



FAIRBURY JEFFS

**THE TRAIL STAFF APPROVES THIS BOOK
FOR ALL FHS STUDENTS GRADES 7-12**



Rated
F For FHS

The Trail 2026

Volume 99

DEFILED



FOR
FHS
The Trail 2026

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Opening Let's All Go To School

Education * Reality * 25-26 * Classroom 7-12

With each new year comes a new story, but this felt like its own feature show. From the moments our alarms went off on the first day of school, the cameras started rolling and the halls of FHS turned into a movie set. It was as if life was one big streaming service, and providing our own – Rated F for FHS: Full of Friendship, Fun, Failures that turned into lessons, and the un-Forgettable memories we all wish we could rewind just to experience them again and again.

Our days played out like a new episode each day, some of them being chaotic, some hilarious, some more dramatic than we care to admit, and some not what we hoped for. We had the big premiers for each season: winning the last home football game, the first pep rally, and then graduation and last day of school. We had cliffhangers: assignments due and tests the next day leaving us up all night working, being late to school, games that came down to the last seconds. And we all had the classics: hallway laughter, spirit weeks that made the whole school one, and memories made with people who shaped our episodes more than they know.

Being a Jeff means starring in a show that only we understand. One filled with characters who became our family, teachers who deserve their own credits list, and scenes that define who we are long after the last bell rings. It means learning, growing, failing, succeeding, and doing it all while we are surrounded by the cast that makes FHS feel like home.

Although the year may not have been perfect, we remember not every show is. What matters is that we were the stars. And as we close and prepare for our grand finale, we can always hit pause, look back and remember that the story of FHS is one worth watching over and over again, and that it will forever be –

Rated F for FHS!

Next Up

ACADEMICS: Let's All Go to Class
Beckett, Bleich '30

Erik Ausk - Science & Gabriel Ausk '29



Trenton Fortner
- Foreman



Cambria Myers '26



Ryan Garver - Business
CJ Goeking '26
Brodie Prellwitz '26
James Martin '26



Henry Judd '26

Story & Layout: DELANEY CHISPER



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ACADEMICS Let's All Go To Class

Education * Reality * 25-26 * Classroom 7-12

The first episode of each new show leaves the audience in anticipation, wanting to feel like they are a part of the cast and experience everything right alongside them. But here on the set of FHS, while the teachers are our directors, each student is the star of their own show. They shape how each episode begins and ends. Each set is constantly changing based on the class and the lesson for the day. Sometimes the set is loud and chaotic, and sometimes it is quiet. The set constantly changes, and students transform from being the viewers into the main characters, where they're the ones getting their hands messy in the FCS room, discussing the papers they've written, repairing things in the shop, or creating their own masterpiece in art.

While some students choose to focus on one series, others decide to create their own spin-offs, gaining real-life experience that connects to their storyline through work-based learning. At the end of the academic season, we leave with new knowledge, new cast mates and new ways to improve for the next season.

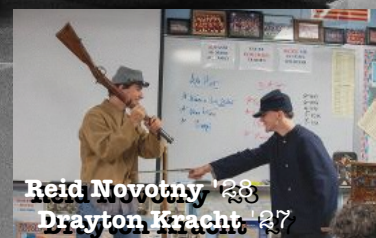
Next Up

ATHLETICS: Let's All Go to the Game
Emery Thomas '29

Beckett Bleich '30



Jayden James '26



Reid Novotny '28
Drayton Kracht '27



Daniel Deras '26



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NEW YEAR '25 NEW SCRIPT '26

LAST YEAR, THE HALLS FELT FAMILIAR. Now, they feel very different. With a noticeable number of teachers leaving at the end of last school year, students returned in August to a school filled with new faces, routines, and a lot of unanswered questions. Fourteen new teachers stepped into classrooms, marking one of the biggest staff changes both students and teachers have ever seen.

No one really knew what to expect. On the student side, reactions ranged from concern to cautious optimism. **Destiny Vocolka** '26 shared that the shift hasn't gone unnoticed, saying that she feels the change has affected learning, explaining that "It felt like a scramble to fill those teaching spots."

Other students expressed feelings of uncertainty. **Carter Johnson** '26 said, "A lot of seniors are down about it."

Clara Buxton '26 recalled that the adjustment period wasn't easy, adding, "At first, a lot of people, especially seniors, were really upset about the change."

Teachers too, have strong feelings about the transition. Long time teacher **Mick Suey**, expressed his frustration with how things unfolded, needless to say he wasn't very happy. New principal, **Dave Schwarzenbach**, shared sympathy for those left behind, stating, "I feel sorry for the staff that stayed and lost some of their friends."

