

The Hoop Print

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

MAY 2011 - VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 6

NEWS BRIEFS

BY ZAC SAUERESSIG

Graduation ceremony set for May 21

On Saturday, May 21, 46 seniors will walk out the large, wooden doors of Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School, as they graduate. The ceremony will start at 3 p.m. that day.

Although most seniors are excited about graduation, senior Luke Goodenow is excited for something else, saying, "I'm happy that I don't have to play in the graduation band this year."

Forensics students attend state

Forensics students, who qualified for state throughout the season and who were selected to attend the final tournament, participated in the state competition on May 7 in Wichita, Kan.

According to coach Keith Miller, 30 Rock Creek students participated in state, although they had more who qualified. Results for state were not available at press time.

Prior to the competition, Miller said, "I think we will do well, but we won't know until we try."

Journalists compete at state

On May 7, eight students, who qualified in 10 events, went to Lawrence, Kan., to compete in Kansas Scholastic Press Association state journalism contests.

At state, junior Katie Hodges placed third in Yearbook Copy Writing, junior Cody Liming placed third in Yearbook Sports Writing, junior Michael Parker received Honorable Mention in Yearbook Sports Writing and freshman Amanda Gross received Honorable Mention in Editorial Cartooning. As a team, they tied for fifth in Class 3A overall. Also competing were seniors Anthony Dultmeier and Brandon Hyde, junior Thomas McAnerney and freshman Jacob Milham.

Hodges said, "I feel happy to be recognized for my hard work and effort."

FFA closes out year with activities

On April 25, the FFA chapter was named Superior Chapter of the North East District. Also, at this meeting, junior Shane Schaake was announced district vice president for the upcoming year.

On April 23, the Envirothon team competed, winning the competition and qualifying for state on May 11. Teams of students also competed in the state CDE contests, which included horse, livestock, poultry, dairy cattle and food science.

Sponsor David Holliday said, "We have had a great group this year, with great officers, and we have done a respectable job."

Musicians participate in contests

On April 13, 78 students participated in state large group for band or choir.

The choir earned a II rating, while the band received a I rating. This was the fifth year in a row the band got a I.

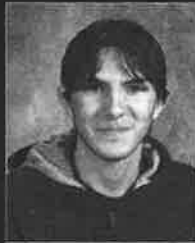
Bradley said, "They did great, absolutely wonderful . . . They really pulled through."

On April 30, the state solo and ensemble competitions were held, too. Receiving I ratings were the Woodwind Quartet, the Saxophone Quartet, the Brass Sextet, senior Colten Smith on alto saxophone and sophomore Rachel Frank on flute. Getting II ratings were the low brass ensemble, the clarinet trio, senior Mandi Blenn on trombone and senior Brenda Stevenson on clarinet.

Dangerous intersection claims student's life

BY MASON SWENSON

A little after 7:30 a.m. on Friday, March 18, juniors Tyler Buss and Tyler Roark were leaving St. George, on their way to Rock Creek, to fulfill their senior exit presentation duties. At the median on Highway-24,



TYLER ROARK

Buss, who was driving his car, stopped to wait until he could cross the highway onto Flush Road. According to special education teacher Tori Sieben, who was waiting at the intersection behind Buss's vehicle, Buss appeared to start across the highway, then hit the brakes, then began driving again. As he crossed, a vehicle driven by 26-year-old Emilie Fink of Wamego, slammed into Buss's car, hitting it on the passenger side where Roark was.

"It happened so fast," Sieben, who witnessed the collision, said.

Buss was taken to Mercy Regional Medical Center in Manhattan, but was later air-lifted to Topeka, where he was diagnosed with a mild concussion. Roark, however, was pronounced dead at the scene due to sustained injuries.

At Rock Creek, the news spread among the faculty and students who were present for exit presentations.

Counselor Kevin Sullivan, who talked to many of Roark's classmates to help console them, said of Roark, "He was thoughtful and very introspective and reflective."

Despite his death, Roark will be remembered by the school community.

"You didn't see it much, but when he smiled, it was big and lit up the entire room," Sieben said. "He was never mean to anyone. I don't think he had a mean bone in his body. He was funny, he was a good writer, he was devoted to his religion, he was very mature for his age, he loved shooting fireworks and he was a deep thinker."

