

A banner for the RHS Principal's Message. On the left is a portrait of the principal, a man in a red polo shirt with a white 'R' logo. The text in the center reads: "RHS Principal's Message". Below the title is a paragraph: "Hello fellow Bearcats! We are already through the first 9 weeks! I hope each of you has had a great start to the school year and have found clubs and organizations to get involved in. We just celebrated a great Homecoming week, and I am so proud of the way our students participated in dress up days, the pep rally, the football game, and the dance. Your behavior and school spirit were amazing." Below this is another paragraph: "Continue supporting your classmates as football, volleyball, band, swim, cross country, debate and the many other groups that work hard to make Ruston High School even better. Keep up the good work, and let's have a great 2nd 9 weeks. Go Bearcats!". On the right is a photograph of the Ruston High School building, a large, modern, multi-story structure with a central tower, set against a clear blue sky.

Hello fellow Bearcats! We are already through the first 9 weeks! I hope each of you has had a great start to the school year and have found clubs and organizations to get involved in. We just celebrated a great Homecoming week, and I am so proud of the way our students participated in dress up days, the pep rally, the football game, and the dance. Your behavior and school spirit were amazing.

Continue supporting your classmates as football, volleyball, band, swim, cross country, debate and the many other groups that work hard to make Ruston High School even better. Keep up the good work, and let's have a great 2nd 9 weeks. Go Bearcats!

Hello Bearcats! I am excited to announce that we have officially made it through our first nine weeks of school. Congratulations! I encourage each of you to remain involved in your classes and continue to meet other students through all the opportunities Ruston High has to offer. Remember that RHS staff is here to help each of you succeed as you go through this year.

We recently celebrated Homecoming and had a great time bringing back some old traditions including the parade/crawl for the pep rally on Thursday night. Congratulations to all the representatives on Homecoming Court this year. I would like to give a big shout out to our 2022 Homecoming queen, Emma Jane Reeves, who also serves as your Vice-President of Student Council. I could not have asked for a more deserving young lady to escort this past week for Homecoming.

Let's start this next nine weeks off strong, Bearcats! First semester will be over with before you know it.

Homecoming 2022 Preview

Information Provided by Mrs. Jamie Gressett

Page 3 of *Chatterbox* provides just some of the fun and fellowship that Bearcats for generations were a part of the week of Homecoming. With everything going smoothly and fun had by all, students are thanked for their participation and for being the best Bearcats they could be during this week of pride. Go Cats!

**Information Provided by Mrs. Lillie Williams/
Student Well-Being Committee**

On Thursday, November 3, 2022, students will prepare a Letter of Gratitude for someone that they want to let know that they are grateful for. This can be anyone of their choice, and students may deliver the letters themselves or send to Mrs. Williams, who will make every effort to ensure that the letters are delivered. Letters are asked to be delivered or turned in by Friday, November 4, 2022.



by Lloyd R. Bruner/*Chatterbox Adviser*

The deadline to enter the November contest of *Chatterbox* is November 10, 2022. Everyone is encouraged to enter. *Chatterbox* reserves the right to disqualify entries we deem inappropriate.

ARTICLE DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
November 10, 2022	November 17, 2022
December 8, 2022	December 15, 2022
January 19, 2023	January 26, 2023
February 16, 2023	February 23, 2023
March 16, 2023	March 23, 2023
April 19, 2023	April 23, 2023
May 11, 2023	May 18, 2023

The purpose of *Chatterbox* is to promote Ruston High School and allow students the opportunity to explore journalism and share the abilities and ideas. Please send any comments or submissions for print to chatterbox@lincolnschools.org.





Talented Art Displays Their Hard Work

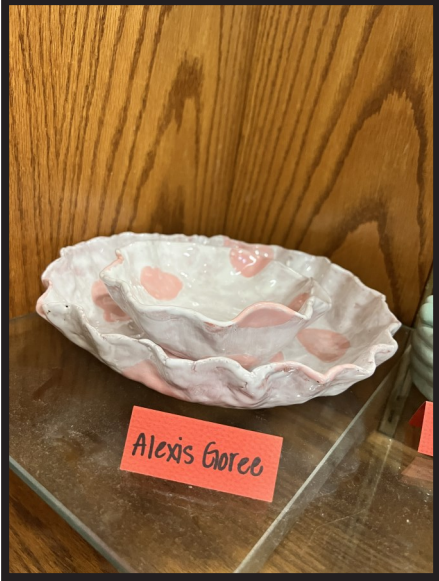
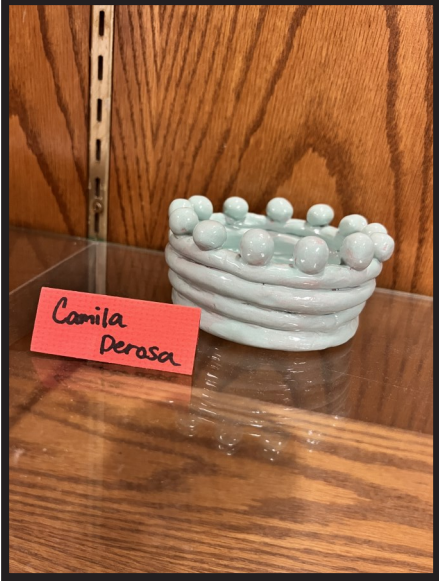
Information provided by Mrs. Erin Hanna

Students in Ms. Erin Hanna’s Talented Art class recently took on the tasks of developing their own art by the use of ceramics. The coursework is set up to allow students to develop a basic knowledge of ceramics, handbuilding, and an introduction to wheel work. This gave them the opportunity to explore the 3 dimensional medium of art to not only expand their skills, but to give them a greater appreciation of community and cultural perspective.

In looking at handbuilding, students had to start with the basics of ceramics pinch, coil, slab, joining, and free choice. For wheel projects, students focused their efforts on centering, cylinder, bowl, mug, and vase. Looking at the sculptural requirements, students considered relief and abstract. In the course, a discussion of historical perspectives and various ceramics based artists throughout history was first covered. There are several outcomes that students must achieve in talented art, both conceptually and with hands-on experiences.

Conceptually, students must develop an awareness of careers related to ceramics; form an understanding of the control of clay at various stages of development: plastic, leatherhead, greenware, bisque, and glaze; and understand and apply basic ceramic terms. Talented arts students must then apply their understanding to various methods to create 3D work utilizing clay; apply various hand building and wheel throwing skills to create 3D art; apply glazing techniques to finished pieces.

Several talented art students completed some of their work and displayed their art in the trophy case to the left of the main office for all to see. Although the students wanted to immediately take their art home, they did allow Bearcat Nation a chance to see their hard work. They hope everyone was able to stop by and see their work, but regardless, many of the pieces on display are being presented with this article for everyone’s enjoyment.



Pictured above are just a few examples of the artwork created on Ms. Erin Hann’s Talented Art class. Ceramics were available to view in the front trophy case. Left to right: Camila Derosa, Alexis Goree, Amelia Roger, and Sam Bell.

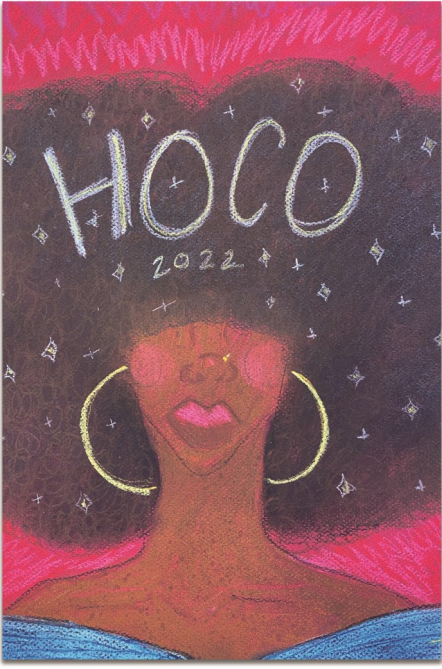
The following artwork designed by the RHS Talented Art Program were chosen as covers for this year’s 2022 Homecoming Program.



