The Dog Caller

Volume 24 Issue 4 **Spiro High School 600 West Broadway Spiro, Oklahoma 74959** **January 22 2025-2026**

History of New Year's Eve



By Montana Duvall

New Year's Eve is one of the most widely celebrated holidays in the world, but its traditions stretch back thousands of years. The idea of marking the start of a new year didn't begin with fireworks or giant countdown parties–it started with ancient civilizations searching for a way to track time and honor new beginnings. Historians believe one of the earliest New Year celebrations took place in ancient Mesopotamia around 2000 BCE. Their new year began in mid-March, during the spring equinox, when day and night were nearly equal. This period symbolizes renewal and rebirth. The Babylonians held a festival called Akitu, which lasted several days and involved rituals, feasts, and celebrations honoring their gods. The date of New Year's shifted in 46 BCE when Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar. He declared January 1 the start of the new year, partly to honor Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and transitions. Janus was often depicted with two faces—one looking to the past and the other to the future—making him a fitting symbol for the holiday. Romans celebrated with gifts, decorations, and gatherings, setting the foundation for many modern customs.

As centuries passed, the New Year celebration continued to evolve. Different cultures added their own traditions, from church services in medieval Europe to the ringing of bells in towns and cities. Today, New Year's Eve is celebrated with a mix of ancient symbolism and modern excitement in the United States, millions watch the Times Square ball drop in New York City, a tradition started in 1907. Around the world, fireworks light up the skies in cities like Sydney, London, and Rio de Janeiro. Many people attend parties, share meals with family, or make resolutions for the coming years. Others participate in cultural traditions, such as eating twelve grapes at midnight in Spain or wearing specific colors for luck in parts of South America.

Although the ways we celebrate differ, New Year's Eve remains a global moment of reflection and hope—a time to look back on what we've experienced and look forward to what comes next.



Dog Caller Newspaper Staff– (L-R) Back Row-Layla Tober, Aven Sebren, Rylee Ashley, Eiana Graham, Alyssia Nuzzi, Ashton Wind, Nakaya Hogan, Mark Nuzzi, Montana Duvall, Irma Guerrero Santiago, Mariah Juarez, and Synthia Briscoe. Front Row-Kaleb Bell, Tati Bell, and Robyn Gregory.



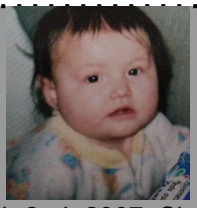
Newspaper

By Montana Duvall

What do people think when they talk about newspapers? Well, they usually think of the newspaper that arrives in the mail. But what about the newspaper in school? Well, it's obviously called Newspaper, but we in the Newspaper classroom call it "The Dog Caller." The newspaper is run by Mrs. Kasandra Lovell, and she says, "I think of the newspaper as part writing articles and creating a newspaper… but also so much more! We work on building self-confidence and discussion skills, as well as participating in plays and musicals. Early on in the year, we turn into a class family." The 2025-2026 Dog Caller Newspaper Staff are: Rylee Ashley, Kaleb Bell, Tati Bell, Ashton Bell-Wind, Synthia Briscoe, Montana Duvall, Eiana Graham, Robyn Gregory, Irma Guerrero Santiago, Nakaya Hogan, Mariah Juarez, Alyssia Nuzzi, and Mark Nuzzi, Aven Sebren, and Layla Tobler. For what we have planned for this year, you'll just have to wait to see!

Page layout by Montana Duvall

Nakaya Hogan



Senior Spotlight
By Montana Duvall

Nakaya Hogan was born on March 2nd, 2007. She's been in FFA (2 years) and FCCLA (2 years). Her hobbies/interests include drawing and playing games. When she was a child, she wanted to be a firefighter when she grew up. Her plans after high school are to get her CNA. Her biggest pet peeve is bullying. Her most prized possessions are her dogs and cats. One word to describe her is kind-hearted. A quote she likes is, 'I didn't want this to be a lesson, I wanted this to be love.' Her favorite memory of high school is her fifth-hour class. Her favorite colors are black and red. Her favorite TV show is *Heartland*. Her favorite musical group is *Lady A*. Her favorite song is, "*Nobody*" by *Matthew West*. Her favorite movie is anything that involves *Madea*. Her favorite food is pizza. And her advice for underclassmen is, 'Never give up on what you believe.'

