



TITAN TIMES

RUTHVEN-AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mission Accomplished for Josephson



It was 1990 when Jon Josephson arrived at Ruthven-Ayrshire to teach history and government. After 33 years, he feels the timing is right and his mission is accomplished, so he is set to retire at the end of June.

"It was different then, but exactly the same in some ways," he said. "We had a lot of new teachers that year."

Erv Rowlands was the principal that year and Edward Bleeker was the superintendent.

"Small town teaching was definitely my goal. At the time there was a surplus of teachers, which is much different from today. I had taken a job in Des Moines and after two months, I wanted to be back in small-town Iowa."

Josephson grew up in Albert City and remembers coming up to the area in the summers to fish.

He took on the role of Athletic Director in 1995-96 and he became interested in administration. He started as a half-time principal while still teaching three classes of social studies, AD and coaching junior high football.

Twelve years ago, as R-A got involved in sharing and the superintendent position was shared, he became the full-time principal.

Over the years he has coached junior high and high school football, junior high and high school boys and girls basketball, junior high track and high school volleyball.

Josephson is proud of the journey to become Titan Nation, one of the biggest changes he was involved with. In the late 80s, Ruthven-Ayrshire was sharing baseball, track and softball and football with Terril. Eventually it became all sports.

"Terril later joined Graettinger and we had to go on our own for about six or seven years. We started sharing baseball/softball with G-T and soon decided it was time to look at sharing all of the athletics. It was the fall of 2012 that we started sharing all sports and became the Titans.

"Later in the fall, it was a morning I will never forget. Mr. Woiwood came to my office and said, 'R-A can not function as an independent school district for even one more year, or we will be bankrupt.'"

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MAY 2023

After talks and negotiations between both Emmetsburg and G-T, it was the spring of 2013 when an agreement was made to start academic sharing with G-T and Titan Nation was born.

BIGGEST CHANGE OVER THE YEARS

"I think in all careers, not just education, everyone is too busy. Some of that is technology. Technology has been a blessing, but it is also a curse. More recently, lack of support from our legislature has been a big change. There seems to be nationally a sort of beat-up education mood, which is totally anti-Iowa. We are in a weird place right now in the state of Iowa where that support is not where it was. We need to get back to the strong support of education."

MOST REWARDING

"The reason you stay in education is because of the kids. Getting to graduation every year and seeing their growth and development is why you stay in education. I think that is unique to small schools, too."

"Of course, the transition to Titan Nation has been extremely rewarding. Seeing that it was going to happen and going to work has been rewarding. Seeing how we have worked together to make this work has been amazing to watch."

GREATEST CHALLENGE

"In most recent years it has been staffing. There is such a shortage of teachers. It is hard to find good and qualified teachers and even more difficult to retain them. There are so many other factors that affect keeping them here. That will continue to be a challenge for many years."

WHAT NEXT?

"I have always believed in community service and I plan to continue on that. And, Nick started a grounds keeping business that is now Lauren's. I will continue to help with that. I am sure I will be involved with the school perhaps as a bus driver or substitute. I am toying with some other ideas like starting a handy-man service, but for now that decision will wait."

Josephson has served as a volunteer on LIRBA since it was organized in the early 90s including roles as president and vice-president.

He is a member of the Sacred Heart Church where he serves as a lector and assists with many projects including being the cemetery caretaker. He also teaches and coordinates religious education and organizes youth activities.

FAMILY

His wife, Kelly, is a teacher at Emmetsburg. They have two children, Nick and Lauren. Nick is in his second year of teaching Industrial Technology at Springville Community School. Lauren is finishing her junior

year at UNI. She plans to get a job in elementary education or early childhood. The family lives on Lost Island Lake where they enjoy boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, and skiing.

THREE WORDS YOU MAY BE REMEMBERED BY

"It's not for me to say, but if I had to: hard-worker, dedicated and caring."

MAGIC WAND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

"I just hope Titan Nation can continue to move forward – positively, robustly, strongly. This is a purposeful exit point for me. I think things are in really good hands, and this is an excellent time to leave and let the next adventure be someone else's. My mission is accomplished."

THE YEAR WAS 1990



- Demolition of the Berlin Wall begins in June.
- Operation Desert Shield begins as the U.S. sends troops to Saudi Arabia.
- America's favorite animated family, "The Simpsons" airs on Fox for the first time.
- Microsoft releases Windows 3.0.
- Tower of Pisa closes to the public for fear of it falling.
- Hubble Space Telescope sends first space photographs
- Greyhound Bus files bankruptcy.
- 400 fans of New Kids on the Block treated for heat exhaustion in Minnesota.
- Oil hits a record \$40.42 per barrel.
- The World Wide Web is first proposed by CERN computer scientists.



