

A composite image featuring a portrait of the RHS Principal on the left and a large, bold title 'RHS Principal's Message' on the right. The principal is a man with short brown hair, wearing a red polo shirt with a white 'R' on the chest. The title is in a large, black, serif font. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text in a smaller, black, serif font, followed by a second paragraph of text in the same font.

Thank you for making this such a great year. Your hard work, support of your classmates, and school spirit has been amazing. Keep up the great work! Go Bearcats!

Remember to keep cheering on our track team and our baseball team as they continue competing. Congratulations to our golf team on a great season. Also, a huge congratulations to our robotics team in their recent competition! Way to go! Enjoy the warm weather as it approaches, but don't forget to keep those grades up, also!

Chatterbox sends a big shout out to Mrs. Jill Benefield for ensuring that this is updated with as much information as possible for the week. Thanks to the newsletter, many news articles can be readily available for "STAFF" reports for *Chatterbox* as well. Thank you Mrs. Benefield!

The 8th graders all left excited about starting at RHS in the fall. Overall, the visits were great, and it seems we have some pretty great incoming freshmen. The 8th grade girls headed back to their respective schools, and the boys were bused over to the Chick Childress Field House for a quick tour of the facilities. Freshman Academy looks forward to welcoming the Class of '27 in August.



Congratulations to all the candidates. To those elected, and to those who will pursue student council representative positions next year.



- * 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.
- * 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, click on “staff”, and then “apply here” to apply.
- * Spring Bearcat Survivor ends on April 28th, so students have to keep their attendance up for one more week if still eligible for perfect attendance for this.
- * Students can send school spirit pictures to deana.revels@lincolnschools.org for possible inclusion in the yearbook.
- * Students should be attending Saturday school if applicable and not wait until it is too late in the year to finish the year out right.
- * Jailyah McWain was named as a *Shreveport Times* All-Area player and was also named Offensive MVP of District 2-5A!
- * Jailyah McWain was further named to the All-State second team!
- * Kaitlyn Middleton and Joshua Thorson were selected as Rotary Students of the Month for March 2023!
- * The 4 x 800 meter relay team (Zoie Holstead, Lily Garrett, Sara Naff, and Sydney Owens) were selected for the 2023 LTFCIA Indoor All-State Team!
- * Braylan McNeal was selected to the Shreveport Times All-Area First Team and Aidan Anding was selected for the Shreveport Times Second Team!
- * Braylan McNeal was named to the first team All-State 5A squad and Aidan Anding was named Honorable Mention for the All-State 5A squad!
- * Jodi Dunbar scored a perfect 36 on the ACT this year!
- * Junior Alexis Thompson will play 1st violin with the Monroe Symphony Youth Orchestra at 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, 2023!

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





Students Attend Day With the Doctors

Information Provided by Mrs. Diana Humphries/11th Grade Guidance Counselor

Day With the Doctors is a program for high school juniors and seniors who aspire to become physicians. Students chosen for this program submitted an application, a 250-word essay on why they should be chosen, and a copy of their high school transcript.

Students chosen spent the day at Ochsner’s Hospital in Shreveport following doctors and experiencing their daily activities. In addition, students were able to have lunch with some of Oschner’s medical students for a question/answer time about medical school.

Ruston High School (RHS) participants are pictured to the right. In the back row (left to right) are Amaryia Adams, Joanna Fernandes, Thomas Rogers, Ashton Wick, Emaji Williams, Matthew Daulton, and Ardajah Milsap. The front row (left to right) are Hailey Lambright, Caroline Estes, Marri’una Scott, Jodi Dunbar, Juanna Velazquez, and Zaniya Gaines



Senior Jeralyn Black Recognized

Louisiana Boys and Girls Club State Youth of the Year
STAFF REPORT

Senior Bearcat Jeralyn Black was recently recognized as the Louisiana Girls and Boys Club State Youth of the Year. This is the first time this honor was awarded to anyone in north Louisiana. A member of the Ruston High School (RHS) volleyball team and RHS choir, Jeralyn has made the time to ensure that she is an active member of the community through her service.

Youth of the Year begins with local consideration and then moves on to state competition. As the Louisiana representative, Jeralyn will now move to the regional round and hopefully advance further to national competition.



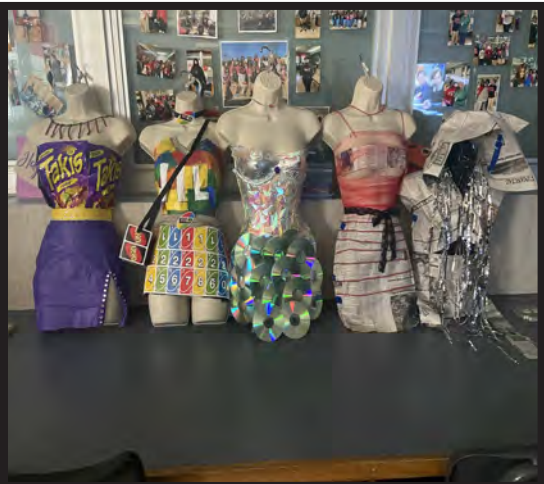
In Fashion at RHS

Fashion and Clothing Class Designs Clothing
Information Submitted by Mr. Walter Moss/ Director of Bands

The Fashion and Clothing class worked on a Recycle, Redesign Project to dress a mannequin. Each group of students had to sketch a design, make a supply list and create a design that would be creative but fun. All groups made the clothes from sewing to gluing to writing a description when they took their turn on the red carpet. Each design was judged for neatness, creativity and fashionable.

The winners in 3rd period were Parker Nations and Marissa Davenport, using coffee filters for the skirt and old CD’s that were painted for the top of their design. A choker necklace was added as an accessory. The winners in 4th period were: Esthela Cirilo and Shaniya Wagner used: Takis chip bags and a table cloth for the skirt with jewels. The accessory was a necklace made with pipe cleaners as takis.

The Takis design was the overall winner for all 10 mannequins. The people choice award voted by the students was McKenzie Oakley, Claire Roane, and Jacob Wobisch. Their design was made of cellophane bags with foil and Cds for the skirt. Each student did well in creating a fashion design.



Fashion designs pictured above: Left: Parker Nations and Marissa Davenport with their 3rd period winning design, 2 centers pictures - designs submitted by members of the fashion and clothing class, and pictured right: Esthela Cirilo and Shaniya Wagner with their 4th period winning design.

RHS Senior Superlatives

STAFF REPORT

The class of 2023 has spoken, choosing this year’s Senior Superlatives. Most Athletic: Dyson Fields and Lily Garrett. Most Respectful: Dylar Richmond and Sadie Brown. Most Intelligent: Joshua Thorson and Maggie Ambrose. Most Artistic: Ryder Britt and Taryn Davidson. Most School Spirit: Landry Grace Nelson and Gabe Moon. Most Likely to Succeed: Jed Denny and Ginger Johnson. Most Likely to be on Stage: Carmen Bishop and Riley Moegle. Most Dependable: Fajien Fleming and Mia Rabb. Most Friendly: Carter Gay and Emma Jane Reeves. Congratulations to all these seniors for being recognized by their peers.

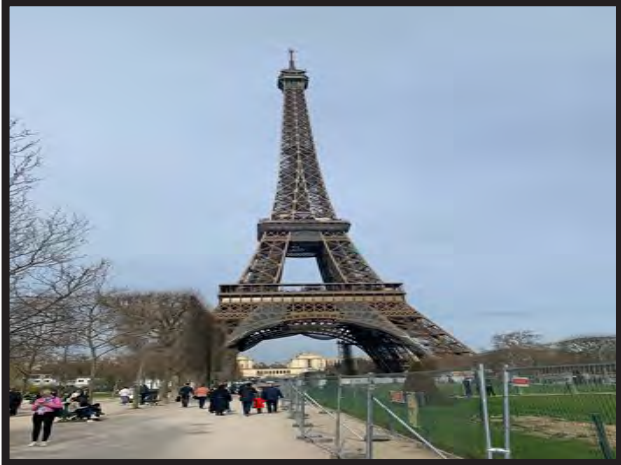
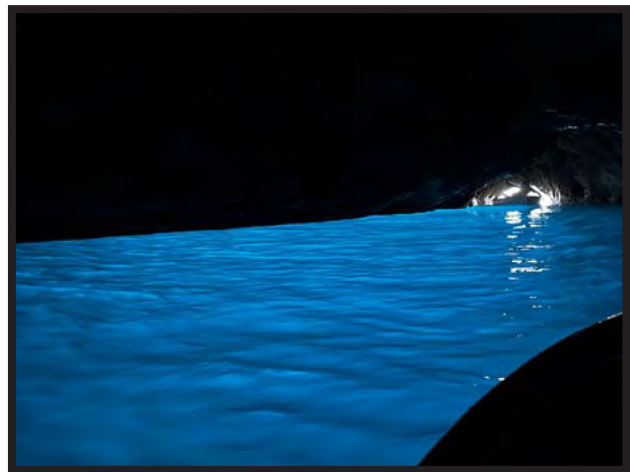
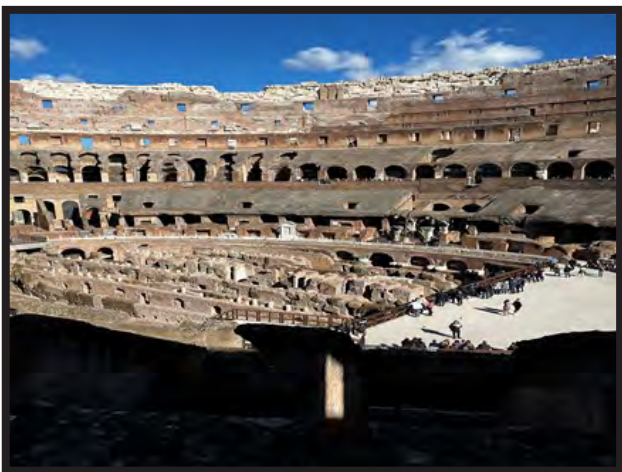
WORLD LANGUAGE TRIPS

