

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 ~



A Country Roads Homecoming By Bre Tate

WRHS Homecoming was Friday, October 6. The Student Council hosted a huge homecoming day packed full of activities. We beat Piggott 49-0 with a huge win.

WRHS 2023 football homecoming royalty consisted of Freshman Maid Chloe Witcher, Sophomore Maid Emma Clements, Junior Maid Layla Nunally, our two Senior Maids Taylor Forrester and Hayden Brandon, Maid of Honor Michelle Moore and Queen Rhealyn Schmidt. Rhealyn's pages were Aubrey Crisler and Anson Hufstedler.

Lady Cats Made it to State By Michelle Moore

Sr. High Volleyball finished as co-conference champs, 14-2 season, and first seed in districts. Splitting with both teams, they lost and won to Manila and CRA.

Through adversity, the team faces multiple injuries having their libero, setter, and hitters out a couple of games; however, the team runs deep with each player stepping up and continuing the goals of the season.

See LADY CATS on p. 2



Pumpkin Carving Can be Fun

By Danelle Terblanche

On the 20th of October 2023 the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class had a pumpkin carving day. They had learned about Jack-o'-lanterns and how they originated.

In January 1836, the Dublin Penny Journal published a long story on the legend of the "Jack-o'-Lantern" although this does not mention the lantern being carved from vegetable. In 1837, the Limerick Chronicle referred to a local pub holding a carved gourd competition and presenting a prize to "the best crown of "Jack Mc Lantern."

The term "Mc Lantern" also appears in an 1841 publication of the same paper.



ESOL students include: Valeria Vargas-Albarran, Mrs. Rice, Danelle Terblanche, also sitting on the sign is Niki Gonzalez, under her is Elena Hosseini, Erfan Hosseini, Britzy Gonzalez-Sanchez, Hseh Reh and Mateo Perez.

LADY CATS continued from page 1

They locked in their buy-to state after beating CRA in three sets and finishing the season with no losses.

Maddie Burris reached her thousandth assist in their final home game against Piggott, but not to worry about saying goodbye to their court, 2023 districts were also hosted at Walnut Ridge.

The team lost in five sets to fifth seed Harrisburg, but they were able to still get third seed in state by beating Manila in three sets. The team lost Paris the first round.

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.



Keeping The Promise

By Michelle Moore

The senior high football teams continue to hold their promise of being conference champions. As of right now, they are 3-0 in conference and 6-2 overall losing to top-ranked teams in the state, Salem and Camden Harmony Grove.

After a big win beating Osceola 33-22 on Senior Night, the team needs to beat Manila and Hoxie for first in the conference and to make it to the playoffs.

Two players, Robbie Tate and Jayden Saulsbury have been named Yarnell's *Sweetest Play of the Week*. Enrique Perez is leading in conference with 1006 yards and 11th in the state.

It does not stop with him. Sophomore Jersie Cunningham is third in rushing and interceptions. Tate is sixth in rushing yards, first in scoring, and second in total points for the conference.

On defense, Gunner Thielemier broke 100 tackles against Osceola; he is first in conference and state and 120th nationally.

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

My Ghost Story

By Reagan Loftis

Do you believe in ghosts? Do they exist? Many people don't believe in paranormal entities like ghosts or spirits. Personally, I believe in ghosts, because I have seen one. Here is my ghost story:

A few years ago, I was really sick. My body wasn't making enough blood to support me anymore and I needed to be hospitalized. I stayed in the hospital for a few weeks.

On the last few days, I was there I was having trouble sleeping. I would stay up late, all alone in the dark. I have never been afraid of the dark, let alone in that hospital because that's the safest place to be, right? Well, I was wrong.

I stayed up really late one night watching TikTok. The room was very dark and quiet. I was starting to get a little sleepy, so I decided to turn my phone off and try and get some sleep.

Once I turned my phone off and my eyes adjusted to the dark, I looked over beside me, and saw a very tall man. He was standing directly over me with his hands on the hospital bed. He had on a long trench coat and a top hat. He had no features, just a pitch-black figure.

I quickly jumped under the covers and grabbed my phone. I wanted to call my dad, but I was so scared I couldn't even talk. I have never seen a ghost before.

I kept wondering why I was scared when I have always been fascinated by stories and talks of ghosts. I ended up falling asleep under the blankets.

When I woke up, I asked the nurse about this man standing over my bed. She told me that the way I described this man in a trench coat and top hat, that it sounded like I was describing the founder of the hospital. She said that it wasn't the first time someone has mentioned seeing him in this wing.

After this incident, I believe ghosts are real. One hundred percent. Although I was scared at the time, I am thankful for that encounter. I'm not scared anymore, but I still give my bedroom a quick glance before closing my eyes.

Community Service Now Required

By Skylar Cagle

Community service? Sadly, yes. Starting with the freshmen classes of 2023-2024 Arkansas students need 75 hours of community service to graduate. Several of us are not too happy about it, which is understandable considering we're teenagers who would rather sit on the couch with our phones.

Although I'm not excited about it, it's awesome because it'll teach us teens things we need to know when we become adults.

I do think this is a good experience, especially because kids nowadays are growing up with few responsibilities. Most of the responsibilities we're growing up without are the responsibilities we need most.

The Disappearance of Madeleine McCann

By Danelle Terblanche

Around 10:00 pm on Thursday, May 3, 2007, three-year-old Madeleine McCann vanished without a trace while on vacation with her family in Portugal. Madeleine went missing as her parents, Gerry and Kate, had dinner with friends at a restaurant nearby. It has been 16 years since the little girl seemed to have vanished into thin air and no trace has ever been found.

The mystery of Madeleine's disappearance reverberated around the world over the years as police and other experts followed countless false leads.

