

# THE - CAT'S - DISPATCH

Walnut Ridge, Arkansas  
Lawrence County School District

www.bobcats.k12.ar.us

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

## Olivia Farmer Crowned Miss Bobcat 2020

By Maggie Gibson

And the 2020 Miss Bobcat is.... Olivia Farmer.

On February 15, the Walnut Ridge Alleycats hosted the annual Miss Bobcat pageant. The day was filled with beautiful girls, stunning dresses and tons of hairspray. There were so many unique girls running after the crown.

The beauties competing were Sydney Robinson, Savannah Andrews, Olivia Farmer, Hannah Ponder and Jacey Jones.

While the girls were in the back getting ready to show the judges their amazing outfits, WRHS sophomore Hannah Beary provided entertainment by singing *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* and *If We're Honest*.

One by one, the girls came out and showed off for the judges. Finally, the judges decided who would wear the crown.

Miss Bobcat 2019 Hannah Harper crowned the new queen, Olivia Blanche Farmer.



## Maddie Flippo and Nash Gill Reign over 2020 Homecoming

By Maggie Gibson

Basketball homecoming week started on Tuesday with Jersey Day. Everyone dressed up in their favorite sports team jersey.

On Wednesday, the West Coast battled the Wild West. Thursday was twice the fun when you and your best friend got to dress up as Twinkies. All leading up to Friday, Homecoming Day.

Friday afternoon started with the PowerPuff Volleyball Tournament. PowerPuff is when the boys play and the girls coach. The Seniors beat the Juniors to retain the PowerPuff title.

After celebrating the seniors' success, the stage was



set for the presentation of royalty. The ladies of the court went first: Queen, Maddie

Flippo; then Maid of Honor, Shyanne Foley. Senior Maid was Mady McGinnis; Junior Maid was Gracey Collins, Sophomore Maid, Holly Berry, and Freshman Maid was Kinley Davis.

Maddie's pages were Brinlee Bullard, Jason and Rebecca Bullard and Kolt Blake, son of Jeff and Kayci Blake.

The Sweetheart Royalty included King Nash Gill; Knight of Honor Eli Biggers and Senior Knight was Trevor Smith. Junior Knight was Cannon Baker, Sophomore Knight was Ty Flippo and Freshman Knight was Ethan Augustine.

Nash's pages were Brynlee Brady, daughter of Scott and Cyndi Brady and Hudson Ezell, son of Justin and Natalie Ezell.

## 2020 Sweetheart Royalty



## Remember When...

By Skyla Henry

...Korwin Johnson and Jayden Hollister were in band	...Heidi Moore married Payton Lee
...Parker Papi and Ms. Brogdon raced	...Coach Ward made us plank for all of eternity
...Ty Flippo vomited during music practice with Mrs. Essman	...Mrs. Potter taught art
...The vending machine started smoking	...Mrs. Heard was our pickle dealer during the book fair
...there was a head banging competition in the gym	...Hailey Jensen gave herself a concussion

## Remember When...

By Hannah Wade

... Mollie Blackshear was a cheerleader  
 ... Andrew Brewer spit water in Mady McGinnis' face  
 ... Chaley Ervin had a clean driving record  
 ... Everyone had a mullet  
 ... Tik Tok was Musically  
 ... Gavin Davis bit Hannah Wade's finger in kindergarten  
 ... Cole Manning played basketball  
 ... Eli Biggers and Maci Smelser were a couple  
 ... It used to snow  
 ... James Belew made a "3" in the game against Hoxie  
 ... All you did in Driver's Ed was go to Sonic  
 ... We actually used our AMI days

## He Said/She Said

Paxton Layton - When you shoot two ducks with one shell, that's pure joy!

While reviewing ACT practice tests with Mrs. Rob, Anna Saffell said, "For awhile I thought it was talking about Miami" Alexis Dalton replied, "Yeah, Miami, like the state."

### More Rejected Candy Heart Sayings:

"BTDubs... I don't like you"

"Why u still here?"

"Whats ur name again?"

