



## The Five Stages of Grief

By Reagan Loftis

Walnut Ridge High School has been through a lot this month, and with that being said, I think it is important that we realize that mourning and grief are natural parts of loss.

The first stage of grief

is denial. Denial is not truly believing that the person you lost, is gone. You may not want to accept what happened to that person and deny all thoughts against he/she not being around anymore. It's okay though, it's

natural to feel this way.

The next stage is anger. You feel angry at the thought of them not being with you anymore; this is a very vulnerable and scary stage of grief. This is the time to check up on your friends or loved ones that have been affected by the loss. Sometimes, angry people don't need to be alone during this time, and others need the space.

The next stage is bargaining. During this stage, you would do anything to bring the person you may have lost back. You may say or think things like, "Why did you take them? Take me instead!" etc. During this time, it's crucial to remember that you must stay strong.

Next up is depression. When you lose someone you love, it's very hard. During this time, you may experience feelings of sadness or an all-time low, depression can also feel like nothing. You may not have any kind of feelings or emotions, or too many to handle at this stage.

Finally, acceptance. You have finally accepted the fact that they are gone. It's okay now and you can move on from the loss.

These stages do not always occur in this order; some will take longer and keep repeating. Grief is a personal journey. Everyone's journey is different. It's hard, but the friendship was worth it.

## Forever 17: Noah's Story

The relationship Noah and I had was a pure and outstanding friendship. If I could go back in time, I wouldn't change anything, beside the fact I never seemed to listen to him when he was right 75% of the time."

Noah might not have been the most "popular" person at Walnut Ridge High School, but he was most definitely one of the most loved. The amount of love and support the community and people around us have shown for Noah's family and friends is amazing.

Mrs. Linda Smith's favorite thing about Noah was how, even after he didn't have her class, he would come sit in there.

The number of teenagers who showed up for his visitation and funeral was just amazing. Even some of his friends from his old school (Omaha High School) were there.

Bryson Parker and the WRHS EAST class has even started making memorial bracelets for Noah. (See related story.)

Nobody will ever be able to explain the level of heartbreak and pain of losing someone so young and so suddenly. It's like a really bad storm with lots of destruction and damage, but following every storm a rainbow appears to comfort and remind us that life goes on. Noah would want us to make the best of the rest of our lives

Losing someone will never be easy but losing yourself is worse, live for the ones you've lost.



## Bryson's Bracelets for Noah

By Skylar Cagle



Continued on p 11 Bracelets

Bryson Parker is a 17-year-old senior who has attended Walnut Ridge for just a year.

His free time consists of playing games and talking with friends, his favorite class is EAST.

Bryson designed and is selling bracelets in Noah's memory. All profits earned will be given to

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Co-Editor - Bre Tate

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Advisor - Stacy Rice

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

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

## A Mardi Gras Native

By Karleigh Clements



WRHS's longtime science teacher Dr. Ellen Holloway is a New Orleans, Louisiana native. She attended high school at O. Perry Walker Senior High in New Orleans and college at LSU where she received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, and trust me when I say, "She bleeds purple and gold."

After vet school, she began her veterinary career at Holloway Veterinary Clinic, owned and operated by her and her husband, Dr. Ron Holloway, where she worked for 20 Years.

While it remains undisclosed if Doc has ever attended Mardi Gras, we do have the quote "What happens in New Orleans stays in New Orleans..." from her. She also shared that she enjoys bicycling, crocheting, being with pets, and hiking.

She also spent this summer taking care of her dad is looking-forward to camping with her family in Louisiana, and hiking.

Doc, as previously mentioned, and her husband, Ron, have two adult sons Luke and Trey, and a daughter-in-law, Sarah. Luke and Sarah live in the Dallas area.

Doc's advice to everyone is to work hard and dream big. Her personal philosophy is to "be a life-long learner!" She enjoys teaching because she likes seeing students mature into adults.

So, while we may not know if Doc has been to Mardi Gras, we do know her Louisiana roots run deep. We are lucky to have her at WRHS.

### Doc's Favorites:

Food – Japanese Hibachi  
 App – Artistry  
 TV Show – *My Cat from Hell*  
 Book – *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt  
 Store – Hobby Lobby  
 Restaurant – Taro Food Truck  
 Band – Eagles  
 BFF – Linda Smith  
 (BFF 4 Ever!)

## History of Mardi Gras

By Dakota Riggs

Mardi Gras goes back to Pagan celebrations of Spring. Some of the first celebrations were in Rome. When Christianity came to Rome, Mardi Gras started as a prelude to Lent.

Since new religious leaders wanted to incorporate local celebrations into the faith, they decided to use Mardi Gras as a final celebration before the Lenten season begins. After that, Mardi Gras spread to France, Germany, Spain and England.

Mardi Gras is called 'Fat Tuesday' because Mardi is French

**Continued on page 5: Mardi Gras**

## Davis Downs Ducks

By Onyx Sullens



Davis Tyson Callahan was born on April 27, 2006, to Deana and Micheal Brassfield and Ty and Kenna Callahan. He has three siblings, Emerson (15), Jasper (13), and Conner (13). He has two dogs, Oakley, and Shadow.