Information provided by Mrs. Annie Rivera/ World Language Sponsor

This past March, the World Language classes traveled to Europe to learn firsthand about the cultures and countries we are learning about in class. Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Barnes traveled in a group of 40 adults and students to Spain and Italy. They visited the Royal Palace in Madrid, Gaudi’s Park Guell in Barcelona, and the Colosseum in Rome just to name a few. They ate their weight in gelato, churros, pizza & paella. They also got to visit the Blue Grotto in Capri, Italy--a once in a lifetime experience!

Mrs. Bean and Mrs. Nutt traveled with a group of 10 adults and students to England, France, Switzerland and Germany. They visited Buckingham Palace in London, Mt. Pilatus in Switzerland, Goethe castle in Munich, and of course, the famed Eiffel Tower in Paris!

Sometimes it can be scary to travel overseas, but all of these students will tell you it was an amazing experience they will never forget, and they’re ready to do it again! Want to join us for our next adventures?





SHARP CATS

RHS Freshman Academy recognizes Sharp Cats for February and March

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: Aubri Butler, Imani Dean, Michael Brisco, Latoya Percy, Jordan Johnson, Allyson Lee, Josh Daulton, Abiha Ali, Morgan White, Kevin Garcia, Genesis Cooper, Uziel Bautista, Chloe Young, Cory Brown, Micah Blount, and Elena Baines.



Freshman Academy Incentive Trip
Information provided by Ms. Jaimee Hudson/ Freshman Academy Coordinator

On April 14, 2023, ninth grade students who had no discipline issues, no tardies, no dress code violations, and no attendance issues were taken on a field trip as a reward for their good behavior. The Freshman Academy sponsored trip included a visit to Excalibur Family Entertainment Center and lunch at Pecanland Mall food court. Students were given tokens and activity passes at Excalibur and had a great time playing games and laser tag, shooting hoops, and riding go carts.

A special acknowledgement goes out to these students for their amazing behavior while on the field trip. Everyone had a great day.





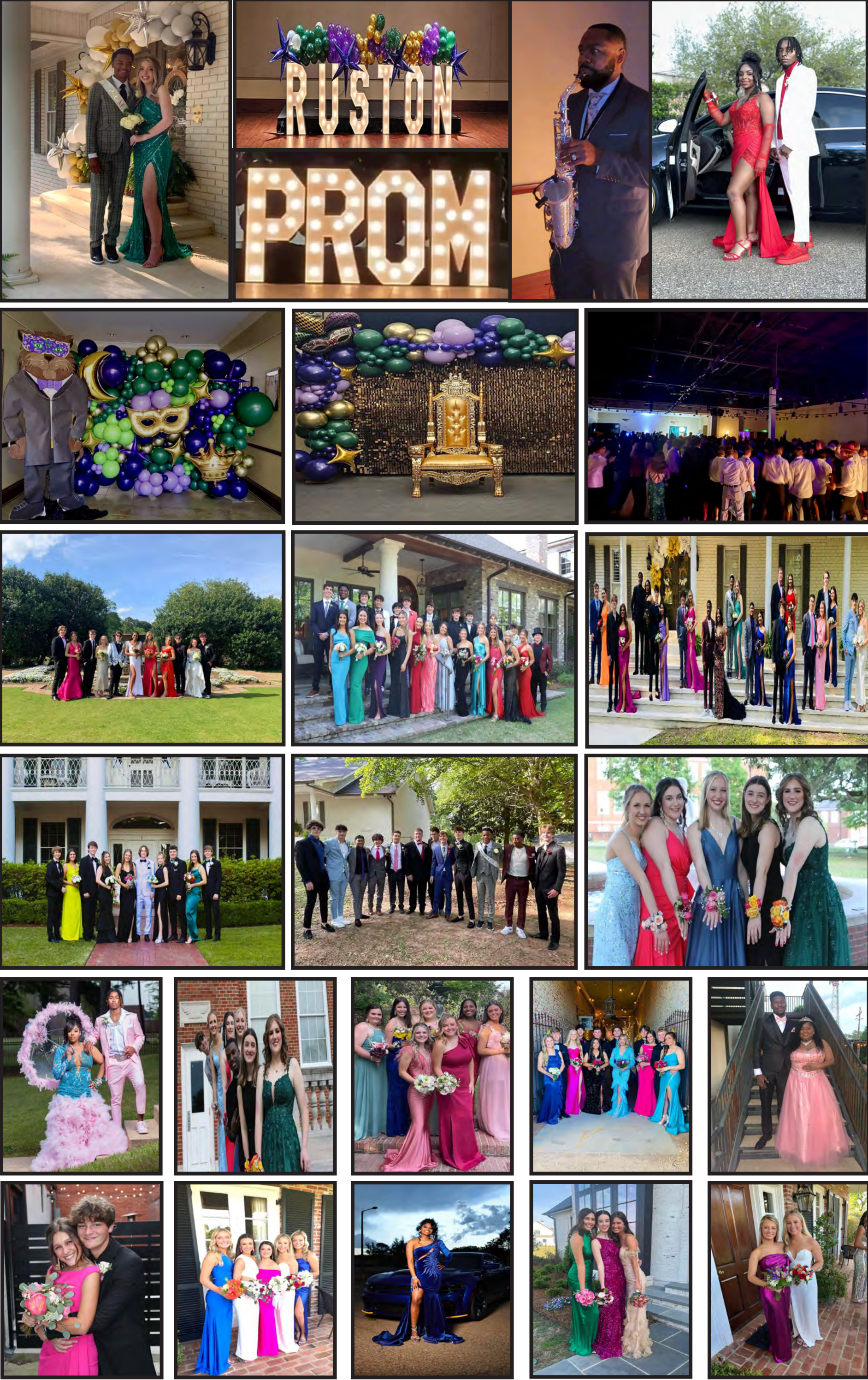
A Night in New Orleans

Ruston High School Prom
A Night in New Orleans
Information provided by Mrs. Jamie Gressett and Mrs. Lillie Williams



Ruston High's Junior-Senior Prom was held at the Library Events Center on Saturday, April 15, from 9:00 p.m. - midnight. The Prom theme this year was A Night in New Orleans. Prom Spirit Week was held Tuesday, April 11, through Friday, April 14, since we were out of school on Monday. Prom Week kicked off on Tuesday with a Tacky Tourist theme. Wednesday's theme was Mathletes vs. Athletes, Thursday's theme was Throwback Thursday, and Friday's theme was Mardi Gras. Voted on by the junior and senior classes, Prom royalty was announced on Thursday, and then on Friday morning Prom Queen Kemyra Wright and Prom King Johnathan Brantley were presented with their crown and royal sash. The week culminated with the main event on Saturday night, which included the Prom royalty officially being presented at 11:00 p.m. We would like to thank our wonderful vendors, teachers, and administrators who worked the event.

The DJ this year was DJ D-Smooth, Portraits Plus provided the photography, and a 360 photo booth and fun photo booth were provided by P28th Events and Entertainment Company. Keeping with the New Orleans theme, greeting students as they entered was saxophonist Gabriel Saxman Johnson. Snacks were provided by Sweet Daisy Bakes, the throne was provided by Joshua James, and balloons were provided by Mad Ambition Balloons and Company. Becky White assisted with decorations. Sponsored by Mrs. Lillie Williams, this year's prom was a great success, and we hope our students had a wonderful evening!





