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As the nine weeks winds down, continue to stay on top of your grades, attendance, and school spirit. This is a very busy time of the year as we have numerous activities going on. From basketball, powerlifting, baseball, band, choir, softball, talented art, eco car, tennis, track, to prom.....you have a lot of opportunities to get involved and show support for your classmates.

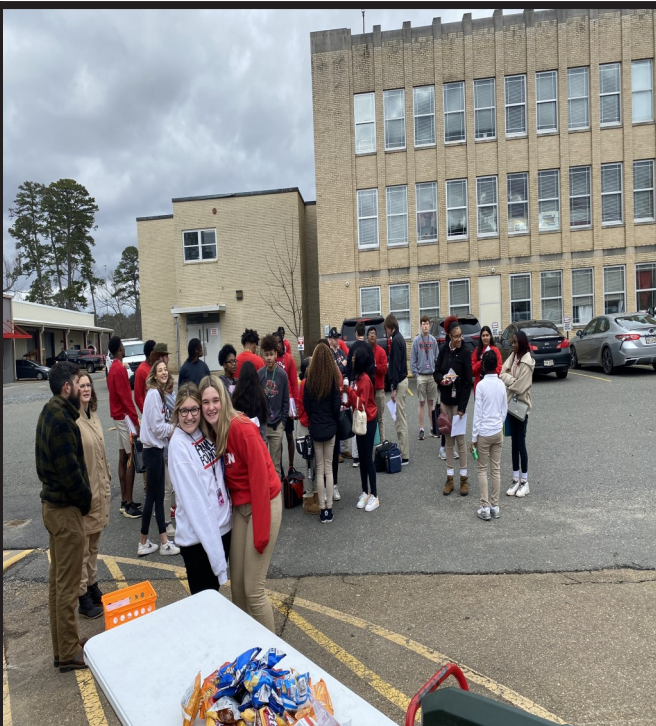
Thank you for doing a great job with that throughout the year. Keep up the good work and GO BEARCATS!



Spring is right around the corner. Around town, you may have noticed some trees and flowers blooming already. Make sure and get out in the nice weather and cheer on our spring athletic groups and our organizations such as Eco Car and the Robotics Team. Keep supporting basketball for boys and girls as playoffs are near. Also, a big congratulations to our RHS Bearcat Belles as they recently placed first in all three dance divisions at regional competition. They also had numerous solo and duet awards. RHS Competitive Cheer Team placed fourth at Nationals at Walt Disney World! We are all so proud of your hard work and dedication!

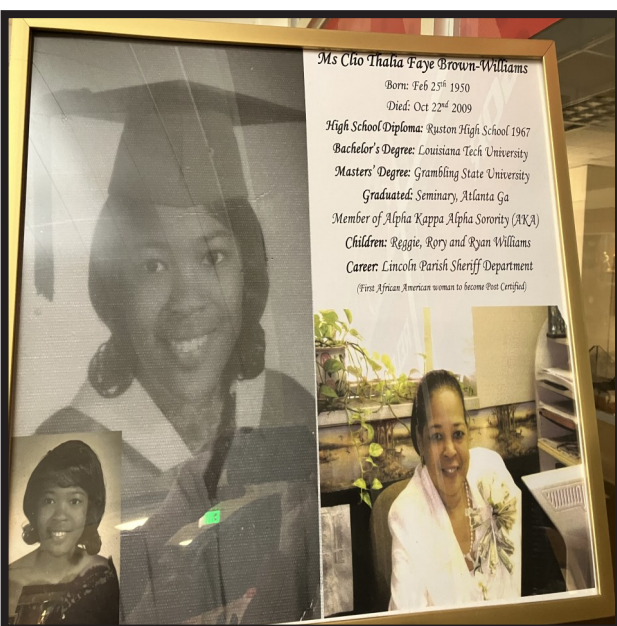
## Rewarded for the 3 R's

### STAFF REPORT



## STAFF REPORT

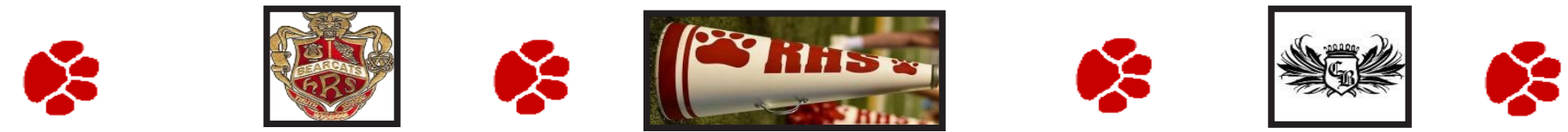
Students attending RHS should be thankful for the Ruston High 3 as they broke down barriers for so many to follow. Look around campus and imagine how the classrooms, sports, organizations, and clubs have all benefitted from inclusion and succeeded where others even today continue to struggle. Lincoln High School no longer stands apart as a reminder of past segregated schools, but today, thanks to the efforts of so many to include the Ruston High 3, RHS stands as a symbol of how to get it right.



The Ruston High 3 were recognized at RHS this year again with their short biographies and pictures at the front entrance of the school that they broke barriers with.

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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 [lbruner@lincolnschools.org](mailto:lbruner@lincolnschools.org).







# Freshman Academy Honor Roll Reward

Information Provided by Ms. Jaimee Hudson/ Assistant Principal

One hundred and fifty seven Ruston High School ninth grade students made the Honor Roll for the second nine weeks of the 2022-2023 school year. Of those 157 students, 61 were recognized for Academic Achievement, 57 were on the A-B Honor Roll, and 39 made straight As and were on the Principal’s List. These students were rewarded with smoothies from Smoothie King for their hard work during the second half of their 6<sup>th</sup> period elective classes on January 27, 2023. Students were able to choose their smoothie flavor using a Google form and picked up their treat in the boulevard, where they were allowed to relax and hang out with friends. We are so proud of our Freshman Academy honor roll students.



# Freshman Academy Incentive Trip

Information Provided by Ms. Jaimee Hudson/ Assistant Principal

Ruston High School ninth grade students who earned an incentive trip for the second nine weeks went to Shreveport on January 26, 2023. One hundred and thirty two students traveled on three buses to the trampoline park and then on to Youree Drive for lunch. Students were able to choose between McAllister’s Deli, Chipotle, Chick-fil-A, or Jimmy John’s where they enjoyed lunch with their friends. The biggest hit of the day was the newly opened Crumbl, a gourmet cookie store. Almost every student and even some of the chaperones could be seen carrying the famous pink Crumbl box back to the buses when it was time to head back to Ruston. Students were invited to participate on the incentive trip as a reward for their good behavior. In order to be invited, students had no dress code violations, no cell phone violations, no tardies, no referrals, no detentions, and no attendance issues in the second nine weeks. We are always so proud of our Freshman Academy students who earn this incentive, and we can’t wait until the next trip. Where will we go??



