Last weekend Altus High School Student Council officers attended the Oklahoma Association’s of Student Councils State Convention in Ada, Oklahoma.

Senior attendees are: Hunter Webb, Raegan Cope, and Brady Marple; Junior, Lexie Kelley; and sophomores: Lane Snapp, Bryce Wehmeyer, and Reagan Roudebush. First year sponsor Caitlynn Neely traveled to Ada with the group to participate in leadership trainings, network with other councils and learn ways to improve Altus’ STUCO.

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The theme for the event was RISE (Real Inclusiveness Serves Everyone). To AHS council members this meant finding ways to get the student body more involved. “We want every student at AHS to feel like they are a part of the Bulldog family.”

Delegates were put into situations to make new friends and work with them in team activities. They were separated from their fellow council members and gained many new friendships. Student Council members with a variety of different backgrounds, school sizes, and personalities all came together as leaders.

The convention held over 2000 council members and advisors from across the state. Members faced challenges and team bonding activities with new friends as well as their own council.

This was Altus’ second year attending OASC State Convention. Council members may now also attend basic, advanced, and national leadership camps in the summer.

The AHS Student Council is looking to make changes such as adding more activities to the calendar and chants at assemblies.

Student Body Vice President Raegan Cope states, “I am so glad I got the opportunity to go to STUCO State Convention my senior year! It was a beneficial experience that I will never forget.”

If you have questions or suggestions see your AHS class officers. For updates follow @altushighschool_stuco on Instagram.
Kathryn Davis

Kathryn Davis is a sophomore here at Altus High School. She has attended Altus High for two years. She also grew up in Blair, Oklahoma.

Kathryn has always loved football growing up. “I grew up with my brother playing, but I had never tried it,” she states.

Kathryn’s brother inspired her to start playing football in the sixth grade. He told her how fun it would be if the two of them played football together. She has made many lifelong friends along the way, which is one thing she loves about football.

Kathryn has an older sister named Ky’leigh and an older brother named Dillan. They were all very close growing up. Her mom works at AHS as the ISS supervisor.

Kathryn has a job cleaning houses for her grandfather. After high school, Kathryn plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in medicine. She would like to be a veterinarian because she loves animals and wants to help them.

Kathryn’s favorite part about Altus High School is spending time with all of her friends, including outside of school.

One thing that motivates Kathryn is proving to all of the people that tell her she can’t do something, that they are wrong. Her brother Dillan also motivates her in football and everything she does.

If Kathryn could go anywhere in the world, she would love to go to Paris.

Bryce Kahla

Bryce Kahla is a returning sophomore here at Altus High School. He moved to Altus from Port Bolivar, Texas, and was born in Galveston, Texas.

Bryce enjoys playing football and baseball at AHS, as well as hunting and fishing in his free time. He also enjoys getting to spend time with his brother and dad.

He states, “I’ve played baseball for as long as I could walk and swing a bat. Hunting and fishing is a family tradition which is special for me.” Bryce is the youngest of his siblings: three older brothers and one sister. He grew up showing in FFA and 4-H, being active in sports, as well as hunting and fishing.

After high school, Bryce plans to attend college and hopefully play baseball.

Bryce is inspired by his brother, Noah Villarreal. He states, “He encourages me to do my best in everything and pushes me to be the best me. He also encourages me because he has always pushed himself to come out on top. Noah is my best friend as well as my brother.”

Something AHS students might find interesting about Bryce is that his house was on the beach in a small community with the Intra Costal Waterways at his front porch. He states, “I have literally grown up a beach bum.”

His favorite part about AHS is getting to play sports at the end of the day.

Some of his accomplishments include being a two-time state Grand Champion in show goat and a state Grand Champion in show lamb.

Bryce is motivated by his want of a good future. He states, “I don’t want to struggle for anything and I want to provide for my mom.”

Bryce’s favorite quote is, “Everyday is a good day to get better.”
On November 16th, the 2020 KAY Club will host a Mr. Altus pageant open to all boys in the Jackson County area. The senior KAY class is holding this event as their annual fundraiser. The theme for this event is *A Night in The Stars*.

