

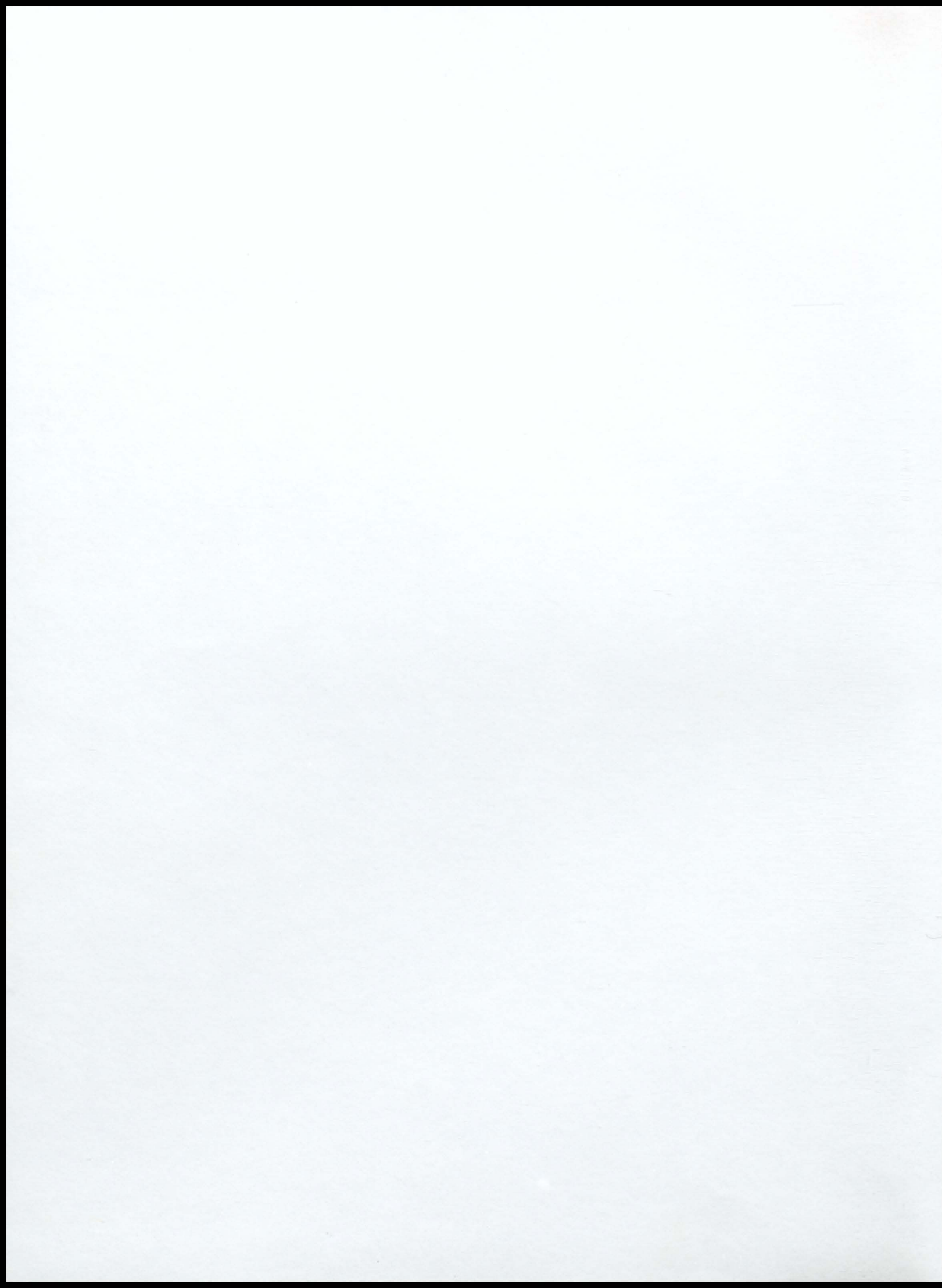


Enter a New Era

(2008 RAILROADER)

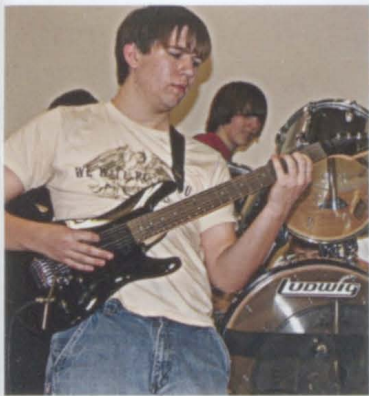






ELLIS

Enter a New Era



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Ellis High School

1706 Monroe

Ellis, Kansas 67637

785-7263151

usd388.k12.ks.us

Class 2A

141 students

2008
Railroader

Title Page

Bailey Deutscher



Winter

Every year

brings new changes into our lives. Sometimes they're good, sometimes they're bad. Yet, we continue to throttle forward and run full steam ahead. New laptops, classes, and Teachers made their way into Ellis High School, but there is always the Return of old friends to greet us on that first day back and make

the drama of high school A little more sufferable. Not only is the school changing, the world around it is, too.

Our music is shifting gears into

Easy-going, feel-good melodies of artists such as

a new era Sarah Barielles and Colbie Col-

lait. The possibility of the United States having either its first Woman

or African-American president is closely

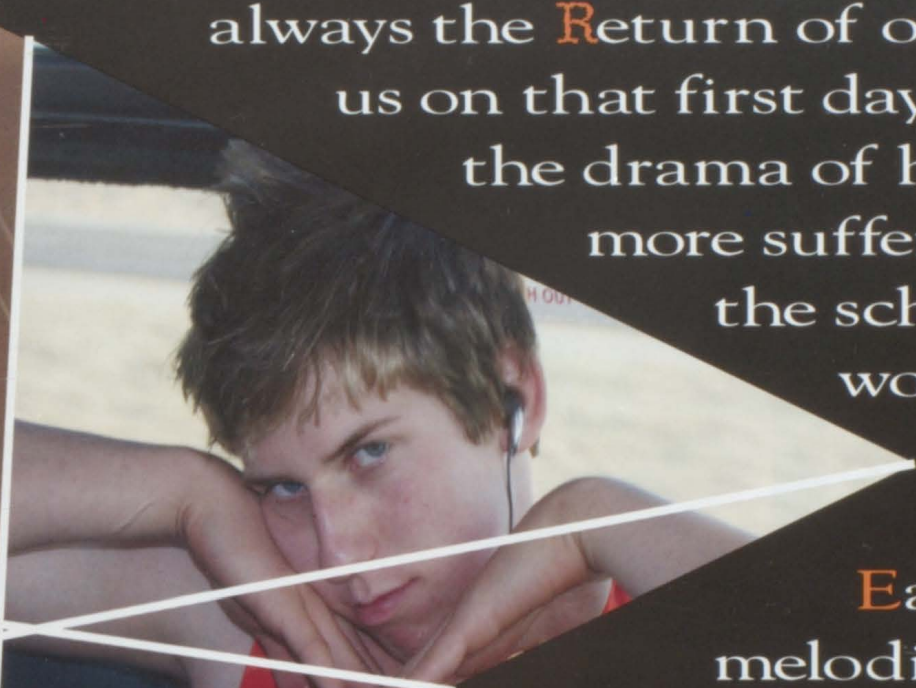
dawning. Organic bags and t-shirts are making "going green" the new black. Each day brings us a

little bit closer to the parting of the seniors, and

the arrival of a new horde of freshman, Ready to leave their mark. Today is the day to make A

change in the world, to make it a better place for

the next. It's time to ENTER A NEW ERA.





Jukebox Hero

During the pep band's performance, senior Michael Young plays his guitar to get the crowd and the players fired up for the basketball games. "I love being everybody's jukebox before and during the games," Young said.

Photo by Deana Hunsicker

E_CCENTRIC

P E O P L E

(A NETWORK
OF STUDENTS)



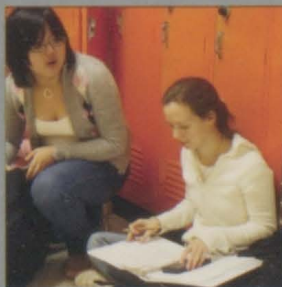
Hard Work Pays Off

Seniors Justin Gnad, Danny Desaire, and Brian Riedel choose their refreshments during At-Risk day. Students are rewarded for not having incompletes, failing grades, or zeroes and can participate in fun activities like dodgeball, basketball, and Got Talent? *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



E-H-S!

Students show their spirit for the Railers making it to state in Manhattan. Many students dressed up and created posters to cheer on the team. The 7th graders put each player's face onto a paint stick for fans to wave in support of the ladies. *Photo by Bailee Bittel*



Study Abroad

Before class, Janet Huang and Susan Beres study in the halls. Huang came to EHS as a foreign exchange student from China, and Beres came from Hungary. Tina Jaekel and Evelyn Dodeman, both from Germany, also lived and studied in Ellis. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



Got Talent?

Sophomores Paige Reilly, Danielle Weber, and Kayla Jacques dance to "Thriller" during the Got Talent show put on by the National Honor Society for At-Risk Day. "It took forever to get the dance right. With us getting so easily distracted and Micheal Jackson having such wicked moves, it took a while," Reilly said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Forensic Fun

Junior Ciera Hespe enjoys her spare time at the Forensics tournament hosted by Ellis. "We decided to boost the morale of the people and get them excited," Hespe said. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

People

Bailey Deutscher

| Closing Time |

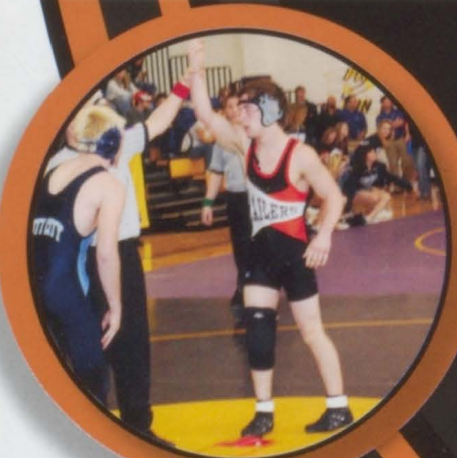
A Class Beyond Compare



Computer Concentration Lauren Wheeler works contently on her laptop in Mrs. Howard's computer class. Seniors got to enjoy one year of having their own laptops. *Staff Photo*



Priceless Smile Kayla Hollern shows her love for EHS while wearing the school colors, orange and black, during spirit week. The homecoming game was played against Smith Center. *Staff Photo*



Celebrating a Victory Kevin Urban gets the sweet smell of victory and relief when he beats his opponent at the Wakeeney wrestling tournament. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

When closing time approaches and the seniors look back on the greatest and worst times of their high school years, they would all concur that even though many of their days consisted of bickering and arguing with one another, when it came down to it, everyone proved they had each other's back.

Tracing way back to grade school, the graduating class of 2008 was known for hassling each other, not so much in a crude way, but just in the sense that that was how they were. Many students' best and worst memories come from the Junior Class Play which didn't fall into place for numerous reasons, taking a lot of heat from the EHS student body and community. Either way, it left a big impact on the school and the way the play is held today.

"My favorite class memory was coming together to do the junior class play...wait that didn't happen...but

our class does get a bad rep and most of our class accepts and admits that, but I won't..." Zack Gehring said.

While this class has had moments of disagreement, there have also been moments that have proven they are successful when they work together. In order to redeem themselves, the class put on a spectacular Prom to prove the gossip wasn't true.

"Our class had a lot of money in the previous year from concession stands, and I think that enabled us to do a really nice job with decorations, food, and the night as a whole," Ryan Bittel said.

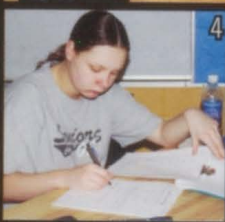
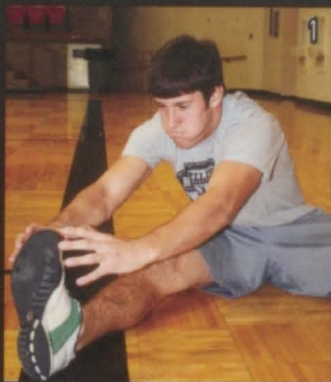
Whether it be arguing about an argument, comparing the incomparable, or sticking up for someone who just yesterday we were picking on, the senior class will leave their impression on the school. It'll be a class that won't easily be forgotten for the impacts and traditions they've broken and set throughout their years at EHS.

1. Work It Out Justin Gnad makes sure he doesn't pull anything by stretching before his hard workout in GPD. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

2. Prom Night Danny Desaire and Melissa Nowlin rehydrate after a long night of dancing. *Photo by Jill Wood*

3. Railer Cheer Katelyn Keller shouts on the Lady Railers for a victory against Spearville. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

4. Seminar Study Denise Totten works hard during seminar to get her homework done. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



5. I Want Some! Ashley Stroda and Bailey Deutscher eat some delicious Wheat Thins while in Mr. Amrein's web page class. *Staff Photo*

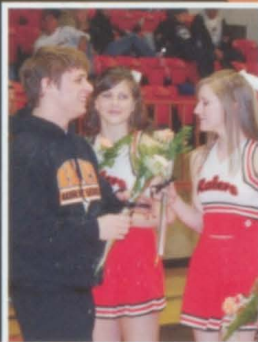
6. Go, Fight, Win! The seniors help boost the Lady Railer spirit before they go to Manhattan for state basketball. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

7. Pumping Some Iron Amber Ellis lifts weights in girls GPD. This class was new and available for female students this year. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

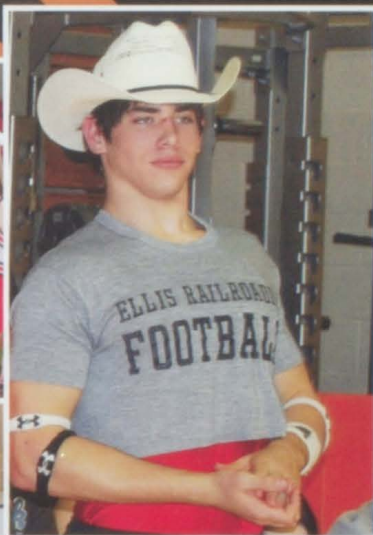
8. Poker Party! Danny Desaire, Katelyn Keller, and Ryan Bittel play a crazy game of poker during Mr. Mick's class. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

9. Pretty Colors KAY president Deana Hunsicker examines her four leaf clover during the Mr. Blabbermouth activity. *Staff Photo*

Senior Good-bye During a wrestling meet in Ellis, Zack Gehring receives flowers from the cheerleaders for Senior Night. Photo by Deana Hunsicker



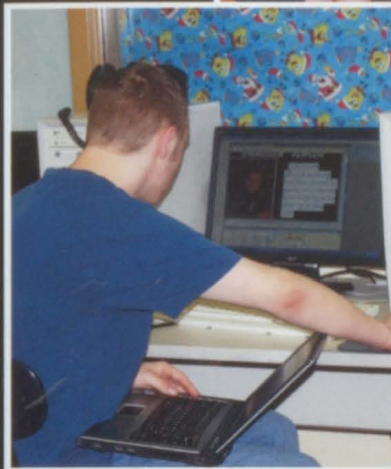
Glory Road John Tricks shows his school spirit by wearing orange and black to all the Ellis home games. Photo by Katelyn Keller



Forensics Fun Vanessa North performs her solo for Forensics Night held April 28th. Most all the Forensics members participated in the activity. Photo by Bailey Deutscher



Project Preparation Tom Totten works to make a great senior video in Mr. Amrein's class. Photo by Sarah Fischer



Make it Stick Erick Estrada glues on a piece to his woods project in Mr. Zervas' class. Mr. Zervas is planning on retiring after this year. Photo by Sarah Fischer



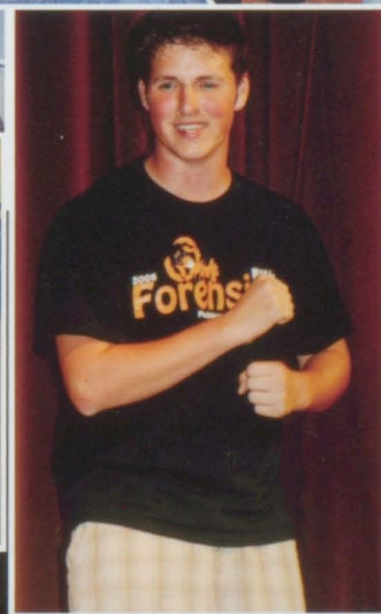
Senior Spooning! Some of the senior class enjoys an hour of snuggling while watching "Hamlet." Photo by Ryan Bittel



Graduation Getdown Getting ready to graduate, Michael Young, receives his cap and gown from Mrs. Howard. Photo by Ryan Bittel



Project Concentration Daniel Gottschalk works hard on his welding project in Mr. Zervas's class. Photo by Sarah Fischer



Forensics Night Aaron Pfannenstiel performs his prose for the parents and students that came to Forensics Night. Photo by Bailey Deutscher



Laptop Lounge Cody Gehrer concentrates hard on his homework and utilizes his time on his laptop during class. Photo by Sarah Fischer

Break Time Deana Hunsicker and Ryan Bittel stop to take a break during a journalism work night to play knockout. Photo by Brooke Graves

Ryan James Bittel

"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to the words of knowledge. As he thinks in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:12, 7

Ryan, we are so proud of you and how, through your school years, you've made smart choices, worked hard and became a young man of integrity and honor. We wish you much success on this solid foundation you've laid for yourself.

We love you!
Congratulations on your graduation.
Mom, Dad, and Carlie

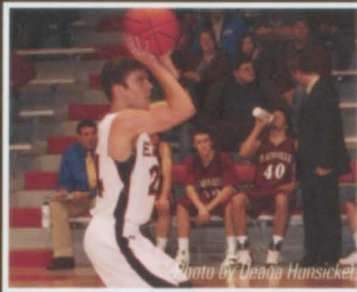


Photo by Deana Hunsicker

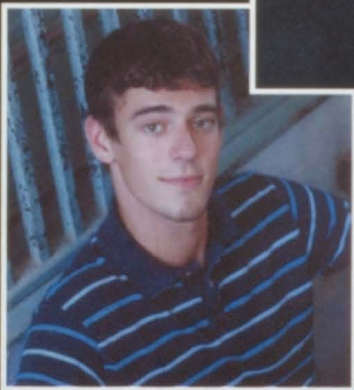
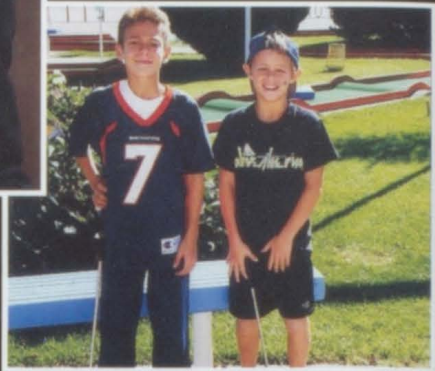
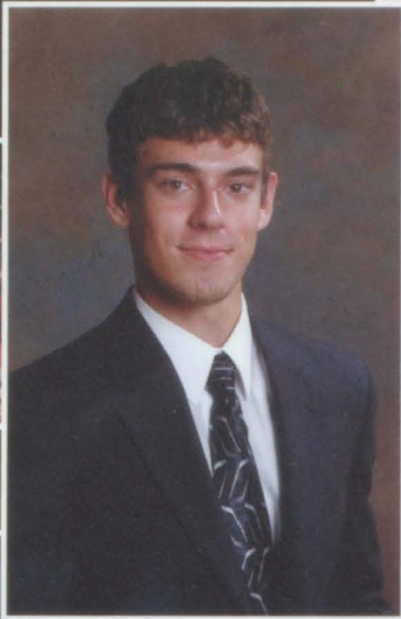


Photo by Marya Hollen

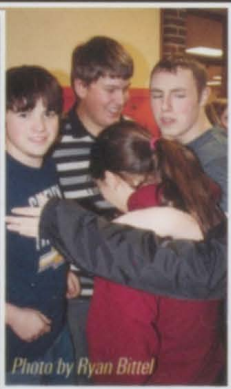
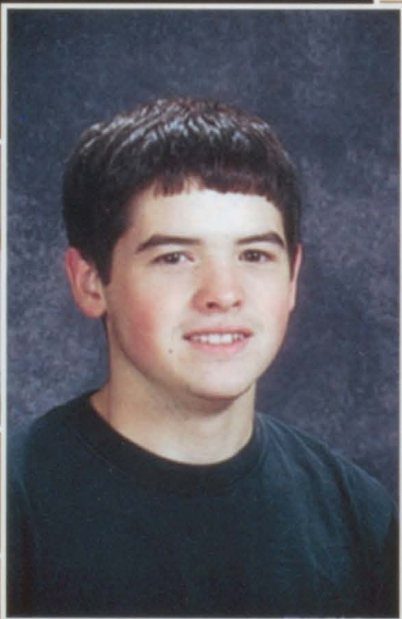


Photo by Ryan Bittel

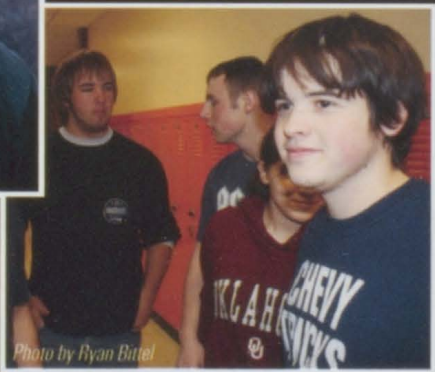


Photo by Ryan Bittel

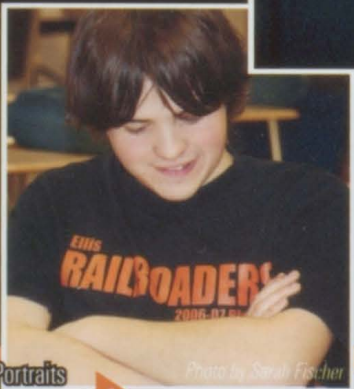


Photo by Sarah Fischer

Congratulations, Kylor!

Kylor Don Campbell

(Daniel Joseph Desaire)

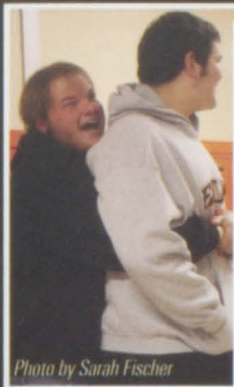


Photo by Sarah Fischer



Congratulations Danny!
You have made me very
proud. Good luck in
everything you do.
We love you!
Mom and Kimberly



You have shown yourself to
be a strong, capable, bright
young woman. No doubt
about your success
in the future.
Much love from
all of your family!



Photo by Ellis Review

Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

(Bailey Lois Deutscher)

Amber Rose Ellis

Congratulations baby girl. We are all so very proud of you and of how much you have grown. Your independence and strong will is going to take you a long way. Hope all your dreams come true. We love you Amber Rose.

All our love,
Mom, Dad, Geddy, and Rusty

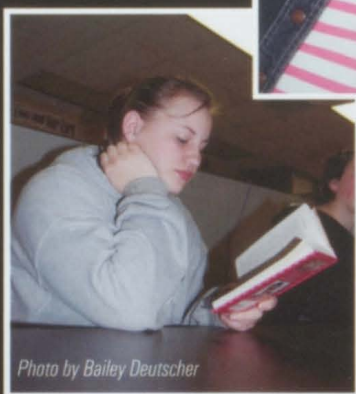


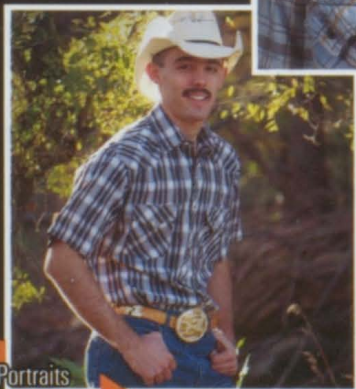
Photo by Bailey Deutscher



Photo by Sarah Fischer

Congratulations, Erick!
We are so proud of you. We wish you the best of luck, and remember, we are always here for you.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Jessica,
and Mariela



Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

Erick Raul Estrada

Todd Mitchell Flinn

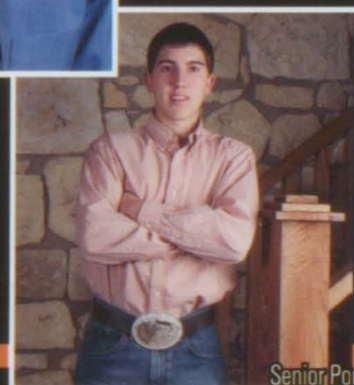


You are a bright star in my life.
Now it is time for you to shine
on the world. May all your
dreams come true.

Love,
Mom



It's been quite a ride so far and
we hope the future only gets
better!
Love ya,
Mom, Dad, and Kelsey



Cody David Gehrer

Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

(Zachary Ray Gehring)

Bug! Watching you grow up has been a joy. Thanks for the wonderful memories. We look forward to seeing you achieve all your goals and dreams in the future.

Love,
Mom, Matt, and Nick

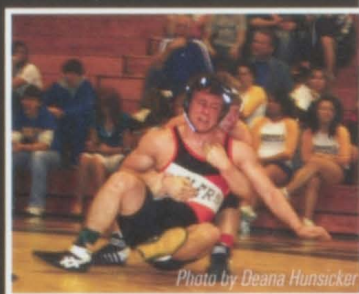


Photo by Deana Hunsicker



Photo by Bailey Deutscher

We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments. You have worked so hard. May all your dreams come true. We love you so much. Mom, MJ, and Aaron

(Justin Wayne Gnad)

Daniel Wayne Gottschalk

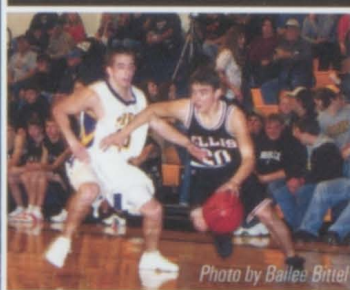


Photo by Bailee Bittel



You have your own blend of so many qualities; a magnificent combination of feelings, hopes, thoughts, and dreams. We want you to know what a gift it was to be your parents. One wish for you is to find joy, happiness, and to settle peacefully in the adult life you are about to enter. Our love for you is never-ending. Mom, Dad, Michelle, Mason, and Madison

If we could take all the memories of the past 18 years and wrap them into a beautiful package, it wouldn't be near the gift you've given to us—your caring ways, your talent, and your love of life. You have made us very proud and we love you.

Mom, Dad, Shelby, and Jenny

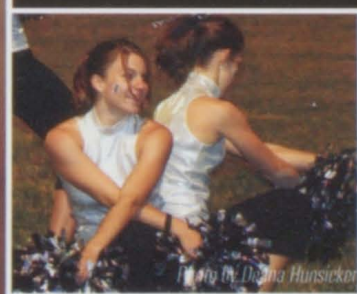


Photo by Deanna Hunsicker



Kayla Jean Hollern

Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

Deana Lee Hunsicker

WOW! Our baby girl has grown into a beautiful, caring, responsible young lady. We are so proud to call you our daughter and "sissy". Always remain true to yourself and your personal goals, but most of all never forget to come home. We already miss you!

With all our love,
Mom, Dad, & Riley



Photo by Ryan Bittel

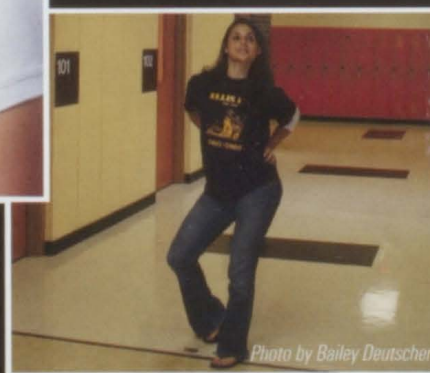


Photo by Bailey Deutscher

Best of luck!!

Love,
Dad, Laycie, and Emily

Wishing you a lifetime of happiness just like you've given me by being a daughter who has made me proud.

Keep smiling.
Love you lots,
Mom

Katelyn Anne Keller

Meredith Rose Keller



Congratulations!
We are proud of the young
woman you have become.
Keep up the good work and
have faith in yourself.

God Bless.

Love,

Mom, Dad, and Rachel



From a beautiful baby to a
wonderful young lady we have
watched you grow. Always
keep looking to the stars and
follow your dreams. We are
very proud of you and
love you very much.

Dad, Mom, Laura, Ryan,
Glenn Jr., Jeremy, and Jayden



Jessica Lee Lacy

Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

(Vanessa Marie North)

You came into this world with a smile on your face and sunshine in your heart. You'll never know how much you've touched our lives. Now it's time for us to let you go out and share it with the world.

We'll love you always!

Mom and Dad, Amber, Tyler, and Jean



Photo by Ryan Bittel



Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

Congratulations! Melissa, we are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments. What a tremendous joy it has been watching you blossom from a shy little girl to a beautiful, independent young lady. Best wishes for the future.

We love you!

Dad and Mom
Brooke and Payton

(Melissa Renee Nowlin)

Aaron Anthony Pfannenstiel



Courtesy Photo



We are so proud of everything you have accomplished so far...and this is only the beginning!

No matter where you go in life or what you decide to do, we are sure you will continue to shine!

Always remember:

The possibilities are endless!
Love Mom, Dan, and Grandpa



Congratulations! We love you and are very proud of all your accomplishments. We wish you success and happiness in everything you do.

Love,
Dad, Mom,
Lynn, and Derek



Photo by Sarah Fischer



© Pioneer Photography



Senior Portraits

Danielle Marie Pfeifer

Bailey Deutscher

Brian Lee Riedel

We are very proud of you and
we love you more than you
will ever know. We wish you
success in all you
set out to do.
Congratulations!



The future lies before you,
like a field of driven snow,
be careful how you tread it,
for every step will show.
We are so proud of you and
we can't wait to see what your
future holds. Good luck!

