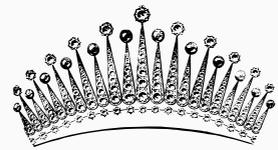


THE ROHISTAT

The latest Rockwood news, views and announcements



Homecoming Court



By: Natalie Gary & Hannah N-Galway

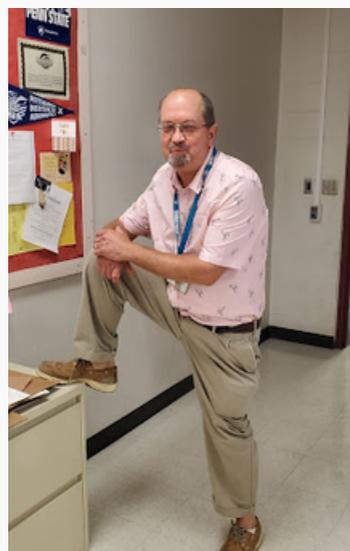
Seven young ladies and gentlemen were nominated for Rockwood's Homecoming Court. The ladies were Olivia Goulding, Elizabeth Haer, Emily Hutchison, Rachel Lambert, Makayla Peck, Emma Pletcher, and Mollie Wheatley. The gentlemen were Ian Reilly, Cole Hostetter, Kyle Cramer, Aaron Show, Andrew Farkosh, Cody Kimmel, and Aidan Ream. Mollie Wheatley was crowned homecoming queen and Aaron Show was crowned homecoming king at the Homecoming Court recognition held at the Rockwood soccer field on Saturday, September 23, 2023.



Homecoming Spirit Week

By: Josh Wagner

Monday, September 18th marked the beginning of Homecoming spirit week, sponsored by the Student Council. It also brought the arrival of many flashy new outfits! Monday was comfy day, and many students came in their coziest clothes. The next day they all dressed in their best cowboy outfits. Wednesday was pink day to recognize breast cancer awareness. Thursday was Hawaiian day, and the week was then rounded off with the Powder Puff game.



NEWS & FEATURES

Homecoming

Exchange Students

New Staff

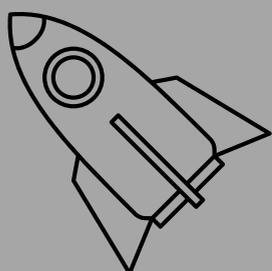
Rockwood Sports Updates

Jubilee

Poetry Corner

Music Debate

Student Articles

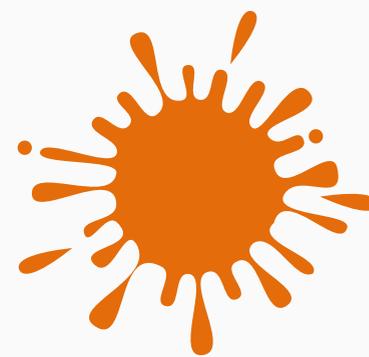


2023 Powder Puff

By: Elizabeth Haer and Juli Barto



This year's annual Juniors versus Seniors powderpuff game was on Friday, September 22, 2023. The game ended in a win for the Juniors with a final score of 22 to 20. The first quarter ended with a tie of 8 to 8 the juniors having the ball first. In the second play of the game, senior Brooke Snyder had an interception at the 40-yard line. In the second quarter, the seniors took the lead with a touchdown. Mollie Wheatley had the touchdown along with the 2-point conversion. After halftime, the seniors came out strong, but junior Elika Pletcher had an interception and took it to the 10-yard line. Juniors scored the touchdown, but they were unable to acquire the 2-point conversion. The whole game was very back-and-forth and intense. In the final quarter, there was a battle of who had the possession of the ball. Juniors got the ball to start and ran it down for a first down. They continued to score a touchdown along with the 2-point conversion. Seniors would eventually get the ball back but were unable to score a touchdown. The game was down to the last second resulting in a win for the Juniors. The junior victory can be credited to their defensive line as well as the touchdowns scored by Lillian Hetz, Juli Barto, and Elika Pletcher. The Senior coaches were Jordan Svonavec, Mr. Nathan Formica, Cody Kimmel, Aiden Ream, and Brayden Miller. The Seniors also had one cheerleader, Logan Mitchell. The Junior coaches were Mr. John Hale and Miss Carlie Glessner, Franklin Barkman, Zander Ritenour, Carson Brown, Max Trimpey, Riley Fazenbaker, Davis Bruening, and Ethan Pletcher. All proceeds from the powderpuff game and the concession stand went to the student council to allow them to host more events throughout the school year.



