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"Purple and gold shall ever reign, filling
the air with battle strain!"

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Tiger Talk

2023-2024 STAFF



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Keeping Traditions Rolling

by Lauryn Posey, Sports Editor



Rolling has been a long standing tradition at Benton High School. The act of covering an object, or in most cases an entire yard, in toilet paper is done most frequently during HOCO week. Many students say that it is one of their favorite festivities, even rivaling the football game and dance. Abby Grace Mims (11) recalled a story when she tried to roll a friend and “Coach Rambin lived across the street, we ran and hid and left the toilet paper out. She came and took it and we had to tell her that it was us.” Mr. Beckham happened to be outside while students were rolling him last year. He heard them but didn’t catch on, so they went undetected. “It doesn’t really bother me. . . as long as it is done out of love”, he says. Mr. Edwards recalls a time when students were rolling him and decided to take the ‘for sale’ sign out of his yard and bring it to the school, making it seem like BHS was for sale. “I thought it was pretty funny,”

he said. But what is it like at other schools? Airline has ‘Class Wars’ -- primarily seniors dressing in ski masks, using toilet paper, shaving cream, chalk, silly string, and even mustard to prank others. Airline student, Caroline Witte (12), says,



Reagan Hodge (HHS) participating in ‘Milk Chug’.

“We take it VERY seriously.” Haughton does things differently. They host “‘Milk Chug’, where students meet at a house and they’ll stand in the middle of everyone and whoever finishes chugging their gallon of milk first wins”, says

Reagan Hodge (12). "At Parkway, rolling isn't much of a tradition," says Jason Nall (12). Parkway instead takes pride in their homecoming parade, which they spend weeks preparing the floats for. But when did these traditions begin? Mrs. Dodson, Airline graduate, said, "We rolled on the weekends for fun and we certainly weren't going to roll people from the same school." She also talks about how her experiences were different (and more achievable) from ours because they didn't have ring doorbells or any kind of cameras.

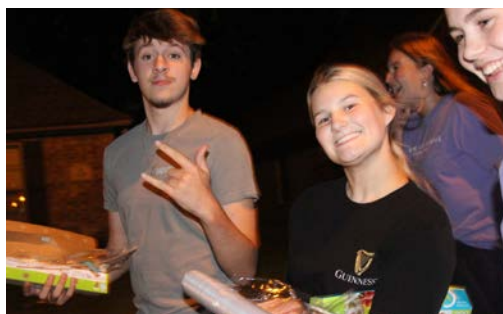


Maggie Cahn, Kate Bording and Hannah Grace Burch wearing traditional HOCO 'mums'.

Mrs. Bryant, HHS graduate, says, "I was a scaredy-cat in high school and my parents were super strict. But I think one time me and my friends went rolling and literally rolled my own house." Although most Benton teachers interviewed did participate in rolling, what they remembered most were traditions such as the huge homecoming parades in which the whole community participated, decorating teachers' doors and wooden boards on the football field to reflect school spirit, and



Aftermath of seniors rolling Jack Johnson (12). homecoming 'mums' that the boys would buy for their dates to wear to the dance. Mrs Martin recalled Parkway's homecoming carnival that "[She] thought was really neat. There were different booths where you could do different things like pie a teacher in the face or a dunking booth to dunk a teacher. It was a really good time." As you can see, these traditions are ones that become fond memories to look back on. While rolling is lots of fun (kept within boundaries of property damage and vandalism), all students are encouraged to get involved in school-sponsored activities as much as possible. We are only in high school once, and it will fly by, so always take the chance to create these memories that will last a lifetime!



Makenna Malone (12) and Dustin Hooker (12) preparing to saran wrap a car.

BENTON rumors



"Everyone thinks Benton kids are rich and spoiled."

Now this is quite the rumor. I am a little bit partial to the people at Benton because I have known most of them for my whole life. I wouldn't say we are stuck up or anything of that nature, but there sure are some sticklers; you could all say the same thing about Parkway, Airline, Haughton, etc. Sticklers are everywhere.