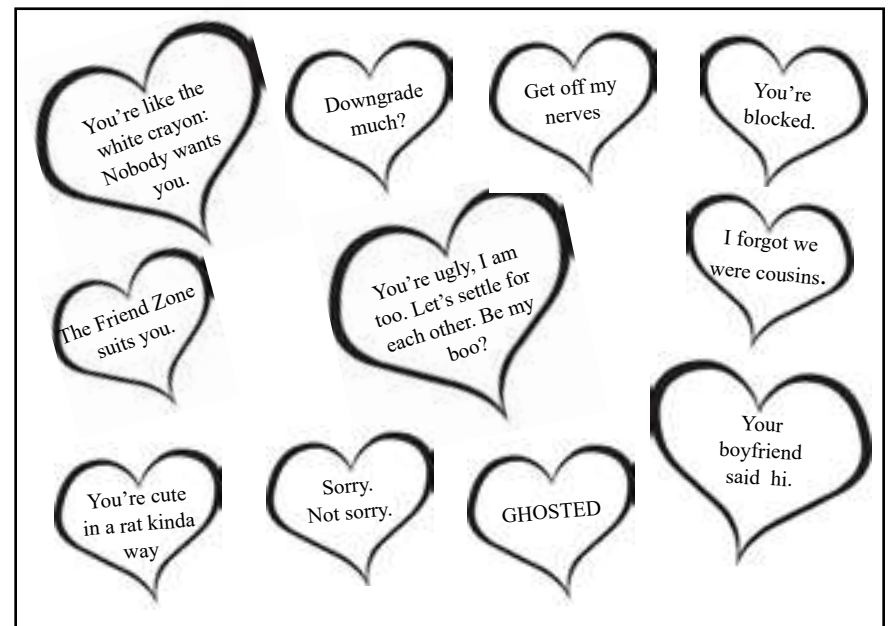
"You're cute, but your sister's cuter."

"My name is Mike Bloomberg and I approved this message."

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.

## Rejected Candy Heart Sayings



## Mystery Students

By Cody Gray

He's kinda tall, plays football  
 He's very social, lives close or local  
 He has a truck, has great luck  
 He has great hair, but he's just a Teddy bear

Football maid her senior year  
 You'll find her at the games; she's got to cheer  
 She used to work at the 'Freeze  
 Now she's at the King of Dairy serving a burger with cheese

### Cat's Dispatch Staff

Co-Editors — Mollie Blackshear and Hailey Jensen

Layout & Design - Anna Saffell

Copy Editors - Dagan Lillard and Skyla Henry

Sports Editor — Olivia Ford

Cartoonist — Kayleene Long

Staff Writers — Grady Privett, Hannah Wade, Roger King, Maddie Flippo, Chloe Brown, Gavin Davis, Eli Biggers, Cameron Robertson, Haley Smart, Andrew Hill, Isaiah Mabry, Austin Stover, Connie Lane, Jacob Buxton, Kaylan Decker, Leyre Berganzos Fernandez, Kyle Russell, Livvie Howard, Cody Gray, Ty Flippo, Rhoni Riggs, Kel Slusser, Maggie Gibson, Ray Yang, Abby Rounsavall, Parker Papi, Sydney Robinson, Jasmine Cox and Bailee Witt

## Bobcat Baseball Adds Yoga

By Nash Gill

Yoga is not what you think; most would think it is very simple, "Oh, please. All you have to do is just stretch." Yes, but no, at the same time.

In my eyes, the purpose of yoga, is to find peace and lower your stress levels. Deep breathing associated with yoga helps calm and slow down your heart rate so your body reacts in a positive way and not a negative way.

Yoga is good for your

body, especially if you play sports. First year head coach Jason Belcher added yoga to the baseball team routine to relax us and make us more flexible.

We do yoga twice a week as a team for about 45 minutes – the longest 45 minutes of my life. Downward dog is my favorite, but, to be honest, that's about the extent of my yoga knowledge. We'll see how it improves our bodies as the season gets underway.

## Save the Dates:

March - Thursday, 19th -

Parent Teacher Conferences (3 - 8 p.m.)

Friday, 20th - Spring Break begins

Spring Break: Week of March 23 - 27

Monday, 30th - Return to School

## Bobcat Bio: Chariah Mabry

By Kel Slusser

Class – Senior

Club Involvement – FBLA, Key Club, Student Council, Art Club and Volleyball

BFFs – Kalle and Bryce

Favorite Teacher – Mr. Haynes and Ms. Pattin

Relationship Status – Single

Pet Peeve – Liars

Last Binge Watch – *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*

Favorite Meme – The Cat Meme

Most Awkward Moments – Standing around a bunch of people I don't know

Last Person Texted – Bestie

Least Favorite Artist – Blackbear

Worst Habit – Having an attitude with most people

Choice for Your Last Meal? Seafood Boil



## Sr. Boys Bobcats Win Lawrence County Tournament

By Olivia Ford



Ty Flippo, MVP

For the second consecutive year, the Walnut Ridge senior boys Bobcats, coached by Blake Coffman, won the Lawrence County Basketball Tournament.

Sophomore Ty Flippo was named the Farm Bureau Tournament Most Valuable Player.

