




900 Bearcat Drive, Ruston, Louisiana 71270

<http://rustonhigh.lincolnschools.org/pages/chatterbox.php>


Chatterbox: The Voice of Ruston High School


You may contact *Chatterbox* at chatterbox@lincolnschools.org if you have suggestions or comments.



RHS Principal’s Message

Hello fellow Bearcats! I want to commend you on a great 1st nine weeks! Keep up the good work! With Thanksgiving break then Christmas break coming up, the 1st semester will be over before you know it. Make sure your grades and attendance are in order. With playoff football season upon please continue to support our football team, spirit groups, band and many more that make Friday nights so enjoyable. You are all doing a great job and you make Ruston High School a special place to work and go to school. We are proud of you!





Be Thankful

Gabriel Moon/ Student Council President

Happy Fall y’all! Thanksgiving is right around the corner along with the playoffs for our Ruston Bearcat football team. The recent West Monroe game was definitely a history making event for Ruston High.

Today, I would like to talk about thankfulness. Thanking someone is one of the easiest things we can do as students. It does not cost us any money and it does not normally take a lot of time. Who are you thankful for? Have you told them recently?

I am so thankful for Ruston High School and the time I have spent here the last four years. Coming to Ruston High School was a big change. However, teachers and students alike made me feel welcome from the first day. So, thank you to Coach Baugh, Mrs. Ratcliff, Mrs. Gressett, Mrs. St. John (just to name a few) along with those students that are now my best friends that said hello and welcomed me those first few days of my Freshman year. I could name so many teachers and administration that I have since gotten to know.

Who are you thankful for? What about the bus driver who says hello every morning when they pick you up for school? What about the ladies serving us lunch each day in the cafeteria? What about that one guidance counselor that smiles every day at you even when you still might be half asleep walking into school? Know that I am thankful for each of you, students and teachers alike, and I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving!

SHARP CATS

RHS Freshman Academy recognizes September and October Sharp Cats

The Ruston High School Freshman Academy is proud to recognize some of our outstanding students each month by naming them Ruston High Sharp Cats. The academy faculty feels that honoring exceptional students is an important part of supporting and encouraging our freshmen.

The Freshman Academy has four teams of students, and at the end of each month, two students from each team are nominated by their teachers to join the ranks of the Sharp Cats.

Through their accomplishments, the students selected for this program have set an outstanding example in some aspect of campus life. Some students have exhibited an intense rigor for academics or demonstrated their love of learning. Some have enhanced their grade point average standing while others have shown exemplary attitudes and behavior. They are determined to learn and genuinely lead and inspire others on our campus. It is with great pride that we present to you these students...for they are truly Sharp Cats!

We are so proud of our freshmen, and we hope that you will join us in our appreciation of these extraordinary students: Scarlett Allred, Lane Atwood, Zayn Carty, Eli Diebold, KaraLin Hoover, Damariz Landaverde, Christian Lewis, Ziane McConnell, Citlalli Mejia, Damian Nash, Trisha Pangilinan, Dominique Pryor, Layton Risher, Quaneicia Rogers, Taylor Roller, and Al-Amin Wilson.



RHS Participates in Week of Gratitude

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

On November 1-4, 2022, Ruston High School (RHS) observed a Week of Gratitude. With the assistance of the Student Council, advisory classes participated in various activities throughout the week.

The Week of Gratitude began on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, with the Tree of Gratitude. Students wrote down something they were grateful for on a strip of paper, and then each advisory class participating constructed a paper chain with the strips of papers. Mrs. Lillie Williams and the Student Council took these chains and constructed a “Tree of Gratitude” for all students to enjoy.

On Wednesday, November 2, 2022, faculty volunteers and student council members shared short videos on what they were thankful for. These were combined to form our school’s Video of Gratitude. The video was then shared too all faculty to share with their advisory students.

On Thursday and Friday, November 3-4, 2022, students prepared letters 9Letter of Gratitude) for someone that they wanted to know that they are grateful for. Some students elected to deliver these in person, while many were sent to Mrs. Williams, who made every effort with the assistance of the Student Council and others to ensure that the letters were delivered.

The Week of Gratitude went well and was a great way for students and others to stop and reflect of people and things that they were thankful for. As we all can get busy, often we do not take the time to do so. Although RHS set aside the week just for this, we can all be reminded that anytime is a good time to let others know that they are appreciated and that we are grateful for them being a part of our lives.



Bearcat Bites

November 18, 2022: Bearcats vs. Hahnville (Regional Football Playoffs)
November 21-25, 2022: Thanksgiving Break
November 25, 2022: Bearcats vs. TBA (Quarterfinals - TBA)
December 21, 2022 - January 4, 2022: Christmas/New Years Break

Bearcat Nation Send Congratulations to:
Student of the Year:Maggie Ambrose
Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Jill Sutton

Chatterbox 2022-2023 Publication Plan
Published Online in Google Classroom:
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ARTICLE DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
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

Bearcats students, faculty, and staff are invited to join share *Chatterbox* through any media source.

Chatterbox is the official newspaper of Ruston High School, “the Voice of Ruston High.” *Chatterbox*. *Chatterbox* is published monthly on the Ruston High School webpage under Student Life and emailed to all faculty and staff .

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.





RHS Student of the Year - Maggie Ambrose

Maggie Ambrose - Ruston High School Student of the Year

STAFF REPORT

Ruston High School (RHS) proudly announces that Maggie Ambrose has been selected as this year's RHS Student of the Year (SOY). Senior students that have a 3.5 GPA or above are eligible to apply for RHS SOY. Applicants must complete a packet that provides their basic student information, a biographical writing sample and asks the student to list any honors, recognitions, extracurricular activities, community involvements, etc. Transcripts and ACT scores must also be attached to the students' application. These packets are then reviewed and a panel of five RHS faculty members interview the candidates.

Maggie is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), volleyball team, talented art program, Keywanettes, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). She is also a National Merit Commended student. Maggie has earned certification in Adobe and CPR while at RHS, and is very artistic. Maggie has also interned with the Northern Louisiana Medical Center with the Area Health Education Center (AHEC), receiving 60 hours of professional experience in rounds at the hospital in addition to 40 hours of research in the classroom.

At Cook Baptist Church, Maggie has worked every year since 2016 with vacation Bible school and served as the Youth Band Leader since 2018. She has also spent 2 summers at Mission Lab in New Orleans, working at food banks, with the homeless, and putting on vacation Bible schools. In 2019, Maggie assisted with an orphanage in Guatemala in Case Alleluia.

Maggie said that she applied for SOY as she loves RHS and believes she can represent the school with her strong academics, numerous leadership roles, and well-rounded character. Asked about the moment she found out that she was selected, Maggie stated, "I learned I had been selected for student of the year during announcements in 3rd hour Calculus. All of my classmates erupted into cheers after my name was called. I felt so excited as well as honored to have been the one selected out of my wonderful and qualified fellow candidates."

As she prepares to represent RHS, Maggie is upgrading her portfolio with newspaper articles, pictures, and certificates. In doing so, she adds, "I am also reflecting on my years at Ruston High, how I've grown as a person, and on the impact of my community in order to prepare for the interview portion."

