

# THE HOOF PRINT

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

JANUARY 2009 - VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 4

## NEWS BRIEFS

By MEGAN NIDER

### Athlete honored by KMAN

Junior Josh Camacho was awarded the McDonald's KMAN student athlete of the week after the Dickinson County Classic at Abilene on Dec. 12-13.

Camacho scored a record high of 36 points and had nine rebounds in the game against El Dorado. Rock Creek won the game with a final score of 66-55 and finished third in the tournament. Camacho was also named to the all-tournament team for his performance.

### Musicians accepted to honor band

Live auditions for state music were held on Jan. 10.

Junior Jana Havens, who played the flute, and sophomore Brenda Stevenson, who played the clarinet, were accepted to the state honor band out of 23,000 high school band students. The Kansas State University honor band was held Jan. 23-25.

### Scholars Bowl hosts tournament

Rock Creek hosted an invitational Scholars Bowl tournament on Jan. 13. Members also are preparing for the regional Scholars Bowl tournament, which will take place on Feb. 5.

### Student awarded for academics

Senior Megan Jilka was named as Rock Creek's nominee for the Kansas State University Outstanding Senior in Mathematics and Science.

This program recognizes seniors' accomplishments in mathematics and science. The faculty members in those subjects select the recipient by the student's grades in mathematics and science courses, class rank, art scores and other related activities and honors.

### Debaters attend state tournament

The following students attended the 3A State debate tournament on Jan. 23-24 at Washburn Rural High School: Senior Morgan Eichman; juniors Sam Cott, Justin Fronce and Torrey Peterson; sophomores Mandi Blenn, Alyssa Donoho and Luke Goodenow and freshman Ben Peterson.

Results from the tournament were not available at press time due to deadlines.

### Business club hosts game night

The Rock Creek chapter of the Business Professionals of America (BPA) sponsored a game night at Rock Creek on Jan. 15.

From 6-9 p.m., there were board games, food and door prizes to win. Admission to get in was \$3 dollars per person.



IN THE CAFETERIA, sophomores Skylar Myers, Alex Hen-nigh and Tony Wilborn play Yahtzee during the Business Professionals of America game night, which was held on Jan. 15. PHOTO BY ANTHONY REID

## Students prepare for upcoming dances

By COURTNEY STILLWAGON & EMILY ZOELLER

Music, dresses, friends, food and dancing the night away. These are all things to come in the month of February.

On Feb. 6, the Rock Creek Mustangs will be taking on the Riley County Falcons for Winter Homecoming. The week of Homecoming will be filled with numerous fun-filled events, one being the pep rally which is taking place at the end of the day on Friday.

During the pep rally, students will enjoy seeing a dance by the cheerleaders, game-like competitions from the Homecoming candidates and a shopping cart parade from the Rock Creek clubs.

Later that night, the Homecoming action continues when the varsity girls and boys compete with the Falcons on the court. The varsity girls will tip off at approximately 6 p.m., followed by the boys around 7 p.m.

During the halftime of the varsity boys game, the crowning of the Homecoming king and queen will take place. During this moment, the 2008 king Derek Fike and queen Taylor Blackwood will be placing the crown and tiara on the 2009 winners. After the varsity boys action comes to a close, students can make their way into the cafeteria, where this year's dance will be held.

The dance will start at the conclusion of the boys game. This year's dance will be a semiformal, which is supported by both boys and girls.

### Area schools go into lockdown, causing Rock Creek to review safety

By JESSICA JACK & SARA LIMING

In the early week of December 2008, the Clay Center and Riley County school districts went into school-wide lockdowns because of a shooting in Clay County. Although this event did not directly affect Rock Creek, the school has taken safety measures to ensure that the least amount of people could be hurt in a lockdown situation.

