

THE HOOF PRINT

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - 9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. - 785-494-8591
MAY 2010 - VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 6

NEWS BRIEFS

By JOSEPH CALMES & STAFF

Forensics team earns second place

On May 1 at Wichita East, the forensics team competed at the state tournament, taking home a second-place trophy with 347 points, out of 46 schools. The first-place team, Sterling, had 355 points.

Receiving medals were senior TJ Roberts, first in poetry and second in prose; senior Torrey Peterson, second in oration; senior Nolan Fike, third in prose; junior Mandi Blenn, second in extemp. and fourth in informative; sophomore Eric Willard, fifth in poetry; and freshman Dylan Meyer, first in extemp.

Others earning points at the state champs tournament were seniors Sam Cott in poetry and duet, Fike in dramatic solo, Adara Leonard in prose and Peterson in duet; sophomore Ben Peterson in informative; and freshmen Meyer in oration, Jacob Miller in humorous solo and Sara Nider and Paige Miller in duet.

At the state festival, students receiving ones were junior Brenda Stevenson in dramatic solo; sophomores Lane Frazier in dramatic solo and Samantha Stephens in prose; and freshmen Trey Basa in informative, Crystal Chitwood in oration, Ashtin Lee in dramatic solo and Hanna Ruder in poetry and humorous solo.

Receiving twos were juniors Skylar Myers in poetry and Stevenson in prose; sophomore Devin Muir in prose; and freshmen Shane Adams and Jimmie Goodmiller in IDA, Kyle Nelson in informative, Paige Nickell in informative, Mason Swenson in poetry, and Shannon Oakley and Basa in duet. Earning threes were freshmen Chitwood and Lauren Leupold, both in extemp.

Forensics participants also performed at the annual forensics night on May 6 in the Rock Creek commons.

FCCLA students receive silver rating

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, better known as FCCLA, had students participate in STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) events competitions on April 12. Juniors Chelsea Ebert, Jackie Gonzalez and Chelsea Renner received a silver rating for their Illustrated Talk over planning a family vacation. On April 13, FCCLA members went to Century II Convention Center to see their hard work rewarded by raising money for organizations like Children's Miracle Network or the Love Chloe Foundations, all together raising \$2,739.70

"I had a fun there, and I think it's really good that we won the silver," Ebert said.

Freshman Anna Jilka and eighth grader Sarah Marek also were inducted into their district officer positions for next year.

Band, choir students receive honors

This spring, band and choir students participated in regional and state music competitions, doing well at each.

In band, on April 14, the entire band went to Concordia, Kan., for the state competition and received a I rating for the fourth time in a row. On April 24, ensembles and solos competed at state, with the following students receiving I ratings: senior Sam Cott on alto saxophone, senior Nolan Fike on baritone saxophone, senior Jana Havens on flute, junior Colten Smith on alto saxophone and the saxophone trio. Receiving II ratings were the following: senior Brad Duncan on trombone, freshman Rachel

Banquet highlights year's achievements



AT THE BANQUET, activity and athletic director Scott Harshbarger begins the opening ceremonies in the Rock Creek gym on the evening of May 3. During the banquet, Kansas State High School Activities Association activities and Rock Creek athletic teams were recognized for their accomplishments throughout this year. PHOTO BY MASON SWENSON

By MASON SWENSON

The activity and athletic banquet has been put on since former athletic director Kent Rodgers started working at Rock Creek. This year, the activity and athletic banquet was produced on May 3.

The activity and athletic banquet is combined of two things: obviously, activities and athletics. The banquet is combined because attention also needs to be drawn to the activity side of the school, and parents also get to see the work put into both activities and athletics without going to go to two different banquets.

"[The activities that get recognized] are all KSHSAA activities and the athletics at Rock Creek," athletic director Scott Harshbarger said.

The banquet took a lot of work to produce. Some people involved in the production of the banquet were Harshbarger, the coaches, the activity sponsors, seniors Sara Liming and Jessica Jack and the Booster Club. While the Booster Club paid for the necessities, the listed people helped with the banquet.

"The whole school makes the makes the banquet a success," Liming said. "It involves the students, teachers, coaches and sponsors, but the Booster Club puts it

all into place."