This is not really a rumor but I do think it is true. If you look at the outside of school, it looks very serious and jail-like but on the inside, it is definitely not! Do you think jail has hand painted signs that read "yay football" that line the walls??? No way!!



"The school looks like a jail."



"There is a pool on the roof."

Contrary to popular belief, there is probably not a pool on the roof of Benton High School. If I had access to the roof, I would FOR SURE let you know. This is the only rumor I can not give a confirmative yes or no on. BUT, there is a swim team who works super duper hard so you should go support them!

Wow. There are multiple layers to this one. Benton is a public school so you can't really get kicked out because of something like that. Even if you could, you can't join the military until you are 18 so what about all the 14-17 year olds? I have no clue who told you this one but whoever did was definitely just messing with you (and is probably cruel and you should reevaluate your friendship with them). This is 100% fake news and a false rumor.



"You have to join the military or you get kicked out."

How to Put a Caveman in a Coma

by **Conor McLean, News Editor**

Although we may not recognize it, some of the luxuries we experience on a daily basis would bewilder our ape-like ancestors.

We've all seen the Tik Tok trend talking about how modern achievements would shock a caveman, and this is my take on how we could really put a caveman in a coma. First we'd have to introduce him to things that are much simpler. For a start, we feed him pop rocks. The crackle of pop rocks in one's mouth is unlike anything else on our planet (except McDonald's sprite), and compared to a diet of wild berries and raw meat, it'd be mind-blowing. Then, we place him in front of a mirror. Although cavemen may have been exposed to their own reflection in



various water surfaces, an unobstructed reflection would cause a caveman to either destroy the mirror or pass out due to overstimulation. Next, we should introduce him to something that causes modern people to pass out: roller coasters. Any roller coaster would



flabbergast a caveman; by giving a primitive man a day pass to Six Flags Over Texas, absolute chaos is inevitable. That's not even mentioning the long, twisting lines a caveman would have to wait in — or storm through. With all the walking and waiting at Six Flags, we would have to get our caveman friend a pair of shoes, and there's something mind-blowing that can be found on certain shoes: velcro. As the differences between our ancestors and humanity today have become unmistakable, it is important to acknowledge that the



average caveman's lack of luxury is likely to put us in a coma. Take a moment to appreciate the many things we take for granted, and then feel secure in knowing that you will probably never run into a caveman in line for the Superman at Six Flags. Probably.



Stars on Strike

by Machen White, Business Manager



For those of you who don't know, Hollywood is in trouble. If you're like me and you don't know one thing about this, let me elaborate. On July 14, 2023, the American actors' union SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) went on strike over an ongoing labor dispute with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP). These strikes have contributed to one of the biggest interruptions in the American film industry. Hundreds of movies and television shows have been impacted by this turn of events. Stars from all different genres have stopped working because of this revolutionary stand off between the working class of the film industry and the big bosses who make their money from the actors' work. Beloved celebrities such as Amy Adams, Elizabeth Banks, Florence Pugh, Kevin Bacon, Olivia Wilde, Darren Criss, and

Mandy Moore are seen hitting the picket lines in front of many major production companies like Walt Disney and Warner Bros. Thriving, and peacefully pushing agendas, these celebrities are trying to right wrongs in the film industry. Many of the popular shows you watch on television are being impacted by this history-making strike; a show that is particularly having trouble is “Stranger Things”. The nostalgic television masterpiece “Stranger Things” is taking a particular hit from the revolutionary



conflict. The twin creators of the beloved television series -- Matt & Ross Duffer -- have said that the production of season five has come to a momentary halt, but

not to fret. Written in a joint statement on X (formally known as Twitter) the twins stated: “Writing does not stop when filming begins. While we’re excited to start production with our amazing cast and crew, it is not possible during this strike... We hope a fair deal is reached soon so we can all get back to work. Until then -- over and out. #wgastrong.”



