

# 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 ~

## Bobcat Volleyball Wins at Cave City Classic

By Olivia Ford



The Bobcat volleyball team, coached by Janna Berry, won their first tournament at Cave City on Sept. 7. Walnut Ridge went into this tournament tied as the 3 seed, but came out on top. This is the first time since 2015 for the Bobcats to win this tournament.

In pool play, Walnut Ridge defeated Salem (25-17, 25-12) and split with Pocahontas (22-25, 25-23). Opening up bracket play, the Bobcats beat the Cave City Cavewomen (25-13, 25-9).

In the semifinals, the Bobcats defeated the Pocahontas Redskins (25-20, 26-24). Walnut Ridge overcame an 18-24 deficit to score the final 8 points, earning

them a spot in the championship match against Hoxie. The Bobcats then defeated cross-town rivals, the Hoxie Mustangs (25-18, 25-15), earning the championship trophy.

Sydney Burgin was named MVP of the Cave City Classic and had the statistics to back it up. Burgin ended the day with 12 aces, 25 kills, 48 assists and 30 digs. Teammate Chariah Mabry added 6 aces and 12 digs to her team leading 43 kills and 10 blocks, while being named to



the All-Tournament team.

Setter Olivia Ford stuffed the stat sheet with 48 assists, 20 kills, 11 digs, 8 aces, and 3 blocks. Katie Kersey's clutch play was evident as she served the final 8 points in the comeback versus Pocahontas, and was all over the court to get 47 digs, 6 assists, and 4 aces.

Shyanne Foley continually provided big plays when needed with 23 digs, 13 kills, a block, and was 27 for 27 serving with 3 aces. Gracey Collins contributed 13 kills, 9 digs, 3 aces, and a block. Holly Berry tallied 14 digs, 3 assists, a kill, and an ace. Chloe Bounds pounded 6 kills to go with 4 digs and a block.

## Xander Layton Remains at ACH



Recovery is a slow, but Xander continues to show progress. Send cards and letters to:

Xander Layton  
Arkansas Children's Hospital  
1 Children's Way  
Slot 804  
Little Rock, AR 72202

## Work Begins on New Gym

By Ty Flippo

Walnut Ridge High School has needed a new gym for years now. Last August, the patrons of the Lawrence County School District passed a millage increase to fund a new gym, in addition to a softball and baseball complex. It is projected to be around \$8.5 million dollars for the new construction.

They broke ground in August 2019 and are now working on the gym. The LawCo school board members, administration, and the representatives of Nabholz, the construction manager and the architects participated in the ground breaking.

There is construction on both sides of Southern Avenue, where the gym will be located between the Brad Head Start and the community center. Ball fields will be located across the road.

## The Beginning of the End

By Mattie Craig

On August 13, I, along with 60 other students I grew up with for 12 years, began my last first day at Walnut Ridge High School. I've attended Walnut Ridge since preschool, so it was obviously a bittersweet day.

The day started on the track at 6 a.m. for the senior breakfast, which consisted of two small grills cooking a ton of food, music, mosquitoes and a beautiful sunrise. After, we huddled in the gym for one last first day assembly. I spent the rest of the day dragging my tired self to each class, from SIRI 2nd period to study hall 8th.

I honestly thought that I would be more depressed that I had begun my last first week at school, but in reality, it's not all too bad. This gives me a reason to take things more seriously as time goes by.

Senior year is going to fly by and important events will be here before we know it, like Winter Ball, Prom, and the seniors' last day of school. Graduation will show up unexpectedly like Captain America in *Avengers: Infinity War*.

All in all, seniors, don't take your last year for granted. I'm ready for a year full of surprises and new opportunities!

## Freshmen Thoughts

by Kaylan Decker

The start of high school for freshmen may be exciting, but it is also a big adjustment. There are new teachers, new classes, upperclassmen and often a different building to find their way around.

I spoke with some WRHS freshmen and here are some of their thoughts about everything:

### *What did you think about your new classes?*

"It was scary" – Lily Luster

"Classes were hard to find" – Ashlyn Moore

"I feel like I'm going to pass" – Karlee Brewer

### *Thoughts on upperclassmen?*

"They seem nice" – Jimmy Wells

"Most are chill" – Xander Crum

"I don't talk to them, but they are okay" – Daphne Ward

### *Thoughts on teachers?*

"They are great" – Haley Matthews

"Doc is my favorite" – Ethan McGinty

"The teachers are more laid back other than the middle school teachers" – Greg Duckworth

### *And finally, do you like high school or middle school better?*

"High school, the teachers are nicer" – Jackie Feezor

"High school, you have more freedom" – Clinton Simpson

"High school, the teachers are more lenient" – Lily Luster

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.



Mattie Craig

## Mystery Students

By Nash Gill

*He's not very tall  
But he plays basketball,  
He's kind of hairy  
But not very scary*

*She's an outstanding figure  
And she likes the Biggers,  
She used to be a Ram  
But she's back with the fam*

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

## WR Cheerleaders Go To Camp

By Maggie Gibson

Walnut Ridge cheerleaders attended NCA Cheer Camp in Hot Springs where they worked with a group of elite professional cheerleaders for three days to learn a “jam” routine. They learned new skills and improved old ones. Every day was just as exciting as the last.

While there, junior high cheerleader **A v e r y A n d e r s o n** was nominated, tried-out for and was named an All-American cheerleader.

“B u d d y instructors” (aka the staff) observed all the cheerleaders and chose the best ones as All-American nominees.

A few cheerleaders were selected from each squad to compete for a spot on the All-American team. The try-outs consisted of a sequence of jumps, tumbling, and a chant. Only a few

were invited to be All-American Cheerleaders.

Every day they worked on perfecting their dancing skills, learning new stunt sequences, and they did it all with a smile on their faces. They came in eager to learn, ready for any obstacle. However, it wasn't always business; they played games throughout the experience.

They met cheer teams from Arkansas and neighboring states. Everyone was generous to each other, always positive and encouraging.

The cheerleaders went into cheer camp full of different emotions. The new cheerleaders were nervous and the veterans were glad to be back. Over time all the stress and nervousness melted into excitement. They went as a squad... and they came back as a family.

Even after camp their family continued to grow when they got the amazing opportunity to add foreign exchange student, Palmy, to the squad. This year will be a great one for the Walnut Ridge cheerleaders!



## False Advertising

By Andrew Hill

When you buy an item you expect the product to be what you pay for. Advertising draws you in with fancy colors and smooth talk. However, false advertisement is everywhere.

