On March 5th, the citizens of Altus will vote on a $6 million bond issue that will help bring many good changes to the Altus Public Schools. This is part of the Student/Community Investment Plan put forth by Altus Public Schools.

The bond would include creating safe rooms for Altus Early Childhood Center and Altus Primary School. It will also resurface the track at the junior high to encourage other schools in our district to come to meets in Altus.

This issue will also help improve our Kiwanis Baseball Field by leveling the ground and installing a turf field to accommodate both baseball and softball.

Junior Jerzey Ybarra states, “I would like to have the opportunity to play at Kiwanis Fields and have a place to call home for my senior year.”

$300,000 of the bond would go towards playground improvements to Rivers Elementary, Altus Primary School, and Altus Elementary School. These upgrades will provide a safer playing environment for the elementary aged students.

Finally, over one million dollars will be put towards much-needed new activity busses to replace the current old vehicles.

There will be a slight tax increase for the citizens if the bond issue passes.

Juniors and seniors who are 17 and a half can register to vote in Oklahoma; your voting card will come in the mail before your 18th birthday. See Ms. Robinson if you need help.

Altus Public Schools Superintendent Mr. Roe Worbes states, “I am very excited and encouraged by the outpouring of interest by the citizens of the Altus Public School District in our upcoming bond issue vote.”

Voting will be at regular polling locations from 7am-7pm on March 5th.
Maya Sanchez

Maya Sanchez is a 16 year old sophomore here at Altus High School. She has attended AHS since her freshman year.

Coming from a military family, she has lived in multiple places including: Del Rio, Texas, England, and Wichita, Kansas.

Maya was born in Columbus, Mississippi.

Maya lives with her mom, and dad. She has two brothers: ages 24 and 21.

Her mom works on base for maintenance and her dad retired from the U.S. Air Force two years ago. He was a pilot for the KC-135.

Her oldest brother works for Verizon while the other attends Baylor University.

Some of Maya’s interests include music, athletics, and animals.

After high school, Maya plans to attend Texas A&M for their pre-vet and vet programs. She also hopes to join the band there and eventually graduate.

Maya does not have a job, but she does volunteer at the local animal shelter whenever she can.

Maya’s favorite thing about Altus High School is her friends.

Something cool about Maya that AHS may not know is that she has family that lives in Robstown, Texas. She visits them and it feels like her home away from home.

What motivates Maya in life is knowing that life will end up better at some point.

Maya’s favorite quote is “Whenever life hits rock-bottom, it can only go up from there.”

Michael James

Michael James is a sophomore here at AHS. He has attended Altus High since his freshman year.

He grew up in Sydney, Australia, and Missouri. He moved to Altus during his eighth grade year.

Michael lives with his dad, Milton, and his mom, Belinda. He also lives with his sister, Olivia, and his dog, Bandid.

His dad is a maintenance technician in the Air Force, and his mom works in retail.

His sister, Olivia, is currently a junior here at AHS.

Some of Michael’s interests include playing soccer and running track.

His parents encourage him to do his best in both sports. He enjoys the playoffs and the feeling after finishing.

After high school, Michael hopes to receive a scholarship in track and then to major in Engineering.

Michael is a referee at City League Soccer.

Michael’s favorite thing about AHS is the school spirit. He also likes the track team.

Something cool about Michael that AHS may not know is that he comes from a multicultural background. He has Jamaican heritage from his dad, who was born in Jamaica, and his mom is Australian.

He also achieved a black belt in Tae Kwando at age eleven and is the first AHS student to win at an OU meet.

What motivates Michael in life is his family because they always try to push him to do his best.

By Selah Mace
Staff Writer
Future Military Cadets

JROTC recently took advantage of many opportunities to grow their organization this year. They are also currently working on important projects.

Last month, JROTC held the very first Military Ball in 20 years. The United States Air Force Band of the West performed at the event and is looking forward to performing at future events.

On March 9, JROTC will be holding their annual Baton Death March. This is a 14 mile hike around the practice field and is required if cadets want to letter.

Recently, JROTC received a grant from the 97th Mobility Unit for a three-part project. The first part is three flight simulations for cadets to train on.

The second part will take place two years from now and will include VR headsets and gloves to partner with this year’s flight simulations. The grant also includes five high speed laptops for a student-created initiative.

The cadets recently discovered a game called Airman’s Challenge that recruiters use to interest potential cadets. This inspired cadets to develop games to illustrate parts of lessons that they will eventually take if they join the Air Force.

