

Rochester Area School District's High School Newspaper

Rams The Oracle



School through COVID-19

Abi Hohman, Staff Writer

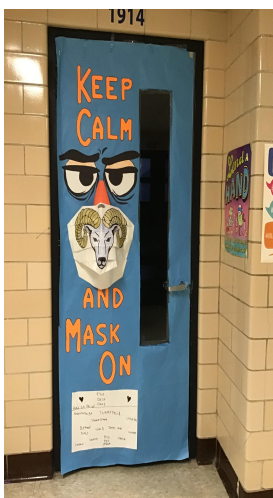
In the fall of 2019, the world was hit by the COVID-19 virus. So many schools had to go online due to it spreading across the United States. Luckily, the Rochester Area School District was able to be open through solid planning and safety measures that were put in place, so that they could continue without closing the school for the new 2020-2021 school year. This began for us in March due to the spread from China, who either released or was at least the source of this new strain of corona based virus that caused the pandemic. The school board didn't know what to do with all of this. Mr. Cervone was interviewed on what his thoughts were about the state

that we are in and he said, "In the last school year in the spring, it was hard for the staff, students, and the school board to know what would happen." This virus was something that no one was prepared for and that made it much harder. Over the summer, the teachers thought that the school year of 2020-2021 was not going to happen. It was confusing to predict what was going to happen for this school year if we start off with all the students in person. The teachers were nervous about all the students coming into the school and seeing how it was going to go. The staff put in safety equipment throughout the school to make the school a safe environment as possible. Every learning style was changed and all lessons had to go online through the iPads that the school handed out last year. The learning became more digital than ever before. The students seemed to like the iPads a lot and it is possible for the students to still learn and to receive a good education.

An awesome door cover on Mr. Cunningham's and Ms. Newstrom's classroom door!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Covid related news
Homecoming
Profiles
Movie Reviews
Editorial



Saving our season

Bronc Tomochak, Staff Writer

“Coaching football I never thought we’d come back to the season,” said Coach Ziegler in an interview, but what is the season going to look like? Most high schools in Pennsylvania chose to keep extracurricular activities and sports, however, they are under certain guidelines. They need to follow both the PDE preliminary guidance for phased reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools and the CDC considerations for youth sports. These guidelines are making some activities harder to participate in and it will take some adjusting to with safety measures put in place. I asked Mrs. Lyons, a teacher at Rochester and the student council advisor, about the changes and she said, “everything will be either through email or zoom meeting.” Further along, she explains, “It would just be too hard to keep everybody on the same page with the group that we would have.” We need to stay cautious and sanitary for sports and other activities and that’s going to be difficult, to say the least. How are we supposed to stay six feet apart when the goal is to get the ball? What happens at games when all the parents want to come to watch? During the recent home game at Rochester, many parents who couldn’t get a ticket sat outside the fence and watched without many restrictions, if any, at all. Many were in truck beds or lawn chairs and some less than six feet apart. Yet, there were many open seats in the stands with people a dozen feet apart or more. They have attempted to sell all remaining tickets to fill up the empty seats for our last game against Burgettstown. Needless to say, the seats seemed to be filled more, but many parents missed the chance to get a ticket because they were too busy that day or just missed the chance to get one. As we deal with the many changes that we all must adapt to during the pandemic - the biggest issue, however, is making

sure we stay healthy so the game can go on!



Photo by Bronc Tomochak

The coronation in the year of corona

Keara Alberts, Staff Writer



Homecoming Queen Alysha Martin (left) & Homecoming Princess Bijon Anderson

Photo by Mrs. Zawislak

Because of the coronavirus, there have been many adjustments made to this year's homecoming festivities. For this year's homecoming there will not be a homecoming dance. Mrs. Lyons, the

person in charge of homecoming this year said, “there will not be a homecoming dance because you cannot be socially distant at a dance.” But even though there was not a homecoming dance we still had a homecoming court.

Instead of having a traditional homecoming ceremony, with a pep rally and the homecoming football game, we had our homecoming ladies Alysha Martin, Bijon Anderson, Jenna Zawislak, Kallista Seybert, Mya Norman, and Peighton Munroe, ride on the cars around the track announcing their accomplishments. But it was not at the football game due to the coronavirus. Instead we celebrated the court on September 30th at 7:00pm. There was still a football game that week on Friday but it was not homecoming related. Mrs. Lyons also said, “If we have it on Friday night at the football game we can’t, because then no parents can go to the football game because of how many people are allowed in the stadium.”

You are allowed to have more people at the stadium rather than in the gym because you are outside. So that’s why we couldn’t have a pep rally this year. You can’t even have a staff meeting, let alone have a pep rally. Because of the school's strict restrictions to keep the school safe, it was best to have the homecoming court separate from the football game. This way every senior can go see their classmates on court and can actually go to it.