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Courtney Cook Joins R-A as New Principal

Mrs. Courtney Cook is eager to start as the Ruthven-Ayrshire Pre-K through high school principal starting July 1.

She just happened to get on the Teach Iowa website the day the position was posted. For her, that was a sign that it was meant to be. She is excited to join Titan Nation.

She is most looking forward to being back in a building and working directly with students and educators. As a consultant most recently, she was one or two steps removed from working with children and having a part of decision making.

"I look forward to having the relationships with the students, parents and educators," she said.

Her first goal is to get a feel for what has been happening in and outside of the classrooms. Then, listening to kids and engaging with them as well as hearing from educators. By the end of the first year, having listened to the voices of students, educators and caregivers, she hopes to have a vision of where to go in the future.

"I have had experience at all grade levels, in the classroom and supporting students on the counseling side," she said. "And I have the experience as a consultant on the outside of school systems. I have grown in leadership skills and my understanding of how systems work. I understand how social-emotional behavioral health with academic content and rigor really does propel students to achieve more.

"We have to have that foundation within the school building but also within the community. It's really building up the foundation of everyone's wellbeing and sense of belonging to ensure that we can layer on the instruction. Then, our students can do great things just like we have, as alum. It's the whole child-whole school approach.

It's not changing everything at once, it's baby

steps and working together to get things done."

Cook believes it takes a full-picture effort of supporting students, educators and families. "This takes an all-day, every-day effort in how we interact with each other," she said.

"Some people may misunderstand the term social-emotional health. To me, it is brain health. It's an organ. It impacts everything we do. Some people may be afraid of the term, but we used to call it soft skills and relationships."

Cook says that those who have worked closely with her would describe her as passionate, optimistic and a solution-finder.

"I would say I listen as much as I talk. I don't want to be the only decision-maker in the building. I like to bring the energy and my aim is to really just inspire and hear people out and work with them."

She invites parents to use a variety of tools to communicate with her. "Parents, families and caregivers have to be a part of the equation. Public school is not just the building – it is a community effort. We have to be engaged and we have to be talking to each other and be a part of the solution.

"It's been hard to see the separation that has taken place in recent years. The idea that we haven't been sharing information, when we have. But, we do need to be more purposeful and actually invite people to the table and to be part of the decision making. We want to know what community needs are out there and what support and information is needed. Families are the best to tell us what those are. I definitely want to be in communication with families, whatever that may look like."

Starting next year, two new curriculums will be implemented at R-A, including computer science and literacy.

"I will be learning those right along with the staff," she said. "We can think through the particular curriculum and how we can approach the on-boarding process. We will all be in it together. I want to reassure staff that I am not expecting miraculous gains in year one. As always, we are looking for continuous progress and growth."

Cook is a 2001 graduate of Ruthven-Ayrshire and was the valedictorian of her class. She did her undergrad at the University of Iowa in communications, theater and entrepreneurship.

With her husband serving in the Army, they moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. She held positions as a substitute teacher and found she really liked the K-12 environment which changed her educational plans.

They were transferred to Fort Carson, Colo. where she worked as a high school English teacher. Outside of the classroom she was assistant coach for girls track and volleyball.

After moving back to Iowa, she switched to online teaching while taking an online masters program for school counseling. She served as a substitute at Graettinger-Terril before taking the position of school counselor there in 2013.

She earned her masters for education leadership and policy studies through the University of Iowa. She followed that with a position at the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency as the Social-Emotional Behavior Health Coordinator for the last four years.

"I can't say coming back to my community was in my plans 22 years ago, but I have had high goals and wanted to be a leader along the way. I am really excited about it! The beauty of small schools is we have flexibility and we can make changes that meet the needs of the students and the community to take us into the future.

"I want students to know they can do whatever they want. They can travel and learn whatever they want. They can find their way and they don't have to choose one thing to do the rest of their life.

"I want them to see me as an example – I can go out and do all these things and come back here and support my community and do great things, too."

Cook is married to Kyle, a Spencer graduate. He served in the Army at Fort Bragg, Fort Carson and did two deployments to Iraq. He now works at Golf Ball Country in Spencer. They have four children that attend G-T: Corinne a sophomore; Colleen a freshman; Kennedy a second-grader; and Kallaway a kindergartner. She says Titan Nation means a lot to her family having four generations of extended family at either G-T or R-A.

Join us in welcoming back Mrs. Courtney Cook!

