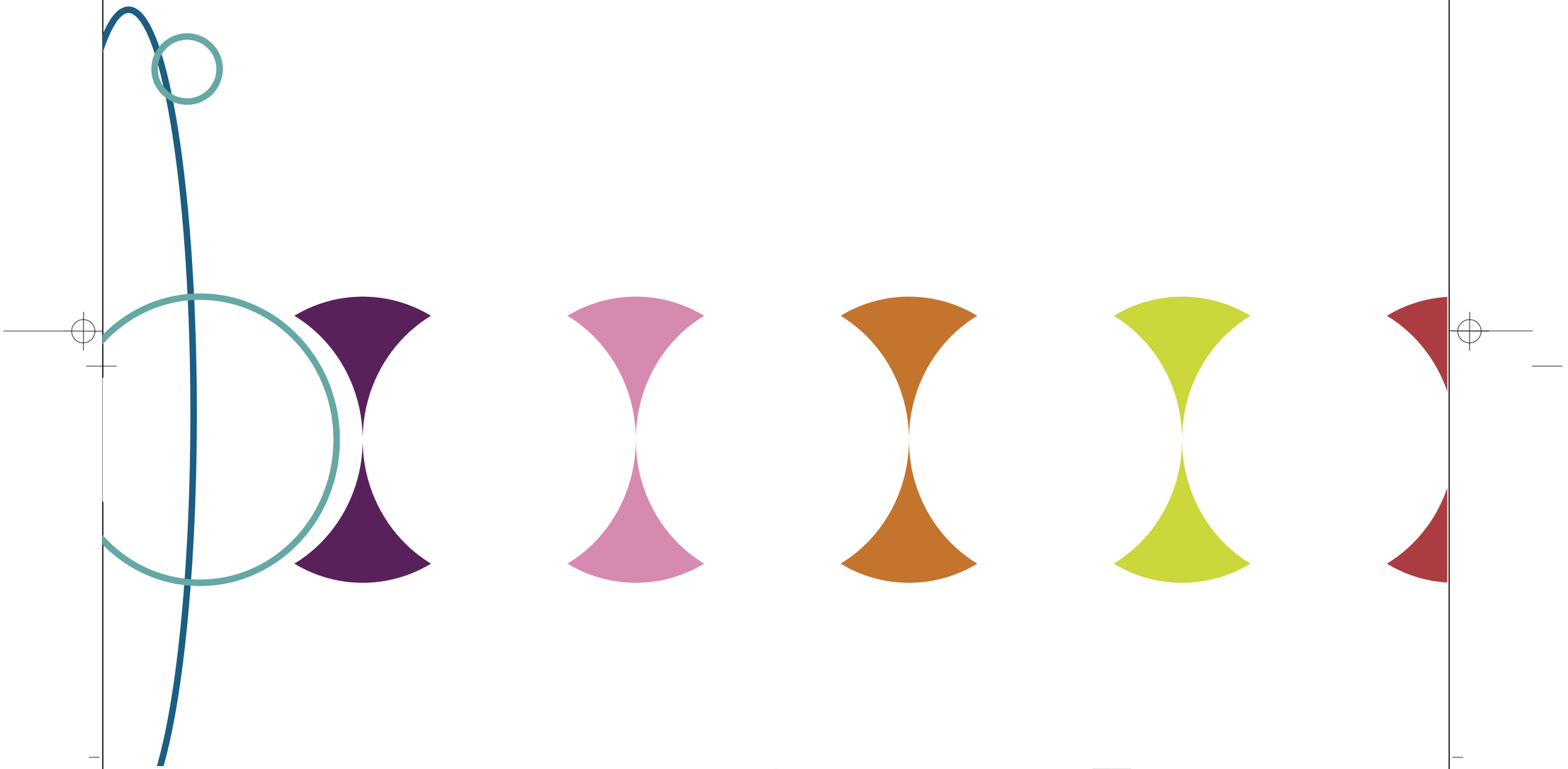
Note to judges: Some of the divider pages are still works in progress (in particular, some of the “stick” pictures have not yet been taken and some need labels on the sticks, and some of the copy is not complete), but they were added to this entry so that you could get the whole flavor of how the theme is developed. The activities, people, and ads dividers are completely finished.

2009-2010

ROCK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

VOL. 60

Call Me By My NAME



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ENDSHEET B

SCHOOL SUPPLIED ART WORK

ENDSHEET C

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Opening 2-3

Academics 4-15

Activities 16-29

Sports 30-49

Ceremonies 50-59

People 60-83

Ads 84-107

Closing 108-109

Index 110-111

Colophon 112

Derek Camp

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Demonstrating how to set up a deer blind during English class, Andrew Hollenbeck struggles to open the uncooperative blind, knocking over the poster stand in the process.

During a TV broadcast presentation, Cameron Smith inserts a commercial break to "sell" a Parilla de Capitez grill, his Mexican version of the George Foreman grill.