You may have noticed there were six girls instead of the traditional five. That is because this year there was a tie. Mrs. Lyons, the one also in charge of the votes, did not release any information about the homecoming votes but did announce there was a tie between the court. We do not know which girls tied but we do know this year's homecoming princess was Bijon Anderson and the homecoming queen was Alysha Martin. This year's homecoming wasn't so competitive this year because everybody on court was so supportive for each other and all the other girls were super happy and excited that Alysha and Bijon won. Even though the coronavirus has changed

a lot of our traditions this year it was still a great ceremony and everyone enjoyed it.



Photo by Mrs. Zawislak

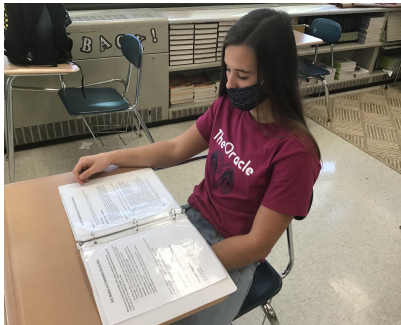


Photo by Ryan Zawislak

Senior Projects to continue among pandemic

Ryan Zawislak, Co-editor

Once Again, the 2020-2021 senior class must complete a senior project in order to graduate. However, this year is going to be the most challenging year to complete this project. The COVID-19 pandemic and government regulations have affected all

aspects of our lives, and this does not evade the chopping block. With all that is going on it will be very hard for students to complete community service hours or find a place to job shadow. Some students are offered more opportunities than others, but many will be scrambling to try and find a way to complete this aspect of the project. Also, students that are doing online school must still keep in contact with their mentors. This could be challenging for both mentor and mentee, as communication is key for the mentor to be able to effectively assist their senior. Finally, we are starting our project much later than previous senior classes. Normally, seniors have a meeting at the end of their junior year to obtain information and gain insight into what is required. However, because of the pandemic and not finishing the school year in person, seniors were left with nothing but questions about the project until the beginning of this school year.

Ultimately, this year has brought many challenges to our senior class. The senior project is but another thing made more difficult because of the pandemic. Nonetheless, the senior class will continue to persevere through everything and come out on top no matter what the situation is.

Good Luck to all Fall Athletes! Go Rams!



Dr. Bovalino, Superintendent of Rochester School District

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Abi Hohman, Staff Writer

Dr. Jane Bovalino was the youngest of five sisters in her family. Her dad was a minister and her mom was a stay at home wife to take care of Jane and her sisters. Her family lived a church life, while she grew up as a child into an adult. She went to a youth group, Sunday School, and did community work, that was a big part of her life. She moved to three different places and schools like Wexford, Pittsburgh, and Beaver Falls. As she grew up, she went to Beaver Falls High School for four years. She had a person that she looked up to that made her want to become a teacher to teach others. The person that she looked up to was her math teacher, Jone Elle McMillan, and she inspired Jane to become a teacher. To this day Jane and Jone still keep in touch as great friends. Then, she went to four years of college at Wesleyan College in West Virginia to get her teaching degree, that was in Math and English. Later, she went back to Beaver Falls and started her career as a teacher to teach young students. She taught English for 10

years in Beaver Falls Middle School. Later, after 10 years of teaching English, a year afterwards she taught math to the students. Now she was teaching a half day of English and Math to her students. The person that was the biggest influence in her career was George Peter, the Principal of Beaver Falls. He was Jane's mentor on going through her career stages, he was the one that said, " You are made for great things, but you would need to go back to school.", and so she went back to school. She went back to get her Masters in teaching at The University of Pittsburgh. Still teaching at Beaver Falls, she became the Vice Principal, then the Principal of Beaver Falls from 2001-2006. She went back to University of Pittsburgh to her Doctorate degree, and received a letter from her college. Afterwards, she became the Assistant Superintendent at Beaver Falls till 2013. Then, she came to Rochester and became the Superintendent of Rochester Area School District in 2013. She came to Rochester because she finds the people to be welcoming, caring, don't take things for granted, and they give back to the community. The staff at Rochester help out with the students and get what help that they need and that they get what the student needs. The teachers that I asked around were Mr. Proctor and Mr. Long. They both said, "that she is a hard worker, kind a heart, considering what others think, and not being bossy. She is one of the great people that I know and that I am happy I get to work with. She listens to what others have to say and that she talks really good of her staff." For what I have to say, she is a person that is kind, fair, and looks after what is best for her students and staff. She will always be a person that you can trust and talk to and she inspires others to do great things because she sees who you are and what they can be. She is an inspiration to many!



The vaccine conundrum

Seth Cervi, Staff Writer

Covid has really made our lives hectic. Recently, I surveyed 30 students and a few teachers at Rochester High School. The survey was about if people were likely to get the vaccine for Covid as soon as it was available. There are also alternatives for the ways the vaccine is given. Of the 30 people surveyed, five said that they would get the vaccine. Ten of the people said that they wouldn't get it at all, and 15 said that they would wait. In order to get back to our lives, we all need to get the vaccine. The vaccine is fully tested. The only part that matters is the third phase of trials. If the vaccine passes then it will be safe to use. A lot of people don't want to get the vaccine because it's a shot - and most people have phobias about needles. BARDA, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority in Washington, D.C. is funding research for a patch and pill form of the vaccine. For people who don't want to get a shot this is great news! If you are thinking about getting the vaccine. You should get the vaccine, and it doesn't even have to be a shot form.