Davis's best friends are Wyatt Davis, Kaden Martin, Rex Tedder, Nolan Belcher, Collin Andrews, Caleb Roark, Sebastian Hoffman, and Jersie Cunningham. He has attended Walnut Ridge his whole life, and his teacher is Mr. Haynes.

His favorite year of high school was Sophomore year. His best advice to underclassmen is "do your work", and his best excuse for being late is he was "getting food". Davis will miss not having to work after high school.

Davis participates in Basketball, Key Club, and FBLA. If he could start high school again, he would change how many classes he took. His biggest fear going into high school was the seniors, and he's looking forward to working the most after graduation.

If not in class or shooting hoops, you can usually find him hunting ducks or any hunting, actually.

### Davis's Favorites:

App – Tik Tok  
 Pizza Topping – Cheese  
 Restaurant – Sumos  
 Drink – Dr. Pepper  
 Food – Mac 'n Cheese  
 Ice Cream – Vanilla

## Mystery Students

By Jaysey Grooms

She shimmers, and shines, she's ever-so divine.

Curly blonde hair flowing by.

Blue eyes sparkling like the sky.

Flute by day and flag by night.

Writes like no other.

Do you know this shimmery mystery?

Known by many, loved by all.

Hits rivals in the Fall and balls in the Spring.

Fast like Lightning McQueen.

Making it through APUSH like no other.

He is everyone's brother.

Awarded for all; related to all.

Do you know this mystery victory?

## Rhea is Headed to Fay

By Sadie Privett



Rhealyn Vivian Schmidt is 18 years old and is the daughter of Brittany Farmer. Her best friends are Maddie Burris, Macey Powell from Truman, and of course, Jaxton Brady. Rhealyn's nicknames include Rhea, Sunshine and Rhea Rhea.

Rhea has been at WR since kindergarten and her favorite year has been her senior year. Her favorite teachers are Mrs. Linda and Mrs. Vanessa. She says that Mrs. Linda helped her figure out her love for government and history. She says

that she has known Mrs. Vanessa for the last five or six years and she has become one of her favorite people.

She will miss football games and all the clubs she was in the most.

"Do your work, take hard classes, push yourself, and stay focused on your goals" is Rhealyn's advice for the underclassmen. Rhealyn is involved in AlleyCats, Sr girls' basketball, Student Council Executive Board, FBLA, Key Club, Science Club, Book Club, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Mu Alpha Theta, Junior Auxiliary of Lawrence County's Crown Club and Academy of Public Service: Arkansas Student Legislature.

After high school, Rhealyn plans to attend The University of Arkansas and become a lawyer. She is most excited to move to Fayetteville after she graduates. "If you don't like the road you're taking, start pathing another one" is Rhealyn's favorite quote and they are words that we can all live by.

### Rhealyn's Favorites:

App – Snapchat  
 Store – Lululemon  
 Restaurant – Chipotle  
 Movie – *The Notebook*  
 Celebrity Crush – Jacob Elordi  
 Drink – V8 Energy Drink  
 Book – *Forth Wing*  
 Class – History or English

## Bobcats on the Beach

By Lillie Bell

The Lady Bobcat softball team is gearing up for their first beach trip at Gulf Shores, Alabama in March during Spring Break. Coach Moore, along with the girls, have been working hard to raise money over the last couple months. During their time in Gulf Shores, the team will be staying on the beach in a three-story house.

The team will leave on a Sunday and will come back to Walnut Ridge on Thursday. On Monday, the girls will play two pool

## Sexy Remy's Next Pitch

By Karlee Broadway



Rex Austin William Tedder is 17 and was born July 17, 2006. His nickname is Ted. Rex's parents are Bobby and Cathy Tedder. He has a black lab named Nova and his best friends are Caden Murphy and Mallie Jean.

Rex has attended Walnut Ridge for three years and his senior year has been his favorite because he doesn't have to be at school until later. Rex's favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes because "He is really, really chill." His excuse to being

late is "I live 40 minutes away."

At school, Rex is involved in Key Club, basketball and baseball. When he graduates, he expects to miss high school basketball and baseball the most. His biggest fear upon leaving high school is that "Life hits in full swing."

If he could start high school again, he would not go to Pochontas his freshman year. After graduation, Rex is looking forward to playing college baseball and starting his life.

The one thing he can't live without is baseball. His biggest pet peeve is "When people have no respect for others or act a fool." His unpopular opinion is "Ketchup is gross." The best advice he has ever received is "Always give everything 110%, because even if you fail you know you did all you could."

Rex works at Tedder Equipment. After high school, he plans to play college baseball at the University of Central Arkansas and then go to the MLB or start his own business. Rex's advice to underclassmen is "Time flies, make it last."

