900 Bearcat Drive, Ruston, Louisiana 71270

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

Chatterbox: The Voice of Ruston High School

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



RHS Principal's Message

Bearcats, the end is near!!! What an amazing year it has been to be a Ruston High School Bearcat! This year has been one of the greatest years in recent memory due to so many reasons. But one of the biggest reasons is you! Our student body has gone above and beyond this year to increase school spirit, support fellow classmates, take care of business in the classroom, and make the most out of difficult situations.

It's a great honor to be the principal at RHS and one that I don't take lightly. While we may not be perfect, we continually strive to improve and to be the best that we can be. I'm sad to see our seniors go but so excited to see what the future holds for them. Juniors, you have some big shoes to fill next year but I have no doubt that you will do great. To all students, I'm proud of each and every one of you.

I hope you have a restful summer break and I look forward to seeing you all in August. Go Bearcats!



Student Council President's Message

Every good thing comes to an end. With this column, it will be my final letter as RHS Student Council president to my fellow students, admin, and teachers at The Ruston High School. Each of you has made me a better person. I cannot begin to thank you enough for allowing me to serve as

You are being left in the more than capable hands of Kate Pullin who will serve you well as president this next year. Fun fact about Kate – she is part of the reason I switched my college I am going to attend next year. I am not even sure she knows. She planted the seed of why not switch colleges if the University of Alabama was giving me such an awesome scholarship. With that being said, you never know how a simple word, action, or look can affect a person and possibly alter their life.

Deliberately choose to encourage others. Deliberately choose to tell others how much they mean to you. Wherever you go, go with your whole

Ruston High – I will miss you. I will miss the students, the warm welcomes in the mornings, the jam-packed hallways, and the teachers. These four years went by in the blink of an eye. I am glad I came here in the ninth grade. I am glad to always be a Bearcat no matter where this life takes me. Gabriel Moon, 2022-23 RHS Student Council President, signing off.

RHS Says Farewell to Long-Term Staff Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner, Mrs. Charlene Flucas, Mr. Kevin Herren, Mrs. Jan Martin, and Mrs. Kay White

STAFF REPORT

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, a reception was held on stage at the Ruston High School auditorium to give people an opportunity to thank 5 long-term staff members who were retiring after many years at RHS. The reception was open to the public, faculty, and staff. These included Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner, Mrs. Charlene Flucas, Mr. Kevin Herren, Mrs. Jan Martin, and Mrs. Kay White.

Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner retires after having worked at RHS for the past 18 years, coming to us from the U.S. Army. During his tenor, he taught business and was critical in establishing certification programs for Microsoft and FEMA. Mr. Bruner was the primary adviser for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), leading them to become the top FBLA chapter in Louisiana as RHS FBLA led the state in state officers, state championships, and national finishes. Mr. Bruner also ran the RHS newspaper, Chatterbox, for many years. Principal Dan Gressett says, "We are so appreciative of everything Mr. Bruner has done for RHS the last 18 years. From leading our FBLA team to countless awards, to running a top notch school newspaper, to being a great business teacher, Mr. Bruner has been a Bearcat through and through for his entire career here. He will be tough to replace.

Mrs. Charlene Flucas retires after having worked for over 34 years at RHS. Mrs. Flucas began working with Lincoln Parish Schools as a custodian and took on the role of RHS school secretary in 1993. Always maintaining a sense of calm and order, she was a vital part of the school and assisted many students, parents, teachers, and staff with her critical day-to-day actions in the office. Principal Gressett adds, "Mrs. Flucas is quite possibly the most important person at Ruston High School. She is the first person people see when they enter our school and the first voice they here when they call. She has been an amazing secretary for 30 years! When you talk about true Bearcats, Mrs. Flucas is near the top of that list in my opinion. While I'm happy for her retirement, we are going to miss her tremendously."

Mr. Kevin Herren retires after having worked at RHS for over 9 years. Mr. Herren has worked tirelessly in the special education department, ensuring every student was known, respected, and given an opportunity to succeed at RHS. Mr. Herren had 2 children graduate with honors while at RHS and leaves RHS having done his job well, supporting not only his students but being involved in many other organizations and aspects of at RHS. Principal Gressett states, "If there is a tougher job at RHS than what Mr. Herren has, then I'm not aware of it. He has been great for our Special Education Department and for Ruston High School. He is great with kids and works tirelessly to make sure all of his students are cared for. I appreciate everything he's done and I hope to still see him up here tending to his plants in the greenhouse."

Mrs. Jan Martin retires after having worked at RHS for over 28 years. Working as the secretary for the guidance department, she has handled many responsibilities over the years. Her daily hectic schedule included not just assisting guidance staff, but working every day with schedules, IDs, transcripts, certification, standards, and so much more. Her lists of responsibilities go on forever and she ensured that each was always handled with professionalism and a smile. Principal Gressett says, "Mrs. Martin has been a valuable piece to Ruston High School for a long time. The amount of jobs and responsibilities that fall on that position would have been too much for many people to handle. But Jan just kept on working and would always get it done. I'm so happy for her to be able to spend more time with her grandbabies now, but we will sure miss her."

Mrs. Kay White retires after working in education for over 32 years. She began her teaching career at RHS before becoming a counselor at Louisiana Technical College. She came back to RHS in 2001. Starting as a business teacher and for years running the COE program, Mrs. White played a vital role in that department, serving as the department head and FBLA sponsor. In 2007, Mrs. White changed over to guidance and took on the role of 12th grade guidance counselor and registrar. From ensuring that every senior received the detailed attention required to graduate to learning to pronounce every name to call at graduation, Mrs. White was instrumental in ensuring that graduation ran smoothly every year as registrar. Principal Gressett adds, "Mrs. White and I started at RHS at about the same time and actually taught next door to each other for several years. We formed a close bond early on and it has carried on for over 20 years. She has been a phenomenal counselor to so many students that have come through Ruston High School. She has loved her seniors! She bleeds Bearcat red and will be greatly missed!"

With well over a 100 combined years of experience leaving, RHS will have huge shoes to fill. These faculty members have been a critical part of the success we have enjoyed at RHS and will be missed. RHS appreciates the time and service and dedication to the students that each of these have demonstrated over the years, and wishes them all well in their retirements. Once a Bearcat, Always a Bearcat!











Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner

Mrs. Charlene Flucas

Mr. Kevin Herren

Mrs. Janet Martin

Mrs. Kay White

Bearcats Did You Know.....

- 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.
- Andrew Harvey and Kristian Warfield were selected as Rotary Club students of the month for April 2023. Mrs. Hammons (FCS), , Mrs. Wages (Robotics), and Coach Brown (Bearcat Nation Network) were all rewarded Garrett Foundation grants to fund specifics for their
- organizations and projects. Jed Denny and Camila DeRosa made the LHSAA All-American Composite Team for having 4.0 GPAs while competing in athletics for four years.
- Camille Smith, Callin Jenkins, and Trinity Pinto created artwork in their Digital Design class that was selected as advertisements for the Ruston Farmers Market.
- Lady Bearcat golfer Landry Grace Nelson became only the 2nd Lady Cat in RHS history to qualify for the state golf meet. Jackson Yates was nominated as a Top Sports Fan by BayouJamb!
- 2023-2024 senior class representatives are Anna Bowling, Landon Byrd, Cade Campbell, Bethany Colvin, Murphy Demoss, Mary Laura Hunt, Nate Johnson, Thomas Rogers, and Paige Taunton.
- 2023-2024 junior class representatives are Abby Edgerton, Matti Grillot, Molly Rabb, Michael Reeves, Sophia Roberspn, Abby Seney, and Gabrielle Simmons. 2023-2024 sophomore class representatives are Kylie Foster, Melissa Le, Trisha Pangilinan, Taylor Roller, Camille Smith, and Landry Tyler.
- 2023-2024 Student Council members at large are Peyton Beck, Kyle Caston, Gabe Gaudet, Ellen Ramsey, Preslea St. Andre, Ashton Wick, Brennan Youngblood, Marleigh Gilbert, Amarion Rushing, Anhaar Wasi, Cullen Clark, Maria DePaola, Layla Garner, Alex Hunt, Alyssa Langiulli, Morgan Nutt, Charlie Rogers, Tyler
- Roller, Mason Shumaker, Kate Williams, and Bella Yates. Lady Softball players District 2-5A selections included Cala Wilson (1st team utility), Morgan Foster (2nd team utility), Murphy Demoss (2nd team outfield), and
- Rilee Atwood (honorable mention). Coach Brister was named the Louisiana Athletic Trainer's Association 2023 Sports Medicine Person of the Year for all his hard work and dedication at RHS.

This is the last edition of *Chatterbox* that Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner will be associated with as he is retiring. A possible replacement to keep the tradition going is still pending. We hope you enjoyed the newspaper over the years! Bearcats students, faculty, and staff are invited to join share Chatterbox through any media source.

Chatterbox is the official newspaper of Ruston High School, "the Voice of Ruston High." Chatterbox. Chatterbox is published monthly on the Ruston High School webpage under Student Life and emailed to all faculty and staff. Sharing is encouraged. 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 by May 25, 2023 to address with possible new sponsor.

















Ruston High School News



May 18, 2023

Students Excel with S.A.I.L.

Information provided by Mrs. Diana Humphries/ Guidance Counselor

Every year, junior students are encouraged to apply for Students Actively Involved in Leadership (S.A.I.L.). This program is a joint effort between the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the Lincoln Parish School District. The yearly program for juniors is designed as an outlet for students to strengthen their leadership skills in hopes of preparing them for future engagement and service to the Ruston-Lincoln community and beyond.

In addition to receiving information about what all is available as far as education, business, and government, students tour various agencies and are invited to ask questions pertaining to the roles of the presenters. These tours have included the City of Ruston, Life Choices, DART, and many other community organizations.

Further, each year's S.A.I.L. team submits a community service project to complete. Once approved, the S.A.I.L. members actively engage in the project and ensure its success. This year's S.A.I.L. members are pictured to the right. Pictured left to right are): Will Dearman, President of Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; Thomas Rogers, Laina Parkman, Chad Hamlin, Lyla Turner, and Austin Guillory.



RHS Bearcat's Support Senior Expo

National Honor Society and Student Council

Information provided by Mrs. Jamie Gressett/ Sponsor/Teacher

On April 20, 2023, several members of National Honor Society and Student Council volunteered at the Senior Expo sponsored by the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office and held at the Ruston Sports Complex. This annual event is an opportunity for senior citizens in the parish to socialize and learn about local businesses offering products of interest and to hear about services and agencies available to help them.

Entertainment was provided, and there were many opportunities for the seniors to win door prizes. Additionally, a wonderful lunch was provided, which our students helped serve. Students helped prepare drinks and plates and served lunch over 650 senior citizens. Our students worked hard and definitely got their steps in that day! We are very proud of all of our volunteers for helping out!

Pictured left: Sheriff Williams, Sergeant Powell, and Sergeant Gallagher pose with the Bearcats!













RHS Supports Special Olympics

Information provided by Mrs. Jamie Gressett, Sponsor/Teacher

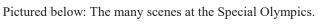
On Monday, May 8, 2023, members of the Ruston High School (RHS) Key Club and Student Council volunteered at the Special Olympics held at Louisiana Tech University's Jim Mize Track. Volunteers began the day greeting and cheering for the athletes as they unloaded their buses and entered the stadium.

Volunteers then lined the track and helped cheer on each school participating as they paraded down the track. The parade culminated with the conclusion of the Torch Run, which was conducted by members of the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office who started at the northern parish line and ran the Special Olympics torch approximately 17 miles to the Tech track.

Once the events began, RHS volunteers worked handing out medals and cheering on the athletes as they competed in running and throwing events. Lunch was served, and then athletes and volunteers socialized and danced on the track to upbeat songs. It was a great day, and volunteers and participants are looking forward to next year!



Above: RHS volunteers who assisted with the Special Olympics





























Ruston High School Freshman Academy



May 18, 2023 Page 3

RHS Holds Ring Ceremony

Information provided by Mrs. Annie Rivera, Teacher/Sponsor

On May 9, 2023, students and families gathered to celebrate the Ring Ceremony held at Ruston High School (RHS) for the Class of 2024 juniors. Many juniors joined in the celebration that is held annually at RHS.

The ceremony, sponsored by Jostens, was a special moment for over 50 students who received their class ring from parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. RHS sends out special thanks and shouts out to Sarah Kate Taylor of SK's Balloons for the beautiful balloon decoration; Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Daulton for facilitating the event; and to the Student Council members, Kate Pullin and Mattie Grillo, for their help in making this day special. We also thank Mrs. Zandria Guidry for assisting with photography.