Update: On November 9th the Associated Press said Pfizer announced the vaccine has been 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 so far.



A treasure among us

Keara Alberts, Staff Writer

I bet you have passed this farmers market several times without noticing it. It is this tiny farmers market on 294 New Bethlehem Church Road in Aliquippa, PA, 15001. They are open in July, August, and in September. It is an independent family owned business, that has been in the family for eight generations since 1787. Their best sellers are their peaches. They are famous for their peaches and locals from all over Beaver County, come and get their rich and flavorful peaches. They sell many other products like apples, sweet corn, tomatoes, potatoes, and many more but, their peaches are number one according to the consumers.

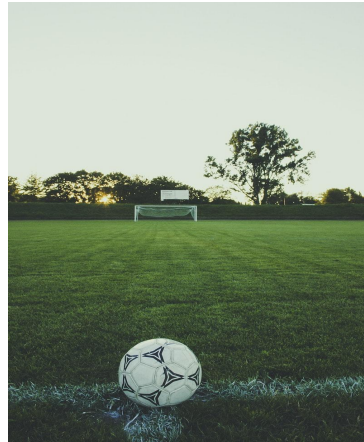
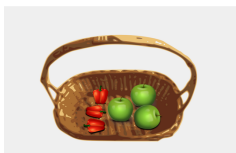
Edwin McConnell is the 69 year old, proud owner of this 200 acre farm and has been in the farming business his whole life. The farm was passed down to him from his parents and is now in charge of things. He is in charge of chemical application, picking fruit off of the trees, and maintaining the equipment. His son Calvin McConnell does the business side of this company, while Edwin and his brothers do the labor, and they love their jobs. Edwin used to be a teacher until three years ago in 2017. He went back into his farming ways and is very pleased with his decision. Growing up on his

family farm was the inspiration of going back into the farming business.

Six to seven years ago, the farm lost all 3,000 peach trees due to a freeze in the winter months. When they lost all of their peaches they were really short on money and they struggled. They struggled because since their peaches were their best sellers, they lost a lot of their income because of the winter freeze. But when next season came along they came together and worked hard and maintained their farmers market back to normal.

A few years have passed and 2020 came along with the Coronavirus. Because of the Coronavirus the McConnells' farmers market has been doing better than ever. Edwin McConnell stated "I think people are reluctant to go into grocery stores but since people feel more comfortable in the open air they like going to our farmers market." People are reluctant to go into grocery stores because of the coronavirus and small owned businesses are less packed with people, so going into a small owned farmers market is a great idea. You have room to stay six feet apart from everybody, you have the outdoor air to breathe, and also it is a very sanitized and safe place to get your food.

So what is McConnells' farm? McConnells is a Great smart independent farmers market where you can go and get the best peaches around in Beaver County. McConnells' farm is where you want to shop for your fruits and vegetables. When shopping at McConnells' farm you know who grew your food, where it was grown, and what methods were used when growing your fruits and vegetables.



Back in my day!

Bronc Tomochak, Staff Writer

"I think kids have never changed, I just think that generations have changed" Rick Daman stated in an interview. People always say that kids just keep getting lazier and lazier, and this is what we've always been taught that they used to be so much more active. However, has anyone thought of how much sports has grown as an enterprise and how many more kids are growing up playing sports? In fact, ESPN referred to youth sports as "so big no one really knows how big" and although obesity is at all-time high sports are at a high too. About 1 in 3 kids is obese but about 1 in 3 kids plays sports and many people believe that sports are a huge factor in why it isn't 2 in 3 or 3 in 4 kids who are obese. However, the reason it's hard to find information about youth sports is that no one organization covers them. There's the ARDA to keep track of religion, the EPA for the environment, ESPN for college and major league sports, but nothing for youth leagues. "If you give a kid an iPad they will play on the iPad, if you teach your kid to play video games they will play video games if you teach them to dig a ditch they will dig a ditch." Stated by Mr. Daman, many people should do more for youth sports and teach them to get better because

without them the obesity statistic will just keep rising and eventually it might pass the sports statistic. Something for you to think about!



