

The Cat's Dispatch

Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
Lawrence County School District
www.bobcats.k12.ar.us

May 17, 2023

Vol. 47 Issue No. 7

~ Walnut Ridge High School supplement to The Times Dispatch since 1976 ~

WRHS Celebrates the Class of 2023



Kinley Davis



Braden Deese



Kai Fisher



Rylie Archer



Cameron Buys



Carissa Caldwell



Hunter Colvey



Ty Cook



Ayden George



Maddox Jean



Melanie Jones



Lily Lewis



Abigail Lillard



Deron Raney



Alexis Riggs



Caitlyn Sheets



Clinton Simpson



Walker Ward



Alyson Woodard

Davis and Deese Named Co-Valedictorians Fisher is Salutatorian By Bre Tate

Honor Grads have gone above and beyond to make it on the front page of this paper.

Walnut Ridge High School proudly announces the top graduates of the Class of 2023. Kinley Davis and Braden Deese are Co-Valedictorians while Kai Fisher is Salutatorian.

WRHS honor grads consist of 19 students with GPAs of 3.5 or higher who have met other specific requirements.

Graduation was held Monday, May 15 at the Terry Belcher Gymnasium.

Baccalaureate, which is a prayer service honoring graduates, was Sunday, May 14 at Manley Chapel on the campus of Williams Baptist University.

Congratulations to the Bobcats, Class of 2023

Saying Goodbye after 28 years

By Summer Wilson

Chris Harper has taught high school for 28 years. For the first 19 years, he taught at Black Rock then, when it sadly shut down, he switched over to Walnut Ridge.

Harper attended ASU. While going through college, he had no idea what career he wanted to pursue. One of his friends had asked him about the education program; not knowing it would lead to a long-term career, it was the path he chose where he flourished.

Harper teaches Spanish 1, Spanish 2 and 11th grade U.S. History. Since 1990, Harper has been married to his wife, Sarah, and they have had three kids together. Last year, Mr. Harper was named WRHS Teacher of the Year and the 2023 Bobcat yearbook was dedicated to him.

He hopes he has made a big impact on students' lives. After all the long speeches, Mr. Harper has really made an impact on students' lives.

He did his student teaching at WRHS the semester before being hired at Black Rock. So, retiring from WRHS seems that he has come full circle.

His plans are to continue his side-hustle, Harper Drain Cleaning, which he has operated after school hours for several years, and to spend time with his family.

Harper considers himself blessed by being allowed to work with so many wonderful teachers and to teach amazing students. With everything said, Mr. Harper will be greatly missed.



Mystery Students

By Bre Tate

*She stands a head and a half above the rest
Even tippy-toed, he's still short, at best.*

*He would rather fish,
while she would rather read.*

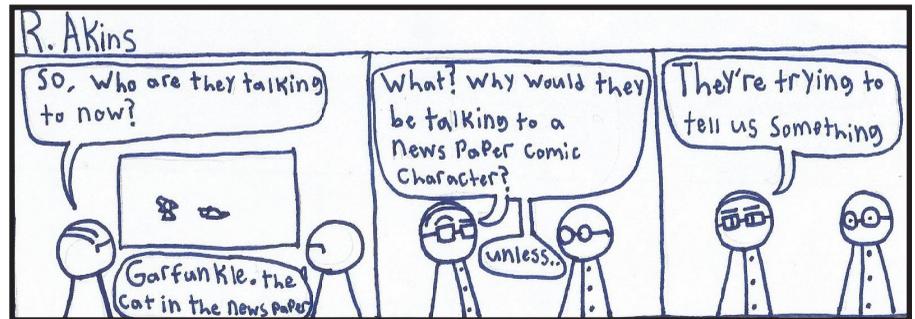
*She works at a vet clinic,
he works at Polar Freeze.*

*He's #2 on the football field,
she's #23 on the volleyball court.*

Disclaimer:

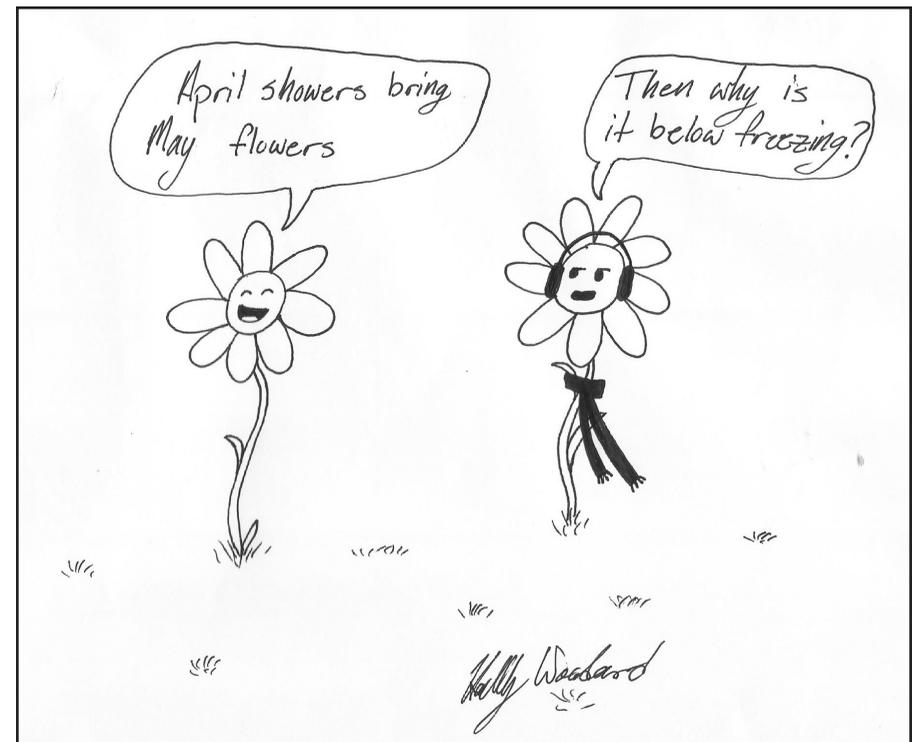
The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors named, and are not necessarily those of The Cat's Dispatch, Walnut Ridge High School or any other students/employees. While we try to ensure that the information we provide is correct, we are a student newspaper, mistakes do occur and we cannot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



May 24th
Last Day of
School

ACT Help Sessions
May 30 - June 9
36 Hours of Instruction
8:00 - Noon Daily



Cat's Dispatch Staff

Co-Editors - Summer Wilson, Bre Tate and Kaitlyn Milgrim

Sports Editor - Karlee Brewer

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

It's Been a Crazy Ride

By Baliee Witt

High school has been the craziest ride I ever imagined. Although I've probably had more bad moments than good, the good ones definitely outweighed the bad.

