

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 ~

2019 Bobcats Celebrate Legendary Homecoming

By Hannah Wade

During Homecoming week, signs were made, faces were painted, and lots of memories were made. Our big day started off by everyone gathering in the gym taking club pictures and then playing the long-missed Homecoming games.

After breaking for lunch, despite the rain, the parade began. Parade line up started at 12:30 leading off with the fire and police cars, followed but the Pride band, clubs, cheer, Alleycats, and the Bobcat football team.

The royalty started off with Karlee Brewer as Freshman Maid. Karlee rode in a burnt orange Corvette with her dad driving and her brother, Andrew riding passenger. Next was Chloe Davis, Sophomore Maid. Chloe was driven by her parents in a red Corvette. Junior maid was Chloe Bounds, who rode in a red Mercedes driven by Michele Mullen.

Hannah Wade, was next in line as

Senior Maid in a silver Corvette, driven by Malessie Lamb with Boston and Syllis as passengers. Maid of Honor Katie Kersey, rode in a white Corvette driven by her dad, Jacob Kersey with former classmate, Cade Raglin.

Finally, Queen Sydney Burgin rode in a dark grey Corvette with her pages, Macy Rose Broadway and Kam Thielemier; she was driven by her father and brother.

After the parade, the homecoming royalty were announced and Sydney was crowned. Due to the rain, the crowd moved inside the gym for the pep rally.

That night, the royalty were again announced before the game. This time they were escorted by their fathers.

The game against Harrisburg ended the with a 44-15 loss. Harrisburg took home the win but the Bobcats took home the memories.



Homecoming 2019: Queen Sydney Burgin (center) is surrounded by her court. From left: Hannah Wade, Chloe Davis, Chloe Bounds, Karlee Brewer and Katie Kersey. Pages, Macy Rose Broadway and Kam Thielemier, are standing in the front.

Xander Shows the True Meaning of Homecoming



WRHS students were reminded of the true meaning of "Homecoming" when Xander Layton, a student at WRHS, made a surprise appearance at the pep rally.

Xander sustained critical spinal injuries this summer and has been a patient at Arkansas Children's Hospital since the July accident. He plans to resume classes in January.

Pictured with him and his dad are principal, Jacob Kersey, Josh Porter, Andrew Hill and Jon Alba.

You're Invited: WinterBall 2019
A Winter Stroll Down Main

December 14th, 2019

The Studio on Main St.

Grand March starts at 7 p.m.

(Receiving line starts at 6:15 p.m.)

Public is welcome. Admission is free.

The Symbolism of the Semicolon

By Bryleigh Morris

The semicolon is often used as a punctuation mark to indicate a pause in a sentence. The semicolon tattoos, however, are used to support people dealing with anxiety, depression, suicide and other mental illness.

The semicolon has a much deeper meaning than just a form of punctuation; it's a sign of hope that we have the power to move forward.

"A semicolon represents a sentence the author could have ended, but chose not to. That author is you and the sentence is your life."

The Semicolon Project started as a one-day event in April of 2013, by founders Charlee Chandler and Matthew Wills. They encouraged people to post pictures of semicolons drawn on their wrist to the internet to support suicide prevention. It was very successful and the project is ongoing, with April 16th as an annual day of awareness.

What Are You Most Thankful For?

By Kel Slusser

Ty Flippo – Not Korwin

Hailey Jensen – Jesus

Isaiah Mabry – Mom, God and
Athleticism

Grady Privett – Family

Andres Marin – Family

Olivia Ford – God

Cody Gray – Everything

Gavin Davis – Not being a woman

Jayden Hollister – Friends

Anna Saffell – Naps

Rhoni Riggs – Friends

Kanye West's New Way of Life

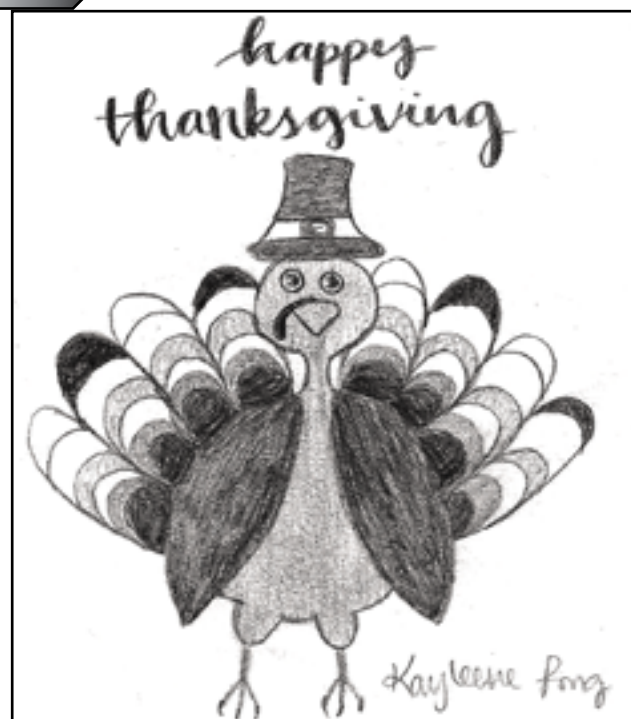
By Parker Papi

Kanye West has recently become more active spiritually. West's new album is called *Jesus is King*; he started Sunday Service in January 2019. Sunday Service has been held every Sunday, including the Sunday when the album dropped.

Sunday Service started out in an enclosed rehearsal space, then moved to a series of secret locations including the Adidas headquarters and secluded fields in Calabasas, California or Wyoming. At the beginning, the event was by invitation-only, after a little while, it became open to the public at venues across the country, both sacred and non-sacred.

Jesus is Lord was released on October 25. Songs included *Closed on Sunday*, *Jesus is Lord*. In *Closed on Sunday* West sings "Closed on Sunday, you my Chick-Fil-A..." *Jesus is Lord* is the shortest song on the album at just 49 seconds.

