

THE HOOF PRINT

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - 9355 FLUSH RD. - ST. GEORGE, KAN. - 785-494-8591
NOVEMBER 2009 - VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 2

NEWS BRIEFS

By SARA LIMING & ERICA SMITH

School celebrates Blue Ribbon Award

On Nov. 6, Rock Creek held the official Blue Ribbon ceremony with attendants from the Kansas Senate and the U.S. Department of Education.

At this ceremony, a flag and plaque were presented to principal Dennis Post by the Department of Education director Jeanne Ackerson, recognizing the school as one of the 39 high schools in the nation to receive the 2009 Blue Ribbon Award.

Student Council President senior Josh Camacho and leader of the Flag Corps eighth-grader Jacob Milham revealed the flag to the school in attendance. Seniors TJ Andrade and Amanda Oakley revealed the banner that is hanging in the gym.

"This is cool," Mark Kuecker, school board president, said. "This is beyond cool. I just want you to understand just how cool this is."

Parents attend Exit Project meetings

The parents of the junior class had an opportunity to become more involved in their children's school lives. Rock Creek offered two dates for junior parents to learn about the Exit Projects. On Nov. 9, 15 parents showed up, and on Nov. 12, 16 parents attended the meeting.

When asked why Rock Creek offered meetings this year, senior advisor Desiree Renner said, "We wanted to change the conception, or misconception, of the Exit Project as viewed by the public. We want to get the right information out to the public and the parents."

Groups sponsor buffer week activities

On Nov. 12, the FCCLA hosted a fundraiser to benefit the St. George Cemetery, which was vandalized on Halloween. The fundraiser included a paint balloon war and a flour ball free-for-all, and there was a \$25 fee for a team of five to sign up. Five teams entered, and a total of \$125 was raised to help the cemetery; the money cannot go straight to the cemetery, so FCCLA will provide a meal for the volunteers who are helping to fix the tombstones.

"We chose to do this fundraiser for the cemetery because this is our own community that needed support," sponsor Mary Siderewicz said. "It was just a fun event, and we really appreciate everyone who participated and helped out."

On Nov. 9, Rock Creek also hosted a Monster Volleyball tournament. A total of six teams participated, with a final match of Get Grumpy versus Death of the Net. Get Grumpy won the best of 15 matches and received a certificate. The team consisted of seniors Josh Camacho, Jared Hawkins, Harrison Newman and sophomores Kyron Case and Logan Miner.

"My favorite part was destroying Death of the Nets and watching the Screeching Pterodactyls get crushed!" Camacho said.

Some partake in No-Shave November

November, to some, is the month of Thanksgiving, but to others, it is known as No-Shave November. A large portion of the senior males and a few junior males participated in this national event. The rules are simple, shave Oct. 31 and do not shave again until November is over.

"I wanted to show the Rock Creek community that even a blonde towheaded kid can grow a vicious red beard," Ruder said.

District explores expansion options

By SARA LIMING

As the student body grows, so must the school. This year, there have been a large number of new students added to the district. There are approximately 377 students in grades 7-12. According to principal Dennis Post, there was a gain of 12 students this year, which means on average, the number of students grow about seven percent annually.

"Right now we have three options for expansion," Post said. "One, we can convert the ALC into a temporary junior high classroom; two, add an addition to the high school; or three, build a 7/8 building."

At the rate that the school is growing, something will need to be done by the year 2012. The administration is looking at adding additional part-time teachers in the fall of 2012 and making an addition or building a new building by the year 2014. This year's fourth grade class, or the class of 2018, currently has 80 students in the class, which is by far the biggest class to have come through the district.

Plans are starting to be made to accommodate the addition of the students to the building. On average, it takes three years from the time the board says that the building process is going to happen to the time that the building is actually finished. Currently, the school board is not sure exactly which direction it is headed in terms of construction. If



LOOKING FROM THE WEST, the Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School building has some area that it could use for a new expansion. The school board currently has only discussed possibilities and has not yet decided whether an addition will be built or where it would be constructed. PHOTO BY THOMAS McJERNEY

the school board decides to build a new building, there may be a large addition to the staff, and the middle school may be on a different schedule than the high school. If the school board decides to make additions, they will be made on the end of the south end of the junior high or the far west side of the high school.