MEET THE EXCHANGE STUDENTS

By: Mariam Poghosyan

In Rockwood, welcoming students from different parts of the world has become a familiar tradition! This year Rockwood Area High School welcomed three new students from Armenia, Italy and Spain. Let's meet our exchange students!

Giada Missiroli From Italy!

Giada lives in Emilia, Romagna with her dad and mom. She also has a 23-year-old sister named Alexia. Giada has a cat and three dogs. She attends "The Liceo Linguistico" in Cesena and studies English, Russian, and Spanish. Since October 2021, she has also attended "Dual diploma."

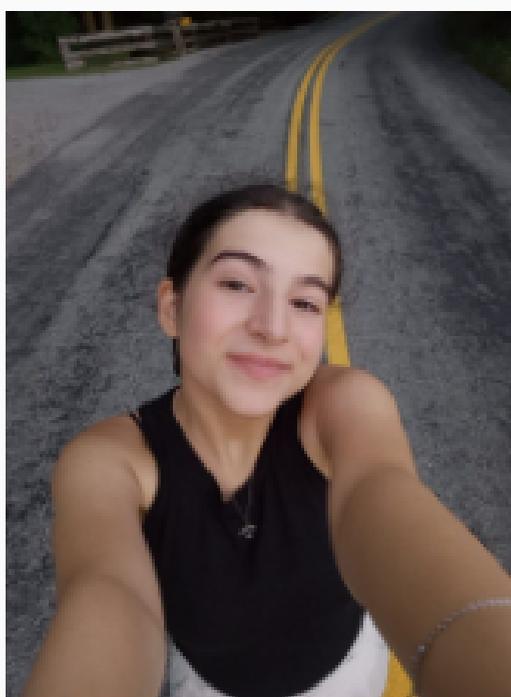
Giada has many hobbies that include listening to music, traveling, going to concerts, taking pictures, and dancing. She loves to spend her free time with her friends, watch TV shows and films, and walk her dog.



Mariam Poghosyan From Armenia!

Mariam lives in Vanadzor with her mom, dad, little sister, and grandparents. She likes art, reading, music and has many hobbies. Some of her favorite hobbies include drawing, creating, ancient theology, history, traveling, and languages.

She is interested in digital painting, graphic design, musical genres, and movies. Mariam loves to spend her free time with her friends, watch movies, and listen to music.



Alex Reifs Martinez From Spain!

Alex has traveled all the way from Spain to come visit us in the US. He has many hobbies, but the ones he likes the most are soccer and snowboarding. In summer, he plays soccer almost every day, and in winter he loves snowboarding - especially jumps and tricks. Alex also really likes to spend his free time with his friends and talk with them about life or play a game.



MEET THE TEACHERS

Lauren Boczar



Rockwood is excited to welcome Lauren Boczar to the high school teaching staff. Ms. Boczar teaches 7th grade Civics/Pennsylvania History and 8th grade World Geography. She is also the advisor of the current events club and ski club. Ms. Boczar is originally from Ligonier, PA and currently lives in Indian Head. She lives with her fiancé, 19 month old daughter, and her 2 pitbulls. The family is very excited to welcome a second little one in early May!

Ms. Boczar earned her Bachelor's of Arts in History from Pitt at Greensburg and also ran Cross Country for the university. She furthered her education at Cal U, earning a Master's degree in Secondary Social Studies education. Ms. Boczar also acted as an advisor for undergraduate students and coached cross country at Ligonier Valley while finishing her studies.

Ms. Boczar's first teaching position was at Clearfield Area High School where she taught 9th-12th grade English. She then worked at Trinity High School teaching 9th and 10th grade History for 4 years. She says, "Rockwood is by far my favorite district to work in. I have the best students and support system from staff and administration...I'm proud to be a Rockwood Rocket!" Be sure to give Ms. Boczar a warm welcome if you see her in the hallway!