After lunch, Fee Nahrstedt enjoys the snowfall while waiting for an early dismissal due to predictions of worsening weather.

A home football game brings out the spirit in Kelsie Evans and Robyn Zeigler. "I get into watching sports," said Zeigler, although football took a back seat to wrestling for her.

At the fall music concert, Chris Coulter and Brennan Frerichs perform a tuba duet. In the background, Pat Karo waits to play accompanist music for another performer.

In kindergarten, we all learned to write our names. Little by little, letter by letter, we each spelled out our first name and then our last. Gradually, over time, we learned to write our names faster and faster until we didn't have to think about the process anymore. A written name, though, is only the beginning of how we define ourselves. As we grew, we developed that name into what we wanted to be, who we really are. That identity might be that of an athlete or a band geek, an agrarian or a speech kid, a math wiz or an English guru. Some of us define ourselves by loyalty, by responsibility, by kindness, by popularity. Likewise, there is a story behind the name Rock County High School. It is much more than just the letters that make up its name. It is the totality of all of its parts. It is the scholar, the thespian, the artist. It is the nerd, the shy person, the "it" kid. In this, our second year of co-oping for sports, it is the Knight as well as the Tiger. In other words, we, the students, make RCHS what it truly is.

We are Rock County High School.

Call Me By My Name

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Robyn Zeigler

Levi Gum

Tanner Stec

Aaron Kroll

Sadie Stec

Brady Ammon

Tristen Mueller

● An instruction sheet helps Angela Harlan figure out the steps to the Charleston, a dance that the juniors learned in American history class. ● Al Venenga works on an exercise in keyboarding class. ● In relaxed mode, Payton Shankland works on a health test as Flash Fangmeyer answers Jamin Zeman's questions. ● Brady Ammon examines a malfunctioning welder in the shop.

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ACADEMICS
CALL ME BY MY NAME

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Jeff Knox's full first name was Jeffrey, which was his father's middle name. Knox's middle name was Michael, which "sounded good" with *Jeffrey*, according to Knox's mother, Stacey Knox.

The story of the Mayflower is brought to life in the eighth-grade social studies class by Clifford Williams and Tanner White. "It was pretty fun," said White, who would rather do hands-on activities than work from a book.

They've got the moves! Jacob Maurer and T.J. Sell practice the Charleston in their American history class as part of a unit on the 1920s. The class watched the dance on YouTube to learn the steps.

Karen Prewitt is quite the gymnast. She represents the reciprocal, or opposite, of a fraction in math by flipping herself up onto the whiteboard. She also did cartwheels for fun and to keep the class awake.

Tristen Sell demonstrates the making pancakes on an electric griddle for her seventh-grade English class. Other cooking demonstration speeches included dirt cake, cheesecake, and a tuna fish sandwich.

Carter Camp and Jaci Badura watch a 3-D movie, "Thirteen Ghosts," in English class.

Have you ever been in a class that you think is just never going to end? That didn't often happen in the core classes because the science, math, English, and social studies teachers found ways to spice up their classes.

In the science room, Paula Peters kept the class entertained with microscopes, movies, and the Internet. Peters also made up phrases to help students remember information; she referred to those sayings as "crazy little things."

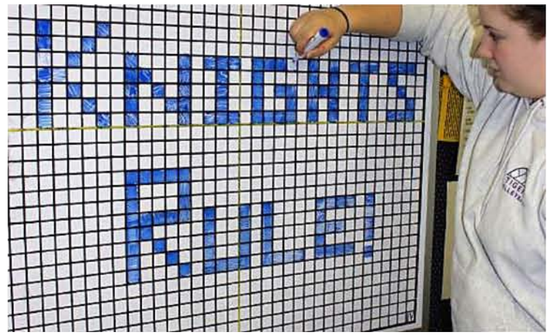
Karen Prewitt also did some out-of-the-ordinary things in the math room. When she wanted students to break something down, she did a dance and said, "Break it down."

English classes were unique in a slightly different way. Jim Harmon was down to business with a rigid schedule. However, there were a few little surprises in his classes.He told lots of jokes, either plays on words or standard jokes. He also used a squirt bottle to keep sleepy kids awake. According to Levi Burlison, the most interesting aspect of Harmon's class was the movie that they watched at the end of class, which related to what the students were learning in class.

The social studies room was the setting for many applications of book learning. Students in the American history class reenacted 18 Civil War battles. Geography students cooked food related to the place they were studying. And Morgan Painter noted the fascination of going outside to look for human environmental interaction.

Taylor Stallman

The core of education



Shannon Alstrom finds time in Algebra II to color a message on a coordinate plane white board.

Adam Bretschneider and Cameron Mueller uncover the deep mysteries of owl pellets in Anatomy & Physiology. Pairs of students dissected the pellets, finding bones and fur. "It was interesting to find out how much bones the owls throw up and how easily they break," said Cameron Mueller. "I broke a skull with some tweezers on accident."