When asked about who she believes helped her in her journey and if she had anything to say to the readers, Maggie added, "I would first like to thank Mrs. Henderson, 10th grade counselor, for her guidance and help for the first interview as well as the upcoming. I would also like to thank my parents who are incredibly supportive and encouraging, making sacrifices to make sure I have opportunities like this. I would like to thank my dear friends who encourage, uplift, and push me forward, being so kind and sincere. I am so blessed and honored to be Ruston High's 2022-2023 Student of the Year!"

Mrs. Erin Henderson pointed out that all candidates did a great job this year. "Each interview was unique and displayed each student's strengths!" stated Mrs. Henderson, adding, "I'm so impressed with all of the applications and I'm proud of each student that stepped out of their comfort zone to apply. Everyone did a great job!" As for Maggie, Mrs. Henderson stated, "Maggie did a wonderful job, she displayed confidence and answered each question with enthusiasm. Maggie will go on to compete for the District Student of the Year competition. I know that she will represent Ruston High School well."

Mr. Daniel Gressett, principal, added, "Maggie is a wonderful selection for Student of the Year. She is a great representative for Ruston High School and is very deserving of this honor." He further added, "She's a terrific student, she's involved in extracurricular activities, and she's a Bearcat to the core. We are extremely proud of her and we look forward to her winning the district Student of the Year competition."

Maggie looks forward to competing at future levels in the Student of the Year competition. Look for more on Maggie and the Student of the Year Competition as each level of competition takes place, beginning with Lincoln Parish High School Student of the Year.



Maggie Ambrose (center) - Ruston High School Student of the Year, poses with her proud parents.

RHS Teacher of the Year - Mrs. Jill Sutton

Mrs. Jill Sutton – RHS Teacher of the Year

STAFF REPORT

Ruston High School (RHS) proudly announces that Mrs. Jill Sutton has been chosen as the RHS Teacher of the Year (TOY). Mrs. Sutton was chosen out of over 100 teachers at Ruston High School and will be putting together her application and packet to advance to the next level, including examples of teaching in the classroom.

Mrs. Sutton was selected for this honor by Principal Dan Gressett, who stated, "Mrs. Sutton is very deserving of Ruston High School's Teacher of the Year. She is a great Biology teacher, has a great rapport with students, and is a tireless worker. We appreciate all that she does for RHS and we look forward to her moving on in this competition."

Mrs. Sutton was asked if she was interested in the award as it does come with many responsibilities, and after discussing this with her supporters, she agreed to accept the honor. Asked how she felt, Mrs. Sutton said, "At the end of the day, I just felt extremely honored. There is no doubt about it that Ruston High School is the best school in the state of Louisiana so to be chosen is a huge honor. I am very excited to represent Ruston High School in this capacity. The students here are the absolute best, and they are the main contributors to any success I have had in my career."

Mrs. Sutton now adds preparing for the parish teacher of the year award to her list of things to do this year. When asked how she was preparing, she stated, "I am working on adding to my resume and creating a video to submit for District Teacher of the Year. The video is mainly composed of a lesson that I will use to illustrate my passion for science education."

Mrs. Sutton began her career teaching at Simsboro High School in August 2008, where she taught environmental science, biology I, biology II, and LEAP Prep, and served as assistant girls' basketball coach, until May 2010. She transferred to Ruston High School in June 2010, where she taught biology and was the girls' basketball coach, until June 2014. In June 2014, Mrs. Sutton moved to Sterlington High School for a year to take over as girls' basketball coach, where she taught biology I and girls physical education. She returned to Ruston High School in August 2015, where she is the head girls' basketball coach and teaches biology I and AP biology.

In receiving this honor, Mrs. Sutton recognized that others helped her to get to where she is today, stating, "I would obviously like to thank Mr. Gressett for challenging me and encouraging me to be my best as well as Mr. Durrett who was instrumental in getting me to Ruston High School in the first place many, many years ago as a girls basketball coach and then later on, providing an opportunity to come back home after I left for a year.

I would also like to thank April Winstead, our District Science Coordinator. Over the past (at least) 10 years, she has pushed me and challenged me by encouraging me to take opportunities that I didn't always know I needed/wanted. She's also been a great role model as an educator for me to model my teaching style from and her great rapport with her students is inspiring."

Always thinking of ways to inspire and to help others, Mrs. Sutton adds, "I'd love for students to take away from my experience that you make yourself better by the people you surround yourself with. If the people you are around are always challenging themselves to be better without making excuses, you are more likely to do the same. I have been extremely blessed to be around some of the best teachers and coaches here in Lincoln Parish and am looking forward to continuing to grow as an educator."

Mrs. Sutton will now compete for the high school level Teacher of the Year honor for Lincoln Parish. Expectations are high and future competition results and actions will be covered as known in this competition.



RHS Recognizes Veterans Day

STAFF REPORT

There are several holidays for the United States military, most of which are celebrated by their specific branches or those being recognized for specific reasons that are not applicable to all. Almost every month of the calendar has a holiday of some nature for military branches, award winners, members, spouses, children, families, and supporters. The three most widely recognized and celebrated are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day.

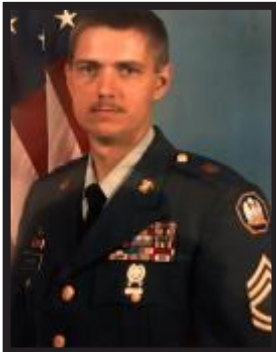
Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day are both celebrated in May. Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the 2nd Saturday in May, and serves to honor those who are still serving. Memorial Day is celebrated on the last day in May, and serves to honor those who died in battle or as a result of a wound sustained in battle.

This leaves us Veterans Day, celebrated on November 11, which serves to honor all those who have honorably served in the military – peacetime and wartime. Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day to recognize the end of World War I, when fighting ceased at the 11th hour on the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918. The holiday was renamed in 1954, and with the exception of a few years in the 1970s, has been held on November 11th ever since as a federally recognized holiday. One reference to the original holiday is that Americans still recognize a moment of silence beginning at 3:11 p.m. Atlantic time.

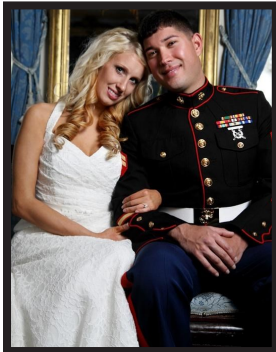
Ruston High School and *Chatterbox* would like to recognize those who have served our country and who are currently serving as teachers this year. Teachers pictured below have served in at least one branch of service, and although Veterans Day has passed, be sure to thank each of them for their service when you see them. Veterans Day may only be recognized one day a year, but their contributions have ensured that our daily way of living and our freedoms are secure, and for that, we should be grateful each day.



SGT Kristen Boydston
Army National Guard
12 years service



SFC Lloyd R. Bruner
US Army (Retired)
24 years service



CPL Matt MacDaniels
USMC
6 years service



SPC Delores Weir
Army National Guard
6 years service



Cheerleaders Show Support Information Provided by Coach McDonald

On November 11, 2022, members of the Ruston High Cheer team volunteered at the Ruston Veteran's Day program at Railroad Park. At the event, they distributed flags to local Veterans and met members of the armed forces to thank them for their service to our country.



Teachers Who Proudly Served



Freshman Academy Goes to the Movies

Information Provided by Ms. Jaimee Hudson

Freshman Academy students enjoyed their first incentive trip on November 2. Students who qualified attended Celebrity Theater in Ruston to see *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile*, a musical comedy based on the best-selling book series by Bernard Waber. Each nine weeks, students who exhibit good behavior with no tardies, no dress code violations, no behavior referrals or detentions, no cell phone violations, and no attendance issues are rewarded with a positive behavior incentive trip away from the Ruston High campus.

