



the Pheasant Call

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026 VOLUME 101 - NO. 1

REDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL NEWS ~ REDFIELD, SD

www.Redfield.k12.sd.us

PHEASANT FOCUS

Spirit Week Showdown

by Ellie Rhodes

We started our homecoming week off a little unusual with no school on Monday due to Labor Day, but still had coronation later that evening. On Tuesday, the students dressed up in their coziest pjs for Arctic Day. Wednesday was Tourist Day. Students helped around the community, built floats, and wrote cards to the nursing homes. Thursday was Hawaiian Day, and all the students dressed up in bright colored shirts, leis, and grass skirts. Lastly, Friday we wear your best, flashiest Pheasant gear. Students and staff later wore these outfits to the annual homecoming football game. The theme this year was "Flying Through the Endzone." This week was fun for all.



Working Hard.

Octavia Paulsen, junior, puts tin on the dugouts at the girls softball fields for Pride Day.

Pheasant Call Staff

Ainsley Appel, Lily Covington, Kayleigh Disbrow, Lorena Evans, Aly Gruenwald, Victoria Herrera, Addi Hulscher, Lydia Jungwirth, Saige Jungwirth, Taelynn Lewis, AlleRae Nelson, Ellie Rhodes, Ava Roeber, Emma Jo Royer, Raena Rude, Hannah Schlechter, Braylee Siebrecht, Avery Van Wagner, Clarice Wurtz & Tatum Zens

Adviser Ms. Cassandra Bottum

The *Pheasant Call* is a publication of the Redfield High School Journalism Staff

Queen Charli and King Micah Seize the Throne

by Raena Rude

On September 7, 2026, at 8:00p.m, students and the Redfield community gathered in the Greeno Gym for the annual homecoming coronation to discover who their new king and queen would be. The guest speaker was head football coach, Jake Levtzow. The band, led by Justin Desens, played lots of pep band pieces followed by the school song, while the cheerleaders ran their routines. Juniors Hannah Schlechter

and Victoria Herrera served as the MCs for the annual event that started the homecoming week. On September 7, the votes had been tallied up to see who the new homecoming queen and king would be. The student body gets to vote for the homecoming court and later vote on their homecoming king and queen. The scroll bearers brought up the message of declaring war on the Bearcats, leading the 2026-

2027 homecoming king and queen to be Micah Zastrow and Charli Jungwirth. The homecoming royalty court consisted of; queen candidates: Layla Hardie, Addyson Rice, Charli Jungwirth, Kendyl Siebrecht, and Brynn Giblin. The king candidates were: Gavin Frericks, Layne Moore, Jackson Rude, Micah Zastrow, and Ayden Understock-Jessen. The guest speaker, Jake Levtzow, talked about his past high school sports career

and about perseverance and never giving up when things get hard. Levtzow quoted at the end of his speech, "Be smart, but most importantly, be kids." The ending of this ceremony was followed by the burning of the "R," lit by king Micah and Charli. Later that week the Pheasants would play the Webster Bearcats, at 7:00p.m., which resulted in a win. Redfield's first win of their season, and in three years.



Homecoming Court.

Members of the 2026 Homecoming Court include seniors (back) Addyson Rice, Layla Hardie, Jackson Rude, Ayden Understock-Jessen, (middle) Kendyl Siebrecht, Gavin Frericks, (front) Brynn Giblin, Charli Jungwirth, Micah Zastrow, and Layne Moore.

 **FOLLOW RHS ON FACEBOOK!**

 **@_thephez**

Students Make an Impact During Homecoming

by Victoria Herrera

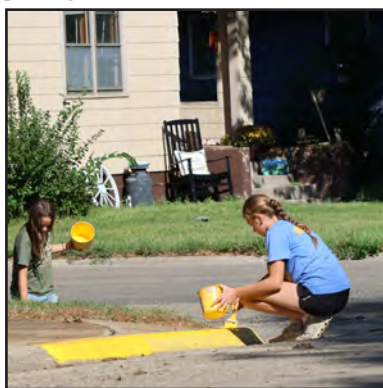
Spirit Day is a highly popular day during the homecoming week. Many students go out into the community and help out by making the town look nice and clean for the parade on Friday. There were about fourteen groups that went out and did many different things. Joel and Peyton Osborn took their group to Main Street with some kids to pull weeds on the sidewalks, clean the grocery store parking lot, weed and

clean Ledger Park, and sweep the rainbow bridge entrance. Mrs. Paige Hansen's group went to the park and painted the disc golf posts, bike path stencils, and pulled weeds. Mr. Tommy Gregg's group went to the baseball fields and took down nets and bleacher covers, painted stairs, and took out the signs that were in the outfield. Those that weren't out in the community went to a des-

ignated area and built their class float for the whole day with 9 other classmates.