Every year, awards are handed out to the seniors, but also to deserving athletes. Seniors got an award for their service and commitment to help themselves and other so the whole school can get better. The two senior athletes receiving an award were Josh Camacho and Taylor Ebert. They received a scholarship from the United States Army. What happened is the school received two scholarships from the U.S. Army, and the school made a committee to give out the scholarship. The scholarship is an athletic scholarship.

"[The scholarship] was exciting to receive," Ebert said. "At first, I thought it meant that I had to join the Army, but it turns out I don't have to."

The order of the night followed the order of the seasons of the year: fall sports, debate, a flute solo by senior Jana Havens, cheer, Scholar's Bowl, winter sports, Army scholarships, saxophone trio performance, softball, choir, spring sports, forensics, academic all-league awards, Booster Club scholarships, senior awards and a grand finale by the band.

"[The importance of the banquet is] to reflect on the students and their achievements and honor students for their efforts," Harshbarger said.

Students finish state assessments within last few months of school

By DEVIN MUIR

April showers bring May flowers – and Kansas state assessments. During the spring, sophomores and juniors have been working on state assessments.

The first assessments taken this year were the reading assessments. Sophomores received their preparation from teacher Donna Hawkins, and the juniors who didn't pass last year prepared in teacher Jessica Augustine's English 11 class. Students took the reading assessments March 22-25.

When asked how Hawkins thought the sophomores scored, she said, "Fantastic, I think we had 64 percent of sophomores in the top categories. We scored very well."

Next, students began the math assessments; however, students began preparing for the test about one month before they actually began taking them. Sophomores have been preparing for the math assessments since early March.

"Math preparation was good and

helpful, but really boring," sophomore Tyler Roark said.

Sophomores had to give up their advisor period to attend practice sessions with one of four math teachers: Donna Koelzer, Shirley Vandahl, Ashley Wege, or Vandahl's student teacher, Jenny Stewart. After the preparation, the students took the assessments on April 21, 23 and 27.

"I'm sure some students are disappointed, but one third of sophomores got exemplary and that's good," Koelzer said.

Finally, science was on the list of assessments that must be taken. Both sophomores and juniors had to take the science assessments. For juniors, this is their first and last attempt at the test, but for sophomores, just like the math and reading assessments, if they don't pass this year, they have a chance to try again.

The science assessments came in two parts, physical science and life science. Sophomores took the science assessments April 29 and May 3, and juniors took them May 5 and 7.

Frank on flute, the percussion quartet and the trombone trio.

On the choir side, on April 14, the entire choir competed at state, receiving a II rating, and on April 24, senior soloists Courtney Brown and William Trieb competed at state, both receiving II ratings.

Both band and choir have also been busy with other activities this spring, as the jazz band had its spring concert at Kite's on April 19, some band students performed for the elementary schools on April 22, choir students watched the Cowley County Community College singers at Rock Creek on April 30, the pop concert was held May 10 and the jazz band played for students on May 11.

FFA members finish a busy year

Students in FFA finished the year

with many activities, including the Super CDE Day on April 7. FFA members also participated in the Envirothon at Pottawatomie County Lake on April 14, district livestock judging at Tonganoxie on April 21, the Farm Bureau Day on the Farm event in Onaga on April 21, the annual banquet and state CDE contests.

Business students score high on test

Business teacher Pat Booth administered the National Financial Capability Challenge to her students on April 6, as part of a voluntary government program. Booth's class had an average score of 77 percent, which was above the national average of 70 percent, and three students placed in the top 20th percentile: junior Jeremiah Perry with a 93 percent, freshman Kyle Nelson with a 90 and sophomore Lizz Herrs with an 88.

PERSONAL PROFILE

JUNIOR AMY ESHELMAN

By JESSICA JACK

Q: What school activities do you participate in?

A: "I am the secretary in FCCLA; I'm a member of FFA; and I'm a member of Renaissance Club."

Q: What are your plans for after high school?

A: "I plan to attend Washburn University and enroll in the radiation technology program. I would also like to go to Europe and travel for a bit."