### Rex's Favorites:

App – Snapchat  
 Pizza Topping – Cheese  
 Store –  
 Lancaster Archery Supply  
 T.V. Show – *Friends*  
 Song – *Growing Old With You*  
 by Miles Erlick  
 Restaurant – Slim Chickens  
 Ice Cream –  
 Vanilla with chocolate syrup  
 Class – Financial Planning  
 Drink – Celsius  
 Entertainer – Chris Bee  
 Food – Steak  
 Random Fact –  
 "Rex" means king  
 Celebrity Crush –  
 Jennifer Aniston

games and then play two more games the next day.

If they place in the top 25, the team will advance into bracket play, but if not, they will have a consolation game on Wednesday.

The team continues to practice every day after school to gear up for the upcoming season and beach tournament in Gulf Shores.

## Abby is Ready to Move On

By Ashlynn Monroe



Abigail Brianna Kary (aka Abby) is a senior at WRHS. She is 17 years old; her birthday is March 2, 2006. She is the beautiful daughter of Travis Kary and Stacy Tucker and she's the older sister to Caleb Caveney, 16 and Zoey Tucker, 12.

Her dog is Cooper. Her best friends are Carly Ashlock, Seb Hillis and Abbie Boydstore.

She has gone to Walnut Ridge for just two years. Abby's favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes, because

when she first moved here, he helped her the most. This year has been her favorite year, because she has made more friends and feels more involved.

Her advice for underclassmen is, "Do not care what others say." Her best excuse for being late to class is that her grandma slept in. Abby cannot live without her friends and will miss them most after she gets out of school.

Her number one pet peeve is people who walk slowly. Her unpopular opinion is: pineapples belong on pizza.

She's a part of Pride Band and Key Club and will be missed dearly. She is a library aide first period every morning.

One of her favorite quotes is, "When in doubt, look intelligent," - Garrison Keillor. The best advice she's been given is "It's okay to change your mind a million times as long as you're happy."

If she could restart high school, she would pay more attention to school and work harder on herself. Abby always wanted to be a pediatrician when she was younger.

Her biggest fear going into high school was not being able to graduate and failing. She looks forward to going to college at BRTC, getting her master's degree, probably at ASU. She plans to focus on education and become a teacher. Her role model all her life has been her Grandpa, a hard worker and who always provided for her family.

### Abby's Favorites

Song – *Arms Tonite*

T.V. Show – *Supernatural*

Class – Mr. Haynes

Store – Barnes and Nobles

Drink – Sweet Tea

Food – Sushi

App – Instagram

Biggest "Ick" – Coughing loudly

## Lauren Does *Beautiful Things*

By Samantha Diehm



Lauren Marie Perez is 18 years old. She was born October 9, 2005, to Angie and Byron Simmons, and Fernando Perez. She is sister to Madison, 22, Savannah, 19, Enrique, 16, and Alonzo, 13. She is pet mama to her three dogs Bailey, Daisy, and Oakley.

Lauren says she cannot live without her family; even so, her best friend and role model is her mom, Angie, because she has helped Lauren through everything.

In Lauren's nine years at Walnut Ridge, her favorite teacher has been Mrs. Rob. She stated, "Mrs. Rob is a very fun person to be around."

When she is late to class her go-to saying is, "Sorry, my teacher was talking to me."

Her most embarrassing moment at WRHS was any time she had to talk in front of people. Also, her pet peeve is when people lie to her face, when she knows the truth.

Lauren is excited to graduate so she can go to work. She plans to stay at her current job, Walmart, then move on and make big money. When Lauren was younger, she wanted to be a doctor, but she now wants to be a painter.

Lauren's favorite quote is, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him," by John Piper. Her advice to underclassmen is, "be strong, keep pushing through, and believe."

The best advice was from her mom, when she said, "Always believe and stay strong," Lauren was scared of making friends coming into high school, but she is now scared to leave them. No matter her doubts, Lauren is ready to take on the world.

### Lauren's Favorites:

App – TikTok

Store – Plato's Closet

Class – Math

Song – *Beautiful Things*

Pizza Topping – Peperoni

Restaurant – Steak & Shake

Drink – Cherry Vanilla Dr. Pepper

Food – Shrimp

Red Flags – Lying to your partner

Ice cream – Vanilla

## Continued from page 3: Mardi Gras

for Tuesday and Gras means fat. So, the day before Ash Wednesday is now know as "Fat Tuesday."

Before Lent, people would eat fatty foods, eggs, milk and cheese. Eating all of that was in preparation for only eating fish and other diverse types of fasting.

The first American Mardi Gras occurred on March 3, 1699. French explorers Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville and Sieur de Bienville landed in present day New Orleans. After landing they held a small celebration near their landing spot which some say is present day Mobile, Alabama.

Today, Mardi Gras is known as party time, drinking, beads being thrown and eating everything. It is crazy how a small celebration as Lent begins, became a major celebration of landing somewhere then to what we know it as today.

## Solar Eclipse 2024: Thousands Expected in WR

By Samantha Diehm

Lock your doors, stay off the streets, and expect thousands of travelers to rush into town on April 8, 2024. Walnut Ridge, Arkansas is going to be "The Spot" for solar eclipse watching.

The town will have complete darkness for an estimated four minutes and twenty-eight seconds at 1:45 p.m..

