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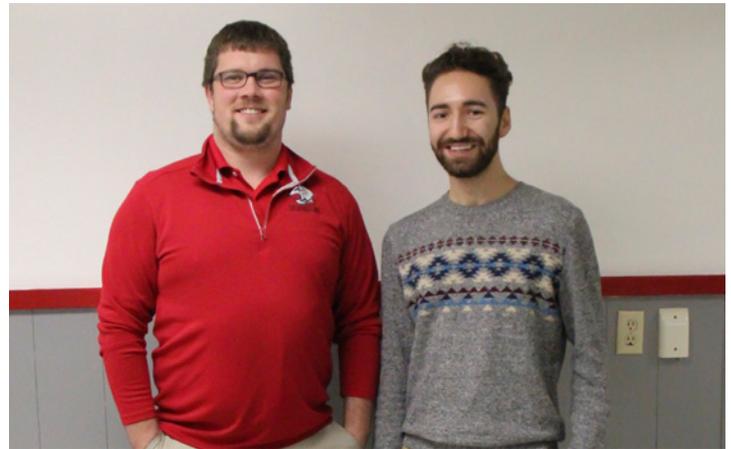
New Faces at RCHS

by Angela Singhateh and Jordynn Fields

Have you seen any new faces in our school this year? We have a total of fourteen new faces including teachers, Junior High students, and High School students. Mr. Levi Poindexter is the new high school Social Science teacher. He is also the head coach of the high school boys basketball team. This is his first time living in western Kansas and he is enjoying the new experiences and opportunities. Señor Tyler Sattler, the new High School Spanish teacher, as well as the High School Scholars Bowl coach is also a member of the RCHS alumni. Señor Sattler says, he is happy to be living in Rawlins County again. Mrs. Mardi Lohofener is the new school counselor. Mrs. Lohofener works at both the grade school and the high school. She says that she is loving our school so far.

New teachers like Señor Sattler and Mr. Poindexter provide new experiences and energies in the classroom. Having a full time counselor gives us many opportunities and helps provide our seniors with assistance for scholarships and graduation preparation. All these new faces bring good changes to our school and help keep everything running smoothly.

To get to know them better, members of the Stampede staff asked each teacher a variety of questions:



New teachers Mr. Levi Poindexter and Mr. Tyler Sattler join the Rawlins County High School staff.



Mrs. Mardi Lohofener becomes the new full time counselor for the high school, junior high, and grade school.

“What was your first impression of RCHS?”

Poindexter: “It’s a great school. A very close knit high school.”

Sattler: “A lot has changed!”

Lohofener: “I’ve had an impression for a long time. It’s a great school, and very positive. The kids seem really happy.”

“What is one thing you’d like to accomplish this year?”

Poindexter: “Going back to State Basketball.”

Sattler: “Take my team to State Scholars Bowl!”

Lohofener: “Learning all the kids’ names! I’d also like to make everyone aware of all the opportunities available after high school and outside of school.”

“What do you like about our school so far?”

Poindexter: “The students and the teachers. We have an awesome teaching staff and the students are also awesome.”

Sattler: “So far, everyone gets along really well.”

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“What stands out about RCHS compared to other schools?”

Poindexter: “The senior class, and the leadership within that class.”

Lohofener: “The school spirit. Everyone’s very positive, and supportive of all kids.”

Many of the new faces at RCHS are students, the majority of whom are in the junior high. There is an overwhelming amount of seventh graders that are roaming the school, and only one new eighth grader. Two new students in the freshmen class also add to the growing student population. Finally, two foreign exchange students, Rodrigo Huedo from Spain and Julia Kirmayer from Germany, joined the junior class. RCHS hopes to become a 2A school again and with the large number of students coming in, that may become a reality in a few years. The seventh grade class could potentially be one of the largest graduating classes our school has seen in years. This growth brings to our community new families and new perspectives. We are so glad to see Rawlins County growing and expanding and we hope the trend continues.