"If we continue to grow," Superintendent Darrel Stufflebeam said, "then I think a separate middle school at the Rock Creek campus would be a better option for the long-term future of our school district."

But an issue of where the school is going to get the money has arisen. The economy has hit all the schools in the nation hard. The board members may raise school fees or hopefully get a bond

to cover the addition of a new school or new classrooms and the addition of teachers. How a bond works is the school proposes what the bond will be used towards, then the local communities can either vote to approve or decline it.

With the expected addition in the coming years, the school administration expects Rock Creek to jump up to 4A. Classification numbers are counted by taking the top three grades and adding them together. In the 2009-2010 school year, Rock Creek is sitting at 181 students. That is only nine students between the 3A and 4A cut-off.

"Once we jump up to 4A," Post said, "we don't expect to grow any larger than that."

Rock Creek Board of Education approves added security cameras

By DANIELLE DUNCAN

Just like any other school, Rock Creek has endured some violence, vandalism and theft. To make sure the school remains safe, though, the Rock Creek Board of Education has thought of setting up more security cameras around the school.

At its monthly meeting on Nov. 11, the board approved the addition of security cameras to Rock Creek High School and the two district elementary schools.

Currently, the high school has two cameras, one in the front of the school and one in back, but it could add between 12-14 more since the system can hold up to 16 cameras.

"The cameras would be placed in hallways, in the lobby, in the gyms, and primarily in rooms where there is a door that leads to the outside of the building," principal Dennis Post said. "The cameras would be used mainly for nighttime security."

Drama students present 'Don't Drink the Water'

By DEVIN MUIR

On Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., the Rock Creek fall play, "Don't Drink the Water" by Woody Allen, was performed.

The play is about Walter Hollander (senior Nolan Fike), Marion Hollander (senior Sara Liming) and Susan Hollander (senior Torrey Peterson), who are on vacation and end up in a lot of trouble after taking a photograph of a sunset in a sensitive area. Being chased by the Vulgarian Police Sergeant Krojack (freshman Jacob Miller) and his policeman

Novotny (freshman Tory Plummer), who believe them to be spies, they are forced to hide in the American Embassy to avoid going to prison.

Peterson said, "The family we play attempts many escapes, and all the failures make it funny."

The fall play was originally set to be performed both Nov. 13 and 14, but the Nov. 13 show had to be canceled.

"We've been really struggling with kids being ill, so we decided to just cancel the Friday performance," director Keith Miller said.

PERSONAL PROFILE

SOPHOMORE HEA-YEON LEE

By MASON SWENSON

Q: How did you get into the foreign exchange program?

A: "Over the intercom, they said, 'Anyone interested in going to a different country, contact the counselor,' so I went. My parents said 'yes,' and here I am."

Q: How do you like being in the United States?

A: "I like it. I like how the malls and stores are open on Sundays, unlike Germany. I also like how the teachers decorate the room and are willing to help you."

Q: How do you like Rock Creek?

A: "I hate [riding] the bus, but the people are nice."

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: "Talk with friends, [go to] football games and parties."

Q: When do you return to Germany, and what will you miss about the United States?

A: "June 5. [I will miss] people, dances . . . I don't know, everything!"

OPINIONS

NOVEMBER 2009 - PAGE 2

Sophomore thinks concurrent policy needs to be changed

Concurrent credits are helpful to college-bound students. At Rock Creek, students can only receive them in their junior and senior year, which is not fair to the sophomores who strive to be ahead. Sophomores have every right to receive college credit as juniors and seniors do when taking the same classes.

Concurrent credits are college credits that are generated in a high school. They are like any other class, but the student pays a tuition fee and receives credit hours for the class towards college. There is a difference between Advanced Placement classes and concurrent credits in that students take



THOMAS McANERNEY
STAFF MEMBER

a test at the end of an AP class, and they need to score a 3 or higher on a 1-5 scale to receive college credit for the class. The AP option is available for sophomores. Concurrent credits are taken at your high school, and a community college allows the credit to be counted concurrently for high school credit and for college credit. In this area, Highland Community College helps with our concurrent credits. Some concurrent credit classes at Rock Creek include physics, anatomy and college algebra.