There are partial, penumbral, and hybrid solar or lunar eclipses that can occur one to seven times in a year. However, total eclipses vary and do not happen often.

The last total solar eclipse in the United States was visible from Oregon to South Carolina on August 21, 2017. And the last total solar eclipse in the world was only visible from Chile to Argentina on December 14, 2020.

Arkansas has not seen a total solar eclipse since 1918, so this April is a phenomenon!

As of right now, all Lawrence County schools have dismissed classes on April 8 due to the concern of extreme traffic congestion from incoming travelers. Yay!

The word on the street is treat it like a snow storm: Get your gas and groceries early, before the shelves and stations are empty.

A total eclipse is something we do not get to see often, so enjoy it, no matter how short it will be.

## Bobcat Bio: Madison Blaylock

By Onyx Sullens

Class – Art

Favorite Teacher – Mrs. Farrar

Guilty Pleasure – Spending Money

Red Flags – Loud, rude

Immediate "ick" - PDA

"Go to" order at any restaurant – Cheese sticks

Last person you texted – Emma Hill

Favorite food – Subway

Where do you work – Hays

Pet peeve – Slow walkers

Random fact about yourself – I broke my right shoulder

Bff's – Onyx Sullens, Emma Hill, Abby Rogers and Allyson Colvey

Clubs – Art Club, Key Club and National Honor Society



## Mission Accomplished!

By Kaitlyn Milgrim

James Weston Arnett was born December 28, 2005. His parents are Janet and Christopher Travis. He has two younger siblings Ashton and Aubrey Arnett. His pets include a dog and a pig.

Weston's best friends are Danielle Wilson and Jabe House. He has attended Walnut Ridge since fourth grade. His favorite teacher is James Price, who he says, "He is nice." His senior year has been Weston's favorite year of high school because it's his last year.



"Do good in school," is his advice for underclassmen. His best excuse for being late to class is he was helping someone. The people Weston can't live without are his grandparents. His biggest pet peeve is when people don't listen.

### Weston's Favorites:

Song – *God's Country*

Class – Science

Pizza Topping – Cheese

T. V. Show – *Walking Dead*

Restaurant – Mexican

Drink – Root Beer

Food – Steak

Ice Cream – Chocolate

Weston, who is in the choir, will miss hanging out with his friends most after high school. His biggest fear going into high school was meeting new people and his best advice he has ever received is from his grandpa, "Don't get into fights!"

He is looking forward to getting a job after graduation. Weston's role model is his grandpa, because he teaches him how to build things.

When he was little, he wanted to be a senior. Mission Accomplished. Now he wants to be a singer and a cop.

WRHS  
Choir  
Presents:  
A Night  
on  
Broadway



## Forever Young

By Kaitlyn Milgrim



Sarah Beth Young was born on September 8, 2005. She has nine siblings Sacha, Sheena, Christina, Megan, Harlie, Amber, Jaime, BJ and Jenny. Her best friends are Savannah Sartin and Madison Wade.

Sarah has attended Walnut Ridge since 6th grade. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Hallman, she is funny and she always has her back. Senior year has been her favorite year because she gets to leave early.

Sarah's advice for underclassmen is, "Do your work!" The one thing she cannot live without is antifreeze, she always needs it for her car. Her biggest pet peeve is bullying. Sarah plays trombone in the band. She works at Sonic in Pocahontas.

If she could start high school again, she would change everything! She feared bullies most in high school. After graduation she is looking forward to starting her career. Sarah's plans after high school are to become an EMT or trauma nurse.

Her dad is her role model, he has taught her so much. Sarah's unpopular opinion is "Axe does not cover up body odor!"

When she was little, she wanted to be a clothing designer, but now she wants to be a paramedic.

### Sarah's Favorites:

App– Snapchat

Store– Five Below and Hobby Lobby

Song– *We Are Young*

Celebrity Crush– Trevor Phillips

Pizza Topping– Cheese

T. V. Show– *Grey's Anatomy* and *Shameless*

Restaurant–Olive Garden

Drink– Dr. Pepper

Food– Chicken Alfredo

Movie– *The Bee Movie*

## This Girl Never Stops

By Karlee Broadway



Taylor Brooke Forrester, born March 2, 2006, is a senior at Walnut Ridge High School. Taylor is the daughter of Paul and Rhonda Forrester and the younger sister of Jackson Forrester; she also has two dogs, Charlie and Goose. She has attended Walnut Ridge since she was in kindergarten.

She is a part of various clubs and sports including FBLA, Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, Science Club, Book Club, golf, volleyball, basketball and softball.

Her best friends include Carrie Denton, Alli Bramlett, Maggie Brinsfield and Bo Kersey. Her favorite teachers are Mrs. Rob and Mr. Haynes because "they both have a funny sense of humor, and they are very, very helpful."

One thing Taylor can't live without is her family and her biggest pet peeve is when people smack. Her unpopular opinion is that "people obsess over Taylor Swift way too much!"

