

# The Cat's Dispatch

Walnut Ridge, Arkansas  
Lawrence County School District  
www.bobcats.k12.ar.us  
October 2, 2024  
Vol. 48 Issue No. 1

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

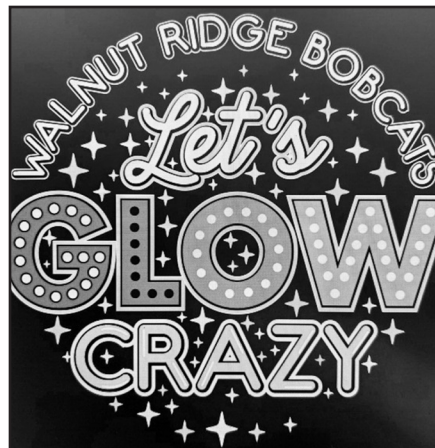
## Bobcats Glow Back to School By Dakota Riggs

The WRHS Bobcats went back to school August 14. This year's Back to School theme was *Let's Glow Back to School*. Students are excited to see what the '24-'25 school year has in store.

The first day of school started as usual with the Welcome Back assembly in the old gym. For the most part, the basic rules are like last year, but one major change is the bell schedule.

There are no more PLC Mondays. Now, school starts at 8:00 a.m. daily and the last bell is at 3:22 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Students are enjoying a relaxation of the rule regarding ball caps. They may be worn unless your teacher chooses not to allow them in his or her classroom. There is also a big



emphasis on reduced cell phone usage. Students using phones in class will immediately lose their phones for the rest of the day. Consider this your warning.

We now have a new bright orange WRHS sign in front of the high school, making the front entrance look good.

The library/media center continues to be updated and the



## Football Homecoming is Oct. 11



Senior Karlee Broadway will reign over the annual Homecoming activities Friday, October 12, as the Bobcats prepare to face the Piggott Mohawks.

Plans for the day include a HOCO festival in the morning, the Key Club Parade after lunch. The parade ends on the football field where the royalty and their escorts are presented before the pep rally.

Karlee's Homecoming Court includes Maid of Honor Breanna Gibson, Senior Maids Jadyn Clark and Mallie Jean, Junior Maid Mary Collins, Sophomore Maid Ashtyn Bradley and Freshman Maid Eden Garland. Her pages are Kathryn Blake Broadway and Carver Smith.

The presentation of royalty begins at 6:30 and the game begins at 7 p.m.

## Back to School... Continued

Gen Lab is being used for the E-sports team.

We have a couple of new teachers. Mrs. Ashton Roby teaches 9th grade English, ALE English and Academic Reading and Tyler Roby teaches computer science classes.

Mrs. Stephanie Denton took Mrs. Alls' position as attendance coordinator.

Let's make the 2024-2025 school year the best school year yet.

Change happens. Bobcats step up to the challenge.

## Save The Dates:

Oct. 4 – Yearbook Parent Pages Payment Due  
Oct. 9 – ASU rep visit  
Oct. 10 – Flu Clinic  
Oct 11 – Hoco Day  
Hoco Festival 9:00 a.m.  
Parade after lunch  
Pep Rally to follow parade  
Oct. 17 – College and Career Fair @ GTC  
Oct. 22 PSAT  
Oct. 26 – ACT test  
Nov. 7 – Financial Aid Night @ 5:30 – Gen Lab  
Nov. 8 – Senior Night for Fall Sports  
Nov. 21 – ALL SENIORS – ACT Work Keys 9 a.m. – noon  
Nov. 22 – Medieval Feast (all seniors)  
Dec. 13 – WinterBall  
April 26 - Prom - @ BRTC



## Walnut Ridge High School New Bell Schedule

### Monday — Friday

1st period — 8:00 - 8:48  
2nd period — 8:52 - 9:40  
3rd period — 9:44 - 10:32  
4th period — 10:36 - 11:24  
5th period — 1:28 - 12:16  
LUNCH — 12:16 - 12:46  
6th period — 12:50 - 1:38  
7th period — 1:42 - 2:30  
8th period — 2:34 - 3:22

## Mystery Students By Savanna Dotson

*This freshman is tall and lean,  
Her favorite color is green.  
Long, blonde hair and she wears glasses,  
No worries, she passes all her classes.*

*This sophomore is short and sweet  
He marches to his own beat.  
Under the Friday night lights is where he's seen  
You'll never catch him without a cap and blue jeans.*

### Cat's Dispatch Staff

Editor — Samantha Diehm

Co-Editor — Dakota Riggs

Sports Editor — TJ Owens

Cartoonists — Ashlynn Monroe and Meg Mullen

Advisor — Stacy Rice

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

### 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.



## PSAT/NMSQT TEST TAKERS:

Those who signed up to take the test by the Sept. 13 deadline MUST PAY the \$18 test fee as soon as possible. We can't register you to test until that is paid. TEST DATE IS OCT. 22.  
LAST DAY TO PAY IS OCT. 11.

## What's Hot and What's Not By Mallory Moore and Haylen Moore

### What's Hot:

Pink  
Baggy Jeans  
Converse  
Slick backs  
Apple juice  
Crochet tops  
Bows  
Gold jewelry  
Adele  
Stanley  
Nike  
iPhone  
Mechanical pencil  
Sundresses

### What's Not:

Burgandy  
Capris  
All black shoes  
High ponytails  
Orange juice  
Leather anything  
Scrunchies  
Silver jewelry  
Beyonce  
Hydro flask  
Under Armor  
Android  
Wooden pencils  
Rompers

## Mistakes Made at the Olympics By Marley Coleman

This summer, Romania was in the news again and not for a good reason. During the Women's Gymnastic floor competition at the Paris Olympics, the judges originally announced Romanian gymnast Ana Barbosu as winner of the bronze medal and third place.