"Kayleigh Disbrow and I painted posters to hang up in business windows. Stacy Marlow assisted us, and after that we went to Simply Charming as a reward for working hard," Willow Ronneberg said. "It was a very fun day with my friends, and I enjoyed doing that for my community".

Paint Pros. Aniston Whitley and Gracie Ann Wurtz paint the curbs around town in a bright yellow paint to designate no parking areas and to stand out against snow in coming months. Other groups painted other structures around town.



Curing Seasonal Depression in the Fall

As the school year continues, classes become increasingly harder, practice becomes tougher, and life in general is much more stressful than it was in the summer. In addition, the summer weather is leaving, resulting in Redfield being a wet, dreary, and sad environment. However, there are a few simple solutions we can all implement to make ourselves enjoy this fall season a little more.



For starters participating in fall activities. Fall is lots of people's favorite season, and for good reason. It has two major holidays: Halloween and Thanksgiving. This leads to plenty of things you can spend your time doing. During the fall

you can paint or carve pumpkins, decorate your house for the new season, or just take a walk-through town to make light of the weather. I know I enjoy the cool breeze in autumn brings. You could also bake a pumpkin themed treat, have a movie marathon, or have a bonfire with friends. No matter what you choose, fall is waiting to make you feel better about losing summer and having to adjust to the new school year.

Something else that can help you adjust to the new school year is supporting our school. Join a new club; all the advisors are willing to help you get started. If clubs aren't your thing, you could try out a new sport instead. Another option that requires less dedication is simply going to games RHS has weekly. The football team has a game every Friday, and the volleyball team has two games a week. Cross country and Golf have competitions often as well. Going to these events is one way to break up your day of school and show school spirit in the process.

Whether you choose to adjust to the fall by making light of the situation and trying new things, or sulk in the inevitable season depression the start of school brings is up to you. This fall, look for little things that can brighten your day and your whole day might end on a high note. RHS doesn't just have to be a school, it can be a source of entertainment too.

Together Makes a Good Team. (left to right)(back) Juniors Rollie Betten, Grady Hulscher, Isaac Banister, Zach Bonin, Hannah Schlechter.(front) Alena Grunewald, Peyton O'Daniel, Victoria Herrera, Molly Peterson, and Katryn Evans pose after building on the Junior Homecoming Float.

What Was Your Favorite Part of Homecoming?

by Ava Rober



AlleRae Nelson
freshman

"My favorite part of homecoming was the football game because we finally won a game."



Layla Hardie
senior

"My favorite part of homecoming was the actual football game itself! It was great to finally get a good win for our football team !



Karli Kraft
sophomore

"My favorite part about homecoming was getting to help out the community. Also, getting to see how Redfield can decorate the town for the week. "



Jaedyn Banister,
junior

"Other than the win- the support and encouragement from the students and fans."



Ms. McCarthy
teacher

"Pride Day was my favorite part of homecoming because I got to hang out with Mrs. Masat and assist with building the floats."

Back To The Grind, Fall Sports Begin

By Saige Jungwirth

As school starts back up again, so does the season for fall sports. Cross Country, Golf, Football, Football Sideline Cheer and Volleyball bring home lots of good victories and build teamwork, along with new skills.

The cheerleaders put some pep into every one of the football games.

Winning or losing, they cheer until the game ends. "I think the cheer season has improved a lot more than last year's sea-

son. We have one new cheerleader, and she adds new ideas and skills

to the team. I've improved with knowing the cheers better this year than last year since this is my second year of cheerleading", junior Kalli Spotanske said.