While nobody can predict how long this strike will last, we can be sure to take note of what good that it is doing. The mistreatment of actors and writers is being brought to the forefront of the public eye, and while it may make a few people uncomfortable, it is necessary for the film industry to have growth. Having the problems brought out and fixed is the only way to have a successful industry. Whether this strike lasts one month, one year, or one decade, it is doing more good than anyone will ever know. Of course, our televisions being paused and our beloved stars being unemployed is not enjoyable, but the amount of recognition that actors and actresses will receive from the strike is an artform in its own.

Taylor Swift

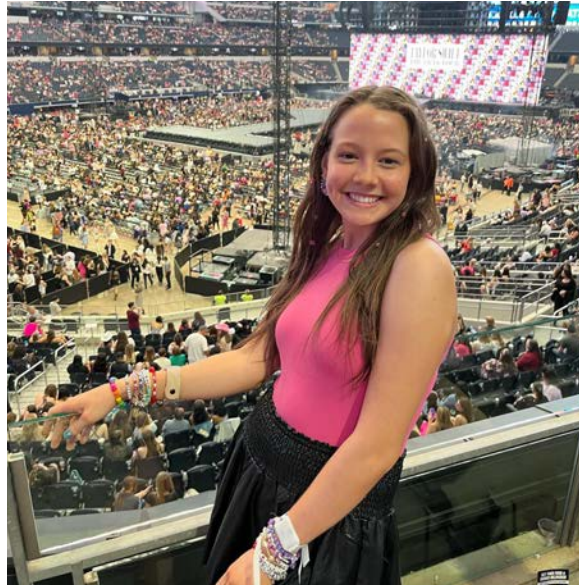
by Aivlinn Beckham, Photographer

I don't like Taylor Swift, but I understand how you could. She has over 272 million followers on Instagram, 94 million followers on Twitter (X) and 54 million subscribers on Youtube. She makes catchy songs with relatable lines, and she knows how to appeal to all types of listeners. She is engaging — dropping fun easter eggs for all of her fans. Sal Dennis (10) has been to 2 of her concerts and is a certified 'Swiftie'. Why?



"I love Taylor Swift because her music has variety. There's a song for everyone". Personally, I am not a fan of pop music as a whole. I prefer artists

who take risks with their music and don't stick to a formula. Despite the variety in her music, Taylor Swift is undeniably a pop singer. Anna Bodine (10) says, "She has been doing the same thing for far too long. . . she tries to keep up with trends around her in the music industry instead of staying



Addison Morris (11) at the Taylor Swift concert. true to her own music style." However, her music still dominates conversations, radio, and, at the moment, the world with The Eras Tour taking over countries one city at a time. This domination has had a massive impact on the United States economy.



Kaylee Musgrove (12) and a friend waiting to enter the April 1st Arlington, TX concert.



Taylor Swift performing "Evermore" at an Arlington, TX concert on April 1st.

States were reporting a return to Pre-Covid economic success, which is incredible. While there is much to be said about Taylor Swift, and while I try to keep an open mind, I just don't get the obsession. Although, I do recognize the talent that she has.



Amelia Stringer (10) and Kennedie Cole (10) preparing to see Taylor Swift in person.

I'll try to keep an open mind when it comes to music, since there is so much that I've not heard. But alas, I still don't see the appeal.

Tigers vs Vikings: What's the History?

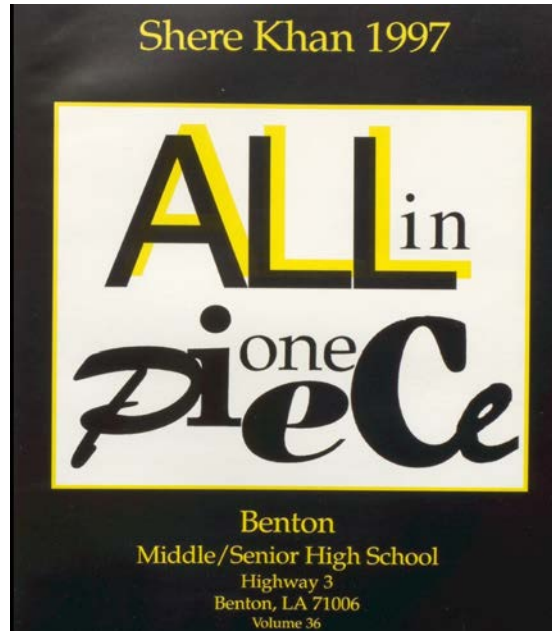
by Payton Prichard, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Friday Night Lights always shine brighter when rival schools play — students show up and show out, band plays like it's their last game, and the players themselves give it their all to prove they have the upper hand. If you were to ask students in Bossier Parish which two schools have the biggest rivalry, 9 times out of 10 they'd have the same answer: "Benton and Airline". But has it always been this way?



