

THE HOOF PRINT

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

OCTOBER 2009 - VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 1

NEWS BRIEFS

By DANIELLE DUNCAN & DEVIN MUIR

FFA begins busy year with activities

On Sept. 21, some Rock Creek FFA members went to the state fair in Hutchison, Kan., to help out in the Grand-Champion and Plant Science buildings and represent the FFA organization.

"My favorite part of the day was when we rode camels!" senior Bridget Hoover said.

Other recent FFA events included horse judging contests on Oct. 3, dairy judging on Oct. 14 and the start of the annual fruit sales on Oct. 16. Also, the FFA National Convention was Oct. 20-24. Attending from Rock Creek were seniors George Dille, Danielle Duncan, Patrick O'Connor and William Trieb, juniors Chelsea Ebert and TJ Minihan, sophomore Shane Schaake and freshman Annette Trieb.

Parade, crowning end Spirit Week

On Oct. 2, in Westmoreland on Main Street, floats strolled down the roads, as the class of 2011 would try to win the Homecoming float competition again.

This year, the freshman float theme was "Flush Picnic," the sophomore theme was "Hanging out the Dawgs," the junior theme was "Demolish the Dawgs" and the senior float theme was "Our Small Town USA." The senior class of 2010 won the overall competition.

Following the parade, a pep rally took place in the Westmoreland Elementary School gym. During the rally, the candidates participated in competitions.

Senior king candidates were Josh Camacho, Brad Duncan and TJ Roberts. The senior queen candidates were Taylor Ebert, Becky Lightfoot and Ashley Srna.

That evening during halftime of the Rossville football game, Camacho and Ebert were crowned. Following the game, students attended the Homecoming dance, themed "Small Town USA."

Raffle planned for athletic trainer

Kevin Larison, the school's athletic trainer since 1998, was put in the hospital after getting an infection in his foot. Since he was diabetic, the infection would not heal, so the doctors had to amputate about six inches below the knee to keep the infection from spreading further.

"He is doing well and hopes to come back around Christmas-time," football coach Mike Beam said.

Students have written letters, and the football team signed a helmet for him. There will be a benefit raffle in November; tickets are available by contacting Beam.

Debate competes in area meets

On Oct. 6, novice debaters competed against 15 other schools at Salina Central. Freshmen Anna Jilka and Jacob Miller were 4-0 and finished fourth out of all 38 entries. Miller was also named the top individual speaker out of 76 speakers.

Other students participating included sophomores Paige Miller and Samantha Stephens and freshmen Shane Adams, Crystal Chitwood, Ashtin Lee, Lauren Leupold, Dylan Meyer, Sara Nider, Lauren Overkamp and Josh Roberts.

On Oct. 9-10, the debate team traveled to Manhattan, where it finished first overall. Placing in the open division were seniors Sam Cott and Torrey Peterson, who won first, and junior Mandi Blenn and sophomore Ben Peterson, who received third. Others participating in the open division were juniors Jeran Fry and

Rock Creek awarded Blue Ribbon

By JOSEPH CALMES

On Sept. 15, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan awarded Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School with the prestigious national Blue Ribbon Award.

Last year, the school was notified that it was one of the 370 nominees for the award.

"I think it's cool that our school won this award," sophomore Elke Thompson said.

Rock Creek was one out of 314 public and private schools to receive the Blue Ribbon Award nationally. Five schools in the state of Kansas were recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as 2009 national Blue Ribbon schools, but Rock Creek was the only high school out of those five to earn this award. The Blue Ribbon Award was one of the highest awards a school can get.

"I think it boosts the morality in the school," junior Brenda Stevenson said.

According to Title I teacher Jeremy Lehning, who is involved in the school's testing process, there are two ways to

win the Blue Ribbon Award. The schools can have students that achieve in the top 10 percent of their state assessment tests, or the schools with low achievers can increase dramatically to a higher level. Rock Creek was given the award for having students at the highest achieving level on the Kansas state assessments. The two tests that counted towards the award were the math and reading assessments that were given.

"Our school reading level was about 96.2 percent, and our math scores were 94.0 percent," Lehning said.

In addition to having qualifying scores on the state assessments, the school was required to complete a 19-page application, which explained the school's demographics, courses and other necessary items. Principal Dennis Post undertook this task.

Both Post and Lehning will attend the Blue Ribbon Award ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 3. They will accept a plaque and a blue flag to raise at the school. On Friday, Nov. 6 at 1:30 p.m., a ceremony for the flag raising is planned.

