

The Cat's Dispatch

Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
Lawrence County School District
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~ Walnut Ridge High School supplement to The Times Dispatch since 1976 ~

WRHS Celebrates Fall Athletes at Back to School Pep Rally

By Katherine Skinner

On August 18, we had the annual Bobcats Back to School pep rally. This year it was Hawaiian-themed or a luau. The cheerleaders handed out leis and threw beach balls in the stands.

Volleyball, varsity cheer, golf, Alleycats, band, and football participants were all introduced. We played games involving the seniors and the crowd. The seniors played Limbo with Coach Will Weir. Bo Kersey won Limbo and won a gift card to The Post.

We also played everyone's favorite game, Bobcat on the Prowl. Since it was luau-themed, we called it Bobcat on the Beach. The called poses included Bobcat on the Beach, Bobcat on the Pier, Bobcat on a Surfboard, "Jack, I'm flying," Bobcat Lifeguard and Shark Attack.

Senior Dawson Ward won the Bobcat on the Beach competition and received gift cards to Sonic and The Post. His winning partner was John Ellefritz, a second-grader at WRES.

The cheerleaders and Alleycats performed their dances. We ended the night with the Alma Mater and the fight song.



2023 WRHS Homecoming Royalty: Sophomore Maid Emma Clements, Junior Maid Layla Nunally, Maid of Honor Michelle Moore, Queen Rhealyn Schmidt, Senior Maid Taylor Forrester, Senior Maid Hayden Brandon, Freshman Maid Chloe Witcher. Front row, pages Anson Hufstedler and Aubrey Crisler

Country Roads Take me Home

By Bre Tate

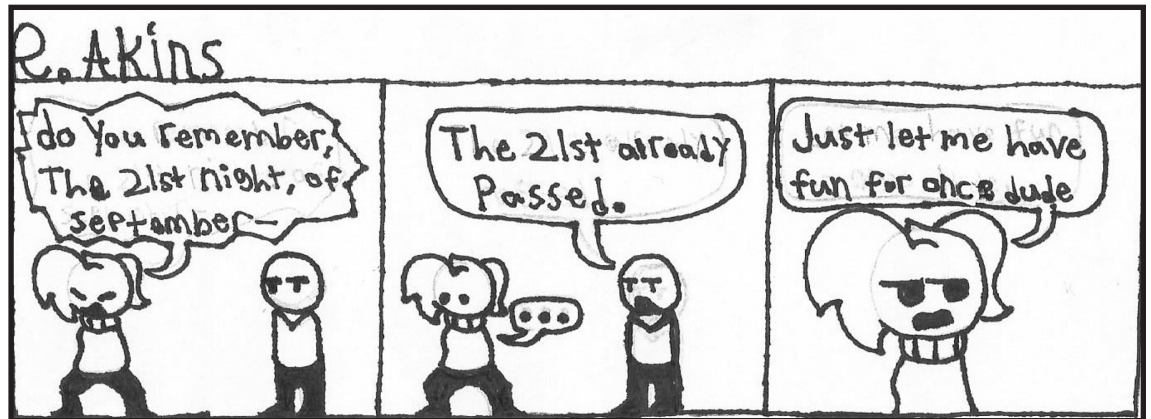
WRHS Homecoming is Friday, October 6. The Student Council has planned a huge homecoming day packed full of activities. The in-school activities start at 8:15 in the morning with club pictures, followed by the annual girls' Powder Puff tournament at 9.

The Homecoming Festival will start about 10 with a series of activities to enjoy with your fellow Bobcats.

After the festival we will have a parade with all our Bobcat clubs and teams circling the school. This will begin at 12:40. The pep rally will immediately follow the parade.

Parents and locals may join and experience a Bobcat Homecoming Day.

Friday evening, the presentation of the royalty will begin at 6:30 with the game following at 7:00. Come out and support your Bobcats on their homecoming game against the Piggott Mohawks.



What Made You Nervous on the First Day of School?

By Sydney Henry

Everyone gets a little nervous on the first day of school, but you would definitely be nervous if you were new to the entire high school experience.

I asked several WRHS freshman what they were most nervous about on Day One. The responses were very relatable.

Riley Loftis said, "I was nervous about my homeroom teacher and finding all my classes."

Drake Smith said, "Probably meeting everyone because I haven't seen them in awhile."

Sadie Holland said, "Being yelled at by students and teachers."

Zaiden Milgram said, "Being beat up by upperclassmen like they do in movies."

Charlie Tribble said, "Dealing with the lockers because I haven't used one in three years."

As freshmen, they definitely aren't alone feeling this way. It's crazy how much of a difference it is for freshmen going into high school, but all those fears quickly go away. You should enjoy all the new experiences while they're still here.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors named, and are not necessarily those of The Cat's Dispatch, Walnut Ridge High School or any other students/employees. While we try to ensure that the information we provide is correct, we are a student newspaper, mistakes do occur and we cannot always guarantee the accuracy of our material. If you do notice mistakes, please let us know.

We welcome letters to the editor or guest writers. Contact Stacy Rice, advisor.



Mystery Students

By Sydney Henry

She's very kind
 She's extremely witty
 Her favorite color is pink
 Her mind is amazing
 She's very pretty
 And very short

And will always give you support

He's in band
 And plays the trombone
 He's a good helping hand
 And seems so grown

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The staff of *The Cat's Dispatch* dedicates each issue to the memory of David Brady, Editor 1991-93.