# SHARP CATS

RHS Freshman Academy recognizes Sharp Cats for January

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: Ashton Brazzel, Jackson Burroughs, Marlon Grant, Kalayja McClain, Colin McCorkle, Adriana Moffett, and Trinity Pinto, and Mason Welch



# RHS District Literary Results

RHS Wins Division I Overall School - Again  
STAFF REPORT

The 2023 district literary results are in from competition held February 4, 2023 at Louisiana Tech University, and Ruston High School (RHS) is again the Division I Overall winner. In total, RHS had 24 competitors competing and placing 1<sup>st</sup> or runner-up, capturing 11 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes and 13 runner-up finishes. In English subjects, RHS had 6 placements, with 2 1<sup>st</sup> places and 4 runner –ups. Those placing runner-up were John Serio (English II); Carmen Bishop (English IV); Camila Derosa (English Literature); and Van Din (Spelling 10). Those capturing 1<sup>st</sup> place were Rylie Nutt (English III) and Clayton Bloch (Spelling 9). RHS had 4 students place in each of the areas of science and history, with each area having 2 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes and 2 runner-up finishes. In science, runner-ups were Siriana Kilpatrick (Biology) and Ashton Wick (Chemistry). Capturing first in science areas were Charles Ruffleth (Environmental Science) and Riley Moegle (Physics).In history, runner-ups were Avery Madden (Civics) and Matthew Daulton (U.S. History). Capturing 1<sup>st</sup> place in history subjects were KaraLin Hoover (Government) and and Callie Stegall (World History). In math subjects, Micah Blount captured 1<sup>st</sup> in Algebra I and Anhaar Wasi captured 1<sup>st</sup> in Algebra II. In foreign languages, 3 students brought home placements in Spanish. Abbey Seney placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Spanish I, with 1<sup>st</sup> places finishes won by Jodi Dunbar (Spanish II) and Maggie Ambrose (Spanish III). In business events, Jessica Sanchez-Perez captured runner-up in Business Computer Applications (BCA) and Bridney Tomas Perez brought home runner-up in Principles of Business. Capturing 1<sup>st</sup> place in Psychology was Jordan Jones. Rounding out the winners were runner-up winners Emily Stutzman (Health) and Esthela Cirilo (Nutrition and Food). RHS is proud of the effort of all students who took a Saturday of their time and competed in the district literary rally. Congratulations to the winners and good luck as many of these head now to compete at the state level.

# Overall Winners

# Bearcats Did You Know.....

- \* Mastery Prep ACT Boot Camp will take place on February 28 and March 1, 2023, from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. for juniors only. Listen for details.
- \* The RHS Prom will be held April 15, 2023 at the Ruston Library Event Center. Contracts will be available on March 6, 2023, and tickets for the prom will go on sale at the end of March 2023.
- \* FAFSA is a state requirement for graduation and seniors must complete this.
- \* Guidance has scholarship opportunities for seniors that require applications to be completed soon. See Mrs. White in guidance and listen daily for announcements.
- \* Competition Cheer has a GoFundMe to help with their costs to compete at Nationals. To support them, please go to <https://gofund.me/2beb076f>.
- \* Spring Testing is right around the corner. This year, the test cycle will be covered in 3 sessions. Session 1 will be held on April 18-20, 2023, 08:00-10:00 a.m., testing in ELA1/ELA2/US history. Session 2 will be on April 25-27, 2023, 08:00 – 10:00 a.m., testing in Algebra/Geometry. Session 3 will be on May 10-12, 2023, 08:00-10:00 a.m. testing in Biology. Stay tuned for further details.
- \* Chatterbox is published monthly and provides Bearcat Nation with all Bearcat news and more as known.
- \* Chatterbox is currently seeking a new adviser as Mr. Bruner will be retiring this year. See Mr. Dan Gressett, the RHS principal, if you are interested in taking over the newspaper and keeping “the voice of Ruston High” heard next year.
- \* Christian Davis (Northwestern State) and Aaron Jackson (Grambling) signed on to further their athletic careers in football this past month.
- \* Jaiden Langiulli (University of Dallas) signed on to further his athletic career in soccer this past month.
- \* The Louisiana Lions Camp is currently recruiting high school students, age 16 and above, to fill summer staff positions. Students who are interested are encouraged to apply online at [www.lionscamp.org](http://www.lionscamp.org), click on “staff”, and then “apply here” to apply.
- \* The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) is hosting “Browse on the Bayou” on Saturday, March 19, 2023. Juniors and seniors who are interested in attending ULM can register for this college visit online at [ulm.edu](http://ulm.edu).





# FBLA Regional Leadership Conference



## Ruston High School FBLA Captures 19 Regional Titles Qualifies for State Conference with 44 Regional Placements Information Provided by Ms. Dori Lewis/ *FBLA Adviser*

The Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) led the way in the district and the region (Northeast Louisiana) as they captured 20 of the 50 regional titles at the Louisiana FBLA Northeast Regional Conference, held at Louisiana Tech University on February 2, 2023. This was impressive considering that FBLA changed to a regional format with two districts competing head-to-head, just last year meaning double the competition for the titles. As they did last year, RHS FBLA won more titles than any other school by a wide margin. The chapter excelled under the leadership of new primary adviser Dori Lewis, assisted by Mrs. Lillie Williams, Mrs. Jennifer Ham, Coach Eric Hankamer, and Mr. Steven Daulton.

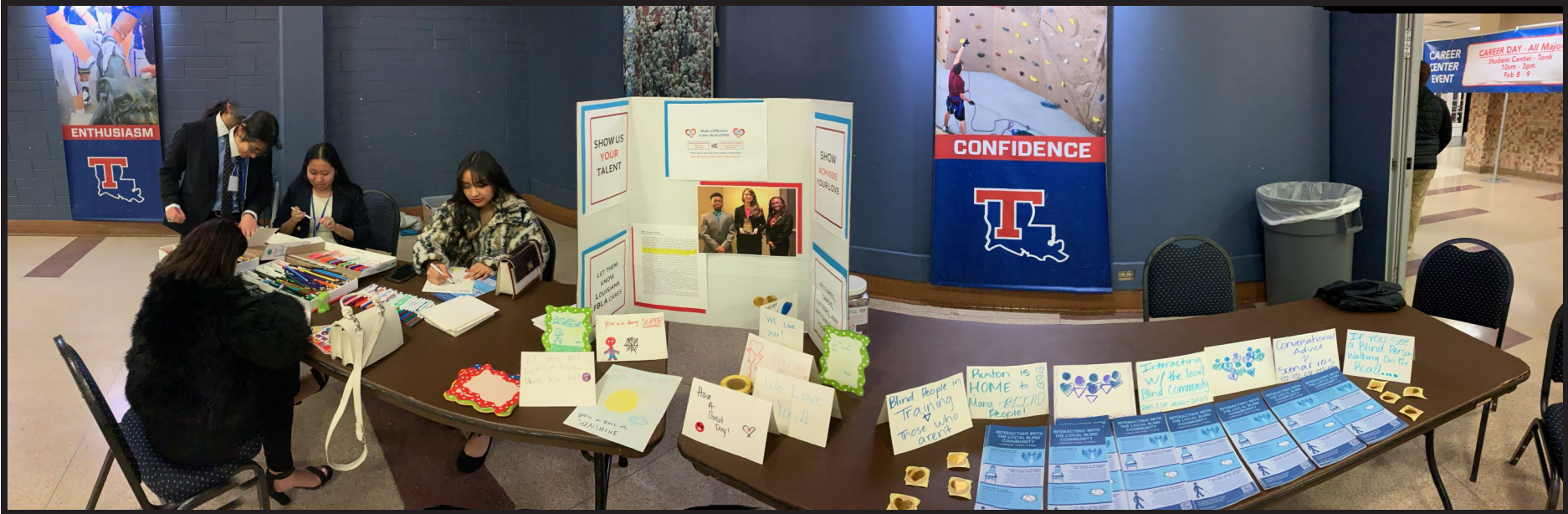
RHS members earned 22 excellent ratings. Teion Jackson placed excellent in 2 events (Introduction to Public Speaking and Personal Finance). Those placing excellent in individual events were as follows: Brianna Alexander (Public Speaking); Libby Blake (Introduction to FBLA); Atlantis Britt (Health Care Administration); Grantham Cline (Computer Problem Solving); Jackson Frederick (Introduction to Financial Math); Kimberly Gardner (UX Design); Layla Garner (Political Science); Kevin Gipson (Word Processing); Autin Guillory (Personal Finance); Christopher Harps (Accounting I); Jayden Henderson (Personal Finance); Melissa Hernandez (Business Calculations); Trisha Pangilinan (Health Care Administration); Makenna Pollard (Introduction to Business Communication); Amiah Turner (Securities and Investments); Juana Velazquez (Health Care Administration); Jackson Washam (Introduction to Public Speaking); Madison Winklepleck (Political Science); and Warren Woods (Accounting II). Also placing excellent was the team of Sha'Miracle Mayfield, Amiah Turner, and Kristian Warfield (Hospitality and Event Management).

