

THE HOOF PRINT

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - 9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. - 785-494-8591
MARCH 2009 - VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 5

NEWS BRIEFS

By MEGAN NIDER

BPA students qualify for nationals

The following Rock Creek Business Professionals of America members qualified for the BPA national leadership conference in Dallas, Texas, May 5-10.

Senior Tim Herrs placed third in VisualBasic.NET computer programming, and senior Greg Pushee finished fourth in C++ computer programming. Senior Megan Jilka placed in Administrative Support Concepts and is also the alternate in Entrepreneurship. Seniors Herrs, Brittney Chasser and Pushee also finished second at the state conference with their software engineering team. Rock Creek BPA also won the HD Shotwell Award for its community service.

Forensics wins league meet again

On March 10, Rock Creek won league forensics for the fourth year in a row. The following students won first place medals: senior Morgan Eichman: serious solo acting, junior Torrey Peterson: informative and junior TJ Roberts: prose and poetry. Second-place winners included junior Samuel Cott: poetry, junior Josh Camacho: oration and sophomore Mandi Blenn: extemporaneous. Junior Nolan Fike took third place in humorous solo acting. Fourth-place winners were senior Morgan Eichman and Fike: duet, junior Adara Leonard: humorous solo acting, junior Sara Liming: serious solo acting and freshman Eric Willard: prose. Taking home fifth-place medals were senior Alexa Ukena: informative, junior William Trieb: oration and junior Justin Fronce: extemporaneous. Ukena and senior Chris Wahl took sixth place in improvised duet acting, and Cott and Peterson took sixth in duet.

Art students medal at competitions

The Mid-East League art competition took place on March 5. The following students received gold medals for their work: senior Morgan Eichman and sophomore Mandi Blenn. Sophomores Angie Patrick and Thomas Sheffield each received two gold medals. Silver medal winners included seniors Tracy Seehaffer and Kallie Siderewicz, juniors Debra Hollingshead and Devin Kesi and Sheffield. Bronze medal winners were seniors Brittney Chasser and Eichman and sophomores Alyssa Donoho and Sheffield. Honorable Mentions were seniors Chasser, Eichman, Becca Milligan, Connor Roche and Seehaffer, juniors Justin Fronce, Leona Poeske and Seth Ruder, sophomore Alyssa Reeves and freshman Caitlinne Christianson.

Winning the Overall Best of Show 2 Dimensional was Patrick for her pen and ink. For the Overall Best of Show 3 Dimensional, Sheffield won the gold medal, Mandi Blenn took home the bronze and junior Neil Patrick was selected for honorable mention.

This year was also was Rock Creek's first year in entering the Scholastic Art Awards, a statewide competition at the Wichita Center for Arts. Eighth grader Shauna Quinn won a gold medal for her oil pastel. Freshman Josh Gee received honorable mention for his pen and ink. Two other entries were sophomores Alyssa Donoho for her full body tape sculpture and Thomas Sheffield for his pewter cast jewelry. These students' artwork were on display during the month

Seniors present final exit projects

By JESSICA JACK

Nerves were high March 13 as seniors gave their exit project presentations. For the actual project, 48 out of the 50 people passed, and for the presentation, all 50 people passed. For seniors at Rock Creek, their senior year consists of getting the exit project done, revising their research paper and presenting their project.

The first step of the exit project is the research paper, which is completed during the junior year. The paper is to be an 8-10 page paper, either thesis-based or a career report.

"It was really difficult for me to come up with a topic for my paper, which I didn't figure out until towards the end of the year," senior Luis Gonzalez said.

The second step is the actual project. When creating the project, it has to be something that is new to the student. The exit project has to be a minimum of 15 hours with a mentor who has two or more years of experience in the work field that they are doing their project over. Some examples of the project options could be a physical product, a written product, a performance, a physical experience or a technology project.

Senior Devin Nelson completed his project by going to a Kansas Highway Patrol academy in Salina, Kan. After he graduated from the academy, he had the chance to ride around with police officers from the Pottawatomie County sheriff's office.

"It was just something I wanted to do," Nelson said.

The third step is the project folio, which consists of one edited copy of the research paper, a time log, documentation of the project, pictures and a reflection paper.