Q: This year, your family hosted a foreign exchange student, junior Simon Johansson. How was that experience?

A: "It was a big adjustment, but it was good. In a house full of girls, it was an even bigger adjustment. Overall, it has been fun."

Q: What is something unique about you?

A: "I have traveled all over. I've been to over 30 states, Mexico, Puerto Rico, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, Bahamas, Aruba..."

Q: You went to Aruba this Spring Break; How was it?

A: "Aruba was incredible! The beaches are very clean, and the water unbelievably clear. We went snorkeling at three sites; one was a German shipwreck. The sunsets were amazing to see, and the shopping – lots of shopping – was fun!"

OPINIONS

MAY 2010 - PAGE 2

Kansas band impresses staffer at performance

If you're getting tired of listening to the same old bands and are looking for a new rock band to listen to, this is the band and album for you. Sidewise, a band from Lawrence, Kan., has released their fourth album, *Acrasia*. I was first introduced to this band when they opened for Saving Abel at a live show at the Warehouse in Manhattan, and they were amazing. I bought their album as soon as their set was finished.

This band has a sound that is its own. Upon first listen, they may sound similar to Rise Against or Senses Fail,



ERICA SMITH
STAFF MEMBER

but the more you listen, the more the sound changes. While listening, I made connections to Fall Out Boy, Panic! At the Disco, Beautiful Creatures and several others. But even with all these connections, the band still has its

own sound. Sidewise is comprised of five members, and the five make more music together than our seniors make noise when we complain.

No two songs on the album sound the same. The first song, "This Time..." starts the album out with some heavy rock and some shouting, but don't let that deceive you. The lyrics are sad, starting with "Time slips right through our fingers." The song is about if your life ended tomorrow and what other people have left behind.

The next song, "Goodbye World" is a bit more hopeful, even if the title doesn't mirror this. The song is about reaching for your dreams and not letting anything hold you back.

The music for the sixth song, "A Million Before You" can only be described as sweet. Although the music for the song is sweet, the lyrics do not quite match, making an interesting and entertaining juxtaposition that causes the listener to actually listen to the music. This song along with the ninth and first song are the key album tracks.

"Without A Dime," the ninth song, is the mellowest. The band takes on an almost country-like style for the beginning of the song that builds into a more rocking chorus. The song is a bit melancholy sounding, but the first few lines of the chorus "without a dime, I am the richest man alive/And for some sort of reason I'm not willing to compromise," make the listener realize that the speaker is actually a strong person who isn't going to let people walk all over him.

The album ends with a song called "Animal Empire" that begins with a middle-Asian/Indian musical style. The song then ramps up to a rocking chorus, settles into a drum-heavy verse, and in the middle of the song there are a couple of mind-blowing guitar solos.

Each song builds on the previous one, swelling into an amazing album by an up-and-coming band from Kansas. I give this album a full four-star rating, and I suggest to anyone who likes rock music to look at their local Best Buy or log on to www.sidewisemusic.com to buy their new album or listen to a free sample.

ERICA SMITH'S RATING
4 stars out of 4 stars

STAFF EDITORIAL

Students, staff should be proud of all accomplishments this year

As the school year comes to a close, we reflect on the accomplishments and awards that our school has received.

Starting in the fall season, our fall sports teams did an excellent job. Football made it into district play, and volleyball took second at the sub-state tournament. The cross country team doubled in size to an overwhelming 41 runners between high school and junior high: the largest numbers since the school's establishment in 1991. Our multimedia staff from the 2008-2009 school year received the highest state award possible for yearbooks: the Kansas Scholastic Press Association All-Kansas yearbook award.

It is not every day that a Kansas high school can say that they have earned the National Blue Ribbon Award. Through outstanding state assessments and an 18-page application filled out by principal Dennis Post, our high school was the only secondary school that was selected in 2009 for the prestigious award.

After receiving this award, our winter sports continued our great accomplishments. We had one wrestler, sophomore Shane Shaake, make it to state, and our boys and girls basketball teams made it into the sub-state tournament. Rock Creek girls were undefeated until sub-state, and the boys team finished in the second round. Cheering on those

teams and bringing the music was the pep band. Band members competed for state competition, receiving a I rating at the state festival. The choir received a I rating at league and a II rating at state.

