

Theme: Our Moment in Time

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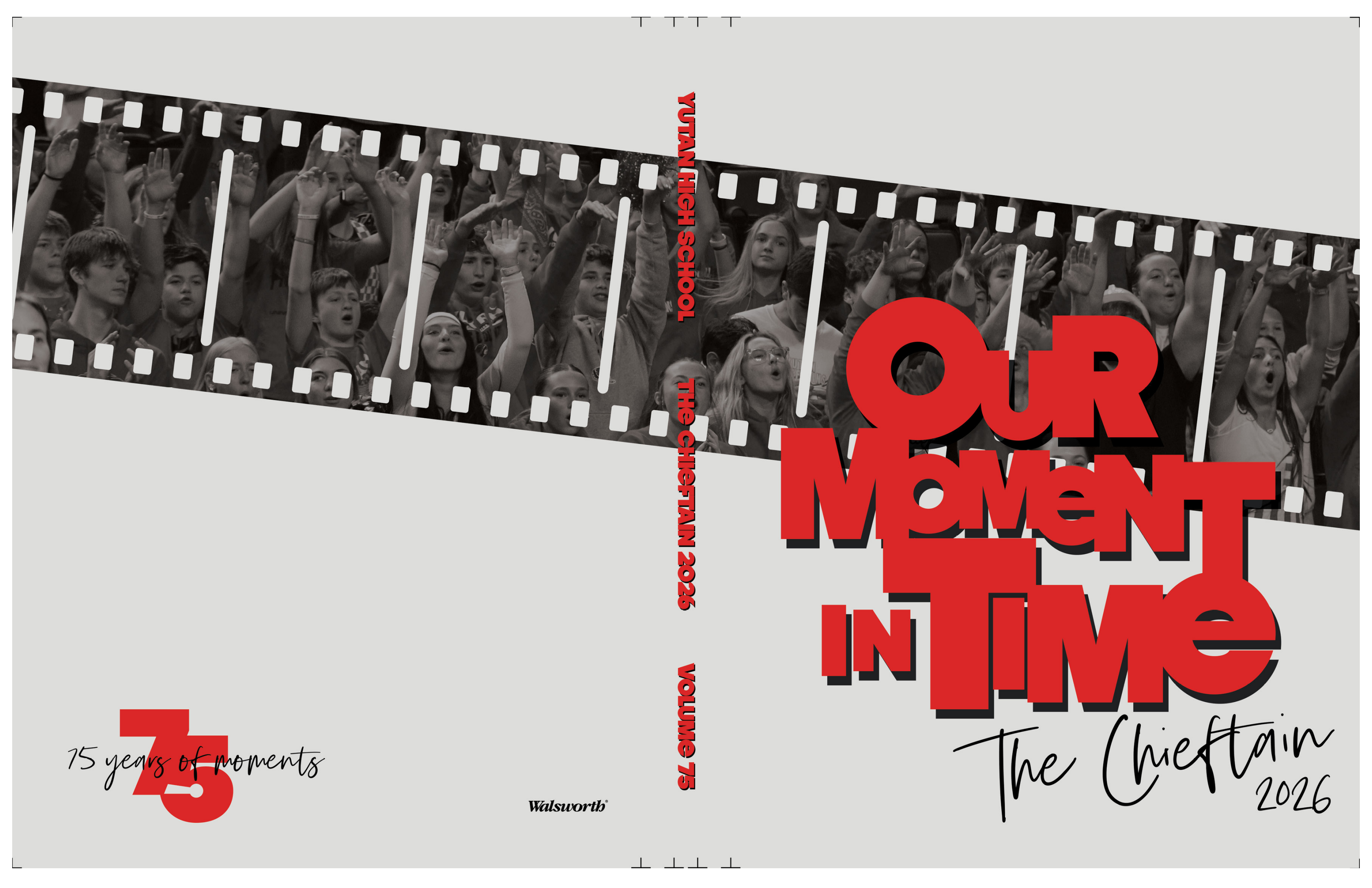
Homecoming spread

Football spread

Cheer spread

Social Studies & FCS spread

People divider



YUTAN HIGH SCHOOL

THE CHIEFTAIN 2026

VOLUME 75

OUR MOMENT IN TIME

The Chieftain
2026

75 years of moments

Walsworth®

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Korbin Karloff (7), Charlie Daniels (7), Grant Weyer (7) and Paisley Fenner (7)