"It is nice to be recognized," Post said.

Stage one H1N1 pandemic alert issued for all district schools

By THOMAS McANERNEY

The H1N1 flu, also known as swine flu, has been putting fear into the world since April 2009.

On Oct. 14, superintendent Darrel Stufflebeam notified the schools that the district was under the stage one alert, which means there are confirmed cases of the flu within the schools and the faculty and staff should take extra steps to prevent and to prepare for the flu.

According to the Center for Disease Control, H1N1 is a novel strain of the flu, meaning it is new to humans. It travels through the air from person to person, and it causes symptoms such as fever, cough, headache and other flu-like symptoms.

This flu impacts all people. It targets people with other illnesses and people from the age of a baby to an adult, which obviously includes high school students.

For these reasons, Rock Creek schools have taken extra precautions by posting signs about it and putting hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes in classrooms and in the lunch line.

Freshman Mason Swenson contracted H1N1 over the summer.

Swenson said, "Yeah, I was scared because it has killed people in the past."

He said that, for him, it did not feel different than the seasonal flu. His symptoms included a headache, motion sickness and a high fever. He could not leave his house for seven days, and his family had to take Tamiflu, an antiviral medicine, in case they got the disease.

There are things students can do to avoid getting the disease.

Brenda Stevenson and sophomores Lane Frazier and Karl Thompson.

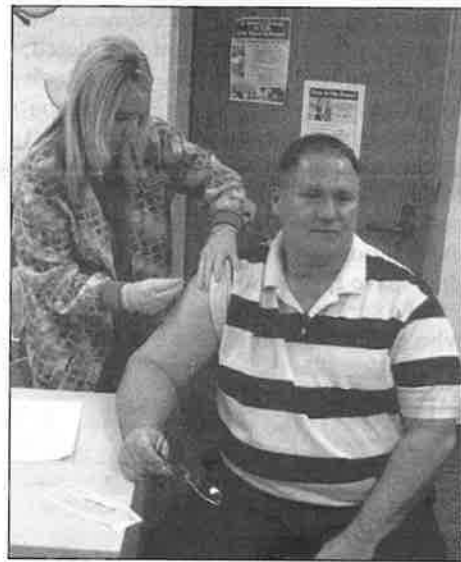
In the novice division at Manhattan, Meyer and Roberts finished first, and Chitwood and Leupold were second.

Student teachers placed at Rock Creek

Rock Creek is the host to three student teachers this fall: Brad Anderson, Mike McCauley and Whitney Turley.

Turley, a student teacher for math teacher Donna Koelzer, said, "I wanted to go the Manhattan area and was told Rock Creek was a good school to go to."

When asked what she likes most about



SITTING STILL, assistant principal/athletic director Scott Harshbarger receives his seasonal flu shot from a Pottawatomie County Health Department nurse on Oct. 8. Seasonal flu shots, while helpful, will not protect against the H1N1 strain. PHOTO BY THOMAS McANERNEY

School nurse Caroline Valdez said, "Wash your hands. If you're sick, stay home. And, limit exposure to sick people."

Some students are not too concerned about the new strain of the flu.

Sophomore Aaron Kuecker said, "I think people are over-reacting a little, but it is still an issue."

Kuecker said he is not worried since he has heard that it is no more dangerous than the common flu, but believes the school is ready to handle an outbreak if it happens.

Valdez said, "This is not lethal unless you don't take care of yourself."

teaching, Turley said, "Students, they're easy to get along with for the most part."

Juniors sell magazine subscriptions

A lot of work goes into planning and creating Prom, and the total cost can be as high as \$5,000. The junior class was tasked with selling magazines from Sept. 11-28 to make money for the Prom.

When asked what kind of magazines were sold, class sponsor Sara Miller said, "Any kind. Our most popular is probably *People Magazine* or *Reader's Digest*, but we also have some you've never heard of, like *New Jersey Life*."

PERSONAL PROFILE

SOPHOMORE PATRICK ANROW

By JESSICA JACK

Q: What school did you transfer from? And, why did you come to Rock Creek?

A: "Manhattan. [I came here] because I thought it would be a better decision for my future."

Q: Describe your first day here.

A: "[My first day] was pretty easy, and everyone was really nice. It was surprising."

Q: What are the biggest differences between MHS and Rock Creek?

A: "MHS is a lot bigger than Rock Creek. Rock Creek is nicer. Here, it is like family, and at MHS, you have to fight for yourself."