Although she is not new to Rockwood Area School District, Megan Berkebile is a new face on the high school side of the building this year. This is Ms. Berkebile's 3rd year teaching after spending 2 years in the Rockwood Elementary School. This year, Ms. Berkebile is teaching 7th-12th grade Like Skills which covers all subject areas. In addition, she also helps students run the R & W Cafe once a month serving coffee and sweet treats. Ms. Berkebile lives in Stoystown and attended North Star High School. She has a pet cat named Oliver and loves spending time outdoors hiking, kayaking and rock climbing. Growing up, she got to share her love of nature as a counselor at Camp Harmony. When the Pennsylvania weather isn't as favorable, Ms. Berkebile enjoys crafting and reading. Ms. Berkebile originally explored nursing as a career at Mount Aloysius College, and then transferred to UPJ to pursue an undergraduate degree early Childhood and Special Education with a minor in Psychology. She also has a Master's Degree from Slippery Rock University as a Reading Specialist. Ms. Berkebile's favorite memory this year has been taking her students out into the community once a month for various activities. She says, "Watching people grow and better themselves in all aspects of life is a wonderful experience!" Be sure to wave hello to Ms. Berkebile if you see her in the hallway!

Megan Berkebile



ROCKWOOD SPORTS

BERLIN JR. HIGH FOOTBALL *By: Chloe Weaver*

The Rockwood students participating in the co-op with Berlin are Aiden Grimes, Garrison Hale, Jack Sembower, Josh Stevanus, Tripp Lambert, Coltin McClure, and Maxx Stevanus. Aiden Grimes and Garrison Hale are two-way starters. Aiden Grimes is a fullback on offense and a linebacker when playing on defense. Garrison Hale plays guard when on offense and plays a defensive end when playing defense. Jack Sembower has also seen a significant amount of time on the field. The Junior High Mountaineers worked very hard this season and will continue to learn and improve throughout high school!



BERLIN SR. HIGH FOOTBALL *By: Chloe Weaver*

Several Rockwood Rockets contribute to the success of the Berlin Varsity football team. The Rockets participating in the co-op are Dustan Dran, Andrew Farkosh, Cody Kimmel, Braydon Miller, Aidan Ream, Roger Wilson, Zander Ritenour, Seth Kimmel, Cody Livengood, Joseph Sechler, and Lane Svonavec. One memorable game this season was played on September 15, 2023. Berlin Brothersvalley faced the Laurel Trojans and won with a score of 27-0. Two touchdowns were credited to Aidan Ream. Cooper Huston had the third touchdown of the night. Zander Ritenour was credited with an interception that gained a significant amount of yards. The football team had a great regular season and have been performing very well in the playoffs too. Good luck boys!



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

By: Natalie Gary

JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL

By: Natalie Gary

This year, the Lady Rockets Varsity Volleyball team consisted of thirteen players. The team was made up of five seniors, three juniors, and five freshmen. The ladies kicked off their season on August 28th with an away game against Shade. Although they lost this match, they fought hard and improved throughout the season! Senior Anna Hinzy had over 81 serve attempts this season. Brooke Snyder made over sixteen block attempts. Rachel Lambert had over 200 digs! Skylar Atchison led the team with over 100 spike attempts. Natalie Gary had over 115 serve attempts. Lauryn Jones had over 80 total digs. Allie Jones had over 100 assists. Jason Atchison is the Lady Rockets head coach, Kelly Atchison is their assistant coach, and Ireland Cavanaugh is their team manager. Great work this season ladies!