With that being said, he had an optimistic outlook on the direction the school is headed in. While the reasons behind the many departures may remain a topic of curiosity, one thing is clear: This year is going to be different. With the challenges, the changes rewrote the script, causing both teachers and students to learn new lines as they went.



PLEASE ACCEPT OUR COOKIES



In **Kennedy DeBoer's** Foods class, **Hayden Medina** '27 makes pizza bites, which aren't exactly cookies, but are just as delicious. **Medina** said, "We are making food... in foods class... I don't know what else you want me to say."



ACCEPT COOKIES



WELD LIKE A PRO For his first time attempting real cuts in welding class, **Christopher Porter** '26 dives right into the challenge. Students watched a demonstration before trying for themselves, and that's what hooked him. "That's when I realized I would enjoy welding," **Porter** said. Photo by Gabriella Herrera.



NOTHING BUT WOOD In woods class, **Cesar Galvan** '26 works on dovetail joints for a box that is considered a measuring test. While each group built different projects, his took patience and precision. Photo by Gabriella Herrera.



ACCOUNTING AT ITS FINEST To help memorize key terms in accounting, **Ariel Floyd** '28 uses Jenga to practice and learn. She was mixing creativity with study to help make these terms more manageable. Photo by Rylie Herring.

MAKING MATH EASY Rowen Stelling '31 practices her vocabulary with a matching game. She thinks her math class is fun, and these activities help her learn. "Try your best throughout the whole year and don't let anything stop you," **Stelling** said. Photo by Delaney Gasper.

PAST PAGES, FUTURE COURAGE In American History, **Reid Novotny** '28 aims a Civil War Era musket as an example for the class. In the class, students were learning about The Civil War and the weapons during that time. "The Civil War was the first really mechanized war in American History," **Novotny** said. Photo by Liam Young.



S

SPORTS

Let's All Go To The Game

Education * Reality * 25-26 * Classroom 7-12

Every season has its fan-favorite episodes, and here at FHS, athletics is the one that brings everyone together. The gym or field turns into our set, and the crowd becomes our live audience, cheering loudly. Athletics is fan-driven, a show that unites the school. Students, families and community members come together, not only to cheer on their favorite cast members, but to feel each moment alongside the players.

The set of athletics is not defined by whether we win or lose, how many trophies line the shelves, the records we hold, or the numbers on the scoreboard. It is defined by the way our teams play, with heart, effort and **Jeff Pride**. Each practice, game and season is built on teamwork and the determination to give everything we have for our audience. While wins are unforgettable, losses become lessons that shape each cast member into a better teammate. It is about the energy and pride shared on the field, the court and in the stands. These are the moments that define the season, the memories worth replaying, and the reason athletics will always be a fan favorite.



Evelyn Timmons '27, Taryn Hinman '27
Alecia Bedian '27, Destiny Vogelka '26
Micah Friesen '26, Nevaeh Ortiz '27



Tannor Neumiller '26
Jayden James '26



Next Up

Jed Martin & Mick Suey

Organizations: Let's All Go to Our Meeting



Malachi White '28

STORY & LAYOUT BY DELMEE CHAPPEL



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SCORING ROUTES

A losing streak to start the season is not something that a team would like to have, but the Jeffs did, and broke it in the last game. During the 2024 season, the Jeffs were 1-8, winning their first game against Superior. Then, the Jeffs won their last game against Falls City, snapping a 16-game winless streak.

While no one wants their senior season to be 1-8, the seniors had a bittersweet moment closing out their careers as a Jeff. The last game of the season was home and against Falls City. The game had it's ups and downs but the Jeffs pulled out a win to close their season.

"I was happy and very sad, because I will never play football again," **Rene Monterroso-Monterroso** '26 said. **Monterrosso** is a right guard and defensive lineman, playing both sides of the ball in a single game. "You just need to have fun playing the game," **Monterrosso** said.

But behind every group of seniors is a class of juniors ready to fill in the shoes of the departing seniors. One essential junior this year was **Jacob Nippert** '27. **Nippert** was the quarterback capitalizing on the long plays-which the Jeffs

FAKE RIGHT, GO LEFT! **Konrad Kuzelka** '26 makes a quick turn to following his blockers and avoid the opposing team. **Kuzelka** made the switch from offensive line to the backfield this season. "My favorite play was Wheel Route," **Kuzelka** said. Photo by Iaunna Lucking.



scored on.