From stressing over journals and essays to waiting for Friday night football games, senior year has been the most straining, but the most rewarding year of all.

If I could change anything about high school, I'd put in more effort, and not procrastinate as much. Too often, I put things off until the last second and stressed myself out.

I spent most of high school just doing the bare minimum to pass, and I really regret it. Although I made it - I'm at the end of the line - it was a rocky road, and I almost didn't.

My advice to underclassmen is, "Keep up with your work, don't procrastinate, do all the extra credit and bonus you can, and come to school!"

It is not as difficult as it seems, usually it is just a lot of work at once, but if you keep up with it and complete it on time, it'll be okay. You can get through it.

As much as I hated school, I am really going to miss this place. It's my other home - this is all I've ever known. The only people I've ever known. It's bittersweet.

I'm excited to graduate, but I'm leaving behind all I've ever known. So, as the year comes to an end, I wish my whole class the best..

Letting the Memories Go

By Maggie Porter

Today is my very last day at Walnut Ridge High School. Over the past 12 years I have learned many things, but I am looking forward to learning more things as I start college.

I am going for a degree in cosmetology, my dream since I was a little girl. I have always loved doing hair and makeup on myself and others. I am very excited to graduate and move on with my life, though I am scared.

I have to get used to paying my own bills, getting my license, paying insurance, and other things that I've never had to worry about before. I am going to have lots of trouble leaving my younger friends that are still in high school.

I will be staying in Walnut Ridge while I go through my college years, so I will still be able to see them. Thinking about not having to wake up early to go to school, not going to football games anymore, or even not seeing my favorite teachers everyday will take a lot of getting used to.

It's also going to be hard to see everyone posting winter ball, prom, homecoming and things like that knowing that I won't have another chance to do those things. My years here at Walnut Ridge have been amazing and I am so glad I got to be a part of the 2023 seniors. I am looking forward to my future and where it takes me.

Peace Out, Girl Scout

By Carissa Caldwell

"It's been real; it's been fun, but it hasn't been real fun"- Stacy Rice. I often think of this quote, made about ten minutes ago, when reflecting upon my four years of high school. Whether you find a way to enjoy it or not, high school is a huge part of your life. From 14-18, you spend your teenage years in a building with a few hundred other teenagers, all in the same boat.

These years are crucial in how you develop as a person, so choose your friends and who you hang out with carefully. Everything that you do has an impact on your growth. Be mindful, but be sure to have fun as well.

As an underclassman, I was very much a people pleaser. I did almost any favor that was asked of me because I wanted to be liked, and I thought that would make me happy. Entering junior year, I realized I could simply say no to people, and it wasn't that big of a deal. Everyone puts themselves first, so do the same. Be real and do you. To an extent, of course.

You will have fake friends, people who integrate themselves into your friend group and then try to be you. You will have those who are out to get you - even if you do not know their names, but you will also meet some amazing people. And if even that fails, there are some pretty excellent teachers to talk to. Shoutout to you, Mrs. Rob. Thank you for being a real one.

My advice to those still in high school as I am graduating, is "Do you, but be respectful about it." While you're looking out for yourself, remember that everyone else is trying to do the same. Don't interrupt anyone else's peace and protect your own. Everyone wins.

High school is an experience that unfortunately everyone has in common. It's up to you to be sure you have a good experience. As much as I love to be a hater, I wish everyone the best. Make high school count and have fun as a teenager while you can.

PS, definitely take journalism if you can. Even if you don't like writing, that's only about five percent of what you do. It's very informative, and you make friends with people you wouldn't expect to.

Final Goodbye

By Madison Wade

As the school year comes to a close, so does my stay at WRHS. It's been a good run for me, but now it's my turn to say goodbye.

For all the people I've met throughout the year; it's been a nice one. To all the freshmen I adopted, I wish the best for all of you sweet souls.

I'm not sad at all about leaving, but the memories I've made here will linger in my mind until I choose to forget them. It's been such a lovely four years wasted on stressing over something I couldn't control, so I'm more than joyous to finally feel relieved of not having to wake up at 8 a.m. every day to do the same thing over and over again.

To everyone I love, I wish you as much happiness as I feel to be out of school until I have to walk across the stage. Good luck to everyone else, I won't be coming back

Thanks for the Memories

By Madison Jones

Looking back at high school, I made a lot of mistakes. I did not put as much effort into my schoolwork as I should have. I spent too much time on drama. My biggest regret was not living up to the expectations that everyone had for me. I could have done a lot of things better.

I also know that I did a lot of things the right way. I made people laugh and smile. I was nice to everyone. I was always there for people who needed me, even if I knew they wouldn't be there for me.

I was a good person. No one can ever take that away from me. The good memories severely outweigh the bad ones, and to me, that is a win.

Part of me wants to run out of those smudged glass doors of the gym as soon as they hand me that diploma. I want to move away from this town and never look back.

Another part of me wants to stay locked in the band room for the rest of eternity. I want to skip class to talk to Mrs. Rice one last time. I want to eat lunch in the gym, scream at another pep rally, dress up for homecoming, play in another basketball game, conduct my band on the football field, or even just walk into the doors of Walnut Ridge High School one last time.

Part of me doesn't ever want to leave this small little town. Thank you, Walnut Ridge, for all of the memories and experiences you have given me in the last 13 years.

As much as I love to hate on Walnut Ridge and all the people here, I will forever think of this place as my home, and I would not want it any other way.

No matter where I end up in life, and no matter what the future has in store for me, I truly believe that my heart will forever bleed orange and white.

Never Thought I Would Miss This

By Karlee Brewer

As my senior year is coming to end, I realize the more the days pass by the more I will miss school.

Many people have this discussion whether they will miss school.

My whole life I thought about graduation and about how much I want school to be over - not realizing how fast it really does go.

Now that the end is here I'm so scared to leave school and really grow up.

I don't want to leave my family and friends and if I had it my way, I would go back to freshman year and do so many things differently.