During lunch, Kyle Linse campaigns for president of his senior class as part of the American government class. Linse ran as an independent. His campaign advertising was a play on the *Napoleon Dynamite* movie.

Tyler Knox demonstrates how to build a shelf in seventh-grade English for a demonstration speech assignment. It took him about a day to build a shelf, so for the speech, he did some of the steps, such as staining, ahead of time. At home, he used some of his homemade shelves in his room for miscellaneous "junk from my floor. I just put it on my shelf," he said.

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Al Venenga

Adam Bretschneider

Rachel Hall

Darren Allen

Ethan Steinhauser

● Ana Smiley, as a kindergarten teacher in the OID, "The Idiot's Guide to High School," asks her students to put on their thinking caps. ● Ashly Nelson and Hollie Morton piece together a puzzle during a junior high quiz bowl session in sponsor Rachel Hall's room. ● Brennan Frerichs earned the first part, first chair tuba position for Class D band competition in Kearney. ● Before the town performance of the one-act play, "Poor Little Lambs," Abby Sybrant, who played the part of Josie, puts on makeup in the girls' locker room.

What keeps kids up at night? And in the morning? And every other odd hour of the day? While activities have to be worked around the sports schedule, which means that activities practices are at all hours of the day, kids still flocked to the nonsports extracurriculars. From one-acts to FFA, band to Quiz Bowl, speech to choir, these are the things that fill up kids' days.

ACTIVITIES

CALL ME BY MY NAME

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"My parents wanted to name me something unique and special, so they picked *Emily*," said Emily Sybrant. "That year, *Emily* jumped to the No. 1 name and stayed there for about ten years."

Ethan Steinhauser, Abby Sybrant, and Bethany Blackburn use the mirror in the girls' locker room to apply makeup for their public performance. The one-acts cast did not include a makeup person; the actors applied their own makeup or helped each other.

Kendra Bretschneider sets up the spotlight for the public performance of the one-act play in the high school gym. An ice cream social followed the performance.

Grandchildren Ana Smiley, Ethan Steinhauser, Bethany Blackburn, Brennan Frerichs, and Abby Sybrant grab for a foul ball as grandmother Emily Sybrant ducks. The five stories that the grandchildren tried to get their grandmother to tell during the game included "You Did That," "The Stain," "Golf," "The Necklace," and "The Lamb."

Messages bring in home run surprises

Cast has a 'ball' with joke

"Yo momma." This phrase, among others, was an inside joke of the one-acts cast.

The play, "Poor Little Lambs" by Stephen Gregg and directed by Amy Frerichs and Kelly Sybrant, was a comedy about a grandmother (Emily Sybrant) at a baseball game with her five grandchildren (Bethany Blackburn, Brennan Frerichs, Ana Smiley, Ethan Steinhauser, and Abby Sybrant). At the game, a hat was passed around, and the grandchildren each drew out a slip of paper with the name of one of the five stories that the grandmother perpetually told. The kids held a contest, trying to get their unsuspecting grandmother to tell the story on their slip of paper and to tell it with lots of details. A tally was kept of how many "points" each grandchild earned.

Since Blackburn was the one who passed around the hat in the play, she was in charge of making the slips of paper. During one of the first practices, when the grandchildren drew the slips of paper, they found, to their surprise, that a note was written on each of them. In addition to "Yo momma," the other messages included "RAM," "u smell," "that's what she said," and "U luv ***." How did Blackburn come up with these crazy ideas? "I just pulled them from the nooks and crannies of my noggin," she said.

It was difficult at times for the cast members to stay in character when they picked their slip of paper, but it added an element of interest. "Those slips of paper [were] like a box of chocolates," said Steinhauser. "You just don't know whatcha gonna get."

Whatever "chocolate" was picked, though, it was "a lot of fun," said A. Sybrant.

Brennan Frerichs

Brennan Frerichs snacks on some crackers before an evening practice. Practices were often at 7:00 p.m., which gave the football and volleyball players little time to grab something to eat between activities.

Does baseball have a different meaning to you after being in this play?

"No, it doesn't because I still wouldn't go and sit and watch a baseball game," said Ana Smiley.

"I was already in baseball in the summer, so I already liked it and respected it. But the play added humor to it," said T.J. Sell.

CALL

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Saresse Clay

Kyle Jackman

Tyler Knox

Jim Harmon

1 Becca Larson serves the ball in a volleyball game at the Stuart tournament. 2 Kyle Linse and T.J. Sell block out an Ansley player in front of a full home crowd. 3 NC Sports Club members Derek Camp, Jeff Knox, and Josh Severin review the basics of the scoring machine with club sponsors Mike Buchanan and Tricia Anderson before a junior high basketball tournament. 4 Intent on making yards, Kyle Jackman runs the ball at an afternoon away game.