The first nine weeks reward trip included 125 students, more than one-third of the freshman class. The students rode buses to Celebrity Theater where their admission was covered by Freshman Academy. Students were also allowed to buy concessions, and as you can see by the pictures, many students enjoyed their snacks.

Each nine weeks a student's record starts clear with no violations. So, even if a student received a violation during the first nine weeks, he or she can try again during the second nine weeks. We certainly hope that even more ninth graders qualify for the next field trip, which will be even better and take place somewhere outside of Ruston.



All pictures above show the freshman students who qualified attending a movie at Celebrity Theaters in Ruston as an incentive for their actions.

Principles of Business – FEMA Certified

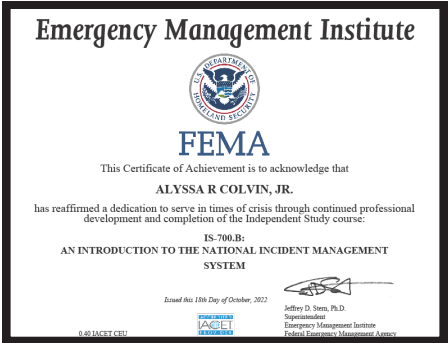
STAFF REPORT

Principles of Business began years ago at Ruston High School (RHS) as an elective primarily to fill the need for a business course that everyone could take for general business information. It was the primary class taken by Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) to anchor their basic knowledge of business for all competitive events. At one time, an entire class was just FBLA members, and each one placed in the Top 10 in the state in competition and won the state literary rally.

The course is still the anchor for business and a course that provides basic business knowledge for students; however, the course added certification in IS-700b.2 with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). As this was one of the primary certifications Jump Start students, FEMA became almost mandatory whether students were Jump Start students or not. Since then, hundreds of students at RHS have earned the certification.

This year, over 120 students in the Principles of Business course took and passed FEMA certification. 6th period hit 100% before the rest, even as a larger class. The others quickly followed suite. In addition, over 40 of the 120 students are special education students. This past week, after working on this for over a month, the goal of 85% certification has easily been met as 100% of students have certified, including over 100% of special education students. This is the first time that 100% was achieved and as a result, students were recognized with certificates to the concession stand by the business department.

Chatterbox congratulates all of those who have and will certify in FEMA and knows that other students a RHS are also certifying in the same discipline in other classes. However, Principles of Business remains the primary course providing the certification. We know there are other certifications out there – including Microsoft Office, Adobe, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and others, and we encourage each of you to submit your recognitions and certifications as well.



CPA Visits Principles of Business

Lynn V. Hutchinson, CPA, CGMA Speaks to Class

STAFF REPORT

Every year, the national American Institute of Certified Accountants (AICPA) reaches out across America and goes into high school classrooms to speak about business and the accounting profession. This year, the Society of Louisiana CPAs reached out to Ruston High School once again for this, hoping to present to a business class during Louisiana CPA Week, November 7-11, 2022, as declared by Louisiana Governor Jon Bel Edwards. On November 10, 2022, Lynn V. Hutchinson, CPA, CGMA, who is CFO and Secretary – Treasurer of Lincoln Builders, Inc. of Ruston, Louisiana, presented to the 2nd period Principles of Business class.

Mrs. Hutchinson discussed accounting opportunities to the class t is money – not math. She discussed her 8 primary reasons that accounting is a great profession. These were 1) money, 2) owning a business, 3) traveling, 4) making an impact, 5) teaching, 6) work/life balance, 7) professional growth, and 8) job security. As she covered these area, students received examples of how each area was a positive reason to consider accounting as a profession.

To get the students to understand that accounting is not the stereotypical group of “nerds wearing green glasses number crunching”, she gave examples of the various job opportunities that exists for accountants. Specifically, she discussed where accountants can find jobs working with 1) entrepreneurs and start-ups, 2) nonprofits, 3) companies of all sizes, 4) governments, 5) sports and entertainment, and 6) accounting and consulting firms.

Although accounting was not a course this year, some aspects of accounting will be covered in Principles of Business, not just as in depth as the typical accounting class would be. RHS appreciates the time that Mrs. Hutchinson took out of her day to make the presentation, and knows that some students gained valuable information about the accounting profession.



RHS Students Attend Ouachita Youth Summit

Information Provided by Mrs. Janie Gressett

On Thursday, November 10, 2022, a group of students composed of several members of the Dragon Boat team and several members of Student Council attended the Ouachita Youth Summit held at University of Louisiana Monroe and hosted by the Children's Coalition of Northeast Louisiana.

Students began the morning making spirit buttons and then they attended informational sessions on topics related to being a leader. Students gained information about managing creativity, handling the stress of being a leader, remembering the importance of internet safety and social media, and having what it takes to be a leader.

Pictured far right:
Front row (l to r): Hannah Reeder, Anna Puckett, Emma Jane Reeves, Brennan Youngblood, Trenton Richard, and Gabriel Moon
Back row: (l to r): Abbey Seney, Taylor Skapura, Teagan Thomas, Kaleb Williams, and Chad Hamlin





November 17, 2022

Page 4

The RHS Student Council Presents the 3rd Annual SpooOOOooky Halloween Costume Contest



John Gleason as
Marty McFly



Lydia Smith as a Bearcat
Beast



Lillie Williams as Winifred
Sanderson



Nancy Roger as Sister Michael
(Derry Girls)



Latoy Herring as Kim Possible



Kerri Dietrich as Gru



Danielle Nash as Fake News



Jill Benefield as a Math
Referee



Susan Williams as a Hippie



Lloyd Bruner as a Robber



Mrs. Williamson and Hannah Hughes as
Joyce and Eddie Munson



Nurse Wendy as Gandalf



Chandler McDonald as
Matilda



Mallory Rogers as an undead
pirate



Mary Fowler as Mrs.
Incredible



Roxanne Holton as Napoleon
Dynamite



Mrs. Gressett as a deviled egg



Erich Hankamer as Ted Lasso



Coach Smith as Maverick



Kenedy Pierce as Ms.
Trunchbull



Sydney Phillips as a witch



David Mahaffey as Paul
Bunyan



Key White as Miss West Monroe



Erich Hankamer as Ted Lasso



Basement Costume Crew
Angie Borden as Mrs.
Pacman



Ms. Peters as a cat



Mr. Poe as IT



RHS FBLA Prepares for the Year
Plan of Work Prepared for the Year
Information Provided by Ms. Dori Lewis/ FBLA Adviser

The members of Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter 617 are excited about their plans for this school year! The top chapter in the state returns after a “rebuild” year with 91 student members. This school year, the chapter focus is on building the leader in each member. The plan includes having the chapter compete in each National Chapter Challenge, encouraging each member to complete at least the 1st level of the National Business Achievement Awards, and participating in other National leadership competitions like the Virtual Personal Finance Challenge and the Stock Market Challenge.

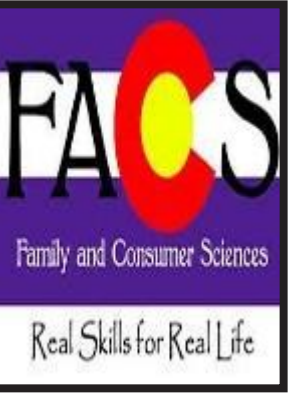
Other items the chapter is busy working on are a new community project working with the Center for the Blind. Plans already include rebuilding their library and assisting them with transcribing local restaurant menus.