If a report comes in stating that a student or community member is possibly hostile, safety measures are taken quickly and with the least amount of anxiety shown. Rock Creek has a crisis plan that outlines what measures are to be taken in an event of emergency. A group of faculty members have a meeting every year to talk about the updates. This plan is updated yearly, and the basis of this plan is that all students are to be locked into the classrooms, and no one is allowed in or out of the school. Any kind of event, whether it is in the area or in the school, could cause the school to go into lockdown.

"If the county sheriff calls the school, saying there has been a hostile person located in the area,



FOR WINTER HOMECOMING, senior queen and king candidates Emily Zoeller, Matt Unruh, Kallie Siderewicz, Kegan Rawhouser, Savannah Miller and Nate Plummer join together following the announcement of their candidacy, which was made on Jan. 22. PHOTO BY JESSICA AUGUSTINE

Junior Ashley Srna said, "I like the idea; it is fun to dress up."

Sophomore Dylan Treadwell agreed with Srna, saying, "I like the idea, and we get to dress in nicer clothes."

The price for entering is \$4 for dresses and khakis and \$5 for nice jeans.

Senior Brittany Chasser is one of many that are excited for this year's semiformal dance, saying "I'm excited to go because I've never been to a semiformal dance."

The musical entertainment for the dance will be Complete Music, which provides a few "icebreaker" dances to get the party started. For those who don't know what an "icebreaker" dance is, it is a dance that encourages group participation. As the night rolls on, the dancing will come to a close at midnight.

Following Homecoming, on Feb. 26, Renaissance Club will be having a dance of its own follow-

ing the home basketball game against the Rossville Bulldogs. Gates will open at the conclusion of the boys varsity game. In order to dance and have some fun, the cost to enter is \$3 for an individual and \$5 for couples. Food and drinks will also be provided by Renaissance. Like Homecoming, this dance will also come to a close at midnight, when students are to exit the school grounds.

Senior Luis Gonzalez said, "We haven't had a dance in awhile, so I'm excited for this one."

## Renaissance Club makes students aware of heros

By JESSICA JACK & SARA LIMING



EXPLAINING HIS COSTUME, sophomore Josh Unruh talks to Spiderman, played by teacher Jeremy Lehning, during the Renaissance Club "Hero" assembly on Jan. 9. PHOTO BY SARA LIMING

A hero lies in you. On Jan. 9, Renaissance Club put on the Hero rally for the high school during first advisor and the junior high during second advisor.

There were common heroes in the rally. Spiderman was played by Title I teacher Jeremy Lehning, Mole Girl by chemistry teacher Kellie Milner, Groupie Girl by English teacher Cherrie Lindsey, Underdog by principal Dennis Post and Captain Caveman by special education teacher Dick Dugan.

"[It was] moletastic! It was 6.02 x 10<sup>(23)</sup> times the fun!" Milner said.

People may think they are not heros, but the assembly encouraged students to think about their heroic acts. Secretary Staci Miner said her hero was junior Lucas Swoyer. Miner said they went on a whitewater rafting trip May 28-30, 2008 and "were in over our heads." "The boat dumped over into the freezing water when Lucas pulled me out," Miner said. "I really thought I was going to die."

Another message of the rally was to show that heroes are more common than one may think. One individual mentioned became a hero to one special girl. Westmoreland land owner Mark Krause found junior Laurel Lauer after she went off the road, and because of that, he has made a difference in her life and her family's lives.

"My dad and him were good friends," Lauer said. "I'm glad he found me because I'm afraid I'd still be there if he hadn't."

Awards were also given out to students who had a 4.0 grade point average (GPA), had raised their GPA by .5 or 1.0 or had perfect attendance.

Renaissance Club sponsor Jeri Brummett was in charge of organizing the rally.

"I've looked up to her for a long time now," junior Ashley Srna said. "She's a really good role model for somebody who's looking to live life to the fullest."

