Last Wednesday, Altus FFA hosted and competed in the First Annual Cotton Country Shootout at Altus Junior High. The high school competed against the junior high archery team, two intermediate school archery teams, and two Elk City FFA archery teams.

The high school archery team won fourth. Several high scoring individuals included: Cale Gallagher who won second place male, Bailey Pence who won second place female, and Luke Gallagher who won fourth place male.

The archery program started last year using the National Archery in Schools Program, or NASP. NASP is an in-school program aimed at students in fourth through twelfth grade. The program helps students learn focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and life lessons required to succeed in the classroom and in life.

The archery program is a range from 10 to 15 meters shooting at one of six targets. Archers are separated into two groups and compete head-to-head with another student shooting at the same target.

Once the group is called to the shooting line, they will hear a series of whistle commands for direction. Two whistle blows mean the archer can get his or her bow from the rack and load an arrow. One whistle blow tells the students to raise their bows, aim, and fire. Three whistle blows signal the archers and scorekeepers to retrieve their arrows after a score has been recorded.

If a student hits a bullseye, they will earn 10 points. There are colored rings surrounding the bullseye, each ring decreases by one point as it gets farther from the center. If the archer fails to hit the target, a score of zero will be recorded.

Students’ scores are used to award both individual and team placements.

Mr. Stafford states, “I wanted to find another way to showcase our students’ talents.”
Kyristen Farrior

Kyristen Farrior is a junior at Altus High School. She has lived in Altus, Oklahoma, for one year. Kyristen grew up in Dayton, Ohio.

Kyristen participates in track and cross country for AHS. She also has worked at the Altus Air Force Base commissary since August of 2019.

She states, “I love to push myself to do better even when it’s hard. I love the feeling when I’m running a 5k and the rush I get when crossing the finish line.”

Kyristen lives with her stepdad Shane and her mom Tiffany Campbell. Her stepdad is in the military as a First Sergeant, and her mom works at the base hospital. Her mom helps prevent domestic violence in homes and she teaches safety hazards. Kyristen has a younger sister named Addison who is 7 years old. They have a French Bulldog named Zoe.

Her favorite thing about AHS is the friends and memories that she has made.

One thing that people may not know about Kyristen is that before moving to Altus, she lived in Guam for four years. She has also been to Japan, South Korea, Hawaii, and Saipan.

After Kyristen graduates, she plans to join the United States Air Force as a Medical Technician for four years and then complete online school to get her Bachelor’s degree.

Kyristen is motivated by her friends, family, and coaches to do her best and better herself. She surrounds herself with people who lift her up. She also wants to encourage and motivate her friends.

Hernan Rosas

Hernan Rosas is a junior at Altus High School. He was born and raised in Altus and lives with his mom, dad, and his three siblings, as well as two dogs.

Hernan has two brothers. Ernesto Jr. graduated in 2018 and now attends Oklahoma State University. Victor attends Altus Primary School. Hernan has one sister, Rocío, who is an eighth grader at the Altus Junior High. His parents, Maria and Ernesto Rosas, own a landscaping business called Total Lawn Care.

Hernan is involved in many sports. He plays the left guard position in football, he wrestles and throws in track for the Bulldogs.

After high school, Hernan plans to attend Texas A&M University for welding or follow in his dad’s footsteps and work in the landscaping business.

One of Hernan’s favorite memories is when he went to a Big 12 game when the University of Oklahoma played Baylor.

Hernan’s biggest motivation in life is God. He states, “He is everything to me and keeps me going.”

Hernan’s favorite thing about AHS is participating in sports, being in Ag class, and getting to see his friends.

Hernan has a job working for his dad’s landscaping business. He works mowing lawns, putting up Christmas lights and taking them down, and a variety of detailed landscaping.

Hernan’s favorite quote is “If you ain’t first, you’re last,” by Ricky Bobby.

Hernan enjoys traveling with his family to different states each year and getting to try new things.
Altus E-sports Joins the Game!

