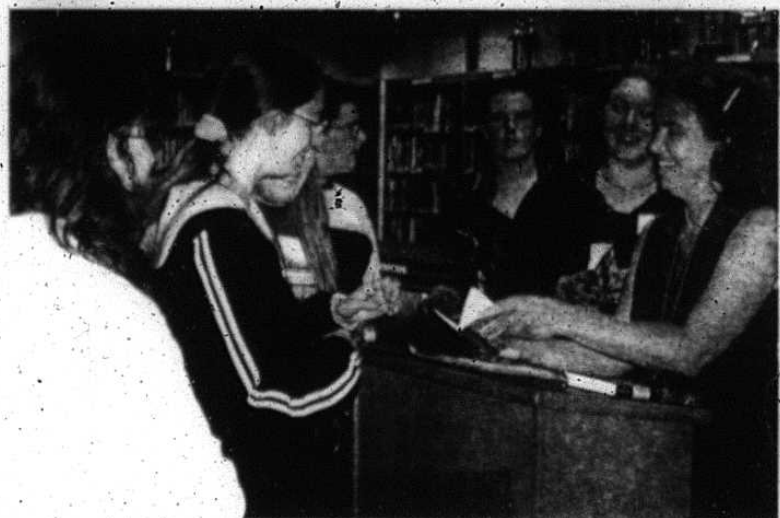




Donna Jo Napoli speaks with RCHS students after reading an excerpt from her upcoming novel *Breath*, which will be released next month. Napoli's visit, attended by members of the book club, as well as several English classes, was sponsored by ECU.

Award-winning author visits RCHS

By MARIA HENSLEY

What do an award-winning author and a mother of five have in common? These are both items that you would find in the biography of Donna Jo Napoli, who visited RCHS on September 26.

"I received a phone call [from Eastern Kentucky University] offering this, and it was an offer that I could not refuse!" said Mrs. Janet Wells, RCHS librarian.

The program was held during fourth block from 2-3 p.m. ECU funded the \$2,000 cost for her appearance, as well as her transportation. The Book Club, fourth block

English IV, AP English IV, and Honors English III were permitted to attend the function. Napoli made a few opening comments, read a passage from her newest book, and held a Q&A session with the students.

Her writing style is "sort of fantasy and she also takes fairy tales and modernizes them," Mrs. Wells said. "For instance, her book *Zel* is a modern version of *Rapunzel*."

Besides *Zel*, Napoli has written other prize books such as *Sirena*, in which a mermaid is granted immortality when she rescues her new

love and faces conflict when he has to fight in the Trojan War. She also wrote *Beast*, a book that tells the point of the *Beast from Beauty and the Beast* and is set in Persia.

"I've had lots of requests for her books," said Mrs. Wells.

When it comes to Napoli's writing style, she has a widespread range of readers that involve everyone from picture-book beginners to novel-reading young adults.

To find out more information on Mrs. Napoli and her publications, visit her personal website at <http://www.donnajonapoli.com>

PARKING LOT: continued from page 3

reasons I was hit. The girl in the other car could not see me. Slanted spaces would also help us to be able to clearly see. The way the lot is arranged now, you may as well back out of your spot wearing a blindfold.

My weekend will be spent buffing scratches out of my car, and attempting to have the side repainted. I am not blaming the girl who hit me, I am blaming the layout of the parking lot. There was nothing she or I could do, but at least now we know something does need to be done.

LITERARY MAGAZINE: continued from page 8

A Service Learning Grant will fund the literary magazine, but both teachers hope that it will be self-supported through sales when it is distributed in May.

Ms. Mattingly got the idea last February when she attended the Kentucky Council for Teachers of English Conference and was introduced to the concept of a literary magazine by looking at literary magazines from schools across the state.

"By looking at their examples, I realized that the RCHS students are capable, if not more capable, of producing our own literary magazine," she said.

When selecting pieces for the literary magazine, Ms. Mattingly and Mr. Scalf are hoping to find a variety of writings, such as poetry, narratives, short stories, as well as visual art that includes sculpture, painting, drawing.

RELOCATION: continued from page 8

easier to gain access to the counselors.

"The change has been very positive for both the students and the staff," said Principal John Hale.

Even though the change does seem to be completely positive some students feel more uneasy about going to Youth Services now, due mostly to its new location.

"I'd go to the counselor's office now before Youth Services because of the location. It doesn't feel as confidential as it used to," said Denney.

Youth Service Coordinator Jill Ponder says the center is supposed to be a "welcoming, inviting, and confidential place where students can find what they need. I hope we can do that from any location."

NEW TEACHERS: continued from page 5

"I have wanted to work here since they started the program in '95. I only hope that we (JROTC program) can make a difference and that kids can enjoy this class. I want to help them do things they wouldn't normally do. People have a certain opinion of JROTC, but it is definitely not what it seems."

Students of the JROTC program are also glad to see Sergeant Graves arrive.

"Sergeant Graves is already very active; he is always doing things for the program. We are also really glad he is here to take some of the load off of Sergeant Major Taylor," said senior Justin Richards.

ANIMAL CRUELTY: continued from page 3

criminals, 30% of convicted child molesters, and 36% of those who assaulted women. (www.hsus.org) With signs like this, why aren't more cases being investigated? Why are these people only getting probation? It has also been found that most offenders are white male teens.

I don't understand how someone can get enjoyment out of the killing of an animal, especially someone my age. I would never do anything like that. It seems to be a rite of passage to injure another living thing, but all you're proving is that you're an insensitive, uncaring, ignorant person. You aren't proving that you're smarter or more mature than you were before you committed this act. If anything, you are proving the opposite. You are far less of an adult than you were.

Anyone who commits a crime against a defenseless animal deserves just punishment. These people are truly only animals themselves.

RCHS student Zac Pensol designs county website

By AUDREY BURKE

While most students were sleeping in, watching TV, and laying out by the pool, junior Zac Pensol was building a web site for the county.

"Jeremy Sweet, who's in charge of telecommunications, approached me about it because she heard I was good with computer graphics," Pensol said.

Pensol, who has also done work for the website Comics2Film.com, worked with Brandon Reynolds from the tech center at the court house, developed the page for Rockcastle County Board of Development Director Jerry Renner.

"Not having a web site leaves you at a disadvantage in tourism and business," Renner explains.

Renner expects the site to benefit the community by attracting industry, since one of the first

places businesses go to find new locations is the Internet.

"It's an open page that links to others—like a directory," is how Pensol describes the site. In addition to a link on the history of Rockcastle County, browsers will also be able to link with sites for county schools, health facilities, and industrial information.

Pensol said one of the hardest things was when his computer crashed and he had to redo everything. Some other aspects of the design he said were difficult were building it and the web design of it. There was a bright side, however.

The most fulfilling aspect of making the web site has been, "Knowing I'm helping the county, making it look better."

Congratulations to the RCHS volleyball team on their FIRST regional title. GOOD LUCK AT STATE!