PLC Mondays are the Best

By Karleigh Clements

PLC time at Walnut Ridge High School is sacred. On Mondays, I can wake up a little later, eat breakfast at my own pace and essentially enjoy my day a little more. It is honestly the best thing since sliced bread, and I wish everyday was a PLC Day.

But, some parents worry that it is not good for our education or say it's inconvenient. To break down what they're saying, every Monday we lose 30 minutes of class time, although it is spread throughout the day.

But is it really that big of a deal since the last five minutes of class are spent getting ready for the next class? I don't think so.

Some say it's inconvenient if they must bring their children to school later, but I disagree. They really don't, if you think about it. The school makes accommodations by opening its doors at the same time regardless of PLC and ends classes in elementary at the same time as normal. Making it inconvenient by ten minutes in high school and middle school pick up. Is 10 minutes really that inconvenient?

I think PLC time was a great addition for faculty and parents to have meeting times in the morning, and a great addition for students to have a little more time on Monday mornings to get ready for the week.

Twitter Vs. The World

By Rafe Akins

Let's talk about Twitter. Can we talk about Twitter? I've been dying to talk about Twitter all day! So, there's this guy, Elon Musk, right? Super-rich dude, owns Tesla, sent a box of rats to the International Space Station, you know, Elon. This man buys Twitter for like over a billion dollars.

Now, I've made my opinions about Twitter VERY clear in the past. But I swear, it's like the second he bought it, the whole world collectively decided, "Let's give up!"

It was chaos. People logging off forever, hogs and bats sniffing each other, massive stereos. Jokes aside, it really was horrible. I have never used Twitter myself, at least not actively, but if you were anywhere on the internet, you were hearing all about Twitter.

Now, all of that may sound like the whole story, up to the present day, but oh boy, would you be wrong. I don't know how much you've been keeping up with Elon's more recent business decisions, but he did something so outrageous, so unbelievable, and so stupid, that even I'm still recovering from the whiplash.

This man rebranded Twitter, not with just a simple logo change, but with everything. He renamed Twitter, to X. Just X.

I could go on an entire other rant about how dumb this is, talking about how it ruined how recognizable the brand was, or how he used a pre-existing font for the logo.

Good-bye Twitter. Hello X.

Teenage Fun: *Does it Have to Stop?*

By Dakota Riggs

When we are teenagers, we have wild and crazy fun. Yet when we hit adulthood, that fun slowly disappears. Adults still have fun and all, but not like they did as teenagers.

Why do we have to stop having fun when we hit adulthood? Who made it the norm to start living boring lives when we become adults?

Public figure Iris Apfel is 102 and still has teenage fun. She said, "Get old, but not boring." At 102 she wears bright and colorful clothing and lives life to the fullest. She is someone we all need to get some inspiration from.

Personally, I think that even if you are an adult, it doesn't mean you can't still have fun. Don't just have an office life where you go to work and go home. It's good to have a little fun in life. Research shows that people who are happy and have fun also have a 35% lower risk of death.

As you get older, you forget to have fun in life. It's time you remember what's that like for you to have teenage fun again. Life has a great deal of fun; it would be a waste not to use it.

Generational Change

By Sammie Diehm

Over the years, change keeps changing. The things you hear your parents talk about aren't the same anymore. They might say, "I had to find their number in the phone book." Or "We would write love letters to each other."

Remember watching TV on a box and not a flat screen TV or a six-inch phone. Remember writing thank you notes after getting a gift? Or maybe sitting around the table eating dinner with your family every night? Reading books instead of listening to them? Asking for a number instead of asking for a Snapchat? There's so much more.

We long for the things our parents used to have. Our society is so used to getting everything right then and there. I want it, I need it, so I will get it.

Mrs. Rice says we live in a "microwave society" and I couldn't agree more. We don't have the patience to let things simmer. We pop them in the microwave for 20 seconds and have it ready.

The answers to any questions can be answered in a matter of seconds and we don't even think twice. As the years go by, more advances are made, tradition gets put aside, and old feels even older.

By the time we have kids they will never know nor realize what they missed out on -- what we missed out on.

I hope you can relate to this; I hope you got a few years of normal before it became so lost. Anyway, I guess it's not that deep, or is it?

Why Does No One have a Favorite Freshman?

By Anonymous

What is up with the freshmen? As a member of journalism, I was tasked with the story of "Who is your Favorite Freshman?" This, in theory, seemed easy -- but upon asking everyone it seemed like little-to-no one had a favorite freshman.

Why is this? Is it because they are new and not very widely known? Surely they are not all unlikeable. This has been a question I have had since I started the story.

Many students I asked answered with, "None" or "I don't like any of them," and many others answered with "I don't know them."

So, I believe it could be both, but what do you think? Are the freshmen unknown or disliked? Freshman year is all about figuring out who you are and where you fit in.

Take a chance get to know them. Honestly, some of them are pretty ok. Remember, we were all freshmen at one time.

Simply the Best

By Kaitlyn Milgrim

Mrs. Rob is the best teacher. We have only been in school for three weeks, but she has already had a huge impact on my life.

Mrs. Becky Robinson teaches English, and while English is not my favorite class nor my strongest subject, I love her class. She gives a lot of work and some people take that the wrong way. It may be a lot, but it's worth it.

If you fail a couple assignments, those other ones will keep your grade up. If she sees you struggling, she will take the time to make sure you understand. She also takes time out of her week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to do tutoring.