Some people even believe that she was murdered by accident as the result of a burglary gone wrong; others accused her parents of being involved in her disappearance.

First senior detective on Madeleine's case Goncalo Amaral believed that she passed away in her family's holiday apartment and that her parents might have covered it up.

According to media reports in 2007, British sniffer dogs reacted to something in the holiday apartment. There were also reports that a potential match for Madeleine's DNA was found in the car Gerry and Kate rented to go out to dinner.

In an interview marking the 13th anniversary of Maddie's disappearance, Gerry and Kate spoke of their hope they would find out what happened to their daughter someday.



Books vs. Movies

By Natalie Jackson

Is watching movies or reading books better? I would much rather read the book than watch the movie. I think that books have way more detail than movies.

Movies usually leave off details of what happens or what would happen. Although you can see the action of the movie, you still do not always get the full picture.

When people like movies better, I think it's because they would much rather see what happens, rather than read about it.

Reading books is better than watching the movie; it's not just my opinion, it's a fact.

Technology is Here to Stay

By Dakota Timms

Some people say that technology is the worst thing possible for this world. Other people would say that it's the best thing for this world. I think it just depends on how you're using it.

For instance, some people can develop and start a new business with technology; others just get on it for Facebook or Snapchat.

Elders say that it's bad staying on our phones all the time; I don't think it's bad. However, I do think we could go back to the old days and go outside a little bit more. You drive through a town today and you won't see anybody outside, but if we didn't have Wi-Fi and phones, I bet more kids would be outside playing with each other.

I think it's dumb to turn our cars into technology and making them electric. I think it's crazy that some fast foods restaurants don't even have a cashier. They just have an electric order screen that you place your order on. I think that technology is a big part of today's world and if you don't know how to use it, then you might be in trouble in this world.

A Phenomenal Fairy Tale

By Hailey Jensen

I just finished reading my first Stephen King book, and I'm happy to say it lived up to the hype. The book is called *Fairy Tale* and was published in 2022. Unlike the books he is known for, *Fairy Tale* is not in the horror genre, although some parts of the story do dabble in slight cosmic horror (think H.P. Lovecraft). As the name suggests, it is instead dark fantasy, revolving around a boy and his adventure to save his dying dog.

It references many classic tales and draws on common tropes such as the hero's journey but spins them all in unique ways. I was invested in the stories of even the most minor characters. The thing I appreciate the most, though, is that the story wraps up in a satisfying way, leaving no questions unanswered and no annoying cliffhangers.

There are a couple of things I didn't like, though. To start, the book started off slower than a tortoise. Almost the first third of the book is setup - still interesting and necessary to the story - but almost boring.

The other thing is my opinion that (light spoiler here) some of the deaths felt like they were brushed over. They fit in with the story and pacing perfectly fine, but to me it felt like a dull end to certain stories.

Overall, I loved *Fairy Tale*, and would highly recommend it, especially to fantasy or fairy tale lovers. It was pretty long (32 chapters, plus an epilogue) and hard to get into, so I wouldn't recommend it to people who don't read much or don't have time to read. This book has left me excited to read more of Stephen King's books.

The Last Point

By Michelle Moore

Reagan Moseley started playing volleyball with Walnut Ridge this year wanting to stay in shape, but she ended up loving the adrenaline of the sport.

As she developed into an outside hitter, Reagan stepped up to play a few varsity games after one of the starters was hurt. She was worried about making mistakes but more grateful to help the team.

Having to pick up her skills quickly, she succeeded on her dad's advice. He told her "Never quit anything." Then, she got into a habit of sticking with tasks; the mindset she wants younger athletes to incorporate of self-discipline.

Even when they do not want to put the forth the effort, it is important to push themselves. Reagan's favorite volleyball memories are with friends and karaoke on the bus.

She plans to get a commercial pilot license and work in agricultural aviation after high school.



class of 2024

College Education:

Who's Paying Who?

By Dakota Timms

Should college education be free to every student? That's a hard question to answer because some students really don't have the money to pay for their school but would truly benefit from it.

They just hope they're smart enough to become something to pay off their student loans and I heard that student loans are the worst debt you can be in.

There are some kids who put the work in and grind all their life, just to get a full ride, so they can get a good education. I also feel like if they just handed college credit out for free, there would be way too many people taking advantage of it.

Should students try to go somewhere just because they don't have to pay for it? Or, so they will not have to pay for it later on in their lifetimes.

I feel as if they would just go and party and not realize what chance they have until it's over. So, now I understand why they make kids pay for college. Not only that, but the colleges must make money somehow so why not take it from the kids that they are teaching?

Who Brings Out the Best in You?

By Katherine Skinner

Have you ever had someone in your life that brought out the best in you? I found mine when I was born, my best friend Madison. When I'm with her reality goes away and nothing matters anymore. She has never failed to put a smile on my face during the hardest day.

Madison has the personality of a golden retriever and she's the strongest person I know. She's been through a lot in her lifetime with her childhood and you would never know when you would meet her. She's never once made me doubt her love and care for me. She brings out the best in me and I am always happy with her.

Madison is one of those people that you meet, and you can see God in her eyes. No matter what is going on in her life she always looks to God for motivation. Having her makes me more faithful with God and I know he put her in my life because he knew I needed her.

Madison is my soulmate. No matter who I marry, Madison will always be the person who has healed all the hurt and made me feel like I am worth everything. I hope everyone can find a Madison. And I am so lucky to have found mine.

My Favorite Show

By Reagan Loftis

Do you have a favorite show that you could binge-watch over and over again and never tired of it? I don't know about you, but my go-to show is always *Rick and Morty*. I have loved *Rick and Morty* for years now and I have watched it so many times I know words to every episode.