American Enterprise Day is right around the corner and RHS FBLA is planning a few activities in hopes to share free enterprise knowledge with others. Our social and meetings committee is planning activities and assisting members prepare for competitive events.

Fundraising efforts are also underway to raise finances to support members with travel to competitions and to help fund service projects. Each year, RHS FBLA sells World’s Finest Chocolates and Meat Sticks. These fundraisers provide a percentage of the proceeds that go into each student's account to reward them for their work. This helps the members cut down the costs of travel, hotel and registration costs. Another percentage of the fundraisers help support the chapter’s work with planned community service projects.

RHS FBLA is looking forward to an exciting year as they are led by a strong officer team. This year’s RHS FBLA officer team consists of president Matthew Daulton, vice president Atlis Britt, secretary Kevin Gibson, treasurer Kimberly Gardner, reporter Lainey Bowen, parliamentarian Taylor Bernard, historian Joshua Ramachandran, communications vice president Jayden Henderson, service and support vice president Joshua Dalton, and freshman vice president Melissa Le.

RHS FBLA extends a huge thank you to all those who support the chapter.



FACS News
Information Provided by Mrs. Kandi Hammons/Advisor

On November 3, 2022, FACS club met for their monthly meeting. Members were reminded that RHS FACS will be partnering with Ronald McDonald house for the service project that will be in January 2023.

At the FACS meeting, members watched a video on gratitude. Each member selected two cards with teacher’s names on them and wrote a short note. These notes were placed in the respective teacher’s boxes. The meeting also included FACS members enjoying a sweet treat and socializing with other members.

Pictured left: FACS members prepare gratitude cards.



RHS FFA Forestry Team Competes at the National Level
Information Submitted by Timothy Hancock/ FFA Advisor

On October 24-28, 2022, the Ruston High School FFA Forestry Team had the opportunity to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana, to compete at the national level. This year’s team consisted of Carter Gay, Raymond Granger, Kassidy Kelly, and Dylan Travillion.

The competition required the Forestry team to identify and study trees that were not native to Louisiana. They also participated in team bonding activities that helped them achieve high ranking scores in some of the activities. As a result of their efforts, the team finished top 25 in the nation, and were ranked silver. These ranking came against 39 other states.

In addition to attending the national level, the forestry team kicked back and explored multiple parts of the city. At the national convention, they also were able to meet a past National FFA president. The team had the opportunity to explore the FFA Expo and meet new people and explore new and exciting career opportunities. With over 65,000 FFA members in attendance, there was ample opportunity to discuss Ag topics and learn more about FFA



Pictured above left (left to right): Advisor Timothy Hancock with team members Raymond Granger, Kassidy Kelly, Dylan Travillion, and Carter Gray.
Pictured left center: RHS FFA identifies tree species. Pictured right center: RHS FFA Forestry Team participates in the team activity at National FFA Forestry competition.
Pictured far right: Kassidy Kelly heads out to measure tree height and diameter in the Forestry competition.

RHS FFA Member CJ Wilson Qualifies for District in Creed Speaking
Information Provided by Antonio Wilson/ FFA Advisor

Ruston High School FFA member CJ Wilson attended the 2022 Louisiana State Fair and competed against 20 other FFA members in Creed Speaking. Creed Speaking is the only FFA contest that is limited to only freshman students.

As a result of his hours of practice and hard effort, CJ qualified to compete at the district contest that will be held in December 2022.



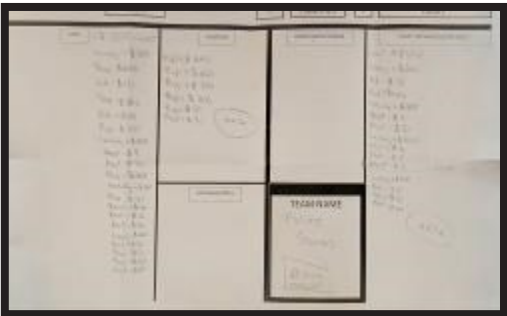
RHS FBLA Monopoly Night
Hosted by Beta Alpha Psi (BAP)
Information Provided by Ms. Dori Lewis/ FBLA Adviser

Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) LaTech Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) had a fun night playing Monopoly on September 12, 2022. This Monopoly game had a fun twist where we tracked all of our assets, liabilities and equity. We played with a partner against three teams.

The focus of this style of Monopoly was to learn how assets = liabilities + equity (A+L+OE), known as the basic accounting formula. For each transaction, players documented money from the bank (passing go), properties purchased, and expenses such as rent. The goal was to have more equity than the other teams when we completed.

As Jacob Baxter stated, “I honestly would do it again because it gives me an idea of how a real life business works.” The LaTech Beta Alpha Psi Accounting and Finance organization hosted and assisted each team with instructions and tips for the game.

Ruston High School FBLA is looking forward to another Monopoly night and opening it up to our entire chapter to participate. We are looking forward to more opportunities to work with this organization as the year progresses.



Basic accounting formula: A = L + OE



Pictured above are FBLA and BAP members participating in Monopoly Night, modified to assist members in learning the basic concepts of accounting.

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.



Talented Art Explores Printmaking

Information Submitted by Mrs. Erin Hanna

Talented Art I students are continuously learning new ways to discover and create art in many forms. Recently, the students began exploring printmaking by making lino-cut prints. Lino-cut print is a variant of woodcut in which a sheet of linoleum is used for a relief surface. Often, a hot press heavyweight watercolor paper is used for this. Students apply the Element of Art, Space to create a unique composition. Using their composition, they then carve out their designs on the linoleum block. Using the linoleum block they just carved, the students then make 6-10 identical prints. The type ink used (oil based or water based) is dependent upon the user and the intent of the print, and of course, the availability and price. Several students took great care in making their designs, and the quality of their work was quite impressive for beginners. If you would like to know more about printmaking, feel free to work out the opportunity to visit the art department or even apply for Talented Art I next year.



Art 1 Students carve their linoleum blocks. Picture left to right: Amaya Major, Leslie Alexander, Dorothy May and Atta Carpenter, and Margot Budds.



Art 1 Students carve their linoleum blocks. Picture far left: Jayla Monroe, Pictured far right: Hayden Impson and Thalia Aguirre-Ramos. Pictured center: Kelsey Duggan's "test" print to determine what needs to be fixed on the block.

RHS Choir Holds Fall Concert

Information Provided by Nathan Trahan/ Choir Director

The Ruston High School Choirs held their Fall Concert on November 10, 2022. This concert featured the Vivaldi "Gloria" which involved a string quartet, organ and the "Lincoln Parish Divas!" This trio is made up of Dr. Brandi Estwick from Louisiana Tech, Dr. Meg Tsai from Grambling State University, and Professor Emerita Natorshau Davis from Grambling State University. The choir gave an incredible performance with great artistry and beautiful musicality. The RHS choir appreciates the support they received from the Ruston community and Bearcat Nation for their support!!

December will bring a host of endeavors for the RHS Choir. Our singers will be preparing for District Honor Choir which will be held in late January 2023. We are preparing for a Holiday Concert as well as several performances in the community. We are preparing to sing for the Rotary Club on Dec. 7, 2022, Century Next Bank on Dec. 14, 2022, and the Louisiana Tech Faculty Luncheon on Dec. 19, 2022.

