

THE HOOF PRINT

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - 9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. - 785-494-8591
OCTOBER 2008 - VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 1

NEWS BRIEFS

By EMILY ZOELLER

New faculty members join staff

Rock Creek is full of new faces this year, including four new teachers in the building, two of which are in the junior high end.

Bridgette Rankin is the new seventh and eighth grade Language Arts teacher, and Chad Herron is a new Special Education teacher. Other new additions make their home in the high school end, where Cherrie Lindsey is the freshman English teacher and also has a class of eighth graders, and Jessica Augustine teaches English 11 and Multimedia.

New elementary school opens

School is cool, according to the elementary students at the new St. George Elementary School. The first day of classes started on Tuesday, Sept. 30. The students spent their first day touring the new building, reading books in their new library, having P.E. and enjoying their new classrooms. The students said they're ready for the new school year.

Drama students to present fall play

"Is he dead?" Come find out, when the cast of the fall play performs "Is He Dead?" by Mark Twain.

The play will be performed in mid-November, although the specific dates depend on football playoffs. If the football team plays on Friday, Nov. 14, then the play will be showcased on Nov. 15-16, but if football plays on Nov. 15, then the cast will be hitting the stage on Nov. 14 and Nov. 16.

"Is He Dead?" is a comedy, and the cast members said they think it will be a good show.

"It's going to be downright hilarious!" said senior Chris Wahl, who plays the lead role of Jean Francois Millet.

Students receive individual awards

Senior Monica Ebert was recently awarded a Kansas Junior Livestock Association Scholarship. Ebert was selected for this award because of her academic achievement, personal livestock enterprises, 4-H/FFA/KJLA activities and leadership, school activities, and work experience.

Local radio station KMAN, out of Manhattan, Kan., also recognized two Rock Creek athletes for their performances this fall.

Senior Dustin Miner and junior Becky Lightfoot were both awarded the KMAN Student Athlete of the Week awards. Lightfoot, a middle hitter and blocker for the varsity volleyball team, was recognized Oct. 1-8. Miner, who plays running back and strong safety for the football team, received his honor the week of Oct. 8-15.

As the school year begins, students may notice many changes at Rock Creek

By MEGAN NIDER

There have been many changes made in Rock Creek High School during the months of September and October, such as mirrors being installed in the hallways, and a new sidewalk being completed.

Students have probably noticed the new mirrors in the hallways and in some classrooms, which were added because it was difficult to see behind some of the locker areas and in certain rooms.

Principal Dennis Post said these mirrors "give more visibility for blind spots."

In addition, while constructing the new agricultural building last spring, the fire marshal said the school needed to have a sidewalk from the furthest exit to the parking lot. Agricultural students helped build the sidewalk, completed in mid-October, on the west side of the school.

Junior Tyler Gardner said, "We had a few mess-ups, but it turned out all right." Another change made this school year

was the five-minute shortening of lunch times, which was done to accumulate more time for classes so the school does not run out of snow days like last year.

Sophomore Justin Redding said he was angry with this improvement because he "had to go back to class faster," but says he still has enough time to eat.

As for the future, there are plans to study the addition of a baseball/softball complex and improvements to the parking lot in the next few years, Post said.



On Oct. 5, junior Laurel Lauer reads a scrapbook given to her by classmate Rachel Nider at the Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln, Neb. The scrapbook included notes to Lauer and pictures from her Rock Creek friends. PHOTO BY JESSICA JACK

ROAD TO RECOVERY

After her accident in early September, junior Laurel Lauer returns to Rock Creek

By JESSICA JACK & SARA LIMING

On Sept. 5, 16-year-old junior Laurel Lauer was on her way to work around 4 p.m. when everything changed. Family and friends did not know it, but Lauer had crashed her car and was trapped for almost 17 hours. Lauer was found Saturday at 8:40 a.m. by local landowner Mark Krause and her father Joe Lauer, and was then life-flighted to Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kan. There, Laurel Lauer began the road to recovery.

