

# THE ROHISTAT

The latest Rockwood news, views and announcements

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## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

By: Chloe Weaver

This year, the Rockwood Musical produced “High School Musical,” adapted from the hit Disney Channel movie, High School Musical. This musical follows the story of Troy Bolton and Gabriella Montez and shows how they navigate the challenges of breaking the “status quo.” At Rockwood, we had a powerful cast with Paul Sembower as Troy Bolton, Chloe Weaver as Gabriella Montez, Isabelle Schmuck as Sharpay Evans, Mason Foreman as Ryan Evans, Levi King as Chad Danforth, and Faith Millin as Taylor McKessie.

Garrison Hale, as Coach Bolton, Nellie Keller, as Ms. Darbus, Jack Sembower, as Zeke Baylor, and Katana Smith, as Martha Cox, filled supporting roles. Susie Branam and Angie Weaver directed this production, and Mrs. Cordaro and Mrs. Shultz choreographed. Congratulations to the cast on a wonderful performance!



# ROCKWOOD EVENTS

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## Junior Class Holocaust Trip

By: Nathan Show and Autumn Mowry

The Junior class recently took a field trip to Washington, D.C., where they visited the National Holocaust Memorial Museum. Before visiting the museum, they visited the Washington Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, the Korean War Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial. The main portion of the trip consisted of touring the three different floors of the Holocaust Memorial Museum.



The first floor provides a chronological overview of the Holocaust and highlights critical turning points in World War II. Next, the second floor showed the discrimination and persecution of the Jewish people leading up to the Holocaust. The last floor showed personal testimonies from survivors of the Holocaust, and what it was like for people after the Holocaust. The museum also exhibited many different artifacts recovered from various concentration camps. Each person on the tour received a small paper booklet that contained a different story of a victim of the Holocaust, and they were able to follow that individual's story throughout the museum. The chaperones this year were Mr. Formica, Mr. Wagner, Mr. King, and Mrs. Langley. The Juniors enjoyed this field trip, and gained valuable knowledge about United States history.

## Special Olympics

By: Chloe Weaver

Volunteering with the Special Olympics is an incredible honor that some National Honor Society members were able to partake in. This opportunity offers the chance to support and celebrate athletes with intellectual disabilities as they showcase their determination, skill, and sportsmanship. This year, eight students volunteered with the awards part of the experience. This required students to assist athletes onto the stage at the awards ceremony and help arrange the medals and ribbons for each athlete. Volunteers at Special Olympics are expected to help play a crucial role in fostering an environment for all athletes. Beyond the logistical contributions to Special Olympics, the most rewarding aspect is the personal connections formed, as every smile, handshake, and moment highlights the impact of kindness and support.





# ROCKWOOD EVENTS

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## Somerset County Prison and Courthouse Trip

By: Delaney Gould

The American Government classes recently had the opportunity to visit the local Somerset courthouse, as well as both the current County jail and the historic old County jail. The students went on the field trip in two groups. The first group went on February 27th and the second group went on March 19th. On the field trip, both groups were able to go into the main control room of the County jail, which was built in 1981, and meet with Chief Talley, a graduate of Somerset, who taught each of the groups about the day-to-day procedures of the jail and showed them many of the rooms and cells within the jail on the security cameras. Afterward, students went to visit the old jail which was built in 1802 and acts as office space today. Students were also encouraged to enter some of the cells as well as the solitary confinement cell in order to gain a better understanding of the lives of inmates when this jail was still in



Following their tour of the old jail, students were taken on a tour of the courthouse. The first group of students who toured the courthouse were able to sit in on some court proceedings, but the second group was unable due to both of the upper courtrooms being used for private matters at the time of their visit. Fortunately, the second group could enter and tour the bottom-level courtroom where their tour guide, defense attorney Pat Svonavec, explained to them how criminal cases were carried out in the courtroom. Mr. Svonavec then led the students around the various offices of the courthouse including the Clerk of Courts office and the Register of Wills office, and introduced students to the many police officers who help with security in the courthouse. Amongst the police officers was Rockwood graduate Sophie Kinney, who educated the groups on law enforcement and how she came to develop an interest in this career choice. All in all, both groups walked away with lifelong memories and experiences that will stick with them for years to come.



## Upcoming Events

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FBLA Conference:	April 6-9
Spring Break:	April 17-21
Senior Breakfast:	April 25
Prom:	April 26



# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



## VARSITY SOFTBALL

By: Juli Barto

This year, the Varsity Softball team has 12 players. The six seniors include Adeline Barkman, Julianne Barto, Sydney Beals, Jaden Gross, Erika Pletcher, and Kalyne Ohler. Other players include Taylor Demchak, Miley Pletcher, Paelyn Sanner, Annah Sechler, Kendyll Younkin, and Emma Brown. The coaches are Steve Barto, Shanda Pletcher, Zach Gaskin, and Kendahl Stutzman. The Lady Rockets are hoping for a promising season ahead, with their first games against Ferndale and Everett, and a pre-season scrimmage against Somerset. The girls held multiple open gyms during the winter and have shown so much progress. Good luck with your season ladies!