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 Gavin Davis

Meathead's the name

Football's the game

If you don't wear Gym Shark

You're a shame

She's anything but fake

Some might call her Snowflake

She's part of a dancing

organization

She's in the junior year of her

education

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Holocaust Survivors' Series

By Grady Privett

On October 29, the Walnut Ridge AP English 11 and 12 classes traveled to BRTC to gain a peek into the worst genocide in human history from a person who experienced it first-hand. Ester Starobin was just a young kid when Hitler and the Nazi regime took over her beloved homeland of Adelsheim, Germany where her father's family had resided for over 200 years.

Ester and her three sisters did not have to experience the harsh conditions of the work camps, because her aunt had helped them escape to England where they would be safe.

When she was 10 years old, she traveled to America where she was reunited with her siblings in Washington D.C. Sadly, Starobin's parents were executed at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp and she barely remembers anything about them.

Starobin went to grade school in the U.S. and then attended the University of Illinois to get her teaching degree. After graduating college, she was naturalized and became an elementary school teacher. When her children were born she took nine years off of teaching and took care of them. She first returned as a substitute, and then taught again in a middle school.

Eventually, she retired and became a volunteer at the Holocaust Museum in D.C. She now volunteers on a daily basis at the museum where she shares her story, she also travels across the nation telling people her story.

Rest in Peace, Mrs. Pratt



Mrs. Ginger Luther Pratt
6th grade Social Studies
Walnut Ridge Middle School

Music Recommendations

By Skyla Henry

I, Skyla Jade Henry, have decided to list for you some underrated yet high quality musicians and bands to bop to. You can trust me because my music taste is superior.

Videoclub – They are a French group made up of Adèle Castillon and Matthieu Reynaud. Their music is upbeat and fun.

HalfNoise – They are an alternative rock band based in Nashville, and the musical project of Zac Farro, the drummer of Paramore.

Young the Giant – They are a rock band, formed in 2004 in

Irvine, California. The lead singer is Sameer Gadhia.

Will Joseph Cook – He is a pop artist from England who is known for his vocals and bright melodies.

Declan McKenna – He is a 20 year old kid from England. His songs are often very political and one of his most popular songs, Brazil, is criticizing FIFA.

Cuco – He is the son of Mexican immigrants. His style is very unique. He sings in both English and Spanish throughout his songs and has a broad variety of styles.

What Do You Want For Christmas?

By Kyle Russell

Coach Blake – New shoes
Kobe Smith – New baseball glove
Gracey Collins – Iphone 11 Plus
Savannah Nelson – A boyfriend
Austin Stover – Lambo
Sydney Burgin – Cole Manning
Jerzie McQuay – TV

Roger King – A rack (a term for \$1,000)
Layre Berganzos – A motorcycle
Mrs. Ross – Family and friends to be happy and healthy
Kinley Davis – MacBook Pro
Lindsey Bateman – Ray-Bans

What Was Your Favorite Halloween Costume as a Kid?

by Mady McGinnis

Parker Papi – Sumo Wrestler
Sydney Robinson – Minnie Mouse
Mollie Blackshear – Hippy
Kyle Russell – Mario
Austin Stover – Blue Power Ranger
Hailey Jensen – Pumpkin
Brandon Bethany – Batman

Jacob Buxton – Bumble Bee
Kayleene Long – Pumpkin
Abby Rounsaball – A mime
Mason McGinnis – Ninja
Chase Ervin – Cowboy
Isaiah Mabry – The Grim Reaper
Anna Saffell – “One time I was a care bear”

If You Could Go Anywhere for Christmas, Where Would You Go?

By Isaiah Mabry

Logan Sain – Bahamas
Jon Alba – Texas
Mrs. Rob – Paris France
Mrs. Holland – Colorado
Noah Roark – Texas
Mrs. Brady – Bora Bora
Katie Kersey – New York City
Melanie Jones – Bora Bora

Memphis Moore – Alaska
Alex Jones – Hawaii
Chloe Davis – St-Lucia
Mari Thomas – Bahamas
Mollie Blackshear – Disney World
Nash Gill – North Pole
Sydney Burgin – Hawaii
Kel Slusser – Powhatan

Savannah Steals the Show

By Bailee Witt



Sydney Savannah Nelson was born March 26, 2002 to Mike and Sherry Nelson. Her brothers are Tyler, age 21, and Dalton, 19. Savannah has two cats and two dogs, her black lab named Riley, a basset hound named Cooper, plus her cats, Hippie and Midnight.

Her best friends are Kailey Blazer, Grady Privett, Zach Caspall, Jerzie McQuay, Dalton Nelson and Drew Brewer. Her nicknames with her friends is Sav; her parents it's Sissy. She has attended Walnut Ridge since pre-school.

Savannah's favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes because "he's funny and makes me laugh when I don't want to." Her most embarrassing moment was coming to school after getting mad at Trevor.

She is most proud of her grades in AP classes.

Advice she has for underclassmen is do "not get caught up on the little things", and her advice for high school is not to worry about relationships.

Her best excuse for a tardy is she woke up late, because her biggest struggle is getting to school on time. The best advice she has ever received is "take a deep breath and move on," from her mom, her mom is also her role model because she is the strongest woman she knows. One thing she cannot live without is her mom, something that bothers her is being interrupted. She has changed a lot since freshman year, she has become a more open, talkative person.

After high school she will miss having teachers that care about her the most. She is in FBLA, Key Club, NHS and MAT. Her favorite year of high school was junior year.

Her biggest fear is being lonely and her biggest fear about leaving high school is not being successful. After high school, she plans to be an LPN, then later on an RN.