"When we first started them, we tried to combine the portfolio with the exits notebook," senior advisor Des Renner said. "Now it's just exits information, no portfolio information."

The final part of the exit project is the presentation. The presentation must be 10-15 minutes long, followed by a 5-10 minute question/answer session.

"I was nervous to begin with," senior Brad Koonce said. "The longer it went, the sweatier I got. It was a lot of pressure, but, hopefully, it will help me out."



On March 13, senior Tyler Sutton demonstrates how to shoe a horse for his senior exit project presentation outside of Rock Creek. Sutton first explained the tools necessary in a PowerPoint presentation, then showed the judges how to do the job. Photo by Sara Liming

For his presentation, senior Kane Case points out to the judges the rooms of his model house that he built for his project. In addition to building the model, Case also added electrical circuits to it to provide lighting. Photo by Sara Liming



Rock Creek district facing budget cuts for next year

By SARA LIMING

The economy can be felt in everyday life across the country. It not only affects families, but also schools.

According to www.wibw.com, Kansas has a \$114.4 million budget cut that is to be made over the 2009-2010 school year. Kansas schools may be facing a \$1 billion shortfall of the budget in June 2010. All the budget cuts that have made by the state of Kansas will hopefully reduce the total spending budget by \$326 million, according to www.kansascity.com.

Rock Creek is just experiencing minor cuts in relation to the major cuts. This year, the school has faced a \$42,000 cut, which affects smaller projects, such as repairing carpet and updating computers.

Many more plans are going to be made to help with the budget for next year. One is a contingency reserve, which is like a

savings account for schools.

"We look at funding and look at priority: sports, books, national trips," principal Dennis Post said, "whichever will least affect the students."

According to superintendent Dr. Darrell Stufflebeam, "Next year's budget is still a big question mark."

The state legislature has not accepted the Federal Stimulus Law, which grants money to schools, but if it is accepted, the budget for next school year will most likely stay the same. For its part, the school board has decided isn't the need for a reduction-in-force for teachers. This means that class sizes won't get larger, and there will be no classes cut. Stufflebeam also said Rock Creek operates on bare-minimum staff requirements, so no faculty will have to be lost.

Another decision has been made already: no new text books will be

purchased for next year. Many of the text books are up-to-date and are in fair condition. One more decision concerns the freshman and junior varsity football teams; the school board has combined these two teams so they will play one game instead of two separate games, saving on transportation. Some other areas of school that are being looked at are sports. If money is getting too tight, sports teams may start going to a cut program.

"In my opinion, we will not be going to make cuts or pay to play right now," Post said, "but we will be making cuts if necessary."

Junior T.J. Andrade is a little worried about the gradual cut in the school budget.

"It hits home just a little bit," Andrade said, "Sports are going to be a little difficult because of no new equipment, and school will be just a little bit harder with the older text books."

of February at the Wichita Center for Arts. Quinn's artwork is going on to New York City for the National Scholastic Art Competition.

Band, choir earns ratings at league

The Mid-East League music festival was held on Feb. 25 at Wabaunsee. Receiving a one rating for instrumental results were the band, saxophone quintet, clarinet quintet, percussion ensemble, junior Brad Duncan-trombone, junior Jana Havens-flute, junior Sam Cott-alto sax, junior Nolan Fike-tenor sax, sophomore DJ Denzien- trombone, sophomore Colten Smith-alto sax, sophomore Brenda Stevenson-clarinet, sophomore Josh Unruh-tuba and freshman Liz Herrs-alto

sax. Receiving a two rating were freshman Cody Liming-trap set, the flute ensemble and the brass ensemble.

Receiving a one rating for the choir were the high school choir, women's ensemble, mixed choir, men's trio, senior Kortney Campbell, senior Kallie Siderewicz, senior Brian Sixbury, senior Brittney Willard, junior Justin Fronce, junior Rachel Nider, junior Chasity Ridder, junior Becca Snapp and freshman Kyron Case. Receiving a two rating were senior Derek Saueressig, junior Courtney Brown and freshman Elke Thompson.