Our accomplishments continued into the winter academic programs. Students traveled to state debate, where our school took home second place in the two-speaker debate. The scholar's Bowl took fourth in the state qualifying tournament, where the team barely missed heading to state.

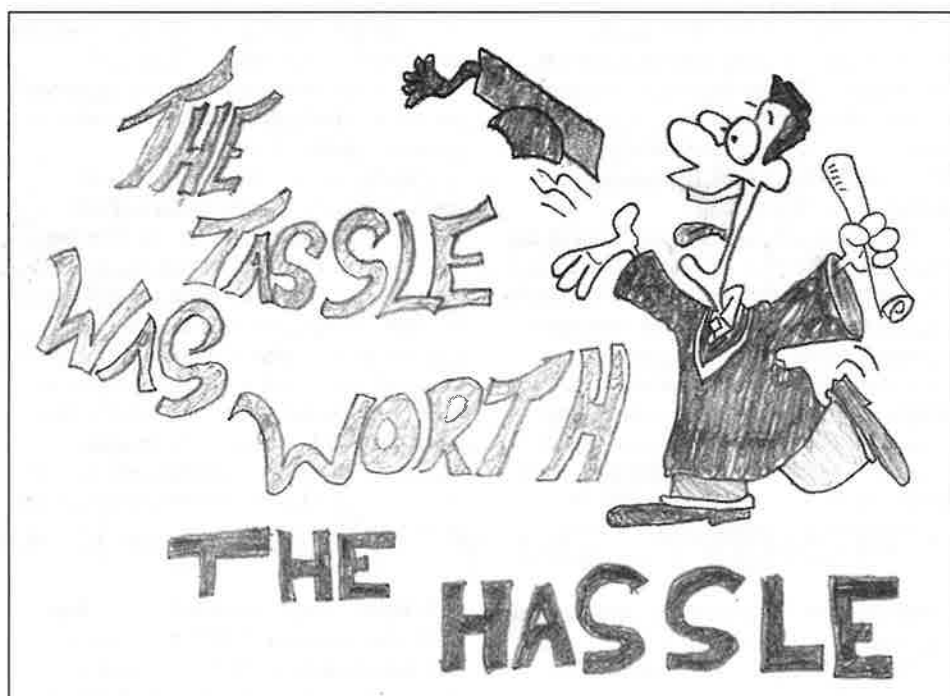
Finishing the year, 16 students headed to state forensics, and six of those students, medaled -- seniors Nolan Fike, Torrey Peterson and TJ Roberts, junior Mandi Blenn, sophomore Eric Willard and freshman Dylan Meyer. Six students will head to national forensics held in Omaha, Neb., on May 28-31.

Accomplishments and awards were left up to our softball, baseball, and track teams and then the students who completed the state assessments.

Our awards and accomplishments wouldn't be what they are if we didn't have our staff to help the student body. We congratulate everyone because it takes more than just staff and just students to make everything possible. We wish everyone a good summer and hope to see you back next year for more honors.

OUR AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS wouldn't be what they are if we didn't have our staff to help the student body.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ANTHONY REID



YOUR PRINT BY ANTHONY REID

"I plan on working a lot this summer, doing a little skateboarding, getting ready for my move to Highland and hanging out with Anthony [Reid] at this new apartment"



ADAM KIBODEAUX
SENIOR

"I'm working at Monsanto, counting corn and getting paid \$9 an hour to take naps."



TJ MINIHAN
JUNIOR

"I am going to be playing softball and trying to find a job, so I can make some money."



ALISHA BANTA
SOPHOMORE

"I will probably hang out with my friend and try not to go crazy being around [my brother] Seth [Ruder] all summer."



HANNA RUDER
FRESHMAN

"I am going to be working right here, while all of the students leave, but I will get to hang out with my grand-daughter and go to Lake of the Ozarks."



