By: Elizabeth Hamler

Doing well in school is what we all should try to accomplish. For the students at Rye High School good grades are rewarded. At the end of each quarter all of the students grades are looked at and placed in a ranking for lack of better words. This ranking is based on the student's grade point average and labeled with a color card. The highest card one can receive is a purple card. To be eligible for a purple card you must have a grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

You can think of the purple card as similar to a school coupon. With a purple card students can leave 3 minutes early for lunch, have one daily exempt at teacher’s discretion, and one exam retake at teacher’s discretion. Along with those three benefits of a purple card there is a field trip at the end of the year for those students that had a purple card for all three quarters. Mr. Hale heads these field trips and plans a day of fun that the students well deserve.

In the past the field trip has been a day in Pueblo. The students would go to a movie and then go get a bite to eat. However this year they changed things a little. Mr. Hale took the students to the community’s Greenhorn Park to play field games and have a grilled lunch.

“We played kickball, softball, capture the flag and a lot more. After that we had burgers and hot dogs for lunch,” Conner Brower told us after the day was over.

Some of the students even decided to walk to the nearby library during their spare time after lunch. A few of the students were disappointed that they didn’t get the opportunity to go see a movie but a day outside is always an enjoyable time. The purple card field trip may not have been what it used to be but the students still greatly appreciate a day relieved from the weight of school.

Rye High School End of the Year Events

By: Bailey Benz

The following is an update on end of the year events and activities going on at Rye. We have five weeks left for the last nine weeks.

On Wednesday, May 4th there is the prom assembly at Rye High School. On Thursday, May 5th there is a talent show at the high school. On Saturday, May 7th RHS is having prom at PCC from 8-11 PM. On Monday, May 16th the seniors are checking out and there is a purple and white assembly. Yearbook signing is also that day along with an ice cream party (You can still pre-order a yearbook with Mrs. Anglin for $50). On Tuesday, May 17th PYFF is at PCC and it is the senior award night at 7:00. On Wednesday, May 25th it is the Socrates assembly. On Thursday, May 26th are finals for periods 1,3,5, and 7. On Friday, May 27th the senior’s graduation starts at 7:00 PM. On Monday, May 30th there is no school due to Memorial Day. On Tuesday, May 31st Finals for periods 2, 6, and 8. On Wednesday, June 1st it is a regular school day unless students get an early vacation. On Thursday, June 2nd it is a make up day for students who missed the previous day.
Prom Candidates 2016

By: Kira Arnold

Have you ever dreamed of becoming a King or a Queen that wears a crown? Or someone lives in a beautiful castle? Or what would it be like to grow up into a royal family? I have always wondered what it would be like to become a queen of my very own castle. Every year when prom comes to town in Rye Colorado, three senior boys and three senior ladies, are chosen for prom candidates. This year at Rye High School our prom queen candidates are: Hannah Oliver, Brooke Willmert, and Sarah Chadwick. The boys that where chosen to become future king prom candidates are: Logan Neumeister, Morgan Tooley Prater and Conner Brower.

Prom is for seniors and juniors, so to win the honor of being crowned prom king or queen, only the juniors and seniors will vote on Wednesday after the prom assembly. This is a tremendous honor for each of these candidates to show off their beauty and skills to the school. Choosing the prom king and queen can sometimes be very difficult, so we will try and give you the candidates feelings about being nominated.

Brooke Willmert says, “My favorite part of being a prom queen candidate is, just being nominated, it is just amazing! I could have never dreamed that something like this would happen to me.” Conner Brower says, “I think that it is a great opportunity for the school to get to know more about me, I am loving the fact of being able to show a presentation all about me and my plans for after high school.”

Prom is a very exciting ending to a school year; everyone who plans on going to prom does their last minute shopping to find the perfect outfit for an amazing night. Hannah Oliver says, “Prom is so exciting for me this year! I can’t believe that it is my last dance as a senior. The best thing about my senior prom is that my mother let me spend more money on my prom dress this year than any other year, which is awesome!”

Morgan Tooley Prater said, “My reaction to when I heard the names being called for Prom was like, oh my goodness! I can’t believe this? Wait a second did they just call my name? I am shocked! Never in my high school years, would I dream of this huge honor!” Sarah Chadwick said, “Becoming a Prom Queen candidate made my day honestly! I am so excited to show off my dress for prom this year, since it is my last dance. I plan on making my senior prom the best night.” So get your dresses and tuxes ready prom candidates! Our 2016 Prom is just around the corner! On May 7th at Pueblo Community College.

Leo’s Club Car Wash To Benefit Community

On Friday April 22nd, the Leo’s Club students participated in a car wash. The car wash was located at Southern Colorado Real Estate. Car owners got their cars washed for $5. All of the money will go towards setting up more service projects through the Leo’s Club.

