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

Merry Christmas Bearcats! I hope everyone is enjoying their break and spending quality time with family and friends.

With only 2 weeks remaining in the 1st semester, there is little time to waste. Make sure your grades are in order and that you finish the 9 weeks strong.

I appreciate the support that our students are showing at athletic contests, art events, choir and band performances, and much more. Please continue encouraging each other. Thank you for being great representatives of Ruston High School.

Keep up the good work!





Finally, the Holiday Season! Sophie Mae Smith/ Student Council President

I can't believe how quick the first semester of this school year has flown by and how Christmas break is here! I am looking forward to celebrating the holidays with friends and family. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

The last few days before getting out for Christmas break were exciting, with the basketball and soccer games, as well as the choir and band Christmas concert. There were so many Ruston events happening. I was also excited that the student council got to give out hot chocolate to students on the last day before break. I know the weather was not ideal for a hot cup of chocolate, but I think that it got a lot of people in the holiday mood and was almost like a reality check that Christmas break was here.

I know that when we get back from break, it will be a whirlwind of schoolwork and events, but my hope is that everyone can enjoy the holidays. I also want to remind my peers that the student council loves to hear from you! If you have any questions or ideas to make the school year better, we would love to hear from you. We can't make any promises, but your class representatives and executive council are always open for suggestions!

Holiday Concert Features Choir and Band!

by Nathan Trahan/ RHS Choir Director

The RHS auditorium was packed for the Dec. 16, 2021, Holiday Concert performed by the RHS band and choir. It was a great evening of Holiday music concluding with a visit from "Danta" Claus and an audience/choir and band collaboration of a few carols and holiday favorites. Congratulations to all involved in this concert!

The RHS choir will be working on music for District Festival/Assessment in March as well as preparing for our annual "Bearcats on Broadway" in late April. District Honor Choir will occur in late January and All-State Choir will occur in mid-February.

The RHS choir is continuously working on music for events such as these as well as for classroom endeavors. If you are a singer or have an interest in singing, see Mr. Nathan Trahan for a singing session before the start of the spring semester. (See more band pictures on page 2)





Above: The Ruston High School choir and band perform the Holiday Concert together on December 16, 2021.

Below: The Ruston High School band continues the tradition of welcoming students and staff on the last day before Christmas break!





Resume - Ruston High Yearbook

Order Before Jan. 7, 2022 to Save - Submit Your Pictures Too by Alexis Thompson/News Editor

The Resume staff, with Mrs. Revels guidance, is working to ensure that the Ruston High School yearbook is the best that it can be. They want to ensure that students and organizations

returned to this year as we have moved forward with optimism for a better tomorrow. Everyone is reminded that the \$55 cost for a yearbook ends after January 7, 2022. Students are encouraged to order by that deadline as the cost afterward will increase. Order a yearbook now using the QR code to the left of this article with your phone camera or QR code-scanning

take advantage of the opportunity to display the many activities and events that they have

app and take advantage of the \$55 price through January 7, 2022. As the staff cannot be everywhere, students are asked to send in contributions! Pictures at school events such as sports games, conferences, classroom activities, or anything else that highlights this year's students could be included in your yearbook! Simply use the QR to the right of this article to send your pictures to the yearbook.



2021-2022 Ruston High School Chatterbox Staff		
Position	Name	Classification
Editor in Chief	Jason Willis	Senior
News Editor	Alexis Thompson	Sophomore
Arts/Clubs Reporter	Lainey Bowen	Sophomore
Education Reporter	Kevin Gipson	Junior
Sports Editor	Briley Kent	Senior
Sports/Cheer Reporter	Moriah Jackson	Senior
Student Council President	Sophie Mae Smith	Senior

Adviser/Sponsor: Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner

Publication Adviser: Mrs. Jennifer Ham Assistant Publication Adviser: Ms. Joanna Ham Proofing and Editing: Mrs. Jaimee Gressett









Ruston High School Arts, Service, & Social



December 30, 2021

RHS Bearcat Band Pictures from the Holiday Concert!

Photos courtesy of Dr. Amy Vessel











Student Council Brings Christmas Spirit

by Mrs. Jaimee Gressett/Teacher/Sponsor

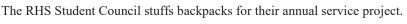
Student Council held its annual Christmas party and annual holiday service project on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at the Young Life Bank. Members in attendance ate snacks and played a Dirty Santa gift card exchange game. Then they completed their backpack stuffing service project.

The backpack stuffing service project is sponsored each year at Ruston High by the Student Council. Various clubs and organizations are invited to sponsor backpacks that are filled with school supplies, sweatshirts, socks, candy, and electronic accessories among other necessities. Student Council stuffs the backpacks at the Christmas party before they are given out to students.

Student Council would like to thank the following organizations for their support in helping to sponsor the backpacks this year: Keywanettes, the cross-country team, powerlifting, FFA, speech and debate, National Honor Society, the football team, and FCA. We couldn't do it without you!









Talented Art Holds Bake Sale

Student Council Joins in With Hot Chocolate "Dude in the Red Suit" Shows Up Again! STAFF REPORT

Talented Art students held a bake sale fundraiser during both lunch shifts on December 17, 2021, the last day of school (and yes - Friday!) The talented art students put on their Christmas cheer, with many of them dressed up in their holiday pajamas, and made the mood around the table festive. Assorted cookies were available for sale, as were pecan halves and it seemed every type of brownie ever made - even gluten fee brownies. If you were more of a cake type person or wanted frosting or candy - the talented art table was the place to be as they had all three wrapped into one. As yes, Bearcats, the baked items tasted just as good as they looked.

To help sweeten the event, and for those who had already finished their milk in the cafeteria without thinking about the baked goodies outside, the Student Council showed up to the rescue their thirst with free hot chocolate for all. With the concession stand remaining open, the baked items offered by Talented Art, and the free hot chocolate served up by the Student Council, it seemed everyone was out in the boulevard during lunch shifts and enjoying the chance to socialize this year. (Rumor was that a few students somehow made it to both lunch shifts).

It seemed like everything was perfect for a Bearcat Christmas festival and RHS Bearcats were in festive spirits. Then, as overheard by the group of freshman students trying to sneak in for a 2nd round of hot chocolate, the "dude in the red suit" showed up. Bearcats greeted the jolly fellow and took turns taking pictures with him. I guess we are never too old for Santa Claus.

What started out as a Talented Art Bake Sale turned into a full blown celebration of the time being spent with each and in anticipation of the long holiday break ahead. The RHS boulevard was indeed the place to be during both lunch shifts on the last day of the school year for 2021!



Talented Art students showed their talents in baking and decorating at the Talented Art Bake Sale held at RHS on December 17, 2021.









It was a festive time all around thanks to Talented Art and Student Council! May everyone have a great holiday season and an even happier New Year!







Ruston High School Holiday Doors







Ruston High School Specials and Services



December 30, 2021

Danta Appears This Time of Year

He Conducts, Cheers, and Motivates! Danta's Everywhere!