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

A: "I like to work on cars, ride my four-wheeler, hang out with my girlfriend and my dog, play football and go to the movies."

Q: What do you think you want to do after you graduate from high school?

A: "I plan on going to college at Manhattan Area Technical College to work on cars or to weld [so I can] work as a mechanic, weld or teach."

New members inducted to NHS

On Oct. 5, nine students were inducted into the National Honor Society, including senior Jana Havens, juniors Ashley Altenhofen, Katie Good, Chase Minihan, TJ Minihan and Colten Smith and sophomores Lane Frazier, Adam Schmitz and Jessi Snapp.

To become a member, a student must fill out an application and write an essay that a faculty panel reviews.

New NHS sponsor Donna Hawkins said, "We're looking for members who possess leadership skills, a strong sense of community and involvement in school activities."

OPINIONS

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New Barrymore movie has humor, yet includes flaws

Most people know Drew Barrymore from movies like "50 First Dates," "Charlie's Angels" and "E.T.," but she has recently branched out as a director. "Whip It" is only the second work she's ever directed, but it is obvious she has potential.

"Whip It" has the basic formula that most sports movies have: the protagonist joins a sports team (in this case, a roller derby team), is really bad at it for a while and then, after hard work, becomes the top dog. Barrymore puts her own spin on all these tropes and gives us a unique movie with only a few flaws.



ERICA SMITH
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The movie stars Ellen Page (from "Juno" and "X-Men: The Last Stand") as Bliss Cavendar, an unhappy teenager in a small Texas town. Her life consists of beauty pageants and football games, and she is sick of it. Bliss is tired of her mother trying to get her to be the next beauty queen, and she joins up with what has to be the exact opposite: a roller derby team. Her escape comes in an unlikely form: while shopping, she sees a flyer for a roller derby event. She decides to go to the event, and while there, she is asked to try out for the team. Accepted onto the team, she must create an alter-ego, Babe Ruthless. While this might seem to be a typical coming-of-age story, with Bliss rebelling against what everyone thinks of her, the idea of having the heroine join a roller derby team puts a twist on it. As she finds success in the roller-rink, she also finds her first love, the lead singer of an indie rock band (Landon Pigg). Ultimately, in a more realistic turn than most romantic comedy movies would take, she is disappointed by love. In the end, she overcomes all her hardships, even winning over her family and friends, and decides to move to Austin and become a roller derby star.

Overall, the acting in the movie is great. Ellen Page is spunky and energetic, similar to her character in "Juno," but more toned down and introverted. This makes her more believable as a character. Page is excellent at playing the smart, witty, slightly-alternative girl, and she pulls it off again in this movie.

Landon Pigg, a new actor, is OK. He has the weakest acting in the cast, but with so many strong actors, it is hard to gauge his abilities. His weak acting made the romantic subplot seem unnecessary. The movie does not revolve around Bliss finding love, which is refreshing, but since movies centering around teenagers are apparently required to include romantic tension, it comes free-of-charge, like the little ketchup packets in your fast food bag. Unnecessary, but not completely unwanted.

Andrew Wilson, brother of Owen and Luke Wilson, is one of the funniest characters in the movie. Where did he come from? The other two Wilson brothers are huge, and this guy just came out of nowhere. I hope we see more of him.

The only main flaw is there is no benefit to seeing the movie in the theater. The big screen does not add to the movie as it would with horror or action movies. This is a quirky, excellent film with an enjoyable soundtrack, and is a definite must-see, but save it for rental. It will be just as entertaining on the small screen as it would be on the big screen.

ERICA SMITH'S RATING
2.5 stars out of 4 stars

STAFF EDITORIAL

Although sometimes difficult, expectations set high for students

We all know now that our school has officially won the Blue Ribbon Award. Is it because of the high expectations that our school has made standard? Or, is it because we have been taught how to take tests? Whether or not it is the expectations or the testing skills, high expectations have been woven into the state assessments and into the senior Exit Project. Students, parents, school board members and faculty members are at differences as to whether or not the high expectations are too much.

At the August and September board meetings, the Exit Project was discussed. Many parents and students believe that the Exit Project causes too much stress on the seniors, and if we continue the projects, the connection to the diploma should be cut. The Exit Project guidelines state that if the Exit Project is not completed, the student will not graduate from Rock Creek or receive a Rock Creek diploma. However, the senior advisors stated that the Exit Project is good for the seniors to complete. When the advisors were surveyed, all of them agreed that high expectations will help the seniors once they leave high school.