I will miss school and that's something that most kids won't say.

Being in an environment for so long with the same people your whole life - leaving that behind, will forever be scary.

Saying Goodbye a Year Early

By Summer Wilson



Alexus Faith Riggs, also known as Alley, was born on October 19, 2005. Alley's mom's name is Kelly Riggs and she has two sisters, Rhoni Riggs, 18, and Amelia Arellano, 32. Alley also has a brother, Wink Hackworth, age 30.

Alley's best friend is her sister Rhoni. She is in Trio, Science Club and National Honor Society. She has a cat named Atlas.

Alley has attended Walnut Ridge since she was in the 6th grade. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Linda because "she is such a great teacher. She is kind and she really cares about students." Her most memorable days in high school were in Mrs. Linda's class.

The one thing she cannot live without is a Red Bull or coffee from The Busy Bean. In the mornings, she will go to The Busy Bean even if the line is long and she ends up being late for school. Alley wants underclassmen to know that "Don't stress about it and have fun."

She is most proud of graduating high school with honors a year early. Her biggest fear coming into high school was having to take Doc's class. She is not really stressed after leaving high school, she is only relieved. If she could do something over in high school, she wouldn't have taken psychology through BRTC.

One of her biggest pet peeves is having to repeat herself. She has worked at Hays in Walnut Ridges for a year and a half. After high school, Alley plans on taking a year off and looks forward to enjoying her freedom.

The hardest thing she did throughout high school was taking Intro to Psychology through BRTC. Alley's role model is her mom because she always sees the good in people. An unpopular opinion of Alley's is that Harry Styles is not cute.

Alley's Favorites:

App – Facebook
 Drink – Gummy Worm Red Bull
 Singer – Zach Bryan or Taylor Swift
 T.V. Show – *Supernatural*
 Food – Mexican
 Entertainer – Dylan O'Brien
 Toxic Trait – Obsessive

The Adventures of Alex

By Holly Woodard

Alexander Owen Prestidge, a.k.a. Alex, has attended Walnut Ridge for nine years. He was born July 10, 2005, to Adam and Amanda Prestidge of Black Rock; he has an older brother Andrew, 19, along with his dog, Oreo. His best friends include Xander Crum, Caitlyn Sheets, Cam Buys and Ethan Augustine.

Alex's favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob because she helped him pass his English class. His best excuse for being late to class is sleeping. His advice for underclassmen is "do your homework" and he is most proud of the Bobcats finishing as runners-up in the NEA Tournament.

His biggest fear going into high school was homework. Alex's biggest pet peeve is freshmen. He will miss basketball most after high school. He is also involved in FFA and Key Club. What causes him the most anxiety upon leaving high school is the thought of starting college at BRTC.

Alex's Favorites:

App – TikTok
 Pizza Topping – Pepperoni
 Movie – *Talladega Nights*
 Class – Agriculture
 Drink – Root beer
 Holiday – Christmas
 Food – Chicken
 Restaurant – TexasRoadhouse
 Ice Cream – Cookie Dough



One thing Alex could not live without is Mexican food. When not in school, he likes fishing, hunting, and working on cars. He also works at Hays.

After graduation, he is looking forward to sleeping in and hanging out with friends.

Emily Wouldn't Change a Thing

By Summer Wilson

Emily Maire Strickland is a senior of WRHS. Born on January 24, 2005; she is 18 years old. Her parents are Tom and Amber Strickland and her siblings include: Thomas, 19, Abby, 16 and Anthony, 14.

Emily has a cat, a dog and two guinea pigs. She has attended Walnut Ridge for the last four years.

Emily's advice for underclassmen is "Never stop trying to do your best." After graduation, she will miss being with her friends and getting to hang out with them.

The hardest thing she ever had to do was grow up. She plans on living with her aunt in Tennessee after graduation.

Outside of school, she enjoys playing basketball. When asked if she would change anything about high school, she said she wouldn't change a thing.



Doc isn't Scary – Rob is!!

By Bailly Rorex

Ashton Brock Davis was born December 13, 2004, to Shane and Beth Davis of Walnut Ridge. His older sister, Baylee, also graduated from WRHS. He has attended Walnut Ridge for 10 years. He is involved with band, ag and National Honor Society.

Ashton's best friends are Jacob McQuay, Quinn Carson, Hunter Henry and Ayden George. His most memorable and most embarrassing moment was when he hit

Mrs. Holland's car leaving school.

Out of everything in high school, he will miss band the most. His favorite teacher is Mr. Long, because "he is a good teacher and cares about his work."

His only concern when entering high school was "Doc!" His advice for underclassmen is that "Doc isn't scary -- Rob is."

Now, as he moves on, his anxiety is caused by not knowing what the future holds. If he could start high school again, he would be less worried about everything.

His phone is the one thing he can't live without and people who interrupt him are his biggest pet peeve. Ashton's unpopular opinion is "Country music is bad!"

After graduation, he looks forward to not having to come to school. Although he doesn't plan on attending college, he considers his grandpa, who he describes as "a hard worker," to look up to and guide him through adulthood.

Ashton's Favorites:

Movie – *Spiderverse*
 Class – Band
 Drink – Dr. Pepper
 Band – Tenacious D
 Singer – Jack Black
 T.V. Show – *Breaking Bad*
 Random Fact – "Sharks can't drive."
 Song – *Freebird*



Emily's Favorites:

Movie – *Fantastical Beasts and Where to Find Them*
 Class – Art
 Drink – Dr. Pepper
 Holiday – Christmas
 Book – *Empire of Storms*
 Food – Chinese
 Restaurant - Chinese
 Ice Cream – Butterscotch

Welding his Way through College

By Carrisa Caldwell

Payton Wayne Ditto was born December 19, 2004 and is 18 years old. His parents are Ginger Atkinson and Chris Ditto. He has two siblings: Remi, age six, and Elizabeth, age three. Payton also has a dog named Birdie.

Payton's best friends are Elizabeth Hill, Jack Cain, Hunter Colvey and Xander Crum. He has attended Walnut Ridge since the fourth grade, and his favorite teacher is Mr. Rice, because he helped him with his career path. Payton's most memorable moment in school was Junior Prom.

Some advice that Payton has for underclassmen is that college is not for everybody, and "Show up to school." His best excuse for being late to class is that he was in the field house.