75th edition

OUR Moment IN TIME

The Chieftain
2025-2026

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yutanpublicschools.com
yhsnews.com

Staff: 21
Students: 239

First picture on film strip: **Lincoln Hoffart (11)**; Second picture: **Mylee Tichota (12)** and **Kenzie Govier (12)**; Third picture: **Ryan Maguire (11)**; Fourth picture: **Ava Frye (9)**; Fifth picture: **Gage Kolc (11)**



Seventy-five years of yearbooks. That's 75 years of memories, 75 years of **YUTAN MOMENTS** captured in time. From singing "Hail V" after every win to celebrating homecoming with games, floats and school spirit to walking by the historic, time-worn bell every time we enter the building, we are constantly reminded that the past has shaped who we are today. Although we are proud of our rich traditions, however, this year wasn't about focusing on what has already happened or even what comes next. It was about where we are right now.

This was **OUR MOMENT IN TIME**.

We showed up. We learned. We made the most of **OUR MOMENT IN TIME**. We turned long, tireless days into state qualifications and long-lasting memories. Through early mornings and long nights, wins and setbacks, laughter and stress, we kept focus on the **MOMENT** in front of us. We grew in ways both seen and unseen throughout this school year. In classrooms where our ideas were challenged, our perspectives changed, and through activities that pushed us to improve each day, we grew as athletes and performers. We strengthened friendships, discovered new hobbies and learned hard lessons. Some **MOMENTS** were better than others, but each was equally as important. Every **MOMENT** of this school year shaped it into something we will always remember.

As we flip through the pages of this yearbook, we see the **MOMENTS** of milestones, celebrations and everyday experiences. Years from now, when times have passed and carried us in different directions, these pages will remind us of who we were in...

Our Moment IN TIME



As the warm summer heat turned into a cool autumn breeze, the Yutan Chieftains were ready for **OUR MOMENT IN TIME**. The school year began with new policies to follow as well as new faces to bring along in the **MOMENTS TO COME**. As we settled into the routine of another school year, Homecoming brought early excitement and school spirit. From the dress-up days to fun Friday to the morning without power, there **WASN'T A DULL MOMENT**.

Meanwhile, all the fall activities began with a bang and ended just as strong, with all four sports qualifying for state. The Yutan-Mead softball team captured **PERFECT MOMENTS** by winning their district finals, which meant the seniors got to start and end their career at the state tournament. As the cross country team crossed the finish line with one state qualifier, the team had their **MOMENT OF VICTORY**, and it was clear this season had gone the distance. The volleyball team created **UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS** by persevering through a tough season. Despite the challenges, the team ended on a high note, placing fourth at state and medaling for the first time since 1999. Tackling their goals for the season, the football team had their **DEFINING MOMENT** at state quarterfinals, almost defeating the upcoming state champions. The team not only finished strong but surpassed previous expectations.

Drumming up the courage to perform, the marching band found **MOMENTS OF JOY** at parades by sharing their love of music. From schedule changes to a new director, there were **MOMENTS OF GROWTH** in one act. Regardless, each actor performed their best to bring their fairy tale comedy to life. From the field to the stage, each team had achieved **GLORY MOMENTS** before the fall was over.

In a moment's notice, the cool autumn breeze slowly became an icy winter chill. Even as the season changed, the memories of this season's success remained close at heart. Each fall achievement, no matter the size, was part of something bigger: it was part of

our moment in time.



Moments in
FALL



"THE WATER BALLOON TOSS WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE BECAUSE I TRIED SOMETHING NEW."

Thomas Bauersachs (7)



ROYAL ENTRANCE: In his homecoming king crown, **Tyler Keiser (12)** makes an entrance into the homecoming dance. All three of Keiser's older siblings also won homecoming king or queen. "I was really happy I won it," Keiser said. "It feels good to be the one who finished it. It is cool to say we all did it."



JUST SMILE AND WAVE: During the parade, senior homecoming court candidates **Maddox Wentworth (12)** and **Kylie Krajicek (12)** laugh while waving to the elementary students. Both candidates had older siblings who were on homecoming court. "I was laughing so hard because of Maddox saying funny dialogue the whole time," Krajicek said.



