

# RCHS,

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it every day, in the solemn faces in the halls, the disgusted eyes at any display of school spirit, telling their peers how lame it is to care so much. To care about anything at all is to sacrifice any faux pretense of mystique, or in other words, it is to be a total loser.

It is but a painfully ironic fact that the smaller a star is, the longer it will survive. The first few steps of their life are the same as any other, but somewhere along the way, they are stunted. Everything becomes stagnant. They are just another blip in our milky way, most not even worthy of discovery. Though, these more minor stars do live much longer in the end. A life of dullness in exchange for longevity, but do the winnings outweigh the loss?

My freshman year remains my favorite of all my years of high school. This favoritism could be chopped up to freshman year being the only normal year of high school I have completed thus far, but I believe it to be more complicated. That year is coated in honeyed nostalgia and memories of a time when every day spent at school felt like being in a cheesy 80s movie. Even freezing in the student section of home football games when it was still a battle to find a good seat feels romantic now. The pep rallies that cut our last periods short but let us celebrate one another in unashful glory are times I miss immensely. Watching the seniors make fools of themselves but feeling only comradeship, not embarrassment. We were dancers reaching the height of the song, reaching and reaching for a limit that seemed infinite. We were stars that felt as if we would shine forever.

There is an easy villain to blame for what followed that year, and I acknowledge its effects. A worldwide pandemic that shuts down not only our school but the entire country is sure to dim a few lights. Middle schoolers were forced into high school

roles in a way sudden enough to cause whip-lash. Kids who were still trying to work out their quirks and awkwardness began classes with juniors and seniors who were nearly adults. The consequence of this is a shyness that could be shooed away with time and exposure, turning into a shield of impenetrable armor. Coupled with what could be described as a lack of effort from the adults in control of school-spirit activities, it is a recipe for resentment and recluse. The days of lighthearted recreation seem as if they have come and gone and left a kind of heartbreak in their wake.

There are, of course, some stars that burn brighter than others. It is easy to explain these stars as just being vain, unfairly recognized figures too obsessed with their own glimmer. However, much of this shine is just an illusion. You see, the reason some stars twinkle with more rigor is that they are so much closer in proximity, this fact does not make them any better than a star with equal shine yet farther away, it just means they are trying much harder to catch the eye.

I understand the situation I just described feels grim, like the children of our community have been forever negatively altered and that not enough individuals in power care enough about them to try and change or reverse it. I felt exactly like this at the beginning of my last semester in high school. I had realized that we had been stationary for much too long. Perhaps I wallowed in the feeling for a while, and I believe many in my class did. Furious that what was supposed to be the best years of our life had been snatched away before we could ever even sink our teeth in. We approached senior year as if arriving late to a funeral; hushed lips and burning cheeks. We grew tired of this charade, though. We grew tired of letting everyone pat us on

our poor little backs about all the things we missed out on without ever trying to bring those very things back into our school year routine. We grew tired of being pushed through each day like another cog in a machine, with no excitement and absolutely no fun. I, for one, have mourned enough of my time in high school, for there is no more grief I desire to carry.

A very particular class in my second semester comes into play at this point. While its official description may be much more refined and academic, I like to think of it as the time during my day when a group of seniors attempts to have fun again. Arguably, our biggest project was to bring back the WLKR news segment that was popular quite a few years ago. It has not been as painless as how we may have first imagined, but the outcomes have spoken for themselves. Having fun and creating content that will share the joy I am experiencing with my classmates has been one of the most rewarding parts of my senior year so far. We have made it our mission to revive the activities lost to the pandemic, with a quick trip to the front office providing us with permission to do just about anything we dedicate ourselves to. Our teachers are listening to us, letting us make cases for ways to revive the once lost spirit of our school.

Our struggle with the lack of care emanating from students is a constant one, but we are seeing results already: directly after the first episode of WLKR was posted, younger students asked about how to get involved next year. The work that has been put in this year is for the classes that follow, the classes that do not remember what it is like to look forward to going to school each morning. It is bittersweet that we will not witness what is to come after graduation, but no matter how much the supernova may scald, it is worth every chance to twinkle.

# BROWN,

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into the Army in 1971.

Stationed in Fort Knox, in 1987, he and his family went to Germany for the third time while Desert Storm raged in the Middle East.

Jamie York, Brown's daughter, recalls him telling the family he was leaving for training, when he was actually fighting in the armed campaign.