In a survey of random seniors, those who said that the high expectations of

the Exit Project were not a problem are seniors who are seen as model students. On the contrary, those who said the expectations were too high are students we encourage to become like the model students. No matter how high the expectations are, past seniors have agreed that Exit Projects have been tremendously helpful to them.

DO HIGH EXPECTATIONS equal great success? We believe that if students strive for the highest expectations, they will end up doing very well.

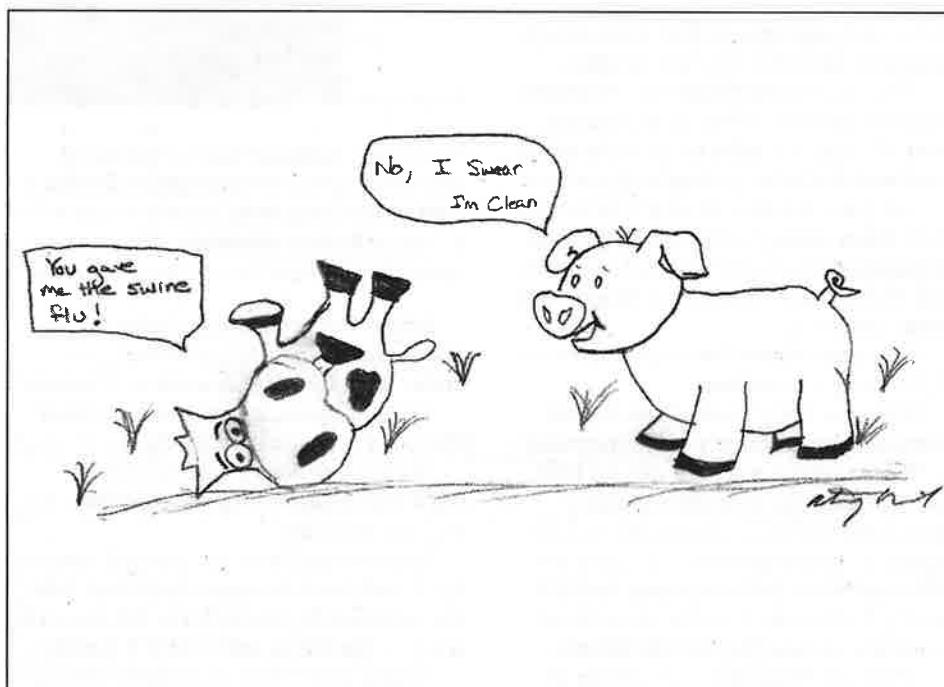
But, to the students, the Exit Project seems to create more disorder than what it seems to be worth at first. Students must plan to start their Exit Project junior year, starting with a research paper, and then do their full project senior year. But many students have problems finding people who will help the student

as mentor, let alone find a project that interests them.

To try to help with these problems, the school administration and senior advisors have set up parent meetings for the junior parents to attend to learn about the projects. These parent meetings will be held Nov. 9 and Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. and will hopefully help both parents and students understand the rules and guidelines of the Exit Project.

Do high expectations equal great success? We believe that if students meet the highest expectations, they will end up doing very well.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ANTHONY REID



YOUR PRINT BY ANTHONY REID

"I plan to go trick-or-treating with my sister and see who can get the most candy between the two of us."



AMANDA OAKLEY
SENIOR

"I think I will go out with my friends and probably do some mischievous stuff. It is going to be a fun night."



NICK COOPER
JUNIOR

"I am going to hang out with friends, but probably won't go trick-or-treating this year."



NICK WELLS
SOPHOMORE

"I am going to be playing in a softball tournament, and at the tournament, I'll be wearing my costume."



BREANNA STILLWAGON
FRESHMAN

"I am going to decorate my house. I hope to have a lot of kids trick-or-treating, so I can see their costumes."



JAN GARVERICK
FACULTY/STAFF

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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.

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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.

Advertising must meet the same guidelines as editorial content. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement by the school. Students pictured in advertising must sign a release and accept no monetary compensation. Advertising rates available on request. School club discounts are available.

Letters to the editor must also meet the same guidelines as editorial content, must be 150 words or less and must be signed. Baseless accusations, libelous statements, insults and unsigned letters will not be considered for publication. The staff reserves the right to edit or omit letters. Letters should be taken to Room 112 or mailed to the address below.

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WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THIS HALLOWEEN?