Libby Mosley and Nash Dunker posing for their first day of Junior Year.

Kicking Off Our 2018-19 Sports Season by Kelsi Heim and Marissa Ross

The teams of Rawlins County started the season off with a ton of passion and energy. Many students have become leaders and started stepping up to fill their roles and coming together as a team to do their very best. Everyone hopes to make great memories this year and have it be a season to remember.

The RCHS football team, although facing many challenges, is persevering and pushing themselves to do better. With a team full of new faces, only two seniors, many injuries, and new tactics, the Buffs are learning and improving with every game. Coach Smith says, “We are a very young team that is growing into our own. We continue to get better each week adjusting to and doing the little things that allows us to be successful.” Overall, the team plans to use the year to grow and become better so they can make their way up the ladder.



Kristin Beckman goes up for the kill against Hitchcock County.



Buffalo football goes to battle against the Bulldogs.

The Lady Buffs Volleyball team kicked off the year with a great record and is only getting better. Coach Schmidt is very proud of her team and says, “The Lady Buffs are getting ready to get into the post-play of their season as they look to play in many large tournaments including Oberlin, Hill City, and League. We have a lot of talent, but we need to be able to use it on a consistent basis.” The Lady Buffs have so much potential and Coach Schmidt believes that if they work hard in these areas, “They’ll come out on top at the end of the season.”

Rawlins County Junior High teams started off their seasons with a bang. Mrs. Vap, the Jr. High volleyball coach, feels strongly about this year’s team and players. “They are doing great! Our season has started out strong. We only had one returning starter on varsity from last year and the girls have really stepped up. It’s exciting and a lot of fun to coach and watch them.” With records of 9-1, 8-1, and 3-0, it is no wonder that she is proud. Football coach Steve Woody says, “We have 24 young men out for football this year. Ten 8th graders and fourteen 7th graders. The most in over 15 years. The 8th grade starters are playing well as of right now and that is because a lot of them played at the varsity level last year. So they have a lot of game time experience.

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Joshua Popp goes for the touchdown, as the Junior High football team dominates the field against Hoxie.



Maddie Livas jumps into homecoming with disco fever during spirit week.



Kendrick Woody Pete Crouse, Cyrus Green, and Harrison Colgan getting groovy for disco Day.

Our 7th graders are gaining valuable game time also as we have been far enough ahead in our first three wins to get all of them in to the game. It's a challenge to get 24 players in a game, especially if it is a 6-man affair." The teams' goal is to finish the season 7-0 and be league champions. They are expecting some tough opponents this year but believe if they take it one game at a time, they can be great. The coaches know that the team can achieve this goal and want their boys to know that they can do great things. Rawlins County is excited to see the teams of RCHS thrive and grow with the rest of the Fall Athletic Season.

UPDATE: Jr. High finished off the fall season with Football 7-0 and league champs, Volleyball A team runner-up league champs, and B team as league champs. We here at RCHS are very proud of our Jr. High teams and hope they continue to do great things!



Ashley Singhateh goes up for block against Hoxie.

Danger Zone by Taryn Sattler and Michael Martinez

Students and teachers at RCHS enjoyed partaking in this year's homecoming festivities. The theme was "Danger Zone", based on the song from the movie *Top Gun*. With excitement already building, spirit week started off with Pajama Day on Monday. Students wore pajama pants, onesies, and many other kinds of comfortable clothing throughout the day. On Tuesday, students and their friends planned to match appearances for Twin Day. Color Day on Wednesday brought some vibrance and excitement as students from each class wore specific colors assigned by STUCO. Freshmen wore brown, Sophomores green, Juniors orange, and Seniors pink. For some extra fun, teachers dressed in all black to celebrate principal Matt Smith's birthday. On Thursday, many students raided their parents' closets to find crazy disco clothing for Disco Day. The flashy clothes and unique style gave the school a blast from the past. On the last day of spirit week, the school was filled with excitement and anticipation for the upcoming football game. Students wore jerseys and sported their red, black, and white apparel to support the Buffaloes. A few even wore their dad's old football jerseys. On Thursday, the float decorating competition commenced after lunch. While classes were decorating,