To claim the title, they upset the top seed of the tournament – the Hillcrest Screamin' Eagles 59-52. WRHS defeated the Hoxie Mustangs to make it to the championship game.

The Walnut Ridge Lady Bobcats placed second in the tournament, losing to the top-seeded Hoxie Lady Mustangs 56-63. In the first round of the tournament, the Lady Bobcats beat Sloan-Hendrix Lady Greyhounds 71-47. WRHS hosted the games this year.



LawCo Tournament marked the final basketball games in Sharum Gym.

## Bobcat Bio: Logan Sain

By Sydney Robinson

Class – Freshman

BFFS – Ty Flippo, Kel Slusser and Mason Andrews

Relationship Status – Single

Pet Peeve – People talking when I don't remember asking

Most Awkward Moment – Dancing in front of everyone at Winter Ball

Tech Addiction – Snapchat

Least Favorite Artist – Taylor Swift

Last Person you Texted – Ty Flippo

Request for your last meal? Chicken



## Getting to Know Mrs. B

By Rhoni Riggs

Mrs. Brenda Lee Alls has worked at Walnut Ridge High School for 31 years as an APSCN Student Plus data entry and before that she was a teacher's aide in special education.

Before her time at WRHS, she worked at Skil and was a stay-at-home mom.

Her hobbies include reading and traveling and she looks forward to spending more time with her grandchildren. Over the summer, she and her family took a trip to Branson. Her advice to students is, "Treat others how you want to be treated."

Family includes her husband, Don, and two daughters, Sarah and Donna. She also has three grandchildren. She graduated from Hoxie High School.

Her favorite Bible verse is, "As the deer pants for the water brooks; so my soul longs for you, O God" Psalms 42:1.



### Mrs. Brenda's Faves

Food – Shrimp

Website – Zulily

TV Shows – Hallmark movies

Author – Tracie Peterson

Store – Lane Bryant

Band – Casting Crowns

Best friend – Her husband,  
Don



### The Crowd Goes

**Wild:** Nothing brings out the Bobcat faithful like a home game against the Hoxie Mustangs.

(Left) Junior James Belew hit a 3-pointer against Hoxie at home.

(Right) It was a White Out as the KRU cheered the "Cats."

## Crackdown on College

By Grady Privett

As graduation grows closer, seniors are making the most important decisions of their lives: Choosing what to do with the rest of their lives. For some, the decision is to go into the military or the workforce, but for most, college is the way to go.

Many factors go into choosing the right college including cost, location, and future plans. This can be a daunting task for a 17-or 18-year-old kid. Luckily, here at WRHS, we have amazing faculty to help us through the straining and draining process of choosing the right college.

Applying to college and getting accepted isn't even the hard part. The hardest part is after you get accepted: filling out forms and meeting deadlines by yourself.

Secondly, choosing a major is also a difficult task. When you choose a major, it is the next biggest decision of your life, because this will determine the field you go into and what you will do for the rest of your life.

As a minors, some won't even be 18 when they start college. These are huge responsibilities that you have been working toward for a lifetime. Mistakes will be made, but we all will get where we're supposed to be.

Maturity is a huge factor in these decisions. Some colleges don't require freshmen to claim a major; others do.

Everyone will figure it out. It's not a race. It's like eating an elephant... one bite at a time. Everything is achievable.



Photos courtesy of Ashley George

## Shot-Caller Simmons

By Cameron Robertson

Nathan Simmons, 18, the son of Perry and Mary Simmons was born on March 24, 2001. His brother, Derek Miller, is 24 years old. Nathan can't live without his family because they mean everything to him.

Nathan has attended Walnut Ridge High School since head start and with that said his best friends include Nash Gill, Sean Brown, Megan Cole and Jonathan Alba. He has been friends with them for as long as he can remember.

His good sense of humor is evident when he describes his most memorable moment as being, "When Mrs. Lamb fell at Special Olympics." Known as a very honest person, his most used excuse for being late was that he slept in late.

The best advice he has received was, "Nathan, don't give up. You're right there" from Mr. Kersey. Nathan's biggest pet peeve is people smacking their food.

His junior year was his favorite because he became friends with more people. After graduation, he is looking forward to making his own money. There is high hopes for this boy.

### Nathan's Faves

App – Instagram  
 Movie –  
*Miracles from Heaven*  
 Holiday – Christmas  
 Singer – Chris Tomlin  
 Drink – Dr. Pepper  
 Movie – *The Patriot*  
 Restaurant – La Casita  
 Ice Cream – Chocolate



His role model is Stephen Curry because no matter how hard things get, he never gives up. His favorite quote is "I can do all things through Jesus Christ."