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Julie Anne Zabriskie

Senior Spotlight
By Montana Duvall

Julie Anne Zabriskie was born on December 5th, 2006. She has been involved in the band (7 years) and the choir (3 years). Her hobbies/interests include singing, dancing, playing instruments, and just music in general. When she was a child, she wanted to be a dancer when she grew up. Her plans after high school are to attend beauty school or college. Her biggest peeves are people pulling on her bag, chewing out loud, and talking over her. Her most prized possession is a shirt her grandpa gave her. If she had to describe herself in one word, she would say joyful. A quote she likes is, 'Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.' Her favorite memory of high school was the pep rallies. Her favorite color is blue/green. Her favorite TV show is *Vampire Diaries*. Her favorite song is *"Hot Wings (I Wanna Party)"* from *Rio*. Her favorite movie is *Twilight*. Her favorite food is cheddar broccoli noodles with mashed potatoes and pork. Her advice for underclassmen is, "Don't do something you will regret just to fit in."



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Fairies



By Irma Guerrero Santiago

Fairies are tiny magic people in old stories. Some have wings, some don't. People say they live in the woods, in flowers, or near rivers. They can be nice, but also tricky. Sometimes they help people. Sometimes they play jokes. A long time ago, people believed fairies came from a hidden world. They had strong magic and didn't like being seen. If you were kind to them, they might help you. But if you were rude or mean, they could get mad. Now, most people see fairies in kids' books or movies. They look cute and sweet, but in old stories, they were kind of scary. You weren't supposed to mess with them or even say their name out loud. Even if they aren't real, it's fun to think about fairies. Maybe they hide in the trees or dance in the garden when no one's looking. They make the world feel a little more magical. And maybe that's the point — not to prove they're real, but to remember there's still wonder out there if you look for it.



My Dream Car

By Eiana Graham

I've been wanting an old Mustang for SO LONG. I've wanted this car for about 2 1/2 years now. The exact car I want is a light blue 1967 Ford Mustang. That car is one of the prettiest things I have ever seen in my life. I remember riding with my mom somewhere when I saw one. Same model, same color, and everything. When I laid my eyes on that car, I INSTANTLY fell in love with it. It quite literally took my breath away. I looked at my mom and asked her what kind of car it was. When she told me, I immediately decided that I had to have one. I usually change my mind about things a lot, but 2 1/2 years? That should tell you something. I want it so bad. I'm pretty sure if anyone got me that Mustang, I would actually start bawling my eyes out. That car is literally my dream. I don't think I've ever wanted something more. I don't think anyone understands my love for that specific model. You could almost say I'm a bit obsessed with Ford Mustangs. I can't help it, though! Those things are pure beauty.

Nature's Gentle Poetry

By Aven Sebren

Flowers are nature's delicate masterpieces, each petal unfolding like a whisper of beauty and grace. They paint the earth with vibrant colors, from the fiery reds of roses to the gentle blues of forget-me-nots, offering both joy and tranquility to those who pause to admire them. Beyond their beauty, flowers carry meaning—symbols of love, hope, remembrance, and renewal—connecting human emotions to the natural world. Their fleeting blooms remind us of life's precious moments, teaching us to cherish the present while looking forward to new beginnings. In every garden, meadow, or wild hillside, flowers quietly remind us that even the smallest things can bring the greatest wonder.







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Aspen Sapp



Senior Spotlight
By Eiana Graham

Full Name: Aspen Harley Sapp.Birthday: 07/03/2008. Extracurricular Activities: BPA (3 years), FCA (4 years), Cheer (3 years), Softball (3 years), Archery (2 years), Powerlifting (4 years). Hobbies/Interests: Photography, I love catching the beauty of things. Childhood Dream Job: Mermaid. Plans after HS: Go to college and get my business degree. Biggest Pet Peeve: Being interrupted. Most Prized Possession: My Bluey stuffed animals. Describe Myself in One Word: Creative. A Quote I Like: "Everything happens for a reason." Favorite HS Memory: going to state with Ashlyn and Corbie. Favorite Color: Purple. Favorite TV Show: Criminal Minds. Favorite Musical Group: Big Time Rush. Favorite Song: "Again" - Noah Cyrus. Favorite Movie: Monster High Boo York. Favorite Food: Ramen. Advice to Underclassmen: "Always follow your heart, not your head."

