

THE HOOF PRINT

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

MARCH 2011 - VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 5

NEWS BRIEFS

By MEAGAN SMITH & STAFF

Prom preparations underway

Juniors have been preparing a "wonderful night" for the senior class for the 2011 Prom, which will occur April 9.

The theme is "Wonderful Tonight," based on the Eric Clapton song, and the decorations follow a "cityscape" idea.

Prom begins with the traditional walk-in at 7 p.m., then continues with the dance at 8 p.m. Complete Music will DJ the event, and refreshments will be provided.

"Prom is going to be a lot of fun this year," Morgan Milham, one of the junior class sponsors, along with Cherrie Lindsey, said. "The various committees have tried to think outside the box and have come up with some great ideas."

Art students to showcase work

League artists will gather to see the results of the league contests on April 13 at the Columbian Theater in Wamego.

Art teacher Pam Delay will take pieces of art in on April 2 to be judged. After students meet, the winners' work will be hung in the gallery for two to three weeks.

"Students worked really hard," Delay said. "We have students who have good art. I feel really good about league."

Society holds annual blood drive

The blood drive, sponsored by the National Honor Society, was held Feb. 18.

NHS organized the event with the American Red Cross. In order to donate, students needed to be at least 16 years old, had to meet a weight requirement and had to have blood tested. NHS sponsor Donna Hawkins said quite a few students gave blood and the day went well.

"There were no problems this year," Hawkins said.

School hosts league music event

Midwest League band and choir contests took place at Rock Creek on Feb. 23, giving students here a day off from school and hosting area musicians. With a five being the worst, the Rock Creek band got a one, and the choir received a two.

"Midwest League was a great experience for our students," music teacher Staci Payne said. "They had the opportunity to work with some really fabulous vocal and instrumental instructors. We had a lot of good feedback from the judges."

Forensics season in full swing

Midway through the season, the forensics team has competed in 10 meets before Spring Break and has qualified about half of its members for state.

Most recently, the team competed at Valley Heights on St. Patrick's Day, taking first. On March 7, the team earned third at Jackson Heights. Two days earlier, March 5, at Concordia, the team finished second, and two days before that, March 3, the team finished fourth at Wamego.

Prior to the whirlwind March run, teams have placed first at Sabetha Jan. 29, fourth at Abilene Feb. 5, fourth at Nemaha Valley Feb. 12, second at Hanover Feb. 19, ninth at Royal Valley Feb. 19 and first at Marysville Feb. 26.

"We have a number of students who just finished up basketball and exit projects, so we are hoping they can start going to meets and qualify as well," Miller said. "I'm expecting several to qualify in the second half [of the season]."

District faces difficult choices for budget cuts

By ZAC SAUERESSIG

Summer school, technology, athletics, class aides and the summer strength program.

These programs, which benefit many students, are just some of the proposed items that may have to be cut in the 2011-2012 school year, due to the state reducing school funding more for not only the remaining part of this school year, but for next school year.

Superintendent Darrel Stufflebeam said, "This year is the most challenging year that I have seen. In fact, it could be called a historical financial challenge."

Rock Creek has two main advantages that other schools do not in this funding crisis. First, the district can raise the property taxes because it has not reached the maximum of its local option budget, and second, the district has the maximum savings in its contingency savings. The only problem with taking money out of the contingency savings, or "rainy day fund," is if something drastic happened. For example, if a tornado hit the school, the school could be in pieces with no reserve to pay for the repairs.

The last option left for the schools to do is to cut budget items. The things that the district is considering cutting for next year include the following: not getting technology updates, not buying new vehicles, cutting teachers' curriculum writing days, eliminating summer

school, cutting after-school tutoring, reducing one northern bus route and not transporting students within 2.5 miles of the school.

Elimination of the before-school strength program and summer strength and conditioning program are other options that might upset some students. Junior Eric Willard is one of these students.

Willard said, "I'd be mad if summer weights were cut. It's something that I really look forward to."