The Legend of Bat Spider Village

Abi Hohman, Staff Writer

Once upon a time in the woods of Bat Spiderville, was Death Phantom Reaper haunted by the woods of the house cabin. Then, the woods began to come alive in the house cabin. People began to be afraid of the cabin. The ghost in the cabin was going to take the people's souls of Bat Spiderville. The ghost had bodies of their own now. Now, they kill people in real life. Millions of people in Bat Spiderville are moving from the village before they die from the ghost in the village. The ghosts stop them from moving out of the village by keeping a troll and a deadly fairy there at the end of the forest. Bat Spider was in great danger because of the ghost but then a person named

Fred came and told the people in the village the ghost's name was the Death Phantom Reaper. The town was in for it because they knew that they were going to die during the solar eclipse. The next day was a solar eclipse, which was the day that they will die because of the people who open the door to the cabin in the woods. Because of the people who opened the door, they died on that day. So the Death Phantom Reaper was loose in the world to cause chaos on the world. The Death Phantom Reaper had killed millions of people since the world was born. It was once a person named Alex, he was the first person born on Planet Death. Alex was a person of evil and hate. Then he was building a ship to Earth to find others like him. But when he got to planet Earth, people were going out of their minds because he was coming from outer-space. The people thought he was an alien from the moon but he was a human from Planet Death. They tried to kill him but they could not do it because if he died he would become a monster. So they built a wood cabin for him. Once they got to know him better they became friends in Happy Sunlightville. One day some people were testing a light spell on Alex, but after that, they tested him, and something happened to him but no one knew what happened to him. After that, it was getting dark on a foggy night with a full white moon, it was the color of snow. Something was happening to Alex, he began to transform into a monster which was called the Death Phantom Reaper. He screamed for help and what happened to him. His friend Josh was next door to him and wanted to see what was going on and what the scream was all about. Josh got up to go see Alex and to see what is wrong. Alex saw Josh coming to his house and so he tried to hide from Josh. Josh knocked on the door and he opened the door then he saw Alex as a monster. Josh asked "What happened to you Alex?" Alex was too scared to talk or move his body Alex could even float in the air because the monster was called the Death Phantom Reaper. Josh was so scared that he ran away from Happy Sunlight Ville because Alex was a monster. When the sun came up Alex

turned back to normal, he was in shock so he could not move at all. Alex was being taken over by the monster that is inside of him. The monster was the Death Phantom Reaper. Alex was trying to kill the Phantom inside of him, he wished that he was not the one to have this happen to him because the spell was cast onto him because he was a dark person and cast a spell on Alex. When the sun came up he turned back to normal. Alex was happy that he was back to normal so he went to find Josh so he could figure out what was going on with Alex.

To be continued...



Humorous Halloween Flick A NETFLIX MOVIE REVIEW

Ryan Zawislak, Co-editor



Hubie Halloween is a comedy horror film released on October 7, 2020 on Netflix. The film was written by Adam Sandler and Tim Herlihy, directed by Steven Brill, and stars Adam Sandler, Kevin James, and Julie Bowen. In the film, Hubie Dubois (Adam Sandler) lives in Salem, Massachusetts and works at a deli. During Halloween, Hubie rides around on his bike and acts as the city's official Halloween Helper. However, on this Halloween night Hubie is recruited by police sergeant Steve Downey (Kevin James) and ultimately finds himself chasing a kidnapper.

Overall, I would rate this movie a 8 out 10. If you do not like both comedy and horror then this movie is probably not for you. The movie starts off slow, but picks up as the plot progresses. Hubie is a classic movie character that many people could relate to and sympathize with. The film has received mixed reviews from critics, some saying that only Adam Sandler fanatics would enjoy this film. The supporting cast was well chosen, with Kevin James joining Sandler like he does in many other movies. The ending of the movie is somewhat obscure, but the plot is easy to follow and anybody of any age could enjoy Hubie Halloween.

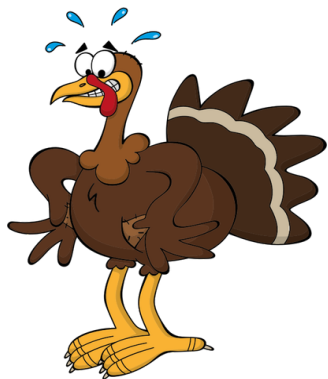


Photo by Mrs. Zawislak



Photo by Mrs. Zawislak

Editorial

Where are all the fans?

Jenna Zawislak, Editor



Photo by Mrs. Zawislak



Photo by Mrs. Zawislak



Photo by Jenna Zawislak

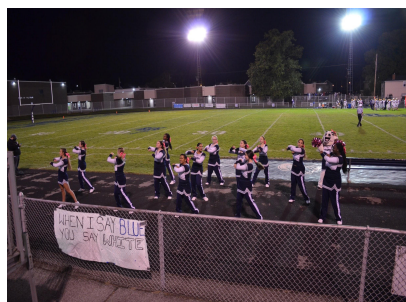


Photo By Mrs. Zawislak

Covid-19 has flipped our world upside down and inside out. It has affected us in so many ways. Spectators being allowed at sporting events, and other extracurricular activities have been immensely affected. Not only is there a limit put out by the government, but our school is being extremely cautious with the amount of people they let into certain games. I think what is most frustrating is that the amount of people allowed for different events at the same location is not the same. I have experienced this

multiple times so far this year. At senior night and at homecoming we were nowhere close to the 250 gathering limit. At the football game Friday night there were around 250 people in the entire stadium. At the middle school football game anyone was allowed in but no real tally was taken. I am by no means complaining about 250 people being at the varsity football game or the amount of people allowed at the middle school game. I do however, feel that the standards should not be different for different events. As seniors, my classmates and I feel like our “lasts” are being taken away from us. Not being able to have our grandparents and other family and friends at our last few games, senior night, and possibly much more is really upsetting. I speak for most seniors when I say that we do appreciate what the school has done for us, but we feel things are being taken very cautiously which is hard for us to deal with.