We love you!
Mom, Dad, Mallory, and
Grandma

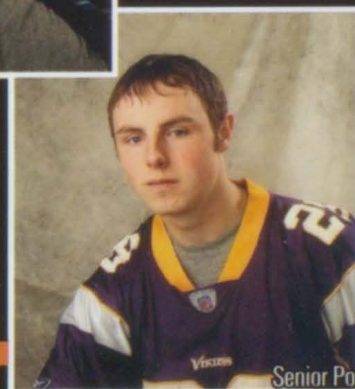
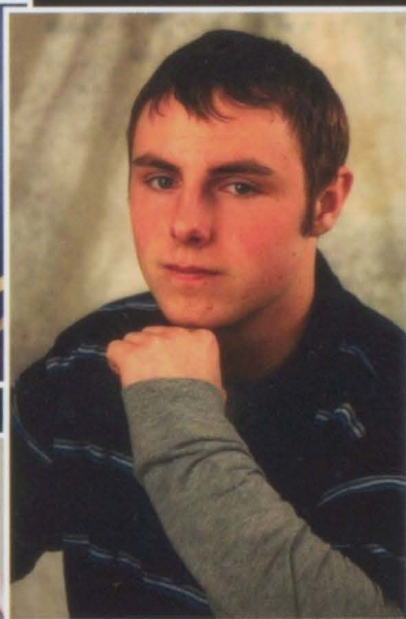
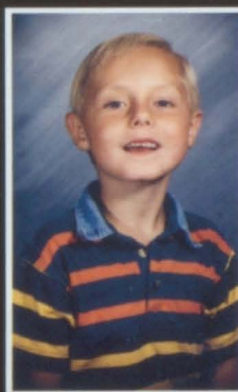
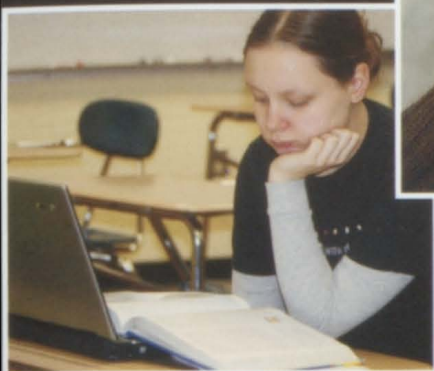


Ashley Christine Stroda

Denise Ann Totten



We knew you could do it! We
are very proud of you and love
you very much.
Mom and Dad



Thomas Lee Totten

Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

(John Thomas Tricks)

"You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself any
direction you choose."

-Dr. Seuss

This is just the first step. We
know you can accomplish
whatever you want.

We love you!

Mom & Dad



Photo by Sarah Fischer

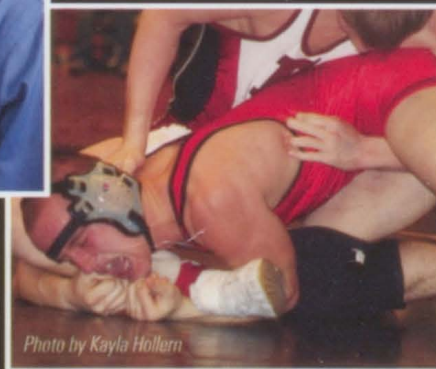
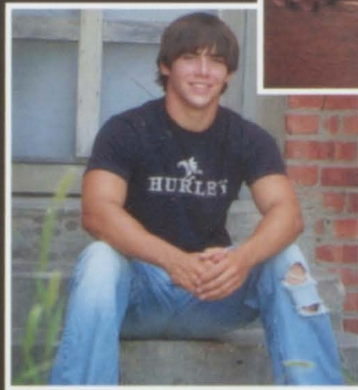
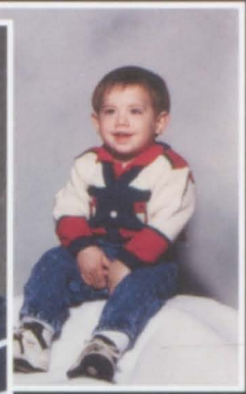
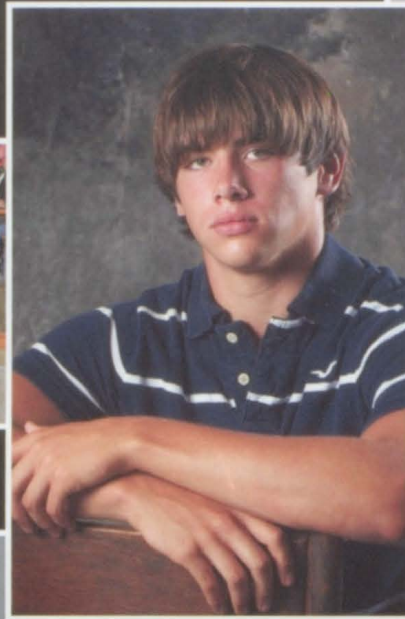
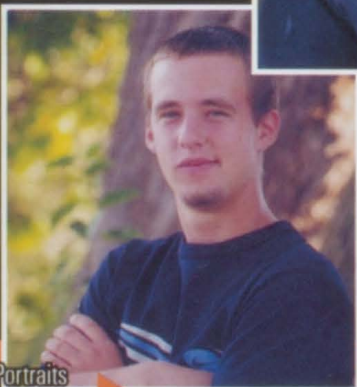


Photo by Kayla Hollern

We are so proud of you and
all you have accomplished. So
wherever you go and whatever
you do with your future, our
love and best wishes are with
you always.

Mom, Dad, Clint, and Kyle



Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

20

(Kevin Robert Urban)

Lauren Alexis Wheeler



May your future always hold
a crown of daisies. Have faith
that all things are possible. We
will always be here for you!

Love,
Mom and Jessica



Pioneer
photography



"Music is the explosion
of the soul"

Michael we are so proud of
you. It has been an adventure
watching you grow up. Now
go show the world what's
in your soul!

We love you,
Mom, Dad, Kim,
Chris, and Stephanie



© Pioneer
Photography

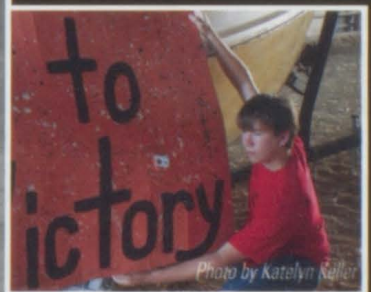
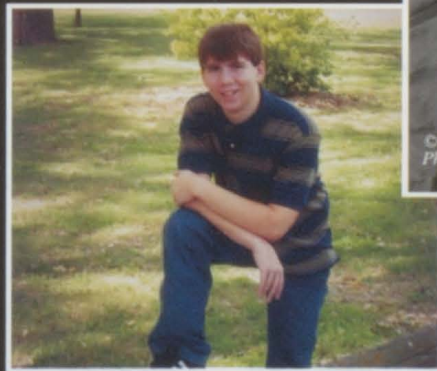


Photo by Katelyn Keller



Michael Benjamin Young

Senior Portraits

Bailey Deutscher

Senior

Ryan Bittel All A Honor Roll 9, 10, 11; Webpage 12; Journalism 11; Journalism Copy Editor 12; Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12; Track 9; Golf 10, 11, 12; LinkCrew Leader 12; Who's Who Among American High School Students 9, 10; Journalism Regional First Place Editorial Writing 11; FHSU Math Relays 10; STUCO Member 12; Class President 12; Class Vice-President 11; Band 9, 10

Kylor Campbell Cross Country 10; FFA 10, 11

Daniel Desaire Football 9; Wrestling 10, 11; Golf 9, 10, 11, 12; FFA 9, 10; Forensics 9, 10; SADD 9, 10, 11, 12

Bailey Deutscher Perfect Attendance 11, 12; Honor Roll 10, 11; Volleyball 9; Basketball 9, 10, 11; Track 9; Track Manager 10; Journalism 11, 12; Journalism Business Manager 11; Journalism Editor 12; Journalism State Qualifier 11, 12; State Journalism Placer 11; Snoball Royalty 10, 12; Snoball Princess 10; Prom Server 11; KAYS 9, 10, 11, 12; KAYS Board Member 11; FCCLA 9, 12; Web Page 11, 12; Choir 9,10; SADD 9, 10, 11, 12

Amber Ellis KAYS 9,10; Webpage 10, 11

Erick Estrada Basketball 10; Golf 10; FFA 12; Choir 9, 10, 11; Railairres 11; Band 9, 10; Snoball Royalty 11

Todd Flinn All-A Honor Roll 9, 10, 11, 12; Class President 9, 11; Stuco President 12; Stuco 9, 10, 11, 12; Class Vice-President 12; National Honor Society 11, 12; Site Council Service Award 11, 12; FFA 9, 10; SADD 11, 12; Math Relays 9, 10, 12; Site Council 12; Link Crew Leader 12; Scholars Bowl 12; Webpage 11, 12; Football 9; Cross Country 10, 11, 12; Basketball 9, 10; Track 9, 10, 11, 12

Cody Gehrer Basketball 9, 10, 11; Baseball 9, 10, 11; FFA 9, 10, 11, 12

Zack Gehring Wrestling 9, 10, 11, 12; Football 9, 10, 12; Webpage 12; Golf 10, 11; Kays 11; Homecoming King 12; Snoball Royalty 9

Justin Gnad Honor Roll 9, 10, 11, 12; Prom Server 10; Homecoming Royalty 12; Webpage 12; National Honor Society Vice-President 11, 12; Who's Who Among American High School Students 10; FFA 9; FFA Officer 10; Student Council 10, 11; Student Council Vice-President 12; Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Local Radio Player of the Week 11; Salina Journal Honorable Mention 11; Topeka Capital-Journal Honorable Mention 11; MCL 2nd Team Running Back and Honorable Mention Linebacker 11; Wrestling 9,10,11, 12; Track 9, 10, 11, 12; 4th Place State Power Lifting 11

Daniel Gottschalk Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12; Golf 10, 11; Track 12; FFA Member 9,10,11,12; FFA Officer 10; FCCLA 12; Prom Server 10; Homecoming Royalty 12; Colby All-Star Team 12; MCL Honorable Mention 12; Kansas Jayhawk Barnstorming Tour 12; First Team Wide Receiver, Defensive Back, Kicker, and Punter 12; All-State Wichita Eagle and Topeka Capital-Journal First Team Tight End and Kicker 12; Hays Daily Super Eleven 12

Kayla Hollern Honor Roll 9,10,11,12; Who's Who Among American High School Students 10; KAYS 9, 10, 11, 12; KAYS Board 10, 11, 12; Snoball Royalty 10; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12; Track 9,10; STUCO 12; FCCLA 11, 12; FCCLA Historian 12; Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Flag Team 9, 10, 11, 12; Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12; Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Choir Vice-President 12; Railairres 9, 10, 11, 12; Link Crew 12; SADD 9, 10, 11, 12; SADD Vice-President 11, 12; KMEA District Honor Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Class Secretary 9; Class Treasurer 10, 11; Homecoming Royalty 12; National Honor Society 11, 12; Perfect Attendance 9, 10, 11, 12; Forensics 9; Journalism 12; STUCO Secretary 12; Flag Captain 11, 12; Peer Tutoring 12

Deana Hunsicker Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9,10; Wrestling Manager 11, 12; Track 9, 10, 11; Band 9, 11; Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Railairres 9, 11, 12; FCCLA 9; KAYS 9, 10, 11, 12; KAY Board Member 10; KAY Officer 11,12; Webpage 11,12; Link Crew Leader 12; Journalism 12; Snoball Royalty 11

Katelyn Keller Honor Roll 9, 10, 11, 12; KAYS 9, 10, 11, 12; Band 9; Webpage 9, 10, 11; Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12; Cheerleading 11, 12; Basketball 9, 10, 11; Golf 9, 10; FFA 10, 11, 12; Class Secretary 12; Journalism 12; FHSU Math Relays 10; Who's Who Among American High School Students 10; Snoball Royalty 12

If we cannot find the road

Activities

Meredith Keller Volleyball Manager 9, 10; Boys Basketball Manager 9, 10, 11, 12; FCCLA 9, 10, 11, 12; KAYS 9, 10, 11, 12; Web Page 12; Band 9, 10; Choir 9, 10; SADD 12; Class Secretary 11; Class Treasurer 12; FCCLA Historian 11; FCCLA Vice President of Public Relations 12; A-B Honor Roll 11; Site Council Service Award-20 hours 10,11

Jessica Lacy A-B Honor Roll 12; Webpage 12; Volleyball 9, 10; Softball 9, 10, 11; FCCLA 9, 10, 11; KAYS 9, 10, 11

Vanessa North Perfect Attendance 9, 10, 11; Volleyball Manager 11,12; Track 9, 10, 11, 12; FCCLA 9, 10; Forensics 9, 10, 11, 12; EHS Play 12; KAYS 9, 10, 11, 12; KAYS Officer 12; KAYS Board Member 11; Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; KMEA Choir 11; Railairres 9, 10, 11, 12; Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Band Officer 12; Snoball 9; Link Crew 12; Regional and State Music Festival Participant 9, 10, 11, 12

Melissa Nowlin Honor Roll 9, 10, 11,12; Webpage 9; FCCLA 9; KAYS 10, 11; SADD 12

Aaron Pfannenstiel Honor Roll 9,10,11,12; Best in Show of 10th Grade Drafting 10; Best in Show of 11th Grade Drafting 11; Best in State Drafting 11; 1st Place Drafting Drawing Goodland Contest 11; FCCLA 9,10,11,12; SADD 9,10,12; Student Council 11; KAYS 12; Writer's Circle 10; FCCLA Treasurer 11; Student Council At Large Member 11; FCCLA President 12; FCCLA District V.P. of Star Events 12; Football Manager 10; Forensics 9,10,11,12; State Wrestling Web Team 10,11,12; Golf 9,10,12; State Forensics Qualifier 9,10,11; State Forensics Semi-Finalist 9,11; State Forensics Finalist 11

Danielle Pfeifer Volleyball 9, 10; Cross Country 11, 12; Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12; Track 9, 10, 11, 12; FCCLA 9; KAYS 9, 10, 11, 12; KAY Board Member 10, 12; KAY Officer 11; SADD 11, 12; Webpage 11, 12; Link Crew 12; National Honor Society 11, 12; STUCO 12; Math Relays 9; A-B Honor Roll 9, 10; A Honor Roll 11; MCL Basketball All-League Team 9, 10, 11; Forensics 9; Band 9, 10; Choir 9, 10; Snoball Candidate 9, 11, Homecoming Royalty 12

Brian Riedel FFA 9, 10, 11, 12; Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Railairres 9, 10, 11, 12; Band 9, 10, 11; Basketball 9, 10; Golf 10, 11

Ashley Stroda Who's Who Among High School Students 11, 12; Journalism 12; Volleyball 12; Basketball 9; Track 9, 12; Cheerleading 9, 10, 11; FFA 11; Forensics 12; KAYS 12; Homecoming Royalty 12; SADD 12; Pep Club Vice President 9

Denise Totten Golf 9; KAYS 10; Class Vice President 10

Thomas Totten Web Page 12; Golf 10; Scholar's Bowl 11

John Tricks Honor Roll 9, 10, 11, 12; Who's Who Among American High School Students 10; SADD 12; FFA 9, 10; FCCLA 12; Webpage 10; Forensics 9; Band 9; Choir 9; Football 10, 11, 12; Wrestling 9, 10, 11, 12; Track 11, 12; STUCO Rep 9, 10, 11, 12; Class President 10

Kevin Urban Cross Country 10, 11, 12; Cross Country State Qualifier 10, 11, 12; Wrestling 9, 10, 11, 12; Wrestling State Qualifier 11, 12; Track 9; FFA 9, 10, 11, 12; FFA Vice President 10, FFA Secretary 11

Lauren Wheeler Volleyball Manager 9, 10, 11, 12; Girls Basketball Manager 9, 10,11,12; Boys Basketball Manager 10, 12; KAYS 10, 11, 12; FCCLA 9; SADD 10, 11, 12; SADD StuCo Rep. 11; SADD Public Relations 12; Journalism 11, 12; Band 9, 10; Choir 9, 10; Forensics 9, 10, 11, 12; StuCo 9, 11, 12; StuCo Treasurer 12; Class StuCo Rep. 9; Scholars' Bowl 11, 12; Scholars' Bowl Part-time Captain 11, 12; Girls' State 10; Regional Honorable Mention News Writing 11; State Honorable Mention News Writing 11; All A Honor Roll 9, 10,11, 12; FHSU Math Relays 10; Who's Who Among American High School Students 9; All A Honor Roll 9, 10, 11, 12; KAYS Board 12; Yearbook Editor 11; Class Secretary 10

Michael Young Honor Roll 9, 10, 11; National Honor Society 11; Writer's Circle 10, 11, 12; SADD 9, 10, 11, 12; KAYS 11, 12; FCCLA 9, 10; Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Band President 11, 12; Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Railairres Select Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; KMEA Honor Jazz Band 10, 11; FHSU Jazz 2 Guitar 11, 12; State Music Trumpet Trio 9; State Music Brass Trio 10, 11; State Music Choir Ensemble 9, 10, 11; Scholar's Bowl Captain 11; Forensics 9, 10, 11; Golf 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Technology Assistant 12; Perfect Attendance 11; State Speech Festival 9

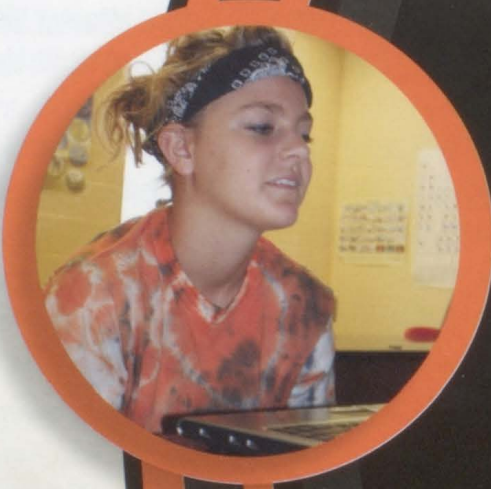
to success, we will make one.

| Facebook_Frenzy |

Wasted Time On Facebook



Dance Dance! Kyle Hadley struts his stuff as Napoleon Dynamite during the Halloween Dance. The dance was sponsored by KAYS and almost all of the students took part in the dance and dressed up. Photo by Katelyn Keller



Orange and Black Fever Sarah Fischer isn't afraid to let her school pride show with this crazy outfit. The junior class took first place in the float judging competition and second overall in spirit week. Photo by Bailey Deutscher



Afro-man Gone Orange Chilling in Mr. Mick's math class, Joey Kitzman shows his school spirit. Spirit week consisted of days such as retro day, zoo day, and the traditional orange and black day before the big game. Photo by Bailey Deutscher

It's an addiction that many can't live without. Facebook, a social network where students post pictures of each other and write comments on walls, is widely popular with many students at Ellis High School. About 95% of the student body knows about Facebook and has a profile, but what about the people who don't have it and don't know about it? Some students believe that Facebook is just a waste of time.

"I can socialize in school, but if someone doesn't have anything better to do, then it doesn't matter to me," Haley Wolf said.

Others that have Facebook believe it is worth the time spent.

"It is a great way to stay in contact with people, if used correctly," Kara Hackney said.

Some people have other things on their plates

and don't have time to even get a Facebook account up and going.

"I am too busy and already have to keep track of YouTube and hi5 accounts," Debbie Massier said.

Even though some students don't have a Facebook account, what about all those students that do? What exactly is occupying all their free time? Some students check their wall posts, but others just check their profiles and they are finished.

"When I'm on Facebook, I usually check my profile, and that usually takes me about five minutes," Heather Weber said.

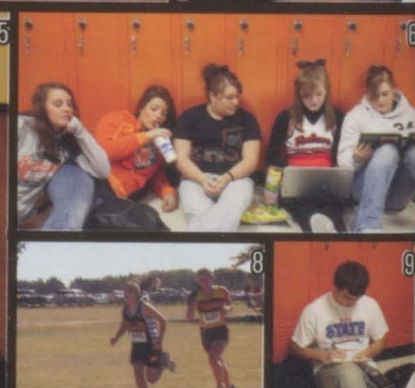
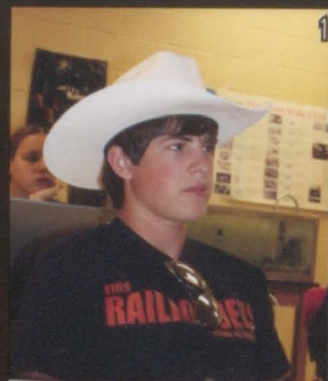
Facebook is a very popular site for teens to socialize with friends when not in school. To some students this is just a waste of time, but to others, it's an addiction they just can't live without.

1. Cowboy Concentration Justin Hendrickson gives all of his attention to Mr. Wildeman's lecture during Earth Science class. Photo by Bailey Deutscher

2. Beware Debbie Massier locks and loads as she targets an opponent in a game of dodgeball during the first At-Risk Day of the year. Photo by Kayla Hollern

3. Looking Ahead Janet Huang, a foreign exchange student, reviews her notes before her next Algebra II test. Photo by Bailey Deutscher

4. Judging to Victory Kara Hackney examines poultry during an FFA Poultry Judging Contest held at Hays High. Photo by Sarah Fischer



5. Cheese It! Logan Bittel shows how much he enjoys Mr. Mick's math class by giving a big smile, during orange and black day of spirit week. Staff Photo

6. Locker Line-up A group of junior girls eats while trying to get homework done during their free time, one of the many routines found in the hallways of EHS. Photo by Ashley Stroda

7. Playing the Part Overbearing nurse Bailee Bittel kicks premiere chef Rachael Hamel out of the idle house during this year's play, "American Idle." Photo by Ashley Stroda

8. Taking the Lead Haley Wolf sprints ahead of her opponent to take the win during a cross-country meet. Wolf placed ninth at the state meet out of over 50 competitors. Staff Photo

9. Full Concentration During his free time, Chase King works quickly to get all of his college algebra homework done. Photo by Ashley Stroda



Clay Barton
Bailee Bittel
Logan Bittel
Evelyn Dodeman
Breanna Ellison
Sarah Fischer

Tyler Fischer
Brandon Geschwentner
Brooke Graves
Kara Hackney
Kyle Hadley
Rachael Hamel

Justin Henrickson
Alyssa Herl
Ciara Hespe
Cole Hickey
Monte Honas
Chase King

Joey Kitzman
Tina Jaekel
Jordan Lang
Debra Massier
Kendra Mickelson
Cody Ocamb

Katie Parson
Kerry Robb
Steven Schmidt
Logan Stanton
Whitney Taylor
Tina Unrein

Heather Weber
Haley Wolf
Eric Zahn
*Not Pictured
Susan Beres
Janet Huang



"I'll Be There For You" On retro day, clarinets Brooke Graves and Alyssa Herl practice their piece for the FHSU marching festival. EHS band members participate in the festival each fall. Photo by Kayla Hollern

Coming Together Kerry Robb plays the part of a Swedish chef in this year's EHS play, "American Idle," while Chase King gets down with the shrubbery. "The play really brought our class together," Robb said. Photo by Ashley Stroda

Pondering What's Next Tina Unrein draws a building in two-point perspective for art class. "I think it broadened everyone's perspective on how art is more than just drawing figures on a piece of paper," Tina Unrein said. Staff Photo

Jacob Begler
Caroline Beilman
Staci Bittel
Kayla Casey
Matt Cunningham
Patrick Dreiling



Jamie Durham
Brittany Elliot
Matt Erbert
Jessica Estrada
Kyle Fox
Gideon Fuchs



Chantel Gabel
Kelsey Gehrler
Aaron Gnad
Shelby Gottschalk
Erin Groff
Randi Hook



Heather Hupka
Kayla Jacques
Phoenix Jenkins
Dillon Kinderknecht
Ethan LaBarge
Alicia Lang



Chelsea Leiker
Kelsey Noble
Dylan Pfeifer
Nicole Pfeifer
William Poland
Bethany Polifka



Paige Reilly
Ashley Schuster
Garret Vandenberg
Kiley Wayman
Danielle Weber
Ryan Weber



Cut Up Ashley Schuster is surprised by the contents of a giant grasshopper while Staci Bittel digs in. Students also dissected fish and frogs in class. Photo by Jill Wood



Dress Up Adorned as a princess, Shelby Gottschalk shows her Ratter spirit during homecoming week. Students dressed by themes during the week. Photo by Kayla Hollern



Loosen Up Before the run, Ryan Weber prepares himself in order to avoid injury. The cross country team does a pre-season run every year to kick off the season. Photo by Ryan Bittel

| Vroom Vroom |

Sophomores Hit the Road

At the age of 16, something big happens to high school sophomores—legal driving.

From how the car looks to its gas mileage, sophomores look for many different qualities in a car. Matt Erbert enjoys the “sleek design” of his 2000 Ford Mustang along with its speed.

“The thrill of acceleration is, quite frankly, indescribable,” Erbert said.

However, the most popular quality in a car to the sophomores was, surprisingly, gas mileage. With gas currently at a price of around \$3.00 per gallon, driving has become an expensive undertaking.

“Why have a car that looks nice or has good speed when the car only gets like 5 miles to the gallon?” Ashley Schuster said.

“[I chose gas mileage] because if you don’t have good

gas mileage, you can’t go very many places. You would spend all your money on gas and wouldn’t be able to eat or stay at a hotel,” Staci Bittel said.

Although the price of gas holds some students back, others make buying gas their top priority to travel where they want to go.

“I go over to Hays a lot, so I don’t really care about the looks and speed as long as I have enough gas,” Patrick Dreiling said.

Even though gas mileage is an important issue, most students still imagine driving the car of their dreams. Putting money, parental approval, and gas mileage aside, Gideon Fuchs said he would drive a Lamborghini.

“It’s the Zeus of all cars,” Fuchs said.

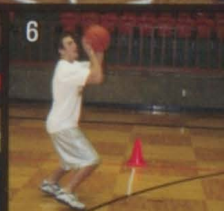
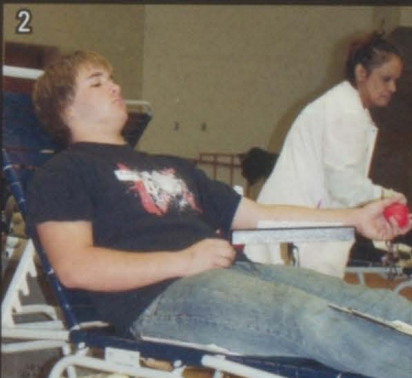
Gas mileage, speed, and 16 years of age. The perfect combination.

1. Duck and Dodge Ethan LaBarge and Garret Vandenberg use two-man strategy while playing dodgeball during at-risk day. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

2. Donation Patrick Dreiling leans back to relax while giving blood. Mr. Kohl gave students extra credit for participating in the drive. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

3. Computers Help Using her laptop, Chelsea Leiker gets work done in Computer Apps. Students used laptops in class this year. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

4. Chow Down Eating pancakes, ham, and hashbrowns, this group of sophomore girls enjoy their breakfast food for lunch. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



5. Create and Illustrate Matt Cunningham creates a geometrical drawing during art class with colored pencils. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

6. Shoot the J Having fun in G.P.D., Dylan Pfeifer shoots a jumpshot. Every Wednesday, G.P.D. classes get a free day to rest from lifting. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

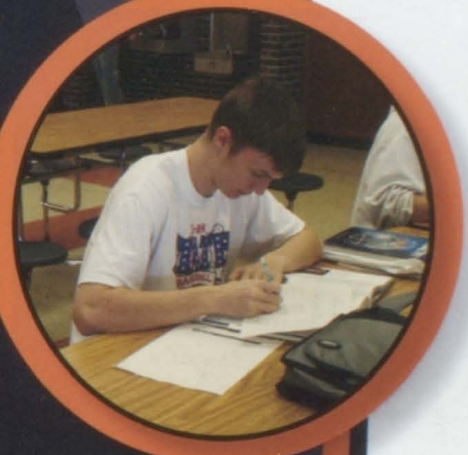
7. Laptop Leisure Paige Reilly uses her computer to get some homework done. Headphones are required to listen to music. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

8. Oh! Surprised by the camera, Kayla Jacques holds up her gloved hands while doing homework after band in seminar. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

9. Hallway Help Conferring over an assignment, Ethan LaBarge, Patrick Dreiling, and William Poland work together to get an assignment completed. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Slice and Dice With the help of her group, Jessica Estrada makes precise cuts to properly dissect a giant grasshopper during Biology. “It was really cool, but the smell made it seem less fun,” Estrada said. *Photo by Jill Wood*



Free Time Working in the cafeteria, Kyle Fox finishes a graphic organizer during study hall. Each Tuesday, students who are in good standing in their classes are allowed free time in seminar. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



You Be the Judge Ethan LaBarge inspects a poultry specimen in FFA poultry judging at Hays High. The team placed first at the meet that included 8 schools. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

| Adaptation |

The New Niche for Freshmen



Camouflage Daniel Honas tries to blend in with the library walls during spirit week. "I like the spirit of the school during Homecoming because everyone is fired up," Honas said. *Staff Photo*



Time Out Using their spare time wisely, Kathryn Sleight and Jessica Wheeler get some extra studying done. The couch in Mrs. Madorin's room was a popular place to do homework. *Staff Photo*



Trudging Along Hobbling along on his crutches, Ethan Cox scrambles to get out of the way. He was unable to participate in marching band because of a pin in his hip. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

Many freshmen admit there were parts they disliked about high school such as homework and new locker combinations. However, most freshmen confess that transitioning to the new atmosphere wasn't a challenge.

"I like it because there are more people and more things to do," Jessica Lopez said.

With all the new organizations, EHS managed to introduce one more program this year. Link Crew is an organization designed for freshmen to make an easy transition into high school with the help of an upperclassman. The majority of the freshmen agreed that they liked the additional program because of the sense of security during the school day.

"The thing I like about Link Crew is that you can talk to them about whatever you want. Also, if you need something or if you need help with something, then

they're there," Meliah Raub said.

Even in the first few months of school, several noticed that the Link meetings with their leaders improved the transition incredibly.

"They made me feel like I didn't have to be scared to talk to the upperclassmen," Alesha Brenner said.

Now for the real question: has Link Crew made a big enough effect on the freshmen to keep the program running at Ellis High? Most of the freshmen agree that the school should keep this organization running.

"I think it would be a good idea [to continue Link Crew] because it shows leadership and responsibility," Kevin Robb said.

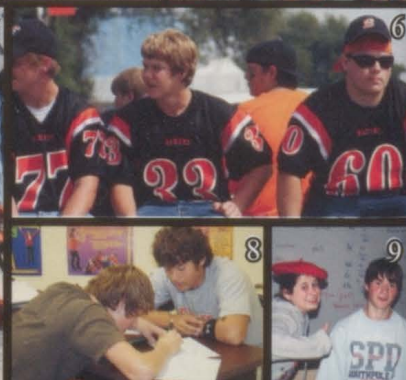
Whatever the decision on Link Crew is for future classes, it has had a positive impact on this year's freshman class.