Other options include eliminating the Parents as Teachers program, reducing middle school sports programs, reducing teacher aides, cutting building budgets, eliminating senior projects, removing St. George Elementary School intramurals, starting school after Labor Day or ending school early, moving to a four-day school week and not replacing a Media Center aide. All together, if the district were to cut these items, except for aides, teachers and the administrator, it could save the district \$380,000.

Principal Dennis Post said, "It all comes down to how much money it costs and how much it really affects the students. For example, I think summer school should not be cut."

Many other schools have the same problem including Wamego High School. Wamego has to cut many programs, too.

Stufflebeam also said, "No matter what we do, it is going to be unpopular, and we have to just do it."

POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS AND SAVINGS

- Eliminate St. George intramurals = \$2,300
- Eliminate senior exit projects = \$3,000
- Eliminate before-school strength = \$3,500
- Eliminate summer strength = \$5,000
- Eliminate one northern bus route = \$6,000
- Eliminate bussing outside of 2.5 miles = \$6,000
- Eliminate after-school tutoring = \$8,000
- Reduce building budgets = \$10,000
- Start after Labor Day or end earlier = \$12,000
- Eliminate curriculum writing days = \$13,000
- Eliminate summer school = \$17,000
- Eliminate Parents as Teachers = \$17,500
- Don't replace Media Center aide = \$22,000
- Eliminate junior high sports = \$50,000
- Eliminate vehicle purchases = \$70,000
- Switch to four-day school week = \$70,000
- Eliminate administrator for 2012-13 = \$75,000
- Eliminate technology purchases = \$80,000
- Eliminate teacher aides = \$15,000 per aide
- Eliminate teachers = \$40,000 per teacher

INFORMATION FROM WWW.ROCKCREEKSCHOOLS.ORG

High school to be affected by junior high schedule

By KATIE HODGES

In two years, Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School may be overflowing with students. Approximately 80 students are currently in the fifth grade classes at the St. George and Westmoreland grade schools. So Rock Creek is developing plans to make room for all the future students.

Principal Dennis Post said that the big goal is to build on to the high school or to build a new middle school to deal with more students to the school. For now, a new schedule will be made for the junior high, and it will be going into effect next school year.

Junior high will no longer follow block schedule. Students will attend their core classes every day, including band and choir if students chose to take those electives. However, they will still continue to have advisors on silver days and electives on black days.

"I will not like having choir every day, because then I get bored of singing the same songs again and again," seventh grader Mackenzie O'Brien said.

Since the students will be attending core classes each day, class time will be shortened to 45 minutes. This means that

high school teachers, such as Shirley Vandahl, Mike Zabel and Cherrie Lindsey, will no longer be teaching junior high classes. Junior high students will still be offered high school classes; however, the classes will not be taught by high school teachers.

Vandahl said, "Students may enjoy algebra more because they will be surrounded by their peers, but I am going to miss having them in my class."

Another junior high teacher will also be added next year as well. He or she will be teaching another English course, focusing mainly on writing and composition, while current English teacher Bridgette Rankin moves to teaching the reading class.

The high school will still follow the block schedule, although more classes will be open since some teachers will no longer teach their junior high classes. Lindsey will now be able to teach two senior grade English classes, and Zabel will teach a World History course. Seniors and juniors will still have the option to be a teacher's assistant for junior high teachers.

Junior Ashley McDaris, TA for Rankin, said, "I'm happy the school lets us help in the junior high end still; the students look up to us."

Multimedia students qualify 10 events for state competition

By BEN PETERSON

Eight students qualified 10 events at regional journalism for the first time ever for Rock Creek.

On Feb. 24, the Multimedia classes attended regional journalism, sponsored by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association, at Kansas State University. This was the first year Rock Creek has attended the competition.

"The class exceeded my expectations with qualifying several people and events for the first try," Multimedia teacher Jessica Augustine-Stegman said.

There were nine on-site events in the competition, of which Rock Creek was double-entered in each event.