Rick and Morty is about a grandfather named Rick Sanchez, who is the world's smartest scientist/inventor. He makes gadgets that can open portals to different dimensions which have all kinds of monsters, aliens, and clones.

He lives with his daughter Beth, her husband Jerry, and his two grandkids Summer and Morty. The show included the family in a lot of episodes, but Morty, his youngest grandson, is what you could call his sidekick.

Morty is a preteen going through life one step at a time. He is awkward and often annoyed by his grandfather's missions that he always gets sucked into.

Rick and Morty is a funny and very underrated show in my opinion. If you like other shows such as *Family Guy* or *Mr. Pickles*,



I highly advise you to check out *Rick and Morty*. I have a lot of *Rick and Morty* merch like posters, hoodies, t-shirts and blankets. That's how much I enjoy the show.

Words are Powerful

By Danelle Terblanche

Words can be powerful things. They can be helpful or hurtful depending on the way you use them. No matter what you say to someone, positive or not, it will get them thinking.

When you say critical words to someone, they remember what you said. When people become upset by words said to them, it could really hurt their feelings and cause them to have less confidence in themselves.

People should think before they speak. If people think about what they are going to say to someone before they speak, they may prevent terrible things from happening. It is wrong to use words to hurt someone because you would not want them to hurt you.

Words should not be used in a mean way. If you are mad at someone, use your words to explain how you feel and not just jump to the conclusion by being mean and hurtful. It is not a good thing to bring down someone's self-esteem.

The words you speak are powerful. They can mend a broken heart and help repair a shattered mind. They can also destroy a person's confidence and make people feel worthless.

Choose your words carefully. This is a reminder to use your words wisely and think about what you want to say, because it can have a large impact on someone's life, no matter what it is.

Father of the Year

By Karleigh Clements

Amazon Prime has recently released a new documentary about Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce. This documentary is appropriately titled *Kelce*, and it highlights Kelce's life, not only as a football player, but as a father to his three daughters.

It has made quite an appearance on TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook with fans talking about how involved and passionate Jason Kelce is with his girls.

As I watched the documentary, I noticed the same thing they did: most celebrities don't have a lot of involvement in their children's lives, but Jason is there for it all.

A few examples include his daughter's involvement at his football training camps, him

reading stories to them each night, and encouraging them to do whatever makes them happy. He even paid \$8,000 for his daughters to safely attend his Super Bowl appearance last year.

To me, Jason Kelce seems like a wonderful father, and someone in the NFL who is worth talking about.



The Last of the Colvey Clan

By Emily Jones



Allyson Suzzane Colvey is 17 years old, born July 11, 2006. She is the daughter of Kevin Colvey and Kristen Dawson. She also has five siblings. Easton, five, Grace, nine, Hunter, 18, Kelsey, 19, and Zack, 22.

She also owns three pets, Mia the cat, Mrs. Keisha, goldfish, and Gary, the snail. Her best friends are her brother, Hunter, and art teacher Mrs. Farrar. She is involved in FBLA, Art Club, Student Council, FBLA officer, National Honor Society and Key Club.

Allyson has attended Walnut Ridge High School for seven years; her favorite teacher is Mrs. Farrar. Her sophomore year was her favorite because classes were easy for her that year.

Her most embarrassing moment in school was her brother tripping her and she almost fell face first into the concrete.

Her advice to underclassmen is “don’t take chemistry because it’s not worth it.” Her best excuse for being late is a train even though she lives less than two blocks from school.

She can’t live without her brother, Hunter, and her biggest pet peeve is people who would rather take a zero on an assignment rather than try.

Allyson works at Hay’s in Walnut Ridge. Her favorite quote is “Don’t let your past define your name” by Sam Barber. Her biggest fear going into high school was that she knew it was going to go by fast. She is looking forward to going to college after graduation.

Her plans after high school are to go to College of the Ozarks and get a four-year degree in art education and become an art teacher. Hunter is her role model because he taught her not to give up and to always do her best.

When she was little, she wanted to be a makeup artist when she got older, and now she wants to become an art teacher.

**Winter Ball is
Saturday
December 9**

**Thanksgiving break
November 20-24**

Can Wyatt be Quiet?

By Katherine Skinner



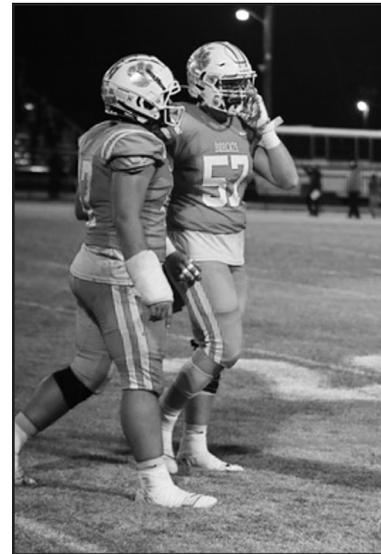
Wyatt Shane Davis was born on December 21, 2005. His parents are Doyne and Stephanie Davis. Wyatt has a big brother, Will 20.

Wyatt’s best friends are Rex Tedder, Davis Callahan, Kyle Slusser, Jaxton Doyle, Sebastian Hoffman, Matthew Mullen, Nolan Belcher and Collin Andrews. He’s in a relationship with Katherine

Skinner and has attended Walnut Ridge for 13 years.

Wyatt’s favorite teacher out of his time at Walnut Ridge is Mr. Haynes, “Dudes a dog.” Wyatt’s freshman year was his favorite because it was so easy. His most embarrassing moment was having to give a speech at the Homecoming pep rally in front of the whole school.