"My first thought is usually did we score? Because I was usually on the ground, but then they told me that we did and I was just pumped and excited,"

Nippert said.

Next season, the Jeffs will be learning a whole new ball game as it was decided that they would opt into 8-man football. "I'm excited for how fast-paced it (8-man) is going to be. It's going to be a change of speed and how the game is played and it's going to be a lot more fun," **Jacob Johnson**, head football coach, said. "The schemes and dynamics are a little different, and how you plan to block... you have to plan it all differently with only eight men. At the end of the day it's still the same game, just with a few minor adjustments."



WHAT RUNS THROUGH YOUR HEAD ON A LONG TOUCHDOWN PLAY?

"MY DAD'S GOING TO THINK I'M A FAILURE IF I DON'T SCORE THIS."

-**JERIK MANS** '27

"I NEED TO COMPLETE THIS, OR I AM GOING TO BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IN MYSELF."

-**GAVIN GERTHS** '26

"EVERYTHING GOES QUIET, & I ONLY HEAR THE SOUNDS MY BODY MAKES, LIKE MY FEET HITTING THE GROUND...."

-**CJ GOEKING** '26

"THIS IS HOW A WHITE MAN RUNS THE FOOTBALL."

-FROM "THE LONGEST YARD"

-**NIC SMITH** '26



SENIOR RECORD:
1-8

Superior 7-0
Fillmore Central 21-12
Wood River 41-8

Milford 45-14
Syracuse 51-8
Wilber-Clatonia 13-12

Auburn 28-6
Nebraska City 28-7
Falls City 21-7

HEAD COACH JACOB JOHNSON, ASSISTANT COACHES: DEREK GARFIELD, RYAN DUSSO, LONDON GILLAM

*Wins in **Bold**

TACKLE FOR LOSS Garrett

Roelfs '26 takes down Fall City's QB for a sack. **Roelfs** was the team-leader on tackles for a loss. "The only thing on my mind is my post-game meal when tackling," **Roelfs** said. Photo by Iaunna Lucking.

READY TO RECEIVE Jaret

Wood '26 waits while getting ready to punt. Wood tied the school punt record with a 73-yard punt. Photo by Delaney Gasper.

STIFF ARM! Nic Smith

'26 pushing the opposing team's player out of his path so he can continue on his route. **Smith** earned All C1-1 District Honorable Mention. Photo by Iaunna Lucking.



GOING DEEP

LOOKING FOR MORE James Martin '26 looks in for the snap as he prepares to run his route. **Martin** caught a 50-yard TD pass against Syracuse. According to **Martin** his thought after making the catch was "I need to speed up so the defense doesn't catch me." Photo by Iaunna Lucking.



GET IN LINE! Defensive players look toward the sidelines as they listen for the defensive play call. Out of the 11 players pictured, eight are seniors and will be graduating leading to the first year of eight-man football in the school's history. Photo by Iaunna Lucking.

STORY AND LAYOUT BY: LAURNA LUCKING

Cambria
Myers

**Cambria
Myers**

Head Coach: Andrea Hynek
Assistant Coaches: Ryan Evans and Sara Forsgren

Malcom 16-3

SQUARING OFF

Lock In Juniors **Nevaeh Ortiz**, **Evelyn Timmons** and **Alecia Bedlan** get into position as they prepare to receive serve from their opponent. The trio stayed focused and watched their opponent carefully preparing for their next move. Photo by Bethany Jurgena

Targeted, but Unshaken

Athletes, fans handle harassment and stay composed on and off the court

STORY & LAYOUT BY RYLIE HERRING AND DELANEY GINSER

While playing at different schools, athletes often face challenging environments, including loud and rowdy student sections. These situations test each athlete's ability to stay focused under pressure.

During the playoff game at Minden, volleyball experienced this firsthand. When they served, Minden's student section chanted players' names and commented on their boyfriends. **Nevaeh Ortiz** '27 was one that the student section directed most of their comments toward.

"The student section got really loud and looked at our rosters, so whenever we went back to serve, they would chant our names to try and throw us off our serves when they noticed **Jayden (James)** '26 was there and chanted his name when I went back to serve to try and throw me off," **Ortiz** said.

The student section also targeted **James**. The situation escalated when Minden students threatened **James**, and one student stood in front of him.

"They sent one of the students over to stand in front of me, in a weird way, he would shake his rear end in my face," **James** said. "(Business teacher **Tammi**) **Mrs. Mans** came over and told me to make smart decisions, that I was okay, and it wasn't my fault. It upset me because Minden was being unsportsmanlike when I was just trying to enjoy the game."