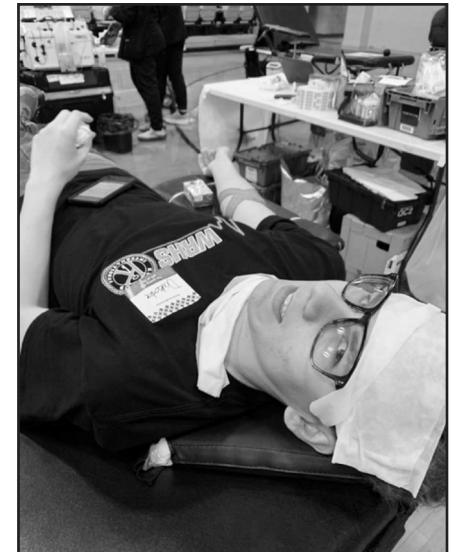
The Team USA coach quickly appealed the scores and the judges accepted there was a mistake in judging and the actual bronze medal would go to US Olympic gymnast Jordan Chiles.

Chiles was publicly blamed although another judging mistake complicated the situation even further. Ultimately, Barbosu was awarded the medal and Chiles ended up in fourth place.

For a short time, they both received bronze medals and legendary Olympic Medalist Nadia Comaneci, who competed for Romania, came to Jordan's defense against cyber-attacks.

Chiles has quit social media because of the intense attacks and hate she's received after the ordeal at the Olympics.

The outcome is still being appealed by the US Olympic Committee, while Chiles had to return her medal.



Aubrey Monroe and Dakota Riggs donated at our last blood drive for Key Club. Thank you for helping surpass the goal.

## October Birthdays By Dakota Riggs

1st Alec Kapales  
4th Harmon Haynes  
Nicolas Young  
7th Jack Callahan  
Drake Smith  
9th Carlos Aguilar  
Jasper Callahan  
10th Madison Spargo  
14th Hayden Black  
Henley Black  
16th William Thompson  
20th Cooper Smelser  
Taylor Nichols  
21st Preston Woodard  
22nd Phoenix Fain-Bennett  
24th Dakota Timms  
Johnathan Cullum  
26th Jady Clark  
28th Karlee Broadway  
Joseph Hampton  
Matthew Hampton  
29th Ethan Long  
30th Troy Owens  
31st Justus Colley  
Sebrina Hillis  
Katelynn Killough  
Abby Staples

## Who's Your Favorite Freshmen? By Meg Mullen

Coach Vanessa – Langley  
Austin and Hayden Black  
Abby Staples – Wesley Staples  
and Reese Tate  
Sadie Privett – Blaikeley Brewer  
Mrs. Paskel – Bailei Hudson  
Kayla Woodard –  
Preston Woodard  
Piper Dame – Caegan Dame  
Cameron Brown –  
Haylee Brown  
Layla Nunally – Kiley Highfill  
Maddison Blaylock –  
Caleb Farrar  
Emma Clemments – Levi Brown  
Meg Mullen – Roper Simpson  
Carly Ashlock –  
Chealsey Gibson  
Whitley White – Hayden Black  
Callie Burton – Chloe Newberry  
Drake Smith – Evan Hammond  
and Reese Tate  
Morgan Beary – Blaikeley  
Brewer and Chealsey Gibson  
Paul Ferrell – Naomi Myers

## Volleyball Spotlight: Mallie Jean

By Mallory Moore

Mallie Jean is a 17-year-old senior who plays middle for the Lady Cats. Her favorite sport is volleyball which she started playing in peewee.

Coach Moore's long practices are what best prepared Mallie to succeed. That, and watching former Lady Cat Maddie Burris who she admires for her work ethic and leadership skills.

Her advice to young athletes is "don't be lazy and to keep a good attitude." Her favorite college team is Nebraska. She considers her biggest accomplishments to be getting All-Conference following her freshman and junior years. Mallie's most cherished memory is beating CRA in three sets.

Growing up, she looked up to Charia Mabry. She looked up to Charia because she wanted to hit like her. Her favorite college athlete is Lexi Rodriguez.

The best advice she has ever been given in her volleyball career is "fix your face or I am taking you off the court." - Coach Moore.



## Volleyball Spotlight: Jadyn Clark

By Haylen Moore

Jadyn Clark, a 17-year-old senior, has been playing volleyball for many years now. Her mother has always encouraged her to play. She also credits her mom as the one who prepared her most for her success by showing her that she can do things on her own.

An athlete she most admires is Maddie Burris, because of her knowledge of the sport. Jadyn's advice to younger athletes is, "Always push yourself, even when you think you can't!" The key to success is discipline.

Growing up, Holly Berry is another Lady Bobcat she looked up to for her abilities as a defensive specialist. Some of the best advice she's received from no one specific, is "Focus on what you can control, not what you can't."



## It's Me vs. Me

By TJ Owens

Collin Andrews is a 17-year-old, three-sport athlete who participates in football, basketball and baseball for the Bobcats. Big Drew credits his dad for encouraging him to play sports.

Collin has committed to Northwest Missouri State to continue his athletic career. He plans to major in Physical Education and become a coach. Simple hard work is what best prepared him to succeed. Staying consistent in the weight room is also important.

His advice for young athletes is, "Never doubt yourself, always bet on you and trust the process!" When asked what his most cherished memories at WRHS are he said, "Running the Kru freshman year."

Collins' biggest accomplishments in sports are receiving offers from several colleges, being selected as an All-State player, and being dominant in all sports.

The athletes that Big Drew admires most is his older brother, and former WRHS athlete, Mason Andrews and Trent Willaims. He says Mason is a great role model and Trent is the greatest lineman to ever do it!

Growing up, Collin always looked up to former WRHS Bobcat Payton Poole. He says he was around him a lot and he was very good! The two things that are on Big Drew's Bucket List are 1.) Win a state championship and 2.) Win a D2 national championship.

The best advice he's ever gotten was from WR coach Jason Ward, and he said, "Just shut up and do it!" The motto Collin lives by is, "It's Me vs. Me." He also mentioned, a quote from Lil Baby, "Who I'm gonna to lose to?" (sic)



### **Collin's Favorites:**

College athlete -  
Mason Andrews (WBU)  
Sport - Basketball  
Pro team -  
Kansas City Chiefs

### *Jadyn Clark Continued...*

One of her favorites memories is being able to start as a sophomore when she never thought she could. Since then, she has received the Best Serving Percentage Award and was named All-Conference in volleyball as a junior.