1. Can You Hear Me Now? Matt Kreutzer attempts to yell over the speakers at the Homecoming dance to Logan Mattheyer. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*

2. Necessary Accessory During a Link Crew meeting, Rachel Mick helps Chelsey Walters position her head band. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

3. Up on Top Kevin Robb yells on his class float while Kimberly Gottschalk throws out candy during the Homecoming parade. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

4. Scientific Method Courtney Waldschmidt and Lacey Gaschler focus while completing a project for Physical Science. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



5. Loud and Proud Kimberly Desaire, Meliah Raub, Jessica Lopez, and Desiree Basgall visit while sitting on their class float during the Homecoming parade. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

6. Railer Territory Matt Gehring, Joey Augustine, and Scott Fuller enjoy the ride on the football team float during Homecoming festivities in downtown Ellis. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

7. Horns Up Ashley Augustine practices for all the upcoming marching band festivities during class. Augustine has participated in band for 5 years. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

8. Lending a Hand Todd Smith assists Zach Werth with a writing assignment during English class. Freshmen compose several short stories during the year-long course. *Staff Photo*

9. Thumbs Up Maggie Zody and Nate Townley take a moment to relax and breathe a sigh of relief after giving a presentation in Mrs. Grogan's Spanish class. *Photo by Troy Dale*



Ashley Augustine
Dawson Augustine
Joey Augustine
Brandon Bieker
Austin Bittel
Alesha Brenner



Desiree Basgall
Kelsey Butler
Tori Clark
Ethan Cox
Kimberly Desaire
Jordyn Dessel



Emily Durheim
Scott Fuller
Lacey Gaschler
Matt Gehring
Kimberly Gottschalk
Tanner Gugler



Devin Henderson
Daniel Honas
Devin Jacques
Jacob Kinderknecht
Jared Knoll
Ciera Kohl



Matthew Kreutzer
Derek Kvasnicka
Jessica Lopez
Alex Lovato
Logan Mattheyer
Rachel Mick



Makala Ocamb
Mary Owston
Melia Raub
Kevin Robb
Kathryn Sleigh
Todd Smith



Nate Townley
Kayla Wahlmeier
Courtney Waldschmidt
Chelsey Walters
Zach Werth
Jessica Wheeler



Stephanie Young
Maggie Zody



Sharla Albers
FACS, FCCLA,
Sophomore Sponsor



Craig Amrein
Multimedia, Webpage



Brandon Armbruster
At-Risk, G.P.D., Athletics Director



Kerry Bittel
Volleyball



Kristi Bittel
Cheerleading



Corey Burton
Principal



Troy Dale
Counselor, Football



Renetta Dawson
Instrumental Music



Susan Deges
English, Forensics



Casey Dinkel
Cross Country, Wrestling



Amanda Drennon
P.E., Health, Athletic Director,
Junior Sponsor



Steve Erbert
Track



Sherri Faulkender
Librarian



Stan Faulkender
Commercial Art



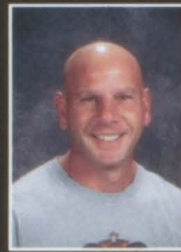
Jackie Grogan
Foreign Language, Psych,
Junior Sponsor, SADD



Crystal Hamel
Special Ed.
Paraprofessional



Butch Hayes
Math, Football, Track,
Freshman Sponsor



Randy Herman
Custodian



Janetta Heroneme
Special Education, NHS



Julie Honas
Head Food Service



June Howard
Computers, Technology,
Senior Sponsor



Alice James
Volleyball



Jeff Kohl
Government, World History,
Oral History, Stuco



Robert Kohman
Vocational Agriculture,
FFA, Wrestling



Karen Madorin
English, Eco Team,
Scholar's Bowl



Maria Mick
Secretary



Perry Mick
Math, Physics, Basketball,
Volleyball



Brent Overmiller
History, Football



Mary Parke
Nurse, Sophomore Sponsor



Barb Rupp
Food Service



Randy Sauer
Choral Music



Art Schoenthaler
Basketball



Charlie Waldschmidt
Custodian



David Wildeman
Science, Basketball



Jack Wolf
Science, Track

Not Pictured:

Cody Howland
Basketball

Rick Cunningham
Baseball

Scott Jermak
Baseball

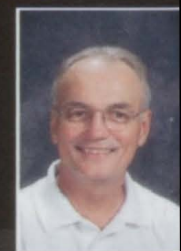
Terra Upham
Softball



Jill Wood
IMPACT, Journalism



Robert Young
Curriculum, Technology, Golf



Terry Zerfas
Industrial Technology,
Senior Sponsor

|Time Consuming|

Teaching Takes Time

Even though the ringing of the final school bell means school's out for the summer, many teachers only see it as an inservice day with no students around. The hard-working teachers at Ellis High School usually don't take many days off during the summertime. Even vacation time can turn into a learning experience for teachers.

"My vacations revolve around my interests and what I teach. I have a degree in history so I usually visit some historical site, and I study languages so I try to travel to a place where I can practice the language," Mrs. Grogan, foreign language teacher, said.

Many teachers try to get away from the small town of Ellis to spend time with friends and family they usually don't see much during the school year, but sometimes their family activities keep them here for a majority of the summer.

"I have the responsibility of taking care of my 91-year-old mother. This is how I will be spending my time after retirement for as long as I am needed. But watch out after that! I plan to be, God willing, one very active and adventurous old lady!" Mrs. Howard, computer teacher, exclaimed.

Other obligations that hold back some teachers from traveling are the jobs that they hold during the summer.

"I do some remodeling of old houses or build new ones," Mr. Mick, advanced math and physics teacher, said.

About five years ago, Mick was looking for an exciting job that would keep him busy during the summer months and also be another source of income. After buying and remodeling two houses, Mick sold them to find out that his new hobby not only brought him extra spending money, but also satisfaction of being able to take a house that was in bad shape and turn it into a home that people would want to live in and be proud of.

Relaxation and leisure time is sparsely seen during the summer months for teachers. Teaching proves to be a year-round job for the teachers at Ellis High School. Although they have numerous other activities robbing them of their time, EHS teachers are dedicated to the strenuous planning and preparation for the upcoming school year to make it the best year possible for their students.

1. Listen Up! Before the bell rings, Kanean Wendell, a student teacher in Mr. Wildeman's class, jokes around with the students.

Photo by Katelyn Keller



2. Oh Really? Mr. Mick seems perplexed as he tries to figure out the charade Mr. Kohl is acting out one morning before school. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*



3. Drunken Decisions Mrs. Grogan talks to the EHS student body about her son's drunk driving accident at the SADD skit. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

Photo by Sarah Fischer



4. Busy Bee Mrs. Deges diligently prepares to give finals to her English and Forensics classes. This is her first year of teaching at EHS. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*

Photo by Katelyn Keller



5. Wanna Join? Senior Ashley Stroda asks Mrs. Albers if she would like to join her in working on Pilates moves during lunch. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

9. Score! Mr. Kohman shouts advice out to a wrestler in need during the Trego double-dual. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*

Photo by Katelyn Keller

6. Lock and Load Mr. Armbruster resists the urge to join in the dodgeball game during the At-Risk activities. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

Photo by Deana Hunsicker

7. Like This Mr. Zervas assists freshman Derek Kvasniska on his homework assignment during seminar time. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*

Photo by Katelyn Keller

8. Complementary Angles Sophomore Kayla Casey gets help from Mr. Hayes on her Geometry homework during class. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

Photo by Sarah Fischer

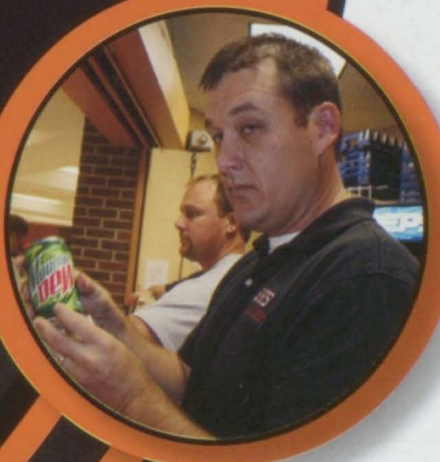
Oh No! Coach Dinkel squats behind a chair trying not watch a wrestler go down in the last remaining seconds during the Trego double-dual. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*

Photo by Katelyn Keller



Kid in a Candy Store Mr. Mick brings laughter into his Physics teachings by doing a demonstration on the merry-go-round. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

Photo by Ryan Bittel



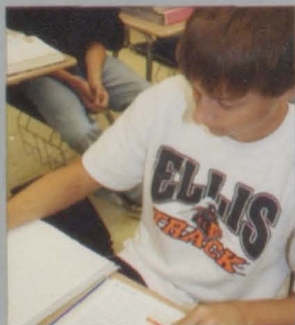
Mr. Vanna White Mr. Kohl shows off a can of Mountain Dew that was being distributed at the Homecoming barbecue during lunch. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

Photo by Deana Hunsicker

E_SSENTIALS

A C A D E M I C S

(TECHNOLOGY: A NEW NECESSITY)



Man At Work

Freshmen Daniel Honas works on an assignment during Mr. Wolf's physical science class. "Old teacher, new classroom, same old work!" Honas said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



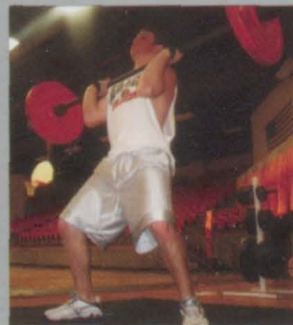
Mr. Homemaker

While in Family and Consumer Sciences class, sophomore Dillon Kinderknecht sews pieces of his quilt together. Each student dedicates the second semester to creating his or her own quilt to keep. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



Mr. Boyle

Juniors Chase King, Whitney Taylor, and Logan Bittel work on an experiment during Mr. Wildeman's chemistry class. "It was fun testing Boyle's Principle by using pressure to fire rubber corks out of a PVC pipe," Taylor said. *Photo by Brooke Graves*



Clean Sweep

Lifting in GPD, an elective taken by many students, sophomore Dylan Pfeifer cleans. "I enjoy GPD because it allows me to lift during school and helps others become bigger, faster, and stronger," Pfeifer said. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



"Some Buck"

In advanced woodworking, senior Erick Estrada works on a piece that goes on his headboard to the bed he is creating. "Mr. Terry Zerfas's class is the best class you can take as an elective, trust me!" *Photo by Brooke Graves*



Lift Off

Senior Ryan Bittel and physics teacher Mr. Mick prepare to launch a rocket to determine its angular momentum. "This is the type of thing I like about physics. We're not only having fun, but we're also learning at the same time," Bittel said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Lost in Translation

Breanna Ellison tries to explain a math problem to Kayla Jacques in Algebra II. "We have tons of fun in Algebra II comparing answers and singing Flat 7 chords as a quartet to Mr. Mick," Jacques and Ellison said. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

Fresh Faces

P People come and go in our lives, and last year many familiar faces left Ellis High School. When we entered a new year, new teachers entered our required classes. Brent Overmiller took over American History and Susan Deges took on the upper English and Forensics Classes.

"I chose to teach at Ellis because I liked the small town idea and I just had a really good feeling about the place when I was here on my interview. I mean, they called off school that day when all it did was rain," Overmiller said.

Overmiller took over American History, previously taught by Jeff Kohl. With the change of teachers for this subject came the elimination of graphic organizers, much to the joy of the juniors. Technology has also become much more incorporated into American History through notes on PowerPoint and multiple videos.

Overmiller came to Ellis because of the small town atmosphere, but Deges returned from a prior teaching

experience.

"I did my student teaching here and really enjoyed it. When the opportunity for a job here presented itself, I jumped at the chance," Deges said.

Along with her fish tank and plants, Deges also brought a few changes into the English and forensics classroom. One book report per nine weeks is now required from all juniors and seniors, and the English IV students now do a career project instead of a research paper.

Along with the new teachers and laptops, Ellis High School has gained a new title. It was named one of America's

Best High Schools by *U.S. News and World Report* this year. Ellis, along with 39 other Kansas schools, received the publication's bronze ranking. To receive the bronze ranking, EHS achieved the building-level Standard of Excellence in math, reading and writing on the 2007 state assessments, scoring well above the state average in all three areas and also provide for college-level coursework through Fort Hays State University in English and Mathematics.

"I liked the small town idea and I just had a really good feeling about the place."
-Brent Overmiller



Math



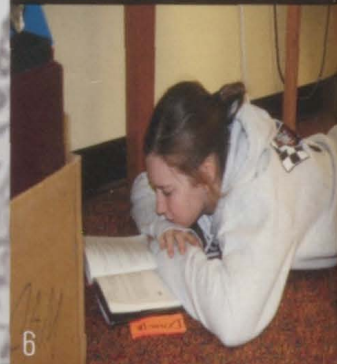
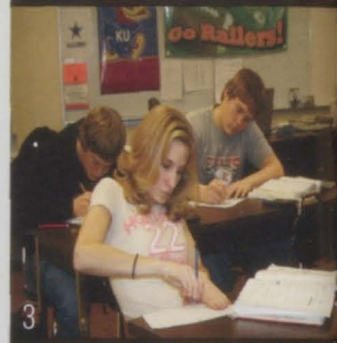
Science



English

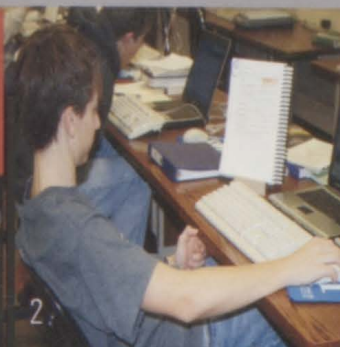


Social Studies



1. **Book Worm** Senior Danielle Pfeiffer reads a book for one of her required book reports. Students could also give two extra book reports for 25 points each per nine weeks. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

2. **Typer Shark** Freshman Daniel Honas works on his typing skills. Computer Application is a required course for all freshmen among the many textbook classes required like science and math classes. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



2.

As you can see by the handicap project, interaction with the books we are reading makes English more exciting.

-William Poland, So.

"I wanted to be many different things. I went from professional football player to stock broker or army general to a career in business management."

-Craig Amrein



"I've always wanted to be a mom and a teacher. When I was little, I lined up my stuffed animals and tried to teach them."

-Karen Madorin

CLASS CONNECTIONS

What did you want to be when you grew up?

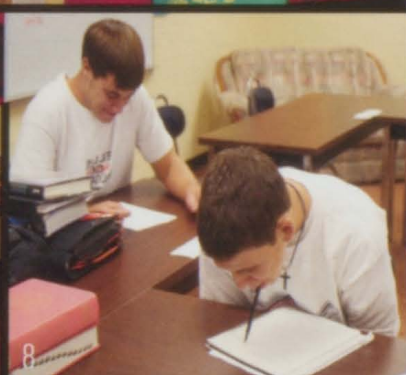
"I had three career choices as I grew up. I wanted to be a farmer, architect, and then teacher."

-Brent Overmiller



"I wanted to be a vet, but my dad died my senior year, so I had to go to school in Hays."

-June Howard



8.

3. **Everyone Makes Mistakes** Freshman Rachel Mick works diligently on an Algebra assignment. All students are required to have at least three math credits in order to graduate.
Photo by Sarah Fischer

5. **Potato Problems** Juniors Kyle Hadley, Chase King, Whitney Taylor, and Logan Bittel struggle with the potato gun that Mr. Wildeman made for his Chemistry classes.
Photo by Brooke Graves

7. **Reaching Out** First-year teacher Susan Deges talks to senior Todd Flinn during Advanced Composition. Deges also coached Forensics and taught English III and IV.
Photo by Ryan Bittel

4. **Pack it Up** Senior Brian Riedel watches as classmate Vanessa North packs away her books to get ready for the bell to ring to be dismissed for lunch after a long class of Advanced Composition.
Photo by Ryan Bittel

6. **Undercover** Sophomore Danielle Weber hides away for some silent reading in English II. Each student had to give one book report each nine weeks worth 50 points.
Photo by Sarah Fischer

8. **Look, Ma! No Hands!** Sophomore William Poland stifles a laugh while sophomore Matt Cunningham attempts to write a paragraph on equality without the use of his hands.
Photo by Deana Hunsicker

Required Courses
Brooke Graves

1. Total Concentration

Sophomore Patrick Dreiling types up his board work for Mrs. Madorin's English II class. "The laptops made board work much easier this year because it was a pain to write it all out," Dreiling said. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

2. Mind-boggling Sophomore Matt Erbert sports a new hairdo during Biology. This new do was created by freshman Courtney Waldschmidt during Introduction to Foods and Clothing.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

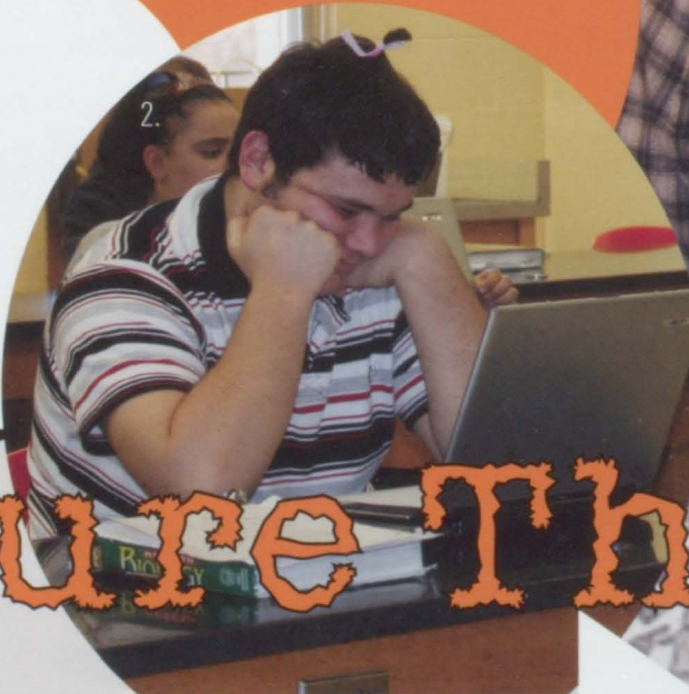
3. Prepare for Launch Sophomore Chelsea Leiker and junior Kendra Mickelson help Mr. Mick set up a rocket in Algebra II. The class used sine, cosine, and tangent to calculate the distance the rocket traveled. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

4. Reach Mr. Kohl supervises senior Lauren Wheeler placing campaign posters. The seniors were split into groups where they researched a presidential candidate, made a poster, gave a speech, and created a video. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

5. Would You Look At That During Algebra II, juniors Justin Henrickson, Kerry Robb, and Steven Schmidt try to figure out the height of the Ellis water tower using basic trigonometry functions. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

6. Math Is International Susan Beres, a senior from Budapest, Hungary, works on an Algebra II math assignment. "In the beginning the classes were hard to understand, but as the year went on they got easier," Beres said. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

7. Good Looking in Goggles During a Chemistry lab, juniors Tina Unrein and Rachael Hamel wait for crystals to form so they can take the temperature. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

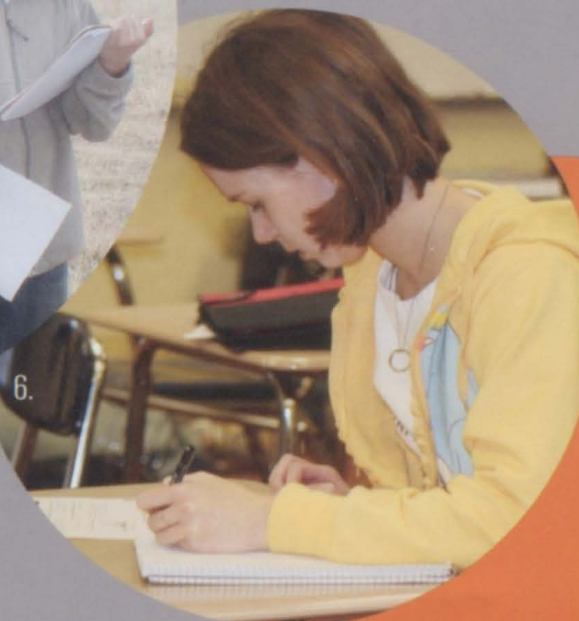


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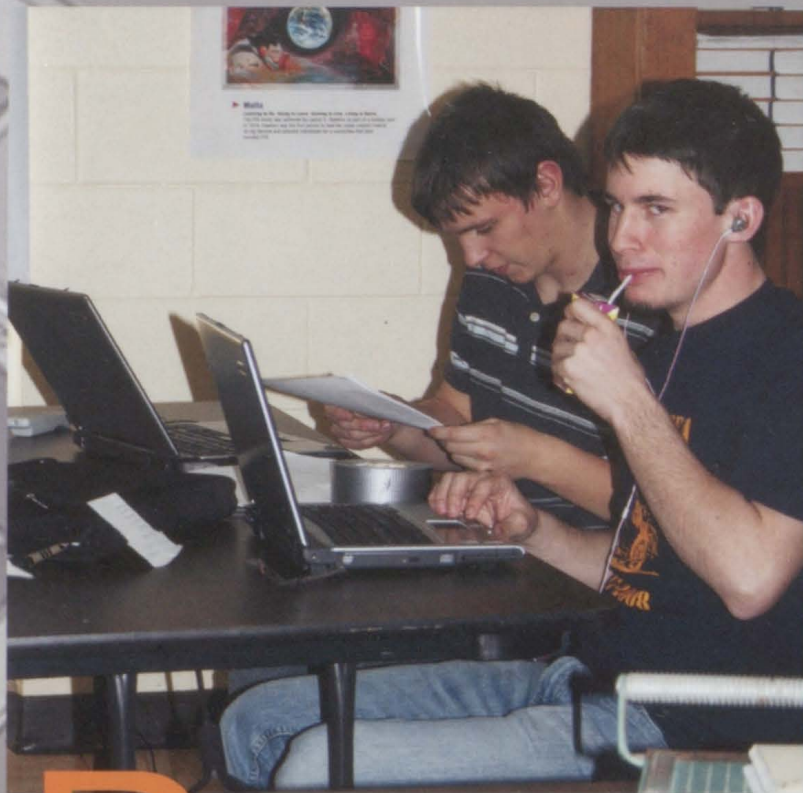
L

- Mr. Wildeman's closet in the lab contains 340 jars of chemicals
- In Mrs. Madorin's English I and English II classes, there are 300 root words and prefixes, 180 short stories written, and 38 syllabi posted
- There was a grand total of 3,000 math problems assigned to Mr. Mick's Algebra II class
- Approximately a dozen pieces of glass equipment were broken in Chemistry class this year
- Mr. Kohl said "Uh" or "Um" 87 times within one Government class period
- The Computer Applications class put 47 children's books onto powerpoints for the Special Education department

INFORMATION

Required Courses

Brooke Graves



Two Logans are Better Than One
Juniors Logan Bittel and Logan Stanton check their notes before teaching a group of eighth graders during Mr. Kohman's absence. Photo by Sarah Fischer

Eclectic Electives

Rachel Ray and Ty Pennington didn't just wake up one day and create successful TV shows. They had to start somewhere -- like in their elective classes during high school. 100% of the Ellis High School student body surveyed said **they** love **having** elective classes because it lets them learn things they are interested in. We have four new elective classes this year: Multimedia, Girl's Aerobics and Weightlifting, Oral History, and Advanced Photoshop/In-house Publications.

One of the new electives this year is Multimedia. Students work with various audio, video, and graphic files on a variety of different editing software packages. The multimedia class created the senior video that is shown at graduation and other small videos throughout the year that are shown on the school website.

Girl's Aerobics and Weightlifting gives ladies a chance to stay physically fit if they don't participate in school sports throughout the year. They do many different exercises such as floor aerobics, steps, circuits, weightlifting, and pilates.

"It is nice to give the ladies an additional opportunity to take part in fitness activities," physical

education teacher Mrs. Drennon said.

Oral History is a class where the students pick a period in history and interview a person from that time period. Instead of doing the usual research methods like using the library and computers, the students actually go to the source. The interviews are then recorded on video tape with Movie Maker.

"I like making movies with Movie Maker. It makes it more fun to learn that way!" commented senior Kylor Campbell.

Mrs. Howard's Advanced Photoshop/In-house Publications elective involves looking into the finer points of Photoshop. It is also being used to construct the district's newsletter and other district publications.

"I get to work with my computer, and it lets me create artwork," said junior Brandon Geschwentner.

Having electives gives students a chance to take a class that interests them. The students of Ellis High think having electives makes the day more interesting and fun.

"They are a good alternative to regular classes that you've taken for most of your life," junior Haley Wolf said.

"It is nice to give the ladies an additional opportunity to take part in fitness activities."
-Mrs. Drennon



1. **Team Work** Senior Erick Estrada and Mr. Zervas complete a step in the process of putting together a headboard by gluing the two main pieces together. Photo by Sarah Fischer

2. **Nothing Like a Good Day of Sewing** Sophomore Ashley Schuster sews a quilt during Creative Textiles class. Schuster has taken one of Mrs. Albers' classes both years of high school. Photo by Sarah Fischer



Multimedia



Art



Industrial Tech



Project Construction



Hey, Terry!
It fits!

-Erick Estrada, Sr.

"My favorite is Intro. to Foods and Clothing. During the first semester I got to cook foods and second semester I get to sit back, relax, and sew."

Kyle Hadley, Jr.

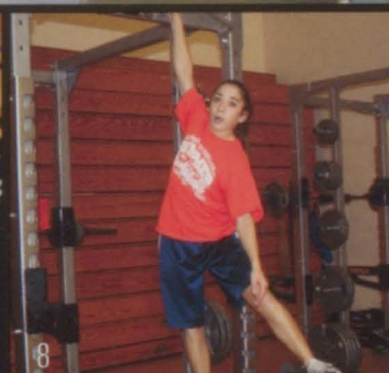


"I like Spanish II. It's fun and I know I am learning something."

-Kayla Jacques, So.

CLASS CONNECTIONS

What is your favorite elective and why?



"Project Construction because I like to make and rebuild different objects."

-Kevin Urban, Sr.



"I like art. The projects are fun. We have flexible due dates and we get to do things we like."

-Debbie Massier, Jr.

3. **Without Hesitation** Mr. Kohman shows junior Kerry Robb a part on a motor in Theories of Engines. Robb is pulling apart a 1-cylinder engine, cleaning it, and then putting it back together.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

5. **Student Teaching Teacher** Sophomore Kelsey Gehrher teaches Mrs. Howard how to fix the district newsletter in Advanced Photoshop. Gehrher's mom, Dava, brought them snacks on some days.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

7. **Helping a Friend in Need** Freshman Courtney Waldschmidt lends sophomore Matt Erbert a hand in sewing his project while in Mrs. Albers' Intro to Foods and Clothing class.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

4. **Getting Into Shape** Sophomore Erin Groff squats during Girl's GPD. Groff likes Girls GPD because it helps keep her in shape through the year.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

6. **Stay Inside the Lines** Freshman Kevin Robb puts the finishing touches on a coat of arms project in art class. This is Robb's first year in art.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

8. **Monkeyin' Around** Junior Haley Wolf finds time to hang like a monkey during her GPD class. Wolf was supposed to be working on clings.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

1. Taking Her Time

Sophomore Chantel Gabel shows her school spirit by painting a project using orange and black. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

2. Spic and Span

Junior Monte Honas cleans the inside of an engine block. His task is to put the piston back into the block. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

3. Hoverin' Around

Mr. Burton takes a ride on Mr. Mick's hovercraft during his spare time. He hopes senior physics students Danny Desaire and Justin Gnad don't take him out. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

4. Right On Target

Senior Justin Gnad lines up the bow and arrow with the target during a velocity lab for Physics. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

5. Both Hands on the Wheel

Senior Ashley Stroda attempts to steer the truck during a physics lab. "The lab was a lot of fun. It was kind of scary knowing that Justin Gnad, Todd Flinn, and Mr. Mick were partially in control of the truck," Stroda said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

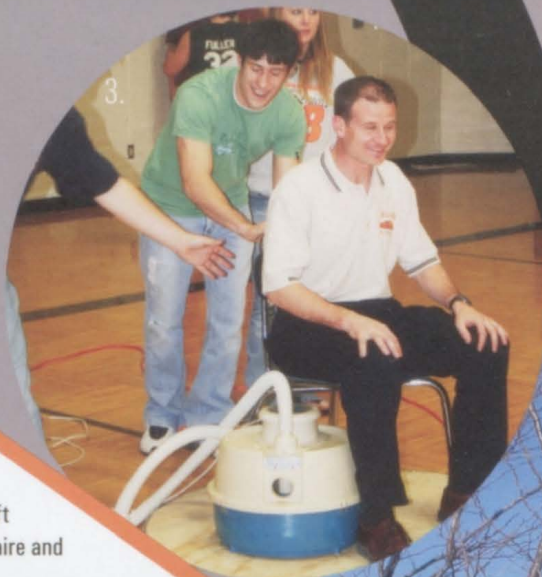
6. 'Sew' Focused

Freshman Kayla Wahlmeier sews a piece of her colorful quilt in her Intro to Foods and Clothing class. "Making a quilt was a challenging, fun project that we had to dedicate ourselves to," Wahlmeier said.

Photo by Jill Wood

7. On Task

Sophomore Matt Cunningham puts on a layer of shellak to an end table. The end table will be used to hold games, DVDs, and magazines. *Photo by Jill Wood*



Picture This



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- Kyle Hadley spends the most time of any student flexing his muscles in front of the mirror

- Girls GPD is the only class in the high school that is an "all-girl class"

- Mrs. Albers sang Gnarles Barkley's "Crazy" more than 500 times during her classes and FCCLA trips this year

- The Ellis High School website has 31, 712 files, 2,474 folders, and is 10.9 gigabites

- Mr. Faulkender's art classes use over 20 gallons of paint throughout the year

- Mr. Zerfas' classes use over 1,000 foot of board in a year's time

INFORMATION

Electives

Sarah Fischer

Do You Trust Me?

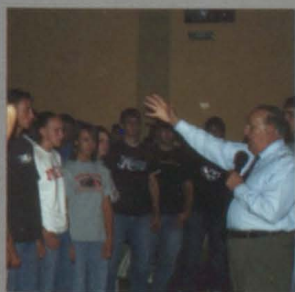
Freshmen Jessica Wheeler and Alesha Brenner participate in the Homecoming pep rally held at the Memorial Park. Students from each class were asked to take part in blindfolded activities such as shoving pudding in each other's faces. "I thought it was really interesting because I don't like chocolate pudding. When the memories come back, I always crack up," Brenner said. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



E_CSTATIC



(CYBERSPACE BECOMES PERSONAL SPACE)



"Check Into a Winning Life"

A group of seniors listen while SADD guest speaker Bob Anastas shares his motives on the formation of SADD. Anastas covered the steps to becoming a successful person and how to avoid the destructive descions that veer from being successful. *Photo by Brooke Graves*



Switching It Up

Seniors Katelyn Keller, Bailey Deutscher, Ashley Stroda, and Melissa Nowlin congregate during the lunch hour. With the new locker arrangements, seniors were able to be surrounded by their classmates rather than mixed in with their peers. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



The Candy Shop

Sophomore Kayla Jacques shops at the Hammond Candy Shop while attending the National FCCLA convention in Denver, CO. "The best part of the trip was when Mrs. Albers went the wrong way on a one-way street," Jacques said. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



First-time Floaters

Kimberly Desaire, Meliah Raub, Jessie Lopez, Desiree Basgall, and Kevin Robb, freshmen, ride their float during the Homecoming parade. "Riding in the parade for my first time as a freshmen got me pumped up for the big game and dance following the parade," Basgall said. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



Petrified

Acting his part, junior Logan Bittel quivers away during the EHS Play. Bittel took on the part of a brother during "American Idle." *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

Good times & goodbyes

With beginnings come endings

Knowing that a very dedicated teacher will be leaving at the end of the year not only makes students try to make the teacher's final year memorable, but also try to keep in consideration what the teacher has taught them through the years.