His advice to the underclassmen is “Do your work and you’ll be fine.” All the times he’s been late to class, his go-to excuse is “teacher wouldn’t let me leave.”



The one thing Wyatt can’t live without is his phone and his biggest pet peeve is getting left on opened. He will miss football the most after high school.

Wyatt is involved in football, FBLA, National Honor Society and Key Club. In his free time, he works on the farm. His favorite quote is “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take”- Michael Jordan. If he could start high school over again, he would change playing baseball his freshman year. His biggest fear going

into high school was Doc’s class.

He is looking forward to getting a new truck after graduation. His plans after high school are to get a job as a lineman, get married and have one kid, and build a nice house. His biggest role model is his grandpa because he was the hardest worker he knew. When Wyatt was little, he wanted to be a crop duster. Now he wants to be a lineman.

Wyatt’s Favorites:

App – Snapchat
Store – DNW
Song – *A Simple Song* by Chris Stapleton
Celebrity Crush – Margot Robbie
T.V. Show – *Duck Dynasty*
Drink – Powerade
Food – Tacos
Movie – *The Notebook*
Biggest Red Flag – If a girl texts a lot of guys

Chrystian, Pronounced Christian

By Kaitlyn Milgrim

Chrystian Blake Arnold was born on January 16, 2006. His parents are Matthew Arnold and Mary Bailey. Chrystian has two siblings Elizabeth 23 and Kyle 15. He has three dogs.

Chrystian's best friends are Zane Roberts, Gage Thielemier, Hayden Bagwell, Dylan Sheets and Robert Rodgers. He has been at WRHS for eight years; he started at WR in 4th grade.

He has many great teachers, but his favorite is James Price.



Chrystian's Faves:

App – Snapchat
 Store – Walmart
 Song – *Murder on My Mind*
 Class – History
 Entertainer – Adam Sandler
 Pizza Topping – Pepperoni
 T.V. Show – *Lucifer*
 Restaurant – Pizza Hut
 Drink – Mountain Dew
 Food – Pizza
 Movie – *Billy Madison*
 Ice Cream – Chocolate
 Band – Metallica

His most embarrassing moment was when he slipped on a piece of ice twice in a row in front of a lot of people.

His favorite quote is by Rick Warren, "Hurt people hurt people." His advice for underclassmen is, "Don't skip classes and never ignore Mrs. Rob's work." The best advice he has received is, "Stop caring what people think of you," from his uncle.

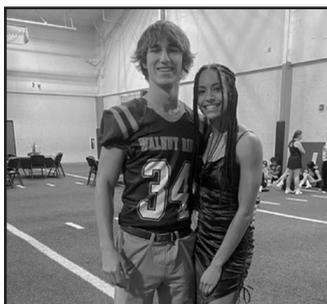
Chrystian best excuse for being late to class is, "A teacher needed help with something." He can't live without his phone and he doesn't

really have a pet peeve.

Chrystian is going to miss seeing his friends every day. He is not in any clubs, organizations, or sports. Chrystian's biggest fear entering high school was it was going to be too difficult.

His biggest fear upon leaving high school is making enough money to pay his bills. What he is looking forward to most after graduating is not having to go to school. He is unsure of his plans after high school.

His role model is Mark Cuban because he is smart and successful. Chrystian's unpopular opinion is "Nickelback was good."



The Principal's Kid

By Zoey Shields



Bo's Favorites:

App – Tik Tok
 Store- H&M
 Class – AP Lit
 Celebrity crush – Jennifer Lawrence
 T.V – *Pretty Little Liars*
 Movie – *The Bee Movie*
 Restaurant – Texas Roadhouse
 Food – Pizza
 Red flag – Active on Snap, but left on delivered
 Biggest ick – Majority of the people in this school

Bo Clinton Kersey is 17 years old.

He was born March 28, 2006, and his parents are Jacob and Darena Kersey. He has a big sister, Katie, who is 22 and a dog, named Dolly. Bo's best friends are Zoey Shields, Avery Anderson, Taylor Forrester, Jadyn Clark, Mallie Jean, Maggie Brinsfield and Carrie Denton.

Bo has attended Walnut Ridge since Kindergarten, and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob. His reason is that "she is the definition of a good teacher and cares about her students." His best excuse for being late to class is "I was in my dad's office." His advice for the underclassmen is "Study for Doc, do your work for Rob and don't make her mad!"

He is a member of the Bobcat baseball team, Golf team, Key Club, FBLA, NHS and Academy for Public Service. His plans for after school are receiving a bachelor's degree in medical lab science at UCA, attending PA (Physician's Assistant) school and become a PA for a general pediatric surgeon.

After graduation, he is looking forward to leaving Walnut Ridge and starting his new life. However, his biggest fear about leaving high school is losing his underclassman friends and missing baseball.



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Coach D to Lead the Lady 'Cats

By Kaitlyn Milgrim



Although this is Coach Dulaney's first year at Walnut Ridge, it is his 29th year as a teacher/coach. This year he is head coach of the girls' basketball teams. He also is a facilitator for Virtual Arkansas.

He has both bachelor's and master's degrees from Arkansas State. Coach Dulaney is a graduate from Black Rock. His hobbies/interests are hunting and golf.

Coach Dulaney looks forward to basketball season. His words of advice are, "Have integrity in all things you do."

His favorite part of teaching is the students. His personal philosophy is to "treat students as if they are your own kids."

He has three sons and one daughter with his wife, Kim. His sons' names are Dylan, Kyler and Zack. His daughter's name is Addi.

Coah Dulaney's Faves:

Food – Steak

Restaurant – Longhorn

Band – Lynyrd Skynyrd

Book – *Holy Bible*

Quote - "Friendship halves our sorrows and doubles our joy."