FFA celebrates national week

National FFA week was held Feb. 21-26. Monday was labor auction day

at the ag shop. On Tuesday, there was breakfast for the staff and FFA members and "dress as your favorite ag career" day. Wednesday was official dress day, and on Thursday, members went on tours to the new biosecurity center, the dairy unit and the Farrar Corporation in Manhattan.

Debaters end season at state

Rock Creek competed at state debate on Jan. 23-24 at Washburn Rural. Finishing in second was the four-speaker team of senior Morgan Eichman and juniors Samuel Cott, Justin Fronce and Torrey Peterson. Alternates were sophomores Luke Goodenow and Alyssa Donoho. In two-speaker, sophomore Mandi Blenn and freshman Ben Peterson finished ninth.

OPINIONS

MARCH 2009 - PAGE 2

Staffer reviews 'He's just not that into you'

When girls are little, we are taught that if a boy acts like a jerk, it means he likes you. Not really a good lesson for our moms to teach us when this isn't so true. In the movie, "He's Just Not That Into You," the stories of five women prove that chivalry is dead.

The story begins with Gigi (Ginnifer Goodwin), a girl whose goal seems to be finding Mr. Right. After being set up with Connor (Kevin Connolly), she's obsessed, until day after day, night after night, he doesn't return her calls. Remembering a bar this stunner said he frequented, Gigi decides to "accidentally" bump into him. This night ends with her meeting the



KORTNEY CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

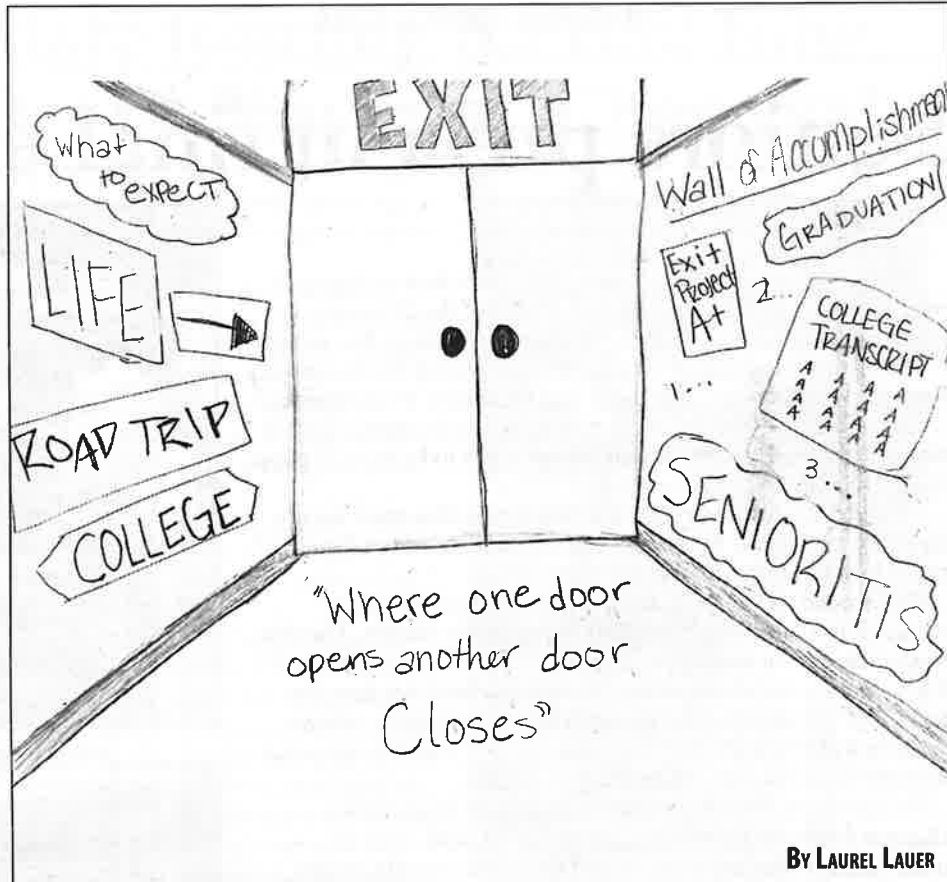
bartender, Alex (Justin Long), who tells Gigi that the signs she thought she saw are really signs of rejection.