RHS members placed superior in 24 events, qualifying in each for the state conference. RHS FBLA had 3 members capture superior in 2 events: Chad Hamlin (Organizational Leadership and UX Design); Liam Lowe (Business Calculations and Economics); and Anhaar Wasi (Computer Problem Solving and Cyber Security). Members who placed superior in individual events or team events as individual competitors were: Atta Biscomb (Supply Chain Management); Lainey Bowen (Journalism); Atlantis Britt (Human Resource Management); Joshua Daulton (Business Communication); Matthew Daulton (Health Care Administration); Meredith Edwards (Public Speaking); Melodi Frazier (Network Design); Layla Garner (Introduction to Information Technology); Christopher Harps (Insurance and Risk Management); Amanda Harvey (Spreadsheet Applications); Andrew Harvey (Business Calculations); Melissa Le (Introduction to Financial Math); Dezmon Moreland (Human Resource Management); Alexis Thompson (Networking Infrastructure); Madison Winklepleck (Introduction to Business Communication); and Matthew Yates (Organizational Leadership). Also qualifying for state with superior ratings were 2 team events. These were the team of Hanna Kang, Purab Patel, and Matthew Yates (Current Events and General Information) and the team of Taylor Bernard, Melissa Le, Josh Ramachandran, and Alexis Thompson (Parliamentary Procedure).

RHS FBLA sent 20 winners to the stage (19 individual events or individuals competing in team events and 1 team event). Each 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will join the superior winners at state. Among these were 3 members who won both of their events: Gavin McCowen (Computer Problem Solving and Networking Infrastructure); Thomas Rogers (Economics and Political Science) and Brennan Youngblood (Agribusiness and Organizational Leadership). Individual regional champions were: Brianna Alexander (Help Desk); Taylor Bernard (Impromptu Speaking); Libby Blake (Business Ethics); Lainey Bowen (International Business); Grantham Cline (Introduction to Marketing Concepts); Jackson Frederick (Spreadsheet Applications); Kevin Gipson (Accounting II); Melissa Hernandez (Sports and Entertainment Management); Jaden Jackson (Client Service); Trisha Pangilinan (Introduction to Financial Math); Purab Patel (Banking and Financial Systems); Charlie Rogers (Introduction to Business Concepts); and Courtney Wilson (Supply Chain Management). Also capturing a regional title was the team of Matthew Daulton and Austin Guillory (Business Management).

In addition to the outstanding achievements and awards, RHS FBLA also set up informational booths for their three major chapter projects: American Enterprise Project, Community Service Project, and Partnership with Business Project (articles under separate cover).

Aside from the nasty weather, RHS FBLA could hardly have asked for a better 2<sup>nd</sup> Louisiana FBLA Northeast Regional Conference or a better showing by their own chapter. Now they must focus that same energy displayed at regionals towards the state conference that will be held March 26-28, 2023, at the University of Louisiana - Lafayette (ULL).



FBLA members attending the Northeast Regional FBLA Leadership Conference prepare cards for the Arkansas Children's Hospital at the RHS FBLA Combined Booth.



Melissa Lee (left) and Matthew Dauton (right) work the combined booths for the RHS FBLA chapter projects for Partnership w/Business and Community Service Project.



Ruston High School FBLA members above attended the Northeast Louisiana FBLA Leadership Conference at Louisiana Tech University on February 2, 2023.



# FBLA Regional Leadership Conference







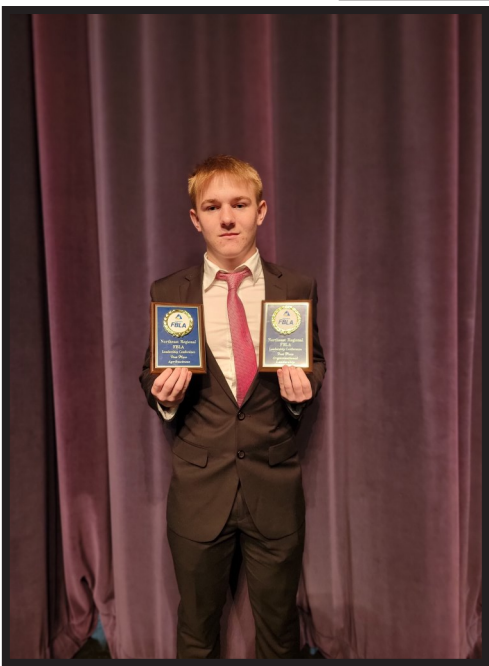
# FBLA Regional Leadership Conference



Gavin McCowen



Thomas Rogers



Brennan Youngblood



Brianna Alexander



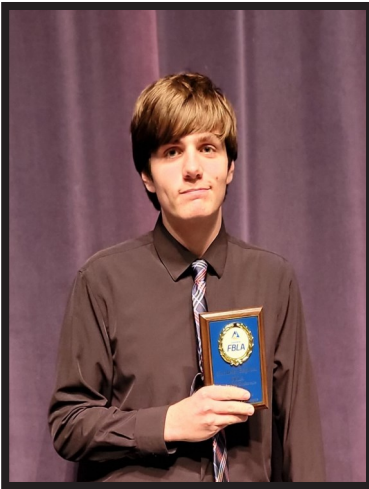
Taylor Bernard



Libby Blake



Lainey Bowen



Grantham Cline



Jackson Frederick



Kevin Gipson



Melissa Hernandez



Jaden Jackson



Trisha Pangilinan



Purab Patel



Charlie Rogers



Courtney Wilson



Matthew Daulton



Austin Guillory

Pictured above, left to right beginning at the top, are the regional FBLA winners as follows: Gavin McCowen (Computer Problem Solving and Networking Infrastructure); Thomas Rogers (Economics and Political Science) and Brennan Youngblood (Agribusiness and Organizational Leadership). Individual regional champions were: Brianna Alexander (Help Desk); Taylor Bernard (Impromptu Speaking); Libby Blake (Business Ethics); Lainey Bowen (International Business); Grantham Cline (Introduction to Marketing Concepts); Jackson Frederick (Spreadsheet Applications); Kevin Gipson (Accounting II); Melissa Hernandez (Sports and Entertainment Management); Jaden Jackson (Client Service); Trisha Pangilinan (Introduction to Financial Math); Purab Patel (Banking and Financial Systems); Charlie Rogers (Introduction to Business Concepts); Courtney Wilson (Supply Chain Management) and the team of Matthew Daulton and Austin Guillory (Business Management).

## Books for the Blind

Submitted by Matthew Daulton, *FBLA President, Community Service Project Lead*

On January 16, 2023, Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members made a trip to the Louisiana Center for the Blind in downtown Ruston to volunteer in their community. This was part of the chapter’s Community Service Project (CSP) for the year, and worked hand in hand with the chapter’s Partnership with Business project (PWB). The FBLA members cataloged and organized the hundreds of books in the library, providing valuable assistance to the staff members of the Louisiana Center for the Blind. FBLA members also relocated furniture for better usage and organized storage closets to be readily accessible and usable. The project, led by community service project team members Matthew Daulton, Austin Guillory, and Melissa Le, was a major success in Ruston High FBLA’s continued partnership with LCB and outreach in the community. In the words of one of the chapter members, “I loved being able to give back to an organization that gives so much to our community!”







# RHS FBLA Chapter Projects



## FBLA Chapter Project Focus

**Partnership with Business (PWB): Louisiana Center for the Blind**  
**Information Provided by Joshua Daulton/ FBLA PWB Chair**

For as long as Chapter 617, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) has been an organization at Ruston High School (RHS) community service has always been a major aspect that RHS FBLA has focused on. The 3 pillars of FBLA are Service, Education, and Progress, and RHS FBLA always ensures that they remember the importance of all 3 of these – especially the service pillar. This year, RHS FBLA’s Partnership with Business Project worked hand-in-hand with the RHS FBLA Community Service Project to further this concept.