## The Life of Sheila Beasley

By Kaylan Decker

Sheila Michelle Juanita Beasley born on June 12, 2001, to her loving parents, Sheila Midgett and the Late Carl Midgett. She has two older sisters, Kortney and Carla and one older brother, Rockey. Her best friends include Hannah Wade and Maci Smelser.

Sheila has attended Walnut Ridge since kindergarten. She is involved in Special Olympics. Her favorite teachers are Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Sarah, Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Leslie.

Her most memorable moment in high school is going to Special Olympics.

The best advice for underclassmen is "Do your homework."

One thing Sheila can't live without is her family. Her biggest pet peeve is when people talk about others. After graduating, she plans on going to college with her older sister, Kortney.



**Sheila's Faves**  
 Pizza Topping – Sausage  
 Movie – *Peter Pan*  
 Class – Daily Life Skills  
 Drink – Gatorade  
 T.V. Show –  
*Tom and Jerry*  
 Food – Pizza  
 Holiday – Christmas  
 Ice Cream – Chocolate

## Through Valorie's Eyes

By Connie Lane



Valorie Gail Cook (or Valorie Barnett, as she prefers

to be called) was born on April 17, 2002. She is the daughter of Robert and Vicki Cook. She has four siblings: Alexis Sherril, Moriah Monroe, Isaiah Barnett and Jerricho Cook.

Her best friends are Austin Henderson and Zach Stanfill and she has been attending Walnut Ridge since kindergarten. She has a Chihuahua named Athena.

Her favorite teacher is Linda Smith, who teaches history and psychology, because she is kind and Valorie has built a strong connection with her. She is most proud of staying in choir for four years and becoming a member of National Honor Society.

Her best excuse for

being late was "being attacked by a pit bull." She simply cannot live without are her friends and family, and the hardest thing she had to do was letting one of her brothers go.

Seeing the people she loves every day is what she will miss most after high school. Valorie's pet peeve is people who roast her for doing small things that are not even remotely as bad as they have done.

She loves the movie, Aladdin and the book, The Hate You Give. The advice she gives to underclassmen is "Do not say you'll do it tomorrow, because we all know you won't."

## Creative Kristina

By Chloe Brown

Kristina Jean Thomas, 17, was born on August 16, 2002 to Charles Thomas. She has six brothers and sisters, Dean Thomas, 19, Layton Thomas, 18, Setreena Wynn, 12, Makayla Wynn, 11, and Ronnie and Julie Mashburn.

Kristina has attended Walnut Ridge High School since tenth grade; her best friend is Max Hibbs. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Hallman because, "She is supportive and very understanding." Kristina's most embarrassing moment was falling into the Chrome Book cart in Mrs. Mayfield's room in 10th grade.

The hardest thing she has had to do was go on after losing her grandma. Kristina is most proud of overcoming the hard times.

Since freshman year, Kristina has come to care more about her school work and less about what people think. Her biggest fear going into high school was not being liked and her biggest fear upon leaving high school is "losing control of my life and never becoming something." If she could start high school again she would change her attitude towards school.

Kristina's favorite year of high school has been her senior year. Advice that she leaves to underclassmen is, "Actually do your work; care about school and your grades."

Her best excuse for being late is, "I was in the bathroom." One thing she cannot live without is her dad.

### Kristina's Faves:

App – Snapchat  
 Nickname – Krissy  
 Pizza Topping – Pepperoni  
 Movie – *American Sniper*  
 Class – Debate  
 Drink – Dr. Pepper  
 Band – NF  
 T.V Show – *You*  
 Food – Salad, Takis,  
 Lemons  
 Ice Cream – Chocolate



## Kobe is Ready to Take Off

By Haley Smart

Kobe Slade Allison was born May 3, 2001 making him 18 years old. His parents are Patty Gee and Shad Allison; his big sister is Emily Allison. Kobe's best friends are Blane Wade and Cody Gray.

Kobe has attended Walnut Ridge for 13 years. His favorite year of high school has been his senior year. One thing he feared most upon entering high school was Doc. Holloway. He has no fears upon leaving high school.

Kobe feels he has changed since freshmen year and his biggest



accomplishments in high school would be joining the fire fighter class. Kobe's best excuse for being late to class is that the doors are locked in the morning.

The advice he gives underclassmen is "Do your work and you will be just fine," which is the same advice given to him by his sister.

