

# THE HOOP PRINT

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - 9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. - 785-494-8591

DECEMBER 2010 - VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

BY JUSTIN WARD

### Principal receives area honor

Rock Creek principal Dennis Post received the area principal honor recently by the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals.

There are six awards given in this state; Post was recognized as the area three recipient. In order to receive the honor, Post was nominated by his peers and superintendent.

Post said, "Getting this award doesn't only say that I'm doing something right, but the school is as well."

### Battle of the Bands held last month

On Nov. 20, the Battle of the Bands took place at Rock Creek.

Organizing the show were seniors DJ Denzien and Josh Unruh, who served as emcees, band director Scott Bradley and volunteer parents. The battle had four bands, including Sacrifice the Sun, the Delinquent Scholars, Buddy Walker and finally Ouiga, who played for a total of two and a half hours. Rather than a competition, Bradley decided to make this year's battle more of a concert, which raised \$582 for the Rock Creek bands.

Bradley said, "It's the most we have ever made, and we get more and more attendance every year."

### Band, choir to celebrate holiday season

On Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m., the Rock Creek band and choir will perform at its holiday concert.

According to band director Scott Bradley, the band will be playing a mix of slower and faster holiday songs, ranging from "The First Noel" to "Secret Agent Santa." Bradley also said that everyone should come out to see senior Colten Smith dress up as Santa. Likewise, the choir will be singing a mix of songs, many of which will be entertaining, according to choir members.

### Seniors to present early-bird projects

At Rock Creek, all seniors must complete a task: the exit project. However, some seniors choose to present their projects early, rather than to display their projects during second semester.

Nine seniors will present their projects on Dec. 22. Those seniors include Shelby Adams, Ashley Altenhofen, Travis Briggs, Chelsea Ebert, Luke Goodenow, Rachel Lewman, TJ Minihan, Chelsea Renner and Macy Umscheid.

Goodenow said, "I didn't like all the paperwork [with the exit project], but overall, it was fun."

### Debate teams attend regionals

On Dec. 17-18, two squads of debaters attended regional competitions, for which results were not available at press time.

The team of senior Colten Smith, sophomore Trey Basa, sophomore Chance Maginness, sophomore Clayton Frakes, and freshman Dani Rackowitz participated in the four-speaker tournament at Shawnee Heights. For the two-speaker teams, Rock Creek sent senior Mandi Blenn and junior Ben Peterson, sophomores Crystal Chitwood and Jacob Miller, and sophomores Dylan Meyer and Josh Roberts.

If they qualify, participants will compete at state on Jan. 14-15.

Coach Keith Miller said, "I'm looking forward to it. I like our chances of another state trophy."

## Upgrades to building technology made

BY BEN PETERSON

Lights! Cameras! And heaters? What is this craziness about?

Just recently, the school has been implementing new items around the school. These items vary from new lighting to new teaching technology.

The new technology includes smart boards and document cameras. The smart boards are meant for using a conventional whiteboard electronically. The school also has airliners, or smart pads, for teacher use. Currently, the school has five pads with six on order and no smart boards with three on order.

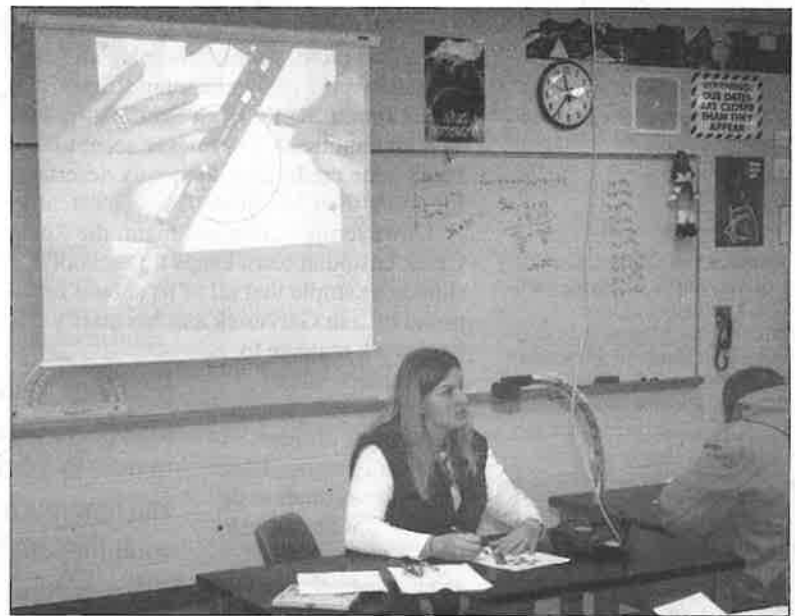
Speech teacher Keith Miller said, "I'll use mine for my Highland [Community College] class for them to use while speaking, as do modern businesses."