Mrs. Dawson, the Band teacher who has been here for nine years, has decided to accept a position at Russell High School for the next school year. Students looked back on their last year with Mrs. Dawson and remembered the various bits and pieces of knowledge she left with them.

"She taught us how to play music not just to play music. But to play with emotion and understand the concept of the song," senior Kayla Hollern said.

Mr. Sauer, choir teacher for the past

three years, has decided to advance his career at Pratt Community College. Choir students also took time to recount the memories and understanding of music left with them from Mr. Sauer.

of high school choir.

The senior Railairre members remembered the highlights of their last year of being in Railairres and also with their last year with Mr. Sauer as a teacher and kept their great memories in mind.

Senior Deana Hunsicker reminisced about her last year of Railairres. "The practices were so much fun since most of the people in Railairres aren't people I normally hang out with and it's crazy how much we really are all alike but different at the same time!"

Although two very committed instructors are leaving, their students have gained much knowledge from their instruction that will lead them to a greater understanding of music for life.



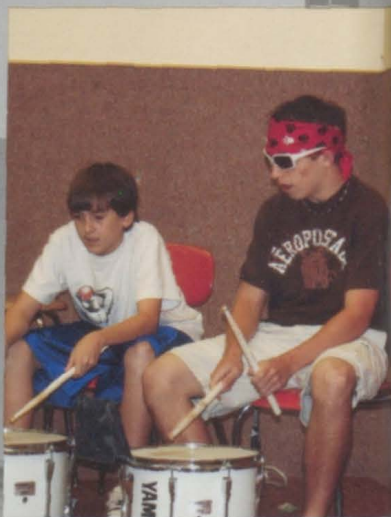
Belt It Out

"Choir is a great school activity to be in. My Freshman year in choir was a blast," Kimberly Gottschalk said. Gottschalk was one of nine freshmen choir members. Photo by Bailey Deutscher

"Mr. Sauer taught me how to breathe from my diaphragm, and his tips have helped me throughout the year to improve my singing performance," freshman Kimberly Gottschalk said while looking back on her first year

Check Out This Guy!

Sophomores Matt Cunningham and Jacob Kinderknecht 'show off' the freshman Railairre, Matt Gehring, after the first night performance of the 2008 Dinner Theatre. Gehring was one of the five freshman Railairre members. Photo by Ryan Bittel



Hit Those Staccatos

Junior Brandon Geschwenter and freshman Alex Lovato play the rhythm on the page during Band class. Geschwenter shows his wild side one day during Homecoming week by sporting a bandana. Photo by Kayla Hollern



Throw In a Little Fun

Sophomore Kayla Jacques lets out a bit of tension before the Dinner Theatre performance by reaching for her water bottle that was thrown to the wayside. "We formed a bond throughout the year with all the practices for Dinner Show," Jacques said. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



Pep Band Performance

Freshman Tori Clark perfects the notes on a pep band piece one day during class. Students always looked forward to pep band days because it not only meant it was Friday, but it also brought up the students' moods. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

One Last Picture

Senior Railleires Deana Hunsicker, Brian Riedel, Kayla Hollern, Michael Young, and Vanessa North pose with their instructor, Mr. Randy Sauer, one final time after their last Dinner Theatre. This also happened to be Mr. Sauer's final year as being the Ellis choir instructor. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



Mrs. Fix It

Band Director, Renetta Dawson, helps sophomore Shelby Gottschalk fix a piece on her piccolo during the K-State marching festival. After the band marched through the streets of Manhattan, they watched the K-State football game. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Listen to the Counts

Band director Mrs. Dawson counts out the beats of a song during class one day. Dawson led her band to achieving a rating of 1 at the State Large Ensemble. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Bringing Sexy Back

Freshman Daniel Honas attempts to 'bring sexy back' during Retro Day. The freshman class placed third overall in spirit week points in the end. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Cadence Calling

Senior Vanessa North looks back at the band performing at a K-State game. North had the honor of directing the band on Homecoming night. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Man in Disguise

Senior Michael Young dresses like a spy during Homecoming week. The seniors placed first at the end of Homecoming, which was no surprise. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

THIS & THAT

Level Up Your Leadership

During the Fall Leadership Academy, senior Aaron Pfannenstiel participates in a district officer skit about superheroes leveling up their leadership. Pfannenstiel was the District Vice-President of Star Events this year. *Photo by Brooke Graves*



Ultimate Leadership Experience

Sophomore Kelsey Gehrler snaps a photo between speakers at the Denver Cluster meeting. This meeting focused on personal leadership through motivational speakers and small groups. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Walk the Line

Junior Tina Unrein attempts to walk a straight line with glasses on that simulate intoxication. Unrein and the other FCCLA members with the most points went to Denver for cluster meetings. There were four cluster meetings in the nation and Denver was the closest. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

THIS & THAT



Making Memories

Sophomore Brittany Elliot takes a photo during some down time in Denver. Members attended many speakers and small discussion sessions while they were there. *Photo by Brooke Graves*



Like What You See?

Sophomore Kayla Jacques investigates how candy is made at the Hammond Candy Factory. The club members toured the factory while in Denver. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Kick Back

Junior Kyle Hadley takes time to relax during the state trip. Members with the most points attended, earned mainly from fundraising and other activities. *Photo by Brooke Graves*



Hard Rock Cafe

Sharla Atbers, FCCLA sponsor, looks at a menu during the Denver trip. Members ate out at several restaurants within easy walking distance of their hotel. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Homeward Bound

During the state trip, junior Alyssa Hert and freshman Jessica Wheeler wait for their ride to arrive. Wheeler participated in state with a star event. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

Cookies & travels

FCCLA Sells Cookies for Denver Trip

When FCCLA sponsor Sharla Albers told the club that a national cluster meeting would be in Denver, the only thing that was left to decide was how they were going to pay for the trip. Members knew that the meeting was something that they wanted to attend.

To finance the trip, members tried several fundraisers, including having a dog wash booth at Riverfest, taking part in the city-wide garage sale, and serving a golf luncheon. However, their most successful fundraiser was selling and delivering fresh baked cookies. Sophomore, junior, and senior members collected orders for the cookies, then stayed up all night one Friday to make the 750 dozen cookies that were ordered. The

members then delivered the cookies the next day.

The fruits of the cookie-making project largely financed the club's

trip to Denver. The members who had the most points were allowed to attend the meeting. In Denver, the meeting focused on inspiring members to develop their personal leadership skills. For example, the keynote speaker dressed as one might expect an inner-city gang member to look and mingled among the FCCLA members. No one quite knew who he was, but Mrs. Albers was definitely surprised when he took the stage. He lectured on first impressions and the importance of a good one.

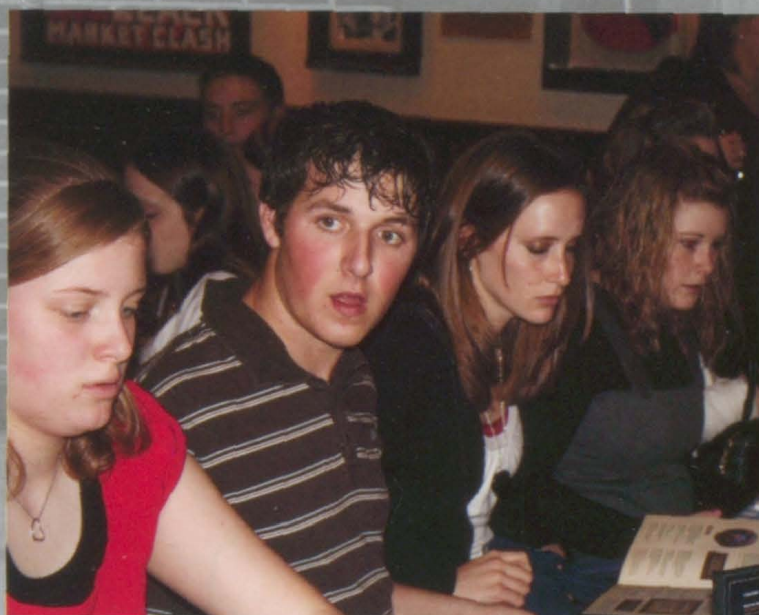
Aside from meetings, the club went to the Cheesecake Factory, the Hard Rock Café, a candy factory, and Starbucks. Fortunately, they stayed in a hotel that was within walking distance of all those places and the meetings.

Overall, if they had the chance to do it again, "we would love to," Mrs. Albers said.



Study Abroad

"I'm glad we got the chance to go to nationals this year. It was really fun and free and a good learning experience," sophomore Kayla Jacques said. Photo by Kayla Hollern



Dinner Time

FCCLA members look over menus in Denver to decide what to order. Members visited the Cheesecake Factory and several other restaurants during their stay. Photo by Brooke Graves



Stay in Touch

While waiting to board a bus, sophomore Caroline Beilman makes a quick phone call. The state FCCLA convention featured not only meetings, but also plenty of fun. Photo by Brooke Graves

Shimmy & Slide

A New Beat, Rhythm, and Step

Many of the EHS students are involved in various activities like sports and the different groups that the school provides. KAYS is a student organization that gets involved with many different community projects. Over the course of the year, they also sponsor two school dances. There have been a lot of changes that KAY members have had to adapt to this year, such as a new sponsor and new events.

One of the new events was the "Pack the Place" spaghetti feed. KAY members worked during the games to serve the crowd food and others worked after the game to help clean up.

"I think it was a good fundraiser. It was a lot of fun to do and it was a

great experience," freshman Tori Clark said.

While KAYS traditionally sponsors Snoball every year, this year, they decided to sponsor a new dance. A

with friends in costumes. It was like we were completely different people," said sophomore Shelby Gottschalk.

Another big event that KAY members participate in is the food box auction. Members get together and create boxes full of homemade goodies, such as cookies, cakes and candies. The auction raised over \$1,500 with the proceeds benefitting Fifth Quarter.

Although KAYS has undergone many changes, good student leadership has been the key to the group's success.

"I think that even though KAYS has went through many changes throughout the past couple years, they've managed to pull through and brainstorm wisely to get things done and done right," senior Bailey Deutscher said.



Dumb and Dumber

Brothers senior Zack Gehring and freshman Matt Gehring dress up as Lloyd and Harry for the Halloween dance, the first time it had ever been put on by KAYS. "Having your brother in high school has its advantages," Zack Gehring said. Photo by Katalyn Keller

halloween dance was held in late October and was an optional costume dance where prizes were given to the top three costumes. Many of the EHS students attended the dance in hopes of having the dance again next year.

"It was really nice to hang out

Pump up the Party

Getting the students pumped for the dance, sophomore Paige Reilly dances with junior Bailee B. at center stage. Snoball featured Randy Sauer. Midnight Productions as the DJ service which ran from 8 until 11:30 p.m. Photo by Bailey Deutscher



Going Once, Going Twice, SOLD

Senior Kayla Hollern points to a bidder for one of the boxes during the food box auction as junior Tina Unrein shows off the box. "I loved participating in the food box auction. It's always interesting to see how high some students and teachers will bid on boxes," Hollern said. Photo by Kayla Casey



Cupid Shuffle

Some of the EHS students show off their sweet moves while dancing to the song, "Cupid Shuffle," a new line dance. "Snoball is a good opportunity to get away from school and have fun with your friends," sophomore Kayla Jacques said. Photo by Bailey Deutscher



Dance the Night Away

Sophomore Chelsea Leiker shows her dance skills while dancing to the song "Satisfaction" by Benny Benassi. "I've been told that I'm really white when it comes to dancing, but I think I proved at the dance that I have some pretty sweet moves," Leiker said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

Royalty Coming Through

Seniors Aaron Pfannenstiel and Meredith Keller won King and Queen for Snoball 2008. Other candidates were junior Kara Hackney, sophomore Ashley Schuster, and freshman Alesha Brenner.

Photo by Brooke Graves



Join Together

Working to embody the theme "An Hour of Enchantment," sophomore Jacob Begler and juniors Sarah Fischer and Heather Weber work together to set up backdrop for Snoball. While some KAYS did not help with the decorating, most helped with clean-up the next day. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

THIS & THAT



Costume Fun

Junior Whitney Taylor shows her stuff as a sprinter at the first ever Halloween Dance. "The Halloween dance was really a neat idea because it gave us a chance for another informal dance where we could just have some fun," Taylor said. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*



Hold On

Working to put the carriage together the night before the Snoball dance, freshmen Courtney Waldschmidt and Alesha Brenner help ReNae Mann, first grade teacher, set up for the dance. The theme of the dance was "An Hour of Enchantment." *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Can You Hear Me Now?

Freshmen Rachel Mick and Chelsey Walter talk on their cell phones at the Snoball setup. "Decorating was fun, then seeing it all finished at the dance was great," Mick said. KAY members stayed after the basketball game to set up for the dance. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Sneak-A-Peek

Senior KAYS President Deana Hunsicker takes a peek inside the first place box of goodies. "The students and staff made the food box auction a great success by bringing in over \$1,500 for all of the boxes created by members," Hunsicker said. *Photo by Kayla Casey*

KAYS

Kayla Casey

Show of Hands

During the Got Talent? production held by NHS, freshman Maggie Zody shows off a unique display of singing along with a song and using words and sections of words written on her hands. "It was a blast performing it in front of everyone because it was so unique. It seemed like it would be a cool thing to do, and it only took me about 10 minutes to learn it," Zody said.

Photo by Bailey Deutscher



On Your Mark

Two unidentified runners compete in one of the after-prom activities held by SADD. This was the first year Ellis High School hosted an after-prom. These activities went on after the dance until 1:00 a.m. *Photo by Maggie Zody*



It Could Happen

Sophomore Chase King lays on the hood of a car during the mock car crash docu-drama. King portrayed an accident victim killed in a drunk driving accident. The mock car crash and accompanying lectures were put on by emergency responders to discourage teens from reckless, inattentive, and drunk driving. *Photo by Ashley Stroda*

THIS & THAT



Viva la Napkin

Junior Whitney Taylor and senior Danielle Pfeifer prepare for the NHS induction ceremony. The event was held during school and attended by the student body. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Whose Are Those? Nach'os!

Junior Kyle Hadley digs into one of his favorite Mexican dishes at the fiesta that was hosted by SADD. Held right after Christmas break, it was attended by many students. *Photo by Kayla Hallen*



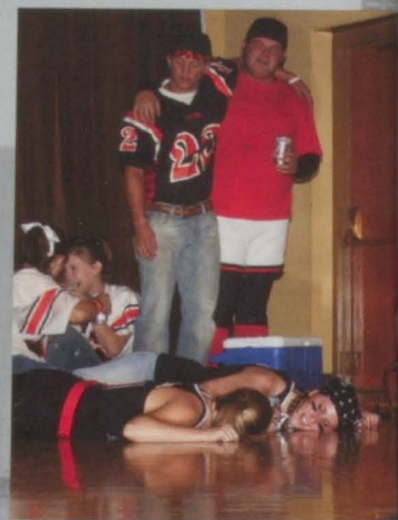
Coach in Action

Mrs. Karen Madorin prepares her scholars' bowl team for a round of buzzing action. The team placed in the top 3 at three different competitions throughout the season. *Photo by Brooke Graves*



Rescue Me

One of the "victims," during the SADD Docu-Drama, sophomore Dillon Kinderknecht is removed from one of the cars in the set-up wreckage. *Photo by Ashley Stroda*



What Not To Do

During Homecoming week, SADD put on a skit to help promote safe decisions to EHS students. Senior Danny Desaire and sophomore Dillon Kinderknecht act out the kinds of destructive decisions that teens may make. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



Interact



involve

Students Come Together

EHS students stayed busy this year with many extracurricular and honor groups. These groups included Scholars Bowl, NHS, and SADD. A new group added this year was Link Crew. The various groups help students get more involved with their community and friends.

This year's Scholar's Bowl team was led by Mrs. Madorin. Scholars Bowl is a group that gives academically strong students the chance to compete against other strong students. The team had a good season, earning one first place finish, two third place finishes, and one fourth place finish. The team competed at regionals but fell short in their attempt to qualify for state.

"We worked to maintain a team that was used to working together. This worked out very well for the group," Madorin said.

Headed by Janetta Heroneme, National Honor Society is a group whose

purpose is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in all students of EHS. NHS had quite a few requirements in order to be a member, including 70 hours

after-prom, SADD sold antenna balls for \$2 each. The balls came with cards that got students good deals at the Ellis Travel Plaza

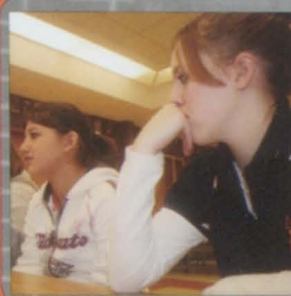
The newest group this year, Link Crew, was designed to help ease the transition from junior high to high school. The freshmen were paired with juniors and seniors to help them "learn the ropes" and not feel so intimidated during their first days at EHS. Freshmen orientation took place the first Friday of the school year where many activities were held to get the freshmen acquainted with the rules of the school. They had four teacher-advisors: Jill Wood, Troy Dale, Butch Hayes, and Amanda Drennon.

"The leaders of the Link Crew did an excellent job at easing some of the anxieties some of the freshman were feeling at the start of the year...I hope it continues for many more years," Hayes said.

Link Learning

"[The Link leaders] helped tell me what to expect finals to be like the first semester when I was very worried about them," freshman Alesha Brenner said.

Photo by Ryan Bittel



of community service, a minimum GPA of 3.5, and a show of good character. NHS sponsored the Got Talent? event which was a chance for students to show their hidden talents.

Students Against Destructive Decisions is a group open to all students. A new activity this year was after-prom where activities were held in gym following the dance. To raise money for



Something Evil's Lurking

Dancing to the infamous "Thriller," sophomores Paige Reilly and Danielle Weber strut their stuff during the Got Talent? show put on by NHS. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Circle of Trust

One LINK Crew group discusses strategies for school success, including good study habits, involvement levels, and things to avoid. There were approximately three LINK leaders for each group of freshmen. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

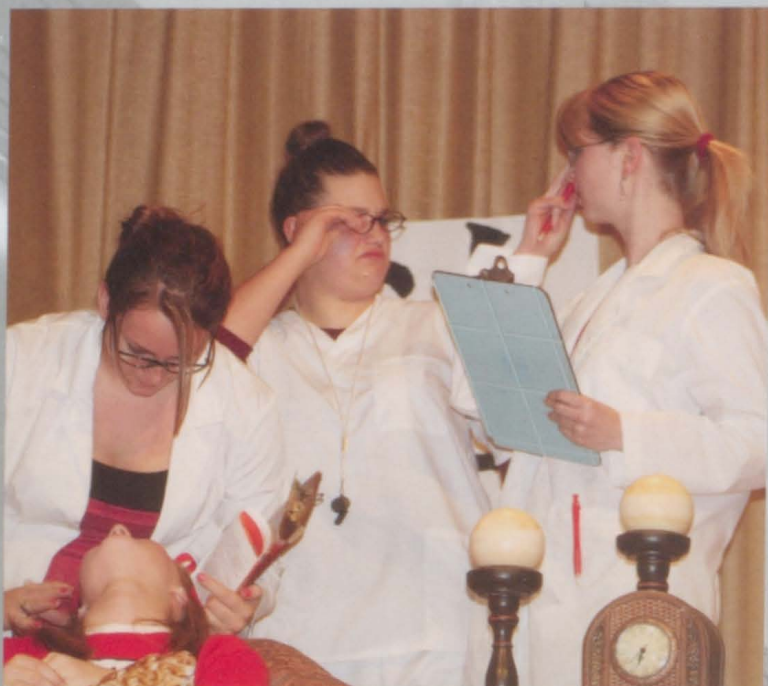
Victory

Junior Brooke Graves tries out for the Harvard cheerleading team. Her partner, junior Justin Henrickson, made the squad, too. "I'm really not much of a cheerleader, so I don't know how I wound up playing one, but if the skirt fits..." Graves said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Check-Up

With two doctors and one nurse, Dr. Schlepp and Dr. Schlupp try to solve the mystery of the contestants' zombie appearances. "My favorite part of the play was being with my classmates during practices and dress rehearsals," junior Kendra Mickelson said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Never Grow Old

Senior Aaron Pfannenstiel and junior Logan Bittel reenact a scene from their childhood in front of their mother, junior Heather Weber. "I enjoyed the play this year. It gave me a chance to participate and further explore what I love to do," Pfannenstiel said. *Photo by Ashley Strada*

THIS & THAT



Granny Smith

"Hold your horses, I'm coming!" Junior Whitney Taylor utters a line frequently used in the play when guests arrive at Idle House. Taylor portrayed Dusty Broom, the housekeeper for the house. *Photo by Ashley Strada*



Chow Down Goo

"The play really brought the class together and showed us sides of each other we have never seen before," junior Kerry Robb said. Robb played Swedish chef Chow Down Goo. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



High Fashion

Junior Brandon Geschwentner helps fix the flow of decor at Idle House for his boss, Dee Zine, played by Sarah Fischer. "I liked when I had to run around the stage screaming," Geschwentner said. *Photo by Ashley Strada*



Sshhh!!!

Junior Rachael Hamel has to have her mouth covered so she doesn't share Kerry Robb's secret recipe with the members of the house. Hamel played Chick Pea, Robb's cooking assistant. *Photo by Ashley Strada*



Pretty in Pink

Junior Chase King attempts to get the beauty sleep he needs on stage. "It was a great experience, but felt like the junior tradition was ruined some," King said. *Photo by Ashley Strada*



Dynamic & diligent

"American Idle" arrives at EHS

Lights! Camera! Action!

Typically at Ellis High, juniors would file into the director's classroom to audition for the school play. However, a few changes had to be made. Instead of one director, there were two. Instead of an all junior class play, it was opened to juniors and seniors due to there not being a play the previous year.

With tension in the air, some juniors protested having seniors in the traditional

junior class play. But after some time and realizing only three seniors wanted to be in the play, the intensity died down.

"In the end, I think the seniors that were involved with the play helped put together a successful play and were committed to making the play better," junior Haley Wolf said.

Double trouble or two great minds think alike? All members of the play agreed that having two directors rather than one didn't affect the outcome of the play and enjoyed both Katy Hayden and LaChelle Fitzmorris's advice.

"I think having two sponsors rather than one was a great choice considering two heads are better than one and they both had great input coming from

their own personal experience," junior Bailee Bittel said.

Overall the play was a great success and students enjoyed seeing it at the high school again. The cast of "American Idle" will tell you again and again to audition for the play because of its experience and memories.



In the Spotlight

"At times acting was a little difficult because my character said things that I don't usually say. But I enjoyed my character all in all," Kara Hackney said of her character Sheila Noes. Photo by Ashley Stroda

CAST

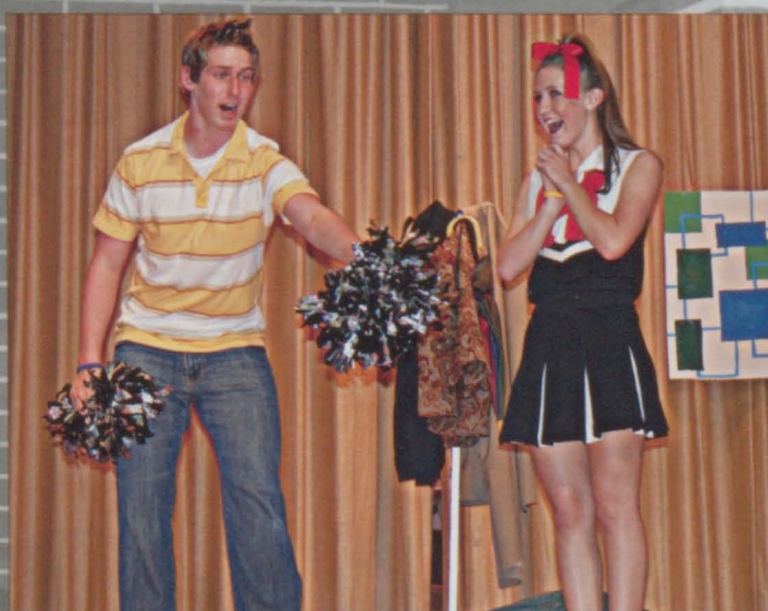
Julie Shinn	Jordan Lang
Buster Slacker	Logan Bittel
Bruno Slacker	Aaron Pfannenstiel
Kitty Slacker	Heather Weber
Sheila Noes	Kara Hackney
Britney Starr	Tina Unrein
Hillary Glamm	Brooke Graves
Lavendar Blossom	Vanessa North
Jock Wanabee	Chase King
Chow Down Goo	Kerry Robb
Todd Khool	Kyle Hadley
Jake Black	Justin Henrickson
Dee Zine	Sarah Fischer
Nurse Nancy	Bailee Bittel
Dusty Broom	Whitney Taylor
Chick Pea	Rachael Hamel
Josh	Joey Kitzman
Photographer	Brandon Geschwentner
Worker	Brandon Geschwentner
Camera Person	Steven Schmidt
Dr. Schlepp	Tina Jaekel
Dr. Schlupp	Kendra Mickelson
P.A. Voice	Haley Wolf
Stage Crew	Kendra Mickelson
	Kayla Hollern
Special Effects	Haley Wolf
	Steven Schmidt
	Brandon Geschwentner
Programs	Kayla Hollern
Directors	Katy Hayden
	LaChelle Fitzmorris



Run, Run as Fast as You Can

Flying across the stage, junior Justin Henrickson tries to catch Kitty Slacker with his brand new fishing net. "Overall it was a pretty good time," Henrickson said.

Photo by Bailey Deutscher



Cheerleaders at Heart

Tina Unrein, playing Britney Starr, watches in excitement as Kyle Hadley, playing Todd Khool, shows off his new cheer. "At the beginning just reading through it, I would have given the plot a seven, but in the end the way everyone played their part, a definite ten," Unrein said. Photo by Ashley Stroda

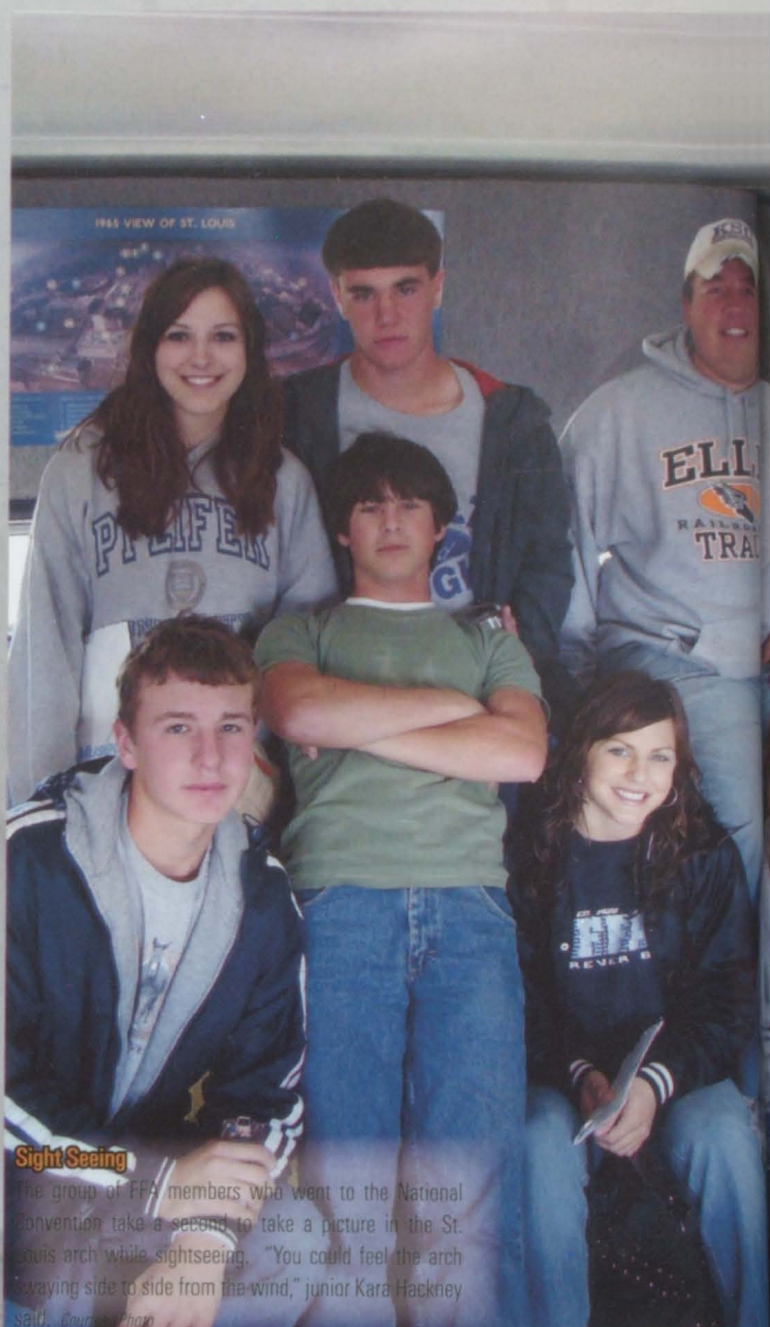
The Smile Says It All

Freshman Courtney Waldschmidt holds her third place medal along with some new floor mats for her junker truck. FFA held the first annual Junker Truck Competition during National FFA week. Photo by Sarah Fischer



Staying Focused

Senior Katelyn Keller and junior Kendra Mickelson listen to Mr. Vajnar, Hays High School FFA Advisor, give instructions for the Horticulture portion of the competition. Mickelson placed 9th in the competition. Photo by Sarah Fischer



Sight Seeing

The group of FFA members who went to the National Convention take a second to take a picture in the St. Louis arch while sightseeing. "You could feel the arch swaying side to side from the wind," junior Kara Hackney said. Courtesy Photo

THIS & THAT



Attention Please

Junior Jordan Lang leads the opening ceremonies during the annual FFA Banquet. Lang was vice-president of the Ellis FFA chapter. Photo by Katelyn Keller



Examination

"Austin and I were cussin' and discussin' whether or not these seeds in the vials were buffalo grass or alfalfa," freshman Daniel Honas said. Photo by Sarah Fischer



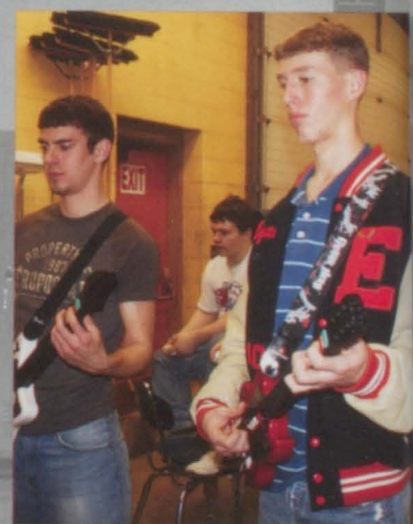
Xtreme Gaming

Freshman Tori Clark and Logan Mattheyer play a game of Halo 3 during the X-box night. "I had no idea what to do, but still had fun," Clark said. Photo by Ashley Stroda



You Want Fries With That?