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SPORTS
CALL ME BY MY NAME

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Mind and body
Pregame rituals

Pre-game rituals were as varied as the players on the team.

The ritual for many of the players was a type of mental preparation.

Roger Carpenter said that he "just tries to stay focused on the game."

Kyle Jackman hurried up so that he could have some downtime. Jackman put on his uniform quickly and then spent time listening to music. "It helps pump me up," he said.

Josh Severin just "ran through plays in my head." He also spent time talking to coach Richey before each game, making sure that he knew his responsibilities on the defensive side of the ball.

The ritual for other players was more physical.

Caleb Lackaff used his fellow teammates to get ready. Before each game, two teammates would grab the sides of Lackaff's pants and pick him up so that the pants would get past his "bionic" knee braces.

Payton Shankland always worried about warmth--his and everyone else's. In the locker room before each game, Shankland would ask,

"Are you guys wearing leggings?"

Aaron Kroll also had a clothing ritual. In the locker room before each game, Kroll put on both pants legs at the same time because coach Stephen always said, "We are like everyone else; we put our pants on one leg at a time." Kroll wanted to prove his theory that the coach was wrong.

Derek Camp took his time in the locker room because he didn't like to rush. "I was always the one standing in my tights while everyone else was dressed," he said. One reason that he took so long was because he had to "do work in the bathroom," he said.

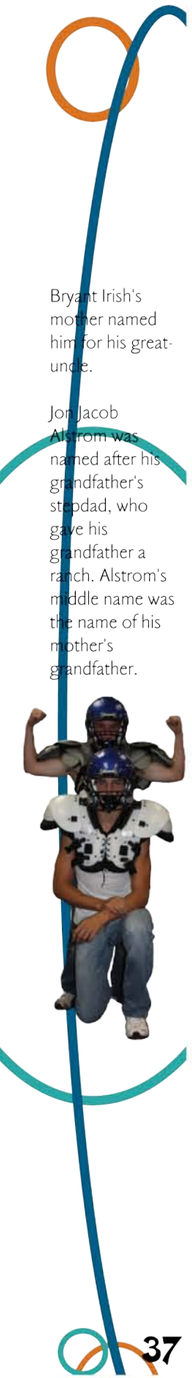
Some players combined both mental and physical rituals. Adam Bretschneider got so nervous before upcoming games that he literally worried himself sick--he spent time in the locker room vomiting before each game.

For many, rituals were the key to preparation.

● Cameron Mueller finishes lacing up his shoes before an after-school practice at Bassett.

● Aaron Kroll leads warmups before a game. In the locker room before each game, Kroll put on both pant legs at the same time because coach Stephen always said, "We are like everyone else; we put our pants on one leg at a time." Kroll wanted to prove his theory that the coach was wrong.

● Linemen practice blocking drills before the away game against Cody-Kilgore. The Knights won by two points in this first game of the season. "It was exciting because we were undefeated for one week," said Adam Bretschneider.



Bryant Irish's mother named him for his great-uncle.

Jon Jacob Alstrom was named after his grandfather's stepdad, who gave his grandfather a ranch. Alstrom's middle name was the name of his mother's grandfather.

● After taking a hit, T.J. Sell takes time out to have his bleeding arm wrapped by the trainer. Sell's worst injury, though, was a concussion in a game against Newman Grove. "I don't really remember the game," he said.

● Adam Bretschneider pushes for extra yards in an evening home game in Springview against Clearwater-Orchard. The highlight of the game for Bretschneider was a 45-yard field goal that he made in the fourth quarter. The Knights lost with a final score of 6-46.

● The varsity football team takes to the field in Cody.

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1 2 3 4

● Rhonda Ammon purchases popcorn from Emily Sybrant at a junior class concession stand during a football game against Burwell. ● C.J. Burlison wears Fee Nahrstedt's glasses during speech class. ● Jeff Knox takes a breather on the freezer while helping at the Booster Club concession stand at the fairgrounds during the Ranch Expo. ● Tyler Knox, a member of the Breakfast Club (a before-school weight lifting group), works on the universal machine.

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Arty King skit: Knights of the locker room

Harlee Hollenbeck's parents "had more boy names than girl names picked out," said Hollenbeck, so "I went without a name for a long time in the hospital. *Pure Country* was on, and Dad heard the name [*Harlee*], and it kind of just stuck."

"I'm here to play football for the Knights," said Arty King (Barry Frerichs) to secretary Mrs. Beckenhall (Kelly Sybrant) in the Homecoming skit on Tuesday, September 15, at Memory Lane Park.

In this skit, Frerichs played a character reminiscent of King Arthur whose adventures took place not in medieval times but in a school on Homecoming Day. In addition to Arty and Mrs. Beckenhall, other characters included the cooks (Lorraine Ammon, Deb Fischer, and Lana Pfeifer) and other students (Jane Bretschneider, Jackie Carpenter, Rachel Hall, Kim Ost, Kathy Severin, and Sybrant).