Roark is survived by his mother and father, Hans and Donna Tessman; he also had two sisters, Kristyn Roark who lives in San Diego and Kyla Tessman who lives with family, along with their brother, Kaleb Tessman.

Following the accident, many community members, including Pottawatomie County commissioners, contacted the Kansas Department of Transportation to alter the intersection.

On a Facebook page dedicated to changing the intersection, KDOT Public Affairs Manager Kimberly Qualls said, "KDOT is in the process of completing a traffic study. These studies normally take two to three months, but KDOT has made it a priority."

A public meeting with KDOT officials is planned for Monday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. at St. George Elementary School.



ALL TOGETHER, junior Tyler Roark (far right) sits for a family photo with his younger sister Kyla Tessman, his younger brother Kaleb Tessman and his older sister Kristyn Roark. PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA TESSMAN



IN EARLIER DAYS, Tyler Roark's older sister, Kristyn Roark, hugs him. Tyler Roark's friends have said that he got his sense of humor from his older sister. PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA TESSMAN

Students prepare to take Advanced Placement exams

BY BEN PETERSON

Chewed nails, nervous sweats and fast-beating hearts. These three traits are pretty common for students who get nervous when taking tests. These traits could only be elevated on tests such as the Advanced Placement exams taken in May.

Everyone has heard of the difficult classes, followed by the even harder tests. Rock Creek offers three A.P. classes: A.P. Biology, A.P. Literature and A.P. Calculus. These three classes are supposed to be college-level courses, set in a high school environment. For a college to accept the credit in one of these courses, a student must achieve a certain score on the exam.

The A.P. Biology exam is one of the most difficult. On May 11, students will find out why. Rock Creek has scored lower overall on the biology exam than any of the other tests.

A.P. Biology teacher Jeri Brummett said, "The exam is difficult because it covers such a broad spectrum of biology."

This test is not only just a multitude of multiple choice questions; it also includes four essays. The scores on the biology are generally a two, which is not entirely enough for a college credit necessity of a three.

Junior Logan Miner, who took the class last year, said, "The

biology exam was really rough for me, but that might have because I didn't pay that much attention in class."

This will be the last year that Rock Creek students take the A.P. Literature test. Rock Creek is changing its curriculum from the literature class to A.P. Composition and A.P. Language.

Teacher Sara Miller said, "I enjoy teaching literature, but I also enjoy teaching A.P. classes overall."

The curriculum change is because colleges are beginning to no longer accept threes on the exam for credit. Rock Creek has performed decently in past years with the literature test. Average scores on the exam are a three, yet the scores necessary for college credit vary vastly between all colleges.

Before the exam, senior Colten Smith said, "The way I feel about the literature test is the same feeling I get when I eat something bad."

Science, English and finally math. Rock Creek has done exceptionally well on the A.P. Calculus exam. Scores on this exam exceed averages from the other two. The average scores students receive are a high three, which is good, considering the score necessary for college credit is a three.

Teacher Donna Koelzer said, "I feel pretty good about the test and the scores."

Artists fare well at Mid-East League art competition in April

BY KATIE HODGES

42 medals were handed out to the Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School art students at this year's league art contest on April 13. The contest was held at the Columbian Theatre's Swogger Art Gallery in Wamego.

All 20 of Pamela Delay's art students who were entered in the contests placed this year. Out of the 42 medals that were handed out to Rock Creek artists, 16 were gold, 16 were silver and 25 were bronze. There were also 24 Honorable Mentions awarded to students.

Delay said, "I wasn't surprised by the results. We work hard, and I really think

my students rose above expectations."

Students involved included seniors Marie Chasser, DJ Denzien, Anthony Dultmeier, John Frank, Linda Overkamp, Angie Patrick and Brenda Stevenson. Juniors included Caitline Christenson, Haley Lenauer and Karl Thompson. Sophomores involved were Ben Berard, Clayton Frakes, Ashtin Lee, Paige Nickel, Shannon Oakley and Hanna Ruder. Freshmen involved were Larissa Eshelman, Heather Goodenow, Molly Pyle and John Sullivan.

Thompson said, "When I heard that I had placed, I kept thinking, 'Wow.' I didn't know I did so well."