RHS Supports Buddy Ball

Information provided by Mrs. Jaimee Gressett/ *Teacher/Contributor*

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, students from various campus organizations including Student Council, National Honor Society, and FCA Leaders volunteered as buddies at Buddy Ball of Ruston where everybody plays and everybody is a winner! Buddy Ball is a baseball game held at the Ruston Sports Complex. The morning consisted of two baseball games. The younger players participated in Game 1 while the older players participated in Game 2. Each player is assigned a buddy or buddies to assist them as needed and to encourage them throughout the game. A great time was had by all who attended! Buddy Ball is one of our favorite traditions, and we are already looking forward to next year!





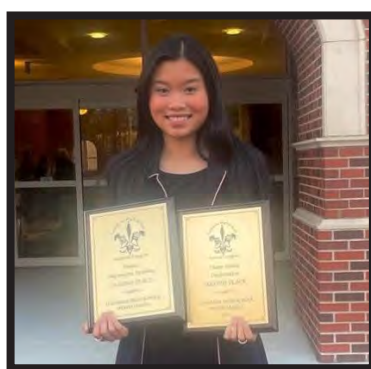
Speech and Debate Attends State

STAFF REPORT

On March 24-25, 2023, the Ruston High School (RHYS) Speech and Debate team competed in the Louisiana High School Speech League (LHSSL) State Tournament of Champions. All of the team members did an excellent job representing themselves and RHS speech and debate.

In Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Carter Jackson made it to the quarterfinals in the event, which was a great accomplishment. Melissa Le was able to capture two 2nd place finishes as she led the way for the team. Her 2nd place finishes were in Novice Impromptu Speaking and in Declamation.

The RHS speech and debate team ended the year ranked 3rd in the state for accumulated LHSSL State Tournament points.



If you are interested in joining the Speech and Debate Team for the 2023-2024 school year, tryouts will be held on May 22nd at 4 PM in Room 224. Please arrive in professional dress (no jeans/uniforms). If you have any questions about tryouts or the team, email sydney.phillips@lincolnschools.org.



RHS FFA Competes in Baton Rouge

Information provided by Carter Gay/ FFA Reporter

On April 3-4, 2023, the Ruston High School (RHS) FFA chapter sent multiple teams south to Baton Rouge to compete in a variety of agricultural related events. The Ruston FFA Students competed in the following events: Meat ID, Dairy foods, Small Engines, and Vet Science.

The Vet Science team, through their hard work and effort, was able to place third in the state with their team consisting of Emmaline Christian, Lillan Middleton, Micaela Xochicale, and the teams alternate Caroline Parker. Emmaline Christian excelled in this competition with an overall placement of second in the state.

In addition to the Vet Science team, the following members placed high in the area competition and represented our school at the state level: Joshua Adams, Reese Campbell, Zricka Clemons, Garik Fraley, Carter Gay, Raymond Granger, Logan Kimble, Samantha McCumber, Gabriel Middleton, Quaneia Rogers, Matthew Spurlock, and Dylan Trevillio



Bearcat Robotics Qualified for Next Level

Information provided by Mrs. Annie Rivera/ Sponsor

The Bearcat Robotics Team #9153 will be traveling next week to Houston, Texas, to our first ever FIRST Robotics Championship!! The 2023 FIRST® Championship presented by BAE Systems will bring together over 600 teams of which we will be competing with our robot, MWM (Mistakes Were Made) as the Rookie All-Star wildcard choice from the Bayou Regional competition.

The team is very excited and thanks all their sponsors and donors for their support and encouragement. Check out the team's website at sites.google.com/lincolnschoolscb.org/9153-bearcat-robotics/home and on Facebook @ [Bearcat Robotics-9153](#)



Bearcats Shine on the Miss Louisiana's Teen Stage

Information submitted by Mrs. Heather Reeder

The Miss Louisiana's Teen 2023 competition was held April 15-16, 2023, at Brown Auditorium on the campus of ULM. Miss Louisiana's Teen 2022 Mary Laura Hunt, a junior at RHS, and Miss Louisiana 2022, Gracie Reichman, led the festivities as emcees for the preliminary and final competitions. There were 21 delegates ages 13-18 from around the state competing for the job of Miss Louisiana's Teen 2023 including two of our own Bearcats, senior Hannah Reeder and freshman Melissa Le. Hannah is Miss Twin Cities' Teen 2023 and Melissa is Miss Louisiana Stockshow's Teen 2023.

There were five phases of competition: private interview, on stage question, evening gown, talent and fitness. All delegates shared about their Community Service Initiative (CSI) during the on stage conversation. Hannah Reeder's CSI is Love Your Heart 4 Life which focuses on healthy heart habit. Melissa Le's CSI is STEM to Bloom: Investing in STEM Education for All. For talent, Hannah Reeder showcased a high-energy gymnastics routine to Dolly Parton's rendition of *Great Balls of Fire* and Melissa Le dazzled on the piano with Claude Debussy's *Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum*. Mary Laura entertained the crowd with a jazz piece to *Survivor* wearing a classic Bearcat red dance costume. At the end of Saturday night, Melissa Le was named a preliminary talent winner for her classical piano performance.

On the final day of competition, both Hannah and Melissa were both named as Top Ten finalists and competed in on stage question, talent, fitness and evening gown once again. During the final competition, Miss Louisiana's Teen 2022 Mary Laura Hunt entertained with her winning 2022 lyrical dance, a piece to *Human* by Christina Perri. Our very own Bearcat Belles were special guest entertainment and showcased a beautiful lyrical competition piece for the crowd. Prior to crowning, Mary Laura made her final farewell walk and shared about her year of service as Miss Louisiana's Teen 2022. She was able to ride in the Rose Bowl parade on the Louisiana float, serve as Grand Marshal for the Alexandria Mardi Gras children's parade and much more. As part of her legacy as Miss Louisiana's Teen 2022, Mary Laura created a podcast called Keeping It Real that addresses issues relevant to today's teens. You can find this podcast on Apple now!

After Top Ten competition, the field was narrowed to the final five finalists. Melissa Le was named 3rd Runner-Up. Miss Dixie Stockshow's Teen, Laura Jane Kirkpatrick of Baton Rouge, was named Miss Louisiana's Teen 2023. Ruston High School was well represented on stage by Mary Laura Hunt, Hannah Reeder, Melissa Le and the Bearcat Belles. They all made the Bearcat Nation proud! (photo credits below: Mr. Steven Palowsky)



The Adviser's Corner

One big change for students at RHS was the change in the cell phone policy, which technically we could say was not a change in whether or not they could be used, but rather the consequences assigned to them. Probably the open use of these device during what were the "New Tech" days were a detriment to enforcement in the past. With New Tech not New Tech, the days of open usage under the guise of education and technology ceases to exist. Plainly put, cell phone have no true educational purpose UNLESS a specific problem or instructor led event uses it, such as using them when working on FEMA certification, etc. Otherwise, they are simply entertainment or a distraction, regardless of how much students protest. Students – just be aware that high school is only 4 years and not having your instant access to your phone and being able to survive it might just help you land and keep a job one day, and for sure keep you from losing your mind further should you decide to join the military and have NO access to it often.

Another big change that has been more noticeable is the allowing of jewelry that once was not and the allowing of one extra color hair. I may be old but I agreed with both of these changes, as they are NOT a distraction. Some may have a distaste for it – but welcome to America and the rest of the world. For some, these changes make them feel like an individual. It is a matter of personal taste. As a teacher, I have NEVER been distracted by these; however, I have seen much school time lost over debates and referrals and more during classes and in between than perhaps the initial 5 minutes of distraction initially may have caused.

Rules are in place to serve a purpose and are always subject to change – the right way. In the above, one rule would seem to be anti-student (it's more pro-education) and the other pro-student (again – it's actually pro-education). It comes down to what is best for the overall environment at RHS for education. To argue simply out of personal or selfish reasons is frugal, and doesn't serve the greater good. Agree or not, these are the rules and policies along with many others that we must abide by or change the right way.



FBLA Top in the State Yet Again!
RHS Captures 18 State Titles

Information Provided by Ms. Dori Lewis/ FBLA Primary Adviser



Approximately 2500 students and advisers attended the Louisiana Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette (ULL) this year, March 26-28, 2023. Students participated in more than 70 competitive events related to business, leadership and problem-solving. The state conference also includes state officer elections and leadership workshops for FBLA students.

This year, Ruston High School (RHS) FBLA took 55 members to ULL to compete and participate in the state leadership conference. For many in our chapter, this was their first state conference experience. Regardless, with so many new students as well as a new primary adviser, RHS FBLA did as they have always done the past several years – led the way at state!

RHS FBLA is proud to announce the results of the 2023 FBLA State Leadership Conference as RHS FBLA (Chapter 617) led the way this year by capturing 10 state titles and having 35 events in the top 10. These winnings have placed RHS FBLA as the top in the state once again in competition! Chapter awards included recognition as a Lifetime Foundation Member, placing 3rd in the yearly Foundation Award, and being named as the 2nd largest chapter.