Mrs. Rob can be tough, but she wants everyone to succeed. If she wasn't tough, she wouldn't care about her students, but she does. If you try and have a good attitude, she's going to help you.

I am not good at English at all, but I try, and she sees that, so she takes her time to make sure I understand it and get it right. Last week, I stayed for tutoring everyday and I learned a lot.

It's not that hard to pay attention and try, and that's all she asks for. Mrs. Rob is the sweetest and best teacher there is.



The World is an Oven

By Rafe Akins

It's hot. We all know it's hot, it's been hot forever. Every time anyone walks outside these past few weeks, they melt. Multiple football games were even delayed an hour due to the absolute unending heatwave for the first Friday night of football.

Busses have basically become microwaves for children, with temperatures recorded higher than 100 degrees. Several people even posted those temperatures online, showing just how horrible the rides home must be for bus riders.

All of this is, of course, very likely to be because of global warming, or climate change, depending on what you call it.

Hopefully, now that it's starting to transition into fall, we might just get the cool weather we all so desperately desire. With that in mind, remember to tell off anyone who complains about the cold this year.

Friday Night Lights

By Skylar Cagle

Those Friday night lights. I cannot wait any longer. I am itching to be a second closer to stepping foot on the track, flag in hand, pom-poms at my feet, and the band playing on the bleachers above me.

It is cool outside, but we are all riled up with sweat glistening on our foreheads. Nothing can beat a Friday night football game.

We come together and cheer on our boys without caring about what is going on anywhere but that healthy, green football field. The band plays loudly while we spin our flags; big pearly grins spread across our painted faces, the cheerleaders chanting with pride.

Football season is the best time of the school year. Nothing can beat it. I feel so alive as part of the band and color guard. In my opinion, nothing is better.

Sure, basketball is fun, but it can never compare to the thrill of football. I look forward to Friday throughout the whole week.

Sit at home with snacks and a movie? No thank you. Go to the mall with friends? Absolutely not. Watch people get tackled and rolled around in the mud? You know it!

Is Home-Schooling a Better Option Than Physically Going to School?

By Danelle Terblanche

Regular school is better than home-schooling because it is easier and better to learn from experienced teachers than to learn from your parents or a tutor. Going to school is a good example of socializing which young children need while growing up so they can develop social skills for their future careers.

In a classroom, children must learn how to work in groups of their peers and to negotiate the world around them without constant supervision or intervention from their parents.

When the Covid-19 outbreak happened in March 2020, school students had to adapt to doing schoolwork from home. Due to this, some parents began to consider home-schooling their children rather than returning to their old schooling methods.

Some of the pros of home-schooling include some kids get a better GPA than children in regular school. When you home-school your child, he or she can get a learning program that works for them. This individual attention may enable a higher success rate compared to a child attending school normally.

Some of the cons of home-schooling include the expense! Parents and their children don't get as many breaks from each other than if the child attended normal school. Parents must have enough patience to teach their child and lastly, organization. You must be able to know where everything is when switching to the next subject of the day or to grade your child's work.

Although home-schooling can be good, and it might even be better than regular school for some students, it is better for children to socialize and learn from other people, besides just parents or their family members.

‘Pinion Piece

By Baily Rorex

P is a very interesting letter. Did you know that 1,000 everyday words start with a P?? If you said yes, then you're incorrect; I totally made that up! If you said no, then you're also incorrect; I made that up. I fooled you, didn't I?

A couple of my favorite words start with P. For instance, "platypus" is one of my faves. I never use it, but I love it. If you don't know what a platypus is, let me show you. I put a picture of one below. Kidding... Made you look!

Another favorite word of mine that starts with a P is prick. I'm not sure if this is a bad word. Now, that I think about it, it may be. Please don't tell Mr. Kersey. Actually, he may laugh.

Weirdly, it's ok to use as a verb, but not so much as a noun. Some words are like that.

Anyways as you can see P is a very interesting letter. Peace out!

Dark Days Ahead: Solar Eclipse '24

By Bre Tate

Do you remember the total solar eclipse that crossed the continental United States August 21, 2017? If you lived in, or traveled into, the 70-mile-wide Path of Totality, where the Moon completely blocked the Sun's bright face and turned day into night for a few minutes, you undoubtedly remember it well.

If you were outside that path under clear skies somewhere else in North America (or northern South America), perhaps you saw a partial solar eclipse that day.

The 2017 total solar eclipse was the first to touch the "Lower 48" states since 1979 and the first to span the U.S. from coast to coast since 1918. Remarkably, another total solar eclipse is coming to North America on April 8, 2024.

This time the moon's dark central shadow, about 115 miles wide, will cross Mexico, sweep northeast from Texas to Maine, and then on to Canada. A partial solar eclipse will again be visible to nearly everyone in North America fortunate enough to have cloud-free skies.

Even more remarkably, we'll have a different type of solar eclipse in North America next month. On October 14, 2023, the Moon will again pass directly between Earth and the Sun — but this time it will not quite completely cover the solar disk, instead turning it into a thin "ring of fire."

This annular (Latin for ring-shaped) eclipse will be visible within a roughly 125-mile-wide path from Oregon to Texas and on into Mexico and northern South America. And again, North Americans outside the Path of Totality will be treated to a partial solar eclipse if the weather cooperates.

The Summer Before Senior Year

By Zoey Shields

It was hot, it was beautiful, it was summer. It's all over and now it's senior year and I have decided summer is way too short. We have two and a half months to do what we want and then it's gone.