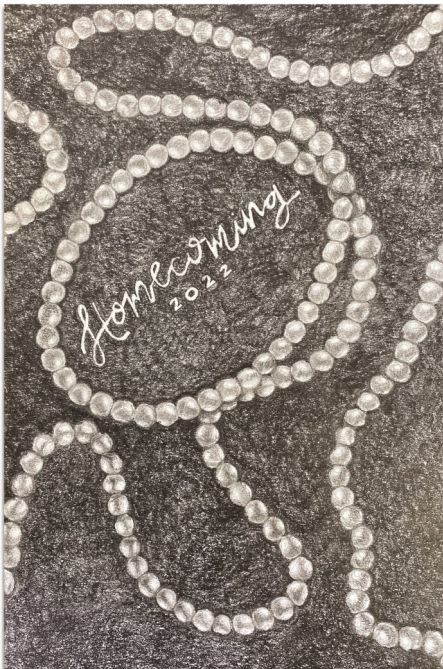
Artwork by Tristan Reid



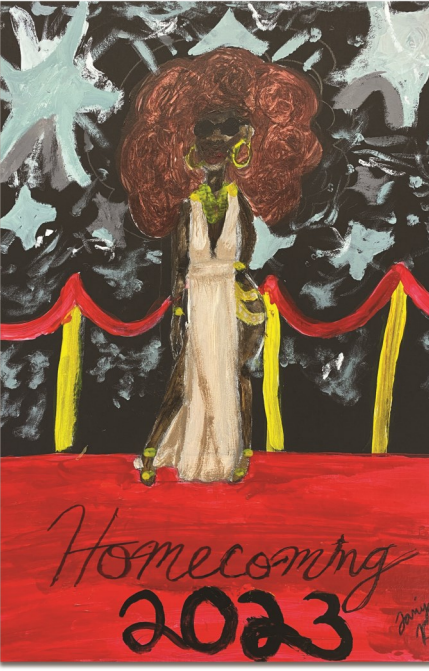
Artwork by Celia Sigall



Artwork by Tanya Davidson



Artwork by Maggie Andrus



Artwork by Janyiah Ruckley



Artwork by Emily Statman



Artwork by Brooke Jackson



Artwork by Amanda Berg

The Adviser's Corner

My adviser’s corner this month was to be a rant about how we should be thankful for media that is used properly and without a hidden bias (how it should be used). I planned to address how readers should know the difference between real media and biased media sites. In general, most truly biased media are on social media and distort truths, present a single point of view, or simply exists to stir controversy and seek attention). Most school publications, such as *Chatterbox*, are biased, as they usually only present the positive aspects of their schools - which is expected and at least disclosed and is not a hidden agenda. After watching Ruston High School activities during Fall Break, specifically those activities that related to Ruston High School Bearcat football, I feel that this column will be better served by my covering what I see every year at RHS but feel many overlook - Bearcat support, dedication, and actions when school is out.

With football season in full swing, I appreciate the countless hours of training and preparation that the football team, pep squad, cheerleaders, band, flag line, and of course the coaches and sponsors put in preparing for the season and each game. Given the numbers, it seems as if a good 35% of our student population is involved in some aspect with football season. This doesn't even count the students who actively ensure that they show up for every game, cheering on the team and filling the Cat Box. There is something to be said about the level of support that our RHS Bearcat football team receives. Although I am still waiting on someone who can attend every game to sign on and be the Ruston reporter for MaxPreps and keep me posted better when I cannot attend, I am appreciative that MaxPreps is there with the scores, though delayed.

I was doing my usual visit to school to work after/off hours on the Friday of our Fall Break, having done so a few times already to the sound of silence at the school (one of the reasons I go there then, plus I needed to turn in my sub plans and lessons as I took the Monday we returned off for personal business). Unlike the few previous days (with the exception of activity on Thursday), the parking lot was not a ghost town but rather the site of much activity. It may have been Fall Break, but Bearcat Friday was still on!

The parking lot at the field house was filled with players and coaches vehicles. The front of the school saw much activity as I witnessed band students and more scattered anywhere from the football field to the band room. Cheerleaders and pom squad members could be scene scattered around campus as well, and buses started filling the parking lots in preparation for the road game against Pineville. All of this activity throughout campus, as if it was any other Friday, except there was no school, no student body, no pep rally to motivate the team. Regardless, the Bearcat football team and the many organizations involved did what was natural, Bearcat Friday came and went, and the Bearcats notched another “win” on the road and in district play.

My point in this article is to give a shout out to all of those who are part of Bearcat football, directly and indirectly, who spend so much time ensuring that Bearcat Fridays happen. Moreso, to state the obvious that many overlook - the extra time and dedication that they give to this. Although most are already aware of the summer preparation, and the week to week normal preparation, many often overlook the breaks and holidays given up. While most students and teachers are at home during our breaks and the holidays, the Bearcat football nation works through the breaks, works through the holidays, and gives it their all.

So with Fall Break over, let’s remember the dedication that our Bearcat football nation gives to our school. Next up, we hope to know that the Thanksgiving break has the Bearcat football nation again in full swing as the majority of students enjoy their holiday away from school. Let’s be thankful for their dedication to RHS.

If you have a question that you’d like published and answered in *Chatterbox*, send it to chatterbox@lincolnschools.org from your school account. Questions will be answered by a staff member or the adviser depending on the depth of the question and answer. Questions will remain anonymous unless you wish to be known.



Homecoming 2022

We Got the Beat



RHS Homecoming Assembly, pictured left to right with the Homecoming Court listed with their escort:

Kate Williams (freshman maid) escorted by Taylor Roller
Ariana Wesley (sophomore maid) escorted by Peyton Beck
Kam'ryn Bradley (junior maid) escorted by Ashton Wick
Bailey Bowers (senior maid) escorted by Tanner Clark
Raegan McCulloch (senior maid) escorted by Nate Johnson
Kemyra Wright (Maid of Honor) escorted by Jed Denny
Emma Jane Reeves (Homecoming Queen) escorted by Gabriel Moon
Mia Rabb (senior maid) escorted by Cade Patterson
Ke'Shanti Graham (senior maid) escorted by Chad Hamlin
Asia Willis (sophomore maid) escorted by Trenton Richard
Kaitlin Woods (junior maid) escorted by Gabe Gaudet
Abby Seney (sophomore maid) escorted by Thomas Rogers
Frances Preaus (freshman maid) escorted by Mason Shumaker



Front row (l to r): Ke'Shanti Graham (senior maid), Kemyra Wright (Maid of Honor), Bailey Bowers (senior maid), Raegan McCulloch (senior maid), Mia Rabb (senior maid)
2nd row (l to r): Kaitlin Woods (junior maid), Emma Jane Reeves (Homecoming Queen), and Kam'ryn Bradley (junior maid)
3rd row (l to r): Abby Seney (sophomore maid), Ariana Wesley (sophomore maid), and Asia Willis (sophomore maid)
Back row (l to r): Frances Preaus (freshman maid) and Kate Williams (freshman maid)
Photograph courtesy of Portraits Plus, proud Bearcat supporter.