Ice cream uses mashed potatoes because the ice cream would melt under the lights. Then you have cereal advertising in which the milk is actually glue. Most of all, when they do pancake commercials they use motor oil instead of syrup. They also use cardboard instead of actual pancakes to look more golden and the “syrup” to soak in.

All I expect is the color of the Kool-Aid packet that I buy, to coincide with the drink color. Is that too much to ask?

## Bullying is Still a Problem

By Haley Matthews

Bullying is a problem in most schools. It is anything from jokes taken seriously or physical assault. Verbal harassment is the most common form of bullying, followed by social harassment, then physical assaults. Fights are not as common; bullying today is worse because of social media.

Over 160,000 students refuse to attend school each day as a result. More than 10% of high school dropouts complain about bullying. Each month 282,000 students find themselves being physically assaulted in some form.

The percent of students bullied each year varies for each age group. The older you are, the less likely you are to be bullied.

Statistics suggest that revenge (due to bullying) is today's number one motivator for school shootings in the US. 86% of students surveyed said “other kids picking on them, making fun of them, or bullying them” is the number one reason that teens turn to lethal violence at school.

Approximately 75% of school shootings have been linked to harassment and bullying. 87% of students agree that bullying is the primary motivator for school shootings.

Bullying could easily be prevented. Simply sit down with someone new, start a conversation with somebody you sit close to in class or even exchanging a few words with somebody in the halls.

If you find yourself in a situation with somebody who is suicidal, inform an adult and contact somebody through the Suicide Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255 or 1-800-273-TALK. It is important to seek professional help.

## Tik Tok Take Over

By Sydney Robinson

Tik Tok is an app that gained popularity over the summer when people went on vacations and made short, funny videos.

There are a lot of YouTubers who switched from YouTube who are now Tik Tok subscribers.

Tik Tok is the most downloaded app in the App Store right now with 33 million people on the platform. The app is really easy to use. Most people make dancing videos and short comedy videos.

You have a lot to pick from on the app. There is a “For

You” page where your videos can get featured, so it will basically go famous if it gets on there. Another feature is the ability to make your videos private so only you can see them, or you can save them to your drafts.

I think everyone should download the app, I love watching videos and making them even if I don't post them.



## Berry's Seven Seniors Lead Lady Cats in Volleyball

By Olivia Ford

The Bobcat Volleyball seniors have high expectations for the 2019 season. These seniors include Kailey Blazer, Sydney Burgin, Maddie Flippo, Shyanne Foley, Olivia Ford, Katie Kersey and Chariah Mabry.

Kailey Blazer, 17, plays volleyball and softball and plans to attend BRTC. A good jam session is what best prepares Kailey to succeed, and her best advice for young athletes is "Don't quit when it gets tough."

One of Kailey's most cherished memories at WRHS is when Coach Coffman ripped his pants at Regionals. She draws inspiration from watching good plays and believes that the key to success is a good attitude.

The best advice Kailey has ever been given was told by Kent Murphy—"Never bunt, hit dingers."

Sydney Burgin, 17, fell in love with volleyball when she was only four years old. She plans to play volleyball in college and major in education. What best prepared Sydney to succeed is realizing that she will never be perfect 100% of the time and learning from her mistakes. Two keys to her success are a good work ethic and a positive attitude.

Her best advice for young athletes is "be encouraging and never give up." Sydney's most cherished memories include getting homecoming and spending every year with her best friends. She has had a very successful volleyball career, receiving All-State every year and making it on the AVCA Phenom list.

Maddie Flippo, 17, started playing volleyball in third grade. Maddie's coaches best prepared

to succeed by her pushing her, and her best advice for young athletes is to always go 110% in practices. Her keys to success are working hard and never staying content.

Her most cherished



memories are of the times spent playing volleyball with her best friends. The best advice Maddie has received was from Mr. Kersey, "Be like school toilet paper. Rough, tough, and don't take crap for nobody."

Shyanne Foley, 17, plays volleyball, basketball and softball for the Bobcats. After high school, she plans to attend Williams Baptist and major in speech communication disorders and early childhood education, while also playing softball. The keys to Shyanne's success are "putting God first and putting in the work."

Shyanne's advice for young athletes is "You're your own worst enemy—get out of your own head." She lives by the motto "Impossible is not a word,

it's just a reason for people not to try," and the best advice she has ever received is that she will have the best life by keeping God first.

Olivia Ford, 17, started playing in fourth grade. After

accomplishments are receiving All-State in volleyball, as well as All-Conference in softball.

The best advice Katie has received was from her dad, who told her, "Life's tough, get a helmet."

Growing up, she remembers looking up to former WR athlete Cirstin Lee because she was a great libero. Winning state in volleyball is on Katie's bucket list.

Chariah Mabry, 17, plans to play volleyball in college while majoring in pre-law. God, her parents, coaches, and teachers are who best prepared Chariah to succeed; and her greatest accomplishments include receiving All-State, All-Conference, and *Best under the Sun* Newcomer of the Year.

God and hard work are Chariah's keys to success, and her advice for young players is "Never give up and just keep swimming."

Chariah's most cherished experience at WRHS is getting stuck on the bus after leaving the state tournament. She lives by the saying "Be savage, not average."

high school, she plans to major in exercise science. Her best advice for young athletes is "always be the hardest worker in the room."

Olivia's most positive experiences at WRHS are the times spent playing volleyball with her teammates. Her biggest athletic accomplishments include winning multiple JO volleyball tournaments, as well as receiving the Lady Raider Volleyball award as a freshman. The best advice Olivia has received is to play hard, play smart and have fun.

Katie Kersey, 17, plays volleyball, softball and cheers for the Bobcats. She plans to attend BRTC and major in nursing. The best advice Katie has for young athletes is "effort and attitude both go a long way." Her biggest



**Keep an Eye on These Three:** Senior Lady Cats Sydney Burgin, Katie Kersey and Chariah Mabry have been named to the *High School Under Armor All-American Watch List*.

## Coach Blake Leads The Bobcats

By Grady Privett



Jeffery Allen Blake is the new football head coach at Walnut Ridge. Blake attended Greene County Tech where he played football, basketball and baseball; winning a state ring in both baseball and basketball. Coach Blake attended Arkansas State University where he continued to play football.

Coach Blake worked at GCT for two years and Hoxie for six years before coming here. His hobby is football. He has a wife, Kayci and two sons Jace, 10, and Kolt, six.

During the summer, Blake watched his sons play baseball and is looking forward to football season. His favorite part of coaching is building new relationships each year.