Taylor's advice to underclassmen is "Do your work and take college classes." Taylor's plans after high school are to attend Williams Baptist University where she will major in pre-pharmacy and then attend pharmacy school.

### Taylor's Favorites:

App – Instagram

Store – Steamroller Blues

T.V. Show – *Modern Family*  
Song –

*Sunrise* by Morgan Wallen

Ice Cream – Birthday Cake

Drink – Loaded Tea from Thrive

Food – Lasagna

Celebrity Crush – Riley Green

## Bobcat Bio: Nolan Belcher

By Onyx Sullens

Favorite Teacher – Mrs. Rob

Club involvement – Key Club, FBLA, Bobcat Baseball

Describe yourself in three words –Nice, hard-working

Pet peeves – Smacking

Favorite T.V. shows – *Friends*

Red Flags –Talking bad about others

"Go to" order at any restaurant – Steak

Random fact about yourself –I like to collect shoes



## What's Happening for Spring Break?

By Jarrod Fultner

Natalie Jackson – Sleeping

Kim Yang – Going to the beach

Lydia Sheets – Staying home

Pan Pan – Going on a cruise

Emily Jones – Blowing money

Jarrod Fultner – Spending time with people

Jodie Fultner – Hopefully not sick

Onyx Sullens – Birthday week

Summer Wilson – Birthday with Onyx

Kaitlyn Milgrim – Working

Antonio Romero- Eating Wendy's

## Being Burris

By Lillie Bell



Madelyn Rose Burris, also known as Maddie, is a 17-year-old senior at Walnut Ridge High School. She has attended Walnut Ridge schools since Pre-K, and was born on April 17, 2006, to Ashley and Hunter Burris. Her siblings' names are Baylee (24) and Cade (22). Maddie owns three cats, two dogs and a horse.

Mrs. Farrar, Mr. Haynes and Mrs. Rob have been Maddie's favorite teachers. "All three have taught me so much and have always helped me when I have asked anything."

Her friends include Jenna, Rhealyn, Holly, Alli, Avery, Mitch, Baily, Karlee, Selbi, Sarah, Rue,

Lillie, Brogan, Brice, Jace, Mallie, Jay-Jay, Cam-Cam, and Makenzie. Maddie says that she is going to miss her teachers and friends after high school.

FBLA, Key Club, Student Council, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society and Art Club all are clubs Maddie is involved. She also participates in volleyball, basketball, and softball. Burris looks forward to continuing her volleyball career at Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould.

Her advice for underclassmen is, "Work hard and pay attention in class because it will pay off." Maddie works hard in her classes, on the volleyball/basketball courts and the softball field. Burris will be missed by her teachers and teammates after graduation.

### Maddie's Favorites:

App – Spotify  
 Store – Barnes and Noble  
 Class – Art  
 Pizza Topping – Pineapple  
 Drink – V8 Energy (Pomegranate)  
 Movie – *10 Things I Hate about You*  
 Book – *Fourth Wing*  
 Celebrity Crush: Sam Claflin

## My Valentine

by PanPan

February 14th, or Valentine's Day, might be a romantic day for some. Or it might be a boring day for single people.

But for me it was the last day of basketball season. This year, I fell in love with basketball.

Basketball is my favorite extracurricular activity I participated in at Walnut Ridge High School. I learned a lot of new skills, met many new friends and discovered a new hobby

## Onyx: She's a Gem

By Summer Wilson



Onyx Claire Sullens is 17 years old. She was born March 20, 2006. Her parents are Lana Pyle and Jeremy Ezell. Her siblings' names are Sierra Morris, 29, Ashleigh Morris, 22, Kaydence Ezell, 19, and Colt Pyle, 10. She also has a lab named Bella.

Onyx's best friends are Chloe Hayes and Summer Wilson. Five years ago, she moved here from Hoxie. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Farrar (Jam) because she pushes her to do better every day. Onyx's favorite year is her senior year because she is almost finished.

Her advice for underclassmen is, "Come to school, do your work, and don't complain!" Her best excuse for being late to class is, "I was sleeping."

Her most embarrassing moment in school was when she fell on the bleachers at a basketball game and bruised her ribs.

One thing Onyx cannot live without is her Aquaphor. She has many pet peeves, but her main ones are dishonest people, smacking and bad breath. She will miss spending time in the art room the most after graduation.

She is in two clubs, which are the Art Club and the National Honor Society. She also works on The Cat's Dispatch in journalism. If she could start high school again, she would be more involved in school activities.

Onyx's biggest fear coming into high school was forgetting where her classes would be and her biggest fear upon leaving high school is not succeeding in life.

The best advice she has ever received was "Do your best, always" - Lana Pyle. She looks forward to majoring in Criminal Psychology after school and simply "starting her life."

Her role models are her sisters because she has always looked up to them. When Onyx was little, she wanted to be a nurse, now she wants to pursue a career in Criminal Justice.