Paula Maroney took over the Leo’s Club from Mrs. Jordan last year. The program is still in its building stages. The students will be working on several service projects throughout the year.

To get into the Leo’s Club you have to fill out an application and be accepted into the club. So far the group has helped with the Lion’s Club food drive, the community Expo and HWY clean up. This is a great club to get students involved in volunteering and helping out their community. Watch for the good things the group is doing.
Mill Levy Request From District 70 To Be Put On Ballot

By Devon Dawson

It turns out that our district, District 70, is seeking an extra $2 million through a mill levy to update printers and digital resources. But first, what is a mill levy anyways? A mill levy is the assessed property tax rate used to raise revenue to cover annual expenses for the current and upcoming year. So, say a school district needs $100 million and the entire property value in the area is around $1 billion, you would calculate the mill levy by taking the amount of money needed and dividing it by the property value of the area and that is how much taxes will go up. In this situation the taxes would go up 0.1%.

So how much will owners taxes increase with the mill levy? Given that our district is only asking for $2 million and not $100 million extra, our taxes should not increase nearly as much. The mill levy was approved on Tuesday April 12th this year by the board of education during their regular meeting to be put on the next ballot for vote.

During the meeting Ed Smith, the superintendent of District 70, said that the education of students are being squandered by lack of up to date materials. He means that from electronic to paper resources, all sources of information are out of date and must be updated to keep up with times and provide a quality education to students.

Our Principal Mrs. Mann said that the extra money from the mill levy would go towards mostly electronic items. District 70 will be trying to move from paper textbooks to online textbooks, as well as buy new software and computers. She said that nothing in the mill levy would fund any new staff, buildings, or sports. The money will be used for resources that are desperately needed in the District. The meeting on the mill levy will be this Monday, if have any further questions on the mill levy ask Mrs. Mann on Monday.

Senioritis and The Army National Guard

By: Tristan Koehler

As the 2015-2016 school year at Rye High School is coming to an end, many seniors have a case of senioritis and are ready to take on the world. High school is a very bittersweet time for some people, but for others, they just want to get out of there!

I spoke to Sarah Chadwick, a senior and soccer player at Rye High School and she has many plans for her life. Many students are just going to move on to college, but Sarah is taking a more drastic route. She is going to be a medic in the Army National Guard and then is going to go to school for nursing afterward. But, on a funny note, Sarah said her second occupational choice would be a “hobo hunter. There is no such thing as a hobo hunter but if I weren’t taking the career path of nursing I would definitely invent it!” said Chadwick.

Although Sarah is graduating soon, she said she would miss high school but definitely not the drama along with it! In ten years she sees herself as a nurse at a children’s hospital and possibly having kids.

As the school year comes to an end, many seniors can’t wait to begin the rest of their life. Many have a mix between excitement and nervousness. Best of luck to all the graduating seniors this year! Join us for graduation May 25th.
Top Rated Batter At RHS

By: Tristan Fry

Being from such a small school it is hard to get noticed in sports, but Bailey Benz is making a name for himself. Bailey Benz has played baseball since the age of three, and only keeps improving. As a junior at Rye High school, Benz is ranked in the top five for batting average, and third on base percentage. Bailey’s batting average is .740 while the national average is .26. The batting averages are based on how many plate appearances a player has to make it more fair. If a player only has two appearances and batted well, they would have a huge advantage to someone who has batted 30 times. Bailey has had 58 batting appearances at this time.

What makes this so special for Benz is that we are a small school and there are a lot of kids out there playing baseball. Benz puts a lot of hard work into sports and practices baseball everyday. Loving to play the game, he plans to improve more and more daily and can’t wait to see what the rest of the 2016 season holds for him and his teammates.

Proud To Play For Rye Girls Soccer Team

By: Kyah Graber

Being the Senior Captain of the girls soccer team, I felt that as the last article of the year I should talk about the accomplishments and the achievements that the girls made this year! Last year the girls soccer team problems and had a losing season, this year however the seniors and the rest of the team pulled together and became a real team. Already winning two games and scoring at least one goal every game that we play in, Ryes’ girls is having the best season we’ve had in a long time!

Not only has this year been very interesting game wise, but there have been many challenges the soccer girls have faced over the past few weeks, from game cancelations, to having four games in the matter of one week, not to mention losing players and only having a team of 14! Despite how tired we are due to the number of games and how long we play because of no subs, not one of the soccer girls has complained, or wanted soccer to be over. To me, being the captain, I take pride in all my soccer girls loving the sport, and putting in the time to play the game they enjoy playing no matter the challenges they face.

