

THE HOOF PRINT

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

NOVEMBER 2010 - VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 2

NEWS BRIEFS

By ZAC SAUERESSIG

Renaissance starts HAT program

In October, Bridgette Rankin's 1S junior high English class and business teacher Des Renner's 1B class, and on Nov. 16, math teacher Donna Koelzer's class received donuts delivered by principal Dennis Post, as he wore funny hats as part of the Renaissance Club's HAT program.

The HAT program stands for "Homework, Absences, and Tardies." Renaissance members draw a teacher's name, and if everyone in the class has no missing homework, no absences and no tardies that day, they will receive treats.

Jeri Brummett, the Renaissance Club sponsor, said, "Who doesn't like donuts?"

Students take ACT in October

On Oct. 23, about 20 Rock Creek students took the ACT test at Rock Creek.

The ACT is a standardized test for high school students that helps place them in college. This test can help a student decide what college he or she qualifies for.

Kevin Sullivan, the school counselor, said, "This test is very important. It helps with placement and scholarships and is an accurate indicator of what students need to improve on."

Chemistry celebrates mole day

On Oct. 21-22, Kellie Milner's chemistry classes celebrated mole day, a "holiday" that is held from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m. by most chemistry lovers because it represents 6.02×10^{23} , which is a basic chemistry formula.

At Rock Creek, Milner chooses a boy and a girl to be the mole king and the mole queen. The king and queen have the highest grades in the class. This year's winners were sophomore Dylan Meyer and junior Fong Leesakul.

Meyer said, "Being the mole king made all the hard work pay off."

Numerous activities on tap for band

The Rock Creek band played for various Veterans' Day celebrations recently. On Nov. 10, they went to the St. George Elementary School and played in a Veterans' Day ceremony, and on Nov. 11, they went to Manhattan and played for the Veterans' Day parade.

Band instructor Scott Bradley said, "It's a service for the community, and we want to represent our school."

The high school band also sponsored the Battle of the Bands with benefits going towards the 2013 band trip.

The Battle of the Bands featured local bands Buddy Walker, Ouija, Delinquent Scholars and Sacrifice the Sun. The battle took place on Nov. 20 in the school auditorium.

Scott Bradley, the band instructor, said, "It helps to support the band trip, and it gives the younger bands a chance to play."

RC Club hosts annual tournament

On Nov. 8, a crowd gathered to watch volleyball. This was not a traditional volleyball match. It was all boys.

This annual event is a tournament set up by the RC Club. The teams that participated were Redneck Volleyball, Studs, Skyler Beam Dream Team, Prancing Ponies, Senior Citizens, Hick town Smashers and The Real RC Varsity. The winning team was the Skyler Beam Dream Team.

Policy changes made to increase security

By KATIE HODGES

Bomb threats, illegal drug use and school shootings are happening all around schools in the United States. Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School has never experienced any severe threat, besides a bomb threat that happened more than 10 years ago, but the school is making preparations in the case it is ever faced with disaster.

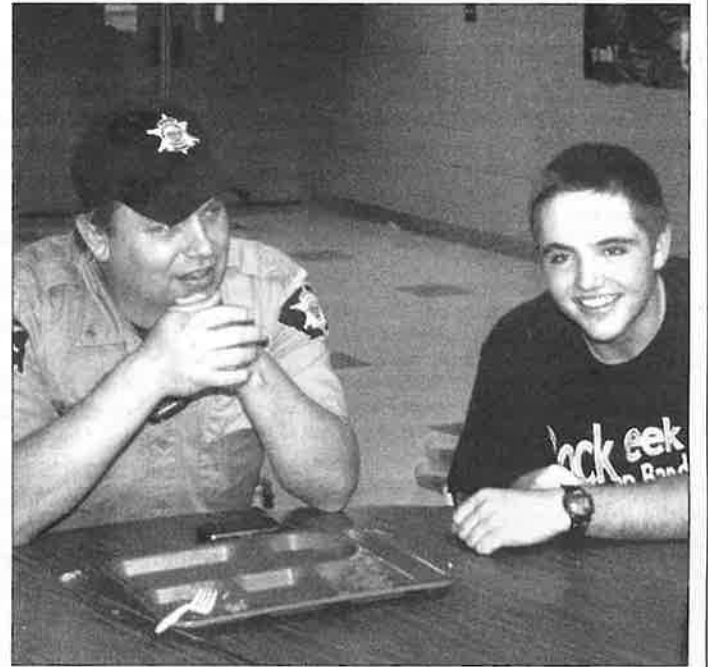
Rock Creek school administrators and the Crisis Response Committee are enforcing new security in the school. The Crisis Response Committee is a team of faculty and staff members who act in time of a school crisis, such as an accident or a suicide. Emergency procedures have been revised this year, such as altering the building evacuation plan in the case of a bomb threat or fire in the school. "Code Red" was also revised to protect the school in case there is an intruder in the building.