# OPINIONS

JANUARY 2009 - PAGE 2

## Staffer reviews newly released 'Step Brothers'

Kids, they grow up so fast. Or do they? My definition of being a "grown-up" isn't exactly being 40 years old, still living at home without a job and having hobbies that include doing karate in the garage with pumpkins. "Step Brothers" was a big hit movie last summer, now out on DVD.

This twisted story begins when Nancy Huff (Mary Steenburgen) and Robert Doback (Richard Jenkins) fall instantly in love at a business dinner and get married. They both hold a secret that would normally drive off any sane person: the fact that their 40 year old sons, Brennan (Will Ferrell) and Dale (John C. Reilly), still live at home.

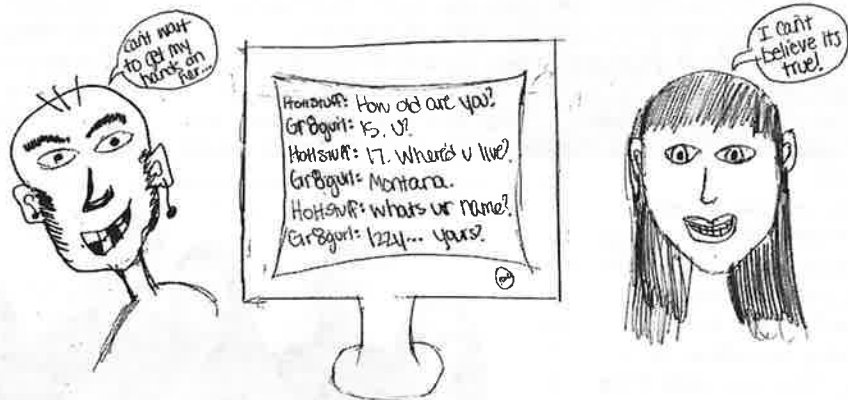


KORTNEY CAMPBELL  
STAFF WRITER

Two grown men trying to get along sounds like an easy idea, right? Way wrong. Rules are instantly put down by Dale, after all it is "his" house, and Brennan, being the obedient person he is, breaks his number one rule: no touching the drum set. This leads to a brawl in the front yard for all the community to see, involving a bicycle as a weapon. The boys are told that if they don't find jobs in one month, they will be kicked out of the house. When Brennan's younger, super-successful, yet super-stingy, brother Derek (Adam Scott) comes over for dinner, things start to change. The night ends with Dale sucker-punching Derek right in the nose and instantly becoming Brennan's hero for doing something that he could never do as a child. The change in the relationship between the two guys is great for them, but it wreaks havoc on Robert and Nancy's relationship. The house is sold, and a divorce is final, leaving Brennan and Dale on their own for the first time in their lives.

I think it would be a safe assumption if I said that any movie with Ferrell and Reilly as co-stars will most likely be pretty epic. The only downfall to this movie, whose plot line is about uniting a family, is that it's not exactly a great movie to watch with the fam. So a word of advice: watch this one with your buddies, not Mom and Dad. I personally thought that even though this movie was pretty hilarious at times, it definitely wasn't Ferrell's best, and that was kind of upsetting. It's a decent movie, but don't break your necks trying to rent or buy this one.

## SAFETY FIRST



Don't believe it all.....

By LAUREL LAUER

## Facebook provides socializing, but should be used with caution

Facebook has been all the rage since it was established in 2005. According to [www.comscore.com](http://www.comscore.com), more than 130 million people use Facebook today; many of us are included into that number. Facebook is fun and entertaining, but as with anything, it can come with dangers.

Have some respect for what you put onto Facebook. Remember, teachers, parents and employers may have access to what you put there. We mean that you should not put on Facebook risque pictures or pictures of something that you could get you in trouble. According to the Oct. 16, 2007, edition of *The Kansan* from Newton, Kan., a student was rejected from law school because the student admissions representative checked his Facebook profile. Administrators for colleges and high schools can check what students have been doing in their free time.