### Blake's Faves

App – Hudl  
 TV Show – *Man in the High Castle*  
 Book – *The Hobbit*  
 Store – Academy Sports  
 Restaurant – Colton's  
 Food – Steak  
 Band – Eagles  
 BFF – Derek Lawson

### Blake's Favorite Quote:

*'Things turn out the best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.'*

– John Wooden

## WR Welcomes Coach Hart

By Isaiah Mabry



Walnut Ridge was blessed to get a young man named Coach Seth Hart. This is Coach Hart's first year coaching at the high school level and I believe it will be a great year.

Hart not only coaches junior high baseball, football, and basketball, but he also teaches PE for pre k – 2nd grades, and 7th and 8th grades.

Coach has worked hard to get where he is now. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in health and physical education from Williams Baptist University. Coach Hart also previously worked

at WBU

Coach Hart is very inspirational. He enjoys sports, hunting and fishing. He loves Friday Night Football. He is the son of Sherry and Michael Hart. Coach has a brother, Clay Hart.

### Hart's Words of Advice:

*"Every day may not be a good day, but there is good in every day."*

### Hart's Favorites

Food – Ribeye  
 Store – DNW Outdoors  
 Restaurant – Outback  
 Band – Foreigner

## Bobcat Football Friday Nights at 7:00



## Big Challenges for a Little Man

By Ethan Willis

Andrew Hill, 17, started attending Walnut Ridge in 10th grade. A junior, he has joined the Bobcats as a cornerback. He played linebacker at Augusta and McCrory, before playing corner and defensive end at McCrory in grade 9.

Hill has a few struggles. He is new to the team, he is only 5'3, and he is small. But his struggles are also advantages, He can break though easier and he can run fast. He says "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog."

Football is a strong and powerful part of the WRHS community. Andrew Hill will now dress out and take his enthusiasm from the stands to the field. We hope see great things out of the newest Bobcat.



**Named Glen Sain Players of the Week for the week of Sept. 9:** Bobcats Cole Manning and Sydney Burgin have each earned the title of players of the week. Cole rushed 292 yards with 5 TDs in 12 carries and returned a kickoff 67 yards for a TD against Marked Tree. Sydney recorded a triple-double of 12 kills, 11 assists and 11 digs against Cedar Ridge.

## The Real T-Smitty

By Gavin Davis

Trevor Allen Smith, born to "Diesel" Denny and Mary Smith on November 5, 2001, is 17 years old. Trevor also goes by Trev or T-Smitty. He has one older brother, Dylan, who is 23. He has two cats, Fat Boy Fonzi and Freckles.

He has attended Walnut Ridge for 13 years and in that time he has made many friends, but his best friends are the RR boys (you know who you are).

His favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes because he's "the man." Trevor's most embarrassing moment was when he missed his serve in Powder Puff volleyball.

Throughout his high school career, he has been active in multiple clubs such as: Key Club, FBLA, Student and Band Council. The clubs and the band are what Trevor will miss most about high school.

He is an accomplished swimmer and has been a qualifier in the Junior Olympics four times in both the free-style and individual medley.

Trevor's biggest fear entering high school was definitely Doc Holloway and his biggest fear about leaving high school is that he might end up homeless.

He plans to go to Williams Baptist University and is looking forward to doing things on his own. His role model is his father because he's a 30-year Army veteran (and he drives a diesel).

Trevor says,  
"Peace Out, Boy Scout."



### Trevor's Faves:

App – Snapchat  
 Movie – *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou*  
 Drink – Sweet Tea  
 Band – Chris Stapleton  
 Store – D&W  
 T.V. Show – *Live P.D.*  
 Holiday - Christmas  
 Song – *Elvira* by  
 The Oak Ridge Boys  
 Celebrity Crush –  
 Katelyn Nacon



## Hannah's Future Looks Bright

By Chris Gulledge

Hannah Elizabeth Wade, aka Han, is the daughter of Heath Wade. She was born April 14, 2002 and is 17. Her little brother is Blane Wade, 16. She has a dog named Remi, and her best friend (and boyfriend) is Austin Stover. She has attended Walnut Ridge since kindergarten. Her favorite year was junior year.

If she could change one thing about her high school experience, it would be taking different classes. When asked what she would miss most about high school, she said, "all her friends." She is involved with many different activities such as FBLA, FCCLA, Key Club, cheer and softball.

Hannah's biggest fear upon leaving high school is facing what she calls, "the big world." The advice she leaves to underclassmen is to "not quit trying after one bad grade."

Hannah's role model is her dad, Heath Wade, because "No matter what has been thrown at him, he has always been bigger than the situation and was able to overcome everything and everyone."

Her favorite quote is by Walt Disney, "The difference between winning and losing is most often not quitting."



### Hannah's Faves:

App – Snapchat,  
 Movie – *50 First Dates*  
 Drink-Coke  
 Class -Journalism  
 Book -*Skinny*  
 Holiday -Christmas  
 Ice cream - Chocolate

## Bobcat Bio: Adrian Blaylock

By Anna Saffell

Class - Sophomore  
 Club Involvement – FFA  
 BFFs – Maggie Gibson, Anna Saffell and Mason Ashlock  
 Favorite Class – Civics  
 Last Binge Watch – *The Walking Dead*  
 Tech Addiction – *Fortnite*  
 Most Awkward Moment – Talking in front of a lot of people  
 Last Person Texted – Mom  
 Worst Habit – Playing *Fortnite*



## Little Man, Big Heart

By Rohni Riggs

Logan Wyatt Blackwood, the son of Lavesta and Bubba, was born on October 3, 2001. He has an older brother, Dylan and his best friend is Nash Gill.

Logan has attended Walnut Ridge his whole life. His future plans are to go to BRTC and become a welder. Of all his teachers, Mr. Rice is his favorite. Logan says, "He's straight forward and has funny stories."

His most memorable memory was when Nash fell off the rim and almost broke his tailbone. His advice for the underclassmen is: "Pay attention in Mrs. Rob's."

The biggest change he's had since freshman year is that he has grown his hair out. Ironically, his biggest pet peeve is people telling him to cut his hair.

He honestly doesn't expect to miss anything about high school. He fears becoming an adult and is involved in BADD, FFA and FBLA.



