

The Rocket

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Rockcastle County High School

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Sophomore recovers from injuries at home

BY JESSICA DENNY

In a conversation Thursday, May 16, sophomore Jameson Cable, 16, claims to feel great, but is still recovering from a single car accident on May 4. Cable sustained three broken ribs and a punctured lung.

He was placed on homebound for the remainder of the school term. Cable says he doesn't miss school that much. The work being sent to him has kept him busy. With all his school work he makes some time for his Nintendo.

Although Cable wasn't well enough to return to school, he'll be ready to go by August when he will attend football camp. Cable's mother, Marion, believes her son's physical recovery has been amazing, but knows it won't be easy emotionally.

"All the support has really helped, but we still have a long way to go," said Mrs. Cable. "I think all the kids at the high school have been great."

Yearbook, newspaper receive awards

The 2001 RCHS yearbook and four staff members of *The Rocket* were recognized with several awards at the annual Kentucky High School Journalism Association's awards luncheon in Louisville, May 1.

They competed against more than 2000 total entries from over 200 other Kentucky schools.

In addition to receiving third place in General Excellence, the yearbook received several other awards. These included two second place awards: Writing Style and Overall Coverage.

Four senior staff members of *The Rocket* were also honored.

Clifton T. Williams received third place in Opinion Writing for his piece "Afterschool pick up policy in need of tune-up"; Tim Tyler also received third place for artwork that accompanied several stories related to spring break. Both appeared in the March issue.

Seniors Shana Noe and Cassie Smith received an honorable mention for double-page layout. Addressing morals and ethics, it included an ethics quiz and several graphics.

School's oldest freshman looks back on first year as principal

BY CLIFTON T. WILLIAMS

Freshmen weren't the only ones to have finished their first year here at RCHS. Principal John Hale, who was appointed just prior to this year, has also finished his first year in the principalship.

"I was like the freshmen coming in. I was a little intimidated," said Hale.

Through the course of his first year here he was able to view many differences in many things from middle school to high school. One big difference that stuck out to him was the students.

"The students are more mature and more focused on work than at the middle school," Hale commented.

He did however, express much concern for the students regarding drop-outs over the years.

"If we could have 100 percent of students who started in a class graduate with that class, then that is most important regardless of test scores or anything else," said Hale. "It's difficult to look for students you saw in middle school and them just not be there anymore."

On a positive note regarding the students, Hale said that this is the largest senior class ever to gradu-

ate from RCHS. This says that the number of students dropping out is decreasing.

"If you look at the numbers, it's getting better," Hale continued.

The students were not the only ones that Mr. Hale had to adjust to when coming to RCHS. He also had to get along with a whole new set of faculty members. Not only get along with them, but also impose a few changes on them as well. Yet, he seemed to go about it with complete ease.

"Everyone was easy to work with," said Hale.

One of the changes that he helped to implement was starting scheduling for next year in March. "Scheduling was a breeze because the teachers wanted it done, too," Hale replied.

Last year, scheduling took place in May, when the school year was nearing its completion. This led to a number of days in August with lines of students pouring out of the guidance counselors' offices. Scheduling in March was proposed



RCHS principal John Hale greeted eighth graders from Rockcastle County Middle School when they came to tour the high school.

to keep this problem from happening next year.

Some changes that didn't come about this year but will most likely be implemented in the next couple of years are a change in the block scheduling, and getting the student council more involved in school decisions. Mr. Hale showed a keen interest in these areas and hoped to get these changes started as soon as possible.

"I've always believed in an active student council," Hale said.

The person-to-person issues were quite possibly not the biggest challenges that were facing him this

year. One big obstacle was the building itself.

"I had to come into a building that I had only set foot in maybe three times before. There are some areas that I haven't even been in yet I'm sure, but it's slowly getting to become less of an issue."

Overall, Hale said that this year did meet his expectations.

"They're good kids and it's a good school," said Hale.

To finish off this year, Hale is faced with his first senior class

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Weighted grading scale to take effect in fall

BY ANDREA LESTER

A new grading scale, referred to as the 'weighted grading scale', was passed at the March 27 SBDM council meeting.

"The weighted grading scale change is a good idea," said principal John Hale. "Students hesitate [to take higher level classes] because they're afraid it will lower their GPA."

This alteration will allow students who may be worried about keeping a 4.0 average to take Advanced Placement (AP)/honors classes. Currently, if students have an A in a class it's equal to 4 points, and a B is equal to 3; a C is equal to 2 points, while a D is equal to 1. An F is equal to a 0 on the 4.0 scale. Next year, if students are enrolled

in an AP class, each letter grade is a point higher, excluding a F.

"Now students who want to compete for valedictorian/salutatorian have to take AP classes," said senior guidance counselor Mr. Dale Whitaker.

"It used to be that if there were four students in the running two could take AP classes, and the students who didn't take the class could still be valedictorian and salutatorian."

"It basically helps you instead

How does the weighted grading scale work?

In general high school courses:

A=4 B=3 C=2 D=1 F=0

In AP or Honors courses:

A=5 B=4 C=3 D=2 F=0

of hurting you," said junior Kayla Cook, one of the students who is in the running for valedictorian/salutatorian next year. "I already planned on taking AP Calculus but I might take more college classes."

Others that are included in the list for valedictorian/salutatorian hopefuls are Amanda Cummins, Jessica Thacker, Bridgette Lear, Rebekah Lyons, and Robert Sandusky.

"For upcoming freshmen this is for the better but for us [juniors] it's [the school year with normal grading] already started," said Thacker.

Unfortunately, college classes are not affected, according to Mrs. Connie Riddle, a SBDM council member, because students don't get a high school credit in those classes. Classes that are affected by the weighted grading scale are all honors and AP classes.

"This will give more preparation for college or whatever further education they take," said Whitaker.

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