Administrators this year are also enforcing the policy for teachers to lock their schoolroom doors and take extra caution on who can use their school keys. This policy is not new, but is being enforced in case of an emergency, allowing protection for students and teachers.

"She has to lock her room, but then I can't get back in because students are not allowed to have the school keys," junior Sam Wilson, teacher assistant for English teacher Cherrie Lindsey, said.

Last year, cameras were added to the school to protect students from bullying, but this year, an announcement was made, warning students and faculty that police dogs were in the school sniffing for drugs. Principal Dennis Post said police dogs coming into the school will continue to happen for the school's and students' safety and believes it sends a good message to the student body. Police officer Tobey Coots has been added, as well, to protect against drugs and crimes.

Coots is a new addition to Rock Creek. He may be seen once or twice a week on the school grounds, speaking with the students and faculty. Asst. principal Scott Harshbarger said the school is glad to have him; Harshbarger said that students may feel more comfortable speaking with Coots about a problem or to report a crime than they would with a teacher or an administrator.



ON DUTY, school resource officer Tobey Coots eats lunch with and talks to a group of senior boys, including senior Luke Goodenow, on Nov. 17. Having Coots at Rock Creek during the week to interact with students is one of the revised security measures that the school has added this year. PHOTO BY MASON SWENSON

However, some students say they feel that the school is going too far with the new security. Police dogs sniffing for drugs, teachers locking their doors and an officer wandering the school halls have caused some questioning among the student body.

Senior Josh Unruh said, "Do we seriously need a police officer in our school? We are not carrying drugs or starting fights."

Likewise, sophomore Crystal Chitwood said, "It's all great that the school is trying to help our safety, but I'm starting to feel that there are drug users roaming the hallways."

Drama students present fall play, 'See How They Run' in November

By BEN PETERSON

Vicars, colonels and Russian spies were the makings of this year's Fall Play. On Nov. 12-13, the high school put on the Fall Play, "See How They Run," by Phillip King.

The story all begins at the Vicarage of Rev. Lionel and Penelope Toop, as played by sophomores Jacob Miller and Sara Nider. These two, along with Ida the maid (senior Mandi Blenn) find Miss Skillion (sophomore Hannah Ruder) to join them at the Vicarage to complain about the outrages of Penelope.

Rev. Toop leaves the Vicarage, and an old friend of Penelope's arrives, Corporal Clive Wiston (senior Skylar Myers). Penelope and Clive go to see a play together, yet to avoid breaking military regulations, Clive wears Rev. Toop's suit instead of his own military uniform. All the while, he is pretending to be the Minister Aurthur Humphrey, later played by freshman Jackson Meyer, who is due to arrive the next day.

Before leaving, Clive and Penelope act out a scene from the play they intend to go see and accidentally knock out Miss Skillion, who has returned to the house.

Next, Rev. Toop returns from his leave and upon his arrival, is hit over the head by a Russian spy (junior Sam Wilson) and becomes confused. The Russian then proceeds to steal Rev. Toop's clothes to pretend to be the Vicar.

To add to the chaos, the real Aurthur

Humphrey arrives early, along with the Bishop of Lax, freshman Chance Maginness. Rev. Toop, the Russian spy and the Bishop of Lax are all running around being chased by each other for their mistaken identities.