The junior high volleyball team consisted of ten players this season: Madison Maurer, Hallie Watson, Kendyll Younkin, Olivia McKlveen, Alexa Pritts, Alivia Pritts, Ella Shaulis, Miley Beckner, Alecia Grove, and Aleksey Schafer. They were coached by Courtney Martz and Savannah Atchison. The junior high girls had a great season and are looking forward to improving their skills in upcoming years.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Act 80 Day - November 4
- Yearbook Pictures - Nov. 7
- Soph-Senior - November 11
- Act 80 Day - November 13
- Parent-Teacher Conferences- November 13
- Thanksgiving Break- November 23-28
- Christmas Concert- December 12
- Christmas Break - Dec. 25 to Jan. 2

ROCKWOOD SPORTS



VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER *By: Adeline Barkman*

This year the Lady Rockets boasted a fresh lineup full of potential. The Lady Rockets had a roster of 24 girls, four of whom are seniors. The seniors were Alexa Lintz, Madelyn Raley, Captain Chloe Streczywilk, and fellow Captain Mollie Wheatley. The juniors were Adeline Barkman and Sydney Beals, who were also captains. Susie Branam was once again the head coach of the team, alongside assistant coaches Beth Miller and Noah Wareham. Noah's daughter, Havyn, did a great job at keeping things consistent as the team's statistician. Congrats on your hard work this year ladies!



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER *By: Juli Barto*

The Rockets were strong competitors this season. The Seniors and Captains were Cole Hostetter, Tristan Wright, and Jameson Ives. The Rockwood Varsity Boy Soccer team had a roster consisting of 18 boys. The Rockets were hoping to launch themselves into playoffs, and succeeded! Sophomore Gavin Beals was in the goal all year and helped the team get to success. Juniors, Davis Bruening, Alex Reifs-Martinez, and Max Trimpey also made major contributions by leading the team in goals scored. Zach Gaskin and Jordan Svonvec were the team's coaches. Great season boys!



JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER

Ronin Bergstresser
Tyler Johson
Thatcher Bruening
Lucas Faidley
Caydon Frantz
Luke Kleinhart
Damian LaRotonda
Brycen Pletcher
Tristan Pritts
Luke Ream
Phoenix Roberts



Kylie Cavanaugh
Emory Gould
Isabella Bird
Syla Burkett
Lauren Faidley
Lydia Faidely
Jordyn Gross
Makenzee Stiffey
Makiia Walker



ROCKWOOD SPORTS

GOLF *By: Aaron Show*

The varsity golf team had a very successful season in the new ICC conference. John Nichols, who is very knowledgeable about golf, coached the team. The players enjoyed having him as their coach. The team's only losses were to Conemaugh Township, North Star, and McConnellsburg.

The seniors on the team included Aaron Show, Ian Reilly, Matthew Faidley, Mark Faidley, and Nolan Sanner. Nathan Show, Annah Seclar, Juli Barto, and Addie Barto take the other starting spots. The team won the ICC tournament by 12 strokes, which will be held on September 25th at Everett. The team also placed 2nd in the District 5 championship, which was held on October 3rd.

This year, the team's home course was moved to Seven Springs instead of Middlecreek. Seven Springs is a much harder course than Middlecreek, however, it offered the team a better setting to play and practice. Seven Springs is an eighteen-hole course instead of nine holes like Middlecreek, which meant the team does not have to play the same nine holes all the time. Additionally, Seven Springs offers a driving range for the team to utilize every day whether its in practice or before a match. The players enjoyed this course very much and were excited about the move. Nathan Show said, "I definitely like Seven Springs more than Middlecreek. It is a much harder course which allows us to have way more of an advantage when playing other schools there." Other players on the team expressed similar thoughts to this. Overall, the golf team had another successful season and they hope to keep this success going throughout the years to come.

JR. HIGH GOLF *By: Aaron Show*

The Jr. high golf team was coached by Steve Barto. The team had two matches against the Conemaugh Township Jr. high golf and the North Star Jr. high golf team. The team won both matches against both schools making their record 4-0. The team includes Lucas Shipley, Cooper Harbaugh, and Eli Show. As the Jr. high team keeps practicing they hope to perform well when they get onto the varsity team in the future.



ROCKWOOD SPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS



The Varsity Volleyball team poses for a picture with Windber to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness.



The Varsity football team poses after winning the game.



Cooper Harbaugh prepares for his shot.



Senior cheerleaders pose on the field.



Delaney Gould passes the ball.



Gavin Beals makes a save.



The marching band entertains the crowd during a football game.