JAN GARVERICK
FACULTY/STAFF

THE HOOF PRINT STAFF

CO-EDITORS IN CHIEF
JESSICA JACK & SARA LIMING
BUSINESS MANAGER
ANTHONY REID
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
ERICA SMITH
NEWS SECTION EDITOR
DEVIN MUIR
OPINIONS SECTION EDITOR
SARA LIMING
FEATURES SECTION EDITOR
JESSICA JACK
SPORTS SECTION EDITOR
MICHAEL PARKER
STAFF MEMBERS
JOSEPH CALMES
JOSEPH MATTHEWS
THOMAS MCANERNEY
MASON SWENSON
ADVISER
JESSICA AUGUSTINE

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.

THE HOOF PRINT

ROCK CREEK JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. 66535
PHONE: (785) 494-8591
FAX: (785) 494-8595

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THIS SUMMER?

FEATURES

MAY 2010 - PAGE 3

CLASS OF 2010

As senior class approaches graduation on May 22, their plans for after high school become more solidified

By JESSICA JACK, SARA LIMING, ANTHONY REID & ERICA SMITH

DANIELLE AREA



Senior Danielle Area is one of the few students going to the main campus of Highland Community College in Highland, Kan.

At Rock Creek, Area participated in track three years, choir three years, RC Club one year, Renaissance Club one year and cheerleading four years. Because of

being involved in cheerleading, Area also received a cheerleading scholarship to attend HCC. In order to get the scholarship, Area had to travel to Highland to tryout with the HCC cheerleaders.

"I'm not going to miss Danielle cheering for Rock Creek because I'll be going to Highland with her," senior Becky Lightfoot said.

This summer area will be attending a cheerleading camp through HCC.

"I'm going to miss my wrestling cheerleaders, raising the flag at football games, Papa Beam [Strength teacher Mike Beam] and lunch time with the girls," Area said.

After Area graduates from HCC in two years, she plans to attend either Washburn University or University of Kansas for physical therapy.

"I want to thank my mommy and brother for all they have done for me," Area said.

SENIORS' FUTURE PLANS

- TJ Andrade - Emporia State University for special education
- Danielle Area - Highland Community College
- Lynette Bellinder - Highland Community College for education
- Lora Blackwood - Brown Mackie College
- Courtney Brown - Kansas State University for geology
- Josh Camacho - Sterling College for business
- Hannah Cockerill - Washburn University for social work
- Samuel Cott - University of Kansas for engineering
- George Dille - Kansas State University for agronomy or horticulture
- Brad Duncan - Kansas State University for engineering
- Danielle Duncan - Highland Community College for agriculture
- Pake Ebert - Kansas State University for agriculture
- Taylor Ebert - Kansas Wesleyan University for nursing
- Megan Feldkamp - Washburn University for radiology technology
- Nolan Fike - University of Kansas for architecture
- Justin Fronce - University of Kansas for meteorology
- Tyler Gardner - Kansas State University for engineering
- Jana Havens - Washburn University for music education
- Jared Hawkins - Kansas State University for engineering
- Travis Heideman - Kansas State University for business and marketing
- Debra Hollingshead - Workforce
- Bridget Hoover - Kansas State University for agriculture communications
- Cheyenne Hulbert - Aveda Institute for cosmetology
- Jessica Jack - Marines
- Tyler Keller - Kansas State University for business
- Adam Kibodeaux - Highland Community College for business
- Brad Kleusch - Manhattan Area Technical College for electrical power
- Spencer Klocke - Kansas State University for engineering
- Laurel Lauer - Kansas State University for education
- Adara Leonard - Kansas State University for dietetics
- Becky Lightfoot - Highland Community College for dental hygiene
- Sara Liming - Pittsburg State University for mass communications
- Kate Lohse - Kansas State University
- Cassie Marker - Undecided
- Mitchell McPhillamy - Manhattan Area Technical College for CAD
- Rob Merry - Southeast Community College for auto technology
- Frances Nelson - Manhattan Area Technical College for nursing
- Shanna Nelson - Highland Community College for early childhood education
- Harrison Newman - Johnson County Community College for pre-chiropractory
- Megan Nider - Kansas State University for education
- Rachel Nider - Highland Community College for human services
- Dawn Nowakowski - Kansas State University for pre-physical therapy
- Patrick O'Connor - Highland Community College for criminal justice
- Amanda Oakley - Kansas State University for food science
- Neil Patrick - Kansas State University for math education
- Torrey Peterson - University of Kansas for pre-medicine
- Leona Poeske - Kansas State University for dietetics
- Anthony Reid - Manhattan Area Technical College for HVAC
- Chasity Ridder - Highland Community College for accounting
- TJ Roberts - Mid-America Nazarene College for business
- Seth Ruder - Manhattan Area Technical College for electrical power
- Erica Smith - Kansas State University, then the Art Institute of Chicago for art
- Becca Snapp - Kansas State University for education
- Ashley Srna - University of Kansas for nursing
- Melanie Stubbs - Highland Community College for social work
- Lucas Swoyer - Manhattan Area Technical College for electrical power
- Wes Thierolf - Highland Community College for law enforcement
- William Trieb - Kansas State University for pre-medicine
- Corey VanPelt - Kansas State University for wildlife management