Those qualifying for the state

competition were seniors Anthony Dultmeier and Brandon Hyde; juniors Katie Hodges, Cody Liming, Thomas McAnerney and Michael Parker and freshmen Amanda Gross and Jacob Milham.

Augustine-Stegman said, "I did not expect the group to do so well because this was something new to them, but I am proud of their performances."

Out of those who qualified, Liming and Dultmeier won their events.

Liming said, "I was pleasantly surprised with receiving first place at the competition."

Receiving second-place medals were Parker in Newspaper Sports Writing and Gross in Editorial Cartooning. Hyde in Feature Writing, Hodges in Yearbook

Copy Writing, Parker in Yearbook Sports Writing and McAnerney in Editorial Writing won third place medals, and qualifying with an honorable mention award were Milham in Newspaper Sports Writing and McAnerney again in News Writing.

McAnerney said, "It felt pretty amazing to be able to qualify two events for the state competition."

Also attending the competition were juniors Benjamin Peterson and Zac Saueressig, sophomore Mason Swenson and freshmen Kaeleen Laird, Meagan Smith and Justin Ward.

The eight qualifiers will be attending the state competition at the University of Kansas on May 7, competing against all 3A and 4A qualifiers.

OPINIONS

MARCH 2011 - PAGE 2

IN REVIEW

BY KAELEEN LAIRD **RESTAURANT**

LongHorn Steakhouse is a new addition to the Manhattan Market Place, close to Hy-Vee. LongHorn is based off of a western/cowboy theme; both the outside and the inside look like a log cabin. The inside is dimly lit with hardwood floors and wooden walls. The walls are filled with taxidermy animals and guns.

Some entrees, besides steak and burgers, include baby back ribs, pork chops, red rock grilled shrimp, Sonoma chicken salad and, my personal favorite, parmesan-crusted chicken sandwich. The parmesan-crusted chicken sandwich was very delicious. Since I don't really like steak or burgers, this sandwich was a great choice for me. As you can see, LongHorn is definitely a meat restaurant, but don't worry, there are plenty of other options on the menu. Not only is there a lot to choose from, but the meal is very delicious! Prices are about average for a steakhouse. It's not a restaurant you would eat at every day; it's more of a special occasion place. The service is friendly and welcoming, too, so give LongHorn a try!

BY JUSTIN WARD **MOVIE**

In the town of Dirt, a young lizard fights crime; this is the story of the movie "Rango."

"Rango" starts with a lizard that is in his tank in the back of a car. The story takes a turn for the worse when a possum jumps in front of the car and gets knocked out. Rango tries to help the possum, but he can't, so the possum tells him to find water, but he must first find dirt.

So Rango wanders through the desert trying to find water. He meets a camouflaged toad who tries to help him find water and escape, but is soon attacked by a hawk and is taken away. He unexpectedly meets another lizard named Beans who leads him to the town of Dirt.

Dirt is a town that has relied on water for a long time, but recently the water supply has been decreasing. Rango goes to the mayor to figure out what is happening to the water supply. The mayor says one thing to him, "If you control the water, you control the town." Then the mayor had a great idea, he was going to make Rango the new deputy of the town. Rango soon starts to lie to the town folks and become very popular as he "helps" the town. The water is being stolen by a group of bandits that take it to their breeding grounds to help their young. Rango and Beans and their group go to retrieve the water, but they come back empty-handed. Bad news arrives to Rango that the mayor has ordered his "pet" to come and take him out. So Rango is forced to leave by the mayor's pet. He soon finds the source of their problems. Dirt is located right next to Las Vegas. So he formulated a plan to save the town and get the water back. When he goes back to the town, he finds something that is unexpected. Will he succeed in getting water back to the town? Will he save the town? Go and watch it at the movie theater nearest you to see!

When I watched this movie, I thought it was kind of confusing at first, but then as the plot moved along it was actually pretty good. "Rango" had a very good mix of a lot of action and adult humor, but it's one of the best kid movies I have ever seen. I think all ages should watch this movie because it is definitely a family movie and has a little something for everyone. I can say that when I left this movie, I was still laughing from all the humor that is in "Rango." Overall, this movie is quite exciting, and I strongly encourage everyone to go out and watch this.