The other new items are document cameras, which are new-age projectors. Currently, the school has five cameras. These cameras project any document up upon the wall, just as a normal projector, however, are more versatile.

Science teacher Kellie Milner said, "I used the document camera to project a chemical reaction on the screen, rather than having all my students huddle around the reaction itself."

The technology has been paid for by the new facility funding, which was a one-time funding given to the district because of the new St. George Elementary School.

Sophomore Trey Basa said, "I thought



USING ONE THE NEW DOCUMENT CAMERAS, math and science teacher Ashley Wege demonstrates how to solve a problem during her Geometry Concepts class on Dec. 15. The five new document cameras allow teachers to project their work for the students to see. PHOTO BY TREVOR CLARK

the camera was interesting, and I didn't know the school had something like that."

Another new installment to the school would be the new lights.

Principal Dennis Post said, "They aren't essentially new lights, yet rather newer-style bulbs."

These new bulbs are supposed to be brighter and more energy efficient. The lights in the gymnasiums have already been changed; however, the entire school will be receiving the bulb replacements which should be installed before break. These lights will help save money by using less energy to shine more light.

Lights and cameras have been covered; finally, the school is working on a new heating system as well. The school is installing new chillers and computer-controlled thermostats in the school to help level the temperature.

The final installment would be the new television installed in the lobby. Throughout the day, the television shows generally the news, weather and sports. There are also plans for the television to show the announcements of the day.

Junior Sam Wilson said, "I like the new technology, because I believe it will make our lives easier."

## Upward Bound program takes off at Rock Creek

BY ZAC SAUERESSIG

On Tuesdays, eight students go to teacher Cherrie Lindsey's room after school. Why would they do this?

The reason they do is because they are part of the Kansas State University Upward Bound program. Upward Bound is a federal program for low-income families or for students with parents who don't have a bachelor's degree. This program helps students that normally wouldn't finish high school go to college.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, in 2009, there were more than 64,000 participants, and with a success rate of 96 percent last year, that more than 61,000 people graduated that normally wouldn't have.

Students at Rock Creek have to apply to join Upward Bound through KSU and have to have three teacher recommendations. They are submitted during the year and will either be selected or denied later.

Lane Frazier, a junior who is in Upward Bound, said, "I think that this will help a lot of people that wouldn't normally go to college or even graduate high school be successful."

Some of these students have been people such as Oprah Winfrey, according to *USA Today*. Another famous person who participated in Upward Bound is retired NBA hall of famer Patrick Ewing.

The Rock Creek Upward Bound has been functioning since 2005 after KSU asked the school to have a program. In 2008, Lindsey took over sponsorship.

Students have had the opportunity to go to many interesting events, such as the summer program where they have a mini-college and can earn up to a half credit.

Sophomore Josh Jones said, "My favorite event was the summer program."

Upward Bound students also get many other perks, such as free ACT testing, if eligible a free trip to Washington, D.C., and a pass to KSU and up to six free credit hours. Plus they get to meet new people, learn new things and create memories that last forever.

"Upward Bound isn't just studying and tutoring; it's also a lot of fun," Lindsey said.

## Kitchen staff seldom recognized, but vitally important to school

BY KATIE HODGES

Walking down the hallway of Rock Creek High School, students and faculty may smell hot rolls baking in the oven or see biscuits and gravy being served on Friday mornings. Tamra Hart, Dawn Henry and Christine Resser are the three kitchen workers the school can thank for keeping the faculty and student body fed.

Arriving at school between 5:45 and 7:00 a.m. is not for everyone, but the kitchen workers do so each school day. Not leaving until 2 p.m., the kitchen staff bakes, serves and even cleans throughout their busy schedule. Cooking and baking has always been a hobby for the three women, and they have worked in kitchens and bakeries before they worked at Rock Creek.

