

The Cat's Dispatch

Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
Lawrence County School District
www.bobcats.k12.ar.us
February 15, 2023
Vol. 47 Issue No. 4

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



Maggie Brinsfield Crowned Miss Bobcat

By Carissa Caldwell

The 2023 Miss Bobcat pageant was held on Saturday, February 4. The Miss division featured 13 contestants, who all looked stunning.

Maggie Brinsfield was crowned Miss Bobcat 2023, with Zoey Shields, Abby Lillard, Jenna Wallin, and Caitlyn Sheets as First, Second, Third, and Fourth runners-up, respectively.

As for the side awards, Maggie Brinsfield won Best Dressed and Prettiest Hair, Abby Lillard won People's Choice and Most Photogenic, Caitlyn Sheets won Prettiest Smile, and Carrie Denton won

Miss Congeniality.

Junior Miss Bobcat is freshman, Lyla Woods. The First Runner-Up was Irissa Bounds, Second Runner-Up was Chloe Witcher, Third Runner-Up was Marlee Lady, and Fourth Runner-Up was Katherine Skinner.

This is the 40th anniversary for the Miss Bobcat pageant and former Miss Bobcats were honored for their achievement.

Miss Bobcat is sponsored by Lindy Baker and the Alleycats. Holly Looney served as emcee.

Homecoming 2023: *Bobcats are Out of this World*

By Bre Tate

Walnut Ridge celebrated basketball Homecoming on Jan. 20. The theme was Bobcats are Out of this World. Royalty included: Queen Caitlyn Sheets, Maid of Honor Lily Lewis, Senior Maid Rylie Archer.

Others royalty included Junior Maid Maddie Burris, Sophomore Maid Jady Clark and Freshman Maid Lyla Woods. Caitlyn's pages were Greyson Griffin and Hollyn Cunningham.

Sweetheart Royalty was presented before the senior girls' game. It included King Maddox Jean, Knight of Honor Cam Buys and Senior Knight Logan Sain.

Junior Knight was Kaden Martin, Sophomore Knight Caleb Roark and Freshman Knight Jersie Cunningham. Maddox's pages were Landon Williams



and Katie Blake Broadway.

The Bobcats played the Hoxie Mustangs.

Junior Senior Prom Saturday, April 22



Miss Bobcat Top 8



Tyre Nichols: Effect on the Community

By Michelle Moore

He was a 29-year-old living in the big city of Memphis with his six-year old son while married for 13 years to his wife, Katie. He is known as a loving man who photographed the blues of Memphis.

Tyre enjoyed spending time with his family and skateboarding. His son may never remember this side of Tyre.

He will be known in the news and Black community as another victim of police officers' brutality. With his name being added to the victims of police brutality, his family and community hurt from the inhumane nature of his arrest and beating.

He was stopped by an unmarked police car at a stop light on January 7, 2023. With fear of the fate for a Black male in America, he still tried to remain calm as five police approached him. Over the course of just minutes he was detained, without resisting, for reckless driving.

The actions taken by police officers were forceful as they started beating him to the ground, taking turns kicking him, and telling him to stop resisting.

Tyre Nichols never resisted nor did he show any aggression in the video later released.

He continued to lie on the ground for minutes after without medical care. He died on January 10 at the hospital.

The video later released caused many African American's heart ache for the recurring similarity of the situation and recognition that this same occurrence could happen to them.

His family had to endure him crying out during those short minutes seeming like a destined outcome for Tyre.

Tyre's son and family will have to remember this night as a cruel way to lose him; people around the country will use his name and story to help further the movement of police reform.

We must reach a point where these situations are not considered familiar anymore.



Mystery Students

By Dakota Timms

*She's short and fiesty
Loves her food extra spicy
In cheer, she's a flyer
Always saying "Let's go higher"*

*He's our homecoming king
Usually spotted on the wing
He has long, curly hair
When he posts up it's unfair*

Save the Dates:

Parent Teacher Conferences
Thursday, March 16 (3 p.m. - 8 p.m.)
Spring Break will be March 17-24

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.

Cat's Dispatch Staff

Co-Editors - Madison Jones, Carissa Caldwell and Summer Wilson

Layout Editor - Summer Wilson

Assistant Layout Editor - Bre Tate

Sports Editor - Karlee Brewer

Cartoonists - R. Akins

Advisor - Stacy Rice

Staff Writers - Quinn Carson, Maggie Porter, Daphne Ward, Ethan Augustine, Bailee Witt, Summer Wilson, Holly Woodard, Rafe Akins, Lydia Sheets, Cristal Hill, Baily Rorex, Michelle Moore, Breanna Gibson, Dakota Timms, Bre Tate, Emily Jones and Dakota Riggs

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

Findley is Preparing Your Future

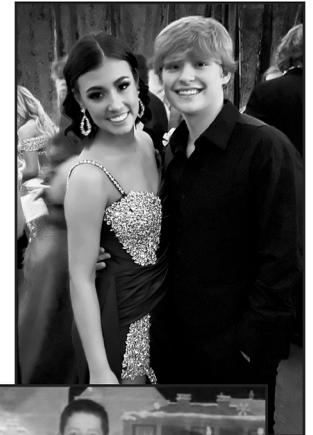
By Emily Jones

Although Debbie Findley has been at Walnut Ridge 13 years, she has spent 49 years in education. Mrs. Findley attended ASU for both her BSEd and MSEd. Her current position is 9-12 counselor.