Members who placed 5th – 10th as state were many. Placing 10th in Computer Problem Solving was Warren Woods. The chapter had 2 9th place winners: Information Technology (Layla Garner) and Social Media Strategies Team (Alyssa Colvin & Jayden Henderson). There were 2 8th place finishes as well: Graphic Design (Amarion Rushing) and Impromptu Speaking (Taylor Bernard). Placing 7th in Human Resource Management by Dezmon Moreland.

Continuing with 5th – 10th place, RHS FBLA had several members place 6th place. These were: Introduction Financial Math (Trisha Pangilinan); Organizational Leadership (Chad Hamlin); Sales Presentation (Jaden Jackson); Sports & Entertainment Management (Melissa “Mac” Henernandez); and Website Design (Scarlett Allred). The chapter also had 3 place 5th: Organizational Leadership (Matthew Yates); Sales Presentation (Jackson Washam); and Richard D Clanton (Atlis Britt).

All the members above did an excellent job of representing themselves, our chapter, and RHS. Each should be commended for doing their best. Each member was in the Top 10 in the state – the entire state – as FBLA does not break down schools by district or selection process but has every member compete as equal regardless of school size.

Going even further, RHS FBLA had many members place is the Top 4 in the state, which qualifies the member to attend the FBLA National Leadership Conference this year being held in Atlanta, Georgia. RHS FBLA had 5 events that placed 4th and qualified for nationals: Banking & Financial Systems (Purab Patel); Broadcast Journalism (Andrew Harvey); Client Services (Jaden Jackson); Human Resource Management (Atlis Britt), and Insurance & Risk Management (Christopher Harps). Adding to the winnings, RHS FBLA had 6 events that qualified for nationals with 3rd place finishes: Accounting II (Kevin Gipson); Business Calculations (Andrew Harvey), Business Ethics (Libby Blake); Current Events (Brittany Gutierrez, Purab Patel, & Matthew Yates); Cyber Security (Anhaar Wasi); Network Infrastructure (Aubrey Lewis). Current Events is a state only event and this is one of the highest places RHS FBLA has earned in that event.

Even more impressive were the number of 2nd place finishes (state runner-up) that RHS FBLA had this year. These members did a great job and came so close to the state title. The 12 state runner-ups were: American Enterprise Project (Kimberly Gardner, Kristian Warfield & Mac Hernandez); Digital Animation (Colby Grand, Kimberly Gardner & Kristian Warfield); Business Financial Plan (Jacob Baxter & Mariah White); Business Management (Matthew Daulton & Austin Guillory); Help Desk (Brianna Alexander); Network Design (Melodi Frazier); Organizational Leadership (Brennan Youngblood); Parliamentary Procedure (Alexis Thompson, Taylor Bernard, Joshua Ramachandran, Mac Hernandez & Scarlett Allred); Spreadsheets (Amanda Harvey); Supply Chain Management (Courtney Wilson); and UX Design (Chad Hamlin).

Finally, RHS FBLA led the state in state titles with 18 state champions. These individuals and teams studied hard, tested well, and in many cases, gave superior presentations on the way to qualifying for nationals. Many of these events involved year-long service as well as participation by others, such as chapter events. The RHS FBL state champions in individual events were: **Healthcare Administration (Matthew Daulton); Introduction to Business Presentation (MaLeeh Freeman); Introduction to Marketing Concepts (Grantham Cline); Networking Infrastructure (Alexis Thompson); Public Service Announcement (Melissa Le); Spreadsheet Applications (Jackson Frederick); and Louisiana Who’s Who (Atlis Britt).**

State champions in chapter and teams events were: **Partnership with Business (Joshua Daulton & Amarion Rushing); Community Service Project (Matthew Daulton, Austin Guillory & Melissa Le); and Coding & Programming (Anhaar Wasi & Gavin McCowen).**

RHS FBLA members were all recognized at the state conference for their success. Noted was that underclassmen Matthew Daulton and Melissa Le each were part of two state championship events. Several members earned their 2nd or 3rd state championships in FBLA, and four new members began their FBLA careers as state champions: Amarion Rushing, Austin Guillory, Melissa Le and MaLeeh Freeman.

All state champions this year received plaques and monetary awards from the state FBLA chapter. In addition, RHS FBLA awarded stipends towards nationals. With the Who’s Who title, Atlis Brit won \$500 and will also receive another additional state stipend to attend nationals as she will automatically take the stage at the National Conference with all other state Who’s Who winners.

Congratulations to the RHS FBLA members and winners for yet another great year so far. Students who qualified for nationals will continue their preparations for their events as well as begin fundraising activities to cover the cost of nationals. If you are interested in helping sponsor RHS FBLA, please contact Ms. Dori Lewis at dori.lewis@lincolnschools.org. No contribution is too small and the chapter would appreciate anything that sponsors can do to assist the worthy members attend nationals.



RHS FBLA State Champions



RHS FBLA National Qualifiers



RHS FBLA Top 10 at State



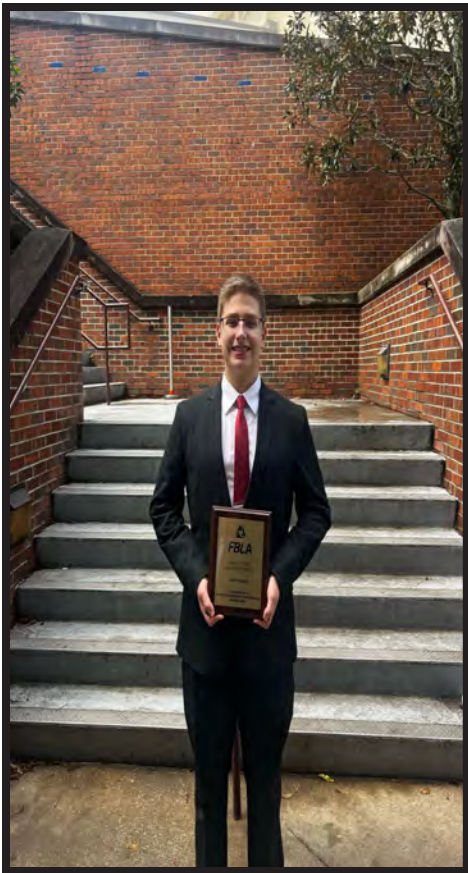
RHS FBLA State Competitors at the Conference



Pictured directly above left and right: RHS FBLA members take a break from the conference and competition to enjoy social time at the Surge.