Information provided by Mrs. Jaimee Gressett/Teacher/Sponsor

In a tradition as old as time, the Ruston High School band performs a Christmas Concert every year. They have performed this concert during the day for students and for the parents and public at night, but more often lately have performed it in the evenings lately. Regardless, the tradition continues and the band plays on. One part of the RHS band's performance that is always highly anticipated is the presentation of the conductors wand to a special guest to lead the final number of the concert. This year, this honor was bestowed on none other than RHS Principal Dan Gressett (aka Danta). As if leading his own team of reindeer, Danta did not disappoint the audience.

Although Danta seemed to appear out of nowhere, he disappeared just as quickly. He was spotted paying tribute to Rusty at the RHS 100 year celebration display, but again disappeared before the crowds could find him. A fan of sports, Danta finally could not stay in hiding and came out to the joy of fans in the stands as he joined the cheerleaders at the basketball game. It was even reported that he showed up at a soccer game, according to anonymous Danta followers. Danta is not just a Bearcat fan, but for those who have forgotten, his favorite colors and fashion attire consist of.....red and white!

Danta wanted everyone to have a good Christmas and holiday season, and to avoid any chance of receiving coal this year with Christmas only a week away. As such, he took the opportunity to meet with Officer Powell, where he stopped for a quick photo opportunity. Although the public was unaware of the magic in their meeting, they must have stopped time for a moment as they did a Public Service Announcement (PSA) reminding children and students everywhere to be good for goodness sake.

Just as quickly as Danta arrived, he left to carry on other job related duties as assigned. As a 12 month employee, Father Time just cannot afford to let Danta chill out too long and his holiday time is obviously not allowed during the Christmas season. As Danta is a busy man this time of year, and we all know how the elves can manage to find ways to somehow get out of hand when he's not around, he left with a found farewell for Bearcat Nation and went back to work bringing joy to others.



Danta pays tribute to 100 years of RHS!



Danta said we had it right as Bearcats make him proud in red and white!



Officer Powell and Danta reminder: Be Good!

Keywanettes and Operation Christmas Child

by Moriah Jackson/ Sports Reporter

Keywanettes were excited to finally be back in the swing of things and plan activities that they could accomplish in person, and not behind a keyboard or a camera. Having been unable to participate or meet in person since March 13, 2000, they could hardly wait to get back to action.

With a spring in their step and a spirit of giving, the Keywanettes decided that it was past time to get back to work on a special project that was close to their hearts - Operation Christmas Child. The Keywanettes met, and with the full support of Ms. May, they planned out their trip to make the purchases necessary for their project. They had the formidable task of fulfilling wishes for others and knowing the special feeling of giving during the holiday season.

Once planned out and approved, 16 Keywanettes journeyed to Monroe in groups of four. Groups were each given the task to purchased items to fill the nine shoeboxes that they would fill for Operation Christmas Child. Each group selected whether to shop for either a girl or boy and then decided the age group that they would shop. They had a fun time doing this and enjoyed spending time with each other.

After completing their shopping, the Keywanettes filled the boxes to send to Operation Christmas Child through the Samaritan's Purse organization. The organization will now deliver these boxes to children all over the world! The Keywanettes are happy to be able to do their part and give and hope that their gifts bring joy and happiness to a child somewhere around the world.



Shoeboxes prepared by Keywanettes are filled and ready to ship to Operation Christmas Child.

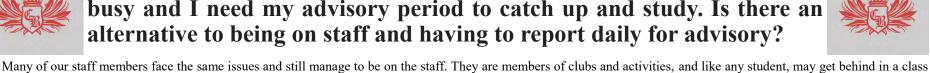


Ask the Chatterbox Staff





Question 1: I thought about joining the staff but my schedule is too busy and I need my advisory period to catch up and study. Is there an lternative to being on staff and having to report daily for advisory?



from missing days for school related events (such as NHS, FBLA, FFA, Keywanettes, etc.) as well as sickness. Everyone is assigned to select areas, and as long as they check in with the adviser, they often must sign-out and take care of the more urgent matter. For some, as you have stated, that would be too much. Although you may not be on the official staff, you can still submit articles, editorials, cartoons, etc. at any time. If you wish to perhaps be acknowledged as a staff member

and know that you can spend your after school time doing so, you could always meet with the adviser and perhaps find assignments, that if you commit to and meet all other qualifications, would give you an actual position on the staff without having to report to advisory. However, you would be expected to meet all other membership requirements, communicate as needed and asked, and otherwise ensure that your area is covered.

So, there are alternatives. You can simply submit articles or other items as you wish and receive the credit, or take the action stated and become an actual staff member.



Question 2: Is the staff considering bringing back the Teacher and Senior Spotlights that they published several years ago?



As adviser, I think I will address this one so that none of the staff feels like the bad guy. I will begin with "Wow - someone went way back for this one or talked to an older sibling or parent to think about this." Sorry, but as interesting as many of the spotlights were, from a time and editorial perspective and for many other reasons, I have to say that the answer is no. That said, I will elaborate on my position, but to be diplomatic, I will also give you an alternative if you or anyone else really wants it that passionately.

The main reason that Senior Spotlights were discontinued years ago was the lack of forms being returned to the staff in a timely manner, if at all. The staff spent way too much time trying distributing the forms, collecting them, and tracking seniors by name. Although the number we would have had to publish monthly would have been over 40 had they been submitted as requested to cover all seniors, we never faced that problem. This became impossible when Chatterbox was no longer a class period (for those way back - we even had two class periods once upon a time) to do what we do during advisory now. Another reason, sadly, was that often when the forms were returned, they were not printable due to lack of information (incomplete), or they were, to be nice, often worded inappropriately or so badly written that we could not read them (and that's coming from the man they probably invented the typewriter for). The last reason was simply that too many seniors wanted to wait it out and submit them right at the end of the year, when many of my staff were also making graduation plans and leaving early. We just simply had too many other items to cover including graduation.

As for teacher spotlights, many were simply not interested in being covered and had already done them in the past, and the new teachers were of course already busy getting a handle on the job. We have considered doing these on new teachers, but felt that if they wanted to be featured, they would ask and submit an article to us on happenings in their classrooms, as many teachers have started doing already this year.

Now, as this was anonymous, I will assume it came from a senior and submit to you an alternative. If you can find a teacher willing to take on the time and task, agree to personally review each submission for compliance with establish standards, and accept responsibility should someone slip something by (we are published online), then we may consider it if the principal agrees to this as well. I wish I could offer a better solution, but at this time, our small staff is also tasked out to get articles that are already assigned.

If you have a question that you'd like published and answered in Chatterbox, send it to chatterbox@lincolnschools.org from your school account. Questions will be answered by a staff member or the adviser depending on the depth of the question and answer. Questions will remain anonymous unless you wish to be known.

This edition was again delayed due to the holidays and many articles submitted after the deadline. We hope the wait was worth it again for the Bearcat Nation!