His proudest accomplishment so far has been getting a welding scholarship. After graduation he will miss football the most.

Payton cannot live without his phone and his biggest pet peeve is obnoxious people. His biggest fear going into high school was the seniors. His biggest fear leaving high school is moving six hours away by himself, but he is looking forward to attending welding school.

Payton's unpopular opinion is that school is overrated and the hardest thing he ever had to do was pass Mrs. Rob's class.



Payton's Favorites:

App – TikTok
 Movie – Air Bud
 Singer – Koe Wetzell
 Holiday – Christmas
 Food – Steak
 Song – *Straight and Narrow*
 Ice cream – Mint Chocolate Chip
 Show – *Meat Eater*

Luke's Last Shot

By Baliee Witt

Luke Anthony Gill, aka "Rooster," was born April 14, 2005 to Gary Gill and Holly Gill. He is an only child with one cat and three dogs. His best friends are Caden Murphy and Trenton Ditto. He has attended Walnut Ridge since pre-school, and his favorite teacher is Mr. Rice.

His most memorable moments in high school were throwing ketchup packets. Luke's advice to underclassmen is "enjoy it while it lasts."

His best excuse for being late to school was he was on the tractor. The accomplishment he is most proud of is getting his truck. One thing Luke can't live without is John Deere tractors.

Luke's biggest pet peeve is people stealing his joke. The one thing he will miss most about high school is losing his excuse to get out of work.

He works at Gary Gill's Farm and one thing he would change about his high school experience is he would've "Gone about my classes differently."

Going into high school, his biggest fear was failing, while now his anxiety is caused by the fear of knowing he will be working for the rest of his life.



Luke's Favorites:

App – YouTube
 Pizza Topping – Pineapple
 Class – Agri
 Drink – Tea
 Singer – Morgan Wallen
 Holiday – Thanksgiving
 T.V Show – *South Park*
 Restaurant – Dixie Cafe

Brooke's Last Hoorah

By Madison Wade

Brooke Brown was born on April 17, 2005. Her parents are Jennifer Archer and Tommy Brown. She has two siblings, Rylie Archer and Sean Brown and she has attended WR for 12 years now. Brooke's favorite teacher is Mrs. Schelley Davis.

Her advice to underclassmen is "take as many classes as you can before your senior year to make it as easy as possible." Brooke is most proud of making good grades and her best excuse for being late was that she was "taking a test for another teacher."

Brooke couldn't live without her phone and her biggest pet peeve is being ignored. She is involved with Key Club.

Brooke's biggest fear going into high school was finding her classes; the thing that gives her anxiety after high school is going to college. Brooke's looking forward to moving out of state after graduation and becoming a therapist.



Brooke's Favorites:

App – Tiktok
 Holiday – Halloween
 Restaurant – Fuji's
 Ice Cream – Vanilla
 Drink – Dr. Pepper
 Pizza Topping – Cheese

Senior Picnic

7 The Cat's Dispatch, Walnut Ridge High School, May 17, 2023



Senior Wills

I, Jack Cain, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave to River Hancock, the pleasure of having blocky himself (IYKYK); to Jared Carpenter, my parking spot when he obtains a vehicle; to River Davis, Cash Baker and Anthony Hughes: my football number -- y'all can hash that out; to Zane Roberts the ability to obtain my high school Mojo and to Matt Bethany my peaceful mindset, so he will chill out – maybe!!!!

I, Kim Carter-Walton, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave the fact I can manage to be tardy without getting a tardy to Jared Carpenter; to Coben Bagwell, I leave the ability to go from happy to sad to morbid to elated to mad all within five minutes; to Sebrina Hillis, I leave my talent of putting up with and shutting up random 9th graders; to Victoria Bennett, I leave the ability to only be understood when yelling because my regular voice is too soft and to Hunter Loggins, I leave my sarcasm and eye-roll, but he must cut his bangs first.

I, Ty Cook, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave my lunch spot to Matthew VanBrook; my Choir Council Historian position to Kayley Slagley; my love of teasing Nick Weber to Sabrina Hillis and Cristal Hill (just about his piano playing, of course!); I leave to Nick Weber my amazing 'stopping the track' skills; I leave Mrs. Rob with so much thankfulness for reminding me to keep my head up; I leave my kindness sprinkled upon the staff of WRHS forever. With love, - Ty <3

I, Deron Raney, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave my wrestling skills to Mr. Kyle Slusser to carry on my legacy until he graduates.

I, Kinley Davis, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave to Avery Anderson, Maddie Burris, Michelle Moore, Mallie Jean, Karlee Broadway, Jady Clark, Baily Rorex and Alli Bramlett the best volleyball season yet; to Taylor Forrester the best senior year imaginable; to Alli Bramlett, I leave the title of 'valedictorian'; I leave Alli peaceful lunches; I leave to Andi Claire a school where she can grow her own reputation; to Mrs. Lindy, I leave Carrie Denton to set on her adventures; to Cash Baker, I leave my biggest wishes for your accomplishments; to the Alleycats I leave my love and thanks for always being a group of girls that I can rely on; to Mrs. Rob, I leave all the memories and the biggest 'thank you' for always believing in me. I could not have gotten through my junior or senior years without her; and lastly, I leave to Walnut Ridge High School my faith to continue to evolve and improve.

I, Maggie Porter, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave to Isabelle Smith, the ability to be a teacher's pest and them still love you.

I, Madison Jones, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave Bre Gibson the first seat on the basketball bench; to Avery Anderson the ability to keep Mr. Long and the band in line; to Maddie Burris the spot of best shooter on the basketball team; Michelle Moore as Coach Moore's favorite; to Baily Rorex my position as best writer in journalism; to Dawson Ward the first saxophone position; to Mr. Long, the ability to remember to have fun during stressful practices and to Mrs. Rice, the ability to function with me gone.

I, Ethan Augustine, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave my sanity to Arianna Morgan and I will be passing the title "Augustine" to Trevor.

I, Daphne Ward, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave Bre Gibson to be the best first trumpet and to Avery Anderson the ability to be Mrs. Rob's favorite.

I, Michelle Hays, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave to Hayden Brandon my last few brain cells and common sense; to Hayley Maleswki, the strength to get through football season; Samantha Diehm the weight of carrying choir and to Matthew VanBrook, being Mr. Weber's student aide slave.