Some students placed in more than one

event. Dultmeier won five gold medals and 14 awards. Patrick won three gold medals and 10 awards; one of her gold medals was for her watercolor painting, titled "Little Girl Dreams."

"It was great, I love art, and winning was just a bonus," Patrick said.

After the contest, the students' medaling artwork was displayed for the community at the Columbian's art gallery. People could view the art students' projects during Wamego's Tulip Festival. Honorable mentions' artwork was displayed in the Rock Creek library.

"I was really proud of myself and my work," Chasser said. "And now other people can see my hard work, too."

OPINIONS

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IN REVIEW

By AMANDA GROSS RESTAURANT

When you and your friends or family are craving something delicious and unique, are wanting great service and are needing to spend some quality time at a sit-down meal, you should go to Olive Garden, which is in the new Manhattan development by Hyvee.

From when you first walk into the doors, you smell mouth-watering entrees and outstanding desserts. You will get your appetizing and famous breadsticks, then place your order.

When I was ready to order on my trip to the restaurant, I selected the Five Cheese Ziti al Forno. It has nice, warm noodles with melting cheese all over it. Every time I took a bite, it was an explosion of taste! You taste so many different things, it is almost too much to handle. And then when you get a bite that is a little too hot, you take a drink of nice, cold Pepsi to cool down your mouth. They give you such nice napkins, that you feel bad when you get them all dirty. But when the meal is done and your belly is full, you will be glad you came to this great restaurant.

By AMANDA GROSS STORE

"Save big money at Menards!" is the catchy jingle that everyone is singing, right?

Located in Manhattan at 515 McCall Road, the hardware store, Menard's, recently opened. When you first walk into the store, you are overwhelmed by its large size and many sections. They have everything from doors and flooring, to dog food and groceries.

I went to this grand store to get a new door for my garage, and the service was awesome. Many employees asked if I needed any help, and they were willing to show me were all to doors were that fit the size that I needed. When they couldn't find one that I liked, an employee helped me look up some more items on the computer. The service was outstanding!

Menard's also has low prices, in my opinion. The price of dog food is \$5 lower than their competitor across the street, Orshen's. The store was so much fun to explore; they have gardening stuff, fences, home decor, patio furniture... and on and on. I had a lot of fun at this grand hardware store.

By KAELEEN LAIRD MOVIE

"Rio" is an action-filled, animated comedy/musical about a little blue bird named Blu.

Blu started out as a baby bird learning how to fly, but his lesson was rudely interrupted by poachers, who kidnap all the birds that live in the rainforest of Rio with him. While in a truck heading to a pet store, the truck hit a bump, and Blu's cage fell out. The cage landed in a small town in Minnesota, where a little girl found him. The little girl, Linda, loved him and raised him.

Now, it is 15 years later, and Linda works at her book store with her trusty companion, Blu, when a man, Julio, comes in and asks for Blu to go back to Rio with him to save Blu's kind. If Blu doesn't, then his kind will go extinct. At first, Linda says "no," but finally agrees to let him go, only if she can go with him.

When they get to Rio, Blu meets the last female of his kind; her name was Jewels. Jewels is my favorite character because how she never gives up. Blu and Jewels don't start off on the right foot and face trouble with poachers again in the movie, but to find out what happens to them, you'll have to go watch the movie!

By KAELEEN LAIRD SHOW

"Harry's Law" is a funny T.V. show about a woman who gets fired from her job as a patent lawyer and creates her own firm. But this isn't an ordinary firm: it's part law firm, part shoe store.

Harriet Korn is played by Kathy Bates. At the beginning, "Harry" has a few disputes with Jenna, who is played by Brittney Snow, because Jenna is more concerned with the shoes. Other characters are Adam Branch, who is a lawyer who takes leave from his corporate firm to help Harriet out, and Malcolm Davies, who is a young man trying to figure out where his life is going.

Together, I think this cast does a great job of entertaining. My favorite episode so far was about a young man who accused of a crime he didn't do. Harriet agreed to help him for free and assigned Malcolm to his case. The young man had an older sister that Malcom fell in love with after going on a few dates with her. At the end of the episode, Malcolm discovered that the sister was in on the crime that his brother committed.