In the skit, created by Sybrant, Arty was the new kid in town. He showed up at RCHS wanting to play football for the Knights. He was assigned locker 001 Excalibur, which had never been opened because it either had some spell on it or it couldn't spell, according to the secretary.

Arty found his locker and then followed the cryptic instructions on the outside. Magically, the locker opened, and a very mysterious gloved hand appeared out of the locker with a rather large, old-looking book.

When Arty opened the book and blew the dust from the page, he found seven pieces of paper. He kept one for himself and gave the others to the students.

Each piece of paper had on it an alphabet letter, which together spelled *VICTORY*. Everyone then joined in the chant: "V-I-C-T-O-R-Y, that's the Knights' battle cry!"

"I enjoyed this story because the people who put it on showed great spirit and enthusiasm," said Derek Camp.

Aaron Kroll

Jeff Knox, Kendra Bretschneider, Jacob Maurer, and Adam Bretschneider hurry to hang their T-shirt on the "line" after breaking it free from a block of ice at the Homecoming pep rally.

Jamie Turpin and Bailey Deverick, along with a group of other girls, dance to the music of Complete Music (whose fee was $495) at the Homecoming dance in the multipurpose room.

The story of King Arthur is transformed into a Homecoming pep rally skit performed by parents and staff: Jane Bretschneider, Jackie Carpenter, Barry Frerichs, Kelly Sybrant, Rachel Hall, Kim Ost, and Kathy Severin.

A block of ice containing a T-shirt just won't cooperate under the efforts of Aaron Kroll and his teammates to chop and smash it apart at the pep rally, which included a meal in Memory Lane Park in addition to the games and skit.

Homecoming royalty candidates assemble on the football field after the Thursday-night game against Chambers on September 17: Abby Sybrant, Josh Severin, Becca Larson, Brady Ammon, MaKenzie Krieger, Derek Camp, Robyn Zeigler, and Kyle Linse. Sybrant and Camp were crowned queen and king.

Monday

Career Day
Derek Camp

Tuesday

Cartoon/Villain Day
Angela Hardan

Wednesday

Superhero Day
Taylor Hart

Thursday

Black & Blue Day
Jamie Zeman

recall

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Charton Clark

Amber Frerichs

Dillon Fales

Cameron Smith

Shannon Alstrom

Derek Camp

Dave Zimbahlen

● Rhonda Ammon purchases popcorn from Emily Sybrant at a junior class concession stand during a football game against Burwell. ● C.J. Burlison wears Fee Nahrstedt's glasses during speech class. ● Jeff Knox takes a breather on the freezer while helping at the Booster Club concession stand at the fairgrounds during the Ranch Expo. ● Tyler Knox, a member of the Breakfast Club (a before-school weight lifting group), works on the universal machine.

What defines Rock County High School? While there are many facets of the school that make it what it is, it is the people that give RCHS its personality. From their rituals and technology to their favorites and fashions, it is the students and faculty/staff that create a school that is more than just walls. Ideas and ideals, passions and idiosyncrasies--a powerful combination.

PEOPLE & STUDENT LIFE

CALL ME BY MY NAME

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Seventh

Hollie Morton

Ashly Nelson

Morgan Painter

Sabree Porter

Seventh

Tristen Sell

Nolan Sybrant

Misty Waln

Staff

Lorraine Ammon
Head Cook

Rhonda Ammon
7th-Grade Science

Ione Anderson
Custodian

Tricia Anderson
Business, Computers, Head VB

Staff

Dean Bretschneider
Ass't FB

Mike Buchanan
Ass't VB, Ass't BBB, Jr. High Track

Tim Bussinger
Jr. High BBB

Kristie Camp
Jr. High Track

Staff

Steve Camp
Principal, Boys' Golf

Tami Cosgrove
Jr. High VB

John Dohrman
Guid. Couns., Careers, Ass't GBB, Ass't Track

Ann Dvorak
Ag, Shop, FFA, Ass't GBB

Staff

Flash Fangmeyer
P.E., A.D., Head Track

Deb Fischer
Cook

Amy Frerichs
One-Acts

Julie Garrison
Speech Pathology

Staff

Rachel Hall
Special Ed., Quiz Bowl

Phyllis Harlan
Librarian

Jim Harmon
English, Head GBB

Shawn Heyden
Jr. High BBB

Staff

Lynn Hickman
Bookkeeper

Brandi Hollenbeck
Secretary

Stacy Johnson
Soc. Stud., Jr. High GBB, Ass't Track

Pat Karo
Band

Staff

Sandy Kaup
Technology

Sandy Lewis
Ass't Track

Shelly Lukasiewicz
7th-Gr. Lang. Arts, 7th-Gr. Math, 8th-Gr. Math

Debbie Morrison
Paraprofessional

Staff

Jim "Zippy" Nelson
Bus Driver

Paula Peters
Science

Lana Pfeifer
Custodian

Karen Prewitt
Math

Staff

Ryan Richey
Ass't FB

Jed Snyder
Jr. High FB, Ass't BBB

Doug Stanton
Jr. High FB, Jr. High Track

Mike Stephen
Head FB

Staff

Randy Stolcpart
Head BBB

Celeste Sullivan
Art, Spanish, Psych.