As time has gone on, the school has loosened up a bit. At our first playoff game on October 30th, the stadium was much fuller than it was at the past three home games. The opposing teams' cheerleaders and fans were also there. Although we're still not back to normal, and the stadium isn't as full as it's been in the past, we're moving in the right direction.



Rocky Rams showing their spirit!
Photo by Mrs. Zawislak



Photo by Jenna Zawislak
Dayron Burney, Ryan Zawislak & Evan Lewandoski



Evan Lewandoski, Amir Mason, Dayron Burney & Christopher Grossi
Photo by Jenna Zawislak



Photo by Mrs. Zawislak

NEW “face lift” to our school

Rochester High School received a bit of a face lift over shutdown and got new windows!!!!



Photo by Ms. Perelman - Room 1915



Senior Football Players and Cheerleaders during Pep Rally
Photo by Ms. Perelman

There in spirit

1st Virtual Pep Rally

Rochy High held its very first pep rally before a playoff game Friday, November 6th, 2020!

The students at Rochester watched the pep rally from their iPADS in their homeroom classes during 8th period. This was a first that will be remembered for a very long time!



Senior Evan Lewandoski

Photo by Ms. Perelman during the Pep Rally

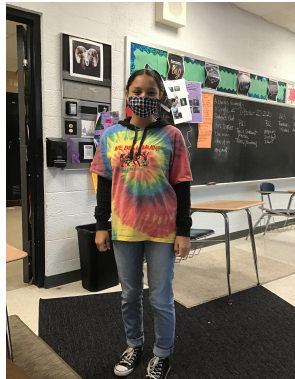
Spirit Week Participants!

Colors

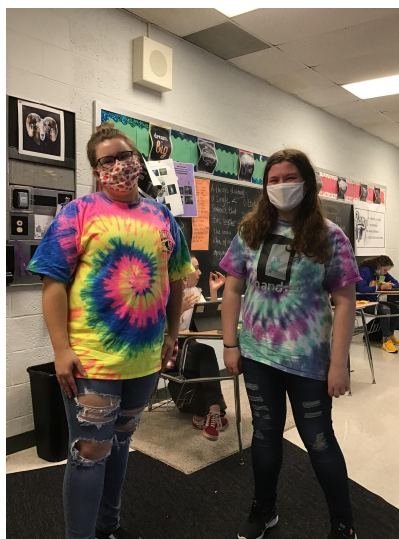
PJ's

Fave Team Jersey

Tie Dye Pink Out



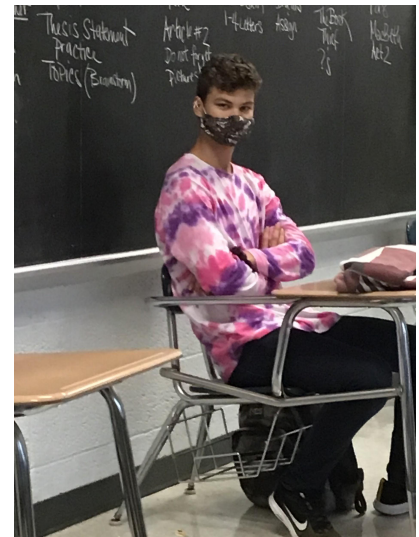
Junior Daryll Deever



Juniors Abby Martin & Melanie Tame
Photo by Ms. Perelman



Big Mama & Linda Buckenheimer "Pinked Out"



Junior Klayton Henshey





Juniors (front) Iciss Witt, Mikayla Bryant & Emma Kolodziej (back) Ethan Diegmiller and Angelo Cartago



Photo by Ms. Perelman



Photo by Mrs. Zawislak



Active Shooter Mayhem

Jenna Zawislak, Editor

Friday night, October 23rd, in Rochester was far from normal. The Rochester vs. Shenango game was ready to start at 7:00pm when the entire stadium was evacuated. Not a lot of people really knew what was going on but once we all got to safety the news started circulating. The football players were in the locker rooms, the cheerleaders and some parents were in the natatorium, and the other fans were hiding in their cars throughout Rochester.