The first few days at Stormont-Vail were difficult, as her parents Joe and Pam, her brother Jarrid and other relatives looked worn down. During the time that Laurel Lauer spent in the ICU, only immediate family was allowed to see her. Laurel Lauer spent Sept. 6-29 in Stormont-Vail before being transferred to Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln, Neb., where she still has rehab, even though she will return to school Nov. 3.

According to the Lauers, Madonna is the best rehabilitation center for brain trauma patients. "She has some memory loss and some short-term memory loss, which is improving daily," Pam Lauer said. "She gets upset when there is too much commotion, and because of the brain injury,

it is hard to concentrate. Physically, it hurts Laurel to move her head quickly, her eyes are sensitive to light and she has problems with her jaw."

Despite her struggles, her nurses have been letting her go outside of the hospital. On Sept. 30, Laurel Lauer had her first trip outside of the hospital to Wal-Mart with her occupational therapist. On Oct. 3, she got a surprise visit from RC classmates, juniors Lynette Bellinder and Dawn Nowakowski, and on Oct. 5, Laurel Lauer got another visit, and doctors let her go out with a few friends, Mom and grandma Sharon Springer included, to the zoo. Despite the long recovery process, Pam Lauer is hopeful that her daughter will recover quickly.

"The doctors say that a brain injury takes a long time to heal," Pam Lauer said. "They say it can take up to a year to combat the effects. Laurel's doctors feel that she will make a full recovery."

Laurel Lauer said she wants her recovery session to continue at home.

"I'm ready to go back to school," Laurel Lauer said. "I'm so ready to go back. The nurses here are too cheerful."

To remind her granddaughter how lucky she is, Springer said she tells Laurel Lauer, "Pray to God; be appreciative, for he is the one that saved you."

Former English teacher fills position of Athletic Director

By ANTHONY REID



SCOTT HARSHBARGER
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The school year kicked off a little differently, starting with the appearance of Athletic Director Scott Harshbarger, who took over the position left by Kent Rogers last spring.

Harshbarger, who had taught English

and coached baseball until the change, said that he did not realize how hard being A.D. would be, but he likes the position.

"I just taught for 11 years in the same room and just enjoy my new job a lot better," Harshbarger said.

The main thing he likes is the day is always unpredictable. As soon as he said that, he received a phone call from Jefferson West, cancelling a game.

"Just like that," Harshbarger said. "I get calls like that all throughout the day."

He also said he looks forward to being

A.D. because he wants teams to win titles, and he is ready to move to 4A.

"Everyone knows that, within the next five years, the whole school will be 4A, and I know we will be able to compete at that level," Harshbarger said.

Faculty members have noticed Harshbarger's commitment to his job after a few short months.

"I appreciate his enthusiasm, energy and student interest," counselor Kevin Sullivan said. "If there was a greatest fan award, it would go to our Mr. Harshbarger."



LEVELING SAND, junior Rob Merry works on the new sidewalk after school Oct. 7. The walk, made by the ag class, was added to the west side of the school. PHOTO BY JESSICA AUGUSTINE

OPINIONS

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Staffer reviews summer movie, featuring Stiller



KORTNEY CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

The dudes are emerging. No, really. Ben Stiller, Jack Black and Robert Downey, Jr. hit the box offices hard this summer with the blockbuster movie "Tropic Thunder," which could easily be the hit

movie of the past summer. With three consecutive weekends at the top, this action comedy scored \$26 million in its opening weekend.

The movie starts off when a fictional Vietnam vet, "Four Leaf" Tayback (Nick Nolte), decides to make a movie based off of his memoir "Tropic Thunder." The cast consists of the has-been Tugg Speedman (Stiller), rap star Alpa Chino (Brandon T. Jackson), five-time Academy Award winning Australian actor Kirk Lazarus (Downey, Jr.), drug addict Jeff Portnoy (Black) and the no-name actor Kevin Sandusky (Jay Baruchel).