GAME ON!: During the second annual powderpuff football game, **Charley Weeder (11)** gets ready to hand off the ball to **Emmy Tederman (11)**. The seniors won the game 21-7. "Even though we lost, it was a fun chance to play a sport I normally don't play," Tederman said.



SOMEBODY'S CLOSERRR: On Adam Sandler Day during homecoming week, **Chase Schake (10)** joins in on an interactive world history project. About 73 percent of students dressed up that day. "I was excited to dress up as Happy Gilmore for Adam Sandler Day because it is one of my favorite movies," Schake said.

Traditions tastefully TAILORED

HOMECOMING FRIDAY PROVIDES DAY OF FUN FOR THIRD YEAR

At Yutan, students have always looked forward to the joy of homecoming Friday, with its afternoon of fun and games. Three years ago, this tradition was brought to a new level with games all day and an early dismissal at one. With this being the third year of the tradition, the Student Council focused more on fine-tuning the day instead of adding new activities.

"The day ran more smoothly than the first year," Student Council sponsor Alyssa Hansen said. "It flowed better, and I feel like everyone was on the same page."

To start the day, students moved through rotations, making banners in the cafeteria and playing card games in the library, tag on the football field and kickball on the practice football field. After rotations, students played trivia on a Kahoot, answering questions from a range of school subjects.

"Some of the questions were actually really difficult, but we could remember some of the stuff throughout our high school years," senior Molly Besch said. "It was fun playing against other grade levels."

After trivia, students walked to the elementary school to watch the parade, consisting of homecoming royalty, band, cheer and class floats. For the second year in a row, the Class of 2030 won the class floats.

"My favorite part was that you could see all the hard work we put into it," eighth grader Ella Baulisch said. "I also liked hanging out with my friends after the float was done."

When the parade ended, students headed to the practice field to watch or participate in the Chieftain Games, consisting of cupcake eating and water balloon toss, and powderpuff football, where the junior and senior girls faced off, with the senior girls coming out with the win.

"I would say being able to block the juniors from scoring and them getting kind of mad about it was just kind of funny," Besch said. "I had a lot of fun playing with friends for my last year."

The games then moved inside, and students in seventh through tenth grades played dodgeball in the gym while the juniors and seniors ate lunch. The eighth graders beat the seventh graders, and the sophomores beat the freshmen, but regardless of the outcome, dodgeball was fun for all.

"I liked playing dodgeball because it brought a lot of competitiveness back into my life," freshman Hayleigh Darling said.

Once dodgeball was done, the junior and senior boys played a game of powderpuff volleyball. Just like in powderpuff, the seniors came out with a win.

"My favorite part of volleyball was just playing and just messing around on the court, just having fun as a group, being competitive," junior Eli Kult said.

The day of fun then ended with a pep rally. This year, the seniors and teachers played a game of pizza box knockoff. During the game, the seniors tried to knock each teacher's pizza box from their hand while the teachers tried to do the same to the seniors.

"My favorite part of the pizza box challenge was when I sacrificed myself to get the Dan Krajicek out," senior Jordyn Campbell said.

Overall, the day ended with memories that students will remember years later, all because of a new tradition that keeps getting better.

"I want to make sure that the focus remains on our students having the best day they can, making memories that they are going to treasure for the rest of their lives," Hansen said.



TA DA!: **Ashtyn Anderson (10)** demonstrates a magic trick on **Jenna Long (10)**. On color day, a bird hit a nearby power pole, causing the power to go out. "We had to take our tests in the hall when the power went out, so when we were done, I showed Jenna this magic trick," Anderson said.

Caught up in the MOMENT



"My favorite part of the pizza game was that I got to prove Mrs. Hansen wrong."

-Jaxon Wood (12)



"I really liked getting to play against the freshman in dodgeball and winning."

-Addi Jones (10)

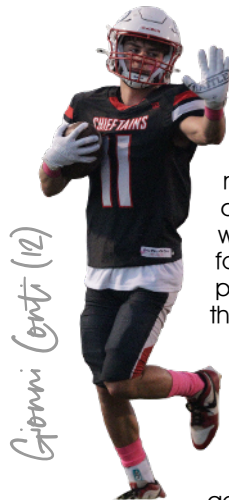


"I was happy that I won because that was the first contest I've won here."