Protect any personal information that you have and that you don't want to give out. Such information could include your phone number, street address and even your e-mail address. Also according to [www.thekansan.com](http://www.thekansan.com), hackers can build a profile and virus from the given information on your Facebook profile. A danger that you may not be familiar with is viruses. Viruses can be easily

spread through pop-ups appearing on the Facebook network. According to [www.marshall.com](http://www.marshall.com), these pop-ups state that a friend who has posted a video on your Facebook profile. This will lead you to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and in order for the viewer to watch the video, you must download the Java update. While this is downloading, the virus will send spam e-mail to the user's address and send out

spam to all the contacts of the user.

With this information, you should be careful about how much information you put onto your Facebook profile. We suggest that you limit the information possibly to your school, your name

and your hometown. Don't put your phone number or e-mail on your profile; stalkers and hackers have a greater chance at success if you do. Do not add anyone that you aren't familiar with. Those people could be as simple as someone from a different school in your state or even someone from a different country. We suggest that you only add students from our school or surrounding schools, such as Wamego, Manhattan, St. Marys, etc. This could limit the amount of Internet stalkers or Internet hackers.

With these precautions in mind, go out there and enjoy Facebook, but please keep the personal information to a minimum.

**WITH THESE PRECAUTIONS IN MIND, go out there and enjoy Facebook, but please keep the personal information to a minimum.**

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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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By MELANIE STUBBS

## YOUR PRINT

### WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE VILLIAN AND WHY?

"Karma, because it gets everybody." - senior Mark Jack

"Doctor Octopus, because his first name is doctor." - senior Doc Treadwell

"Cruella De Vil, because there are puppies in the movie." - senior Ashley Garetson

### WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE SUPER HERO AND WHY?

"Spiderman, because he has a lot of cool movies, and I believe he is real." - junior Ashley Sma

"Power Rangers, because they change into cool things." - junior Danielle Area

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." - junior Pake Ebert

### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? WHY?

"A rocker, because they get to play awesome music and party hard." - sophomore Alex Hennigh

"A veterinarian, because I like animals." - sophomore Skylar Myers

"A teacher, because I like to help people learn." - sophomore Macy Umscheid

### WHO IS YOUR HERO AND WHY?

"Skylar Myers, because he is awesome." - freshman Josh Lohse

"Andrew Meyer, because he is someone I hope to become one day." - freshman Cody Liming

"Soldiers, because they are always there for us." - freshman Sierra Webber

### WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?

"A CEO of a major corporation, because I thought it would be challenging and exciting." - substitute Carrie Andrade

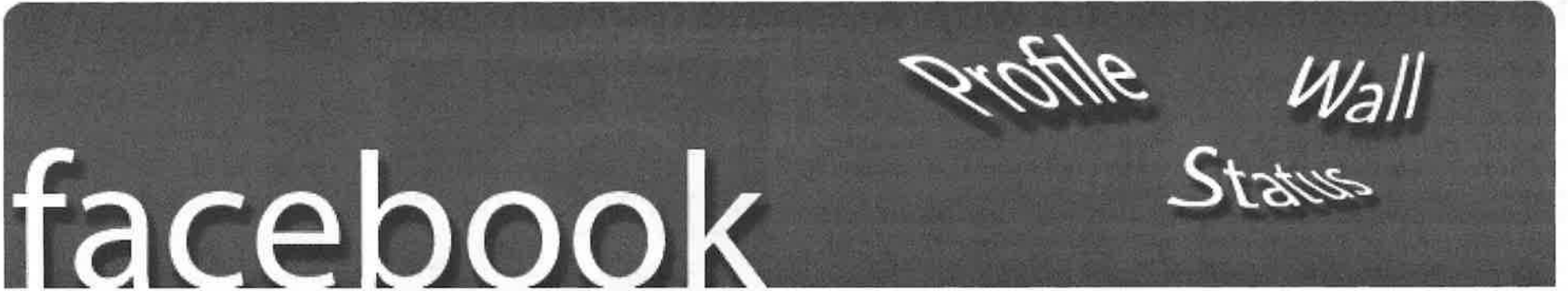
"A meteorologist, because I was scared of storms." - science teacher Kellie Milner

"A police man." - strength teacher Mike Beam



# FEATURES

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## Popularity of online social networking site continues to grow, yet students should also be aware of risks

By TRAVIS HEIDEMAN

Login, password: some things to think of if a person wants to obtain Facebook account. Facebook which has been around since February 2004, a social utility used to unite friends, family and even complete strangers.