Benton VS Airline 2022 Football Season

Founded 74 years prior to its larger counterpart, Benton High School has always been a bit of an underdog compared to Airline High School — just 7 miles south. Mrs. Dodson, currently in her 13th year teaching at BHS, graduated as a Viking in 1997. Her husband, also a 1997 graduate, left high school as a Tiger. When reflecting on the status of Benton and Airline in the late 1990s, Mrs. Dodson says that "there was



not much of a rivalry; Benton wasn't what it is today. As a student at Airline, we were always like 'Benton who?'. In 1997, the Airline Vikings had a graduating class of around 250, while in comparison, the 2023-2024 BHS football roster would take longer to read than the mere 90 Tigers that graduated along with Mr. Dodson. Mrs. Dodson continues, saying, "[Benton] was just so tiny, they were just 3A and weren't really competition." Looking back at history, Benton was seen as an all-country, small high school with no potential, but "once we got 5A, [we were] then competition for [Airline] and more of a threat." With our football team really starting to shine in the last 5-7 years, Airline and other Bossier Parish schools alike have started to

the underdog talent that we bring to the table. Mrs. Dodson remarks, "Benton has a lot of spirit, and [Airline is now] seeing us as someone to pay attention to." The students mean everything when it comes to spirit. Whether it be showing up to the student section in ridiculous clothing to show support for the boys on the field, traveling to away games, or bringing energy to Pep Rallies, Benton needs the support of its students — especially to prove that we aren't some measly 3A school anymore.



Kam Smith (10) on the sidelines at the HOCO game.

The next game against the Airline Vikings is September 21st at M.D. Ray Field. *Be there.*



L to R: Alex Gilmore (12), Aaron Inthavong (12), Zach Cryer (12), and Josh Peterman (12)

Photo taken by Gina Inthavong.

Girls vs Guys: HOCO Prep

by Avery Claire Brignac, Copy Editor

Benton High School's annual homecoming was on September 15th and people have been wondering: Is HOCO more complicated for guys or girls? On one hand, guys usually ask the girls in an elaborate and nerve-racking way. On the other hand, girls stress over their appearance and often spend hours getting ready for the night of their lives. After asking BHS students, we learned that the average girl took 3.5 hours to get ready, while the average guy took only 30 minutes. While guys might not spend hours getting ready, they are often pressured to ask a girl to homecoming in a detailed and "lovey-dovey" way. For guys who are a little shy, this process can be stressful. When questioned about

how he felt before asking his date, Juliann Clifton (10), to homecoming, Carson Bryant (10) claimed to be, "Kind of anxious because I didn't ask with a sign last year." Depending on the proposal, some boys will get flowers, food, a sign, and have to find the time in their busy schedules to ask their date, which can take a lot of time and preparation. On the contrary, girls have to spend a lot of time and effort preparing for the big night. Weeks or even months in advance, girls find their dress, shoes, jewelry, and plan their hair, makeup, and nails. Maddy Ryan, a BHS alumni and makeup artist, helped 6 girls get ready in the span of 8 hours, which had to be planned a significant amount of time in advance. Because Maddy

primarily does makeup, the girls had to find other ways to do their hair, which took additional time and effort. Harleigh Roy (12) said HOCO preparation is harder for girls because, "[they] tend to care more about their appearance, leading to stress about their dress, hair, makeup, and sometimes a tan."