We're back to having a schedule, being told what to do 24/7, and hardly any free time. So therefore, I think we need a longer summer. Even if it is just one more month.

Seniors have these two short months to live with hardly any responsibility and then when they come back to school, they are expected to know everything they want to do and be thrown out in the real world less than a year later.

Yes, being a senior is fun, but it is also scary - especially if you have no idea what you're wanting to do such as deciding if you're going to go to college or not.

Even I don't know what I want to do, and that is making me overwhelmed and stressed about this situation. So, in my opinion having an extra month to figure it out would be extremely helpful.

Our Students

Just a Minute Ago...

By Skylar Cagle

- ...We started the 2023-2024 school year.
- ...Bobcats won our first football game.
- ...Lady Cats won our first volleyball game.
- ...We had another Coronavirus outbreak
- ...The start of the Highland football game was delayed an hour due to extreme heat.
- ...Hurricane Hillary, started its journey toward Southern California.
- ...Gas prices declined by 4.5 cents.
- ...We had the hottest days of the year.
- ...We painted the "3" backwards on the football field.
- ... Mrs. Courtney Smith (Mr. Smith's wife) became a Bobcat.
- ... Simone Biles won her 8th US Gymnastics title.
- ... Florida was bracing for Hurricane Idalia.

Who's Your Fave Freshman?

By Karleigh Clements

- Dakota Riggs – Jaxon Nunally
- Teddy Polachic – Jaxon Nunally
- Michelle Moore – Haylen Moore
- Abby Malewski – Jaxon Nunally
- Kaitlyn Milgrim – Zaiden Milgrim
- Lydia Sheets – Carlee Taylor
- Madi Blaylock – Ellis Thomas
- Karleigh Clements – Asher Johnson



Whats Hot? What's Not!

By PanPan

What's Hot

- Jeans
- Bootcut jeans
- Summer
- Sour candy
- Sneakers
- Gold jewelry
- Sweaters
- Backpacks
- Metal bottles
- Fruits
- Cheetos
- E-books
- Pencils
- Laptops
- Bringing your own lunch
- Digital clocks
- Coca Cola
- Arkansas

What's Not

- Long skirts
- Skinny jeans
- Winter
- Sweet candy
- High heels
- Silver jewelry
- Hoodies
- Tote bags
- Plastic bottles
- Vegetables
- Doritos
- Real books
- Pens
- Desktops
- Eating school lunches
- Analog clocks
- Dr. Pepper
- Alaska

Who is Your Favorite Teacher?

By Lydia Sheets

- Jarrold Fultner- Mrs. Rice
- Natalie Jackson- Mrs. Rice
- Samantha Diehm- Mrs. Wheelless
- Kaitlyn Milgrim- Mrs. Rob
- Karleigh Clements- Mr. Haynes
- Michelle Moore- Mrs. Wheelless and Doc
- Summer Wilson- All English Teachers
- Katherine Skinner- Mrs. Rice
- Zoey Shields- Mrs. Rob
- Emily Jones- Mrs. Rob and Mr. Haynes
- Baily Rorex- Mrs. Rob and Mrs. Rice
- Dakota Timms- Mrs. Rice

Bobcat Bio: Samantha

"Sammie" Diehm

By Natalie Jackson

- Class – Junior
- Favorite Teacher – Mrs. Paskel
- Favorite TV – *Barbie Life in the Dreamhouse*
- Guilty Pleasure – "I eat straight up whip cream!"
- Red Flags – Always late
- Immediate "ick" – Anyone who doesn't like or is mean to animals
- "Go to" order at any restaurant – Anything with French fries
- Last person you texted – My mother
- Favorite fast food – Wendy's
- Where do you work – Sonic



Bobcat Bio: Jarrod Fultner

By Natalie Jackson



- Class - Senior
- Favorite Class – English
- Pet Peeve – When people ride their brakes
- Your Red Flags (personally) – I can't wake up to alarms
- "Go to" order at any restaurant – Philly steak and cheese with a Diet Coke
- Last person you texted – Natalie
- Favorite fast food – Burger King
- Where do you work – Sonic
- Freshman Flop – Breaking my wrist playing volleyball

The Best BFF

By Zoey Shields

Madison Renee Mcvay, also called Madi, is 17 years old. Her birthday is May 25, 2006, and her parents are Darren and Melissa Mcvay. She has two siblings Kennedy, who is 15 and Isaiah, 10. Madison has three best friends, Zoey Shields, Olivia Leipert and Saydee Pratz.

She has attended Walnut Ridge for 13 years and Mrs. Rob has been her favorite teacher since junior year. Everyone had her scared of Mrs. Rob and her English class, but it ended up being amazing. Her advice to underclassmen is do your work and don't forget about it! It makes life easier.



Madison's Favorites:

App – Snapchat
Store – Lululemon
Class – Band
Celebrity Crush – Matt Rife
Food – Chicken Alfredo
T.V. Show – *S.W.A.T*
Pizza Topping – Pepperoni

Madison is involved in FBLA, Key Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Club, Band and is the Alleycats dance team manager. Madison's plans for after high school is to attend ASU and obtain her degree. However, what she will miss most about high school is being with her friends all the time.

The Differences in Schools in Thailand and USA

By PanPan

Hi! Sawasdee*. I'm PanPan. This column will show you something that might be weird.