-Jalen Gahan (9)

Rushing back with SUCCESS

FOOTBALL TEAM REACHES STATE QUARTERFINALS



Gianni Conti (11)

Sometimes teams are motivated to repeat past success. Other times, teams are motivated to avoid past disappointment. The latter was the case for Yutan's football team, who missed playoffs last year but used their motivation to make it to the state quarterfinals this season.

"I think it was pretty expected that we were gonna make the playoffs. But it felt really good after not making it last year. Last year was the first time in like six years that we hadn't made the playoffs. So it felt really good to get back," senior Maddox Wentworth said.

As the tenth seed, Yutan had a first-round match against Norfolk Catholic, the three-time defending state champion, but the team approached the game like any other.

"We knew that the only team that could beat us was us. The only reason we wouldn't execute is our own doing. So I think us knowing that we can do it and that nobody else is gonna stop us besides us was a very helpful mindset," senior Owen Sutter said.

The Chieftains' mindset worked as they beat Norfolk Catholic 36-8. Not only did the team have big offensive plays throughout the game, but their defense also kept them in the game.

"We had some long runs on the pitch play, but those don't happen without good blocks, and the entire O-line just blocked, really, really well," Sutter said.

One player who contributed to the win in a big way was sophomore Kaleb Fenner, who

broke the school record with 332 rushing yards.

"I had a really big run at the end. I think that kind of sealed it up a little bit and got us down the field more. So I think that really helped us out and helped the momentum keep going," Fenner said.

This strong performance brought the Chieftains to the quarterfinals, where they would get a chance for a rematch with the second seed, Bishop Neumann, who beat them during the regular season. While the team was short of a victory with a score of 26-30, they still recognized the positives of the loss.

"We played Neumann week two, and we just got destroyed, and then we came back for round two and almost beat them in our final game. I thought that showed a lot of growth throughout the season," Wentworth said.

Despite the tough loss, the team was still proud of how their season ended.

"Even though we lost, I think the boys played very well in both games. Also, Yutan has only had 10 teams in school history make it past the first round of playoffs, so it's important to appreciate it when it happens," head coach Dan Krajicek said.

After all the positives that came from the post-season, the team is excited for what next year has in store for them.

"I think next year we can win a state championship. This loss is going to hurt, but we are going to use it to push us to be better next year," Fenner said.



EYES ON THE PRIZE: With his eyes on the end zone, **Kaleb Fenner (10)** rushes past a South Sioux City defender. Fenner rushed for 1,490 yards and received recognition in the "Omaha World Herald" as an All-State First Team player. "Being part of a quarterfinal team and getting state recognition was nice, but being able to have fun with my teammates made the season even more priceless," Fenner said.

SCOREBOARD

South Sioux City
28-0

Bishop Neumann
6-28

Malcolm
33-32

Conestoga
54-6

Archbishop Bergan
7-35

Tekamah Herman
56-8

Arlington
28-8

Aquinas
46-7

North Bend
64-20

Norfolk Catholic
36-8

Bishop Neumann
26-30

JV record: 3-2



GOING UP: Maddox Wentworth (12) jumps into the air to catch a deep pass. Wentworth had three receiving touchdowns and one pick-six this season. "It was nice being able to make key plays like having six interceptions and contributing as an all-around player on the field," Wentworth said.

Defining MOMENTS



"I think making the first defensive play in the first round of playoffs for a tackle of loss set the tone."

-Otto Henkel (11)



"The excitement of beating Norfolk Catholic, the three time state champions, was unforgettable."

-Owen Sutter (12)



"When we overcame all odds and beat the seventh seed as the tenth, we saw the things we were capable of."

-Peyton Reed (11)
with Kaleb Fenner (10)



DOWN TO THE GROUND: With the help of his teammates, **Kale Hoffer (10)**, sacks Aquinas's quarterback. Hoffer had a total of 30 solo tackles this season. "It was special to play such a key role and do all the hard work on the defensive side of things," Hoffer said.



NOT TODAY: Nathan Daniell (11) goes low for a tackle to take down a Bishop Neumann fullback. Although Daniell was a key part of offense as the quarterback with six touchdown passes, he also contributed on defense with 15 total tackles. "I liked being the quarterback but also getting to play defense a lot," Daniell said.