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PICTURED SENIORS FROM THEIR SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

JUSTIN FRONCE



Wondering about the weather? Ask senior Justin Fronce what he predicts is going to happen. Fronce plans to go to the University of Kansas to major in atmosphere science so he can become a meteorologist, better known as a weatherman.

Fronce decided he wanted to be a weatherman when he was about 10 years old after watching the weather outside and because of the movie "Twister." He also plans to enlist in the Air Force to become a part of their atmosphere science program also. When asked if his parents support his plan to join the Air Force, Fronce said they do support him.

When asked what he would miss most about high school, Fronce said, "High school. I'm going to miss being in high school, and football, debates and friends."

He also hopes to receive a scholarship after he gets to KU, a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship for enlisting in the Air Force.

"[Justin] seems very passionate about what he wants to do; I think he'll really enjoy it," debate teacher Keith Miller said. "He seems very certain, and it's not common that kids his age are so certain about what they want to do out of high school."

JESSICA JACK



Senior Jessica Jack is the only senior that is headed into the military as one of the few, the proud: the Marines.

"I wanted to go into some branch of military, and I chose the Marines because I thought it would be a challenge, and a challenge is what I needed," Jack said.

Jack heads to basic training on July 26 in Parris Island, S.C., for 13 weeks. After her 13 weeks of basic training, Jack will come back to Kansas for 10 days, then go back to learn about her job as a supply person. Jack had not originally planned to be a supply person, but due to a physical examination where she learned she was red color-blind, that is what Jack chose.

"There are many perks to being in the military," Jack said. "After I get out, I'll have military benefits the rest of my life, and I can retire earlier than most people."

Before deciding to head into the military, Jack participated at Rock Creek in multimedia three years, cross country one year, basketball two years and track one year.

"To my knowledge, this is something Jess came up with this year," her father Captain Mark Jack said. "I'm proud of her that she wants to serve her country right out of high school."

COREY VANPELT



Senior Corey Van Pelt is going to college for something that not very many people think of doing: to become a wildlife biologist. Van Pelt will begin his schooling in the fall at Kansas State University.

"I cannot wait to go to college because of the new atmosphere and all

the new people I will meet," Van Pelt said.

A wildlife biologist makes sure wildlife is protected and nothing gets in the way of destroying it. Van Pelt was involved mostly in ag during high school, participating in FFA his senior year. Van Pelt has done a lot of camping, hunting and fishing during his high school years with all of his friends.

"I am going to miss Rock Creek a lot because of the laid-back environment and the awesome new shop we have," Van Pelt said. "I am going to miss my friends the most, though, because a lot of them are not going to the same school as I am."

Van Pelt chose this career while he was hunting and met a guy who was a wildlife biologist who told him he would be a good person for the job.

"I think Corey will do very well at his job because he is very caring about animals, and he loves the outdoors," senior Tyler Gardner said.

SPORTS

MAY 2010 - PAGE 4

Boys and girls track teams prepare for last meets of season

By Sara Liming

Rock Creek track this year is different than previous years. The sizes of the boys and girls teams have dwindled, and 95 percent of the participants are junior varsity, but the teams are still winning medals and taking home the gold.