After high school, she plans to go to college at ASU in Jonesboro for diagnostic medical sonography. She doesn't plan to continue her volleyball career after high school. Her goals in life are to travel and live a comfortable life.

A motto she lives by is "Don't strive to be perfect, just be your best." Jadyn is the best of the best.



## MadDog GradDog

By Jaysey Grooms

Madison Avery Reese Blaylock is 17 and was born on November 3, 2006. Her parents are Crystal and John Blaylock.

She has four siblings, including Kalissa (25), Adrian (21), Jaden (19) and Ryker (13). She has one cat and four dogs, a Bearded Dragon and a turtle.

Her best friends are Ally Watson, Abby Rogers, Emma Hill, Allyson Colvey, Kait Simms, Onyx Sullens and Olivia Bryant.

She has attended Walnut Ridge for 11 years and her favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes because he's kind and teaches in a way she understands.

Being chosen for homecoming maid with her best friend, Ally Watson, is her most memorable moment in high school. Her best advice for underclassmen is, "Join as many clubs as possible."

The one thing she cannot live without is her phone and her biggest pet peeve is slow walkers. She will miss Mr. Haynes and Mrs. Rob the most after graduation.

Her favorite quote is "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams," by Eleanor Roosevelt. The best advice she has ever gotten was from her mother who told her, "Ignore the people who hurt you physically or mentally; you owe them nothing."

If she could start high school again, she would change her hair and her style in the 9th grade, her biggest fear going into high school was meeting Mrs. Rob but now she loves her.



### **Madi's Favorites:**

App – TikTok  
 Pizza topping – Pepperoni  
 Movie – *Twisters* (2024)  
 Class – Art  
 Drink – Dr. Pepper  
 Band – *The Wallows*  
 Entertainer – Kevin Hart  
 Store – Ulta  
 T.V show – *Supernatural Academy*

Madi is excited to have new opportunities after she graduates; however, she is scared at the thought of leaving high school because she will move to college and leave her family. She wants to go to college and study law and Marine Biology.

She is active in Key Club, Student Council and Art Council. Her nickname is Pat and her unpopular opinion is "Lulu doesn't look good with jeans."

Her most likely excuse for being late to class was "My truck wouldn't start."

## Enrique's Last Run

By TJ Owens

Enrique Perez, 17, plays football for the Walnut Ridge Bobcats. His mom got him interested in playing football.

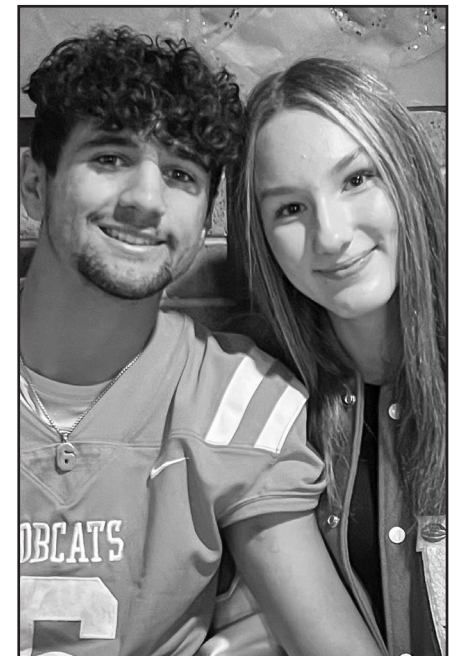
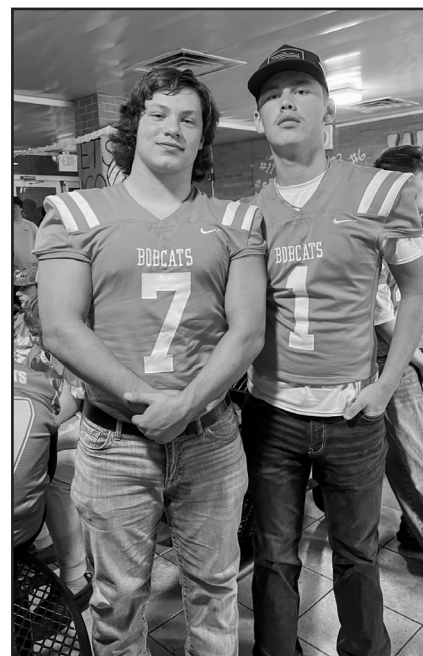
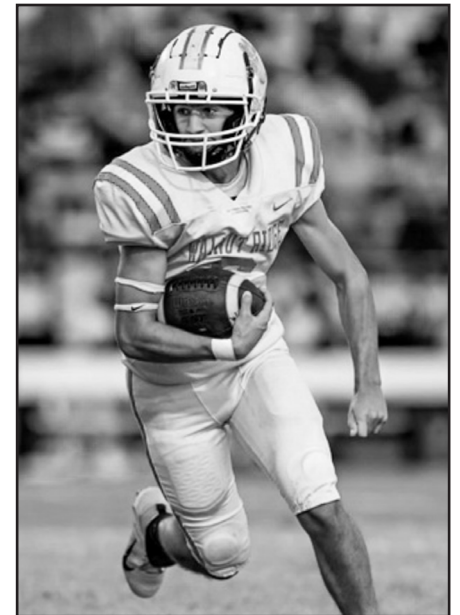
"Getting out the gutta" is what Enrique says helped him to succeed. His best advice for young athletes is, "Just live a little." The motto that Enrique lives by is "Life's too short so live a little."

His most cherished memories at WRHS are when he traveled to and played at Camden-Harmony Grove. His biggest accomplishment in sports was getting All-State for his junior year.

The two keys to his success are sleep and motivation. The athletes who Enrique looks up to are Jeffery Blake and Jason Ward, both coaches at WR. The best advice he ever received is to be "the standard."

Growing up, Walker Ward was the WR athlete he looked up to most. In Enrique's words describing Walker, he said, "Dude was a unit!"