Junior Justin Henrickson judges chicken nuggets for FFA poultry judging. "I didn't place, but I judged those nuggets real good," Henrickson said. Photo by Sarah Fischer



Battle of the Ryans

Senior Ryan Bittel and sophomore Ryan Weber play a round in Guitar Hero during the FFA X-box night. "I smoked a lot of frustrated guys in Guitar Hero," senior Ryan Bittel said. "They didn't know what they were up against." Photo by Ashley Stroda

Roadtrips friendships

Journey Across the Country

When six members of the Ellis FFA chapter were informed they would be attending the National Convention for the second year, it got the season off to a good start. Little did they know that they had a crowded thirteen-hour suburban ride ahead of them. It was a long way to Indianapolis, but well worth the trip.

"Although the trip was long, I got to be with my friends, do some sight seeing, and went places I've never been before," junior Kendra Mickelson said.

Upon arriving, they attended the opening session where they listened to speaker Rick Rigsby. Although he was speaking to a high school audience, he also sent out important messages to adults.

"Rick Rigsby inspired me with his words and his actions to become a better leader in the community and at school," junior Justin Henrickson said.

After the speaker, they went to the FFA Shopping Mall where Mr. Kohman put a boys versus girls scavenger hunt together with the winner receiving a credit card that was provided by the National FFA Association. The girls' team ended up winning the hunt and

"It felt really good to give some 'nature' to such a large and industrialized city," junior Kara Hackney said.

The members also got to see the arch in St. Louis and the PRCADodge Xtreme Bulls Tour Final at the Pepsi Coliseum in Indianapolis.

The Ellis FFA chapter learned valuable information and did a lot of volunteer work for the community through their chapter. The Ellis FFA Chapter competed in several competitions and traveled to many different places. When the chapter attended District Poultry CDE they took home the top three places with junior

Kara Hackney in 1st, junior Jordan Lang second place, and senior Katelyn Keller third place. Also, Kara Hackney was the Kansas NW District FFA Vice President, the first district officer the Ellis chapter has had in a long time.

Take a Peek

Mrs. Howard takes a look inside a junker truck to get a good idea about its condition. "Are there mice living in there?" Howard said. She was one of three judges for the FFA Junker Truck competition.

Photo by Sarah Fischer



purchasing FFA National Convention hoodies with their reward money.

The next day, they participated in the National FFA Day of Service by planting hundreds of trees in a park in Indianapolis.

Are You Going to Eat That?

Junior Kara Hackney and Mr. Kohman get a bite to eat at the annual FFA Banquet. Hackney served as chapter president and Kohman was the advisor.

Photo by Katelyn Keller



The Fight For Gage

Junior Tina Unrein looks through some penny jars during the FFA Penny War. The proceeds went to Gage Hayden, son of superintendent Kyle Hayden. Gage was recently diagnosed with leukemia. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

Memories & traditions

Smooth Sailing

The week that everybody looks forward to came all too quickly this year as EHS students celebrated Homecoming week with a theme of "Cruising To A Victory." Long lost twins were found, big feathered 80's hair was rocked, we let out a few yee-haws, and even the animal in all of us came out.

There were many festivities for the students to get involved in. Spirit week was five themed days including cowboy day, twin day, zoo day, retro day, and the traditional orange and black day.

A class float decorating contest was also held for the homecoming parade. The juniors beat out the seniors this year in a big upset.

"It was upsetting to lose the float competition to the junior class, but either way, we all know whose

float was really the best and the juniors put up a good fight," senior Bailey Deutscher said.

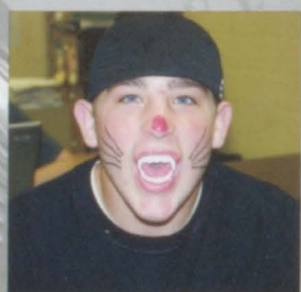
The bonfire was held the night

ers have an advantage, though, because they only had one team. The students had to split up among classes. If the students would field one team of the best, the students would dominate, and that's a guarantee," junior Chase King said.

The Homecoming crowning ceremony was held directly before the game. Danielle Pfeifer and Zack Gehring were crowned Homecoming king and queen.

Following the crowning, the Railers battled the Smith Center Redmen. The Railers couldn't pull away with a win, falling short 62-0. Even though the score wasn't in the Railers' favor, students still have good memories of the week.

"Homecoming was a blast this year! I loved dressing up and cheering at the football game," freshman Rachel Mick said.



Let Out The Animal

"Homecoming week is a great week to get involved in the activities that are going on all week and it's a great time to get into the school spirit," sophomore Dylan Pfeifer said. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

before the game to help get everyone pumped up for the game. Girls went head-to-head during powder-puff football games, a tradition started in 2006, and students watched as the guys fought for victory during volleyball matches against EHS faculty.

"The competition doesn't get any better than that. The teach-



It's Easy, Just Smile

Homecoming royalty pose for the almost endless pictures that friends and family begin to take. Queen candidates were Kayla Hollern, Danielle Pfeifer, and Ashley Stroda. King candidates were Justin Gnad, Zack Gehring, and Daniel Gottschalk. The King and Queen were Zack Gehring and Danielle Pfeifer accompanied by Alexis Mattheyer and Kade Gottschalk.

Photo By Deana Hunsicker

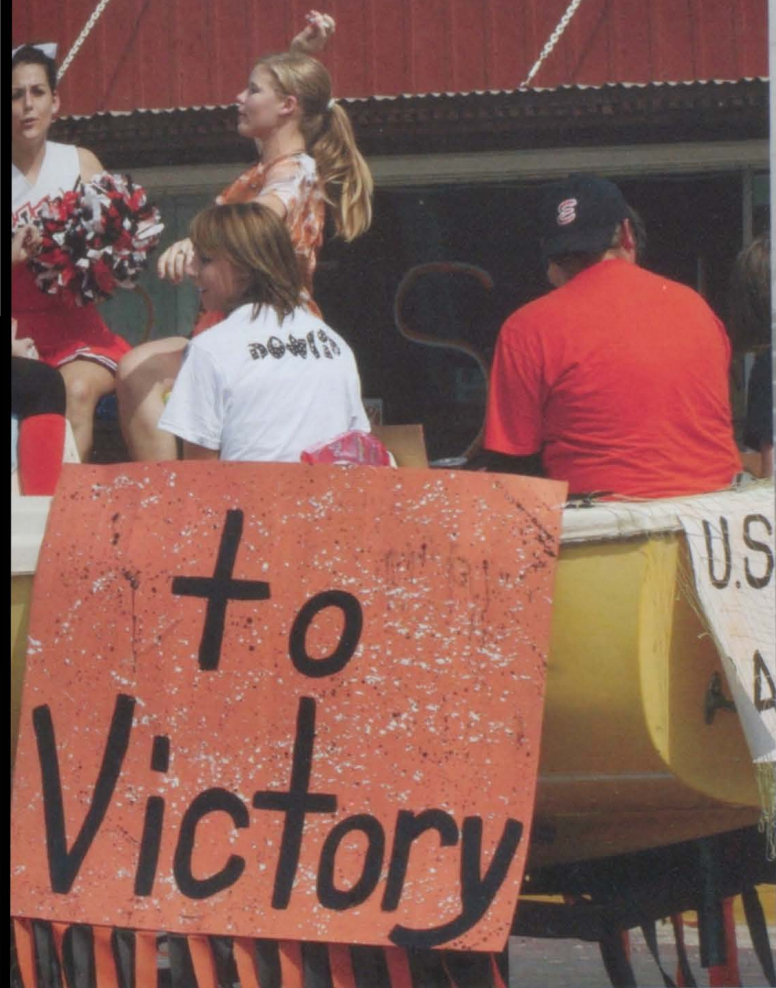


Studyin' in Style

Working hard in Mr. Mick's College Algebra class senior Meredith Keller shows her school pride by dressing up on orange and black day, one of the many theme days during spirit week. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

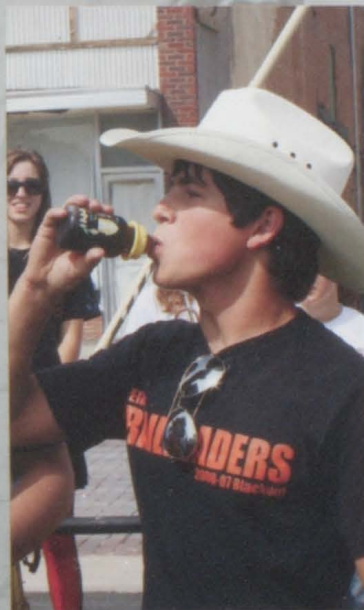
Cruisin' to a Victory

Seniors Bailey Deutscher, Jessica Lacy, Katelyn Keller, Melissa Nowlin, and Deana Hunsicker take a sail down Washington Street during the homecoming parade, stopping at Memorial Park where the homecoming pep rally was held. With the theme being "Cruising To A Victory," the seniors used a sailboat to decorate their float for the parade. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



Go Baby Go!

Junior Justin Henrickson participates in a game during the homecoming pep rally where class teams were required to do a number of different activities. Henrickson competed in the baby bottle contest where one member of each class went head to head to see who could finish theirs first. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

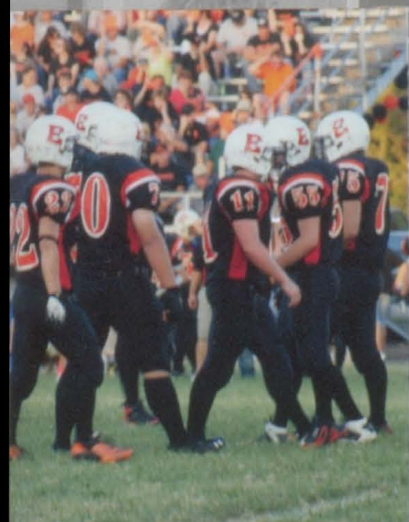


Baring It All

Showing their EHS pride, seniors John Tricks, Daniel Gottschalk, Danny Desaire, and Justin Gnad proudly display their body paint at the bonfire. The Bonfire and Memorial pep rally took place on the Thursday night before the Homecoming game. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



THIS & THAT



It's Go Time

Railers football players break from a huddle during the homecoming game. The stands were packed, and the cheerleaders and students were ready to cheer on their fellow peers in the game against Smith Center. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



Hungry? Grab a Snickers

While playing a game during spirit week, senior Bailey Deutscher attempts to unwrap and eat a candy bar without the use of her hands. Unfortunately, Deutscher's partner failed to hold the candy bar resulting in her eating it off the ground. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



Shake Your Groove Thang!

Junior Brooke Graves and foreign exchange student Tina Jaekel share a good time dancing at the homecoming dance Saturday night. "The dance was a good end to Homecoming week even though the game didn't go so well," Graves said. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*



Bringin' Back the Funk

Junior Haley Wolf plays it cool in her gigantic afro as she attempts to work on homework in Algebra II. "Retro Day" was one of the more popular spirit days among the EHS students, as many different eras were brought back to life. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



King and Queen for a Day

Seniors Danielle Pfeifer and Zack Gehring pose for the crowd as they are crowned the Homecoming royalty before the game. "It was an honor to get the crown since there were two other wonderful candidates," Pfeifer said. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

Conquering Your Fears

Junior Ciera Hespe and freshman Maggie Zody perform their duet in which they placed 3rd and 4th at many meets. "Maggie and I had a lot of fun doing our duet this year because it was fun being crazy together because we have such good chemistry," Hespe said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Sibling Love

Senior Michael Young and his sister Stephanie Young, freshman, act out their duet at Forensics Night. "It was easy to fake a fight scene. We're used to the real thing," Young said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



We Owe It All to You

Forensics members round up their coaches, Mrs. Susan Deges and Mrs. Sonja Ellis to reward them for their hard work and generosity throughout the Forensics season. Having a new coach would prove to have many road blocks, but with the help of member Aaron Pfannenstiel's mom, the team made it one huge success. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

THIS & THAT



Close Bond

Senior Aaron Pfannenstiel and Mrs. Deges discuss the results at Forensics. Pfannenstiel was one of many qualifying for state. Deges was a first time coach and also the advanced English teacher. *Photo by Sonja Ellis*



Thrilling Performance

Sophomore Danielle Weber performs the "Thriller" dance with classmates Paige Reilly and Kayla Jacques at Forensics night. The popular routine borrows moves from the 80's hit music video. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



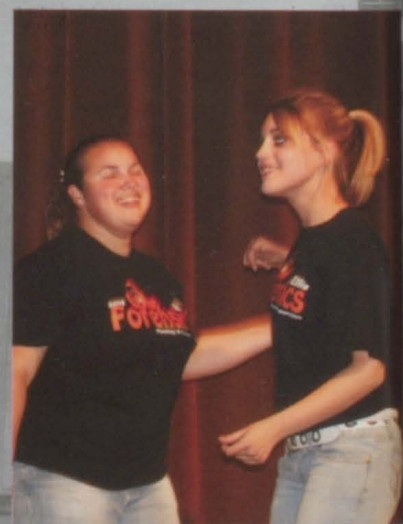
It's My Time!

Celebrating her 18th birthday, senior Vanessa North and Aaron Pfannenstiel take a moment to goof around. "Since she was bummed about not having a party, I threw her one," Pfannenstiel said. *Photo by Sonja Ellis*



Blub Blub, I'm a Fishie

While filling time, senior Vanessa North acts like one of the fish in Mrs. Deges' classroom fish tank. Moments later, sophomore Kiley Wayman pretended to be a shark and proceeded to attack the little fishie. *Photo by Sonja Ellis*



Smile, It's Contagious!

Senior Vanessa North and sophomore Kiley Wayman introduce the next act at Forensics Night. "Forensics was really fun this year and I learned a lot from Vanessa and Aaron," Wayman said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

New & learning

Coping With Changes

Smooth transitions make everything flow ten times easier. With an ever-changing year, changes were inevitable. This season, the Forensics team proved they could handle any changes thrown their way.

Susan Deges, who student taught at Ellis High School, took the English teaching job and Forensics coaching spot at EHS when Mrs. Linda Riedel resigned. Many thought with Riedel leaving it would be difficult; however, the members proved everyone wrong. Students stated how the transition wasn't as hard as some would think.

"Knowing Mrs. Deges before she became an actual teacher at Ellis made it very easy to adapt to. Although I miss 'Missus,' I enjoy having Mrs. Deges as a coach," junior

Kara Hackney said.

Not only did the members cope easily, but the coach enjoyed the season too.



Thank You

"My first year of coaching was a great joy and I truly loved all aspects of my coaching responsibilities," Mrs. Deges said.

Photo by Bailey Deutscher

"My first year of coaching was a great joy and I truly loved all aspects of my coaching responsibilities," Deges said.

With twelve entries qualifying for state, ten of which are part of the state tournament, many thought the season was a big success.

"I thought my first year in Forensics was a very good year, going to tournaments with my brother and placing 4th at the Quinter meet," freshman Stephanie Young said.

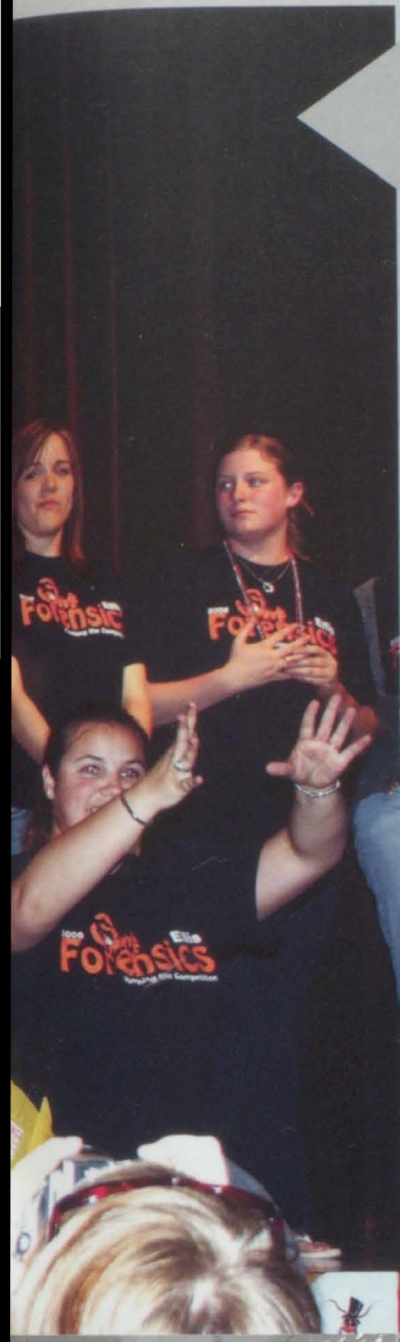
However, there are always a few tweaks that could be made to improve anything.

"If there was anything I would change, I would choose to not attend some of the unnecessary tournaments. We only need to go to tournaments that help us achieve our goals as a team," Deges said.

Every team, group, or organization faces change at some point. But with every change comes the will to learn, which is what this Forensics team did.

First Time Performers

At the Novice tournament for first time Forensics members, the team stops to pose for a picture. Of the individuals competing, sophomores Kayla Jacques and Paige Reilly placed 2nd with their IDA. *Photo by Sonja Ellis*



Cupid's Shuffle

Seniors Aaron Pfannenstiel and Vanessa North dance to "Cupid's Shuffle" in between acts. "Since our coach won a trip to Hawaii, we decided to improvise most of Forensics night," Pfannenstiel said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*

Change & resistance

Starting New Traditions

With every new class comes new ideas and new traditions. A popular trend that many surrounding schools are now taking part in is renting out places outside of the community to hold their prom. With this new trend in mind, the junior class and faculty sponsors thought the idea of holding prom at the Memorial Union Ballroom on the campus of FHSU would better suit the circumstances. The students would also get to participate in after-prom activities in the same location.

However, the seniors thought differently about the proposed changes. While the juniors wanted change, the seniors wanted tradition. The late notice of the changes also had an impact on the seniors' decision-making when they were asked to take a vote.

Some just didn't want prom moving out of Ellis.

"It isn't Hays' prom, so I think we should keep the prom in our community rather than taking it to theirs," senior

plans stayed as the calendar read.

However, some traditions were broken and possibly for the better of the students. The first ever post-prom was put on by SADD and included a bungee run, obstacle course, and plenty of food. Junior Whitney Taylor, SADD president, said, "I felt that the post-prom was a great thing and it was really fun. There were no problems with it."

Though the tradition wasn't changed for prom, many students feel that in the future it could be beneficial to students.

"I think it could be something new, different, and a cool opportunity for our school to take part in," junior Kendra Mickelson said.

Some things will always change and traditions at some point may be broken, but as junior Whitney Taylor says, "Either way, it's still prom, and it's still going to be a fun experience."



ThinkFast

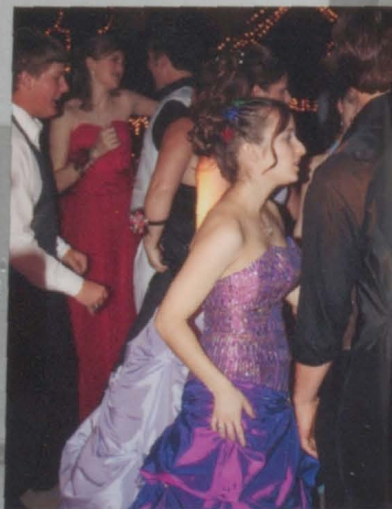
"The best thing about prom was having fun and dancing with friends. It was really exciting because it's the biggest dance of the year and it was the real deal since it was our senior prom," senior Brian Riedel said. Photo by Jill Wood

Vanessa North said.

Some of the juniors thought that moving the location would switch up the scenery and possibly start new traditions for EHS. However, when all the votes were tallied and with Principal Burton's thoughts that it was just too late to change the date, the

I'm the Leader of the Pack

Leading the YMCA, juniors Kyle Hadley and Sarah Fischer show the dancers how it's supposed to be done. "Prom was fun this year, but Ellis High School's after prom was even more fun," Hadley said. Photo by Jill Wood



The Time of Our Lives

Dancing to the beat, senior Meredith Keller and date Colton Springer enjoy the dance. "Prom this year was really memorable for me because not only was it my last prom, but my boyfriend traveled all the way from Texas to be there," Keller said. Photo by Jill Wood



YMCA

Participating in the infamous YMCA, many of the students show off their skills. "It was fun to see how the decorations turned out because I didn't get to stay to help until the end because I got sick, but our hard work did pay off," junior Debra Massier said. *Photo by Jill Wood*

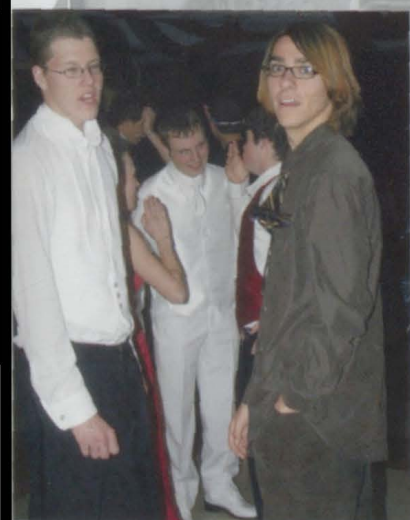


Don't Worry About It...

Being a photographer, senior Ryan Bittel stops a moment to capture some girls dancing the night away. Bittel was one of the seniors that took part in the stretch Hummer limo which had a police escort as a closure to the seniors last prom. *Photo by Jill Wood*

Everybody was Kung-Fu Fighting!

Sophomores Kayla Jacques and Paige Reilly compete in the dance-off by showing off their martial arts skills. The girls also did the "Thriller" prior to that. "We were pretty inspired by the Matrix," Jacques said. *Photo by Jill Wood*



Catching Up

Juniors Eric Zahn and Cole Hickey take a moment from dancing to catch up on each others' lives. Both guys attended EHS prom for the first time on this night. *Photo by Jill Wood*

THIS & THAT



Number One Spectators

Gazing on, seniors Melissa Nowlin, Jessi Lacy, Amber Ellis, and sophomore Randi Hook watch the dance-off which included breakdancing, the Thriller, and Kung-fu among many others. *Photo by Jill Wood*



The Cody's

Junior Cody O'camb and senior Cody Gehrer converse during the dance. For those students who didn't care to dance, there was a table set up in back to take part in cards or chatting. *Photo by Jill Wood*



The Bailee's!

Senior Bailey Deutscher and junior Bailee Bittel pair up for a spin around the dance floor. "When you're the single ladies on the floor, you know you can always grab your best friend," Bittel said. *Photo by Jill Wood*



Catch Me When I Fall

Cradling junior Cole Hickey, seniors Kaylor Campbell and Tom Totten enjoy themselves at the "Arabian Nights" Prom. "Basically our goal for Prom is turn everything upside down," Totten said. *Photo by Jill Wood*

Emotion All Over

Bailey Deutscher starts to tear up during the senior graduation commencement exercises. Deutscher graduated with twenty-seven other classmates. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



Say Cheese

The Senior girls get together to pose for a group photo. Seven out of the thirteen girls plan to attend FHSU, most of whom have been together throughout their entire school career. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



A Song to Remember

The senior class sings a song that fellow classmate, Michael Young wrote. The song was called "Always Remember." *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

THIS & THAT



Congratulations

Kaylor Campbell accepts his diploma during graduation. Campbell plans to attend Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



Getting A Good Laugh

Seniors Todd Flihn and Kayla Hollern get a good laugh during Mr. Faulkender's speech. His speech was a good wrap up the year and his teaching career. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



A Few Last Words

Mr. Faulkender gets the opportunity to speak to the class about a few things he has learned in the past and a few words of advice for the real world. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



I'll Shake Your Hand For That

Tom Totten shakes Linda Hunsicker's hand while he is presented his diploma. Totten got the honor to make the senior video with Zach Gehring. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



A Smile for Success

Justin Gnad shows a big smile while he receives his diploma. Gnad plans to attend FHSU this fall receiving \$5,950 worth of scholarships in all. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

Diplomas & destinies

Three's Company

With the year wrapping up, sports are ending and students are testing. The senior class is getting ready to leave high school life and become independent in the real world.

It's been another year of changes and achievements for the senior class. From "I'm finally a senior" to "This year flew by," the class is ready to broaden their horizons.

Traditionally, the class valedictorian is an individual honor. This year, however, the senior class has three outstanding co-valedictorians: Lauren Wheeler, Ryan Bittel, and Todd Flinn. The top student's GPAs are rounded to 1/10th of a point. When there is a tie, there is no salutatorian award given and they become co-valedictorians. They also are speakers at graduation along with Mr. Stan

Faulkender, the faculty speaker.

When asked what their secret was to achieving this academic honor, Bittel didn't have a secret.

"There is no secret really... I'm just smart," Bittel said.

few other good laughs. He also had a serious side to his speech. He asked, "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" When he was asking this he wasn't just talking to the seniors, he was addressing the audience as well.

Therefore, after all those years spending countless hours of studying, the seniors ended up with \$206,784 awarded to them in student scholarships. Twelve students plan to attend FHSU, two at

KU and NWKTC in Goodland, one at K-State, Cloud County Community College, and Kansas City Kansas Community College. They get a chance to go out in the real world and experience new beginnings. The class of 2008 believed and achieved.

Sharing the Title

Ryan Bittel finishes the valedictorians speech. The three valedictorians decided to keep it short and sweet and write only one speech. Photo by Sarah Fischer



Flinn on the other hand had two secrets to his success.

"Have a good memory and try to pay attention in class," Flinn said.

Mr. Faulkender started his speech out with "Wassuuuppp!" and a

One Handsome Group of Guys

The senior boys get together for one last picture together before going out into the real world. Ten out of fifteen guys were awarded with a scholarship of some kind.

Photo by Sarah Fischer



Sweet Emotion

Kayla Hollern gives her dad a hug after he presented her diploma. Deana Hunsicker also received her diploma from her mom, making for an emotional moment.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

E_NERGIZE

S P O R T S

(WHEN DREAMS
BECOME A REALITY)



Up For Two

Senior Danielle Pfeifer goes for a layup against a Phillipsburg opponent. "Although the season is long and tiring, winning tough games with your teammates makes up for it," Pfeifer said. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



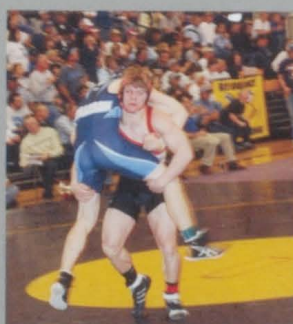
All For One

Sophomore Dylan Pfeifer and junior Clay Barton tackle the Smith Center quarterback Joe Windscheffel. "Playing Smith Center was like wrestling a team of elephants, however I think our team handled it very well," senior Zack Gehring said. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



Batter Up!

Junior Bailee Bittel stands on deck while getting ready to bat against the Plainville Cardinals. "I really enjoy playing Lady Railer Softball. The girls on our team are really close and it helps our playing performance and getting motivated for our games," Bittel said. *Photo by Bailey Deutscher*



Throw Down

Wrestling at Regional wrestling in Trego, sophomore Dillon Kinderknecht prepares to throw down a Scott City opponent. Kinderknecht went to State in the 152 weight class, but fell to his opponent in the first round. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



No One-Woman Team

Sophomore Kayla Jacques passes off to sophomore Bethany Polifka in the 4 x 400 relay at the first track meet held in Ellis. The girls' team took first place at the track meet out of six teams. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



Focused and Driven

Driving around a Quinter opponent, senior Daniel Gottschalk attempts to penetrate to the basket. The Railers fell to the Bulldogs 29-60 the first time and 28-77 the second, finishing their season 3-17. Gottschalk and senior Ryan Bittel were selected to play in the Kansas Jayhawk Barnstorming Tour in Hays where area all-stars competed in a game against the national champions. *Photo by Bailee Bittel*

Flying High

With the assistance of her fellow squad members, junior captain Tina Unrein performs a split cradle for the crowd during a timeout at the boys basketball game against Stockton. Photo by Bailee Bittel



New Generation

Connecting with Youth



You don't establish a tradition of excellence in cheerleading by waiting until kids get to junior high. Around here, as soon as girls know how to walk, they're cheerleading.

The EHS cheerleaders started a new event this year for the Pee Wee cheerleaders to participate in while attending Pee Wee Cheer Camp. The night included many things such as pillow fights, cosmetics, and, of course, food. Pom Pom and Pillows Night had a total of 66 girls in attendance. The EHS cheerleaders practiced many nights to learn and perform a dance routine to a song called "Girls Night Out" by Hannah Montana, fitting their theme perfectly.

"This year it was a lot easier to handle the girls since there was a lot more for them to do, and it was so much fun," junior Rachael Hamel said.

First grade teacher and new cheer coach, Kristi Bittel, and fourth grade

teacher Amy Kuppetz came up with the idea, hoping to start a new tradition for the cheerleaders and the younger girls to participate in. Since the slumber party was during the winter, just in time for the holiday season, it benefitted many parents who took the opportunity to go gift shopping while their daughters were at the high school with the cheerleaders.

"I would like to do it [Pom Pom and Pillows] again next year. I hope the girls will too. I think it was a good night for the parents to get out and do some Christmas shopping and it was fun for the girls and cheerleaders," Bittel said.

With the large number of Pee Wee cheerleaders that attended the event, the squad hopes to keep the tradition going at EHS in years to come.