FEATURES

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ALL-HALLOWEENS EVE

With Halloween coming up soon, origins of the holiday traditions are explained and favorites shared

VERY SUPERSTITIOUS

By SARA LIMING & ERICA SMITH

It is that time of year again; time to break out the costumes and the superstitions. There are many traditions common to North America and Europe. For example, it is believed that if a person has jinxed themselves that this person would knock on wood. Another superstition is that if a person breaks a mirror, they have seven years of bad luck, or a person must not spill salt on the night of All Hallows-Eve, or step on a crack and you break your mother's back.

Everyday superstitions have started from those common only to Halloween. These superstitions can even go back into the Middle Ages. According to

www.history.com, if a black cat was to cross the path of a medieval person, that person was thought to be bad luck. A witch was believed to hide her true form by transforming into a cat on Halloween night. But how superstitions started is a mystery. Some researchers believe is started with the Egyptians. Others believe superstitions have stemmed from people trying to be careful, for example, the ladder. It is a common knowledge that walking around a ladder and not under a ladder is safer.

What may come as a shock to many is that Halloween superstitions were performed in the hopes of young women acquiring husbands within the next year. This was a common practice

throughout Europe. Ireland had a tradition that if a woman buried a ring in mashed potatoes, then served it and whichever man would receive it would be that young woman's husband. In Scotland, a woman would toss apple peels over her shoulder in hopes that they would land in the shape of her future husband's initials. What may have started out as a trick to see the future, many superstitions have come to be seen as every day musts for good luck.

As for superstitions at Rock Creek, sophomore Cody Roche offered his superstition with a more humorous look at a traditional superstition.

"When a black cat crosses the road, the only fix is to run it over," Roche said.

HALLOWEEN HISTORY

By SARA LIMING & ERICA SMITH

When Halloween began many years ago, it was not all about having fun and getting candy.

Halloween began more than 2,000 years ago in northwestern Europe. A group of people called Celts commemorated the first of November as the beginning of a new year. On Oct. 31, which they called Samhain, it was believed that the veil between Earth and the dimension of the dead was very thin. Spirits were able to move between the two dimensions on this night. This night and the spirits that came back to Earth were believed to help the priests of the Celts tell the future. On the night of Samhain, they would sacrifice

animals and dress as them.

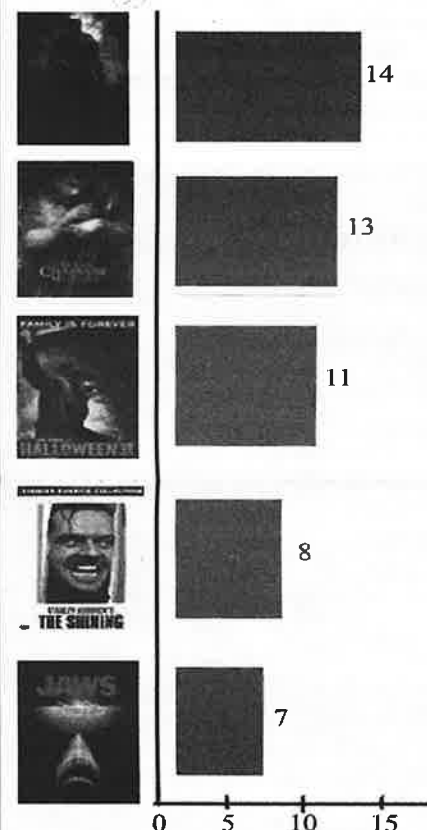
About 50 years later, the Celts had been conquered by the Romans. The Romans merged two of their own celebrations with the celebration of the Celts. Feralia, the day on which the Romans memorialized the dead, and the day that the Roman goddess Pomona was honored, were merged with the Celtic holiday. Pomona was symbolized by apples; this is where the game bobbing for apples came from.

Over the next 1,000 years, the Christian religion began gaining power with the Celtic people. Pope Boniface IV sanctioned Nov. 1 as All Saints' Day, also called All-Hallows Day, as a way to try to replace Samhain. It was a day to celebrate saints and martyrs. The night before

became know as All-Hallows Eve, and eventually, Halloween.

When immigrants from Europe started to explore North America, they brought different ways to celebrate Halloween. During the late 1600s and early 1700s, Halloween was celebrated more in the southern part of the colonies. All of the different European ways to celebrate Halloween mingled with the ways that the American Indians celebrated. When Halloween was celebrated in America in the 1800s, it combined traditions from all of the different celebrations. People danced, told fortunes and talked about the family and friends that they had lost. The tradition of pulling pranks on people and ghost stories also began to emerge during

What is your favorite Halloween movie?