Savannah's Faves

App – Instagram

Pizza topping –
Pineapple

Class – English w/ Mrs. Rob

Drink – Sweet Tea

T.V Show – *Stranger Things*

Food – Mashed potatoes

Restaurant – La Casita

Ice cream – Mint

Chocolate Chip

Celebrity Crush –

Mark Wahlberg

Holiday – Thanksgiving

With Peace and Harmony

By Haley Smart

Harmony Rayne Wells is 18 years old and was born April 28, 2001 to Alana Fears and Gary Fears. She has two brothers, Gage, 19 and Jimmy, 15.

Harmony has attended Walnut Ridge for 10 years. Her most embarrassing moment was making her friend run into a slide and chip his tooth. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Pattin, who "helped her when she needed someone."

Some of Harmony's best friends are Angel Wilson, Daniel Woodard, Nathan Simmons and Keith Cook. The accomplishment she is most proud of is managing to keep A's and B's throughout high school.

Harmony's biggest change since her freshman year is she "talks to more people now." Her advice for underclassmen is "Don't give up. You will be glad when you make it to 12th grade." Upon leaving high school, Harmony will miss her friends more than anything.



Harmony's Faves

App – Snapchat

Store – Rue 21

Movie – *Chucky*

Class – Art

Holiday – Christmas

Song –

Safe and Sound

What's Your Favorite Thanksgiving Meal?

By Jamie Patrick

Abby Beaty- Turkey

Kaylan Decker- Stuffing

Mrs. Brady- Dressing

Camron Caldwell- Pizza

Carissa Caldwell- Possum grits

Kimberly Willis- Turkey

Mrs. Ross- Sweet potatoes

Hailey Jensen – Mac and cheese

Mrs. Rice – Uncle Tom's

Bacon-Wrapped Jalapenos

Andrew Hill – Chicken Dressing

Lily Lewis – Turkey

Chris Gulleddge – Fried Chicken &

Hot Sauce



Sophomore Holly Berry looks for a book.



(Far right) Mason Ashlock, Abby Rounsavall and Dagan Lillard relived the memories of their youth at the library.

Field Trip:

LawCo. Library

Students in Mrs. Rice and Mrs.

Hallman's English classes

learned all the LawCo Library has to offer digitally.

Keeping Up with Katie

by Kaylan Decker

KayLynn (Katie) Rebecca Jones was born on February 21, 2002 to her loving father Kenny Jones. She has an older brother, Skyler 21 and three younger sisters Stormy 14, Zoey 13, and Charley 7. Her best friends include Kaylan Decker and Zoey Wilson.

Katie has been at Walnut Ridge School for 6 years. She is in FCCLA, Key Club, and National Honors Society. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob because she is KayLynn's human diary. Her most embarrassing moment in school is when Mr. Kersey got on to her for not being in class. So her best excuse for being late to class is "I was doing something for Mrs. Rob."



One of her greatest accomplishments is making it to senior year and overcoming all the obstacles along the way. Her advice for underclassmen "if you didn't hear it with your own ears or see it with your own eyes, don't invent it with your small mind and share it with your big mouth."

One thing she cannot live without is her daily rant sessions with Mrs. Rob. Her biggest pet peeve is hypocrites. Since freshman year she has become more open and blunt.

After high school she plans to attend ATU in Russellville to major in psychology.

Katie's Favorites

App – Snapchat
 Movie – *The Notebook*
 Class – Child Care Management
 Drink – Sprite with strawberries and mangos
 T.V. Show – *Judge Judy*
 Food – Chicken
 Holiday – Christmas
 Restaurant – Chick-fil-A

Rushing to Graduation

by Rhoni Riggs

Austin Lee Rushing was born on January 4, 2001 to Terra Rushing. He has an older sister, Jessica Rushing, 25. His best friends include Austin Stover, Chris Gulleddge and Bo Johnson.

Mr. Rice is his favorite teacher because he helped Austin figure out what he wanted to do after high school. His greatest accomplishment is learning to weld and that's what he intends to do after high school.

His advice for the underclassmen is "take it day by day." He can't live without chocolate milk. His best excuse for being late is he over slept. The only thing that has changed about him since



freshman year is that he has gained weight.

The best advice he ever received is "trust yourself first." If he could restart high school and change anything he said that he wouldn't because "everything that has happened was either a blessing or a lesson."

His greatest fear entering high school was not having any friends and when he leaves he will miss playing football the most. Austin's role model is his Uncle Eddie because he's always there for him.

Austin's Favorites

Pizza Topping – Extra Cheese
 Class – Anything with Mr. Rice
 Drink – Chocolate Milk
 T.V. Show – *Lucifer*
 Food – All of it
 Restaurant – Fuji's
 Ice cream – Cookie Dough

Welcome Home, Xander

Senior Jon Alba and the entire Bobcat football team welcome Xander Layton back to WRHS.



Welcome Back, Brycen

by Ray Yang



Brycen Philip Thomas, also known as BT, was born to Amanda and Brandon Thomas on May 4, 2001. Brycen has three younger brothers, Mari, 16 and Jack and Ellis, who are 10.

He attended Walnut Ridge from fifth through eighth grades before returning for his senior year. His best friend is Jacob Sparks and he has a Shih Tzu named Ryder.

Brycen received the 'Key to the City' from Jonesboro when he was just 16. He was working as a lifeguard when he saw a child drowning; he pulled him from the pool and successfully performed CPR, saving his life. Although his actions were pure instinct,

it was the hardest thing he has ever done.

His biggest change since his freshman year is he "started to do my work," which is also his advice for underclassmen. It is also the one thing he would change, if he could do it all over again. The best advice Brycen has ever been given was from his role model, his mom.

He will miss his friends most after high school. Brycen's best excuse for being late to class is "I was using the bathroom." His pet peeve is people smacking while eating.

Throughout high school, he has been involved in basketball, baseball, football and FBLA. His biggest fear going into high school was people picking on him. His biggest fear about leaving school is that he will be all on his own.