"Pom Poms and Pillows was a lovely experience. It was heartwarming to see the little girls be so happy when they were all prettied up. I think it was a big success and I hope that the tradition lives on," senior Katelyn Keller said.

"I would like to do it again next year and I hope the girls will too..."
Kristi Bittel

1. Pillow Fight

At the Girl's Night Out Pom Poms and Pillows, the EHS cheerleaders prepare the Pee Wee cheerleaders to perform at a home basketball game while wearing their pajamas and carrying their pillows. Photo by Sarah Fischer



2. Take Down for Two

Cheering at the wrestling tournament in Russell, the cheerleaders observe the match. "I thought it was great having the opportunity to lead our squad," junior co-captain Kara Hackney said. Photo by Kristi Bittel



3. Move Around

Dancing at the pep rally, sophomores Danielle Weber, Caroline Beilman, and Jennifer Kinderknecht perform a routine for Homecoming. The cheerleaders had many activities for the crowd to take part in. Photo by Deana Hunsicker



4. Lean With It

After many hours of practice, the cheerleaders perform their dance. "As a freshman, the dances are not only more challenging than junior high routines, but also more fun to perform," Lacey Gaschler said. Photo by Bailey Deutschner

CHEER

Seniors

Kayla Hollern
Katelyn Keller

Juniors

Tina Unrein Cpt.
Kara Hackney Co-Cpt.
Rachael Hamel

Sophomores

Caroline Beilman
Jennifer Kinderknecht
Danielle Weber

Freshmen

Lacey Gaschler
Kimberly Gottschalk
Rachel Mick
Courtney Waldschmidt
Chelsey Walters

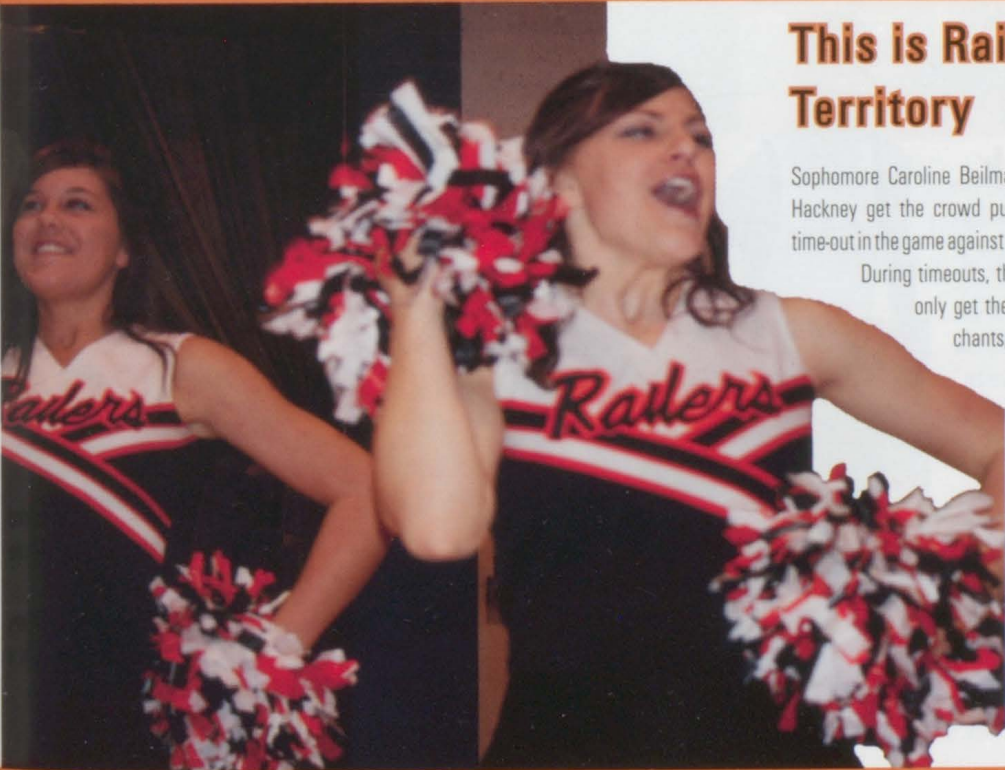
Coach

Kristi Bittel

This is Railer Territory

Sophomore Caroline Beilman and junior Kara Hackney get the crowd pumped up during a time-out in the game against the Stockton Tigers.

During timeouts, the cheerleaders not only get the crowd involved in chants, but they also do many different stunts and cradles. Photo by Ryan Bittel



TIMES

Kevin Urban	19:08
Tanner Gugler	19:49
Ryan Weber	20:10
Todd Flinn	21:35
William Poland	22:25
Jared Knoll	23:24
Nate Townley	23:41
Daniel Honas	24:13
Haley Wolf	16:56
Jamie Durheim	21:09
Nicole Pfeifer	24:31

1. Keeping it Together

The runners get off to a quick start at the annual Gatorade scrimmage. The event is held at the beginning of each season to give parents and students a preview of the team. Entry fee is a bottle of Gatorade. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

2. Push It to the Limit

Freshman Daniel Honas races to the finish at the Phillipsburg Invitational. "My goal was to finish a race. I accomplished this goal amazingly," Honas stated. He completed the race with a time of 25:13. *Courtesy photo*

3. Head to Head

Freshmen Jared Knoll and Nate Townley fight to beat out their competitors during the Hill City Invitational. As in the past, the boys ran a 5K course while the girls' course was lengthened to a 4K this season. *Courtesy photo*

4. Need a Drink?

Junior Haley Wolf offers sophomore Nikki Pfeifer a drink after a long run. "Getting in shape is the best part of Cross Country, but having to run to get in shape is the worst," senior Todd Flinn said. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



Leading the Pack

Sophomore William Poland takes the lead at the Trego Invitational. "My best memory of this season was when our team beat Smith Center," said Poland who has been running cross country for two years. *Courtesy photo*



A special thanks to Brenda Frederking for some of the pictures on these pages

Ready to Run

Seniors Kevin Urban and Todd Flinn stretch out prior to running at the Ellis Gatorade scrimmage. Urban was the top runner for the boys while junior Haley Wolf led the girls.

Photo by Ryan Bittel

I Get Knocked Down But I Get Up Again



Cross country may not be a contact sport, but runners still receive their share of injuries. While some injuries this season were as minor as sophomore William Poland's blister from new

shoes, junior Haley Wolf seemed to attract injuries. In addition to dehydration, Wolf strained a hip flexor during practice. She received ultrasound treatments along with some therapy for the hip injury and started drinking more water after the dehydration.

Wolf may have stumbled and fallen, but she pushed back, making it to state placing 9th out of over 50 runners.

"Going to state is fun because you get to see where you stand against the top runners in the state," Wolf said.

Old wounds from other sports flared up in cross country causing times to slow.

"My knee injury from football last year didn't help my running much,"

freshman Tanner Gugler said.

Gugler didn't suffer any new injuries from running cross country, but he did try to cause one when he threw a golf ball at senior Kevin Urban. Although he tried to inflict pain, it was Urban that got to watch Gugler suffer.

"[My best memory of cross country was] when Tanner Gugler had to run 8 miles because he missed practice," Urban said.

With athletes running an average of 25 miles per week, cross country is undoubtedly rough on the body. Just like every other sport, injuries can and do occur. In the end, however, it is all worth it.

"Cross country is the hardest sport I have ever done, but it's the best feeling in the world when you finish a race in the top number of runners and you know you did your best," sophomore Ryan Weber said.

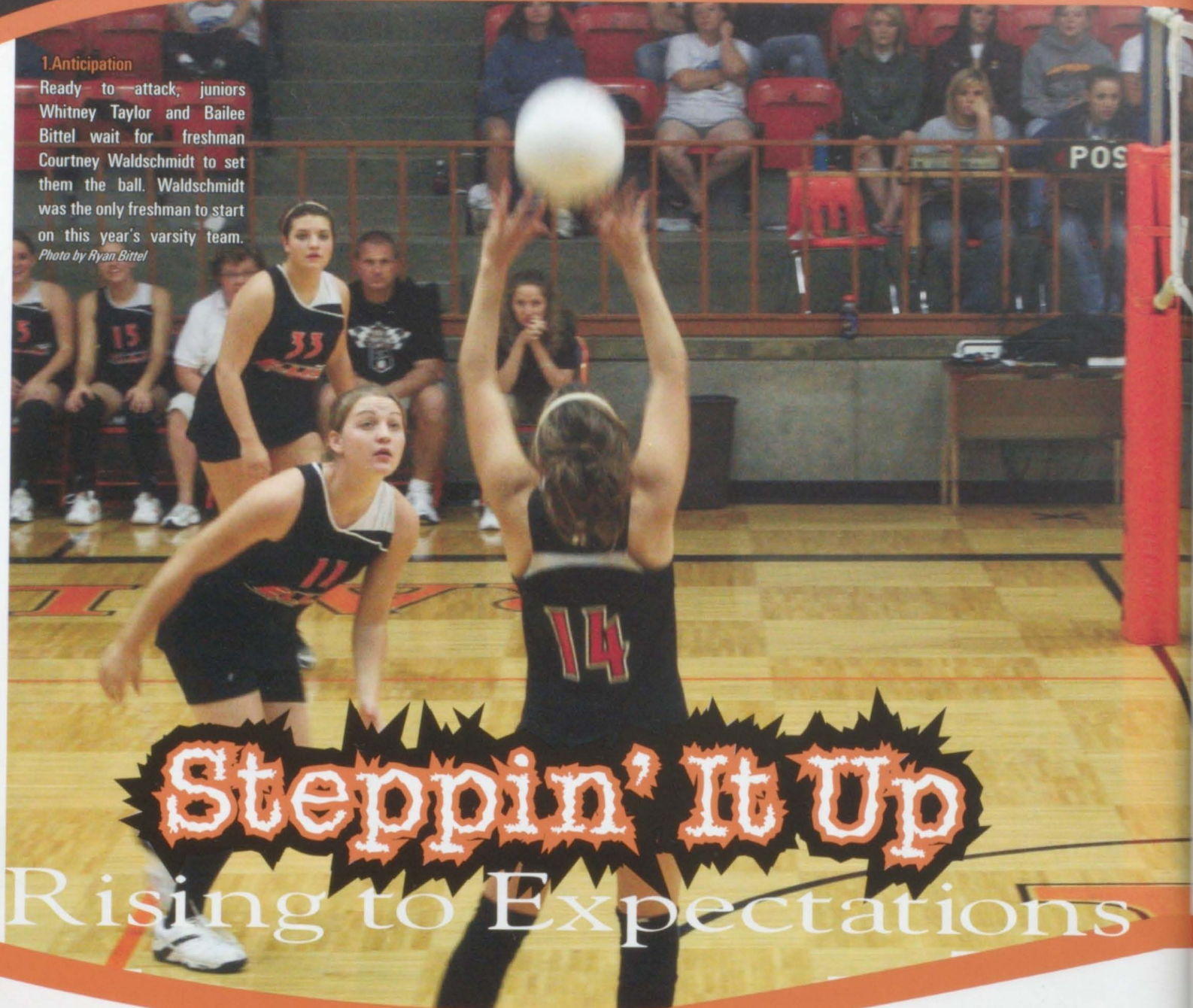
"It's the best feeling in the world when you finish a race in the top number of runners."

-Ryan Weber

1. Anticipation

Ready to attack, juniors Whitney Taylor and Bailee Bittel wait for freshman Courtney Waldschmidt to set them the ball. Waldschmidt was the only freshman to start on this year's varsity team.

Photo by Ryan Bittel



Steppin' It Up

Rising to Expectations



What do you get when you put eight underclassmen, four seniors, a volleyball, and a title-hungry coach onto a 60x30 foot court? You get the Ellis Lady Railer volleyball team, out to win.

This year's underclassmen really stepped up and earned their positions. After last year's seven seniors graduated, large roles were left to be filled. Coach Bittel commented that she "has never had to work this hard to get a team on the same page," but they pulled together on the court, earning them a winning 18-10 season. The four seniors played a large role in the winning season by showing great leadership skills.

"The seniors contributed a lot with motivation and constructive criticism," said Bittel.

The players' ages varied, and although they didn't have the

closest bond, they had their moments. To help the team become closer, the girls ate at Applebee's after tournaments and visited Coach's farm to swim. They had a secret sister week where each girl brought a surprise for their sister. To bring the week to a positive end, they had a secret sister ceremony where each girl brought something to share with the whole team.

"The players must have known we were all very hungry girls, since almost everyone brought food items," said senior Kayla Hollern.

After seven seasons as the Lady Rainers' leader, Coach Bittel will be stepping down next year. Although she will be cheering the girls on from the stands instead of the bench next year, Bittel is looking forward to seeing what next year's team can do since most of this year's starters were underclassmen.

"They will be returning with all but one starter. They have so much court experience and will be gaining poise and maturity before next season."

"They have so much court experience and will be gaining poise and maturity before next season."

- Coach Bittel

1. Good Save

In a final attempt to save the rally, sophomore Shelby Gottschalk bumps the ball with all her might. "I think that we as a team did really well, and I improved on a personal basis," Gottschalk said. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*



2. In For The Kill

Sophomore spiker Bethany Polifka delivers a powerful attack on the ball during a match. Polifka was one of the leading hitters for the Lady Railers with a total of 92 kills for the season. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



3. Searching High

Junior Bailee Bittel eyes the ball as she prepares to make the pass. This was Bittel's first year playing for the Lady Railers after moving to Ellis from Oklahoma City where she had played for two seasons. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

4. Perfect Pass

Senior defensive specialist Kayla Hollern displays her perfect passing form on a serve receive. "My favorite part of the season was winning second place at the Otis-Bison Tournament," Hollern said. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*

SCORE

Palco	23-25, 24-26
Hill City	25-27, 26-24, 23-25
Plainville	25-11, 25-23
Plainville	25-11, 25-6

**LaCrosse/Otis-Bison Tournament
2nd Place**

Plainville	18-25, 25-19, 25-7
Otis-Bison	25-14, 26-24
Kinsley	25-17, 25-22
Tri-Plains	21-25, 32-30, 25-21
Clafin	15-25, 15-25

Victoria	25-17, 25-19
Smith Center	8-25, 8-25
Trego	20-25, 8-25
Western Plains	25-21, 25-15
Osborne	25-20, 25-10
Phillipsburg	18-25, 15-25

**Ellis Invitational
2nd Place**

Northern Valley	25-19, 25-16
Victoria	15-25, 25-16, 25-10
Tri-Plains	25-9, 25-18
Western Plains	25-18, 25-23
Palco	23-25, 23-25

Quinter	25-15, 25-14
Western Plains	25-21, 21-25, 25-15
Natoma	25-12, 25-14
Palco	25-9, 25-13

MCL Tournament @ Trego

Plainville	25-13, 25-22
Phillipsburg	16-25, 13-25
Smith Center	11-25, 15-25

Sub-State @ Oberlin

Oberlin	11-25, 19-25
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Season Record

18-10

MCL All League First Team

Whitney Taylor

Gettin' Low

Preparing to pass the ball to start off a potentially pe ckelson gets down and ready while junior Katie Parson watches closely behind. "My favorite part of playing back row was getting a good 'up' after receiving a hard spike," Mickelson said. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

SCORE

Trego	26-33
Phillipsburg	14-7
Beaver	27-0
Smith Center	0-62
Norton	13-12
Ness/Dighton	36-7
Stockton	39-0
Plainville	14-0
Hill City	19-0
Osborne	48-0
Minneapolis	36-39

Overall Record

8-3

MCL 1st Team

Justin Gnad RB
Daniel Gottschalk WR, DB, K, P

MCL 2nd Team

Chase King QB, DB
Matt Erbert OT
Clay Barton DE
Justin Gnad LB

MCL Honorable Mention

Matt Erbert OT
Gideon Fuchs RB, LB
Clay Barton OT

All-State Wichita Eagle

and Topeka Capital-Journal

1st Team TE - Daniel Gottschalk
1st Team - K - Daniel Gottschalk
Honorable Mention RB - Justin Gnad
Honorable Mention QB - Chase King

Hays Daily Super 11

Daniel Gottschalk

1. Coming to a Stop

Senior Daniel Gottschalk pushes through a Minneapolis football player during regional playoffs. This ended the season for the Railroaders with a score of 36-39. *Photo by Ashley Stroda*

2. One Amazing Catch

Junior cornerback Chase King stretches to intercept an errant pass during a home game against the Phillipsburg Panthers. The Railroaders went on to beat the Panthers 14-7. *Photo by John Begler*

3. Catch Me If You Can

Sophomore Gideon Fuchs runs the ball during the game against Ness/Dighton, leading to a Railer victory of 36-7. Fuchs had a total of 614 rushing yards on the season. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

4. It Takes Two

Juniors Chase King and Clay Barton combine forces to successfully take down a Smith Center Redmen football player. Barton had total of 66 solo tackles for the season. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



Clearing the Way

Sophomore Gideon Fuchs blocks for senior Justin Gnad in the game against the Plainville Cardinals. Gnad had a total of 1,051 rushing yards for the season. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



Team Tackle

Going in for the team tackle, sophomore Matt Erbert, junior Clay Barton, and senior Justin Gnad assist sophomore Gideon Fuchs in taking down a Phillipsburg Panther. Photo by John Begler



New Year, New Coach

Team Achieves Success

>> From a new head coach to a new season, a lot of things for the EHS football team this year were a change of pace. As assistant coach last year, Butch Hayes stepped up to the head coach position this year.

Having Coach Hayes as head coach brought some new energy to the table. Although this year's practices were about the same as last year's, Coach Hayes raised the intensity level considerably. He also made some changes in conditioning drills which tends to be an important aspect of practice to the players.

"We only ran gassers which was different than what we did last year," junior quarterback Chase King said.

One of the highlights of the year was beating Norton. After a close contest throughout, in the final play of the game, Norton

scored to come within a point. They tried for the two point conversion but threw an incomplete pass, leaving Ellis with a win of 13-12. The Railroaders hadn't beat the Norton Bluejays since 1998. After the

big win, the team celebrated by going to the south goal post and doing the "Gorilla Dance," a victory breakdown tradition started by Coach Hayes, a former football player for Pittsburg State University.

"Beating Norton was one of the most exciting moments of this football season," Coach Hayes said.

In the playoffs, the Railers beat Plainville and Hill City during district play and went on to obliterate Osborne during bi-districts, but failed to advance past Minneapolis during the regionals, ending their season with a record of 8-3.

"Beating Norton was the most exciting moment of this football season!"

- Coach Hayes

Zack Attack

Senior Zack Gehring pins a Stockton wrestler at Regionals. "My favorite opponent to wrestle was Matt Stanley. I never beat him, but he was one of the more fun wrestlers to compete with and it was usually a close match," Gehring said.

Photo by Deana Hunsicker.



No Fear... Just Fierce

Wrestlers Test Ferocity



The alarm sounds. It is 4:30 a.m. The members of the EHS varsity wrestling team pop out of bed and get their gear ready for the day's tournament. They weigh in around 5 a.m., praying they make

weight to compete. Finally, half an hour later, the team, coaches, managers, and cheerleaders get on the bus and make their way to their destination, thinking about the gold medal they'll possess when they return.

Filling the thirteen weight classes, wrestlers started the season by cutting anywhere from one to twelve pounds to make their weight class. For some, this affected them incredibly, but others were accustomed to cutting weight.

"I lost 12 pounds in the beginning. I had to lose like 8 pounds a week to make weight," junior Chase King said.

Due to several requirements by the state, a wrestler can only lose a

certain percentage of body fat. Wrestlers are required to take a hydration assessment determining eligibility to wrestle. If they fail, they must get another physical exam allowing them to lose more weight.

Knowing the challenge of weight loss, Coach Casey Dinkel helps his team lose weight healthily, maintaining strength and endurance.

"I feel if you minimize fat percentage and increase physical activity, you will lose excess body fat and be a leaner athlete. If you do not lose water weight and stay hydrated, I feel you will be more prepared to wrestle and have more endurance," Coach Dinkel said.

Wrestling at state was a goal for many of the wrestlers. Ellis took three wrestlers, seniors John Tricks and Kevin Urban and sophomore Dillon Kinderknecht, to state this year.

"I really didn't think that I was going to make it to state because of my injury before Regionals. but I've learned to always wrestle 100% in practice and during a match and never give up even if you lose," Urban said.

"I lost 12 pounds in the beginning. I had to lose like 8 pounds a week to make weight."
- Chase King, Jr.

1. Whatever It Takes

Senior Kevin Urban competes with a Plainville wrestler at a home dual. Urban wrestled all four years of high school. He continued his final season on the mats of FHSU at state, but was unable to place. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

2. Headlock

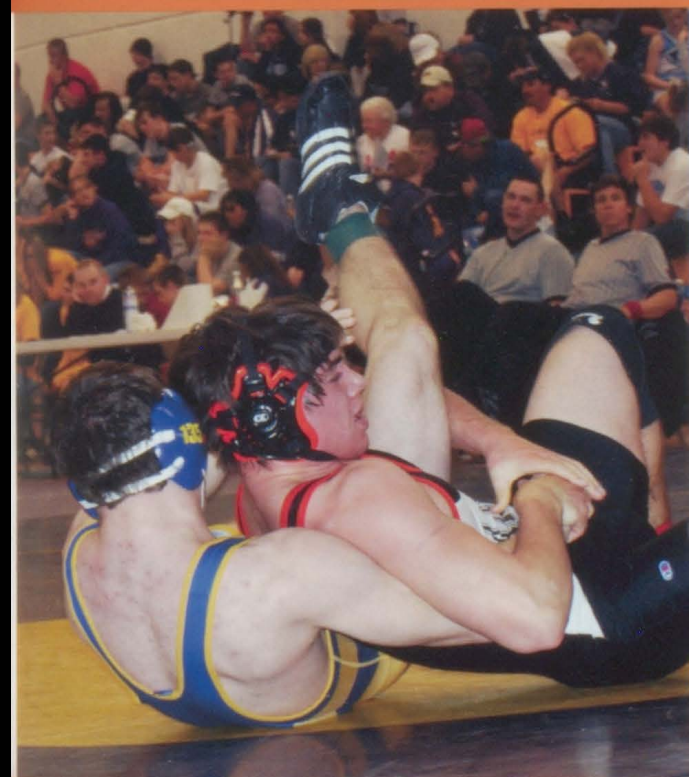
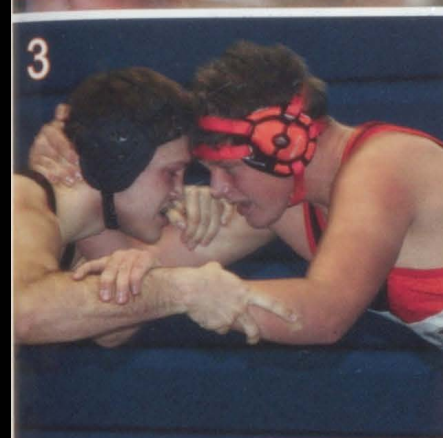
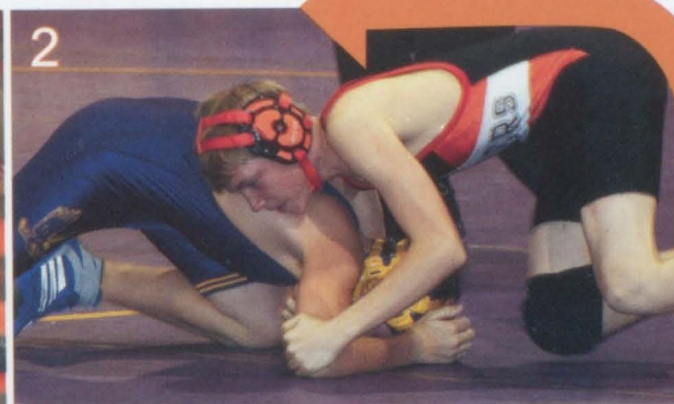
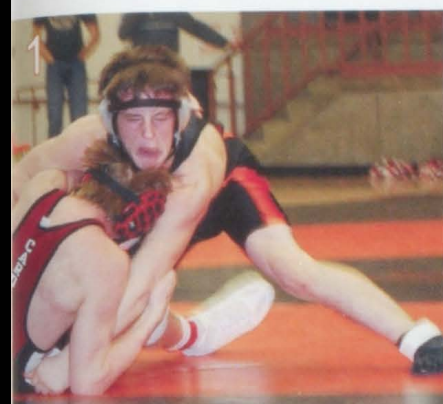
Sophomore Ethan LaBarge gains position to pin his opponent. "My first year of high school wrestling was a really good experience. Now I know what I have to build on for next year," LaBarge said. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*

3. Right to Bear Arms

Struggling for position, sophomore Jacob Begler grabs his opponent's head, searching for a way to get points. Even though Begler wrestled for the varsity, he also participated in JV action. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

4. Take Down

Two-year veteran, junior Chase King, challenges his Pratt opponent during a meet in Russell. "My favorite memory was wrestling under the spotlight at the Senior Prairie Classic," King said. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*



Tight Hold

Senior John Tricks scores back points at the Regional Wrestling Tournament in Wakeeney. "Doing the dirty dozen was rough, but I enjoyed playing charades with the team," Tricks said. *Photo by Deana Hunsicker*

SCORE

112 lbs.

Ethan LaBarge 4-11

125 lbs.

Justin Henrickson 5-16

135 lbs.

Kevin Urban 19-15

145 lbs.

Chase King 26-6

Nate Townley 1-11

152 lbs.

Dillon Kinderknecht 21-14

Zack Werth 4-4

160 lbs.

Zack Gehring 21-14

171 lbs.

Justin Gnad 26-11

Todd Smith 0-13

189 lbs.

John Tricks 15-13

William Poland 7-3

215 lbs.

Jacob Begler 8-17

State Qualifiers

Dillon Kinderknecht

John Tricks

Kevin Urban

SCORE

Phillipsburg	L 45-48
Heartland-Christian	W 82-12
Hoxie	L 77-79
Quinter	W 51-39
Osborne	L 41-51
Stockton	W 56-39
Trego	W 55-29
Hill City	W 53-47
Hill City	W 45-43
Phillipsburg	L 45-56
Norton	L 30-65
Victoria	W 74-20
Plainville	W 53-44
Quinter	W 51-43
Smith Center	W 51-32
Spearville	W 68-35
Natoma	W 79-26
Norton	W 49-31
St. John	L 30-49

Sub-State @ Oberlin

Oberlin	W 55-32
Atwood	W 56-40
Oakley	W 51-40

State @ Manhattan

St. John	L 41-51
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MCL 1st Team

Danielle Pfeifer
Whitney Taylor

MCL Honorable Mention

Haley Wolf

All-State Wichita Eagle and Topeka Capital Journal

2A 1st Team - Whitney Taylor
2A Honorable Mention - Danielle Pfeifer

1. Time to Talk

During a time out, Coach Mick discusses game strategy as the girls get a drink and rest. Mick lead the Lady Railers to the state basketball tournament in Manhattan for the first time in 15 years.

Photo by Sarah Fischer

2. Power Pass

Senior Kayla Hollern puts her whole body into a cross-court skip pass against Quinter. Hollern was the oldest of the three Kaylas on the team, forcing everyone to make up nicknames for each one.

Photo by Deana Hunsicker

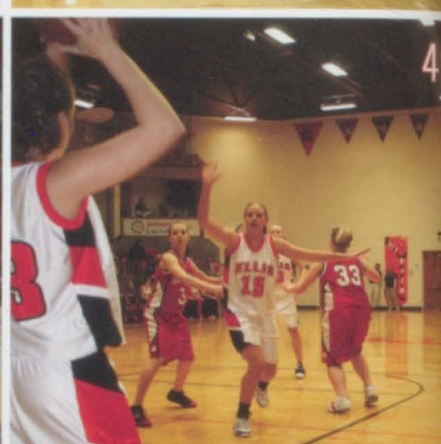
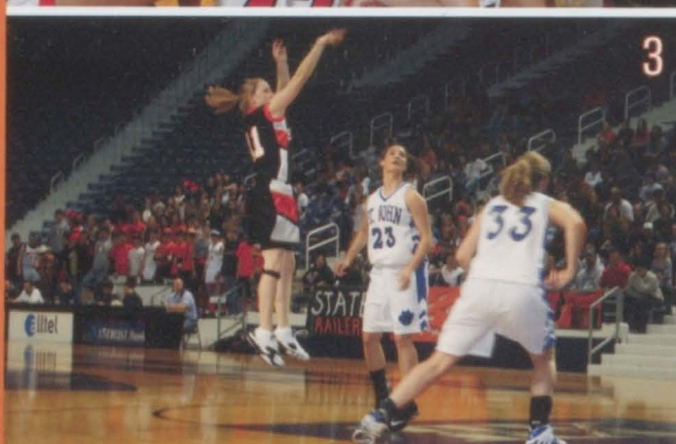
3. Crowd Pleaser

With the Ellis crowd watching, junior Whitney Taylor shoots a jumpshot over her St. John's opponent in the first round of state. Many EHS students traveled on a pep bus provided by the school to the game in Manhattan.

4. I'm Open

Calling for the ball, sophomore Bethany Polifka opens her arms wide for a pass from freshman Courtney Waldschmidt. Both Polifka and Waldschmidt started varsity games as underclassmen.

Photo by Deana Hunsicker



Under Pressure

Handling the two-player defense, junior Haley Wolf dribbles past the Quinter defenders during the Castle Rock Classic. The Lady Railers took third place in the tournament held in Quinter.

Photo by Bailey Deutscher



Eye of the Hurricane

As Coach Mick watches her release, senior Danielle Pfeifer shoots the ball in a matchup with her Natoma opponent. Students nicknamed the coach "Hurricane Mick" as the team's success built throughout the year. Photo

by Bailey Deutscher



The Next Level

On Track to State

>> State Basketball. Bramlage Coliseum.

Enough said.

After defeating former state champions Oakley in sub-state, the Railer girls advanced to the state basketball tournament for the first time in 15 years. All games were played in Bramlage Coliseum on the Kansas State University Campus.

Playing in this environment for the first time was an unforgettable experience for the players.

"Looking up at the stands from the court was intense. It was such a wide open space that it threw off my depth-perception at first. The fans there were amazing, they were loud, and they were all decked out in their Ellis gear. It was a great experience," junior Whitney Taylor said.

What asset did this team have that made it successful? According to

Haley Wolf, a junior starting guard, the success flowed from the connection the players had as a team.

"The fans there were amazing, they were loud . . . it was a great experience."

- Whitney Taylor, Jr.

"I think that our team developed chemistry that we lacked the past couple of seasons. Our team-oriented approach made us a more successful team than some people would have expected," Wolf said.

Although traveling to state was a memorable accomplishment, the sub-state final game against Oakley, last year's state champions, stood out as the highlight of the season.