I, Karlee Brewer, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave to Bre Gibson the ability to turn in the last story for publication and still pass journalism.

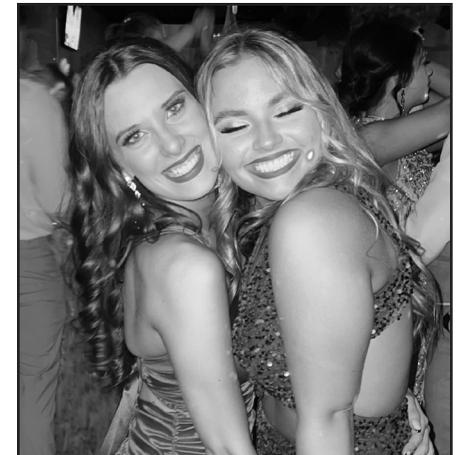
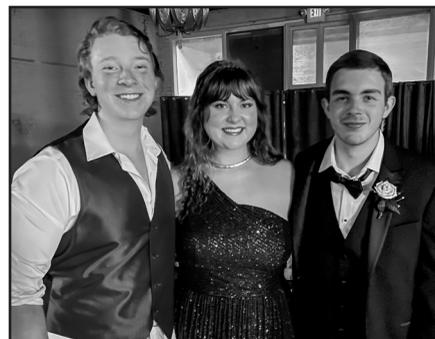
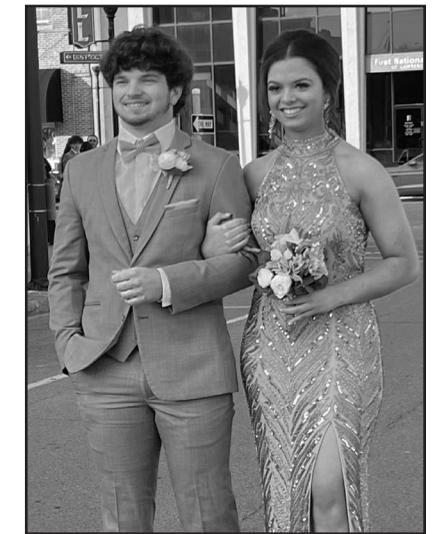
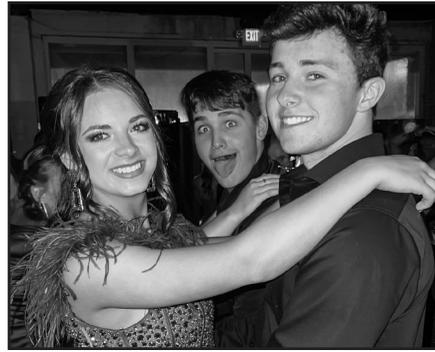
I, Kai Fisher, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave to Dawson Ward, the ability to make it through his senior year without backing into anyone's vehicle in the school parking lot.

I, Melanie Jones, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave the aux privileges to The Madelyn Burris for all of the volleyball games; I leave the very special #11 to Mallie Jean who will continue the sticks legacy; to Emma Aaron, I leave to you all of the dollar bills that we took pre-season pictures with; and to Mrs. Rob, I leave you with the pleasure of constantly scanning papers for plagiarism; to Mrs. Mary, I leave you with Taylor Forrester and Maggie Brinsfield to be your new errand volunteers and to my dear Kinley Fisher, I leave you the honor of continuing my legacy as the best post-player that coach Middlebrooks has ever seen. Just kidding, but you can wear #33.

I, Caitlyn Sheets, being of sound mind and body, do hereby leave Bre Tate our seat in Agri all to yourself, though you won't like that very much; I also leave being the perfect student for Joey Rice; to Makenzie Milton I leave my locker; to Emma Aaron I leave being Mrs. Rob's favorite student.

Prom 2023

9 The Cat's Dispatch, Walnut Ridge High School, May 17, 2023



What are you Looking Forward to this Summer?

By Summer Wilson

Bre Tate – Being tan
Kaitlyn Milgrim – Camping
Emma Yarbo – The lake
Lydia Sheets – Not having school
Quinn Carson – Leaving school
Zak Highfill – Working
Emma Aaron – Freedom from playing sports
Kaden Martin – Going to the lake
Cristal Hill – Sleeping in
Alaynia Moore – Tanning
Baliee Witt – Being with her boyfriend
Bo Kersey – Going on trips with friends

What's the High School Moment you Wish you could Relive?

By Breanna Gibson

Caitlyn Sheets – Basketball homecoming this year, I loved every moment of it.
Shania Martin – Band competitions
Daphne Ward – This year, at one of the band competitions, when all of the bands (including us) danced to YMCA, did the wave, and did flashlight effects together while waiting for results.
Braden Deese – I wish I could relive the sendoff and game for the 2021 baseball state championship.
Alyson Woodard: Senior prank night because there were no arguments, and we could all hang out as friends.
Lily Luster – The senior prank night when everyone was getting along.
Deron Raney – The football season
Danielle Wilson – Prom
Madison Jones – My last football homecoming

He Said She Said

By Emily Jones

“He takes my toys all the time” – Daphne Ward
“Quinn’s the dad” – Madison Jones
“I heard huge chicken” – Bo Kersey
“I’m not sexist I just hate women” – Quinn Carson
“Something bad happens every time you cut your hair” – Daphne Ward
“Granny’s getting ready for the apocalypse” – Jarrod Fultner
“Well, you need to branch out, girly pop” – Antonio Romero
“What if toilets had bathrooms?” – Jodie Fultner
“I had a fly caught in my leg hair” – Quinn Carson
“You’re like a squirrel on meth up there” – Mr. Harper
“I got an armpit if you want something warmed up” – Mr. Haynes

What Class Taught you the Most?

By Cristal Hill

Brooke Brown - Rob's English
Hunter Colvey - Rob's English
Amelia Guthrie - Mrs. Mary's (all classes)
Bailee Witt - Mr. Haynes, Algebra
Ashlie Burgess – Rob's English
Paige Hall - Rob's English
Madison Jones - Mrs. Rice, Journalism
Caitlyn Sheets - Mr. Rice, Agriculture
Abby Lillard - Mrs. Linda ,AP Government
Lilly Luster - Mr. Long, Band
Ty Cook - Nick Weber, Choir
Karlee Brewer - Rob's English

Which Senior will you Miss the Most?