Homecoming Week Festivities

Information provided by Mrs. Jamie Gressett

It had been a few years, but once again Ruston High School celebrated the festivities of Homecoming during the week of October 17 – 20, 2022. Festivities included dress up days with daily themes, culminating in Formal Friday. On Thursday, RHS began a new tradition with the Homecoming Crawl, which led the way to the Homecoming community pep rally. Friday was an extremely busy day as always with the Homecoming assembly taking place in the morning and the Homecoming game and presentation of the Homecoming court to the public. With all this under their belts, RHS students enjoyed their first Homecoming dance in years.

Hidden in all the excitement and busy schedules, many took care of planning and preparing for each event. The Student Council ensured that the Homecoming assembly came together and that the Homecoming Crawl was a success. Talented Art ensured that artwork was done for the assemblies as well as the program. Cheerleaders decorated, Homecoming dance tickets were documented and sold, the RHS main gym, football field, select school areas, and the civic center were all decorated, and duties were assigned to many. The band rehearsed and performed as did the choir, corsages and those beautiful Homecoming dresses were prepared, and just the right hair styles and make-up and accessories were located. As always, the Bearcat Belles performed to the court and to the student body. Mrs. Becky White and her 4th period art students assisted in decorating; the BUMS helped with signs for the Homecoming Crawl; and the RHS Baseball Booster Club helped organized the Homecoming Crawl. Let's not forget our RHS media and Radio department as they ensured the live feed was up and running smoothly. Reunions were planned, old met new, and the traditions returned.

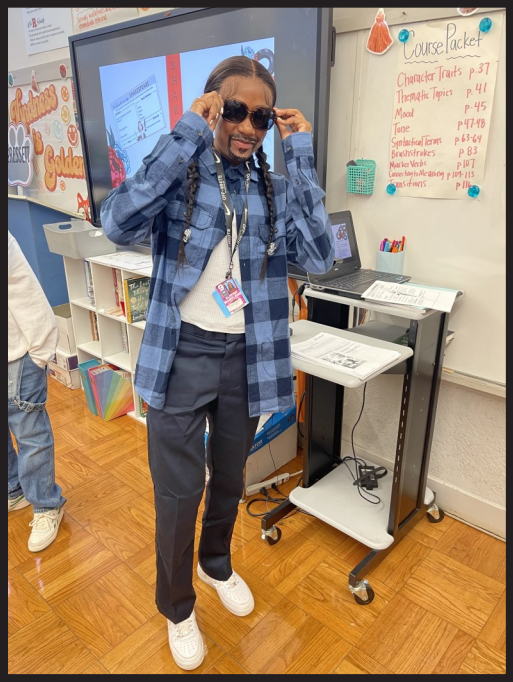
With the help of Mrs. Jamie Gressett and others who sent in information and pictures, *Chatterbox* hopes to be able to highlight at least some of the Homecoming festivities this edition. If we missed you for any reason, we apologize in advance. We must also give a shout out to National Jewelry for yet another beautiful Homecoming crown.

Dress Up Days for Homecoming Week

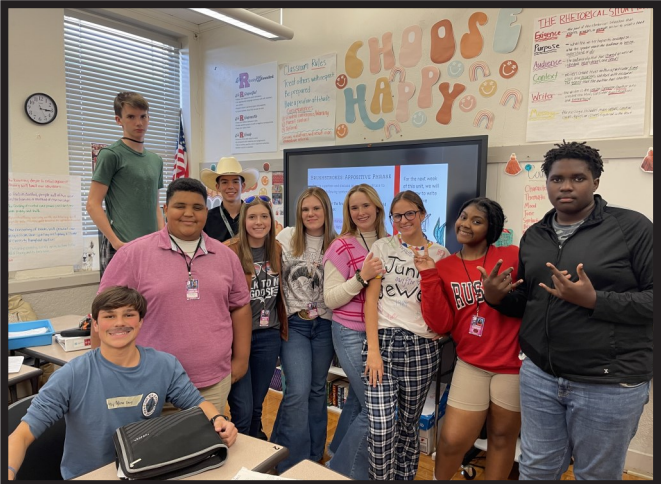
Part of this year's festivities for Homecoming during the week of October 17 – 20, 2022, were the dress up days for the students of RHS. Each day, students were encouraged to show school spirit and dress the theme of the day. Not to be outdone of course, several freshman students took the lead and ensure their class was represented.

Monday's theme was "Thrift Shop" with students were allowed to wear mismatched shoes/clothes. Tuesday's theme was "Thriller" where students were allowed to wear Halloween masks within reason and rules of course. Wednesday brought the theme "Hall of Fame" with students dressing up like celebrities. Thursday changed pace and pitted each class against each other (and the faculty) with the theme being "Battle of the Bands." Freshman wore White Stripes; sophomores dressed Pink Floyd; and junior took on Red Hot Chili Peppers. Seniors took it to the halls with Black Eye Peas. The faculty joined in with Blue Oyster Cult.

Unlike the normal Bearcat Fridays, jeans were a no-no from the get-go. Students were allowed to dress "Fancy" for Formal Friday instead. Students were very tasteful in adhering to the standards established and handled the privilege with grace and dignity, which was fitting for our Homecoming assembly.



Dress Up Days



Bearcat Bites

- October 28, 2022: Bearcats at Ouachita Parish
- November 4, 2022: Bearcats vs. West Monroe (Fill the Stadium!)
- November 3, 2022: LifeShare Blood Drive
- November 8, 2022: Election Day (No School)
- November 11, 2022: Bearcats vs. TBA (1st round playoffs)
- November 19 - 27, 2022: Thanksgiving Break



Homecoming 2022 - HAPPENINGS



Homecoming Queen Emma Jane Reeves hosted a luncheon for the Homecoming Court to include their mothers and grandmothers.

Homecoming Crawl

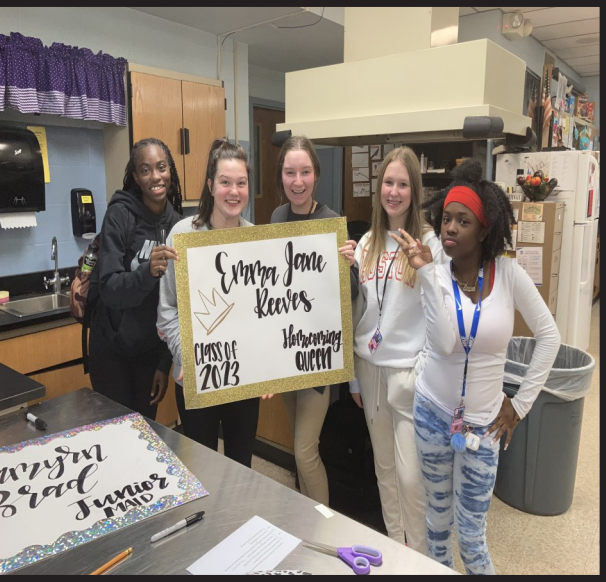
The Homecoming Crawl was a new event sponsored by the RHS Baseball Booster Club. Although it was new this year, it was a big hit for the students. The event consisted of a convoy/procession of RHS organizations, clubs, teams, spirit groups, and the Homecoming Court. Those who participated decorated their vehicles and trailers to display their standing or groups. On October 20, 2022, the RHS Boulevard was used as a staging area for everyone and those participating in the Homecoming Crawl began lining up at 5:30 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., the convoy departed the boulevard and followed the predesignated route through the parking lot, down James Street, around the back of the stadium, past the tennis courts, and back to the front parking lot. At the conclusion of the Homecoming Crawl, participants headed to the stadium for the pep rally. *Chatterbox* gives a big shout out to the RHS Baseball Booster Club for sponsoring the event and to everyone who participated in the inaugural Homecoming Crawl.