FBLA State Champions



Matthew Daulton



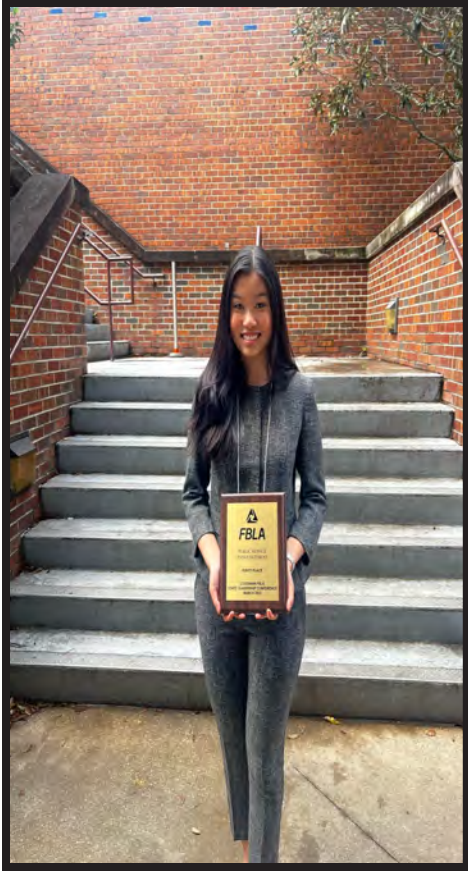
MaLeeh Freeman



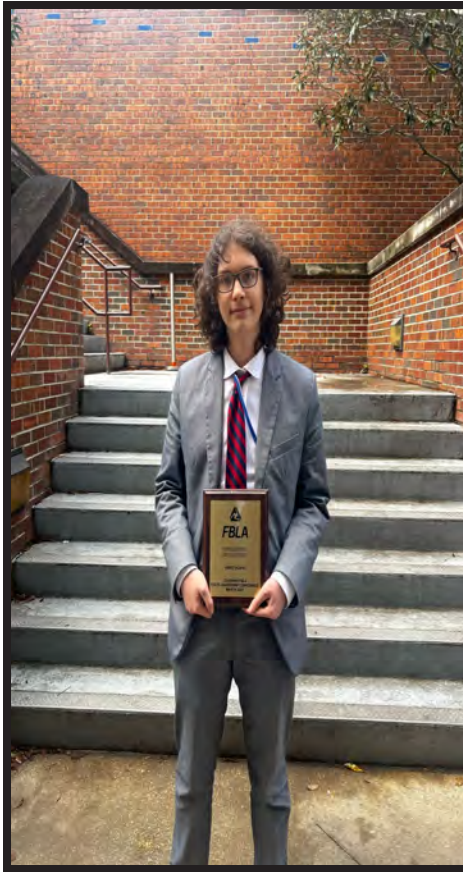
Grantham Cline



Alexis Thompson



Melissa Le



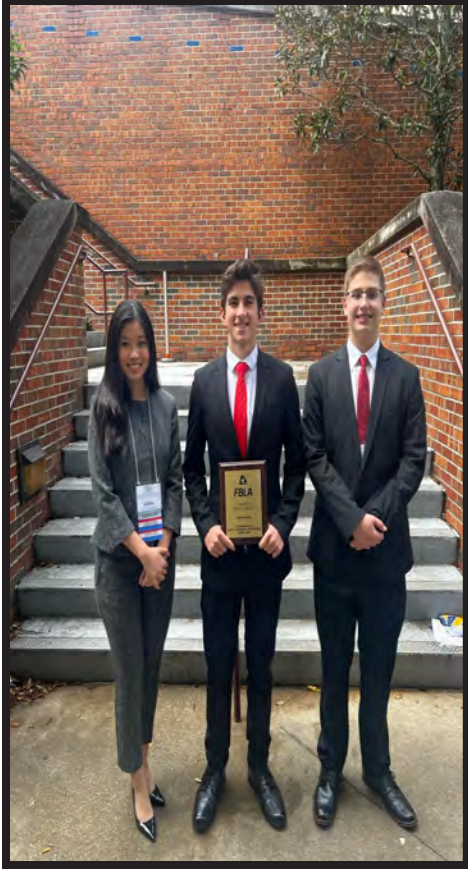
Jackson Frederick



Atlis Britt



Amarion Rushing & Joshua Daulton



Melissa Le, Austn Guillory, & Matthew Daulton



Anhaar Wasi & Gavin McCowen

OFFICIAL DONATION FORM – NATIONALS 2023

Ruston High School Chapter 617

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

900 Bearcat Drive, Ruston, LA 71270

dori.lewis@lincolnschools.org

Name of Individual/Business Sponsor:

Point of Contact:

Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Donation Amount:

(Indicate Amount)

*I wish my donation to be applied towards:

Chapter

*Entire

Or

*I wish my donation be applied as follows to the student (s) listed below:

* Donations to the entire chapter defray adviser and chapter costs first and then the balances are cross-leveled among students who are actively participating in the fundraising effort for the chapter based on participation.

* Donations to individual students that exceed the amount due will also be cross-leveled in the same order listed above. In the event of excess donations, funds will be placed in the general FBLA account for future needs. Excess funds would not be given to the individual students nor will they be used to reimburse a student, rather, they would be used to offset chapter expenses in the future.

SIGNATURE/DATE:

(required for auditing purposes)

Atlis Britt is honored as Louisiana Who's Who in FBLA

Please donate and help RHS FBLA attend nationals!



RHS Band Does It Again

Captures Superior Ratings

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

The Ruston High School (RHS) band traveled to Airline High School on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, to participate in the Louisiana Music Educator’s Association Large Ensemble Assessment. Bands that participate in this event prepare a concert and are judged by a panel of music professionals. The Ruston High School Band earned all Superior Ratings in both performance and sight reading (Sweepstakes) with a perfect score in all categories. For those who know about the RHS band, this is always well deserved and expected each year. Congratulations to these students of all of their hard work.



RHS Choir Remains Busy

Prepares for “Bearcats on Broadway” and More

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

The Ruston High School (RHS) choirs are in “FULL SING” as this final 9 weeks and spring semester concludes. On March 31, 2023, the RHS Concert Choir joined together with the North Central Louisiana Masterworks Organization to perform “The Seven last Words of Christ” by Theodore Dubois at Trinity United Methodist Church in Ruston. This major work included professional Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass soloists from La Tech, ULM, Grambling and Southern Arkansas University. Accompanied by organ and a small orchestra and under the direction of Dr. Chris Heidenreich, the choir provided the choral portions of this work with a maturity of tone and message. RHS is so proud that the choir’s singers can step up to the plate and perform major works alongside professional adult singers! It was a moving performance and RHS was represented through this community endeavor in distinguished style. The Bearcat Singers are preparing for their annual “Bearcats on Broadway” performances at the Dixie Theater on May 4, 2023 and May 5, 2023, with performances each evening at 7p.m. Make sure to catch one of these shows and see RHS’s top-notch singers perform many of the great musical theater highlights as soloists and in ensemble. The singers will perform works from: *Hamilton, Wicked, Pippin, Tick Tick Boom, Beauty and the Beast, Beetlejuice, Les Miserables, The Theory of Relativity, SIX, Cinderella* and several more! The RHS choir is planning to have their Spring Concert featuring the songs that they performed for Festival Assessment along with other songs that they have rehearsed but not yet performed this year in the middle of May. That date will be sent as soon as it is solidified. Look in the May chatterbox article for this particular date. For all students who are singers or have an interest in singing, our RHS Choirs are very fine ensembles and are highly regarded in our Choral District, our State and beyond. There is no better place for an individual to cultivate their singing ability and musical skill than singing in an ensemble with other voices. Please email Mr. Trahan at nathan.trahan@lincolnschools.org for a placement coaching session and let’s see where YOUR voice can be best heard!!!



Talented Art Show

Seniors Participating in Art Show on April 29, 2023

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School talented arts program will have an art show from 2-5 p.m. on April 29, 2023. Talented art senior students will be participating. The show will feature 10 artists who will have their artwork displayed and pieces for sale. The prices that will be featured include original art, prints, stickers, shirts, and many other form of art. The show will be hosted by Creatives at Work at 112 West Alabama Avenue in Ruston. Bearcat Nation is encouraged to attend the show and enjoy the creativity and art of the students, and perhaps purchase an item or two that just can’t be passed up.



Bearcat Belles News

2023-2024 Members Named

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School Bearcat Belles have entertained and performed for Bearcat Nation for years, competing as a team in competitions as well as entertaining at games and other events. Always a hit, these members work tirelessly to perfect their routines and display their talents. After tryouts, the Bearcat Belles have selected next year’s team that will continue to shine in 2023-2024. Paige Taunton was announced as next year’s Bearcat Belles captain. Selected as co-captains were Mary Laura Hunt and Kate Pullin. Members announced were Josie Bishop, Anna Bowling, Cierah Brooks, Bethany Colvin, Kylie Foster, Matti Grillot, Olivia Hamby, Akira Hatcher, Millie Keen, Sylvia Lackey, Teagan LeBlanc, Molli McCready, Laina Parkman, Ella Quarles, Ellen Ramsey, Gabby Simmons, Caroline Simmons, Preslea St. Andre, Mattie Stephens, and Annie Stevens. Congratulations to all the returning and new members of the Bearcat Belles for 2023-2024!

Varsity Cheer News

2023-2024 Members Named

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcat varsity cheer team ensures that spirit lives at all games and much more. Bearcat Nation is entertained and brought into the spirit of the action thanks to these young ladies. After tryouts, the Bearcat varsity cheer team has announced next year’s team that will continue to bring the spirit 2023-2024. Members selected were Kam’ryn Bradley, Anna Colvin, Marlee Davis, Madeline Davis, Abby Edgerton, Paige Gipson, Gabbie Granger, Ziah Jones, Mia Puckett, Molly Rabb, Sophia Roberson, Kailyn Shipley, Ariana Wesley, and Emma Witt. Congratulations to all the returning and new members of the RHS varsity cheer team for 2023-2024!

JV Cheer News

2023-2024 Members Named

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School Bearcat JV cheer team has selected the 2023-2024 team that will entertain the JV sports as well as work with the varsity cheer to entertain all of Bearcat Nation. Members selected were Drew Cramer, Lilla Falting, Layla Garner, Annie James, Ella Love, Camille Maier, Amaya Major, Alayna Maryland, Berkeley Parr, Ava Puckett, Stowie Richmond, Laniya Robinson, Olivia Starks, Julie Taulli, Sarah Kate Taylor, and Jilly Turpin. Congratulations to all the returning and new members of the RHS JV cheer team for 2023-2024!

Pom Squad News

2023-2024 Members Named

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School Bearcat Pom Squad has selected the 2023-2024 team that will entertain at games and keep the spirit moving along with the cheer teams. The captain for next year’s Pom Squad will be Emma Pilgreen with co-captain Reagan Williams. Members selected were Azaria Williams, Christian Jones, Jaida Manning, Trinity Pinto, Kimberly Gardner, Morgan Modest, C’Nya Saulsberry, Quanieca Rogers, Megan Modest, Kourtney Lockhart, Alaya Henderson, Jermya Shivers, Genesis Cooper, Morgan Hill, Calyri Junter, Kaylah Gray, E’Moni Hampton, Katelynn Patterson, and Laportia Poe. Congratulations to all the returning and new members of the POM Squad for 2023-2024!