Chatterbox 2021-2022 Publication Plan

Published Online in Google Classroom: 3hww6uk

Publication Dates Subject to Possible Delays Based on Articles and Submissions

YES/NO DAY

January 13, $2\overline{022}$ February 10, 2022

March 10, 2022 April 13, 2022

May 18, 2022

ARTICLE DEADLINE

January 18, 2022 February 14, 2022 March 21, 2022 April 19, 2022

May 23, 2022

PUBLICATION DATE

January 20, 2022 February 17, 2022 March 24, 2022 April 21, 2022 May 26, 2022



Ruston High School FFA, FBLA, & Alumni



December 30, 2021

RHS FFA Celebrates Christmas Cheer

FFA Christmas Party and Places at Ruston Christmas Parade

submitted by Abagael Barmore/ RHS FFA Reporter

The RHS FFA celebrated the Christmas and holiday season in many ways, with many participating and much excitement. RHS FFA first captured the holiday spirt as the had Christmas pictures taken to be placed on Christmas cards. With the help and organization provided by our great advisors and officer team, RHS FFA held a Christmas party that made it possible for all Agriscience students to attend. Those who attended participated in fun games and activities, and were pleased for sure with the excellent food that was provided.

To everyone delete (well, almost everyone's), Kassidy Kelley was dunked in the dunking booth by Mr. Wade on the first try. On Saturday, December 11, 2021, the Ruston FFA Chapter took our Christmas spirit to the public and participated in the Ruston Christmas Parade sponsored by the Lincoln Parish Chamber of Commerce. Chapter members were proud and eager to participate in this parade, with many members of the chapter putting in much their time and work into decorating our float this year, and the chapter has

many members ride this float at the parade. Those members included Landon Davis, Morgan Mcleod, Kolby Sonnier, Harrison Deason, Shavonne Spears, Cyniya Evans, Carter

Gay, Dutch Russell, Miles Willis, Ardajah Milsap, Rocky Sonnier, Kassidy Kelley, Alyssa Inman, Drew Corley, Josh Adams, and Lillian Middleton. RHS FFA appreciates the Lincoln Parish Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the parade this year and giving our chapter and everyone else the opportunity to participate. Without their support, the Ruston FFA chapter and many other organizations would not have been able to spread Christmas cheer. Further, without their sponsorship, there would not have been a parade float competition. As for the float competition, RHS FFA is proud to announce for those who were unaware that our float captured 3rd place in the float decoration contest. All the hard work that our members put in paid off for them. Indeed, RHS FFA has Christmas spirit, and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas, a great holiday season and break, and a Happy New Year!



RHS FFA members proudly pose in front of their float after hours of hard work before the Ruston Christmas Parade, where they would capture 3rd place in the decorations contest.



RHS FFA prepare to load, turkey and all, for the Christmas Parade.



RHS FFA members having fun at the Ruston Christmas Parade.

RHS FFA State Speaking Event submitted by Abagael Barmore/ RHS FFA Reporter

On December 16, 2021 the Ruston FFA Chapter competed in the State LDE Competition, held by the Louisiana State FFA at Mcneese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. FFA members who were entered in the competition left with advisors on December 15, 2021, and arrived in Lake Charles that afternoon to continue preparing.

The RHS FFA competitors prepared hard all year, and the results showed that the hard work paid off the next morning. Nigel Kinsley placed 4th in Gulf of Mexico Speech; Kassidy Kelley placed 3rd in Extemporaneous Speaking; and the RHS FFA Parliamentary Law team (consisting of team members Caleb Granger, Raymond Granger, Carter Gay, Morgan Mcleod, Miles Willis, and Dylan Trevillion) placed 4th.

RHS FFA also had others place in area who competed at state. Alyssa Inman brought home a 2nd place finish in the Gulf of Mexico Speaking event and Bri McLaughlin led the way at area with a 1st place finish in Prepared Speaking. Our talented cameraman, Landon Davis, did an outstanding job and ensured that RHS FFA captured the moments at competition. RHS FFA congratulates all of our competitors who competed in the State LDE Competition.



Nigel Kinsey, 4th Place Gulf of Mexico



Kassidy Kelley, 3rd Place Extemporaneous Speaking



RHS FFA Team Event, 4th Place Parliamentary Law

FFA Photos by Landon Davis, https://www.shotsbylandon.net



Louisiana FBLA Northeast Regional Conference Planned at Louisiana Tech University RHS FBLA to Host the Conference for District I and District II

On February 5, 2020, Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) attended the first

UNIVERSITY Louisiana District II Leadership Conference held at Louisiana Tech University. As RHS FBLA was local, they were able to help facilitate the conference move from the University of Louisiana - Monroe (ULS) and assist Harrisonburg High School FBLA. RHS FBLA captured a record 18 district championships that year, including winning both Mr. and Ms. FBL. No one knew at that time that this would be the last in person conference for FBLA held for nearly two

years as the Covid pandemic changed life as we knew it. All conferences until January 2022, would be held virtual with the 2021 district conference simply cancelled and competition held virtual beginning at the state level.

At long last, Louisiana FBLA will return to in-person conferences in January 2022, but has change the format from seven district conferences to three regional conferences, with the Northeast Regional Conference selected to be hosted at Louisiana Tech University, combining District I and District II (basically most of north Louisiana). As Ruston High School's Matthew Daulton is the District II vice president, RHS FBLA is acting as host, working with Mrs. Jessica George of Louisiana Tech University. The first ever Louisiana FBLA Northeast Region Conference will be held January 28, 2022.

Thanks to the hard work of Mrs. George, Louisiana Tech University will be prepared to handle the approximately 1,000 FBLA members expected. Plans are in place to ensure that facilities, test areas, food service areas, WiFi access, event judges, student workers, parking plans, and so much more are in place. Having already hosted a district conference, Louisiana Tech and RHS FBLA used the past experience to improve in many areas.



Information booths will be available to assist those who are unfamiliar with the campus, additional food service areas will be available, and WiFi has been expanded. Louisiana Tech has also agreed to offer \$5,500 in scholarships, with a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to the winner of both Mr. and Ms. FBL competition; with three additional \$1,000 scholarships that will be selected at random from junior and senior FBLA event winners; and with a \$500 scholarship for junior and senior members who register for it using the QR code available at the conference. The number of scholarship opportunities offered by Louisiana Tech University is by far the most offered in regional competition.

RHS FBLA looks forward to competing again in person and to interacting with so many other competitors across north Louisiana. RHS FBLA will also take part in welcoming back FBLA members as we will be giving away 14 different gift cards by random drawing to participants who fill out their registration forms and drop them in the correct boxes (2 per grade, grades 6 - 12). These will be called out and given away between Current Events and presentations and the closing awards ceremony.



ouisiana tech.

After a great initial response to featuring RHS alumni, the holiday season left this month's edition of *Chatterbox* without alumni to highlight for December 2021. We hope to have alumni to feature next month and beyond.

Alumni interested in sharing their story are asked to email us at chatterbox@lincolnschools.org. and simply provide us a basic summary of your experiences at RHS, where your life and career having taken you, a resume, and a current photo. We will try our best to format and publish it. The number of articles we will publish will depend upon the number received and space available, but we will try to publish two in every edition. Before we actually publish, we will email alumni the page and layout to those featured for your review and possible edits if time permits.



Ruston High School: Student/Alumni Features



December 30, 2021

RHS Student Highlight: Students in Business

Landon Davis: Photographer/Actor



My name is Landon Davis, and I am pursuing photography and acting as a profession while attending Ruston High School in Ruston, Louisiana. I am a 15-year-old freshman who has a love for photography and the arts, and I currently have a year and a half of experience in the photography business.

