

HCHS Raider team earns top honors; ranked first in region

The Harlan County High School JROTC Raider Team continues to be ranked first in the region as a result of a stellar performance in the recent competition at Middlesboro High School.



Harlan County took top honors overall in the seven-team competition which featured Middlesboro, Thomas Walker, Va., Corbin, Whitley County, Knox Central and Southwestern (Pulaski County).

In addition to first overall, Harlan County took top honors in the obstacle course, archery, air rifle, field obstacle and male tug of war. The HC Raider Team was second in color guard and female tug of war.

The HC team features 36 raiders and color guard. Of these members, 12 are freshmen. Nineteen members were lost to graduation last year.

“We are starting over,” said Maj. Tim McElyea. “I’m well pleased we placed first. I just want to be competitive. The way they performed, it was like war.”

The team has been first in the region for the past two years.

“I’m real proud of our color guard,” he said. “I lost all of our color guard (from last year). They came in second in this meet. That was a pleasant surprise.”

He said he sees great improvement in many areas, including the one-rope.

Raider Commander Cody Hall said was proud of his team.

“I was very surprised we did so well,” he said, “considering our team is so new. The way the performed, it was like they were seasoned veterans.”

The Raiders will compete on October 13 at Whitley County, host a competition at home on October 27, and then compete again on November 3 at Thomas Walker, Va., January 26 at Corbin and March 25 at Knox Central.