A sophomore literature teacher influenced her to become a teacher. She fell in love with the great writers she learned about that year, and knew she wanted to teach that to others.

Mrs. Findley's best memory at WRHS is being surprised by the Bobcats yearbook dedication in 2019. Her words of advice for current Bobcats are "Make the best of your high school years - make good memories, but also make good choices and decisions."

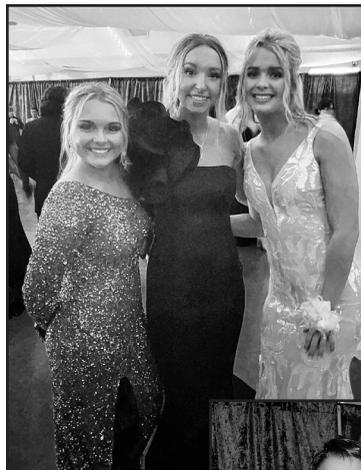
Her favorite part of her job is seeing students succeed and follow their dreams. She says her years at Walnut Ridge have been some of the best in her career: the students, staff and community are amazing.



February Birthdays

By Summer Wilson

- 1st Alex Hudson
- 2nd Carrie Denton
- 3rd Maddox Jean
- 5th Summer Wilson
- 6th Htaw Reh
- Henery Stowers
- 9th Braden Deese
- 10th Rhealyn Schmidt
- 11th Ethan McGinty
- Nethaneal Tooler
- 14th Carolina Young-Winfrey
- 15th Xander Crum
- 17th Kiley Pinkston
- 19th Jayden Saulsbury
- 21st Georgia Thomas
- 22nd Grayson Thatcher
- 25th Caleb Bieter



WRHS StuCo hosted Winter Ball dance themed Winter in the City on December 10.

After the Grand March, Maggie Brinsfield and her escort, Nolan Belcher, were chosen as Queen and King. First runners-up were Henry Stowers and Jenna Wallin.

Second runners-up were Bo Kersey and Mallie Jean and third runners-up were Cash Baker and Irissa Bounds.

Winter Ball was catered by Karen Looney who provided finger foods. The DJ service, Elite Entertainment, ran by Craig and Angee Jones, provided music.

Who is the Most Attractive Person at WRHS

By Quinn Carson

Dakota Riggs - Carly Ashlock
 Bo Kersey - Maggie Brinsfield
 Bailee Witt - Jaden Blaylock
 Madison Jones- "Me duh"
 Ashton Davis - Jacob McQuay
 Jacob McQuay - "Not Madison Jones"
 Jaden Blaylock - Onyx Sullens
 Michelle Hays - Jacob McQuay
 Ayden George - Jacob McQuay
 Lydia Sheets - "Nobody!"



What's Your Favorite Book?

By Cristal Hill

Jarrod Fultner – *Maze Runner*
 Madison Wade – *A Court of Mist and Fury*
 Antonio Romero – *The 100*
 Bre Gibson – *Where the Red Fern Grows*
 Hayden Brandon – *The Selection*
 Abigail Kary – *Carrie*
 Bailee Witt – *I Hunt Killers*
 Amelia Guthrie – *Go Ask Alice*
 Mrs. Wheelless – *The Outsiders*
 Mr. Ford – *Of Mice and Men*
 Davis Callahan – *Wonder*

**No School on
 Good Friday
 April 7**

**Seniors' Last Day of Class
 Thursday, May 4**

Remember When...

By Bo Kersey

... Mrs. Schafer asked to go get her diet coke while the school was literally on fire
 ... Carrie Denton passed out at homecoming
 ... Bre Tate wore an ankle monitor during softball season
 ... Mrs. Fowler made kids sit in her gum chair
 ... Mrs. Holland zip-tied Walmart shopping carts to the Valentine Nails worker's van
 ... Madison Jones and Melanie Jones dressed alike
 ... Dawson Ward asked Allyson Colvey to be his girlfriend in fifth-grade band and got rejected
 ... Avery Anderson was the queen of Musical.ly
 ... Yik Yak was the hot topic
 ... Hunter Parker jumped off the slide at the elementary playground and broke his ribs

Who Was Your First Kiss?

By Maggie Porter

Daphne Ward – Alex Prestidge
 Madison Jones – Ethan McGinty
 Jernie Tyra – Korwin Johnson
 Jaden Blaylock – Onyx Sullens
 Karlee Brewer – Hunter Colvey
 Ethan McGinty – Allyson Colvey
 Walker Ward – Paige Hall
 Easton Richey – Candace Morgan
 Jenna Wallin – Henry Stowers
 Rex Tedder – Sydney Robinson
 Dakota Timms – Breanna Gibson

Who's Most Likely to Become a Psychopath in Your Friend Group?