This year, RHS FBLA continues our tradition of serving a local need and has selected the Louisiana Center for the Blind in Ruston for our Partnership with Business Project (PWB). Although PWB is an actual competition at the state and national level, RHS FBLA goes beyond that and ensures that projects that they participate in actually serve a purpose, and that the chapter continues working with the project needs long after competition.

The Louisiana Center for the Blind is primarily focused on training newly blind people on how to adjust to life without sight, along with everyday life skills, teaching everyone from children to adults. Mrs. Pamela Allen of the Blind Center spoke at the chapter’s Leadership Retreat, educating not only Ruston High students, but students from Choudrant and Simsboro FBLA as well.

Partnering with the Louisiana Center for the Blind, RHS FBLA members traveled around Ruston collecting menus from local restaurants such as Brister's Smokehouse, Dawg House, Log Cabin, and others. These menus were typed by FBLA members and then given to the center and transcribed into braille. This process included the menus being converted, printed in braille, placed in order and bounded. Once completed, these menus will be redistributed to the restaurants for use.

RHS FBLA is also assisting in cleaning the center’s library of books. The chapter cataloged each book and series and plans to assist in replacing missing books for the Center for the Blind.

Once again, community service is a huge part of what Ruston High FBLA focuses on each and every year. This year, both this project (PWB) and our primary service project (CSP) are working together to satisfy the needs of both projects. More importantly, the PWB is proud to be partnering with the Louisiana Center for the Blind to help educate people and make Ruston a more blind friendly city.



Pictured above: FBLA project chairs meet with Mrs. Pamela Allen to discuss the needs of the Louisiana Center for the Blind and plan ways for FBLA to assist in their goals.

Pictured left: Project members cataloging resource materials.



Pictured right: Project members cataloging the library.

## FBLA Chapter Project Focus

**Community Service Project (CSP): Louisiana Center for the Blind**  
**Information Provided by Matthew Daulton/ FBLA CSP Chair**



Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) has been committed to serving our community. This year, the chapter has partnered with the Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) for the yearly community service project. LCB, a school for blind students, has been serving our community for decades and serves as a place that students from all over the country can come to learn.

The main goal of this year’s community service project has been to expand awareness about LCB as well as provide any manual or financial assistance that the center needs. Mrs. Pamela Allen, director of LCB, met with local FBLA chapters throughout the district during a leadership retreat to better inform members with the services the center provides for our community and how they provide them.

Since this project started, RHS FBLA members have been a part of several service projects, ranging from reorganizing and categorizing a library to partnering with another FBLA project team to provide braille menus to local restaurants for their blind patrons. The CSP team also created an infographic in conjunction with LCB to be sent to local drivers education schools across Lincoln Parish to educate young drivers on how to react when situations with blind students at the center arise on the road.

RHS FBLA has been thrilled to work with the center and plans to continue their efforts in spreading awareness about the incredible importance this organization is to the Lincoln Parish and the wider Louisiana area.

At the Louisiana State Leadership Conference that will be held at the end of March 2023, select members of the Community Service Project (CSP) will provide the state a presentation of the project. The presentation will include the chapter’s report and an actual live presentation by our CSP team. Should the state select this project as one of the top projects in the state based on this presentation, the project will then be presented again at the National FBLA Leadership Conference.

Regardless of the competitive events results, RHS FBLA takes pride in the work that we have accomplished with our CSP project for the Louisiana Center for the Blind. Along with the chapter’s Partnership with Business Project (PWB), RHS FBLA has ensured that this worthy project has been successful and will continue to work with the LCB to assist in their worthy cause.

## RHS FBLA American Enterprise Project

### Project MAP

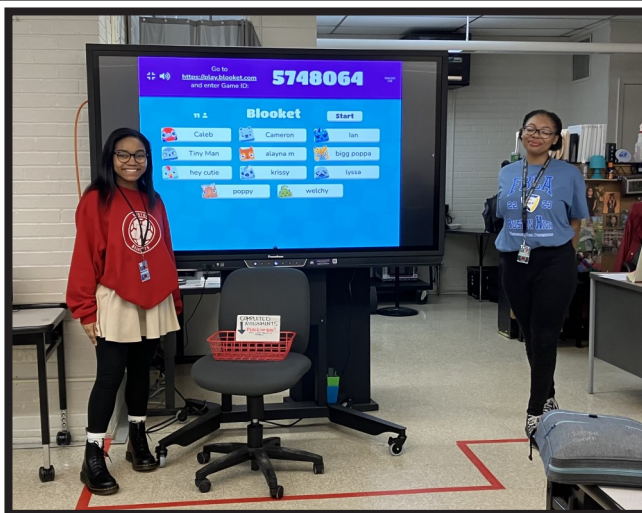
**Submitted by Kimberly Gardner, FBLA Treasurer/Project Manager**

The American Enterprise Project (AEP) is a project conducted by Ruston High School’s (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter 617 annually. The project is prompted to promote awareness of some facet of the American Enterprise system within the school and/or community. The project is submitted upon completion and then presented by a team at the Louisiana FBLA State Leadership Conference. Both the project and the presentation are judged using rating sheet.

The six major components/expectations of the written report: 1) Describing project development and strategies used to implement the project, 2) Describe research into school or community needs, 3) Appropriate level of chapter member involvement in the project, 4) The degree of impact on the community and its citizens, 5) Evidence of publicity received, and 6) Student evaluation of project effectiveness.

The presentation of the written report is judged using the following 3 criteria: 1) Statements are well-organized and clearly stated, 2) Demonstrates self-confidence, poise, assertiveness, and good voice projection, and 3) Demonstrates the ability to effectively answer questions. Presenters must be heavily involved to present as judges will ask questions, and as per usual, FBLA members are required to be dressed in proper business attire.

This year’s AEP team consists of Kimberly Gardner, Kristian Warfield, and Melissa Hernandez. This year, our American Enterprise Project is named Project MAP (Making American Potential). In order to make American potential with this project, the team members agreed to visit classrooms at RHS and teach students the components and benefits of personal finance. The team understands that there is a lack of understanding and that some students struggle when it comes to handling finances when transitioning from high school student to adulthood. By giving students some awareness of what goes into handling their finances, the project hopes to make students more confident in their ability to handle the finances properly as adults.



Kristian Warfield and Kimberly Gardner present and give Mr. Bruner’s class a chance to learn using games as well.

# RHS FBLA Week: Feb. 5 - 11, 2023



## FBLA Week 2023!

### STAFF REPORT

National FBLA Week was February 5- 11, 2023, and RHS FBLA celebrated early by attending the Northeast Louisiana FBLA Leadership Conference at Louisiana Tech University on February 2, 2023, and winning!

During FBLA week, RHS FBLA Chapter 617 ran a social media campaign with different themes for each day of the week! The chapter hopes that students enjoyed the announcements and will continue to support RHS FBLA by going to the chapter’s Instagram page in the coming weeks @bearcatsfbla!



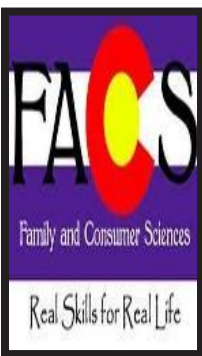




FACS Holds Monthly Meeting  
Information Provided by Kandi Hammons/ Sponsor

The Ruston High School (RHS) Family and Consumer Science (FACS) club met in February for their monthly meeting. At the meeting, members were informed of the “Thank you” note received from the Ronald McDonald House for all the cleaning supplies that were donated. This was a project that was participated in well by members and provided valuable needs to the Ronald McDonald House.

Members also played a team building activity centered on Valentine's Day. This was enjoyed by all. Further, each member enjoyed a homemade Valentine treat! With only the March meeting left for the year, members are planning the final meeting to ensure everyone participates.



Ruston High School FFA  
Competes at West Ouachita Invitation  
Information Provided by Mr. Antonio Wilson/ FFA Advisor

Ruston High School (RHS) FFA had outstanding performances at the West Ouachita invitation contest. In this contest, RHS FFA had several students compete in welding, electricity, and small engines.