This year, JROTC is planning to hold a fundraiser at the Commissary for their organization. They also plan to hold an awards lunch or dinner at Western Oklahoma State College. JROTC also helps AHS by recycling paper.

Yearbook Staff Spotlight

By March, the finished yearbook must be put together and perfected for the student body to get copies by May. Working on the book since July, yearbook staff members have only nine months to perfect the book to its final format.

The yearbook has four main editors who make sure they all make the deadlines. Appointed to help out, the four main editors include: senior Lillie Bailey; juniors: Mariah Flores and Celeste Reyes; and sophomore Kayvia Morris. The two main photo uploaders are senior Gabriela Agosto and junior Ashly Obrajero.

After their major deadline for the book, they will travel to Kansas to visit the yearbook company’s headquarters. There they will be able to see the first book be printed and learn more about the process.

Every July, yearbook staff members travel all around Oklahoma for conferences to decide a theme for the upcoming book.

At almost every home event, the student body can catch a staff member trying to capture a great memory. Anyone can join yearbook. All they have to do is talk to Mrs. Newman or their counselor, and request it on their enrollment form.

Sophomore Kayvia Morris states, “When I joined my freshman year it was very challenging. Although once I got used to everything and got close to my classmates, it became easy, and I love being a part of our team.”

Yearbooks are $60 right now and while it’s not too late to order one of the books, schools such as Moore and even out-of-state schools buy them. The student body can purchase a book from one of the editors, Mrs. Newman, or from their website: www.yearbookordercenter.com.

Students who have good photos of events that they think would be good for the yearbook they can visit www.HJeshare.com and enter the code altus2019, and fill out the needed information needed to upload.
Link Crew Links Up

Link Crew is an organization focused on building connections and helping freshman integrate into the high school.

Ms. Robinson states, “We want freshman to feel at home, successful, and involved.”

Link Crew will be hosting the Altus High School Spring Fling on March 8th. It will be held from 8 to 10:30 p.m. in the AHS cafeteria. Kody King will be DJing.

The cost of entry will be 5 dollars for one and 8 dollars for two. Polaroid pictures will be on sale for 2 dollars.

Link Crew commissioners include seniors: Jordan Benway, Garrett Pride, Kobi Gomez and Alyssa Hargis.

Ms. Robinson states, “Our student leaders work so hard on events and planning events for our freshman.”

Every week Link Crew plans a Fun Friday where they go to A lunch and play games with underclassmen. Freshmen will even be able to have a study session next week for 3rd 9 weeks tests in the mornings.

Sophomores and juniors who would like to join Link Crew as a leader can apply in the spring and are picked in May.

Senior Jordan Benway states, “I could not imagine not being apart of Link Crew.”

Stacy Cox is a teacher here at Altus High School. She teaches Art 1 at Altus Junior High and Art appreciation and Drawing 1 at AHS. She has been teaching for twenty-one years in public schools and has spent thirteen of those years in Altus.

After spending eighteen years in Dallas, Mrs. Cox decided to move back to her hometown! As a young girl she went to Jack and Jill Washington Elementary, North east Junior High, AHS, WOSC, SWOSU, and Texas Women’s University in Denton, Texas, where she graduated with a degree in Art.

Mrs. Cox has been married for almost thirty-four years this summer to her husband Phillip Cox. Mr. Cox is the CFO at Aviation Training Consulting. Together they have two children Mollie Gilbert and Bradley Cox. Mollie has two sons: Cole and Mason. Bradley is married to Jonna Cox. Mr and Mrs. Cox also have three dogs: Henrey, Q, and Bob. Mrs. Cox likes to play card games, shoot hoops, go to the movies, and she enjoys rides on the boat with her grandsons. She also loves to snow ski and her days spent at the lake. Mrs. Cox is looking forward to a trip to Florida this summer.

Mrs. Cox says, “The great teachers in my life influenced me to become a teacher. Mrs. Fox, Janet Diltz, Linda Wiginton, and Mrs. Roberts all made great impacts on me.”

Coming out of high school, Mrs. Cox knew she wanted to be an art teacher. Speaking of art, Mrs. Cox has an antique booth at Abby Lane, and she loves to go antique hunting. Her booth is called ART—Antique Retro Treasures. This is why she loves remolding projects so much. Mrs. Cox loves all types of art, even if it’s not antique!

Her favorite quote is, “Character is who you are when no one is watching.”
The Altus Lady Bulldogs are hustling their way towards State Playoffs one game at a time.

7 out of the 16 teams the Lady Bulldogs play in regular season are advancing into the playoffs. The Lady Bulldogs played the Duncan Demons to advance to the regional championship game. They then fell short 9 points to Lawton Ike but still advanced to area.