The state law in Kansas says that sophomores can earn concurrent credits, but it states that students can only transfer 24 hours to college. This is one of the reasons why Highland does not allow sophomores to earn concurrent credit as a sophomore. They also believe that that right should be reserved to juniors and seniors only. Sophomores can earn credit according to state law, but Highland doesn't allow it under normal circumstances.

Sophomores should be able to earn concurrent credit through Highland, first, because the state recognizes that sophomores have the ability to take these classes and succeed so they made it possible for sophomores to take them for college credit.

Second, there is just a one-year difference between sophomores and juniors so sophomores should be able to receive the same academic credits as them if they are taking the same classes.

Finally, sophomores who take these courses are normally college-bound, and this gives them a good head-start into college. Sophomores may choose to take concurrent classes because concurrent credit classes are cheaper than college classes normally would cost, these classes help to motivate kids in high school, and they also have no huge test like AP classes do.

I think that we should get Highland to change its policy so that sophomores can receive concurrent credits. The college currently allows sophomores to earn credit only through a "gifted" program, but it can be easily overlooked in high schools. They should follow the state Board of Regents' guideline, which says that sophomores can earn the credit.

STAFF EDITORIAL

With growing student numbers, school expansion is necessary

Each year, the school district gets larger. This year, Rock Creek had a decent growth, and students can already notice that the halls are a nightmare to navigate through. The school is getting larger, but the school district has thought of ways to help the students and teachers breathe easier.

Classrooms are going to get harder and harder to find a seat in each year as new students make their way through the halls. Right now, each classroom is peaking at an occupancy of around 23 to 25 students. The prospect of new classrooms can be the light at the end of a tunnel for any student getting jammed up against the wall looking for a break in the crowd. And, it could be a nice relief for the teachers who have a large amount of students in the classroom. But even though it may be nice for the students, it may not be so nice for the school.

The economy hit this school hard with the budget cuts in the past two years, and with the news that we need more room, it can make any school administrator shudder. Questions have been raised as to how the school district will pay for the expansion. There are a few solutions that the administrators have thought of. One, the school board may have to raise

the school fees just a few dollars to be able to pay for the addition of its choice, or two, our school can get a bond issue to help pay for the new addition. Bond issues are voted on locally.

Despite the costs, if we do not expand soon, this may mean bad news. Our school is already peaking towards maximum capacity, and if we do not make additions, we could be best friends with the person sitting next to us in Anatomy. Overall, we are growing, and this could mean that our school could see great opportunities and a great diversity of students.

THE NEED FOR expansion at Rock Creek has become serious, as larger classes are just a few years away, but our school board and administration have thought ahead, and they have ideas of what to expect and solutions to fix the growing issues.

The school officials expect us to go to 4A classification within the next three years. With the added growth, we would possibly see new district schools in athletics, attend different conferences and see new competition in academics (i.e. Scholars Bowl) and athletics. We could also see new teachers added and could possibly have different class options available. The need for expansion at Rock Creek has become serious, as larger classes are just a few years away, but our school board and administration have thought ahead, and they have ideas of what to expect and solutions to fix the growing issues.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ANTHONY REID



YOUR PRINT BY ERICA SMITH

"Thanksgiving night, my grandpa and I go home



GEORGE DILLE
SENIOR

early and then go hunting the next morning."

"I don't really like Thanksgiving [because] we have to eat meat. [I do like] no school."



BRENDA STEVENSON
JUNIOR

"[My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is] going hunting with my uncle."



TREVOR SUTTON
SOPHOMORE

"[My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is] making dinner and having a lot of family around."



JOSH JONES
FRESHMAN

"Mine is eating a lot of food and then watching football."



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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.

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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.

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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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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING TRADITION?

FEATURES

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Wanted:

High school student seeks a part-time job that pays high hourly wages, allows for time off, works around school and activity schedules, does not require early mornings or late nights and has an awesome boss and co-workers. Please help a student find the right job!

With the poor economy and because of their age, some high school students have trouble finding a job

By JESSICA JACK, SARA LIMING & ANTHONY REID

Many students in high school need jobs for numerous reasons, such as to pay for gas, food, clothes, bills and miscellaneous items, but finding a job can sometimes be a hard task to complete.

There are many problems that interfere with high school student's job opportunities. The bad economic times are playing a factor in students' lives by job shortages and pay cuts. Another reason why it is hard for students to find jobs is because of their age, which can limit their choices. Finally, a problem that occurs is students who have little or no work experience.