By Bre Tate

Maria Monge - Riley Henry
 Emily Jones - Summer Wilson
 Bailee Witt - Amelia Guthrie
 Lydia Sheets - Layne Workman
 Jayden Saulsbury - Nick Robinson
 Arianna Morgan - Meg Mullen
 Alex Chappell - Jace Bennett
 Bo Kersey - Mallie Jean
 Dakota Riggs - Karleigh Clements
 Emma Yarbro - Emily Jones
 Abigail Lillard - Carissa Caldwell
 Carissa Caldwell - Me

Unpopular Opinions

By Madison Wade

Bailee Witt – Weddings are stupid.
 Lily Luster – Maple syrup is nasty.
 Paige Hall – School lunches are good.
 Rylie Archer – Raising Cain's is better than Chic-fil-A.
 Abby Lillard – Walmart clothes are good.
 Meg Mullen – Instead of two political parties, there should have been one.
 Mrs. Hallman – Tartar sauce and ketchup are good with fries.
 Elizabeth Hill – Being 'normal' is the dumbest thing I've ever heard.
 Melanie Jones – Robbie Tate is overrated.
 Karlee Brewer – Steak is gross.
 Cristal Hill – Cream soda is the best.
 Breanna Gipson – Baseball boys are overrated.

Daph's Heading Out

By Bailee Witt

Daphne Lauren Ward (aka Daph) is 18 years old and was born December 1, 2004. Her parents are Karrie and Steve Ward, and her two siblings are Korliss and Payeton.

Her best friends include Avery Anderson, Madison Jones, Jacob McQuay and her puppy, Jett.

Daphne has attended Walnut Ridge for nine years and her favorite teachers are Mrs. Rob and Mrs. Rice because they are very easy for her to talk to.

Her most memorable moment at Walnut Ridge was getting 1st division her junior year in band. Her most embarrassing moment was when she fell in the bleachers at a basketball game.

Her biggest accomplishment so far has been passing Mrs. Rob's English. Daphne's advice for underclassmen is "Never be late to Rob's class." Her best excuse for being late to class was "traffic."

She cannot live without Madison Jones and Avery Anderson. Daph's biggest pet peeve is when people run into her in the hallways. The one thing she will miss the most about high school is "Band – 100 percent!"

She is involved in Jazz Band and Pride Band. Outside school she enjoys hanging out with friends; she works at Jordan's in Portia. If she could restart high school, she would "not be so awkward" all the time.

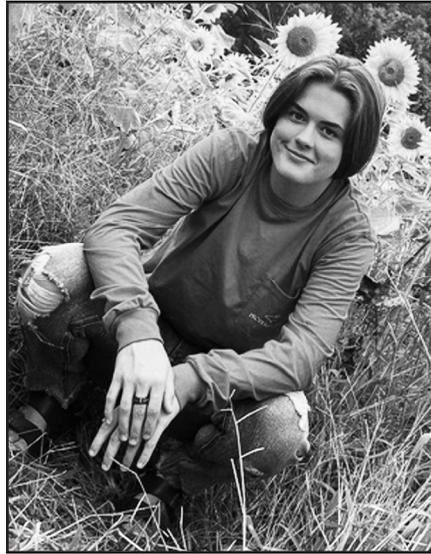
Her biggest fear entering high school was being afraid she would fail. The thing that causes her the most anxiety upon leaving high school is having to be an adult full-time.

The thing Daphne is looking forward to most after graduation is sleeping past 7 a.m.

After graduation, Daphne plans to earn her associate degree and become a Physical Therapy Assistant. The hardest thing she's ever had to do was play a solo during half-time; "it was so scary."

Finally, Daphne's unpopular opinion is she absolutely hates pineapple on pizza.

Finally, Daphne's unpopular opinion is she absolutely hates pineapple on pizza.



McGinty's Last Chapter

By Summer Wilson

Ethan Carter McGinty, 17, was born February 11, 2005 to Rebekah and Billy McGinty. He has a sister, Taylor; she is 21. Ethan has a dog and four turtles.

Ethan has attended Walnut Ridge all of his life and his best friend is Rylie Archer.

Although Ethan is proud of his relationships with all his teachers, Mrs. Rob is his favorite teacher because she can make him laugh; she is also his role model. The hardest thing he did in school was "his journals."

His advice for underclassmen is "Go to tutoring -- it does help." Ethan's best excuse for being late to class was because he was "too busy sleeping."

One thing he can't live without is a hairbrush and one of his biggest pet peeves is people walking slowly.

The clubs he has been in are FBLA, Key Club, Science Club and Art Club. After graduation, Ethan will miss being with his friends and hanging out with his teachers. Outside of school, Ethan likes to go Pokémon hunting. Ethan works at Jordan's in Portia.

If he could go back in time and change anything, he would go back and do all his work! His biggest fear coming into high school was "upperclassmen."

His most memorable moment was when Mrs. Schafer fell in the ditch during the infamous middle school fire incident.

After high school, he looks forward to summer and going to BRTC, then transferring to Fayetteville.