### Logan's Faves:

App – Netflix  
 Movie – *The Lion King*  
 Class – Ag  
 Drink – Sweat Tea  
 T.V. Show – *The Flash*  
 Holiday – Christmas  
 Song – *I Don't Know about You* by Chris Lane

## Bobcat Bio: Megan Cole

By Jamie Patrick

Class – Junior

BFFs– Jamie Patrick, Livvie Howard, Isaiah Mabry and Jesus Juarez

Favorite class – Art

Relationship status – Taken

Pet peeve – When people leave the lids off things

Last binge watch – *Family Guy*

Guilty pleasure – Spending money on things I don't need

Tech addiction – Snapchat

Most awkward moment – Getting caught skipping class



## The Legend of Alba

By Cameron Robertson

Jonathan Alexander Alba, a legend that was supposed to be a myth, was born on March 13, 2002. Jonathan is the second oldest of four. His older brother is Angel Alba who is 19, and his younger siblings are Jose, 10 and Dominic, nine.

Jonathan is the 17-year-old son of Carey Ann Alba and Jonathan Alba. People Jonathan lives with and he considers family include Vic and Judy Clark, Millie and Christian Clark, "Beefy Loin" (aka, Jeremiah) and Cameron.

If you hurt any of them he will most likely snap and break you in half -- same as if you hurt Izzy, his favorite dog. Jonathan can't live without Izzy, a miniature Yorkie which can fit in the palm of your hand.

His favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob (aka, the Robster). He considers her his favorite teacher even though she body slammed him every day last year.

Everyone has a memorable moment in his or her life and this warm-hearted guy embraced his moment when he did a Slip 'n Slide in the mud after a Harrisburg football game last year.

Jonathan is in Key Club and football and he loves every moment of both - even riding home on the bus, all hot and sweaty with the team. Alba is friends with everyone and hates to let people down. His advice to underclassmen is, "Do everything with passion."



The best advice he has received was 'Don't listen to hate,' by Coach Ward. This helped him get far in life because he doesn't take his anger or hatred out on people; he takes it out on the football field.

Many people helped shape Alba into the person he is today and he wants to thank every single person who never gave up on his dream of going into the NFL.

### Alba's Faves:

App – Snapchat  
 Pizza topping – Sausage  
 Movie – *Avenger's End Game*  
 Store – Footlocker  
 TV show – *Dragon Ball Z*  
 Book – *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*  
 Entertainer – Tim Hawkins  
 Food – Fried rice  
 Song – *Gold Roses* by Drake  
 Ice cream – Rocky Road

### Homecoming

Oct. 25  
 WR vs. Harrisburg

## Along Came an (April) Fool

By Roger King

By now, you have all probably read a dozen or more senior spotlights, but you haven't read one like this. This story is about the one and only, Austin James Stover. Austin, 17, was born April 1, 2002. He is the son of Crystal and Rick Williams. His siblings include, Tyler Deboard (five), Layne Stover (three), Alyssa Stover (1 month), Danielle Stover (16), and Thomas Burgett (19).

Austin has a pit bull named Isabel. His best friends include, Peyton Callahan, Roger King, Bo Johnson, Chris Gulledege, Jonathan Alba and Zach Stanfill. Austin has attended Walnut Ridge for just two years.

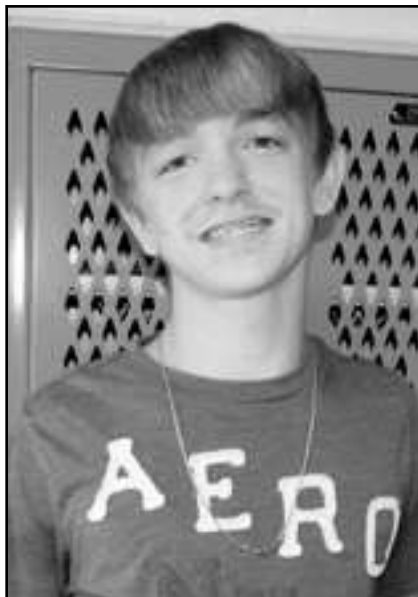
Austin's favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob, although he claims it is a love-hate relationship. An embarrassing moment for Austin was when Mrs. Rob addressed him as "Ankle Biter."

Austin's proudest accomplishment is making it to his senior year. His advice for underclassmen is, "Do your homework."

His biggest pet peeve is people invading his bubble. One of Austin's notable changes since freshman year is height, "I've grown... barely."

The memories are what Austin expects to miss most about high school. Austin's favorite year of high school was his junior year. If Austin could start high school over, he said the one thing he would do differently would be going to one high school the entire time.

His biggest fear going into high school was failing. His biggest fear leaving high school is, "not being successful." One



thing Austin is looking forward to after graduation is "Not dealing with most of y'all."

When asked if Austin plans to attend college, he replied "If I'm lucky." The hardest thing that he has ever done was pass 11 grade English. Austin's nickname is "Stover."

### Austin's Faves

Role model –  
Seth Rogan  
App – Snapchat  
Pizza – Pepperoni  
Movie –  
*Dazed and Confused*  
Drink – Dr. Pepper  
TV show – *Coach Snoop*  
Holiday – Thanksgiving  
Ice cream –  
Moose Tracks  
Celebrity crush –  
Chanel West Coast

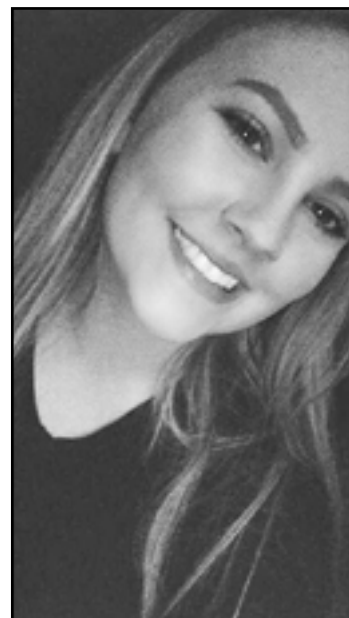
## Chaley's Ready to Be Outta Here

By Chloe Brown

Chaley Bonita Ervin was born April 4, 2002 to Candi and Thomas Lambdin. She has two sisters, Caylia Ervin and Christian Gray. She has attended Walnut Ridge since 7th grade.

Chaley's best friends are Chloe Brown, Mollie Blackshear and Max Hibbs. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Haynes because he understands her attitude.

Chaley's biggest accomplishment is passing the 11th grade and becoming a senior. Her fear upon leaving high school is having to manage money for bills.