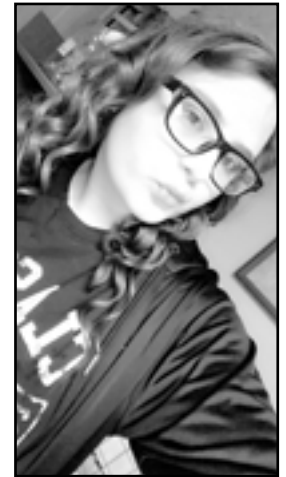
After high school, Brycen plans to earn a college degree and become a police officer.

Brycen's Favorite

App – Snapchat
 Pizza – Pepperoni
 Movie – *Black Sheep*
 Drink – Dr. Pepper
 Store – Walmart
 T.V. Show –
Criminal Minds
 Book –
My Side of the Mountains
 Food – Shrimp
 Holiday – Halloween

A to Zoey

By Chloe Brown



Zoey Wilson was born to Sabrina and Daniel Wilson on April 15th 2001. Zoey has two sisters, Danielle and Summer Wilson. Zoey's best friend is Chloe Brown and Zoey has attended Walnut Ridge for 13 years. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Howard. Zoey's most memorable moment in school was last year on the FCCLA trip to Conway.

The accomplishment Zoey is most proud of is having made it this far in school. The words Zoey leaves to underclassmen is "good luck." Zoey's best excuse for being late is, "Sorry, there was a train." One thing that Zoey cannot live without is her phone. Her biggest pet peeve is when people obnoxiously smack their gum.

Since freshman year Zoey has went from being quiet to speaking her mind. Zoey does not think that she is going to miss anything about high school. She has been involved with FCCLA for two years now. Zoey's favorite quotes is, "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." by William James.

The best advice she has ever received was, "Be the bigger person" from her sister, Summer. Zoey's favorite year of high school was 11th grade. If Zoey could start high school again she would change the people she started with.

Her biggest fear going into high school was the teachers. Her biggest fear upon leaving high school is not knowing what's going to happen next. After she graduates she's looking forward to sleeping in. The hardest thing Zoey's ever had to do was Mrs. Rob's English paper. Growing up Zoey's friends and family called her "Zo" or "Zoebug."

Zoey's Favorites:

App – Snapchat
 Song – *I'll Always Remember You*
 Pizza topping – Cheese
 Restaurant – El Acapulco
 Drink – Coke
 Holiday – Christmas
 Food – Nachos
 Ice cream – Vanilla

Just a Minute Ago

by Mady McGinnis

Mollie Blackshear bought the \$84 hoodie

Fortnite died

We celebrated football homecoming in the rain

Kayleene Long and Shyanne Foley became fish

Report cards went out

Sydney Robinson's ex "died"

FBLA went to the fall conference
Fortnite came back

The iPhone 11 dropped

Livvie Howard got her car stuck at the fire station

Jennifer Lawrence got married
 Bryleigh Morris turned 16

Cameron Robertson caught and killed a wasp with his bare hands

Bobcat Bio: Jamie Patrick

By Andrew Hill

Class – Junior

Club – Band

BFFs – Megan Cole, Leyre Fernandez and Dylan Sheets

Relationship status – Taken

Pet peeve – People tapping their pencils

Worst habit – Being late

Last binge watch – *The Office*

Tech/App addiction –

Snapchat

Last person

texted – Megan

Cole



Stanfill is Superbad

By Austin Stover

Zacharia Leo Stanfill, better known as Stanny, McLovin or just Zach is 17 years old, born June 10, 2002. He is the offspring of Edgar and Brittany Stanfill. Zach has four siblings: Percy, Athena, Khalessi, and Aaliyah. Stanfill is the oldest of five children. Zach has a chocolate lab named Abby.

Zach Stanfill is very popular as he's friends with almost everyone, but his closest friends consist of Valorie Cook, Austin Stover, Chris Gulledege, Austin Rushing, Roger King, Jonathan Alba, Dylan Sheets, Peyton Callahan, and last, but not least, Bo Johnson.



Stanfill's favorite teacher is, "The Robster, because of the willow limb."

One of his memorable moments from high school was passing out in a rolling chair. Zach's proudest moment of his high school career has been passing Mrs. Rob's class.

Zach is normally a chill person, but his biggest pet peeve is when people act like your best friend when they really don't even know you.

Zach's Favorites

Drink – Sprite
 Food – Pizza Rolls
 Entertainer –
 Kevin Hart
 Celebrity Crush –
 Scarlett Johanson.
 Teacher – Mrs. Rob

Bobcat Bio: Jonathan Alba

By Andrew Hill

Class – Senior
 Club – Key Club
 BFFs – Mia Roberson, Blane Wade, Isaiah Mabry and Andrew Hill
 Favorite teacher – Mrs. Lamb
 Relationship status – Taken by the best
 Political view – Christian
 Pet peeve – Smacking gum
 Favorite Meme – A small price to pay for Salvation



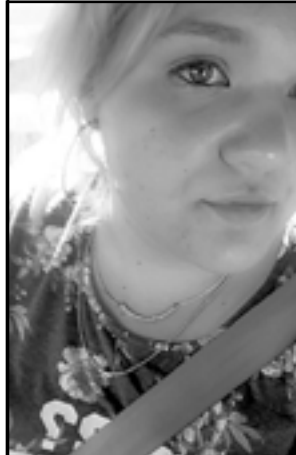
Fun Facts

By Ty Flippo

1. Tomato sauce was sold as medicine in the 1800's.
2. In 1980 a Las Vegas hospital suspended workers for betting on when patients would die.
3. A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100 mph.
4. Butterflies taste with their feet.
5. India has its own Bill of Rights for cows.
6. Helen Keller was immune to flashbangs.
7. Dartboards are made out of horse hairs.