Zoos

By Irma Guerrero Santiago

Zoos, some people love them. You get to see cool animals up close, like lions, elephants, monkeys, all that. It's fun, especially for kids. You walk around, eat ice cream, and maybe see a giraffe poop. But also… It's kinda weird? These animals come from big wild places, and now they're just chilling in a small space while people stare at them all day. Some folks say that's not fair. Imagine living your whole life in a glass box while strangers point at you. Not comfy. People who run zoos say they help protect animals, especially ones that are endangered. They do research, help with breeding, stuff like that. So maybe zoos do some good. But still, it's not the same as the wild. A fake waterfall isn't a real jungle. Some zoos treat animals well. Others… not so much. That's where the big arguments come in. Are zoos helping or hurting? No easy answer. Zoos can be fun, but also kind of sad if you really think about it. Next time you go, maybe just look a little closer. Are the animals happy? Or are they just bored and stuck? Anyway, Zoos are cool. But also maybe not.



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Damarion Watson

Senior Spotlight
By Eiana Graham

Full Name: Damarion Watson
Birthday: 01/17/08
Extracurricular Activities: Football (1 year), Powerlifting (1 year)
Hobbies/Interests: Football
Childhood Dream Job: Firefighter
Plans after HS: Maybe going to college
Most Prized Possession: My PlayStation
Describe Myself in One Word: Amazing
A Quote I Like: "With great power comes great responsibility"
Favorite Color: Red and teal
Favorite TV Show: *Danny Phantom*
Favorite Musical Group: *Backstreet Boys*
Favorite Song: *"I Want It That Way"* - Backstreet Boys
Favorite Movie: *Norbit*
Favorite Food: None
Advice to Underclassmen: "Be sun smart."



Books

By Robyn Gregory

Books are an amazing thing. They can transport you to an entirely different world. They can keep you amazed or in suspense. They introduce you to some characters that you'll love, and some that you'll loathe. "Books are uniquely portable magic," says Stephen King. I am inclined to agree with this. Books are a special thing that you can't get anywhere else. They can take you out of the real world and into another. This is why reading is so special and important. Reading gives people imagination. It gives people joy. Even if you don't really like to read, you can always find a book that you'll like. There are so many different genres. In fiction, you have action, adventure, mystery, romance, thriller, science fiction, fantasy, horror, dystopian, suspense, and more. In nonfiction, you have biographies, autobiographies, science, philosophy, cooking, crafts, mythology, history, true crime, politics, and many more. You'll find something you like if you just look hard enough. It's completely worth it.

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Acting Star of The Century

By Synthia Briscoe

The best movie star to ever exist is the mouse of the hour, Mickey Mouse! A beloved little critter who has made so many kids smile and laugh whenever no one else could, whenever they have no one else who even tries to make them feel loved, sometimes. Mickey Mouse movies are one among my favorite movies…*Mickey Mouse Christmas Carol, The Three Musketeers*, and many more beloved movies made by Walt Disney. Even though this character is fictional and animated, I feel as if he has still made a huge difference in this life.

The Spiro Graphic

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Carrie Fisher

By Alyssia Nuzzi

Carrie Fisher was born onOctober 21st, 1956, and died on December 27th, 2016. She was an American actress, writer, and mental health advocate who became a cultural icon for her role as Princess Leia in the original Star Wars trilogy. Born to actors Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher, Fisher showed an early interest in writing and poetry. Her 1987 novel *Postcards from the Edge* became a bestseller, and she adapted it into a screenplay for the film of the same name. She was married to Paul Simon from 1983 to 1984. She has one child, Billie Lourd. Carrie Fisher herself suggested her true love was musician Paul Simon, with whom she had a turbulent but enduring 12-year on-again, off-again relationship and a short marriage. Fisher maintained a deep, complex, and long-lasting bond with Simon, who was a complex and powerful figure in her life.