### Onyx's Favorites:

App – Tiktok  
 Class – Art  
 Celebrity Crush – Gavin Leatherwood  
 Pizza Topping – Pepperoni  
 T.V. Show – *True Detective*  
 Restaurant – Mamasang  
 Drink – Vanilla Coke  
 Food – Sushi  
 Red Flag – Bossy  
 Movie – *Dirty Dancing*  
 Ice Cream – Vanilla  
 Random Fact – She hates cats  
 Her biggest ick – Smelly people

## Breakin' Horses n' Breakin' Hearts

By Skylar Cagle



Sebastian Lee Hoffman, or Seb, is a senior at Walnut Ridge. He is 17 and was born on March 1, 2006. Sebastian is the son of Eric and Sarah Hoffmam; he is the middle sibling of Tristan, 23 and Lillie, 13.

He has horses and a dog named Luke. His best friends are Wyatt, Rex, Kaden, Matthew, Nolan, and Davis. He has attended Walnut Ridge since Pre-K and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob. His favorite year in high school was 11th grade because he had fun in all sports. His advice for underclassmen is

“Don’t be lazy!” and his best excuse for being late to class is “I was helping Coach Blake.”

One thing Sebastian claims he cannot live without is fishing. He will miss sports the most, mainly football, after high school. Seb participates in football and basketball. He works at Skin’s Tractor Repair.

Seb’s favorite quote is, “If you ain’t first - you’re last” and the best advice he has ever received was “Life is a garden, dig it.”

If he could start high school again, he wouldn’t change a thing. His biggest fear going into high school was being able to maintain his grades and his biggest fear upon leaving high school is staying out too late.

He looks forward to making money after graduation and plans to be a paramedic while breaking horses on the side. When Sebastian was little, he dreamed of being a cowboy.

Seb’s role model is Jesus, “for obvious reasons” he says. His unpopular opinion is, Taylor Swift is not all that.

### Sebastian’s Favorites:

App – YouTube  
Store –  
Anything with fishing stuff  
Song –  
*Man of the Middle Cross*  
Class – EMT  
T.V. Show – *Swat*  
Restaurant – Chipotle  
Drink – Water  
Food – Mexican

## Hayden is a Singing Sensation

By Kaitlyn Milgrim



Hayden Nicole Brandon was born on August 16, 2005 to Kimmie and Derrick Brandon. She has three younger siblings Jakob, Ian, and Kendy. Hayden has two dogs, Bronco and Arlo.

Her best friends are Kiley Pinkston, Jenna Wallen and Olivia Leipert. Hayden has attended Walnut Ridge for three years. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob; she cares about her students and makes sure they understand the lesson before moving on.

Senior year is Hayden’s favorite year; she gets to leave early and doesn’t have homework. Hayden’s best excuse for being late to class is she was “in the office talking to Mrs. Alls.”

Her advice for underclassmen is, “Find your group of people and don’t tell anyone anything! You don’t know who you can trust.”

Hayden will miss dance the most after high school. She is part of the yearbook staff, Alleycats dance team and choir. Her biggest pet peeve is when she is talking to someone and they keep saying, “Huh?”

Hayden works at Slim Chickens and one thing Hayden can’t live without is coffee. The best advice she has ever received is, “Just keep swimming,” from Finding Nemo.

Her biggest fear going into high school was math class. Her biggest fear upon leaving high school is becoming an adult.

Her most embarrassing moment was when she slipped and fell on a sheet of ice while walking to class.

Hayden is looking forward to making money after graduation. Her big plan after graduation is to go to BRTC for two years to get her general studies, transfer to dental school to complete her last two years of college, then work as a dental hygienist.

Her unpopular opinion is Snapchat is a cheating app. When Hayden was younger, she wanted to be a dance teacher, but now she is ready to trade her dance shoes for dental school.

### Hayden’s Favorites:

App – Pinterest  
Store – Buckle  
Song – *Honey Pain*  
Class – Choir  
Celebrity Crush – Luke Combs  
Restaurant – Olive Graden  
Drink – Sweet Tea  
Ice Cream – Butter Pecan  
T. V. Show – *Grey’s Anatomy*  
and *The Bachelor*

## Masquerade

WRHS Junior-Senior Prom

Saturday, April 20, 2024

*The Senior Walk*

Down Abbey Road

Immediately preceding Prom

Located at The Studio  
Main Street

## Leap Forward

By R.Akins

Leap year. What is it? Why is it? How does it work? No one knows. If we want to figure out everything about leap years, we're going to have to go back. All the way back. To the origin of leap.

Billions of years ago, deep underwater, tiny specs of microorganisms existed. These began to grow and develop, eventually growing legs. It waddles up to land, and what is it? A fish? A crab? A human? NAY! It is a frog.

Why and how are frogs important? Frogs are ALWAYS important. What do they do? They eat flies, swim, make dumb faces, sure, but what do they do most often? They jump. More specifically, they leap.

We can now use this information to determine what it MEANS, to leap. To leap is to abruptly jerk forward a fair distance, as seen by the frogs. But woe, how can a year leap?

It is but a CONCEPT! What NONSENSE is this? Do not worry my dear friend, for the leap in this context is only figurative!

When the year leaps, we are simply being jerked forward in time, to rebalance the destabilization and offset in the space time continuum, resetting the nature of all we know!