Your Main Gal, Leaffie

By Abby Rounsavall



Leaffie Heaven Cook is the daughter of Kerry Green and Keith Cook. Her siblings include Shasta Green, Keith Cook Jr and Elizabeth Cook. She is 17 years old and has attended Walnut Ridge for 13 years. Along with her siblings, she has two pets Marley and Xena. Her best friends include Ashka Pittman, Catherine Finney and her sister, Elizabeth. Her role models are Mrs. Holland for all the help she has provided, and her mother, who helped her figure out who she is.

Her favorite teacher is the one, and only, Mrs. Holland, "she is always there for her kids no matter what." Her favorite year of high school was 11th grade. Falling asleep in

class has been her most embarrassing moment and oversleeping is her best excuse for being late to class. As you can tell, she likes to sleep.

She has some advice for underclassmen: "Do your work and don't sleep in class." Wise words from Miss Leaffie Cook, y'all should probably listen to the woman. She participates in choir. What she will miss most from high school are the people who struggled to help others.

Leaffie's biggest pet peeve is when people smack their food. The one thing she couldn't live without is her best friend Ashka. Her favorite quote, "I began high school with straight A's; now I'm not even straight," comes from Amberlyn Murray.

Not knowing what to do is her biggest fear going into high school. The hardest thing she has ever had to do was math - I'm sure most people can relate. She is most excited to get married after graduation. As for plans after high school other than getting hitched, she plans to attend BRTC and get her CNA license.

Leaffie's Faves:

App - Facebook
 Pizza Topping - BBQ
 Class – ALE
 Drink - Mt. Dew
 Band – Green Day
 Store – Wal-Mart
 T.V. Show –
Wentworth
 Book –
Memory of Light
 Entertainer – Fluffy
 Food – Potatoes
 Holiday – Thanksgiving
 Song –
Someone You Loved
 Restaurant –
 Chinese or Taco Bell
 Ice Cream –
 Cookies and Cream
 Celebrity Crush –
 Ruby Rose

8. A snail can have 25,000 teeth.
9. In Utah it is illegal to swear in front of a dead person.
10. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
11. The hottest temperature recorded on earth was two billion degrees.
12. Competitive art used to be in the Olympics.

2019-2020 Cheer Captain

By Sydney Robinson



Maci Shea Smelser, 17, daughter of Kyle and Michelle Smelser, was born October 23, 2001. She has an older brother Drake Smelser, 21. She has two dogs named Sadie and Bella, and two cats, named Otto and Julius.

She has attended Walnut Ridge since kindergarten. Her best friends are Mattie, Hailey, and Hannah P. Her favorite teachers are Mr. Haynes and Mrs. Mary because they give the best advice and help with everything.

Maci's best accomplishments will be graduating with honors, and serving as cheer captain. Her advice to underclassmen is, "study! And be active in clubs and

school activities." Best excuse for being late is "There was a train!"

Cheer is what she will miss most about high school. Maci is involved in many clubs including FBLA, FCCLA, Key Club, NHS, and Cheer. Favorite quote is "There are many beautiful reasons to be happy." She has become more outgoing and social since freshman year.

After graduation, Maci plans to attend UCA or WBU, and meet new people. Her biggest fear in 9th grade year was "forgetting where a classroom was." Her favorite year of high school was junior year. The hardest thing she has done throughout high school was passing chemistry with an A.

Maci's Faves

App – Snapchat
T.V Show –
Grey's Anatomy
Book – *Wonder*
Restaurant – Chili's
Ice Cream –
Vanilla with Reese's
Drink – Dr. Pepper
Band – Jonas Brothers
Movie –
Dirty Dancing

The Story Unfolds with T. Hart

By Cameron Robertson

Tristin Hayden Hart, 17, was born to Kristin Rose and Eric Wiggins on March, 3 2002. He is the middle child of three children, including his big brother, Craig Wiggins, and little sister, Garistin Ward. His brother is his biggest role model because he grew up and became successful. His best friends include Garrett Cook and Sam Adams.

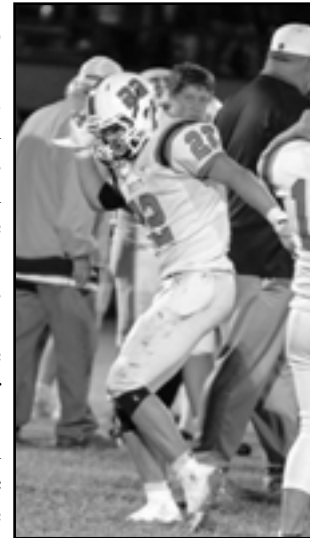
Tristin has been a Bobcat and has attended Walnut Ridge for the full 12 years. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Rouse because "she is the best." The hardest thing he has ever had to do was take one of Mrs. Rob's tests.

His accomplishment he is most proud of is being on A/B honor role. Tristin's advice to underclassmen is "don't slack off." The one thing this sweet and caring person can't live without is his family. His biggest pet peeve is smoking. He has changed

since his freshmen year by his "attitude changed along with (his) body."

Clubs he is in include FBLA and Key Club. Tristin's favorite quote is "Don't tread on me," by Metallica. Even though he can hold himself, Tristin's biggest fear while going into high school was bullies. After he graduates he plans on becoming a diesel mechanic.

His biggest fear upon graduating high school is not succeeding in the real world. This guy is already looking forward to working after graduation. He is going to go far in life because he doesn't want to be a lazy scrub.



Tristin's Faves

App – Snapchat
Movie – *Step Brothers*
Band – Creed
Holiday – Christmas
Book – *Wonder*
Song – *It's a Great Day to Be Alive*
Restaurant –
Wings to Go
Ice cream –
Cookies 'n Cream

FBLA Attends Fall Conference

By Lindsay Bateman,
WRHS FBLA Reporter

Walnut Ridge High School Future Business Leaders of America loaded the bus to attend the Fall Leadership Conference at ASU on Oct. 10. The conference began with the announcement of the District II officers and then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem.