## VARSITY BASEBALL

By: Nathan Show

This year the varsity baseball team has 13 players. The new coaches for the team are Head Coach AJ Sembower, and Assistant Coach Mr. Hale, who have coached together for many years at different levels. The team has a total of 5 seniors: Carson Brown, Max Trimpey, Davis Bruening, Paul Sembower, and Connor Handwerk. The team has held open gyms two nights a week since December to prepare for the season. The open gyms are an opportunity for players to start working with each other, get back in shape, and work on specific skills. The team played in a scrimmage tournament on March 8th and went 2-0-1. The team hopes to have a good regular season and advance into the playoffs. With them good luck as the season progresses!



## MEYERSDALE TRACK AND FIELD

By: Hannah Galway

This year Rockwood is participating in a co-op Track and Field team with Meyersdale. The roster includes Luke Kleinhart and Makiia Walker who are in 8th grade, 7th grader Sebastian Shirey, and one Senior: Lauryn Jones. Their first meet of the season was the the Fort Hill Invitational which took place on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, where Lauryn placed first. The regular season is set to begin in April, so be sure to wish the Track and Field team good luck!





# JUNIOR HIGH SPORTS



## SOFTBALL

By: Juli Barto

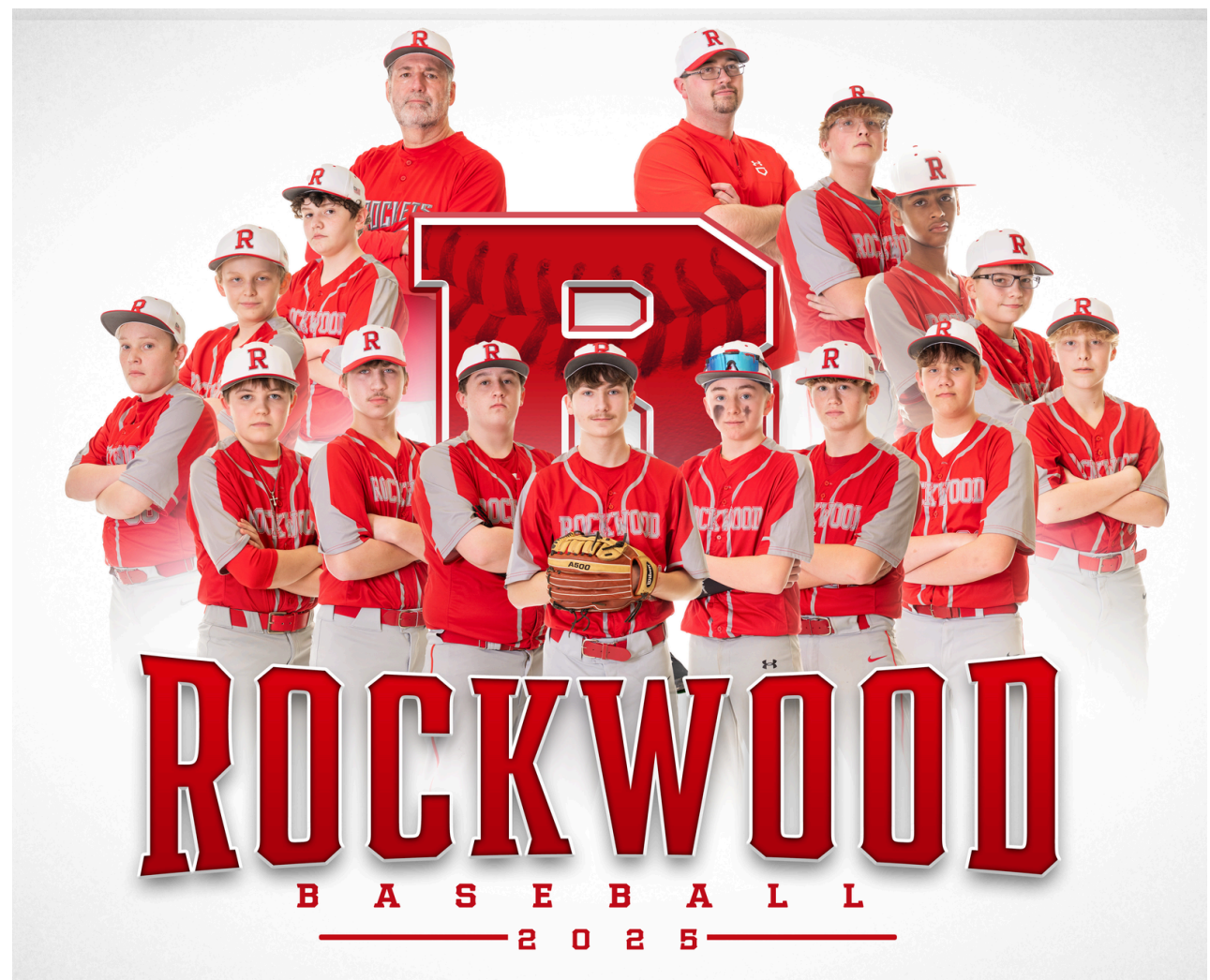
This year, the Junior High softball team has an impressive roster. The Freshman players are April Griffith, Paysli Lytle, Madyson Maurer, Hayden Phillipi, Elin Polcha, Alexa Pritts, Alivia Pritts, Helena Trimpey, and Hallie Watson. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are Isabella Bird, Lauren Faidley, and Lux Lee. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls are Brooklyn Arnold, Sierra Coleman, Mackenzie Miller, Emily Hay, Chloe Davis, Olivia Nicols, and Ella Pletcher. The Junior High softball team had a strong start to the 2024-25 season and look forward to improving as the year progresses. Wish these ladies, good luck with their 2024-25 season!