The number one factor today for students getting jobs is how bad the economy is going right now. Many students are finding it hard to find places to work because no businesses want to hire anybody else right now because they are not making the money to support more employees.

Employers are looking for people that are very reliable and know that if they are hired, they are expected to perform the best they can. Some students that have jobs are also experiencing problems with their job from pay cuts. Pay cuts are happening because employers do not have the money to afford all the employees.

"It is difficult to get a job when there are no jobs to be found, or if the students do not have the proper skills for the jobs that are available," business teacher Desiree Renner said.

Everyone says they wish they were young again, but some students wish they were older so they could have a better chance of getting a job. Age is a big factor in getting jobs because an employer wants their employees to be mature and make their businesses look good. Students are sometimes looked at as children, and employers will not give students the chance to prove that they are capable of

working for them.

Sophomore Samantha Reeves, who has applied multiple places, including Westy Country Market and Scritch-Scritch Patch, has had trouble finding a job because of her age.

"It has been hard to find a job because most places only hire 16 year olds," Reeves said.

Some employers do not want to hire students because of the guidelines for students with jobs. They believe that it is a hassle to have to deal with students. For example, students can only work until a certain time of night and can only have so many hours a week. If an employer breaks these rules, he or she can get in trouble for it, and so, businesses might just avoid the problem by not hiring students.

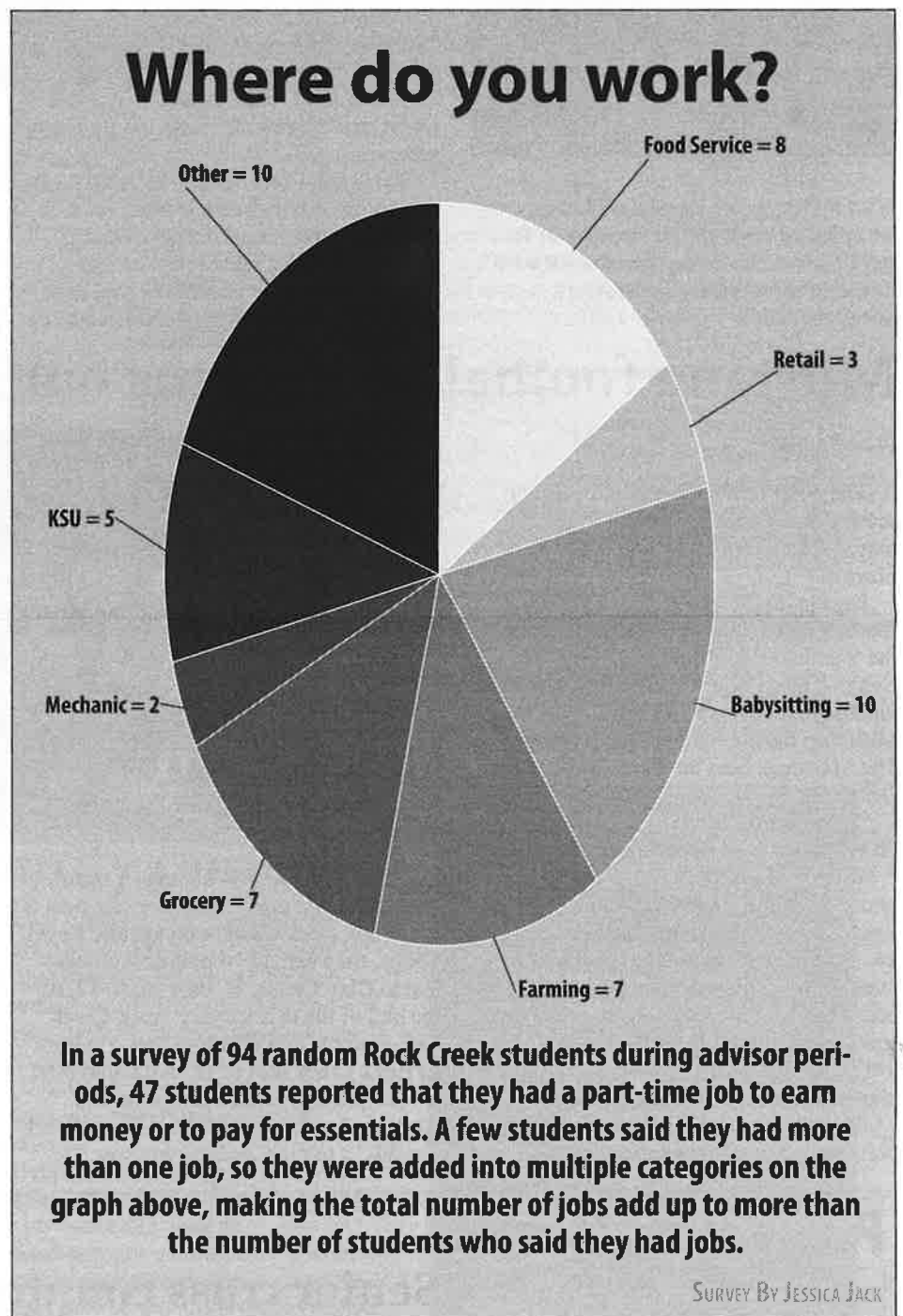
Another reason students cannot get a job is because many of them have never had a job before and have no work experience, so employers do not want to have to worry about employees' maturity and dedication to a job. Some kids do not know exactly how to act at their first job and sometimes do not realize how much it takes to do school work and other activities.