Homecoming Crawl 2022



Helping Homecoming Happen



BUMS helps prepare signs for Homecoming.



Student Council prepares for the assembly.



Cheer decorates the school for Homecoming.



Homecoming 2022 Assembly

Homecoming Assembly

Information provided by Mrs. Jamie Gressett

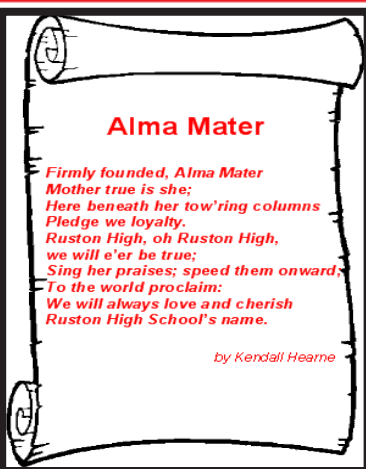
Ruston High School recognized the Homecoming court officially on October 21, 2022, during the Homecoming assembly during 3rd period. After the Invocation by Maddie Rae Hancock, the RHS choir sang the national anthem. Grant Madden then welcomed all students, faculty, and guests.

The Homecoming Court was presented beginning with the freshman representatives and male Student Council escorts. Frances Preaus was escorted by Mason Shumaker and Kate Williams was escorted by Tayler Roller. The sophomore representatives were then introduced. Abby Seney was escorted by Thomas Rogers; Ariana Wesley was escorted by Peyton Beck; and Asia Willis was escorted by Trenton Richard. Junior representatives were then introduced with Kam'ryn Bradley escorted by Ashton Wick and with Ariana Wesley escorted by Gabe Gaudet.

RHS had 4 senior maids this year presented to the student body. These were Bailly Bowers escorted by Tanner Clark; Ke'Shanti Graham escorted by Chad Hamlin; Raegan McCulloch escorted by Nate Johnson; and Mia Rabb escorted by Cade Patterson. The maid of honor, Kemyra Wright, was then escorted by Jed Denny.

After a brief pause, the introduction of the Homecoming queen was announced. Emma Jane Reeves walked the floor, escorted by Gabriel Moon. Mr. Gressett and last year's Homecoming queen, Hasson Brown, presented Emma Jane with her Homecoming crown. The Homecoming Court was all seated and announced.

The RHS choir then sang "We Got the Beat," the song matching this year's theme. As is tradition, the RHS Bearcat Belles, danced for the court with their selection of "Run to You." Various organizations then presented corsages to the Homecoming Court. The assembly ended with the playing of the RHS Alma Mater by the award winning RHS Bearcat band.



The above pictures are just a few sent to *Chatterbox* for publication. That were taken at the RHS Homecoming assembly held Friday, October 22, 2022.



Ke'Myra Wright and Emma Jane Reeves
Maid of Honor & Homecoming Queen

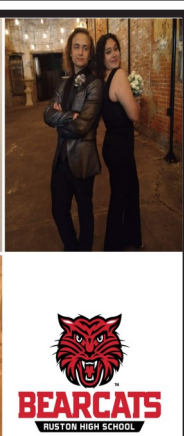


The Homecoming Court is presented at halftime at the football game.



Court members are each escorted during the halftime performance.

Homecoming Dance Photos



Once a Bearcat



Always a Bearcat!



Bearcat Nation Network:

Bringing Bearcat Sports to You
Information Provided by Coach Nick Brown

This fall, Coach Nick Brown’s media class launched the Bearcat Nation Network, which can be located online at BearcatNationNetwork.com. On the network, viewers can watch and listen to Ruston Bearcat and Lady Bearcat sports. Since its start, it has grown and continues to impress, recording over 63 thousand viewers this fall. The network is a way for Bearcat fans to follow events when they cannot make it in person.

Seniors Daniel Brittingham and Grant Madden, along with underclassmen Drew Coleman, Josh Hamilton, Chad Hamlin, DJ Moreland and Clayton Roane, produce the stream and provide in-game entertainment on the video board. Ryder Britt has worked on graphics, RJ Brown and JR Tolett have provided play by play on JV games. Joey Wheelus has volunteered his time and operated a camera.

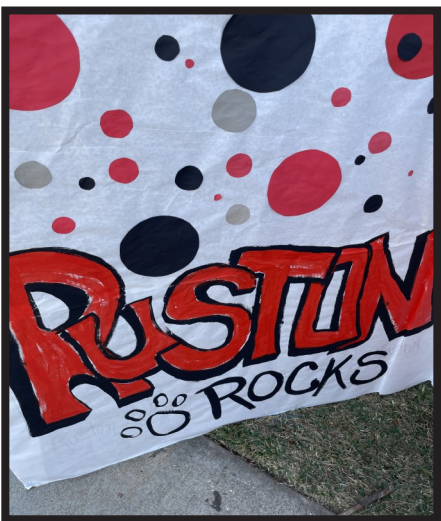
On Friday Night when most students are tailgating before games and celebrating in the Cat Box, these guys are working to deliver a quality product. Their gameday experience begins at 5:30 with cameras put in position and all camera views checked. Music blares from the speakers beginning at 5:45 and doesn't end till our fans have emptied the stadium.

So far this season, we have streamed all home football games for varsity, freshman and JV. Varsity road games have also been streamed. Plans are in the works to stream all district home games as well as playoff games for our other sports.

If you are interested in being a part of one of the most unique classes offered at Ruston High please join or ask Coach Brown for more information.



Chad Hamlin helps with the production.



The art classes contributed much to this year’s Homecoming, including artwork in hallway, at the Homecoming Crawl, and at the assembly.



RHS Band – Simply the Best

Victory at the Panther Marching Invitational
Information Provided by Kristi Bourgeois/ *Band Parent*
Information Provided/Verified by Mr. Walter Moss/ *Band Director*

On October 22, 2022, the Ruston High School Bearcat band loaded their equipment and took months of practice and preparation with them to compete against other bands in Louisiana at the Panther Marching Invitational in Sterlington, Louisiana. The hard work paid off as the RHS band outperformed all other bands and walked away as the grand champion. The RHS band earned all Superior Ratings at the competition. Under the direction of Senior Drum Majors Benjamin Bourgeois and Sierra Long, and led by band director Walter Moss, the band brought home the following division 1 awards: Superior Band Performance; Superior Percussion; and Superior Colorguard.

In addition to receiving all of the top awards in division 1, the RHS band also received the Overall Best Percussion Award and was selected as the Grand Champion Overall Best Band.

Not yet done, the RHS band also performed on October 25, 2022, at the District One Band Director’s Association Marching Band Assessment in West Monroe. Congratulations to the RHS band for their outstanding achievements. The band now heads off for more competition this weekend on October 29, 2022, at the “Classic on the Cane” Marching Band Competition in Natchitoches, where we are confident that they will once again prove to be “Simply the Best.”

In other band news - two band members, Caden Breeding (Tuba) and Kate Gray (Bass Clarinet) were selected to the Louisiana Music Educators’ Association All State Concert Band. The all - state clinic and convention will be held Nov 17 – 21, 2022, in Baton Rouge. Congratulations to Kate and Caden for their hard work and achievements.