### Kobe's Faves

App – Snapchat  
 Pizza topping – Cheese  
 Movie – *End Game*  
 Class – Math  
 Drink – Sweet tea  
 Food – Pizza  
 Holiday – Christmas  
 Ice Cream – Cookie Dough

### Save the Dates:

Sat, April 18 Jr. Sr. Prom at The Studio on Main  
 Sun, May 10 Baccalaureate at Manley Chapel, WBC  
 Fri, May 15 WRHS Graduation, Sharum Gym

## Future Welders of America

By Roger King

The Walnut Ridge senior, junior and sophomore agricultural students, along with the Sloan-Hendrix ag teacher and his students traveled to ARI and Hytrol in Jonesboro. Students learned about different jobs, job requirements and benefits available with each business.

At the end of the ARI tour, students received pizza, goody bags and a stadium cup along with instructions on how to take advantage of their generous job offers and college financial aid.

At the end of the tour at Hytrol, students were given the chance to ask questions about the facility itself, learned a little bit about the history behind Hytrol, and how it all started with one man and a dream. The trip was coordinated by Mrs. Abby Tyler, career coach for WRHS and SHHS, Joey Rice and Sloan's ag teacher, Randy Lingenfelter.

Class of 2020

**!!Mad Max!!**

By Jacob Buxton



Max Allison Hibbs was born December 21, 2001. She is 18 years old and is the daughter of Maesa Hibbs and Bill Brooks. She has one sibling, Walker Hibbs, who is 16 years old. Her best friends are Grace Callahan and Kristina Thomas. Max has two dogs, Maggie and Molly.

This awesome lady has been going to WR since the fourth grade! Her favorite teacher is Ms. Hallman. One of Max's most embarrassing moments was when she fell down the bleachers during a volleyball game. Max is just happy to simply graduate. Her advice for underclassmen, "Don't wait until 12th grade to do your work. Do it now. And come to school!"

Mad Max's best excuse for being late was drinking too much coffee that morning. She simply cannot live without her phone. Her biggest pet peeve is people who lie. Max has changed a lot since freshman year, but one of the biggest changes was learning to mind her own business.

Max will definitely miss

the routine of having something to do once she graduates, and she'll miss everyone. Her favorite quote is from Walt Disney: "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing!" Some of the best advice she has ever gotten was from her mother, "Just pull your head out of your butt and listen to me, step by step."

Tenth grade was Max's favorite year of high school. If she could start high school over again, Max would come to school every day and take her assignments seriously. Her biggest fear entering high school was that she would fail; her biggest fear upon leaving is that she'll be "out there with no guidance."

However, she looks forward to being a grown person with freedom and money. The hardest thing Max has ever had to do was go on without her dad, her best friend.

**Max's Favorites**

App - Snapchat  
 Movie - *Don't Be a Menace in Central Park*  
 Drink - Water  
 Store - Gearhead Outfitters  
 TV Show - *Key + Peele*  
 Holiday - Christmas  
 Restaurant - Sumo's  
 Ice Cream - Chocolate

**Reese's Pieces is Finally a Senior**

By Maddie Flippo



Reese Ashton Archer was born on September 19, 2001. She is 18 years old and is the daughter of Jennifer and Bryan Archer. Her siblings are Megan, 25, Jacey, 22, Emily, 19, Sean, 16, and Rylie, 14.

Miss Archer is friends with everyone. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes because he does so much for everyone.

One of her proudest accomplishments is making it to her senior year. Her advice to underclassmen is, "do not procrastinate; it is not worth it."

Reese is involved in Key Club, BADD, Student Council, and EAST. Her favorite quote is "Don't let the past determine your future. It reminds me to not live in the past, but keep moving forward."

Her best advice "always be nice to everyone; that does not mean they will be nice to you," came from her grandfather.

If she could restart high school, she would have taken it more seriously and studied more.

Her biggest fear upon leaving high school is having to take more responsibility. Her plans after high school is getting her degree in mechanical engineering from Arkansas State University.

**Reese's Favorites**

App – Snapchat  
 Pizza Topping – Pepperoni  
 Drink – Water  
 TV Show – *Lucifer*  
 Holiday – Christmas  
 Ice Cream – Strawberry  
 Restaurant – Crackle Barrel  
 Book – *She Rides Shotgun*

**Bobcat Bio: Hannah Beary**

By Sydney Robinson

Class – Sophomore  
 BFF – the Sydney Lauren Robinson  
 Favorite Teachers – Ford, Rachel Shelby  
 Relationship Status – Not on the market  
 Political View – Trump train  
 Last Binge Watch – Cheer  
 Most Awkward Moment – That Taco Bell night @sydney  
 Guilty Pleasure – Staying home from school because I'm tired  
 Freshman Flop – Failing Doc's class