Although there are students out there who have trouble finding jobs because of the economy, their age, their schedule or their lack of experience, for some students, it is easier.

"It wasn't hard for me [to find a job] because I had connections at K-Hill," senior Tyler Gardner, who is employed now for K-Hill, said.

Like Gardner said, knowing people and having connections with businesses can help a student successfully find a job. Freshman Hanna Ruder is one of the other students who is lucky to have found a job in this economy through her connections. She was recently hired at Vista, a fast-food restaurant, in Manhattan.

"I got a job easily," Ruder said. "[My brother] Seth [Ruder] got it for me."



FOR HIS JOB, junior TJ Minihan farms for his family. Minihan is one of the seven students surveyed who said he farms to earn money. PHOTO COURTESY OF TJ MINIHAN

Although hard to find, about half of students have jobs

By JESSICA JACK

People are probably familiar with a teenager's struggle to get a job. The teen may apply to 10 different places, have interviews with four different businesses, but still cannot find the right job.

Out of the 94 Rock Creek students surveyed, exactly half have jobs, and the other half do not. For the 47 people who have jobs, eight are in food service, three are in retail, 10 have a babysitting job, seven work on farms, seven work in grocery stores, two are mechanics, five work at Kansas State University and 10 have other jobs.

A common job would be going to work at a fast-food restaurant or babysitting, but for senior Taylor Ebert, she has a job unlike most high school students.

"I have been lifeguarding at the Westmoreland pool for three years," Ebert said. "It is the best job in the whole wide world."

For some students who work at KSU during games, they do jobs of a wide variety. Some work at Cats Closet as a doorman, and also some work outside to direct traffic and park cars. Senior Patrick O'Connor is one of those students who works during football games.

"I park cars and look good," O'Connor said.

Of the students surveyed, one of the top places to work was a fast-food restaurant. Some of those restaurants named include Sonic, Dairy Queen, Early Edition, Vista, Sirloin Stockade, Freddy's Frozen Custard, Toto's Tacoz, Street Corner News and Westy Country Market. Unlike other

students, senior Shanna Nelson said she feels different about her job at Sonic.

"I don't like working there because they don't give me enough hours," Nelson said.

Another job would be farming, which consists of a lot of hard work. Farming is also one of the hardest working jobs that was surveyed. Farming usually runs in peoples families, as it does for junior TJ Minihan.

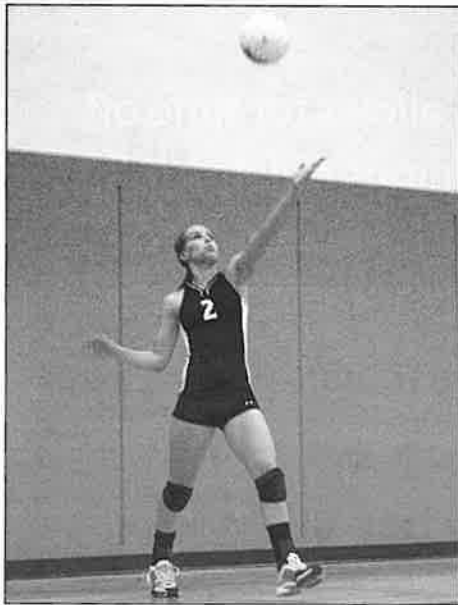
"Since I was knee high to a duck," Minihan said, when asked how long he had been farming.