I am a young adult, so there are those who may not take my work seriously. However, there are many who have entrusted their photographs and memories with me that see that I am passionate and professional in my sessions and that the quality of my work is beyond that of many with much more experience and clients.

I have many clients and mentors who support me in my profession and offer me opportunities to photograph their events. To those who have supported me, I promise to continue offering the best quality work possible and that I will continue to become even better. In addition to family and friends and several others that I have had sessions with thanks to word-of-mouth advertising, I am the official photographer for both the Ruston High School FFA chapter and the Ruston High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Both organizations are among the best in the state and they trust my skills to document their award-winning activities and competitions. In addition, as a photographer for these two organizations, many of my photographs will be featured in the Ruston High School newspaper, *Chatterbox*, "The Voice of Ruston High School".

As a full-time student who takes his education seriously, I must budget my time and plan accordingly to ensure that I perform well in school as I pursue my career opportunities. As such, I offer my services as available and by appointment to ensure both I and the client receive the attention needed. I love photography and will continue taking photographs even as I pursue acting, as my passion for both feed each other, and only makes me better at both. Should the opportunity present itself to become a full-time photographer, I have no doubt that I would pursue it. Until such time, I will continue honing my skills as a part-time professional photographer.

As far as a potential acting career, I find my photography skills only enhance my abilities in the arts. I am currently signed with <u>Dreamtalentmanagement</u> and I'm ever so thankful for the opportunity that I have at my age to pursue acting, even as I continue my education and improve my photography skills.

My photography business is called shotsbylandon as I am proud to associate my name with my product and I want my clients to know that "landon" proudly stands by his work. I will make good on my promises to all clients and always provide the best professional services within my ability. shotsbylandon is how I express myself, and I look forward to helping you express yourself through photography as well.

Visit my website at https://www.shotsbylandon.net and let me know how I can best serve your needs and document your activities, groups, meetings, or special moments.







Highlights on Recent Visits by RHS Alumni in Military Service

3/C Midshipman Christian Payne Visits

Taking leave from the U.S. Naval Academy for a few weeks, 3/C Midshipman Christian Payne, Class of 2020, came home to visit and to give presentations about the U.S. Naval Academy and his service. He presented at many locations, to include Ruston High School, Lincoln Prep, Zion Traveler Baptist, and The Gospel, Inc. In his presentations, Christian discussed his background that led to his qualifications to attend the academy, the daily life of those attending, and his future plans in the military.

As a member of the state champion swim team at RHS, Christian was always in top physical condition, which is obviously valuable as midshipmen must participate in military physical training every day at the academy. Christian attributed the rigor of his classes at RHS and his desire to excel for his academic ability, which is much needed along with the ability to study, as the courses at the academy or even more rigorous. On his ability to speak and lead, he attributes his success to his family and mentors who believed in him and gave him the opportunity, as well as his direct involvement in FBLA as an officer, leader, competitor, and member of many service activities.

Christian is now in his second year and is a 3/C Midshipman and pursuing a double major in Mechanical Engineering and Nuclear Engineering. As midshipmen must also participate in an organized sport in addition to their unit physical training, Christian chose boxing at the academy over swimming. Christian's goal is to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy and then commission into the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and select Artillery at TBS (The Basic School).









Midshipman Christian Payne, pictured at the U.S. Naval Academy and then making presentations at: Zion Traveler Baptist, Lincoln Prep, The Gospel, Inc. RJHS, and RHS.









Specialist (SPC) Christall Bates Visits RHS

Specialists (SPC) Christall Bates, Class of 2018, stopped by RHS to visit with past teachers and friends. Christall is currently an Intelligence Analyst for the United States Army and a Database Administrator for a Data Processing Installation. This is not a position a person seeks after high school let alone college, but Christall states that she was offered the advanced opportunity due to the skillset that she acquired as a member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

At RHS, Christall was actively involved in a multitude of organizations but says nothing compared to her time as a member and leader in FBLA. As a member of FBLA, she elaborated that she had many choices of events and activities, and encourages everyone to research what will best serve them in the long run. At 14 years old, her main interests were Business Procedures and Business Ethics. As a novice, her individual skills were not yet refined but she did have an amazing team that allowed me to compete at the national level. Over time, she refined her public speaking, researching, and networking skills. By the time she reached her senior year, she was elected as the Louisiana FBLA State President. As state president, she was able to network and maintain conversations with political tact publicly, even as she remained concerned with her grandmother's cancer treatments. Christall says that while some organizations may be judged purely by their external benefits, which is great, she most enjoyed being a member and leader in FBLA and becoming a part of something greater.

Christall was recently promoted to the rank of Specialist (SPC) and is active duty guard reserve (AGR). She is already eligible to be considered for promotion to Sergeant (SGT), a noncommissioned officer (NCO). With her education, military training, and current skill set and assignment, she is also preparing her Warrant Officer packet in hopes of making her specialty her career track.





Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)



December 30, 2021

RHS FBLA Hosts Leadership Retreat

Demonstrating Service, Leadership, and Progress

Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) hosted its' 4th Annual Leadership Retreat on December 9, 2021, at The Gospel Inc., with Choudrant High School FBLA, I.A. Lewis ML-FBLA, and Ruston Junior High (RJHS) ML-FBLA attending. Led by RHS FBLA, all members and advisers attending spent the day reviewing and discussing the many events an changes to events that would be competed in at the regional, state, and

The retreat began with members from each chapter turning in their heartfelt donation to this year's RHS FBLA Community Service Project, "A Little Help for Little Helpers", including cash donations, supplies, medical items, toys, books, personal items, diapers, food items, and so much more. RHS FBLA is preparing a separate article on the great support received for this project from all who attended.

The retreat began with RHS president Moriah Jackson welcoming and acknowledging each chapter in attendance, as well as the hour state officers attending. State officers included 3 from RHS—state secretary Moriah Jackson, state parliamentarian Peter Owen, and District II vice president Matthew Daulton; and 1 from RJHS-ML FBLA president Joshua Daulton. RHS reporter Jason Willis led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Chaplain Alexis Thompson who led the prayer. A roll call of chapter's was called, and then multiple activities began.

Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner, RHS adviser, gave an overall discussion on the state and national guidelines and access to areas and resources available. Although he spoke over his time, RHS adviser Mrs. Jennifer Ham did not let that affect the fun-filled team building activity that followed. Afterward, the RHS Community Service Project team covered the highlights and plans for their project. Guest speaker Mrs. Terry Frazier, the nurse in charge at Little Helpers, then

gave an overview of Little Helpers and how the children/patients at the hospital received specialized care. The floor was opened to questions and many were asked answered. Members fully understood the need for the project and how their participation and donations were important, and learned much about the facility and how much it was needed. FBLA and ML-FBLA members were separated to cover the specific events offered for competition at conferences. Mr. Bruner broke all events down and explain the types of events, the requirements and deadlines, and everything that members needed to know to participate at their best. Members were also given information on best practices, ways to prepare, resources, and qualifications for advancement to the next level of competition, as well as an overview of each conference.

