



CARDINAL FLYER

Hayes Center High School Journalism

Thursday, September 17, 2026

MHC VOLLEYBALL - SETTING THE STANDARD

BY HARLI COX

The Maywood-Hayes Center volleyball team has begun this season with goals to improve and build a stronger program. The Wolves have now moved up to Class C2, and navigating this change will definitely be a challenge for the team. However, the team is showing they are ready to handle the pressure with a 6-2 record so far this season. While the transition brings new obstacles, the team's ultimate goal remains at making it to the state tournament.

This season's journey marks an exciting new chapter as its head coach Rachel Peter's first year leading the team along with assistant coaches Shelby Jutton, Marian Richards, and Laney Callis. Though it's early in the season, the players have had to learn how to work through mistakes, stay positive, and keep fighting even when things do not go exactly as planned. An element of the success they've had so far is team chemistry.

Players to look for include outside hitter Caylie Softley who has 93 kills so far this season and is close to reaching 800 career kills. Setter Lanie Soundy has a total of 91 assists and libero Chloe Jeffers has 49 digs. Addison Richards is coming off of an injury and has been strong in the middle with 9 blocks.

"I am already so proud of how hard everyone is working and I am



Photo by Ava Messersmith
Seniors Addison Richards and Caylie Softley go up for a block as sophomore Lanie Soundy plays in coverage in the win against Maxwell on September 10th.

looking forward to watching our younger players gain confidence and volleyball knowledge throughout the rest of the season," stated senior Caylie Softley. "My goal for this season is to be the kind of leader that I would want to follow, and our team goals are to always give our all and to finally make it to state volleyball!"

The team has embraced the reality that working hard, improving, and supporting each other are what truly define their team. As they continue working towards all their goals, the Lady Wolves are ready to see what they can accomplish for the rest of the fall season. The varsity volleyball team is back in action on Saturday morning, September 19th, at the McCook Tournament. Go Wolves!



HAYES CENTER WELCOMES MRS. SHERRI FREELAND BY AVA MESSERSMITH

As the 2026-2027 school year begins, Hayes Center Schools welcomes many new staff members. One of the new teachers, Sherri Freeland, is filling the role of the second-grade teacher this year for HCPS. Mrs. Freeland recently taught at Dundy County Stratton and has been in education for a total of 34 years, teaching 6 years in special education, 4 years of 5th grade and 24 years in kindergarten. She earned her degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Learning Disabilities, and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Kearney State College. When asked what made her pursue a career in education she answered, "I knew I wanted to work with kids and I was deciding between Speech Pathology, Nursing, and Education. I thought Speech Pathology was too boring and I don't like needles, so I decided nursing was not for me. I also have a lot of teachers in my family."

With her husband Mr. Kris Freeland filling the superintendent position, Mrs. Freeland is looking forward to teaching kids again after being retired for 2 years. She said some of the goals she has for the year is to make sure

every student feels safe and cared for because learning is hard if those elements don't take place in the classroom. She also stated that she would like to help each student grow academically and as a person. Some of Mrs. Freeland's interests outside of school are reading, fishing, and traveling to Mexico with her siblings and their families each summer. Mr. and Mrs. Freeland have 5 children ranging in age from 24 to 40 and 8 grandchildren with the 9th due in September.

This year as new staff and faculty join Hayes Center Public Schools, we are very excited to welcome teachers and staff members like Mrs. Freeland into our school. Her 34 years of teaching and experience will benefit the 2nd grade classroom and our school. We look forward to the positive impact she will make to not only the students but our community as well.



Photo by Carly Softley
Rubiel Lopez runs past the two mile mark during his race on Thursday, September 10th at the Chase County Invite.

Photo by Ava Messersmith
Seventh grader Kinsley Vapenik finishes strong in the junior high race at Chase County.





Photos of the Week



Photo by Ava Messersmith
Junior JaColby Landry uses the chop saw to cut a board in shop class.



Photo by Ava Messersmith
Senior Addison Richards works on her acrylic painting in art class.



Photo by Monica Dimas
First graders Brynn Gohl and Bennett Rosno demonstrate how they add numbers with whichever playing cards they get.

Photo by Carly Softley
Eighth grader Jordyn Lacey serves the volleyball during their game against Sutherland on Monday, September 14th.



Photo by Lanie Soundy
Hayley Richards holds the football for the sophomores' field goal fundraiser at halftime against Wauneta-Palisade.



Photo by Carly Softley
Head cross country coach, Aaron Gallegos, sprays Aaron Lawson with water during his race.



SPORTS SCORES

Varsity Football vs. Wauneta-Palisade @HC, Friday, Sep.11

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Wa-Pa (2-2)	0	6	0	0	6
MHC (2-1)	0	0	8	0	8

Kade Broz: 1 touchdown & 2pt conversion

Cooper Soundy: Sack and forced fumble



Photo by Carly Softley

Running back Kade Broz breaks two tackles during one of his big runs against Wauneta-Palisade on Friday, September 11th.

Varsity Volleyball @Maxwell, Thursday, Sep.10

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4
Maxwell (3-3)	25	23	9	23
MHC (6-1)	21	25	25	25

Caylie Softley: 26 kills and reached her 750th career kill

Varsity Volleyball vs. Hershey @HC, Tuesday, Sep.15

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Hershey (4-5)	25	27	26
MHC (6-2)	23	25	24

Cross Country

@Chase County

Thur., Sep.10

Girls

Team 5th Overall

Individual

Carly Softley (7th)

21:32:45

Agneshka Sankey (15th)

22:32:77

Ayleen Hernandez (45th)

25:57:24

Ava Messersmith (47th)

26:12:10

Boys

Team 14th Overall

Individual

Rubiel Lopez (46th)

21:23:00

Aaron Lawson (63rd)

23:09:84

Steven Werkmeister (72nd)

24:19:94



Photo by Lanie Soundy

Briar Cox keeps the water bottles filled during the football game against Wauneta-Palisade.