For if it were not for leaping, time itself would collapse in on itself! And now we know that the only reason we are all still alive, is thanks to frogs. Thank you frogs.

## Chronic Wasting Disease

By Jaysey Grooms

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a sickness that hits deer, elk, and moose. It messes up their brains and makes them act all weird – losing weight and not being themselves.

The tricky part is, they might not show they're sick for a while, then it's too late. These animals spread disease through their spit, urine, and poop, which can stick around in the environment and affect healthy animals.

People are working hard to deal with it by watching out for sick animals, getting rid of the infected ones, and being careful about moving stuff around that might be contaminated. There's also a worry about humans, especially if they eat meat from animals with CWD.

Right now, it's not totally clear if it can make people sick, but it's better to be safe and follow the rules about handling and eating meat from areas where this disease is identified.

So, yeah, it's a tough situation for these animals and the people trying to look out for them. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been reported in various states across the United States.

It has been found in both free-ranging and captive deer, elk, and moose populations. Some of the states where CWD has been detected include Colorado, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Arkansas among others. It's important to note that the distribution of CWD can change over time, and authorities in each state actively monitor and manage the disease.

## WRHS Juniors Taking the ACT Seriously

By Kaitlyn Milgrim

All juniors at Walnut Ridge High School took the ACT on February 28. Being a junior at Walnut Ridge I had to take it. The ACT is for colleges to look at and if you get a high enough score your college education could be paid for with scholarships.

I was a part of the group of kids given extra time and let me tell you, it helped so much. The ACT is hard! You need to take it seriously if you want to go to college. I want to go to college, so I took my time and did the best I could to get a high score.

After taking the ACT, it takes three to eight weeks to get your score back. Normally, it would be faster but since all the juniors took it at once it will take longer to get the score back.

There are four sections on each test: English, math, reading and science. Science is the easiest, it is answering questions about tables and graphs. English is the second easiest to me, it was mostly picking what words sounded better in the sentence and using commas.

Math is the hardest thing ever. I am good at math. It is my favorite subject, but doing ACT math kicked my butt. The reading part is not as bad as the math, but it is still hard.

To the juniors taking the ACT in the next couple of years, pay attention to John Bayler, in the *On to College* videos, do your best, the score does matter.

## Why Times New Roman?

By Dakota Riggs

In the 21st century, teachers want an essay or story typed. Every single teacher always wants the essay in Times New Roman and 12-point font. Every time I type something, I must change the font and its size.

Why is it Times New Roman font is not default? I can promise you; a teacher will never want an essay in Calibri 11-point font. It will always be Times New Roman Font 12-point font. From my knowledge there is no way to set a different font than the default Calibri eleven pt font.

As an American citizen, I should not have change the font and size every time I try to be a good student and do my work correctly. There should at least be a way to change the default settings, so it stays Times New Roman.

I want to know who even picked Calibri 11-point font to be default. Times New Roman looks better than Calibri, and 11 is an odd number. Really? Personally, I think the font size should be an even number, like 12.

I hope there will be a day for future generations when they will not have to suffer changing the font and size every time they try to do an assignment.

How hard would it be to program into Word an option to change the default setting?

## Jersie and the SloughBoys

By Jaysey Grooms



Jersie Cunningham, represented EAST in the recent 'Thrown at the Wolves' competition on A-state campus for a 'Shark Tank experience'. They won second place which included a cash prize of \$500. Riley Richey, Brice Bullard, Jay Jensen and Jasper Callahan also helped.

Let me tell you, these boys worked their tail ends off, by putting in the time and hard work to create and market their brands "The SloughBoys" and "SloughGirls." It is awesome.

They put their hearts into this project. I have seen these boys work together and create a brand, which means a lot to them.

These guys worked hard to prepare for this competition. They purchased a heat press, hats, and learned how to sew patches onto their baseball caps. Jersie found his mom's old sewing machine and taught himself how to use it. He then taught the rest of the team how to do the same thing.

In just a limited amount of time, they took Jersie's concept and fabricated the final product. Having the product in hand, provided the additional benefit of seeing and feeling the finished product.



**Display of Sloughboys merch**

As a prior business teacher, Mrs. Mary, now the Library/Media Specialist, helped the team develop a business plan, sales projections, cost analysis and price points. They identified their target audience as young adults or teens, so they had to consider that when developing advertising and marketing strategies.

Congrats Jersie, Riley, Brice, Jasper and Jay on your successful product and presentation. Sloughboys caps are \$25 or \$30; coozies are available also.

EAST is taught by Mrs. Schelley Davis, whose WRHS EAST classes also received a \$500 prize for use on future projects.

## Hoover was Not Such a Bad President

By Karleigh Clements

Ladies and gentlemen, I know this is not a popular opinion but when you look at the facts Herbert Hoover was not a bad president. I have researched Hoover, as part of the character project for Courtney Smith's APUSH class and I, like many, believed he was not a good president but really, he was not that bad.