PUSHING THROUGH: While pushing his way through Tekamah Herman's defense, **Tyler Keiser (12)** dodges a defensive tackle. Keiser finished the season with a total of 187 rushing yards. "I had a lot of fun whenever I would get the ball. I would always try to get the most yards I could," Keiser said.

"BEING ABLE TO BE ON THE FIELD ONE LAST TIME WITH MY TEAMMATES IS SOMETHING I'LL CHERISH FOREVER."

-Carson Jurey (12)



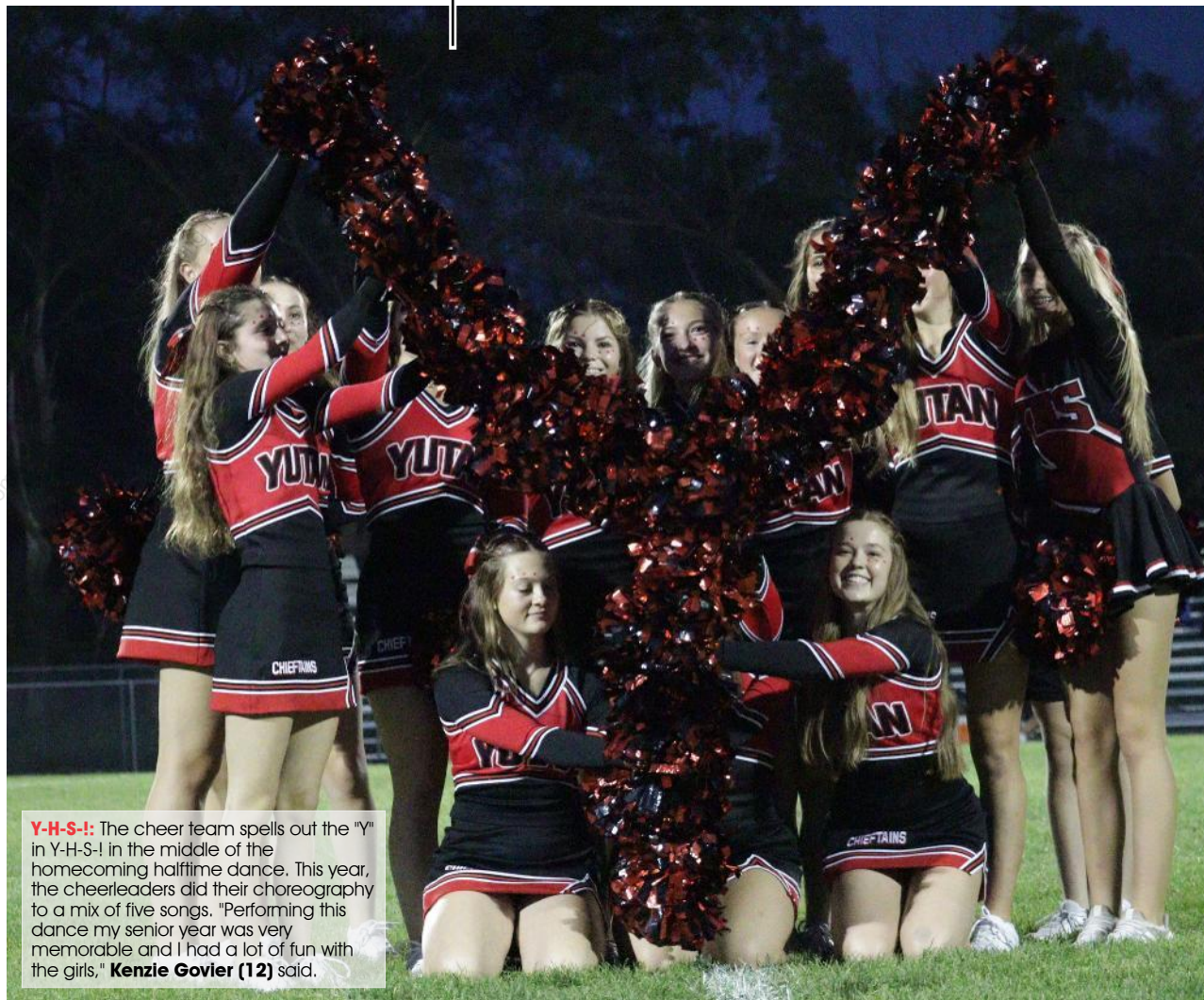


"WHenever I'm cheering, I always have some of my friends yelling, 'Go Halle,' and honestly, I love the support. It makes cheer so much fun."