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Lady A

By Nakaya Hogan

Lady A, formerly known as Lady Antebellum, is a prominent country music group known for its smooth harmonies and heartfelt lyrics. Formed in Nashville, Tennessee, the group consists of Hillary Scott, Charles Kelley, and Dave Haywood. Their music blends traditional country elements with pop sensibilities, creating a sound that appeals to a broad audience. The group rose to fame in the late 2000s with hits like " I Run to You" and "Need You Now." The latter became a crossover success that propelled them to international stardom. Lady A's ability to craft emotionally resonant songs has earned them numerous awards, including multiple Grammys, and solidified their place in country music history. Their songs often explore themes of love, heartbreak, and personal growth, connecting with listeners on a deep, emotional level. Beyond their musical achievements, Lady A has also been recognized for their philanthropic efforts and commitment to various charitable causes. Their continued success and evolution as artists demonstrate their enduring appeal and influence in the music industry, making them a beloved and respected group among fans and peers alike.

Jessie Murph

By Layla Tobler

Alabama-born artist Jessie Murph has captivated millions by doing what she does best: telling her story with raw, unfiltered honesty. Her journey from a small-town upbringing to a viral social media star and, ultimately, a major-label artist is a testament to the power of authenticity in a world obsessed with carefully curated images. While the internet may have provided her the initial platform, it's her deeply personal songwriting and genre-bending sound that have cemented her place as one of music's most intriguing new voices.



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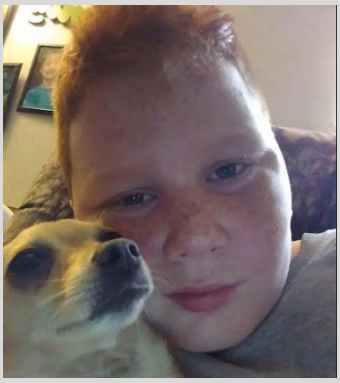
Kaden Andrew Burch



Senior Spotlight
By Layla Tobler

Kaden Andrew Burch was born on October 13, 2007. He has been involved in extracurricular activities, including band (4 years) and basketball (1 year). His hobbies include playing guitar and fixing engines at his house. When he was a child, he wanted to be a Pilot. His plans after high school are to go to trade school for mechanics. His biggest pet peeve is being ignored. His most prized possession is his trucks and his guitars. If he could describe himself in one word, he would use the word “Organized.” A quote he likes is “Don’t buy anything you can’t buy twice”. His favorite memory in high school was going out with his friends every night. His favorite color is blue, his favorite TV show is *The Walking Dead*, and his favorite musical group is *George Strait*. His favorite song is *“Wish I Didn't Know Now*”, his favorite movie is *Karate Kid*, and his favorite food is salmon. His advice for undergraduate students is "Don't waste time and have fun.”

Colton Horn



Senior Spotlight
By Synthia Briscoe

Colton Horn is a 19-year-old senior who is graduating this year! He has been a wonderful supporter of Spiro High School for many years. He joined the band in 6th grade, and then he joined football in 7th grade, and he is still playing today. When he was a kid, he wanted to be a rock star, and now he has played the bass, the guitar, the piano, and I’m sure many other things. His plans for the future are to attend UCO or NSU for jazz studies. His favorite high school memory is going to football camp in Kansas. The thing he holds most dear to him is a guitar pick he caught from Dave Mustaine. A quote he would like to share is, “You’ve gotta stay gaming.” His advice to younger classmen is “Don't take the little things for granted.”

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In Another's Shoes

By Eiana Graham



Do you ever randomly think about what it's like to be someone else? Imagine if you were one of your friends or a distant relative. Whenever I'm listening to stories that people tell me, I wonder what other life adventures they've had. What if they raced down a hill in a shopping cart one time? What if they had the time of their life driving really fast down the backroads? You never know anybody's entire life. You only know what they tell you. I tend to wonder if some people act differently behind closed doors. For example, you could be more social and extroverted whenever you're in public, but once you get home, you're as quiet as a mouse. I've hung out with my fair share of people, and each one of them surprises me with something I never would've expected. Sometimes the secrets they tell open my eyes and look at them a little differently. As dangerous as it could be, I think it could be fun being in someone else's shoes for a moment. You could see what kind of person they truly are. Sometimes I wonder if my friends think the same way.



I Wonder What My Dog Named Me?