We knew we were safe but a lot of us were still worried about our families

because we didn't know exactly where they were. We were all passing on what we had heard was going on. There was a mentally ill active shooter who was threatening to harm himself within two miles of the stadium. He was running through the woods near Irving Cemetery in Rochester Township. No one was harmed, however, we were not allowed to leave lockdown until he was caught. After hiding out for what seemed like forever everyone thought the game was going to be canceled and rescheduled for the next day. At around 8:30pm we got the all clear. The man had been caught and the game was back on. The football teams and the cheerleaders were warming back up while the fans re-entered the stadium.

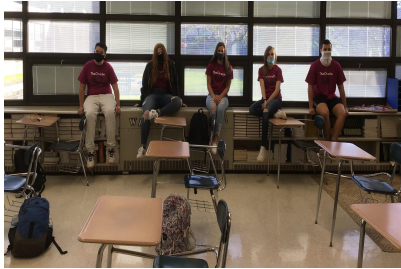
At 8:45pm the game started. The Rams were playing absolutely great! They were shutting down Shenango's offense, and breaking through their defense. A pass from senior Rashawn Reid to Duke Mullins put the Rams on the board. With around 1:09 left in the third quarter the Rams were winning 13-0. As if an active shooter evacuation wasn't enough, the refs spotted lightning and the game was put on hold for a weather delay. After sitting inside for about a half an hour the teams were informed that the game had been canceled and would resume Saturday at 12:00pm. No one was particularly happy about this, but Rochester came out at noon looking strong! The game ended with the Rams winning 13-0 making them the Class A Big 7 Section Champs! With all that went on Rochester is proud of the boys not only for being section champs but for persevering through all of the road blocks put in front of them.



Seniors Jenna Zawislak and Peighton Munroe

Photo by Jenna Zawislak

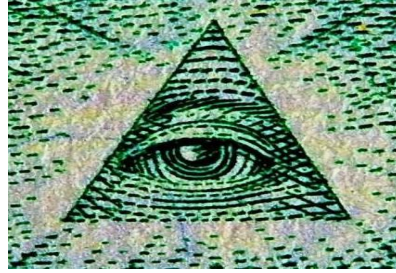
Journalism Class & The Oracle



The Oracle Staff: L to R, Jeremiah Gallagher, Keara Alberts, Jenna Zawislak, Editor, Ryan Zawislak, Co-editor, and Abi Hohman. (missing from the photo) Bronc Tomochak and Seth Cervi.
Ms. Perelman, Advisor

Our Mission Statement – The Oracle is a student run newspaper that writes to inform, to educate, to entertain, and to provide multiple viewpoints for our community and all Rochester High School students and staff.

If you would like to submit an article 250 words or less to be published in The Oracle, please email your submission with an original photograph to perelmanverasd.org with “The Oracle” in the subject line.



Seniors Alysha Martin & Evan Lewandoski's decorated lockers



Coach Gene Matsook

Photo by Mrs. Zawislak

Coaching Isn't All About Winning

Jenna Zawislak, Editor

Every coach and player's dream in any sport is to win, but winning doesn't automatically make you a good coach. So what qualities does a good coach have? Gene Matsook, better known as Coach Gene, is the head coach of the varsity football team here at Rochester as well as a P.E. teacher at Freedom Area School District. There's more to Gene than just sports though. Family is a big part of Coach Gene's life. He says his wife and family are his biggest motivators in life. When asked what was one accomplishment he was most proud of he did not say what most people would think a championship winning coach would say. He said that seeing his former athletes go on to be successful was the most rewarding. "Yeah I mean we've won a lot of games and championships but I think that's the most rewarding thing, uh to see kids go on and do well for themselves.", said Gene. On the other hand, when asked what his biggest pet peeves were he said when people don't go full speed and when people are not on time. Putting in 110% and being on time are keys to success, so no wonder these are his pet peeves. Gene's favorite thing about being a football coach is teaching and interacting with his players and the coaching staff. When not at football practice or school, Gene enjoys golfing, exercising, biking, and being with his family. In five years he sees himself being retired, on the golf course, riding his bike a lot, and traveling. When asked if there was anything else he would like people to know about him, he said, "I'm a good guy, easy to get along with, and uh yanno I just like to get along with other people. I mean just take things one day at a time that's how I take it." Mr. Ziegler, Coach Santry, and Elijah Goosby are all a part of Coach Gene's coaching staff for the varsity football team. Mr Ziegler has known Gene since 1997.

When asked his opinion on Gene he said, "Gene is one of my best friends, we treat each other like brothers; he would do anything for me and I'd do anything for him." He also explained how they spend a lot of time together and how they always have a good time.

Coach Santry has known Coach Gene for twenty years. When asked about Gene he said, "I've coached football for 40+ years at six different schools, and he by far is the best coach I've ever coached for; not only because of his success but by how he treats people and how he takes care of his players."

Elijah Goosby is a former player of Genes and now a part of his coaching staff. When asked about him Elijah said, "Coach Gene is a good guy. He's fun to be around sometimes. He can get on you a lot like as a player I know that, but he just wants the best for you and pushes you to succeed." A good coach is someone who pushes their players, cares for them on and off of the field, and knows how to motivate them while winning or losing. With all this said, Coach Gene Matsook is a great coach and a well respected member of the Rochester Community.