The guest speaker this year was Walt Coleman, former NFL referee of 30 years, who is an Arkansas native. Coleman spoke about how to be a successful leader. He informed us of three rules to remember as adults: Everyone is important, never lose a sense of humor and you will make plenty of mistakes throughout life.

WRHS
Homecoming
Days
=
Legendary

Kayleene Long and Skunk...
A Love Story



Do's and Don'ts of the Deer Woods

By Roger King

--Do--

1. Wear camouflage
2. Use scent away
3. Come prepared for an all-day hunt
4. Bring some warm clothes
5. Stay near cover
6. Bring your phone
7. Listen carefully for deer
8. Bring binoculars
9. Check the weather
10. Bring a flashlight

--Don't--

1. Don't leave your ringer on
2. Don't bring or eat chips
3. Don't shoot at the first deer you see
4. Don't leave before dark
5. Don't hunt on private land without permission
6. Don't break hunting laws
7. Don't hunt after shooting hours have ended
8. Don't go too far into unknown woods
9. Don't forget your GPS
10. Don't forget that modern gun season starts Nov. 9 - Dec. 1

He Said, She Said

By Dagan Lillard

"It might not be the best thing you've ever read, but it's the best thing I've ever written" – Ty Flippo

"I don't get songs stuck in my head; I don't think that much." – Hannah Harper

"Do you have to know a lot of math to be an accountant?" – Mollie Blackshear

"I don't know if that's bleach or pizza roll on my shirt." – Maggie Gibson

Mrs. Rice, talking about Muhammad Ali, "He was a boxing icon..."; "...and then he did 9/11" – Madison Jones. *No, Maddie.

Talking about 9/11 "The Japanese really did it!" – Maddie Flippo. *Nope.

"My eyes were glitching" – Sydney Robinson, talking about the night she became Tik Tok famous.

Shyanne Foley, to Gracey Collins "Gracey, do you know what the Bible was originally written in?" Gracey's response, "Times New Roman."

"Coke and Pepsi are the same thing. Pepsi is a Coke product." – Hailey Jensen

"How do you get a fake ID? You order them from China and they send them with a bunch of free chopsticks" – Kel Slusser

"I would totally join a cult if they didn't have the mass suicide at the end." – Grady Privett

"I'm built like a trash can" – Logan Blackwood

"Wherefore art thou Brownman" – Abby Rounsavall

"Save the planet, eat the children" – Lily Lewis

"Oh a corndog... Nice!" – Ashton Davis

"War lasts forever, like depression" – Dagan Lillard

"It's Nickleback. If you don't like Nickleback, you're a communist."

– James Allred

"Oh, that just butters my biscuit." – Dagan Lillard

"Bro, we're going to the Holocaust tomorrow." – Hailey Jensen, *going to the BRTC Holocaust Speaker Series*

"I have a feeling, if you're an underclassman and you're a girl, you're probably a lesbian." – Mady McGinnis

"I just realized something incredible – I have two boxes of hot chocolate at my house." – Jacob Buxton

"I don't usually miss school!" – Hannah Hatfield

"I have the dot orgs to prove it!" – Hailey Jensen

"I'm gonna have Nash tutor me." – Sydney Robinson

"Y'all are so lucky to have me in your lives." – Alex Jones

"She has a boyfriend..." – Cameron Robertson, to Austin Stover, who replied, "Just because there's a goalie doesn't mean you can't score."

Classroom conversation about the whistleblower "I saw a guy in Game Stop wearing a whistle." – Raelea Vanpram

What does VSCO stand for? "Save the turtles." – Cameron Roberson

Alex Jones and Kayleene Long comparing fat rolls Skylar Louthan, jumps in, "Honey, y'all ain't got no fat rolls."

"Hey, how are you?"

"Good." *Maddie Flippo and Mrs. Rice say all at the same time*

"We're such basic white girls." – Mrs. Rice

Science Club, going to Wonders of Wildlife Aquarium, in Springfield, MO Student A, "What is an aquarium?" Student B, "Like a zoo, only liquid."

Causes of School Shootings Vary

By Maggie Gibson

As they say, "You've only got one life to live, and you're not promised a tomorrow." School shootings are a constant problem not only in the United States, but globally. According to the K-12 School Shooting Database, the number of school shootings in 2019 has fallen from an all-time high of 110 in 2018 to just 67 so far this year. It seems as if every year the numbers are slowly just increasing...

Shootings happen all the time, for many different reasons. The most reported reason, however, is bullying. People bully all the time. It's one of the biggest problems with society today, judgement. It's awful that people go every day of their lives scared of being judged. Sometimes people don't know when enough is enough – until it is too late. They don't realize that after time, people are going to

snap, whether it be them harming themselves, or them harming others.

Another reason is mental health. Studies have shown that most school shooters were mentally ill or showed symptoms of mental health problems. Timely psychiatric support could help prevent some of these shootings. However, in most cases these illnesses are not always properly diagnosed or treated.

Some people blame the violent acts of these "children" on horrific and gory video games and movies. Some people blame it on just the fact that not everyone is mentally stable. But no matter what, we will never really know exactly why shootings happen. As terrible as they are, until "they" make the schools better, they are only going to continue. These things can be prevented, but not without change.

Not Being Able to Let Go

By Connie Lane

Earlier in the month, 13 senior girls (including me) and two juniors took a field trip to Barnes and Noble in Jonesboro – a popular store with many books for all ages – and discussed how and why some books get banned in schools, libraries, and other public places.

The original plan was to meet Meredith Russo, the author of *If I Was Your Girl*. If I have to be honest, I was excited to meet her. Meeting a transgendered woman who is well-known and famous for writing a best-seller and hearing about why

Sadly, that excitement vanished when we were told the student-focused ‘Meet and Greet’ sessions had been cancelled. Why? Before publication of the book, she (the author) was accused of misdeeds by an ex. Local high schools and citizens began voicing concerns.