Despite the distractions, **Ortiz** calmly continued to play for her team. "I have great focus, and I don't really care about student sections," she said. "It didn't affect me until after the game, when it started to get really bad. They tried to follow Jayden and me out to his car, and while we were escorted by (principal **David**) **Mr. Schwarzenbach** out, they kept threatening us, wanting to start a fight."

The chaos affected more than just the team. Parents and staff played a key role in ensuring the students' safety. As Fairbury was leaving, Minden students harassed the girls outside. One student swung his shirt, hitting **Laura Bedlan**, junior **Alecia Bedlan**'s mom, who had been recording the harassments. Math teacher **Dawn Jobman** interceded and told them they could come and talk to Minden's administration with her.

"**Laura** was videotaping them, and the students were telling her she had to delete the video because it was against the law to video them," **Jobman** said. "That's when I told them it wasn't illegal and they could come with me, and we could talk to their administrators about the issue."

After the game was over, **Ortiz** was able to reflect on the difficult situation. With the chants and personal comments,

it can be easy to get distracted or feel targeted. She offered advice for any athlete or competitor who may find themselves in a similar situation: "know that you're not in the wrong, keep your head up, don't put it down just because someone is trying to get under your skin," **Ortiz** said.



TRUST THE PROCESS Head Coach **Payton Stalder** discusses different strategies the team can use to win the game against Milford in the Conference Championship game. Photo by Ianna Lucking

HAMMER TIME Bringing down the hammer, **Micah Friesen** '26 jumps in the air to spike the ball earning the team another point. Photo by Bethany Jurgena

KILL SHOT **Taryn Hinman** '27 sets the ball up for **Destiny Vocelka** '26 to spike. Vocelka finished with 132 kills good for third on the team. Photo by Bethany Jurgena

LOUD AND PROUD After the win against Centennial, Junior **Keira Bey** rises to her feet to celebrate the win. "I stand up to cheer whenever we have a good set," **Bey** said. "I enjoy cheering on an supporting my team." Photo by MaeLee Knothe

SERVES UP **Zoey Frerichs** steps behind the line to do her favorite type of serve, a jump serve to start the game. "When I serve I pick out a target and focus on it," **Frerichs** said. Photo by Bethany Jurgena



Freeman L 3-0, Wood River W 2-1, Clarkson/Leigh L 2-0, Sutton W 2-0, Wilber-Clatonia W 2-0, Auburn W 3-0, Thayer Central L 3-1, Wamego L 2-1, Linn L 2-0, HTRS W 3-0, Fillmore Central W 3-0, Hastings W 2-0, Southern W 3-0, Raymond Central W 2-1, York W 2-0, David City L 2-0, Sutton L 2-1, H&H L 2-0, Sutton W 2-1,

Lincoln W 2-0, Troy W 2-0, St. John's W 2-0, Centennial W 3-0, Tri County W 2-1, Linn W 2-1, Raymond Central W 2-1, Superior W 2-1, Thayer Central W 3-0, Milford L 3-0, Milford L 2-1, Wilber-Clatonia W 2-0, Wilber-Clatonia W 3-0, Adams Central W 3-2, Miden L 3-1

A

STUDENT LIFE

Let's All Go To The Dance

Education * Reality * 25-26 * Classroom 7-12

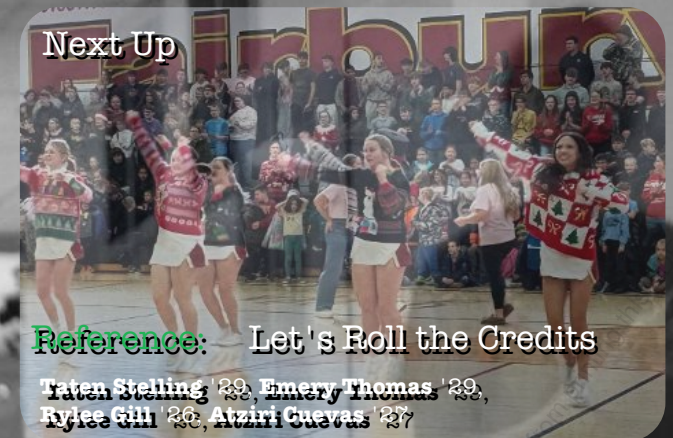
Not all of our favorite episodes happen during the school day, but some of the most memorable moments take place behind the scenes, where student life truly comes to life. These are the nights and moments that turn into memories long after the credits roll.