"Beating Oakley in the Sub-State finals after losing to them last year by three [was my favorite memory]," senior Danielle

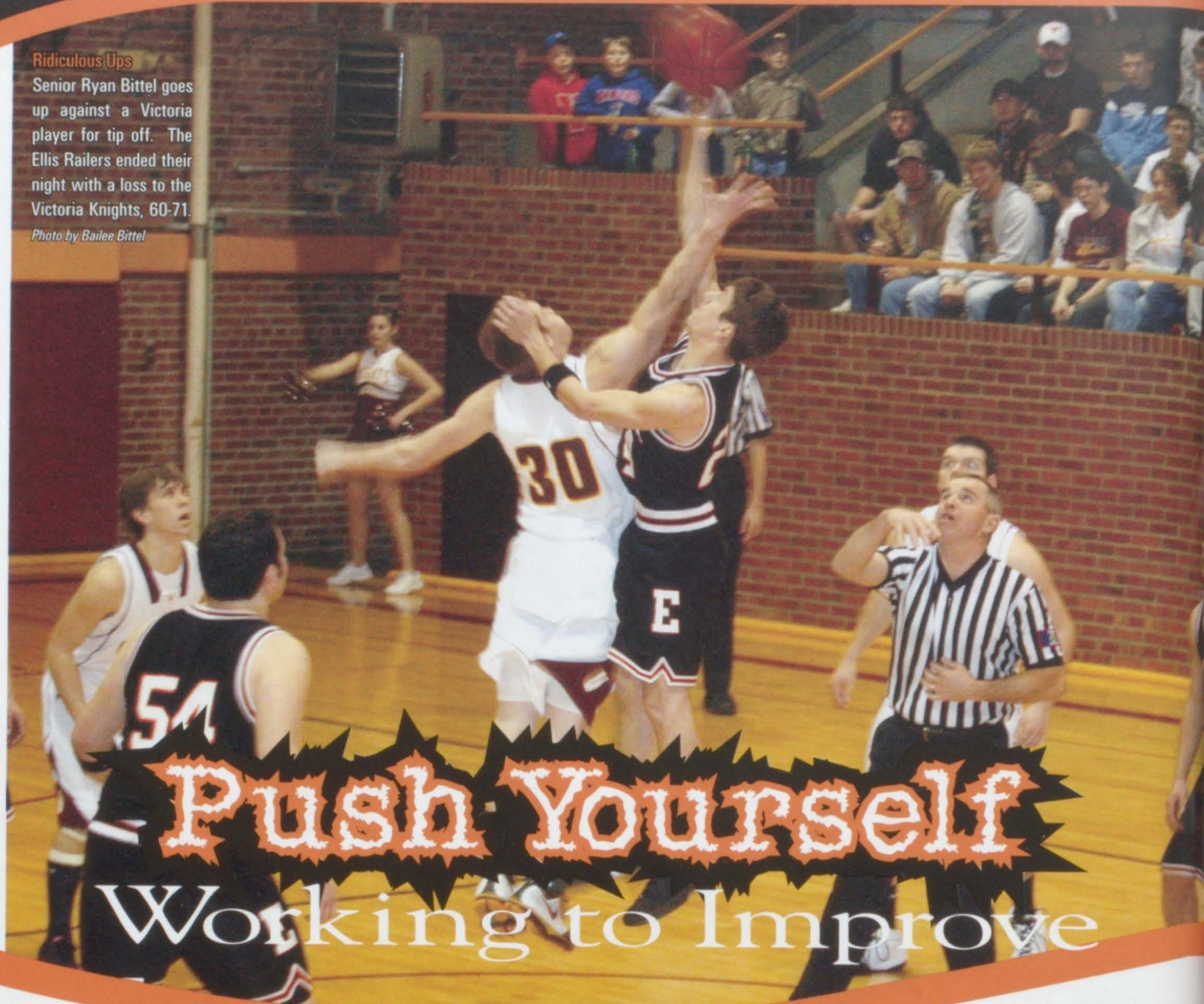
Pfeifer said.

Success. Accomplishment. The 15-year spell is broken in 2008.

Ridiculous Ups

Senior Ryan Bittel goes up against a Victoria player for tip off. The Ellis Railers ended their night with a loss to the Victoria Knights, 60-71.

Photo by Bailee Bittel



Push Yourself Working to Improve



Not winning many games makes a basketball season seem to drag on.

Although the Railer boys basketball team did not have a winning season, the team was still dedicated to doing their best in practice. Practices started out by shooting a ball around for a bit, then stretching and doing some calisthenics. Different drills were run to improve rebounding, shooting, defense, and ball handling skills. A majority of practice time was dedicated to scrimmaging. This sometimes proved to be a challenge, especially when their head coach, Cody Howland, stepped in.

"When we were preparing for a team with some tall, big guys, Coach

Howland would step in and make us defend him to get ready for the game. He's like 6'7" or something ridiculous," senior Ryan Bittel said.

A highlight of the season that every player will remember was the first game back from winter break against Osborne. The Railroaders were down by 14 points at halftime. After words of motivation in the locker room by Coach Howland, the team was able to pull together the comeback victory by two.

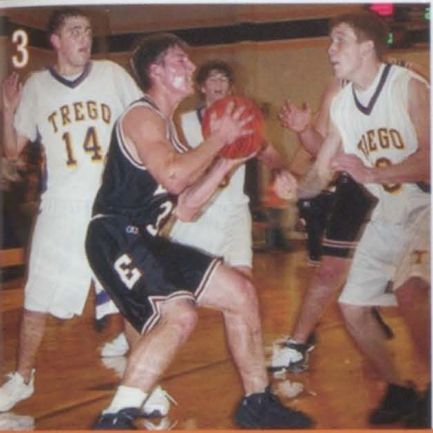
A record of 3-17 does not seem like a very big accomplishment over a span of four months, but the Ellis Railroaders boys basketball team did not let their losing record bring down their dedication throughout the remainder of the season. With the junior high basketball coach, John Befort, taking the reins next season, the team will try to rebuild that winning Railroaders tradition.

"Coach would step in and make us defend him to get ready for the game."

- Ryan Bittel, Sr.

1. Take It to the Hole

Varsity sophomore Ryan Weber makes a tough shot against a Trego defender. The Railer boys tangled with the Trego Eagles in two games during the season, but unfortunately came home with a loss both times. *Photo by Bailee Bittel*



2. Fake It

Freshman Jacob Kinderknecht attempts to fake out a St. John's player during the game held at St. John. The Railer boys fought a tough battle against the Tigers but lost 27-55. Kinderknecht was the only freshman to letter. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*



3. Strong Shot

Junior Monte Honas goes up for a jump shot against a Trego Eagles basketball player. "When I look back, I realize that it was an up and down season but a very good learning experience for all of us," Honas said. *Photo by Bailee Bittel*

4. Get Your Game Face On

Senior Daniel Gottschalk grabs for a rebound against Phillipsburg Panther players. The Rainers lost to the Panthers by a final score of 47-60. Gottschalk recieved Honorable Mention All-League and was a Colby All-Star. *Photo by Sarah Fischer*

SCORE

Phillipsburg	L 47-60
Quinter	L 29-60
Oakley	L 53-65
Osborne	W 53-51
Stockton	W 67-46
Colby Heartland	W 80-64
Trego	L 34-63
Hill City	L 42-43
Norton	L 36-62
Plainville	L 57-74
Stockton	L 50-54
Victoria	L 60-71
Plainville	L 49-52
Quinter	L 28-77
Smith Center	L 34-78
Spearville	L 61-69
Natoma	L 50-61
Norton (overtime)	L 50-56
St. John	L 27-55

Sub-State @ Trego

Trego	L 38-63
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Overall Record
3-17

MCL Honorable Mention

Daniel Gottschalk

Colby All-Star

Daniel Gottschalk

Pick and Roll

Senior Daniel Gottschalk dribbles around a Trego opponent during the first match-up between the Rainers and Eagles while sophomore Matt Erbert sets a pick. "Trego was a very good team since they made it to state. It was a nice opportunity to play against a good team like that," Erbert said. *Photo by Bailee Bittel*



1. Golf Gear

The players usually arrange their bags this way while practicing on the putting green before practice. Can you guess which bag belongs to freshman Chelsey Walters?

Photo by Katelyn Keller

2. Say What?

Senior Danny Desaire takes a quick break to show the camera how he feels during golf practice one day on the putting greens. Yes, that is his usual facial expression.

Photo by Katelyn Keller

3. OMG! Really?!

Taking time to master his thumb skills, senior Aaron Pfannenstiel occasionally finds time to text during practice while everyone else improves their golf skills.

Photo by Katelyn Keller

4. Soft and Steady

Junior Cole Hickey gets ready to putt the golf ball, but he takes his time and readies himself by studying the hole first. This is Hickey's first year on the golf team.

Photo by Katelyn Keller

SCORE

Seniors

Ryan Bittel	93
Danny Desaire	90
Aaron Pfannenstiel	95
Michael Young	105

Juniors

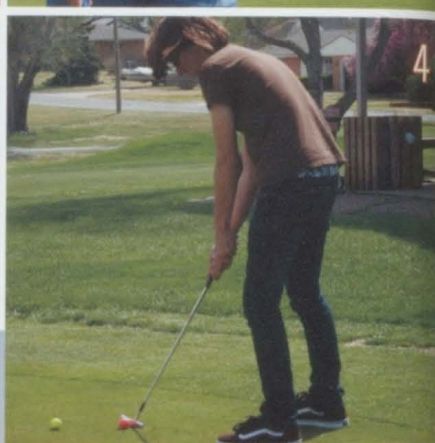
Cole Hickey	132
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Sophomores

Ethan LaBarge	92
Ryan Weber	101

Freshman

Chelsey Walters	127
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Constructive Criticism

Senior Danny Desaire concentrates on making a putt while his fellow classmate, senior Ryan Bittel, watches him carefully. This is only Bittel's third year on the team while Desaire has been a member all four years. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*



Flying Solo

Freshman Chelsey Walters smiles at a fellow teammate while practicing on the putting greens before practice started. Walters was not only the only girl on the team, but the only freshman as well. Photo by Katelyn Keller



She Stands Alone

One Girl Settles In

>> Adjusting to new people and new things does not always seem to be such an easy transition, but the golfers who make up the Ellis High golf team

have adjusted very well to something that hasn't happened in a long time—having only one girl on the team. Chelsey Walters, a freshman, is the only girl at Ellis High who chose to go out for golf, knowing she'd be the sole female on the male dominated team.

This year's male golfers found humor in the situation.

"Well, I know that the garages [in the area] have taken a heavy beating because of Chelsey," sophomore Ryan Weber said.

Seeing only one girl out on the course every day is a change of scenery since

"Well, I know that the garages have taken a heavy beating because of Chelsey..."

- Ryan Weber, So.

for the past few years there have been anywhere from 2-5 girls on the team. This year, many girls opted to play softball, a new sport offered for the spring. Being the only girl and new at the sport, the other golfers saw that Walters got a little extra help.

"Chelsey likes being the only girl on the team getting ALL of Bob [Young]'s attention while the rest of us are just kind of ignored. Sometimes I catch her staring at me, too," senior Ryan Bittel said.

People may think that females always need to be accompanied by another member of the same sex, but Chelsey Walters has handled it quite well.

"It's not all that bad. I mean I get a lot of unwanted attention, but I feel like I have a lot of fun with the guys," Walters said.

Leading the Pack

Junior Haley Wolf jumps to an early lead in one of her two distance events. Distance events used a waterfall start, where all the competitors line up along a curved starting line and converge as the race begins. Photo by

Kayla Hollern



Out in Front

Effort Leads to Success



2A State Track.

Qualifying a total of eight athletes for state in Wichita, the Lady Railer track team set themselves up for a 3rd place victory at the meet. Junior Whitney Taylor placed in all four of her events at regionals, while her teammate, junior Haley Wolf, placed in the 1600 and 3200 meter runs. The success at the Hill City regional didn't end there, as the 4x100 relay team qualified their four runners for the state meet, along with two alternates for the race.

"Hard work leads to good rewards," junior Whitney Taylor said, commenting on

A 4x100 team, two alternates for the relay, a high jumper/discus thrower/sprinter, and a distance runner. Stir this together, and you get a mixture of school records and a team medal at

the team's success in regionals and state.

The team did work hard to get to their destination. At state, Wolf set a new school record in the mile, beating the old record she held while placing 3rd in the event. She also placed 3rd in the 3200 meter race. Placing well all season, Taylor continued her efforts all the way to state, placing 2nd in the 100, 200, and discus, while placing 3rd in the high jump. Although the 4x100 team did not place, the accomplishment of qualifying for state made work worthwhile.

"Running the 4x100 this year was awesome and a lot of fun. Although our handoffs weren't always the best, we still reached our number one goal, getting to state. Even though we didn't place, it was still a great experience," sophomore Paige Reilly said.

"Hard work leads to good rewards."

- Whitney Taylor, Jr.

1. Over the Top

Gliding over the hurdle, sophomore Kayla Jacques practices correct form over the obstacle at the Hill City Invitational. The Railers brought home the gold as a team, combining for a total of 33 points. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



2. Anchor the Relay

Sophomore Paige Reilly waits to receive the handoff from sophomore Bethany Polifka. Running their first 4x400 relay of the year at the Ellis Invitational, the runners placed first with a time of 4:29.50. *Photo by Ryan Bittel*



3. Low to High

Standing at only 5'2", junior Haley Wolf clears the much taller crossbar in pole vault. Wolf's best jump of the year was 8 feet, placing her 2nd in the event and contributing to a 1st place Railer victory at the meet. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



4. Receiving Honors

Senior Danielle Pfeifer lunges forward into the sand in long jump. Along with long jump, Pfeifer participated in the 4x400 and 4x100 relays, the latter of which qualified for the 2A state meet in Wichita. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

SCORE

Ellis Invitational	1st
Stockton Invitational	2nd
Plainville Invitational	2nd
Kaser Relays @ Osborne	2nd
Quinter Invitational	1st
Victoria Invitational	1st
Hill City Invitational	1st
MCL at Phillipsburg	3rd

Regionals @ Hill City

3rd place

State @ Wichita State

3rd place

State Qualifiers

Whitney Taylor
Haley Wolf
Danielle Pfeifer
Bethany Polifka
Paige Reilly
Kara Hackney
Kayla Jacques
Courtney Waldschmidt

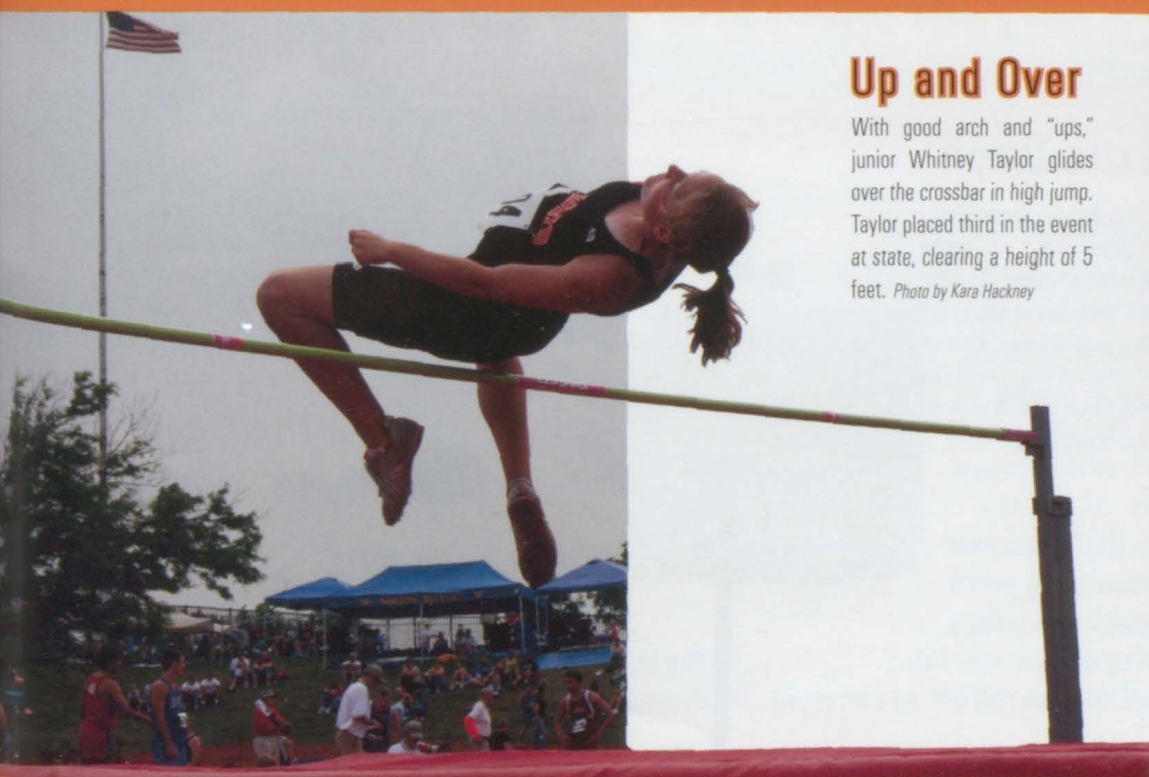
State Medalists

WHITNEY TAYLOR
100m-2nd place
200m-2nd place
Discus-2nd place
High Jump-3rd place

HALEY WOLF
3200m-3rd place
1600m-3rd place
(new school record)

Up and Over

With good arch and "ups," junior Whitney Taylor glides over the crossbar in high jump. Taylor placed third in the event at state, clearing a height of 5 feet. *Photo by Kara Hackney*



TRACK

Seniors

Todd Flinn
Justin Gnad
Daniel Gottschalk
John Tricks

Juniors

Clay Barton
Brandon Geschwentner

Sophomores

Jacob Begler
Matt Erbert
Gideon Fuchs

Freshmen

Scott Fuller
Tanner Gugler
Daniel Honas
Jared Knoll
Matt Kreutzer
Derek Kwasnicka
Logan Mattheyer
Nate Townley
Zach Werth

State Qualifier

DANIEL GOTTSCHALK
110 High Hurdles
Pole Vault

1. Perfect Stride

Senior Justin Gnad sprints down the stretch during the 100 meter dash at the Hill City track meet. Gnad also participated in the 4x100 relay, pole vault, javelin, and high jump throughout the season. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

2. Heave

Sophomore Jacob Begler throws the shot put during the Hill City track meet. His best throw of the season was a distance of 35'11". "I like throwing shot put because I don't have to run," Begler said. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*

3. Fly Away

Speed, strength, and leverage-major keys to a successful attempt in the pole vault. No problem for senior Daniel Gottschalk who qualified for state in the event, clearing a height of 12' at Regionals. *Photo by Katelyn Keller*

4. Need A Drink?

With consistent speed and endurance, senior Todd Flinn paces himself during the 1600 meter run at Hill City. Flinn ran his best mile time of the season at the MCL track meet with a time of 5:23:17. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Extra Umph

Junior Brandon Geschwentner stretches over the hurdle against his competition in the 300 meter low hurdles at Hill City. Geschwentner achieved his personal best at Hill City with a time of 46.96 seconds. *Photo by Kayla Hollern*



Spin Around

Junior Clay Barton watches sophomore Gideon Fuchs throw the discus at the Hill City track meet. Fuchs threw a total distance of 95'3", his personal best of the season. Photo by Kayla Hollern

Wind & Cold

Facing the Elements

Stiff 40 mile per hour wind and low seasonal temperatures make track a little less pleasant than the ideal spring sport.

"Being stuck in the middle of bad weather at a track meet is like a cat getting caught in the rain," junior Brandon Geschwentner said.

Uncooperative weather throughout the season impacted the performance of trackletes, affecting results in nearly all events. Distances, heights, and times were changed by the cold, windy weather, worsening or sometimes improving the boys' events.

"Windy weather in any of the throwing events can help or discourage your throw. You can improve your distance throwing with the wind, or the distance can be worsened if throwing against it," sophomore Jacob

Begler said.

Weather not only affected just track and field events, but low temperatures forced the boys to stay warm between their events. Many brought

extra clothes and used the girls' blankets, and some boys even hugged each other for warmth.

"Many of us found it easier to stay warm by participating in the cuddle club. This was one of my favorite track events," sophomore Gideon Fuchs said.

Overall, the weather adds an extra factor, forcing competitors to do their best in order to overcome the extra barrier of the environment. But for some competitors, bad weather is an unknown term in their vocabulary.

"I don't know why everyone complains about bad weather. It doesn't bother me a bit. But then again, I'm invincible," junior Clay Barton. Story by Ryan Bittel

"Many of us found it easier to stay warm by participating in the cuddle club."
-Gideon Fuchs, Soph.

Hit and Run

Junior third baseman Bailee Bittel, a new member to the whole softball scene, throws her hands to the ball so she can try and make a play for the Railer softball team.

Photo by Sarah Fischer



Start it Up

Railers Take First Swing



Along with school comes sports. But this year, there was a bit of a challenge during the spring athletics season. Some athletes had to make a very difficult decision between track, golf, and the new sport added to the Ellis High School sports line-up: softball. A couple of athletes decided that maybe they would like to try a different sport and went with softball, but others stayed with track or tried golf. Other athletes didn't think this change in sporting programs really affected them at all.

"I don't like track. I love softball more than any other sport!" freshman Ashley Augustine said.

With a new sport come some brand new players. Most of the players that went out for softball this year had

never played before, but they were willing to push past that and try to overcome the challenge of learning something new. Even one of the Ellis High School foreign exchange students wanted to try it out and made it until the end. Junior Susan Beres had a great time playing softball but won't be able to continue playing with Ellis next year.

"Unfortunately, I need to go back to Hungary, but I would love to continue to play softball," Beres said.

Although some had mixed feelings, when the first year softball players were asked if they would want to play again next year, most of the players agreed that they were

all planning on going out for softball again.

"Of course, it was a blast, and I would do it again in a heartbeat," junior Bailee Bittel said.

"I am very proud of this team improving drastically from day one to now."

- Coach Upham

1. Want the Ball

Sophomore Staci Bittel works on perfecting the sweet spot for the pitcher to get the batter out. The Lady Railers played Haviland in their first Regional game. They came away with a season-ending loss, 6-16. Photo by Deana Hunsicker



2. Eye on the Prize

Senior centerfielder Deana Hunsicker sits back and waits for the perfect pitch to come her way so she can drive it over the fence. Hunsicker hit the first home run in EHS history against the Colby Eagles. Photo by Sarah Fischer



3. Just a Little Bit Further

Junior Jordan Lang stretches an amazing length from the first base bag to snag the ball and get the out for the Railers. "I loved spending time with my teammates and learning along with them," Lang said. Photo by Sarah Fischer



4. Good Game

After a devastating loss to the Haviland Dragons, the Railers tried to hold back tears and tell the other team good job and good luck for their next game. Most of the team will be returning next year. Photo by Deana Hunsicker



Drop Ball or Fast Ball?

With fierce determination, junior Kendra Mickelson pitches the ball to get the strike on her opponent. Mickelson was one of three pitchers in the Railers' rotation. Photo by Sarah Fischer

SCORE

Wilson	L 4-14
Wilson	L 7-11
Spearville	L 0-22
Spearville	L 0-21
Plainville	L 7-9
Plainville	L 5-8
Russell	W 0-0
Russell	W 0-0
Colby JV	L 2-17
Colby JV	L 2-12
Hays High JV	W 15-14
Hays High JV	W 11-8

Regionals

Haviland	L 6-16
----------	--------

Overall Record

4-9

1. Good Eye

Sophomore Dillon Kinderknecht watches the pitch in during the first baseball game of the season against Moundridge. Photo by MSM

2. Stickin' With Ya Gage

Juniors Chase King, Dillon Kinderknecht, Tyler Fischer, sophomores Patrick Dreiling and Dylan Pfeifer, and freshman Jacob Kinderknecht shave their heads to show Gage that they're with him throughout his illness. Photo by Sarah Fischer

3. Close Call

Freshman Joey Augustine, makes a dive for third base during a game against Plainville. Despite the team's best efforts, Plainville walked away with the victory. Photo by Brooke Graves-MSM

4. Huddle Time

The team takes a second to huddle during their games against Leoti in Ellis. The Railers swept Leoti, run-ruling them both games. Photo by Sarah Fischer

SCORE

Moundridge	W 4-3
Moundridge	L 11-7
Wilson	W 16-0
Wilson	W 8-4
Leoti	W 20-1
Leoti	W 19-2
Colby	W 15-5
Colby	W 11-10
Plainville	L 8-13
Plainville	L 8-22
Minneola	W 7-6
Minneola	W 9-5
Leoti	W 18-3
Leoti	W 22-0
Sacred Heart	0-0

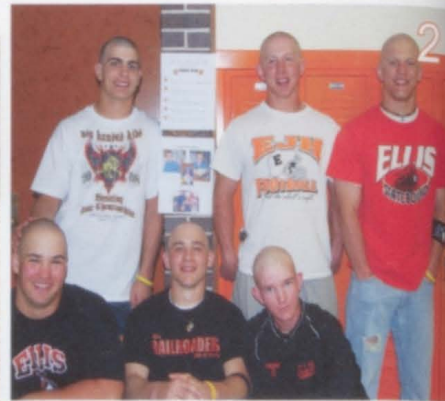
Western Diamond Classic

Regionals

Wilson	W 8-1
Plainville	L 6-7

Western Diamond Classic All-Tournament Team

Jacob Kinderknecht



Walk the Line

Sophomore Dylan Pfeifer heads back to the dugout after an inning of fielding against Leoti. He, like many other students, were excited to see baseball arrive at the high school. "It gives us a chance to go to state and compete against bigger teams," Pfeifer said. Photo by Sarah Fischer



In Fine Form

The Ellis Railer baseball team takes the field as a high school squad for the first time in school history. Photo by Sarah Fleisher



First Swing

Baseball Arrives at EHS

>> "Strike three, you're out!"

Although EHS students have heard these words many times at an Ellis baseball game, March 27th was the first time they heard them at a high school baseball game.

For countless years, citizens of Ellis have been trying to get baseball and softball as a high school sport, and thanks to the Ellis Softball and Baseball Association, these two sports were added in September 2007.

The ESBA will be sponsoring high school softball and baseball for the next two years.

"I think it will be great for our students, and we have some quality coaches on board to lead these two sports," Corey Burton, principal, said.

This may have been a first-year team, but most of the baseball boys

have been playing together since the first grade.

The team proved they knew what they were doing when they kicked off the season with a 4-3 win against Moundridge, but lost the second game of the double header. After their initial loss, the boys only gave up two more losses in the regular season.

During regionals, the baseball team had a bye the first game then went on to beat Wilson 8-1. However, the baseball season came to a halt with a one-point loss to Plainville during the finals at regionals.

Although their defeat stopped them from claiming the title of 2008 Regional Champion, they still walked away with 12-4 winning record. Since there were no seniors on the baseball team, the entire team will be returning again next year to prove once again that they've got what it takes.

"It gives us a chance to go to state and compete against bigger teams. Dylan Pfeifer, So."

USD 388

Mission Statement

Believing in and encouraging the individual worth of each student, U.S.D. 388 will provide a safe and healthy environment in which all students can learn the necessary academic and social skills that will enable them to be contributing, self-sufficient members of society.

USD 388 District Office

Superintendent

Kyle Hayden

District Secretaries

Connie Waldschmidt, Dava Gehrer



USD 388 School Board

USD 388 School Board met every second Monday of the month to discuss educational issues.

Front: Terrisa Metzler, Jane Downing, Mary Jo Walz, Toni Younger **Back:** Gayla Wichman, Marty Hollern, Linda Hunsicker



USD 388 Transportation Team

Front: Dennis Wolf, Heather Wolf, Mick Gabel **Back:** Swede Swenson, Eldon Pfeifer, Paulette Kroeger, Troy Parson, Marvin Riedel. **Not pictured:** Larry Cox



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1. How many students are
enrolled in the USD 388
district?

2. How many teachers left from
EHS this year?



Les Ward, D.D.S.

3001 Hall St.
Hays, KS 67601

(785) 625-2174



dermatology, P.A.

Donald K. Tillman Jr., D.O.

2714 Plaza Avenue
Hays, Kansas 67601

(785) 625-SKIN (7546)

Answer #1: 365

Answer #2: 8

journalism

staff

Back to Front: Kayla Casey, Brooke Graves, Katelyn Keller, Jill Wood, Bailey Deutscher, Kayla Hollern, Sarah Fischer, Deana Hunsicker, and Ryan Bittel



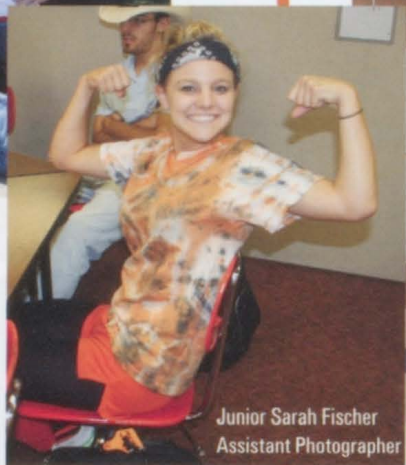
Jill Wood... The Rockin' Adviser
Ridin' the Jayhawk
The most sincere and dedicated
person that you will ever meet



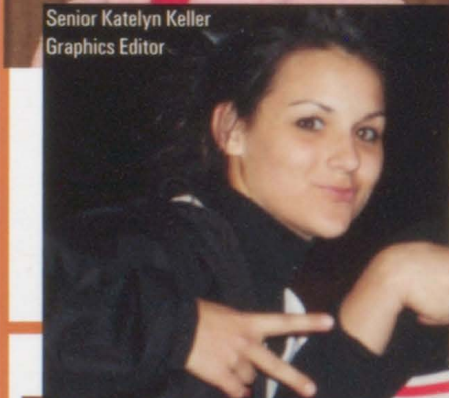
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Assistant Editor



Junior Sarah Fischer
Assistant Photographer



Senior Katelyn Keller
Graphics Editor



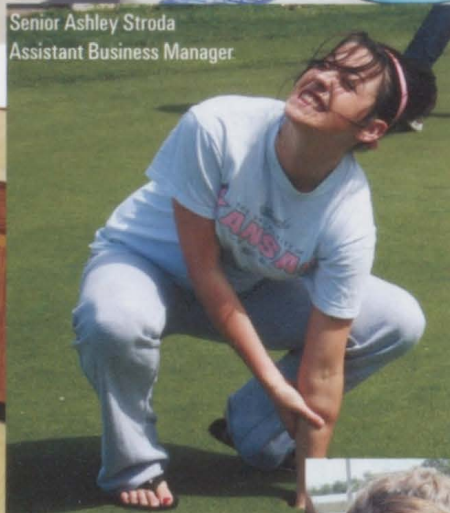
Senior Bailey Deutscher
Editor



Sophomore Kayla Casey
Assistant Photographer

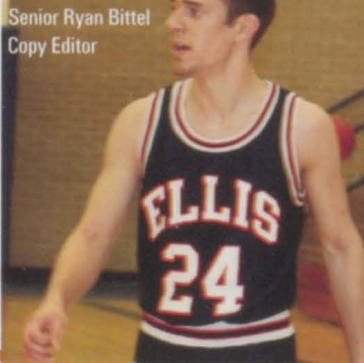


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Assistant Business Manager



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Head Photographer

Senior Ryan Bittel
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Senior Kayla Hollern
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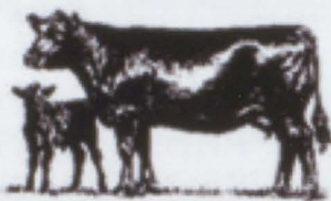
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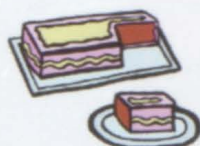


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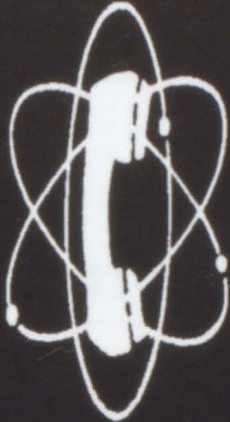
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Boys Basketball



Photo by Smoky Hill Photography

Back row: Coach Schoenthaler, D. Gottschalk, K. Hadley, A. Gnad, D. Honas, M. Erbert, R. Weber, R. Bittel, M. Honas, Mgr. E. Cox and Coach Howland. **Front row:** S. Fuller, L. Mattheyer, M. Cunningham, K. Fox, J. Augustine, G. Fuchs, J. Kinderknecht, M. Gehring, D. Jacques and J. Knoll.