On Nov 8 – 13, 2022, the RHS Chamber percussion ensemble will travel to Indianapolis, Indiana to compete in the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) Chamber Percussion Ensemble Competition. This puts our students on the international stage for this most prestigious event. Only 10 ensembles worldwide are selected to compete in this competition. The members of this ensemble are Grantham Cline, Trent Dufour, Riley Green, Jordan Jones and Rylie Nutt. Please wish them good luck and thank them for all of their hard work.

There will be a free public performance in the RHS Auditorium on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 6p.m. Hope to see you there.



Kate Gray and Caden Breeding
(All-State Concert Band)



RHS Band’s PASIC Ensemble



Above: The RHS Band displays their awards from Panther Marching Invitational.

Surrounding photos:
The RHS Band performs at the highest level at the Panther Marching Invitational.



RHS CHOIR is in Full “SING”

Submitted by Mr. Nathan Trahan/ *Choir Director*

The RHS choirs are in full “SING” as we end this first nine weeks.

Several of our Bearcat singers have been selected through auditions to participate in the 2022 Louisiana ACDA All State Choir from October 27-29, 2022, in New Orleans and the LMEA All State Choir from November 17-19, 2022, in Baton Rouge. Congratulations to Garner Allen, Taylor Bernard, Carmen Bishop, Grisham Locke, Laina Parkman, Gabrielle Simmons and Natalie Story for this honor and we know that these students will represent RHS with distinction.

Our choirs were happy to perform for the Homecoming assembly on October 21, 2022. As always, it was a great experience to showcase some of our work to the student body and members of the public. We very much appreciate all of the love!

On November 10, 2022, the Concert choir will perform “Gloria” by Antonio Vivaldi with string quartet, organ, and the “Lincoln Parish Divas.” The “Lincoln Parish Divas” are a three-soloist feature of the “Gloria.” GSU Professor Emerita Natorshau Davis, soprano, La Tech Visiting Professor Dr. Brandi Estwick, mezzo soprano, and GSU Professor Dr. Meg Tsai, soprano will be our featured soloists for this major work. This performance will be at 7:00pm at Trinity United Methodist Church on November 10, 2022. RHS students can attend at no cost with student ID presented at the door. This will be a night to remember so come out and enjoy some beautiful music made by our very own Bearcat singers.

There is an annual holiday concert which will be presented in December. Information regarding that time and date will be announced in the next edition of *Chatterbox*.

The RHS Choirs always enjoy providing the community with music and song and we appreciate all the support from our school as well as the surrounding community. We look forward to seeing you at our events and “Go Bearcats!!!!”



Family and Consumer Science Club (FACS)

RHS FACS Attends 2nd Annual Fall Leadership Rally
Information Provided by Ms. Kandi Hammons/*Advisor*

On October 5, 2022, the Ruston High School (RHS) Family and Consumer Science Club (FACS) attended the 2nd Annual Fall Leadership Rally at the Lincoln Parish Park. FACS had 70 members attend the rally from Lincoln Parish Schools.

At the rally, FACS members were divided into 3 groups to learn about skills to apply in life. Each group rotated through three stations: 1) Heart Healthy Nutrition with Cathy Judd from the LSU Agriculture Center; 2) Teens and Finances: Learning to budget early in life (presented by Megan Martin and Kimberlin Jones); and 3) How to Work in a Group and Work Together for a Successful Outcome (presented by Gary Rambin, Chris Willis, and Don Johnson).

In addition to the three skills station, FACS members Kacee Bentely and Kacee Dilla gave a presentation and students enjoyed food from the food truck. Students also had a game session where each teacher planned an activity that was based on team building and learning to communicate with each other.

RHS FACS members enjoyed the rally and meeting and socializing with other FACS members across the parish. The weather was great, and all members had a great time at the rally and look forward to more events planned by RHS FACS.



RHS FACS members attend the FACS leadership rally.



RHS FACS members learn how to work as a group.



RHS FACS members participate in additional training.

Ruston High School FFA Tours Industries

Information Provided by Antonio Wilson

The Ruston High School FFA organization recently had 15 Ag students, including FFA officers, attend two industry tours. Students were able to enter the facilities of local companies and learn the day-to-day operations of each one. They were also able to learn the process needed to make a career out of the experience.

The students took full tours of the companies and were able to meet with the safety team as well as with the Human Resources (HR) department. Students asked questions to employees and managers at the industries to learn more about the industry and employment opportunities.

Mr. Hancock has prepared these students to be industry ready. These tours help apply classroom knowledge to the real world.



RHS FBLA Earns Summer Starter Level

National Champion Chapter Award
Information Provided by Ms. Dori Lewis/*Adviser*

Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recently earned national recognition as a recipient of the Summer Starter Award - Champion Chapter. RHS FBLA is one of only 800 chapters nationwide to earn this distinction, and one of only 6 chapters in Louisiana to do so.

Champion Chapter is a series of membership engagement-focused challenges that FBLA chapters may complete for national recognition. Some tasks are writing a letter for guest speakers, planning a social event, organizing FBLA Week activities, etc. Chapters earn points for completing the tasks based on the skill set necessary to complete each item.

There are four levels of awards within the Champion Chapter: 1) Summer Starter, 2) Shaping Success, 3) Service Season, and 4) CTE Celebration. Each of these award levels have their own tasks and point systems and are tied to a particular period that follows the FBLA calendar. Completing any level earns you that award as a Champion Chapter. Earning all 4 levels earns the chapter the distinguished Champion Plus Award for the year.

Summer Starter focused on chapter building and membership strategy. The tasks to complete the award were designed to help chapters set the foundation for a successful membership year including electing chapter officers, developing a student-led program of work, setting goals, and mapping out the year. As this was the first national chapter challenge this year, it required starting early this summer before school even began to ensure adequate time was available to complete required tasks. With the leadership of the chapter officers, this happened despite so many changes in leadership, which is a great credit to the officer team.

Winning chapters will receive a banner for the adviser's classroom or school award case for each level of award. Additional incentives such as ribbons at conferences, national recognition in publications, and plaques are available as well. RHS FBLA looks forward to receiving this recognition and is already working on the next national chapter challenge – Shaping Success.



DONE



ON IT!



TBA



TBA

If you are the adviser, sponsor, president or reporter of a club or organization, please send information, articles and pictures of your group in action and future plans and let your members receive the recognition they deserve. Send items to chatterbox@lincolnschools.org from your school account.



Meet the 2022-2023 FLBA Officer Team

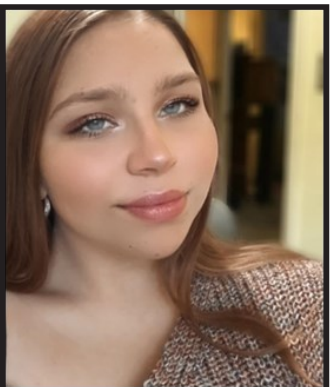


MATTHEW DAULTON
FBLA PRESIDENT

Hi, my name is Matthew Daulton. I'm the Ruston High School FBLA chapter president and I have been involved in FBLA for 6 years. As an FBLA member in both middle level and high school, I have won 1st place numerous times at regional and state conferences as well as competing nationally for our chapter.

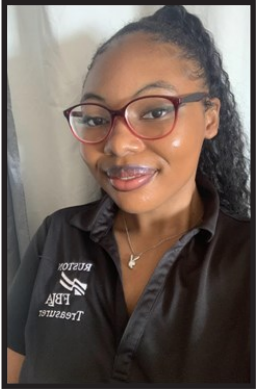
Outside of FBLA, I am a student athletic trainer for RHS, and am involved in National Honor Society and enjoy helping out my community in any way I can. Outside of school, I enjoy swimming, telling jokes, and spending time with friends and family.