An announcement will be made about the date and location of our Holiday Concert in mid-December. The RHS Choir hopes to see many in attendance at this and all their events



Choir director Nathan Trahan leads the RHS choir in their performance of Vivaldi's "Gloria" at their Fall Concert held in November 10, 2022.

Above pictures: The RHS choir performs "Gloria" accompanied by "Lincoln Parish Divas"

The Adviser's Corner

After taking last month to give some much-needed attention to those who are a part of Bearcat football, directly and indirectly, I return this month, fittingly, to an editorial about being thankful. I say fittingly, of course, as this is the month of Thanksgiving and a time in which many reflect on being thankful for people and things. A good example is on page 1 as RHS spent the first week of November with a Week of Gratitude. This month, allow me to rant about how we should be thankful for media that is used properly and without a hidden bias (how it should be used). Unfortunately, in my opinion, these no longer exists. As such, I'll reword it to be thankful that we have the freedom for all publishers and news agencies to publish within reason and let us sort it all out.

The role of the media should be simply to inform the public when we are discussing what we refer to as the news. When we turn to whatever platform that we use to hear the news, we expect to hear simply what the facts are or what is known or anticipated without bias. Unfortunately, I am not sure there remain any true news stations or publications anymore that do that, or even those who simply provide both sides of the issue. If the news platform states that they are – then that is what they should be rather than treat the reader/listener as ignorant as they report in a bias manner.

Now do not get me wrong – I am all for freedom of the press and sites being allowed to publish as they wish within reason. My point is – they should not be portrayed as a true news agent. Rather, they should be known for what they are. If they only intend to present the news with only facts that make their beliefs or views relevant or to only promote their own agenda, the reader/listener should know. Those who promote and sponsor such biased publications should be honorable enough to stand behind their publication and their bias.

There is nothing wrong with biased reporting if everyone knows that it is exactly that. Unfortunately, our freedom of press does not require any press to reveal this clearly. That is a good thing and a bad thing, as just as unfortunately, there are many readers/listeners who simply lack the ability to distinguish the bias, or who are so biased that they accept what is published/printed as fact. As was made clear in my article – this is an editorial and my opinion – so anything I state can be taken exactly as that and left to your discretion to agree or disagree, understanding that I am not presenting any of this as a straight, unbiased fact.

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. I won't even discuss the bias in the many rants and raves and other internet sites, as they are obvious. If anything, I find them simply as a source of entertainment.

Simply put, we should all remember that most news agencies, if not all, are biased. We all know that even where they may not be "as biased," they are going to print the news that attracts the readers. Often, this is usually something inflammatory or published without regard for those who are affected. Readers, like buyer, beware – just because you see or hear it on the news, it doesn't make it any more a fact than reading it on the Internet. Be thankful there are those agencies that can counter any bias with their own bias and use your own knowledge and understanding along with some research when possible and find the truth. Rant over.



RHS Finishes Strong Competition Season

Information Provided by Mr. Walter Moss/ *Band Director*

Fresh off earning top band honors from their previous competition, the Ruston High School (RHS) band closed out their competition season strong over the Oct.26-27, 2022, weekend. The final performance this year for the RHS band was "Glitch", shown at the "Classic on the Cane" Marching Band Competition at NSU in Natchitoches, LA.

At the "Classic of the Cane", 23 of the region's best bands brought their best performances for competition. Every aspect of band performance was evaluated, with multiple adjudicators evaluating each area. These included music performance, music effect, visual performance, visual effect, percussion, and color guard/auxiliary.

With the best of the best featured, the RHS band performed well and was awarded for doing so. The RHS Competition Marching Band earned Best Percussion and Best Band overall in their classification. Congratulations to the RHS Band for all of their achievements





RHS Cross Country Captures District & Regional Titles

Both Boys' and Girls' Teams Victorious
STAFF REPORT

Picking up where they left off last year, both the boys' and girls' cross country teams continued their winning ways this year, led by Coach Dustin Cochran. After showing their talents throughout local meets, the RHS boys' and girls' teams both captured district titles at the North Louisiana Championships held at Chenault Park on October 27, 2022.

Capturing the titles didn't come easily as the teams competed less ten runners who were out sick or injured. Despite this disadvantage, the teams stood strong and performed admirably. On the girls' team, Lily Garrett placed first in the overall race with a time of 18:06.08. Also finishing in the top 5 were Parker Nations with a time of 18:31.53; Sara Naff with a time of 19:10.57; and Sydney Owen with a time of 19:28.42. Placing eighth was Zoie Holstead with a time of 20:30.79, and placing eleventh was Maddy Parkman with a time of 20:52.14.

In boys' competition at district, RHS cross country captured four of the five positions. Placing second was Thomas Rogers with a time of 15:29.57; placing third was Taylor Roller at 15:47.11; placing fourth was Landon Byrd with a time of 15:51.41; and placing fifth was Bryar Madden at 15:56.33. Three other Bearcats finished in the top twenty with Cole Magee capturing fourteenth at 17:03.01; Joshua Daulton finishing fifteenth at 17:12.24; and Al-Amin Wilson bring home sixteenth at 17:17.75.

The success continue the next week on November 3, 2022, at the Division I Region I Championships held at Lincoln Parish Park in Ruston, Louisiana, as RHS cross country captures first place as a team as well as individually in both the boys' and girls' meets. With the return of many who were out from the district meet, both RHS cross country teams handled their business. The regional girls' champion was Lily Garrett posting a time of 18:07.43, and the boys' champion was Bryar Madden posting a time of 15:37.85. The girls' team captured the regional title with an average time of 18:55, easily outpacing the others whose overall team times eclipsed 20 minutes. The boys' team finished with an average time of 16:06, outpacing the others by a comfortable margin.

In the girls' division at regionals, Parker Nations finished right behind champion Lily Garrett with a time of 18:31.65. Sara Naff followed with her fifth place finish and a time of 18:48.31 and Sydney Owens captured seventh at 19:11.26 to round out the top 10. RHS girls also had Zoe Holstead wrap up eleventh place with a time of 19:56.5; Maddy Parkman placed twentieth at 20:52.54, and Hallie Hebert followed right behind in twenty-first at 20:56.5.

In the boys' division at regionals, Thomas Rogers placed third behind regional champion Bryar Madden with a time of 15:40.8. Taylor Roller captured sixth at 15:47.65, with Landon Byrd right behind him in seventh at 16:11.85, followed by Liam Lowe at 17:12.25. Also competing well for the boys' team were Andrew McKasle at 17:24.11 and Cole Magee at 18:24.28.

Next up for both teams will be the LHSAA State Championship meet to close out the season. This event will be held on November 14, 2022, at Northwestern State University. Bearcat fans are encouraged to attend and *Chatterbox* will cover the results in the December edition. Encourage these young men and women when you see them, and be there to cheer them on if you can.



RHS Swim Teams Finish Strong

Competition at the Red River Conference Championship
STAFF REPORT

The RHS swim team competed recently at the Red River Conference Championship on October 29, 2022, at the Lambright Intramural Center at Louisiana Tech. Competing against all schools located from Alexandria north (except for Pineville), both the girls' team and boys' team performed well.