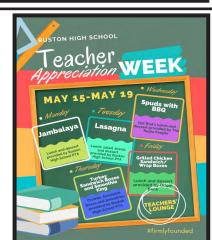


Teacher Appreciation Week STAFF REPORT

Most schools throughout Lincoln Parish and the state celebrated teacher appreciation earlier in May, but do to testing and scheduling, Ruston High School (RHS) postponed their recognitions until the week of May 15 - 19, 2023. With the excellent leadership of the RHS Parent teacher Association (PTA), the plans to show appreciation were solidified and teachers have to date enjoyed the benefit.

On Monday, teachers were shown love by the RHS PTA with a hearty meal of Jambalaya with dessert and drinks. On Tuesday, the RHS PTA stepped up again with lasagna, salad, bread, and dessert. On Wednesday. The RHS PTA coordinated with Hot Rod's for Spuds with BBQ and with The Radio People for dessert. Today, Origin Bank stepped up and provided grilled chicken sandwiches/wrap boxes and dessert. Tomorrow, it will be turkey sandwich boxes and Smoothie King provided again by the RHS PTA.

With over a hundred teachers at RHS, providing lunch as well as all the other things that go into Teacher Appreciation Week is a big task at RHS. The teachers felt appreciated and full and always look forward to the meals as well as the words of appreciation that are offered during the week. It was indeed a great way to nearly close out the school year after all the testing except the finals have ended and seniors have departed as they await graduation on May 23, 2023.





RHS Teacher Appreciation Week





RHS Conducts CNA Pinning Ceremony

40 Certified Nursing Assistants Pinned

Information provided by Mrs. Brooke St. John/ CNA Teacher/Program Director

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) pinning ceremony was held in the RHS Auditorium on May 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The pinning ceremony has roots dating back to the 12th century when knights who aided the sick were given a Maltese cross to wear. Modern ceremonies are closely tied to an award given the modern founder of nursing, Florence Nightingale. She received the Red Cross of St. George in the 1860's for her work with the infirmed and injured during the Crimean War. She in turn awarded the badge to the nurses completing her program at the Nightingale School of Nursing at St. Thomas Hospital in London. The pin signifies the completion of the program.

The Certified Nursing Assistant Program prepares students for employment in long- term care facilities, home health care, hospice care, hospitals or clinics. A CNA can work anywhere basic bedside nursing care is needed. A student must be 16 years old and be a junior or senior. Students go through numerous background checks to enter the program. Classroom instruction includes an introduction to health care, essential OBRA skills required for

certification, body structure and function, and the job-seeking process.

In February 2023, each student participated in a 40-hour clinical rotation. This year the students completed the rotation at Alpine Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Ruston. The students provided hands on care to the residents of the facility. Once the theory and clinical portion of the program was completed, students had to complete the state mandated Prometric exam given by a proctor from Prometric. This rigorous exam consists of 60 question and 5 skills demonstrations. Two of the required skills are handwashing and indirect care is meeting the rights of the patient such as privacy, introduction of caregiver, allowing choice, participation in care and safety. The other 3 skills are generated by computer and can be chosen from 22 other skills learned throughout the years. A student has 3 chances to pass the certification exam. The student knows immediately upon completion if they pass or fail.

This year's program had the benefit of doing the Prometric testing here in the classroom. Many people have been instrumental in getting the classroom approved has a testing center. The classroom testing atmosphere benefitted the students in numerous ways. The students were familiar with the surroundings, they did not have to travel as in previous years, they were able to go about their school day and just be called out to test, and Mrs. St. John was on campus for moral support.

The class is a very forward-thinking opportunity for the students of RHS. CNA students have the ability to obtain job ready skills while in high school. Students are lucky to live in a town that has numerous healthcare employment opportunities for the CNA students. The students of Ruston High are lucky to have this as an option in high school.

The class of 2023 Certified Nursing Assistants included 40 students this year. They are Michelle Alexander, Jasmyne Booker, De'Marya Brown, Madison Bruce, Tianna Coleman, Diamond Combs, Kommon Gipson, M'Kylah Green, A'Lajia Hamilton, Sanieyah Harris, Jada Jackson, Jamiya Jackson, Paiton Jackson, Damiyani Johnson, Saylor Kelley, Makenzie Leopold, Kaja Lewis, M'Kendylan Lewis, Breonna Marks, Kayla McCully, Alyssa Patterson, Aylhen Perez, Brankesia Reed, Damysianna Reed, Imori Runner, Taylor Samuel, Briley Spivey, Kailee Tapp, Chelsi Tatum, Amiah Turner, Serenity White, Trinity White, Reagan Williams, Terriyatta Williams, Kylie Wilson, Kyrsten Wilson, Katoria Woodfork, Kaitlyn Woods, Keoni Woods, and Jackson Yates.

All of the CNA students worked hard all year to get the distinction of being certified and this is a tremendous accomplishment. They will graduate from Ruston High School over the years with not just a diploma, but as CNAs and ready for the workplace. Although every student work tirelessly to achieve this recognition, one student was selected as the outstanding CNA student of the year. The 2023 CAN student of the year is Reagan Williams!

The CNA program recognizes that the program requires dedication from the students as well as the support of many others. As such, the program thanks the following contributors to the success of the CNA students: Lincoln Parish School Board Members, Ricky Durrett, Dan Gressett, Daryl Savage, Chris Henderson, Walter Moss, Monika Locke, April Winstead, Chris Brister, the RHS faculty and staff, Dr. Jackie White, and Alpine Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center staff and residents.

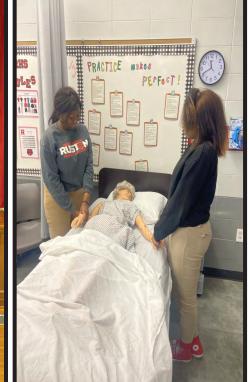


Saniyah Harris and Reagan Williams

CNA Training



CNA certified students at their pinning ceremony.