Honestly, I was nervous that we wouldn’t even have a team, but boy was I wrong. I have never played on a team with girls like the one I get to play with this year. As a senior I couldn’t ask for a more loyal, hard working, dedicated team. I truly cannot wait to watch next year’s team grow and play as hard as I know they can. This year’s girls soccer team made me proud to be a lady Thunderbolt soccer player.
Rye Ladies Golf Working Their Way to State

By: Selena Houl

The ladies golf team has been doing great so far this year! Selena Houl is currently placed 2nd in the league and Emma Romine is sitting at 3rd. At the Swink invitational tournament, the girls played well placing 2nd as a team. Kacie Adair and Rachel Shaffer scored a 109. Emma Romine scored a 99 and Selena Houl placed 4th individually with a score of 97. On April 26th at the Trinidad tournament Selena Houl scored a 92 placing 7th overall in the tournament. Kacie Adair and Alexis Cortez scored 111. The team is leading in the Santa Fe League.

Gunnison Invite

By: Kevin Bailey

The Rye Thunderbolts traveled to the Gunnison Invite this past weekend. They had to wake up at the crack of dawn and then travel about three hours to Western State University. The one-day meet was held in the Mountaineer Bowl at Western State University. The weather wasn’t on the Thunderbolts side at this particular meet. The team battled snowy conditions along with hail throughout the day. Thankfully the weather didn't cause any delays. Bryson Benedict took first in the high jump event jumping at five feet ten inches. Trey Zupancic also took first in long jump. His winning jump was 21.25 feet and two and a half feet better than anyone else at the meet. The thunderbolts faced quality programs and competed well in every event.

Pictured above: for the St. Patricks day picture: The whole team on St. Patricks day wearing their hats and boas!

16 strokes ahead of Fowler and 26 ahead of Swink. The girls now are working hard to do well in the regional tournament and get a ticket to state. The regional tournament will be at Hollydot on May 10th at 9 am. The state tournament will be May 23-24 in Pueblo.

Pictured above: Emma Romine getting ready to hit the ball up the fairway

Pictured above: Trey Zupancic trying to break records in the long jump

Pictured above: Collin getting comfortable in the freezing creek

Pictured above: Collin getting comfortable in the freezing creek
No More Lunch Charges - Pay Off Your Debt

By: Brooke Willmert

NO more lunch charges? Well we are 100 dollars in the hole, owed to the food department; this needs to be paid by the end of the school year. Some students have charges from the beginning of the year and have not been going through the lunch line so they don’t have to deal with Mrs. Susan one of the lovely lunch ladies here at Rye. Then some students come through and say they will bring it the next day for the next and that just adds up and it’s not working out.

Just bring in a quarter, a nickel, a dime, a penny, anything works, go in to your room look all over for change go in your car or your parents car, look in your couches, everywhere. If there is an issue you need to talk to Mrs. Susan, if you’re scared to talk to Mrs. Susan, talk to Mrs. Jordan or Ms. Mann. If you can afford a lunch or your parents don’t want to fill out the free lunch form then talk open up we will get you lunch. The lunch ladies will never let you go hungry; even if it’s just a ham sandwich at least you got something right? Think of kids that don’t get fed ever.

Most of you people owe fewer than five dollars I’m sure you can pay it off. Seniors if you have a lunch bill pay it or no graduation, and underclassmen it’s respectful to pay, and it can go over till you are a senior but if you don’t pay you don’t graduate! Some of you students have good reasons to not paying your lunch bill and the lunch ladies will understand. Don’t stop coming through the line its called growing up, Like Mrs. Susan said “You can’t go to McDonald’s and say oops sorry I’ll pay you tomorrow, that’s not how it works.” Lots of other schools would not allow you to charge for lunches, the lunch ladies here are more laid back for your bill, the lunch ladies are not saying they want there money up front and right now but it would be nice to pay them. Mrs. Susan always sends notes home, so you will know. Like said before, just bring in your loose change and give it to Mrs. Susan it will pay off your debt.

Band Students Perform Highly At Large Group

By: Kaylee Fox

Music programs at schools are constantly in danger of being cut from shrinking school budgets even though they are proven to improve academics. Studies say that children who study a musical instrument or instruments are more likely to excel in all of their studies at school, work better in teams, have enhanced critical thinking skills, stay in school, and peruse further in life. I believe this to be true considering the fact that all 6 of the band students at Rye High School are straight A students.

On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, the band class at Rye High School participated in a CHASSA Large Group Competition at Lamar High School to show what they could do. The students were scored by three judges on a 1-5 scale, one being the best and five being the worst, or as Mr. Baird said it, one being the best and five meaning you need to get a new job. There were several different categories that the bands were scored on. The band scored a two on their prepared pieces and a one.
By: Bryson Benedict

Susan Cronk has been working to feed hungry kids for almost 34 years. After her eight years as the head cook at Rye High School, she has finally decided to hang up the apron and head to retirement.