These puzzle pieces do not quite go together, resulting in falling a month behind filming schedule and a \$4 million explosion going off when no cameras are shooting. Fed up with the actors' poor ability to cooperate, the director, Damien (Steve Coogan), loads them up on a helicopter and drops them off in the middle of a major drug-distributing village with hidden cameras all over the jungle. Concerned that these actors are real Drug Enforcement Administration agents, the natives attack.

The main strength of this movie is easily the way all of these actors fit together in real life. Their easy-going personalities and dry senses of humor make this team unbeatable. Even the controversy of Downey, Jr. playing a black man in the movie was easily accepted by critics, and audiences ate up the actor's role. Weaknesses in this comedy war film are hard to find. The quotes are priceless, the graphics are beyond amazing and the plot is genius. If anything, the only thing I didn't like about my experience while seeing "Tropic Thunder" was the man beside me texting the whole time.

If you're looking for a movie that is packed with action and can split your sides, "Tropic Thunder" is the right movie to see when it is released on DVD. It's "the best war movie never made."



Student body should continue to support junior after return

Coming home may be easy, but being back at Rock Creek will not be. We realize that many of you, upon junior Laurel Lauer's return, may want to ask her how she is doing and if she remembers anything, but please try to understand that she is still recovering from her accident. It will take time for her to return to the Laurel that we all know.

While spending time with Laurel in Nebraska, we noticed that she liked to stay indoors and that she also needed to sit down and rest once in a while. She also gets light-headed because of noises and crowds. We would suggest to you that if she is busy, please do not go up to talk to her. She has a hard time focusing on a few subjects at a time. We think that it would be best that we try to make things easier for Laurel by not crowding her in the halls and by giving her some space.

Her eyes are sensitive to light right now, and it is hard for her to read very much at one time. Laurel knows of the cards and gifts sent to her in the hospital, but she has been unable to read them herself. So Laurel's mom, Pam, has been reading them to her. Laurel wants everyone to know that she is thankful for all the support.

Laurel becomes overly stimulated if she receives a lot of questions, is around a lot of noise or is around a cluster of people at one time. Because of the accident, she becomes frustrated easily. When she is frustrated, she tends to say things that she does not mean. For example, when we talked to her, she was talking about the therapy sessions that she has to attend. In the middle of talking about her sessions,

Laurel started to curse about them and her nurses. It startled us, but we were warned that this might occur. Try to handle this change in her maturely since she may not even realize she is saying those things, and it is best to just ignore it. This change in her should not last long.

And even though Laurel is home and safe, do not just forget about her accident. It has been two months, but Laurel still

has a long way to go. The time since Sept. 5 has been hard on the Lauer family, so continue to try to help Laurel and to think about the Lauers.

It is best that you, as the student body, try not to overwhelm her. There will be plenty of time to say, "Hi," or to ask her how she is doing, because she will be coming back to school full-time on Nov. 3. Welcome her and support her!

WE REALIZE THAT MANY OF YOU, upon junior Laurel Lauer's return, may want to ask her how she is doing or if she remembers anything, but please try to understand that she is still recovering from her accident.

YOUR PRINT

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND YOUR HALLOWEEN?

"TP'ing Colin Duncan's house." - senior Nate Plummer

"Watching the volleyball girls at state." - senior Ashley Garetson

"Taking my nephew trick-or-treating." - senior Matt Couchman

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, AND WHY?

"Sometimes, because of the stories I've heard." - junior Ashley Srna

"Yes, because I have seen them before." - junior Jared Hawkins

"Yes, because I've heard scary stories." - junior Rachel Nider

WHAT SCARY MOVIES DO YOU WATCH ON HALLOWEEN?

"The 'Saw' movies." - sophomore Macy Umscheid

"Jeepers Creepers" and the 'Halloween' movies." - sophomore Travis Briggs

"I'm going to go see 'Quarantine' on Halloween night." - sophomore Skylar Myers

DO YOU CARVE PUMPKINS FOR HALLOWEEN?