As Matthew Daulton is the District II vice president, RHS FBLA has been working hard with Louisiana Tech University to ensure that we are all prepared to move from the district conference format to the regional conference format, which will now include District I and District II (basically all of north Louisiana). The first ever Louisiana FBLA Northeast Region Conference will be held January 28, 2022. As all of the coordination involved has been accomplished through the efforts of Mrs. Jessica George at Louisiana Tech University, she was invited to give an overview of what to expect.

Mrs. George discussed the facilities and availability of test areas and food service areas, making sure that everyone in attendance knew that Louisiana Tech University, both students and staff, were excited and ready to have FBLA attend. Information booths would be available, and scholarships for select winners were being offered. Most district/ regional conferences usually offer up to \$2,500 in scholarships, but Louisiana Tech University is setting the standard and offering \$5,500 in scholarships. There will be a \$1,000 scholarship for the winner of both Mr. and Ms. FBLA, which will be presented at closing ceremonies. There will also be 3 separate \$1,000 scholarships that will be selected at random from junior and senior FBLA event winners, and a \$500 scholarship for junior and senior members who register for the opportunity using the QR code that will be available at the conference. Mrs. George answered several questions and members were able to gain a better understanding of the plans and schedules. In addition to the many scholarships offered by Louisiana Tech University, RHS FBLA will also be giving away 14 different gift cards by random drawing to participants who fill out their registration forms and drop them in the correct boxes (2 per grade, grades 6 - 12). These will be called out and given away between Current Events and presentations and the closing awards ceremony.

In addition to the valuable training that all members will received at the retreat, they were also treated to Johnny's Pizza, chips, and drinks along with special RHS FBLA cookies baked from our own Mrs. Melanie Garrison. The members were also entertained with past videos and projects prepared by RHS FBLA, to include "The Adviser", a comedy tribute to Mr. Bruner, that was featured a few years back as a surprised at one of our awards banquets. The retreat closed out with another question and answer session, certificates to each chapter, and chapter pictures. It was a fun event, but a valuable training and learning opportunity for all as well.



Ruston High School FBLA Members Attending the Retreat



Choudrant FBLA Members Attending the Retreat



RJHS ML FBLA Members Attending the Retreat





"A Little Help for Little Helpers" Donations Under the Christmas Tree



RHS T-shirt logo designed by President Moriah Jackson.





RHS FBLA President Moriah Jackson Opens the Retreat



RHS FBLA Adviser Ms. Dori Lewis Monitors Sessions



Mrs. Terry Frazier (Nurse) Accepts a Gift For Presenting for Little Helpers





RHS/CHS FBLA Members in a Break-Out Session





so the timeline had to be altered.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

RUSTON

BRUNER

SSG Bruner and Mr. Bruner

RHS Alumnus and RHS Teacher

December 30, 2021

RHS FBLA: Showing Appreciation for Service RHS FBLA Community Service Project: "A Little Help for Little Helpers"

The Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recognizes those who serve our community every year around the Christmas season, and this year was no exception. RHS FBLA did have to make some accommodations and changes at the last migrate and work ground travel alcourse, and school issues, but were able to complete each recognition this year.

at the last minute, and work around travel, closures, and school issues, but were able to complete each recognition this year.

RHS FBLA began by adjusting their schedule around their Leadership Retreat on Dec. 9, 2021. At the conclusion of the retreat, available officers delivered a basket of goodies and a box of over 2 dozen RHS FBLA cookies specifically made for RHS FBLA by adviser Melanie Garrison, to both the Ruston Police Department (RPD) and the Ruston Fire Department (RFD). This was originally planned for closer to Christmas, but Santa Claus had set aside a day to help the chapter with delivering presents for another project,

The RPD was happy to receive the recognition. The RPD must have been busy handling several service calls or had enhanced security in place on the officer's arrival (it was unannounced however), as they were not able to capture their annual picture with the staff or the chief. However, the RPD did appreciate the goodies. The word on the street was that the goodies didn't last long either.

The RFD was very appreciative of the recognition as well. Normally, RHS FBLA and the RFD work together on Hot Halloween Happenings, the annual fire safety and Halloween event held for kids. However, the past two years, this has not been possible due to the pandemic and schedules and more. The chief was there as well as the education officer, and they readily accepted the small token of the chapter's appreciation for all that they do. For those who are unaware, the RFD handles the vast majority of ambulance calls in our area in addition to their responsibilities in fire protection.

RHS FBLA has recognized local military service members for years. Normally, the chapter has annually celebrated the birthday of the National Guard (citizen soldiers) with the local Louisiana Army National Guard unit, the 527th Engineer Battalion (Combat

Heavy), headquartered in Ruston. RHS adviser Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner retired from active duty from the unit 17 years ago, and then began teaching at RHS. Many RHS families have had members deployed with the unit and some students currently at RHS are even members of the unit. This year, the chapter decided to do even more and meet several members of the unit as they returned from deployment. We had signs and a card and simply planned to hold up flags and signs and welcome them back, and deliver a special card to SSG Josh Bruner, RHS graduate and son of Mr. Bruner. Due to school conflicts and the change in flight plans, dates, times, and locations (security reasons of course), officers could not attend. Regardless, on December 15, 2021, boots hit the ground and the unit was home. The chapter sent the card and Mr. Bruner held up his RHS Bearcat Paw sign to welcome them home and relayed our appreciation to his son and the other members as they arrived.

On December 20, 2021, RHS FBLA did not take the first day out of school as a break, even after many had already worked as Santa's Helpers over the weekend - shopping, packing, and wrapping for Santa's visit to Little Helpers. Multitasking, RHS FBLA members worked on getting ready for Santa but also made a stop at Christian Community Action (CCA) to present our annual donation to help others. The chapter may be smaller in number, but their hearts are still big. A \$5 per member donation was made and the chapter presented a \$280 donation to CCA to help with items needed that may not have been donated.

RHS FBLA places service at the top of our missions and this continues as the year ends and into next year. Although the chapter's focus will start putting more emphasis on competition and conferences, service projects continue with Little Helpers and the Arkansas Children's Hospital. As always, our support of the national project, the March of Dimes, will continue as well.



Peter Owen, Matthew Daulton, and Kevin Gipson deliver the appreciation gifts to the RPD.



Kevin Gipson and Matthew Daulton in RHS FBLA T-shirts Deliver appreciation gifts and a card to the RFD.



Jason Willis (left) and Kevin Gipson (right) presents a donation to CCA director Stephanie Matthews.



RHS FBLA Community Service Project

"A Little Help for Little Helpers" - Project: Shop for Santa Claus! submitted by the RHS FBLA CSP Team: Matthew Daulton (Project Manager), Aaron Fallin, and Jason Willis

The Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Community Service Project (CSP) "A Little Help for Little Helpers" began preparing for the arrival of Santa Claus to present gifts to the children and staff of the Little Helpers Pediatric Day Health Center. The list of items that the 19 children currently being cared for at the center had been made for each child, and Santa was pretty adamant that the RHS FBLA "elves" and any other helpers best do their best and make it happen. The items ranged from simple to hard to find, baby to teen sizes, and everything in between. Time was a factor as Santa had many places to visit and made a special exception to make this presentation.