Resser said, "I worked in a bakery before coming to Rock Creek. I decorated cakes and enjoyed the work I did."

Students may enjoy crispitos or hamburgers for lunch, but the kitchen staff's favorite meals to prepare are meatball subs and tacos. They mention when working in a kitchen, they cannot always please everyone's tastes. There are days when they face complaints all the time. Students may be unhappy with the choice of food, but the kitchen workers have no say in the menu. However, they can sometimes help with the

complaints.

"Sometimes the food can be gross, but usually they have another option to choose from," sophomore Kynedee Hodges said.

The kitchen staff performs many duties throughout their day to keep the kitchen running smoothly. Students may not be familiar what the entire kitchen staff does for the school, but there are plenty of students and faculty who appreciate their work.

Junior Aaron Kuecker said, "They are wonderful ladies; they do a lot to keep us happy and full."

Even though they might face complaints throughout their days, they still enjoy being a part of Rock Creek. Working in the kitchen they have become good friends with the other kitchen staff. Whether it be cooking up the school's lunch or serving students, they can all have a good laugh with one another.

"We have a great time working together, especially making pumpkin bars," Henry said.

The kitchen staff is not only hard working, but they are friendly as well. While serving food during the lunch periods, they enjoy talking with all the students. One of their favorite parts about working at Rock Creek is the interesting chats they have with students.

Hart said, "I enjoy talking with the kids, and the school is a great place to work at."

# OPINIONS

DECEMBER 2010 - PAGE 2

## IN REVIEW

### BY TREVOR CLARK **CAR**

If you have not already heard about Chevy's latest concentration on "top fuel efficiency," then you probably have not heard about their newest electric-powered car. The car is the 2011 Chevy Volt, and it is driven off of battery power and can go about 230 miles off a single charge.

One interesting feature is that it can be plugged into any household power outlet. When plugged into a 120 volt outlet, it takes eight hours to charge, but when plugged into a 240 volt outlet, it will charge in three hours. Just think if you ran out of gas in town, you could just plug your car into an outlet somewhere and go shopping while you fill up.

Another cool feature is that Chevy has added to the production of the Volt is a remote start, provided stock on the lock/unlock remote.

Now, don't think that just because the car is futuristic that the price will be out of this world, too. The retail value of this car is estimated at \$35,065, but it does come with a 100,000-mile warranty or eight-year, long-life battery. Not too bad for a car that will eventually pay for itself.

### BY TREVOR CLARK **PHONE**

There are so many phones coming out today with Google's new mobile operating system, Android. But one that you have to check out by far is the Droid X.

Some really fascinating features that the Droid X has are a one-gigahertz processor, a 4.3-inch screen, an eight-megapixel camera for video and still pictures, three microphones for noise cancellation, eight-gigabyte built-in memory with a 16 GB SD memory card and many more!

The phone itself is black, weighs 5.47 ounces, has dual plug-ins (one for charging, and one for the HDMI support), and is 5.0 inches by 2.6 inches.

A new feature coming out on the newer Droids is that they are equipped with Skype mobile, which means you can call other people with Skype mobile, and it is virtually free!

You can get the Droid X at any Verizon carrier near you, and it is priced at \$199.99, a hefty price for such a small device that packs a big punch.

### BY KAELEEN LAIRD **MOVIE**

"Tangled" is a classic story book movie with a twist. You have heard of Rapunzel, right? "Tangled" is based off of Rapunzel's story.

An evil witch, Mother Gothel, takes a flower and steals a family's firstborn. The family's firstborn was a girl with blond hair named Rapunzel. Later on, the witch finds out that the girl's hair kept growing and wouldn't stop. Rapunzel's hair heals wounds and supplies everlasting life. The Mother Gothel has fooled Rapunzel into loving her as a mother, even though the witch has kept her in captivity. Rapunzel was locked in a tower with her magical hair and her pet lizard for 18 years.

On Rapunzel's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, she sets out to find her spiritual self with her best friend, Flynn. Flynn is trusty horse who not-only talks, but he is a comedian.