To see more of this show, look for it on NBC at 10 p.m.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Recent fatalities show a need for intersection to be revised

On March 18, junior Tyler Roark died after being in a two-car accident at the intersection of Highway-24 and Flush Road. His life was cut unduly short due to a car accident, but his death has opened our eyes to the dangers of this intersection.

Flush Road is the main road that many high school students and teachers use to travel to Rock Creek, that many adults who live in Westmoreland use to get to their jobs in Manhattan

and that many St. George residents have to use to leave the town. Highway-24 is the main road that connects the major towns in the area, Wamego and Manhattan. Both of these roads, therefore, can have heavy traffic on them. These roads intersect each other, and at this intersection, there have been multiple accidents, sometimes ending in lost lives.

The intersection has a history of being accident prone. For 10 years, that location had not seen a fatal accident, until Roark's death. A month afterwards, a Manhattan woman was also killed at the intersection, however, she was southbound, unlike Roark, who was northbound.

Because of these accidents and the community's responses, the Kansas Department of Transportation has set up additional warnings to slow the traffic. They have recently redone bubble strips on the southbound side of Flush Road, and

they have increased the size of the stop sign there. Before these accidents, they had added flags to the stop signs to warn drivers to stop and flashing caution lights to warn drivers westbound on Highway 24 to slow down.

However, we feel that KDOT needs to take more action to improve this deadly intersection, as these existing warnings are just not sufficient and are often

Until KDOT fixes this intersection, we feel that if people are just more cautious and have more patience there, we could avoid another tragic death.

ignored. One idea that has been discussed is adding stop lights on Highway-24 so that the Flush Road traffic can move safely. We feel, though, that adding a stop light would not solve the problem and

would possibly create more issues. If a stop light was added, it hinder the flow of traffic, possibly cause rear-end collisions from quick stops on the highway and cause more frustration. Two other options suggested, grading down the hill on Highway-24 or adding an overpass for Flush Road, would be better ideas. Grading down the road would give drivers a longer distance to see oncoming traffic, while an overpass would create a safe way to travel continuously over Highway-24.

It will take some time for the construction to begin, however, so people need to be safer. Until KDOT fixes this intersection, we feel that if people are just more cautious and have more patience, we could avoid another tragic death.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By ANTHONY DULTMEIER & AMANDA GROSS



YOUR PRINT

By THOMAS McANERNEY

"I plan on getting a job and cutting my hair before summer begins."



NELSON KAWANO
SENIOR

"I plan to work and go on vacation in Chicago to visit family that lives there."



SAM REVES
JUNIOR

"I am going to do a ton of dancing, lifeguard at the Manhattan pool and volunteer at the zoo."



PAIGE NICKELL
SOPHOMORE

"I will work at a dirt track in Mayetta, Kansas, called Thunder Hill Speedway."



AUSTIN UMSCHIED
FRESHMAN

"I am going to add a four-foot addition to my house. I also plan to teach Lincoln



CHRIS SCHMITZ
FACULTY/STAFF

[my son] how to finish and renovate an old camper."

THE HOOF PRINT STAFF

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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 addresses below.

THE HOOF PRINT

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WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THIS SUMMER?

FEATURES

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CLASS OF 2011

With graduation ceremonies upcoming on May 21 at 3 p.m. in the gymnasium, seniors share their next moves

THE ENLISTED

Her great-grandfather, her grandfather and her father were all in it. Now, senior Brenda Stevenson will continue her family's fourth-generation tradition of being enlisted in the military, specifically joining the Army Reserves during her second semester of college.



Q: "Why do you want to enlist?"

A: "The why runs in my blood. My family has military history. Someone in each generation for awhile back has been in the military. I know it goes as far as my great-grandfather, maybe further, though. It will just bring my family a sense of pride and give me a sense of purpose."

Q: "Are you into politics at all?"

A: "No, not really. As a lesbian, I am so relieved that the United States is becoming more equal to all citizens, though! When I am sworn in, I won't have to hide who I am. I can be myself and still carry the pride of my family's history and tradition."

Q: "Has your sexuality been an issue in your life at all?"

A: "It's been difficult. Many people I've met are close-minded. I'm excited to move to Topeka, where it won't create such a social divide."

Q: "You're starting college once you move to Topeka, right?"

A: "Yes, I'm going to Washburn for a psychology major, with a minor in music performance. I am also studying Spanish, sign language and German!"