For Online Access to All Assessment Resources, visit the Family Support Toolbox at:
<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/family-support-toolbox>



RHS Track Competes at Neville

Van Leigh Relays Champions STAFF REPORT

On March 10, 2023, the Ruston High School (RHS) track teams participated in the Neville Van Leigh Relays. In this meet, both the boys' team and the girls' team captured first place finishes. Several individuals and teams led the way.

Individually for the girls' team, Ziah Jones placed 5th in the 100meter dash. In the 200m dash, T'Avion Clark took 2nd place. In the 400m dash, Megan Modest placed 5th. In the 800m run, RHS runners placed back to back with Sydney Owens wining the event and Zoie Holstead placing 2nd behind her. The 1600m run featured two Bearcats as Lily Garrett captured the title and Hallie Hebert placed 3rd. The girls' relay team did exceptional as well. In the 4x100 meter relay, RHS girls' placed 2nd. In the 4 x 200 meter relay, the girls' team palced 1st. The girls' team also took 1st place in the 4 x 400 meter relay. In the girls' high jump, Sophia Roberson placed 5th. In the girls' long jump, Faith Miller placed 3rd followed by Sophia Roberson in 4th. In the triple jump, Faith Miller placed 2nd and Sophia Roberson placed 3rd.In other girls events, Joumi Douglas placed 4th in discuss; Emily Stutzman placed 4th in javelin; and Jordan Tate placed 2nd in shot put.

Individually for the boys' team, Darius James took 2nd in the 100m dash. In the 200m dash, RHS runners placed 1-2 with Kendrick Jones taking the title followed by Jordan McWain. In the 400m dash, Bryton Carr placed 3rd. The 800m run had John Madix placing 3rd and Trenton Hill placing 5th. Mirroring that in the 1600m run, RHS runners placed 3rd (Luke Braswell) and 5th (Josiah Findley). The 3200m run had Al-Amin Wilson place 4th and Joshua Daulton place 5th. Dylar Richmond placed 2nd and Ty'Jai Ursin placed 4th in the 300m hurdles.IN team events, the boys' placed 1st in the 4 x 100 meter relays; 2nd in the 4 x 200 meter relays; 1st in the 4 x 400 meter relays; and 2nd in the 4 x 800 meter relays. Also placing at the meet in individual events were Logan Malone (3rd) and Ray Owens (5th) in the triple jump.

RHS Track Competes at Port City Glass Relays

STAFF REPORT

On March 17, 2023, members of the Ruston High School (RHS) track teams participated in the Port City Glass Relays. Several athletes placed at the meet.

For the girls' team, Faith Maddox placed 4th in the 100meter dash. In the 200m dash, Megan Modest placed 5th. In the 800m run, Maddy Parkman placed 3rd. In team relays, the girls' team 4th in the 4x100 meter relay; 1st in the 4 x 200 meter relay; and 1st in the 4 x 400 meter relay. Alaysia Taylor-Bragg captured 2nd in the 300m hurdles. In the long jump, RHS had 2 place as Faith Miller placed 3rd and Sophia Roberson placed 4th. In the girls' high jump, Timiyah Graham. In the triple jump, Faith Miller placed 2nd. In other girls' events, Zykeria Sutton placed 5th in the shot put and Jordan Tate placed 3rd in the javelin.

For the boys' team, Bryton Carr placed 4th in the 200m dash. In the 1600m run, Joshua Daulton placed 3rd. In the 3200m run, Josiah Findley placed 2nd. In team relay events, the boys' placed 2nd in the 4 x 100 meter relay and 3rd in the 4 x 200 meter relay. Rounding it out for the boys' was Dylar Richmond placing 5th in the 100m hurdles.

RHS Track Picks Up Extra Competitions

STAFF REPORT

Over Spring Break, the Ruston High School (RHS) track team participated in extra competitions. These included the New Balance Indoor Nationals and at the Texas Distance Festival.

At the New Balance Indoor National meet, the 4 x 800m tea of Andrew McKaskle, Taylor Roller, Liam Lowe, and Bryar Madden finished 6th overall, finishing with a time of 8:05. In the 4 x 1 mile, the team of Andrew McKaskle, Bryar Madden, Thomas Rogers, and Liam Lowe finished 36th overall with a time of 18:32.

At the Texas Distance Festival, boys' team members competed in the 1600 meter run, with Cole Magee running a 4:45 PR; Luke Braswell running a 4:52 PR; and Al-Amin Wilson running a 4:52 PR. In the 3200 meter run, Ben Boudreax ran the event in 11:43. For the girl' 1600 meter run, finishing times Lily Garret (5:15); Sara Naff (5:22); Syndey Owens (5:23); Parker Nations (5:25); and Hallie Hebert (5:42). The times posted by Lily, Parker, Sara, and Sydney all rank in the Top 10 in 5A. In the 800 meter run, Zoie Holstead ran a time of 2:25.

RHS Track Competes at Home

Hoss Garrett Relays STAFF REPORT

On March 25, 2023, Ruston High School (RHS) hosted the Hoss Garrett Relays, a day later than planned due to the weather. However, the day turned out to be a perfect Saturday for the Bearcat track team to compete at home. Overall, both the RHS boys' and girls' track teams both led the way and placed 1st, led by many individual and team placements.

In girls' individual competition, LaNiya Robinson placed 2nd in the 100m dash. In the 200m dash, Brianna Alexander placed 4th and Faith Mattox finished right behind her in 5th. T'Avion Clark won her 400m dash with Alaysia Taylor-Braggs coming in 6th. RHS had 5 of the top 6 runners in the 800m run led by Lily Garrett in 1st, followed by Parker Nations in 3rd; Sidney Owens in 4th; Sara Naff in 5th, and Hallie Hebert bring in 6th place. In the 1600m run, Zoie Holstead captured the title and Elaine Lowe placed 5th. It was a 1-2 finish in the 3200m run as Parker Nations won the title followed closely by Lily Garrett in 2nd.

In girls' relay events, RHS finished 2nd in the 4 x 100 meter relay. Even more impressive, the Bearcats finished first in both the 4 x 200 meter relay and in the 4 x 400 meter relay.

In more girls' events, Sophia Roberson placed 4th in the high jump. In the long jump, a trio of Bearcats placed with Faith Miller capturing the title, Sophia Roberson placing 3rd, and Alana Conley placing 5th. RHS finished 1-4 in the triple jump, with Faith Miller capturing her 2nd title, followed by Sophia Roberson in 2nd, Timiyah Graham placing 3rd, and Alana Conley capturing 4th. In the discus, Zykeria Sutton placed 4th and Teionna Thompson finished 5th. In the javelin, Jordan Tate finished 3rd, Lacey Neaville 4th, and Emily Stutzman 5th. In the shot put, Jordan Tate placed 2nd, Joumi Douglas 3rd, and Zykeria Sutton 5th.

In boys' individual competition, Percy Williams started things with a 5th place finish in the 100m dash. In the 200m dash, Kendrick Jones placed 2nd and Jordan McWain placed 4th. Ke'Mondrick Hunter placed 2nd in the 400m dash. In the 800m run, Bryar Madden captured 1st place followed by Andrew McKaskle in 4th. 3 Bearcats placed in the 1600m run led by Taylor Roller in 1st, with Thomas Rogers placing 2nd and Joshua Daulton bringing in 5th. Thomas Rogers placed 2nd in the 3200m run and Al-Amin Wilson placed 5th. In the 110m hurdles, Ty'Jai Ursin placed 3rd and Cole Spurlock placed 5th.Dylar Richmond won the 300m hurdles, followed by Ta'Jai Ursin in 4th.

In boys' relay events, it was all Bearcats in each events with all 4 relays led by RHS. The Bearcat boys' relay team captured all 4 titles as they won the 4 x 100 meter relay, the 4 x 200 meter relay, the 4 x 400 meter relay, and the 4 x 800 meter relay.

In more boys' events, Logan Malone won the long jump followed by Ray Owens in 4th. Logan Malone captured his 2nd title in the triple jump followed by Ray Owens in 2nd place. In pole vault, Patrick Bryd finished 5th. In the discus, Christian Davis placed 3rd and Ahmad Breaux finished 5th. In the javelin, Keegan Goldsmith placed 5th. Christian Davis added another placement by finishing 4th in the shot put.

The Hoss Garrett relays are considered one of the best meets of the track season. The legacy of the Garrett family and the tradition of excellence in track at RHS makes this the major meet of the year not called state for RHS track teams. The legacy continues with the excellent performances from both the girls' and boys' track teams this year.



Photographs courtesy of Dr. Amy Vessel, proud Bearcat supporter!