I really enjoyed "Tangled," not only was it funny, but it was a cute movie, too. The soundtrack of the movie was also pretty cool, I thought. "Tangled" is a great family movie, especially for younger children, rated PG, that perhaps your family can see over winter break!

### BY KAELEEN LAIRD **STORE**

Rue 21 is a trendy new store in the Manhattan Town Center Mall.

Rue 21 sells teenage clothes for both girls and boys. They sell jewelry, perfume/cologne, clothes and hats.

New holiday specials include most shoes, pajamas, accessories, jeans, and shirts, which are all under \$20. Not only do they have holiday specials, but great deals year round.

Compared to most teenage stores, such as Hollister, Rue 21 is fairly inexpensive. For example, Hollister jeans at cheapest go for \$40, while Rue 21's cheapest is \$20 for a pair. Hoodies and other items are the same way. The cheapest Hollister perfume is \$30, and the cheapest Rue 21 perfume is \$8. Besides the prices being cheap, the clothes are trendy - just like at every other teenage store but cheaper.

The store from the outside looks welcoming and trendy, and the workers are very helpful and nice. It's easy to get around, unlike some stores. They also sell candy in the store at the counters, making it a fun experience to shop.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### During winter holiday season, show thanks for unsung heroes

Far too often, people who play an extremely vital role in keeping Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School as great as it go unnoticed. They never seem to receive the credit they so greatly deserve for doing their job so well, so consistently.

Unwaveringly, day and night, the Rock Creek custodial team keeps this school a shining example that all of us should be proud of. Jan Garverick and her staff's hard work manage to keep a place where more than 350 teenagers spend most of their time really clean. Their job requires them to do most of the dirty work that has to be done around our school. They do many little things, such as setting up before games and helping the recent construction workers, that people do not even realize they do.

Cooks also play an integral, yet often overlooked, part in making sure this school keeps on going. How upset do you think people of this school would become if the cooks failed to do their job? They have to make meals for many mouths every single day, and they not only are capable of making meals that are delicious, but also nutritious. They also receive very little thanks for their contributions to our school.

Keeping the fine establishment running at peak performance is a great group in the administrative office: administrators who

make the decisions that have contributed in shaping our school into an award-winning institution and secretaries who keep people informed through contacting parents or reading the announcements so people know what is going on, among many other duties.

You, the students, are another group that does not get the credit it deserves for doing such a wonderful job in making this such a great school. If the students do not come to school willing and ready to learn, the efforts of the faculty would have been futile. Without students who do as great of a job as you do, Rock Creek could not and would not have achieved the success it has.

Our teachers at Rock Creek are the engine that does most of the heavily lifting. They do whatever they can to improve your learning experience. They spend long hours grading the hundreds of papers and finding ways so that you can better understand what they are trying to teach you.

Unnoticed, or so it seems, are people who do a great job in making Rock Creek such a fantastic school. Next time you see one of these people performing their job so that this school can keep running like a well-oiled machine, be sure to take a minute to tell them thank you and how much you appreciate what they are doing.

Next time you see one of these people . . . be sure to take a minute to tell them thank you and how much you appreciate what they are doing.

## MY PRINT: BLACK FRIDAY

When you think of Black Friday shopping, what comes to mind? Getting new items dirt cheap, right?

Well, while you are at your chosen store early in the morning with a majority of sales starting at 5 a.m., there are also dozens of other people concerned with getting the same great deals you are, with some of them ready to do whatever it takes to get what they want.

Manhattan, though, is actually pretty calm on Black Friday compared to other places. In 2008, according to an article written by John Barryman, at a Wal-Mart in New York, an employee was trampled to death as crowds of people stormed into the store to begin shopping.



CODY LIMING  
STAFF MEMBER

In 2005, Black Friday shoppers forced open the doors to a Florida BrandSmart and trampled over an elderly woman because she wasn't moving fast enough for them. The sad thing is that I could go on and on about all the extreme incidents that are caused by Black Friday shopping, such as two men shooting each other in a Toys R' Us. OK, seriously, I think it's pretty extreme to be stepping on old ladies to get a great deal.