Firstly, I will be talking about is how to dress in Thai. We have uniforms that everyone must wear for school, but here we don't. In my opinion, I like wearing uniforms because I don't have to think about what I will wear tomorrow. But I love having no uniform, too. It shows off your style and you can be yourself.

Second is in Thai, the teachers move to each room to teach, but here the students have to walk to different rooms to study, so this it's very new for me.

In Thai, we stay with the same group of kids in the same room all day every day, so I may only see one friend, but here everyone has different classes, so I have a lot of friends from each class and I love that.

The last thing is about the rules. In Thai, we have very, very strict rules about everything -- like we can't eat while we study, but here some teachers let us. So, in my opinion, it's good that sometimes we have rules, but not that much.

Editor's Note: PanPan Chalermcharoenrat is a 15-year-old exchange student from Thailand. She is taking journalism as an elective.

*Sawasdee, in Thai, means "hello."

Romero's on the Road

By Emily Jones

Antonio Enrique Romero, or as his close friends call him Tonio, lives in Hoxie and has attended Walnut Ridge High School for seven years. He is the son of Erica Eldridge and Elie Romero. His siblings are Eli Eldridge, 15 and Davina Eldridge, two. He also has two cats.

His best friends are Destiny Gosha, Emily Jones, Kara Daris and Cristal Hill. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Linda Smith, "She is awesome."

His most embarrassing moment in school was just showing up. Ninth grade was his favorite year because it was the easiest. His advice for underclassmen is to "just survive high school."

Antonio's best excuse for being late is, "I'm not late -- you're late," and the one thing he cannot live without is air. His biggest pet peeve is Mrs. Rob's work.

When he was younger, he wanted to be a veterinarian, and now he wants to become a nurse. Best advice he has ever received is "Don't do drugs," from his mom. After graduation, he is most looking forward to his 21st birthday. His biggest fear going into high school was Mrs. Rob. His biggest fear upon leaving high school is "getting old and wrinkly."

Wake Up, It's Time for School

By Baily Rorex

I used to dread the 6:00 alarm going off each morning. The mornings before school became a blur. The days got shorter and the weeks became dull. Looking back, I start to miss it all, the innocence.

How did it all end so soon? Where did everyone go? The freckled face girl doing flips on the trampoline in her backyard after violin lessons. A musical genius; her melody plays like an orchestra in a silent hall.

The smart, red-headed boy running businesses in the elementary hallway, like the black market for children. Mermaid slime and loom bracelets prices were outrageously high. The little girl who shared the same interest in horses as me. Her spirit just as free as the wild stallions we spoke of.

And now, as seniors in high school they've grown tremendously. We all have. How did something I once dreaded become something I miss so dearly? Why is it so bittersweet to miss what was once simple? To miss what was right in front of me.



Antonio's Favorites:

App – TikTok
Store – Bath & Body Works
Song – *I Love You Jesus* by *Trisha Paytas*
Teacher – Mr. Haynes
Celebrity Crush – Jack Harlow
Pizza Topping – Cheese
T.V. Show – *The 100*
Restaurant – La Casita
Red Flag – Gaslighting
Random Fact – "I don't have a dad"

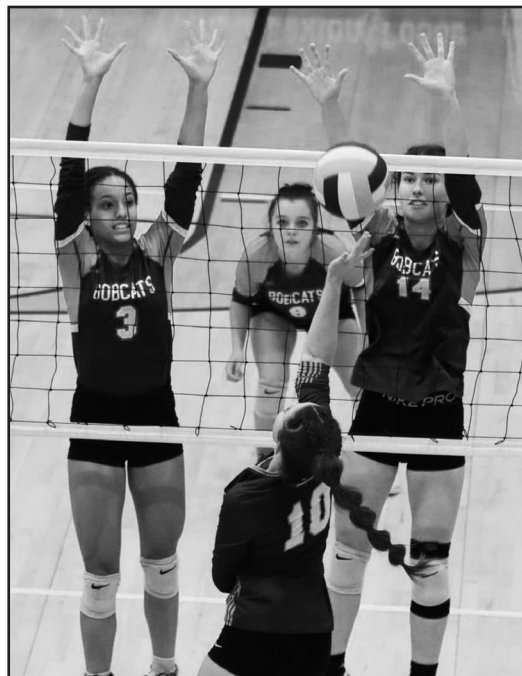
Actions Speak Louder than Coaches

By Michelle Moore

Karlee Broadway broke the previous school record of 33 digs and raised it to 41 digs. Mad-die Burris, as the only setter in the rotation, broke the school record of 36 assists by Sydney Burgin and replaced it with 47.

Jayden Clark and Baily Rorex, the defensive specialists, have eight and 10 digs respectively. Hitter Avery Anderson has 17 kills and eight digs. Middle blockers, Michelle Moore and Mallie Jean, had 14 kills and eight blocks, and then 16 kills and five blocks.

Coach Moore is looking forward to playing every team as if it is a "win-or-go-home" situation. After the off-season,



drilling defense and passing well over 2000 serve-receive balls, she is excited to see the team play to their potential with a "win before you begin" mentality.

All Out, All Game, All Season

By Michelle Moore

The first game at Highland set the tone for the 2023 football season. Coach Blake, in a previous interview, was more focused on their first game and starting strong.

After this summer at camp, he was thoroughly impressed by his senior group and the offensive line with Mark Hatfield playing outside linebacker. Add to that the sophomores, after having an undefeated season last year; with honorable mentions to Jersie Cunningham and Brogan Tate.