For now, his plans after high school are to continue his job at Walmart. Enrique does not plan on playing football at the next level.





The Hughes Bros

Number 21 Out  
By Breanna Gibson



Anthony Cameron Hughes is a senior at WRHS. He is the 17-year-old son of Mark Hughes and Jenny Young. He has two siblings Johnathon, also 17 and Jalynn, 16. Most students at WRHS know him as “Twan”

He attended Walnut Ridge since third grade. Twan’s best friends are Enrique Perez, River Davis and Braden Croney. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Linda because she has always been nice to him.

His most memorable moments come from his time in football, which is also the thing he will miss most after graduation

Anthony’s advice to underclassmen is "Don't do drugs!" That’s also the best advice he has ever received, and it was his Dad’s wise words.

He can’t live without his cell phone (no surprise!) His biggest pet peeve is “little kids thinking they’re the coolest!” He is looking at you, freshmen.

His favorite quote is “I Have a Dream” by MLK. If he could go back and change anything about high school, it would be “not getting in trouble as much.” His biggest fear going into high school was fear itself; his biggest fear upon leaving high school is being poor and missing football.

He wants to go to college to become a personal trainer.

**Twan’s Favorites:**

Pizza topping – Cheese

Food – Mexican

Music – Anything rap

Red flags – Boy best friends

Ice cream – Cotton candy

Biggest “ick” – The word “chat”



Anthony Hughes and Braden Croney enjoy the breakfast provided during the KFIN pep rally.

Bring em’ Home, John  
By Breanna Gibson

Johnathon Marcus Hughes, 17, is a senior at WRHS. Johnathon also known as John, or John John and, my favorite, J-Dawg Hughes. He was born May 8, 2007.

He is the son of Mark Hughes and Jenny Young; he has two sibling Anthony, 17 and Jaylnn, 16 and a dog named Koe. Johnathon’s best friends are Eli Stewart, Collin Andrews, Jeffery Whitlow, Jersie Cunningham and Brogan Tate.

John has attended Walnut Ridge for 10 years. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob, because “She is funny and fun to talk to. His advice to underclassman is “Do your work and it'll be easy.” His best excuse when he was late to school was “there was a train.”

John plays in the band, in addition to playing football, so he never comes off the field on Friday nights. His most embarrassing moment was messing up on a trumpet solo. He plays a solo during the halftime show every week.

He cannot live without his phone. His biggest pet peeve is people smacking and the things he will miss the most after graduation are football and seeing his friends.

His favorite quote is “We cannot solve our problems with the same things we used to create them” by Albert Einstein.

The best advice John has ever received was from his mom and dad, who cautioned him “Don’t be lazy!” If he could start high school again, he said he would not change a thing.



**John’s Favorites:**

App – Snapchat

Pizza Topping – Pepperoni

Food – Mexican

Drink – Dr. Pepper

His biggest fear upon leaving high school is losing people. The thing he is looking forward to most after high school is college, where he wants to become a Personal Trainer. His unpopular opinion is “coffee is over-rated!”

**Remember When...**  
By Irissa Bounds

...Naptime in kindergarten	...A girl stashed baby birds and frogs in her locker
...We had recess	Mr. Kersey tore his hamstring sword fighting with Bo
...Rubber bands were banned in middle school	...When blankets got banned
...The middle school caught on fire	The Mannequin Challenge
...Someone stole Mary’s phone	...Yik Yak
...Mrs. Essman	... Mrs. Lindy taught biology

## What's your Favorite Season?

By Irissa Bounds

Emerson Callahan –  
Duck Season  
Alyssa Paskel – Fall/Winter  
Katherine Skinner – Fall  
Landon Holland – Summer  
Mary Collins – Summer  
Jersie Cunningham – Fall  
Lindy Baker – Football Season  
Abigail Staples – Fall  
Kennedy McVay – Summer  
Cash Baker – Football Season  
Jasper Callahan – Fall  
Haylen Moore – Volleyball  
season  
KK Schutzius – Softball season  
Mallory Moore –  
My birthday week  
Jozlynn Ramirez – Spooky  
season  
Marlee Lady – the ‘ber months  
Maddie Milton –  
Football season  
Paris Goodman –  
Lukewarm Fall  
David Easley – Anytime it’s  
cool

## What Classes are Students: Most Excited for? Most Scared for?

By Abby Staples

Kodi Thielemier – Most excited for Algebra 2 with Mr. Haynes  
Most scared for World History with Mrs. Smith  
Wesley Staples – Most excited for basketball  
Most scared for Algebra with Mrs. Paskell  
Katherine Skinner – Most excited for psychology with Mrs. Linda  
Most scared for English with Mrs. Rob  
Mary Collins – Most excited for cybersecurity with Mr. Roby  
Most scared for U.S History with Mrs. Smith  
Irissa Bounds – Most excited for English with Mrs. Rob  
Most scared for “I’m not scared of anything”  
Cash Baker – Most excited for U.S History with Mrs. Linda  
Most scared for English with Mrs. Rob  
Meg Mullen – Most excited for journalism with Mrs. Rice  
Most scared for Algebra 3 with Mr. Haynes  
Sadie Privett – Most excited for Accounting with Coach V  
Most scared for Chemistry with Doc.  
TJ Owens – Most excited for “I am not excited for class”  
Most scared for English with Mrs. Rob  
Kendy Jackson – Most excited for Psychology with Mrs. Linda  
Most scared for English with Mrs. Rob  
Braden Croney – Most excited for football  
Most scared of English with Mrs. Rice  
Logan Johnson – Most excited for Firefighting with Mr. Price  
Most scared for geometry with Mrs. Paskel  
Sadie Holland – Most excited for Art II with Mrs. Farrar  
Most scared for oral communications with Mrs. Hallman