Q: "You have been recognized for band and must be insanely proud of yourself. How does it feel to do so well?"

A: "I've been ecstatic each time. I'm so proud of my musical ability and the ability to perform in front of people. It really helped me; I'm not so shy now that I've had these experiences. Actually, I'd like to thank Mr. [Scott] Bradley. He never gave up hope for me and continued to push me."

By ANTHONY DULTMEIER

THE RANCHERS

Farming involves more than just having cows and fields. Seniors Chase and TJ Minihan, who plan on staying involved in their families' farms after graduation, cleared that up right away by showing what has to happen to become a farmer.



Q: "What are your plans after you graduate?"

A: "I'm going to K-State for animal science." (Chase Minihan)
A: "Cloud County Community College for animal science." (TJ Minihan)

Q: "What area of animal science are you getting into, and what classes will you have to take for this?"

A: "I'm going for the business option of it. . . Accounting classes, science labs and some English - the basics of it." (Chase Minihan)
A: "The business part. It's more learning how to manage the farm. . . General education, then I'll get into my agricultural economics classes, and finally, reproduction and other business classes." (TJ Minihan)

Q: "Who inspired you to choose this field?"

A: "My dad. I've learned everything I know from him. He taught me how to work hard and be responsible. He taught me how to work hard and get stuff done the right way." (Chase Minihan)



A: "Dad. He was always taking me out to the field when I was younger, teaching me how to drive trucks and trailers and making me work when I didn't want to. On my dad's side, we all have a farming background, and even on my mom's side a little. Basically, I'm just trying to keep the Minihan tradition of farming."

By BRANDON HYDE

SENIORS' TENTATIVE PLANS

- Shelby Adams - Washburn University (elementary education)
- Ashley Altenhofen - Washburn University (nursing)
- Skyler Beam - Kansas State University (undecided)
- Mandi Blenn - Oklahoma State University (biomedical engineering)
- Travis Briggs - Kansas State University (mechanical engineering)
- Alex Brunko - Manhattan Area Technical College (information network technology)
- Joey Calmes - Manhattan Area Technical College (information network technology)
- Marie Chasser - Bellus Academy (massage therapy)
- Trevor Clark - United States Marines
- Luke Commerford - Kansas State University (mechanical engineering)
- Nick Cooper - Cloud Co. Community College (wind energy technology)
- Gabi Correa - Manhattan Area Technical College (auto technology)
- Levi DeDonder - Highland Community College (auto collision technology)
- DJ Denzien - William Jewell College (undecided)
- Anthony Dultmeier - Washburn Institute of Technology (nursing)
- Chelsea Ebert - Kansas State University (elementary education)
- Amy Eshelman - Washburn University (radiologic technology)
- Kim Fairchild - Manhattan Area Technical College (nursing)
- John Frank - Kansas State University (engineering)
- John Derek Garetson - Washburn University (business)
- Jackie Gonzalez - Kansas State University (animal science)
- Katie Good - Kansas State University (modern languages)
- Luke Goodenow - Kansas Wesleyan University (athletic training)
- Katie Harrison - Entering workforce
- Brandon Hyde - Undecided (music studies)
- Nelson Kawano - Highland Community College (computer technology)
- Rachel Lewman - University of Kansas (pharmacy)
- Tevin Matthews - Entering workforce
- Chase Minihan - Kansas State University (animal science)
- TJ Minihan - Cloud Co. Community College (agriculture)
- Skyler Myers - Entering workforce
- Linda Overkamp - Manhattan Area Technical College (nursing)
- Angie Patrick - Kansas State University (art)
- Brady Quinn - Kansas State University (construction science)
- Justin Redding - Manhattan Area Technical College (auto technology)
- Alyssa Reeves - Manhattan Area Technical College (nursing)
- Chelsea Renner - Hutchinson Community College (elementary education)
- Sheridan Reves - Kansas State University (undecided)
- Josh Rieck - Highland Community College (criminal justice)
- Colten Smith - Kansas State University (mechanical engineering)
- Brenda Stevenson - Washburn University (psychology)
- Dylan Treadwell - United States Army
- Macy Umscheid - Manhattan Area Technical College (dental hygiene)
- Morgan Umscheid - Cloud Co. Community College (elementary education)
- Josh Unruh - Entering workforce
- Michael Wilson - United States Marines

LIST OF TENTATIVE PLANS AS OF MAY 2, 2011, PROVIDED BY COUNSELOR KEVIN SULLIVAN; PHOTOS OF SENIORS COURTESY OF THEIR SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

THE "BEST FRIENDS"

Seniors Kim Fairchild and Alyssa Reeves are known for being "besties," seen in the halls with the same hairstyles and clothes, but the two will continue their friendship together as they head to college.