As the plot begins to decline, the two police sergeants (sophomores Josh Roberts and Trey Basa) arrive to apprehend the spy and sort out the confusion of who is the real vicar. After many questions, Ida and Clive show who the true spy and vicar are. The sergeants then apprehend him, and Penelope and Clive attempt to explain what had happened that evening. The play ends with Miss Skillion once again being knocked out by the scene reenactment.

This year, many students returned to the play from previous years. Wilson, who has been in the play twice before, said, "I did the play this year because I enjoyed doing it last year; I also plan to perform next year."

Likewise, Basa said, "I did the play out of spite and agony from not doing it last year, along with a smidgen of jealousy. . . I intend to do it next year, as long as it doesn't interfere with my expeditions in finding the answer to world peace and hunger," referring to his character's biography from the play.

Keith Miller, the director of the play, said, "I choose several plays over the summer, yet I make my decision based off of how many people try out. . . This year was fun and was an enjoyable process."

PERSONAL PROFILE

MUSIC TEACHER STACI PAYNE

By ZAC SAUERESSIG

Q: This is your first year here. What school did you come from?

A: "Cherokee Elementary in Tulsa, Oklahoma."

Q: How long have you been teaching music?

A: "[I have been teaching] 11 years."

Q: Do you like Rock Creek so far?

A: "Yes, it has been very good. The support from the school is way better than my last school."

Q: What improvements would you like to see for the choir program here?

A: "I would like to see the number of students in choir go up."

Q: What goals do you have for this year's choir students?

A: "I want to teach the students great music, and I want to give the students a lot of opportunities to perform."

OPINIONS

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IN REVIEW

BY KAELEN LAIRD **BOOK**

The novel "The Boy in Striped Pajamas" by John Boyne takes place in Germany during the times of the Holocaust.

The point of view is from a little German boy whose dad is one of the head workers of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The young boy's family is living within walking distance from the death camp. At first, Bruno, the young boy, didn't want to move, but he found ways to have fun.

One day, Bruno gets bored and goes for a walk, not knowing that Auschwitz is down the road from him. When he arrives there, he meets another little boy, Shmuel, who has the same birthday.

As the book goes on, the story gets more intense. For example, at the end, there is a very dramatic part where Bruno gets lost, and no one can find him. After they finally found Bruno, there is a surprise twist at the end. I could not pull myself away from it. Though I was required to read this book for another class, it was one of the best books I have ever read.

BY TREVOR CLARK **CD**

About two weeks ago, I purchased Lil' Wayne's latest album, "I Am Not a Human Being," and I have to say it is the best Lil' Wayne CD I own, yet.

I personally think that he did a good job on the album's songs, considering the guy is in jail. But, the whole idea behind making the record now was so Lil' Wayne would still have his name on the street while he was locked away in jail, and other competitors were still rapping and in the spotlight.

The CD includes 13 tracks, with the last three being bonus tracks, and it is four minutes short of an hour long. A few of my favorite tracks are, in this order, "Popular" (Track 8), "What's Wrong with Them?" (Track 6) and "Bill Gates" (Track 10).

This CD is priced for \$9.99 at Hot Topic in the Manhattan Town Center. And if you love Lil' Wayne's previous albums, you should definitely love his latest album.

BY TREVOR CLARK **MOVIE**

If you have not already heard, there was a movie recently released on Nov. 12 called "Skyline."

The movie's storyline is based on what would happen if aliens did come and visit Earth. After seeing this movie, it made me really think about how our race is progressing through history. I especially remember a quote about how Stephen Hawkins compared an alien visit to Christopher Columbus coming to America, with us being the Native Americans.

Also, seeing hundreds of people being sucked up by the aliens was really kind of freaky. I also must say that I was really drawn into the movie because of how great the scheme was involving a blue light that people could not look away from, then comparing us to moths and a blue light bug zapper.

Overall, I would rate this movie a 9 from a 1-10 scale, because it is definitely a movie worth watching. The movie, which is rated PG-13, is one hour and 40 minutes long and can be seen at Carmike Cinemas on Seth Child Rd. in Manhattan.