Lauren Swanson
Ass't VB

Kelly Sybrant
One-Acts

Staff

Sheila Sybrant
Speech, Journalism, Yearbook

Kristie Sybrant-Keller
Choir

Dave Zumbahlen
Superintendent

RCHS Board Members

Danita Shaw, secretary
Tonya Larson, treasurer
Debbie Seberger
Wade Hollenbeck
Les Hall, president
Tim Shaw, vice president

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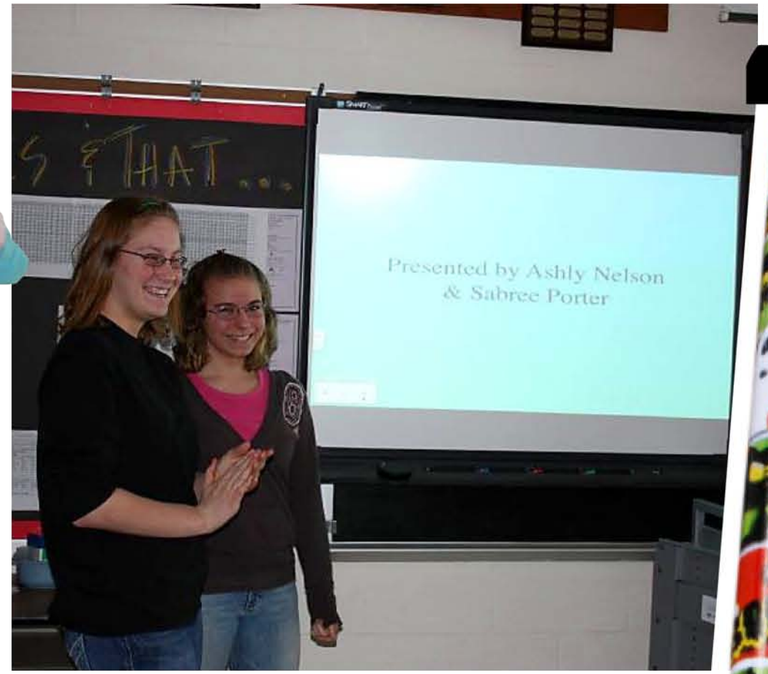
Using the SMART Board in ag class, Ashly Nelson and Sabree Porter present a PowerPoint on network systems.

Book covers ranked as Robyn Zeigler's favorite school supplies. "I can doodle all over them so I don't get bored," she said. The pink one pictured below followed Zeigler through school since eighth grade, when she inherited it as a blank slate from a high schooler who graduated. Zeigler added the doodles throughout her high school years.



"My father decided to name me [Tyrel] because he was reading a book, and that was a name in the book," said T. Sell, whose given first and middle names are Tyrel James.

The computer was Tristen Mueller's favorite technology, and Facebook topped her list of computer activities. She also spent time on the computer playing games. Mueller said that she often could figure out on her own how to do new things on the computer.

Book covers and folders run the gamut from plain black (Roger Carpenter) and plain green (Levi Gum) to patriotic (Jon Alstrom) and geometric designs (Amber Hollenbeck).

TECHnicalities

SMART Boards, iPods, cell phones, the Wii, computers, and the Internet. Technology infiltrated school and the homes of most students and teachers.

Wish lists for new technology included the Mobi pad, a SMART Board accessory (Karen Prewitt); the BlackBerry Storm 2, a cell phone (Tiara Krieger); and a PDF converter to help kids fill out scholarship forms (Sandy Kaup).

Despite its positives, said Dave Zumbahlen, technology "has negatives to it because of the ... dangerous things on the Internet."

And the future of technology? Caleb Lackaff speculated that scientists would find a way to grow meat on plants. Kaup and Prewitt believed that super-powerful cell phones would soon replace desktop computers.

Whatever happens to technology in the future, the world will certainly be different.

Levi Gum

The Write Stuff

When we think of major changes in history, what might come to mind are cars, technology, or even fashions. But there is another area of our lives that also experiences changes over the years--school supplies. From the age of a hammer, chisel, and stone, our writing tools have evolved into a diverse array of notebooks, pens, and pencils. So what were the hottest trends in these items.

There was no real consensus on preferences for school supplies. Emily Sybrant liked graphic prints on her pens and pencils. "I like zebra stripes and bright colors," she said. Becca Larson was partial to 5-Star notebooks with flowers and pretty designs, she said. As for Shannon Alstrom, she was partial to certain characters on her school supplies. "Hannah Montana is cool," she said, "but I'd rather go with Barney." However, she had a definite aversion to Barbie; Alstrom thought Barbie was dumb.