Starting their first game, Jersie Cunningham scored the first touchdown giving us a 7-0 lead. In the second quarter, Enrique Perez had an 82-yard rush for another touchdown.

By the fourth quarter, Robbie Tate tied it up at 21 to 21 with a touchdown. Highland missed an attempted field goal which would have broken the tie, taking the game go into overtime.

Tate then scored a touchdown after Highland's touchdown to be tied up again. Cristian Gonzalez was 4/4 on field goals and Highland missing their conversion, bringing Walnut Ridge to 1-0 for the season.

Continuing this season, the coaches' and players' goal is to be conference champs and make a run in the state playoffs.

Success: Nothing Less

By Michelle Moore

Outside linebacker and tight end, he does it all. Mark Hatfield, #34 for the Bobcats, is ready for his senior season by working and playing harder.

A mentality he developed from his dad that got him started in football and then pushed him to succeed.

Mark plans to continue his dedication and study to play smartly like some former WR athletes he looked up to, they were: quarterback Logan Sain and Mason Andrews.

Like most athletes who say, "Don't take it lightly. Try your hardest," want to play at a higher level either on the field or in college. Mark hopes to play at the collegiate level while majoring in education with an emphasis on history.

It is moments like having a catch in scoring-range to beat Hoxie and watching Coach Fisher fall while showing the linemen how to block, that he will never forget.

He hopes to return to Walnut Ridge one day and coach the Mighty Bobcats.



Order on the Field

By Michelle Moore

Matthew Mullen is a starting wide receiver and cornerback for the Bobcats. His motto is, "If you ain't first, you're last."

He works on improving and succeeding by coming to practice and always giving 100%. This season he hopes his team will win the 3A Conference title and the State Championship.

Matthew had a taste of this success back in 2020 (his ninth-grade year) when the Bobcat baseball team was the 3A state runner-up and when the football team beat Osceola.



After his senior year, he wants to attend Arkansas State University as a business major. Matthew draws his inspiration from God and admires professional boxer, Mike Tyson.

Like Tyson, Matthew succeeds through his knowledge of the game and confidence in his abilities.

Unstoppable On the Line

By Michelle Moore



Avery Anderson started volleyball to become more athletic until it became her passion.

Her parents taught her at a young age to work hard and to never give up. She passes this advice to younger athletes to have a strong work ethic to make their future easier.

Avery's hard work paid off going to state as a sophomore, and in her junior and senior years being considered an essential outside hitter.

She achieved success through the support of her friends and drawing inspiration from Coach Moore. In her younger years as a WR athlete, she looked up to Chariah Mabry for "hitting like a beast."

After her senior year, she plans to attend UCA or play volleyball in college. Avery's favorite memory was singing "All Too Well", the 10-minute version, with Coach Moore and doing what makes her happy.

Oh Captain, My Captain!

By Michelle Moore

Maddie Burris is the captain of the Sr. High Lady Cats' volleyball team. She was given this position by Coach Moore after recognizing Maddie's natural leadership as a setter.

She controls the court like a quarterback: deciding where the ball goes and who it goes to.

This leads to her favorite part of the game, her teammates "putting a ball down" and then the response from both her team and the crowd afterward.

Motivating her team is a big note as a leader. She holds accountability while still giving encouragement. She is constantly talking to the team during and after a rally, before a good or bad pass, and after each point.

Maddie encourages everyone on the floor to be a leader in some way. For example, see-



ing another player struggle, and having the whole team pick them up. However, she does stress the importance of finding a balance between discipline and friendship while enjoying the game.

Maddie grew up around sports and strong athletes such as her sister, Baylee, and brother, Cade. She can go to either of them for advice from their expe-

Never Back Down, Never What?

By Michelle Moore

Currently nominated as one of the Best Defensive Linemen in Arkansas, Dawson Ward is driven on the field and in the classroom. He was just awarded the Hooten's Scholar Athlete Award in September.

Dawson has been watching and playing football since he was young. He looked up to WR athlete Luke Harper, a strong player who gave it his all.

He developed this same mindset from his coach and dad, Jason Ward. He gives credit to his dad saying, "It's not what made me succeed, it's who. My dad has taught me everything throughout my life."



Dawson leaves everything out on the field and wants younger athletes to do the same, no matter what they play. The best advice he has received is, "Suck it up and do it."

Since then, he has been on the second team for All-State and hopes to play college football for the Razorbacks, his favorite team along with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Dawson won't forget his favorite season and consecutively winning the Citizenship award twice.

Bobcat Bio: Cristian Gonzalaz

By Reagan Loftis

Grade – Sophomore

BFF's – Eli Eldridge and Candace Morgan

Favorite teacher – Mrs. Craft in middle school

Describe yourself in three words – Quiet, handsome, respectful

Pet Peeve – When others chew with their mouths open

Favorite TV show – *Gravity Falls*

Random fact about yourself – My favorite rapper is The Mexican OT.

Last person you texted – Candace Morgan

Favorite fast food – McDonald's



riences.

Maddie's favorite role as captain is having the authority to resolve problems on her own. This helps show she has her girls' backs, and they give her respect in return.

**Go Bobcats
Beat Piggott**

Ways to Boost Self-Love

by Jaysey Grooms

The one thing I would change is, "lack of self-love." People don't know what self-love is, and that's the most important thing in life. In the Bible, it says, "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good." Proverbs 19:8 explains how someone needs to love their body, soul, and mind. Some things to do to help your self-love are stop comparing yourself to others, you're amazing the way you are; don't compare yourself to someone you think is just perfect, because guess what, they're human just like you.