RHS FFA members who attended had a great time at the invitation and everyone competed to their best ability. Gabe Middleton and Cole Spurlock had a fantastic showing in their small engine performance. Leading the way, Landon Davis placed 1st in the beginner welder contest with over 40 welders present. In addition, Clayton Roane competed in electricity and also performed well.

RHS FFA continues to teach and train our members to do the best at whichever field of expertise that they choose. As demonstrated at the West Ouachita Invitation, our members listened and went beyond. The FFA chapter is proud of the Ag students who competed and represented RHS with their best.



INTERACTING WITH  
THE LOCAL BLIND  
COMMUNITY  
4 SIMPLIFIED THINGS TO KNOW

**RUSTON IS HOME TO MANY BLIND PEOPLE!**  
Many of the blind people you see around town come from all across the country to attend the Louisiana Center for the Blind. They train to complete six to nine months of learning necessary skills to live and work successfully!



**BLIND PEOPLE IN TRAINING AND THOSE WHO AREN'T**  
Some blind people are wearing learning shades, black goggle-like blindfolds. This is so that they can learn to rely on their four other senses before they lose all their vision. However, not all blind people are here to learn. Some are students, family members, or community members who are visually impaired.

**CONVERSATIONAL ADVICE & SCENARIOS**  
When you see a blind person, just say hello! Treat them like any other person! If you are offering to help, do just that: offer. If they respond to your offer with, "No thank you", respect their choice and carry on with your day.



**IF YOU SEE A BLIND PERSON WALKING ON THE ROAD...**  
Let them be! Don't try to help unless there is immediate danger. Slow down and move a little closer to the middle line. Blind people often walk on the street in areas where sidewalks are of poor quality or nonexistent. This is a perfectly safe and valid option, and a technique they are expressly taught at the Center.

THE LOUISIANA CENTER FOR THE BLIND  
101 S TRENTON ST, RUSTON, LA 71270  
CONNECT WITH LCB @ 318-251-2891



Created in partnership with  
Ruston High School FBLA

Read more at [www.louisiana.center.org](http://www.louisiana.center.org)  
or [www.pdrib.com](http://www.pdrib.com).





# RHS Band News

## 5 Band Members Earned Ark-La-Tex Honor Band

Information Provided by Mr. Walter Moss/ *Director of Bands*

The Ruston High School (RHS) band continues to perform and entertain every year, ensuring that Bearcat fans feel spirit at football games, basketball games, during the holidays, and more. Along with working together in various bands with the RHS band, every member has an opportunity to excel individually as well.

This year, the RHS band is proud to announce that 5 members of the band were chosen to participate in the Arka-La-Tex Honor Band. These members were Caden Breeding, Kate Gray, Alexis Thompson, William Welch, and Matthew Yates.

These great members were selected by nomination, and had to audition for chair placements. Along with students throughout Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas, they will attend clinics and masterclasses, and ultimately perform. This year’s Ark-La-Tex Honor Band concert was held on Jan. 28, 2023 at Howard Auditorium at Louisiana Tech University



RHS Arkla-Tex Honor Band Members  
Pictured left to right:William Welch, Matthew Yates, Caden Breeding, Kate Gray, and Alexis Thompson.

# RHS Choir Excels

## 15 Choir Members Selected to District 1 Honor Choir

Information Provided by Mr. Nathan Trahan/*Choir Director*

The Ruston High School (RHS) choir continues to excel in individual recognitions. Every year, choir members throughout the district compete for positions in the District 1 Honor Choir, and this year, the RHS choir had 15 members earn positions on the selective choir. These 15 members were Garner Allen, Taylor Bernard, Carmen Bishop, Amarion Dimmer, Meredith Edwards, Eli Farris. Cherish Howard, Amaya Kelly, Allynah Knox, Teagan LeBlanc, Grisham Locke, Ardajah Millsap, Sydney Moss, Avery Overstreet, and Natalie Story.

Each member selected had to audition for the honor choir. The 15 members from the RHS choir joined approximately 80 other choir members selected in the district and performed as the District 1 Honor Choir. The performance was held at noon on January 27, 2023, at Brown Auditorium at the University of Louisiana - Monroe (ULM).



RHS Choir members who earned positions in the District I Honor Choir are pictured above left. Pictured right - the choir members enjoyed a meal together to celebrate.

# Talented Arts Seeks Applicants

## STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) talented art program is currently seeking applications to join the Talented Art classes next year. Students who are interested in applying should go by room 105 and get an application from Mrs. Revels. All portfolios must be turned in to Mrs. Revels by March 1, 2023.

Students who are interested in enhancing their skills, applying their talents, and having the opportunity to display their skills are encouraged to apply.



# The Adviser's Corner

Every year, Ruston High School (RHS), like every other public school around, is required to take time away from the regular classroom and teaching students to assess students using standardized tests. Teachers work hard all year with students, most of whom do the same, preparing for these tests. Teachers do this in addition to teaching everyday lessons, managing classrooms, working duty, attending sports events, planning lessons, grading papers, and the lists goes on. Students do this while attending classes, studying for daily tests and work, attending and participating in organizations, attending and participating in sports, and their lists goes on as well.

I am not going to use this short article to address whether or not this testing is relevant, needed, correct, valid or any of the other debates. Rather, as we have no choice at this point, let’s just go with that all of the above applies and they must be done for those reasons. Thus, I’ll only talk about preparing and actually taking the tests, before, during, and after – and address the students rather than teachers.

Students – the schools have a testing schedule that is established as dictated by the state – a schedule that tries to work around all of the conferences, sports season highlights, playoffs, and more. The schedule is set-up to also not conflict with religious events and holidays. So, before the test cycles begin (which are announced), please take note of the dates and make a concerted effort to be there and be in class when teachers are preparing you for the tests.

All that I just covered in itself almost assures most that the test will be a success. So, we get to actions related to test taking. Simply ensure that you get a good night’s sleep, eat a decent breakfast, and come to school with a positive attitude - ready to do your best. Combine that with the simply showing up, and I feel pretty sure the success rates would be high.

Now, having said that, there will be some who struggle, but the vast majority will do so because they did not do the above actions that I mentioned. As a result, some will journey into the after – having to make-up the tests. For those who detest taking these to start with, imagine the time and effort now having to be used to – yep – to get back to the beginning and start the entire process again.

All we can do is our best in any situation, and taking the standardized tests that are required are no exception. However, if teachers and students both are proactive, they can take away much of the anxiety as well as increase the odds of success with these tests. Bottom line, we have to do them anyway, and students need these to move on and to graduate. Everyone may as well do their best and try to succeed the first time. It’s not a secret – showing up is the biggest part of making it - so try your best to only have to show up once each time testing comes around. It’ll make it easier and better for everyone involved.

For Online Access to All Assessment Resources, visit the Family Support Toolbox at:

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/family-support-toolbox>





## RHS Football Holds Banquet Celebrates a Great Season STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) football team recently celebrated their great 2022 football season at their annual banquet, held January 23, 2023, at the civic center. The banquet recognized and honored the team and select players as the team ended the season 12-2, District 2-5A Champions, and Division 1 Non-Select State Runner-up.

The banquet was emceed by RHS' own Coach Nick Brown, who introduced every player as well as coaches and all support staff. Awards were many for this Bearcat program that captured the hearts of the city and the area.

Awards for outstanding contributions to the success of the Bearcats this year included: Dyson Fields (Michael Parker Coaches Award); Moises Rivera (Fred Dean Booster Club Scholarship); Ray Owens (Greg "Big Coach" Williams Scholarship); Jamious Blackmon (Bearcat Football Club Scholarship); Matt Garrett (Jack Lindsey Memorial Scholarship); Jadon Mayfield (Chick Childress Award); Aaron Jackson (Hoss Garrett Award); and Lane Ashby (Special Teams MVP).