Amber Frerichs, on the other hand, was partial to Ken's longtime girlfriend. "I love Barbie on my notebooks, pens, and pencils." Sabree Porter was also a big fan of Barbie. "I guess I like Barbie because some of my friends do," she said.

Payton Shankland, on the other hand, didn't get too excited about school supplies but did like Transformer robot pens and pencils.

Writing utensil style choices varied, too. Alstrom liked the convenience of mechanical pencils. Larson liked mechanical pencils but also used the Pilot G-2 pens, which wrote smoothly. Larson, on the other hand, favored the old-fashioned pencils that had to be sharpened.

According to Shankland, guys usually carried only one or two pens or pencils to each class, but the girls in his class, such as Harlee Hollenbeck, carried around a whole store of such items. Hollenbeck said that she liked to have what she needed when she needed it.

Although history books don't typically document the transformations made in school supplies, students made it clear that we have come a long way from the humble beginnings of writing.

MaKenzie Krieger

To the Point

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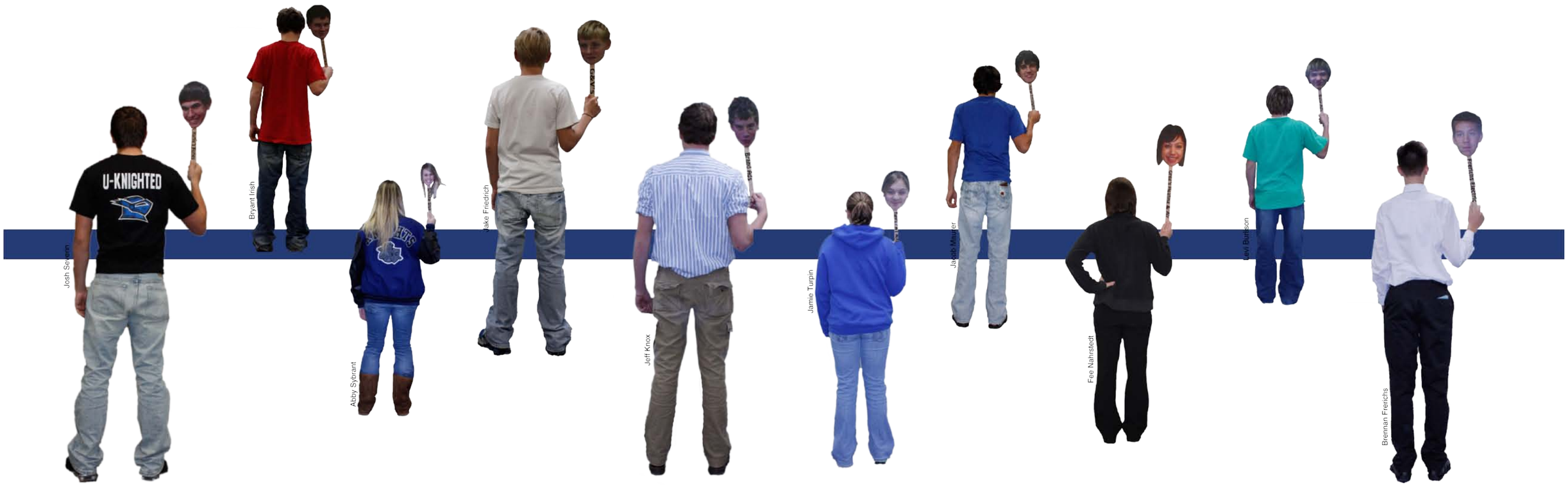

● For the hall bulletin board, John Dohrman cuts out stories and photos of students from the *Rock County Leader*, which gave a lot of coverage to RCHS. ● Krotter's donated sticks to the yearbook for its face-on-a-stick divider page pictures; here, Adam Bretschneider and Kelsey Sybrant goof around with Bretschneider's picture. ● Chris Coulter and Ashly Nelson decorated pizza boxes, donated by Pizza Place, for an ag class project. ● Goeke's Variety Store gave the Honor Society a discount on fleece for their fundraiser blankets, one of which MaKenzie Krieger and Phyllis Harlan tie here.

What makes Rock County High School more than just walls? The Bassett and surrounding communities breathe life into the school and all who inhabit it. Little things, like painting store windows, and big things, like donations for projects, help make the school what it is. This yearbook, for example, would not be possible without the generous support of our many advertisers.