For some students at Rock Creek, they seem to have much easier jobs than others. Some just work at family-owned businesses or just work for their family on farms, while others work at local businesses in their community.

SPORTS

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Volleyball finishes season at sub-state tournament



IN SUB-STATE PLAY, sophomore Bailey Elliott serves the ball against the Riley County Falcons on Oct. 24. The Rock Creek Mustangs ended up placing second in sub-state, which ended their hopes of returning to the state tournament. PHOTO BY SARA LIMING

By TEVIN MATTHEWS

On Oct. 24, at Rock Creek High School, the sub-state volleyball tournament took place.

The Mustangs first battled it out with Riley County, winning 25-13 and 25-16. Then the Mustangs went up against St. Marys, losing the first match 16-25 and winning the second and third matches 25-21 and 25-23. Then Rock Creek went on to face Atchison County Community High School. The Mustangs, however, went on to drop both matches with ACCHS 25-22 and 25-22 and lost the chance to go onto play in state.

When asked what she was thinking during the final match, senior Becky Lightfoot said, "This cannot be my last senior game. We have come too far to quit now."

The Rock Creek volleyball team was disappointed in its second-place final standing at the end of the day. Though the team did not make it to state this year, several of the teammates said they enjoyed the season despite the recent loss.

"I have no regrets; everything happens for a reason," senior Taylor Ebert said.

However, Lightfoot said it was something else that contributed to the close defeat.

"It was not tough; we just needed to stop giving ACCHS the lead," Lightfoot said. "Once we wanted it, we caught right back up."

Starting next season, the Rock Creek Mustangs will have to fill the spots left by the graduating seniors.

"The new senior class will have six new spots to fill and six big shoes to fill from this year's senior class!" Ebert said.

Whether the new team will live up to it or not remains to be seen next year.

"There will definitely be things to work on," coach Terry Schmitz said. "We do not have the height advantage so our defense is really going to have to work."

Although the seniors have played their last game, the memories will still be with everyone who participated in the season.

"It was the most amazing season ever," Lightfoot said. "We loved each other, and we are definitely going to miss it."

SCOREBOARD

By MASON SWENSON

	RC	OPPONENT
VARSITY FOOTBALL		
Royal Valley (10/16)	40	30
Wamego (10/23)	22	28
Clay Center (10/29)	16	26
Abilene (11/03)	13	34
JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL		
Royal Valley (10/19)	39	6
FRESHMAN FOOTBALL		
Wamego (10/22)	21	6
VARSITY VOLLEYBALL		
Hillsboro Tourn. (10/17)	1st	
Marion (10/17)	2	0
Conway Springs (10/17)	2	0
Hoisington (10/17)	2	0
Riley County (10/20)	2	0
Riley County (10/20)	2	0
Riley County (10/24)	2	0
St. Marys (10/24)	2	1
Atchinson Co. (10/24)	0	2
Sub-state (10/24)	2nd	
JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL		
Riley County (10/20)	2	0
Riley County (10/20)	2	0
FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL		
Riley County (10/20)	2	1
Riley County (10/20)	2	0
CROSS COUNTRY		
Regionals (10/24)	Boys 6th	Girls 8th

Mustang football team wins out in district play

By SARA LIMING

The 2009 football team had a decent season. Rock Creek went 2-4 in regular play, 1-2 in district play and 0-1 in playoffs.

During district play, Rock Creek football faced the Royal Valley Panthers, the Wamego Red Raiders and the Clay Center Tigers. The Royal Valley game was the first and only win for the Rock Creek Mustangs during the final three games. The Mustangs beat the Panthers 40-30 on Oct. 16.

"It felt great," senior Pake Ebert said. "It felt like a turning point in our season."