"Yes, but not recently. Probably two years ago." - freshman Logan Miner

"Yes." - freshman Elke Thompson

"Yes, of course!" - freshman Kyron Case

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN COSTUME AS A CHILD?

"A football player." - Athletic Director Scott Harshbarger

"A princess." - math teacher Shirley Vandahl

"The Statue of Liberty." - English teacher Donna Hawkins

By COURTNEY STILLWAGON

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Hoof Prints is a monthly student-produced newspaper, published to inform and to entertain the Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School community and to educate Multimedia students. Each issue is produced with the guidance of a faculty adviser. Student staff members will be offered opportunities to inform, investigate, entertain, interpret and evaluate – all accepted functions of traditional American press. Included materials will be those of responsible journalism, including restraint by the students and adviser in matters such as libel, privacy, obscenity and copyright.

The staff chooses to reflect the mission of Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School, to serve the interests and the needs of the community and to provide fair, objective, accurate and truthful materials. Opinions do not necessarily reflect views of anyone other than The Hoof Prints student staff.

Digital photos have not been altered to manipulate reality. Photo illustrations are labeled to reflect any technical alterations.

Anonymity may be given in the following cases: the information is unable to be presented another way, the information warrants anonymity, the source's privacy and/or reputation requires protection and the source must be protected from damages.

Student or faculty member deaths during the coverage period will be covered with a short obituary and a mug shot photo if available.

If errors are negligently made, corrections will appear in the next issue.

Advertising must meet the same guidelines as editorial content. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement by the school. Students pictured in advertising must sign a release and accept no monetary compensation. Advertising rates available on request. School club discounts are available.

Letters to the editor must also meet the same guidelines as editorial content, must be 150 words or less and must be signed. Baseless accusations, libelous statements, insults and unsigned letters will not be considered for publication. The staff reserves the right to edit or omit letters. Letters should be taken to Room 112 or mailed to the address below.

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FEATURES

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GETTING THEIR LUNCHES, juniors Jana Havens, Amanda Oakley and Adara Leonard select from the available foods on Oct. 23. According to Leonard, she usually tries to choose healthy foods, such as fruits, rather than the less nutritional options. **PHOTO BY JAKE SCHROEDER**



You are what you eat



By eating healthy school lunches and staying active, students can live healthy lives and avoid health issues

By **KIM FAIRCHILD**

Obesity is taking its toll these days. It is the second-leading cause of death in the United States, and it is caused by a lack of good diet and a lack of exercise. In order to fight obesity in kids, schools have a menu that they have to follow and they have to prepare the way the Food Service Director says.

Good nutrition is eating right and eating the right proportions. Eating just a candy bar at lunch may be small, but it's not nutritional at all, and eating too much will cause weight gain. The food pyramid requires that a person to eat six to 11 servings of bread, cereal, rice and pastas. A person needs three to five servings of vegetables and two to four servings of fruit. Also, a person needs two to three servings of milk, yogurt, and cheese and two to three servings of meat, poultry and fish. Fats are foods that people should eat very little of, but that people normally don't want to eliminate them completely.

To make sure lunches do meet the recommendations, the National School Lunch Program was established in 1946 by Harry Truman. The National School Lunch