Academic awards were also presented to select players. Those earning these and their GPAs as of the awards were R.J. Brown (3.9600); Parker Perez (3.9583); Triston Dumas (3.7559); Matt Garrett (3.6458); Keldon Johnson (3.6087), and Calvin Baker (3.5217). Captains awards were also presented to Jadon Osborne (Offense); Christian Davis (Defense); and Dylar Richmond (Special Teams).

At the conclusion of the awards banquet, Lincoln Parish Journal (LPJ) photographer Reggie McLeroy presented a special limited edition drawing to honor the season to Coach Jerrod Baugh. Mr. McLeroy has been instrumental in covering RHS sports and his professionalism and creativity are well known. Limited editions of his drawing were also offered to the public and well received as always.



## RHS Bearcat Belles Compete in Texas Earn Regional Recognitions Information Provided by Kenedy Pierce/Bearcat Belles Sponsor

On January 28, 2023, the Bearcat Belles competed in Tyler, Texas, at the Marching Auxiliaries Rose Capital Regional. At the competition, the entire team as well as individuals competed in various competitive events.

The Bearcat Belles performed at their best and captured first place in all three dances: Hip Hop, lyrical, and pom, in their division.

Individually, Mary Laura Hunt placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Gabrielle Simmons placed 4<sup>th</sup> in solo dances in the Senior 15-16 category. In duet dances, the duet of Ginger Johnson and Gabrielle placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Senior 17-18 category, and the duet of Matti Stephens and Ella Quarrels placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Senior 15-16 category.



## RHS Cheer Goes to Nationals Places 4<sup>th</sup> Overall Information Provided by Coach Collin McDonald

The Ruston High School (RHS) Competition Cheer team travelled to Orlando, Florida to compete in the National High School Cheerleading Championships. At the competition, they took 4th place out of 46 teams.

To qualify for the competition, the team first had to compete at the North Texas Regional where they placed first in November. Only 1.5 points separated Ruston from 1st place in this very close competition.

Over the weekend, they moved through all 3 rounds of competition, improving each round. This year's team consisted of 17 team members, 8 of which are seniors who won a National Championship their freshman year in 2020.



RHS Competition Cheer takes a break in Orlando.



RHS Competition Cheer heads to competition.



Pictures above is the RHS Competition Cheer team:

Back row left to right: Sophia Roberson, Kailyn Shipley, Ella Love, Gabbie Granger, Anna Colvin, Sarah Kate Taylor, Camille Maier, Molly Rabb, Mia Puckett

Front row left to right: Landry Grace Nelson, Mia Rabb, Anna Puckett, Brenan Barnette, Isabelle Burns, Taylor Skapura, Hannah Reeder, Maddie Ray Hancock



## RHS Tennis Competes at Bolton Cup Information Provided by Mr. David Poe/ Tennis Coach

On February 17-18, 2023, the RHS tennis team participated in the Bolton Cup along with 17 other teams. Overall, the tennis team placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of the 18 teams.

In the boys' doubles main draw, Jed Denny and Anhaar Wasi made it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of play. In the boys' singles main draw, Will Fendley and Ashton Wick both made it to the quarter finals.

In the girls' singles main draw, Camila Derosa made it to the 2nd round. GiGi Daughtry was the girls' singles consolation bracket runner-up. In the girls' doubles consolation bracket championship, it was Ruston vs Ruston as Claire Sanders and Anna Puckett went head-to-head with Maddie Cement and Sadie Brown. Claire Sanders and Anna Puckett were the girls' doubles consolation bracket runner-up as Maddie Clement and Sadie Brown earned the girl's doubles consolation bracket championship.

The varsity team travels to St. Fred on February 27, 2023 before returning home to play Airline on March 7, 2023. They team hits the road again on March 9 2023, returning home for home matches against St. Mary's (March 20, 2023) and Pineville (March 21, 2023). They then travel to LSUS to take on Captain Shreve on March 27, 2023, before coming home for 3 matches to close out March: Byrd on March 27, 2023; Caldwell on March 28, 2023; and Benton/Haughton on March 30, 2023. April's schedule and beyond will be announced in the next edition. The RHS tennis team worked hard and faced the cold, but persevered and performed well. Bearcat Nation is asked to come out and support these athletes as they compete individually, as doubles, and as a team representing RHS.



RHS Tennis prepares for the match. Left to right: Claire Sanders, Anna Puckett, Gigi Daughtry, Maddie Clement, and Sadie Brown; the tennis team; Will Fendley and Ashton Wick.







## RHS Powerlifting at North Desoto Invitational

All Varsity Lifters Medal  
STAFF REPORT

On January 28, 2023, the girls powerlifting team participated in the North Desoto Invitational. At the meet, all junior varsity lifters earned their personal bests. At the varsity level, and 3 lifters medaled.

Madison Jacks led the way by earning her gold medal for her first place finish. She also earned Best Lifter for the girl's heavy platform. Joining Jacks on the podium were Taylor Durrett who earned a silver medal in her category, and Charlee Walters who held up the bronze medal for her lifts at the meet.



## RHS Powerlifting at D'Arbonne Woods Invitational

Next up – Regional Competition  
STAFF REPORT

On February 4, 2013, the Bearcat powerlifting team participated in the D'Arbonne Woods Invitational. At the meet, the StrongCats performed well, with the boys' team capturing 1<sup>st</sup> place overall.

Placing 5<sup>th</sup> at the tournament in their weight classifications were Lanie Crawford, Aaron Fallin, and Parker Perez. Several StrongCats placed 4<sup>th</sup>. These included Emma Pylant, Robin Pryor, Dionna King, Mason Shumaker, Immad Smith, Gabe Jones, and Ced Rhone. Placing 3<sup>rd</sup>, RHS was represented by Dean Colvin, Cam Venzant, and Sam Nations.

The StrongCats had 3 lifters placed 2<sup>nd</sup> (runner-up): Malaysia Marbray, Jacob Gaskin, and Avery Overstreet. 1<sup>st</sup> place medals were earned by 5 Strongcats: Kameron Dobbins, Syriana Mack, Miguel Leon, Chamarrion Williams, and Mason Skipper. Next up is regionals for one last opportunity to qualify for the state meet.



## RHS Girls Powerlifting at Regionals

Lady Lifters Qualify for State/ Hosts Regional Championship  
STAFF REPORT

On February 18, 2023, the Ruston High School (RHS) girls' powerlifting team competed at the LPSLA Girls North Regional Championships, hosted at Ruston High School for the north. As the host school, the lifters for RHS made sure to represent at regionals as 24 schools showed up with 184 lifters for the regional championship. The RHS girls' lifters included 29 lifters, of which only 12 had prior experience before this year, and including seniors Taylor Durrett, Madison Jacks, and Charlee Walters. As the season progressed, all lifters saw improvements.

In the regional championships, RHS girls' competed well. The best lifters in the region were on hand, and RHS had 10 lifters making the top 15, including 8 of 10 placing in the top 10 in their weight classification. In 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> place, RHS had Charlee Walters place 13<sup>th</sup> and Ja'khia White placed 11<sup>th</sup>. In 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> place, Scarlett Revels and Ardajah Milsap both brought in 9<sup>th</sup> place finishes; Sara Baxter captured 8<sup>th</sup> place; and Leslie Alexander captured 7<sup>th</sup> place.

RHS had 4 lifters place in the top 5 at regionals. Emma Pylant brought home a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. Placing 4<sup>th</sup> place was Taylor Durrett. Syriana Mack lifted her way into 2<sup>nd</sup> place (runner-up) in her classification. Senior Madison Jacks stood atop the podium as she captured 1<sup>st</sup> place in her weight classification.

All of the lifters did an excellent job representing RHS and many set personal best lifts.

The boys' lifters will compete this weekend on February 25, 2023, at Calvary Baptist. Both teams will then take all state qualifiers and compete at the state meet held in the Cajun Dome at the University of Louisiana -Lafayette (ULL) on March 24-25, 2023.