Q: "I've got to ask, do you two plan your outfits each day to match?"

A: "No, not really. We don't call or text each other or anything; we just show up. It's sort of weird." (Fairchild)
A: "We are almost the same person, so it makes sense." (Reeves)

Q: "You two are the school's infamous 'best friends;' will you be living together when you move out?"

A: "Yes we are living in the UCs next year!" (Both, at once)
A: "We're excited; we got all of our plates and decorations! It's all zebra print, it's like a Zebra threw up in there!" (Fairchild)

Q: "Are you going to the same college?"

A: "Yeah, MATC for nursing!" (Both, together)

Q: "What made you two want to be nurses?"

A: "My mom. She was going to school for nursing, but she stopped at a CNA [Certified Nurse's Aide]. I want to do something with people, too, because I like helping." (Reeves)
A: "I really like to help people and take care of them." (Fairchild)

Q: "Aren't you interested in fashion?"

A: "Not for a job. But we totally don't want to wear scrubs. At least we get to keep our hair poof!" (Fairchild)

Q: "So, the bumped hair will remain?"

A: "Yeah, definitely." (Reeves)



By ANTHONY DULTMEIER

THE ROCKET SCIENTIST

His senior exit project involved building high-powered rockets, and his ultimate goal is to work for NASA. Senior Colten Smith, who plans on majoring in mechanical engineering at Kansas State University next year, has high expectations for his future.



Q: "What field of mechanical engineering are you going into?"

A: "I think I might do aeronautical or nuclear."

Q: "What made you choose those fields?"

A: "I'm good at building things, and my older brother is a mechanical engineer."

Q: "Why would you want to get into nuclear energy?"

A: "Mainly, because it is cool, and nuclear energy seems pretty expensive; the people get paid a lot."

Q: "What classes will you have to take to do this?"

A: "A lot of math classes, like calculus classes, physics classes and thermodynamics."

Q: "Doesn't it all seem a little overwhelming?"

A: "Yeah, we'll see how it goes. Hopefully, I have a good study habit."

Q: "Are you going to live in Kansas when you finish what you're going to school for?"

A: "I don't know. Probably wherever I get a job is where I'm going to go. I want to work for NASA."

Q: "Out of all the things, why would you want to work for NASA?"

A: "They've gone to space, man. The rockets fly high and make loud noises. What more could you ask for?"

By BRANDON HYDE

SPORTS

MAY 2011 - PAGE 4

Herrs leads girls team; boys perform solidly

By JACOB MILHAM

Rock Creek's track teams have had a very good season so far, especially with a first-place finish by junior Lizz Herrs in the javelin at the Kansas Relays, hosted by the University of Kansas on April 22.

According to head coach Mike Zabel, what Herrs did was "unprecedented" in USD 323 history, as a Mustang athlete has never won at the Kansas Relays. Herrs also set the new school record, with a throw of 142 feet, 11 inches.

"The coaches were really proud of me," Herrs said. "I thought it was great that I won, but at that time, I didn't know I was the only person [in school history] to do that."

At the Rock Creek meet on April 25, Herrs continued her domination, not only winning the javelin, but also winning the shot put and discus throw. Other varsity girls to place were senior Chelsea Renner, who won the long jump and triple jump, and senior Chelsea Ebert, who placed third in the 1600-meter run. As a team, the girls placed third, as did the boys team.

For the boys individually, juniors Aaron Kuecker and KJ Dobbins took first and third, respectively, in high jump. Senior DJ Denzien and Kuecker placed first and second in the long jump. Denzien also won the triple jump. Senior Nick Cooper won the boys discus throw. Senior Nelson Kawano placed second in both the 110-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles. Junior Kyron Case placed second in the 100-meter dash.