BY KAELEN LAIRD **RESTAURANT**

The Orange Leaf is a new frozen yogurt place by Smashburger and Hy-Vee in the Manhattan Market Place near 3rd St. and Blumont Ave.

The buffet of toppings for your yogurt is crazy; the Orange Leaf has about 37 toppings and 34 kinds of frozen yogurt to feed your craving for sweets. The specialty items on the menu range from Coffee Lover to Mango Pomegranate frozen yogurt. The topping are your average sprinkles to sunflower seeds.

Not only does The Orange Leaf yogurt taste great, but the presentation is wonderful, too. This is a very modern-looking restaurant, with white and orange chairs and tables.

When my friend and I went, we went crazy for all of the toppings and flavors. We ended up spending \$7 each! The cost is determined when you weigh your yogurt; you pay about 70 cents per ounce - pretty cheap, unless you pile on the toppings. The frozen yogurt melts in your mouth, so you better savor it. This would definitely be a fun place to relax with friends or family.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Changes make school safer, remove freedom from students

Rock Creek has recently taken a revamped look at its security policies and made a few adjustments. We think that these changes definitely make the school less accessible to threat from anybody that would want to cause harm. However, the cost of this new security is that students' lives are now much more restricted.

One new wrinkle is the changes made to the School Resource Officer. About once every week, a police officer will make the rounds at the school. The hope is that the students will feel more confident in confiding with him than the administration, which we feel seems unlikely that the students are more likely to talk to a stranger than they are someone they have become familiar with over years.

There has also been a change to make sure that the doors to the classrooms are locked. We believe that the nuisance that this creates outweighs the benefits. If you need to pick something up that you had left in a classroom, you would have to find the teacher and borrow the keys, which teachers are not supposed to give you. Also, people are constantly leaving the classroom during class periods. And that means that they cannot get back in because the door is locked, which causes an unneeded distraction.

The Code Red Policy for our school has also been revised. This is the plan for what the school will do in case of an emergency. We believe that it would be beneficial that the student body knows what to do if something goes awry. However, a person who wants to cause harm to the school could also use this information to his advantage.

People will always be open to the temptation of stealing. If they see something they like that is not theirs, some people will think they can take it. Our job is to prevent them from having that opportunity. If you don't need it, don't bring it; and if you do it bring it with you, it might be a knowledgeable decision to lock it up when it is

not with you. Rock Creek can only do so much to protect your property for you.

These new alterations to the school's security plans definitely dampen the chances for a security failure. These changes, if nothing else, err on the side of caution. However, for the people who have done little wrong, it can kick-start the fear that worse events than are actually happening might be going on here at our school. Even though there is a small chance anything major will ever occur here at Rock Creek, if it does, we may look back at these changes as a positive.

These changes definitely make the school less accessible to threat from anybody that would want to cause harm. However, the cost of this new security is that students' lives are now much more restricted.

MY PRINT: TECHNOLOGY

79 percent of all people in the United States have a cell phone, and 98 percent of those phones have text messaging readily available, according to www.associatedcontent.com.

Technology provides us with entertainment, resources and information that affects our daily life, but we have also started to use it as a crutch.

One of the technologies we use that feeds the dependency is the Apple iPad, which is a tablet computer used to enhance learning, to give entertainment and to check information. The iPad has more than 200,000 applications; some provide information, but most provide gaming and other forms of entertainment. A dependency created by

the iPad is the accessing of information, because you don't have to leave the iPad to access information; it is all right there, and there is no thought process to where you need to look something up or how to look it up. Another dependency are the apps available for younger children; they are able to learn from a computer and not an actual book or teacher. Once children are done "learning" a letter or reading a story, they can hop on their favorite app, while the information doesn't have enough time to soak in so the child can understand what was just taught to them.

With the dependency of technology, the rise of eBooks plays an important role. eBooks have risen to fame within a couple months with eBooks like the Kindle produced by the giant online store Amazon and the Nook created by the world's largest book seller, Barnes and Noble. This helps feed the dependency by people no longer having to visit a library to get a book. When it comes to picking a book, you don't find out from a friend

that it is a good book; you find out from "Laidiesman217" that he gave it five out of five stars and said it was a good read.