# Freshmen



**Best Dressed:**  
Kinley Davis & Kai Watson



**Most School Spirit:**  
Kai Fisher & Lily Lewis



**Best Glow Up:**  
Melanie Jones & Xander Crum



**Most Unpredictable:**  
Xander Crum & Madison Jones



**Friendliest:**  
Ty Cook & Ayden George



**Most Likely to End up on a Reality Show:**  
Ethan McGinty & Madison Jones



**Most Likely to be Caught Sleeping in Class:**  
Payton Ditto & Alison Whitehead



**Teachers' Pest:**  
Creadon Brunson & Kimberly Carter-Walton



**Shortest Fuse:**  
Trenton Ditto and Haley Matthews

Freshmen Who's Who  
by Adam Murdock and Abby Rounsavall



# Who's Who

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**BFFs:** Maggie Porter  
& Kennedie Weldon



**Drama King and Queen:**  
Ethan McGinty & Stormy Jones



**Most likely  
to Marry  
for Money:**  
Maggie  
Porter  
& Ethan  
Jennings

^^ And... Biggest City Slickers ^^



**Most Redneck:**  
Alyson Woodard & Caden Murphy



**Least Annoying:**  
Maddox Jean & Paige Hall



**Most Likely to Become Famous  
for Something Stupid:**  
Madison Jones & Walker Ward



**Most Likely to Win the Lottery,  
but Lose the Ticket:**  
Brooke Brown & Quinn Carson



**Most Likely to Move Away from the US:**  
Maddox Jean & Bailee Witt

## Guns at School Are Not Ok!

By Jamie Patrick

A recent string of handguns on area high school campuses has left many in NEA on edge.

It all started with an incident at Westside when two boys were arrested after a witness saw a student hand off a revolver to another student in a restroom.

School resource officers immediately arrested the two suspects and found the gun at Westside High School.

Craighead County

Sheriff's Office says the two juveniles are being charged with conspiracy to commit murder and possession of firearm on school property.

The actions of the two boys impacted the whole school due to the 1998 school shooting which also occurred at Westside.

While WR has not had any recent incident, similar events have been reported at multiple schools in NEA since late January.



King of the World - Nash Gill, Sweetheart King, is crowned and kissed by his escorts, Sydney Burgin and Shyanne Foley.

## What Moment in Your Life Would Make a Good Movie?

By Bailee Witt

Mrs. Holland – “The time I tied shopping carts to a man’s van behind Hobby Lobby.”

Shania Martin – “The time I threw up on a band bus and coach Berry wouldn’t give me a trash can.”

Dakota Moore – “Rolling down a hill at Bailee’s birthday, trying to retrieve a cup.”

Madison Wade – “I broke my wrist at a skating rink, then proceeded to break it even more

trying to pet a horse.”

Cole Manning – “Playing at Glen Rose while I was sick.”

Dagan Lillard – “The time my cousin broke my nose by stocking me with a nerf gun.”

Sydney Robinson – “When I got Tik Tok famous.”

Walker Ward – “When Kai Watson and I put fireworks in a tube, and shot it at my brother.”

## Bobcat Bio: Kyle Russell

By Kel Slusser

Class – Junior

BFFs – James Belew, Cole Manning, Cannon Baker, Will Davis, Landon Sain and Mari Thomas

Club Involvement – FBLA, Key Club

Favorite Teacher – Mrs. Rice

Relationship Status – Single

Political View – Trump 2020

Favorite Meme – The Cat One

Tech Addiction – Snapchat

Last Person Texted – Mommy

Least Favorite Artist – Lizzo

Choice for Your Last Meal? Spaghetti



## What are Your Spring Break Plans?

By Austin Stover

Cody Gray – Going to Spring River

Isaiah Mabry – Going to Florida

Grady Privett – Going to Branson

Kenna Moore – Hanging with Dally

Kaylan Decker – Working

Jamie Patrick – Going to Hot Springs

Kyle Russell – Baseball tournament

Jonathan Alba – Going to Little Rock to see my mom

Rome McEntire – Sitting at home playing video games

Ray Yang – Watching Netflix and sleeping

Josh Porter – Working and hanging with friends

Daniel Woodard – Hang with friends/girlfriend and play X-Box

## What's Hot? What's Not!

By Jacob Buxton

### Whats Hot

Bernie 2020

Loving Your Friends

Vaccinating Your Kids

Minecraft

Android Phones

Being Metal Health Conscious

Rock Music

Decent Humans

Supporting Local Businesses

Being As Sweet As A Peach

Getting 8 Hours of Sleep

Nintendo Switch

### What's Not

Trump 2020

Being Rude to Friends

Anti-Vaxxers

3D Block Game on 3DS

Apple

Being Inconsiderate

Country

Nazi's

Supporting Corporate

Businesses

Being Sour Like Vinegar

Insomnia

Wii U

## Kobe Bryant's Tragic Death

By Ty Flippo

On January 26, a Sunday morning, retired NBA superstar Kobe Bryant, his daughter, Gianna, and seven other passengers of Kobe's helicopter died in a helicopter crash. Their unexpected deaths affected basketball fans and athletes all over the world.