Gabel, Chantel 26, 40, 112
 Gaschler, Dava 90
 Gaschler, Lacey 28, 29, 67, 113, 117
 Gehrre, Cody 7, 11, 61, 63
 Gehrre, Kelsey 26, 39, 46, 112, 113, 116
 Gehring, Matt 28, 29, 44, 48, 88, 112, 113, 115
 Gehring, Zach 7, 12, 48, 56, 57, 62, 63, 74
 Geschwentner, Brandon 25, 44, 52, 84, 112, 115, 117
 Gnad, Aaron 26, 112

Gnad, Justin 5, 6, 7, 12, 40, 41, 56, 57, 62, 63, 72, 73, 84, 115, 116, 117
 Gottschalk, Daniel 1, 13, 56, 57, 63, 65, 72, 79, 84, 112, 115, 117
 Gottschalk, Kimberly 28, 29, 44, 51, 67, 113, 115, 116, 117, 119
 Gottschalk, Shelby 26, 45, 47, 49, 54, 59, 71, 112, 113, 115, 116, 117
 Graves, Brooke 25, 52, 57, 59, 112, 113, 115, 116
 Hagan, Jackie 30, 31
 Groff, Erin 26, 39, 76, 112, 113, 117
 Gugler, Tanner 29, 68, 114, 117

Choir

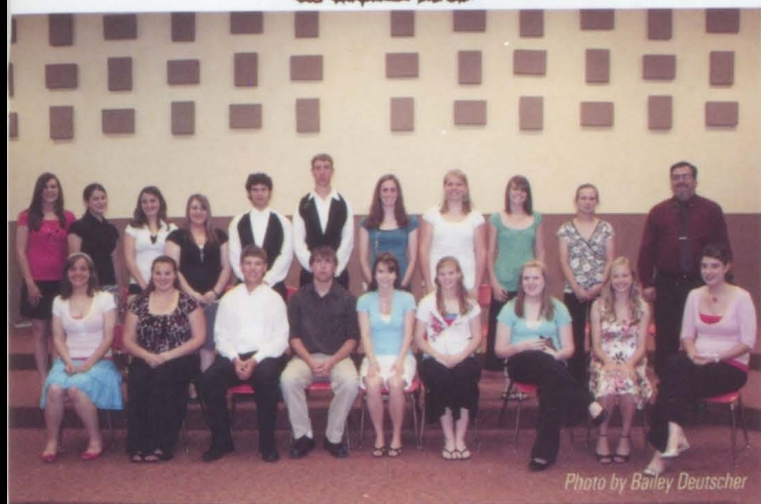


Photo by Bailey Deutscher

Back row: K. Gottschalk, M. Zody, C. Waldschmidt, H. Weber, T. Smith, R. Weber, K. Jacques, E. Groff, C. Leiker, S. Beres and Director R. Sauer. **Front row:** B. Graves, V. North, B. Riedel, M. Young, K. Hollern, D. Hunsicker, S. Young, C. Walters and E. Dodeman. **Not Pictured:** J. Begler, W. Poland, M. Gehring, D. Honas and A. Schuster.

Jacques, Devin 29, 118
 Jacques, Kayla 2, 5, 14, 26, 27, 34, 39, 43, 45, 47, 50, 58, 59, 61, 64, 76, 83, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 119
 Jaekel, Tina 57, 117
 James, Alice 30

Jenkins, Phoenix 26
 Keller, Katelyn 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 43, 54, 57, 60, 62, 67, 113
 Keller, Meredith 15, 48, 56, 60, 62, 78, 79, 114
 Kinderknecht, Dillon 26, 32, 50, 64, 88, 112, 115, 117
 Kinderknecht, Jacob 26, 44, 79, 88, 112, 115
 Kinderknecht, Jennifer 26, 67, 112, 113, 117, 118
 King, Chase 24, 25, 32, 35, 50, 52, 75, 112, 115, 116, 117
 Kitzman, Joseph 24, 25, 113
 Knoll, Jared 29, 58, 68, 112, 114, 117
 Kohl, Ciera 29, 117
 Kohl, Jeff 30, 31, 36
 Kohman, Robert 30, 31, 54, 55
 Kreutzer, Matt 28, 29, 44, 115, 117
 Kvasnicka, Derek 28, 29, 31, 58, 117

Girls Basketball



Photo by Smoky Hill Photography

Back row: D. Weber, K. Jacques, C. Leiker, B. Polifka, S. Gottschalk and P. Reilly. **Middle row:** Mgr. A. Herl, Coach Wildeman, K. Butler, E. Groff, A. Brenner, R. Mick, S. Young, C. Waldschmidt, K. Casey and Mgr. L. Wheeler. **Front row:** Mgr. J. Wheeler, B. Bittel, W. Taylor, D. Pfeifer, K. Hollern, K. Mickelson, H. Wolf and Mgr. K. Gehrre

Hackney, Kara 24, 25, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55, 59, 66, 67, 79, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117
 Hadley, Kyle 3, 24, 25, 35, 39, 50, 52, 53, 60, 112, 115, 116
 Hayden, Kyle 90
 Hamel, Crystal 30
 Hamel, Rachael 24, 25, 36, 51, 52, 66, 67, 113, 114, 116
 Hayes, Butch 30, 31, 115, 117
 Henderson, Devin 29
 Henrickson, Justin 24, 25, 36, 37, 38, 53, 54, 57, 114, 117

Herl, Alyssa 2, 25, 46, 112, 113, 116

Herman, Randy 30

Heronome, Janetta 30

Hespe, Ciera 5, 25, 58, 115, 116

Hickey, Cole 25, 61, 80, 115

Hollern, Kayla 6, 13, 35, 45, 48, 56, 62, 63, 67, 76, 78, 112, 113, 114, 116, 117, 118

Honas, Daniel 28, 29, 32, 35, 45, 46, 54, 68, 112, 114, 117

Honas, Julie 30

Honas, Monte 25, 40, 79, 112, 115

Hook, Randi 26, 61, 117

Howard, June 30, 35, 38, 55

Huang, Janet 5, 24, 34, 112

Hunsicker, Deana 6, 7, 14, 45, 49, 57, 62, 79, 87, 113, 116, 119

Hupka, Heather 26

Cheerleading



Photo by Smoky Hill Photography

Back row: Danielle Weber, Rachel Mick, Lacey Gaschler, Kimberly Gottschalk, Caroline Beilman and Jennifer Kinderknecht. **Middle row:** Tina Unrein, Kayla Hollern, Rachael Hamel, Katelyn Keller and Kara Hackney. **Front row:** Courtney Waldschmidt and Chelsey Walters.

Groups/Index

Brooke Graves



LaBarge, Ehtan 26, 27, 75, 114
 Lacy, Jessica 6, 15, 26, 38, 57, 61, 62
 Lang, Alicia 26, 117
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 Leiker, Chelsea 26, 27, 36, 49, 76, 113, 115, 117
 Lopez, Jessica 28, 29, 43, 51, 116, 117

Lovato, Alex 29, 44, 51, 58, 113
 Madorin, Karen 30, 35, 50
 Massier, Debra 24, 25, 39, 61
 Mattheyer, Logan 28, 29, 34, 54, 112, 115, 117
 Mickelson, Kendra 24, 25, 36, 52, 54, 55, 71, 76, 87, 113, 116
 Mick, Maria 30
 Mick, Perry 1, 30, 31, 33, 36
 Mick, Rachel 28, 29, 34, 67, 113, 117

FCCLA Officers



Back row: Kayla Jacques, Aaron Pfannenstiel and Rachael Hamel. **Front row:** Kayla Hollern, Meredith Keller and Tina Unrein.



Parke, Mary 30
 Parson, Katie 24, 25, 47, 49, 71, 117
 Pfannenstiel, Aaron 7, 17, 46, 47, 49, 52, 58, 59, 63, 79, 80, 114, 115
 Pfeifer, Danielle 17, 31, 35, 43, 50,

56, 57, 62, 76, 77, 83, 113, 114, 116, 117
 Pfeifer, Dylan 26, 27, 32, 34, 56, 61, 64, 88, 112, 115, 117
 Pfeifer, Nicole 26, 68, 87, 114, 115, 118
 Poland, William 26, 27, 35, 54, 68, 114
 Polifka, Behtany 26, 27, 49, 64, 71, 76, 83, 113, 117
 Raub, Meliah 28, 29, 43, 58, 115, 116
 Reilly, Paige 2, 5, 26, 27, 48, 51, 58, 59, 76, 83, 101, 113, 115
 Riedel, Brian 5, 16, 18, 35, 43, 45, 60, 63, 113
 Robb, Kerry 25, 36, 38, 52
 Robb, Kevin 28, 29, 51, 58
 Rupp, Barb 30

Cross Country



Photo by Smoky Hill Photography

Back row: Danielle Pfeifer, Jamie Durheim, Todd Flinn, William Poland, Ryan Weber, Daniel Honas, Nathan Townley and Coach Dinkel. **Front row:** Haley Wolf, Nicole Pfeifer, Tanner Gugler, Jared Knoll and Kevin Urban.



Noble, Kelsey 26
 North, Vanessa 6, 7, 16, 17, 34, 35, 45, 58, 59, 62, 112, 113, 115, 116, 117
 Nowlin, Melissa 6, 16, 43, 57,

Ocamb, Cody 25, 61
 Ocamb, Mikala 29, 51
 Overmiller, Brent 30, 35, 115
 Owston, Mary 29

FEA Officers



Photo by Sarah Fischer

Back row: Logan Stanton, William Poland and Jordan Lang. **Front row:** Kara Hackney, Logan Bittel and Justin Henrickson.



Sauer, Randy 30, 45, 113
Schoenthaler, Ari 30, 112
Schmidt, Steven 25, 36, 115, 118
Schuster, Ashley 26, 39, 49
Sleigh, Kathryn 28, 29, 58, 115, 117
Smith, Todd 28, 29, 68, 112
Stanton, Logan 25, 38, 51, 55, 114, 115

Stroda, Ashley 6, 18, 31, 41, 43, 57, 60, 62, 115, 117
Taylor, Whitney 25, 32, 34, 35, 49, 50, 52, 70, 71, 76, 79, 113, 116, 117
Totten, Denise 6, 19, 62, 63
Totten, Thomas 7, 8, 19, 62, 63
Townley, Nathan 28, 29, 51, 68, 114, 117
Tricks, John 7, 20, 57, 63, 75, 115, 117

Forensics

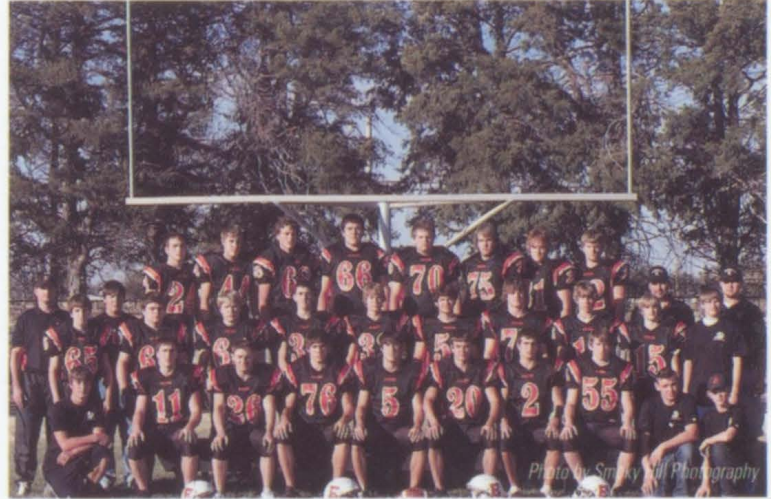


Back row: V. North, C. Walters, M. Young, S. Young, C. Leiker, K. Wayman, S. Gottschalk, K. Gottschalk, E. Durheim and A. Pfannenstiel. **Middle row:** B. Graves, M. Raub, K. Jacques, A. Stroda, P. Reilly, D. Weber, A. Brenner, D. Basgall, K. Sleigh and B. Bittel. **Front row:** R. Mick, K. Butler, K. Hackney, H. Weber, T. Clark, K. Desaire and J. Wheeler.



Young, Robert 30
Young, Michael 1, 4, 7, 21, 43, 45, 58, 63, 112, 113, 115, 116
Young, Stephanie 29, 58, 112, 113, 115, 116
Zahn, Eric 25, 61
Zerfas, Terry 30, 31, 38
Zody, Maggie 28, 29, 50, 58, 112, 113, 115, 117

Football



Back row: D. Pfeifer, M. Honas, J. Begler, M. Erbert, C. Barton, P. Dreiling, L. Mattheyer and J. Kinderknecht. **Middle row:** Coach Dale, B. Geschwentner, Mgr. E. Cox, S. Fuller, G. Vandenberg, M. Cunningham, J. Augustine, T. Smith, M. Gehring, M. Kreutzer, Coach Hayes, Mgr. S. Schmidt and Coach Overmiller. **Front row:** M. Honas, G. Fuchs, Z. Gehring, J. Tricks, J. Gnad, D. Gottschalk, C. King, K. Hadley, Mgr. L. Stanton and Mgr. T. Fischer.



Unrein, Christina 24, 25, 36, 46, 48, 53, 55, 66, 67, 113, 114, 116
Urban, Kevin 6, 20, 39, 62, 63, 69, 75, 115, 117
Vandenberg, Garret 26, 27, 115
Wahlmeier, Kayla 8, 29, 34, 41, 117
Waldschmidt, Charlie 30
Waldschmidt, Connie 90

Waldschmidt, Courtney 28, 29, 48, 54, 67, 70, 76, 79, 113, 117
Walters, Chelsey 1, 28, 29, 42, 49, 67, 79, 81, 112, 113, 115
Wayman, Kiley 26, 58, 115, 116
Weber, Danielle 2, 5, 26, 34, 51, 59, 67, 112, 113, 115, 116
Weber, Heather 24, 25, 49, 52, 113, 114, 115, 116
Weber, Ryan 14, 26, 68, 79, 112, 113, 114, 115, 119
Werth, Zach 28, 29, 117
Wheeler, Lauren 6, 21, 31, 36, 51, 62, 63, 113, 116, 117
Wheeler, Jessica 1, 28, 29, 42, 46, 112, 113, 115, 116, 117
Wildeman, David 30, 34, 113
Wolf, Haley 24, 25, 39, 57, 68, 76, 82, 83, 112, 113, 114, 116, 117
Wolf, Jack 30, 117
Wood, Jill 30

Golf



Back row: A. Pfannenstiel, M. Young, R. Bittel, R. Weber and C. Hickey. **Front row:** E. LaBarge, G. Vandenberg, C. Walters, D. Desaire and L. Stanton.

KAYS



Back row: W. Taylor, D. Pfeifer, S. Gottschalk, V. North and A. Herl. **Middle row:** K. Jacques, K. Hollern, D. Weber, L. Wheeler and D. Hunsicker. **Front row:** H. Wolf, T. Unrein, H. Weber and K. Mickelson.

LINK Crew



Back row: J. Lang, D. Pfeifer, R. Bittel, T. Flinn, M. Honas and W. Taylor. **Third row:** C. Hespe, D. Hunsicker, R. Hamel and L. Wheeler. **Second row:** V. North, K. Hollern, H. Weber, K. Hackney, K. Mickelson and T. Unrein. **Front row:** C. King and K. Hadley.

NHS



Back row: Whitney Taylor, Breanna Ellison, Todd Flinn, Justin Gnad, Michael Young and Ryan Bittel. **Front row:** Haley Wolf, Kara Hackney, Heather Weber, Danielle Pfeifer and Kayla Hollern.

SADD Officers



Back row: Whitney Taylor, Kyle Hadley and Brooke Graves. **Front Row:** Kayla Hollern, Heather Weber and Lauren Wheeler.

Scholars Bowl



Back row: Alyssa Herl, Stephanie Young, Jessica Wheeler, Brooke Graves and Maggie Zody. **Front row:** Lauren Wheeler, Desiree Basgall and Brittany Elliot.

Softball



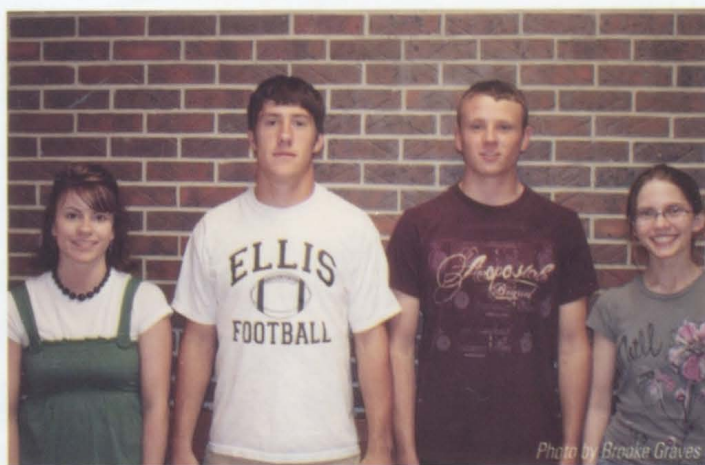
Back row: Coach Upham, K. Mickelson, K. Gehrer, J. Lang, K. Gottschalk, B. Graves and Coach Overmiller. **Middle row:** K. Casey, C. Hespe, S. Bittel, S. Young, K. Wayman and M. Raub. **Front row:** S. Beres, J. Lopez and A. Augustine.

Boys Track



First row: Coach Hayes, Mgr. S. Gottschalk, C. Barton, J. Tricks, D. Honas and Mgr. J. Wheeler. **Second row:** J. Begler, T. Flinn, J. Gnad, D. Gottschalk and M. Erbert. **Third row:** G. Fuchs, N. Townley, Z. Werth and Coach Erbert. **Fourth row:** L. Mattheyer, S. Fuller and T. Gugler. **Fifth row:** J. Knoll, B. Geschwentner, D. Kvasnicka, M. Kreutzer and Coach Wolf.

STUCO



Left to right: Kayla Hollern, Justin Gnad, Todd Flinn and Lauren Wheeler.

Volleyball

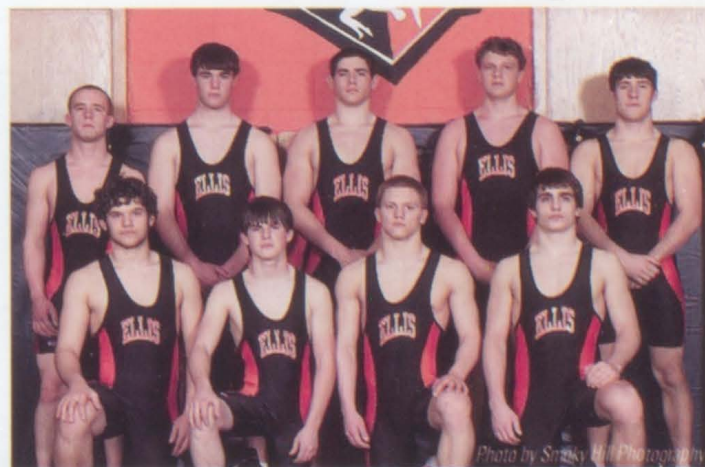


Girls Track



First row: Mgr. S. Gottschalk, A. Brenner, R. Hook and Mgr. J. Wheeler. **Second row:** E. Groff, B. Polifka, K. Jacques, D. Pfeifer and W. Taylor. **Third row:** M. Zody, C. Leiker, V. North and Coach Hayes. **Fourth row:** T. Clark, C. Waldschmidt, J. Kinderknecht, A. Stroda and Coach Erbert. **Fifth row:** K. Sleight, H. Wolf, K. Hackney, K. Butler and Coach Wolf.

Wrestling



Back row: Kevin Urban, William Poland, John Tricks, Jacob Begler and Justin Gnad. **Front row:** Todd Smith, Justin Henrickson, Dillon Kinderknecht and Chase King.

Back row: Mgr. J. Wheeler, L. Gaschler, K. Parson, K. Jacques, B. Polifka, B. Bittel, A. Lang, W. Taylor, K. Keller, D. Hunsicker, C. Waldschmidt and K. Hollern. **Middle row:** Mgr. V. North, Mgr. L. Wheeler, D. Weber, P. Reilly, R. Mick, A. Brenner, C. Leiker, K. Gottschalk, C. Beilman, C. Walters, K. Casey, H. Weber, Coach James and Coach Mick. **Front row:** S. Gottschalk, S. Young, A. Augustine, K. Desaire, M. Zody, K. Butler, K. Wahlmeier, S. Kohl, J. Lopez, T. Jaekal, J. Dessel, D. Basgall, S. Beres and T. Clark

Section: Groups and IndexMain Idea**Last**

The 2008 edition of the Ellis High School Railroader was published by the EHS yearbook staff and printed by Jostens of Topeka, Kan. Sales representative was Derius Mammen, and plant representative was Lori Wishert. Press run was 130 copies with 120 pages. The Railroader was printed with a trim size of 7. Body copy in the yearbook is Chase, Unitus Condensed and Light Condensed, Serene and Return to Earth. The Railroader is a computer-generated book, and all work was done by the students using Adobe Indesign CS 3.0.1 and Photoshop CS3 on IBM computers and a laser printer. Portraits and group photographs were taken by EHS journalism staff, Smoky Hill Photography, Pioneer Photography and the Ellis Review. The Railroader was financed through \$30 book sales, \$30 business ads, \$50 layout ads, \$20 booster ads, \$60 1/4 page ads, \$80 1/2 page ads and \$140 full page ads.

Key

1. Show Me the Money Sophomore Jennifer Kinderknecht waits for her mom, Sheryl Kinderknecht, to fork over some money for baked goods. During the community-wide garage sale, Rotary sold baked goods with the proceeds donated to Gage Hayden who was diagnosed with cancer this spring. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

2. Choices, Choices Senior Kayla Hollern tries to decide what to order at the Ellis Travel Plaza's Subway. Subway's \$5 footlongs were popular this summer. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

3. Working Hard or Hardly Working? Sophomore Nicole Pfeifer takes time from stocking shelves at IGA to make a face at the camera. The grocery store is a popular place for students to work after school and during the summer. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

4. Tying the Knot Freshman Devin Jacques works on putting up the final sign up at the Ellis softball field. Jacques took a summer job at the Ellis Recreation Commission. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

5. Great Grocer Dedicated IGA worker, junior Steven Schmidt, diligently takes stock on mayonnaise. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

Essential

Topic

Main Idea

The yearbook staff would like to thank Mrs. Jill Wood for taking on the task of being the journalism teacher and giving us a great year; John Begler (Smoky Hill Photography) for your photos; the Ellis Review for your photos and the occasional use of your camera; Derius, our Jostens representative for all his yearbook wisdom; Mr. Bob Young for helping us with our technical difficulties; Mrs. June Howard for all of your help with Photoshop and Indesign—we will all miss you; and the faculty for letting us out of class to work on yearbook and letting us interrupt your class to get pictures.

THANK YOU!

Points

6. Final Countdown Soon to be juniors Staci Bittel, Kayla Jacques, and Ryan Weber, cheer the 2007-2008 school year to a close. *Photo by Jill Wood*

7. Stuck on You Freshmen Desiree Basgall and Kimberly Gottschalk try to unwind from a long year of school and each other's hair. The two girls had "nothing better to do" on the last day of school. *Photo by Jill Wood*

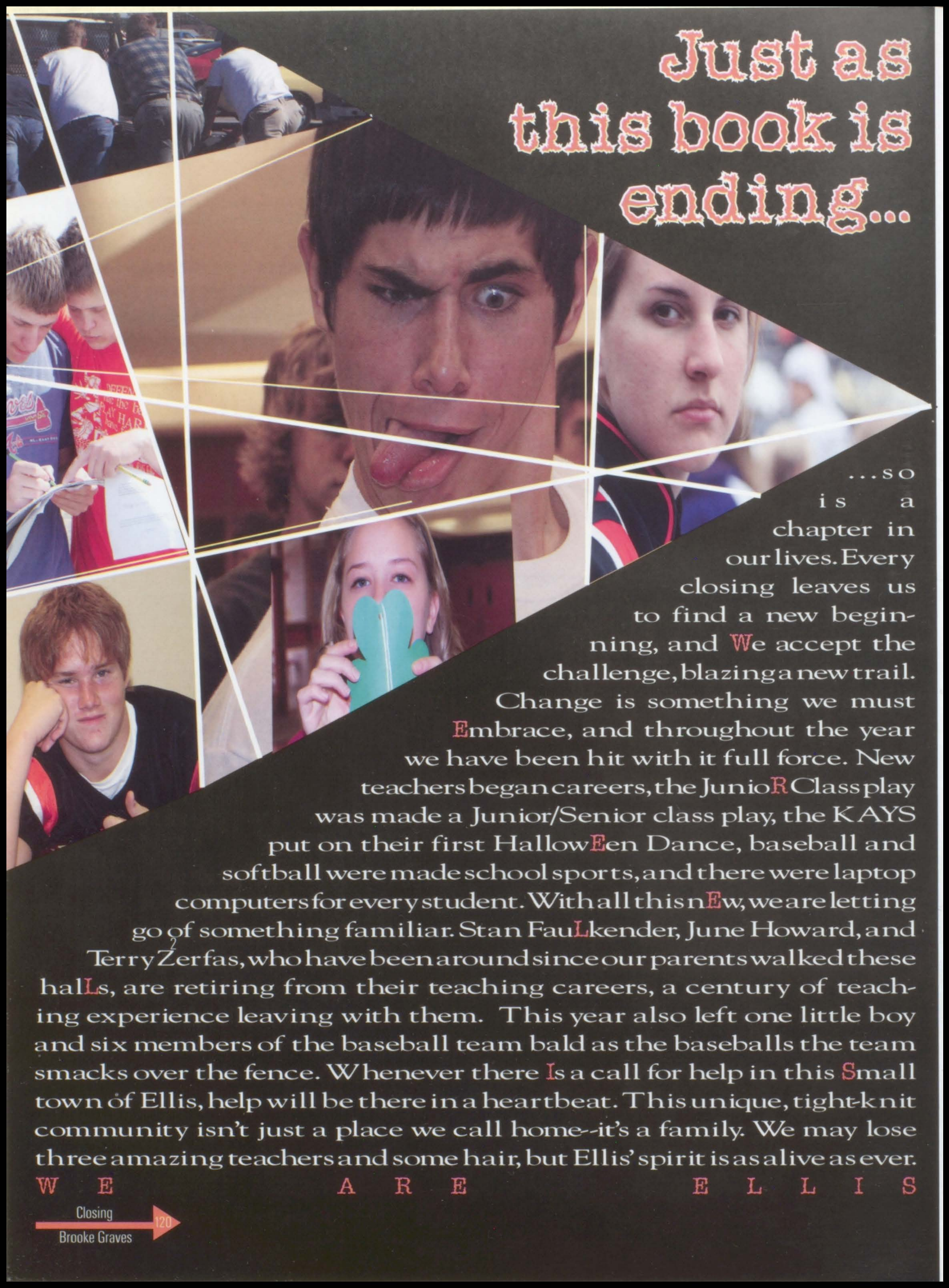
8. War On the final day of school, junior Tyler Fischer uses a pillow to block a flying eraser during English III. Like many classes on the last day of school, it got a little chaotic. *Photo by Jill Wood*

9. Order Up Working her summer job, freshman Tori Clark waits for a Subway Wrap to finish heating up. Many students worked at the travel plaza during the school year and into the summer. *Photo by Brooke Graves*

10. It's How I Roll Long-time teacher Stan Faulkender demonstrates his painting skills with a broom. Upon his retirement as a teacher, Faulkender plans on being "a part-time hell, fire, and brimstone Bible-thumping preacher man." *Photo by Ashley Stroda*

Details





Just as
this book is
ending...

...so
is a
chapter in
our lives. Every
closing leaves us
to find a new begin-
ning, and We accept the
challenge, blazing a new trail.

Change is something we must
Embrace, and throughout the year
we have been hit with it full force. New
teachers began careers, the Junior R Class play
was made a Junior/Senior class play, the KAYS
put on their first HallowEen Dance, baseball and
softball were made school sports, and there were laptop
computers for every student. With all this nEw, we are letting
go of something familiar. Stan FauLkender, June Howard, and
Terry Zerfas, who have been around since our parents walked these
hallS, are retiring from their teaching careers, a century of teach-
ing experience leaving with them. This year also left one little boy
and six members of the baseball team bald as the baseballs the team
smacks over the fence. Whenever there Is a call for help in this S
mall town of Ellis, help will be there in a heartbeat. This unique, tight-knit
community isn't just a place we call home-it's a family. We may lose
three amazing teachers and some hair, but Ellis' spirit is as alive as ever.

W E A R E E L L I S

Closing

Brooke Graves

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