Another object that feeds the dependency on technology is the cell phone. The first use of a cell phone was in the 1950s by the United States to keep contact with ships out on the ocean. Now, the cell phone has evolved into a handheld device that can connect us to Klouklubed, Palau, in a matter of seconds . . . if you get reception. Since people are always on the go, they created the smart-phone, which is a group of phones that do "smart" actions, like access the internet, play games, listen to music, e-mail and text message. This helps feed the dependency because now you can access information almost anywhere in the world.

I'm not saying that technology is bad, but just be sure to actually use a book, look something up the dictionary or play a family game with your family sometimes.



MASON SWENSON
STAFF MEMBER

YOUR PRINT

BY MICHAEL PARKER

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY?

"I plan to hunt, eat and visit with my family."



Jackie Gonzalez
SENIOR

"I am going to hang out with my family and eat."



Tevon Tebbutt
JUNIOR

"I plan on going down to Wichita and having a big family dinner."



Lauren Conrow
SOPHOMORE

"I am going to my grandma's in Wamego and eating turkey and watching football."



Tim Pushee
FRESHMAN

"We will be with my in-laws Thanksgiving Day. Then we go with my family to the Plaza in Kansas City and shop all day."



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The Hoof Print is a monthly student-produced newspaper, published to inform and to entertain the Rock Creek High School community in an open forum and to educate Multimedia students.

The staff chooses to reflect the mission of Rock Creek 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 Print student staff member.

Letters to the editor 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.

For the full editorial policy, please send a request to the e-mail address below or see the adviser in Room 112.

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FEATURES

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"HEY THERE, %*^#@!"

Despite the classroom rules, many students at Rock Creek use profanity in their everyday conversations

By ANTHONY DULTMEIER & BRANDON HYDE

Think about the average day, or more specifically even, passing period in the hallways. In this brief five minutes, a student will hear a lot of just about anything. Gossip and drama, joking and playing, and a whole lot of one thing: cussing.

Passing a group of girls you will hear, "Hey, \$/*%, where you been?" and in the second it takes to walk past a new group, it might be something like, "%*^#@! That is not true, who said that?" And it just gets worse.

According to Timothy Jay, a leading scholar on cursing in America, he estimates, on www.deseretnews.com, that the average adolescent uses about 90 curse words a day. The big question, though? Who cares?

One junior was asked if she cussed in school and replied with, "Why the %*@\$ not?"

That is the attitude almost every student holds. Cussing has become so casual that it slips out of almost everyone's mouth whether he or she means to or not. Certain words, like the "F-bomb" and any profanity strings containing "God" may be avoided by some, but in the grand scheme of things, students just do not care anymore. Students cuss, their parents cuss, their friends cuss, everyone does it, so it is only understandable that it is just not a big deal. Adolescents and preteens are swearing more publicly than ever, especially at school, experts say.

So why is it still against school rules? Many young adults say that some of the words no longer hold the disrespectful

meanings that they started out with. Calling a girl a certain words used to be a big insult, and while it is still used like that sometimes, more often than not, it is between two girls greeting each other. Even media shows this. In the comic parody show "The Key of Awesome," the imitation Lady Gaga attacks Elton John, insulting him with, "You're a ?#@!*". And not in a good way!"

Most students at Rock Creek do not mind the cussing in school. Actually, most believe it would be better not to get punished for a cuss word used in a typical teenage greeting. Profanity is just another way of expressing the teenage spirit, and the meaning of the cuss words have changed from a horrible meaning to a cheerful and energetic way of expressing situations.

"I don't really care," sophomore Ben Berard said. "It's not like I've never heard it. I don't get offended; it's just how people talk. No one makes a big deal over it."

Most teachers, however, disagree with the idea that profanity has become so common and so unintentional that it should be allowed. Usually, when a student cusses, the teacher gives the student a verbal warning for the first few offenses, but if it continues, the teachers will ask the student to leave the room or will give him or her a referral.