BY KAELEEN LAIRD **CD**

Britney Spears' has been up and down for a few years now, but recently, she has overcome her crazy ways and produced a new album called "Femme Fatale."

The CD features the new hit single "Hold it Against Me." Other songs include "How I Roll," "Big Fat Bass" and, my personal favorite, "Trouble for Me." Most of the songs on this new album are upbeat songs. This CD is definitely a dance CD. The songs on this album are different than any other of Britney's CDs. Her song "Criminal" is her telling her mother that she is in love with a criminal. Britney is telling her mother not to cry because she will be all right. The beat is like a beat you would hear during Medieval time. The song "Trip Your Heart" has a fairy tale or carnival sound to it, and "Big Fat Bass" is 100 percent different from any of Britney's songs on the album. The song features Will.I.Am. and sounds modern and techno-ish. It sounds like it should be in some science fiction movie.

Britney's new CD releases March 29!

STAFF EDITORIAL

Kansas putting excessive pressure on districts with more budget cuts

Rock Creek schools have been doing a great job in educating the teenagers that walk its hallways. This is apparent in the fact that we have received the Blue Ribbon Award that is given to the best schools in the country. Rock Creek, like other Kansas schools, will be crippled by the budget cuts that have affected the past two years and will continue next year. We think it is ridiculous that the state government does not place a higher value on the education of the world's future generations.

These are difficult times that the nation is going through. We have to be disciplined in the way we spend our money. Every citizen has to do that, as well as the government. They have tough choices to make about what to spend money on and what not to. School funding is one of the biggest services that the state pays for, but in response to a shortcoming in the budget, the state decided to cut more funding to schools. The state is showing that they do not place value on the education of the next generation. They would rather cut the funding to schools and other services than create a new lines of income to fund education.

Since the state will not create more funding and would rather cut funding to schools, schools in Kansas may see the number of teachers decline. Teachers

receive little pay for what they contribute to society and receive little credit for the way they shape the generations to follow. If we do not fund our schools appropriately, then some of the best teachers may not want the career. If we have a drop in quality teachers, then the education received will be a lower quality. With the reduced funding, schools may not be able to keep up with the times.

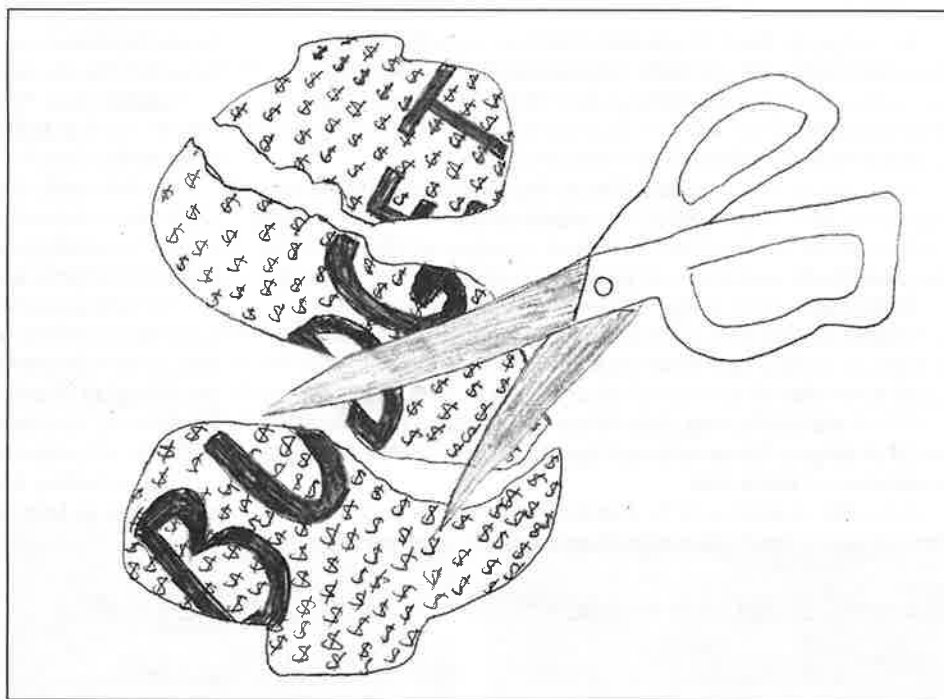
They will not be able to upgrade their technology so that students may be familiar with it for future use. Schools may not be able to keep up with the supply needs of the teachers and staff. This could lead to teachers having to pay for more

