On Saturday, April 13, Altus High School students enjoyed A Night in Vegas. This night’s activities included dancing, pictures, great snacks, and much more to create a memorable time with friends.

Over the past few months, the Class of 2020 prepared shirts, decorations, and other items to make sure that prom night was one to remember for years to come.

Beforehand, some students participated in pre-prom festivities by traveling all over to eat at restaurants and take photos. Many students arrived at prom in limos, party busses, and other vehicles.

There was plenty of delicious foods available at the Banquet before prom such as chicken fried steak, grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and corn.

Junior class parent Becca Bush states, “It’s a lot of work, but it’s so worth it to see how excited everyone is!”

The decorations consisted of black fabric draped across the ceiling to highlight the beautiful chandelier, arcade games, a dazzling Las Vegas sign entrance, and many more eye-catching details. There were many seating and photo areas including: Hard Rock Café, Caesars Palace, Bellagio Hotel, Paris and many more.

Brandi Ward took the professional photos for students this year.

Senior Isabella Darby states, “I had so much fun at prom with my friends! All the decorations were so pretty. This was the best prom yet!”

Senior Kobi Gomez states, “My senior prom was a lot of fun, and the decorations were really cool.”

Prom is always a highlight of any senior’s year here at Altus High School and is definitely something students look forward to. This year’s prom was beautiful and students had a spectacular time. Special thanks to the Class of 2020.

Students can scan the QR code to the left to view photos of students entering Prom 2019. In order to access this, open your device’s camera and focus camera on the code or download a QR code reader from the app store.
Junior Tyson Vernon was born and raised in Altus and has attended Altus High School since his freshman year. Tyson plays football and baseball and is a part of AHS’s Bluharmonix.

Tyson’s dad inspired him to play sports from a young age and has even coached Tyson at times. His mom encouraged him to try choir in junior high and he loved it. Tyson lives with his parents, Rick and Mary Vernon. He is an only child. He has two dogs, Sadie and Poncho. He also has a cat, Bo.

After high school, Tyson plans to attend college and obtain a business degree to be marketable, although his major is undecided. This summer, Tyson plans to lifeguard.

Tyson’s favorite part of Altus High School is the support that the students give each other in our extracurricular activities. Something cool students may not know is that Tyson has been to Los Angeles, New York, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Houston, and Dallas. Also, he has met Governor Kevin Stitt and made all-state choir in eighth grade.

Tyson’s motivation in life comes from knowing he can do something today that can make someone’s life a little better or help them grow in some way. Tyson’s favorite quote is by rapper Tupac Shakur, “Everybody’s at war with different things… I’m at war with my own heart sometimes.”

Emily Hughes is a junior here at Altus High School. She grew up in Colorado and moved to Ohio when she was 10. She has attended Altus High School since August of 2018.

She enjoys playing softball for the Altus Lady Bulldogs and for her travel team, the North Texas Coyotes.

Emily also runs track and spends her free time hanging out with her friends and family. Some of her free time is spent with her boyfriend, Cooper Dodson.

She has a younger brother, Colton, and a baby sister named Hailey is on the way. Her mom, Jennifer, is a Contracting Commander on base. Her dad, Jason, is retired from the Security Forces in the Air Force and is now a police officer on base.

Emily has a dog named Gizmo and a cat named Woody.

After high school, she plans to go to college at Indiana University and play softball and study human anatomy and sports medicine.

Emily’s favorite thing about Altus High School is playing kickball during Homecoming Week.

Something interesting students may not know is Emily is from a military family and has lived in Texas, Colorado, Ohio, and Oklahoma. She has also visited Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Her parents and friends motivate her in life to never give up.

Emily says, “The harder you work for something, the greater you will feel when you achieve it.”
**FFA Springs Into Competition**

The Altus FFA has been preparing for spring competition season. The spring holds speech contests, land judging, livestock judging, agriscience fair, trap shooting, and state convention.

Last Saturday, Altus held the 37th Annual Interscholastic Meet. Teams and individuals from 17 schools across the state competed in Public Speaking, Livestock Judging, Land and Home site Evaluation, Ag Sales and Animal Science Quiz Bowl. They had multiple members win for their speeches and the Animal Science Quiz Bowl teams won second and third.

Last Wednesday, the Altus Trap Team competed at State Competition. They broke a state record in the first round with a score of 236. They placed sixth as a team.

Last Thursday, the Animal Science Quiz Bowl teams and multiple speakers competed at the “Best of the Southwest” contest in Hobart. The Animal Science Quiz Bowl teams won second and third. Jace James won fifth in Extemporaneous speaking and Breckyn Brewer won fifth with her prepared public speaking.