**"It's so inconvenient that it's blocked at school, so all we can do is talk about it during school instead."**  
- junior Ashley Srna

Facebook has been the center of teen culture since about 2006, but it was originally created just for college students and then eventually became available for high school students. Sophomore Morgan Umschied said, "I like to communicate with people I don't always see, and it's a great way to contact a large number of people for an event."

Facebook has streamlined to be a part of teens' lives. According to junior Ashley Srna, "It's so inconvenient that it's blocked at school, so all we can do is talk about it during school instead!" There have been many changes to Facebook pages; the changes may not be liked by some, but according to Mark Zuckerberg, the creator of Facebook, they are for the better. Applications

have been added that can do things such as trade bumper stickers and keep track of favorite "Office Quotes."

Senior Kegan Rawhouser said, "I like the face part of it, but the fact that it's not in a book setting amazes me."

Some key features to Facebook allow a person to upload a picture and write a little about oneself.

Senior Brittany Willard said, "My favorite application is Facebook chat. You can see who is on, and it's entertaining if you're bored!"

Some applications have become a little annoying, according to junior Harrison Newman.

"I've been invited to join Ninja Fight Club twice in the same hour," Newman said.

Facebook can be a good cure for boredom with pictures and videos there are to view, but it can also turn dangerous. An incident involving Rock Creek students occurred in the summer of 2008 called the "Rachel Clemens" episode.

In this incident, two individuals created a fake Facebook with an attractive young female, claiming that she was moving from St. Louis to Rock Creek. The individuals who made the account did it to find out who was available and looking, and when the secret got out, the people who were talking to "Rachel" were deeply embarrassed about the situation. Facebook can also be a place for stalkers. "This one girl from Orange County Florida added me, and I didn't even know her." - senior Andrew Wahlmeier

**"MY FAVORITE APPLICATION is Facebook chat. You can see who is on, and it's entertaining if you're bored."**  
- senior Brittany Willard

Florida added me, and I didn't even know her," senior Andrew Wahlmeier said.

Senior Mark Jack had a similar experience. "Gloria Astabvon added me, and it left my mind wondering who she was," Jack said.

According to students at Rock Creek, Facebook is one of the most entertaining ways to communicate with friends next to texting, but they can even now access Facebook on most phones when they cannot access it on computers.

Is Facebook taking over? Maybe a thousand wall posts in the future, we will know.

According to junior Lora Blackwood, "Facebook allows you to be anonymous online. I think that is why people are so addicted to it."

## Not able to access Facebook or other popular sites, staffer shares disappointment with DansGuardian

Who exactly is Dan? Well, Dan is a filter that filters all the Web sites that are not school appropriate. Who is Dan to me? Dan is a petty little invention made to make people want to pull all their hair out when surfing the Internet. I believe



ANTHONY REID  
BUSINESS MANAGER

DansGuardian is very incorrect on some of the Web sites it blocks. First of all, DansGuardian does not let you perform simple searches sometimes. For instance, I was trying to Google my own name the other day; don't

act like you have never done it. My dear old friend DansGuardian popped up, but I didn't believe I was an inappropriate search, so I tried a few classmates' names. They were denied also. DansGuardian blocks almost every person's name and many other things.