The others souls lost included John Altobell, head baseball coach at Orange Coast College, his wife, Keri and daughter, Alyssa. Mother and daughter, Sarah and Payton Chester were also on board. Payton and Alyssa were Gigi's teammates.

Assistant basketball coach Christina Mauser, who coached at the girls' private school, was also killed. Kobe personally selected Mauser to assist with his Mamba AAU team. His personal pilot, Ara Zobayan, also died in the crash.

They were traveling to Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

## LeBron Just Passed Kobe on the All-Time Scoring List

By Ray Yang

On January 26, LeBron James passed Kobe Bryant for number three on the all-time scoring list during a game between the LA Lakers and the Philadelphia 76ers.

After the game, Kobe congratulated LeBron for passing him tweeting, "Continuing to move the game forward @ KingJames. Much respect to my brother #33644."

Kobe's tweet posted at 9:39 p.m. Saturday night. The next morning, around 9:45 a.m., Kobe and eight others, including his daughter Gigi (Gianna), were killed when the helicopter crashed into a hillside in dense fog.

### WRHS Students React

#### How Did You React to Kobe's Death?

By Austin Stover

Cameron Roberson – "I almost cried. He was my hero."

Roger King – "Who's Kobe?"

Adam Murdock – "I was speechless."

Jonathan Alba – "I cried."

Austin Rushing – "Sad. He was the reason I watched basketball."

Peyton Callahan – \*crying emoji\*

Jace Turner – "Woah"

Zach Stanfill – "Another legend died too soon."

Bo Johnson – "It was jaw dropping."

Logan Blackwood – "Made me a little depressed."

Mr. Rice – "I felt bad for his family."

Mrs. Rob - \*shoulder shrug\*

## RIP Gigi

By Isaiah Mabry

Shortly after the news of Bryant's death, TMZ confirmed his second daughter, Gianna "Gigi" Bryant, 13, was also killed.

Gigi was an up-and-coming girls' basketball star who was killed when she and two teammates, along with others, crashed into a hillside on their way to an AAU game.

Everyone on board

Bryant's helicopter was killed.

Gigi planned to follow in her father's footsteps and play basketball at every level.

She wanted to play at UCONN and then WNBA. Her life, along with the eight others, was lost while chasing her dream.

My heart, just like everyone else around the world, goes out to her family.



## The Black Mamba

By Eli Biggers

The black mamba (*Dendroaspis polylepis*) is an extremely venomous snake, native to parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Its skin color varies from grey to dark brown.

It is the fastest land snake in the world, and the longest venomous snake known. The lifespan of the black mamba in the wild is unknown, but captive snakes have been known to live 11 years. It is one of the world's deadliest snakes.

Kobe Bryant gave himself the nickname "Black Mamba" after he watched the movie *Kill Bill*. Kobe liked the name because the black mamba is agile and aggressive and this is how Kobe wanted to play.

## Shaq Reacts to Losing 'Little Bro'

By Livvie Howard

After the recent death of Kobe Bryant, one of his best friends was left devastated. Shaquille O'Neal agreed to "bury the hatchet" with his enemies in the wake of Kobe's crash.

They were former teammates for the LA Lakers from 1996 to 2004, winning three consecutive NBA Championships. In an interview, Shaq talked about how he "lost a little brother and (hasn't) felt pain that sharp in a while".

Although they had a love-hate relationship, in the recent years they cleared things up and had a close relationship. After all of this, Shaq says that he wants to do a better job at reaching out to people.

## Leyre Reviews Red Carpet Looks

By Leyre Fernandez

The Academy Awards, more popularly known as the Oscars, are awards for artistic and technical merit in the film industry. This 2020 we have seen really amazing outfits.

My opinions of the best dressed at the 2020 Oscars include:

Kim Kardashian West - KKW, known for her fashion faux pas (mistakes) in the past, dared with a seductive white dress, with translucent parts and a long train. However, thanks to her rapper-come-designer husband in tow, she dazzled on this red carpet.