of their own supplies and do this on a shrinking salary. Cuts ultimately affect the students. They will be affected by the possible decline in the quality of teachers that are present in schools. They may not receive the assistance needed if the extra help is not there.

We feel that the state needs to put more of an emphasis on the education of this world's future workers and leaders. If we are incapable of this, then the United States will lose its competitive edge with the rest of the world. We need to show our concern for these issues at hand by writing to our government, telling them that we want our schools to be able to provide a quality education now and for years to come.

We think it is ridiculous that the state government does not place a higher value on the education of the world's future generations.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY AMANDA GROSS



THE HOOF PRINT STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF/OPINIONS SECTION EDITOR

MICHAEL PARKER

NEWS SECTION EDITOR

ZAC SAUERESSIG

FEATURES SECTION EDITOR

BRANDON HYDE

SPORTS SECTION EDITOR

JACOB MILHAM

DESIGN EDITORS

ANTHONY DULTMEIER

JUSTIN WARD

STAFF MEMBERS

AMANDA GROSS

KATIE HODGES

KAELEEN LAIRD

CODY LIMING

THOMAS McANERNEY

BEN PETERSON

MEAGAN SMITH

MASON SWENSON

ADVISER

JESSICA AUGUSTINE-STEGMAN

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

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. 66535

PHONE: (785) 494-8591

MULTIMEDIA@ROCKCREEKSCHOOLS.ORG

YOUR PRINT BY THOMAS McANERNEY

WOULD YOU BE FOR OR AGAINST GETTING RID OF BLOCK SCHEDULING?

"Against, I like having different classes instead of repeating the same class every day.



JOHN FRANK
SENIOR

College classes are longer than 45 minutes, so it prepares us to stay focused."

"Against, because I prefer to have two days to get it [homework] done."



LOGAN MINER
JUNIOR

"Against, I favor block scheduling because I feel I have more time, and I am used to it."



TREY BASA
SOPHOMORE

"Against, because I need time to do homework, and I don't have time after school because of after school activities."



MACY HAWKINS
FRESHMAN

"Against, because 45 minutes is not enough time to get stuff done, at least in my class. I have taught both ways, but prefer block scheduling."



SARA MILLER
FACULTY/STAFF

FEATURES

MARCH 2011 - PAGE 3

Inked up & Pierced through

Although mainstream society views body art as negative, some students defy norms to express themselves



By ANTHONY DULTMEIER & BRANDON HYDE

Tattoos and piercings have been around for many generations in modern society, coming from the weird and disagreeable, to everyday normality.

For many people, tattoos are still not acceptable, but for some who agree with these modern body arts, they think tattoos are a wonderful piece of art.

For senior Justin Redding, tattoos represent more than just the ink used. He went to Stray Cat Tattoo shop in Aggieville in Manhattan to have his tattoo done on the back of his tricep.

"My tattoo is my mom's last name, Westgate," Redding said. "It has special meaning because she is the one that's been there for me and the only one that I live with. Also, it represents the rebel mentality."

Tattoos, for most people, mean more than they look, just as Redding showed. The smallest of images or symbols can mean more than words can describe. Redding had one thing to say when it came to people disagreeing with tattoos.

"Those people need to mind their own business and stop judging others for what we do," Redding said.

Unlike Redding, sophomore Zach Spriggs said he does not agree with people getting tattoos. The responses he gave during the interview exhibited most of the thoughts that people have before deciding upon or against getting tattoos.