For those who don't know Hoover, he was president during the beginning of the Great Depression, which was not his fault. At that point, an economic depression wasn't unexpected because people many years earlier were forced to take out loans to buy stocks and keep farms going, and eight months into Hoover's presidency, the stocks took a sharp rise all those people pulled their stocks and the stock market plummeted.

That plummet stuck around for many years, and while some may say Hoover didn't try to make the Depression better, he actually did.

He was a social Darwinist, so he urged people to get up and try to make the economy better by working and not taking handouts, he funded banks to help open factories, and he urged those in Hoovervilles to work in jobs he created by supporting natural resource projects like the Hoover Dam and the factories.

Hoover also had a very hands-off mindset regarding the economy and government intervention, which is what the people wanted at the time, until they didn't.

Herbert Hoover was not a bad president. The Great Depression was not his fault, and finally Hoover just wanted people to do better for themselves without the government's help. Hoover was just the scapegoat in an unfortunate circumstance in our America's economy.

## Bracelets: Continued on p 11

Noah's family to help pay for his final expenses.

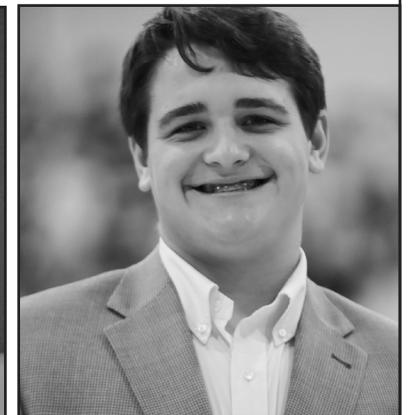
Bryson, just so happens, to love helping people more than anything. The profit made from these brace the best way to remember his friend.

Bryson contacted a manufacturer, customized the bracelets and is now selling them as part of his EAST project. He is doing his best to raise money for Noah's family, as they cope with the sudden loss of Noah.

## Mystery Student Answers



Skylar Cagle



Brogan Tate

# Miss Bobcat

## Irissa Crowned Miss Bobcat 2024

By Natalie Jackson

Irissa Bounds was crowned as the new 2024 Miss Bobcat. Runners up included: Jenna Wallin as first runner-up, also chosen as Miss Congeniality. Katherine Skinner won second runner-up, Carrie Denton was the third runner-up, and Alli Bramlett was the fourth runner-up. She also won the People's Choice crown.

Madison Milton was crowned as the Junior Miss Bobcat, Marlee Lady followed with first runner-up, Chloe Witcher was second runner-up, Makenzie Milton was the third runner-up, and Ashtyn Bradley was the fourth runner-up.

Young Miss Bobcat is Adalee Joy Brady. The first runner-up was Mia Phillips, followed by the second runner-up, Peyton Ferrell. Brynlee Brady was the third runner-up and Lily Sluder was the fourth runner-up.

Mari Michael Wallin was crowned as the Little Miss Bobcat. Blaine Rorex was crowned as the Petite Miss Bobcat. Brynlee Junkersfeld was crowned as the Tiny Miss Bobcat. Adaylnn Murphy was crowned as Teeny Miss Bobcat. Blaklynn Wade was crowned as Wee Miss Bobcat.



Miss Bobcat finalists  
Katherine Skinner,  
Alli Bramlett,  
Irissa Bounds,  
Carrie Denton and  
Jenna Wallin  
Miss Congeniality:  
Jenna Wallin  
People's Choice:  
Alli Bramlett



*Miss Bobcat*  
**Irissa Bounds**



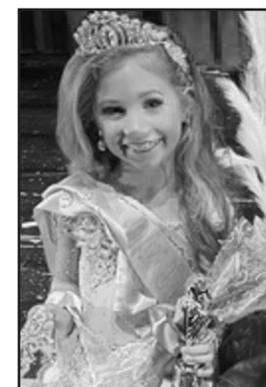
*Jr. Miss Bobcat*  
**Madison Milton**



*Young Miss Bobcat*  
**Adalee Joy Brady**



*Little Miss Bobcat*  
**Mari Michael Wallin**



*Petite Miss Bobcat*  
**Blaine Rorex**

## The New Teeny Miss Bobcat

By Summer Wilson

My sweet niece, Adaylnn, won Teeny Miss Bobcat. Addie has been doing pageants since she was six months old. Growing up, I have always wanted to do Miss Bobcat, but I never had the courage.

Addie is living out a dream I never got to and she absolutely rocks the stage. She won Best Smile, Best Dressed, Best Hair and Teeny Miss Bobcat. I could not be prouder of her. She really deserves the world in my eyes.

I always tell her mom, Zoey, she looks like her -- but she has my personality 100%.

When I found out she won and as I was walking up to her, she goes, "Dummer, I won!!" and her sweet little smile brought tears to my eyes. She was so happy and kept saying "I won!"



*Tiny Miss Bobcat*  
**Brynlee Junkersfeld**



*Teeny Miss Bobcat*  
**Adaylnn Murphy**



*Wee Miss Bobcat*  
**Blaklynn Wade**

I will forever be at all of her pageants, and I will always be in the crowd cheering my baby on!