### Chaley's Favorites

App – Snapchat  
Restaurant – Sumo's  
Pizza – Meat lovers  
Food – Mashed potatoes  
Drink – Dr. Pepper  
Holiday – Christmas  
T.V. show – *Stranger Things*  
Song – *Pimpin Aint Easy*

### Bobcat Bio: Madison Jones

By Anna Saffell

Class – Freshman  
BFFS – Anna Saffell, Maggie Gibson and Seth Rounsovall  
Favorite Teacher – Mr. Long  
Political View – "Shrek for President"  
Last Binge Watch – *Grey's Anatomy*  
Favorite Meme – Shrek Memes  
Guilty Pleasure – Cooking Shows  
Tech Addiction – Snapchat  
Least Favorite Artist – Cardi B  
What Would You Choose As Your Last Meal –  
Everything at Taco Bell





## Smokey, the Bobcat

By Mady McGinnis

Senior Kailey Nicole Blazer was born September 1, 2002 to Cassie Gibson and Randy Blazer. Her child is her dog, Lilly. Kailey's best friends are Mady McGinnis and Savannah Nelson.

Kailey has attended Walnut Ridge since kindergarten; she is a proud member of Key Club, FBLA, National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta.

Her favorite teacher is Jerry Haynes because he always gives good advice and makes her laugh.

Her most memorable and also most embarrassing moment in high school is from freshman year, when she was running off the volleyball court and face-planted in front of everyone.

Kailey's best excuse for honestly anything is that she couldn't stop petting her dog, and she's not lying. Kailey could never live without her phone or Mady. Her biggest pet peeve, of course, is people in general.

"You can't photoshop an ugly personality" –Smokey's



wise words

Kailey's favorite year of high school was sophomore year. If she could start high school again she would never have quit volleyball.

After graduation she is looking forward to never seeing certain people ever again. Her biggest fear coming into high school was the upperclassmen.

The hardest thing she has ever had to do was leave her dog every morning to go to school. Her proudest accomplishment in high school is simply passing chemistry.



Zach Cox works hard.

## Call Me Mabry

By Haley Smart



Isaiah Mabry was born on May 3, 2001 to Jessie Moore and Charles Mabry, Sr. He has attended Walnut Ridge High School for a year and a half.

He has made new friends over the year including Tristin

Hart, Jon Alba and his amazing football team. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Rob and his best excuse for being late to class is "I was getting that constant grind."

Isaiah has had many accomplishments but the one he is proud of the most is All State in the 4 x 8 relay in track. He's involved in FBLA and Key Club. The thing Isaiah will miss most about high school is the football team.

### Isaiah's Faves

App – Snapchat

Store – Footlocker

Pizza topping – Bacon

T.V. show – *Johnny Test*

Movie – *Friday*

Restaurant – Chili's

Band – Backstreet Boys

Ice cream – Strawberry

## Bobcat Bio: Dylan Sheets

By Jamie Patrick

Class – Senior

BFFs – Jamie Patrick, Peyton

Callahan and Jonathan Alba

Favorite teacher – Mr. Long

Relationship status – Single

Political view – No more wheat bread at school!!

Pet peeve – Being sent private memes

Last binge watch – *Smallville*

Guilty pleasure – Buying stuff for games

Tech addiction – *Black Ops 4*

Most awkward moment – "I was playing the drums at church and lost a stick and hit someone."



**Kailey's Faves:**  
 App – Snapchat  
 Pizza Topping – Mexican Chicken  
 Drink -- Rockstar  
 Singer – Bazzi  
 Store – JC Penney  
 Food – Cheese fries from La Casita  
 Restaurant – Steak 'n' Shake  
 Ice cream – Cookie Dough

## Coming to America

By Livvie Howard

Leyre Fernandez is one of four foreign exchange students at WRHS this year. She is 15 years old and in the 11th grade. Her hometown is Logrono, Spain; however, she is currently living with the Bryan Butts family in Walnut Ridge.

She speaks Spanish, but she also knows English and French. She started learning English when she was in kindergarten.

Leyre chose to be a foreign exchange student because she likes new experiences and thinks multiple languages will open a lot of doors in the future. However, her biggest concern as a foreign exchange student is not knowing anyone and being alone.

For Leyre, the difference between school in Logrono and Walnut Ridge is that in Spain you cannot choose your subjects and you don't change rooms for each class. Classes here are more enjoyable.

Her home school is very demanding. Here she has different choices and it's easier. In Spain, Leyre's school is more advanced and one of the best schools in Spain. They prepare their students very well for the future. As a result, the subjects she's taking here are mostly review.

She describes her hometown as more comfortable than WR. You can go everywhere by walking and you have many options for entertainment. The time difference between here and home is seven hours.

Getting started at Walnut Ridge was difficult for her because she's never changed schools. She is still currently adjusting into her routine. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her friends.

To get here, Leyre endured a 14-hour plane ride. She talks to her family every day. She didn't have any problem switching to English with her Walnut Ridge peers and host family.



**Leyre's Faves**  
 Teacher – Mrs. Pattin  
 Ice Cream – Chocolate  
 Restaurant –  
 Tagliatella  
 TV Show –  
*Superviventes*  
 Store – Foot Locker



**Sister, Sister:** Freshmen Melanie and Madison Jones turned it up at the Back to School Dance.

## Peace Arrives from Thailand

By Bailee Witt

Pittaya Promsuwan, aka Peace, is one of the new foreign exchange students at WRHS. He is 17 years old, in the 11th grade. He lives in Jonesboro with Andres Marin, and his host parent, Suzann Wilson. Back in Thailand, he is actually in 12th grade.

He traveled 15 hours from Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand to reach Walnut Ridge, where he hopes to improve his knowledge of the English language. He still has trouble switching from Thai to English when talking to his peers. The biggest fear he has faced since here has been speaking English.

But let's learn some more about him. He began learning English at age 6. When he first arrived the biggest surprise to him was our culture. Along with that he's experienced a culture change himself.

A big or even the biggest fear surprise about America was our culture and communication, compared to his original culture.

**Peace's Favorites**  
 Teacher – Mrs. Shelby  
 Class – Math  
 Store – Walmart  
 TV show – *America's Got Talent*  
 and *The Voice*  
 Holiday – Christmas  
 Book – *The Percy Jackson* books  
 Ice cream – Vanilla  
 Restaurant –  
 Burger King  
 Game system – Play  
 Station 4  
 Video game –  
*TaleRunner*



Our English was also one of the biggest differences for him when he arrived.

He only talks to his parents once a week and sometimes a little more, which I imagine would be very hard. There is a 12-hour time difference which adds to the difficulty. WRHS is completely different from his home school. He still gets his classes mixed up at times, so if you ever see he's lost be willing to help him out.

Thailand's weather is very different from Arkansas. With school in Thailand, the content taught there is much harder than here, but he is enjoying new classes such as U.S History.

In his free time, Peace loves to listen to music and watch movies, he also likes to play basketball and talk to friends. He's made lots of new friends in WR and he's happy to be here.