Hiding in Plain Sight

Use of e-cigarette products among teens is on the rise

E-cigarette manufacturers spend millions to promote their products in ways that make them appealing to young people. In Iowa, that effort has turned nearly 21% of high school students into e-cigarette users. R-A School Counselor Mr. Matt Borchers estimates the local usage is similar to those numbers. He estimates that 15-20% of GTRA high school students use e-cigarette products.

A teenage vaping habit may lead to a lifetime of nicotine addiction. The tobacco industry has made flavored e-cigarettes with colorful pods that have become popular among teens. Although the legal age for smoking or vaping is 21, that doesn't stop teens from finding sources to get the addictive products. They can be found online, or purchased from friends, family or strangers.

In 2022, over 2.5 million middle and high school students reported current e-cigarette use and 46% of those said they vape daily.

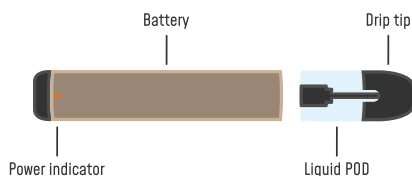
According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, disposable flavored products make up 35% of the market and are what gets the attention of young adults. Flavors like Cheesecake, Bubble Gum, Strawberry Ice Cream or Strawberry Freeze have increased the appeal of the tobacco products.

According to the Iowa Youth Survey e-cigarette use among 11th graders increased from 9.1% in 2016 to 22.4% in 2018. That use surpassed both alcohol at 20% and other drug use rates at 15%.

Recently, Treva Graves spoke to GTRA middle school and high school students about the dangers of tobacco use and vaping. Graves is the Public Health Educator at Lakes Regional Healthcare.

"I think people are surprised by the high use of vape products by young people," she said. "Teens can be very creative when hiding the devices. They might keep them hidden in their sleeves or pockets. Parents and educators may never know that their teen is using the products. The addiction is very fast and can set in within a week of use," said Graves.

What are Vape or E-Cigarettes



E-cigarettes, vapes, e-pipes and other vaping products are battery powered devices that allow users to inhale e-juice, an aerosolized liquid.

E-cigarettes heat up the liquid solution to a temperature



that produces an aerosol that can be inhaled. The liquid solution almost always includes nicotine, flavoring and a humectant that retains moisture to create the aerosol. Newer synthetic nicotine has produced a more potent version of nicotine than that derived from tobacco leaves. This has created a surplus of nicotine-containing products like Puff Bar that may claim to be "tobacco-free" even though they still contain nicotine.

Vape pens were introduced in 2009. The popular JUUL was introduced in 2015 followed by the Puff Bar in 2019. The Pod Vape came in 2021.

"A vape device has as much as 60 to 80 mg. of nicotine compared to a regular cigarette that has 18 mg. It is so much more addictive," said Graves.

Why young people turn to vaping

Lured by marketing that the tobacco use can help with stress-relief, relaxation and pleasure,

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Treva Graves, M.A. is the Public Health Educator at Lakes Regional Healthcare. She visited Titan Nation to speak with middle school and high school students about the dangers of vaping.

Vaping is much more dangerous than cigarettes:

- Much higher nicotine content
- Appealing device design geared to young people
- Millions spent promoting to youth in social media

many teenagers turn to e-cigarettes to reduce feelings of stress, anxiety or depression. The truth is, however, that vaping can actually amplify the feelings of depression and anxiety and worsen the user's mental health.

The dangers of vaping

Nicotine is highly addictive and is found in tobacco products like cigarettes, e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. The addictive drug quickly makes its way to the brain where it releases dopamine, a chemical that signals pleasure and keeps users addicted. In young people, 5 mg. of nicotine



Many of the GTRA Middle School students say they know someone who vapes.

- Nearly 37% of Iowa 11th graders report trying e-cigarettes compared to 11% for cigarettes.

- The vast majority (83%) of youth who report any e-cigarette or cigarette use started with e-cigarettes.



tobacco smell that cigarettes do. There are clues to look for to see if your teen may be using vape products.

"If you suspect your teen is using, I suggest not being judgmental. They may be so addicted that they can't help it because it has already re-wired their brain," said Graves.