Kommon Gipson and Kyrsten Wilson

CNA Training













Ruston High School Freshman Academy



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SHARP CATS

RHS Freshman Academy recognizes Sharp Cats for April and May

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

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: Luke Braswell, Cierah Brooks, Patrick Byrd, Cecillia Henry, Alyssa Langiulli, Teagan LeBlanc, Kourtney Lockhart, Tristen Maltee, Andres McClinton, Hudson Paul, Frances Preaus, Luis Ruiz, Audrey Smith, Camille Smith, Cole Spurlock, and Sebastian Xochicale.













Freshman Academy Recognizes Honor Roll Students

Treats in the Boulevard

each and every day. Congratulations!

Information provided by Ms. Jaimee Hudson/ Freshman Academy Coordinator

One hundred and fifty 9th graders were rewarded on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, for making the honor roll for the third 9 weeks grading period. Each quarter RHS Freshman Academy recognizes students who work hard in the classroom.

The reward this time around for the deserving freshman students was well received. The students were allowed to miss a little class during 6th period and spend time outside with their classmates in the boulevard, where they enjoyed a Dilly Bar from Dairy Queen.

Honor Roll includes three categories. Students with straight As and at least a 4.0 GPA are recognized on the Principal's List, students with a GPA of 3.5-3.99 are

recognized on the Honor Roll, and students who earn a 3.0-3.49 are recognized with the title of Academic Achievement.

RHS and the Freshman Academy are so proud of all of our students at Ruston High School, but we are especially proud of our students who work hard in the classroom









Gressett's Greatest

4th 9 Weeks Students Rewarded STAFF REPORT

Gressett's Greatest as Ruston High School (RHS) ended the final full week of school with recognition for all students selected for the 4th 9 weeks. Students honored each received tickets that allowed them to enjoy the special treat in the boulevard set up and organized with Mrs. Lillie Williams.

The reward for Gressett's Greatest for the 4th 9 weeks were a hit with the students. Each student received a chicken sandwich from Sonic, a drink, and ice cream. The warm weather made the treats even more special.

At RHS, students are encouraged to follow the 3 Rs. At RHS, "We are Respectful; We are Responsible; and We are Ready" in constantly promoted. Students are encouraged and expected to be respectful - to adults, peers, and to property. Students are encouraged to be responsible and follow rules, accept rewards and consequences, and keep areas clean. Finally, students are expected to demonstrate that they are ready by arriving in time ready to work, be prepared and ready with, take an active and positive role in class, and believe that success is possible.

and believe that success is possible.

A total of over $200 \, 9^{th} - 11^{th}$ grader were recognized this 9 weeks for displaying the qualities that RHS students are expected to have. The program has been a huge success this year and students have found that the 3 Rs can be rewarding. With its success, we anticipate that Gressett's Greatest will no doubt return next year and be even stronger.



Mrs. Williams delivers treats.



Ruston High School Clubs



May 18, 2023 Page 5



FBLA Supports the Louisiana Center for the Blind

Submitted by Matthew Daulton/ RHS FBLA CSP Chair/FBLA President



Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, the Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) were committed to serve our community. This year, the chapter partnered with the Louisiana Center for the Blind (LBC) for the yearly community service project. LCB, a school for blind students, has served our community for decades and continues to serves as a place that students from all over the country can come to learn. The main goal of this project has been to expand awareness about the Louisiana Center for the Blind as well as provide any manual or financial assistance that the center needs.

During our annual leadership retreat in December, Mrs. Pamela Allen, Director of LCB, met with local FBLA members throughout the Lincoln Parish School District. She shared with us the variety of services the center provides for our community and how they provide them. Ms. Pam even addressed common questions that the local community may have when encountering students from the Center of the Blind. This special meeting encouraged our team to create an infographic that can be shared around the community as a public service announcement. Specifically we plan to deliver to the local driving schools to educate young drivers how to react when common situations with blind students arise while on the roads..

Recently, the team of FBLA President Matthew Daulton, Freshman VP Melissa Le and member Austin Guillory presented their project at the Louisiana FBLA State Leadership Conference. The team acquainted the judges with the project, gave an outstanding presentation, and were awarded first place!

RHS FBLA also partnered with LBC with our Partnership with Business Project. This project was ran by Joshua Daulton, Service VP. And member Amarion Rushing. The project focused on providing a service for the local restaurants and the LCB to provide braille menus for vision impaired patrons. Other projects we have completed with the Louisiana Center of the Blind were reorganizing and cataloging their library

RHS FBLA plans to continue to expand the project, nicknamed *Vision Beyond Sight*, and take the presentation all the way to the 2023 National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. At nationals, the team will compete against the top students both nationally and internationally. RHS FBLA has been thrilled to work with the Louisiana Center for the Blind and plans to continue their efforts in spreading awareness about the incredible importance this organization is to Lincoln Parish and the wider Louisiana area.

Home » Ruston High FBLA visits with Ruston Lions Club

Ruston High FBLA visits with Ruston Lions Club

Edday Navambas A



Members of the Ruston High School Future Business Leaders of America were the guests during the second October meeting held by the Ruston Lions Club. The students spoke to the group about various upcoming projects they are undertaking during the 2022-23 academic year. Members involved in the presentation included (left to right) Freshman Vice President Melissa Le, President Matthew Daulton and Austin Guillory. The trio was accompanied by adviser Jennifer Hamm. Courtesy photos

Members of the Ruston High School Future Business Leaders of America were the guests during the second October meeting held by the Ruston Lions Club. The students spoke to the group about various upcoming project they are undertaking during the 2022-23 academic year. Members involved in the presentation included (left to right) Freshman Vice President Melissa Le, President Matthew Daulton and Austin Guillory. The trio was accompanied by adviser Jennifer Hamm.

Category: Community

FFA Holds Annual Banquet

Information provided by Cyniya Evans/ FFA Reporter

The Ruston High School (RHS) FFA school year wrapped up with a banquet with awards that the current and former officers received. The banquet had over 100 people in attendance at Temple Baptist Church. Those in attendance were able to review the year as the FFA chapter of 2022-2023 came to a close.

RHS FFA hgad a great year in 2022-2023, creating fun memories and good times. They also had high ranking participants in the competitions, proudly representing themselves, the chapter, and RHS. Displayed proudly, awards are displayed in the halls of the Agriscience building on the Ruston High campus.

RHS FFA competed in many different events and contest this year. A high note for the year was having one of their forestry teams make it to nationals. RHS FFA also had many high placements in Vet Science, Marketing Plan, and P-Law. The chapter also had several teams go to state - Meat ID, Forestry, Dairy Foods, Vet Science, Marketing Plan, and P-Law.