Following the Nemaha Valley meet on May 3 and the league meet on May 12, for which results were not available at press time, the track and field teams will compete at regionals on May 20.

Senior athletes sign with colleges

By JUSTIN WARD

When you are a senior, high school seems to go by so fast. One of the things that makes it go by really fast is sports. Two seniors, though, will continue to play their favorite sports in college; seniors John Derek Garetson and Josh Rieck recently signed letters of intent to do so.

Garetson signed with Washburn University to play baseball in late April. According to Garetson, he will likely play outfielder and first baseman. To earn this scholarship, Garetson said he tried to improve his skills during high school.

"I worked hard, so I could become spectacular at baseball," Garetson said.

Garetson said he thinks high school ball is a lot easier than college, but that he cannot wait to start playing at Washburn, where play will be more competitive.

Also in late April, Rieck signed to play football at Highland Community College. Rieck said that the coaches want him to play fullback, and if he doesn't fit there, he will be moved to offensive line. To prepare for this, the coaches sent him a work-out plan, which he has started now.

"I am currently on week five," Rieck said. "It's a really hard work-out, but it's definitely worth it."

Rieck said he believes that HCC chose him because of his hard work and his love of the game, and he thinks he will do well at the college level, but admits he will also miss high school.

"I'll never have the same feeling of suiting up with all my friends and going out and playing under the lights on Friday night in America," Rieck said.

Softball starts slowly, gains momentum

By CODY LIMING

The lady Mustang softball team started off this season going 1-5, but have turned around their season recently.

Coach Jeri Brummett said of the early losses, they "played tough opponents and hadn't established our identity yet."

Those opponents included the defending state runner-ups, the Osage City Indians, who they split with on March 29 (0-11, 11-8).

From there, the girls won seven out of their last eight games, including wins over Southeast of Saline (6-0, 3-0) and a split with Clay Center (4-5, 4-3).

Leading the pitching staff with 40 strike-outs and a record of 8-4 is junior Katie Hodges, who said that the team has "really come together."

Brummett said, "One of our goals is to win [the] Mideast League [championship]."

The team has every reason to believe the championship could come to "The Rock" with wins over St. Marys on April 18 (5-2, 7-6) and Riley County on April 26 (14-4, 8-0), which have left them 4-0 in league and 8-6 overall at press time.

After playing Wabaunsee on May 3, Silver Lake on May 6 and Rossville on May 10, the lady Mustangs will



WINDING UP, junior Katie Hodges pitches in a game against league opponent St. Marys on April 18. The Mustangs defeated the Bears in both games, 5-2 and 7-6. PHOTO BY MASON SWENSON

participate in the regional tournament, which will be May 16-17 at Marysville. Teams included will be Belleville-Republic County/Scandia-Pike Valley, Beloit/Beloit-St. Johns, Bennington/Tescott, Marysville, Minneapolis, Riley County and Rock Creek. The winner will move on to state May 27-28 at Twin Oaks Sports Complex in Manhattan.

Brummett said, "It's not how you start, but it's how you finish."

Baseball team ranked highly in class 3A

By MICHAEL PARKER

Mustang baseball has stormed out of the gate, winning 14 of their first 16 games. In 3A rankings on May 2, they had climbed to a sixth-place ranking.

Mashing the ball with a .513 average is



JUNIOR JOSH SRNA checks the play before a pitch during the St. Marys game on April 18. Rock Creek split with St. Marys, 10-0 and 6-13. PHOTO BY MASON SWENSON

junior Cody Liming. Leading the team in steals with 16 is junior Josh Srna.

Sweeps of Osage City on March 29, Wamego on April 8, Chapman on April 12, St. Marys on April 18, Riley County on April 26, Clay Center on April 29 and Wabaunsee on May 3 have marked the schedule. The Mustangs have yet to lose more than one game in a row all year.

Using four homers, 13 runs batted in and two victories as a pitcher in games against Wamego and Chapman, senior John Derek Garetson was named the KMAN student athlete of the week for his performance.

"Can't describe it; it is awesome [to be named KMAN player of the week]," Garetson said.

Keeping this fine season going, the Mustangs will travel to Riley County for regional play on May 16, hoping to gain a spot in the state tournament. The last time Mustang baseball qualified for the state tournament was back in 2000.

