



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

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!



Pictured below: The many scenes at the Special Olympics.

Above: RHS volunteers who assisted with the Special Olympics





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 due 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. 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, 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.



Sanieyah Harris and Reagan Williams
CNA Training



CNA certified students at their pinning ceremony.



Kommon Gipson and Kyrsten Wilson
CNA Training



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 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: 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

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 each and every day. Congratulations!



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.

A total of over 200 9th - 11th 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.



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 (LCB) 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 LCB 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.

Ruston High FBLA visits with Ruston Lions Club

Friday, November 4, 2022



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 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.

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 hgd 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.



RHS FFA Veterinary Science Takes 3rd at State



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.





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 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 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



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



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

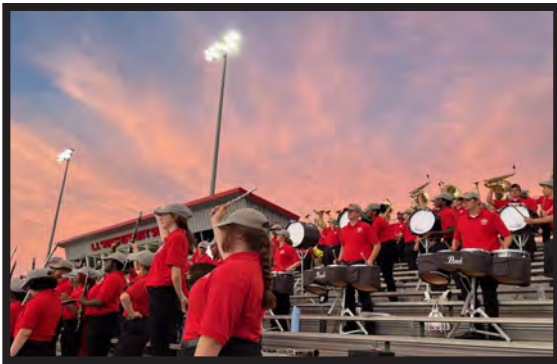


RHS Band: Another Great Year

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 July 2022, 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*. 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 Amaron 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!!!

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

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



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



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 keep *Chatterbox* alive.

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:

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

A young woman with blonde hair in a braid, wearing a white tennis outfit with a large white bow at the waist, posing on a tennis court.

A group of female athletes in pink and black uniforms are celebrating on a track. One athlete is jumping high in the air, holding a blue object. Other athletes are standing around, some with their arms raised. In the background, there are other people and a large banner with the letters 'C' and 'K' visible.

Freshmen/Sophomores celebrate the win.



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 1st 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 400 meter relays; and 2nd 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 Breau placing 5th in the discus; and Geordan Guidry placing 2nd in the shot put.



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, Dylar 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, spirit 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 reloading during the off season and coming out even stronger next year with many returning players and new ones alike.



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.