Yesterday, the Animal Science Quiz Bowl and Livestock Judging teams competed at the Regional Level at Redlands in El Reno.

Today is the Altus Regional Speech Contest at Western Oklahoma State College. Students from surrounding areas will compete with their prepared speeches and the FFA creed. Freshman can compete with the FFA creed. All students can compete in prepared public speaking or extemporaneous speeches. Extemporaneous speeches are given to the students from a hat and they have a certain amount of time to prepare and write a four to six minute speech to give to the judges.

**Tori Booker Takes on D.C.**

Tori Booker is a junior here at Altus High School and has been attending since her freshman year.

Tori plans to attend Oklahoma State University where she hopes to obtain a degree in plant and soil sciences with the option of crop production.

She hopes to gain employment with a seed or chemical company to become a sales representative. Either during or after a career in agriculture, she wants to serve the industry on a higher level. She won’t mind whether that be serving in the legislature or as the secretary of agriculture.

Tori is very interested in being civically active. She credits 4-H for hosting many opportunities to learn for this interest. Last summer, she even attended a citizenship Washington focus. Tori was even on the government committee and wrote and presented bills in a congressional session.

Tori is inspired by Blayne Arthur, the first female secretary of agriculture, stating, “She has shown me to always believe in myself and to not give up on myself.”

Tori has represented 4-H, FFA, and Altus High School at the capitol and has been an advocate for youth. She has also been a page with our Senator Brent Howard.

Tori is currently in Washington D.C. attending a National 4-H Conference. This conference provides youth with an opportunity to become civically involved on a higher level. They began last Saturday with getting acquainted, and Sunday with a monument tour. Sunday and Monday they worked hard to prepare the roundtable discussions.

Tori even had the opportunity and privilege to speak to the agriculture challenged senate roundtable. Members spoke on their involvement in agriculture past, present, and future. They also met Oklahoma’s legislatures on Wednesday.

Tori has a passion to help the agriculture in our area.
April is the Month of the Military Child across the nation. The month is dedicated to recognizing and applauding military children for the challenges they face and the obstacles they overcome. Tomorrow, is Purple Up! day, a time for Americans to show their support for military kids across the world! People are encouraged to wear the color purple—a color symbolizing all branches—to honor and show their appreciation of military kids’ resiliency.

To celebrate we are sharing about some of AHS’s military kids. Selah Mace (10) has been to a total of eight new schools. Her favorite part about being a military kid is her ability to adapt to change.

Hannah Pederson (9) has been able to visit twenty-nine different countries throughout her life. Her dad is the 97th Mission Support Group Commander. She plans to attend The Air Force Academy after high school.

Alyna Castillo (11) has been to eight different schools and been a part of a dance team in all locations. Her dad is a Chief Master Sergeant for the 97th Force Support Squadron.

Emily Hughes’ (11) mom is the 97th Contracting Commander, and her father is retired Security Forces. She has friends across the country in eight different states who are also military kids.

Hannah & Bethany Bradley’s (10) favorite place to live is Utah because of the friendly people and beautiful mountains. Hannah is Altus AFB’s Military Youth of the Year for her second consecutive year.

Logan Baker (10) enjoys learning more and more about the military due to his dad’s career as a boom operator.

Isabelle Childs’ (11) favorite thing about being a military kid is building strong friendships and meeting all kinds of nice people. Her mother was a Master Sergeant for twenty-one years.

Caroline & Olivia Carney (11) look forward to moving to Pyeongtaek, South Korea, this summer. This will be their ninth new school before coming back to attend college in Texas.

Kaydee Helen (10) has been to eight different schools and loves seeing new places. She has unique world experiences due to her military lifestyle.

Don’t forget to wear purple tomorrow in support of our military students!

Teacher Spotlight: David Prickett

David Prickett is the World History teacher here at the high school. He has been teaching for 32 years, but teaching in Altus for a total of 20 years.

Mr. Prickett was born in Anadarko, Oklahoma, where he graduated high school. He attended Eastern Oklahoma State College and Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

He decided he wanted to become a teacher because he was influenced by his teachers and coaches growing up. Mr. Prickett states, “I respected and looked up to them and decided that was the career path for me.”

Mr. Prickett has a lovely wife, Listena, who taught in Altus and is now the principal at Granite Public Schools. They have two sons Brandon and Bryce that they are very proud of. He also has 3 grandkids named Brodie, Baker, and their newest granddaughter Claire Elizabeth.

His interests include: fishing, golfing, wood working, teaching and coaching. However, his favorite time is spent with his grandchildren.