Ethan Favorites:

App - TikTok

Pizza Topping- Pepperoni

Class- Mrs. Rob

Drink- Sweet Tea

Holiday- Christmas

Singer - Ariana Grande

Food - Chicken

Restaurant - McDonald's

Ice Cream - Vanilla

Entertainer -Luna

Toxic Trait -"I'm nice"

Daphne's Favorites:

Holiday - Christmas

T.V Show - *Wednesday*

Food - Spaghetti

Song - *Out of my League*

Restaurant - Texas Roadhouse

Ice Cream - Chocolate

Entertainer - Mr. Beast

Toxic Trait - "I have several personalities"

Keepin' on Keaton on

By Rafe Akins

On June 5, 2005, Amanda Collins and Bradley Scott created a being known today as Keaton David Scott, 17. However, he is also called Keto Burrito by some.



His parents also created three other beings, Greyson Scott, 11, Jade Cobble, 13, and Remington Cobble, 17. But this isn't about them.

Being in WR for 13 years since Pre-K, he became best friends with Trenton Ditto simply because he felt like it.

His most memorable moment in school was breaking his leg, which weirdly fits with his most embarrassing moment, which was getting beaten up. It's not clear if those two events were connected in any way.

On a lighter note, his favorite teacher is Mrs. Leslie, for the simple reason of "cause she's

nice."

His greatest accomplishment is "getting through school" which honestly, we could all probably do if we take his advice of "get your work done!"

He still uses the excuse of "oversleeping" when late for school. However, the two things he can't live without are his phone and computer - those might be the cause of said oversleeping. Either that, or his pet peeve, which is his little brother constantly being annoying.

He will miss seeing his friends after graduation, which is the most relatable thing we've heard in a while. When he began high school, his biggest fear was failing.

The man has ambitious dreams of making his own business after he graduates. What kind of business? We have no idea. Coming from the same guy who said that he's his own role model, the sky is the limit to what it could be.

Spring Break
March 17-24

Keaton's Favorites:

App – Roblox
 Pizza Topping – Bacon
 Movie – *Bolt*
 Drink – Sweet Tea
 Band –
 5 Finger Death Punch
 Holiday – Christmas
 TV Show – Spongebob
 Book –
Where the Red Fern Grows

The Price is Right

By Holly Woodard

Amy Jean Price or AJ is a senior this year. She is 18 years old and her birthday is March 30, 2004. Her mom is Candace Price and her siblings include Kristina Morgan, Carl, and Sara Price.

She has a dog named Daisy, a snake named Gabby, and two rats named Rev and Snowball.

She has attended Walnut Ridge since her 9th-grade year. Her best friend is Reagan Loftis. Amy's favorite teacher is Mrs. Sarah because she always tries to help her. She expects her proudest accomplishment to be completing school.

Her most embarrassing high school moments were doing presentations and her most memorable moments occurred as she became close with her teachers. She will miss her teachers most after graduation.

Amy's advice for underclassmen is, "Make sure your work is done and stay organized." One of her best excuses for being late to class is "the bathroom" and her biggest pet peeve is people staring at her.

The one thing she couldn't live without is her girlfriend. She is in choir and her hobbies include driving her truck, being with her girlfriend and listening to music.

She works at Walk with Us Health Care. If she could start high school again, she would be more sociable; and her biggest fear going into high school was talking to people.

Upon leaving high school, the reality of paying bills gives her the most anxiety and the one thing she is looking forward to is getting her own place.

After school, Amy plans to become a CNA. The hardest thing she has ever had to do was overcome her fear of talking to people; her role model is her sister because she is successful.



Amy's Favorites:

App – TikTok
 Pizza Topping – Bacon
 Movie –
Horton Hears a Who
 Drink – Cotton Candy
 Holiday – Christmas
 T.V. show –
The Walking Dead
 Food – Street Taco
 Restaurant – Rancho Bravo
 Ice Cream – Vanilla

Last Day of School
May 24

California Dreamin'

By Summer Wilson

His name is Gregory Gage Macias, but everyone calls him Gage. He was born on December 3 and is 18 years old. His dad's name is Gregory, as well, and his great-grandma's name is Freddie.

Gage has a brother, Jasper, who is 20, and a dog, Buddy. His best friends are Brianna Morgan and Colby Miller.



Gage has attended Walnut Ridge for seven years and his favorite teacher is Mr. Harper, because he has really helped him through a lot.

His most memorable days of high school are vacation days. His most proud accomplishment is simply staying afloat. His best excuse for being late was his "grandma couldn't get her truck to start."

His biggest pet peeve is drama and people starting drama. After graduation, Gage will miss having something to do during the day. Gage can't live without any of his hoodies.

When asked what he would do differently if he could redo high school, he would have stayed more to himself. Gage's biggest fear coming into high school was failing -- his fear upon leaving is having money problems.

Gage plans on going to trade school for plumbing and can't

wait to be free from high school. His unpopular opinion is "Baby Bottle Pops cure depression."

Gage works at Harper's Drain Cleaning.