"The season has been going great," junior outfielder Adam Schmitz said. "We are really starting to gel as a team."

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

By MEAGAN SMITH

SENIOR JOHN DEREK GARETSON

For baseball's Athlete of the Month, head coach Chad Herren selected senior John Derek Garetson because "he is a senior leader, and he signed with Washburn." At press time, Garetson had 25 RBI's, five home runs, 13 runs, five doubles and three triples.

Q: What do you think you did to earn Athlete of the Month?

A: "I played extremely well and played really hard."

Q: How long have you been playing baseball?

A: "I have been playing my entire life."

Q: Do you play for other teams besides Rock Creek?

A: "I played for Rock Creek's summer baseball team, and I played Topeka baseball for fall baseball."

Q: Will you continue playing after this year?

A: "Yes, I signed with Washburn and will play for them."

Q: Why do you enjoy playing?

A: "Because it's awesome!"

JUNIOR KATIE HODGES

The Athlete of the Month for softball is junior pitcher Katie Hodges, who, according to head coach Jeri Brummett, "keeps us in the game." Hodges, at press time, had pitched for eight winning games and had struck out 40 batters.

Q: Do you think you deserve the Athlete of the Month for softball?

A: "I think the whole team deserves Athlete of the Month because we have really come together as a team this season."

Q: How long have you been playing softball?

A: "Since I was four or five."

Q: Why do you enjoy softball?

A: "Because it is a good hobby, it is fun to compete and you meet a lot of friends."

SCOREBOARD By STAFF

	RC	OPPONENT
VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL		
Osage City (03/29)	10	2
	19	2
Marysville (04/01)	0	10
	9	1
Wamego (04/08)	8	6
	15	7
Chapman (04/12)	3	2
	8	5
St. Marys (04/18)	10	0
	6	13
Riley Co. (04/26)	8	4
	8	1
Clay Center (04/29)	5	0
	6	5
Wabaunsee (05/03)	11	0
	14	0
JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL		
Silver Lake (04/05)	5	16
	5	4
Herington (04/07)	28	8
Wamego (04/11)	11	8
	23	15
St. Marys (04/19)	15	0
	15	0
VARSITY SOFTBALL		
Osage City (03/29)	0	10
	11	8
Wamego (03/31)	2	12
	2	12
Abilene (04/05)	2	3
	1	11
SE of Saline (04/08)	6	0
	3	0
Clay Center (04/12)	4	5
	4	3
St. Marys (04/18)	5	2
	7	6
Riley Co. (04/26)	14	4
	8	0
Wabaunsee (05/03)	10	3
	19	9
JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL		
Clay Center (04/11)	10	8
	19	4
Jefferson West (04/16)	5	11
	9	19
St. Marys (04/19)	9	7
	3	23
Council Grove (04/21)	14	13
	17	11
Abilene (04/28)	5	9
	7	22
Chapman (04/29)	15	0
	6	17
TRACK		
Silver Lake (03/31)	n/a	n/a
Wamego JV (04/05)	n/a	n/a
Wabaunsee (04/08)	3rd	7th
Wamego (04/12)	2nd	4th
Abilene JV (04/12)	3rd	4th
Jefferson West (04/19)	5th	7th
Rock Creek (04/25)	3rd	3rd
Rock Creek JV (04/25)	2nd	3rd
Manhattan JV (04/28)	5th	10th
St. Marys (04/29)	n/a	n/a
Nemaha Valley (05/03)	7th	9th
Nemaha Valley JV (05/03)	1st	8th

JUNIOR LIZZ HERRS

For both girls and boys track, head coach Mike Zabel selected junior Lizz Herrs as his Athlete of the Month. Zabel especially noted that her performance at the Kansas Relays on April 22, where she won the javelin contest with a throw of 142 feet, 11 inches, earned her the honor. "It was like winning a 6A championship," Zabel said.

Q: How long have you participated in track?

A: "I have been in track since I was in seventh grade."

Q: Why did you decide to join track?

A: "Because [coach Jeremy] Lehning thought I would be good at it."

Q: What is your favorite part of track and field?

A: "Throwing the javelin."

Q: Do you do track during the summer, too?

A: "Yes, I did one summer with the Manhattan track team once because my uncle wanted me to."

BASEBALL

SOFTBALL

TRACK