I personally went Black Friday shopping this year to get a camera for my sister and save roughly \$50. I arrived at Wal-Mart at 4:30 a.m. so that I could be there when the sale started. After making my way through swarms of irritated people dead set on not losing their spot in line, I finally found where the cameras were. When the associates finally unwrapped the merchandise and allowed people to start taking them, there was chaos. People around the cameras started pushing each other to get one. I was in eyesight of the Wi-Fi Blue-Ray

disc players, and I witnessed a lady start grabbing armloads of them and putting them in her cart. After the mad rush to grab everything in sight, plenty of everything was still on the shelves. Was it really worth getting up super early, getting in line and shoving one another to get an item to save \$50?

Next year, to avoid all the frustration and to still get my eight hours of sleep, I will most likely be participating in Cyber Monday. Not many people know about this day, but it is the Monday after Black Friday where you can go online and get almost all the same great deals, or better ones, but without the hassle and the crowds. I urge everyone to do the same; that way we won't be losing grandma for a laptop.

So, I would ask the reader to remember your sense of common courtesy and human decency, and practice patience next time you go shopping on Black Friday . . . or just any old day of the year.

## YOUR PRINT BY MICHAEL PARKER WHO DO YOU THINK DESERVES MORE CREDIT FOR WHAT THEY DO FOR ROCK CREEK?

"Jan Garverick because she is constantly at work, trying to help our school inside and out. She is a very hard worker and deserves much more than she gets."



CHASE MINIHAN  
SENIOR

"Mr. [Scott] Bradley because it seems that the band is always doing really well in state, and he never seems to get any credit."



JESSI SNAPP  
JUNIOR

"Jan [Garverick] because she's always helpful, and she has to do the dirty jobs of the school."



CLAYTON FRAKES  
SOPHOMORE

"I believe it is the students because they are the ones who have to do most of the work."



KELSEY QUINN  
FRESHMAN

"Math teachers because they always have a line of students needing help, before school and during advisor. They work really hard."



PATRICIA BOOTH  
FACULTY/STAFF

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

The Hoof Print is a monthly student-produced newspaper, published to inform and to entertain the Rock Creek High School community in an open forum and to educate Multimedia students.

The staff chooses to reflect the mission of Rock Creek 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 Print student staff member.

Letters to the editor 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 addresses below.

For the full editorial policy, please send a request to the e-mail address below or see the adviser in Room 112.

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# FEATURES

DECEMBER 2010 - PAGE 3

During classes or on their own time, student may often fill their notebooks – not with notes, but with...

## Just Doodles

BY ANTHONY DULTMEIER & BRANDON HYDE

**HEARTS:** Drawing hearts can either mean joy or sorrow



Doodles are usually drawn by students out of boredom, but there are a lot of subliminal meanings behind these drawings, whether it is on a conscious or subconscious level.

Some scientists believe that doodles can help people's memory and can tell a lot about an individual.

"Doodles are believed to reveal the doodlers temperament, mood and life at the point in time," Doodle psychologist John Cloud said.

When junior Nicole Koonce was asked if she doodled and what she thought the importances of doodles were, she said, "Yes, I doodle dark wizards and such."

When asked why students doodle in class, art teacher Pam Delay said, "Occasionally boredom, or the minds need to have a creative outlet, and sometimes to brainstorm ideas."

It is a proven fact that doodling helps problem-solving skills and are important

in unloading ideas. Delay even said that in some corporate offices, the employees are encouraged to doodle. They say that it helps the creative process and the flow of ideas, which strengthens the worker's performance.

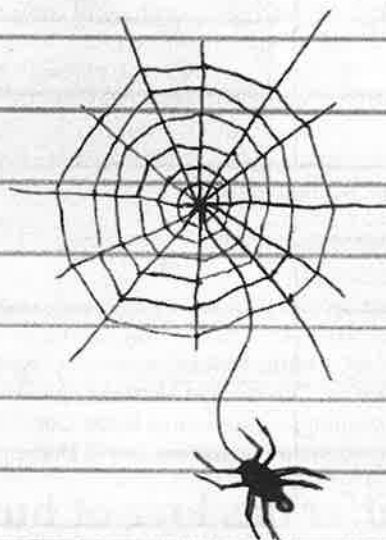
The decoding of doodles is fairly easy. The color of the ink determines sensitivity or indecisiveness. If someone draws on the top of a page, then he or she has a lot of self confidence. If the drawing is at the center of the page, then there is an urgency and need of attention.

