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The ROCKET

Rockcastle County High School

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Students attending college can turn to financial aid

BY SARAH HOOVER

With graduation quickly approaching, plans for life after high school begin. Some students will be attending college and that takes money.

A financial aid workshop was held Dec. 5, where the required Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms were passed out.

"FAFSA determine a student's eligibility for all types of financial aid," said Jack Stanfill, head of financial aid at Cumberland College.

Several forms of aid are available, including loans, grants, and scholarships. *Getting Started*, a book distributed by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, explains the different types.

Future college students can also find scholarships for different majors. For example, there are specific scholarships for students who want to become teachers.

Work study is another type of financial aid is covered by the FAFSA form. If approved, the student works a certain number of hours per week, perhaps working for a professor grading papers, or in the school library.

"There's 250-300 jobs available on campus," said Mr. Stanfill.

Tax information is required, so forms cannot be turned in before January 1. The priority deadline for financial aid is March 15.

The University of Kentucky requires forms by February 15.



Senior, Josh Engle, was one of the students who attended the financial aid workshop December 5.

Awards roll in for RCHS athletes, rifle team

BY CHEYENNE CARMACK

Rewards are no stranger to RCHS. In fact, Rockcastle County High School has remained at the top, as a school in rewards for three CATS testing cycles, or six years.

This year, as in previous ones, other areas of the school also seem to be turning heads on the statewide level.

After leading the Rockets through an undefeated regular season head football coach Tom Larkey was chosen as the 2000 Kentucky Associated Press Football Coach of the Year.

"It turned out to be a dream season," Larkey told the Lexington Herald-Leader.

The Associated Press, made up of seventeen sportswriters, sportscasters, and editors from around Kentucky, must have agreed.

They not only rewarded Coach Larkey with an honor, but also Senior defensive back Derrick Bussell with an AP First Team All-State position.

"It was a real honor to be recognized," Bussell said of his own award. "But I had a good team behind me."

Senior place kicker, Greg Terry, was also honored with an AP All-State Honorable Mention. Terry broke two school records this season, one for the longest field goal (50 yards), and another for most extra points kicked (11).

Larkey credits the seniors' awards to the statewide recognition throughout the season and their overall dedication and commitment to the team.

The entire Rocket football team and coaching staff can be applauded for their commitment and dedication. Larkey attributes those, among "great attitudes and a lot of hard work," to their overall success.

"I expect to see several players named to the Kentucky Coach's All-State later this month" said Larkey.

Those honors will be revealed December 24.

The Rockets, in one season, managed to go from 10-3 to 13-1.



photo by Mindy Bullock

Coach Tom Larkey was named Associated Press Coach of the Year. He led the RCHS Rockets to a perfect regular season and their first regional championship.

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Committee reports vandalism to SBDM

BY CARISSA SETTLES

At the Site Based Decision Making Council session on Thursday, Dec. 7, Buildings and Grounds Committee member Roy Reynolds reported that teachers are dealing with car vandalism.

The committee presented several solutions to deal with the problem. The options were to increase security with more cameras and lighting, move the teachers' parking closer to the grounds' monitor station, or move their vehicles to an all new parking lot closer to the front of the building.

To accomplish the new parking lot goal, the Buildings and Grounds Committee members hope to get funding from the school.

"We need to get this taken care

of, so when students have bad days they don't take it out on our cars," said Mr. Reynolds.

The committee also suggested a possible new "senior tradition" to begin this year. Each graduating class will be able to plant a tree that will become part of the high school's landscaping plan.

"Being able to come back in 30 years and see how much each person, as well as the tree has grown is something neat for each senior class to do," said Mr. Reynolds.

As for the senior trip, Sgt. Major Keith Taylor, Student Support Committee member, stated that "we just waited too long, and students really haven't shown interest."

According to Sgt. Major Taylor,

trip information was to be spread through senior English or Transitions classes.

Because only two representatives showed up at the first scheduled meeting, and no one showed up for the second meeting, the subject of a senior trip was dropped.

The Student Support Committee also discussed a change to the attendance policy.

The current policy states that students are allowed three days of absence per weeks.

They would like to see the policy changed to three days per semester, with the addition of an attendance committee formed.

The committee would review each case individually, due to the

fact that there are extenuating circumstances for every student.

Rewards considered for perfect attendance for the nine weeks were also discussed by the Student Support Committee. Some of the suggestions were to have a longer break, a homework pass good for a single day in a single class, a pizza party at the end of the semester, or bonus points in each class.

Other rewards for perfect attendance all year would be a field trip at the end of the year, or a t-shirt similar to those given for do-

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