Cross Country had a successful season, too. Junior Aly Gruenwald said, "The season has definitely been different with getting new people and coming back

from an injury. I have enjoyed helping the new athletes by showing them the ropes. Cross Country has been super fun, and I've been training harder than ever which has been paying off getting me medals."

The golf team is an individual sport, but it still takes teamwork and dedication. "It started off kind of slow, but we have had more meets, and my game is starting to come around. I've

been practicing and improving in all of the aspects of my game. I am hoping to qualify for state this year as I didn't the previous years", said Micah Zastrow, senior.

The football season has started off strong, bringing home some wins and learning from the rest of the games. The Football team secured a homecoming win with a final score of 20-8 against Webster Bearcats. The Football team's hard

work during practices show during their games. "The team skills are pretty good so far this year with everyone communicating better with the coaches and the athletes. I film all of the games and help with getting water for all of the athletes. We have had some losses and a good homecoming win, but overall, I think the team is doing pretty good," junior Daw-

son Marlow said.

The volleyball season has started off strong bringing home amazing wins and new skills. The fall Sports teams have been working hard in practice, applying those skills to games and seeing that hard work. Team bonding has also helped strengthen the teams, and has helped them work better together.

Comin' In Hot, Annual Chili

Cook Off Is A Hit

By Ainsley Appel

The Friday of homecoming is filled with excitement for the

football game, the parade, and even for the pep rally. One special tradition, however, takes place between these events. While everyone mainly prepares for the battle on the field, local businesses and community members, come to compete in a battle of their own, one involving chili. This year's Chili

Cook Off had perfect weather, a great crowd, was full of conversation, and was a perfect representation of Redfield community. Held in the north side of Redfield City Park, sixteen businesses including; Community Memorial Hospital and Clinic, Heartland State Bank, Advantara, the Class of 2000 alumni, Wren Construction, Chrystal's Bar, and Schlechter Ag-Liquid

have been waiting all year to take home the trophy. A year of perfecting their recipes, trying new ingredients, and preparing for when the day would return again. Contestants compete in two categories; the People's Choice and the Judge's Choice. Each person votes; some chili is too spicy, some are too bland, and one is always just right. The winner of the People's Choice

award went to the Redfield Fire Department. As for the Judge's Choice, the winner was Gillette Law Office. The Chili Cook Off isn't just a competition, it's also a fundraiser run by the Post Prom Committee. This money from this fundraiser will help provide prizes, pay for meals and activities, and ensure that the attendees of the 2027 Pheasant Prom have a fun and memorable evening.



Cooking Up A Family Tradition.

Viviana Appel, and her daughter Julianna Appel serve people chili, representing their family business, Appel Oil.



The Most Important Meal of the Day. Peyton O'Daniel, Brynn Giblin, and Octavia Paulsen serve breakfast. This was the first year FFA hosted this event. It was a success, and will likely become an annual event.

FFA Breakfast Is A Success

By Braylee Siebrecht

This year, FFA started their year off with a community breakfast on Wednesday, September 9th. The officer Team decided at their summer

officer retreat they wanted to host a breakfast to promote community involvement. They served pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, and muffins.

They had approximately 70 people attend this breakfast. Paired with Homecoming impact day the breakfast reinforced the idea of being thankful for all

the community does for the school and FFA. This idea got the community to get together and thank those who help FFA throughout the year.

New Teachers Join the Staff

by Lydia Jungwirth and Avery Van Wagner

Starting off the school year with new teachers was a big change for some students. They had to adjust to new teaching methods and move new classrooms. This school year, we had a total of nine new teachers. In elementary school, Mrs. Kylie Rossow teaches 2nd grade, Mrs. Ashlee Brown is the elementary secretary, and Miss Kelsey Hannigan

joined title. The new special education teachers are Ms. Emily Meginness, Mrs. Paige Hansen, Mrs. Macie Geditz, and Mr. Saeed Addle. The newest addition to ECIP is Mrs. Sonia Bourk. The new science teacher for middle and high school is Mr. Mason Fey.

"As a Redfield graduate, I am excited to be back in the school system as an

educator. Redfield is meaningful to me. It is the community which my wife and I plan to build our lives. I will do my best to improve it in any way I can" Mr. Fey said.