Susan first started her career in the food industry working in the Falcon district. She spent 20 years in that district. After that she worked for seven years at Skyview Middle school. She then moved to Missouri and worked as the food director for two years before deciding to move to Rye. Where she has spent the last eight years as the head cook.

Susan mentioned that she is going to really miss seeing the children every day and being able to help them get a good nutritious meal. She is working on making a memory book and is hoping that students will have some pictures or letters that she can include in the book.

Susan said Rye is the favorite place she’s ever worked because the people here are so friendly. In retirement Susan would like to travel and have some time to relax.

Music cont. from pg 6

on sight-reading. Mr. Baird said, “Considering the fact that we only have six members in our band and the other bands had around 40 to 80 members, we did excellent. Our band hasn’t been to the CHASSA Competition for about 20 years, so it was nice to make a strong comeback.”

Rachel Maroney said, “It was a good experience. After playing, we had a clinic with the judges. We learned a lot about how to improve our sound as a whole.”

The next band concert is on May 10th at the High School at 7 p.m. Both the band and the choir will be participating in this event. Come and see how much these amazing students have improved and how hard they have worked to get where they are today. The band could, however, use some more students to play so please consider joining the band to be apart of this talented group.
Dear Abby,

What is with the baseball team and soccer team fighting?

Confused and Concerned

Dear Confused and Concerned,

You could flip your way back through the yearbooks and find that the Rye boys’ soccer team and boys’ baseball team have had it out for each other for many years. The fight was usually mute when the baseball team fired their state rings in every bystanders face, however this year the “throw down” could be quite different.

It’s no secret that the boys on the baseball team are the “fighters” of Rye High School. They seem to constantly need to bring up the fact that they are better than everyone else. Their fights with the soccer team are just proof of the matter. However, this year, the baseball team is targeting a new team. The Rye girls’ soccer team has usually struggled in the past, however people are missing the facts that they are playing 3, and 4A teams for the lack of participants in the Sante Fe League. Even so, the baseball had decided to target and meddle with the Rye girls’ soccer team, straying from the boys’ soccer team considering how well boys did this year.

Girls’ soccer hosted a Color Run to fundraise for the soccer program early in February. To advertise the event, the team hung posters around the school to get the support of the school. However, some of the baseball team decided they couldn’t let the soccer team get more attention than them, so they decided to cover up all the posters in the school. Many soccer players were very hurt and discouraged at the fact that the boys couldn’t just let them have their fundraiser. In reaction to the attack, the soccer players then retaliated by “talking trash”.

This was the peak of the feud, soccer fought the fact that they are doing really well this year for being in the league they’re in, the baseball boys’ came back with the word ‘ring’ 5,000 times, the girls brought up the first loss of the season for the boys, so on.

My advice is for all of Rye High School. Support each other. Be happy for one another in their athletics. We all wear purple in the end of the day, and we are all from Rye. Soccer is so much different than baseball, and so on, so why try to compare. Don’t fight about who could beat who in winning streaks and points. Support each other for their efforts and accomplishments. Fight for your Rye family and t-bolt pride.

XOXO, Abby.

Courage

By: Sarah Chadwick

Courage isn’t about having no fear. Courage is about learning how to accept your fears and persevere through them. Once you learn how to overcome your fears and be courageous, you can do anything you set your mind to. Courage is strength in the face of great fear or doubt. People with courage are much more amazing than people who are fearless.

Rye High School Student of the Month - Robyn Evans

By: Hannah Statezny

As the school year is beginning to come to a close, one last student of the month has been chosen. One student who displays exceptional character, motivation, or work ethic is chosen each month, interviewed and placed into the Rye High School newspaper. The May student of the month is Robyn Evans.

Beginning the interview Robyn began to tell a few things about herself. She is currently a Junior at Rye High who enjoys hanging out with her friends, spending time with her family, in her free time you can always find her with a book in her hands, and if she could travel anywhere in the world she would go to New York City. Her favorite thing about Rye High is the size of the classrooms and how you get more one on one time with the teachers, especially when it comes to her favorite teacher Mrs. VanOort. Robyn chose Mrs. VanOort as her favorite teacher because she really appreciates how real she is and how she doesn’t sugar coat anything.

Robyn was chosen to be the student of the month by a teacher who stated, “she is very responsible, hard-working, mature, dependable, and always respectful.” It is truly an honor to receive the student of the month, so I would like to take a moment and congratulate Robyn, keep up the great work!