RHS Baseball Marches into April

Bearcats Begin 1st Round in the State Playoffs
STAFF REPORT

As of last press on March 23, 2023, the Ruston High School (RHS) baseball team had vastly improved their record and stood at 13-6 (1-1) as they prepared to hit the road for a district contest against Pineville after totally dominating at Glenbrook just two days prior. At Pineville, the 'Cats took care of business and took the shutout win 11-0, bringing their record to 14-6 (2-1).

Two days later on March 25, 2023, they returned home to face Pineville again. In the rematch, it was once again all 'Cats as the swept the series with a 12-3 win to move to 15-6 (3-1).

The 'Cats then took on Calvary Baptist in a non-district game. In this defensive game, the 'Cats would fall 3-5 to move to 15-7 (3-1). The 'Cats then closed out March with a March 30, 2023, district showdown at home against West Ouachita, where 'Cats pitcher Talan Billberry pitched a no-hitter as the 'Cats won the shutout 11-0, moving to 16-7 (4-1).

On April 1, 2023, the 'Cats travelled to West Ouachita for their 2nd contest against them, where they not only shutout the opponent, but for the 2nd straight game, a RHS pitcher (Nick Robinson) pitched a no-hitter as the 'Cats won 9-0 and moved to 17-7 (5-1). On April 4, 2023, the 'Cats remained on the road for a non-district showdown with Sterlington. Against Sterlington, the 'Cats dropped a close one in extra innings 3-4 to move to 17-8 (5-1).

The 'Cats returned to district play by hosting Ouachita on April 6, 2023, and then turn right back around and travel to Ouachita the next day. In these games, it was all 'Cats as they took both games with huge scores: 14-4 and 24-4, to win 7 straight district games and move to 19-8 (7-1). Afterward, it was back to a non-district opponent as the 'Cats hosted Oak Grove on April 8, 2023, winning the game in a short 6 innings, 13-3, moving to 20-8 (7-1).

The 'Cats then returned home for a non-district game again Ouachita Christian on April 11, 2023, where the 'Cats dropped a close one, 607, moving to 20-9 (7-1).

District title hopes loomed as the 'Cats took on last year's state champion West Monroe in a home and away series on April 13, 2023, and April 15, 2023. In these contests, both teams sported identical 7-1 district records, and both teams were winners of 7 straight district conference games. In game 1, the 'Cats played tough but fell 3-4, taking them to 20-10 (7-2). With the title on the line, and power points at play for the playoffs, game 2 would decide the district champions. In game 2, the 'Cats struggled at the plate and fell 1-8, dropping to 20-11 (7-3).

The 'Cats closed out the regular season against non-district Mangham, in a game in which they played solid defense to win 3-2, ending the regular season at 21-11 (7-3).

On May 18, 2023, the LHSSA released the playoff brackets, and RHS baseball was seeded # 19. In the first round, the 'Cats will hit the road to face #14 seeded Destrehan, with the winner headed to play #3 Sulphur. Game 1 will be on April 21, 2023, with a double header scheduled on April 22, 2023, in this best of 3 series.

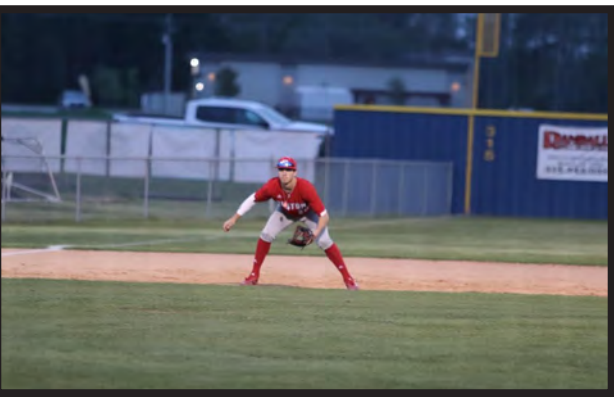
Bearcat baseball looks to make a strong run in the playoffs and encourages all of Bearcat Nation to come out and support them in their efforts as they continue to show how well RHS sports are this year as they pursue their own shot at a state title.

Bearcat Baseball Playoffs: Round 1

Game 1: 4/21 4:00 p.m. Game 2/3: 4/22 11:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.



Photos credit: RHS baseball parents and fans on Facebook and Phat's Barbershop Club Podcast).



RHS Girls Softball Season Ends

Rebuilding for the Future
Information Provided by Coach Lauren Garvie

The 2023 Lady Bearcat Softball team has known since day 1 that this was a rebuilding year between so many new faces, to include new coach Lauren Garvie. However, rebuild or not, every player was determined to not just learn and play through it, but to play hard and improve vastly for next year as well. On top of having new players, the team also has dealt with injuries and sickness as well. Making no excuses, the Lady Bearcats showed up and played their best every game.

As of press last month, the Lady Bearcats stood at 4-12 (0-5) on the year, having recently won 3 of 4 games at the Evangel tournament before dropping a district game again West Monroe. On March 23, 2023, the Lady Bearcats hosted ASH in pursuit of their first district win. In this game, ASH proved too much and the Lady Bearcats fell 5-16, dropping to 4-13 (0-6).

The Lady Bearcats then headed out to play in the Calvary tournament on March 24-25, 2023. In this tournament, power teams dominated the play as the tournament featured many probable playoff teams. The Lady Bearcats played well against Haughton, but fell 12-16. They would also fall to powerhouse Benton (1-9) and Airline (0-10), dropping their record to 4-16 (0-6).

After the Calvary tournament, the Lady Bearcats hit the road again and faced Pineville on March 28, 2023, falling 1-13, making their record 4-17 (0-7). Then they travelled to West Ouachita on March 30, 2023 and were shutout 0-7 to move to 4-18 (0-8).

Closing March and starting April, the Lady Bearcats hosted their own tournament (Bearcat Bash) on March 31 – April 1, 2023. In their home tournament, they opened with a loss to Haughton 3-10. In the 2nd game of the tournament, the Lady Bearcats lost a close, hard fought game to West Ouachita to drop to 4-20 (0-8).

The Lady Bearcats then face Ouachita on April 4, 2023, falling 2-14 to move to 4-21 (0-9). Closing out district play, the Lady Bearcats played at West Monroe on April 6, 2023, and fell 0-5. They closed out the regular season in a non-district game on the road against St. Frederick, where they were shutout 0-12 to move to 4-23 (0-10).

Bearcat Nation has supported and will continue to support the Lady Bearcat softball team. Look for more improvement and conditioning in the off season as they look to make next year one in which they will shine with experience and with a few new players involved as well.

RHS Track Competes in Jack Williams Relays

STAFF REPORT

On April 4, 2023, members of the Ruston High School (RHS) participated in the Jack Williams Relays in West Monroe. Several athletes placed at the meet. For the girls' team, LaNiya Robinson placed 5th in the 100m dash. In the 800m run, Hallie Hebert placed 2nd. Maddy Parkman placed 4th in the 1600m run. In the long jump, RHS had 2 place as Faith Miller placed 3rd and Sophia Roberson placed 5th. In the triple jump, RHS placed 1-2 with Faith Miller capturing 1st and Sophia Roberson taking 2nd. In discus, Joudi Douglas placed 5th. Jordan Tate placed 4th in both the javelin and the shot put.

For the boys' team, Kendrick James placed 1st and Jordan McWain finished 3rd in the 100m dash. In the 200m dash, Darius James placed 2nd. In the 800m run, Landon Byrd took 1st place and Thomas Rogers placed 3rd. Logan Malone placed 4th and Ray Owens placed 5th in the long jump. In the triple jump, Logan Malone placed 5th and in the shot put, Geordan Guidry placed 3rd.

RHS Track Competes in the Louisiana Mile Festival

STAFF REPORT

On April 8, 2023, Ruston High School welcomed area runners to compete in the Louisiana Mile Festival. Runners included boys' and girls' team members competing in the 1600 meter run.

For the girls' team, RHS had 5 girls finish in the top 10. Winning the 1600 meter run was Lily Garrett. Sara Naff followed in 4th; Zoie Holstead finished 7th; Hallie Hebert finished 8th; and Sydney Owens rounded out RHS girls in the top ten finishing 9th.

For the boys' team, RHS sent several runners and 4 of them placed in the top 10, including a 1-2 finish. Winning the event was Bryar Madden with Taylor Roller finishing right behind him. Also placing in the top 10 were Thomas Roger in 4th and Landon Byrd in 9th. Taylor Roller is currently recognized in the top 10 (9th) nationally in the freshman class.



Powerlifting at State

Boys' and Girls' Place/Medal

STAFF REPORT

Qualified members of the Ruston High School (RHS) powerlifting team headed south to compete at the state meet held in the Cajun Dome at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette (ULL) on March 24-25, 2023. The girls' powerlifters included Taylor Durrett, Madison Jacks, and Syrianna Mack. The boys' powerlifters included Kameron Dobbins, Miguel Leon, Mason Skipper, and Chamerion Williams.