## Just a Minute Ago...

By Dakota Timms

... Jake Paul fought Mike Perry  
... We had school with no lights or electricity until lunch  
... Senior had their first parent meeting  
... The US Army rebuked Trump from going to Arlington National Cemetery  
... We’ve made it through the Parent Teacher conferences  
... Hurricane Helene hit Florida  
... Mrs. Roby returned to Walnut Ridge High School  
... Mrs. Holland moved to Mountain Home  
... WRHS Key Club held a successful blood drive  
... Junior high Bobcats won their first football game  
... Walnut Ridge had the Back-to-School pep rally  
... KFIN visited for a Friday morning pep rally before the season opener  
... P. Diddy got arrested  
... Enrique dislocated his shoulder during the first game  
... A new business is coming to Main St.  
... The Studio event space will close soon..  
... Prom location is now BRTC  
... Adam Staples talked in Mrs. Linda Smiths class  
... Trump was targeted – twice!  
... Taylor Swift endorsed Kamala Harris  
... Jace Blake broke his collarbone

## What do you Find Demure?

By Sammie Diehm

“People who actually walk down the halls and don’t stop. Very Demure.” -Dakota Riggs  
“Mrs. Linda Smiths music. Very Demure.” -Jaysey Grooms  
“Mrs. Mary when she doesn’t have twenty things to do at once. Very Demure.” Karleigh Clements  
“Holding the door for someone. VERY Demure.” -Ashlynn Monroe  
“Mrs. Vannessa’s snacks. Very Demure.” -Aubrey Monroe  
“Cowboy Hats. Very Demure.” -Holli Wallace  
“AP World History. NOT Demure” -Talia Wheat  
“PEOPLE WALKING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HALLWAY. Very Demure” - Sadie Holland  
“Being respectful to teachers.” Very Demure. - Kayla Woodard  
“Being classy, not trashy. Very Demure.” -Mrs. Mary  
“Being in bed. Very Demure.” -Maddie Milton  
“Mr. Prices classroom. Very Demure.” -Reagan Loftis



As Key Club advisor, Mr. Haynes coordinates with the Red Cross to collect the gift of life. He loves his job.



## The Band

### Band Spotlight: Skylar Brynn Cagle

By Audrey Girard



Skylar Brynn Cagle, 15, is the Color Guard captain as a 10th grader at WRHS. She started band in the 6th grade and has been in it for almost six years now. Her parents, Morgan and Justin Cagle, are former band members and her sister, Jacee, is now in the band.

Her favorite band activities are performing in the half time show at football games and spring concerts, where she plays the flute.

She will forever love the flute. Her favorite band memories are the Paragould and Jonesboro competitions. Her advice for being in

band is, "Shut up and listen." Her favorite band people are Marley Coleman and Audrey Girard. Her favorite show she has participated in is Time Machine and her least favorite band show was Colors.

She enjoys marching and competition seasons and would love to continue in the band when she attends college. She practices often. Almost every day. She joined the band because she wanted to be musically talented.

One thing she has received as advice is also what she would want to redo about her early years in the band. She wishes that she did not underestimate herself so much.

#### Fun Facts:

One word to describe her band experience – "exquisite."

Band nickname – Sid the Sloth  
Favorite food-stop for away football games – Subway

Favorite former band member – Jodie Fultner, WRHS '24.



***Band ten hut!  
Mark Time Mark!  
Band horns up!  
Hup Hup Ready Ho!***

*Introducing Our New  
Walnut Ridge  
Pride Band  
Drum Major  
Charlie Tribble*



### Mystery Students Revealed



Madilyn Swaffar



Jeremiah Malewski



## KFIN Pep Rally By Kendy Jackson

On Friday, September 6, Walnut Ridge had a morning pep rally for the first home football game against Trumann.

The pep rally started around 7:00 a.m. in the square. The cheerleaders, Alleycats and the band led the cheers as KFIN's Brandon and Kelly interviewed students and faculty while keeping the music playing.

The highlight of the morning was the announcement of Homecoming royalty. Karlee Broadway is queen and Breanna Gibson is Maid of Honor. Senior maids are Jadyn Clark and Mallie Jean, junior maid is Mary Collins, sophomore maid is Ashtyn Bradley and freshman maid is Eden Garland.

We had a coffee stand. The Grid Iron Club and other local businesses provided breakfast for everyone. Mrs. Lindy and the Alleycats and other students decorated the square with banners and streamers.

They interviewed Coach Blake, Collin Andrews, and Amy Privett, as well as John Long and senior cheerleader Bre Gibson.

It was a great way to start Bobcat Friday.



Man Talk.



BOBCAT.



Cheerleaders supporting our school!



Everyone worked so hard decorating!



FOOTBALL.



Mr. Long talking to KFIN's Brandon Baxter



Clarinets playing for the news!



TEAM!



Alleycats love the Bobcats!





**Bobcat Bio: Blaikeley Brewer**

By Emma Wade

Grade – Freshman  
Clubs – FBLA, Key Club  
Fave teacher– Mrs. Linda Smith  
Relationship status – Single  
Describe yourself in three words – Talkative, Funny, Weird  
Pet Peeve – Having your phone volume all the way up or smacking  
Last binge watch – *Pretty Little Liars*  
Guilty pleasure – Homemade Alfredo  
Most awkward moment – Running into the glass at Bass Pro Shop  
Immediate ‘ick’ – Being Rude  
‘Go to’ restaurant order – Chicken Tenders or Chicken Alfredo  
Random fact – She likes to read  
Last person you texted – Garistin Ward  
Favorite fast food – Chicken Salad Chick  
What would you choose as your last meal – Chicken Alfredo



**Bobcat Bio: Drake Smith**

By Emma Wade

Grade – Sophomore  
BFF – Thomas Edwards  
Favorite teacher – Mrs. Linda Smith  
Relationship status – Single  
Describe yourself in three words – Kind, Athletic, Funny  
Pet Peeve: Loud chewing  
Last binge watch: *SpongeBob*  
Most awkward moment – Eating tracing paper because “it tastes like potatoes”  
Immediate “ick” – Too loud  
“Go to” restaurant order – Half order of Ranchero Special  
Random fact about yourself – Football nickname is “Spencer White”  
Last person you texted – Thomas Edwards  
Favorite fast food – McDonald’s  
What would you choose as your last meal? – Seafood platter  
Freshman flop (Stupidest thing you did in 9th grade) – Got detention for throwing a peach at someone