When asked about doodling, senior Morgan Umscheid said, "It depends on what is being drawn; if it's a guy killing someone, and then it's probably a little scary and should be looked at."

If the doodles are on the right or left side, the doodler is expressing the pressure and matter in their mind.

Located around this story are samplings of doodles and the most common interpretation. See what your favorite doodles might mean!

**SPIDERS/SPIDER WEBS:** Usually mean insecurity, or that someone is feeling stuck in a mental state



**STARS:** Doodling stars means a strong desire to achieve success.



**EYES:** People who draw big eyes are showing their open personalities; small or squinted eyes symbolize shyness and closed minds



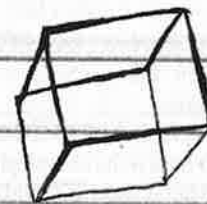
**BUBBLES:** People who draw dots or bubbles are restless, and don't have a high concentration level.



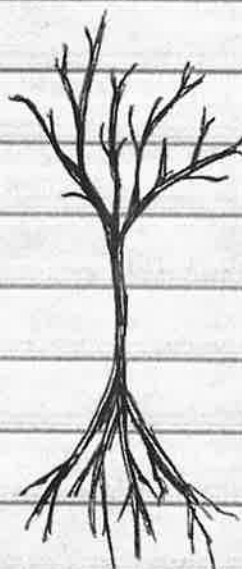
**HOUSES:** Drawing houses represents a feeling of security, or possibly the lack of security and a desire for stability



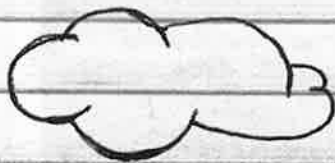
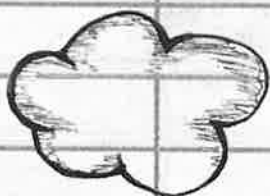
**BOXES:** Doodling boxes or cubes means a need to organize and be in control.



**TREES:** Those with leaves are usually drawn by healthy people; thin or leafless trees are usually drawn by the sick or the mentally ill



**CLOUDS:** Fluffy light clouds mean a mind is clear and at ease. Dark clouds can mean that the mind is crowded and needing to express itself.



# SPORTS

DECEMBER 2010 - PAGE 4

## Wrestlers open up season

By MEAGAN SMITH

The wrestling team had its first tournament on Dec. 4 at Mission Valley.

At the tournament, individually, freshman Marc Reiss placed second, sophomore Randall Thomas placed third, junior Cody Liming placed third, junior Shane Schaake placed third, junior Trevor Sutton placed fourth, senior Luke Goodenow placed fourth and junior Levi Anderson placed fifth.

"We got fourth place [overall]," asst. coach Mark Oberkrom said. "Burlington, Rossville and Marysville are all 3A schools and all ranked seventh in the state, and we came right behind them. Holton is a 4A school, and we beat them."

Likewise, Thomas was proud of the team's results. "I thought the team did excellent because we placed fourth, and last year, we placed 10th," he said.

The next action was the Council Grove duel on Dec. 7. Going 2-0 for their duels were senior Michael Wilson; juniors Liming, Schaake, Sutton and Sam Wilson; sophomores Thomas, Brandon Goehring and JT Weers; and freshman Reiss. Goodenow was 1-1.

"As a team, we did very well," Goodenow said. "We accomplished what we went to accomplish."

Next up was the Clay Center meet Dec. 11. The teams there were Andale, Clay Center, Holton, Salina South, Ellsworth, Topeka, Junction City, Marysville and Norton. Overall, the Mustangs placed 11<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming, at press time, is the Dec. 17 Marion County tournament and the Jan. 8 Burlington meet.

## Staffer has love of hunting

By AMANDA GROSS

Waking up at 4:30 a.m., putting on warm clothes, sitting in your stand for hours, then finally feeling the adrenaline rush when you see your prey come out of hiding. I got started hunting when I was just a baby. My papa would take me fishing when I was 18 months old. I first started shooting BB guns at age four and shotgun at 10. I got my first pheasant at 12 and my first deer last winter.