Another way is to take care of your body, eat what you need to eat, don't just stop eating because someone told you, "you look fat," you're perfect just the way you are. Drink water and stay hydrated - that's the best thing to do.

Celebrate the small wins no matter how small the wins are. Just getting out of bed and brushing your teeth is a small win - celebrate it; make yourself feel loved. Knock those negative people out of your life; those are the types of people who bring you down.

Another good thing to do to find self-love is to love yourself. It's hard, but you should try to love yourself. And that would make life much easier. How to help someone find self-love is recognize that people have different abilities, qualities and passions. It helps make the person feel confident.

Don't Spread Rumors

By Jaysey Grooms

What's the point of spreading rumors? Are you so bored that you're going to start something you can't finish? Or are you going to tell someone something that you can't back up and don't know if it's even true?

Well, some people are just like that. They say something that's not true or maybe it is the truth --but you trusted them to keep the secrets. Sometimes they don't. That's just how life rolls; people are mean and cruel.

Some people like to bully others, but before you bully someone, remember hangman. One word can end someone's life.

It's what people do when they don't feel confident in themselves and have to pick on someone else. That's life and it sucks, but it's okay -- just block them out and you will be okay.



Layne on the Loose

By Lydia Sheets

Deandre Layne Workman, born on May 28, 2006, is 17 years old. She is the only daughter of Melanie Workman. She has two dogs named Hazel and Newt, and two gerbils named Jekyll and Hyde. Her best friend is Lydia Sheets.

She has attended Walnut Ridge for 12 years. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Linda because she gives the best advice, and her favorite year in high school was sophomore year due to it being less stressful.

Layne's most embarrassing moment in high school is tripping over a chair in front of the whole class. Her advice for underclassmen is to not take more classes than needed, and her best excuse for being late to class is that her car would not start. One thing she can not live without is books, her biggest pet peeve is people calling themselves OCD, and she will miss nothing about high school.

Layne is in the Book Club, Mu Alpha Theta and National Honor Society. Her favorite quote is "The more I learn about people the more I like my dog," by the prolific Mark Twain.

The best advice she has ever received is to not care about others' opinions from her mother.

If she could start high school again, one thing she would change is to not take physics. Layne's biggest fear going into high school was getting bad grades and her fear upon leaving high school is that she won't graduate college. She is looking forward to college the most after graduation.

Her plans after high school is to get a biology degree, go to medical school, and become a forensic pathologist. Her role model is herself, and her unpopular opinion is country music sucks. She wanted to be a veterinarian when she was little, but now she wants to be a forensic pathologist.



Laynes's Favorites:

Store- Walmart

Song- *Just Pretend*
by Bad Omens

Celebrity Crush-
Mads Mikkelson

Pizza Topping- Cheese

T.V. Show- *Hannibal*

Movie- *Deadpool 2*

Ice Cream- Mint Chocolate

Chip

Band- *STARSET*

During football season
Fridays are Hat Days

WRHS students can pay
50 cents to wear a hat at school

Miss Angel Tree Benefit Pageant

by Jaysey Grooms

Maggie Brinsfield is both 2023 Miss Lawrence County and 2023 Miss Bobcat. She is sponsoring another pageant, Miss Angel Tree Benefit Pageant in November. Maggie has a soft spot for kids and this pageant allows her to make kids in Lawrence County happy.

The event will be held at the Black Rock Cafeteria November 11 at 11:00 a.m. Brinsfield's motivation comes from understanding how blessed she is, and she encourages others to not take simple things for granted.

The daily things that she needs are always there and she understands many people don't have that availability. Knowing and understanding that always brings her back to reality and gives her more motivation to give back.

Putting on a pageant has always been a goal of hers for years. After she won Miss Lawrence County, it was the extra push she needed. Winning gave her the confidence and contact with people she knew would stand beside and support her.

She's always had a heart for people and giving back. She has amazing parents who have shown her that she can do whatever she wants to do with enough heart behind it.

She was very meek about things like this, but she believed in herself to carry out things that she wishes to achieve. So please come join your Miss Lawrence County at the Miss Angel Tree Benefit Pageant.



Fun Facts About Lions

by Danelle Terblanche

Did you know lions have terrific night vision and are six times more sensitive to light than humans? This gives them an advantage over prey when hunting at night.

In Africa, where lions are mostly found, they are a symbol of strength, power and ferocity.

When lion cubs are born, they have spots and as they grow older, they develop a brown coat like other lions.

Lions spend 21 hours sleeping per day because they have very few sweat glands, so they wisely conserve their energy by resting during the day and being more active at night when it is cooler.

There is one specific animal that is not afraid of lions: honey badgers.

Lions that live in captivity can live up to 25 years, while the average life of a lion living in the wild is only 12-16 years.

Thankful for Falling Temps

By Lydia Sheets

I'm so happy that fall weather is finally coming around. Even though my birthday is in the summer, I can't stand it. It is way too hot and humid for me. Especially with having my job and having to stand at the front where the doors are letting in all that heat.

I love fall; it is my favorite season. It is not too hot, and it is not too cold: just perfect. It is football season, so you get to enjoy going to games, enjoy going outside and not sweating like crazy or getting eaten up by mosquitoes. And, it is also spooky season, so you get to watch all your favorite Halloween or scary movies.