By Summer Wilson

Lydia Sheets – Carissa Caldwell
Braden Feezor – Alley Riggs
Zak Highfill – Jack Cain or Hunter Colvey
Onyx Sullens – Jaden Blaylock
Allyson Colvey – Hunter Colvey
Emma Aaron – Ethan McGinty
Matt VanBrook – Carissa Caldwell
Mallie Jean – Kinley Davis
Kaitlyn Milgrim – Bailee Witt
Bre Tate – Caitlyn Sheets
Gunner Thielemier – Logan Sain
Bo Kersey – None

Seniors, What's your Advice for Upcoming Freshmen?

By Cristal Hill

Caitlyn Sheets – Don't wish high school away. It may suck at times but once you're out of school you will wish you were back to being a freshman. Also be positive about everything, try to smile and bring joy to those who surround you. You never know who may need it.
Shania Martin – Do your journals
Daphne Ward – High school is fun unless you fail Doc's or Mrs. Rob's classes.
Braden Deese – I would advise freshman students to take there GPA seriously, Work hard in class and make sure to do your work.
Alyson Woodard – Do your journals everyday do not wait until the last minute.
Lily Luster – Do your CK12's for Doc, they are no joke.
Deron Raney – Do your Journals for Mrs. Rob.
Danielle Wilson – Do good in school and stay out of fights and be nice to the teachers.
Madison Jones – Do your work.

Bobcat Bio: Paige Hall

By Dakota Riggs

Class - Senior
 Favorite Teacher – Rob
 Relationship Status – Single
 Pet Peeve – Small noises in a quiet room
 Last Binge Watch – *Yellow Jackets*
 Most Awkward Moment – Forgetting Speech at a pageant
 Toxic Trait – Being quiet
 Last Person Texted – Her Mom
 Worst Habit – Nail biting
 Favorite Fast Food – Slim Chickens
 Last Meal Choice – Roast
 Freshman Flop – Locked her locker code in her locker



Bobcat Bio: Elizabeth Hill-Lott

By Dakota Riggs

Grade - Smior
 Clubs – Trap and FFA
 BFFs – Paige Hall, Ashlie Burgess, Bailee Witt, Amelia Guthrie, Nathan Blair, Caitlyn Sheets, Bre Tate, Payton Ditto
 Favorite teacher, Class – Mr. Price, Criminal Justice
 Relationship Status – Taken
 Pet Peeve – People Blocking Paths
 Last Binge Watch – Fuller House
 Toxic Trait – Walking Red Flag
 Favorite Sonic Order – Popcorn Chicken with gravy and a Cherry Limeade
 Random Fact – Huge Harry Potter Fan
 Last Person Texted – Amelia Guthrie
 Worst Habit – Biting Nails
 Favorite Fast Food – Taco Bell
 Last Meal Choice – Pasta with loads of garlic bread
 Freshman Flop – Cut her hair short



Bobcat Bio: M Htay

By Kaitlyn Milgrim

Class – Freshman
 BFF – Hunter Loggins
 Favorite teacher – Mrs. Rice
 Relationship status – Taken
 Pet peeve – My girlfriend
 Most awkward moment – Saying “I love you” to Ms. Paskel on accident
 Toxic trait – Being mean
 Favorite Sonic order – Ocean water slush
 Last person you texted – Hunter Loggins
 Worst habit – Not listening
 Favorite fast food - Popeye's
 What would you choose as your last meal – Steak



Bobcat Bio: Lily Luster

By Dakota Riggs

Class – Senior
 Clubs – Key Club, Science Club, National Honor Society, Book Club, Quiz Bowl
 BFFs – Hannah Beary, Alyson Woodward, Abby Lillard, Madison Blaylock
 Favorite Teacher – Ms. Hallman
 Relationship Status – Single
 Pet Peeve – Smacking
 Last Binge Watch – *Gilmore Girls*
 Most Awkward Moment – Seeing a half-naked man at the Amtrak
 Toxic Trait – Laughing at inappropriate times
 Favorite Sonic Order – Chicken Strip Sandwich with only cheese
 Random Fact – Plays six instruments
 Last person texted – Her Dad
 Favorite Fast Food – Taco Bell
 Last Meal Choice – Hashbrown Casserole



Bobcat Bio: Kaitlyn Milgrim

By Kaitlyn Milgrim

Class – Sophomore
 List your club involvements – Journalism
 Favorite teacher/class – Ms. Paskel/Geometry
 Relationship status – Taken
 Last binge watch – *YOU*
 Toxic trait – Screaming at people
 Favorite Sonic order - Sweet tea and cheese fries
 Random fact about yourself – I’m 4’8
 Last person you texted – My mom
 Favorite fast food – Sonic
 What would you choose as your last meal – Molten Lava Cake



Eyes on The Idaho Murders

By Bo Kersey

On November 12, 2022, at around 9 p.m., Kernodle and Chapin are seen at a party at Chapin's fraternity, Sigma Chi, a short walk from the King Road apartment house where the roommates lived according to investigators. That night, Goncalves uploads pictures to her Instagram account featuring photos of her friends with the caption, "One lucky girl to be surrounded by these people every day." At about 10 p.m., Goncalves and Mogen go to a sports bar in Moscow, the Corner Club.

On Nov. 13 – At about 1:30 a.m., Goncalves and Mogen are seen ordering from a nearby food truck, according to the truck's live stream. The video appears to show two Idaho students hours before they were found killed.

Nov. 16 – Investigators say Kernodle and Chapin return to their three-level house on King Road at about 1:45 a.m., while Goncalves and Mogen take a car ride home, arriving at about 1:56 a.m. Meanwhile, two other housemates who had gone out that night had arrived home before the others, at about 1 a.m., Moscow police say. At 11:58 a.m., a 911 call is placed on the cellphone of one of the other housemates requesting assistance for an "unconscious person." (Both housemates were unharmed.)

Police alert the public about the deaths in a news release and while they say no one is in custody, they do "not believe there is an ongoing community risk based on information gathered during the preliminary investigation."

That same day – With no suspect apprehended, Moscow police walk back previous comments that there was no threat to the largely rural city of almost 26,000 residents. "We do not have a suspect at this time, and that individual is still out there," Moscow Police Chief James Fry says at a news conference. He adds that more than 25 investigators with the Idaho State Police and the FBI are assisting in the case. People place flowers at a memorial in front of a campus entrance sign for the University of Idaho.