Gage's Favorites:

App – Soundcloud
 Food – Pancakes
 Movie – *Into the Abyss*
 Restaurant –
 Steak N' Shake
 Class – Mr. Price's
 Ice cream – Cotton Candy
 Drink – Root beer; water
 Entertainer –
 Donut Operator
 Band – D12, Member only
 Toxic Trait – Too lazy
 Holiday – Halloween
 T.V – *Family Guy*
 Musician –
 Juice World or X



Shay's Last Goodbye

By Dakota Riggs

Shayna Marie Larine Currington also known as Shay was born on March 7, 2005. Her parents are Marie Currington and Anthony Currington. Shay has a cat named Lady.

Shay's best friends are Paige Hall, Jada Moore and Amy Price. She has attended Walnut Ridge for five years. Her Favorite teacher is Mrs. Leslie because she "can talk to her about anything."

One of Shay's most memorable moments was putting cheeseburgers in her friend's bag during lunch. Her most embarrassing moments were dating people from Walnut Ridge. The accomplishment she is most proud of is her becoming a better person and keeping her grades up.

Shay's Favorites:

App – Snapchat
 Pizza topping – Cheese
 Movie - *White Chicks*
 Class - Math
 Drink - Strawberry banana smoothies
 Favorite band – Nirvana
 Holiday -Halloween
 T.V show – *Shameless*



Shay's advice for any underclassmen is, "Make good choices." Her best excuse for being late to class was waiting on the train. Shay cannot live without Taco Bell. Her biggest pet peeves are fake people, liars and disrespect.

She will miss high school because it gives her something to do during the day. She likes to sleep while she is not in school. If Shay could start high school all over again, she wouldn't change anything because she wouldn't be the person she is today if she did.

Shay's biggest fear going into high school was people. Being on her own after graduation gives her anxiety. She is looking forward to sleeping more after she graduates. She hopes to go to college for nursing.

The hardest thing She ever had to do was to answer the Senior Spotlight Questionnaire. Her role model is her mom because she is strong. Shay's unpopular opinion is "Money does buy happiness."



Crazy Cat Lady

By Lydia Sheets

Senior Carissa Jean Caldwell, born on September 28, 2004, is 18 years old. She is the daughter of Jillyn Caldwell and James Caldwell. Carissa has seven siblings: Cody, 23; Cameron, 19; Ella,



16; Jacob, 11; Seth, 9 and Lacey, 4. Her 10 pets include: Leo, Sophie, Reba, Riley, Gracie, Teekl, Chungus, Chandler, Misty, and the recently deceased, Joey.

Her best friends are Abby Lillard, Matthew Van-Brook and Ayden George. She has attended Walnut Ridge since the womb and her favorite teacher is Mrs.

Rob. Her most embarrassing moment in school was being accidentally anti-semitic in a Teams group chat in 10th grade. The accomplishment she is most proud of is scoring a 32 on her ACT.

Carissa's advice for underclassmen is, "Do not take advice from upperclassmen." The one thing she can't live without is her will to live. Her biggest pet peeve is hiccups. She will miss nothing about high school!

She is involved in Journalism, Quiz Bowl, Choir, and Science Club. Outside of school, Carissa like to sleep, occasionally play piano, crochet and write. If she could start high school again and could change anything, she would not be a "people pleaser" as an underclassman.

Her biggest fear going into high school was not being an academic weapon like she was in middle school. She has no anxiety upon leaving high school, in fact, she can't wait to graduate. She is looking forward to going to Cancun with Abby and then going to college with Abby after graduation.

The hardest thing she has ever done was pretend not to hate physical contact with teachers. Carissa's unpopular opinion is "there are no unpopular opinions. People just pretend to care about trivial things to create controversy and not seem boring."

Carissa's Favorites:

App – Snapchat
 T.V show –
Rick & Morty,
Adventure Time
 Movie –
The Princess Bride
 Book –
Turtles All the Way Down
 Drink – Water
 Celebrity Crush – Shrek
 Band – Shinedown

**No School on Presidents' Day
 Monday, Feb. 20**

The Void

By Carissa Caldwell

Imagine, if you will, a space map. Zoom in to your exact location and imagine seeing your own body imagining this. An out of body experience.

Start floating away from your body, out into the cold and unforgiving vacuum of space. Do not stop floating away and imagine passing through infinite galaxies, until you do not remember who you are or why you exist.

Try to remember what you think really matters, as you are in a free fall through the universe.

Suddenly, you blink and are back in your body. Someone approaches you and asks how you think you did on that history exam.

Why does it matter? What was the point? Do you even bother using breath to elicit a response? Why would you? Do you go on with your life as you did before and fuss over trivial matters?

If you could leave earth and wander the cosmos at any given moment in time, would you bother maintaining grades or relationships or try your best to be a contributing member of a society that is constructed based on our limited perspective?

Everything you think you know is a societal construct put in place long before you could form your own opinions in a desperate attempt to establish purpose in a purposeless void.

Our world is an ant farm in an abandoned warehouse, and we are forming our colonies and hierarchies in a glass box. Unseen and unimportant. My opinion is that nothing matters and nothing is real.