ATLIS BRITT
FBLA VICE PRESIDENT



My name is Atlis Britt, and I am currently a senior at Ruston High School. I have been a member of FBLA for 5 years and a chapter officer for 3 of those years. I also was a Louisiana State Officer for a year.

During the last three years I have won superior at both regionals and state leadership conferences. I also have qualified for nationals each year.

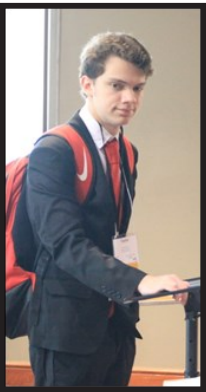


KIMBERLY GARDNER
TREASURER

My Name is Kimberly Gardner and I've been the treasurer for FBLA for a year and in FBLA for two years. While in FBLA I've won 1st place in at least one of my events two years in a row and made it to nationals once.

Outside of school, I play PC games, draw and mostly just socialize with friends online. I love cats, anime, kdramas, kpop, rock and Asian cuisine. A fun fact about me is that I was born on Halloween!

TAYLOR BERNARD
PARLIAMENTARIAN



My name is Taylor Bernard, this will be my second year in FBLA, and my first year as our chapter Parliamentarian. In the course of my time in FBLA, I have been a member of the PLAW team, and have participated in both state and national conferences. I am also a part of the Speech and Debate team, National Honors Society, and Ruston Choir.

Outside of school I enjoy reading, playing chess, and trading card games, exercising, and spending time with friends. An interesting fact about me is that I can solve a Rubik's cube in 30 seconds.



JOSH RAMACHANDRAN
HISTORIAN

My name is Josh Ramachandran. This is my first year as the Ruston FBLA historian and my second year of membership in the organization. During my time in FBLA, I have been a member of the PLAW team and qualified for both state and nationals.

Besides FBLA, I am also involved in the National Honor Society. Outside of school, I play ping pong, video games, hang out with friends and family, and volunteer. I enjoy swimming, listening to music, Asian food, and learning about Japanese history and culture. Fun fact: my last name means Moon god in Malayalam.

JAYDEN HENDERSON
COMMUNICATION VP



My name is Jayden Henderson I am the FBLA VP of Communications Officer. I enjoy cheering my teammates on and helping out whenever I can, as it in turn betters me as a person and makes me feel blissful.

I'm also on the soccer team and will be trying out for track. On top of all that I sing in choir which is one of my most loved activities as it is full of both spirit and life. I also have a passion for art and the mind I love understanding people and how people interact as well as creating new ways and ideas of doing things.

Outside of school I enjoy playing video games and hanging out with my friends as well as talking to new people just to broaden my view on life and get a glimpse of what it feels like to be in their shoes.

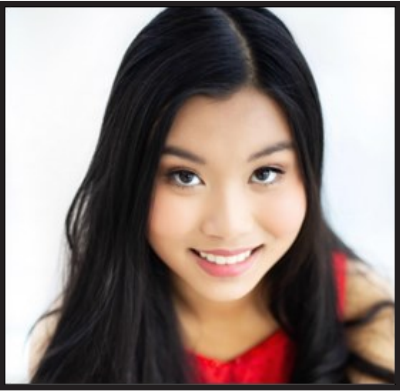


JOSHUA DAULTON
SERVICE AND SUPPORT VP

My name is Joshua Daulton. I am the Service and Support vice President. I have been in FBLA for 3 years and have competed at the National Leadership Conference for 3 years, and placed 4th in my event this past year. I also run cross country and track for Ruston High School.

Outside of FBLA, I enjoy watching movies and TV shows. A fact about me is that I can walk around on my toes with ease.

MELISSA LE
FRESHMAN VP



Hello everyone! My name is Melissa Le, and I am your Freshman Vice President. I have been surrounded by everything FBLA since fourth grade because of my older sister, Hana Le. I am so excited to hit the ground running: learning and leading with you. I am involved in a plethora of extracurricular activities. At school those include being on the Ruston High Swim team, Speech and Debate team, Student Council, and of course Ruston High FBLA.

Outside of school, I am involved in various other activities including pageantry, singing, piano, church activities, theater, art, charity and volunteer work, my own business, partnership with the Lincoln Parish STEM Center and the Region 8 SCILS STEM Center. Some fun facts about me are that I have an unhealthy addiction to spearmint gum and listening to Spotify, have been a classical piano player for 10 years, and love talking to everyone! I can't wait for this year and for all the memories to come!



DORI LEWIS
PRIMARY ADVISER

My name is Dori Lewis, I have been teaching at Ruston High School and an FBLA Advisor for 3 years. I have been teaching Business Education for 11 years. My degree is in Computer Information Systems from ULM.

When not at school, you will find me enjoying the fresh air and doing pageants with my granddaughter



Ruston High School Volleyball: Serving up the Victories

Information Provided by Coach Lucie Hunt
Photos Courtesy of www.dgimages.photoshelter.com

The RHS volleyball Lady 'Cats have had a great season so far and looking to continue serving up the victories as the playoffs near. The Lady 'Cats look to close out District 1 play as one of the top teams, with an impressive 23-9 record that also has them ranked 14th in Division I in Louisiana.

"We have been doing great things as a team, especially this 2nd half of the season", stated Coach Hunt. She added that the team has done great things on the court and that the Lady 'Cats offense is starting to really come together. The team's setter, Maggie Ambrose, has played through on a torn ACL and gives 120% every day per Hunt. Defensively, Lorelei Freling leads the Lady 'Cat defense with great competitiveness. Kill leaders for the team include Jade Smith, Hannah Rollins, Harper Cauley, and Hannah Johnson.

With the offense serving strong and playing well, and a defense that is motivated, the Lady 'Cats are playing at their highest level of the season. With a large final regular season tournament on October 28-29, 2022, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the team looks to set the tone for playoffs that begin the following week. Expectations are high for the Lady 'Cats, and Coach Hunt has no doubt that this group of young ladies are ready for the challenge every time they take the court.



Cala Wilson, Hannah Johnson, Lorelei Freling, Harper Cauley, and Maggie Ambrose celebrating a block by Jade Smith.



Rhagen Shallowhorn hitting as Harper Cauley covers.



Allie Richardson, Harper Cauley, Maggie Ambrose, and Hannah Rollins celebrating a block.



Jade Smith hitting from the middle.

RHS Girls' Basketball: High Energy on Display

Information Provided by Coach Meredith Graf

The Ruston High School (RHS) girls' basketball team is ready to open their season and promises to ensure it is an exciting one. The girls started practicing over the Fall Break on October 12, 2022, and have 2 scrimmages as well as an official's scrimmage. The Lady 'Cats open play at the OCS scrimmage at home on October 27, 2022, followed by the Officials' Scrimmage at home on October 29, 2022. The official's scrimmage is to allow new officials the opportunity to practice officiating games. The final scrimmage of the year will be on the road at Natchitoches Central on November 8, 2022.

On November 14, 2022, the Lady 'Cats open the regular season on the road at Benton, then return for a home stand against Minden on November 15, 2022. The Lady Cat's will participate in the Saline Tournament on November 18-29, 2022, and then travel again to participate in the St. Thomas More Tournament on November 21-22, 2022. They Lady 'Cats close out the month on November 29, 2022, returning home to face Bossier. Their schedule is posted on the RHS school website. Coverage of the games as well as upcoming games will also be covered in November edition of *Chatterbox*.

The RHS Lady 'Cats graduated 5 seniors last year, so this created a lot of opportunity for new players to join the team and step up their game. With the mixture of the older experienced players and the younger players who are ready to step up, this season looks to be exciting. "I am excited to see how we grow and develop over the course of the season," stated Coach Graf. Her and the team's expectations are high even with the many new faces and mixture of players.