This caused an uproar in the community after which the author herself, became the issue. The Jonesboro Sun and the Jonesboro/Craighead Co. library heard from numerous individuals and churches upset over the planned visit.

Additional security was requested by the library to assure the safety of Ms. Russo and local patrons. Most local schools dropped plans to attend.

I will not sugar coat my opinion, either. The writer made a few mistakes, yes, and she has to live with that. However, I believe she should be treated as if she were human and recognized as the award-winning writer she is. She should be treated respectfully, as a writer who wanted to meet her fans and encourage writing by students.

I enjoyed field trip: Plan B. Hearing about books being banned at schools filled me with education. Though, when I think about what that poor writer had to go through, I think to myself... many people have to live with their mistakes and be rudely reminded of them every time in their lives.

Students learned first hand about freedom of speech and censorship when the event they had planned to attend was cancelled.



Stop, Drop and Read

By Maddie Flippo

Walnut Ridge High School (grades 7-12) is participating in a reading enrichment program, “stop, drop and read” this year. Students and teachers are expected to read for 25 minutes during Enrichment, one day a week. They may read whatever they choose, with no specific requirements or testing.

The plan is to help Walnut Ridge students improve their vocabulary and comprehension, which should, in turn, improve reading scores on the ACT/Aspire tests. This could also help students better there

ACT scores.

We are happy to participate in this event and thank all the teachers and staff for helping us in every possible way.

What Are You Reading?

Ty Flippo – “some basketball book”

Livie Howard – *Redemption*

Hannah Wade – *If I Was Your Girl*

Mattie Craig – *The Bible*

Mollie Blackshear – *Bone Gap*

Anna Saffell – *Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Bryleigh Morris – *The First Time She Drowned*

Bobcat Bio: Briana “Breezy” Jones

By Jacob Slankard

Class - Sophomore

Club Involvement – Book Club

BFFs – Danielle Stover, Jacob Slankard, Tabitha Vanover and James Allred

Favorite Teacher – Mrs. Holland

Favorite Class – Art

Relationship Status – Single Pringle

Pet Peeve – Lying

Last binge watch – *Hart of Dixie*

Tech Addiction – *Borderlands 2* and *3*

Most awkward moment – Crying in history class in 6th grade

Last person you texted – Danielle Stover

What would you want for your last meal? – Subway, all the way

Freshman Flop – “Not doing all my journals and Cornell notes”



Sophomores Remember When

By Dagan Lillard

...Tara Wells stabbed Bethany Wells in the back with a pencil

...Drey Hibbard literally started cutting peoples clothes off

...Ty Flippo, Mason Andrews, Noah Roark, and Landon Brady “fixed” Mrs. Shaffer’s pencil sharpener

...Chloe Davis and Olivia Farmer found frogs in Jayden Hollister’s pants

...Hannah Beary was a brawler in 4th grade

...Olivia Farmer tried to kiss Korwin Johnson and he punched her

...Chloe Davis and Jayden Hollister broke up because she beat him at tetherball

...Drey Hibbard and Sydney Robinson dated

...Hannah Beary and Noah Roark dated

...Chloe Davis and Garrison Doyle dated

...Maggie Gibson and Andrew Prestidge dated

...Tara Wells and Mason Ashlock dated

...Dagan Lillard played football

...Maggie Gibson gave Andrew Prestidge’s promise ring back

Joker Expected to be Another Hit

By Anna Saffell

The movie, *Joker*, premiered in theaters around the world October 4. There has been a lot of controversy and worry over this new movie.

The character of the Joker is based on a man who was a harmless nobody, who turned into somebody totally villainous and dangerous, because of how badly society treated him. He simply goes insane, becoming violent and abusive to everyone around him.

Some people believe spotlighting the character of Joker could encourage and affect a type of thinking that might inspire an act of violence or a mass shooting.

Especially after the shooting that occurred in Colorado during the premiere of the last Batman movie.

After watching the movie, people are comparing performances of Joaquin Phoenix (2019 *Joker*) to Heath Ledger (2012 *The Dark Knight*). Heath Ledger won a posthumous Academy Award for his role in *The Dark Knight*.

Critics are saying Phoenix's performance is amazing – just as good, if not better – than Ledger's performance. Many believe Phoenix has a great chance to be an Oscar nominee and receive his first Oscar for his role in *Joker*.

Duck Dynasty's John Luke and Wife Welcomes First Child

By Mattie Craig

John Luke Robertson and his wife Mary Kate welcomed a son on Monday, October 14. Robertson, the second oldest son of Duck Dynasty's Willie and Korie Robertson, announced little John Shepherd's birth on Instagram with a picture of the baby, born ten days early.

The pregnancy announcement was first posted by John Luke on Instagram in May

with the caption "Yep, that's a baby!" They decided to keep the name and gender secret until the baby's birth.

The couple may sound familiar to some, as they were stars on the popular show *Duck Dynasty* years ago. They got engaged in 2015 and are both currently attending Liberty University in Virginia.

Remember When...

By Jasmine Cox

...Parker Papi almost got left at the mall during an FBLA trip

...Walnut Ridge middle school caught on fire

...We got to take naps in elementary school

...Dr. Holloway's class wasn't hard (wait, did that happen?)

...PBS Kids' channel was the best

...We didn't have to worry about what we wanted to be

...Hall surfing was a thing

...We didn't have a choice of what to eat during lunch

...Mrs. Essman had us practice songs and dances for hours

...We had recess

...Gregory Duckworth was short in elementary

...Mrs. Potter was the elementary art teacher

Teacher of the Year, Every Year

By Chris Gulledge

Becky Robinson, better known on campus as Mrs. Rob, has taught at Walnut Ridge High School for six years. She is an English teacher and is the best one we have. The classes she teaches include AP Literature, AP Language 11 and English 11.

