



CARDINAL FLYER

Hayes Center High School Journalism

Thursday, October 29, 2026

FROM HAYES CENTER TO INDIANAPOLIS

BY MONICA DIMAS

On Tuesday October 20th, Ayleen Hernandez, Monica Dimas, Keenan Richards, Hailey Lawson, and Kynleigh Fisher started their journey to the 99th National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis. They began by getting on a bus in North Platte which picked up other FFA chapters along its way through Nebraska. One of the memorable events on the way to Indianapolis was the bus breaking down soon after they crossed into Iowa. They moved to a new bus after a few hours to continue on their 13 hour trip. Once the group arrived in Indianapolis, they kicked off their opening day by heading to a concert by country musician, Ty Myers, which was exclusive for only FFA members.

Not only was the concert one of the highlights of the trip, members were able to tour other places during their time at the national convention. On Thursday, students had the opportunity to tour Victory Field Stadium which is home to the Indianapolis Indians, a minor league baseball team. They saw the equipment baseball players use during practices and games, as well as equipment used to keep the field well-maintained. On Friday, the group joined another bus ride over to Louisville, Kentucky to tour the Louisville Slugger Museum and Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. In the Louisville Slugger Museum, they learned how different styles of baseball bats are made and all the different options players now like to use. At Churchill Downs, they learned some of the history behind horse racing and saw some of the behind-the-scenes portions of the track. They also were able to view a retired race horse in the stables as they decorated their own personalized horse shoe.



Photo by Andrea Richards
Hayes Center FFA students visited Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky on their trip to the National FFA Convention.

On Saturday morning, the group attended a special recognition ceremony where past Hayes Center students and FFA members Aubrey Broz, Kesli Cox, and Sydney Mintling received their American Degrees, one of the highest honors awarded to FFA members. The three members were recognized for their achievements and dedication to agricultural education and leadership before the Hayes Center group began its journey back to Nebraska.

Some additional highlights from the trip was Ayleen being interviewed by KRVN as well as members enjoying go-karting and virtual golf. The hotel in Indianapolis the group stayed at hosted only Nebraska FFA members which allowed the advisors to host a dance for chapters in the state to meet one another. Summing up the trip, Ayleen commented, "I really enjoyed nationals. It was a great experience to have and an experience I would recommend."



Sophomores Explore Ag

By Lanie Soundy

On October 20th, Hayes Center biology students made their annual trip to the NPCC south campus to participate in Youth Science Field Day. The goal of the event is for sophomores to learn about different opportunities in the agriculture industry. The students were able to learn about preventing pests in the field, different soil types in Nebraska, crop irrigation, cattle reproduction, and cow anatomy by sticking their arms into a steers stomach. Quaid Brott commented, "It was great! I really loved experiencing all of the hands-on activities that we got to participate in." Overall, the biology class had an amazing experience and learned so much about different jobs in agriculture.



Photo by Marguerite Gallegos

The sophomore class poses for a photo at Youth Science Field Day in North Platte on Tuesday, October 20th.

RPAC Final Four

By Lanie Soundy

The Lady Wolves volleyball team recently defeated Sutherland and Dundy County-Stratton in the first rounds of the RPAC tournament. In round three, the Lady Wolves faced the Lady Broncos. While the gym echoed with cheering fans, the Wolves and Broncos battled it out for three sets. In the end, the Broncos ended up beating the Wolves but even in the loss, Caylie Softley had 11 kills, Chloe Jeffers had 11 digs, and both Jaylee Sellers and Lanie Soundy had 11 assists. The Wolves moved on to face off against Arapahoe in the consolation game at McCook Community College.

The consolation game did not go as the Lady Wolves had hoped with the team losing in 3 sets to Arapahoe. The Wolves earned 4th place overall in the RPAC with a notable performance from Caylie Softley who achieved her 1,000th career kill during the game. Other top stats from the game came from Chloe Jeffers who had 22 digs and Addison Richards who had 4 blocks. "This RPAC tournament really challenged us", coach Rachel Peter said. "We had to battle every game and try to find out what we're made of. I thought we played our best game of the season against Dundy County Stratton and now know what we are capable of. It was a great tournament to push us and help us prepare for sub-districts."



Photo by Lanie Soundy

Aaron Lawson looks through a corn model to practice finding pests at Youth Science Field Day.



Photo by Ava Messersmith

Kylee O'Neil, C.J. Vogt, Hudsyn Cox and Cadie Jeffers jog around the gym to warm up for P.E. class.



SPORTS SCORES

Varsity Football @Hitchcock County, Friday, Oct.23

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Hitchcock Co. (6-3)	22	22	14	0	56
MHC (3-6)	0	0	0	0	0

Varsity VB RPAC Consolation vs. Arapahoe, Wed., Oct.21

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Arapahoe (20-5)	25	25	25
MHC (20-8)	21	13	22

Varsity VB Subdistrict Round 2 vs. South Loop, Tue., Oct.27

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4
South Loop (13-18)	24	15	25	20
MHC (21-8)	25	25	15	25

Varsity VB Subdistrict Round 3 vs. Sutton, Wed., Oct.28

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4
Sutton (19-12)	16	25	25	25
MHC (21-9)	25	16	17	14

**Cross Country
State Meet
@ Kearney
Country Club
Fri., Oct.23**

**Girls
Individual**
Carly Softley (41st)
22:04.9
Agneshka Sankey (80th)
23:22.3

Photo by Lanie Soundy
Agneshka Sankey sets her pace at the state cross country meet on October 23rd.

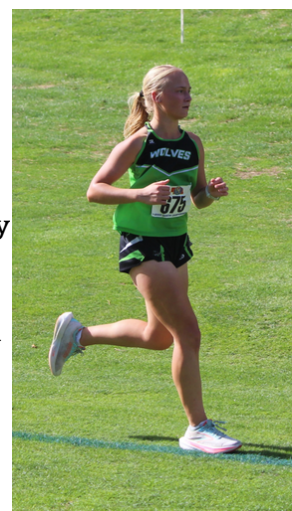


Photo by Lanie Soundy
Football captains Kade Broz, Cooper Soundy, and Oliver Anders meet for the coin toss before kicking off the last game of the season against Hitchcock County on Friday, October 23rd.



Photo by Megan Soundy
The Lady Wolves celebrate senior Caylie Softley setting the MHC record for 130 service aces in a career.