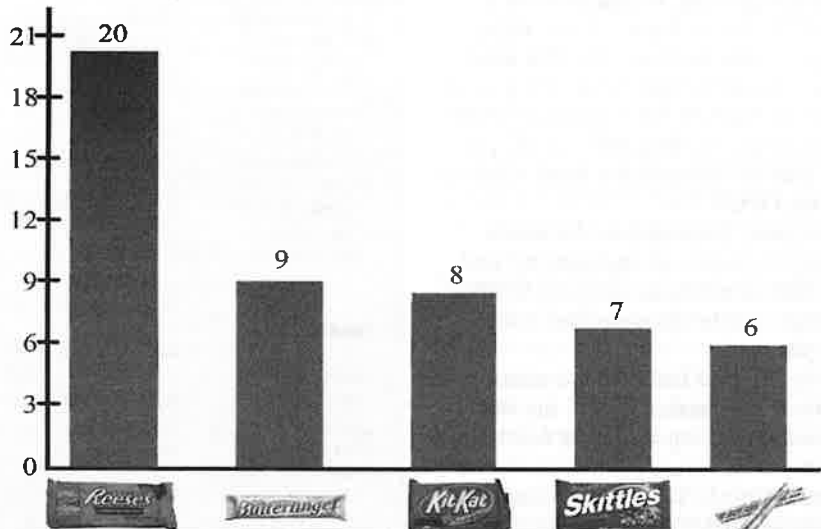
*Approximately 25 percent of student body polled

this time period.

When even more people began immigrating to America during the late 1800s, more traditions began to mix into Halloween celebrations. Around this time period is when dressing in costumes and the early versions of trick-or-treating became popular. During this time period, Halloween also changed to a holiday that promoted community activities and neighborhood gatherings.

What is your favorite Halloween candy?

*Approximately 25 percent of the student body was polled.



COSTUME CREATIONS

By SARA LIMING & ERICA SMITH

Much to the surprise of Americans, trick-or-treating started out as a way for the poor to receive food. It used to be called going a-souling. According to www.history.com, many peasants would come to the doorsteps of the richer folks dressed for the occasion and receive food in exchange for prayer for dead relatives. It then developed into children going door to door to receive food, ale and money and has since then developed into children going to houses to get a bag full of candy.

Halloween started out as times for remembering past relatives and for spirits to come back from the dead. During this

time period, people were afraid of the dark and of spirits. To protect themselves, people would put candles on the walkway to ward off spirits. The peasants would dress up in hopes that the ghosts would recognize them as fellow spirits.

Back before the industrial age, households had to make the costumes from scratch. But looking at today's costume, each costume comes from a factory, the designs are complex, and there are many more costumes available to both adults and children. Children enjoy trick-or-treating and showing off their costumes, while adults and teenagers enjoy Halloween costume parties with the hopes of winning the prize for best costume.

SPORTS

OCTOBER 2009 - PAGE 4

Cross country boasts large team, heads to regionals

By MASON SWENSON

Cross country has been growing at Rock Creek. Just this year, the team saw a 60-percent increase. That is 29 more people compared to last year's 20 athletes.

According to Jeremy Lehning, the cross country coach, "It is great that this number of kids want to come out. We are building a program."

There are 11 medalists so far on the boys team: seniors Samuel Cott, Nolan Fike, Harrison Newman and Seth Ruder, sophomores Aaron Kuecker, Michael Parker and Shane Schaake and freshmen Ben Commerford, Clayton Frakes, Brandon Lutjen and Josh Roberts.

The boys team as finished third at Mill Creek Valley Sept. 9, second at Onaga Sept. 17, first at Wabauunsee Sept. 26, seventh at Council Grove Oct. 1 and 10th at Riley County on Oct. 10.

"We are getting better and better each week," Lehning said. "The next weeks are going to tell us a lot about ourselves."

On the girls' side of the team, they have 12 medalists: seniors Jessica Jack, Sara

Liming, Rachel Nider and Melanie Stubbs, juniors Ashley Altenhofen and Chelsea Ebert, sophomores Lizz Herra, Caitlyn Larson and Katie Zimmerman and freshmen Shiann Bruce, Shannon Oakley and Hanna Ruder.

The girls team has finished second at Mill Creek Valley, fourth at Onaga, second at Wabauunsee, seventh at Council Grove and sixth at Riley County.