Photographs courtesy of Phat's Barbershop Club Podcast: Shout Out for many pictures throughout this publication and for their excellent coverage of RHS sports!







## Boys' Soccer Highlights Good Season Ends in Playoffs

Information Provided by Coach Hankamer

On January 26, 2023, the 'Cats took on Ouachita on the road, falling just short 1-2, making their record for the year 6-7-1. In a make-up game, the 'Cats took on Neville on and fell 0-6 to end the regular season at 6-8-1.

The 'Cats headed into the playoffs with their 6-8-1 record and as the #25 seed in division 2. As fate would have it, the playoffs lined the 'Cats up for a rematch immediately with Neville, the # 8 seed. On the road, the 'Cats gave it their best effort in the first round on Feb. 3, 2023, but fell to the strong Neville Tigers by a score of 1-5, ending their season at 6-9-1.

Coach Hankamer stated, "Overall, I am pleased with the season. Starting out at a new school is always difficult. When you start changing the mindsets of how the game is played, you hit bumps in the road and have to adapt. This season was about how we can adapt as a unit and we did enough to make the playoffs." He added, "Looking at next season, we will be young but it will be a great way to start building the program in the right direction. I want to thank our seniors for their leadership on and off the field. It was good to get them in the playoffs this year"

Star player, senior and captain Jaiden Languilli said, "We had a great season even though it doesn't reflect that on paper. Comparing how we played and the results that we had to last year as well as having a new coach with a new system, we did very well. Coach has a set system that with time will grow into an unstoppable play style. I wish I had just another year with this team and I can't wait to see this program grow.

Bearcat Nation is proud of the efforts of the 'Cats as they faced this season with a new coach and many new faces on the team. The lessons learned will only strengthen them as they already begin thinking of and preparing for next year.



## Girls' Soccer Season Ends Wrap Up District Play/ Capture Playoff Win

Information Provided by Coach Jacqueline Bean

The Lady Bearcats returned to the road on January 26, 2023, taking on Ouachita. In a contested match, the Lady Bearcats fell 1-3, moving to 6-6-3 on the year. This would unfortunately be the beginning of a 3 game skid for the Lady Bearcats in the regular season.

To close out January, the Lady Bearcats took on Sterlington on January 30, 2023. In this game, the Lady Bearcats fell in a 0-3 game, bringing their record to 6-7-3. Hoping to improve the district position and playoff seeding, the Lady Bearcats played a make-up game against Neville but fell 0-3, ending the regular season at 6-8-3.

With the regular season in the past, the Lady Bearcats found themselves as the #14 seed in division 2, earning them a first round home game against #19 seeded Beau Chene (11-11). In this first round contest played on February 3, 2023, the Lady Bearcats leaned on a strong defense and timely scoring and captured the win, 2-0. Both goals were made in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of play, with Mia Tapia scoring with a free kick and Ellie Ramos following it with an unassisted goal.

With their first-round victory, the 7-8-3 Lady Bearcats next drew the #3 seeded Teurlings Catholic (13-7-5) on the road on February 7, 2023, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. In this game, the Lady Bearcats played well against arguably one of the best teams in Louisiana, ultimately falling 0-4 to end the season at 7-9-3.

It was a good season for the Lady Bearcats as they played well in many games. They captured a 1<sup>st</sup> round playoff victory and gained much experience for next year. The Lady Bearcats now take the off season to prepare for another competitive season next year.



## Bearcat Indoor Track Competes

Athletes Compete at LSU  
STAFF REPORT

On February 4, 2023, the RHS indoor track teams competed at LSU and had a strong showing. Individual placements by the girls included Lily Garret placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1600m and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 3200m. In the girls' triple jump, Sophia Roberson placed 10<sup>th</sup> and Faith Miller followed in 15<sup>th</sup> place. In individual events for the boys, Liam Lowe captured 12<sup>th</sup> place in the boys 800m. Bryar Madden ran off with his 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in the boys 1600m, with Andrew McKaskle placing 8<sup>th</sup> as well in the event. In the boys 3200m, Landon Byrd placed 11<sup>th</sup> and Taylor Roller placed 13<sup>th</sup>.

In team events, the girls team of Laniya Robinson, Alaysia Taylor-Bragg, Ziah Jones, Faith Miller, Sadie Roberson, and Zoie Holstead captured 20<sup>th</sup> in the 4x200m relay. The team of Zoie Holstead, Sydney Owens, Sara Naff, Alaysia Taylor-Braggs, LaNiya Robinson, Ziah Jones, Faith Miller, and Sadie Roberson finished with a strong 12<sup>th</sup> place in the 4x400m relay. In the 4x800m relay, the team of Zoie Holstead, Sara Naff, Parker Nations, Sydney Owens, Hallie Hebert, Maddy Parkman, and Lily Garrett were runner-ups (2<sup>nd</sup> place).

In boys' team events, the team of Dylar Richmond, Darius James, Jordan McWain, Kendrick Jones, Ray Owens, and Percy Williams brought home a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 4x200m relay. In the 4x400m relay, the team of Dylar Richmond, Kendrick Jones, Bryar Madden, Jordan McWain, Darius James, Percy Williams, Liam Lowe, and Andrew McKaskle placed 8<sup>th</sup>. Rounding out the boys' competition, the team of Liam Lowe, Joshua Daulton, Cole Maestrini, Thomas Rogers, Bryar Madden, Andrew McKaskle, and Taylor Roller placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the 4x800m relay.

Look for more results on Bearcat track in the next edition of *Chatterbox* as the team competes at state,



## November Athletes of the Month Recognition by Kim Dupree State Farm

Kim Dupree State Farm was honored to award two very talented athletes for the month of November! The members selected by their respective coaches were Maggie Ambrose (volleyball) and Mason Skipper (football). The respective coaches commented as follows:

"Maggie truly shows in her actions and day-to-day life at RHS the characteristics of a Ruston Volleyball player and proudly represents Ruston High School. She is kind, compassionate, disciplined, and hard working."  
-Coach Lucie Hunt

"Mason Skipper is the Football Athlete of the Month for November. Mason is a great example of what we want Ruston HS football to represent. He was a 3 year starter for our team. He got Honorable Mention All-District as a Junior and 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-District as a Senior. He was selected unanimously as a member of our Player Council. He also has the highest GPA among our Senior players with a 4.15 GPA."  
-Coach Jerrod Baugh







## RHS Girls' Basketball

### Regular Season Ends – Playoffs Over Information Provided by Coach Meredith Graf

The Lady 'Cats 11-11 (3-1), closed out the month of January with a home game against West Ouachita and a road game against West Monroe, hoping to improve on their district mark as playoff implications for seeding became closer. Against West Ouachita on January 27, 2023, the Lady 'Cats showed intensity as they posted a 50-36 victory to move to 12-11 (4-1). On the road on January 31, 2023, the Lady 'Cats had turnover issues as they fell to West Monroe 42-48, moving to 12-12 (4-2).

In February 2023, the Lady 'Cats looked to close out district play and make a push for the playoffs, beginning with a road trip to Ouachita on February 3, 2023. At Ouachita, the Lady Cats played fast and hard to match the intensity of the game, and pulled out a 40-36 road victory, moving to 13-12 (5-2).

The Lady 'Cats then returned home for their final regular season stand for games against Pineville on February 7, 2023, and Alexandria on February 10, 2023. Against Pineville, the Lady 'Cats started slow but came alive with a big 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and never looked back as they ran away with the victory, 56-22, improving to 14-12 (6-2).

The victory over Pineville set up a showdown between the Lady 'Cats and Alexandria on February 10, 2023. With a win, the Lady 'Cats would return the favor to Alexandria and claim a share of the district title with them – a loss would have Alexandria alone at the top. In this final district game of the season, the Lady 'Cats played hard but fell in a close one, 48-53, moving to 14-13 (6-3) on the year.