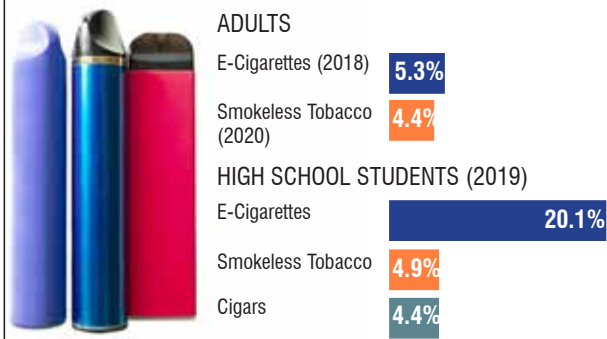
- Aerosol cloud disappears quickly, but can leave a fruit or candy smell for a few minutes
- Become familiar with the appearance of devices. Many popular devices are designed to look like other objects such as a computer USB drive, a pen or a compact. Many can easily be concealed.
- Be aware of your child's overall mood. Unusual irritability, a sudden decline in school grades or other negative emotional states may be a sign of usage.

Help for quitting

Quitting a nicotine habit takes time and energy and users will benefit from a strong support system. A new program is available for teens to help them quit. The My Life, My Quit™ is a free and confidential way to help teens quit smoking or vaping. Sending a text to 36072 will connect teens to a coach where they will get at least five, one-on-one coaching sessions to practice skills and receive support for changing behaviors. Coaches are available by phone, text message or online chat.

SOURCES: Iowa Youth Survey 2018; Centers for Disease Control, Iowa Public Health Department

USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS OF IOWA ADULTS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



a day is enough to establish an addiction. That is the amount of nicotine in just one-quarter of an e-cigarette pod.

The brain is still developing until about the age of 25. Nicotine harms developing brains by disrupting the formation of brain circuits that control attention and learning.

Aerosol from e-cigarettes contains harmful and cancer-causing chemicals. The flavoring diacetyl is a substance linked to a serious lung disease, and the liquid contains heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead.

How to recognize if your teen is vaping

Vaping and e-cigarettes do not have the familiar



Summer is coming and so is the potential for damaging storms. Now is the time to review your rental or home-owners policy.



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Gregory Olson: ruthins@ruthventel.com

Christie (Rouse) Peters: christie.olsonins@outlook.com

Saluting the Class of 2023



Commencement Exercises

Sunday, May 14, 2023 - 2:30 p.m.

Ruthven-Ayrshire Gymnasium

Class Colors: Silver and Black

Class Flower: Rose

Adrianna Clement

Parents: Adam and Ange

Siblings: Adam

One thing I will always remember:
The end of the day.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Work hard and don't mess around.

Future Plans: To get a job.



Sara Kathman

Parents: Susan Taylor, Barry Kathman

Siblings: Spencer, Brad, Brett, Catherine, Kristen, Jackie

One thing I will always remember:
Being in vocal.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Stay focused, be positive, be supportive.

Future Plans: Being a mom.



Gabrielle Conlon

Parents: Dave and Jill Conlon

Siblings: Jacob, Charlie, Jenna

One thing I will always remember:
I have always enjoyed Homecoming week activities.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Get your work done on time.

Future Plans: Study dental hygiene at Kirkwood Community College.



Kandise McBride

Parents: Jamie McBride

Siblings: Luke, Jrace, Jraven, Audrina, Alexis, Leah

One thing I will always remember:
The friends I have made at R-A.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Do your work, get it done on time and go to class!

Future Plans: Attend college or a trade school.



Class Officers:

President: Avery Wooten
Vice President: Gabby Conlon
Secretary: Bethany Willrett
Treasurer: Kylie Moore

Class Motto:

“What appears to be the end,
may really be a new beginning.”

Naome Mickelson

Parents: Adam and Renada Mickelson

Siblings: Caden and Bryan

One thing I will always remember:

When I became a cheerleader, because I never thought that would have been something I came to love, but it really was.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Try out for lots of activities before your senior year, you might actually like them in the long run.



Bryce Rosacker

Parents: Aaron and Monica Rosacker

Siblings: Brady and Blake

One thing I will always remember:

My junior year of football.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Hand in work on time.

Future Plans: Run heavy equipment.



Kylie Moore

Parents: Dawn Buettner and Kurt Moore

Siblings: Kortney and Kale

One thing I will always remember:

Decorating during Homecoming and being able to participate in multiple activities during that week.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Get your work done when it is assigned, otherwise you will fall behind.

Future Plans: Attend ILCC to earn a cosmetology degree.



Quentin Scott

Parents: Rolinda and Heath Scott

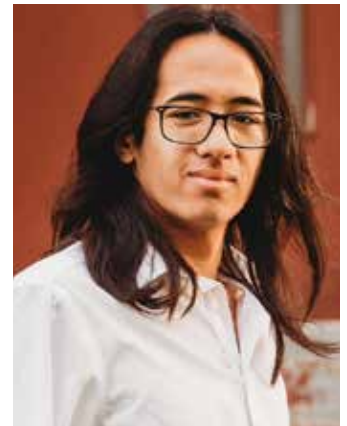
Siblings: Katherine, Bryan, Murray, Molly, and Jennifer

One thing I will always remember:

Friends I made while I was here.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? It gets easier.

