

Youth Service Center offers counseling, other services

BY PAULA ROWLAND

Freshmen aren't the only ones this year walking around Rockcastle County High asking where and what each room is. One of the most often heard questions in the halls is, "What is the room beside the doors next to the bathroom next to the agriculture hallway across from the vending machines used for?"

Confusing, huh?

The room everyone is talking about belongs to Mrs. Jill Ponder and the Youth Services Center. Students pass by it each and every day without even thinking twice about who is inside or what they do.

"We call this room the everything room," said YSC advisor Jill Ponder. "Any of the students that walk down these halls can come and visit us. We are here to do anything from fixing ripped pants to filling out papers and making home visits."

Ponder has a degree in counseling, and works with students as well as teachers.

"Sometimes someone has a problem within a relationship and we try to give them advice. We can help anyone with anything," she says.

If someone needs to talk about family problems, drug or alcohol questions, or even social problems, we help them."

According to Ponder, YSC's primary goal is "to help the students to achieve in the classroom. Whatever they need, we help them with it."

YSC's motto, "If We Can't Help You, We Know Someone Who Can," leads students to trust the YSC and go to them in a time of need.

"Some students are just having a really bad day and they need to come in here and de-stress or relax for a little while. If that is what they need to be happy or to have a better day, we do whatever we can to give them that."

Ponder was surprised at the thought that not many students knew of the YSC.

"Students come in here all of the time. We can't really do an individual thing every day because then we wouldn't be able to help them all. If we really feel that we need

Not so new faces join RCHS staff

BY JESSICA DENNY

The month of August brings with it the smell of new text books, all the new fashions, freshmen, and new teachers. However, this year brought some familiar faces to the RCHS teaching staff.

RCHS chorus members are beginning to find their voices with their new teacher Mrs. Letha Hembrey. She came to RCHS from the middle school, but this isn't the first time she has taught at a high school.

She enjoyed her last high school teaching experience and decided to give it another chance. She obviously enjoys the high school as she jumped head first into teaching. Some students claim she's already helped them.

"She's working independently with people more, and she's now interpreting people's voices into one," said freshman Samantha Anglin, a former middle school chorus member.

Hembrey compared high school and middle school students behavior.

"High school students tend to be more focused. They generally are more mature and more responsive to questions."

Hembrey also teaches History of Visual and Performing Arts, a very interactive class.

Junior Abby French said, "She's fun. She dances for us."

Mr. Brandon Hargis also came from the middle school. After returning from a NASA Educator



Jessica Denny

Brandon Hargis, formerly of Rockcastle County Middle School, is one of several new staff members at RCHS.

Workshop in Virginia, Hargis had planned on sharing all that he had learned about aviation and aerospace technology with his sixth grade science class. Plans changed and he is now the 21st Century Program Coordinator for 2002-2003.

In gaining Hargis the 21st Century program lost Mrs. Trina Bustle who had directed the program for two years.

Job security played an important factor in Bustle's return to the classroom.

"After this year there may not be a 21st Century Program or an open math position," said Bustle who teaches integrated math classes.

Another familiar face is Mr. Shane Shoemaker. He was a student teacher last year for English teacher Nancy Bussell, but he is now on his own.

"Being on my own is different.

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FFA members spend active summer

BY ALLISON ANDERKIN

After this summer, RCHS can definitely have pride in its FFA. They achieved recognition and earned several awards at various competitions this summer.

From July 8-12, 14 members attended FFA camp in Hardinsburg, where they learned valuable social and leadership skills for the upcoming year. Chapter members attended officer classes such as communication skills, hunter safety and ethics, photography, and tractor driving.

Leadership and outstanding leadership awards were given to 10% of the campers. Junior Heather Adams, as well as sophomores Daniel Bustle and Matthew Whitaker, received leadership awards, while senior Bryanna Bussell received an outstanding leadership award.

Whitaker also participated in the Camp Quiz Contest and came out

as the winner for the fifth week. Jamey Robinson also won the Camp Talent Show singing Bob Seger's "Turn the Page." This was the first ever winner from Rockcastle.

After FFA camp, many members competed at the Kentucky State Fair in mid-August. Matthew Faulkner, Adams, Nathan Doan, and Jeff McLemore, all juniors, finished third in tobacco grading, while Whitaker, Daniel Bustle, Mark Dyehouse, and Adams placed twentieth out of sixty teams in Dairy Judging. Robinson also competed in nursery judging.

Rockcastle's FFA also made a big show from June 5-7 at the KY FFA State Convention. There, last year's seniors Brad Bussell, Eric Adams, and Amber Thacker were all state winners.

Bussell was first in Sheep Impromptu while Eric Adams and

Thacker both finished second in Agriculture Sales Placement and Small Animal Impromptu. Adams will be representing Kentucky at the national competition.

What exactly is impromptu? According to FFA President Bryanna Bussell, participants are given three topics to choose from and based on the information that they know they choose what to write a speech on. They are allowed 15 minutes to write at least a 4 minute speech.

"It is so hard it made me cry once, but I still won," says Bussell.

From the meetings and competitions it is obvious that the officers are friends and seem to know what it takes to run a good chapter.

"If we work hard and together we will be one of the best in the state," said Bussell.

New rules enforced for laptop, camera check-outs

BY AUDREY BURKE

"What are these for?"

"I want one."

"I'll put one on myself."

These questions and statements were common among students when they received their new library cards.

What are they all wanting?

The stickers on the back of the card that identifies students who have had training for the digital cameras and laptop computers.

The stickers are part of the new rules that go along with borrowing the equipment.

"It was done to cut down on students disrupting class by taking out the computer and trying to do stuff with it, or getting out the camera and taking pictures of their friends in class," explained Library Media Specialist Janet Wells. "It also shows that students have had the training."

Though the stickers are new, some rules have stayed the same, such as completing the required training, treating the equipment with care, and staying off of the Internet.

One new rule specifies when the computers and cameras can be checked out. Lap-tops and cameras may only be checked-out at break; they must be returned to the library on their due date by 8:00 AM.

Fourth block vocational students may work out borrowing times with Ms. Wells.

Originally lap-tops and cameras could only be checked out on Mondays.

Laptop and digital camera training will be available in the library from 3-5 on Wednesdays.

Students to represent 4-H at nationals

BY ALLISON ANDERKIN

Five FFA members will represent Kentucky at the National 4-H Land Judging contest in Oklahoma City next May.

The following RCHS students were on the senior land judging team that competed at the Kentucky State Fair in mid-August.

They placed as follows: junior Jameson Cable, third; sophomore Matthew Whitaker, fourth; sophomore Brandon Cole, eighth; junior Andrew Nelson, thirteenth, and sophomore Bill Burdett, twentieth.

"We are only allowed to go once, so we are pretty excited about nationals," says Cable. "Plus we get to miss a week of school."

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