Teacher Spotlight: Coach Vanessa

By Dakota Riggs



Vanessa Hufstedler, also known as Coach V, is a new teacher at WRHS. She teaches business classes, serves as FLBA advisor and is assistant volleyball coach, junior high softball coach.

She is a 2008 graduate of WRHS. She went to college at ASU and has BSE in Health, Physical education, business K-12 Certification.

Coach Vanessa's favorite part of her job is getting to be on the same schedule as her boys. She also loves getting to watch all her players/students

that she had in elementary grow up. She says, "That has been special."

Her favorite high school memories all involve sports and her advice to students is to "Turn your work in!" Coach Vanessa is married to her high school sweetheart, Adam Hufstedler. They have two sons, Abel and Anson.

Mrs. Vanessa's Faves:

Food – French Fries

Website/App – Amazon

TV Show – *Yellowstone*

BFFs – My A's

Hobbies/Interests – Watching my kids play sports

Restaurant – Texas Roadhouse

Mr. Thompson has Done it All

By Reagan Loftis



Bernard Thompson (or Coach B. as he is also known) is a substitute teacher at Walnut Ridge High School. His previous employment was a professional basketball player, he coached in Germany, a high school coach in Arizona, and a private basketball coach and substitute teacher in Arkansas and Arizona.

Some of his favorite memories are when his daughter and triplets were born, when he got his degree - he was the first one in his family to go to college! Another great memory was getting drafted into the NBA.

Mr. Thompson's hobbies are riding motorcycles and dirt bikes with his wife, exploring, and fishing. On his days off, he likes to fish, mow pastures, and drive his Kawasaki Mule down dirt roads.

Words of advice he shares are, "Treat people the way you would want to be treated." His favorite quote is "Do not give your past the power the define your future."

Mr. Thompson's Faves:

Food – Teriyaki chicken and rice

TV Show – *InvestigatorPD*

Book – *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Restaurant – Texas Roadhouse

Type of Music – Motown

Height - 6'7"

Continued... THOMPSON on p. 13

Happy Fall Y'all

By Bre Tate

Fall is by far one of the best seasons all year around. The trees look beautiful with all the fall colors varying between all the trees. The cool winds but not too cold nor too hot making it perfect to wear sweaters and hoodies.

Scary movies and haunted houses to enjoy with your friends, family or even your boo (pun intended). One of the biggest things that I can't leave out is FOOTBALL, where from Arkansas guys come on you can never forget about football with the cool crisp air blowing makes it all just set the mood for some football and a pumpkin spiced drink.

We also can't forget about the corn mazes, if you have never been to one then it is something that everyone needs to experience. Running through those mazes having no sense of direction really adds to the feeling of being a kid again.

If fall isn't your favorite season, you are looking at it all in the wrong perspective. Read over this paragraph a couple more times and see if it changes your mind. I hope everyone has a good fall season and you enjoy the cool but not cold weather!

Overrated or Underrated: Taylor's Version

By Sydney Henry

This is a very touchy subject and people will either agree with me or attack me: I think Taylor Swift is extremely overrated.

For me, her only good music is her older ones, the ones with nostalgia. Songs like Blank Space, Shake it Off, and Bad Blood are actually pretty good songs with memories attached to them. Her newer songs although, are not as good and overrated.

Also, her fans are very annoying. If someone says they don't like Taylor Swift, they get so mad, which is my personal experience, of course.

Taylor's music just isn't good. Now, I don't really like pop music in general, so take that as you will, but it's just bad.

She has a very good voice, but she's too basic and plain. All she writes in her music is about being heartbroken and it gets annoying really quickly.

I know we all grow up listening to different music, which affects your taste in music today. For example, I grew up listening to Sublime, Nirvana, Twenty-One Pilots, and I'm still listening to some of those artists, but that music is actually good.

To get back on track, everyone has different taste in music, but Taylor Swift's music is bad and her fans are extremely annoying.

By Natalie Jackson

Some people say Taylor Swift is overrated, but in my opinion, she deserves all the love she is receiving.

Taylor was 16 when she launched her music career and made her first album. She wrote her first song, Lucky You, when she was just 12 after a computer repairman came to her house and showed her three chords on her guitar.

She is extremely talented; she can play piano, ukulele, banjo, electric guitar, and she even paints. Taylor has won a total of 12 Grammys in her music career. Grammys are awarded for excellence in music every year.

She woke up one night with the entire concept of 1989 in her head. While Taylor Swift writes all her own music, she specifically wrote "Speak Now" all by herself, no co-writers, just her.

One thing she's done differently is she re-recorded all her music with the newer ones referred to as "Taylor's Version." She did this so that she owns all the copyright to her new music. Taylor's Version has a higher energy sound, and higher loudness, but lower acoustics.

Taylor Swift is one of the biggest pop stars currently and is a great influence on youth. Her current Eras Tour has sold an estimate of one billion dollars. This revenue will continue to go up as she still has dates in 2024, while most tickets are already sold out.

Finally, she just released Taylor Swift: Eras Tour, a movie version of her three-hour concert, meant to give fans who were unable to get tickets to her concert an opportunity to experience it. She definitely deserves all the love she receives.

The Graceful Diver

By Michelle Moore

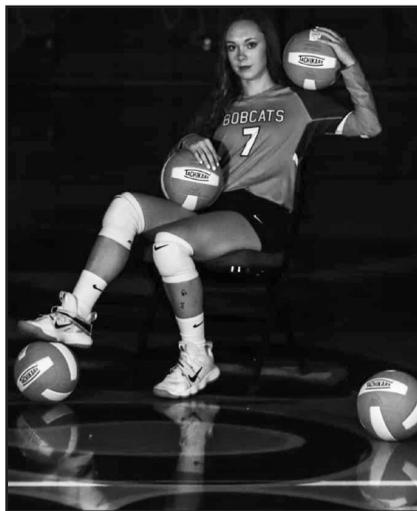
Alli Bramlett does everything she wants with her driven mindset. She plays volleyball, softball, track, and is an Alleycat. She started volleyball in sixth-grade as a peewee.