ADS

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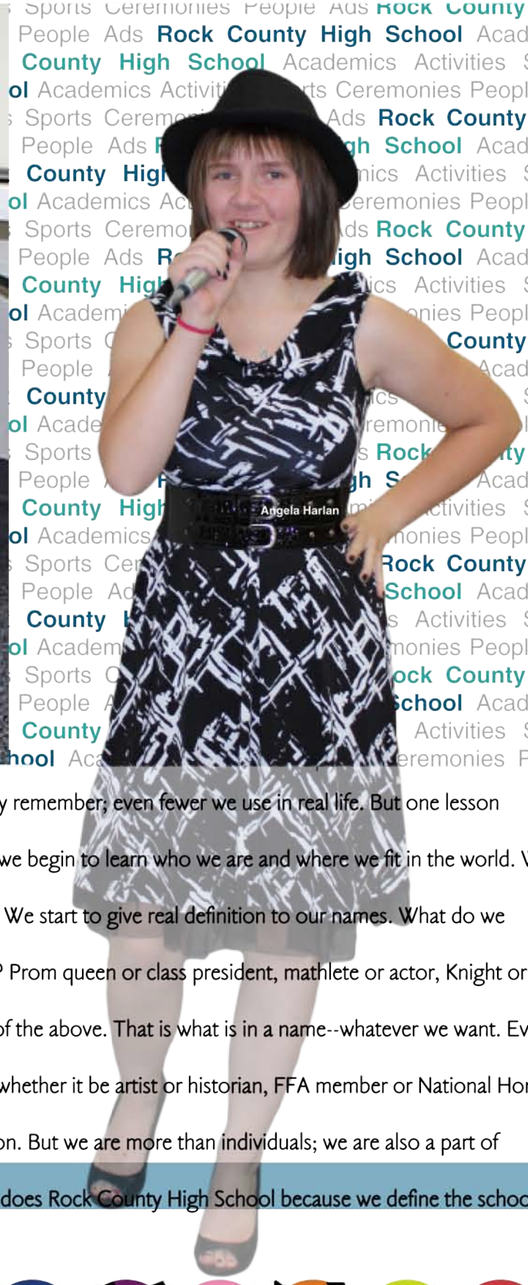
On the day after a game, students typically wore only comfy clothes, such as sweats; Shannon Alstrom's slippers are just "ducky" for such a day.

It's a long way to the ceiling in the gym, as Flash Fangmeyer discovers when he has to retrieve balls that get stuck in the light guards during P.E.

Caleb Lackaff discovers that a horse has a tough job when he takes part in Payton Shankland's speech about saddling a horse.



Jake Friedrich and Tanner Stec defend their goal in a fast-paced game of scooter hockey during P.E.

Payton Shankland spots for Aaron Kroll in the weight room before school during a Breakfast Club workout.

In school, we learn many things. Very few of them we actually remember; even fewer we use in real life. But one lesson learned in high school is how to be yourself. In high school, we begin to learn who we are and where we fit in the world. We begin to develop ourselves the way that we want to be seen. We start to give real definition to our names. What do we want to be known for? How do we want to be remembered? Prom queen or class president, mathlete or actor, Knight or Tiger? Every one of us has a choice to be all of the above or none of the above. That is what is in a name--whatever we want. Everyone will remember us how we choose to let them remember us, whether it be artist or historian, FFA member or National Honor Society inductee, musician or athlete, or simply a good person. But we are more than individuals; we are also a part of something much larger. As we--and our names--develop, so does Rock County High School because we define the school.

We are Rock County High School.

Call Me By My Name

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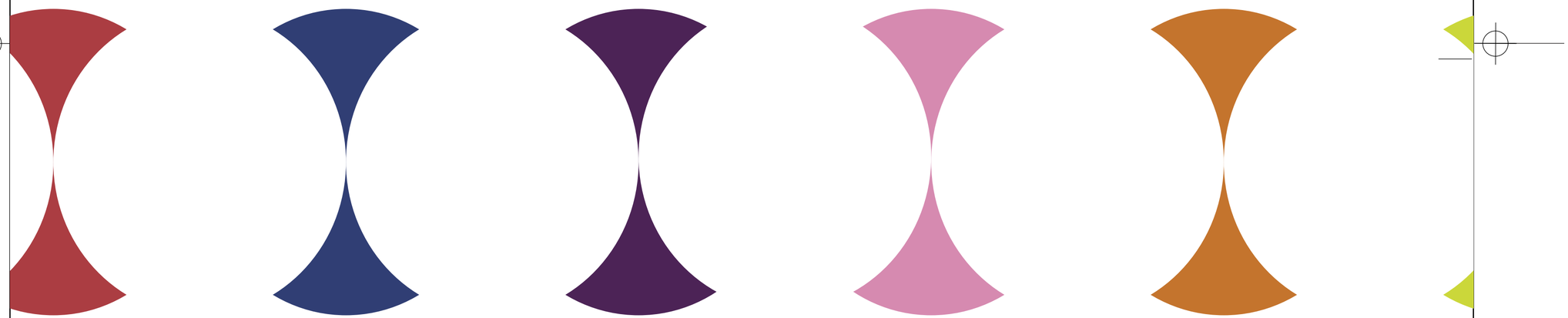

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