On December 13, 2021, two of RHS FBLA's primary elves, Matthew Daulton and Jason Willis, joined RHS adviser Mrs. Jennifer Ham and Mrs. Kylie Bruner, wife of RHS adviser Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner. They shopped and tried to select and be fair; they checked every shelf and selected with care. Mrs. Ham and Mrs. Bruner pushed the elves as time was of the essence; elves Matthew and Jason

yd R. care. Jason een nice. They followed the budget for the Bruner arrived having little to say. Item by

searched hard for all presents. They spent hours with the list and checking it twice, knowing all kids at Little Helpers had surely been nice. They followed the budget for the most part with care; yet ensured there'd be plenty when Santa got there. When the shopping was done and it came time to pay; Mr. Bruner arrived having little to say. Item by item, each present was scanned and then carted; then they loaded their sleighs and everyone parted. As they drove out of sight they heard Mr. Bruner say, "don't forget to get help as we wrap Saturday!".

RHS FBLA Community Service Project

"A Little Help for Little Helpers" - Project Wrapping It Up for Santa Claus! submitted by the RHS FBLA CSP Team: Matthew Daulton (Project Manager), Aaron Fallin, and Jason Willis

The Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Community Service Project (CSP) "A Little Help for Little Helpers" picked back up on the next phase of the project after completing all shopping on Saturday, December 20, 2021, wrapping the many gifts by child. As Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner separated and packaged the donations brought by CHS FBLA, RJHS ML-FBLA, and I.A. Lewis during the past retreat, RHS advisers Jennifer Ham and Joanna Ham led officers and others who were able to assist with wrapping and sorting. Those who were able to help in this massive activity were RHS FBLA President Moriah Jackson, RHS FBLA Secretary Kevin Gipson, RHS FBLA Treasurer Kimberly Gardner, RHS PLAW member Taylor Bernard, and NHS member Jodi Dunbar. Some members had to cancel due to sickness, as the chapter

did not wish to risk the health of the children we wished to help. Thankfully, Kimberly reached out and brought Taylor and Jodi, assisted by Mrs. Felicia Dunbar!

Mrs. Ham and Ms. Ham helped to ensure that all the gifts were presorted by child, and then the team went right to work. Each item was carefully wrapped with name tags included and separated by child. Items that would be for collective use were also wrapped, crated, or boxed, to include gifts for the staff. The items collected from the retreat were separated by type, with items that could be used as gifts included with the presents, and the other items separated by type.

Once completed, all items with the exception of some of the larger to handle items were positioned for a picture, and then loaded with care for the delivery by Santa, planned for Monday, Dec. 20, 2021.





Jodi Dunbar has wrapping down to an art.



Ms. Joanna Ham, center, with all the great helpers!



Only a few to go - they can't wait to be loved!



Kimberly Gardner with the assist to Kevin Gipson.



Taylor Bernard makes a motion to seal the package.



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) "A Little Help for Little Helpers" Project Santa

December 30, 2021

RHS FBLA Community Service Project

"A Little Help for Little Helpers" - Project Santa Claus!

submitted by the RHS FBLA CSP Team:

Matthew Daulton (Project Manager), Aaron Fallin, and Jason Willis





The retreat was over and several donations had been received. The shopping was completed and presents were wrapped and sorted. The long awaited day for Santa to make delivery at Little Helpers was upon FBLA at last. Last minute changes to roles played by members were adjusted to ensure that only those members with no illness at all would participate, and everyone was excited and prepared to make the day special for the children and staff at Little Helpers. RHS adviser Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner loaded his country sleigh with the new office desk that would be used to check in children each day, and loaded many large boxes of donated items needed for the general use of the facility and for the special needs of many of the children. The special small red sleigh (wagon) that would be needed to take gifts to children who were unable to physically come to Santa at the tree was also loaded. RHS adviser Mrs. Ham had her sleigh filled front to back with gifts. After weeks of planning, the time was at hand to complete project Santa Claus.

On Monday, December 20, 2021, RHS FBLA arrived at the Little Helpers Pediatric Day Health Center located in Ruston, Louisiana, as promised, to provide "A Little Help for Little Helpers." At approximately 10:30 a.m., the sleighs were unloaded and the gifts placed around the tree for those who would be coming to Santa. Gifts were also set aside for special delivery in the small red sleigh for the children that Santa would need to visit in person, and gifts were set aside to deliver for children who were not present.

Santa (Kevin Gipson) took his place in his chair next to the tree, assisted by his faithful and helpful elves (Jason Willis and Moriah Jackson). RHS adviser Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner worked with Mrs. Terry Frazier, the main point of contact and head nurse at the facility, to have children brought to Santa. Adviser Mrs. Ham assisted the children as well and took pictures as each one came to see Santa. The pure excitement in many of these children's faces was a site to be seen, and Santa and his elves did an absolute beautiful job of taking special care with each child. Each child who came to Santa received a gift and picture with Santa, and of course, many wanted to come back for more. Mrs. Kylie Bruner helped each child get back to their areas of care along with their other gifts, and took pictures as each gift was opened. The staff took excellent care of bringing each child and helping Santa with names when needed and with any special needs or handling. Mr. Bruner's daughter, Casey Jane, who was a past patient at Little Helpers for about 5 years, even helped out and enjoyed the opportunity to visit with her friends and the staff who had cared for her for so many years.

Once all of the children who could physically visit Santa at the beautifully decorated tree had received their gifts, the elves double checked the list and loaded up the small sleigh. Santa and his elves then traveled the facility, going room to room and bed to bed, to deliver presents, love, and smiles. It was obvious that everyone was enjoying the visit, and the elves even played games and helped some of the children draw pictures, paint, open toys, try on boots and shoes, and much more.

As the event closed, Santa even made sure that the staff members received presents. Everyone exchanged best wishes and "Merry Christmas" and Santa and his elves left along with their supporting class. Watching the innocent children's lives filled with joy over receiving small gifts, special attention, and love from others besides their family and medical staff, was indeed heart tugging. It's not always the size of the gift, but as with these children, the joy of being seen, heard, felt, and loved.

The Santa phase is now completed but the project continues. RHS FBLA will continue taking donations and making contributions, but is now focusing on the complete renovation of the playground area and replacing all the playground equipment, painting as needed to include a mural, and many other items. If you wish to contribute in any way, please email our adviser, Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner, at <u>lbruner@lincolnschools.org</u> and he will be happy to discuss any donations or needs with you.



Gabriel knew Santa Claus was real!



Jaiden is surrounded with love and gifts.



Jase is all patient and posing for his gift.



Jo'Siah is not quite sure about Santa yet.



Key'Zavioun can't hold in his excitement!



Kingston awaits his Cocomelon.



Miguel came back for another visit!



Ronkerrian receives his Cocomelon too!



Timothy admires the stack of presents.



Autumn gets a personal visit from Santa!



Lily loved the attention and visit!



Malaysia enjoyed her new clothes!







Casey Jane wanted to pose like her friends. Advisers Mrs. Ham & Mr. Bruner with wife Kylie Bruner join in.