"I did my student teaching here last year, so I am very excited to be back as a teacher! I am excited to learn, and to build connections with the students" Mrs. Hansen said.



New Faces In The School. Mrs. Kylie Rossow, Mrs. Ashlee Brown, Mrs. Paige Hansen, Ms. Meginness, Mr Fey, Mr. Saeed Addle, Mrs. Sonia Bourk, Miss Kelsey Hannigan, and Mrs. Mace Geditz smile for a picture with all of the new staff to help introduce them to the community. Being a new teacher can come with lots of changes for the teachers themselves as well as students.

7 FCCLA Students Compete at National Conference

by Kayleigh Disbrow

From July 3-10, 7 Redfield FCCLA members and 6 chaperones attended the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. For the first full day in D.C., the group went to Arlington National Cemetery and got lunch. On day two, some of the members went on a segway tour in the morning while Amelia Sjurseth and Emeri Hofeman began their National Officer Candidate process. To end the night, the group had dinner on the boardwalk and attended a night tour of the monuments. On day three, the National Conference officially began. A. Sjurseth and Hofeman completed their National Officer Candidate Fishbowl and con-

tinued the running process. Later that day, there was a state meeting and a general session. On day four, A. Sjurseth was among the top 20 national officer candidates and gave her speech on stage in front of voting delegates to complete the National Officer Candidate process. Zoe Zastrow and Summit Sjurseth presented their FCCLA Chapter Website Design project. To conclude the day, the group went to the Washington Nationals baseball game.

On day five, Jerica Ratigan presented her project in Repurpose and Redesign level 3, and Malachi Zastrow presented his project in Career Investigation, level 1. Kayleigh Disbrow presented her Nutrition and Wellness

project in the project showcase while other members networked and explored the conference in their free time. On day six, they attended the spy museum, had lunch, and went to the Holocaust museum. Later that night, during the general session, Ms. McCarthy was recognized on stage as a graduate of FCCLA's Adviser Academy Master Elite course. On the last day of the conference, S. Sjurseth and Z. Zastrow took home 1st in the nation with their Chapter Website Design project. Ratigan got a gold in Repurpose and Redesign with 16th in the Nation, and Malachi also got a gold in Career Investigation, also with 16th in the Nation.

"I think the conference went well



Representing Redfield. Members of FCCLA who attended Nationals in Orlando were Jerica Ratigan, Malachi Zastrow, Kayleigh Disbrow, Emeri Hofeman, Amelia Sjurseth, Zoe Zastrow, and Summit Sjurseth, along with their advisers Ms. Aliesha McCarthy and Mrs. Cindy Brace. There were also various chaperone like Luke Sjurseth, Karen Sjurseth, Denise Hofeman, Jaci Hofeman, and Getta Ratigan.

and it was a lot of fun for everybody! We were able to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America in Washington D.C. which was incredible and we got to learn a lot about the nation's capital. We brought home lots of gold and members

learned a lot to bring back to our chapter. We also made lots of memories! It was one of my top 5 favorite conferences! I'm very proud of all of our members who attended!" said Ms. Aliesha McCarthy, the FCCLA Adviser. Next year,

the national conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas. Coming up for the Redfield FCCLA chapter is Fall Leadership Training and the Region 4 Meeting which will be held in December.

A Season Full of Streaks and PR's

by Aly Gruenwald

A fall breeze brings forth new teammates and new skills to the home of the Pheasants. Cross Country invites new athletes to a new and bright season of running. The athletes traveled to Bowdle for their first meet, and many took top 20. Varsity and junior varsity both ran the same distance, 4K (2.5 miles), while middle school ran the same distance they usually run, a

3K (1.8 miles). This being the first meet of the season for most athletes, these distances helped them ease into the season lightly.

For varsity girls at Bowdle, Grace Lemmer placed 43rd with a time of 25:46.64, Addyson Rice placed 33rd with a time of 17:38.57 and Aly Gruenwald placed 16th with a time of 16:20.93. For junior varsity boys, Wyatt Bohn placed

18th with a time of 20:05.49, Briar Maher placed 17th with a time of 18:44.62, Carter Hansen placed 11th with a time of 16:20.36 and Malachi Zastrow placed 7th with a time of 15:51.15.