Nov. 17 – Preliminary autopsy results show that the four victims were likely attacked with a large knife and died sometime after 2 a.m. from multiple stab wounds, Latah County Coroner Cathy Mabbutt says. She describes their wounds as "pretty extensive."

Nov. 18 – Police say the victims were most likely asleep when they were killed, and some of them had defensive wounds. There was also no sign of sexual assault. Meanwhile, detectives seize the contents of three dumpsters near the home to search for possible evidence, and they contact local businesses to determine if a knife had recently been purchased.

Nov. 30 – A vigil is held at the University of Idaho in honor of the victims, with some family members in attendance. "We're going to get our justice," Steven Goncalves, Kaylee's father, says, adding that his daughter and Mogen had been best friends since the sixth grade, and he had learned that they were in the same bed when they were killed.

(Continue to page 16)

From Spain to the US

By Maria Hermida

Two years ago, I wouldn't have believed that I'd be spending my sophomore year in Arkansas, surrounded by trucks, country music and farms. And, suddenly, I am one month away from my flight back home. The past eight and a half months were some of the most exciting, but hardest years of my life.

Walnut Ridge High School has made me feel like home since the first day. And it has made me feel like I'm part of a movie, too. Tall lockers, football fields, American flags everywhere, cheerleaders and pajama pants are nothing but the proof that *High School Musical* is more than just a TV entertainment.

I saw my parents for the last time before my exchange year on August 3rd, and I can't describe what I felt that day. I wasn't scared; I have never been so sure I wanted to do something as I was back then.

I remember hugging my mom all day long because, somehow, my subconscious knew I would miss her more than I thought I would. Indeed, there has not been a single day that I haven't thought of her, but not always in a sad way: many days, I have wished she were here so we could enjoy together what I felt people didn't appreciate as much as she would.

The biggest challenge I have faced during this year has been the American lifestyle. I come from a big city where having ten minutes of free time is rare, and I also come from a family that loves sharing thoughts, feelings and moments together more than anything else.

I have found this year a totally different way of living: my mobility around the place has been reduced from buses, the metro and wide sidewalks to a few streets in a little town. The ten minutes of free time have suddenly become hours and hours of nothing to do, which is really stressful for someone like me.

Luckily, I have found in school some of the best friends I could ever ask for, that share with me their desire to learn, travel around the world and enjoy the gift we were given when we were born, called life.

Some of them came into my life as soon as I got here, and they have been the best part of this year. My friends have cheered me up when I thought I would not make it through this year, and have distracted me from those who have not made me feel comfortable here. I know this couldn't have been the same without the afternoons and weekends spent with them, and I'll be forever grateful.

In my friends and in this high school I have found a second home I will never let go. I have traveled to many different countries, but now I can say I have been to a different continent.

This year has not been easy at all; sometimes I have found myself wondering if this year has helped me at all. Now, one month away from going back, I have realized that, mostly, it is not in the good but in the bad times when we learn.

I'm not too sure who I want to be (I don't think anyone will ever be able to answer this question), but I know for sure what kind of person I don't want to become. I've learnt what are my limits and my weaknesses. I know what kind of love I want to have in my life and what kind of life I want to live.

(Continued on pg 16)



Senior Prank 2023



These seniors forked the front lawn and the football field

Update: Memphis and More

By Michelle Moore

As students stay wrapped up in studying, sports, and everything said during lunch, it becomes our world. Occasionally, we learn the struggles in our country exist outside of the world we have created.

Students develop into the face of our country, so it is important for us to be aware of the issues instead of remaining sheltered.

So, what is going on in our country to make me want to step outside of my shelter?

Tyre Nichols's case continues after the protests. The five cops have several charges of second-degree murder, aggravated kidnapping, and assault. Some measures have been taken as four police officers are prohibited from being an officer again.

The lieutenant of the Memphis Police Department suddenly retired before he could be questioned about the circumstances and possibly be fired. He could be asked to speak in court, but the only update on the trial is the judge delaying new footage from being released from evidence.

Other than the trial, Memphis officials are working to break this pattern of police brutality.

When students become the face of this country while being educated on the conditions and government, we can ask questions. Not of what should be done, but how do we start taking steps to make our country safe - where we don't need to be sheltered.

Living in The Moment

By Baily Rorex

Taking in my friends smiling faces
 breathing in the fresh breeze
 the smell of blooming flowers and happy memories in the making
 flowing through the wind
 intoxicating the air
 suddenly halting seasonal depression
 today feels like freedom
 like the right to smile
 comfortably bundled up in a warm summer's day
 the light hitting my friend's pale skin
 brightening their dark eyes, the freezer burn melting away into a puddle of the tears that winter had brought
 driving away from responsibility going five over the limit
 freshening the soil for the garden to grow
 fertility has been reborn
 the smiling faces that left so long ago have come out of hibernation
 layers of clothing stripped from iridescent skin
 fashionable choices being confused with a contest between who can wear the least amount of clothing and most amount of denim
 tan lines from tall socks
 Radiohead, Mitski, Phoebe Bridgers, and Billie Eilish swapped for
 The Beatles, Lorde, Elton John and Fleetwood Mac
 is it true that summer has begun?

Ready for the Final Chapter

By Bo Kersey

From walking on the orange line to walking on the graduation stage next May, in a blink of an eye we arise next in line to be WRHS alumni. As we transitioned to high school from middle school, we opened a new chapter in our lives that we were told to not take for granted.

Although we did not get the typical freshman-year experience due to Covid-19, we learned how to adjust to the Zoom meetings, Canvas, and especially got used to taking Doc's tests online, we got through it.

Now here we are, within the countless nights we stayed up at 3 a.m. studying for the chemistry test, doing Rob's journals because you forgot to do them, or just simply thinking about how much junior year sucks, it is ending.

But one lesson I have learned this year is not to fear failure. You will fail, make a bad grade, and feel like you could've done better although you tried your hardest.

Do not let anyone damage you, degrade your mental health, or make you feel miserable. Have confidence, know your worth, and keep your head held high.

Here's to the Class of 2024, as we have made it this far in our lives and are about to start the final chapter.