Mrs. Rob attended Black Rock High School. She received her B.A. from Harding

University, and her M. Ed from Texas Wesleyan University.

She previously taught at Black Rock for 30 years.

Mrs. Rob enjoys reading and Ranger riding. Her words of advice include "Be a non-conformist, and do not rely on others for things that are your own responsibility."

Her philosophy about teaching is "Teachers show students where to look but not what to see." She is married to Alan Robinson and is looking forward to her retirement someday.



Food – Country cooking
 T.V Shows – *NCIS* and *Yellowstone*
 Authors – Lisa Wingate, Kristin Hannah
 Store – Cato
 Restaurant – Colton's
 BFF – Alan Robinson
 Quote – "A book is a dream you hold in your hands." – Neil Gaiman

Bobcat Bio: Noel Deason

By Jacob Slankard

Class - Freshman

BFFs – Blade Fisher, Cole Ball, Zach Cox, Jasmine Cox, Koltin Lewis, Bryce Davis, Kaden Davis, Jacob Slankard, James Davidson, Justin Pegler, Kreccia Jones

Favorite Teacher/Class – Mrs. Shelby/Math

Relationship Status – Single

Last Binge Watch – *Avatar*, *The Last Air Bender*

Favorite Meme – Jeffy

Tech Addiction – Minecraft and Facebook

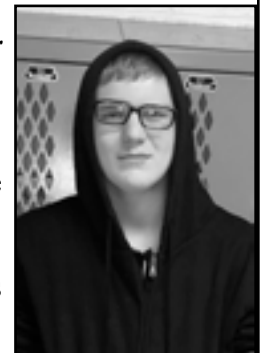
Last person you texted – Mom

Worst Habit – Asking my parents to drive me

every day knowing I can drive myself

Last Meal – Pizza, Ranch and jalapenos

Freshman Flop – "So far, I've taken a few Fs because I didn't want to do (the work)."



Seniors of 2020 Take the Field for their Last Game

By Olivia Ford

The Walnut Ridge Bobcat football team is led by 13 seniors. These seniors include Jonathan Alba, Eli Biggers, Andrew Brewer, Daveon Fisher, Nash Gill, Tristin Hart, Isaiah Mabry, Andres Marin, Grady Privett, Austin Rushing, Thomas Smith, Brycen Thomas, and Jace Turner.

Jonathan Alba, a defensive tackle for the Bobcats, has played football for six years. To pump him up before a game, he listens to Leave 'Em with Nothing by Emanuel Vo Williams. Alba's favorite post-game meal is surf and turf. His favorite football memory is seeing Coach Blake running down the sideline with Cole on the game winning touchdown against Salem.

Eli Biggers, a safety/outside linebacker for the Bobcats, has played football for six years. Before games, Eli listens to Ballin'; and after games, he chows down on granola bars. His favorite football memory is when Nick hit Nathan Brown with an extra point.

Andrew Brewer, a quarterback/cornerback/wide receiver for the Bobcats, has played football for eight years. Andrew's favorite pre-game song is Slime Belief. His memory made while playing football is when the Bobcats defeated Piggott on homecoming by 1 point.

Daveon Fisher, an outside linebacker/defensive end/defensive tackle for the Bobcats, has played football for eight years. To pump him up before a game, he listens to Back On. After a game, he enjoys eating "anything that ain't spicy." Daveon's favorite football memory was made when he got his first interception playing pee-wee.

Nash Gill, a middle linebacker/quarterback for the Bobcats, has played football for eight years. Nash's favorite pre-game song is Time Marches On, while his favorite post-game meal is McDonald's. His favorite football memory is when he watched Coach Ward run "the fastest I've ever seen" when lightning struck the ground in eighth grade.

Tristin Hart, a safety/wide receiver for the Bobcats, has played football for eight years. To pump him up before a game, he listens to Slime Belief. After a game, he enjoys



fries from McDonald's as his post-game meal. Tristin's favorite football memory took place when he watched Coach Blake run routes, then almost pass out when he came back.

Isaiah Mabry, a wide receiver/defensive back for the Bobcats, has played football for seven years. His favorite pre-game song is Dreams and Nightmares by Meek Mill. After a game, Isaiah's favorite meal is a Subway sandwich.

Andres Marin is a kicker for the Bobcats. While he has played football for only two months, he played soccer in high school back home in Colombia. His favorite pre-game song is Calle 13, and his favorite post-game meal is pizza. His favorite football memories are the first games in which he had not missed any field goals.

Grady Privett, a left guard for the Bobcats, has played football for five years. To get him ready for a game, he listens to Don't Give Us a Reason. His favorite post-game meal is McDonald's chicken nuggets. Grady's favorite football memory is when the team beat Piggott by 1 point last season.

Austin Rushing, a defensive tackle for the Bobcats, has played football for 10 years. His favorite pre-game song is Popout. After a game, Austin enjoys eating a Hot n' Spicy McChicken from McDonald's with Davion. Austin's favorite

memories involving football all revolve around the pre-game hype.

Thomas Smith, a wide receiver/outside linebacker for the Bobcats, has played football for eight years. His favorite pre-game song is Drip too Hard and his favorite post-game meal is Sonic. Thomas's most cherished football memory is when the team made the second round of playoffs his junior year.

Brycen Thomas, an inside linebacker/outside linebacker for the Bobcats, has played football for eight years. His favorite pre-game song is We are the Champions, while his favorite post-game meal is pizza. Brycen's favorite football memory is when the Bobcats defeated Corning.

Jace Turner, a defense tackle-slot for the Bobcats, has played football for eight years. His favorite pre-game song is Slime Belief, and after a game he will be at Main Street Pizza enjoying his favorite post-game meal. Jace's favorite football memory is when Coach Ward ran a 4.2 to the field house when lightning struck during practice.

Mystery Students;
Chloe Bounds and Eli Biggers