When asked three reasons why he is opposed to tattoos, Spriggs said, "It's hard to get a job; it's trashy on majority of people; and think about when the time comes to get old and wrinkly? That tattoo is not going to be pretty anymore."

Business technology teacher Desiree Renner could not agree more with Spriggs.

When asked why she does not like people having tattoos, Renner said, "First, they don't look good in my opinion. Second, they are permanent; you can't change your mind or take them off without a lot of pain and cost. Thirdly, it gives employers a negative impression. If that person gets hired, then it looks bad on the business to have someone with tattoos working there."

Despite these concerns and problems, some people who don't have tattoos still do like them or want them; they just haven't been able to take the opportunity to get them done. Senior Morgan Umscheid is one of these people.

"I want a butterfly on my shoulder," Umscheid said.

When asked why, she said, "I just always have!"

Umscheid said she thinks that tattoos are acceptable, but the locations of them are critical. Certain places can be unprofessional, such as tattoos visible on the neck or lower arms that cannot be covered up. Other more indiscrete places are just "trashy," she said.

The opinion of every person is different; the choice, though, is up to the individual deciding to, how teenagers

put it, "ink up."

Piercings, on the other hand, are more socially acceptable; it's almost a social must for young girl's ears to be pierced. By the time the girl grows up, she has probably put a few piercings into her ear cartilage and maybe other locations. The first piercings that Umscheid received were because of her mother.

"My first piercing was because my mom wanted to get it done," Umscheid said. "She thinks it's cute. My second piercing, on the other hand, I got for my birthday because I wanted it for a long time, but my dad was kinda upset."

Among the younger generation, more teen girls are getting their noses and belly buttons pierced for the thrill and look.

"I got my cartilage done on my 16th birthday because I saw other people with it, and I thought it looked cool," Umscheid said.

But now boys are getting piercings, too. A lot of guys get their earlobes pierced and some get their cartilage. Facial piercings are a little less common on guys, though it's not considered strange anymore to see lip, eyebrow or tongue piercings on a guy. Piercings are easily hid and not as noticeable as tattoos, which is why many teenagers and young adults decide upon getting piercings.

In the end, the decision to get and beauty of tattoos and piercings are in the eye of the beholder, whether it be a massive attack of ink or a simple ring on the lip, each has its special meaning.



SPORTS

MARCH 2011 - PAGE 4

With winter sports in the books, spring sports begin

BASEBALL

The Mustang baseball team is looking to improve on this season after going 8-13 last year.

When asked what his goals for the team this season were, coach Chad Herren said that he had three main goals.

"To win every inning, win [Midwest] League and win state" Herren said.

Returning key players for the team are senior John Derek Garetson, juniors Ryan Harshbarger and Eric Willard, plus a pitching staff comprising of juniors Cody Liming and Dillon Johnston and sophomores Brandon Lutgen, Shane Adams and Brandon Goerhing. The Mustangs open up the first week of regular season play March 29 at Osage City and April 1 at Marysville.

BOYS TRACK

Boys track started practice this year on March 7 with a total team of 38 athletes.

Last year's team saw many successes, including having the boys 4x4, 4x1 and 4x8 relay teams competing at state.

When asked about his top returning athletes, coach Mike Zabel named junior Kyron Case (state qualifier in the 100-meter dash), sophomores Josh Roberts, Clayton Frakes and senior DJ Denzien (4x8 relay). Denzien also competed at the state track meet last year in triple jump. In the 4x100 relay, the Mustangs return juniors Case and Josh Gee and senior Brady Quinn.

Zabel said he has high hopes for the boys team, expecting that "[They] will place in the top two at [the] league [tournament]."

SOFTBALL

The Rock Creek softball team has some experience returning to the diamond this year, which has coach Jeri Brummett aiming to win the Midwest League tournament and go on to win regionals. This year's returning key players are juniors Katie Hodges, Bailey Elliott, Caitlyn Larson, Caitline Christenson, Jessi Snapp and sophomore Megan Srna.