One of my most memorable hunts was when my papa and I waited for two hours calling for turkeys, and out of nowhere, nine jakes flew over top of our blind, then we heard a thunder of gobbles, and four huge toms ran towards the jakes. After their battle, the toms won, and the jakes ran off. The toms started running towards us. This would be our first double, he and I shooting birds together. He took aim of the one on the left, and I took the one on the right. He whispered, "One... two..." I blurted out "THREE!" and shot my bird, and my papa shot quickly after me.

Out of 78 people surveyed, around 28 percent of them said they did not hunt. Those who do hunt deer, turkey and upland game birds.

I think more people should at least experience nature; they do not have to hunt to have a great time. Many of my experiences do not always end with a spectacular kill; just being around nature and spending time with my family and friends makes it memorable.

## Girls place second at Dickinson Co. tourney

By JACOB MILHAM



At CLAY CENTER, junior Bailey Elliott looks for an open teammate to pass the ball to during the Dec. 3 game against the lady Tigers. Rock Creek won the opening game of the 2010-2011 season by a score of 44-35. PHOTO BY JACOB MILHAM

The girls basketball season is underway. With the winter scrimmage on Nov. 29, the girls were ready for their first game Dec. 3 against Clay Center.

Against Clay Center, the girls, both varsity and junior varsity, won their games. Both games were close at certain points, but the varsity took control, winning 44-39.

On Dec. 7, Rock Creek began play in the Dickinson County Classic, facing Chapman. In the first quarter, the game was close, but Rock Creek went on a 21-1 point scoring run in the second quarter. After the half, the game seemingly easy, with the Mustangs winning, 62-33. Junior Lizz Herrs scored 21 points and collected 11 rebounds, while senior Ashley Altenhofen had 10 points.

Dec. 10 was the girls' next game at the Dickinson County Classic; this time, they played the El Dorado Wildcats. In the

first half, the Mustangs had some trouble, but quickly took off in the second half; winning 58-30. Three-point shots had a large influence in the game, with 21 of the 58 Mustang points being three-point shots. Altenhofen was the leading scorer in the game with 13.

Rock Creek headed to the championship game on Dec. 11. This game would prove tougher than the last, with Abilene hitting nine out of 10 critical free throws, which led to a 45-41 Abilene win. Herrs had 18 points, and Altenhofen had nine points.

"We did OK as an overall team; Abilene was simply better," Altenhofen said.

Dec. 14 was the home and league opener for the Mustangs against the Wabaunsee Chargers, with results unavailable at press time. The next game for the girls will be at Centralia

"We need to work some more after what I've seen," head coach Mike Zabel said.

## Boys basketball opens season with early wins

By JACOB MILHAM

Nov. 29 was the scrimmage for the boys basketball team. Dec. 3, however, the boys basketball team's game against Clay Center was for real. In the game, the varsity won, 45-35.

Head coach Jim Johnston said, "The [varsity] team had a good performance, but we noticed things that we needed to work on."

Only four days after the team's season opener, Rock Creek had to play yet again; this time against the Chapman Fighting Irish as part of the Dickinson County Classic tournament. Rock Creek defeated Chapman, scraping by with a score of 49-45.

On Dec. 10, Rock Creek played against El Dorado, again as part of the tournament, losing 53-46.

"We did pretty well, but we could have done better,

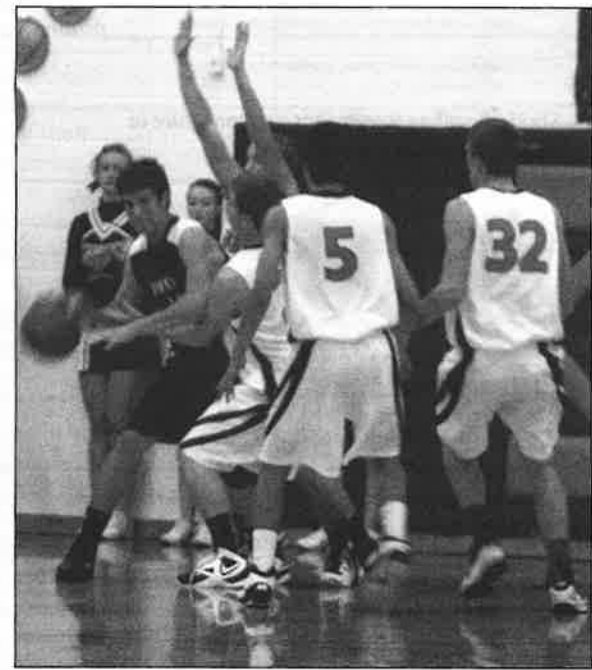
obviously, since we lost," senior Travis Briggs said.