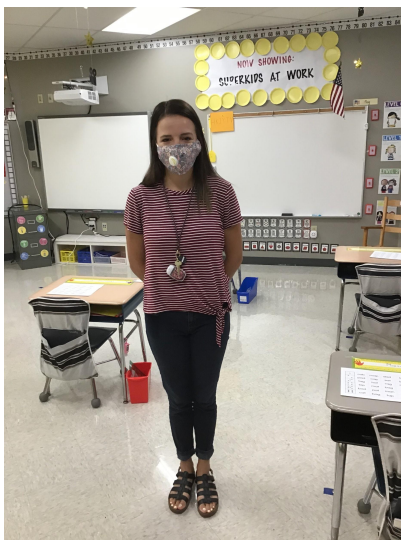


Photo by Ryan Zawislak

Coach Denver Altieri

New Coach Brings Enthusiasm Back To Cheer Program

Ryan Zawislak, Co-editor

Cheerleading has rarely been the center of attention at Rochester, but that could be changing in the near future. After years under former coach Michelle Long, Denver Altieri has taken the reins of the cheer program. As the new coach she is already bringing lots of energy to the program. Senior cheerleader Peighton Munroe had many positive things to say about Altieri. "With the new coach we are pushed to try new things that make our squad better. Our team actually feels like a whole. We do everything as one." she explained. Munroe also expressed that the team has a new confidence in themselves and are proud of their accomplishments so far. Athletic Director Brad Verrico also had many encouraging sentiments regarding Altieri. "She's really organized and does a lot of good things with the girls such as fundraisers. I think she's gonna be a good asset and make the cheering program really good." Verrico stated. When asked what he felt about Altieri he said she was "A hard worker who from day one stepped in and started doing her job no questions asked." Verrico has a lot of faith in the new coach and believes she will do great things with the program.

Altieri herself is also very satisfied with how things have been going. She has been very pleased with the team thus far, saying "I really like cheerleading, and I think seeing the girls grow this year has been just a new joy for sure. From what they were last year to how they're performing this year has been a big growth. Just seeing that and their excitement has brought me joy too." When asked how she felt things had been going in general so far in her first season she said "Way better than I expected. I've

coached before for another team and this year is going a lot smoother. The girls are really growing and accomplishing their goals because they all set goals and are able to do them". Altieri is optimistic for what the future holds and hopes to make a major impact in the cheering program.

When Altieri isn't working with the cheerleaders, she is a first grade teacher at RochesterArea Elementary School. The positivity of the children she teaches always inspires her to be better, saying "Sometimes as adults we get engulfed in the negativity, but when you see how happy they can be about a brand new pencil it just makes you go back to that part of your world". She enjoys her job very much, and when asked if there was anything she disliked about it she explained that she doesn't think so. "Every job has its challenges but I think for the most part it is really good here". Fellow teacher Lori Anthony was very generous with her words in relation to Altieri. She said "I taught with Denver last year in kindergarten and she took a lot of initiative to do things as a new teacher that I hadn't seen many other new teachers be able to do. She was just really good at figuring out what needed to be done and working as a team. She's a great team player".

It is obvious Altieri is set up to do great things at Rochester. She has the right mindset and drive to accomplish her tasks and make everyone around her better in the process. Altieri's future at Rochester is bright and full of potential in the future to come.



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Gingers are beautiful

Keara Alberts, Staff Writer

“The things that make me different are the things that make me.” (Winnie The Pooh) Growing up as a kid, me and a few other redheads were bullied for having red hair. I was bullied so much it traumatized me and it still affects me to this day. Today I still have mean kids picking on me about my appearance but I learned to block out the haters and learn to love myself and my difference, to be proud of who I am and what I look like. As a kid I treated my appearance like it was a bad thing to be different but it's definitely not. My purpose for this article is, just because you have a different physical differences about you it's not a negative trait, and to also learn to embrace your differences. It doesn't matter if you have green eyes, freckles, black hair, big hair, or if you're tall or short, embrace yourself and your differences.

I stayed at home a lot because I felt like I was unaccepted at school so I wouldn't participate. Being bullied for having pale skin, freckles, and of course red hair is very unspoken. I believe it is

unspoken because only two percent of the population in the United States are redheads. Being a redhead is such a rarity, there are only a few students in our high school that have red hair. So you might have unnoticed your fellow redheaded classmate being bullied because of his or her appearance, since nobody talks about it.

Our school is very diverse and our staff and students are very accepting towards each other, no matter your sexuality or race. But in elementary school I didn't feel so accepted because I was bullied at school for my physical appearance in elementary. Nobody in school resembled me and I had nobody to talk to about my commonalities. If you are a redhead don't be ashamed about it, be proud. Being a redhead is one of the things that make me so incredibly special. If you are being bullied about being a redhead just remember you're unique and you're beautiful. Everyone has something special and unique about them. Just remember redheads, you are not alone and be proud that you stick out.