The Altus High School E-sports team kicked off their program and had tryouts this week. Many students came out to try and vie for a spot on the team.

The games that the team will play in competitions are: Rocket League, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, NBA 2k20, Madden 20, and Minecraft Survival Games. AHS has a 'no violence policy' for E-sports. The tournaments are set up with detailed guidelines and stages.

Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournaments are played as the best out of 3 in the preseason and regular season and the best out of 5 in the postseason and grand finals. Rocket League Tournaments support cross-play, and all teams compete against each other, regardless of which console the players use.

E-sports is a great way to get involved for those who enjoy using technology and don’t otherwise participate in other activities. It also helps students grow STEM-related skills that they can continue to utilize.

E-sports is a growing extracurricular activity in schools, and many universities now offer scholarships to those who participate. This number is only growing as technology and the program itself advances.

Draven Ybarra states, “I’m most excited for the Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournaments because that’s the game I’m best at.”

The E-sports team meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:15 p.m. in room 202.

Robotics First Competition!

The Robotics Team had their first competition on Saturday. They placed in many different sections of the competition: 12th in The Weirdos, 17th in Smells Like Team Spirit, 23rd in Bill Gate’s, and 15th in Chaos.

This is their first year going to competitions, so it has been a trial-and-error process.

At the competition, students used a joystick to move their robot on a 12x12 board. Students had to code, go through obstacles, build structures, and use their robots to complete real world challenges.

This year the Robotics Team started a new program called VEX. This is for students who are interested in engineering and programming.

The students in the class, who aren’t in VEX stick to smaller projects such as exploring Virtual Reality, using salt-powered robots, and making robots out of Legos.

Since robotics is a class and a club, it is split up into four teams: two are from the club and two are from the class.

Through robotics, students are given many opportunities to get involved. Students can even earn scholarships from participating in competitions.

Sophomore Yamilet Benitez states, “Having the class and the opportunity to be in the VEX program helped us not only grow in knowledge and experience, but also in friendships and mindset.”

The Robotics Team is extremely grateful that they got the class, and for those who funded it.
Students to Audition for OSAI

Students all across Oklahoma are currently preparing to audition for the many disciplines that the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute has to offer. OSAI offers a two-week summer camp for those interested in the training of the arts.

The disciplines include: acting, chorus, creative writing, dance, drawing and painting, film and video, orchestra, and photography.

Juniors Sarah Scott and Rawsen Mitchell and sophomores Emma Sasse, Tiffany Taylor, Daniel Johnson, and Zoe Pewo are some of the students auditioning from Altus High School. Only 250 students are chosen from across the state to attend this prestigious camp.

Emma Sasse will be auditioning for photography, while Zoe Pewo and Daniel Johnson will be auditioning for film. Along with film, Daniel Johnson will also be auditioning for acting. Sarah Scott will be auditioning for choir, and Rawsen Mitchell will be auditioning for orchestra. Brayden Derra will be auditioning for acting.

Along with all the training for their art field, the students will be able to do additional things such as hikes, talent shows, dances, and even karaoke night. The auditions will be held all across the state from January to February. The camp will be held June. To audition there are different requirements for every discipline, but all require a fee of $20. When students are accepted, they receive a full scholarship for the camp. If students are talented in many of the arts, they have the option to try out for many disciplines.

Rawsen stated, “I auditioned for OSAI as a sophomore, but I had no clue how difficult it is to make it as a band member. It sparked my interest because I love to drive myself towards a goal.”

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Ramirez

Mrs. Ramirez is the newest teacher in the learning lab department here at Altus High School. She loves being apart of a great community and school. She completed her student teaching last year in Altus. She student taught with Mrs. Atteberry at Altus Intermediate School and Ms. Ford at Altus High School.

She grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. She graduated high school in 2014 from Lathrop High school. She attended Midwestern State University and Grand Canyon University and received her Bachelor in Elementary Education and Special Education.