Some things students at Altus High School may not know about Mr. Prickett is that he spent 18 days in South Africa touring the coast from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town. Also, his sons helped him build the cabin house that he and his wife currently live in. They constructed everything themselves except the rock fireplace and the central heat and air work.

Mr. Prickett believes, “The most important thing in the world is family and love.”
The Altus High School Cheerleaders have chosen their squad for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. 20 cheerleaders and one mascot make up the new team.

The AHS cheer squad, coached by Kacie Bates, will consist of two seniors: Maggie Landers and Skye Martinez; five juniors: Jessi Atchley, Rylee Borrego, Teressa Brown, Ary Garduño and Kaalon Welch.

Six at sophomores: Bailey Bryant, Clayten Guerra, Serenity Ridley, Savannah Shipman, Carly Thomas and Malorie Wood.

Seven upcoming freshman: Nyla Ball, Abi Beane, Gabriela Cantu, Alyssa Capper, Madelynn Falon, Grace Humble and Lexie Scott; and one mascot Korey Saenz.

Next year will be a big change for the AHS Cheer squad. Instead of attending OSSAA Regionals and State competitions, next season they will be attending the Oklahoma State Gameday Cheer Competitions in September.

Last season they competed at the Gameday Cheer Competitions for the first time and placed 4th out of 24 teams.

This season they plan to focus on the Gameday Competition and hope to bring home a State Championship title.

In summer the team will attend the UCA Spirit Camp at Oklahoma University. They will be preparing material for the upcoming season and pep rallies for the Fall.

The team also hopes to attend UCA Nationals at Disneyland in February.

Be sure to congratulate the new squad!

The AHS Baseball Team has a 9-13 record so far this season.

The seniors include: Ryan Sanchez, Garrett Pride, Kasen Davis, and Cyrus Bentancour. Ryan is the pitcher, Garrett plays 3rd base, Kasen is the catcher on varsity.

The team welcomed a new coach this year, Brandon Ybarra. Coach Ybarra has worked very hard to improve the field and environment for the team.

A few goals that the team set is to win 20 games by the end of the season, and finish top 3 in the district.

Garrett Pride states, “Our team has a lot of fight in ourselves, and it shows in every game.”

A strong motto the team uses during the season is, “Fight, Finish, Faith.” Fight the battle, Finish strong, and keep the Faith.

The Bulldogs recently held their first tournament at Kiwanas Park. Nine different teams participated from Texas and Oklahoma. Altus finished 3rd with a 3-2 record over the 3-day tournament. They are very thankful for all of the sponsors for helping to make this happen.

The Bulldogs recently traveled to OKC and attended the Dodgers game. They had a great time bonding with their team.

The Bulldogs' last home game was on Thursday and all of the players wore an Autism Awareness jersey. The team fought hard but came up short with an 11-7 loss.

The Varsity Baseball will be traveling to Elk City tomorrow, and to Weatherford on Friday. Wish them luck!
Haley Bearden is a senior here at Altus High School and has attended AHS all four years. She was born and raised here in Altus.

Haley lives with her mom, her younger brother, and two younger sisters. She is the middle child of five other siblings.

After high school, Haley plans to attend Oklahoma State University for four years to earn a pre-med degree. She hopes to then transfer to medical school and eventually become an abdominal surgeon.

What motivates Haley in life is the challenges she faces that she has to complete.

Haley's favorite thing about AHS is how laid back it is.

Haley's interests are hanging out with friends and helping other people.

Something cool students may not know about Haley is that she got to go to Hawaii for the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. She was also able to be main drum major for the Altus Band.

Haley's favorite quote, by Brain Tracy, is "Make your life a masterpiece; imagine no limitations on what you can be, have or do."

Trenton Gilbert is currently a senior here at AHS. He was raised here in Altus.

Trenton's interests are bowling, digital art, and animation.

He works at Whataburger and plans to work there until he moves away to college.

He lives with his mom, Heather, and his dad, Kevin. He lives near his grandparents, and his sister moved out of his house last year.

After high school, Trenton plans to attend the University of Advanced Technology in Tempe, Arizona. There he plans to earn multiple degrees in animation and programming.

What motivates Trenton in life is seeing the great things that humans are capable of accomplishing. He is also motivated by his friends and his family's support.

Trenton's favorite thing about AHS is all of the wonderful teachers here!

Something cool about Trenton that AHS may not know is that he is very knowledgeable with computers. He has fixed many computers for his family and friends! During his junior year, Trenton recreated Pac-Man from scratch.

Trenton's favorite quote is, "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."