**Bobcat Bio: Breanna Gibson**

Sydney Henry



Grade – Senior  
BFFs – Abbi Malewski, Trinity Killough, and Marissa Moseley  
Favorite teacher – Mr. Long  
Describe yourself in three words – Blunt, Confident, Territorial  
Pet peeve – Disrespect  
Last binge watch – *Law and Order*  
Guilty pleasure – Playing piano in the dark  
Most awkward moment – When no one cheered back at a game  
Immediate “ick” – Any guys under 5’5  
“Go to” restaurant order – Mexican  
Last person you texted – Senior

High Cheer group chat  
Favorite fast food – Taco Bell or Sonic  
What would you choose for your last meal– Mexican  
Freshman Flop – Got into three fights



**Bobcat Bio: Easton Richey**

Sydney Henry



Grade – Junior  
BFFs – Aden Jones, Robert Dettman, Eli Eldridge and Cristian Gonzalez  
Pet peeve – Tapping your foot  
Favorite teacher – James Price  
Last binge watch – *Cobra Kai*  
Guilty pleasure – Following Cristian through the hallways  
Most awkward moment – Coach Ward picking me up from my house for a track meet  
Immediate “ick” – Ethan Long’s *Cobra Kai* video

## Clementine Peels Out

By Dakota Riggs



Karleigh Marie Clements graced this Earth on December 14, 2006. The wonderful people who brought her to this Earth are Justin and Casey Clements. Karleigh has a brother, Kohlman, who is nine years old.

She has three pets: two dogs, Oscar and Lola, and a cat, Pepper. Karleigh's best friends are Asher Johnson, Dakota Riggs, Kaylee Slagley and Kiley Pinkston.

She has attended Walnut Ridge since kindergarten. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Courtney Smith,

whose super-hard class helped prepare her for college classes.

Karleigh has a lot of memorable moments and embarrassing ones, but one memorable and embarrassing moment she will never forget is when she tore her rotator cuff and dislocated her shoulder playing flag football during the Powder Puff games.

Her advice for underclassmen is "do the little work, like CK12 and five-minute focuses because they add up fast!" Karleigh's best excuse for being late for school is "there was a train." The one thing she can't live without is her cat, Pepper.

Her biggest pet peeve is people who talk too loudly in the hallways. Even though she isn't going to miss the loud talkers, she will miss the friends she has made along the way.

Throughout her high school years, Karleigh has been very active. She is in Key Club, FLBA, Science Club, TRIO, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (math club)

The best advice she has ever received is from her nana, Ronda Clements, who told her, "Just believe in yourself and you can do anything you set your mind to." If Karleigh had a time machine and could go back to her freshman year and change one thing, she would change her attitude about high school and make it better.

Her biggest fear starting high school was Doc's class. Her biggest fear leaving high school is not succeeding in college. Karleigh is looking forward to having more freedom when she graduates.

She plans to attend UCA for nursing school. Karleigh's nickname is Clementine. Her unpopular opinion is "school is not hard if you apply yourself."

### Karleigh's Favorites:

App – Snapchat  
Pizza Topping – BBQ  
Class – APUSH  
Drink – Dr. Pepper  
Store – Target  
Food – Spaghetti  
Red Flag – Talking a lot  
Song – *Zombie*  
by The Cranberries  
Restaurant – Olive Garden  
Ice Cream – Mint Chip

## Kay Slay's Going Away

By Samantha Diehm



Kaylee Michelle Slagley, also nicknamed as K-Slag and Kay, was born on January 23, 2007, and is 17 years old. She is the daughter of Vonda Slagley, and sister to Zachary Slagley, 26, Lauryn Simon, 16 and Lea Simon, 15.

Kaylee's best friends are Trevor Thompson, Karleigh Clements, Sammie Diehm (yay, me) and Aubrey Monroe.

She has attended Walnut Ridge High School since freshman year. In these four years she has been a part of Key Club, StuCo and Choir Council.

Her favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes simply because, "He is the best and gets me out of class." Her personal favorite excuse for being late to class is, "I had senior pictures."

She cannot live without coffee in her life. Her biggest pet peeve is when someone takes 12 hours to text back. Her unpopular opinion is "soda and cheese are disgusting."

As Kaylee began her first year at WRHS, she feared being at a new school and not making any friends. Now, four years later, she has those same fears upon leaving high school. She is worried about the change from high school to college and once again, not making friends.

Kaylee advises underclassmen, "Your attitude about school is everything." The best advice she has ever been given is, "It's not that big of a deal; get over it!" cheerfully said, by Mr. Weber.

She cannot wait to move out and enjoy her freedom after graduation. While she is excited about her college life, she will most miss bugging Mr. Weber every single day.

Williams Baptist University is where she'll be in Fall 2025 where will complete an Early Education Degree.

Not only does Kaylee wish it never happened and she could change the past, but it was also her most embarrassing moment at school... freshman year: Winter Ball, no further words.

### Kaylee's Favorites:

App – TikTok  
Movie – *10 Things I Hate About You*  
Class – Physical Science  
Drink – Sweet Tea  
Band –  
Treaty Oak Revival  
Entertainer – Adam Sandler  
Store – Target  
T.V Show –  
*Criminal Minds*  
Book – *Little Women*  
Food – Chicken Nuggies  
Red Flad – Stalking people's locations  
Song –  
*Arkansas Diamond*  
Restaurant – Chili's  
Ice Cream – Blueberry  
Deal Breaker – Cheating/No Respect





## About Life... It Goes On

By Samantha Diehm

Have you ever had the never-ending fear of growing up? Because, same. I am a senior this year and I constantly find myself thinking about what I'll do when I graduate. What job will I have? What college will I go to? Do I even go to college? Do I get to travel? Will I have a roommate? Do I move out?!?!?

After all these unknown questions, my mind goes back to the fact that I do not have to have everything figured out. None of these questions MUST be answered right now.

The insane pressure that comes with questions will just pull you down. You need to stay calm and realize it is completely okay to not know what to do with your life; especially at 15,16,17,18.