The girls' team featured swimmers in many events at the swim meet. In individual events, many swimmers captured places. In the 50 Freestyle, Kate Boersma captured first with Emma Huenefeld right behind her in 2nd place. Also placing in the event were Julie Roberson (23rd) and Melissa Le (37th). In the 100 Freestyle, Lydia Watts finished 7th and Julie Roberson finished 8th. Capturing first in the 200 Freestyle was Sadie Huenefeld, who also set a Red River Conference Championship record in the event. In the 100 Backstroke, Sadie Huenefeld placed 2nd, Kate Boersma finished 4th, Emma Huenefeld captured 5th, Lydia Watts secured 8th, and Melissa Le rounded it out with her 13th place finish. Karalin Hoover captured 2nd in the 100 Breaststroke and was 4th in the 200 Individual Medley.

The girls' team also competed well in team events. In the 400 Free Relay, team of Sadie Huenefeld, Emma Huenefeld, Karalin Hoover, and Kate Boersma set a new Red River Conference record in their first place finish. In the 200 Free Relay Team, the team of Sadie Huenefeld, Kate Boersma, Julie Roberson, and Lydia Watts captured 2nd place. In the 200 Medley Relay, 3rd place was won by the team of Emma Huenefeld, Karalin Hoover, Lydia Watts, and Julie Roberson.

The girls' team finished 3rd place overall. All-conference honors went to Kate Boersma, Karalin Hoover, Emma Huenefeld, and Sadie Huenefeld. On the boys' swim team, individual honors went to multiple swimmers as well. In the 100 Butterfly, Owen Frick brought home 1st place, with Cade Campbell finishing 7th and Reese Campbell finishing 12th. In the 100 Backstroke, Adam Campbell brought in 3rd place. In the 200 Individual Medley, Adam Campbell placed 2nd, followed by Cade Campbell in 5th place. Reese Campbell swam to a 13th place finish in the 200 Freestyle. In the 500 Freestyle, Owen Frick returned to the poll and placed 2nd in the event. In the lone team event that the boys' team competed in, the 200 Medley Relay, RHS placed an impressive 3rd with the team of Owen Frick, Adam Campbell, Cade Campbell, and Reese Campbell.

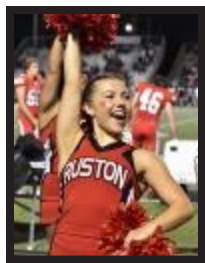
Both teams performed well in the meet and used this opportunity to evaluate their needs. The team will be competing again soon in state high school meets, and this was a good warm-up for all who participated.

RHS Cheer Brings the Spirit

Information Provided by Mrs. Chandler McDonald/ Cheer Coach

Throughout the school year, the Ruston High School (RHS) cheerleaders practice their routines and cheers to bring spirit and motivate fans at our various events. The cheer squad has been working very hard supporting the Bearcats, and every Friday fans get a chance to enjoy their performances at the pep rally followed by the each Friday night football game. Whether working on their own routines or combining their moves with the beat of our RHS band, RHS cheer always delivers.

On the morning of November 4, 2022, RHS cheer joined the band, other spirit groups, and students on the field at 6 a.m. for KTBS 3 News "Spirit of The Game" with Rick Rowe to cover the Ruston vs. West Monroe game. Cheer along with all the others proudly performed to the cameras and for our RHS Bearcat football team. In addition to attending football games at home and on the road, RHS cheer also ensures that our other sports receive motivation and support. Whether inside the stands of our basketball gyms or at the fields throughout Bearcat Nation, RHS cheer ensure everyone is lifted. RHS cheer encourages everyone to join in each game and motivate and make some noise along with them and all of our spirit groups and the band.



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Boy's Soccer – A Fresh Start

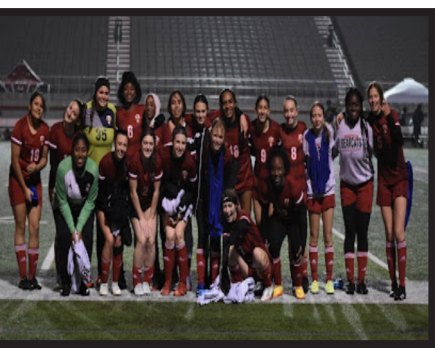
Information Provided by Coach Hankamer

With soccer season right around the corner, the boys' team is eager to start the season off on the right foot. The 'Cats season kicks off Monday November 14, 2022 with a home game against Minden. Then the boys host the Rebels from West Monroe on Thursday, November 17, 2022, with a varsity and JV game.

The boys' team will be dawning new jerseys this year as coach Erich Hankamer wants to start off with a fresh start. The boys are looking to improve on last season and with Coach Hankamer in his first year with the team. Senior player Jaiden Langiulli said, "Coach has put us in a good position to win this year and the team is ready to show it."

The boys' team is looking for support from Bearcat Nation at their games. After two quick home games, the team heads to the Pineville Tournament the day after Thanksgiving, November 25, 2022, for some tough matchups. Then the boys' travel to North Desoto on November 29, 2022 to close out November.

The 'Cats start off play in December on the road against Quachita on December 6, 2022. Whether on the road or playing at home, the 'Cats plan to play their best and hope to see you watch the beautiful game.



Girls' Soccer Starts Season Victorious

Information Provided by Coach Jacqueline Bean

The Ruston High varsity girls' soccer team kicked off their 2022-2023 season against Minden on Monday, November 14, 2022. The season started that night in the wintry weather and pouring rain, but the Lady 'Cats brought their own fire with them.

The game was a defensive battle throughout as the teams ended the first half scoreless. However, Sophomore Mia Tapia, #13 scored the team's first goal of the season and the only goal of the game in the second half from a corner kick taken by freshman Baylee Craig, #15. Despite the rain and temperatures, the team wasn't hampered in its attempts to break open the game, as the Lady 'Cats took 11 shots on goal.

With the only goal of the night, the Lady 'Cats strong defense proved to be enough to ensure the 1-0 victory over Minden. It was a great way to start the new season.

The Lady 'Cats are back in action at home at the Hoss Garrett Stadium vs Haughton on Monday, November 21, 6:00 p.m. All soccer fans are asked to come out and support the Lady 'Cats all season.



Go Cats!





RHS Competition Cheer

Information Provided by Mrs. Chandler McDonald/ Cheer Coach

RHS Competition Cheer has worked hard this year in preparation for upcoming competitions. Although the members spend countless hours practicing their routines, they never lose their enthusiasm for the sport and maintain a smile throughout their movements.

On November 20, 2022, the RHS Competition Cheer squad will travel to Lewisville, Texas, to compete in the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) North Texas Regional. This will be the first of two regionals that the squad has been preparing to compete in. The RHS Competition Cheer squad hopes to obtain a bid to attend the National UCA Competition at Disney World in February 2023.



RHS Bearcats Inaugural First Pitch

Information Submitted by Mrs. Jamie Gressett

On Thursday, October 27, 2022, the Ruston Bearcat Baseball Corporate Cats hosted the Inaugural First Pitch Event at the Ruston Civic Center. The event included a silent auction, dinner, a style show, and a live auction. The online silent auction began on October 3, 2022, with a wide range of items including entertainment, sports items, dining, self-care, home, and auto care. The list was impressive.

The night kicked off with the invocation led by Cade Patterson. Coach Zack Smith welcomed the guests and dinner was served. Coach Bryan Beck provided a facility update and the Bearcat Belles provided entertainment.

