

RED RIBBON WEEK

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Students see effects of drinking, hear voices of experience

By Kristine Hempel

From ghosting out our hallways to listening to past addicts, West Franklin High School took a part in Red Ribbon week. With several activities, Merritta Combs hopes this meant something to the students.

Starting out the week with a multimedia presentation done by the Franklin County Emergency Medical Services, Cindy Casey and Scott Harris discussed with

the juniors and seniors about "Choices and Consequences". The PowerPoint was about drinking and driving and the people who got the repercussions.

When Tuesday rolled around many students were painted, acted, and treated as if they were "dead". This was the results of drunk driving. Memorial services were held at the end of the day to show how much these students meant.

Wednesday was

spent listening to recovering drug addicts and alcoholics. They discussed with us their pasts, their hope and what saved them, and also the strength it took. This took two assemblies, one for freshmen and sophomores, and then the second was for juniors and seniors. One of their main points was that they started when they were about our age, so they hope we can open our eyes and see the problem before

it gets as far as theirs did.

Did you wear your seatbelt Thursday? In the parking lot students were awarded with Smarties for wearing their seatbelts. If you did not wear your seatbelt you were given a Lifesaver.

The last day of Red Ribbon Week Combs collected red labeled canned foods for families with little food. She says she is still taking donations if you would like to par-

ticipate.

Combs also says that people should thank Jessica Cates and Kristin Smith for all their hard work to put Red Ribbon Week on. Also thanks to the Middle School PTO. All of these activities are going towards the Families Acting Community Traffic Safety. Combs added that she hopes the students make good choices and also help others make good choices.



Junior Heather Greer studies in silence after being "killed" by a drunk driver earlier in the day.

Former student Nick Scott refuses to be victim

By Breanna Parsons

The first thing you notice about Nick Scott is his nice smile, then his muscles. And next you see his chair.

A graduate of Pomona High School, Scott was an average high school athlete. A student always on the go; he competed in football and track. Scott, now 26, said he very much enjoyed his years at Pomona High School.

In August 1998 Nick Scott was involved in a life-changing car accident. "As I was heading towards the left ditch, I knew I was going to crash. I just loosened my grip on the steering wheel, closed my eyes and said to the Lord, 'I'm in your hands now' and then I hit. I felt myself rolling and then the next thing I saw was the sky."

As results of the accident he was paralyzed from the waist down. "When the doctors told me I would never walk again, I broke down," said Scott. "I asked myself over and over, 'Why me?' Tears ran down my face all night and I felt like my world was over."

Scott said he was afraid of what the future might bring. He had wanted to play football beyond high school, but that dream had now turned to dust. After his accident

he started putting on weight because he wasn't able to exercise.

At first he grieved about his loss, but after a while he learned to get past his heartache. He didn't let that stop him from making a difference for others.

"Over time I realized that the day I almost died I was given a gift and that gift was a second chance," Scott explained. "From that moment it wasn't about if my glass was half empty or half full, I'm just grateful to have a glass."

He started power lifting the summer of 1999, and bodybuilding in 2005. He has come a long way. He goes around the world showing off his improvement, and he is proud to be a wheelchair bodybuilder.

Scott is now a professional wheelchair bodybuilder, but even more importantly he is an inspirational speaker. During red ribbon week he shared his heart-warming story and positive outlook with students at WFHS.

A slide show that was presented at the assembly revealed several before and after pictures of Scott. His transformation surprised many of the students. It's in people like Nick Scott; students realize that nothing is impossible.



Former student Nick Scott lifting weights