On Oct. 15, the teams competed at the league meet, at which both the boys and girls received third overall. Placing fifth overall and receiving all-league mention was Seth Ruder. Other runners for the boys varsity included Cott, freshman Eric Beyer, Fike, Frakes, junior Nelson Kawano, Kuecker, sophomore Thomas McAnemey, freshman Brandon Meece, junior Skylar Myers, Parker, Schaake, and sophomore Adam Schmitz. For the girls, Altenhofen, Bruce, Ebert, Jack, Liming, Larson, Nider, Oakley, Hanna Ruder and Zimmerman ran.

On Oct. 24, they will be headed to Riley County for regionals.

"I am proud of all that have finished," Lehning said. "It is great because we have more support and meets."



AT THE STARTING LINE, senior Harrison Newman and the boys cross country team begin the course at Onaga on Sept. 17. As a team, the boys finished second overall at Onaga, while the girls finished fourth as a team.

PHOTO BY SARA LIMING

SCOREBOARD By STAFF

	RC	OPPONENT
VARSITY FOOTBALL		
Marysville (09/04)	0	27
Silver Lake (09/11)	7	38
Wabauunsee (09/18)	32	14
Riley County (09/25)	38	26
Rossville (10/02)	22	25
St. Marys (10/09)	20	28
JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL		
Marysville (09/08)	28	26
Silver Lake (09/14)	6	18
Riley County (09/28)	8	0
Rossville (10/05)	12	18
St. Marys (10/12)	46	14
FRESHMAN FOOTBALL		
Clay Center (09/03)	27	20
Marysville (09/10)	16	14
Holton (09/17)	0	52
VARSITY VOLLEYBALL		
Immaculata (08/29)	2	0
Osage City (08/29)	2	0
Wabauunsee (08/29)	2	0
Centralia (08/29)	2	0
Osage City (08/29)	1	2
Wabauunsee (08/29)	1st	
Warrego (09/01)	0	2
Royal Valley (09/01)	2	0
Osage City (09/10)	2	1
Mission Valley (09/10)	2	0
B&B (09/12)	2	1
Marysville (09/12)	2	0
Pleasant Ridge (09/12)	2	0
Atchinson Co. (09/12)	2	0
Atchinson Co. (09/12)	2	0
Nemaha Valley (09/12)	1st	
Hiawatha (09/12)	2	0
St. Marys (09/22)	2	0
St. Marys (09/22)	2	0
Jefferson West (09/26)	2	0
Council Grove (09/26)	2	0
Wabauunsee (09/26)	2	0
Valley Heights (09/26)	1	2
Jefferson West (09/26)	2	0
Warrego Tour. (09/26)	3rd	
Silver Lake (09/29)	0	2
Silver Lake (09/29)	2	0
Herrington (10/01)	2	0
Council Grove (10/01)	2	0
Wabauunsee (10/06)	2	0
Wabauunsee (10/06)	2	0
Rossville (10/13)	1	2
Rossville (10/13)	2	1
JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL		
Warrego (09/26)	2	0
Wabauunsee (09/26)	1	1
Immaculata (09/26)	2	0
Rossville (09/26)	2	0
Holton (09/26)	0	2
Atchinson (10/03)	2	0
Jefferson West (10/03)	1	2
St. Marys (10/03)	2	0
Valley Falls (10/03)	2	1
Silver Lake (10/03)	2	0
Wabauunsee (10/06)	2	1
Wabauunsee (10/06)	1	2
Sabetha (10/10)	2	0
Nemaha Valley (10/10)	1	2
Warrego (10/10)	1	2
Rossville (10/10)	1	2
Warrego (10/10)	2	0
FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL		
Royal Valley (09/01)	2	0
Warrego (09/01)	1	2
Clay Center (09/10)	2	1
Junction City (09/10)	0	
Chapman (09/10)	2	0
Junction City (09/17)	2	1
Manhattan (09/17)	1	2
Council Grove (09/17)	2	0
Rock Creek (09/19)	3rd	
St. Marys (09/22)	2	0
St. Marys (09/22)	2	0
Silver Lake (09/24)	1	2
Riley County (09/24)	2	0
Silver Lake (09/29)	1	2
Silver Lake (09/29)	2	1
Council Grove (10/01)	2	0
Wabauunsee (10/06)	0	2
Rossville (10/13)	2	1
Rossville (10/13)	2	1
CROSS COUNTRY		
Mission Valley (09/03)	3rd	2nd
Warrego (09/12)	-	-
Onaga (09/17)	2nd	4th
Wabauunsee (09/26)	1st	2nd
Council Grove (10/01)	7th	7th
Riley County (10/10)	10th	6th
MEL (10/15)	3rd	3rd

Online fantasy football leagues continue to grow

By ANTHONY REID

Every fall, more and more people are getting into this game, Fantasy Football, in which friends or co-workers get together and make their own mock football teams.