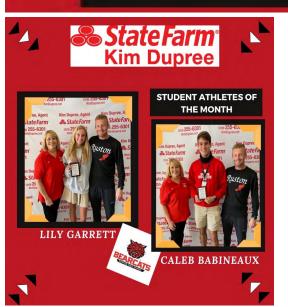
Ruston High School Sports





December 30, 2021





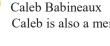
September Student Athletes of the Month

Kim Dupree State Farm proudly announces the September Student Athletes of the Month for Ruston High School! The September athletes chosen are Lily Garrett and Caleb Babineaux! Congratulations to these hard working Ruston High School students!

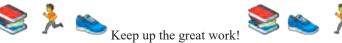


Lily Garrett

Lily is a member of the Ruston cross country and track and field teams. She has led the Lady Bearcats to four top three finishes AND won three individual titles this season!



Caleb is also a member of the Ruston Cross Country Team and has led the team to three first place finishes!





October Student Athletes of the Month

Kim Dupree State Farm proudly announces the October Student Athletes of the Month for Ruston High School! The October athletes chosen are BJ Green and Riley Oakley! Congratulations to these hard working Ruston High School students!



BJ Green is THE example of a student athlete! He has balanced school and sports his entire life—and excelled in both! He leads by example in whatever he does!



Riley Oakley is an exceptional student in the classroom and a great teammate on the court! She pushes herself and her teammates to be the best they can and wants to see everyone succeed.





November Student Athletes of the Month

Kim Dupree State Farm proudly announces the November Student Athletes of the Month for Ruston High School! The November athletes chosen are Sarah Margaret Davidson and James Calvin Huenfeld. Congratulations to these members of the Ruston High School Swim team.



Sarah Margaret is a senior leader of the swim team she placed 4th in the 200 IM and 5th in the 500 Freestyle at the

Conference Championship in October. She was also selected as a member of the LHSAA All-Academic Team.

James Calvin Huenfeld

James Calvin is a second year swimmer of the Ruston High team and a senior of the boys team. He was individual Champion in both the 200 IM and the 100 Back. He set a new Division 2 state record in the 100 Breaststroke, and an LHSAA Composite Record/ Automatic Academic All American Time in the 50 Freestyle.

GREAT JOB STUDENTS! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!





Lady Bearcat Basketball: Non-District Action Continues

After a 3-2 start and non-district record, the Lady 'Cats went on the road to play the Bossier Bearkats. In the battle between the Bearcats and the Bearkats, the Lady 'Cats played hard a returned home with a 61-53 victory. This would leave the Lady 'Cats ending November 2021 with a 4-2 record ahead of a busy December calendar, which would begin on the road in the Ouachita Parish tournament.

At the Ouachita Parish Tournament, the Lady Cats started on the right side of the bracket with a low scoring, defensive 38-23 victory against Wossman on Dec. 2, 2021. On Dec. 3, 2021, the scoring improved, but Parkway took the win 63-54. The Lady 'Cats dropped their final game of the tournament to Liberty in a 52-44 battle, dropping their record to 5-4 in non-district play for the year.

On Dec. 6, 2021, the Lady 'Cats took on Winnfield at home and secured a huge 71-32 victory, which would turn out to be the beginning of an 8 game winning streak. After a 70-24 blow-out win at home over Union Parish, the 'Lady Cats headed to the Southwood Tournament on Dec. 10-11, 2021, winning 51-37 against Captain Shreve followed by a 48-19 victory over Opelousas. The Lady 'Cats followed those victories with 3 straight road game wins against Arcadia (62-29), Jonesboro-Hodge (74-34), and Gibsland-Coleman (61-39). The final victory of the streak came against Rayville on Dec. 28, 2021, in a home game playing in the West Monroe Tournament, 58-43. The streak ended for

the Lady 'Cats as they fell on Dec. 29, 2021, ending the 2021 with a 13-5 record and ranked at #7. On Jan. 4, 2022, the Lady 'Cats will close out non-district play at home against Richwood. They begin district play on Jan. 7, 2022, taking on Alexandria at home, followed by a road game at Pineville on Jan. 11, 2022. A tough district schedule follows these games, and although game dates may change, the Lady 'Cats will enter each game ready to play their best. Coach Graf and the Lady Bearcats appreciated all the support from their fans, and encourage everyone to come out and support Lady Bearcat basketball.

Boys' Bearcat Basketball is Making Moves

STAFF REPORT

The Ruston High School boys' basketball team, led by Coach Ryan Bond, took a 4-1 record into the Thanksgiving Break. They resumed play on the road at Neville on Nov. 30, 2021, ending November on a high note with a 52-46 victory.

The 'Cats then began a busy schedule during December 2021. On Dec. 4, 2021, the 'Cats hit the road and a stubborn Carroll team, losing a heartbreaker 58-57. The next game was just as competitive, and the 'Cats found themselves on the wrong end of a 68-63 score, finding themselves with a 2 game losing streak as they were unable to play as a team on both sides of the ball.

Coach Bond "coached" the team after the 2 game slide, and the team responded in a big way, playing as a team and with much better execution on defense. On Dec. 7. 2021, the 'Casts showed Union Parish that they could bounce back, and won 55-37. This was the beginning of what would become an 8 game winning streak that would last through the New Year. The 'Cats took both games on Dec. 10-11, 2021, in the Southwood Shootout, taking down Byrd 56-22 and then hosts Southwood 47-41. Two days later, the

'Casts headed to Arcadia and won 68-33, before returning home to defeat Benton on Dec. 14, 2021, by a score of 56-28, bringing their record to 10-3. The Bearcats streak was scheduled to be tested at home at the Remington Butler Classic on December 16-18, 2021, but the tournament was cancelled. Their next scheduled game at Gibsland-Coleman was postponed, and the 'Cats found themselves not playing a game for two weeks. Finally, on Dec. 28, 2021, the 'Cats returned to action on the road in the Sterlington Tournament, defeating Oak Grove 58-30, keeping their winning streak alive. In a rematch from an earlier disappointing 1 point loss, the 'Cats tuned the page

and walked away the winners this time, 58-46. On Dec. 30, 2021, the 'Cats closed out 2021 with a resounding 67-33 victory, an 8-game winning streak, and a 13-3 record. The 'Cats will return to action at home on Jan. 4, 2022, against Richwood, and then close-out non-district action at home with Jonesboro-Hodge on Jan. 7, 2022. The 'Cats will begin district play with consecutive road games at Pineville on Jan. 11, 2022, and at Ouachita Parish on Jan. 14, 2022.

As the season continues and the 'Cats face each challenge, Coach Bond and the team are will continue to push themselves, and hope to see Bearcat fans showing up at each game. The 'Cats know that they will face tough competition as always in our district, and plan to push hard for the district and state title that all teams seek.