Business teacher Des Renner was one teacher interviewed about students using curse words.

Renner said, "Cussing is just common; certain words are more used, though. It's become engrained; you don't even realize it is being said."

Having admitted that, she was asked if the classroom policy of no cussing should change.

"No, the policy should not change; it's a respect thing," Renner said.

Confusing as it is, the policy has and will remain the same. Curse words are not allowed. At the same time, this creates confusion and a bit of a gap between student body and school staff. The rules have been set to keep the students in line and behaving appropriately, yet over the years, profanity has not become inappropriate to younger generations. The media has changed its rules, allowing more and more profanity to be said on TV or in music, only furthering what adolescents hear and mimic.

If the policy will not change, some think it should be the students' vocabulary that should be altered. Sadly, it is not as easy as an Orbit gum commercial, where the British blonde laughs and says, "Dirty mouth? Clean it up with Orbit!" as fighting couples instantly replace profanity with funny phrases. It is highly unlikely that something will magically change the way teens, and most pre-teens, talk.

So the policy that allows students to be punished for saying cuss words in question by most students. Most are tired of getting in trouble for speaking the way an average student does the 16 other possible hours in the 24-hour day.

Senior DJ Denzien said, "Teachers shouldn't care because they probably cuss at home anyways, plus it brings good emphasis to a conversation sometimes."

"[Cussing] is fun when the teachers don't hear it. It's not so funny when they hear it. Then it's grubby."
- junior Seth Lightfoot

"I don't give a \$%*! about it. If you want to do it, cool. It's not going to hurt anyone; it's just a word."
- sophomore Kyle Nelson

"Even though I tend to do it too much, it's inappropriate for school."
- senior John Derek Sarelson

"[Cussing is] appropriate at times, but it should not be used all the time. I try to watch what I say."
- senior Morgan Zimschled

"I don't care [when people cuss]. I don't really mind it."
- senior Brenda Stevenson



By ANTHONY DULTMEIER

SPORTS

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With cool weather approaching, winter sports begin

HEAD COACH: JIM JOHNSTON

Q: How do you think last season went overall?
A: "It went really well; the varsity team went 13-9 and was one of the most unselfish teams I have had."

Q: What was the best part of last year's season?
A: "We made it to sub-state, but we were beaten in the second round."

Q: Roughly how many players do you have this year?
A: "About 35-50 players, freshmen through seniors."

Q: Who are going to be the key players this year?
A: "Our key athletes will be [seniors] Travis Briggs, Sky [Skyler] Beam, John Derek [Garetson] and Nelson Kawano."

Q: What characteristics do you think a player needs to succeed in basketball?
A: "They have to be very unselfish, to not worry about points but the team overall and to be in good cardiovascular shape."

Q: What are your expectations for this season?
A: "We are going to surprise a lot of people and have a lot of depth on this team. I think our practices will be very competitive, and our depth will wear down other teams."

BOYS BASKETBALL

HEAD COACH: MIKE ZABEL
 (Questions answered by junior basketball player Bailey Elliott)

Q: How do you think last season went?
A: "Really good overall."

Q: What was the highlight of last season?
A: "Up to the first round of sub-state, we were undefeated... then we lost to the eighth seed."

Q: How is this year's season starting out compared to last year?
A: "It is going to be a struggle, but I think we can probably pull through and improve."

Q: How many players do you have out for the team?
A: "17."

Q: What conditioning exercises does the team do to get in shape for the season?
A: "Four by one's. And sprints if you miss any shots."

Q: What characteristics do you think a basketball player needs to be successful?
A: "Ambition and competitiveness."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

HEAD COACH: DAN PRAY

Q: How do you think last season went overall?
A: "Last year was an exciting year for our program. We had two new coaches and a lot of experience between us."

Q: What was the highlight of the season last year?
A: "[Junior] Shane Schaake was our only state qualifier. His overall record was 30-18. He also recorded his first victory at state with a 9-2 decision."