Future Plans: Attend college.



Will Myers

Parents: Bill and Stephanie Myers

Siblings: Ethan, Cody, Myles, Micah, Tabitha and Abby

One thing I will always remember:
Being Homecoming King.



Layla Thompson

Parents: Jeff and Jessica Thompson, Sheena and Todd Geisinger

Siblings: Lilly, Aiden, Evelyn, Keegan, Maddie, Zander, Parker, Hudson

One thing I will always remember:

The time we had to make a skit and record it for the grade and Will and Bryce almost kissed.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Try from the beginning. It all matters at the end.

Future Plans: Working toward a Business AAS degree at Iowa Central.



CLASS OF 2023 CONTINUED NEXT PAGE ►

Hannah Williams

Parents: Terrence Williams & Haley Suwalski

Siblings: Caleb, Keegan, Lawson, Brooke, Aryanna

One thing I will always remember: Seeing my friends and participating in extracurricular activities.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Don't procrastinate.

Future Plans: Attend NCC for nursing.



Alia Wood

Parents: Danielle Barnett and Jacob Wood

One thing I will always remember: Going on the NHS trips and feeding the homeless.

Future Plans: Attend ILCC for the Vet Tech Program.



Bethany Willrett

Parents: Gary and the late Patty Willrett

Siblings: Trace

One thing I will always remember: All the friends I have made over the years.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Take advantage of all the opportunities you are given.

Future Plans: Study dental hygiene at Kirkwood Community College.



Avery Wooten

Parents: Paul and Rachel Wooten

Siblings: Ashton

One thing I will always remember: The time I got Bryce suspended my freshman year in shop class. (I didn't even mean to get him in trouble.)

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Get involved in everything you are able to and don't procrastinate.

Future Plans: Major in nursing at South Dakota State University.



THE CLASS OF 2023 as First Graders



Dru Baak



Brett Baxter



Gabrielle Conlon



Alliyah Dennison



Savannah Faulkner



Sara Kathman



Emily Kreutner



Trinity Krieg



Kylie Moore



Oliver Morris-McEwan



Jordan Murphy



William Myers



Elias Naber



Samuel Naber



Jaxon Pomeroy



Quintin Scott



Layla Thompson



Tessa Watkins



Jonathan Willard



Bethany Willrett



Avery Wooten

Students and Staff Make Recommendations for Summer Learning Fun

Reading suggestions from the fourth grade

Tys Cillier: *Legend of the Ghost Dog*. You should read this book because it is interesting and you will like it.

Henry Puterbaugh: *The Secret Garden*. It's the best story ever.

Katelyn Dyhrkopp: *Are you Ready to Play Outside?* The characters Gerald, the Elephant, and Piggie, the pig. Piggie and Gerald go outside for some fun, but a rain comes while Gerald tries to help Piggie have fun! I like at the end the rain isn't so bad after all!

Alivia Loss: *The Dust Bowl Disaster*. It tells you how people lived and how hard life was back then. It taught me to be thankful for what you have because people didn't have stuff like we do now back then. I liked all of the interesting things about it and learning how people lived back then.

Charlotte Upton: *The Secret Garden*. It is a good book.

Zander Thompson: *Titanic*. It is about the Titanic and how it sinks. It has a lot of pictures and it tells us a lot.

Sophia Cother: *Holes*. *Holes* is a chapter book. This guy, Stanley, got framed for stealing shoes and went to Camp Green Lake for naughty boys.

For anyone with an interest in Science

Mr. Pavel Buravtsov: Doing any kind of gardening gives a chance for students to grow plants. They can research different conditions and develop research skills such as note-taking, observations, designing, developing and experimenting. They can use seeds of any plant they like and experiment with the amount of water, sunlight and fertilizer.

Reading suggestions from the third grade

Matthew Walker: *Dog Man Saves People in the City*. I like it because Dog Man catches the criminals.

Chandler Witt: *What is the Super Bowl?* It is about a bunch of Super Bowls that happened over the years. I

like it because it has the Dallas Cowboys and it has Super Bowl 47.

Gabe Henaman: *Do Tornadoes Really Twist?* I liked it because it taught me about tornadoes and hurricanes.

Luke Henningsen: *Dog Man*. Dog Man book is funny. It is fun to read. There are Cat Kid, Dog Man and Chief. There are a lot more. There are superheros vs. bad. I like the Dog Man books because there are different ones. They are fun to read.