L to R: Lucy Worley, Madalyn Martin (10), Avery Claire Brignac (10), and Emmy Van Hoy (10)

Stigma Around HOCO Dates

by Addison Bell, Photographer

Is using a homecoming date just for pictures or flowers morally okay? Homecoming is one of the most enjoyable nights of the year, getting together with all of your friends in your best outfits eating the best food. Along with all of these fun activities may come the stress of having a homecoming date. Finding a date has always been, to me at least, the least fun part of homecoming. Scrambling around trying to find a boy/girl you have spoken to who is not taken, then having to ask him, then forming a group between the two of you sometimes does not work out in your favor. Is all the stress surrounding homecoming dates even worth dealing



Photo taken by Sydney Baughn.

said “I feel like most girls think they need a homecoming date just for social media. Most times, when they get to the dance, they don’t care about having a date anymore”. When I asked why she thinks most girls need to have that “here’s my date!” picture, she said “because it’s weird to take a picture by yourself. In homecoming-type settings, you feel like you need a partner instead of just standing there by yourself.” Mrs. Johnston really stressed the idea that most girls feel like they have to have a date for homecoming, which she says is not true; “I don’t think you need to have anymore but I think that’s what most girls are thinking. They have to have someone who could check all the boxes.” I also talked to soccer player

Turner Hubbard (12), who realizes the picture-aspect of a HOCO date but he said, “I don’t really care about a picture, I’m just trying to eat and go to the dance.” He does not hide the fact that he has never had a date, saying, “I do not care about having a homecoming date. If you look at my track record the past 4 years, I’ve gone solo to every dance in BHS history. We’re going four for four! Shoutout Wendy’s!” The stigma around homecoming dates is that they are one of the most stressful things apart of the whole homecoming experience. Since I’ve been on both sides I know -- going alone (or with a boy you don’t stress about) makes the night so much more fun! At the end of the day, dates are overrated!



Photo taken by Doug Stewart.

with? Planning just for one night? A few hours? One picture??!! I interviewed Benton teachers and students on their opinions on everything involving homecoming dates Mrs. Johnston, Student Council sponsor and teacher at Benton High, talked to me about why she felt girls needed HOCO dates. She



HOCO 2023



Jeff King



Kate Bording



Football
Sweetheart



Delaina Colley

Band
Sweetheart



Sabina Lucius

JROTC
Sweetheart



Maddie Moon



Addison
Alexander



Reese Ashley



Ava Barnes



Autumn Behan



Hannah Grace
Burch



Maggie Cahn



Raleigh Davis



Kennedy Halsell



Brooke Whitley



Homecoming: Best or Bust?

by Rachel Alexander, Student Life Editor

This past Friday, the students of Benton High School gathered in the school gym for our Annual Homecoming dance, and everyone was buzzing about the events of the night. This year, the dance was held at BHS, which contrasted with previous years, in which it was located at the Bossier Civic Center. Some students enjoyed the convenience of the location, as it was closer to their neighborhoods and favorite local restaurants, while others felt like the location was not adequate enough for the size of our student body. Kaitlyn Keen (9) says, "There were too many people crammed into a small space." and



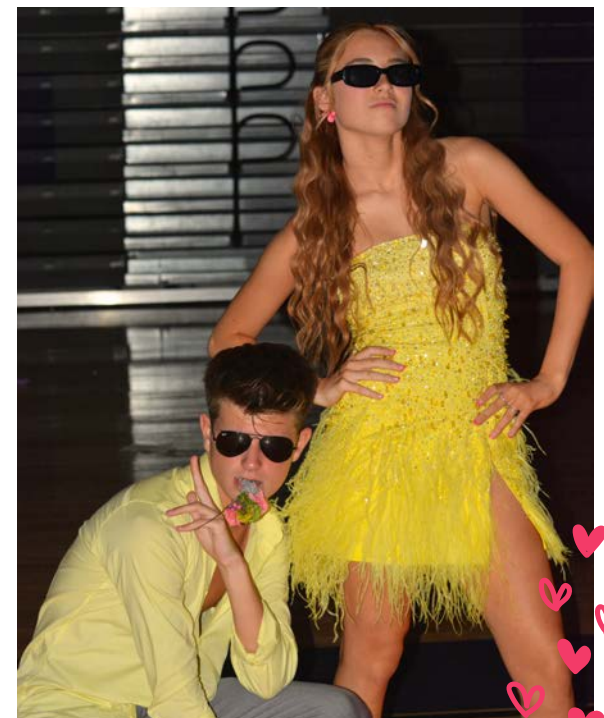
Students doing The Cupid Shuffle while wearing rubber-soled shoes and socks.