Events like dances feel like special episodes that everyone looks forward to each year. From dressing up to dancing with our friends, these moments bring everyone together and create memories that last beyond the night.

Student life is more than just the events; it's about the excitement leading up to them and the stories that are shared afterward. These behind-the-scenes moments shape the season and remind us that some of the best episodes happen when we are simply living in the moment.

Kate Hynek '28

Next Up



Reference: Let's Roll the Credits

Taten Stelling '28, Emery Thomas '28,
Rylee Gill '28, Atziri Cuevas '27



Brently Wilson
'27



Galina Angelova
'26



Evelyn Timmons
'27

Story & Layout By DELANEY GILSPER



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V-I-C-T-O-R-Y! Bridget Heidemann '28, Isabella Bennett '28, Atziri Cuevas '27, Marly Brinkmann '27 and Taten Stelling '29 shout cheer at the homecoming parade to support their home town. They did so while the high school band was playing the school fight song. Photo by Rylie Herring

FLEX THOSE MUSCLES Issiah Firmanik '26, Parker Jacobi '26, and Westen Graham '26, stylishly pose at the homecoming dance. **Jacobi** had an idea for an awkward but

hysterical photo, and this is what was created. "I think I was more focused on the awkwardness rather than their [**Firmanik** and **Graham's**] weight." **Jacobi** said. "I really enjoy hanging out with my friends." Photo by Rylie Herring

AND, CANDY FOR YOU! Nic Smith '26 and Destiny Vocolka '26 throw candy towards townspeople during the homecoming parade. **Smith** and **Vocolka** were both nominees for homecoming king and queen. Photo by Delaney Gasper

WELCOME TO CANDY LAND CJ Goeking '26 and Micah Friesen '26 distribute candy to the citizens proudly during the homecoming parade. **Goeking** and **Friesen** were both nominees for homecoming king and queen. "I like throwing things," **Goeking** said. "I throw harder when I see my friends because I like to try and hit them." Photo by Dakota Zimmerman



Face: FREE- \$7

Suit: \$80-\$450

Shoes: \$20-\$150

JACOB NIPPERT '27

The HoCo Calculator

How much does it cost to prepare for the homecoming dance?

Face: FREE- \$250

Dress: \$100-\$500

Shoes: \$40-\$130

CLARA BUXTON '26



ALL HAIL ROYALTY! Cambria Myers '26 and Rene Monterrosso '26 are posing up for the crowning ceremony. **Myers** and **Monterrosso** were crowned homecoming king and homecoming queen, winning the votes by a landslide "I was surprised myself," **Monterrosso** said, "At least I can now say I was homecoming king." Photo by Rylie Herring



SHOUT IT OUT! Alecia Bedlan '27 boogie and sing sporadically on the dance floor at the homecoming dance. "You really have to make the dance fun with friends," **Bedlan** said. "Jam out to the music, that's what makes a dance, a dance!" Photo by Rylie Herring

BOOGIE DOWN Iaunna Lucking '27 boogies down during the homecoming dance. The song playing was

"WHATCHU KNO ABOUT ME" By GloRilla. "I like being with my friends,"

Lucking said. "I love to have fun on the dance floor." Photo by Delaney Gasper



DOUBLE FEATURE

EVERY GIRL DREAMS OF BEING A PRINCESS IN SOME WAY, SHAPE OR FORM, but what happens when they become two in one year? Miss Jefferson County goes to the most supportive and well tuned community member in Jefferson County. The homecoming queen goes to the most voted high school girl. Every student in the high school has the ability to vote for who they want to be homecoming royalty, while Miss Jefferson County is awarded to a certain female student who decided to go above and beyond on community service. **Cambria Myers** '26 was awarded both of these titles. "Being both homecoming queen and Miss Jefferson County is really cool," **Myers** said. "It was a nice opportunity to complete some projects."

To help support the younger women that wish to be just like her, **Myers** has some tips and tricks to help other high school girls achieve the titles of either homecoming queen or Miss Jefferson County.

"Definitely plan many months ahead to prepare for Miss Jefferson County," **Myers** said. "And for homecoming queen, just be yourself."

Both homecoming king and queen are decided on the popular vote among high school students. "In the homecoming royalty votes, Cambria and Rene both won by a landslide," According to StuCo Advisor **Janet Beranek**. "A possible cause of this was the lack of voters. The students vote for who treats them properly, therefore, there was a clear victory."