Another problem with DansGuardian is that it does allow people to go to certain sites that they may need, such as for projects. For example, during the presidential election, you could not get

on many sites involving the election. Many students were very interested in what is going on between Obama and McCain, and nobody could research about them. In addition to the official sites of those candidates, DansGuardian often blocks news stories and sites that have no inappropriate content. When you try researching a famous person on Google, it is also blocked. The other day I typed in "Larry the Cable Guy" to find out what his real name is and it was also blocked. (By the way, it is Daniel Whitney.) What I was saying was, a lot of our searches are blocked and what were the words out of your mouth? "Are you kidding me?" Why is this blocked? Well, I know I have said that before, and it just makes me wonder what Dan's purpose is.

Next, everyone complains about DansGuardian blocking all of the games on the Internet. I do not understand why we can't play games on the Internet when we are finished with our work or just have free time to mess around on the computer. Everyone has wondered why we can't play games during school and what does it hurt? Some teachers get on and play games too, and they don't get in trouble. So why does Dan

insist on ruining our fun. We should be able to play games on the Internet after we are done with our work.

When I was thinking of something else to write about disliking Dan, sneior Kortney Campbell said, "Is it seriously blocking Prom dresses?" Why are pointless searches blocked? I think they are blocked just to make students and teachers rip all their hair out.

Everybody has heard of LeafDrink and CuteKnife, but somehow Dan found them and blocked those two. We have no way to get rid of Dan, but I do ask if Dan can lighten up on our searches and let us research on Google without blocking every name and other informative Web sites. Like I said, there is no way around Dan, but we can raise DansGuardian tolerance level for projects.

I personally do not enjoy Dan's company, and he has worn his welcome with a lot of people at this school. I think DansGuardian should lighten up on some things it blocks.

What exactly is Dan to me? A filter that doesn't let me play games and search my own name on Google, and everyone does both of those things once in their lives.

Photos  
Groups  
Events  
Videos  
Bumper Stickers

facebook Profile Friends

Savannah Miller



Basic Info  
Interested  
Relationship  
Birthday  
Religion

Wall  
Write Something...

Kenny Greeley: Hey, what's up? We need to hang out again.

Mark Jack: It was hilarious. Hey, so what did you wind up doing on New Years?

Rachel Clemens: Your profile looks fake.

Melanie Stubbs: Hey our socks matched today OMGI

Kellie Milner



Basic Info  
Interested  
Relationship  
Birthday  
Religion

Wall  
Write Something...

Ashley Wege: What's a mole's favorite game? Molenopoly!

Donna Koelzer: Want to have lunch in workroom? I brought pecan pie!

Jeremy Lehning: NM, just doing some bicycling! Woah, it's great!

# SPORTS

JANUARY 2009 - PAGE 4

## Wrestlers begin season with weekend tournaments

By KIM FAIRCHILD & LINDA OVERKAMP

The varsity wrestling team took 12th at the Burlington Invitational on Jan. 10. There were 19 teams there, so that was a great effort for the team. Senior Andrew Wahlmeier took first in the tournament, senior Collin Duncan took third place and senior Justin Weers took fifth place in the tournament.

The junior varsity wrestling team traveled and competed at the Hiawatha Invitational, also on January 10. Freshman Cody Liming took first in the tournament, freshman Trevor Sutton took second, freshman Sam Wilson and sophomore Josh Rieck took third.

"I think the hardest teams that we will compete this year would have to be Silver Lake and Onaga," Wilson said.

On Jan. 16 and 17, the varsity wrestling team traveled to St. Marys, where 19 teams competed. Wahlmeier took first place in weight class 189-lbs., senior Matt Unruh took third in weight

class 125-lbs., Weers took fifth in weight class 145-lbs., and senior Gabe Gomez got fifth in weight class 119-lbs. The whole team showed tremendous effort and great sportsmanship, according to the members.

Gomez said, "I think this was a pretty tough and huge tournament, but I think Rock Creek did pretty well for not bringing that many people."