At home, his favorite food is steak; but here he likes chicken. Something that's not in Thailand though, is a Walmart, which is now his favorite store.

## Getting Kinda "Palmy" in WR

By Hannah Wade

Panida (Palmy) Kitvitee, 17, from Thailand is attending WRHS for the 2019-2020 school year. Palmy has joined the cheer squad as her way of getting involved at WRHS.

Palmy says she wanted to come to America "to practice my English for college." Someday, she hopes to live in America after going back to Thailand and studying for another year. She acknowledges the English language was very hard for her to learn.

Palmy's so happy to get to come experience America! She is living with Bryan and Sharna Butts in WR.



### Palmy's Faves

Food – Pizza

App – Instagram

Languages You Speak– Thai, Chinese and English

Preferred Language – Thai

## Need a Hand? Call Callahan

By Dagan Lillard

Matthew Peyton Callahan came out fighting on March 6, 2002. Peyton is 17 and has two sisters, Grace Callahan, 19, Johnni Blazer, four; he has no furry friends. His parents are Matt Callahan and Sarah Blazer and John Long.

Peyton is a Walnut Ridge veteran, attending this wonderful school all of his life. \*finger guns\* Not only is Peyton a legend among his classmates, he is also an expert in the act of "tromboning" a mystical skill in the band that only few have mastered. His BFF list includes Austin Stover, Bo Johnson and Roger King.

Peyton has achieved a lot in his four years of high school. For example, he has thrown no-hitters and has been awarded solos in the Pride band. Even though this year is Peyton's favorite, he



still likes to look back on some of the good times throughout his high school career. Getting "pants-ed" by Roger King during basketball practice was one memory that really tickled his fancy.

His favorite teacher is, of course, Becky "Rob" Robinson, herself. Peyton has a pet peeve about people talking too loud and might execute you on the spot if you raise your voice at him. Peyton's favorite quotes include the infamous "Send It" and "Do it for State." These inspire him to get out of bed in the morning.

Peyton would love some longer lunches if he could start high school again. Nobody knows what Peyton is doing after high school, and I've heard he wants to become a magician someday.

### Peyton's Faves

App – Snapchat

Pizza Topping – Sausage

Movie – *Walk the Line*

Drink – Root Beer

Store – Rue 21

Restaurant –

Longhorn Steakhouse

Ice Cream – Chocolate

Celeb Crush –

Kate Upton

## What's One Item You'd Want on a Deserted Island?

By Kyle Russell

Nash Gill – A boat

Isaiah Mabry – A woman

Coach Ward – Fishing pole

Alexis Dalton – "Boat, so that I could leave"

Logan Sain – Water filter

Chris Gulledge – Rope

Kailey Blazer – Hay's Rewards Card

Hannah Russom – Boat

Roger King – Jet pack

Trevor Smith – A hatchet

Austin Stover – A knife

Savannah Andrews – Holly Berry

Hailey Jensen - My Bible

Cody Gray - A house

Grady Privett - Water filter

## He Said, She Said

By Hailey Jensen

"I thought F was for fly swat." – Hailey Jensen

"Anticipate greatness and greatness shall follow." – Mason Andrews

Parker Papi, to Sydney Robinson, "Did you already indent your Hydroflask?"

Kyle Russell, talking to Mollie, "Don't stand so close to me!" "He wants me. I know he does!" – Mollie Blackshear

"Trust me. You know it, if you have it!" – Austin Stover

Grady Privett, talking about the Amazon burning, "Things burn and then they grow back. Haven't you ever watched *National Geographic*?"

Livvie Howard, talking about Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson getting married, "Man, my grandma is gonna be upset!"

"What has an eye but cannot see?" – Maci, Smelser. "An apple!" – Mattie Craig.

### Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 10 - End of first quarter

Oct. 18 - Parent Teacher Conferences

(No classes for students)

## Beginning with a Bobcat

By Connie Lane

Playing video games is my favorite hobby and I'm so happy to say they've come a long way.

Heck, I remember the Nintendo Switch just coming out and now they'll be releasing the new Nintendo Switch Lite next month. Nintendo, please slow down!

In all seriousness, though, there are some game companies that have famous mascots for them, like *Mario* for Nintendo and *Sonic the Hedgehog* for SEGA – sometimes there are game companies that want to do a crossover of their mascots (which is gold to me) – and then there are some companies that have some mascots that are based off that famous character from someone else.

So when I found a Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES) cartridge for a game about a bobcat named Bubsy, I just knew this was a Sonic-based video game.

Bubsy, the bobcat, was a mascot for a company named Accolade and took inspiration from Mario AND Sonic. The game even had a series, so I needed to see what the big deal was... not one of my best choices.

You know when something has the camera zoomed in too close and it makes it difficult to see what's going on around it? Well, that's Bubsy for you.

The camera is too close to the bobcat; so you can't see what's going to appear.

Plus, he has this habit of building momentum, which isn't the best idea. It's almost like you running at your fastest – with your eyes closed -- then running

into a metal pole.

I bet you guys are already thinking, Wow, she's so negative about this game, and you might think I shouldn't give this game so much bad criticism because of those two minor things.

Maybe this part will change your mind, though. You know how in 2D platforming games, you don't get any fall damage, right? Like in *Sonic the Hedgehog*, you fall from a cliff but land perfectly fine on the ground. that does not happen in this game.

Accolade literally added falling damage to their 2D platforming game, which is like putting gravy on M&Ms – it isn't supposed to be mixed together!!

I'm honestly glad that Accolade wanted to make a game that was based on *Sonic* and have a mascot inspired by the blue hedgehog and the plumber in red, but they could've fixed a few things.

I really like that game, and I hope they'll try to do a solid remake of *Bubsy*, *Bubsy 2*, and *Bubsy 3D*, but I haven't seen any more games for the famous little bobcat. But who knows? Maybe they will.

What could possibly go wrong?

## Minecraft: The Best Game

By Jacob Buxton

*Minecraft* has been the bee's knees for quite some time. Officially released in 2009, the game has since skyrocketed in popularity.

The most recent *Minecraft* update added adorable bees that you can hang out with. The other updates included the combat update, which added a new combat system and shields, the underwater update that added better swimming, turtles, and a new underwater enemy type.

If the base game isn't your

cup of tea, you can always mod the game. *Minecraft's* modding community is always buzzing with activity. Popular mods are often bunched together in order to make installation quicker and easier.