By Montana Duvall

The relationship between dogs and their owners is fascinating, particularly when it comes to how dogs perceive and relate to us. While we often give our pets names like Buddy, Luna, or Mr. Wigglesworth the Third, it's intriguing to consider what names dogs might assign to their humans. For instance, a dog may think of their owner as "The One Who Brings Food" or "Loud Human Who Says Sit." Dogs lack the ability to use human language, but they are adept at recognizing us through various cues, including our scent, tone of voice, and behaviors. Research indicates that dogs tend to associate people with emotions rather than specific words. Consequently, a dog's perception of their human might translate into a warm, happy feeling rather than a verbal name. This perspective can enhance our understanding of the bond we share with our dogs. It serves as a reminder that, while we view them as pets, they might see us as unique, two-legged members of their pack—individuals who may not bark but are consistently providing companionship and treats. Therefore, the next time you notice your dog tilting their head at you, consider that they might be thinking of you as "The Snack Giver," reflecting their affection and regard for your role in their life.

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Thank You Spiro Staff

By Montana Duvall

While teachers and students often take the spotlight in our school community, the true foundation of our success is a collective effort that hinges on the unwavering commitment of our essential support staff. To Mr. Eric Fairless, our dedicated school resource officer, who patrols our campus with a vigilant eye, checks for potential threats, and works tirelessly to keep us safe, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your presence brings peace of mind to both students and staff alike. To our remarkable office staff, Mrs. Amy Cox and Mrs. June Darneal, who tirelessly manage the endless stream of phone calls, make crucial announcements, and ensure that our principals are not overwhelmed with a myriad of tasks, we deeply appreciate your unwavering support. Your friendly smiles and organizational skills make a world of difference. To our diligent custodians, Mr. Sammy McDowell, Mr. Phillip Evans, and Mr. Mark Owens, who tackle the often-unpleasant job of cleaning, including those notoriously messy bathrooms, we commend your hard work and dedication. You keep our school environment not only clean but also welcoming, allowing us to focus on our learning. To our bus drivers, whose names may escape me, please know that your dedication to driving our spirited young scholars safely to and from school does not go unnoticed. Your patience and attentiveness play a significant role in our daily journeys. And to our hardworking lunch ladies and men, your efforts in preparing and serving us nutritious breakfasts and lunches make a profound impact on our days. Often working behind the scenes, your dedication ensures that we are fueled and ready to learn. So, from the depths of my heart, thank you all for your invaluable contributions. Your hard work and commitment to our school community truly make a difference.

Wonder Pets!

By Tatianah Bell

Wonder Pets! is an American animated series that follows a group of classroom pets- Linny the Guinea Pig, Tuck the Turtle, and Ming-Ming the Duckling- who use teamwork to help other animals. The dialogue is mostly sung in a musical style. The show was developed while Josh Selig and Jennifer Oxley worked on their previous show, *Oobi*. The series started out with two animated shorts, which acted as pilot episodes. To animate the show, Jennifer created a style of animation called photo-puppetry that uses photos of real objects and moves them using Adobe After Effects. *Wonder Pets!* ran for ten years, from March 3, 2006, to October 17, 2016. This run featured three seasons and sixty-two episodes. *Wonder Pets!* ended due to a natural conclusion of its run after a decade, not because of any dramatic reason.



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Pit Bulls

By Robyn Gregory

Pit bulls, formally known as the American Pit Bull Terrier, are great dogs. They are loyal, sweet, and protective. Despite this, they often get a bad reputation. Pit bulls are often believed to be mean and aggressive, dangerous and scary. While this may be true for some pit bulls, it can be true for any dog. It's not just pit bulls. I feel that their reputation is unfair. Rarely is it "just the dog" that is mean. What I mean by this is that more often than not, the pit's (pit bull) owners are the true cause of the aggression. Seeing as they are big, powerful, and can be made aggressive, pit bulls are the most commonly used dog in the United States dog fighting rings. This illegal activity can make any dog aggressive to anyone or anything, but due to the number of pits, it is most commonly toward them. Another thing that contributes to pit bulls' aggression is abuse. If any dog is abused, they often becomes aggressive to both people and other animals. This, along with the fighting, is through no fault of their own. They, sadly, just ended up in a bad situation, and did what they needed to do to stay safe. However, if a pit is treated right and given the love it deserves, it makes an amazing dog. They are some of the sweetest and most loyal dogs you can find. Don't believe everything you see about dogs. Any dog can be aggressive, and any dog can be the best companion of your life.