At the conclusion of dinner, several Bearcat baseball players and their peers presented the crowd with a style show. After the style show the live auction was held. The items auctioned included top-notch items ranging from vacations to the beach, hunting and fishing trips, a Blackstone griddle, trips to professional and collegiate sporting events, and many other items.

The Inaugural First Pitch was a successful night raising money for the Bearcat baseball program, and the Ruston Bearcat Baseball Corporate Cats and other baseball 'Cats supporters' look forward to next year's event.



Coach Beck speaks at First Pitch.



Assorted pictures of the fun at the Inaugural First Pitch Sponsored by Ruston Bearcat Baseball Corporate Cats
Photos courtesy of Mrs. Jana Beck

Ruston High School Volleyball: A Great Season Ends

Information Provided by Coach Lucie Hunt

The RHS volleyball Lady 'Cats had a great season this year, finishing 28-13. Playing extremely well as the season progressed, the Lady 'Cats qualified for the playoffs.

In the Bi-District round of playoffs, they made RHS history by becoming the first Lady 'Cats volleyball team to win a playoff game on the road. Seeded at #18, the Lady 'Cats defeated #15 seeded Terrebonne in straight sets on November 2, 2022. The scores in the sweep were 28-26, 25-19, and 25-15.

The victory in hand, the team once again hit the road on November 5, 2022, for the Regional round, where they squared off against the #2 seeded Mt. Carmel. Despite a strong performance, the Lady 'Cats season came to an end.



Pictured top right: Senior Night - Maggie Ambrose, Lorelei Freling, Rhagen Shallowhorn, Coach Hunt, Jeralyn Black, CeCe Williams, and Hannah Johnson
Pictured above: left: Abby Holton; left center: Rhagen's block in celebrated with Jade Smith and Harper Cauley; center: #1 fan Landry Nelson dressed up for senior night;
Pictured above right center: CeCe Williams, Maggie Ambrose, Harper Cauley, Lorelie Freling, and Hannah Johnson celebrate a point.
Pictured above right: Catherine Cooper, Gabby Sterling, Shelby Freeman, and Kylie Foster celebrating senior night.

RHS Girls' Basketball Opens Season

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) girls' basketball opened the season on the road on Monday, November 14, 2022, with a 41-36 over Benton. The continued their winning ways and went 2-0 on the season by defeating Minden at home by a score of 56-31. Next up at home will be a road game at Houghton on November 18, 2022. The Lady Cat's will participate in the Saline Tournament on November 18-29, 2022, and then the St. Thomas More Tournament on November 21-22, 2022 before closing out the month on November 29, 2002 at home against Bossier. Check the school website and last month's *Chatterbox* for their entire schedule, and come out and support the Lady 'Cats.

Bearcat Boys' Basketball Starts Season

Information provided by Coach Ryan Bond

The RHS boys' basketball team played 3 scrimmage games against 3 very talented teams - Zachary, Wossman, and Parkview. Per Coach Bond, "The games gave me an opportunity to see some of our deficiencies. We need to take care of the ball better. We turned it over too many times."

Coach Bond believes in his team and knows that they will improve each game, stating "If we continue to work hard, we should have a successful season."

Just before press, the 'Cats opened play at home against Minden, starting the season 1-0 with a 55-33 victory, thanks much in part to an high scoring 2nd half of play. Coach Bond expects them to improve their efforts as they take on Airline at home today. From there, the boys' will travel to the Saline Tournament on November 18-19, 2022, before closing out the month at home against Bossier on November 29, 2022. December's schedule is posted on the school website and in last month's edition of *Chatterbox*.

Expectations are high for this year's team and *Chatterbox* will update you each edition. Coach Bond and his team hope to see the stands full and encourage all of Bearcat Nation to come out and make some noise.



Go Cats!





KTBS with Rick Rowe Visits RHS



Bearcat Fans Celebrate the Game of the Week!





RHS Bearcats Defeat the Rebels

Closed District Play Undefeated
Captures District 2-5A Title
Selected #1 Seed Non-Select Division I
STAFF REPORT

The game was called the “Game of the Century” by KTBS news per Rick Rowe, and the game lived up to the hype. It was officially the “Game of the Week” and drew KTBS to RHS early on the morning of November 4, 2022, to interview many members of Bearcat Nation, and film and document the RHS band and our many cheer groups.

The 3rd ranked at the time Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcats sit alone as the district 2-5A champions for the first time in over 32 years and in 33 games, taking down the powerhouse 6th ranked West Monroe Rebels at home and closed out an undefeated district season. Other than when the two powerhouse teams have shared the district title, this is the ‘Cats first solo district championship since 1990, the year the ‘Cats last won the state championship. Although the ‘Cats just missed out many times, the title eluded them until now – and Bearcat Nation could not be prouder of the effort this year’s team has shown.

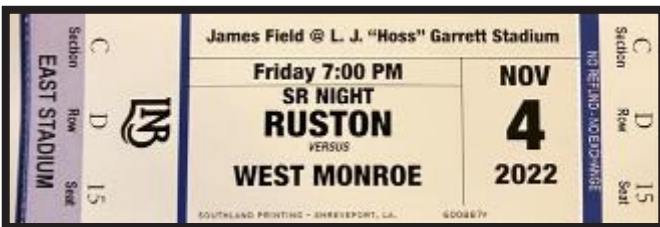
The Bearcats opened the scoring in the 1st quarter with Dyson Fields scoring from 3 yards out to end the 80-yard drive. The remainder of the 1st quarter stayed scoreless; however, the ‘Cats extended their lead with 21 straight points in the 2nd quarter. Fields scored his second touchdown on an 11-yard carry to give the ‘Cats a 14-0 lead. Jadon Mayfield joined the scoring with a two-yard run to give the ‘Cats a 21-0 advantage. Jadon Osborne then hit Logan Malone, who avoided several defenders, and scored with his 37-yard effort to make in an impressive 28-0 Bearcat lead.

Although the West Monroe Rebels managed to score 10 points before halftime, the score never got closer. Taking the 28-0 halftime lead, the ‘Cats extended their lead in the 3rd quarter when Mayfield scored his second touchdown of the night from one yard out. This would give the ‘Cats a 35-10 lead that proved to be unmountable. The Rebels did manage to cut the lead in the 4th quarter to 35-17, but that would prove to be the final scoring of the night as the ‘Cats defense kept the Rebels at bay the remainder of the game.

The “streak” was ended with a solid showing on offense, defense, and even special teams. The offense controlled the line of scrimmage throughout the game, and the defense did the same. Kicker/punter RJ Brown not only connected on all 5 extra point attempts, but also floated a perfect kick that resulted in a big turnover to open the 2nd half as well as lead to a score. With the “streak” over, the ‘Cats can do as they have done all season and now focus on the next opponent as they head into the playoffs on a 9-game winning streak.



The JumboTron lights up the field of the big win!



One of the hottest tickets in Louisiana on Nov. 4, 2022.

Beacats in Action Over the Rebels

All pictures on this page courtesy of Portraits Plus, Ryder Britt, Yearbook, and so many other great Bearcat Nation supporters!





Warren Easton Eagles
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Tough Loss to Warren Easton Eagles 0-1, 0-0



Jesuit Blue Jays Varsity Boys Football
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Defeats Jesuit Blue Jays 1-1, 0-0



Cabot Panthers Varsity Boys Football
CABOT, AR

Defeats Cabot (AR) Panthers 2-1, 0-0



Lafayette Christian Academy Knights Varsity Boys Football
LAFAYETTE, LA

Defeats LCA Knights 3-1, 0-0

Non-District Preparation


All team plates/logos from MaxPreps



Neville Tigers Varsity Boys Football
MONROE, LA

Defeats Neville Tigers 4-1, 0-0


Notes on non-district teams: Every non-district team above has also made the playoffs and are ranked in state polls. Bearcats non-district record: 4-1.