Ruston High School Sports







December 30, 2021

Bearcat Football Season Reaches Conclusion

by Jason Willis/Editor-in-Chief

The Ruston High football team saw the end of another great season on November 26, 2021 in Destrehan, as they lost in the quarterfinals of the LHSAA 5A Playoffs for the fourth straight year. The game concluded with a score of 24-10 with Destrehan, who entered the game as the #4 team in 5A with an overall record of 8-0, prevailing. Destrehan wore down Ruston's defense and was fairly effective running the ball, using four different running backs with success. Ruston, on the other hand, saw star junior back Dyson Fields stymied for one of the few times all season, only gaining 87 yards on 24 carries for an average of 3.6. Destrehan had great success shutting down RHS's triple option attack, and also recovered two fumbles from Ruston. Ruston went into the half only down 10-3 after a 45-yard field goal from senior Brady Beason, and would later tie it up, 10-10. However, Destrehan scored to go up 17-10, and Ruston was unable to answer. On their next drive, though, a long bomb from junior quarterback Jaden Osborne to senior receiver Dawson Willis would put Ruston in the red zone. However, they failed to score, getting stopped on 4th down and ceding control of the ball. After another forced punt, Ruston once again found themselves in the red zone after a spectacular deep catch from Willis. Again, though, they could not capitalize on the opportunity and turned the ball over, this time via a fumble. These missed opportunities led to a loss that ended Ruston's season at the hands of the Destrehan Wildcats for the second straight year.



The football rests on the field; the season it did end. In the spring, as always, it will be picked up again.

Though Ruston's season is over, there is plenty to be proud of. RHS has established a level of success where making it to the quarterfinals is expected and, honestly, a disappointment in some ways, which just goes to show how excellent the program is. As such, Ruston has had many players recognized with postseason awards. The announcement of the 2-5A All-District Team saw offensive guards Jayden Woods and Micah Scheer, receiver Dawson Willis, running back Dyson Fields, fullback Devian Wilson, quarterback Jaden Osborne, defensive tackle Dennis Williams, defensive end Geordan Guidry, linebacker Jadon Mayfield, cornerback BJ Green, and safety D'Angelo Harper all named to the 1st Team All-District. In addition, left tackle Bernard Johnson, tight end Ahmad Breaux, linebacker Brilun Elmore, and kicker/punter Brady Beason were all recognized for the 2nd Team All-District. The Louisiana High School Coaches Association (LHSCA) also announced their rosters for the 1 I-20 All-Star Game, held on December 17 at Ruston High's stadium. Ruston was represented by Dawson Willis, Dennis Williams, and coach Kia Burrell, all members of the NELA All-Star Team.

Ruston will be saying goodbye to many graduating, including their fullback Wilson, four of their starting offensive linemen, and many of their starting receivers and defensive players, but they will return Osborne and Wilson and see the introduction of many young players into new roles. As always, the team will be shooting for the ultimate prize of a championship. For now, Chatterbox would like to extend its congratulations to the team for another great season and for all their postseason awards, as well as its gratitude for the team's passion and hard work.

Boys' Soccer Keeps Improving

The Ruston High School boys' soccer team has been working hard to improve all year. With several new faces on the team, and limited opportunity to practice together and so many other issues, the season started rough for our team. After an 0-3 start in November in which the 'Cats failed to score, the 4th game of the season saw them light up the scoreboard for the first time. Though the team record dropped to 0-4, the 3-1 loss at Loyola Prep gave the team more

On Dec. 2, 2021, the 'Cats played Airline at home in their closest contested game to date, not only playing better defensively, but scoring 3 goals as they earned their first victory of the year, 3-2. As it was the first district game of the year, the victory felt even better. The next three games were against district foes West Monroe, Byrd, and Natchitoches Central. West Monroe shut out the 'Cats to win

3-0. The 'Cats fought hard against Byrd but fell 3-1 at home. Back on the road at Natchitoches Central, the 'Cats again played a close game in a loss, 2-0. On Dec. 15, 2021, the 'Cats hit the road again to face River Oaks. In a game that seemed a toss up with both teams finding goals, the game ended in the 'Cats first tie of the year, 4-4. Five days later, the 'Cats hit the road west to take on Haughton, and the determined team left with a 3-2 victory in a very close game. To close out December, the

Cats hosted Caddo Magnet, dropping the game 3-1. The RHS boy's soccer team begins 2022 with a 208-1 record and a #37 power rating. Over the holidays the 'Cats have rested and practiced, and worked on many more

items as they continue to learn and grow this year. With 6 non-district games and 4 more district games scheduled in January 2022, the 'Cats intend to keep pushing hard and preparing for the playoffs. They still believe in themselves and have seen considerable improvement. In soccer, endurance and perseverance is required, and the team has only just begun to fight. There is an entire season ahead.



Lady 'Cats Soccer Keep Giving Their All

The Ruston High School Lady 'Cats soccer team has found 2021-2022 to be a year of struggle to stay competitive with changes throughout their leadership and players, but despite all the obstacles, keep giving their all and always play for the next shot, the next game, the next season. In a year when the scoreboard seems to never be your friend, it is easy to get down on yourself and forget that all you can do is your best and learn not just from your mistakes, but from the very competition that you face each day. All sports requires physical stamina and the will to keep trying, and for those who have never played soccer, this is even more the case as the game keeps moving.

The Lady 'Cats started the season with a tough victory at Minden, 5-3. The next day, still on the road, the Lady 'Cats faced a rested and ready Calvary Baptist squad and felt their first loss of the season, 5-0. Just 3 days later, the Lady 'Cats found themselves playing a two games in one day in the Haughton tournament. Against Bossier in game 1, the Lady 'Cats put on an impressive offensive show as well as a defensive effort with a 7-0 victory over. Game 2, unfortunately, reversed course, and the Lady 'Cats were shutout 3 -0 by Airline. The loss to Airline evened the Lady 'Cats record at 2-2, and unknown at the time, the beginning of a 9 game losing streak. As for the month of December 2021, the Lady 'Cats struggled offensively and found themselves on the wrong side of the field as well as the score for the most part. As a

young squad, they continued to play hard and learn, but the more experienced teams prevailed. In the month of December 2021, the Lady 'Cats played many competitive games, but lost all 3 district games and all 5 non-district games. In the 8 losses, half of them were by 2 goals or less, with 2 of them being only the difference of 1 goal. As the new year begins, the Lady 'Cats are continuing to practice and play their hearts out. With 5 district and 5 non-district games scheduled in January 2022, they look to

improve on heir 2-10 record as they face 9 teams that they have not yet faced, and end the season with Calvary Baptist and a chance to win at home against the team that handed them their first loss of the year. The Lady 'Cats keep giving their all and hope to see more Bearcat fans come out and show their support during the 2nd half of the season. Ignore the cold - bring a jacket

and heater and pull for the home team! As it is with the boys' team, they still believe in themselves and seek to get better with each game. All records are thrown out when the playoffs begin, so a 2nd half season run could help the Lady 'Cats gain the experience and confidence needed to finish strong and also return even stronger next year.

We are Firmly Founded! We are...

Respectful

- Use appropriate language and volume.
- · Respect others' personal space and property.
- · Do not be a distraction to classrooms while in the hallway.

Responsible

- · Know and follow classroom rules.
- · Accept positive praise as well as negative consequences.
- Keep locker clean and organized.

HALLWAY EXPECTATIONS

- · Move to class promptly by the most direct path.
- · Arrive on time to class with materials.
- · Have a hall pass or a note from a teacher if out of class.



Happy New Year Bearcat Nation!