The pageant will have six categories: active wear, talent, evening wear, on-stage question, Mr. Photogenic, and People's Choice. Mr. Photogenic will be decided by the photographer, Brandi Ward. People's Choice will be chosen by the public by a voting system at the entrance of the pageant. Contestants will be able to showcase any skill they'd like.

When asked about what he'd say to his competitors, contestant Tyler Bush states a quote by Glenn from Talladega Nights, "Here's some things to focus on: One, we tried hard and two, we're still dear friends."

Rece Gribble mentions how he'd feel if he won and states, "I thought it'd be fun to participate. I'd be so excited if I won Mr. Altus!"

Hunter Webb elaborates on why he entered the Mr. Altus pageant and states, "Because I enjoy competition and I want to make great memories. I would be very happy if I won but I just love being with my friends."

Tickets will be $10 and can be purchased at the door. This event will take place at the City Auditorium at 7 p.m. All proceeds will go towards the 2020 KAY Club. This event is open to the public. The 2020 KAY Club would be very thankful for your support!

Dewayne Pollard is a 15 year old sophomore who has lived in Altus all of his life.

In Dewayne's free time he enjoys adventuring the outdoors and hanging out with his fellow students.

Dewayne was in a bad car accident on June 8, 2019. When he awoke in the OU Children's hospital he was confused and wondering what happened to him. He has been at Bethany Children's Center Rehabilitation Hospital while recovering from the accident. He enrolled back into Altus High School on November 5th.

Dewayne is the youngest out of his siblings. He has 7 sisters, 3 brothers that range in age from 15 to 27. He hopes to attend The University of Oklahoma to become a physical therapist.

What motivates Dewayne is knowing that he has a purpose, and that he can fulfill it. Giving up is not in his code, because he knows that he's worth something.

Dewayne states, "You win some, you lose some, but you live to fight another day." By Gayle Forman. To Dewayne this means, "Life is going to get you down sometimes, but you can always get back up."

On November 1st, That Altus Band visited Dewayne on the way to the football game. They played the fight song for him. Dewayne states, "When the band came, I felt really loved, shocked, and ecstatic-just a feeling I haven't felt in awhile." It was an emotional time for him and his family.
FFA Takes Indy

The Altus FFA attended National Convention last week. While in Indianapolis, they attended multiple sessions led by the National FFA Officer Team, and they heard multiple motivational speakers.

While at convention, the Altus FFA Chapter was recognized as a three star chapter. This award means the chapter actively implements and emphasizes growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture through public events, community service, and community partnerships.

On the last day of convention they attended the National Agriscience Fair. In order to participate, students must have placed first at their state’s Agriscience Fair. The student’s project needs to pertain to the agriculture or the food service industries.

Freshman Luke Gallagher participated after placing first at state last spring. He earned a gold medal for his project about creating energy with soil using a microbial fuel cell. Luke states, “I am so proud that I got to represent Altus at National Convention, and got to see the results from my work over the last several months.”

Congrats to the Altus FFA for their accomplishments at National Convention.

Teacher Spotlight: David Storey

David Storey has taught for five years, but this is his first year teaching at Altus High School.

Mr. Storey was born in Salina, Kansas, but came to Altus in 1977 because his father was in the Air Force. Mr. Storey grew up in Guam and graduated from Altus High School and later from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.

Mr. Storey played football for both high school and college as a center. He was an All-State football player and wrestler; he even was the captain of the wrestling team and played golf in high school. In college, he blocked for Thurman Thomas who was later inducted into the Football Hall of Fame.

Mr. Storey was inspired to be a teacher so he could share his love of learning with others after he retired from Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering in 2013.

His wife, Robin, teaches seventh grade reading at Altus Junior High. They have one son, Braxton, and three daughters, Kerrstin, Brandy, and Gabby.

Mr. Storey’s hobbies and interests include woodworking and repairing old cars. He also enjoys scuba diving and visiting New Zealand. Mr. Storey deemed Queensland, New Zealand, as the ultimate adventure place because he bungee jumped, swam with sharks, and even got to parachute.

Something Altus High School students may not know is that his family enjoys going on cruises where they can swim with dolphins.

One of Mr. Storey’s favorite quotes is, “A man is great not because he hasn’t failed; a man is great because failure hasn’t stopped him,” by Confucius.
Cheer Takes State!