Even without mods, you can still enjoy the wonderful creativity of the *Minecraft* community in servers. Servers allow you to play online with other people. Some servers focus on building, some on faction combat, and others are based on a ranking system and market economy.

## What Are you Going to Miss Most About Summer?

By Bryleigh Morris

Mollie Blackshear – Never being home

Roger King – Getting paid

Mrs. Rice – Nothing ask someone else

Cameron Robertson – Sleeping in late

Parker Papi – Not seeing teachers everyday

Heidi Moore – Late night drives,

swimming, and Daphne Sydney Robinson – Lake trips

Hailey Jensen – Church

Austin Stover – Sleeping in  
Kyle Russell – Staying up all night

Hannah Beary – Sleeping in and riding around till 2 am with

Jenny Davis

Chaley Ervin – All the sleep I got

## Remember When...

By Maddie Flippo

...Mrs. Lindy taught in the middle school.

...Isaac Biggers broke Connor's tooth.

...Connor Manning stapled himself to get out of trouble.

...Mr. Kersey coached football.

...Tik Tok wasn't a thing.

...Sydney Burgin and Eli Biggers dated.

...Mattie Craig played volleyball.

...Sydney Burgin had a wreck on Main St.

...Cole Manning played basketball.

... "AHHH! Stahhhp. I coulda dropped my croissant."

...Katie Kersey was taller then everyone.

Senior Jacey Jones works on her camera skills





Don't let Blane Wade's face fool you. He is super excited for football season.



Keaton Scott works hard in Mrs. Shelby's classroom.



Mattie Craig says peace out to summer, sadly...



Students taking a break from the dance floor at the Back to School dance,



Cameron Robertson gives two thumbs up for his senior year.



Grady Privett is stoked to be here.



**Bobcat golf:** Walker Hibbs, Cody McEntire, Isaac Biggers and Andrew Prestidge get to break in their new golf coach, Jacob Kersey. It's a tough life.



Jacey Jones and Bailey Augustine cheesing big.

## What's Your Fave Pizza Topping?

By Parker Papi

Kayleene Long – BBQ Chicken  
Allie Sherman – Bacon  
Mr. Harper – Mushrooms  
Ms. Pattin – Ham, pineapple,  
bacon  
Madison Jones (10th  
grade) – Ham and pineapple  
Mrs. Foster – Pepperoni

and hamburger  
Mady McGinnis – Pepperoni  
Kyle Russell – Pepperoni  
Kaylan Decker – Ham  
Sydney Robinson – Pepperoni  
Andrew Prestidge – Cheese  
Adam Murdock – Bacon

## Storm Area 51 Event

By Jacob Slankard

One big thing that has been going on in the news is the Storm Area 51 Facebook Event. The Facebook post was created by Facebook users The Hidden Sound, SmyleeKun, and one other.

The event was originally meant to be a joke, but has grown so large that even the U.S. military is getting involved. There are currently over 2 million Facebook users saying that they are going.

There is supposedly going to be a festival in place of the raid in Rachel, Nevada, called "Alienstock."

Area 51 is located in Lincoln County, Nevada. It is a government airbase that has multiple restrictions including a no-fly zone over the base as well as government personnel are the only people allowed to enter.

The conspiracy surrounding Area 51 is that the base houses extraterrestrial life. The theory also states that the government is hiding the existence of aliens from us.

## EAST Equals Empowerment

By Austin Stover

Education Accelerated by Service and Technology (EAST) is a class in its second year at WRHS. It is available to 7th-12th grade students. In this class students learn how to use different types of technology including a 3D printer, a green screen, and they even get to experiment with virtual reality (VR) equipment.

A major project last year included the One Way Street Project for Downtown Walnut Ridge. The class worked up a proposal for the City Council

that would change Abbey Road from a two way street to a one way.

The findings were presented at the city council meeting in February. The mayor called for a vote to move forward with the proposal, and it was unanimous.

The 2019-2020 theme for EAST is empowered. The students will continue doing group projects, helping the community, and doing other work both on and off campus.

EAST helps the students

## WRHS Implements Weekly Reading Program

Mrs. Holland is reading *When We Were Yours*, a heartbreaking story about illegal adoptions in the Memphis area



Mrs. Shelby searches for more reading materials for her Algebra I and coding classes.

## Who's Your Favorite Freshman?

By Kel Slusser

Ray Yang - Logan Sain  
Katie Kersey – Memphis Moore  
Chloe Davis – Logan Sain  
Bailey Augustine – Ethan Augustine

Nash Gill – Luke Gill  
Alexis Dalton – Kinley Davis  
Anna Maple – Logan Sain  
Grady Privett – Jacob McQuay  
Kyle Russell – Trenton Ditto  
Isiah Mabry – Memphis Moore  
Jonathan Alba – Walker Ward  
Gavin Davis – Caden Murphy  
Kaylan Decker – Walker Ward



be better for the school and community. Jerry Haynes is the EAST facilitator at WRHS.



## Understanding the Classics

By Casanova

“Divide each difficulty into as many parts as is feasible and necessary to resolve it. It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well.

Cogito ergo sum. (I think; therefore I am.)

-Descartes

“SOLITUDE, THEREFORE!—

A. So you wish to go back to your desert?

B. I am not a quick thinker; I must wait for myself a long time—it is always later and later before the water from the fountain of my own ego spurts forth, and I have often to go thirsty longer than suits my patience. That is why I retire into solitude in order that I may not have to drink from the common cisterns.

When I live in the midst of the multitude my life is like theirs, and I do not think like myself; but after some time it always seems to me as if the multitude wished to banish me from myself and to rob me of my soul. Then I get angry with all these people, and afraid of them; and I must have the desert to become well-disposed again.”

Friedrich Nietzsche – *The Dawn of Day: Thoughts on the Prejudices of Morality.*

Caspar David Friedrich, a German Romantic painter, whose childhood was scarred by the deaths of his mother, two sisters and a brother. Later in his life, his paintings reflected a sense of desolation.

Some people believe Wanderer above the Sea of Fog is only about a guy climbing a mountain on a free Sunday morning. However, there's something else. The first element is the character himself, it seems to be identified as Caspar, even a close friend of him; in my interpretation, it represents the human being, an avatar to personify all of us. The fact of him being viewed from the back is because he does not have an own face, but everybody's visage.



The sea of fog is, to me, the important piece: it does not know limits; its whiteness extends to the infinitive mixing even with the sky, this is the unknown, the intangible. No one can touch it nor understand it.

The rocks are an earthly symbol. The physic, the whole material world in which humanity can't escape.

The man, after witnessing such a magnificent scenery, seems himself weak, defeated. He uses a cane and despite occupying the spotlight of the composition, he is, in the end, relegated to a second stage.