With the district and regular season behind them, the Lady 'Cats headed into the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the playoffs. The Lady 'Cats took a #25 seed and 14-13 record on the road to face Chalmette, the # 8 seed with a 19-4 record. In the road game played on February 16, 2023, the Lady 'Cats played aggressive and hard. Despite being considered underdogs, the Lady 'Cats fought down to the last possession, but fell just short as the last chances at buckets did not fall, 37-38.

Despite missing key starters much of the season, the Lady 'Cats had a great season and came close to the district title. They played well in their playoff loss. With many members returning next year, the off season looks to be a chance to become even better. The Lady 'Cats closed the season at 14-14, ranked #25.

## Bearcat Boys' Start Playoffs

### # 2 'Cats Drive for the State Title Starts February 28, 2023

#### Information provided by Coach Ryan Bond

In the last edition, the Ruston High School (RHS) boys' basketball team had moved to the #2 state power rating with an outstanding 20-2 (3-1) record as they pushed towards the playoffs. Since that edition, the Bearcats have gone an impressive 7-1 and now stand at 27-3 (8-2) , with a state power rating of # 2.

The 'Cats returned home to continue their path towards the playoffs on January 27, 2023, hosting West Ouachita in an important district game. Playing both sides of the ball strongly, the 'Cats cruised to a 75-24 victory and moved to 21-2 (4-1). The 'Cats then closed out January on the road to face district rival West Monroe. The 'Cats took the rivalry game with a score of 68-51 and moved to 22-2 (5-1).

On February 3, 2023, the 'Cats began the month with a rematch against Ouachita, who had upset the 'Cats at home previously on a last minute bucket. This game, the 'Cats once again were upset as Ouachita took the home field advantage and a 52-62 victory, dropping the Cats to 22-3 (5-2) and all but securing the district title despite the 'Cats having the more impressive record and rating.

The 'Cats returned home for their final regular season stand for games against Pineville on February 7, 2023, and Alexandria on February 10, 2023. Against Pineville, the 'Cats shook off the previous loss with an all-out team effort both offensively and defensively, responding to Coach Bond's challenge with a resounding 76-48 win, moving to 23 -3 (6-2) on the year and keeping their district title hopes alive while continuing to play for seeding in the playoffs.

In yet another game pivotal to the 'Cats chances at a high seed in the playoffs, the 'Cats welcomed Alexandria. Unlike the last game where the 'Cats had to rally, it was all 'Cats as they took the victory with a huge 66-29 victory, moving to 24-3 (7-2) on the year.

The 'Cats closed out district play on the road against West Ouachita on February 14, 2023. This game would mean much towards the 'Cats playoff seeding, with the 'Cats looking for a high seed and a first round bye. In the game, the 'Cats defeated West Ouachita in a run-away 70-26 to move to 25-3 (8-2) on the year. With district wrapped up, the #2 'Cats found themselves seeded # 2 when announced on February 20, 2023.

To close out the season and warm up for their playoff run, the 'Cats welcomed Choudant to a local showdown on Feb. 16, 2023, and then travelled to Evangel Christian on February 18, 2023. Against Choudrant, the 'Cats dominated with a 71-29 win for parish bragging rights, as several players were in on the scoring. The warm up test against the strong lower classification Choudrant team brought the 'Cats to 26-3 on the year. Visiting Evangel Christian, the 'Cats knew they were in for a challenge with one of the top lower classification schools again in the state. In this game, which mattered for power ratings, the Cats played strong once again and easily brought home the victory 62-37, closing out their regular season with a 5 game winning streak and at 27-3 (8-2).

With the regular season and last 2 warm up games behind them, the # 2 ranked Ruston High School Bearcats now head into the state playoffs as the # 2 seed with a record of 27-3. First up for the 'Cats will be the winner of the # 15 East St. John and # 18 Terrebonne game. The 'Cats first action will be at home against the winner of that game on February 28, 2023. Bearcat Nation is asked to fill the stands as the 'Cats look towards their shot at a state title.



## RHS Girls Softball

### Rebuilding and Playing Hard

#### Information Provided by Coach Lauren Garvie

The 2023 Lady Bearcat Softball team are prepared to represent Ruston High School with a strong season. With new Coach Lauren Garvie, the Lady Bearcats look to rebuild and improve throughout the season. After practicing hard, they began with various scrimmage games. These included scrimmages with the Calvary Hall of Fame scrimmage, the Quitman Umpires scrimmage, the Haughton scrimmage, and the Carthage scrimmage.

The season began for the Lady Bearcats with 3 games against arguably the best teams around, with North Desoto at 4-0 on the season winning by an average score of 11; Choudrant 3-0 winning by an average score of 15, and Benton at 2-0 with two 15-0 shutout victories. This would make for a rough start for the rebuilding team.

The Lady Bearcats first fell on February 15, 2023, as they hosted North Desoto. Against North Desoto, the Lady Bearcats fell behind early 9-0 in the first inning and lost 14-2, starting the young season 0-1. Staying home, the Lady Bearcats took on Choudrant on February 17, 2023, where they were shutout 0-11 shutout, dropping the Lady Bearcats to 0-2 on the year. The Lady Bearcats closed out their 3-game home stand with a 0-15 shutout loss to Benton on February 21, 2023, dropping to 0-3 on the young year.

With the tough first 3 games behind them, the Lady Bearcats look to close out the month of February with quality wins on the road as they head to the Pineville Tournament on Feb. 24-25, 2023.

Games played in March 2023 before the next edition of *Chatterbox*, the Lady Bearcats will begin play at Quitman on March 6, 2023, followed the next day at ASH. They return home for games against Pineville (March 9, 2023) and West Ouachita (March 14, 2023) before hitting the road again at Ouachita on March 16, 2024. The Lady Bearcats will then play at the Evangel Tournament (March 17-18, 2023) before returning home for games against West Monroe (March 21, 2023) and ASH (March 23, 2023).

## RHS Baseball is Back

### Batting for the District Title

#### STAFF REPORT

The 2023 Ruston High School (RHS) baseball team has been hard at work practicing and scrimmaging. This hard work is in preparation for what they feel could very well be the beginning of a deep playoff run this year, looking to add to last year's success. With the 5-3 loss in the Bayou Jamb as a warmup only, the 'Cats were ready to start the regular season on a winning note.

The season officially opened fir the Bearcats on February 21, 2023, as the team welcomed the rival Neville Tigers to town. In this game, Ruston held on to a slim 3-2 lead before Neville answered with a 5 run 7<sup>th</sup> inning, handing the 'Cats a 7-3 loss eventually. The 'Cats begin the season at 01- but look to bounce back as they will play 4 more games at home as part of their season opening home stand. On February 28, 2023, the Bearcats welcome Benton.

Games in March before the next edition of Chatterbox is out, the Bearcats welcome Byrd to Ruston on March 7, 2023. A week later, Airline visits Ruston on March 14, 2023. The Bearcats open district play on March 16, 2023, welcoming Alexandria, and then travel to them for a game on March 18, 2023. The last game before the next press, the Bearcats hosts anon-district opponent, Glenbrook.

Bearcat baseball looks to have a great year and encourages all of Bearcat Nation to come out and support them in their efforts. See the schedule provided and come out and support the RHS Bearcats pursuit of the district title and beyond.

## December Athletes of the Month

### Recognition by Kim Dupree State Farm

Kim Dupree State Farm was honored to award two very talented athletes for the month of December from soccer! The members selected by their respective coaches were Carleigh Reger and Trenton Richard. The respective coaches commented as follows:

On Carleigh—"Her work ethic, her leadership both on and off the field, and she's always present. Played all 4 years for RHS."  
-Coach Jacquelyn Bean

"I would say Trenton Richard is the one I would have to choose. He posted a 2-1 record with a shout out in the month of December. His athlete has worked hard on becoming the number one goalie as a Sophomore. He has kept us in every game this season and has shown great leadership both on and off the field. He is involved with more than just soccer- he is involved with Eco Car and Yearbook photography. He is a great young man and individual, and that is why I nominated him as the December Athlete of the Month."  
-Coach Erich Hankamer