Neva Rouse: *Cat Magic*. A girl named Lottie is spending the summer at her uncle and cousin's pet shop. She thinks at least it has animals to talk to but one day they talk back! I like this book because it is interesting. Also, I love animals.

Teagan Cother: *The Tree Lady*. It is about a young girl learning about trees. She was the first girl to get a science degree when she graduated. I like this book because she helped the whole world by planting trees. She was in a desert so how did she plant trees there? She wrote letters to people and traveled to find the right trees to plant. That is why it is my favorite book.

Embry Schnetzer: *Sunny Makes a Splash*. A 13-year-old gets a job at the pool. Sunny's mom gets mad at her from being out late. I like the book because I like to go to the pool in the summer.

John Henningsen: *Dog Man*. These books are about Dog Man. He helps people and if someone is hurt, Dog Man will save the day. I like Dog Man books because he helps people. I like to read it. It is funny because they say words that are funny.

Jaylyn Fuller: *How to Catch a Fish*. It teaches you how to catch a fish. I like the book because I like to go fishing.

Abby Dyhrkopp: *Molly's Story*. Molly's a loving dog who has an owner CJ but CJ's mother doesn't like dogs. It is fun to read and I love animals.

Lily Horst: *Dog Man*. Dog Man works as an officer. There is one person he's always trying to catch. I think it is funny. It is like a comic book. It is a good series.

Grayson Williamson: *Percy Jackson*. It's about Greek Mythology. The reason I like it is because I like Norse and Greek Mythology.

Bryan Mickelson: *Fat Cat Sat on the Mat*. It's about a cat and a rat fighting over a mat. I liked it because it was funny.

Kailyn Horst: Dog Man books. They are a funny comic. There are a lot of funny characters. I like the flip-o-ramas and I like that it is a comic.

Easton Kronemann: *Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties*. It's a funny comic. Dog Man is a cop dog that got his head sewed on a cop body. I like that its a cool comic.

Bentley Briggs: *My Weird School*. It is funny. It is about a kid in a school and they are funny. Ajay is the main character. He is the coolest. Andra is Ajays enemy.

Outdoor Art Project

Miss Ashley Ellenwood: Painting with Nature is a printmaking project. Supplies include paint, sticks, paper and anything found on a nature walk. Pick up flowers, grass, sticks, leaves, pine cones and other items. Use the nature items as paint brushes to create a painting. You can also use toys, blocks, bottle lids or other things to paint shapes. Make a nature collage with the extra supplies.



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In the words of Duke Ellington:

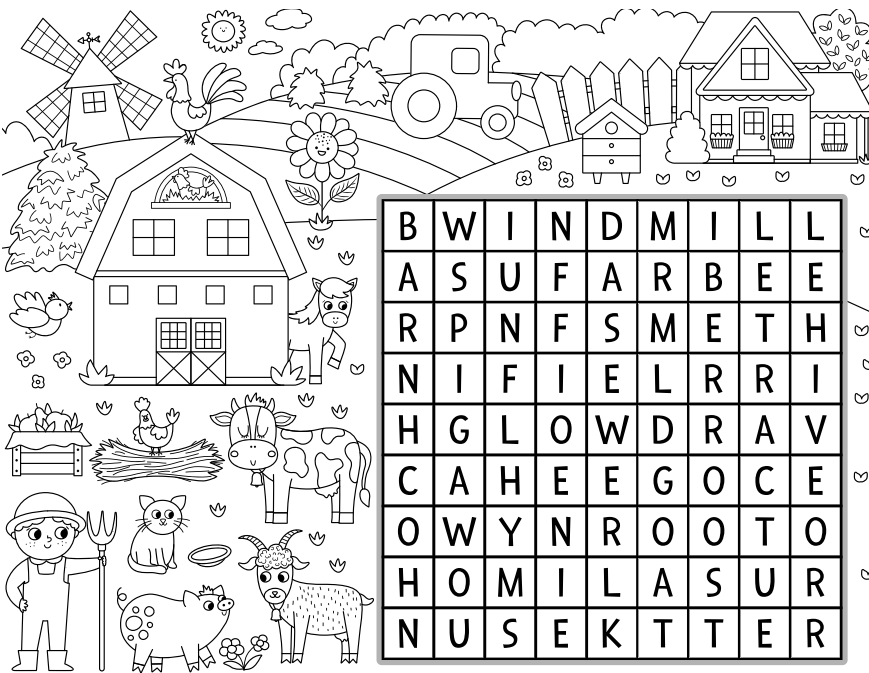
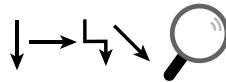
IT DON'T MEAN A THING (IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING)



ON THE FARM

Find the objects in the picture and in the puzzle.