Many outstanding students were recognized at the banquet. These were Quanieca Rogers, Carl Wesley, Cyniya Evans, Akira Lee, Logan Kimbell, Kalayja McClain, and Samantha McCumber. Each of these members were elected as new officers and look forward to making 2023-2024 an exciting year.









Colton Conley, FFA State President, presents.



6 of the new RHS FFA 2023-2024 officers.



FBLA Heads to Atlanta this Summer

Attending FBLA National Leadership Conference Submitted by Dezmon Moreland/ FBLA Reporter

This year's Ruston High School 9RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (Chapter 617), had a very successful year at both the regional and state leadership conference. At the regional conference held at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, RHS FBLA led the way in 1st place finishes as well as the number of members who qualified for the state leadership conference. Continuing that trend, RHS FBLA also led the state in 1st place finishes and the number of students who qualified to attend the FBLA National Leadership Conference.

To conclude the FBLA 2022-2023 school year, qualified RHS FBLA members will travel to Atlanta to compete in the FBLA National Leadership Conference. The members that will represent RHS FBLA at the national conference are: Matthew Daulton, Joshua Daulton, Kimberly Gardner, Melissa Le, Brianna Alexander, Maleeh Freeman, Anhaar Wasi, Dezmon Moreland, Courtney Wilson, Melodi Fraizer, Grantham Cline, Gavin McCown and Atlis Britt. RHS FBLA had many more qualify to attend, but due to different circumstances, not all members who qualified are able to go. Regardless, several members have stepped up and filled some of their roles and will attend as RHS FBLA seeks to continue leading the state in national placements.

While at nationals, members will have the opportunity to attend workshops that will help them grow in their fields, network with other FBLA members from around the world, and take the A.S.K. Fundamentals of Ethics certification exam. While in Atlanta, RHS FBLA plans on doing several fun events such as touring the World of Coca-Cola and the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame.

The trip to Atlanta will be a great chance for members to socialize and enjoy all that they can while in Atlanta. Members will have fun but also will ensure that their top priority is to compete well, and represent the chapter, school, parish, and the state of Louisiana.









Ruston High School Clubs



May 18, 2023 Page 6



RHS FBLA Celebrates a Successful Year!

Awards Banquet Held at The Gospel Inc.

Submitted by Dezmon Moreland/ FBLA Reporter

Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) celebrated a successful year at our recent award banquets and officer induction ceremony that was held on Thursday April 27, 2023 at The Gospel Inc. With a total of 35 people attending, the overall banquet was a definite success as many members were recognized.

The food served was an appetizing course which included lasagna, corn, garlic bread, and salad. The dessert was a very savory cheesecake. Once all appetites were filled,

chapter and state awards were presented to each respective champion. Every member who placed at regionals and state were recognized, as were many members who further contributed in the Business Achievement Awards (BAA) and other FBLA related events.

Our highly competitive adviser awards were then presented. The Ms. Kay Peters Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500 was awarded to Atlis Britt. This award included her name being placed on the chapter places, and individual places, and as mentioned.

included her name being placed on the chapter plaque, and individual plaque, and as mentioned – a \$500 scholarship that Atlis can use to attend any college, business school, trade school, or other approved institution of higher learning.

This year's Member of the Year (MOY) award was presented to Matthew Daulton. The RHS FBLA Business Student of the Year (BSOY) award was given to Kimberly

Gardner. After much consideration as this year featured so many worthy members, the RHS FBLA Rookie of the Year Award (ROY) was awarded to Melissa Le. Each of these award winners had their names added to the respective chapter plaques and received individual plaques as well.

The Ham family also recognized their winner for the Excellence in Leadership Award. In order to receive this award, members must submit a letter and resume explaining

their FBLA experiences to the family, who then decides after screening all applications, who best demonstrates excellence in leadership in RHS FBLA. Adviser Jennifer Ham and past RHS FBLA Parliamentarian Joseph Ham presented this year's award to Atlis Britt. Atlis received a \$100 cash award for the Excellence in Leadership award along with a plaque recognizing her as the recipient this year.

At the corelation of the awards acromony, PHS FPLA held their officer induction acromony. This year's officers were presented with certificates and asknowledged for

At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, RHS FBLA held their officer induction ceremony. This year's officers were presented with certificates and acknowledged for their service, and then next year's officers were introduced. The 2023-2024 RHS FBLA leadership team introduced were: Matthew Daulton, President; Kimberly Gardner, Vice President; Brittany Gutierrez, Chief of Staff; Melissa Le, Secretary; Chad Hamlin, Treasurer; Dezmon Moreland, Reporter; Joshua Daulton, Historian; Alexis Thompson, Parliamentarian; Anhaar Wasi, Chaplain; Brianna Alexander, Communications VP; Brennan Youngblood, Chapter Management VP; and Preston Parker, Freshman VP.

The night ended with the newly installed officers completing their first assignment job; cleaning up the facility. RHJS FBLA expects to continue their growth again next year and have even more members attending our end of the year celebration. All in all it was a wonderful night full of laughter and joy!



RHS FBLA's 2023-2024 Induction Ceremony



RHS FBLA Primary Adviser Dori Lewis



RHS FBLA's 2023-2024 Officers









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Left to right above: Atlis (Ms. Kay Peters Scholarship), Matthew (MOY), Kimberly (BSOY), Melissa (ROY), and Atlis (Excellence in Leadership) Winners









Left to right above: Coach Hankamer (Professional Leader of the Year Award), State Top 10 Winners, State Top 5 Winners, and Business Achievement Award Winners





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Left to right above: Past officer recognition, the official FBLA table with awards, and leaders and members enjoying the banquet







Left to right above: Socializing at the banquet, Ms. Lewis poses with students throughout the banquet, Joshua works prep before and after the banquet.







All 3 pictures above: RHS FBLA members enjoy socializing and eating as they await the recognition portion of the awards banquet



Ruston High School Arts



May 18, 2023 Page 7

RHS Band: Another Great Year

Information provided by Mr. Walter Moss/ Director of Bands

The 2022-2023 school year has seen the Ruston High School (RHS) band see much success. Beginning back in July2022, the band began preparations for the athletic band and the competition band season.