After the awkward date, Connor calls his ex, Anna (Scarlett Johansson), who he still has deep feelings for. Being an independent, starving singer, Anna isn't influenced by his sweet talk and goes home with the number of Ben (Bradley Cooper), who says he can help her with her career. Oh, I forgot to mention, Ben is married to Janine (Jennifer Connelly), who is actually the co-worker responsible for Gigi's hook-up with Connor. Don't worry, it gets way more confusing.

Neil (Ben Affleck), who is friends with Ben, witnessed the exchange between the aspiring artist and his friend. Scoffing Ben's immaturity, Neil goes back home to his wife Beth (Jennifer Aniston). This relationship is probably the most perfect, except Neil does not believe in marriage. They split, adding more chaos to the plot.

In a nutshell, Janine sets Gigi up with Connor, who is in love with Anna, who is having a fling with Ben, who is married to Janine. Ben gets dumped by his wife and the "other girl." Gigi ends up falling for the bartender, and Connor meets Mary (Drew Barrymore). The random Beth and Neil story turns for the better, and they do get married. Good job, Neil.

That is one thing I did not enjoy: the "everyone-is-linked-to-everyone-else" plot. However, it does give great dating advice and combines happy and not-so-happy endings. This is a great movie to watch if a) you're on a girls' night out, b) you've just been dumped, or c) you just want a good laugh.



Although stressful to seniors, exit projects are beneficial

Another batch of students from Rock Creek felt the relief after Friday, March 13. Starting at 7 a.m., seniors gave their exit project presentations in hopes of graduating. We, as a school, should be very proud of the class of 2009 since it takes a lot of work to get where they are.

The exit projects all began with an idea inside the head of former teacher Tasha Shelton. Shelton attended a workshop in Oregon, where she first learned of the idea of the exit project. From there, it has become a Rock Creek tradition, being here for about nine years. Seniors since 2000 have been completing this project.

In our opinion, we believe that this project is a really good idea. When we are seniors, we are getting ready to depart to the outside world, and therefore, need contacts outside of our comfort zone. With the exit project, we are forced to talk to new people and to learn new skills. It allows a kind of connection, and it provides growth for the seniors who complete this. During many presentations, we heard many seniors talking about how they feel like a new person for having completed something so time-consuming.

The exit project also allows the presenter to find an area of interest for a possible career. The exit projects

presented on March 13 varied from music and soundboard testing to putting on a boxing match. These seniors have now found a career that they want to pursue, which allows them to know exactly what college classes to take.

However, one problem that we have found with the exit project is that seniors tend to procrastinate. Exit projects, depending on project chosen, can take anywhere from 15 to 100 hours of labor. With school, work and senioritis, many seniors try to put off the labor until the last minute, which leaves them in a stressful situation.

Some other problems that are found with exit projects include scheduling conflicts with a mentor, finding a mentor and getting acceptance of a project. Many people do not have the time or do not want to help with the exit projects. But once a student does have a mentor, it may be hard to find time when he or she can work with that mentor; the student may have scheduling conflicts or the mentor may be busy. And depending on the project idea, some places just don't have the time.

Even though for some students, there may be some problems, we still believe that the exit project helps create a better person, inside and out.

EVEN THOUGH FOR SOME STUDENTS, there may be some problems, we still believe that the exit project helps create a better person, inside and out.

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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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YOUR PRINT

WHICH BIG 12 PLAYER WILL BE DRAFTED FIRST?

"Blake Griffin [from Oklahoma] because he's a powerhouse."
- senior Dustin Miner

"AJ Abrams [from Texas] because I love UT." - senior Karra Soto

"Blake Griffin [from Oklahoma] because he's a beast." - senior Justin Weers

WHICH TEAM HAS THE BEST CHANCE IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT?

"KU, because they are experienced."
- junior Harrison Newman

"Mizzou, because they are dangerous when they're hot."
- junior TJ Roberts

"Oklahoma, because they have hot players!" - junior Becky Lightfoot

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BIG 12 TEAM?