BARN	FIELD	HOUSE	SUNFLOWER
BEEHIVE	GOAT	MILK	TRACTOR
COW	HAY	PIG	WINDMILL
FARMER	HEN	ROOSTER	



B	W	I	N	D	M	I	L	L
A	S	U	F	A	R	B	E	E
R	P	N	F	S	M	E	T	H
N	I	F	I	E	L	R	R	I
H	G	L	O	W	D	R	A	V
C	A	H	E	E	G	O	C	E
O	W	Y	N	R	O	O	T	O
H	O	M	I	L	A	S	U	R
N	U	S	E	K	T	T	E	R

5th-6th Grade Show Choir Members: Jonah Malm, Trace Willrett, Aiden Fredricks, Maddie Thompson, Alex Fuller, Hazel Williamson, Aubrey Ruehle.

7th-8th Grade Show Choir Members: Kylee Loss, Zoe Ohrtman, Jenna Conlon, Maggie Malm, Katherine Scott, Jasmine Heisler, Paige Clabaugh.

Tim Nielsen and Teresa Ortman, Directors

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HOME PLATE

Chocolate Mint Fluff Dessert

This recipe is kid-friendly and great for a refreshing summer dessert.

- 23 whole chocolate graham crackers (5x 2-1/2-inches)
- 3 c. cold fat-free milk
- 2 (3 oz.) pkgs. instant white chocolate or vanilla pudding
- 1/2 t. mint or peppermint extract
- 3 to 4 drops green food coloring, optional

- 1 (8 oz.) carton frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 T. butter or stick margarine
- 2 T. baking cocoa
- 2 T. plus 1 t. fat-free milk
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1 c. confectioner's sugar

Coat a 9x13-inch dish with non-stick cooking spray. Break five whole graham crackers in half; line the bottom of pan with three half crackers and six whole crackers. In a bowl, whisk milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Whisk in extract and food coloring if desired. Fold in whipped topping. Spread half over graham crackers.

Top with another layer of three half and six whole crackers. Top with remaining pudding mixture and graham crackers (save remaining half cracker for another use). Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.

For frosting, melt butter in a saucepan. Stir in cocoa and milk until blended. Remove from the heat; stir in vanilla and confectioner's sugar. Spread over dessert. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Servings: 15

DATES AND TIMES

Monday, May 8

- 4:30 p.m. Track, V co-ed at Sioux Central
- 7 p.m. Middle school band/vocal concert

Tuesday, May 9

- 4 p.m. Track JH co-ed at Newell-Fonda
- 7 p.m. Elementary concert

Wednesday, May 10

- 10 a.m. NHS Induction
- 2:30 p.m. Early out
- 7 p.m. Senior awards

Thursday, May 11

- 4 p.m. Track varsity girls district, TBA
- 4 p.m. Track varsity boys district at North Union

Sunday, May 14

- 2:30 p.m. Commencement

Monday, May 15

- 5 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Central Lyon (away)

Tuesday, May 16

- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. North Iowa (away)

Wednesday, May 17

- 6 p.m. Board meeting

Thursday, May 18

- 9 a.m. Elementary Track and Field Day, TBA
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. HMS (home)

Monday, May 22

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. HMS (away)

Tuesday, May 23

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. H-LP (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. H-LP (home)

Wednesday, May 24

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Estherville-LC (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Okoboji (away)

Thursday, May 25

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Sibley-Ocheyedan (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Sibley-Ocheyedan (home)

Friday, May 26

- 11:30 a.m. Dismiss for last day of school
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Alta-Aurelia (away)

Tuesday, May 30

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. North Union (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. North Union (home)

Wednesday, May 31

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. SC Calhoun (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. SC Calhoun (home)

Thursday, June 1

- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Spirit Lake (home)

Friday, June 2

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. Emmetsburg (away)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Emmetsburg (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Pocahontas Area (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Pocahontas Area (away)

Saturday, June 3

- 9 a.m. Varsity Softball Invitational (home)

Monday, June 5

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. Pocahontas Area (away)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Pocahontas Area (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Sioux Central (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Sioux Central (home)

Tuesday, June 6

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. West Bend-Mallard (home)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. West Bend-Mallard (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Okoboji (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Estherville-LC (home)

Wednesday, June 7

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. East Sac County (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. East Sac County (away)

Thursday, June 8

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. Newell-Fonda (home)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Newell-Fonda (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. St. Edmond (home)