For the girls' team, Syrianna performed well with a squat lift of 405 lbs and a 185 lb bench press. Placing in 7th place at state, Taylor Durrett's lifts were 335 lb squat, 165 lb bench press, and 290 lb deadlift, giving her a total lift score of 780 lbs. Leading the way for the girls' powerlifters was Madison Jacks, who medaled in 2nd place, becoming the first Lady Bearcat lifter to ever medal at state. Her lifts included 385 lb squat, 215 lb bench press, and a deadlift of 350 lbs, for a total of 950 lbs.

For the boys' team, Chamerion Williams had a squat lift of 650 lbs. Placing 9th was Miguel Leon with a squat lift of 550 lbs, a bench press of 275, and a deadlift of 510 for a total of 1335 lbs. Placing 7th was Kamon Dobbins with a squat lift of 286 lbs, a bench press of 175 lbs, and a deadlift of 315 lbs for a total of 775 lbs. Medaling in 2nd place was Mason Skipper with a squat lift of 650 lbs, a bench press of 490 lbs, and a deadlift of 530 lbs for a total of 1670 lbs.



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

RHS Golf Team News

Information Provided Coach Chris Rathburn/ Golf Coach

It has been a great season so far for the Ruston High School (RHS) golf! Both the girls and boys teams have been building their game well going into the postseason. The teams are looking forward to the boys competing at the district tournament on April 18, 2023, Querbees Park Golf Course in Shreveport, Louisiana, and to the girls competing at their regional tournament April 25, 2023, at Frenchman's Bend Golf Course. To date, both teams have played well, with the girl's team capturing 1st in most of the tournaments in which they have played and the boys placing near the top as well.



RHS Track Competes at Choudrant

STAFF REPORT

On April 23, 2023, Ruston High School (RHS) track participated in the Choudrant Invitational Meet. Both the RHS boys' and girls' track teams had an excellent meet.

In girls' individual competition, LaNiya Robinson placed 2nd in the 200m dash. In the 400m dash, Megan Modest placed 2nd followed by Zoe Williams in 5th. Maddy Parkman won the 800m run and Masey Ingram captured 5th in the 1600m run. Alaysia Taylor-Bragg placed 2nd in the 300m hurdles. In girls' relay events, RHS finished 1st in 3 major events: the 4x100m relay, the 4 x 200m relay, and the 4 x 400m relay, 2nd in the 4 x 100 m relay. In the high jump, Timiyah Graham placed 4th. Faith Miller won the long jump and place 2nd in the triple jump. Joumi Douglas placed 2nd in the discus. In the javelin, Jordan Tate placed 2nd and Emily Stutzman placed 5th. Jordan Tate also placed 4th in the shot put.

In boys' individual competition, the 200m dash was won by Kenny Hoang. Kendrick Jones won 1st place and Zac'Kevius Hunter placed 3rd in the 400m dash. In the 800m run, Trenton Hill captured 1st place followed by John Madix in 2nd place. In the 1600m, Luke Braswell captured 1st followed by Jake Hawkins in 4th. In the 3200m run, it was Joshua Daulton winning 1st followed by Josiah Finley in 2nd. In the 110m hurdles, Ty'Jai Ursin placed 1st. Dylar Richmond won the 300m hurdles followed by Cole Spurlock in 5th. Just as the girls' team had done, the boys' team won all 3 relays: the 4 x 100m relay, the 4 x 200m relay, and the 4 x 400m relay. In more boys' events, Joran Parker placed 3rd in the high jump; Aidan Anding placed 1st in the long jump; and Logan Malone won the triple jump followed by Ray Owens in 2nd. In the pole vault, Patrick Bryd finished 2nd. In the discus, Christian Davis placed 4th and Ahmad Breaux finished 5th. In the javelin, Joshua Brantley placed 2nd and in the shot put, Geordan Guidry captured 1st place.

February Athletes of the Month

Recognition by Kim Dupree State Farm

The February 2023 Athletes of the Month, sponsored by Kim Dupree State Farm, have been selected. This month's selections were Senior Marcy Parker and Senior Braylan McNeal, both members of the basketball teams.

Senior Marcy Parker- Marcy has been a member of the girls basketball program for 4 years, 3 of them on Varsity. Marcy invested a great deal into each team and was a leader for us this year on and off the court. We appreciate all she has given to the Lady Bearcats!
Girls Basketball Coach Meredith Graf

Senior Braylan McNeal- Braylan showed tremendous leadership on the court. He helped us finish the season 29-4 and a trip to the final 4.
Boys Basketball Coach Ryan Bond





Ruston High School Dragon Boat Team

Competes in the Children's Coalition Dragon Boat Festival

Information Submitted by Mrs. Jamie Gressett/ Teacher/Contributor

On Saturday, April 15, 2023, the Ruston High School Dragon Boat team participated in the Children's Coalition Dragon Boat Festival races on Bayou DeSiard in Monroe. Team membership is voluntary and open to any Ruston High student with automatic spots being guaranteed for our returning team members.

Serving multiple parishes, the Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana is dedicated to creating communities where children and families thrive, and the organization addresses the needs of children and youth ages 0-18 in four main areas: Early Care and Education, Healthy Living, Parent Education and Youth Development. Held each year in the spring on Bayou DeSiard at the corner of Loop Road and Forsythe Avenue, the Dragon Boat Festival is one of the Coalition's main fundraisers.

Comprised of twenty rowers, one drummer, and one facilitator from 22 Dragons, the Canadian-based company that puts on the races, our students competed against area schools, area businesses, and area healthcare organizations. On Tuesday, the team attended a water practice led by 22 Dragons and held at Bayou DeSiard to prepare for the big day, reviewing safety guidelines, determining their place in the boat, and practicing getting their timing down. On Saturday, the festival was held, which included a team parade, the races, and a variety of food vendors. It was a great day, and we are looking forward to next year!

This year's Dragon Boat team included the following returning members: Grant Madden, Gabriel Moon, Sam Nations, Anna Puckett, Mia Puckett, Mia Rabb, Molly Rabb, Katelyn Rollins, Jake Tyler, and Kaleb Williams. New members this year included the following students: Chloe deMattos, Jed Denny, Gavin Jolivet, Alyssa Languilli, Ella Love, Malena Lisle, Landry Grace Nelson, Maddy Parkman, Frances Preaus, Emma Jane Reeves, Michael Reeves, Taylor Skapura, Camille Smith, and Landry Tyler.

One fun fact about this year's team is that we had four sets of siblings rowing together – the Pucketts, the Rabbs, the Reeves, and the Tylers!



Bayou Jamb Announces Nominees

Several Bearcats Nominated Inaugural Year

STAFF REPORT

This year, Bayou Jamb is hosting a high school sports award ceremony for the first time, in conjunction with their title sponsor Centric Federal Credit Union. They plan this to be an annual event that will celebrate the best in high school sports in north Louisiana. This event will honor not just athletes, but coaches, spirit groups, bands, and supporters of high school sports. Supporters include volunteers, PA announcers, broadcasters, and even officials.

Several Bearcats were nominated this inaugural year. As for athletes, Dyson Fields was nominated as Offensive Player of the Year and Jadon Mayfield was nominated as Defensive Player of the Year. JR Tollett was nominated for Offensive Baseball Player of the Year. To close our athlete's nominations, Braylan McNeal was nominated as Boys' Basketball Player of the Year.

Joining these Bearcat nominees were several others. RHS has 3 groups nominated for supporting spirit groups: RHS cheer, RHS Belles, and Catbox Crazies. The RHS band was nominated for Band of the Year. As for coaches, RHS has 3 coaches nominated: Jerrod Baugh (Football Coach of the Year); Ryan Bond (Boys Basketball Coach of the Year); and Zack Smith (Baseball Coach of the Year).

Bearcat Nation is well covered with nominees this inaugural year, with winners to be announced at the awards show on May 4, 2023. Regardless of the winners, we know that these nominations were well deserved.

ECO Car Competes at Regionals

STAFF REPORT

RHS had 2 team and cars compete at the 2023 Shell Eco Marathon Regional Competition in Indianapolis this year. One car was the prototype battery car and the other was the urban concept car. Both cars were worked on by high school students under Bearcat Motorsports.

The prototype car won 12th place in its category. Led by team leader Roy Bennett, this was possible through hard work that included passing a technical inspection to qualify. The urban concept car, led by team leader Trent Baker, consisted of an internal combustion engine running on gas. It placed 6th in its category and won 1st in technical inspection.

Competing against some of the larger universities in the country, Bearcat Motorsports did excellent. Although they did not qualify for nationals, the cars were new and the teams will use these to improve upon for next year.