For the Redfield Invite varsity girls, Grace Lemmer placed 41st with a time of 36:45.26, Peyton O'Daniel placed 36th with a time of 28:16.61, Addyson Rice placed 25th with

a time of 25:00.99 and Aly Gruenwald placed 8th with a time of 22:15.12. For junior varsity boys, Wyatt Bohn placed 42nd with a time of 19:17.73, Briar Maher placed 38th with a time of 19:05.90, Malachi Zastrow placed 13th with a time of 16:35.77 and Carter Hansen placed 12th with a time of 16:26.90.

For the Roncalli Invite varsity girls, Grace Lemmer placed 35th with

a time of 36:37.50 and Aly Gruenwald placed 17th with a time of 23:57.30. For boys junior varsity, Briar Maher placed 29th with a time of 19:12.40, Wyatt Bohn placed 25th with a time of 19:02.50, Malachi Zastrow placed 14th with a time of 17:31.30 and Carter Hansen placed 8th with a time of 16:48.70.

For the Deuel Invite varsity girls, Peyton O'Daniel placed 33rd with a time of 25:55.00, Addyson Rice placed 23th with

a time of 24:02.20 and Aly Gruenwald placed 18th with a time of 22:37.20. For girls junior varsity, Grace Lemmer placed 30th with a time of 17:32.90. For boys junior varsity, Wyatt Bohn placed 37th with a time of 13:33.90, Briar Maher placed 36th with a time of 13:27.60, Carter Hansen placed 13th with a time of 12:03.90 and Malachi Zastrow placed 7th with a time of 11:38.40.

Sideline Football Cheer

by Addi Hulscher

The Redfield Cheerleaders have had a great start to their season. The games may not always go in the Pheasant's favor, but the cheerleaders are always there to get the fans cheering. They play a big part in the football games and the overall homecoming experience. For homecoming, they started off the week by dancing at coronation and cheering

during the burning of the "R". At the end of the week, they danced for the pep rally, keeping the school spirit high, then led the yelling of the jug competition. That night, at the homecoming football game, the cheerleaders threw t-shirts during timeouts and half time. The girls kept the crowd energy up and brought spirit and pride until the end of the game. The cheerleaders led the

school song for the whole crowd to sing after winning the big game. This year's football cheer squad consists of nine cheerleaders: Emeri Hofeman (12), Jessie Ratigan (12), Amelia Sjurseth (12), Aleah Bebo (12), Lorena Evans (12), Aly Gruenwald (11), Kalli Spotanske (11), Jaedyn Banister (11) and Addi Hulscher (9). The Pheasant cheerleaders are coached by Mrs. Terri Akin.



Lady Pheasants Volleyball

by Aly Gruenwald

Starting the lady pheasant volleyball season, the score is 4-9. The team won against Florence Henry (3-0), Leola Frederick (3-2), Sisseton (3-0) and Sunshine Bible (2-0). They lost to Miller (0-3), Milbank (2-3), Roncalli (0-3), Hitchcock Tulare (0-3), Deuel (1-3), Langford Area (0-2), Wolsey-Wessington (0-2), Mount Vernon/Plankinton (2-3) and Britton-Hecla

(0-3).

"The volleyball season is definitely not super easy, but the girls work really hard and put in the time. I am proud of the work they put in and how they are going to take it into their future. We haven't won every set or every game, but some teams are tough and we just need to work a little harder to get the results we want and more victories," said

coach Tonee Cramer. The coaches Morgan Schultz, Tonee Cramer and Jessica Levtzow put in the work also by training their athletes every day after school until 5:30 helping them improve their skills and teamwork. The lady pheasants compete in a volleyball tournament hosted by Redfield on October 3.

OOOOOH ACE! Octavia Paulsen (11), Ellie Rhodes (10), Ainsley Appel (10), Raena Rude (10), Braylee Siebrecht (10) and Miley Fountain (11) come together to celebrate an ace that Fountain got in the first set. The Pheasants won the game against Florence Henry. (3-0). The sets were won by a landslide (25-14, 25-10, 25-16).