Instead of going on vacation during the summer, my family and I go on our vacation every year during Thanksgiving Break. It is not as crazy busy with tourists and people who are also on vacation, so you get to actually enjoy your time with family without feeling rushed or stressed.

We like to go to Branson so we can shop at all the outlet malls. It is perfect because we are not dying of heatstroke while walking from shop to shop.



Bobcat Bio: Riley Loftis

By Reagan Loftis

Grade – Freshman

BFF – Katelynn Killough

Favorite teacher/class – Mr. Price

Intro to Criminal Justice

Describe yourself in 3 words –

Loud, better, and goofy

Pet Peeve – Smacking on food

Favorite streaming show – *The Vampire Diaries*

Guilty Pleasure – Eating ice

Most Awkward Moment – When I peed my pants at the fair

Your (personal) Red Flags – Loud laugh, hypocritical, always expect to get my way.

Immediate “ick” – Being corny, bad hygiene

Last person you texted – Reagan Loftis

Favorite Fast Food – Sonic

What Would You Choose as Your Last Meal – Texas Roadhouse



Band Spotlight: Kayla Woodard, New Drum Major

By Dakota Riggs

Kayla Woodard is the new drum major of the Pride Band. Kayla is 17 and is in the 11th grade. She began band in 6th grade making this her 6th year. She began attending WRHS during her sophomore year.



Kayla's favorite band activity is playing football games. She has played the trumpet since she started and continues to play it to this day. Her favorite band memory is when she and her old band in Colorado won state.

Her advice to underclassmen is, "It'll get easier, I promise." Kayla's favorite person in the band is Carly Ashlock. Her favorite show was with her old band called "The Curious Case of Person A" by the Loveland High School Crimson Regiment.

Her least favorite show was also with her old band called "Color of the Stems" by the Saginaw High School Spirit of Saginaw Marching Band. Kayla decided to join band because it was the most intriguing extra-curricular class.

The things that keep her interested are all the new material they get and hearing them progress as they learn it, as well as the new people she meets.

She hopes to continue band in college and get a degree to be a high school band director. The best advice Kayla has received in band is, "If you feel uncomfortable, you're doing it right."

If Kayla could start the band over again, she would be more confident from the beginning. Her favorite quote she heard in the band is "Not again, but better" by Mr. Long.

Liner Notes:

Describe our band in three words – Chaotic, learning, and experience

Nickname – Drum Major Kayla

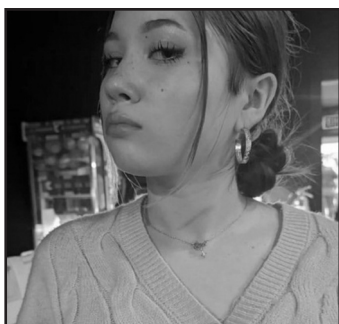
Are you outgoing in band, or are you most reserved – Outgoing

Favorite place to eat on band trips – McDonald's

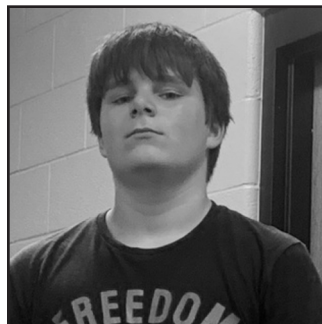
How often do you practice – At least once a day

Instrument you wish you played instead – Percussion; snare or bass drum, specifically

Answers to Mystery Students



Freshmen
Marley Coleman
and
Will Whitow



That One Redhead

By Dakota Riggs

Haley Maire Malewski came to Earth on May 15, 2005. Her parents are Glenn and Crystal Malewski. Haley has four siblings Leah 21, Abby 16, Jeremaih 14, and Kelsey 10. She has a dog, Savan.

Haley's best friends are Carly Ashlock, Dakota Riggs, Audrey, Brianna Hill and Alayni Moore. She has blessed us with her presence for eight years since she started at WR in 4th grade.

She has many great teachers, but her favorite is John Long, who has been there for her since day one. Her most embarrassing moment was when she was at ASU, and she peed her pants on national TV because she was laughing so hard.

Her favorite quote is by Mr. Long, "Not again, but better!" Her advice for underclassman is, "Don't be stupid (especially guard)", and the best advice she has gotten is, "Read the board!" Again, by Mr. Long.

Haley's best excuse for being late to class was, "I was in the bathroom..." She can't live without her phone and her biggest pet peeve is when people walk too slow.

Haley is going to miss band and Friday nights after high school. She is in Band, Key Club, National Honor Society, Softball and FBLA. Haley's biggest fear entering high school was her grades.

Her biggest fear upon leaving high school is her future. Coincidentally, her future is also what she is looking forward to after graduation. After high school she plans to go to college, become a dentist, get married and have a family.

When she was a child, she wanted to be a mom, but now she wants to be a dentist.

Her role model is Mr. Long because he taught her everything. Haley's unpopular opinion is she likes pickles with salt and chocolate on them.

Haley's Favorites:

TV – *911 L.A*

Haley's Personal Red Flag – Leaving people on delivered App – Snapchat

Restaurant – La Casita

Book – *The Summer I Turned Pretty*

Store – Wal-Mart

Drink – Dr. Pepper

Ice Cream – Cookies and Crème
Song – *Heartbroken by Jessie Murph*

Food – Spaghetti

Random Fact – She hates frogs
Class – Band

Celebrity Crush – The Hems-worth brothers

Pizza Topping – Bacon

What's your biggest "ick" – Hates the word "moist."