I, myself, have been bombarded with the, "What will you do after high school?" question. And I say simply, "I'm not sure yet." I have FINALLY learned that it is okay to not know.

I may go to college or maybe not. I may travel or join the Peace Corps. Maybe I'll join a trade or do an office job. But, whatever I choose, there is a way to go somewhere else. Nothing is permanent and I find peace in that.

So, if you are stressed that your life needs to be figured out by senior year, take a breath, like now, because you do not. College will be there, trade will be there, JOBS will be there (or marry rich).



Jazzy, Kaylee and Skylar practice  
for the upcoming Fall Choir Concert!

We hope you can come out!

Located in the Walnut Ridge Community Center

On Monday, October 14 at 6:00 p.m.





## The Unpredictable

By Abby Staples

Every choice you make affects your life. Little did my dad know that his career choice would lead him to a life-changing event. My dad, Adam Staples, was on a three-week trip to Manhattan, training to be an insurance agent in the World Trade Center.

As usual, his morning started off catching a bus to the WTC. He took the elevator up to the 61st floor of the South Tower and got settled into his seat, ready for another day of boring meetings. The day was September 11, 2001.

After his first class of the day, he was going to get lunch on the 43rd floor when suddenly there was a commotion. No one inside the building was aware that a plane had struck the North Tower.

An announcement told everyone to go back to class (or work) and not to worry; many people decided to evacuate, but Dad went back to class. He was worried about getting in trouble for being late to class.

After heading back up to the 61st floor, the second plane hit the South Tower. Dad knew he had to get out! He started making his way down the many flights of stairs. He remembers seeing people in wheelchairs, but at the time it didn't cross his mind to try to help get them out.

This is something he says, "will always haunt (him)." At some point on his way down, he remembers thinking "I have a good amount of life insurance put back, if I die today, my



nieces will have a head start with college."

He kept going down, flight after flight of stairs. When he was within 10 floors from the bottom, he began to see structural damage to the walls, and thought to himself, "I am going to get this close to getting out and then the building is going to collapse on me." He finally reached the lobby and followed the directions the firemen were giving the panicked crowd.

Once he was outside, he saw the news on T.V. This was the first time he had seen footage of the planes hitting the buildings. He eventually made it back to his hotel where they were taking roll, trying to figure out if anyone hadn't made it back.

Immediately, he began trying to get home. All the airports were shut down, planes were grounded worldwide; flying home was not an option. He had a hard time convincing a rental company to rent him a vehicle.

## Welcome to WRHS Mr. and Mrs. Roby

By Reagan Loftis

Ashton Roby, or Mrs. Roby, returned to WR where she is teaching freshman English. She previously worked at Walnut Ridge Middle School where she taught seventh grade literacy before moving to Hillcrest where she taught 10th-12th grades ELA.

She also teaches ninth grade ELA and academic reading at Walnut Ridge High School. Her favorite hobby is reading; over the summer she read 43 novels.

Her favorite part about being a teacher is helping students prepare for life after high school. She graduated from Stone County High School in Mississippi and WBU.

Her husband, Tyler Roby, is the new cyber-security teacher and ALE director at WRHS. They have two sons, Rowan, six, and Ridge, two.

Her favorite food is pizza, and her favorite restaurant is Newk's.

Tyler Roby, known as Mr. Roby, is the new cyber-security teacher at Walnut Ridge High School. Other classes he has taught include seventh and eighth grade science, physical science, biology, chemistry, human A&P and environmental science.

He went to Black Rock High School and graduated from WBU. He previously worked at Hillcrest High School.

Over the summer, he golfed a lot. Golfing and going to the gym are two of his favorite things to do. His favorite store is Golf Headquarters; he also likes burgers and fries and Chick-Fil-A.

His favorite part about being a teacher is helping students prepare for life after school.



## Continued *The Unpredictable...*

Finally, he rented a van for him and six other people who lived in and near Arkansas. They drove all day and all night just to finally be home. The first time he felt completely safe was when he was back in his hometown of Piggott, Arkansas.

Make good choices, you never know what they could lead to in the future.

*Editor's Note. Adam Staples has spoken about his personal experience on 9/11 to various multiple schools and organizations throughout Arkansas. This year, he was at WRHS where he spoke to Mrs. Linda Smith's classes.*

**Beware: River Rising**

By Kaitlyn Milgrim

River Blaine Davis was born on August 1, 2006 to Brandi and Hunter Davis. His brother, Gage is 24.

River has three dogs Ace, Bo Copper and a cat, Sissy. His best friends are Layla Nunally, Jax Doyle and Kyle Slusser.

River has attended Walnut Ridge High School for 11 years. His favorite teacher is Mr. Rice because he loves Ag classes.

His most embarrassing moment in high school was when he got an F on his test and Mr. Haynes said it out loud.

The one thing he could never live without is his dog, Ace. His best excuse for being late to class is "I was in the bathroom."

River's biggest pet peeve is when people drive slowly. After graduation, he is looking forward to making money.

River's nicknames are



Bea and Riv. His unpopular opinion is "Trump 2024."

**River's Favorites**

App – You Tube  
 Pizza Topping – Cheese  
 Class – Ag  
 Drink – Sweet tea  
 Band – Creed  
 Store – DNW  
 T.V. Show – *Dexter*  
 Food – Steak

**Senior Spotlight: Layla Nunally**

By Kendy Jackson



Layla May Nunally, born July 13, 2007 is 17. Her nickname is May. She lived in Walnut Ridge for 10 years, and her parents are Whitney, Rachel Nunally, Mandy and Justin Blackburn. She has two brothers, Jax and Tripp, both 15, and two little sisters Addy and Claire, both 10.

Layla has a dog named Ace and a horse named Texas. Her best friends are River Davis and Kendy Jackson. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes because he is nice and very helpful. Her most embarrassing moment is when she only brought

one shoe to her basketball game at Gosnell.

Her advice for underclassmen is, "Do your homework!" Her best excuse for being late was that she was in the art room. Layla cannot live without her horse. Her biggest pet peeve is when someone says they have something to tell you and then they never do.