On Jan. 20, the varsity wrestling team had a home dual, which Wamego and Holton attended. Also that night was Senior Night, where seniors and their parents were recognized. Gomez went 2-0 with one pin again Wamego. Unruh also went 2-0 with two pins. Wilson went 1-1 with a pin against Wamego.

Unruh said, "The dual was pretty easy, and it was fun for being our only home dual. I wish there would have been more."

So far this year, Wilson has had three pins for junior varsity and one pin for varsity. Unruh has had nine varsity pins, and Gomez has had six varsity pins.



On Jan. 20, freshman Shane Schaake wrestles an opponent from Holton during Senior Night. Schaake won this match, although the Rock Creek team ended up losing the dual with Holton overall. PHOTO BY SARA LIMING

Rock Creek junior varsity wrestling team traveled to Holton on Jan. 23, and the varsity wrestling team traveled to Holton on Jan. 24, although results for these matches were not available at press time.

## SPORTS SCOREBOARD

	RC	OPPONENT
<b>VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL</b>		
RILEY COUNTY (01/06)	66	55
SILVER LAKE (01/09)	75	76
ROSSVILLE (01/13)	57	62
WABAUNSEE (01/16)	43	56
BENNINGTON (01/20)	72	50
SEDGWICK (01/22)	41	64

### FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE BOYS BASKETBALL

RILEY COUNTY (01/06)	49	71
SILVER LAKE (01/09)	55	62
ROSSVILLE (01/13)	46	49
WABAUNSEE (01/16)	41	33

### VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

RILEY COUNTY (01/06)	33	12
SILVER LAKE (01/09)	53	20
ROSSVILLE (01/13)	61	18
WABAUNSEE (01/16)	60	36

### FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE GIRLS BASKETBALL

RILEY COUNTY (01/06)	38	23
SILVER LAKE (01/09)	57	37
ROSSVILLE (01/13)	49	17
WABAUNSEE (01/16)	55	42

### WRESTLING

BURLINGTON (01/10)	11th
ST. MARYS (01/16)	8th
HOLTON/WAMEGO (01/20)	1

### JUNIOR VARSITY WRESTLING

HIAWATHA (01/10)
ABILENE (01/16)

By CHRIS WAHL

## With Super Bowl on Feb. 1, staffer makes predictions



BRAD KLEUSCH  
SPORTS EDITOR

"Three! Two! One! The Pittsburgh Steelers are going to the Super Bowl!" Those were some of the last words said at the AFC championship game, as quarterback Ben Roethlisberger led

the Steelers to a 23-14 victory over the Baltimore Ravens.

The Steelers, a favorite over the Arizona Cardinals in Super Bowl 43 on Feb. 1, have been dominating the playoffs. Their defense slowed down even the Ravens passing offense, and not even Baltimore safety Ed Reed could stop the Steelers' slow, but effective, offense. The question is, can Roethlisberger pass against Arizona's young and quick defense, or can they defend Arizona and keep the long awaited Cinderella story of Arizona to a screeching halt?

I have heard everything from one team dominating to a three-overtime death match that ends in a field goal. Asst. principal Scott Harshbarger said he would like to see an underdog win this year's Super Bowl, but he also said it is possible that Arizona will get beat like a drum. Custodian Jan Garverick believes that Arizona will win, and teacher Jeremy Lehning also believes that Arizona will be triumphant with a 31-28 victory. As for me, I don't predict winning teams because I have been unsuccessful at picking any champ for five years.

Now you have to wonder - do people watch for the commercials or the game? After taking a quick poll, I found that just over 50 percent of the people I asked are going to watch for the commercials. I also asked three people how much they thought a 30-second commercial spot cost during the Super Bowl. I heard \$500,000, \$2 million and \$1.25 million. Well, out of those three, the closest is \$2 million, because a 30-second spot will cost around \$3 million! So, sit back and watch the commercials, because these companies are playing the football players' wages!