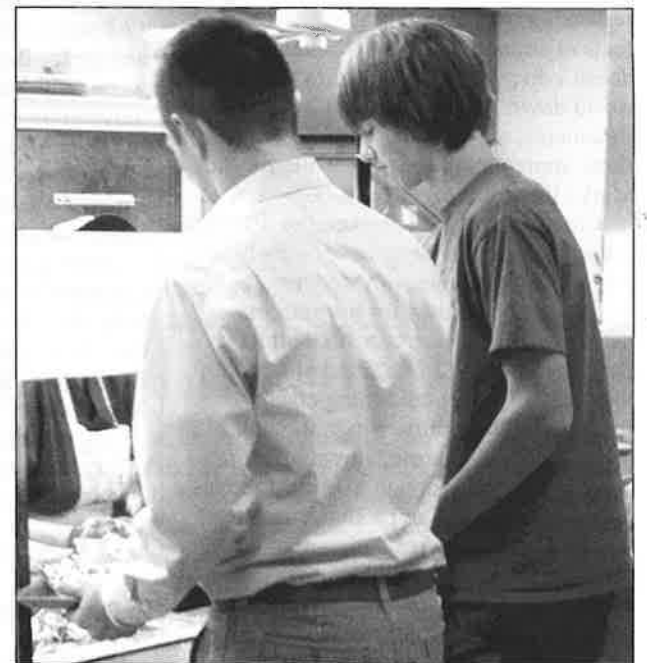
Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions. This program includes nutritionally balanced and low-cost or free meals. In the old days, this is the only meal the kids would get to eat, so the program tries to make sure students eat healthy-at least at school.

ACCORDING TO THE ROCK CREEK COOKS, they do try to make the school's food as nutritional as possible. . . Rock Creek also has a vending machine with healthier options.

According to the Rock Creek cooks, they do try to make the school's food as nutritional as possible. They use all wheat breads, reduce the salt in foods and offer one percent milk. Rock Creek also has a vending machine with healthier options.

But, along with the good things, there are bad. According to some students, there is not much variety for lunch – just the regular lunch or the a la carte. Senior Kallie Siderwicz said she would like to see broccoli cheese soup on the menu, and seniors Matt Gee and Kegan Rawhouser said they would like steak.

Eating right is not the only way to stay healthy. Exercising is also a big part is staying healthy. Rock Creek offers physical education classes, from the basic strength class to aerobics. There are also sports that a student can be involved in all year round. If students eat right and exercise regularly, they help themselves.



AT THE COUNTER, student teacher Kelly Williams and sophomore Travis Briggs select items they want for lunch on Oct. 23. **PHOTO BY JAKE SCHROEDER**

School handbook contains policy for food, drinks at Rock Creek

By **TRAVIS HEIDEMAN**

Vending machines are provided for student and staff use. This is a privilege granted by the school, and students and staff are expected to observe the following regulations: 1. Vending machines are for use before school, during lunch, and after school only. 2. No open drinks or food items allowed in the classrooms, hallways, or locker areas at any time. 3. No mugs allowed. 4. Place candy wrappers and pop cans in waste containers. Violations of the above rules will result in machines being turned off...

Often times, students may walk down the hall and hear the words, "Throw it away!" That would be the sound of a teacher making a student throw away an open can of soda. Written in the italics in the first part of this story is Rock Creek High School's policy against having food and drinks in the classroom, which has been in place since the school opened. The policy concerning food and drinks was put in place to save work for custodians, according to head custodian Jan Garverick.

It seems that most students in this school are very considerate for the school property and follow the policy.

Principal Dennis Post said, "Some students are and some students are not," referring to the ability of students to be responsible and to follow the rule.

Garverick also said that students take a lot of pride in their school.

The main problem of allowing students to bring food and drinks down the hallway is the fear of the carpet being ruined, according to Garverick and Post.

Both said they would see more spills on the carpet, and there would be more work for the custodians if the policy was not in place.

However, some students have different opinions about the policy. Senior Nate Plummer and junior Nolan Fike said if teachers allowed soda, it would give students a higher level of concentration, especially in the morning.

Plummer said, "I think the students here are very responsible, and they work hard in the classroom, so we deserve drinks during the day."