Q: Who were your key wrestlers last season?
A: "Shane Schaake is a returning state qualifier for us. And, although we don't get him this year due to a knee injury, [senior] Colten Smith was our most improved wrestler last year."

Q: Roughly how many wrestlers do you have this year?
A: "Our numbers look to be about 20 this year."

Q: What are your goals for this season?
A: "Our goal is to improve from last year. We took fourth at league, so placing in the top three is our goal. Also, we had one state qualifier last year, so we would like two or more and a state placer."

Q: How do you think this year will go?
A: "As long as everyone is healthy and gets to the weight they need to, our team will do quite well."

WRESTLING

SCOREBOARD BY STAFF

	RC	OPPONENT
VARSITY FOOTBALL		
Nemaha Valley (10/22)	52	14
Riley County (10/28)	26	32
VARSITY VOLLEYBALL		
Osage City (10/23)	0	2
	BOYS	GIRLS
CROSS COUNTRY		
Regionals (10/23)	6th	8th

Volleyball team ends season at sub-state

By MEAGAN SMITH

On Oct. 23, the Rock Creek Mustangs went to the sub-state tournament at Silver Lake. The Mustangs, who were the eighth seed, played top-seeded Osage City Indians; however, they did not make it to the state tournament.

In the first set, the Mustangs got started slowly, and Osage City took advantage of that and won 25-8. For the second set, the Mustangs played better, but still couldn't hold off the Indians, losing 25-20. The Indians later won sub-state and state.

Head coach Terry Schmitz said that he did not think the team was as successful overall at sub-state as he thought they could have been.

"We competed hard, but struggled at first," Schmitz said. "And, we lost to the team that went on and won state."

During sub-state play, the senior team members said they had mixed emotions.

Senior Shelby Adams said, "I was feeling very nervous, but you have to stay focused. You just need to play your hardest."

Senior Chelsea Renner also said that she was sad that it was her last game.

"The season could have gone better," Renner said. "It took us awhile to get use to playing with everyone."

Cross country team finishes at regionals

By AMANDA GROSS

On Oct. 23, the cross country teams ended their season at the regional meet at Marysville, with the boys placing sixth and the girls getting eighth overall.

For the boys, freshman Ryan Schneider was 16th, sophomore Clayton Frakes was 21st, junior Michael Parker was 27th, freshman Dustin Harrison was 44th, sophomore Josh Roberts was 48th, senior Nelson Kawano was 53rd and junior Thomas McAnerney was 62nd. On the girls side, freshman Morgan Schwinn was 24th, sophomore Shiann Bruce was 38th, senior Ashley Altenhofen was 42nd, sophomore Shannon Oakley was 52nd and junior Caitlyn Larson was 53rd.

To the disappointment of the runners, none of them qualified for state.

Harrison said he did his absolute best at regionals, though.

"I ran my hardest, and I ended well," Harrison said. "I could have practiced harder so I could have been more prepared for the competition."

Head coach Jeremy Lehning said that he was happy with how the season went, but also would like to see improvement.

"We know that the only way we are going to get better is to put more time in running during the summer," Lehning said. "The season is too short, and it is hard to get into top conditioning in eleven weeks."

Football ends season with close Riley County game

By JACOB MILHAM

The Rock Creek Mustang football team had one win in their district this fall, but that was certainly not the result that they were looking for.

Barely losing to the Marysville Bulldogs on Oct. 15 at Marysville, with the score being 25-21, the start of district play was not bright for the team.

The very next week, however, was a different story. On Oct. 22, the Mustangs stomped the Nemaha Valley Raiders, winning 52-14 at the Raiders' home field.

Senior Nick Cooper said, "We had a tough break at the end of the season [at Marysville], and then we went in the right direction. The team also had good work ethic."

The last regular season game – and the last district game – was against the Riley County Falcons on Oct. 28 at Rock Creek. Going into the game, the Falcons were ranked first in the district and had already guaranteed a spot in the post-season. The Mustangs, however, had to gain a win to even go to the playoffs, or they had to win

by at least nine points to win the district championship.