Behind all her stats and being one of the scrappiest defensive players, her parents prepared her for success by pushing her to work hard with confidence.

With her accomplishments in school, she plans to major in pre-pharmacy. She has also been Farm Bureau Player of the Week and state track qualifier.

Alli's best memories are of Duncan almost going into a lake while parking and singing All Too Well with Coach Moore. She improved over last year by working hard during the off-season and gaining confidence in herself and her abilities.

She wants to remind other athletes to have a positive attitude and play each game like it is the last - draw inspiration from teammates to always improve and to be each other's biggest supporters.



Congrats to Senior Maddie Burris on Reaching 1000 Career Assists for the Lady Cats

Maddie Burris recently reached a milestone few achieve. She earned over 1000 assists in her career at WRHS.

As the captain and setter for the senior Lady Cats, Coach Moore calls her Burris is "the quarterback of the front row" on the court.



Exchange Spotlight: PanPan

By Bre Tate

Phatnaphan Chalermcharoenrat (PanPan) is 15 years old and is in the 10th grade. PanPan is from Bangkok Thailand, she is staying here in Walnut Ridge with her host parents, Stacy Cavanaugh and Anthony Ludwig.

Her native language is Thai, but she also speaks English and Chinese. PanPan has been learning how to speak English since she was born.

"How yummy Funnyuns is!" (sic) is her biggest surprise about America. She chose to be a foreign exchange student because she wanted to experience new things in life, and she wants to practice her English so she can become more fluent.



PanPan's biggest fear about being an exchange student is that she is not confident in her English, and she is afraid that she won't understand what we are saying or that we will not understand her.

At PanPan's school in Thai she must wear a uniform and stay in the same classroom, the teachers come in and teach them. While here we do not have set uniforms and we travel from classroom to classroom.

Her hometown (Bangkok) is a chaotic town and is very large with many things to do. Here we live in a small town, and she

states it is boring but extremely peaceful.

Thailand is a much smaller country than America and there are many things different from there and here but the main thing that PanPan stresses is the weather. It is hot all year around in Thai and it is starting to get cold here.

There is a 12-hour time difference between here and Thailand. PanPan remains in the same grade that she was in at Thai.

PanPan states that the schooling in Thai is much more advanced than ours here. Math/algebra in Thai is much harder than here, and English is something that she must learn here, and she has already taken the English class, so it is not that hard for her, but it is still hard.

Some of the subjects that she does not have in Thai include "touralism" (sic), EAST and personal communication. She says all of this is so new for her and they do not have something like this in Thailand.

PanPan likes to eat and sleep in her free time. She did not do

much to prepare herself to start here at WRHS other than preparing her English so we can understand what she is saying.

Her first impression of our school/students was that she was so excited, and it was kind of funny on the first day at our school Tessa (our foreign exchange student from Spain) told her that people here were so nice. When Tessa asked some people where a period is they would bring her to that class, but when PanPan asked Jayden Saulsbury, he told her to ask his friend and his friend wouldn't take her to her period.

She has settled into her routine for the most part, but partially not because we have a very different culture, so sometimes she does something wrong. The journey here was a full 24 hours long and she traveled by plane.

PanPan communicates with her family very often, at least once every day. She misses her family very much. She has some trouble switching to English when talking with her peers and host family, she says that sometimes people don't understand her, or she does not understand something that we say.

Some of the major changes that she has experiences and the language and cultural changes. Sometimes she gets a big culture shock because our culture here and the culture in Thai are much different.

Something that is common in her country but uncommon here is that in Thai they do Praying hands to say hello but here it is weird to her because we only use praying hands when we pray. Her biggest pet peeve is when people claim she did something that she did not do.

PanPan's Faves:

Food - Here: BBQ
Home: Grilled giant river prawn
Class- Here: History
Home: Social
Teacher - Mrs. Linda Smith
Store - Wal-Mart
Entertainment - TikTok
TV Show - *Fate the Winx Saga*
Holiday - Christmas
Book - *Harry Potter*
Ice Cream - Strawberry
Restaurant - Hibachi
Game System - iPad
Video Game - *Valorant*



Sweet Carolina

By Karleigh Clements



On February 14, 2006, (the day of love) the loving Carolina Grace Young-Winfrey, or “Caro” as Mrs. Rob calls her, graced all our lives. She was adopted by Alex and Candis Winfrey, and has two siblings Adryunna (19), and Nicolas (17). Her best friend is Victoria Bennett.

Carolina has one pet, a cat named Blaze, who she can’t live without. Carolina is involved in FBLA, and is a teacher’s aid in the library.

She has attended WRHS since her sophomore year, and this year has been her favorite by far. Her most embarrassing memory was in tenth grade when she liked a

boy and he picked on her for it.

Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Becky Robinson, because “she brings out the best of people.” If she could change anything about her high school experience it would be her attitude. Her biggest fear going into high school and going out is not making friends, and the unknown.

After graduation Carolina plans to attend ASU and become a teacher, opposed to her childhood dream of being an astronaut.

Her favorite quote is “Be yourself,” and the best advice she’s ever received is “Don’t let others get you down.” Her advice to underclassmen is “Enjoy it while you can.” Those underclassmen are exactly who she will miss the most after high school.