In the competition marching band competition, the RHS band won two competitions as well as won their division at another competition. The percussion ensemble traveled to Indianapolis to compete in the Percussive Arts Society International Convention Chamber Percussion Ensemble Competition. They performed well and won the event.

As they do every year, the athletic bands had a very successful year representing RHS and the State Football Championship and the State Basketball tournament. The athletic bands performed and entertained Bearcat Nation throughout many games.

Several members of the RHS band were selected to the Louisiana All-State Band, District One Band Director's Association Honor Band, and Louisiana Tech, Ark-La-Tex Honor Band. Further, the RHS concert band completed their annual state assessment with a perfect score.

Recently, the RHS percussion ensemble participated in NSU's day of percussion and we also hosted a Day of Percussion at RHS (April 29. To end the year, the band offered a concert featuring solo and ensemble events including the Jazz Band on May 2, 2023. Just this past week, the RHS Band was selected as the Bayou Jamb "Band of the year."

The RHS bands final spring concert, opened to anyone wishing to attend, was held on May 11, 2023. As the band has done all year, success reigned. To close out the 2022-2023 season, the RHS band will perform one final time as they always do at the RHS graduation ceremony on May 23, 2023.





RHS Choir Closing with Power

Bearcats on Broadway and More

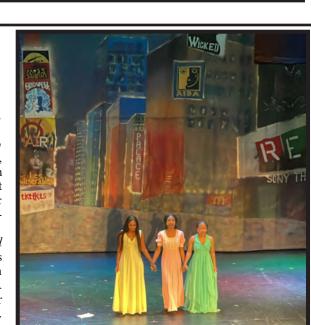
Information provided by Nathan Trahan/ Director of Choirs

The Ruston High School (RHS) choirs have been busy Bearcats, which is the norm for their performing ensembles. On May 4-5, 2023, the annual performances of "Bearcats on Broadway" occurred at the Dixie Theater.

In these performances, the choirs performed repertoire from the wide range of the Broadway spectrum in full group numbers such as "Magic to do" from *Pippin*, "Tonight" from *West Side Story*, "Gaston" from *Beauty and the Beast*, "Candy Store" from *Heathers*, "I'm Nothing Without You" from *Theory of Relativity* and "Louder than Words" from *Tick, Tick... BOOM!* Also, our Bearcat singers performed solo, duet and small group numbers including: "It's Quiet Uptown" from *Hamilton* with Garner Allen and Allynah Knox as Hamilton and Angelica, "Haus of Holbein" from *Six The Musical* featured several of our RHS divas, and "Helpless" from *Hamilton* showcased the vocal excellence of Sydney Moss partnered with several other cast members.

In solo performances, Amaya Kelly performed with an excellent belting voice on "Defying Gravity" from *Wicked* and Avery Overstreet brought his incredible "entertainer" game as LeFoe in "Gaston" from *Beauty and the Beast* as well as "I'm allergic to cats" from the *Theory of Relativity*. Cherish Howard, Malasia Marbray and Tyra Washington brought some soul and spice to "The Schuyler Sisters" from *Hamilton*. Tyra Washington also brought her intense A game to the stage with "Burn" from *Hamilton* while also joining Carmen Bishop in the beautiful and moving duet, "For Good" from *Wicked*. Carmen Bishop showed off her rich and mature tone in "I dreamed a dream" from *Les Miserables*. Grisham Locke presented his mastery of vocal range with a superstar delivery of "The Spark of Creation" from *The Children of Eden* while Laina Parkman showcased her great vocal control with her execution of "Let me be your Star" from *Smash*. Chloe Young, Dillon Raspberry, Melodi Frazier and Haley Self introduced the Ruston audience to a few *Beetlejuice The Musical* hits. Garner Allen showcased a contrasting flavor of country/western style with "Bright Star" from *Bright Star* while Riley Moegle sang the role of "Gaston" as well as a solo of "Evermore" both from *Beauty and the Beast*.

RHS concert choir will sing "You do not walk Alone" by Elaine Hagenburg at our May 23 Graduation and Commencement Ceremonies.



Tyra Washington, Cherish Howard and Malasia Marbray as "The Schuyler Sisters" from Hamilton

The Disney lovers out there were treated to a performance of "Part of your World" from the Little Mermaid sung by Gabrielle Simmons and "Reflection" from Mulan sung by Ardajah Millsap. Malasia Marbray sang "Somewhere" from West Side Story and Amarion Dimmer showcased his rich baritone voice in "The Impossible Dream" from Man of La Mancha. "Opportunity" from Annie was performed by Cherish Howard and was a powerful message to all aspiring performers to take advantage of every opportunity to set themselves up for success and personal fulfillment! These Bearcat singers did a wonderful job and performed with great artistry and professionalism. There is no doubt that their names belong in lights!!!

their names belong in lights!!!

The RHS choirs will perform their 2023 Spring Concert on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the RHS auditorium. This performance is free to the public. Further, the

For all singers and those interested in becoming a great singer, please see Mr. Trahan for a placement/coaching session for placement into one of our fine vocal ensembles. You can also reach him by email at nathan.trahan@lincolnschools.org













The Adviser's Corner

I can't help but to reflect on my 18 years of teaching at RHS and some of the things that I have been a part of in Bearcat Nation. I still remember my first class, which had more students in it than my senior class at my alma mater, Doyline High School. I find that aside from classes, duty, attending multiple sports events, and running Microsoft Office and FEMA certifications for Jump Start, I was primarily involved and made a difference in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and *Chatterbox*. Please allow me a few moments to reflect.

FBLA was my passion and led to my involvement with *Chatterbox* as well. I remember well, as do my first year members, relieving the entire officer group before we reorganized the chapter in 2006. Since that time and until my departure, the chapter has had numerous state officers including 2 presidents and even a National Secretary. The chapter has led the state most years and for the past dozen or so, always led in district, regional, and state titles, not to mention numerous placements at nationals. As Cathy Cox-Boniol once penned, RHS FBLA was the "Cradle of Champions". Advising FBLA, I advised over select members who also ran *Chatterbox* for many years. With the help of others, including advisers and chaperones, there was no mistaking the fact that RHS FBLA was the best chapter in the state, to include the numerous community service projects we accomplished. I am proud of my years with RHS FBLA, and leave feeling comfortable that my replacement, Ms. Dori Lewis, will continue ensuring RHS FBLA remains the best.