We Rah Rah Redfield High School! Football cheerleaders start the cheer for the annual yelling of the jug. Each grade level in the middle school and high school had a chance to yell as loud as they could. The sophomore class was the overall winner.

Senior Spotlight

Grace Lemmer is the daughter of Doug and



Kari Lemmer. Her siblings are Hannah and Shelby. She has been involved in Volleyball(7), Basketball(5), Track(5), Golf(4), Softball(3), Cross Country(1),

Trap Shooting(2), NJHS(2),

NHS(2), Youth Group/CCD(13), FFA(5),

FBLA(4), Student Council(1). After high school

,Grace plans to attend the University of North Dakota for a major in Commercial Aviation, as well as a B.S in Aeronautics and she also plans to join the Air Force ROTC.



Hannah Lemmer is the daughter of Doug and Kari Lemmer. Her siblings are Grace and Shelby. One thing

she most enjoys is hockey

because she enjoys skating and the amount of skill required to perform and still make it look effortless. Her favorite junior high memory is soaking a student with her water bottle and somehow not getting into trouble for it.



Micah Zastrow is the son of Melissa and Austin Zastrow. His siblings are Zoe and Malachi. After high school, Micah plans to attend a 4-year university

which is still undecided,

to pursue a career in engineering. He has been involved in Basketball(7), Baseball(6), Track(7), Golf(7), NJHS(2), NHS(2), Band(7).

Emeri Hofeman is the daughter of David and



Denise Hofeman. Her siblings are Jade, Kaden, and Jaci. One accomplishment she is most proud of is running for a leadership team in FCCLA. After high

school, she plans to attend a 4-year university to pursue law. One belief that guides her is, "life is too short to let negative people rent space in your head, including your own self-doubt."

The Fall/Spring of 2026 Golf Seasons

By: Taelynn Lewis

For the first golf meet, Jace Edgar, freshman, said that "The meet was not the worst, but there definitely was room for improvement." Jace joined the golf team in 8th grade, and he joined because he said, "it is really fun and I enjoy being on the course." His season is going well, and he said that he "has been working on improving a lot and is looking to keep improving." This

year's golf season started off on August 17, 2026, in Volga. This year's golf season, the team will travel and compete in Volga, Groton, Mitchell, Milbank, and Fisher's Grove for the home meets. Although they don't have many golf meets this year, all of the boys still try their hardest to PR. For the girls meets, since the last publication, in April of 2026, they traveled to Sisseton, Milbank, Aberdeen, Groton, Mad-

ison, and Mitchell. Unfortunately, the girls' golf team did not make it to state, which took place on June 7-8 2026.



Concentrating On the Chip

Sophomore Hudson Rische focuses on trying to chip the ball onto the green during the Fischer's Grove meet.

Kicking Off the Football Season

By: AlleRae Nelson

Although the football team had a rough start, there have been some positives. "We knew coming into this season that we had our work cut out for us. We faced some tough teams right out of the gate, and the season started a little rough, but our players have really bought into our coaching style and embraced the challenge of getting better each week. During homecoming week, that dedication started to pay off and showed up on the scoreboard. We want to continue making that same progress each week, keep believing in what we're doing, and I trust that that the wins will follow," said Coach Pudwill. The first game they played this year was on August 21st

against Great Plains Lutheran in Watertown. The score for that game was 0-42, with the Pheasants collecting a loss. In their second game, RHS played the Ipswich Tigers in Redfield, losing 0-50. Their third game came around, and the boys lost against Waubay-Summit on September 4th, the score for the game

was 0-50. For the Pheasant's homecoming game, they played the Webster Bearcats in Redfield on September 11 at 7pm. For that game, the Pheasants secured their first big win with a final score of 22-8. The Pheasants had a pretty good game, and they are proud to say they finally won a game. This win then

broke their 21-game losing streak. "It was a great feeling to be able to break that three year losing streak with the guys that we have. We have been having fun on and off the field and continue to get better. I hope we can continue to win more games," said Sophomore Kasey Hermann.



Moving the Ball Down Field

Junior Tate Neuharth takes a hand off and runs down the field towards the end zone against the Ipswich Tigers.