Bobcat Bio- Matt Bethany

By Bre Tate

Grade – Freshman

Club involvement – Key Club

Best friends – Bre Tate, Eli Eldridge, Jay Jenson and Aden Jones

Favorite teacher – Mrs. Holland

Relationship status – Taken

Pet Peeve – Lies

Last binge watch – *All American*

Guilty pleasure – Ding-dong ditching

Toxic Trait – He can be mean

Favorite Sonic order – Cheese sticks

Last person he texted – Georgia Thomas

Worst habit – Procrastinating

What would you choose as your last meal – Sonic

Freshman flop – Running into a brick wall



Hoops, She Did It Again

By Karlee Brewer



Taylor Forrester plays softball, basketball, and golf. She is 16 years old and attends Walnut Ridge High School. Her advice for young athletes is “always work hard.”

She plans to attend Arkansas State University to get her pre-requisites for Pharmacy school and later apply and attend pharmacy school.

The conversations on the bus rides with the team are her most cherished memories at Walnut Ridge. Receiving All-Conference in basketball her sophomore year, and winning Offensive MVP, and the Hustle Award

are some of her

greatest accomplishments in sports.

Growing up, the player she looked up to the most was Bailey Augustine for always playing hard.

Taylor's Favorites:

Sport – Basketball

Pro athlete –

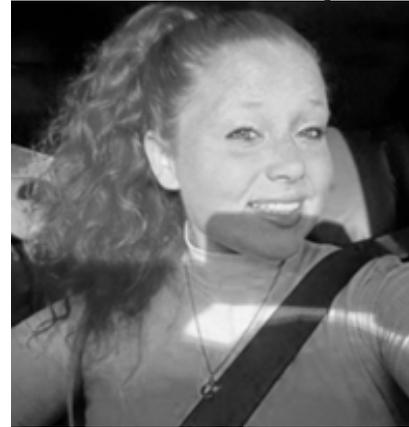
Selena Williams

College Team –

Arkansas Razorbacks

Aye Aye, Captain!

By Madison Jones



Introducing the captain of the flag line, Haley Marie Malewski. Haley is 17 years old and is a junior at WRHS. She has been in band for six years. Her older sister, Leah, used to be in the band.

She started in band playing the clarinet, until she tried out for the flag line her eighth-grade year. Her favorite band activity is going to band competitions.

Her favorite band memory is when the band got Division 1 at our first competition last year. She warns “as long as you don’t date seniors” and make sure to listen to the upperclassmen, then your time in band will be fine.

The best piece of advice she has ever received in band was “never quit and always try your best.”

Her favorite people in band are Heidi Torres and Dawson Ward. Her favorite show was this year’s show, Time Machine.

She first joined band just to try something new and now she loves it. Her favorite season is marching season.

The best quote she’s heard while in band is “what happens on the band bus, stays on the band bus.” Her infamous nickname in band is Pee Pants. (Don’t ask).

She can be very outgoing or mostly reserved in band, it just depends on the day. She practices as much as she can, and always puts in extra work to help the people in her section.

Give It a Chance

By Michelle Moore

The instant groans and eye rolls when I mention running or track are what I expect. I try to not let it get to me that no one understands my passion for running; however, I cannot handle being told it is only from me being good at it and winning events.

For me to get to that point, others have not seen the hours of practice I put into training for miles with repeated drills or the struggle to push myself past my comfort zone.

I try to envision my drills paying off when I am passing the finish line with a new PR (personal record) and a time to place in the event. I want people to see that side of the track with earning accomplishments.

People who are skeptical of track do not understand all the parts of it. It is not just relentless drills of running until feeling sick, but the amount of work put in it is what is received from it.

If running is not desired, then other events can be a better fit for the person like jumping events, discus and shot putt. Each of these field events requires different strengths and specialties such as strength, endurance or form.

I wish people would understand the mentality track has developed in me; it is hard work but always rewarding to me.

Bobcats Excel in NEA Tournament

By Michelle Moore

The 75th annual NEA tournament was held with Walnut Ridge Boys going into Division 1 boys as the 8th seed. Starting off the tournament against Rivercrest, the Cats won 71 to 68. Maddox Jean was the Player of the Game with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

In the next round, Walnut Ridge played Bay as the #2 seed, but with a tied game at 70-70, Rex Tedder continued to step up his game with 23 points overall ending with a tough win of 79 to 76 in overtime. Tedder was named Player of the Game.

The semifinals were higher pressure than the finals. Coincidentally, Walnut Ridge was playing their rivals across the tracks - Hoxie. As always, the game was high tensioned with passionate fans, and each team wanted to prove who was better. But as expected, Walnut Ridge finished with a win, 58 to 50. Davis Callahan had an undeniable influence on the score with six 3’s making him the Player of the Game.

After school came back from the holidays, the finals were set

Winter Ball: It is What You Make It

By Michelle Moore

I have heard different opinions about Winter Ball. Some students may say it is the “school event they look forward to all year,” while others choose to not even think about attending. From my own experience, it depends on whom you surround yourself with.

Everyone has his or her own comforts of what they would do at the dance like the Grand March, dancing, socializing and taking pictures. For me to have a nice time, it was important that I got out of my comfort zone and be open to trying those things - except for the walk, because I would rather not push how much unfamiliarity I can handle in one night!