Seniors Mya Norman & Peighton Munroe's decorated lockers.



Photo by Joe Barsic

THE man BEHIND THE MASK

Jeremiah Gallagher, Staff Writer

Most of you have had this high school teacher already, if not, you will surely have him at some point in the four years you spend at Rochy High. He's the type of person that if you are having a bad day he'd always be complimenting you or trying to cheer you up. This person has taught for 20 years at Rochester Area High School and he doesn't regret a single thing. Since the pandemic things have certainly changed for Mr. Barsic, he said "in school we have so many things changed and socially it's challenging." Even though it's been challenging he said "it's the best job in the world." This also isn't his only job he's been in before, he served in the military - as a pilot. Now with all the other options he had for a career what made him pick the teaching field? As he said "I wanted to have a purpose." At the same time though, that wasn't his plan as a child, as he said, "I wanted to be in the military and an astronaut after I saw Apollo 18." He said he learns from his students even when he teaches them skills. So I was curious, so I

asked him, how do you become a teacher? He said you need to have a high school degree, bachelors degree, 17 weeks of training and "five tests." He also enjoys hobbies such as woodwork and reading comics. His job has changed since the 20 years his been in this field, technology has changed a lot and Internet was still in its "infancy years." Including that he used to use chalkboards like we use smart boards today. The Internet used to be called dial up and for it to be used you needed a landline. Computers still used floppy discs at that time! How did the community affect his field since he's been there? As Mr.Barsic said "if I didn't love the job and the community, I wouldn't have stayed in this field for 20 years."

He had three other fields he could have chosen from, but things changed over time. He trained to become a pilot but they wouldn't accept him because he is colorblind. When he used to work in the business field, he didn't know at the time he was miserable, but his wife did. His other field (military), and his family was tired of him not being home all the time. He also used to coach track. I enjoyed interviewing Mr. Barsic and some of his most memorable lines were, "be kind to others and always be yourself, and don't worry about what anyone thinks." Now if you asked Mr.Barsic what his favorite field he was in, I can assure you he would say teaching. As he said earlier "I wouldn't have stayed in this field for 20 years". Another reason I can assure you that he loves this field is because he said "I learn new skills from teaching." I guess students learn from teachers and teachers apparently learn from students!

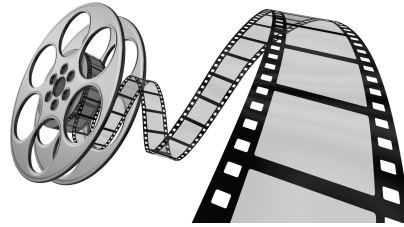
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BACK ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

(UPDATE VIRTUAL UNTIL DEC 11)



The Green Book Movie Review

Jeremiah Gallagher, Staff Writer

In America's history we have had and still have many events that divide our nation. Racial tensions still exist in our society. We need to come together as human beings and close the divide between all races and religions. By doing this we will progress and progress means we learn from our past mistakes. The movie I chose to review is a few years old but the message is still relevant today because the movie is about bridging the racial divide during the 1960's segregated south. The friendship that develops between the main characters who live completely different lives and who look different as well but find a common ground and try to overcome the hurtful ideas that exist of the time. If we all can learn something from this movie it is to judge people based on their kindness or lack of so we can be a better human race. The main actors in this movie are Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali. This movie is basically about a pianist that hires a driver and an assistant to drive him and take him to the places he needs to be in the Deep South. This movie is very good because it gives you a full image about how unequal it was back then and how society was not the best. People disrespected the musician and even the driver. I highly recommend this movie also because it gives you more and every detail about how it was for them and many others in the 1960's. This movie is mainly about the injustice the pianist and the driver faced traveling to concerts in the Deep South. In the movie people didn't care about these people's feelings

and didn't care about what they said or did they were wrongfully judged for no reason whatsoever. The driver Tony Lip even hesitated himself to drive the man because he was afraid to get judged but by the end he stood up for him especially in the scene where they enter the restaurant and are told they cannot eat or be served there. I won't tell you anymore about the film so that you can watch it yourself!! I highly recommend this movie. It is one of the best I have seen. This movie won an Academy Award for Best Picture and Best Actor in a Supporting Role according to IMDB, it will not disappoint, I promise!

AWESOME ARTWORK IN MRS. MORROW'S ROOM!

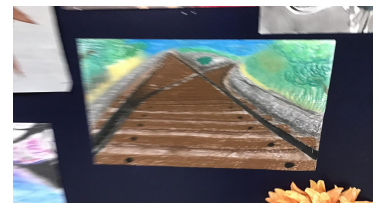
Seth Cervi, Staff Writer

Mrs. Morrow has been teaching impressionism, landscapes and perspective drawing in her classroom! Here are some awesome examples!

Photos by Seth Cervi



Rochy Artist :Nya Martin



Rochy Artist: Sal Laure (above & below)