As for *Chatterbox*, I was asked many years ago by Mrs. Kay Bradford and Principal Mike Milstead to take over the newspaper based on the organization and written projects that they saw in FBLA. This was a big change as the newspaper would now be run by a department other than English. We took the challenge and began publishing the paper on August 27, 2009. With the exception of a couple of years when it went to New Tech for an edition, *Chatterbox* has thrived. At one time, *Chatterbox* published over 1200 32-page issues and distributed them; however, the cost became too expensive. So we adapted and "modernized" and went digital. We ensured the tradition of having the newspaper continued, and ensured that the great accomplishments of RHS students were publicized.

As I depart, I remain confident in FBLA and wish them continued success. As for *Chatterbox*, I leave hoping that someone will take the challenge and keep the tradition alive. It's a lot of work for sure, but something needed for the students and to keep the tradition. I feel confident that someone in Bearcat Nation will feel the same way and

Thank you to all those who have supported me throughout the past 18 years here with either or both, with a special shout out to Mrs. Jennifer Ham for being a major supporter in both, and who is still there for my replacements. I'll miss the action and the interactions, but hope to see both FBLA and *Chatterbox* continue to see success.

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



Ruston High School Sports



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May 18, 2023

RHS Baseball Players Recognized

15 Players Receive All-District Honors STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) baseball team's season ended in the playoffs with an overall record of 21-11, and the winning ways continued even after the season. District 2-5A coaches selected 15 Bearcats to all-district honors for their individual performances and contributions to the team and district. The 15 selected players included 9 being placed on the first team, 3 selected for the 2nd team, and 3 selected as honorable mention.

Leading the 1st team selections was Nick Robinson, selected a co-pitcher of the year. Talan Billberry joined him on the 1st team as a pitcher as well. Infielders selected included second baseman Gabe Gaudet and third baseman J.R. Tollett. Catcher Jake Simmons was also selected to the 1st team. The Bearcats added 2 outfields to the 1st team as well with Jake Simmons and Cade Patterson. Rounding out the 1st team Bearcats were designated hitter Justin Szymanski and utility plater Wade Crawford.

The three selection to the 2nd team included pitcher David Griep, outfielder Dyson Fields, and utility player Bryant Bennett. Closing out Bearcats selected to 2-5A all-district honors with honorable mentions were Chase Clendenen, Henry James, and Jackson Lee.



RHS Baseball Bearcats receive all-district honors. Photo courtesy of Lincoln Parish Journal

RHS Tennis Closes the Year STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) tennis teams had a great season this year, with multiple placements and wins by both individual and duo players. Traveling the state, the players faced great competition throughout the year and did an outstanding job representing RHS. To close out the season, RHS tennis held their own banquet recognizing everyone on the team for a job well done.

















RHS Cheer Sponsors Powder Puff Game

A Battle 'Till the End

Information Provided by Mr. Collin McDonald/ Cheer Sponsor

The Ruston High School (RHS) Powder Puff game was held on Monday, May 15, 2023, inside Hoss Garrett Stadium. Over 500 people packed the stands to watch 100 Ruston High girls compete for the title of 2nd Annual Powder Puff Champion.

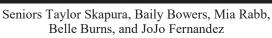
The game started with the Junior/Senior team taking an early lead of 6-0. They held this lead through late in the 4th quarter. The Junior/Senior team added to their lead late to go up 12-0. Not letting the game get away from them, the Freshman/Sophomore team then scored a touchdown with under 2 minutes to play, making the score 12-6.

A fumble by the Junior/Senior team gave the Freshman/Sophomore team new life near the Junior/Senior team 20 yards line. 2 plays later, the Freshman/Sophomore running ck found the endzone, tying the game at 12. The Freshman/Sophomore quarterback then completed a tipped pass to a receiver or the two-point conversion with only s

remaining in the game. The Junior/Senior team was unable to score on the ensuing drive and the Freshman/Sophomores took the title for the second year in a row!

Ruston High School cheer thanks all the students who played, watched, and volunteered their time to make this event a success. They look forward to seeing this event grow even bigger next year and increase participation by players and all other students involved!







Senior Maddie Ray Hancock makes a tackle.



Juniors/Seniors celebrate scoring a touchdown.





Freshmen/Sophomores win with 2 point conversion.



Freshmen/Sophomores celebrate the win.

















Ruston High School Sports





RHS Track Competes at District 2-5A Championships Boys' Take 1st – Girls Take 2nd

STAFF REPORT

On April 19, 2023, the Ruston High School (RHS) track teams participated in the District 2 5A Regional Meet at the University of Louisiana-Monroe (ULS). The boys' track team took 1st place at the meet and the girls' track team took 2nd place. Many individuals and teams led the way.

For the 2nd place overall girls' team, LaNiya Robinson placed 3rd in the 100meter dash. In the 200m dash, T'Avion Clark took 3rd place. In the 400m dash, Megan Modest placed 4th. Lily Garrett took 1st place in the 800m run followed by Sara Naff in 3rd. The 1600m run featured two Bearcats as Parker Nations finished 2nd with Sydney Owens right behind her in 3rd place. The 1600m Run also saw 2 Bearcat runners do well as Parker Nations captured the title and Lily Garrett placed 3rd. In the 300m hurdles, Alaysia Taylor-Bragg placed 2nd. The girls' relay teams did exceptional as well. The relay teams placed 3rd in the 4x100 meter relay, the 4 x

200 meter relay, and the 4 x 400 meter relay. In the 4 x 800 meter relay, the girls' team broke out with a 1st place finish. In the girls' high jump, Timiyah Graham placed 5th. In the girls' long jump, Faith Miller placed 3rd followed by Sophia Roberson in 4th. In the triple jump, Faith Miller placed 3rd and Sophia Roberson placed 4th. In other girls events, Journi Douglas placed 3rd in discuss; Jordan Tate placed 3rd in javelin; and Journi Douglas placed 3rd with Jordan Tate placing 4th in the shot put.