Mrs. Ramirez states, “I decided to become a teacher because, like many other teachers, I found a teacher who helped me become excited about education.”

She has been married for two and a half years. Her husband, Franklin Ramirez, is a fuels specialist and cryogenics engineer in the Air Force. The Air Force is the reason they moved to Altus in 2017. They have two German Shepherds, Max and Sierra.

Her hobbies include going hiking with her two dogs, spending time with family, traveling different states and photography with her husband. She also enjoys taking picture of nature.

Something students may not know about Mrs. Ramirez is before moving here, she was a photographer in Kansas City. She worked with large companies including; AMC theaters, Wing Stop, and BMW.

Her favorite quote is, “If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward,” by Martin Luther King, Jr.
No (Swim) Cap!

The AHS swim team is six weeks out from state. Right now they are trying to get people in the correct events to score the most points.

The swim team recently went to Edmond; the girls swim team got third and the boys swim team won the meet.

The boys got first out of nineteen teams. The girls 400 free relay got first with a great time.

The Bulldogs have Area Championship on January 31st, Regionals the 7-8th of February, and their State Meet is February 21-22.

The girl's team is 15-1 in dual meets, and they have placed second at two invitationals with fifteen teams. The boy's team is 13-2 in dual meets plus one tie. They have placed third at two invitationals with fifteen other teams.

Soliz, Jose Centeno, and Lane Snapp. Jose Centeno has had some remarkable wins that has him in line for state medal.

Coach Benson, the head wrestling coach, is looking for hard work and great things on the biggest of stages. Senior Aydan Lesley states, “Wrestling is a very tough sport. You have to be committed to it at all times. It’s a sport where you have to maintain self-control, and you cannot be selfish.”

Make sure to cheer on the wrestling team as they head to the Carl Albert tournament this weekend!
What was your New Year’s resolution?

Senior Braden Lollis said, “I am going to have better health habits.”

Junior Jessi Atchley said, “I want to get my back hand-spring for cheer.”

Sophomore Jared Raasch said, “I hope to be more responsible.”

Freshman Danielle Davis said, “I am going to work harder in school.”

Senior Spotlight: Cayden & Anthony

Cayden Beckner is a junior at Altus High School, but she is classified as a senior because she is graduating early.

She lives with her mother, Rachel, who is the Vice Principal at AHS and her father, Cody, who is a farmer. Her older sister, Chauncey, is a junior at Oklahoma State University and is pursuing a degree in Plastic Surgery.

After high school, Cayden plans to attend OSU to study Health and Nutrition.

One of Cayden’s interests include running because it’s not only a physical sport, but it’s also a mental one. She plans to do her first full marathon after she graduates. Cayden has also recently sparked an interest in swimming.

Something AHS students may not know about Cayden is that she has a pet chameleon named Duece.

One of Cayden’s favorite quotes is, “Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.”

Cayden is most motivated by her parents and grandparents. They have always encouraged her to be her best and to dream big.

Cayden states, “They are there at all of my races because they love to watch me try my hardest.”

Anthony Benitez is a senior at Altus High School. He has lived in Altus his whole life. He lives with his mom, Marey Reyes, and his step dad, Luis Reyes. He has two brothers, Andres and Adrian Benitez.

After high school, Anthony plans to attend Western Oklahoma State College for two years and later transfer to a major university to major in Zoology and pursue a veterinarian career.

In Anthony’s spare time he likes to play video games, play with his dogs, fish, volunteer, draw, and spend time with his friends. He works at Walgreens as a cashier.

He is in ATI, LEO Club, and is a soccer manager. He played soccer his sophomore and junior year and ran cross country this year.

Anthony’s favorite thing about AHS is the soccer team, because they never fail to make him laugh.

Something students at AHS may not know about Anthony is that he enjoys playing the harmonica and knows how to play the Jurassic Park theme song. He and his family also like to complete 5000+ puzzles.

Anthony’s biggest motivation in life is his family. One of Anthony’s favorite quotes is, “If you’re always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be”, by Maya Angelou.