On Dec. 14, the Mustangs had their home- and league-opening game against the Wabaunsee Chargers, for which results were not available at press time.

Before the game, Briggs said, "I think we're feeling good about Wabaunsee, but we need to work on the little things to win."

Following the winter break, on Jan. 4, the Mustangs will be back in action at Riley County, and on Jan. 7, Rock Creek will host Silver Lake for the Winter Homecoming game.

Last year, the team made it to sub-state, but lost in the second round to Rossville. This year, Johnston said, with losing three starters from last year to graduation, Briggs and fellow senior Skyler Beam will have to take over the leadership role of the team.



FACING PRESSURE, Rock Creek senior Travis Briggs tries to get in a better position against Clay Center on Dec. 3 at the Tigers' home court. The Mustangs ended up defeating the Tigers 45-35 in the opening game of the Mustangs' season. PHOTO BY JACOB MILHAM

## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

By MASON SWENSON

### SENIOR TRAVIS BRIGGS

Boys basketball head coach Jim Johnston selected senior Travis Briggs as the first boys basketball Athlete of the Month.

Q: Why do you think coach Johnston selected you?

A: "Because I have tried my best and have been a team player."

Q: How have you improved your game since last season?

A: "I spent time working on post moves and free throws... and dunks, and I worked on my all-around game."

Q: Based on the Clay Center game, how did you compare your play to last season?

A: "I had a solid performance, but I can do better."

Q: How did you think you would play heading into the Dickinson County Classic?

A: "I came in focused and ready to play."

Q: What is something you do before a game to prepare?

A: "Sky [senior Skyler Beam] and I have a pre-game ritual. It's top-secret, though."

BOYS BASKETBALL

### GRADE ASHLEY ALTENHOFEN

Girls basketball head coach Mike Zabel chose senior Ashley Altenhofen as the first girls basketball Athlete of the Month.

Q: What do you think made you Athlete of the Month?

A: "My leadership role, trying to score and helping the team accomplish their goals."

Q: How do you help the team to get motivated to win?

A: "We all motivate each other since we all want to do well and want to accomplish a winning season."

Q: What do you do to prepare for upcoming games?

A: "I listen to music and play with Silly Putty on long rides."

Q: What is something you do to keep yourself focused?

A: "Make personal and team goals before games and shoot in the mornings."

Q: How did you personally do at the Dickinson County Classic games compared to last year?

A: "I had more of a leadership role, and overall, my stats were better."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

### JUNIOR SHANE SCHAAKE

For the first Athlete of the Month for wrestling, head coach Dan Pray selected junior Shane Schaake, a state contender last year.

Q: What do you think earned you the Athlete of the Month?

A: "[I am] a two-time state qualifier, always try to place and have wrestled for 13 years."

Q: How do you prepare for your matches?

A: "I do shadow wrestling, get active, listen to music and try to predict what is going to happen."

Q: What is something different that you do to keep yourself focused on the match?

A: "I try to relax and listen to music, and I watch tapes of past matches to improve."

Q: What qualities do you have that helps you stand out on the team or that helps you improve the team?

A: "I am a team leader, and I am good at helping out the newer kids."

WRESTLING

## SCOREBOARD

By STAFF

	RC	OPPONENT
<b>Varsity Boys Basketball</b>		
Clay Center (12/03)	45	35
Chapman (12/07)	49	45
El Dorado (12/10)	46	53
<b>Junior Varsity Boys Basketball</b>		
Clay Center (12/03)	58	31
<b>Freshman Boys Basketball</b>		
Clay Center (12/03)	44	47
<b>Varsity Girls Basketball</b>		
Clay Center (12/03)	44	39
Chapman (12/07)	62	33
El Dorado (12/10)	58	30
Abilene (12/11)	41	45
<b>Junior Varsity Girls Basketball</b>		
Clay Center (12/03)	W	
<b>Wrestling</b>		
Mission Valley (12/04)	4th	
Council Grove (12/07)	1st	
Clay Center (12/11)	11th	