For the regional champion boys' team, Darius James took 1st in the 100m dash. In the 200m dash, Kendrick Jones captured 1st place. In the 400m dash, Ke'Mondrick Hunter placed 5th. The 800m run had Bryar Madden placing 1st and Taylor Roller right behind him in 2nd place. In the 1600m run, Thomas Rogers captured the title and Landon Byrd placed 3rd. The 3200m run had Thomas Rogers place 2nd with Landon Byrd right behind him in 3rd place. In the 110m hurdles, Ty'Jai' Ursin captured 5th place. Dylar Richmond placed 3st and Ty'Jai Ursin placed 3rd in the 300m hurdles. In team relay events, the boys' placed 1st in the 4 x 100 meter relays; 2nd in the 4 x 200 meter relays; 3rd in the 4 x 800 meter relays. Jordan Parker placed 2nd in the high jump. Aidan Anding placed 2nd and Logan Malone placed 4th in the long jump. Also capturing individual placements at the meet were Patrick Byurd in 4th in the pole vault; Christian Davis placing 2nd and Ahmad Breaux placing 5th in the discus; and Geordan

RHS Track Competes at Region 1-5A Championships

Highlights of Boys and Girls Placements STAFF REPORT

On April 26, 2023, the Ruston High School (RHS) track teams participated in the Region 1-5A Championships. Both the boys' team and girls' team had several place at the meet. The boys' team captured the regional title.

For the girls' team, LaNiya Robinson placed 5th in the 100m dash. Lily Garrett took 2nd place in the 800m run. Parker Nations placing 3rd in the 3200m run. In the 300m hurdles, Alaysia Taylor-Bragg placed 4th. The girls' relay teams 2nd in the 4 x 800 meter relay. In the girls' triple jump, Faith Miller placed 4th.

The boys' team won the Regional 1-5A championship. For the boys' team, Darius James took 4th in the 100m dash. In the 200m dash, Kendrick Jones captured 5th. In the 800m run had Bryar Madden placed 1st and Taylor Roller placed 4th. In the 1600m run, Thomas Rogers captured the title with his 1st place victory in the 1600m run. The 3200m run had Thomas Rogers place 2nd with Landon Byrd placing 4th. Dylar Richmond placed 2nd. The boys' relay teams placed in all 4 events as they placed 2nd in the 4 x 100 meter relays; 3rd in the 4 x 200 meter relays; 1st in the 4 x 400 meter relays; and 1st in the 4 x 800 meter relays. Aidan Anding placed 2nd in the long jump.

RHS Track Competes at State

Highlights of Boys and Girls Placements STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) track season closed out as qualified members attended the state championships at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge. The state meet saw multiple delays due to inclement weather at LSU, but the end result once all competition ended was a 14th place finish by the RHS girls' track team and a 19th place finish for the RHS boys' team. Both teams had individuals and teams perform well.

For the girls' team, Lili Garrett, Parker Nations, Zoie Holstead, and Sara Naff took 2nd place in the 4 x 800 meter relay. Parker Nations also competed and placed 5th in the 3200 meter run. In the 800 meter run, Lily Garrett placed 6th.

For the boys' team, Landon Byrd, Bryar Madden, Andrew McKaskle, and Taylor Roller placed 2nd in the 4 x 800 meter relay. In the 300 meter hurdles, Dyler Richmond brought home 6th place. Thomas Rogers brought home two 2nd place finishes in the 1600 meter run and the 3200 meter run. Bryar Madden added to his placements by placing 7th in the 800 meter run. In the long jump, Aidan Anding placed 8th.

In more relay action, the team of Dylar Richmond, Darius James, Jordan McWain, and Kendrick Jones placed 8th in the 4 x 200 meter relay. In the 4 x 100 meter relay, the team of Darius James, Darius James, Kendrick Jones, and Dylone Brooks finished 9th. Closing out placements in relays, the team of Dylar Richmond, Bryar Madden, Taylor Roller, and Kendrick Jones placed 9th in the 4 x 400 meter relay.



Bayou Jamb Announces Winners RHYS Band and Coach Bond Take Wins STAFF REPORT

Bayou Jamb hosted their inaugural high school sports award ceremony for the first time. Planned to be an annual event and sponsored by Centric Federal Credit Union, schools from throughout the region were represented by several nominees in many categories. The event honored athletes, coaches, sprit groups, bands, and supporters of high school sports, including PA announcers, broadcasters, and even officials.

Several Ruston High School (RHS) Bearcats were nominated this inaugural year. These included Dyson Fields (Offensive Football Player of the Year); Jadon Mayfield (Defensive Football Player of the Year); JR Tollett (Offensive Baseball Player of the Year); Braylan McNeal (Boys' Basketball Player of the Year). RHS

also had 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).

At the inaugural awards presentation, RHS had two winners announced. The first winner was our outstanding RHS band for Band of the Year. Our second winner was Coach Bond (Boys Basketball Coach of the Year). Congratulations to all the nominees and winners for representing RHS with their best all year.

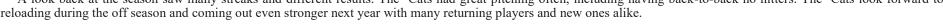
RHS Baseball Season Ends

First Round Playoff Ends in on the Road STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School (RHS) baseball team had a great season this year as they overcame an early season slump and followed it with strong district play. The 'Cats ended their regular season at 21-11 (7-3), giving last year's state champions (West Monroe) a run for their money in district play.

The great season ended on the road in the first round against Destrehan. Seeded 19th, the 'Cats had to make a long journey south and overcome the trip and the improved Destrehan team. In this best of 3 series, Destrehan handed the 'Cats an 8-1 loss in game one, holding the offense to limited opportunities. In game two, the 'Cats responded with a little more offense but the Destrehan bats were hot and the 'Cats fell 11-3.

A look back at the season saw many streaks and different results. The 'Cats had great pitching often, including having back-to-back no hitters. The 'Cats look forward to



March Athletes of the Month

Recognition by Kim Dupree State Farm

Jed has been on the team all 4 years but has had to make some tough decisions that required maturity. Jed has been on the EcoCar team and last year he had to choose between trying to qualify for tennis Regionals or traveling with the EcoCar team to be their driver. As a junior he chose to drive for EcoCar then he would devote his senior year to qualifying for Regionals. This year he has given it his all and has qualified to compete in the Regional tournament.

Anna has been on the team all 4 years but has had to put in extra work outside of tennis because she is also a cheerleader. Being a cheerleader meant that she would have to miss practice the first part of the school year. If there was ever a time that Anna could leave cheer and go to tennis practice, even for 15 minutes, she would be there. Anna has put in the effort and has qualified to play in the Regional tournament.