Resilience

By Rylee Ashley

Life doesn't always go the way we expect. Sometimes things fall apart, plans change, or challenges show up out of nowhere. When that happens, we rely on something called resilience, which is the ability to get through tough times and keep moving forward. Everyone deals with stress, pressure, and moments when they feel overwhelmed. Maybe it's school, friendships, family, or even your own expectations. Resilience helps us handle these moments without completely shutting down. It doesn't make life perfect, but it does help us stay steady when things get complicated. Even though challenges aren't fun, they can teach us a lot. Failing a test might show us how to study differently. A fight with a friend might teach us how to communicate better. Missing out on something we wanted might help us figure out what really matters. When we look back, we realize the difficult moments helped us grow more than the easy ones.





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Standards

By Alyssia Nuzzi

Today's society has reached the point where the standards are almost impossible to reach or even achieve. Today's beauty standards are characterized by a push for a highly curated, often unrealistic look driven by social media, but there is also a growing counter-movement embracing inclusivity and natural features. Common standards include a slim but curvy figure, "flawless" skin, and specific facial features like full lips, a small nose, and high cheekbones, often achieved through makeup, filters, and cosmetic procedures. Conversely, there is an emerging trend that celebrates individuality, diverse body types, and natural skin texture, as seen in the rise of body positivity and inclusive beauty brands. It is to the point that so many kids grow up with low self-esteem or bad mindsets because of the impossible standards that society and social media accept.

Outsiders Book and Movie

By Synthia Briscoe

Both the book and movie of *The Outsiders* tell the story of Ponyboy and his struggles with gang violence and social class issues. The movie mostly sticks to the book's plot, including big moments like the rumble between the Greasers and Socs, but it speeds things up by cutting some scenes. The book dives deeper into Ponyboy's thoughts and feelings, which helps you understand him better, while the movie uses a great soundtrack to bring out the emotions in a different way. Both versions focus on themes like friendship, loyalty, and trying to figure out who you are. Some supporting characters don't get as much attention in the movie, and the book has way more details about the setting and characters that make the world feel real. On the flip side, the movie's visuals really show what the 1960s looked like and highlight the differences between the Greasers and Socs through their style and surroundings. Overall, both the book and movie do a good job showing the social divide and what it's like growing up caught in it, even though the book goes deeper and the movie delivers a powerful visual experience.

Things That Make Me Go Hmm…

By Rylee Ashley

I think things that make me go hmm are different languages. Sometimes I'm going about my day, and I hear people talking in a different language. I only speak English, but sometimes I wonder what it would be like to understand other people. And sometimes I think about their point of view, and I wonder if they think the same of us. There are more than 7,000 languages spoken in the world. Language is more than just words. It's identity, history, and art all in one. The next time you hear someone speaking another language, listen closely. You might not understand the words, but you'll still hear the beauty behind them.





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Kiana Elizabeth Craig

Senior Spotlight
By Alyssia Nuzzi

Kiana was born on 05/01/2008. She has been involved in FCCLA (1 year), FCA (4 years), Basketball (4 years), Cheer (1 year), and Multimedia (2 years). Her hobbies are basketball, art, reading, and hanging out with her friends. When she was a child, she wanted to be a veterinarian when she grew up. Her plans after high school are to go to college and get into nursing school. Her biggest pet peeve is smacking and having too many people in one room. Her most prized possession is her family and friends. If she had to describe herself in one word, it would be a listener. Her favorite memory of high school is playing basketball with her friends. Her favorite color is light blue. Her favorite TV show is *Scooby Doo*. Her favorite movie is *10 Things I Hate About You*. Her favorite food is sushi. Her advice for underclassmen is “Do not take one day for granted. High school flies by quickly. Keep your friends close. Live life- it’s not that serious.”



Sidney Shipman

Senior Spotlight
By Robyn Gregory

Sydney Shipman was born on June 18, 2007. Her extra-curricular activities are vocal (6 years), softball (1 year), and Ag (5 years). Her favorite hobby is singing, for which she won state three years in a row. When she was a child, she wanted to be a slacker. She plans to go to college to teach after high school. Her biggest pet peeve is people, and her most prized possession is her stuffed sheep. If she had to use one word to describe herself, it would be loud. Her favorite color is blue or pink, and her favorite food is Chick-fil-A. Her favorite TV show is *My Little Pony*, and her favorite movie is *Twilight*. A quote she likes is “All you need is a little faith, trust, and pixie dust!” Her favorite high school memory is Tristan shaving his head in freshman year.

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