FARMERS AND THRESHERMAN'S JUBILEE

By: Emily Hutchison

As the leaves began to fall and the steam started to rise, members of Somerset County knew that it was time for the 71st Annual Farmers and Thresherman's Jubilee. New Centerville holds one of the four fall festivals throughout Pennsylvania, and people from all over come to experience the agricultural showcases that are offered there. The week started out with the Grand Jubilee Parade, which allowed members of the community to advertise their businesses and organizations. Immediately after, the 44th annual Jubilee

Queen Contest began, and this year's winner, Erika Pletcher, states, "My favorite part about the week as Jubilee Queen XLIV was getting to experience all the insider activities.

Everyone gets to see all these things in action, but getting to be in on the action is a whole different and exciting aspect." There were many events, including the spark show, musical performances, and several demonstrations of the history of agricultural practices. The main attraction, the cider mill, offered countless servings of apple cider to those in need of a sweet treat. As the second year of a new track approached, fans prepared for the truck and tractor pulls, regardless of the weather. However, the pulls were rescheduled in order to ensure the participants' safety. Attendance was a little lower than previous years, but there were still plenty of activities and experiences for families to enjoy. All proceeds from the event were donated to the New Centerville Rural and Volunteer Fire Company.



Crossfire: Apple Music vs. Spotify

Apple Music - Jake Barkman

Apple Music is superior to Spotify for a number of reasons. Starting out, Apple Music is much more user-friendly than its competitor. Every action is quick and easy to use, and the app is rarely delayed. Spotify on the other hand is extremely limited. The service relies heavily on internet connection. This applies to every action, not only listening to music.

Before any subscriptions are paid for, the services both come at their basic level. Apple Music has a long list of songs that the user can simply buy individually, as an album, or as a playlist. Spotify has a slightly more limited song selection, and though you can add any song you want to a playlist, it denies you the option to listen to that specific song. When playing an Apple Music playlist, the listener can shuffle the playlist, play from the beginning, or start the playlist from any point in the list. Spotify, however, forces the user to shuffle the playlist, resulting in songs playing that you do not wish to play. Apple Music also allows users to skip and rewind freely, while Spotify users have a limited amount of skips, and are unable to rewind. Overall, the basic level of Apple Music is much more freeing and capable than that of Spotify.

The subscription levels are very similar, anyone can own and download any number of songs they want, and listen to them freely, rewinding and fast-forwarding as they please. Apple Music is a monthly subscription of only \$9.99 per month, while Spotify's monthly subscription is \$10.99. This small increase can speak volumes when realizing how similar the two services are, but with some interesting differences. One difference between the two services is that Apple Music has more music than Spotify; in most cases, a song that cannot be found on Spotify will be perfectly accessible on Apple Music. These small differences can make a very large difference in what people choose when deciding their preferred streaming service.



Spotify - Tyler Stahl

One of the main reasons people use Spotify over Apple Music is the ability to play music without paying. Although both apps offer free services that you can use without buying a subscription, Spotify allows you to listen to any song in their database for free. The listener has every song at their fingertips without having to pay. Apple Music, on the other hand, forces the user to pay for songs and albums individually even if they are using the free version. If you don't have a subscription, you could rack up a lot of money in songs and albums, especially if you are someone who listens to music every day and has diverse tastes.

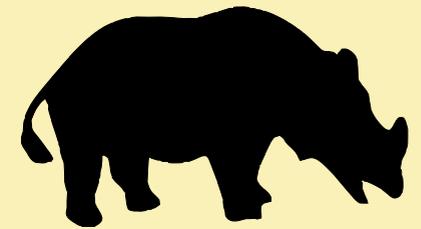
In addition, it is undeniable that Spotify's aesthetic is extremely recognizable. Its layout is more attractive and comfortable to use than its competitor. When you open the app, all of your recently listened to playlists, albums, and podcasts are right in front of you and easily accessible. You can also find trending music, new releases, and recommended playlists and albums curated to your taste directly on the homepage. Overall, Spotify is much more ergonomic and user friendly. On the contrary, Apple music has good features, but not the strongest setup. Spotify organizes everything in a way that is compact and easy to get to, whereas Apple Music is more spread out and forces the user to search for what they're in the mood to listen to. Furthermore, if you have a vast range of tastes and like a little bit of everything, it can be hard to decide what you feel like listening to. Spotify has multiple unique features that help aid in the search for music that fits your specific tastes. One of these features would be the curated playlists they offer. Based on your listening habits, the app gathers music it thinks you may like, groups together the music in your library based on its vibe or genre, and even has an "On Repeat" playlist that contains your most listened songs and updates every five days. This puts all your current obsessions in one place and makes them incredibly easy to access. The personalization of Spotify is one of its biggest selling points. At the bottom of each of your playlists, it also suggests a handful of similar songs that you can add with just one click, helping you find new music to spice up your queue.