Prior to the meet, assistant coach Jeremy Lehning said he had high hopes for the athletes participating in Mid-East League track at Silver Lake May 13.

"The junior varsity boys team has won four meets," Lehning said. "And we've had a few students break school records."

Senior Harrison Newman has broken the school record in two events this year: the 400-meter run and the 800-meter run.

Newman is also part of the varsity boy's four-by-400-meter relay team, which broke the school record. Other runners in the relay are sophomore Josh Gee, junior D.J. Denzien and senior Spencer Klocke.

In the girls division, sophomore Liz Herra has destroyed the school's record in javelin.

"I hope to take first in javelin [at league]," Herra said before the MEL meet. "And I hope to not embarrass myself in the other two events."

There has not been a full varsity track team at a meet yet this year, because there has not been a need for one, according to Lehning. However, for league, all the junior varsity participants were moved up and participated in the varsity events.

After league, track athletes will complete at regionals on May 21 at St. Marys. The last meet of the season, if athletes qualify, will be the state tournament on May 28-29 in Wichita.

Last year, the girls team had two competitors place at state, including Herra, who placed seventh in shot put. The boys had four athletes place at state, including current senior Adam Kibodeaux, who placed fifth in high jump.



At Rock Creek, senior Torrey Peterson launches herself over the bar in the high jump event on April 16. At their invitational, the Mustang girls finished second, and the boys finished fifth. PHOTO BY MASON SWENSON

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Ebert signs to play two sports

By Tevin Matthews

Junior Taylor Ebert has been doing sports all her life, particularly softball, which she has been playing now for 12 years and counting.

"Sports are my life," Ebert said. "It [balancing sports with school] takes serious dedication beyond any normal person."

As it stands, all of Ebert's hard work on the field and on the court has paid off. After she graduates from high school this spring, she plans on attending Kansas Wesleyan University, a four-year private college in Salina, Kan., to study nursing.

The extremely good news is that Ebert has also signed up to play two sports for Kansas Wesleyan: basketball and softball.

"It will be time-consuming for me, but I am very excited," Ebert said.

As far as her Rock Creek sports career goes, Ebert is doing well so far this season and is always working to get even better.

"As a pitcher, Taylor is 4-2," softball head coach Jeri Brummett said. "I would definitely say that she is holding her own."

As a whole, the Rock Creek softball team is 7-5 at press time; over the course of the season, the team has faced some tough competition, Brummett said.

"Abilene and St. Marys were two tough teams," Brummett said. "We split with both of the teams, but we did well."

Besides softball, Ebert was also a starter on the girls basketball team that went 20-1 this season and was undefeated throughout the regular season. Ebert had done very well individually in basketball. She said that she is planning to give it her all when it comes to playing both basketball and softball in college.

"Out of all the sports that I do," Ebert said. "I would say it is a tie between softball and basketball. I can't seem to find an edge between either of them."

Baseball gains momentum

By Thomas McAnerney

The sounds of bats and gloves have filled the air as the Rock Creek baseball team has started the season. With the loss of last year's seniors, the team started the season 1-5, but gained some confidence and went 3-3 in the next six games it played.

This year's team is made up of many younger players. The baseball team started the season against Wamego April 9. The team also started later than most teams so when they played Wamego they did not have the game experience that other teams did. They then played Chapman April 13 who was "flat-out good" and the younger players just weren't ready.

When asked what he told the team when they went 0-4, head coach Chad Herren said, "I told them that the record doesn't matter, but that you get better, and that you are good when you reach regionals."

Since the tough six-game stretch, the team has been 3-3 and had a three-game winning streak. The pitching turned around for them and kept them in games. Their hitting also improved. According to Herren, the team started playing more as a team and started doing the little things correctly.

Some players that stand out to Herren are senior Jared Hawkins, sophomore Ryan Harshbarger and sophomore Josh Srna. Hawkins, according to Herren, has been a good senior leader this year and is batting a .407. Harshbarger has started hitting well with a .300. Srna has been good at catcher.

When asked about Hawkins and how he is playing, sophomore Trevor Sutton said, "Jared is playing well and is stepping up as a senior and leader. He's not letting anyone slack and is really pushing everyone."