Jaylynn Miller (10) adds, "I liked it being at the Civic Center because it wasn't so open. Like there was more decoration and it was tied to a group of rooms so that didn't feel so empty and boring." Another new occurrence this year was the implementation of everyone having to wear socks or rubber-soled shoes to protect the gym floor. Micaellah Mendoza (9) reflects, "I think other people would've been fine wearing socks, but I personally would've been fine wearing my heels." "I was really reliving my little kid era. It brought back some Altitude nostalgia.", Jaylynn Miller (10) jokes. The socks turned out to be a tolerable rule and were definitely a lot more sanitary than everyone dancing barefoot all night. Seeing as our theme this year mimicked The Wizard of Oz, a lot of people, while they enjoyed the overall theme, felt as if the decorations at HOCO didn't exactly match the whimsical vibe they were looking for. Sadie Emerson (10) says, "The decorations were cute, but

they did not match the theme." With the exception of the yellow brick road to receive your socks, the decorations reflected Benton colors rather than the themes we had been dressing up and decorating hallways for in the weeks prior. Several students asked that they would provide better sources of water in the upcoming years and that it be held a little bit later into the fall season. While we as teenagers complain about it, the music was equivalent to the quality of any other high school dance playlist, and the Cupid Shuffle remained one of the most danced-to songs of the night. Sadly, Mrs. Beville was not surfing the crowd, but hey, there's always next year!



Dakota Cross (11) and Logan Walker (10) hitting the griddy.



Machen White (10) and Emmy Buchanan (10).

Football Recap

by Avery Claire Brignac, Copy Editor



While this football season has been difficult, our players have been fighting to keep spirits high. Coach Moore said Travis Flowers (12), offensive lineman, has not only showed up on the field, but in the locker room and during practice by being “a good leader to the underclassmen by reminding them that their time is coming soon and to remember that when they’re fighting for our seniors out there.”



When asking Coach Moore about Manning’s amazing performance, he said “he has a good chance to break the school record for rushing yards in a career and he’s lived up to every bit of it.” Quarterback Jeff King (12) has spread the ball around to multiple receivers with Jackson “JJ” Jones (11), Cody Wilhite (12), and Wade Chandler (11) each catching a touchdown pass so far this season.



The defense has been anchored by Cole Austin (11) and Miller Malley (11) with 32 tackles each. Braden Jackson (12) has also stepped up with 28 tackles. During the 4th quarter against Northwood, Austin made a tackle when the Falcons went for a two-point conversion, resulting in the Tigers taking the win. Our Benton Tigers have been working hard to improve each time they step onto the Newman-Mason field, and we can’t wait to see what the rest of the season has in store for us!



Volleyball Season Recap

by Lauryn Posey, Sports Editor



The Benton Volleyball Team has maintained an impressive win streak thus far in their season. Coach Adams has attributed this win streak to the girls' strong sense of commitment and willingness to work hard. "A lot of girls have stepped up, being committed to what we're trying to do here and the process: always trying to be the best they can be." Their success as a team is abundantly clear, having won every game this season so far. The team has put in countless hours this summer weight training, practicing, and participating in collegiate camps. Additionally, the coaching staff has also been expanded this year to include Coach Toni Martinez, who coaches the boys basketball team as well. Having more coaches has allowed the team to be able to split up and work on their individual needs and improve the skills of girls in different positions. One standout among the many hardworking

players on the team is Chandler Halsell (10). "She has stepped up in a lot of different ways, [in] just being consistent in scoring points and trying to get better", says Adams.