-Halle Artt (11)



NEXT GEN CHEER: At halftime of the varsity girls basketball game, **Emmy Tederman (11)** performs alongside elementary students. Tederman was in charge of the third graders. "It was fun to work with the younger girls because they were easy to teach the dances to," Tederman said.



Y-H-S-I: The cheer team spells out the "Y" in Y-H-S-I in the middle of the homecoming halftime dance. This year, the cheerleaders did their choreography to a mix of five songs. "Performing this dance my senior year was very memorable and I had a lot of fun with the girls," **Kenzie Govier (12)** said.



DISNEY MASH-UP: While helping with the Yutan cheer camp, **Nicole Wacker (12)** guides the second graders during their dance. This year's cheer camp dance featured a mash-up of five different songs. "The theme was Disney, so all the songs were from well-known movies, which was really fun to dance to," Wacker said.



LET'S GET LOUD: **Anna Peterson (10)**, along with **Hayleigh Darling (9)** and **Charizma Hancock (9)**, get the students cheering during a pep rally for state volleyball. This is Peterson's second year of cheer. "I love how cheer makes you feel connected with others around you, creating friendship that last past the season," Peterson said.

Cheering through CHANGE

CHEER SQUAD ADJUSTS TO NEW COACH, CAMP STRUCTURE

Every year, the cheerleaders support Yutan's sports teams as they adjust to the start of a new season. The cheer team made adjustments of their own this year, starting with new cheer coach Ivy Slepicka.

Slepicka was interested in the position because she was on the cheer and dance team throughout high school and loved it. When the opportunity arose, she decided to pursue it and set goals for the new position.

"I think the biggest goals this year are learning—I am learning cheers and dances along with the freshmen cheerleaders, learning the school traditions and what all is involved with the different events and activities throughout the year," Slepicka said.

A new coach wasn't the only change; more members joined than in previous years, including six new freshmen.

"This year, there are many more members on our cheer team. I also think we have a lot more freshmen this year, which is really cool," junior Ella Henkel said. "It allowed us to create more bonds with one another from different grades."

With a new coach and squad members, it was the perfect opportunity to add other changes to their routines, starting during football season.

"We changed and made up a lot of stuff. We made some new first-down cheers and dances," junior Halle Artt said. "And then for a bunch of our cheers, we changed some of the wording so everything sounds consistent."

It didn't stop there; the team changed its practice schedule from practicing three days a week to two, making it easier for all the athletes.

"I think it was a lot easier for those athletes who have practice after school, not having to wake up at 6 to get there at 6:30,"

senior Kenzie Govier said.

Some final changes involved the annual cheer camp for elementary students, which was moved from football season to basketball season.

"The kids didn't want to stand out in the cold, so we thought it would be better to do it indoors and for basketball, so they'd be inside," senior cheer captain Lexi Bisaillon said.

In previous years, the camp featured a simple dance and other cheers, but this year, the cheerleaders focused on a full choreographed routine.

"Instead of doing a dance (in past years), we would teach them some cheers and then do those for only the first quarter in past years, but I didn't think the kids liked it very much, and I knew that when I did the cheer camp, I had a lot of fun doing the dance, so I proposed that we switch it back. That's why we did a dance this year instead of teaching cheers," Bisaillon said.

While the day of camp was chaotic at times, the work paid off the night of the performance.

"We taught a lot of choreography in a little bit of time," senior Nicole Wacker said. "Especially with younger girls, it was just kind of nerve-racking to know if they remember it or pick it up fast, but when we performed it the next day, a lot of them still knew it."

Slepicka gave credit to cheerleaders for the success of the camp.

"I am extremely proud of the cheerleaders. They came together to choreograph, learn and then teach a dance to a big group of kids," Slepicka said. "The cheerleaders also created a positive atmosphere for these young kids; there was a lot of laughter and smiles the entire time. It is great to see high school students building connections with elementary students."