Last year, the team went 12-10. To prepare her team for a successful season, Brummett has been pushing her players very hard, despite not being able to practice outside for much of the beginning of the season.

The team opens up March 29 at Osage City, which Brummett said, "[They will be] very tough to beat, as they have one of the better pitchers we will see all year."

GIRLS TRACK

The girls track team, while not very big with only eight athletes, returns some key athletes, including junior Lizz Herrs, who placed second last year at state in the javelin competition.

Herrs has high expectations for the girl's team, saying that they "can win league as long as they dominate the competition."

Seniors leading the team this year are Chelsea Ebert, Rachel Lewman and Chelsea Renner.

Both the boys and girls track teams open up the season on March 31 at Silver Lake, then travel to Wabaunsee the following week on April 8.

When asked about his goals for the teams this year, Zabel said, "I would like to have everyone get individually better, while setting new school records."

By CODY LIMING

SCOREBOARD By STAFF

	RC	OPPONENT
VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL		
St. Marys (01/28)	55	46
St. Marys (02/11)	49	22
Marysville (02/14)	58	43
Chapman (02/15)	50	37
Silver Lake (02/17)	51	53
Rossville (02/25)	42	56
Bluestem (03/01)	53	45
St. Marys (03/04)	53	58
JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL		
St. Marys (01/28)	59	34
Riley Co. (02/04)	54	50
St. Marys (02/11)	52	36
Sante Fe Trail (2/12)	58	44
Royal Valley (02/12)	47	53
Marysville (02/14)	53	38
Chapman (02/15)	52	27
Silver Lake (02/17)	38	43
Rossville (02/25)	57	51
FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL		
St. Marys (01/28)	44	33
Riley Co. (02/04)	42	49
Clay Center (02/07)	41	49
Riley County (02/10)	50	25
St. Marys (02/11)	47	28
Council Grove (02/12)	54	35
Silver Lake (02/17)	41	57
Rossville (02/25)	56	27
VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL		
Falls City, Neb. (01/27)	37	21
Marysville (01/29)	57	42
Riley Co. (02/04)	29	35
St. Marys (02/11)	46	37
Marysville (02/14)	41	56
Chapman (02/15)	46	44
Silver Lake (02/18)	34	36
Rossville (02/24)	38	29
Council Grove (02/28)	63	45
Osage City (03/03)	36	38
JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL		
Riley Co. (02/04)		
St. Marys (02/11)		
Royal Valley Tourn. (02/12)		
Marysville (02/14)		
Chapman (02/15)		
Silver Lake (02/18)		
Rossville (02/24)		
FRESHMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL		
Riley Co. (02/04)		
St. Marys (02/11)		
Royal Valley Tourn. (02/12)		
Marysville (02/14)		
Chapman (02/15)		
Silver Lake (02/18)		
Rossville (02/24)		
WRESTLING		
Manhattan JV (01/28)	NP	
Holton (02/03)	2nd	
Onaga Duals (02/04)	1st	
MEL (02/11)	3rd	
Chapman JV (02/12)	NP	
Regionals (02/18)	4th	
State (02/25-26)	NP	

BOYS BASKETBALL

By MICHAEL PARKER

The clock ticked to zero, but the boys basketball team could do nothing as their season ended with a 58-53 upset to the sixth-seeded St. Marys Bears in the sub-state game on March 4 at Council Grove.

Seniors Skyler Beam and Travis Briggs and junior Aaron Kuecker and all scored double-digit points for Rock Creek. The second-seeded Mustangs made it to the semi-finals by beating Bluestem 53-45 on March 1. During the Bluestem game, Beam broke the season assist record of 105. He also owns the all-time assist record.

"I pushed myself harder every game, as well as pushed my team," Beam said.

The Mustangs ended their season 13-9. After the Canton-Galva tournament, the Mustangs went on a roll, beating St. Marys twice, Marysville and Chapman, pushing their win streak to eight. However, they finished out the season by dropping their final to games to Silver Lake and Rossville.