To continue, one of the most anticipated days for Spotify listeners is the first week of December, when Spotify Wrapped it released. This is when the company makes everyone's top artist, songs, and other statistics for the year accessible to their users in a fun, Instagram story-like format, and puts your tastes and individuality on display. This allows listeners to easily share and compare their favorites, along with how many minutes they spent listening to music that year, their favorite genres, podcasts, and so much more. The look and feel of Spotify, especially when it comes to Spotify Wrapped, are instantly recognizable to both Spotify and Apple Music users alike, making it obvious that the company is doing something right.

Apart from being able to view and share your listening habits, Spotify has multiple social features that make it so much more versatile. Not only can you view other people's playlists, unlike Apple Music, but you can also create collaborative playlists with your friends, and even "blend" your music with another user's into a playlist that showcases both of your individual tastes.

“Thunder Beast” Fossils Reveal How Mammals Evolved into Different Sizes Over the Years

By: Shelby Shipley



Brontotheres (rhinoceros-like animals) had many different evolutions during their 22 million years of existence. Sometimes during their lifespan, they would become smaller, while other times they would become bigger. It is theorized that this happened due to a process called Cope's rule.

Many scientists also theorized that natural selection played a major role in the size changes of the Brontotheres. They think this because it is shown in the location of the fossils that the larger Brontotheres enjoyed being in isolated locations, leading to them having a longer lifespan than that of their smaller counterparts.

Through their fossils, scientists also found that during the Brontothere's lifespan, there would be two paths that the mutation could take. One half of the population would get bigger, while the other half would get smaller. Eventually, most of the population would evolve into a larger size as most of the small Brontotheres had a short life span due to how easy it was for their predators to eat them.

Animals began this trend of getting bigger after the deaths of the non-avian dinosaurs, among the first to reach a ginormous size were the Brontotheres. They earned the name Brontotheres, which means "Thunder Beast" in German. While 60 of the known species of Brontotheres were large, they were not always that big. The first species of Brontotheres lived around 56 million years ago, and instead of some giant beast, they were estimated to be the size of a border collie.

Poetry Corner

The Journalism Staff reached out to the Creative Writing Club and other students interested in having their work featured in the Rohistat poetry section. If you are interested in having your poems/short stories included in the next edition, please email your submissions to Mrs. Shultz. We look forward to reading new pieces!



Beneath the Fire and Above the Frost

By: Delaney Gould

As the sun begins to halt its canderous leap across
the sky

The antithesis of Summer approaches
Hurried along by Autumn's cultivation

Trees blossom into plumes of fire
With their fingers outstretched to the heavens
Amassing across the vast landscape

Like the grandest of funeral pyres
Where the wind shepherds mankind's sorrows
And the wind chills the bones of humanity
Suppressed by the fire-branded canopy
Concealing the frozen remnants of the harvest
Upon which the breezes carry the cold whispers
Of harsh Winters yet to come

Autumn's fiery crown teetering upon the anomaly
An anomaly of nature's kingdom
Making the forests a grand hearth
Where the unsuspecting might consign their worries
to oblivion

Forgetting the frostbitten foundation that lay beneath
And instead, relish in the beauty of the flame
Which burns with a candescence
Comparable to that of the soon-forgotten sun
As the darkness begins its reign
Over the land and the sea
And Autumn is dethroned
The tyranny of the great hibernal shall begin
With which there can be found no forbearance
Cutting the edge off of the clouds
All knowing all seeing
Be the blanket of the sky
In its folds, the sun is found
Tucked away from prying eyes
Wrapped in the stars
In an eternal unending dance
Of the kindred stars

And as the seasons transform
The landscapes of Earth and humanity
Until the last leaf meets its ancestral roots
Beneath the fire
Above the frost