Her biggest pet peeve is people talking about her, and not saying it to her. Her unpopular opinion is one that shows Caro’s Bobcat pride, and it is “orange is a great color!”

Carolina’s Favorites:

App – Snapchat
 Song – *Let it Happen*,
 by Tame Impala
 Class – Freshman
 English 1 and 2
 Celebrity Crush – Tom Holland
 Pizza Topping – Pineapple
 Red Flag – Taking too long to
 respond.
 Ice Cream – Cookie Dough



Counting on Mrs. Courtney Smith

By Karleigh Clements



The newest addition to the WRHS staff is Mrs. Courtney Smith. Mrs. Smith teaches AP U.S History, AP World History, and World History for our 10th-12th grade students. She attended Arkansas State University after graduating from Paragould High school.

At ASU she received a B.S.E in Social Science Education, M.S.E in Gifted, Talented, and Creative Education, and an M.S.E +18 History Certificate.

She has been teaching for ten years, and her favorite part about teaching is watching students make connections with the content she teaches, because the students are the future.

Mrs. Smith is married to WRMS 7th-8th grade, history teacher Grant Smith, and has a son, Sawyer, who is ten months old. In her free time, she enjoys shopping and drawing

Over the summer, she vacationed in the Smokey Mountains, and Branson. At the moment, she looks forward to Christmas break.

Her words of advice are “Stay true to your moral values!” and her personal philosophy about teaching is “Stay organized and strive for a five!” (refers to the AP exam in which students are scored between 1 and 5.)

WRHS is very happy to have Mrs. Smith and can’t wait to see the wonderful things she accomplishes as a Bobcat.

Mrs. Smith’s Faves:

Food – Tacos and Pizza
 App – Sonic App
 TV Show – *Full House*
 Book – *Little House on The Prairie*

Quote: “There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right.” -Ronald Reagan

Store – TJMaxx
 Restaurant – Texas Roadhouse
 Singer – George Strait
 BFF – Mr. Grant Smith

Guess Who's Back

By Michelle Moore

Recently getting Yarnell's *Player of the Week* and leading for multiple stats in the conference, Senior Robbie Tate returned to football as a running back and linebacker. He got into football and baseball through his dad, and his mom helped him succeed by, "staying on my case."



He stays motivated by thinking of how Frank Gore, Jr. came from nothing. Robbie gives credit to the offensive line executing allowing him to break free.

For younger athletes who look up to Robbie, he encourages them to stay on the grind and

live by this motto, "Stop trying to be happy. It will come on its own."

Robbie plans to continue his athletic career in baseball and major in business at college. In baseball, he can continue his biggest accomplishments of doing backflips in the outfield like he did against Rivercrest.

Continued from THOMPSON on p. 9

His personal philosophy of life is, "Be true to yourself, know your limitations, and don't be afraid to fail."

Some of Thompson's favorite things about sub-teaching are helping the students and being there when they need advice.

Thompson attended high school at South Mountain High in Arizona, and then went to college at Fresno State University in California.

Thompson's wife's family is from Ravenden which brought them to Lawrence Co, Arkansas to spend time together and help care for their family.

Lastly, how did he get into subbing? Well, after he retired from 17 years in the NBA, he found substituting was a flexible job so he could spend time with his children.



Baily Leaves it all on the Court

By Michelle Moore



When pointing out Baily on the court, crazy socks and a bun are all you need to say.

She has been playing volleyball for six years. When she was younger, Baily watched Sydney Burgin always practicing and watching it pay off in games. In her senior year, going to state, she remembers the growth made from her hard work. In ninth grade, she was coming to State dreaming of being on the court one day with a big crowd. She didn't give up and saw it through while

turning to her team for support.

She lives by her saying, "Everything comes full circle." The motto is needed as a reminder when younger people are constantly reminded, "Life sucks. Get over it."

Baily is inspired by her grandparents and admires Michelle Moore (me) the most as an athlete. She does not believe she would be the person or player today without them.

With Mitch (Michelle), Aves (Avery), Daph (Daphne), and "Mark, I guess," she has had her best experiences. In the future, she plans on going to the University of Central Arkansas for a bachelor's degree in creative writing.

Bye, Danelle

By Jaysey Grooms

Danelle Terblanche is one of my closest friends. When I first met her, she had a look on her face that said that she didn't like me. That wasn't actually true at all.

After a few days. Danelle and I became really good friends. She put a smile on my face, made me laugh and everything else; she impacted my life.

I don't know how to really describe Danelle. She is sweet, caring and would do anything to make you smile or laugh until your stomach hurts. She has the best food. Even though sometimes if you aren't hungry, she will still make you eat. That's one thing I love about her: she would never give up -- no matter how big the circumstances.

She and her family will eventually move to a farm in Condamine, Australia, after visiting family in South Africa. She is truly an international student, living in New Zealand previously and visiting Hong Kong and Dubai

Even though we will miss her, I bet she will find other friends that will keep her happy.

The Lady Cats' volleyball team pauses during their send-off.

Kiley “The Dawg” Pinkston

Karleigh Clements



Ceira Kiley Pinkston, also known as “KileyDawg,” was born February 17, 2006, to her loving mother Nikki Anderson. Kiley has six siblings Caiden (17), Ava (15), Ashton (13), Eli (7), Izzy and Abby (both 7). She also has a dog named Noot.

Kiley’s best friends are Hayden Brandon, Antonio Romero, her coworkers at Scooters Coffee in Paragould, and her boyfriend, Shawn-Hudson Seagraves. Through her time at WRHS she has become involved in Science Club, Art Club, volleyball, track, NHS, Book Club, and Key Club.

Kiley has attended WRHS since her freshman year in 2020. Her favorite teacher is art teacher Mrs. Jamie Farrar, because she has been with her since freshman year, and has become like another parent to her.