STAND UP AND CHEER: At a football game, **Ella Henkel (11)** and **Lexi Bisaillon (12)** clap to get the crowd's engagement. Henkel and Bisaillon were two out of the three captains chosen this year. "Being a captain means a lot to me; having this team look up to me inspires me to be a better leader in and out of my sport," Bisaillon said.

Caught up in the MOMENT



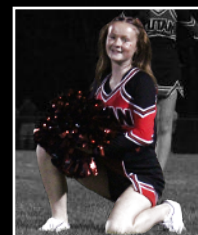
"Cheering for your team and being able to meet new people is why I cheer."

-Kinsley Smith (10)



"This season has taught me that no matter how you are feeling you should always smile."

-Ellie Steele (9)



"Being able to teach the kids to be future cheerleaders is something I enjoy"

-Lexi Engel (11)

COUNTRY CRAFTS: In JH Social Studies 7, **Reed Reeves (7)** paints a pizza box to look like the flag of Poland. The annual pizza box project is a favorite activity among seventh graders. "My favorite thing about the pizza box project is the part where we have to make the map out of dough and paint it," Reeves said.



"AS A DEFENSE ATTORNEY, PROVING SOME OF MY CLIENTS INNOCENT WHEN THEY WERE CLEARLY GUILTY WAS KIND OF FUN."

Jenna Benjamin (12)



FINAL TOUCHES: During Intro to FCS class, **Liam Maloy (10)** ices cookies he made. Intro to FCS has a total of 30 students from freshmen through seniors. "One of my favorite things to make were apple cinnamon crumb muffins," Maloy said.

TIME for Trials

Every year, a favorite project for the seniors is the mock trial done as part of American Government.

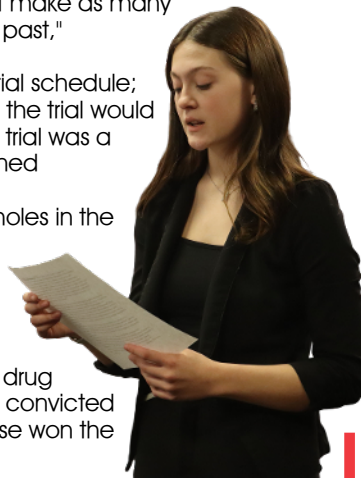
"The mock trial teaches the students about how the criminal justice system works and how the Bill of Rights applies to real-life situations," history teacher Dan Krajicek said.

The seniors take on different roles from lawyers to cops to "drug" dealers, though this year Krajicek involved PE teacher Jesse Gardner in one of these roles.

"We had our first teacher have the role of drug kingpin. This made it difficult because Mr. Gardner did not make as many mistakes as students had made in the past," Krajicek said.

The other main change was in the trial schedule; two new finals days were added when the trial would normally take place, which meant the trial was a little rushed, but the experience remained meaningful.

"I learned that there are many loopholes in the law systems, and you might not think you can use certain things, but if you try it from another angle, it's exactly what you need," senior Nicole Wacker said. "My goal was to make sure my clients weren't tried and sentenced as drug dealers. In the end, two of the six were convicted as drug dealers! Safe to say the defense won the case."



Nicole Wacker (12)



NEW CREATIONS: While in Interpersonal Relationships, **Molly Besch (12)**, **Ruby Ochoa (12)** and **Addi Smith (12)** build a gingerbread bridge with graham crackers. This activity served as a final project for the students to practice skills they learned in class. "I really liked the gingerbread/graham cracker house, but it wasn't staying up, so we turned it into a bridge," Smith said.



CLEAN UP: **Capri Woster (9)** stacks and carries pans to put them away. Freshmen have the highest number of students in Intro to FCS with 14 students. "My favorite thing to make was sugar cookies because it was fun to frost them and decorate them the way I wanted to," Woster said.

Prepping for the FUTURE

STUDENTS LEARN LIFE SKILLS THROUGH NEW FCS OFFERINGS

In a small school, it's not often that students see new class offerings, but this year, due to the addition of a new staff member, Yutan students have four new options in the family and consumer sciences (FCS) department.

"New classes that I'm teaching include Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences, Nutrition and Interpersonal Relationships, which will turn into Independent Living at the semester," new FCS teacher Harleigh Claussen said.

Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences is a full-year class that provides an overview of all areas of FCS, including topics such as goal setting, child development, nutrition, basic cooking skills and childcare.

"It's designed to give students the foundational knowledge of FCS and offer them a lot of different topics," Claussen said.

Students in this class work on projects and discussions that relate to real life.

"It's fun because we actually get to do hands-on activities instead of just reading the whole time," freshman Liliana Hancock said.

Another added class is Nutrition, where students will learn healthy eating skills, food science and how nutrition impacts overall wellness.

"In Nutrition, we go a lot deeper into healthy eating and how food fuels the body. We also look at the science behind food and how nutrition affects overall wellness," Claussen said.

One of the most popular parts of the class

is that it's hands-on. Students spend time in the kitchen learning how to cook and about food safety.

"I have learned so many skills, including knife skills and how to work in a kitchen safely," senior Maddie Wilson said.

The last new classes are semester classes. If students choose to take the class Interpersonal Relationships, students focus on communication, developing strong personal and professional relationships and learning how to overcome conflict.

"In Interpersonal Relationships and Independent Living, we focus on all things every student will need to know for their future, teaching skills that students are going to use for the rest of their lives, whether it's managing their finances, maintaining healthy relationships, cooking nutritious meals or living independently," Claussen said.

Students learn skills they can apply to all sorts of relationships in their lives.

"I've learned how to break up with someone and how to treat women with respect," senior Gionni Conti said.

At the end of the semester, Interpersonal Relationships will transition into Independent Living, where students learn essential life skills.

"Students will learn things like personal finance, housing and preparing for life after high school," Claussen said.

Despite the classes being new, Claussen is hopeful that students will gain many life skills from these offerings.

"I hope students walk away from these classes with the confidence to take care of themselves and others," Claussen said. "In order to support your family, you have to take care of yourself first."

Teachable MOMENTS



"The Civil War was important because that was a time that could've changed how the United States is today."

-Carson Holst (11)



"Making salsa was kind of fun because I didn't cry when I was cutting the onions."

-Cayman Bohmkamp (10)



"I liked learning about the Oregon Trail because we learned how difficult it was to travel in those times."

-Conley Bonnickson (8)

Throughout all the seasons of the year, each person at Yutan High School had their own individual experiences that shaped their moment in time. But together, **OUR PERSONAL MOMENTS** created a year of timeless snapshots shared with those we surrounded ourselves with every day. Together, we were a part of something long-lasting: **A MOMENT IN TIME** we will always share.

It all began with the staff, who saw every class period as a **TEACHABLE MOMENT**. They challenged students to push themselves, rise to the occasion and truly experience the present—turning ordinary days into **MOMENTS OF GROWTH**, creativity and time-stopping meaning.

The seventh graders stepped into a different environment and found their **AHA MOMENT**—a spark that ignited the belief that they belong in this place. Meanwhile, the eighth graders reached their **MOMENT OF TRUTH** and continued their academic and extracurricular success, building the skills they will need as high school students.

The freshmen stepped into high school bursting with energy, **NEVER LETTING A DULL MOMENT** exist in their school year. Along the way, they were taught the importance of kindness and continued to grow closer as a grade, learning how to support each other and recognize the moments that would define them forever.

Big in number and even bigger in impact, the sophomores rose when the moment called. In intense, **MEMORABLE MOMENTS**, their leadership sparked a revival—led by the strength and energy of their class.

The juniors stepped into the **MOST DEFINING MOMENT** of their high school career, faced with the challenge of college preparation and rigorous ACT prep. They were taught that success is not rushed—it is built every step through impact and perseverance.

For the seniors, each moment had meaning. Final classes, stressful deadlines and high-stakes games became lasting memories—**HALLMARK MOMENTS** they shared with family and friends and **PRIVATE MOMENTS** that belonged only to them. Their crowning chapter was the year 2026, a year forever etched in memory.

As we look back on the year, we realize it was the people who really **BROUGHT THE MOMENTS TO LIFE**. Our classmates, our teammates, our teachers, our friends new and old—all helped contribute to memories that impacted us. Even though we will all go our separate ways eventually, we can look back and know that we were a part of something extraordinary together in

our moment in time.



Moments with **people**