A mock draft starts the competition, with the "owners" selecting players from the whole National Football League (NFL) to make up a personal team. After the draft, owners pick the players that they want to start on their teams for that week, when they play another team in the league. Points are scored by players performing well and making good plays in the game, such as running, passing, catching and scoring touchdowns. Defenses can score points by not letting the other team's offense score or get many yards.

There are many Rock Creek students who participate in Fantasy Football every year with their groups of friends.

"It's a good way to be competitive with your friends and allow yourself have bragging rights," senior Pake Ebert said.

The scoring systems can be very different in different leagues. For example, senior Brad Duncan's scoring system allows each team to accumulate 400-plus points per week, while another league's average is only around 100 a week.

Many of the Rock Creek teachers also get into the whole concept of Fantasy Football and have leagues set up for faculty competition.

"I enjoy it very much," science teacher Jeri Brummett said, "but I do find myself getting frustrated with players, and the worst is not wanting a team I like [the Dallas Cowboys] to do well because you need points from their opponent. My favorite memory was beating [junior high teacher] Desirae Reitz two years ago by less than two points in the championship."

Volleyball prepares for sub-state

By TEVIN MATTHEWS

Last year, the Rock Creek volleyball team placed second in state. As it stands, the team might be heading into that direction this year with all of its recent victories.

"Our offense is very strong," volleyball head coach Terry Schmitz said. "Once we get going, other teams have a tough time stopping us."

A good offense is not all a good volleyball team is made of, according to the players.

Junior Shelby Adams attributes the wins to "being able to work together as a team."

"The coach is very good at getting us prepared for what is ahead," Adams said.

Teamwork and preparation has led the Mustangs to recent wins against Wabauunsee on Oct. 5 by scores of 25-14 and 25-17 in the first match and 25-15 and 25-19 in the second. The Mustangs also defeated both Herrington, 25-7 and 25-14, and Council Grove, 25-10 and 25-11, on Oct. 1.

In tournament action, the varsity

Mustangs won first place at the Nemaha Valley tournament on Sept. 12 and the Wabauunsee tournament on Aug. 29. The team also placed third at the Warrego tournament on Sept. 26.

"We have been very pleased with our season," Schmitz said, "but as we have seen from our Silver Lake game, we still have some things to work on."

On Sept. 29, the Mustangs dropped the first matches to Silver Lake by scores of 25-17 and 25-18, but came back in the second round of matches to defeat the Eagles 25-15 and 25-23.

Senior Ashley Srna said, "Silver Lake has been the most difficult rival the team has faced."

Rock Creek will not be facing Silver Lake in the Oct. 24 sub-state tournament held at Rock Creek, which will be the team's next action.

Rock Creek will be hosting round one of the sub-state tournament Oct. 24. If the team makes it through sub-state, it will compete at state on Oct. 30-31.

"I have high hopes for the Mustangs!" Schmitz said.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Senior assists Mustang football team, as 2009 season winds down to a close

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 athlete of the month for October is senior Brad Duncan, who plays offensive and defensive line for the Mustang football team.

Duncan, No. 74, is leading the team with 28 solo tackles and 42 overall tackles through the first six games of the season.

"This is his senior year," head coach Mike Beam said. "He was all-state last year, and that's his goal for this year."

Beam also said that Duncan has been very "consistent" on the offensive line.

At press time, the Mustangs were 2-4 with wins over Wabauunsee by a score of 32-14 on Sept. 18 and Riley County, 38-26, on Sept. 25. The team also has losses to Marysville by a score of 27-0 on Sept. 4, 38-7 against Silver Lake on Sept. 11, Rossville 25-22 on Oct. 2 and St. Marys by a final score of 20-28 on Oct. 9.

Next year, Duncan said he wants to major in electrical engineering and would like to continue playing football in college, but he does not yet know where yet.

So far, he said his favorite memory of football was making it all the way to sectionals during the 2008 football season.

"I just want to keep improving and make it past district," Duncan said.