How could the first idea and the painting be related then?

## Weird Facts

By Jasmine Cox

1. The average person walks the equivalent of three times around the world in a lifetime
2. The tongue is the strongest muscle in the human body
3. Coca Cola's soda color used to be naturally green
4. When you sneeze your heart stops for a milli-second
5. The human nose can remember up to 50,000 different scents
6. The human heart can change the way it beats to mimic the music you're listening to
7. Sleeping for less than seven hours a night lowers your life expectancy
8. The first selfie was invented by a man in 1839
9. Only 10% of the cells on your body are human, the rest are bacteria
10. A sneeze can travel up to 100 miles per hour
11. Just like your fingerprint, your tongue print is unique
12. We learn 10% of what we read

## Two Things on Your Bucket List?

By Ray Yang

- Ryann Douglas – Make good grades and make firefighter competition  
 Kyle Russell – Fight a polar bear and skydive  
 Hannah Russom – Graduate high school and go to Hawaii  
 Jayden Hollister – Beat Ty Flippo 1 on 1 and learn Chinese  
 Mrs. Rouse – Swim with the dolphins and go to Australia  
 Peyton Callahan – Climb Mount Everest and walk across the Great Wall of China  
 Rhoni Riggs – Graduate high school and go to college  
 Alex Jones – Be loyal and get rich  
 Kayleene Long – Graduate high school and skydive  
 Bryleigh Morris – Go to the Grand Canyon and get real rich  
 Kaylan Decker – Get driver's license and graduate high school  
 Sydney Robinson – Become a YouTuber and go to the Bahamas  
 Madison Jones – Graduate high school and go to Hawaii

## Cheer Squad is Ready to Tackle Football



## What are Factory Farms?

By Skyla Henry

Meat. It's what most of the world loves to eat. (Yes, that rhymes) But where is this copious amount of meat coming from? Most people imagine a quaint little barn in the countryside with animals running around happily. The truth is, this is becoming quite rare. They come from factory farms.

Thousands of pigs, cows and chickens are crammed into tiny places with little to no room to move. Their living conditions are dirty, cramped and stressful. If animals like cats or dogs were kept in such conditions, it would surely be considered animal abuse.

Abbigale Rounsavall has some experience with chicken farming. She says, "It's sad and smelly." As you can tell from her quote, it's not a pretty business.

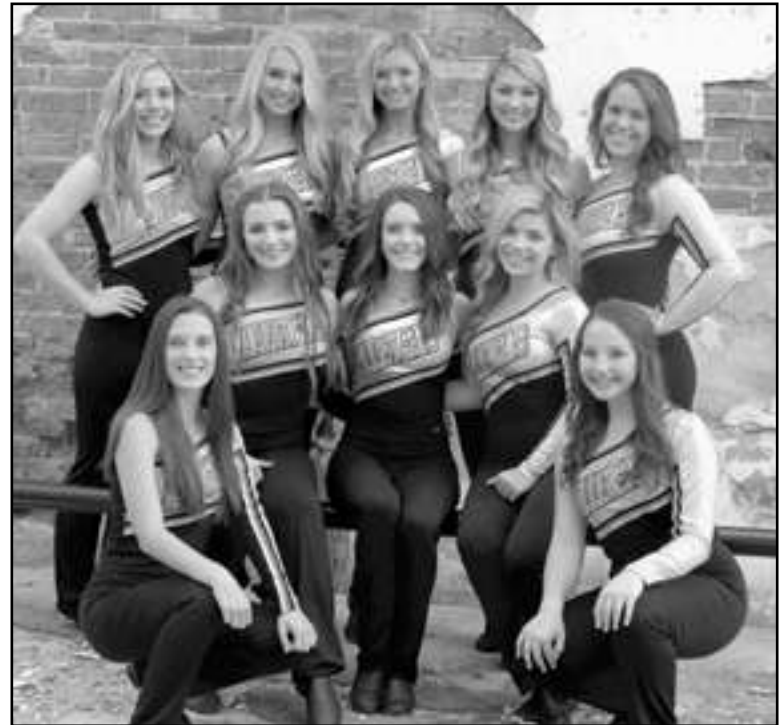
She tells about the horrors

she has seen. The chickens have their beaks and toes amputated without anesthesia so they can fit into cages and the overcrowded animals won't fight and peck each other.

They are unnaturally large because of all the hormones and drugs they are given. The building in which they are kept, can get so hot that if any of the chickens die and are not removed, they can begin to "cook" and may even be cannibalized by the other chickens.

There are many reasons why factory farming is a terrible thing. I have only briefly talked about some of them. It is our duty as American citizens to stop funding these farms. You can do that by either becoming vegan or buying organic meat from local, free-range farms.

## Alleycats Dance Their Hearts Out



Alleycat dance team prepares for football season.

## It's Kind of a Funny Story

By Abbigale Rounsavall

Ned Vizzini was briefly hospitalized in 2014 for depression. What better way to tell people about his experience than to write a funny book?

The novel, *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, was published in 2006. Vizzini wrote the novel to shed light on the world of depression. The novel is loosely based on his life.

The story follows 15-year-old Craig Gilner, whose depression and poor decisions landed him in the psychiatric unit in a Brooklyn hospital. He learns things about himself that he didn't know, he even made friends while there. Craig also found a new hobby.

The novel takes you on an emotional journey. One page you are laughing your socks off and the next page some tears threaten to spill; on some pages you can really relate to the characters and you feel what they are feeling in that moment. Vizzini wanted people to know that what he did to get into that hospital wasn't good and after his well-spent time there, he still wasn't all the way "fixed" like people said he would be. Sadly, Ned Vizzini died on December 6, 2013 by suicide.

All in all this was a great book and I do recommend it to readers looking for a tear-jerking, sock-stealing story.

## What's Hot? What's Not.

By Sydney Robinson

### What's Hot

Puka Shell Necklace  
WhiteGel Acrylics  
AirForce Ones  
Apple Music  
Fairy Lights  
Balayage  
Hydro Flask  
Bell Bottom Jeans  
*Bachelor in Paradise*  
Self Tanning  
Andy's  
Beach Waves  
Scrunchies  
LED Light Whitening

### What's Not

Pearl Leather Necklace  
French Tip Acrylics  
Air Maxs  
Pandora  
Christmas Lights  
Highlights  
Yeti  
Flare Jeans  
*Bachelorette*  
Tanning Bed  
Baskin Robin's  
Tight Curls  
Black Hair Ties  
Whitening Strips