"Our team will play a very fun and exciting style of basketball, added Graf, "We will play fast and aggressive, which will lead to a lot of scoring and high energy plays." Coach Graf wants to make it clear that the style of play that the RHS Lady 'Cats will play with this year will be very entertaining for fans. That stated, the team is hoping to see the student body and the community come out and see their brand of basketball on display.



Junior Jaliyah McWain goes for the lay up.



Junior Jaliyah McWain takes the jump shot.



Junior Zaccheya Jackson returns this year for the Lady 'Cats.

Bearcat Boys' Basketball Starts This Week

Information provided by Coach Ryan Bond

The schedules for Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcat basketball were published last edition and the season is now upon us. The varsity boys' begin their season hosting Zachary in the Official's Camp in October 29, 2022. The 9th grade and junior varsity (JV) boys' begin play at Wossman on November 2, 2022, with the varsity boys' playing at Wossman right behind them. The 9th grade and JV teams take a long break as they practice for their next game at the end of November, but the varsity boys' return to action November 7, 2022, at Parkview in Little Rock.

For fans who can only attend home games, the RHS boys' play their first home game against Minden on November 15, 2022, and then host Airline on November 17, 2022. From there, the boys' will try to capture victories at the Saline Tournament on November 18-19, 2022. The boys' will then close out the month at home against Bossier on November 29, 2022.

The first half of December will test the 'Cats as they hit the road until hosting the Remington Butler Classic. The road schedule includes the Hamilton Christian Tournament December 1-3, 2022, which is sure to feature some of the best teams in the state. Afterward, the 'Cats hit the road again and travel to Winnfield on December 5, 2022; and a journey up to Union on December 6, 2022. the 'Cats then travel west for the Southwood Tournament on December 9-10, 2022, before facing a tough Arcadia team on December 12, 2022, and yet another road trip to Benton on December 13, 2022.

The 'Cats host the Remington Butler Classic, and hope to see a huge crowd of supporters for their home tournament., on December 15-17, 2022. Shortly afterward, the 'Cats stay home to face Gibsland-Coleman on December 19, 2022, and then end the month competing on the road at the Sterlington Tournament on December 28, 2022.

Expectations are high for this years basketball season, and Chatterbox will be sure to bring you scores and more as the season progresses. Coach Bond and his team hope that they will be able to see as many fans as possible at each game, on the road as certainly at home. With so much talent returning this year, and experience under their belt, this could be a season to remember for the 'Cats.





RHS Boys' Soccer - Expectations Are High

Information Provided by Coach Erich Hankamer

Expectations are high for this year's Ruston High School (RHS) boys' soccer team. Led by Coach Erich Hankamer, this year's team features seniors that are sure to make go far. Although Hankamer understands that the season will be a learning experience for the team, he also knows it will be a learning experience for him as well in his first year of coaching the team. He only wishes he had more time to work with his seniors as one year is not enough.

Leading the way with their experience will be 7 seniors looking to make a difference and train the younger members of the team. These seniors are Colbie Grant, Cameron Harps, Christopher Harps, Jayden Henderson, Jaiden Langiulli, Rodolfo Landaverde, and Franklin Ulloa. Hankamer appreciates the hard work and dedication these seniors and the entire team have shown in learning the brand-new system and style of play that he has brought to RHS soccer.

Senior midfielder Jaiden Langiulli is a 4-year player looking to have another breakout season. Asked what he wants from this season, Jaiden replied, "I want to win at least 70% of our games this season and make it to the playoffs." Senior Christopher Harps is another 4-year starter and the heart of the 'Cats defense and is counted on to play a big role in keeping opponents at bay this season. Asked what he wants for the season, Christopher shared, "I hope for the team most importantly, to progress and improve from last year. Also, I hope to return to the playoffs."

Senior Colbie Grant returns this year and states "What I expect from this season is to at least make the playoffs." Senior Rodolfo Landaverde adds, "Mindset is what separates the best from the rest." Senior Cameron Harps also has high expectations for the season, stating, "I want to win most of our games this season and improve on the field."

Always ambitious, senior Jayden Henderson elaborated, "This season is going be one of our best due to our team's ambition and mindset. GO CATS!" Closing our senior expectations, Franklin Uloa said with much though, "I want to pursue my goals and get to find love by playing with my teammates; I want to become the best soccer player I can be; I want to show them that you can do anything you want if you just care enough to do it; I don't want this to just be words but actions."

Expectations are indeed high for this group of seniors and for RHS boys' soccer. The 'Cats open play with a scrimmage at home against Ouachita on November 10, 2022. The season starts officially as the 'Cats host Minden on November 14, 2022, and then West Monroe on November 17, 2022. After a short break, the 'Cats travel to Pineville to participate in the Pineville Tournament on November 25-26, 2022, before closing the month out on the road against North Desoto on November 29, 2022. The RHS boys' soccer team hopes to see everyone in the stands for this great and fun season.



Front Row, Left to Right: Rodolfo Landaverde, Colbie Grant, Franklin Ulloa, Jaiden Langiulli
Back Row, Left to Right: Cameron Harps, Christopher Harps, and Jayden Henderson.

Girls' Soccer Ready to Take on the Season

Information Provided by Coach Jacquelyn Bean

The Ruston High Girls Soccer team has been going full swing since their first week of practice six months ago back in June when the girls' team began their summer workouts. Some of their practice sessions began before sunrise at 6:00 am to avoid the heat and others were in the hottest part of the day at 1:00 in the afternoon.

Early on, Coach Bean noticed how the upperclassmen on the team set the tone right from the beginning. "Many of these girls I have known for quite some time because I coached them when they were in 7th and 8th grade at Ruston Jr High and some of them are Seniors now.. I somewhat knew what to expect when I took over back in May, but this group continues to exceed my expectations week after week."

Bean and her two assistant coaches, her daughter Morgan Bean (LSUE) and former La Tech Defender Elizabeth Doll, noticed the team's work ethic when players would arrive at 5:15 a.m. to start the 6:00 a.m. sessions on Fridays throughout the summer. "The senior players' leadership skills and expectations of everyone on the team make my work easier," continues Bean. "They set the tone of accountability with the whole team at the very first practice. As their coach I wanted to help establish the mindset that No one is above making mistakes, listen to your teammates, receive their criticism, and then keep moving forward. It takes courage to step on other people's toes and get them out of their comfort zone, but that's a major part of a growth mindset because nothing grows in a comfort zone. Find out where you fall short, keep working to get where you want to be - inch by inch."

As the team worked this summer on their fitness, Coach Frasier Hogan, RHS's Strengthening Coach, created workouts that pushed every player to prepare both mentally and physically. "I appreciate how both soccer teams never complained about the workouts I gave them. I'm impressed each week with how hard they work developing their minds as well as their bodies. Whatever I give them, they get it done," said Coach Frasier.

With 7 Seniors on the girls' team this Fall, there is a welcomed abundance of experience for their Starting XI.

Returning for what will be their last season as a Ruston Bearcat are Defenders: Ashlyn Cripps and Brianna McLaughlin. Goalkeeper: Emily Stutzman. Midfielders: Caroline Estes, Raegan McCulloch, and Carleigh Reger; and Forward: Amaree Sterling.

When asked what they looked forward to the most, Estes replied, "This season, I look forward to winning as many games as possible and I hope to make my last year my best". McLaughlin shared, "I hope that we can utilize what we have learned over the summer in our games this season. I am also looking forward to watching and helping the Junior girls grow and step up as they'll be the Seniors on the team next year."