"Texas." - sophomore Jackie Gonzalez

"Oklahoma." - sophomore Brady Quinn

"University of Kansas." - sophomore Macy Umscheid

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE KSU OR KU PLAYER?

"Jacob Pullen [from KSU]."
- freshman Josh Srna

"Denny Clemente [from KSU]."
- freshman Trevor Sutton

"Dominique Sutton [from KSU]."
- freshman Alisha Banta

KSU OR KU?

"KU, because they play the right way." - counselor Kevin Sullivan

"KSU, because they have the potential to be really good."
- teacher Dick Dugan

"KSU, because I was born and raised [as a fan]." - special education teacher Tori Sieben

By BRAD KLEUSCH & ANTHONY REID

FEATURES

MARCH 2009 - PAGE 3

Spring Break

With Spring Break over, students and faculty share the highlights of their one-week vacations from school

By JESSICA JACK, SARA LIMING, LINDA OVERKAMP & STAFF



Jace Bruce
Junior

For some students and faculty members at Rock Creek, this Spring Break went very well and was very relaxing. Junior Jace Bruce had the chance to go to Colorado, along with junior Patrick O'Connor.

The two boys managed to participate in a variety of sports while there; mainly, though, they skied at the resorts. Bruce and O'Connor also had the opportunity to do something that their fellow students were not able to do: go down and explore an old gold mine.

"Even though it was cold, we still had a lot of fun," Bruce said.

While exploring the gold mine was a good time, Bruce said what his favorite activity was.

"The best part about being in Colorado was getting to ski and do something different than normal," Bruce said.



Patrick O'Connor
Junior

What did you do during your Spring Break?

"I went to Sea World."
- freshman Lane Frazier

"I sat at home the whole time."
- freshman Jade Marsh

"I went to South Dakota."
- sophomore Travis Briggs

"Practiced in the band, played mini-golf with my dad and ate some pretty amazing ice cream."
- sophomore Alex Hennigh

"I hung out with Emily Zoeller and got mono."
- junior Lucas Swoyer

"I worked and had volleyball."
- junior Becky Lightfoot

"I found my own place to live."
- senior Brad Koonce

"Worked and slept the whole time."
- senior Matt Couchman

"I went to Savannah, Georgia."
- Title I teacher Jeremy Lehning

"I completed home improvement projects, spent time with my family and enjoyed the time off."
- special education teacher Dick Dugan

What was the highlight of your Spring Break?

"Not getting hurt."
- freshman Josh Gee

"I got to see my friend from Minnesota."
- freshman Alisha Banta

"Hanging out with friends."
- sophomore Justin Redding

"I went to softball practice."
- sophomore Macy Umscheid

"I got married at Bob's Diner."
- junior Danielle Area

"The nice 80-degree weather . . . it was awesome!"
- junior Lora Blackwood

"I washed my car for the first time in six months."
- senior Justin Weers

"I got to hang out with Shay."
- senior Devin Nelson

"The highlight of my break with skiing in Colorado."
- media specialist LouAnn Fike

"I got to work on Prom decorations!"
- science teacher Kellie Milner

Juniors Jace Bruce and Patrick O'Connor were not the only ones to go out of state for the week of Spring Break.

Sophomore Skylar Beam went with his family, including his father, strength teacher Mike Beam, to Texas. While spending glorious time under the Texas sun, Beam visited his grandparents.

Beam and his parents also went to tour the historic Alamo site in San Antonio, and they went on the River Walk, a popular entertainment district in the city.

After their time in Texas, the Beam family decided that they would then head across the border to Mexico just to tour it.

Beam said, "Getting to see my grandparents was so much fun, and I missed them a ton. I can't wait to go back again."



During his Spring Break, sophomore Skylar Beam and his family went to Texas to visit family, then went on to Mexico, where he tried on some interesting masks, like the one shown. Photo courtesy of Mike Beam



Karra Soto
Senior

Like others, senior Karra Soto was one of the other lucky ones who was able to leave Kansas for Spring Break.

Soto, who just began attending Rock Creek at the beginning of this school year, went to San Antonio, Texas, which is her previous residence and is the place she still calls home, she said.