As an outside hitter, Chandler has been both a leader for her teammates and one of the top point scorers on varsity. Lexi and Lia Vergis (10), sophomores, have also been an integral part of the team's success on the court.



Lexi, a defensive specialist, has been good at "controlling the game and trying to do what we ask her to do", says Coach Adams.



"Lia has had a big role to fill behind Schroeder, so being able to take those things...learning how to be a great setter and setting goals for herself that she is accomplishing every day". Adams refers to setter Abby Schroeder, a senior last year, who helped carry the team to victory on numerous occasions with her skills as both a setter and hitter. As seen here, there is a lot to look forward to concerning the rest of Benton volleyball's season. Good luck Lady Tigers, we are extremely proud of all of you!



Is Band a Sport?

by **Kaylee Watkins, Photographer**

Depending on who you ask, there are a lot of different opinions on this topic. Despite popular belief, the marching band requires teamwork, coordination, practice, physical work, and endurance. In contrast, football, a well known sport, probably doesn't see marching band as an equal, as most think it doesn't require much physical activity.



Dakota Coplin (10) says "No, it is not a sport because all you are doing is holding an instrument and walking so it's not equivalent to a sport like football; there is no contact". While band doesn't require contact, it certainly requires breath control and upper body strength to carry instruments while walking. Jackson Bradford (10), a



percussion player in the marching band, says band is a sport "because of all the physical work you have to put into it, especially outside of practices. Being able to play, march, and move at the same time. All of that in one moment and doing it right." While there are some mixed opinions, both band and football



practice in the summer heat and both of them involve a team and working together. Nathan Venuran (9), percussion player, recalls "I have heard the term sport defined as a physical activity. In competing with other teams doing the same activity with a scoring system and a winner."



This is exactly what happens at a band competition. Based on these comparisons, the band is more like other sports than we thought. Do you think band is a sport?



BENTON

cheer & dance



Cross Country



by Kaylee Watkins, Photographer

Cross country season has started and already our runners have dominated and improved some personal best times. This summer, Claire Allen (10) was ranked 7th in the state and Dominique Coore (10) as 33rd. Coach Mathews says, "Building off the successes of last season I am excited to see the growth of the team and individual runners themselves. We should be able to return to state with both teams this season." The Benton Lady Tigers started off the season strong with a 4k race in Mississippi. This course includes is rated 4 out of 5 for toughness by MileSplit.



The girls finished with Claire Allen in first place. When talking to Claire about how she feels about the upcoming season she said: "I don't really know exactly what to expect because I haven't raced in almost a year because I had injuries and didn't get to run during track season. But I'm excited for what has to come." The team as a

whole had 5 runners in the top 8. Benton girls won 1st place and scored 20 total points while the 2nd place team had 90. The boys also have a lot of good upcoming runners and are starting off their season just as strong, beginning with the Boys 5K.



It was a tough race and Brody Hutchison (10), finished 27th out of 358 runners. Brody is rated by Miles Split as 8th in the state among sophomore boys. Lakendre Pugh (9) was the second Benton boy to cross the finish line. Talking to Lakendre about how he feels about the upcoming season he said, "I feel pretty good about my abilities and I'm confident that I can improve each race". Looking into the future, the team has a lot to be excited for. Good luck Tigers!



HOCO Proposals



HAYES ASKING BELLA

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOCO
AND NOTHING QUITE LIKE
THESE HOCO PROPOSALS.



JACKSON TOUCHSTONE &
EMMY VAN HOY



ADDISON BELL

CORRIGAN JAYROE

AVA BURRUS

JACOB SUTHERLAND



KYNDAL DIEI &
RYLEIGH LEGGETT



HAYES POSEY & BELLA
BRASHER



ELIJAH ORTEGO & EMMA
LUTHER



HUDSON BRIGNAC & CATHERINE BRICKNER



EMMY BUCHANAN &
MACHEN WHITE