SPORTS

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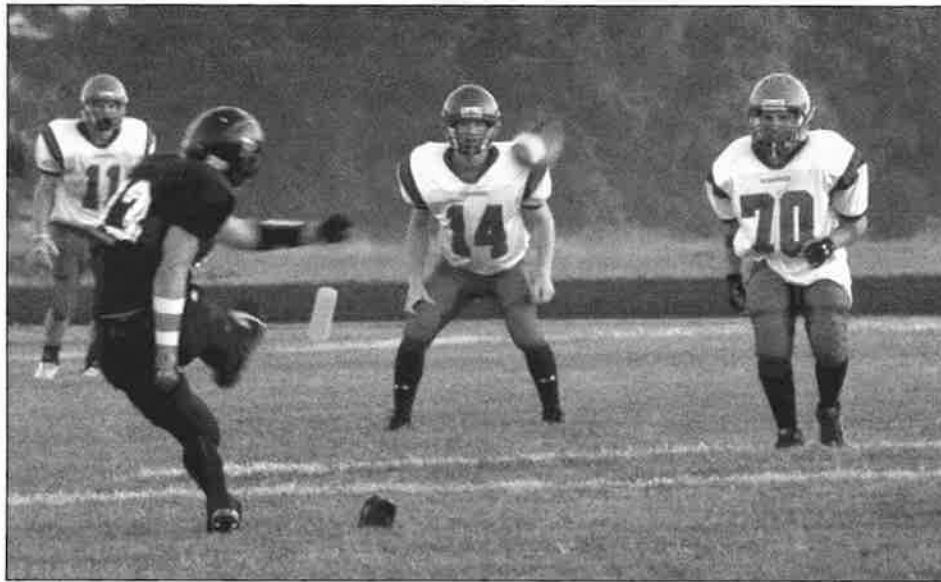
Football team ends regular season with district matches

By LINDA OVERKAMP & CHRIS WAHL

The crowd is on its feet, the clock is counting down and everything is silent. As the player leaps into the air, he gets hit, but it doesn't knock him down; he's still up and still running. Suddenly, the crowd goes crazy.

In a similar situation, the Rock Creek Mustangs beat St. Marys 26-21 at St. Marys on Oct. 10 when senior Dustin Miner scored on fourth and goal from the one-yard line with 22.2 seconds left. Rock Creek led 14-7 after the first quarter, but St. Marys pulled ahead 21-14 at the half. Rock Creek scored six points in each of the last two quarters. Miner's other touchdown was a 76-yard play. Senior Tyler Umscheid also scored a 24-yard rushing touchdown and caught an 18-yard touchdown from senior Kegan Rawhouser, both in the first quarter.

Prior to the St. Marys game, the team got off to a hot start, defeating the Marysville 20-7 at Marysville on Sept. 5. The Mustangs then traveled to Silver Lake Sept. 12 to play a team ranked near the top of 3A standings. It was a hard-fought game, but the Mustangs came up on the short end, losing 28-13. The following week, the Mustangs looked to have some jitters when they started off slow against Wabauensee at their home opener, but they finally defeated the Chargers 41-14. The Mustangs next opponent would not prove to be so easy. Riley County came in fired up and ended up beating the Mustangs



ON SEPT. 19, senior Andrew Wahlmeier kicks off to the Wabauensee Chargers at Rock Creek. The Mustang football team won its home opener against the Chargers, 41-14. PHOTO BY SETH KUECKER

on Homecoming 20-14, Sept. 26. The Mustangs then travelled to Rossville on Oct. 3, defeating the Bulldogs 41-14.

Head coach Mike Beam said that the game against Riley County was the most disappointing loss this season, but also said this team is one of the most talented he has coached and has the potential to make it deep into the playoffs, as the team plays Royal Valley, Wamego and Clay Center within its

district. The Mustangs shut out Royal Valley Oct. 17, beating the Panthers 35-0. In district play, the team will also face Wamego Oct. 24 and Clay Center Oct. 30; results for both were not available at press time.

"We should definitely win district and make it to regionals to play Topeka Hayden," junior Jared Hawkins said. "Whether we get past them will depend on whether we come out and play our type of game."