"We were always excited to see him come home from the field," daughter Christina recalled.

Besides Germany, Brown also served in Korea in 1984.

He retired in 1991 as E-7 (Sergeant First Class).

The Brown family (James, his wife, Margaret, daughters, Christina, Jamie, and Katina Yoder) had often camped along the tributaries of Lake Cumberland with another military family, (David Boger).

So when it came time for him to retire, he

knew where he wanted to spend his days - Caney Fork Creek.

"He said, I'm going to buy a cabin down there in the holler and I'm going to be a mountain man," Christina said. "And that's what he did."

Even though he officially retired from active duty, his life of service continued when he moved to Russell County.

He served as commander of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Post for 15-20 years, and was honored with a fitting tribute.

"It was renamed for him when he passed away," York said. "Sadly, it wasn't able to stay open much after that."

In his free time, Brown enjoyed riding his motorcycle and was a member of the Rolling Thunder - a group of riders who often held charity rides, and were sponsored by the Harley Davidson Motor Company.

Sgt. Brown passed

away September 7, 2016, and is buried in the Mill Springs Cemetery in Nancy.

His family visits the cemetery often - especially on an event like upcoming Memorial Day - to decorate the gravesite and honor their heralded hero.

Brown left behind his wife, three daughters, eight grandchildren, two step grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He also left behind the legacy of a life of service to his country.

He and the U.S. Veterans like him are the reason we have the freedoms we do as American citizens.

The words, "Freedom Is Not Free" are engraved on the Washington D.C. Korean War Veterans Memorial.

On this Memorial Day may we remember that as we also remember the ones who lost their lives securing these freedoms.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

ORDINANCE 2201 relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations  
Be it ordained by the Russell County Fiscal Court, Commonwealth of Kentucky:  
The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2023 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purpose indicated.

General Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,289,433.00
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	144,392.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	417,865.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	78,775.00
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE	49,075.00
7000	DEBT SERVICE	34,376.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	1,666,326.00
<b>Total General Fund</b>		<b>3,680,242.00</b>
Road Fund		
6100	ROADS	1,235,890.00
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	60,000.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	379,019.00
<b>Total Road Fund</b>		<b>1,674,909.00</b>
Jail Fund		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	1,599,299.00
7000	DEBT SERVICE	351,773.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	698,510.00
<b>Total Jail Fund</b>		<b>2,649,582.00</b>
LGEA Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	10,500.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	4,000.00
<b>Total LGEA Fund</b>		<b>14,500.00</b>
ASAP Fund		
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	22,000.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	125,720.00
<b>Total ASAP Fund</b>		<b>147,720.00</b>
Grants Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	40,000.00
<b>Total Grants Fund</b>		<b>40,000.00</b>
Emergency Shelter Fund		
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	5,500.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	1,006.00
<b>Total Emergency Shelter Fund</b>		<b>6,506.00</b>
Tourism Fund		
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE	160,000.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	40,100.00
<b>Total Tourism Fund</b>		<b>200,100.00</b>
Dispatch Fund		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	375,863.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	178,256.00
<b>Total Dispatch Fund</b>		<b>554,119.00</b>
Airport Fund		
6200	AIRPORTS	84,286.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	96,609.00
<b>Total Airport Fund</b>		<b>180,895.00</b>
Airport Project Fund		
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	2,592,591.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	9,614.00
<b>Total Airport Project Fund</b>		<b>2,602,205.00</b>
DFC Fund		
9000	ADMINISTRATION	12,102.00
<b>Total DFC Fund</b>		<b>12,102.00</b>
Airport Board Fund		
6200	AIRPORTS	59,000.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	26,706.00
<b>Total Airport Board Fund</b>		<b>85,706.00</b>
Airport Terminal Project Fund		
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	57,597.00
<b>Total Airport Terminal Project Fund</b>		<b>57,597.00</b>
ABC Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	96,416.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	43,854.00
<b>Total ABC Fund</b>		<b>140,270.00</b>
ARPA Fund		
9000	ADMINISTRATION	2,986,409.00
<b>Total ARPA Fund</b>		<b>2,986,409.00</b>

Adopted by the Russell County Fiscal Court this the 09 day of May, 2022.

*Harry D. Robertson*  
County Judge/Executive

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

All interested persons and organizations in the County are hereby notified that a copy of the County's adopted budget in full is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

# STAR Student



Mrs. Leah's RSES Kindergarten Star Student, William Oswald