Not only did I try different activities, but I had a nice group of people willing to accompany me in being carefree. The scene added to making me comfortable enough because everyone there was smiling and dancing to every song. We all seemed to be in our own world without the judgment of others.

The dimmed lights and carefully curated decorations made the cafeteria seem like a “Winter Wonderland” as people like to refer to the theme. I look forward to the new and last memories I will make next year at my senior Winter Ball.

I truly hope more people feel comfortable enjoying themselves next year.



Bobcat Bio - Maria Monge Hermida

By Bre Tate

Grade – Sophomore

Hometown – Madrid, Spain

Best friends – Samantha Diehm and Sonja Romirez

Favorite teacher – Mr. Haynes

Relationship status – Single

Pet peeve – People that are mean on purpose

Last binge watch – *Money Heist*

Favorite sonic order – Water with strawberry chunks

Random fact about you – I love the color khaki green

Last person you texted – My mom

Worst habit – Waking up too early on the weekend

Favorite fast food – Taco Bell

What would you choose as your last meal? – Spanish Omelette and salad m



History of the Lover's Holiday

By Dakota Riggs

Valentine's Day is known for cards, love and chocolate. Yet, its history is not exactly filled with these staples.

In fact, historians do not have a clear view of its full history, although there are a couple of different ideas of where it came from.

Cupid, the mascot of the lover's holiday, is the Greek god Eros, the god of love.

Eros was a very handsome immortal who played with the emotions of gods and men by using golden arrows.

During the Hellenistic period, he was portrayed as a chubby child in a diaper.

Many believe it originated with the Feast of Saint Valentine, honoring one of the early Christian martyrs, called Saint Valentine. It wasn't until later when folk traditions made it more of a celebration of romance and love.

Other historians believe Valetine's Day commemorates the death or burial of Saint Valentine, around 270 A.D. At the end of the of the fifth century, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.

During the Middle Ages, it became associated with love and compassion, because in France and England early February is birds' mating season, hence the term “love birds.”

Who's Hot/ Who's Not? Celebrity Addition

By Baily Rorex

Who's Hot

Mrs. Mary Smith

Mrs. Schelley Davis

Coach Sarah Moore

Michelle Moore

Mrs. Abby Tyler

Mrs. Jamie Farrar

Mrs. Becky Rob

Mrs. B-Dawg

Mrs. Stacy Rice

Mrs. Courtney

Coffman

Cole Hauser

Prince

Pedro Pascal

Brad Pitt

Miles Teller

Josh Hartnett

Alan Robinson

Chris Pratt

Jason Momoa

Evan Peters

Who's Not

Wes Bentley

George Clooney

Brad Pitt

Pedro Pascal

Morgan Wallen

Joe Biden

Hollywood

Ryan Gosling

Tom Cruise

Samuel L Jackson

NEA Tournament Continued from p. 9

with East Poinsett County and Walnut Ridge Bobcats in division 1. The score continued to go back and forth all game until 4th quarter. In the last minutes, the game stayed within two points for each team and fouls were being called relentlessly.

With only thirty seconds left, free throws and hustle could not close the game in a win for the Bobcats. It is still an amazing accomplishment for how far they came as runner-up in the tournament to.

Fun Facts about Snails

By Kaitlyn Milgrim

- There are 43,000 different species of snails.
- Snails typically live 2-5 years in the wild.
- Some of the larger species live up to 15 years in the wild and up to 25 years in captivity.
- Snails range from 0.68 mm to 70 cm in size.
- Typically, snails weigh from 25 g to 45 g.
- They first evolved 500 million years ago.
- When temperatures get fatally dry, snails must sleep so they can secrete enough mucus to survive. Generally, nap time for a snail can last from a few hours up to 3 years.
- Snails are born with shells
- The largest land snail is the Achatina, the Giant African Snail.
- Some land snails feed on other terrestrial snails
- Most snail species are hermaphrodites, so they have both male and female reproductive organs.
- The speed of snails is around 0.5-0.8 inches per second. If they moved without stopping, it would take more than a week to complete 1 kilometer.
- The food of land snails goes through a mouth structure called the radula, which has several rows of tiny teeth inside.

Overrated or Underrated

By Maria Monge Hermida

UNDERRATED

Water
Flip Flops
Broccoli
Liam Hemsworth
Books
Mr. Haynes
Summer
Getting up early
Android
Curtains

OVERRATED

Dr. Pepper
Heels
Nuggets
Tom Holland
Videogames
Any other math teacher
Winter
Sleeping in
Apple
Blinds

You Also Have Scars

By Maria Monge Hermida

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to enjoy the book *Scars Like Wings*, written by the author Erin Stewart.

This story is narrated in the first person by Ava, a sixteen-year-old girl whose life changes drastically when she loses her parents, her cousin and her desire to live.

Scars Like Wings lets us into Ava's healing journey, which is not only physical but also emotional.

Stewart makes clear that "life is not a musical" but suggests there is always something to fight for, even though many times it can be hidden behind the clouds.