Wamego beat Rock Creek 28-22 at home on Oct. 23, and Clay Center beat Rock Creek 26-16 on the road on Oct. 29. Rock Creek made it to the playoffs over Wamego by one point. Wamego needed to beat Royal Valley to make their spot definite in the playoffs, but Wamego lost. This game let Rock Creek into the playoffs by one point over Wamego.

According to coach Beam, there is a point system used in determining who



IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE GAME, Rock Creek's offense lines up against the Abilene Cowboys at Abilene on Nov. 3. The Mustangs dropped its bi-district playoff game to the Cowboys, 34-13. PHOTO BY SARA LIMING

plays in bi-districts. Whenever a team wins, the most points that they can earn is 13. When Rock Creek won against Royal Valley, they earned 10 points. Wamego lost to Clay Center, so they were -12. At the end of the district play, Rock Creek had -6 points and Wamego had -7 points, so Rock Creek moved on to the playoffs.

The playoff game was against the Abilene Cowboys at Abilene. Rock Creek lost 34-13 to the Cowboys on Nov. 3.

"It's sad that the season is over," senior Jared Hawkins said, "cause you know you're never gonna play with these guys again."

When asked what he would like his younger players to remember, head coach Mike Beam had this to say.

"Remember how hard the seniors fought and how hard they tried," Beam said. "Remember that, and it'll get you through life."

Managers assist teams from behind the scenes

By JOSEPH CALMES

Behind every great team lies a great manager. Managers have an important part on a team, winning or losing. The managers are the ones who carry the sport supplies and are the ones who fill up the water bottles. But is that all they do?

The coaches start recruiting managers when the season starts and look for students who would like to be a manager. When picked, managers start right away to helping out the coaches, team and fans.

The managers do not need to go to the practices, but they participate in the games. Managers meet at wherever the team meets and helps them the best he or she can. They cheer for their team and do other things, such as keep statistics, organize equipment and anything else that is needed to help the team. Managers also do jobs outside of the team by taking pictures, working the concession stands and handing out programs.

"I mostly do stats, and I write articles in 'The Smoke Signal' about their games," senior Hannah Cockerill, girls basketball and volleyball manager said. "They depend on me to run errands if they forget something and to fill water bottles. The best part of being a manager is I get to be part of the team and support the team, but sometimes, I feel unappreciated," Cockerill said.

When a person signs up for a manager position, he or she must dedicate the time to help out the team.

"The best part about being a manager is spending time with the team," freshman Mason Swenson, manager for girls softball and boys basketball, said.

Two to three managers per team start at the beginning of the season of the sport that they manage, and there is not any specific training needed. Managers just need to be able to be there on time, need to be able to lift, organize and move the equipment and need to be dedicated.

"The managers simply should know they are a part of our team," coach Jeri Brummett said.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH



SHORTLY AFTER BEGINNING THE RACE, senior Seth Ruder stays ahead of the competition at Onaga on Sept. 17. Ruder ended his cross country season with 24th place at state on Oct. 31 at Wamego. PHOTO BY SARA LIMING

Senior cross country runner advances to state competition, places 24th overall

By MICHAEL PARKER

** Editors' Note: The Player of the Month story will feature one athlete (or one group of athletes) on a team who has demonstrated an exceptional performance or a marked improvement throughout the season. The Player of the Month will be selected by the team's head coach, unless otherwise noted.*

The November athlete of the month is senior Seth Ruder.

"Seth is only the second person to make it to state and the first since I've been here," cross country coach Jeremy Lehning said.

The last time a Rock Creek runner made it to state was in 2004.

Ruder also became an all-Mid East League runner this year by finishing in the top 10 in the MEL at the league meet in

Wabaunsee on Oct. 15. At the state meet on Oct. 31 at the Wamego Country Club, Ruder finished with a time of 18:23.

"I thought I did good," Ruder said. "I got 24th out of 106 people."

Ruder's favorite memory of cross country is when, as a freshman in 2006 at the Onaga meet, his team became the first Rock Creek cross country team to ever win a meet.

Ruder holds the Rock Creek cross country record as he crossed the 5 kilometer or 3.1 mile course in a time of 18:04 this year at the Onaga meet.

Ruder also holds the school track records in the 1600 meters with a time of 5:02, 3200 meters with a time of 10:56, and as a member of the 4x800 meter relay as they finished in 9:04.

After he graduates, he is planning on attending Manhattan Area Technical College to become a lineman.