it began to rain so everyone was in a hurry to get their floats to safety. Each class had their own motives for winning and worked very hard to do so. The competition was on and the stakes were high. The parade began in the evening and the community gathered around Atwood Lake to watch the classes perform. The Senior class triumphed with their float that portrayed the Trego Fighter Planes being shot down by the mighty Buffalo Fighter Planes. After the parade, the Rotary Club served a meal for everyone. Once dinner was finished, the cheerleaders performed their dance to the song, "Danger Zone". After a pep rally and a very lively speech from Coach Smith, the firefighters lit the bonfire as students and community members gathered around to take pictures and chat.



Cheerleaders performing their homecoming dance to "Danger Zone."



Homecoming Candidates 2018

Finally on Friday, the cheerleaders led a big pep rally downtown. Students and the members of the community cheered on the Buffs to support them for their big game against Trego. Later that evening, elementary and high school choir students came together to performed the Star Spangled Banner directed by Kayla Tiemeyer. After a great start to the game, the candidates Kaity Livas, Angie Singhateh, Cecelia Skolout, Brenan Dixon, Michael Martinez and Marvin Sanchez walked out onto the field to be recognized as the homecoming royalty. After a few moments of agonizing anticipation, Michael Martinez and Kaity Livas were crowned king and queen. Although the outcome of the game did not end up how the team had hoped, everyone still had a great time. To wrap up homecoming week, the high school students dressed up and headed to the dance. This year was very memorable and will be one that the students never forget.

National Anthem Project

by Gina Helms and Destanie Clymer

For the last 12 years, the students of Rawlins County have come together under the direction of Kayla Tiemeyer to sing our National Anthem. At first, the outcome was small since the project was so new, but over time the popularity of it grew and continues to expand every year. To the surprise of everyone, this years performance was streamed live, thanks to Officer Travis Bailey. After getting over 10,000 views, the video was sent to KSN which aired on September 24th to all of Kansas. This brought our small town of Atwood closer and strengthened our sense of pride.

Before this great accomplishment, Ms. Tiemeyer was struggling with the project, "I fight with myself every year, debating if this should be the year I stop." With the high cost of the biodegradable balloons and organizing all 293 kids, she feels stressed and crunched for time. This year was a push in the right direction and gave everyone here the positivity we needed to keep the project going.

With several new faces in the community, the Stampede Staff asked them how they felt about the project.

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New history teacher, Levi Poindexter stated, "I know the hard work put into producing something like this, I find it very extraordinary. It was far bigger than I had expected, I had no idea that it was such a big deal in such a small town." After informing him that this project had gone viral, he replied, "I think it's awesome when small towns like this get notoriety for a good reason, it puts something good in the news for once."

Foreign exchange student, Rodrigo Huedo from Madrid, Spain, also gave his input on the project exclaiming, "It was cool, I had never seen anything like it. I knew that the National Anthem was a big thing here in America and it is sung a lot, but this was the first time I had ever heard it." A new experience like this can change your life, so when asked if this had impacted him, he responded, "Yes, it brought new knowledge to me about America, and more understanding to why it's so important."

It's spectacular to see the work and dedication of Ms. Tiemeyer and the students who participate in this unique project. The project brings new meaning to the National Anthem for many people, especially those new to the community. Without the help of parents and teachers, this project wouldn't be able to happen. Every new year continues to bring excitement and bigger crowds. It is amazing what a small town can do when we work hard and work together. Cheers to great accomplishments!



Ms. Tiemeyer directs the National Anthem Project before football game.



Toby Cassaw and Alex Paz liven up the Homecoming dance.



Angela and Abby Singhateh dressed as twins.



Football team getting pumped up at pep-rally.



Classes compete in the pep-rally game.



Band performing the National Anthem.



Jr. High Football end their season with 7-0 record.