Briggs and junior Dillon Johnston were named to All Mid-East League team, and Beam was named an honorable mention.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

By AMANDA GROSS & STAFF

The lady Mustangs had a hard season, ending with a second-round sub-state loss.

Following regular season play, on Feb. 28, the girls basketball team won their playoff game against the Council Grove Braves by a score of 63-45.

Then on March 3, the lady Mustangs lost their second-round sub-state game against the Osage City Indians by a score of 38-36.

Despite not making it out of sub-state, the girls, especially those returning for next season, say they gained a lot from playing the season and from seeing the leadership on the team.

"Everybody was a leader in some way, but almost everyone on the team would agree that [senior] Ashley Altenhoffen was the team's team leader," freshman Kelsey Quinn said.

Junior Stephanie Vanderlinde said she hopes that next year, the team can have the privilege of making it to state, having many of this year's juniors back to lead the team as seniors next year.

WRESTLING

By JACOB MILNAM

February was the final month of high school wrestling in Kansas, with regionals for Rock Creek at Silver Lake on Feb. 18-19 and state at Hays on Feb. 25-26.

"February was a good month, but was also a sad one," freshman Marc Reiss said.

At regionals, the team placed fourth and sent Reiss (112 lbs.), junior Shane Schaake (130 lbs.), junior Trevor Sutton (171 lbs.), senior Luke Goodenow (189 lbs.) and senior Josh Rieck (285 lbs.) to state, for a total of five people, which is a school record. Goodenow and Rieck both placed fourth, Sutton placed third and Reiss and Schaake both went to the championship match, but they lost by decision.

At state, unfortunately, all Mustang wrestlers lost their first matches, moving to the loser side of the state bracket. All the wrestlers, except for Reiss who won his match with a 5-4 decision, lost their second-round matches as well.

"We couldn't pull it through, but the whole entire team got better through the whole season," head coach Dan Pray said.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

By MASON SWENSON

JUNIOR DILLON JOHNSTON

This month for boys basketball, head coach Jim Johnston named junior Dillon Johnston as the Athlete of the Month based on his performances this past season.

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

A: "I pushed myself and worked hard."

Q: How did you play compared to last year's season?

A: "A lot better. [I had] more playing time and stepped up to help improve the team."

Q: What was something you do to get ready for a game?

A: "Separate myself from everybody else and focus on the game instead... then [during the game,] watch and know what is going on."

Q: How did you motivate the team to do better?

A: "Work hard every day."

Q: How did you adapt to the cheering fans?

A: "If they are loud, it helps us because it gets you energized and helps you play better."

BOYS BASKETBALL

JUNIOR LIZZ HERRS

For the second issue in a row, girls basketball head coach Mike Zabel named junior Lizz Herrs as the Athlete of the Month because of her leadership through the season.

Q: Why do you think you got Athlete of the Month again?

A: "Because I tried to push myself harder every day to get better and to help the team."

Q: Compared to last year, how have you improved?

A: "I've matured as a player. I know how to handle the pressure of being on the court when it's crunch time. I was more aggressive, and I knew I could push myself even harder."

Q: How did you help motivate the team?

A: "I tried to get them motivated by getting them into a good mood, so they can relax and play better."

Q: How did you prepare for your games?

A: "Listen to music and talk to teammates about the game. As a team, we also did a 'rain dance,' and personally, I eat a nougat bar."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

SENIOR JOSH RIECK

For wrestling, senior Josh Rieck was selected as Athlete of the Month, especially for his state-qualifying place at the heavy-weight spot.

Q: How did it feel to be able to make it to state?

A: "Awesome, indescribable. Just the thrill of going to state was awesome."

Q: How did you perform throughout this season?

A: "Started out slow, then I flipped the switch and got busy."

Q: What is something that motivated you to work harder?

A: "Asking myself if I did enough to meet my teammates' expectations. I tried to push myself harder every day."

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

A: "Keep a good pace and try to wear out my opponent."

Q: What makes you stand out as a wrestler?

A: "Always worked hard, just like everybody else."

WRESTLING