SPORTS SCOREBOARD

	RC	OPPONENT
VARSITY FOOTBALL		
MARYSVILLE (09/05)	20	7
SILVER LAKE (09/12)	13	28
WABAUNSEE (09/19)	41	14
RILEY COUNTY (09/26)	14	20
ROSSVILLE (10/03)	41	14
ST. MARYS (10/10)	26	21
ROYAL VALLEY (10/17)	35	0
JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL		
MARYSVILLE (09/08)	28	24
SILVER LAKE (09/15)	24	32
WABAUNSEE (09/22)	47	21
RILEY COUNTY (09/29)	21	27
ROSSVILLE (10/06)	18	24
ST. MARYS (10/13)	12	18
ROYAL VALLEY (10/20)	6	32
FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE FOOTBALL		
CLAY CENTER (09/04)	16	0
MARYSVILLE (09/11)	16	8
RILEY COUNTY (09/25)	16	14
VARSITY VOLLEYBALL		
MISSION VALLEY (09/11)	2	0
NEMAHA VALLEY TOURN (09/13)	5	0
ST. MARYS (09/23)	1	1
WAMEGO TOURN (09/27)	4	1
SILVER LAKE (09/30)	2	0
COUNCIL GROVE (10/02)	2	0
WABAUNSEE (10/07)	1	1
ROSSVILLE (10/14)	2	0
HILLSBORO TOURN (10/18)	5	0
RILEY COUNTY (10/21)	2	0
JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL		
WAMEGO (09/02)	2	0
ROYAL VALLEY (09/02)	2	0
MISSION VALLEY (09/11)	2	1
OSAGE CITY	2	0
ST. MARYS (09/23)	2	1
ST. MARYS (09/27)	2	0
OLATHE EAST (09/27)	1	1
WAMEGO (09/27)	1	1
IMMACULATA (09/27)	2	0
WABAUNSEE (09/27)	2	0
ROSSVILLE (09/27)	2	0
SILVER LAKE (09/30)	2	1
SILVER LAKE (09/30)	2	0
HERINGTON (10/02)	2	0
COUNCIL GROVE (10/02)	2	1
SILVER LAKE	2	1
ATCHISON	2	0
JEFFERSON WEST	2	0
VALLEY FALLS	0	2
ST. MARYS	0	2
WABAUNSEE (10/07)	2	1
WABAUNSEE	2	1
WAMEGO	2	0
ACCHS	2	0
NEMAHA VALLEY	2	0
SABETHA	2	0
ROSSVILLE (10/16)	0	2
ROSSVILLE	0	2
RILEY COUNTY	2	0
RILEY COUNTY	2	0
FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL		
ROYAL VALLEY	L	
WAMEGO	L	
ST. MARYS	W	
SILVER LAKE	L	
ROSSVILLE	L	
JUNCTION CITY	W	
CLAY CENTER	W	
CHAPMAN	W	
COUNCIL GROVE	W	
JUNCTION CITY	W	
MANHATTAN	L	
COUNCIL GROVE	W	
WAMEGO	L	
MARYSVILLE	L	
ST. MARYS	W	
FRANKFORT	W	
ST. MARYS	L	
ST. MARYS	W	
RILEY COUNTY	W	
WABAUNSEE	L	
SILVER LAKE	L	
SILVER LAKE	L	
SILVER LAKE	L	
COUNCIL GROVE	W	
WABAUNSEE	L	
WABAUNSEE	L	
ROSSVILLE	W	
ROSSVILLE	L	
RILEY COUNTY	W	
RILEY COUNTY	W	
CROSS COUNTRY		
ONAGA (09/18)	3rd	4th

New shirt designed to honor Oberkrom

By SETH KUECKER

Chuck Norris is known as a hardcore movie actor, and thousands of jokes have been made about him, many of which feature numerous impossible tasks and feats of strength, such as, "Chuck Norris doesn't do push-ups, he pushes the world down." Based on these outlandish statements, a T-shirt has been created to show appreciation for asst. football coach Mark Oberkrom, or "Coach O."