## Girls basketball opens year with wins, prepares for upcoming tournaments

By HANNAH COCKERILL

The Rock Creek girls basketball team has an 8-0 season so far and they would like to continue that winning streak.

On Jan. 16, the lady Mustangs dominated at Wabaunsee with a final score of 60-36.

The first game of the New Year was against Riley County at Riley on Jan. 6. The lady Mustangs were excited when they walked away with a victory of 33-12.

When asked how the game went, junior Becky Lightfoot said, "It felt amazing to finally beat them! If only we had made our two foul shots, we would have dominated them more."

Junior Lora Blackwood agreed with Lightfoot that the game was important for the Mustangs to win.

"It was a huge win for us," Blackwood said. "We were all so excited. Overall,

I thought we played well against our rivals."

On Jan. 9, Rock Creek hosted a game against Silver Lake, where the girls won again with a final score of 53-20. The following Tuesday, Jan. 13, the Mustangs traveled to Rossville and won yet another game with a final score of 61-18.

On Jan. 23, the girls basketball team plays St. Marys away and hopes to bring home a win.

**"[IT [THE RILEY COUNTY GAME] WAS A HUGE WIN FOR US. WE WERE ALL SO EXCITED. OVERALL, I THOUGHT WE PLAYED WELL AGAINST OUR RIVALS." - junior Lora Blackwood**

Starting next week, they will be traveling to the Hiawatha tournament

on Jan. 27, 29 and 31.

Blackwood and Lightfoot both said that they hope to win the tournament, but, in order to do so, they need to make more shots overall and to continue focusing on each individual game. Both girls said that, if they continue those things, there is no doubt the team should make it to state later in the season.

## Boys basketball uses defensive strategy to defeat opponents

By SETH KUECKER



EARLY IN THE GAME, junior Josh Camacho attempts a free throw against Silver Lake on Jan. 9 at Rock Creek. Camacho has averaged 22.8 points per game and 3.6 steals per game, which is helped by the Mustangs' cage defense. PHOTO BY COURTNEY STILLWAGON

If you have come to one of the boys basketball games in the past two years, you might recall hearing coach Jim Johnston, Dick Dugan or Michael Rottinghaus yelling "Lock up!" or "Knees and feet!" What may seem like jargon is a simple reminder to the defense of its job.

This defense - designed to force the offense into havoc - is called the cage defense. Coach Denny Darting won a state championship in 1995 at Paola High School. After installing this defense in 2005 with help of Darting, the team has seen nothing but improvements. The goal of the cage is to force the ball handler to the baseline, at which point another player from the backside attacks the dribbler and keeps him trapped. Often times, players will panic at seeing a double team and will throw the ball to a Mustang defender.

The Mustangs are on a roll; after losing to Abilene in December, they have won three straight games by 10 points or more.

"We have a great group of kids who really want to put forth an effort and are

extremely coachable," Johnston said.

Rock Creek beat Riley County 66-55 Jan. 6. Junior Josh Camacho had 32 points, senior Kegan Rawhouser had five assists, and senior Jacob Haverkamp had 10 rebounds.

The Mustangs came within inches of beating Silver Lake, but lost in double overtime Jan. 9. Down by three points with three seconds left, Rawhouser hit a 3/4-court shot to send the game into OT, and then hit another three to tie the game at the end of the first overtime.

On Jan. 13, Rossville inched by the Mustangs to win 62-57. Camacho had 19 points, Rawhouser six, and Haverkamp and Briggs had 14 and 11, respectively.

Wabaunsee went on a run early in the game and won 56-43 over Rock Creek Jan. 16. Camacho had 20, Rawhouser 11 and Umscheid with seven.

The Mustangs stopped the three-game losing streak with a win over Bennington 72-50 Jan. 20 in the first round of the Canton-Galva tournament. The Mustangs participated in the second and third round Jan 22 and 23, but results were not available at press time.