During her vacation to San Antonio, Soto said she mainly visited her old friends, but she was also able to go out and have some fun. Like sophomore Skylar Beam and his family, Soto went down to the River Walk, and then went on a shopping break.

Although her vacation surroundings were familiar, Soto said that it still felt good to get out of school for a week.

"My Spring Break was just a relief because we had just got done with senior Exit Projects," Soto said.

SPORTS

MARCH 2009 - PAGE 4

Girls travel to state tourney for first time, placing third after 59-38 win vs. Cherryvale

By HANNAH COCKERILL

The lady Mustangs came home with a third place trophy from Hutchison, Kan., on March 14 from the girls class 3A state tournament. In their third and final game of the tournament, the Mustangs won against Cherryvale with a final score of 58-38.

The road to the state tournament began in sub-state with a crushing defeat of Mission Valley, with the lady Mustangs ending the game with a score of 62-20 on March 3.

Then, on March 5, the ladies traveled to Silver Lake to battle McLouth, where they won yet again with a final score of 54-22.

On March 7, students and faculty members came to support the Mustangs sweep the Oskaloosa Bears at Silver Lake with a final score of 50-30.

When asked about their season overall, senior Ashley Garetson said, "Pretty good. We had our highs and lows."

According to the players, the girls worked really hard because the lady Mustangs had never been to the state tournament, and they wanted to change that this year.

To encourage the ladies, Garetson said, "[Head coach] Mr. [Mike] Zabel

reminded us of our sub-state runner-up trophies from the last two years to help us prepare."

After winning sub-state, the lady Mustangs worked hard to prepare for state the following week at Hutchison Sports Area.

First, the Mustangs had to beat the Riley County Falcons in the first round of play, which they did, ending the game with a final score of 40-32 on March 11.

Wichita Collegiate was their next rival, but the Mustangs fell short and lost by two points with a final score of 40-42 on March 13.

After this game, the ladies were fighting for third or fourth place, and by winning, they would go home with a trophy and third place, which, the lady Mustangs did when they beat the Cherryvale Chargers 58-38 on March 14.

Although the girls did not win the state tournament overall, the players said that even achieving what they did throughout the season was still monumental for the team.

For senior Dana Elliott, the moment the Mustangs placed third at state basketball was a special moment on which to end her high school basketball career.

"It felt like first place to us seniors," Elliott said.



AT THE 3A TOURNAMENT, senior Dana Elliott looks for an open teammate during the game against Cherryvale on March 14 at the Hutchison Sports Arena. In their first state basketball tournament, the Mustang girls finished third, after winning against Riley County, falling to Wichita Collegiate and finally defeating Cherryvale 59-38 in the third-place game. PHOTO BY SARA LIMING

Boys basketball concludes season with sub-state loss

By SETH KUECKER

The boys basketball team finished with an 11-10 record and 6-4 in league. Unfortunately, the Rossville Bulldogs were too much for them to handle, as the Mustangs lost in the second round of sub-state, 62-55.

"We had a good season," coach Jim Johnston said. "We had some ups and downs, but we did a good job of hanging in when times got tough."

In the final regular season game on Feb. 26, Rossville beat Rock Creek 47-32.

Senior Kegan Rawhouser went down with a knee injury in the third quarter of the March 3 game, but the Mustangs went on to win

51-35 in the first round of sub-state. Camacho had 16 points; junior Pake Ebert added 12, and seniors Tyler Umscheid and Jacob Haverkamp with nine and seven, respectively.

"It was tough on the team and fans seeing Kegan go down like that," Johnston said. "He was a leader."

The March 6 game against Rossville was the last time the seniors would step onto the hardwood. Camacho led with 18, senior Luis Gonzalez, playing in place of Rawhouser, had 12 and Ebert added seven.

"We will be ready to go come next November," Johnston said. "We will use this season as a constant reminder of how it feels to lose an important game."

Wrestlers compete at state tournament to end season

By TRAVIS HEIDEMAN & STAFF

The wrestling season wound down with a quiet roar. Mustang wrestlers went to compete at state wrestling in Hays, Kan., but had nobody take home the gold.