Who's Who

Who's Who Freshman Style

Photo Credits: Bre Tate and Summer Wilson



Girl Best Friends

Jaylynn Hughes, Piper Dame,
and Ally Watson



Most Likely to Get Into a Fight

Matt Bethany and Sebrina Hillis



Friendliest

Ruthie Bell and Cash Baker



Most Athletic

Candace Morgan and
Jersie Cunningham



Class Clowns

Matt Bethany and Lyla Woods



Most Likely to Marry a Millionaire

Jersie Cunningham and
Irissa Bounds



Most Likely to Go to Space

Jaxton Brady and Calista Robins



Most Likely to Leave WR and Never Come Back

Jayden Ward and Sadie Privett



Most Likely to Take Home to the Family

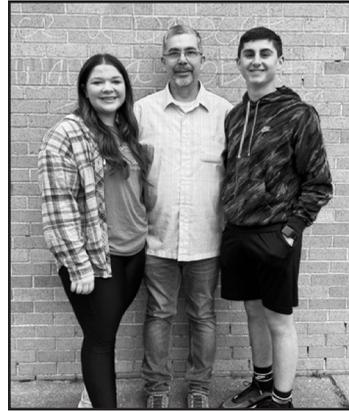
Brogan Tate and Selbi Muradova

Who's Who

15 The Cat's Dispatch, Walnut Ridge High School, May 17, 2023



Most Likely to Make a Teacher Retire
Jay Jensen and Amerikus Gonzales



Teachers' Pets
Sadie Privett and Jaxton Brady



Most Changed Since Elementary School
Jay Jensen and Ally Watson



Teachers' Pest
Holt Gilliam and Amerikus Gonzales



Most Likely to Never be Single
Emerson Callahan and Mary Collins



Most Likely to Win an Argument
Amerikus Gonzales and Emerson Callahan



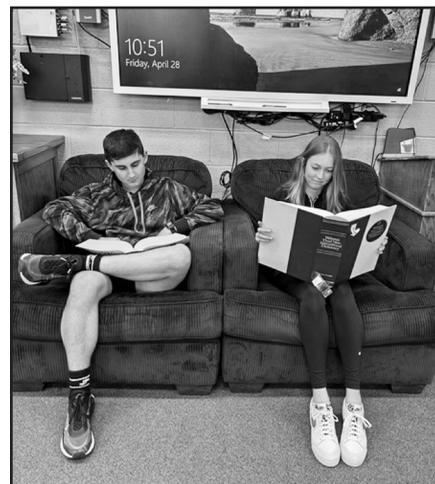
Most Creative
Harmon Haynes and Ashlynn Monroe



Guy Best Friends
Jay Jensen and Easton Richey



Drama King and Queen
Jersie Cunningham and Sadie Privett



Biggest Over-Achievers
Jaxton Brady and Abby Staples



Best Glow up
Easton Richey and Piper Dame



Best Personality
Brogan Tate and Ruthie Bell

Seniors of the Court

By Michelle Moore

The foundation of the volleyball team is built on being a family. We pick each other up and help each other on and off the court.

Seniors Melanie Jones, Kinley Davis, Caitlyn Sheets and Paige Hall led by example and set the expectations of how we should treat each other.

They were the girls the team looked up to - not only for their skill, but their character. If we were struggling in bleachers during practice or trying to not feel discouraged during a game, they could be heard cheering us on and helping us back up. We were encouraged to follow by having the respect and encouragement they gave to us.

We will miss Melanie's random TikTok dances in between reps, Kinley's dramatic, but funny, stories before practices, Caitlyn's sweet nature of treating us like her little sister, and Paige's perfect timing of funny sayings.

They gave character to the team during our dances in the locker room and karaoke times on the bus. I remember when I first moved here, I was scared to be bold and feel like I fit in. The seniors instantly made me feel like I always belonged on the team and could be myself.

I speak for all of the team by saying their importance was leadership and the memories they gave us, which we can carry through our lives long after we are done with volleyball.

Continue Eyes on The Idaho Murders (Continued from pg 12)

On the morning of December 30, 2022, an arrest was made. Bryan Kohberger, 28, of Albrightsville, Pennsylvania, was arrested in the Poconos. Kohberger was charged with four counts of first-degree murder and one count of felony burglary. Kohberger was a Ph.D. student in Criminal Justice... you would think he'd be smarter.

Answers To Mystery Students Hunter Colvey and Caitlyn Sheets



One Last Run

By Michelle Moore



"Go, Maria. Catch us up, Maria!" These are the only words heard by the track team during the 4X800 relay. Maria Monge Hermedia is a tenth-grade foreign exchange student from Spain.

The students see her running more on the side of the road than passing in the halls. Her parents, Beatriz and Juan Monge of Madrid, were blessed with a sweet and energetic soul on January 2, 2007.

She left Spain determined to make the most of her American experience. She learned not every girl wants to be a cheerleader, and not to join basketball ever again; however, she did enjoy becoming close with the other players who made her feel encouraged and included.

Her close friends are Sammie Diehm, Sonja Ramirez, Baily Rorex and Michelle Moore and the girls in Key Club. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes for making her do work. Due to her desire to do well, her unpopular opinion is hard work can be enjoyable.

Her hard work was displayed after qualifying for state track; her biggest accomplishment until her team placed 4th at state. She's always ready to run and cannot live without her hair tie to do so.

She wants other students to remember, "Never say no! Do it! Try it! It's your year and experience crazy things!" Maria points out that her pet peeve is "know-it-alls" and she strongly believes we never stop learning and experiencing life.

In just over a week, on May 29, Maria will return to her family including her mom; who she says is her role model who brings her peace and confidence from her mere presence.

Maria will also be taking the CPE Cambridge English Test for a prestigious certification. She looks forward to seeing her favorite band, Morat, in concert, and hugging her mom for hours. Maria wants to come back later to visit friends. Until then, she will miss and stay in contact with her WR friends.

Continue From Spain to the US (Continued from pg 12)

Finally, I want to ask everyone to consider the idea of traveling to a different country. I have seen here a lot of patriotism, which is totally comprehensible and respectable, but I feel like there is not a lot of knowledge about other cultures of the world that are as great as the American culture.

America is a nice country, but there are many other different places that deserve to be appreciated, and many Americans that deserve to see beyond this country's borders. I promise traveling and opening one's mind doesn't hurt at all. Give it a chance.