Created by Mark Kuecker, the district's school board president, these shirts have had a great response with students.

Coach O is known for his extreme nature when it comes to school athletics. Before coming to Rock Creek, he was the strength and conditioning coach for Kansas State University's football program. He also turned down offers to work at the professional level for football teams such as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The T-shirt features a picture of Coach O on the front with 15 interesting facts about him based upon the Chuck Norris jokes on the back. Statements, such as "Some people wear Superman pajamas. Superman wears Coach O pajamas," are among those listed.

"I really don't know if there was a specific 'Coach O moment' when I was inspired to do the shirts," Kuecker said. "I just remember hearing a Chuck Norris reference and thought 'that's just like Coach O.' Anyone that will head-butt into a football player's helmet is tough. He simply is enthusiastic, and the kids love him."

Although the shirts have had a great response, Oberkrom's opinion is different.

"I feel that it should be about us [Rock Creek] and not about Coach O," he said.

The first order of shirts sold out within three days, and a second order is being made to accommodate the popularity of the shirts. The shirts cost \$10 and can be ordered by contacting either senior Seth Kuecker or freshman Aaron Kuecker.

Volleyball looks forward to state play

By MELANIE STUBBS

With a record of 32-4, the volleyball team played Oct. 25 at Riley County for sub-state. The results, which were unavailable at press time, will decide whether the team goes to state Oct. 31.

Prior to sub-state, senior Dana Elliot and junior Becky Lightfoot both said they were confident in the team's abilities to move on to state.

Elliot said, "We're going to state, end of story, we're going to state," while Lightfoot said, "We will not lose another game; we are aiming to go to state."

After games against Herrington and Council Grove Oct. 2, in which they split both, the Mustangs faced Wabauensee Oct. 7 (1-1), Rossville Oct. 14 (2-0), the Hillsboro tournament Oct. 18 (5-0), and Riley County Oct. 21 (2-0).

Lightfoot said, "As a team, we just need to keep each other going."



ON OCT. 2, junior Taylor Ebert serves to the Council Grove Braves. The varsity Mustangs defeated the Braves in both matches. PHOTO BY JAKE SCHROEDER

Cross country improves during season

By BRAD KLEUSCH

The cross country team kicked off the year at Mission Valley Sept. 4, setting the tone for an improved season.

Leading the boys during the season was junior Seth Ruder, finishing second at Mission Valley and sixth place at Onaga, and junior Harrison Newman with an 11th-place finish at Onaga. Leading the girls was sophomore Ashley Altenhofen with a 12th-place finish at Mission Valley, and a 15th-place finish at Onaga, and Monica Ebert with a 14th-place finish at Onaga.

Coach Jeremy Lehning said he has been impressed, especially with girls since there were just three returning runners.

So far this year, Altenhofen has claimed the second best time in Rock Creek girls cross country. Sophomore Chelsea Ebert has claimed fifth, junior Sara Liming seventh, senior Megan Jilka eighth, and freshman Lizz Herra 10th.

"This has been Rock Creek's best ever girls cross country team, and the biggest with 10 girls," Liming said.

The boys also have set four school records. Ruder has claimed first, Newman second, senior Jake Newkirk sixth, and freshman Shane Schaake 10th.

"The freshmen have improved," Lehning said. "When everyone has a good practice throughout the week, it definitely shows when it comes time to compete."

Though Lehning does not know if anyone will qualify for state on Nov. 1 because of a difficult regional Oct. 25, he said it is possible, and it would be a big accomplishment. No matter if anyone goes to state or not, many runners anticipate next season.

"This year was a lot of fun, and if everyone stays with it, we can hopefully build on this year and pick it up where we left off next year," junior Samuel Cott said.

By BLAKE HINKLE, JESSICA JACK & JAKE SCHROEDER