The team has a bright future because they have a young team this year and are gaining valuable experience through the games that they play, Herren said.

When asked what he expects from the team, Herren said, "If the team continues to grow and work as a team then we have a really good chance at state and building a strong future."

Rock Creek, other local schools discuss superleague idea

By Michael Parker

The Mid-East League is made up of six schools, including Rock Creek, but the league is looking to possibly expand and add more teams.

Rock Creek has been in the MEL since 1992; only Riley County, who joined in 1996, joined later.

The league had invited Marysville, Centralia, Nemaha Valley and Valley Heights earlier in the year to join the league.

Marysville, who is classified as 3A, turned down the invitation and decided to stay in the North Central Kansas League, where they are the smallest school.

Centralia and Valley Heights, 2A schools from the Twin Valley league, only wanted to join the league for

football and probably won't end up joining.

Nemaha Valley, a 2A school who is currently in the Big 7 League, is still considering the offer.

"I think it's a 50/50 chance whether or not Nemaha Valley will join," principal Dennis Post said. "We should know by the end of the year."

Currently, the MEL consists of Rock Creek, Riley County, Rossville, St. Marys, Silver Lake and Wabaunsee. All of the schools are classified as 2A, 3A or 4A.

As recently as six years ago, in 2004, the league had nine total members. However, Mission Valley, Northern Heights and Onaga left to join the Flint Hills League. The MEL has been around since 1948.

The expansion has both positive and

negative aspects, according to Post.

A positive would be that it would be easier to put together schedules during the year. Another plus would be that the smaller schools wouldn't have to always play the bigger ones with three 2A schools being invited.

For students, they also see a benefit in that an expanded league would mean more competition.

On the possible expansion, sophomore Logan Miner said, "I think it's good because it gives us some new teams for us to beat."

A negative of the league expansion is that the four schools invited would be a longer trip to take to go to the activities than any of the other schools currently in the league.

"However, I don't see many negatives," Post said.

SCOREBOARD

By Joseph Calmes

	RC	OPPONENT
VARSITY BASEBALL		
Wamego (04/09)	2	17
	0	9
Chapman (04/13)	1	14
	0	14
Marysville (04/16)	1	8
	5	3
St. Marys (04/20)	8	7
	8	6
Riley County (04/27)	6	7
	8	10
Clay Center (04/30)	9	6
	9	14
Wabaunsee (05/04)	17	4
	10	6
JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL		
Marysville (04/01)	1	2
	5	1
Herington (04/08)	5	1
	12	2
Wamego (04/12)	7	10
	8	5
Riley County (04/15)	W	
Wamego (04/19)	W	
	L	
Riley County (04/26)	15	0
	10	0
Wamego (05/01)	L	
	W	
VARSITY SOFTBALL		
Wamego (04/01)	8	5
	10	0
Abilene (04/06)	8	1
	5	9
SE of Saline (04/09)	5	10
	11	0
Clay Center (04/13)	6	7
	7	2
St. Marys (04/20)	2	0
	1	4
Riley County (04/27)	1	2
	5	7
Osage City (04/29)	3	8
	5	4
Wabaunsee (05/04)	2	3
	5	3
JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL		
Clay Center (04/12)	7	6
	11	6
Royal Valley (04/24)	10	15
Manhattan (04/24)	6	0
Abilene (04/29)	8	6
	2	13
Chapman (04/30)	18	2
	19	1
VARSITY TRACK		
Silver Lake (03/29)	4th	4th
Wabaunsee (04/09)	3rd	3rd
Wamego (04/13)	2nd	6th
Rock Creek (04/16)	2nd	5th
Jeff West (04/20)	5th	6th
St. Marys (04/30)	5th	5th
Nemaha Valley (05/04)	4th	7th
JUNIOR VARSITY TRACK		
Silver Lake (03/29)	1st	2nd
Wamego (04/13)	2nd	2nd
Abilene JV (04/13)	2nd	4th
Rock Creek (04/16)	1st	7th
Manhattan JV (04/29)	4th	9th
Nemaha Valley (05/04)	1st	7th