Alexandria Trojans
ALEXANDRIA, LA

Defeats ASH Trojans 5-1, 1-0

District Domination!




Pineville Rebels Varsity Boys Football
PINEVILLE, LA

Defeats Pineville Rebels 6-1, 2-0



West Ouachita Chiefs Varsity Boys Football
WEST MONROE, LA

Defeats West Ouachita Chiefs 7-1, 3-0



Ouachita Parish Lions Varsity Boys Football
MONROE, LA

Defeats Ouachita Lions 8-1, 4-0



West Monroe Rebels Varsity Boys Football
WEST MONROE, LA

Defeats W. Monroe Rebels 9-1, 5-0

The Journey through District Play to the Playoffs

Recap of an Undefeated Season in District 2-5A

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcats sit alone as the District 2-5A champions taking down the powerhouse West Monroe Rebels at home to close out an undefeated district season. After a tough non-district season, the ‘Cats continued their winning ways into district play. The ‘Cats earned their first solo district championship since 1990. For the first time in over 20 years, the Rebels do not end the regular season as district champions. Although the ‘Cats just missed out many times, the title eluded them for years and Bearcat Nation could not be prouder of the effort this year’s team has shown.


The road to the ‘Cats undefeated district season and district championship began on the road in Alexandria against ASH on October 7, 2022, where the Bearcats took a tight 21-13 halftime score to the locker room. However, the ‘Cats pulled away from the Trojans with a dominating second half performance, ultimately winning 48-23, which brought the ‘Cats to 5-1 overall and 1-0 in district play.

The ‘Cats remained on the road and faced district rival Pineville Rebels on October 14, 2022. Despite playing back-to-back road games, the ‘Cats ran away to a 34-0 halftime lead. The ‘Cats never looked back as they powered to a 62-0 victory and improved to 6-1 overall, 2-0 in district play.

The ‘Cats returned home on October 21, 2022, to a sold-out stadium of fans for their Homecoming showdown with the West Ouachita Chiefs. Not disappointing the Homecoming Court and crowd, the ‘Cats ran away with an impressive 48-7 victory, showcasing both the ground game and air attack. The defense played hard and with the powerhouse offense, the ‘Cats improved to 7-1, 3-0 in district, remaining a solid 5th ranked in 5A.


Last year’s game at home against the Ouachita Lions was a nail biter as the ‘Cats squeaked out a 1-point victory. This year, the October 28, 2022, showdown would not be as close. After punts by both teams, the defense started the scoring in this game with a safety. Running back Dyson Fields, back off injury, ran in the first of his two touchdowns on the next play to give the ‘Cats a 9-0 lead. In a second quarter breakout, the ‘Cats scored 21 unanswered points with two touchdowns by Jadon Mayfield, followed by a touchdown by Jordan Hays (yes – another long run). Ouachita managed a quick score right before half. The 30-7 score at the half was too much to overcome. The ‘Cats added another touchdown on a running play, RJ Brown connected on a long field goal, and the ‘Cats returned a punt for a touchdown as the ‘Cats brought home a 47-13 victory, improving to 8-1, 4-0 in district, and moved up in the latest state polls to 3rd ranked in 5A, and a #1 power rating in the state for 5A programs..

The above led to what had been expected all year – a showdown between the two powerhouse teams in 2-5A: the Ruston Bearcats and the West Monroe Rebels. With the district championship on the line, and both teams ranked in the top 5 in 5A, major playoffs implications were also on the line. The ‘Cats jumped up 28-0 before the Rebels responded with 10 unanswered points just before halftime to make it a 28-7 game, but it the score never got closer. In the end, the ‘Cats claimed their first district title in over 32 years with a 35-17 victory, improving to 9-1, 5-0 district. (See separate article).



Ruston Bearcats Varsity Boys Football
RUSTON, LA

VS



Ouachita Parish Lions Varsity Boys Football
MONROE, LA

RHS Football Bearcats Head into Playoffs

1 Ranked ‘Cats Open Playoffs as the # 1 Seed

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcats head into the LHSAA playoffs ranked # 1 in class 5A and all of division I (Non-Select) after taking their first district title in 2-5A with their hard fought 35-17 victory of the West Monroe Rebels. Their tough non-district schedule, coupled with their impressive dominance over district 2-5A, provides the #1 seeded ‘Cats with an extra week off to prepare as the #1 seeded champions at home. If the cards are played right, the ‘Cats might even play every playoff game at home with the seeded schedules, until the ‘Dome. However, the ‘Cats realize that every team they face will have their goals set on upsetting the ‘Cats and are practicing hard and looking to keep up the same strong offensive and defensive play that has made this season so successful and facing each game week to week as the only game that matters. The road to the Superdome starts at home on November 18, 2022, where after the bye week, the ‘Cats will play a familiar foe, the 17th seeded Ouachita Parish Lions, who advanced to this round with a victory over 16th seeded Hahnville. As was the case all year, Bearcat Nation and the Cat box will be rocking and cheering the ‘Cats on every play.

Leading the team heading into the playoffs on offense at QB is Jaden Osborne, with over 1200 yards passing, 13 TD throws, and only 2 interceptions. He also has 246 yards rushing for 1 TD. On the ground, the ‘Cats use many players in their attack. The top rushers and scorers for the ‘Cats are Dyson Fields with 10 TDS and 769 yards rushing; Jordan Hayes with 7 TDS and 793 yards rushing; Jayden Mayfield with 6 TDs and 150 yards rushing; Lajaveon Ellis with 4 TDS and 290 yards rushing; Dylon Brooks with 2 TDs and 116 yards rushing; Josh Brantley with 2 TDs and 75 yards rushing; and Lander Smith with 1 TD and 49 yards rushing. The top 3 receivers in the air attack have been Aaron Jackson with 8 TDs on 715 yards receiving; Zhy Scott with 3 TDs on 208 yards receiving; and Logan Malone with 1 TD on 256 yards receiving. Christian Davis also caught a 4-yard TD pass. In the all important and sometimes overlooked kicking game, Will Fendly has connected on a field goal and 26 point after attempts; RJ Brown has connected on a field goal and 17 point after attempts; and Jack Elliot has connected on 2 point after attempts.

A stout defense shows many players contributing this year to date. At the defensive linebacker position, Jadon Mayfield and Zheric Hill have combined for 93tackles with 74 assists, including 8 tackles for loss, 4.5 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 115 tackles with 62 assists, including 21 tackles for loss, .5 sacks, 4 interceptions (1 for TD), 1 forced fumble, and 7 pass break ups. Cornerbacks Jordan McWain, Kendrick Jones, Calvin Baker, and Semaj Jones have combined for 57 tackles with 15 assists, 1 tackle for loss, 1 interception, and 7 pass break ups. Defensive linemen Ahmad Breaux, Christian Davis, Peyton Bell, Jamious Blackmon, Triston Dumas, and Geordan Guidry have combined for 136 tackles with 74 assists, including 23 tackles for loss, 14 sacks, 1 interception, 1 forced fumble, 1 recovered fumble, and 2 pass break ups.