The thing Layla will miss most about high school is her friends. She is involved with FBLA, Art Club, Key Club and basketball. If she could restart high school, she would change her homework habits.

Her biggest fear going into high school was failing and now leaving high school her fear is college. She plans to study cosmetology and is most excited to go to work after graduation.

**Layla's Favorites:**

App – Snapchat  
 Song – *I'm Still Fine* by Red  
 Clay Strays  
 TV show – *Heartland*  
 Food – Steak  
 Ice Cream – Chocolate  
 Drink – Dr. Pepper  
 Store – TJ Maxx





## TRIO is Available at WRHS

By Samantha Diehm

TRIO is a free program that helps students prepare for life after high school. TRIO has helped students around the country with life skills that they will never forget.

In TRIO, we do activities including ACT prep, college visits, field trips, robotics and STEM activities. We also learn about financial aid assistance, team building and study skills.

TRIO is administered, funded and implemented by the United States Department of Education.

The TRIO representative for Lawrence County is Gracie Hicks Lenderman. TRIO meets monthly at WRHS.

### Upcoming Meetings:

October 28  
November 11  
December 9



### REMINDERS:

- October is the start of the Arkansas College Application Campaign. Colleges will start to take applications!
- FASFA will not open until Sunday, December 1, 2024!



## Career Corner

By Samantha Diehm

### Carrer Coach

Ms. Samantha Mitchell

How can she help?

- Career Planning
- Academic Planning
- College Planning
- Financial Aid Assistance
- Work Based Learning
- Apprenticeships

Contact:

Samantha.mitchell@bobcats.  
k12.ar.us

Samantha.mitchell@blackri-  
verttech.edu

### ACT Work Keys

*Seniors pay attention!*

This is a test that measures a student's workplace readiness. It is a mix of graphic literacy, math, and workplace documents to make up what your general knowledge and skills are.

Employers will look at this score and use it to determine your readiness and salary. It is important to take the test so DO NOT miss school on Thursday, November 21, 2024!

Local Companies who recognize this score: Anchor Packaging, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Trinity Rail, etc.

### What's Happening for Scholars!

- ASU Recruiter coming to WRHS. Wednesday, October 9, 2024 @ 10:30-11 in Gen Lab (Register in Mrs. Findley office)
- GCT College Fair Thursday, October 17, 2024, From 9-11 (Seniors Only)
- Williams Baptist university College Fair Wednesday, October 23, 2024, From 8-12 (Juniors Only)
- Sam's Scholarship Application on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 (Ms. Mitchell will come to Senior classes)
- Financial Aid Night on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 5:30 in the WRHS Library
- ASVAB Test on Thursday, November 21, 2024, from 8-12 (Given to Juniors Only)
- ACT Work Keys Thursday, November 21, 2024, during school from 9-12 (Seniors Only)

### Xello

Launching this fall (be on the lookout) Mrs. Mitchell will come to the classes and introduce Xello. This is an online tool for college and career readiness. It gives career and skill assessments to help students identify possible career paths. Students in grades 8-12 will be given more information when the day comes.

The Art of Digital Art  
By Ashlynn Monroe

Digital art is a form of art done by using a computer. I use my display tablet, which is a second monitor that comes with a pen, to use just like a pencil. This is how lots of artists make digital art, especially if they use animation and character concepts.

Using the pen is like the traditional art process, but with more of a clean edge. Digital art is used mostly in comics, book covers and animated shows.

I make digital illustrations for The Cat's Dispatch, with my Wacom One Display drawing tablet. I use the Clip Studio Paint program to create my drawings for the paper. The display comes with a pen, so it feels like how I draw on paper.

I go through a 3-step process when creating a drawing. First, I start with a sketch which is a rough draft of what I will be drawing.

Second, I can start cleaning it up with line art and flat colors. Third, I shade, add words, add a border, or all three. (This step is not necessary, but it makes the drawing come together.)

This is just my process for easily getting my art onto the paper. I have been drawing digitally for five years, but I still use both forms of media. Since the paper is all done through computer, submitting something drawn through a computer is as easy as one, two, three.



Bobcat Spirit Can't Be Beat!

Word Bank:

- |              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Thanksgiving | Sweatpants | Candy Corn |
| Treat        | Halloween  | Stuffing   |
| Pumpkins     | Trick      | Fall       |
| Leaves       | Bonfire    | Sweaters   |
| Turkey       | Candy      | Coffee     |
| Boots        | Scarves    | Breeze     |

\_\_\_\_\_ There is one special word, *can you find it?* \_\_\_\_\_

Fun Facts  
By Skylar Cagle

- You can tie a bow around the entire Earth with the amount of ribbon thrown away each year... We could've been coquette...
- Mallory Moore's second toe is significantly longer than the rest
- People used to eat arsenic to improve their skin
- Finland has more saunas than cars
- Swedish kids celebrate Halloween when Americans celebrate Easter
- You are 13.8% more likely to die on your birthday than any other day
- When you open your eyes in a pitch-black room, the color you'll see is called "eigengrau"
- The average adult spends more time on the toilet than they do exercising
- A "jiffy" is about one trillionth of a second
- The inventor of Pringles chips is actually buried in a Pringles can
- Riding roller coasters can help pass kidney stones
- You would likely "mutate" in space without a space suit

Falling for Fall Word Search  
By Haylen Moore

V M T E G H I B R E E Z E J K  
A H S H N B A T U R K E Y L U  
G S P U A B I L S E J C T L M  
K E W U I N O K L M N Z R E J  
C K M E M G K N I O A K E A S  
O S Y S A P C S F V W L A V C  
F S W Y O T K A G I S E T E A  
F H T E F D P I N I R C E S R  
E F I U A O W A N D V E A N V  
E A J T F T O C N S Y I D X E  
D L B R B F E T A T B C N I S  
P L O I G S I R B N S Z O G H  
B H O C P V Q N S A D H M R A  
V C T K R P O X G A L Y L G N  
Z M S D A Z M V P D P L L N G