Friday, June 9

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Manson-NW Webster (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Manson-NW Webster (home)

Saturday, June 10

- 10 a.m. Softball V vs. Emmetsburg (away)

Monday, June 12

- 5:30 p.m. Softball V vs. Storm Lake St. Mary's (away)

Tuesday, June 13

- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Estherville-LC (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Spencer (away)

Wednesday, June 14

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. Okoboji (away)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Okoboji (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV vs. West Bend-Mallard (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. West Bend-Mallard (home)

Thursday, June 15

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Newell-Fonda (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Ridge View (away)

Friday, June 16

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. Pocahontas Area (home)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Pocahontas Area (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Newell-Fonda (away)

Monday, June 19

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. Emmetsburg (home)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Emmetsburg (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Emmetsburg (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Emmetsburg (home)

Tuesday, June 20

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. West Bend-Mallard (away)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. West Bend-Mallard (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Storm Lake (home)

Wednesday, June 21

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. SE Valley (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. SE Valley (away)

Thursday, June 22

- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. Alta-Aurelia (home)

Friday, June 23

- 11:30 a.m. Softball JH vs. Sioux Central (away)
- 11:30 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Sioux Central (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Alta-Aurelia (home)

Saturday, June 24

- 10 a.m. Softball V vs. Okoboji (away)

Monday, June 26

- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Estherville-LC (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Newell-Fonda (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. West Bend-Mallard (away)

Tuesday, June 27

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. Newell-Fonda (away)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Newell-Fonda (away)
- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. HMS (home)
- 5:30 p.m. Baseball JV/V vs. South O'Brien (away)

Thursday, June 29

- 5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs. Sioux Central (away)

Friday, June 30

- 10 a.m. Softball JH vs. Sioux Central (home)
- 10 a.m. Baseball JH vs. Sioux Central (home)

Monday, August 21

- 5:30 p.m. Volleyball JV vs. Emmetsburg (away)
- 5 p.m. Volleyball V vs. East Sac (home)
- 8 p.m. Volleyball V vs. Newell-Fonda (home)

Wednesday, August 23

- First day of classes

Friday, August 25

- 7 p.m. Football V vs. Siouxland Christian (away)

All activities subject to change.
Spectator guidelines vary
by location. Please view our
website for updates.



*****ECRWSSDDM****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

ECRWSS

Casey Pomeroy Taking Risks on Local Housing Development

Locals will see quite a bit of lumber traveling into town as it heads to the east side of town towards the end of Rolling Street.

All that lumber and other construction material belongs to Casey Pomeroy. This 2002 R-A graduate has taken on the task of building a large housing development. It will have 15 houses located in one area and an additional one just a block away. When complete the homes will be available for purchase or for rent. All homes are designed for families with 3 bedrooms and a single-car garage.

While attending school, he was not involved in activities, but instead used his time to work, including construction.

"I had a lot of good teachers when I was in school. Mr. Peters, the principal was a good influence on me at the time," he said. "He always told me if I wasn't going to college to go out and work my butt off."

He worked for his grandpa, Dale Simpson and his uncle, Scott Simpson of Marathon. He started Pomeroy Construction in 2018.

"I was doing it part time and was staying pretty busy so I just decided to go full-time."

His growth came by word-of-mouth. As a small business person, he not only pounds nails by day but at night or weekends he is doing bookwork and the other needs of managing a business.

"I enjoy seeing the finished product. We have been staying in the Ruthven, Graettinger and Terril area. We do roofing, concrete, new construction, pole barns, pretty much whatever is needed," he said.

Last fall he bought a piece of property and originally planned to use it for his own home and shop. Instead, knowing of the great need for housing in Ruthven, he decided it would be a great area to put in a housing development.

"I'm on the City Council and I hear a lot about the needs we have for housing in town," he said. "If we get 10 to 15 families here, that is good



for the school, the businesses and everyone in town. That is why I am doing it."

He expects the houses to rent for about \$650 and to sell for about the \$150,000 mark.

"It is a big risk. But, I have support from the Iowa State Bank and I believe there is a big need. I already have a list of people that are interested."

Pomeroy has three children: Jaxon, 18; Brooke, 14 and Abel, age 11.

"I think the fact that R-A is a small school is a big advantage. The teachers can get to know you on a personal level and that doesn't happen at bigger schools," he said.

Anyone interested in renting or purchasing one of the new houses can contact him at 712-240-0199.

Learning
Today for
Living
Tomorrow

Newsletter published by the Ruthven-Ayrshire Community School District. Articles and photos by Connie J. Reinert, Beyond Broken, unless otherwise noted.

