

Raider team treks through mud, over hills to bring trophy home

BY JOE CLARK

Not only does our school have a state championship rifle team, but an outstanding Raider Team.

Recently, the Rockcastle Raiders traveled to Rutherford County, Tennessee where they competed against 44 teams from 29 different schools, and took home third place in the rope bridge division.

"It was the first trophy I had ever taken home from a Raider event," said sophomore Zach Shepherd.

Under the command of Command Sergeant Major Robinson and Cadet 1st Lt. Jay Noe, the Raiders proved they came to fight.

During the torturous three day event, the Raiders were pushed to their physical limits, negotiating obstacles and running over hills.

They also competed in several other grueling events, such as the army physical fitness test, cross country rescue, land navigation course, night compass course, and

a five mile squad run.

"The best part was working as a team on the cross country rescue. If we hadn't worked as team we would have never made it," said junior Sherri Glover.

"It just goes to show we can't do this alone."

Rockcastle entered both a male and a female squad to compete in the Raider Rendezvous. Although it's a rookie season for the female squad they still finished in front of many of the other teams, including several male squads.

Overall, the male team took 17th place and the females took home 37th out of the 44 teams attending. Even though they only took home one trophy, it was worth the wait.

"The best feeling in the world was to see everyone's face when they announced that Rockcastle had won the trophy," said sophomore Joe Husband.



photo courtesy of Jenny Taylor

Raider team members Claudia Vejrazka, Ashley McClure, Samantha Dees, Brittany Edwards, and Sherri Glover trek through the mud as part of the cross country rescue, just part of a competition held in Rutherford County, Tennessee.

Foreign exchange students on their way home

BY JARROD BURDETTE

Rockcastle County has been home to three foreign exchange students for over seven months now, but it's now time for them to return home.

Freshman Nick Derveshiv returns to Bulgaria next Tuesday, and senior Martina Maurer leaves for Germany Thursday. Junior Claudia Vejaska returns home to Germany June 25.

During the time they spent with RCHS they had the opportunity to learn more about our country, and home life.

"I thought it would be really different from Germany but it really wasn't," said Maurer.

"The only thing different was that the sports are involved with the school, and in Germany they are with clubs."

Derveshiv will surely be taking some memories back home with him.

"I'm always going to remember the time I went 'liming' with my friends."

Perhaps the biggest transition was the home life.

"It went really good but it was a little weird in the beginning being around people I didn't know," Vejaska said.

According to Maurer, the experience was "good most of the

time, but like all families we had fights, too."

When Maurer and Vejaska return to Germany, more school is waiting. They must complete one more year of school in Germany before attending college.

Derveshiv, who was a senior in Bulgaria, already has enough credits at home to graduate. Therefore, he plans to come back this summer to attend UK for a career in software design.

"I'm going to miss them all, because in the past year, we've grown so close," said freshman Jamie Omella, who was part of the host family for Maurer and Derveshiv.

\$25,000 grant continues freshmen program

BY MELISSA PAQUETTE

A \$25,000 ESS Continuation Grant will allow RCHS to continue its successful Crossing the Road program. Originally designed to reduce the number of students failing freshmen classes as they enter high school, it has also resulted in improved attendance and fewer disciplinary referrals.

Most students may know the of the program through the summer program, Bridges.

Plans for the summer camp are already underway.

"The grant money will help with all the food, pay of the teachers, transportation, and many gifts and

prizes that will be given out," said Mrs. Trina Bustle, who will be assuming the role of president with the retirement of Principal Hamilton.

Scavenger hunts will be just one of the activities used to help over 200 incoming freshmen become familiar with their new surroundings.

"It will be a 'Survivor' theme, since next year's freshmen will be able to spend a week and learn how to 'survive' high school," said Mrs. Bustle.

Mrs. Hamilton originally wrote the grant for the 2000-01 year.



"I want to thank everyone for being so nice, and helping me."

Martina Maurer



"I'm the Bulgarian stud!"

Nick Derveshiv



"I want to thank everyone for their hospitality."

Claudia Vejaska

REMINDER

GRADUATION IS SUNDAY, JUNE 3 2:00 PM