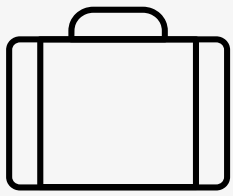
## BASEBALL

By: Nathan Show

The Junior High baseball team has 14 players for the 2024-25 season. The Freshman players are Ronin Bergstresser, Levi Davis, Aiden Grimes, and Collin Langley. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys are Tripp Lambert, Brycen Pletcher, and Tristan Pritts. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are Jonas Blystone, Alan Evans, Brady Johnson, Blake Roberts, Michael Shrum, Colby Trimpey, and Jaxon Witt. The Junior High baseball team has been working on improving their skills, and look forward to showcasing their hard work throughout the season. Good luck boys!







## FBLA Week

By: Autumn Mowry

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club held an FBLA spirit week from Monday, February 10th through Friday the 14th. Many students participated in the FBLA spirit week. by dressing according to themes. Monday was comfy day, Tuesday was Twin day, Wednesday was wacky sock day, Thursday was “students dress like teachers,” and then, finally, Friday asked students to wear red to show school spirit. The club sponsored this week to encourage the upcoming grade levels to join FBLA in the future.



FBLA is a club that encourages entrepreneurial minds and creates an amazing atmosphere for friendships to form. The club is all about empowering and equipping the future leaders of America and learning valuable skills to become young leaders in their communities. The club attends various events and conferences, and the students participate in many competitive events such as presentation to test taking. To all the students thinking about joining FBLA, consider all it could do to benefit you in your future, and just go for it!



## Senior Projects

By: Hannah Nedrow-Galway

Senior Projects commenced on Friday, March 14th. The 2025 Seniors presented on their chosen career path after graduation, answered interview questions, and gained valuable advice from members of the community within their field who volunteered their time to attend these projects. Everyone passed, marking an important step towards graduation in June. This year was unique, as it was the first where projects were rescheduled not once, but twice, due to inclement weather. Even with this challenge, the Seniors persevered and delivered strong presentations. Feedback from the panel members complimented the students on their professionalism and dedication, and one community member stated, “I would, without hesitation, offer every one of these Rockwood students a position.” A special thank you to Mrs. Shultz and Mrs. Clapper for organizing the presentations and helping the seniors to succeed. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!







## Meet the Student Teacher: Erin Pyle

By: Juli Barto

At the beginning of the semester, Rockwood welcomed back alumni, Erin Pyle, to complete her student teaching. Erin's cooperating teacher is Mrs. Langley-Burkhardt. Miss Pyle is teaching English 7, American Literature I, and American Literature II as part of her student teaching assignment.

Miss Pyle attends college at Saint Francis, and chose to student teach here at Rockwood because it was a familiar environment close to home. So far she has taught the classes Email Etiquette, Edgar Allen Poe stories and poetry, Jack London stories, and the Women's Movement. She says that her greatest challenge through student teaching so far has been adjusting to switching the grade levels in which you are teaching so quickly from period to period. Miss Pyle has also gained a new level of respect from her prior teachers for their ability to manage their classrooms.

After college graduation, she plans to find a permanent teaching position somewhere in the area, and later move further away for more opportunities. Good Luck and Welcome, Miss Pyle!





# CREATIVE CORNER

By: *Delaney Gould*

## Hadean Dark



Where without the darkness  
Can there be light  
Light true and un beholden  
To the smith of creation  
That is the man enshrined  
Not the being created  
Is not greater than that  
Of the heavens and the earth sired  
In the breast of mankind  
Or is it without the definition

That is the thump in the night  
The being unseen  
Untouched and uncontrolled  
By the forces unnaturally natural  
Intangibly real in the sentient mind  
Unaffected by the creation thereafter  
Unchanged by the passage of time  
Is it that darkness that breeds light

A light that bears witness to the action  
A testimony to reality  
A comfort and a restriction of man  
An unbroken chain to which  
Is clung the tethers of sentience  
For where without the light can there be the dark