Spike Lee paid tribute to the late Kobe Bryant in a custom Heritage two-button lapel costume from Gucci, with Bryant's number "24" jersey canned in front and back. Lee completed the look with a pair of Kobe 9 Elite Strategy shoes. A very original outfit with good purpose.

Spanish actress Penelope Cruz, a presenter at the 2020 Academy Awards, came to the Red Carpet in a black halter neckline dress signed by Chanel.

Margot Robbie was certainly one of the best dressed in a Vintage Chanel dress which confirmed the trend of dropped sleeves for this season. A simple, sensual dress with a small, fancy jewelry detail.

Nominated in the Best Actress category for her performance as Harriet Tubman in the film Harriet, Cynthia Erivo, showed off her dramatic style in a white, asymmetrical dress with a bustier designed by the Italian house Atelier Versace, an original and sensual dress with a front slit exposing her leg.

At the Grammy's, just weeks before the Oscars, Camila Cabello dared to wear a very sexy, short black dress with an elegant layer falling down the back of her legs. I loved the detail. It doesn't have straps and the top part is completely glittery which she matched with platform heels. In my opinion the best dressed of Grammy's.

Ariana Grande looked beautiful in a gray tulle with gloves, with her hair in ponytail. She is an artist who uses a neutral tone and generates an amazing effect, her dress with volume in blue-gray tulle by Giambattista Valli looked gorgeous.

Bebe Rexha wore a masculine Christian Cowan suit and Sophia Webster platform heels. I love how she brought her essence. The part of the blouse under the suit is awesome, transparent with jewelry, gives it a sexy and masculine air at the same time.

FKA Twigs chose one of my favorite dresses as they mix black with pink color. It is an open pink skirt with black details and the top is open and with shoulder pads. She wore a lot of matching accessories. It's a very striking and original look. I really like it.

Jessie Reyez wore a romantic, red, strapless dress covered in a floral design. The dress has high volume, of a single color. I do not like her hairstyle, but in general, it is very pretty outfit.

Megan Pormer, in the most polemic dress of the night, she wore a red sequin dress with "No war in Iran" written on the front and a reversible cape with the American flag and Iranian flag made of feathers. She chose nude-color heels. Personally, I don't like the design, but it has a good purpose.

## Miss Bobcat Bio, Olivia Farmer

By Grady Privett

Olivia Farmer, 16, was born December 19, 2003. She has attended Walnut Ridge since Pre-k. Her favorite way to pass time is hanging out with her friends.

Class - Sophomore

Clubs/Organizations: Key Club, FBLA, basketball and Alleycats.

### Olivia's Favorites:

Hobbies - Dance and basketball

Period- Lunch

Food – Alfredo

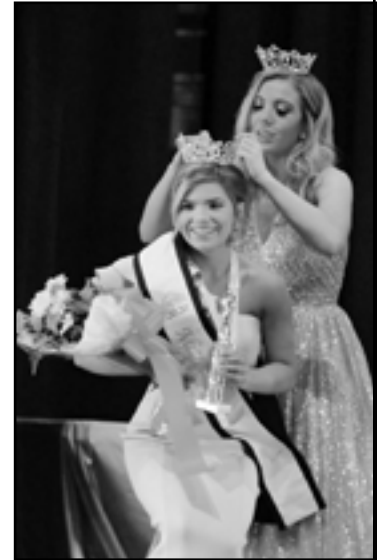
Store – The Refinery

App – Snapchat

Restaurant – Lazzari's

Sport – Basketball

Best Friends – Savannah Andrews, Chloe Davis, Alexis Dalton and Anna Claire Maple



### Book Review

## The Arc of a Scythe

By Dagan Lillard

Through entries in her "gleaning journal" Scythe Curie gives the reader the history of her world. In 2042, all humans became immortal and created the Scythedom, an organization of Scythes – people trained to "glean," or kill others permanently – to control the population growth.

Citra Taranova, 17, is horrified when Honorable Scythe Michael Faraday shows up on her doorstep and invites himself in for dinner. She and her parents are terrified that he is going to glean them; but soon afterward he admits that he is there to glean their neighbor.

Not long after, Faraday shows up at Rowan Damich's school to glean their football team's quarterback, Kohl Whitlock. Rowan insists on holding his hand as Scythe Faraday gleanes him. And for this, his classmates shun him.

Soon, both Citra and Rowan are invited to become Scythe apprentices – the training process in which a regular person becomes a scythe – and for their own respective reasons, they both accept. Rowan and Citra soon learn that only one of them will become a Scythe, and the other must die. *Scythe*, by Neal Shusterman.

Mystery Students  
Blane Wade and Hannah Wade