CARDINAL FLYER

Hayes Center High School Journalism Thursday, October 22, 2026

LEAVING THEIR MARK AND THEIR ARTWORK

BY CARLY SOFTLEY

The Hayes Center Elementary School is a welcoming place and 'home' to many Hayes Center residents. With its brick walls and laughter filled classrooms, every person that enters the building is immediately welcomed. Though the school was already filled with wolfpack pride, Hayes Center teachers and staff wanted to embellish and show off their school spirit even more this summer. This resulted in the painting of two MHC murals inside the elementary building. The school knew that for such an important job as this there were only two students that could be trusted with the task: sisters Addison and Harper Richards.

Addy and Harper have both been students at Hayes Center Public Schools for almost all of their lives. They both are involved in various activities including multiple sports, quiz bowl, and choir. The girls also share a similar interest and passion for art. Their artistic skills and abilities have been known across the school and both girls have also not only just created masterpieces in the school, but entered several pieces in 4-H contests, winning several state awards. When asked about what inspired Addy's passion for art she said, "Art is something I just kind of grew up doing and as I got older it just kind of stuck."

When asked to design and create two murals in the elementary school, both Harper and Addy happily stepped up to the challenge. Addy was tasked with drawing and painting MHC's wolf-head logo on one of the cafeteria walls and Harper was given the task of writing out the word 'Wolves' above one of the big hallway corridors. Both pieces of artwork were very time consuming and both the girls wanted them to be perfect. This resulted in



Photo by Megan Soundy

Harper Richards smiles in front of her Wolves mural that she created in the elementary school hallway.

the very detailed and colorful works of art that are displayed in the building now. All supplies were happily provided by the school and principal, Mrs. Soundy, who was happy to provide any additional needs for the project.

Along with being tasked with creating such important pieces of art, the girls did experience some challenges along the way. This included all of Harper's artwork being done on top of a ladder, that she had to get down and move every so often. Addy also faced the challenge of paint dripping. This included her having to occasionally clean up splattered paint and make sure paint hadn't dripped in the wrong spot. Alongside all of these things as previously stated, the projects were both very time consuming. They weren't completed until almost a week-and-a-half after they were started. Each day the girls also

spent approximately 3-4 hours creating and adding to the murals.

Moving forward, both Addy and Harper look forward to doing more things like this in the future. They both enjoyed the experience and when asked about what motivated her, Harper expressed, "I was excited to get to leave my mark on the school." Both the school and the town of Hayes Center have more plans for them to help our community flourish including possibly painting the community bathrooms across from Kittle Park!



Photo by Megan Soundy
Addison Richards poses with the MHC logo she painted in the elementary cafeteria.

Connecting Chapters Training

By Harli Cox



Photo by Ellie Chitwood
The Connecting Chapters committee attended training in Benkelman on Tuesday, October 13th.

On Tuesday, October 13th, FFA members had the opportunity to participate in Connecting Chapters Training in Benkelman, along with the DCS FFA chapter. Members who attended included senior Monica Dimas, junior Harli Cox, sophomores Bentley Broz and Chloe Jeffers, and FFA advisor Ellie Chitwood. Connecting Chapters gives FFA members a chance to find hands-on ways to introduce elementary students to agriculture and show them how FFA connects to their community. The day started with trivia between the two teams and an activity of making pumpkin pie in a bag. Then, the two groups created a pumpkin life cycle timeline and a craft to teach younger students about different types of seeds. The groups were given a book to bring back to school and read to elementary students. To finish the activities, members worked together to create a pig and cow mosaic using different types of beans.

At the end of training, members discussed what they learned, ideas to take back to their schools, and the importance of how to communicate with younger students. The committee plans to implement these ideas into the elementary this fall through reading to students about different plants and engaging with them in other activities. These members are excited to bring hands-on learning and agricultural education into our elementary classrooms.



Photo by Sherri Freeland
The 2nd graders recently performed surgery to create contractions in language arts class. Surgery involved cutting out letters from word pairs and inserting apostrophes to form contractions such as "I'm" and "haven't".

Lady Wolves Advance in Opening Rounds of RPAC Tourney

By Harli Cox

The Maywood-Hayes Center Wolves volleyball team came into the RPAC Tournament ready to play, winning back-to-back in the first round and breaking records. The Wolves opened the tournament on Thursday, October 15th, with a sweep against the Sutherland Sailors. The Wolves kept the energy up in their second match against the Dundy County-Stratton Tigers, ending the night with a four set win.

The win over DCS secured their spot in the RPAC semi-final game with seniors Jaylee Sellers and Caylie Softley setting two school records. Sellers now holds the record for assists in a match with 29 against DCS and Softley now holds the record for most serving aces in a career with 135 total.

With a successful start to the post-season, the Lady Wolves headed to Wauneta-Palisade for the semi-final round of the RPAC Tournament against the Broncos on Monday, October 19th.



Photo by Lanie Soundy

Braydon Cox stands with his parents, Amanda and Jason Cox, during senior night before the start of the game against Hi-Line on Friday, Oct. 9th.



Photo by Lanie Soundy

Kai Landry and Izzy Messinger wait with MHC fans to release balloons during the Hi-Line game at Maywood.



Photo by Ava Messersmith

Senior Ayleen Hernandez reads a book about dinosaurs to Kindergartner Kyler Rowley while she student aids at the elementary.



Photo by Monica Dimas

Bentley Broz makes a mosaic out of beans to demonstrate leading elementary students in an activity during Connecting Chapters training.

SPORTS SCORES

Varsity Football @North Platte St. Pats, Friday, Oct.16

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
NPSP (8-0)	35	14	6	0	**55**
MHC (3-5)	6	0	0	0	**6**

Quaid Brott passed to Oliver Anders for touchdown.

Varsity VB RPAC Round 1 vs. Sutherland, Thur., Oct.15

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Sutherland (9-17)	16	11	17
MHC (19-6)	**25**	**25**	**28**

Caylie Softley reached 130 career aces (MHC record).

Varsity VB RPAC Round 2 vs. DCS, Thur., Oct.15

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4
DCS (19-7)	14	20	**25**	23
MHC (20-6)	**25**	**25**	15	**25**

Jaylee Sellers with 29 assists (MHC record).
Caylie Softley reached 54 aces in a season (MHC record).

Varsity VB RPAC Round 3 vs. Wa-Pa, Mon., Oct.19

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Wauneta-Palisade (23-4)	**25**	**25**	**25**
MHC (20-7)	20	22	23

Cross Country
District Meet
@ Perkins County
Thurs., Oct.15

Girls
Team
4th Place
Individual
Carly Softley (7th State Qualifier)
22:07.3
Agneshka Sankey (11th State Qualifier)
22:41.1
Ayleen Hernandez (32th)
25:49.6
Ava Messersmith (41st)
28:00.5
Briana Vapenik (51st)
31:25.7

Boys
Team
14th Place
Individual
Rubiel Lopez (46th)
21:34.6
Aaron Lawson (51st)
22:05.8
Steven Werkmeister (63rd)
24:32.5
Clayton Mahanes (64th)
25:03.8



Photo by Briana Vapenik
Sophomore Carly Softley keeps a steady pace during the RPAC cross country race at Sutherland on Thursday, Oct. 8th.



Photo by Ava Messersmith
7th grader Mayleigh Brott goes up for a block during the junior high volleyball game against McCook St. Pats on Wednesday, Oct. 14th.