"These Senior girls bring the energy to every practice, they demand much of each other and their underclassmen teammates, but they also bring the fun", says Bean. "They're like sisters, they laugh, they cheer, they jeer, and they buy each other popcorn chicken when they lose a shooting challenge. They are fiercely competitive in shootouts and scrimmages, just like sisters would be, and they make my job as their Coach easier and enjoyable", Bean said.

The coaches and team are looking forward to the start of their season and they hope the Ruston High student body and community will come out to show their support. They would love to have record crowds at every match this year.

The Lady Bearcats scrimmage on November 3, 2022 at home before hosting their first match of the 2022-23 season against Minden on November 14, with the first kick-off at 5:30. They then travel to participate in the Houghton tournament on November 17-19, 2022, before hosting Houghton on November 21, 2022. The Lady Bearcats close out the month on the road against North Desoto. The team would like for everyone to take an opportunity this year to come out and support them and Bearcat soccer.



Seniors from left to right: Seniors Ashlyn Cripps, Carleigh Reger, Caroline Estes, Amaree Sterling, Emily Stutzman, Bri McLaughlin, and Raegan McCulloch.

Bearcats Defeats Rival Neville: Close Non-District Schedule at 4-1

STAFF REPORT

At last press, the Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcats held a 3-1 record after starting the season strong against 3 straight Top 10 teams. Holding string to state 5A ranking of 5th, the Bearcats continued their winning ways as they closed out their non-district play against another Top 10 team – the archrival Neville Tigers.

Most Bearcat and Tiger fans circle the Ruston-Neville game annually as the game to watch. In the state's second longest rivalry game, classification and record usually mean nothing when these teams face off. This year, both were ranked in the Top 5, and the game proved to be yet another thriller. Neville opened the scoring in the 1st quarter, but the Bearcats answered right back and again in the 2nd quarter to take a 14-7 lead in halftime. In the 3rd quarter, Neville tied it up again at 14-14, only to see the Bearcats answer again and take a 21-14 lead into the 4th quarter. The Bearcats increased their lead to 27-14 in the 4th quarter, but Neville fought back to 27-21 before the Bearcat defense closed the door and the Bearcats won the contested battle by a final score of 27-21.

With non-district play behind them, the Bearcats now head into district play confident and ready to make a statement this year. Expectations are high and the team is ready to put on both an offensive and defensive show for the fans. Coverage of district play and filed highlights continue on the next page.





Wide Receiver A. Jackson hauls in the big catch.



Quarterback Jaden Osborne tosses one of many passes.



LB/RB Lander Smith blocks as RB Jordan Hays runs it.



WR Logan Malone heads downfield after the catch.



RB Dyson Fields finds daylight around the end.



Tight End Zhy Scott catches the ball downfield.



DL Christian Davis leads the way back on the field.



All photos courtesy of Mr. Reggie McLeroy



DL A. Breaux, DB N. Johnson, and DL G. Guidry



DB Jordan McWain defends the pass downfield.



DB Kyran McConnell makes the tackle.



DB Nate Johnson makes a good open field tackle.



DB Kendrick Jones makes the big hit on defense.



DL Geordan Guidry takes down the runner.



LB Jadon Mayfield closes in on the tackle.

5th Ranked Bearcats Start District Play 3-0

STAFF REPORT

After closing out non-district play with a big win against Neville, the Bearcats stood at 4-1 and ranked 5th in a very competitive class 5A. The road to the District 2-5A title began on the road at ASH on October 7, 2022, where the Bearcats led the entire game, with the halftime score of 21-13 being as close as it would get. A dominant 2nd half performance with multiple rushing touchdowns and even a pick 6 led to a final score of 48-23, bringing the 'Cats to 5-1 overall and 1-0 in district play.

The 'Cats remained on the road to face district rival Pineville on October 14, 2022. Despite playing back to back road games, the Rebels found the 'Cats to be way too much as the 'Cats opened up a 34-0 halftime lead. After a scoreless 3rd quarter, the 'Cats put on both an offensive and defensive clinic as they scored 3 rushing and 1 passing TD while holding the Rebels scoreless on the way to a 62-0 victory. The 'Cats now stood at 6-1 overall, 2-0 in district play.

The 'Cats returned home to a sold out stadium of fans to face the West Ouachita Chiefs on October 21, 2022, bringing home another big victory to help students and alumni enjoy Homecoming activities even more. As in the past district games, the combination of a strong defense coupled with a dominating offense propelled the 'Cats to a big 48-7 victory. The ability of the 'Cats to both rush and throw the ball, and to make big plays, have been key to the 'Cats success, and with the defense stepping up, the team played at a high level with great intensity. The victory at Homecoming brought the 'Cats to 7-1, 3-0 in district, and remaining a solid 5th ranked in 5A.

Leading the team to date on offense at QB is Jaden Osborne, with over 1000 yards passing, 12 TD throws, and only 1 interception. He also has 168 yards rushing. On the ground, the 'Cats use many players in their attack. The top rushers and scorers for the 'Cats are Jordan Hayes with 6 TDS and 652 yards rushing; Dyson Fields with 6 TDS and 530 yards rushing; Lajaveon Ellis with 4 TDS and 290 yards rushing; Dylan Brooks with 2 TDs and 107 yards rushing; Jayden Mayfield with 2 TDs and 89 yards rushing; Josh Brantley with 2 TDs and 48 yards rushing; and Lander Smith with 1 TD and 35 yards rushing. The top 3 receivers in the air attack have been Aaron Jackson with 8 TDs on 530 yards receiving; Zhy Scott with 3 TDs on 208 yards receiving; and Logan Malone, hauling in 211 yards receiving. Christian Davis also caught a 4 yard TD pass.

A stout defense shows many players contributing this year to date. At the defensive linebacker position, Jadon Mayfield and Zheric Hill have combined for over 77 tackles with over 70 assists, including 4 tackles for loss, 3.5 sacks, 3 interceptions (2 for TDs), 1 forced fumble and 3 recovered fumbles, and 3 pass break ups. Safeties Nate Johnson, Kyran McConnell, Ray Owens, and Jacoryian Crowe have combined for 93 tackles with over 50 assists, including 12 tackles for loss, 3 interceptions (1 for TD), 1 forced fumble, and 5 pass break ups. Cornerbacks Jordan McWain, Kendrick Jones, Calvin Baker, and Semaj Jones have combined for 47 tackles with 13 assists, and 7 pass break ups. Defensive linemen Ahmad Breaux, Christian Davis, Peyton Bell, Jamious Blackmon, Triston Dumas, and Geordan Guidry have combined for 115 tackles with 70 assists, including 18 tackles for loss, 9 sacks, 1 interception, 1 forced fumble, and 1 pass break up.

The Bearcats close out district play over the next 2 weeks with a road game at Ouachita where they will face the Lions, followed by the last regular season game of the year at home against the West Monroe Rebels. Never taking an opponent lightly, the 'Cats plan to continue their game plan against the unranked Lions in preparation to face the ranked Rebels. With the Bearcats holding the current 5th ranking in 5A, and the Rebels most likely ranked 1 slot behind them at 6th, the regular season finale at home is sure to be a sell out as the winner takes the district championship as well as the highest ranking in the district into the playoffs.

Expectations remain high for the 'Cats this year as they will start the playoffs at home and look to make a deep run all the way to the State Championship. Fill the stands on the road as well as at home and support the 'Cats. Let's fill the Catbox for the district championship game, and give our team the edge off the field as well as on it.