To their disappointment, the Mustangs did not accomplish either of these tasks. Rock Creek held the score to 26-26 until the final seconds of the fourth quarter, when Riley County sophomore quarterback Brandon Chavis ran for a touchdown. The Mustangs could not respond quickly enough, losing with a score of 32-26, as time ended with the Mustangs attempting to score. For Rock Creek during the game, senior Skyler Beam threw one touchdown pass to junior Logan Miner, who also ran for two touchdowns.

Senior Luke Commerford said that he was, "very disappointed that we did not go farther and make it to the play-offs."

In the Mid-East League, Rossville and Silver Lake both advanced within the brackets to semi-finals at press time.

The Mustangs finished out the year with a winning record of five wins and four losses, which is an improvement on last season's 3-7 record.

In addition, eight players were named

to the All-League team, including Commerford as a first-team linebacker, Cooper as a first-team offensive lineman, Miner as a first-team running back, senior Josh Rieck as a first-team defensive lineman, junior Eric Willard as a first-team defensive end, Skyler Beam as an honorable-mention safety, senior Brady Quinn as an honorable-mention corner and senior Michael Wilson as an honorable-mention offensive lineman.

Head coach Mike Beam said, "The team got the football program back to where it needed to be," as he reflected on the season's accomplishments.

Cooper also said that he thought that it was good that "smash-mouth football" was reestablished in the program.

The Mustangs will now look to condition in the off-season in order to prepare for next fall. The incoming senior class, this year's junior class, is a large one, having 16 players, who Beam said will have opportunities ahead.

"We have the talent to win a league title and go to the play-offs [next season]," Beam said.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

By CODY LIMING

FRESHMAN MORGAN SCHWINN

Cross country coach Jeremy Lehning has chosen freshman Morgan Schwinn for the cross country Athlete of the Month. Lehning said Schwinn was chosen for her achievements this past season, including setting a school record with a time of 18:05 at regionals, beating the original record set by alumna Monica Ebert at 18:16.

Q: Why do you think coach Lehning selected you?
A: "I am a freshman, but I broke the school record."

Q: What did you do to train yourself to break the record?
A: "I started running with [senior] Chelsea Ebert in practice to get better."

Q: How do you prepare for a big race?
A: "The night before, I usually load up on carbs."

Q: What race do you consider to be your best this year?
A: "Probably the regionals meet, because I broke the school record there."

Q: What are your goals for the off-season?
A: "To continue to get better and improve my time."

CROSS COUNTRY

SENIOR BRADY QUINN

For football, this month's choice for Athlete of the Month is senior Brady Quinn. When head coach Mike Beam was asked why he selected Quinn, Beam said, "He had multiple interceptions in the game against Nemaha Valley, and he just played really solid all year."

Q: What game do you view as your best from this year?
A: "The Wamego game, when I had two interceptions and two pass deflections."

Q: What are your goals for the post-season?
A: "To hopefully make All-League and All-State."

Q: What did you do to succeed this year?
A: "I just gave the coaches everything I had."

Q: How did you train to be successful this season?
A: "I worked my hardest in practice, and I had a lot of confidence in myself."

Q: Did you wear any good luck charms for games?
A: "Yes, I wore my freshman football shirt under my pads and wore a bracelet from my freshman year every game."

FOOTBALL

JUNIOR BAILEY ELLIOTT

"Bailey has great leadership on the floor, plays aggressive and reads the floor very well," said head coach Terry Schmitz about his Athlete of the Month, junior Bailey Elliott, who was also selected to All-League this fall. "Bailey has a big impact on the team by fighting hard every game and being competitive all-around."

Q: What match do you consider to be your best and why?
A: "The Hillsboro tournament this year, because I felt like I did my job to the fullest potential."

Q: What have you done to become an asset to your team?
A: "I stayed after practice to get extra work in, and I communicated on the floor during games."

Q: Do you have any pre-game rituals or tendencies?
A: "I always have to be on the right side of coach [Schmitz] and have to have my hand on the bottom while in the huddle."

Q: Why do you think coach Schmitz selected you?
A: "I am one of our leaders on the court, and I work my hardest, whether it be in practice or during a game."

VOLLEYBALL