Kiley’s favorite year of high school has been this year because she’s in the home stretch and more motivated than ever. Her advice to underclassmen is “It’s better to get stuff done early than wait until the last minute.” Which is ironic, because the thing she would change about her high school experience is her procrastination.

Her most embarrassing moment was when it took Kiley an entire week to figure out how to open her locker. Her biggest fear going into high school was not getting enough credits to graduate, and biggest fear upon leaving is not being prepared.

Her best excuse for being late is “It was Ava’s fault.” Kiley said she will miss the simplicity of high school the most. Kiley looks forward to getting done with college, where she plans to major in biology and get a doctorate in dermatology and letting go of her childhood dream of becoming an actress.

Kiley also looks forward to family life, in the future specifically buying a house, and starting a family. Kiley is a working woman and is a barista at Scooters Coffee in Paragould. Her biggest role model is herself, more specifically who she will become in the future.

Her favorite quote was by Mrs. Megan Weber, and it was “You have the option to choose to be unoffendable.” Her unpopular opinion was “The Chinese buffet in Walnut Ridge was the best.” Something she can’t live without is her bed, and her biggest pet peeve is crumbs and stray hairs on black fabrics. KileyDawg is sad to leave WRHS but is excited to see what the future holds.

Kiley’s Favorites:

App – Facebook
 Class – Art
 Ice cream – Chocolate
 Store – Walmart
 TV Show – *Love Island*
 Movie – *Superbad*
 Song – *New Romantics* by Taylor Swift
 Restaurant – Fazoli’s



Senior Night

15 The Cat's Dispatch, Walnut Ridge High School, November 1, 2023



Exchange Spotlight: Tessa Pérez

By Kaitlyn Milgrim



Tessa's Favorites:

Here: Ranch Doritos

Home: Jamon serrano

Here: EAST

Home: Physical Education

Teacher- Mr. Haynes and Mrs. Linda

Store- Aerie

Entertainment- Watching movies and tiktok

TV Show- *Gossip Girl* and *El Internado Euite*

Holiday- Christmas

Tessa Pérez, 14, is a sophomore from Zoroquza, Spain. Her host family includes: Stacy Cavaness and Anthony Ludwig. Her host family lives in Walnut Ridge.

Tessa's native language is Spanish. She can also speak French. She began learning English at the age of 3. Tessa's biggest surprise about America was people drive trucks and living in America makes her feel like she is in a movie.

Tessa chose to be a foreign exchange student because she has always loved America and English. Her dad taught her about America, cowboys, and the US. It has been a dream of hers for a couple of years to come to America.

Her biggest fears about being an exchange student were not making friends, getting a mean host family and the fear of something happening to her family while she was here.

The difference between her school and WRHS is that here you have the same classes in the same order every day. In Spain, they don't do school spirit stuff. Tessa says it is boring and that the teachers are nicer here at WRHS.

The difference between her hometown and Walnut Ridge is that everyone here knows everyone. Her hometown is big, she thought she knew everyone but realized she only knew her circle of people. Tessa says everything is different from her home country and America. The cities and streets are different, the food is different, and people are skinnier in Spain. The time difference between here and home is 17 hours. School in Spain is harder with high school finishing in 10th grade, but most people take 11th and 12th grade, too. Upon arrival, Tessa joined cheer and picked up the cheers really fast.

Her schooling is much harder than ours. They have way more homework and their tests have two-page essays in them, on top of the actual test. She really isn't learning anything new; she is actually retaking classes she has already taken. She likes to hang out with her friends and family, bake, and get her nails done in her free time. Her first impression of WRHS school and students was that it was "like the people in American movies." She has settled into a routine.

She texts her family every day and calls them once a week. She has no problem talking to others, but when she's tired, she would like to speak her language instead of English.

Walnut Ridge "Murder"

By Samantha Diehm



It was a dark and stormy night at Walnut Ridge High School. On October, Friday the 13th, at around three a.m., thunder struck the school. When Mr. Kersey arrived the next morning, it was torn apart.

Many children of Walnut Ridge went missing that night. This includes two sisters who nobody had heard from, remembered where they were that night, or had any idea what could have happened.

The missing sisters were two years apart. They're both active in the community, ex-volleyball players, and one the Alley Cat manager while the other plays for the high school band.

They are God-loving girls, both on the praise team at church. Now, enough of the descriptions and back to the story, you can guess who they are in your own time.

Our on-campus officer, Officer Matt, was the only witness that night. He heard the strike and immediately after he saw a flock of crows break through the windows into the school. He called for backup, but by the time they got there, no crows were left. The school was covered in feathers and completely torn up. Ironically enough, a group of crows is called a "murder."

The Walnut Ridge and Hoxie police departments searched both towns, and every other town in a forty-minute radius.

The next three days, suspicious occurrences were going down. The crow population grew, and more students were reported missing. Former Walnut Ridge students who moved to Hoxie ended up missing as well.

Outside of the missing sisters' house sat two crows. That night of the disappearance they flew down and never left.

Officer Matt was the one who pieced it all together. Seeing that every home with missing children lay a crow.

"Why is it only Walnut Ridge students missing?" "Are the kids turning into crows?" "How do I find my children!" All questions with no answers.

The news broadcasts were filled with these kinds of questions. It is safe to assume we will never know what truly went down that October night, but can you guess what pair of sisters disappeared that night?

Lost
and
Found
Madison McVay
Kennedy McVay

TESSA continued

Some major changes she has experienced are how different the schools are and making a new life by herself. Something that is common here but is not in Spain is people will burp and fart anytime or anywhere but in Spain it is super rude and disrespectful.