The Altus High School Cheerleaders have been practicing all school year to compete in the State Game Day competition. They are coached by Kacie Bates.

The cheer squad attended a UCA Game Day Camp to learn and perfect their routine. They even won two awards at cheer camp.

On November 2nd the cheerleaders traveled to Moore High School to compete. This was their second year to compete.

The competition relies heavily on crowd involvement. The cheerleaders competed in three separate categories: the AHS fight song, crowd leading, and a band dance.

After these categories are scored, the top six high scores advance to the finals. The top six squads perform their whole routine. The complete routine consists of the Altus High School fight song, an offense or defense cheer, a band dance, and the crowd leading section. The squad placed in the top six in prelims, and advanced to the finals. They placed third overall.

Senior cheerleaders Maggie Landers and Skye Martinez both attended All-Region cheer on November 6th. They were scored off a range of skills including a cheer, a series of jumps, standing tumbling, and running tumbling. Both advanced to All-State.

Congratulations to the Lady Bulldog cheerleaders!

Cross Country State

On Saturday, November 2, the Altus High School Cross Country Team competed at their state meet. This was the third time the AHS Cross Country team competed at state.

In order to qualify for state runners have to place in the top seven at regionals. At state, the team competed against fourteen teams and ran some of their best times.

Two girls out of the Cross Country team made it to state: Bethany Garrison and Cayden Beckner.

The girls competed against around 110 others. Cayden Beckner placed twentieth and Bethany Garrison placed fifty-fourth.

Senior Cayden Beckner states, “Being my senior year, this cross country season was very memorable.”

The boys team consisted of: Calvin Wagnor, Justin Ortiz, Taeve Elliot, Macel Canterbury, Michael James, Aiden Kille, and Jonathan Wathen.

The boys placed fourth as a team at regionals and eighth as a team at state. They worked hard all season to place at these competitive meets.

Senior Calvin Wagoner states, “The boy’s team has finished first two times this year, second three times, and finished fourth at pre-state, qualifying us for state.”

Congratulations to the girl’s and boy’s Cross Country team for performing well at state and representing the Altus Bulldogs!
Therapy.
During the summer, Jerzey works at the Snoball Factory. One interesting thing people may not know about Jerzey is that she has never been to a zoo.
Jerzey’s favorite thing about Altus High School is Friday Night Lights and holding hands with her classmates as they sing our Alma Mater.
Jerzey’s family has been her biggest motivation. They support her in everything she does. She strives to make them proud.
Jerzey’s favorite quote is, “Practice like you’ve never won. Perform like you’ve never lost.” Another one of her favorite quotes is, “Dream it-Be it,” by Brandon Ybarra.
Jerzey Ybarra is a senior here at Altus High School and has attended since her freshman year. Jerzey is the 18-year-old daughter of Bobby and Veronica Ybarra. She also has an older brother named Brandon Ybarra.
Jerzey is involved in Link Crew, Blue Crew, Softball, and Basketball. She enjoys watching movies and sitcoms on Netflix, snuggling up with her husky Creed, and hanging out with friends and family.
After high school, Jerzey plans to attend Western Oklahoma State College for two years and then transfer to Southwestern Oklahoma State College to major in Physical Therapy.
Elias Soliz is attending his fourth year at Altus High School. He is the son of Veronica and Antonio Alfaro. Veronica is a nurse at JCMH, and Antonio works at Bar-S. He also has two brothers Isaac, and Isaiah, and a step-brother Jacoby.
Elias is the starting right guard for the AHS football team and he also wrestles for the Bulldogs. He has played his whole life and enjoys it. On the weekends, he likes to go fishing with his friends. He also loves spending time with his two dogs, Bo and Boomer.
After high school, Elias plans to attend Western Oklahoma State College for his first two years and then transfer to get a degree in criminal justice.
Elias’ biggest accomplishments were made in wrestling. He won a tournament at Oklahoma State University, and he is a two-time district champion.
Elias’ biggest motivation in life is his mother. She does everything for him, and she is always there for him. He tries his very best in everything he does to make his mother proud.
Elias’ favorite quote is, “There is no substitute for hard work. Never give up. Never stop believing. Never stop fighting” by Hope Hicks.