Is Social Media Killing Our Society?

By Dakota Riggs

Social Media is the definition of the 21st century. Everyone uses it - your mom, dad, and even your little cousins. Everyone is on social media! If you're not on social media, are you even a person in this society?

Social media has come so far in the past 20 years. Yet it seems like it has done more bad than good. I mean, let's be honest, social media is not the best thing ever. It's not a horrible invention, but it is not the best.

Thousands of people have died because of social media. Either a challenge like the Tide-pod challenge or people comparing themselves to people on Instagram and developing an eating disorder.

Social media has made it easier for pedophiles to get to kids. An immensely popular kids' app is Roblox. Anyone can make an account as easy as clicking a button, so that means anyone can get on there and talk to kids - and I mean anyone! It is reported that over 150 children were groomed on Roblox alone.

TikTok has taken the world by storm. What seems like a simple app where people can post dance moves is much worse.

Like Roblox, anyone can make an account, but with TikTok, when kids post videos that means pedophiles can stalk children.

Besides the thousands of pedophile cases on social media, death is quite common as well.

The worst case of a challenge killing people on social media is called the "Blue Whale Challenge."

Kids are encouraged to complete 50 challenges in 50 days. It is also known as the "Suicide Game." It starts innocently like staying up until midnight, but it doesn't stay that way.

It turns unbelievably bad very quickly. One example is standing on a ledge of a tower.

Another horrible one is to cut a whale into your arm. The last demand is to kill yourself! Hundreds of teenagers have died as a result.

The internet could have been a wonderful place, yet once you get horrible people on there, there's no turning back. So, we are left with one question: "Is social media killing our society?"

Editor's Note: Survivors of the Blue Whale Challenge say that vigilant and determined parents rescued them, sometime after suicide attempts. This is a reminder of the importance of every parent should monitor their child's internet activity.

"There is always beauty in ashes" and as a strong advocate of this idea, I highly recommend this book to anybody, whether they have already found the musical part of life or they are still looking for it.

Welcome to America, Sarah Pizzo

By Emily Jones

Sarah Pizzo is 17 years old from Senago, Italy. She started learning English when she was 12 years old, and she wanted to become a foreign exchange student because she wanted to improve her English. Sarah studies Chinese and German in Italy. She likes to read, listen to music, watch TV, and cook.

Sarah's biggest fear about being an exchange student was going to another country without her parents, and where no one spoke her language. She says everything about America was a surprise because it's a very different country compared to Italy.

At Sarah's school there are many subjects, there are no lockers, and the teachers are the ones that move classrooms while the students stay in the same classroom all day. The time difference from Italy and America is 7 hours. Sarah says they also get "marks" for their behavior.

She says schooling in Italy is more advanced than schooling in America because there are 12 subjects, they talk about theory, and there are many oral tests. Sarah does subjects that she didn't have in Italy, such as EAST, softball, band, and study hall.



ADHD in the Teenage Mind

By Baily Rorex

Pro-choice? Yea, of course. Same-sex marriage? I can't believe that's even debatable anymore -it's 2023. Become the antichrist? Parents already think I am due to my first two opinions, so yea might as well.

Buddhist? Maybe. I have a statue of Buddha in the backseat of my truck. It's black and weighs about 6 pounds. Cool right? I bought it at the Paragould Goodwill, along with the shirt I am wearing today. Just kidding, but made ya' look.

Sometimes, when I'm driving, I stare at the statue from my rearview mirror. I love looking at the cute fat smiling man instead of the road. That's where the saying "Look at a Buddha and you'll have a wreck and die" came from.

I don't believe it though. I believe sayings and myths are just stories from past occurrences that have been told and retold until they make utter nonsense. Besides, I haven't had a wreck caused by lil' Buddha yet, so I'll just stick to my intuition.

Do I believe in Buddha? No, not necessarily, but I like his vibes. I've always struggled with my faith, and whether I believe in my own chosen religion. Although I don't know if I fit into the "Jesus Spectrum."

I don't know if religion is a group activity unless you're in a cult. Then I think the rules from Monopoly apply. Ages 6+, 3-5 play-

Bring it On

By Breanna Gibson

Walnut Ridge High School took a leap of pure hope and faith and formed a varsity competition cheer team for the first time in many years. This small, but powerful, group of girls competed in the small division this year.

Freshman team members include Sadie Privett, Ally Watson, Katherine Skinner, and Americus Gonzalez. Also, part of the varsity competition team is sophomore Bre Gibson, junior Alyson Colvey and seniors Abby Lillard, Rylie Archer, Allison Whitehead and Ty Cook.

These girls make an amazing team, having worked together and placed in the Top 5 each time they competed. They compete in Varsity 3A Small Division.

They competed at Alma High School and Waldron High School. Building their confidence with each experience, they are shaping into an amazing team.

This year is only the beginning of Competitive Cheer at WRHS.



Answers to Mystery Students

Breanna Gibson and Maddox Jean



ers at a time.

I don't know who I am yet, or where I belong in this sea of beliefs. All I know is that I'm not lost. I know exactly where I am going. I just have to find myself along the way.