According to senior Andrew Wahlmeier, "We progressed enough to be state contenders and definitely had the team to pull it off. I just think we weren't mentally prepared for what was to come at state."

Wahlmeier became the closest wrestler to winning state. Wahlmeier wrestled four opponents total and went 2-2 at state wrestling.

Other team members competing had similar outcomes. Senior Matt

Unruh went 1-2 at state in his matches, while freshman Shane Schake, in his first state tournament, went 0-2.

The Mustang wrestling team definitely gave it their best for the season, and the season went well with a total of 18 tournament feats.

Wahlmeier even wound up beating the state champ two weeks prior to the state. In all, the person with the most pins in the season was Wahlmeier.

Regarding the state performances, assistant coach Carrie Andrade said, "I think we were ready for regionals, but heading into state, our heads just weren't in the game. I think, for the most part, a do-over would have been successful."

SPORTS SCOREBOARD

	RC	OPPONENT
VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL		
WICHITA HOME (01/23)	66	73
ST. MARYS (01/30)	72	65
RILEY COUNTY (02/06)	43	41
MARYSVILLE (02/10)	49	64
ST. MARYS (02/13)	55	52
SILVER LAKE (02/20)	63	48
MISSION VALLEY (02/24)	60	56
ROSSVILLE (02/26)	32	47
MISSION VALLEY (03/3)	51	35
ROSSVILLE (03/6)	55	62
VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL		
MARYSVILLE (01/31)	54	41
RILEY COUNTY (02/06)	40	34
MARYSVILLE (02/10)	48	41
ST. MARYS (02/13)	45	49
SILVER LAKE (02/20)	48	23
MISSION VALLEY (02/24)	61	26
ROSSVILLE (02/26)	41	33
MISSION VALLEY (03/3)	62	20
McLOUTH (03/5)	54	22
OSKALOOSA (03/7)	50	30
RILEY COUNTY (03/11)	40	32
COLLEGIATE (03/13)	40	42
CHERRYVALE (03/14)	59	38

WRESTLING

HOLTON (01/24)	10TH
ST. MARYS (01/29)	8TH
ONAGA (02/06)	4TH
WABAUNSEE (02/10)	72 0
HERRINGTON (02/10)	35 38
MEL TOURN. (02/13)	2ND
REGIONALS (02/21)	7TH
STATE (02/28)	40TH

By CHRIS WAHL

With spring sports beginning, staff previews baseball, softball, track teams

Baseball

(with head coach Chad Herren)

What was your record last year?
18-5

Who are key players returning from last year?

Seniors Matt Gee, Luis Gonzalez, Logan Lauer and Kegan Rawhouser

What game opens the season?

Varsity plays Wamego on April 9; JV plays Marysville on April 2

How would you compare this year to last year?

"This season, it seems like we are more prepared, and we have a strong group of underclassmen."

How do you feel about the chances of winning state?

"Solid. I think if we play to our fullest potential as a team, we have a great chance."

Softball

(with coach Jeri Brummet)

What was your record last year?
19-4

Who are key players returning from last year?

"All of them!"

What game opens the season?

At Wamego on April 3

How would you compare this year to last year?

"We have nine freshmen, so we're young, but there is a great core of experienced players and some new blood with some softball savvy. We'll compete."

How do you feel about the chances of winning state?

"Our chances are as good as anyone's. A lot of factors play into that. It will take tons of hard work and miles and miles of heart."

Boys/Girls Track

(with coach Mike Zabel)

Who are the top returning boys from last year?

Seniors Dustin Miner (triple jump), Brian Sixbury (hurdles), Tyler Umscheid (pole vault and high jump) and Chris Wahl (javelin) and junior Adam Kibodeaux (high jump)

Who are the top returning girls from last year?

Seniors Ashley Garetson (shot put and discus), Courtney Stillwagon (long jump) and Emily Zoeller (triple jump) and sophomore Chelsea Renner (triple jump)

Who are significant newcomers to the team this year?

Junior Harrison Newman (400-meter and 800-meter runs) and freshman Lizz Herts (shot put, discus and javelin)

What tournament opens the season?

At Silver Lake on April 3

By BRAD KLEUSCH & ANTHONY REID