Seniors include: Kaylen Carroll, Jordan Benway, and Haley Leyja. Other key players are Annie Petzold, Lakysia Johnson, Briana McQuiggan.

Assistant Coach Jade Terbush asked the girls a simple question, “Do we want to be good, or do we want to be great?” Ever since this question was asked, the Lady Bulldogs have been motivated to be great.

Head Coach Stacie Terbush states, “From here on out we need to go out and play hard and take care of business. Our motto this week is ‘Practice like you have never won. Perform like you have never lost.’ I believe in these ladies with all of my heart.”

The Lady Bulldogs defeated Woodward last night with a decisive 55-41 victory. This win advances them further into the area playoffs where they will face the previously #1 ranked Ardmore team.

Jordan Benway states, “Ardmore is at a low right now because they just lost to a number ten team. They are totally beatable!

Join the Lady Bulldogs in Moore tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. as they take on Ardmore. The Lady Bulldogs love the support of the Altus fans. Annie Petzold states, “This game is very important to our team.”

2x State Champion: Kobi Gomez

Last Saturday the AHS Wrestling State Qualifiers made their way to OKC to finish their year off strong!

Senior Kobi Gomez battled his way to the top again this year. He was a 3x Regional Champion throughout his high school career. He pinned his opponent in 52 seconds of the first period in his final wrestling match as a Bulldog.

Kobi has wrestled since he was 4 years old. Wrestling has been a big part of his life for the past 14 years.

Kobi’s parents are Chanda and Neno Gomez. His dad was a State Champion in 1998 for the Altus Bulldogs. He has one brother, Gage, who attends Barton Community College in Kansas and wrestles for the Cougars. Kobi looks up to his brother who was also a state champion.

Coach Brandon Benson states, “It’s been a pleasure coaching Kobi this year. Watching his hard work and dedication pay off was something very special.”

Cabe Dickerson is a 3x State Runner-Up. He also is a 3x Regional Champion. He represented Altus well this year. Although he had a minor setback with his elbow injury, he looks forward to finishing strong his senior year.

After Cabe graduates in 2020, he plans the attend the University of Oklahoma and wrestle.

Cabe and Kobi have wrestled together since they were kids. They are motivated by former coach, Nick Williams.

Coach Williams was the wrestling coach for many years and made a strong impact on these two athletes. He still attends wrestling tournaments to support the Bulldogs.
What do you look forward to about Spring?

Freshman Yamilet Benitez says, "I love the rain."
Sophomore Rawsen Mitchell says, "The band trip."
Junior Alize Molina says, "Spring Break."
Senior Jacob Wohlford says, "Golf season and the choir trip."

Senior Spotlight: Kennedy & Garrett

Kennedy Martin is a senior here at Altus High School and has attended AHS since her freshman year.

Kennedy was born in Lawton and has grown up here in Altus her whole life. She attended Altus Christian Academy until seventh grade before transferring to Altus Public Schools.

Kennedy's interests include running track, dancing, and playing instruments. She knows how to play the flute, violin, and piano.

Kennedy lives with her mom and dad, Kris and Kevin Martin, and her little brother, Kyle.

After high school, Kennedy plans to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University to pursue a degree in business. She would like to eventually have a career as an interior designer.

Kennedy's favorite thing about AHS is how everyone supports each other.

Something cool AHS students may not know about Kennedy is that she has qualified for the state track meet every year since her freshman year as a pole vaulter. Kennedy has also been a member of the AHS dance team since her freshman year. She won state with the team as a junior in 2017.

Kennedy is motivated in life by goals that she has set for herself. She works hard everyday to try to achieve them.

Garrett Gann is a senior here at Altus High School. He grew up in Headrick, OK and has attended AHS since his freshman year.

Garrett's interests include singing, writing and learning music, and teaching. He enjoys participating in musicals as well.

His dad, Danny, is a self-employed carpenter. His mom, Carrie, is a former teacher and is currently attending college to become a PTA. Garrett has a little brother, J.D., and a little sister, Harlee. He also has a dog named Sugar, and two cats, Oliver and Sparticus.

After high school, Garrett plans to attend Cameron University to continue his passion for music education. He also wants to travel the world to spread his love of music.

One of Garrett's favorite high school experiences has been going to New York City with choir. He has also had the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at Governor Stitt's pre-inauguration party.

Garrett is motivated in life by music.

He states, "Music motivates me to spread its influence. My family and friends also motivate me to do great things in life."