altus high school's
the COLLAR
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What's Inside Bulldog Nation

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Upcoming Events:

- 25th– Cross County at Cameron Meet
- 25-26th– Lady Bulldog Softball at Chickasha
- 26th- Relay for Life
- 28th– Lady Bulldog Softball Senior Night
- 29th– BluHarmonix Concert at 7 p.m.
- Oct 1– Cap & Gown Rep here to talk to seniors

The Collar Staff
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Senior Editors: Grayce Gillam & Gracie Taylor
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Take Me Back to the Ball Game!

By Taylor Johnson
Staff Writer

The Ribbon Cutting for the new complex at Kiwanis Field. Photo by Amanda Davis.

The Altus Chamber of Commerce hosted a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of Altus Public Schools' Kiwanis Softball & Baseball Park on September 16th.

Superintendent Roe Worbes, Athletic Director Randall Coffman, and President and CEO of the Altus Chamber of Commerce Rodger Kerr shared their positive comments about the City of Altus looking forward to the next class of students and athletes.

State Representative Gerrid Kendrix, City Councilmen Jon Kidwell and John Womack, and Chairwoman of the Directors Candace Braddock, *That Altus Band*, and the Altus Bulldog Softball team also gave their support to the Ribbon Cutting as well as many teachers, coaches, students, and parents.

The softball team's season started a little rough, but they are slowly climbing their way to the top. The girls played in the Sayre Tournament last weekend where Varsity and JV played two games each. Varsity won 19-0 against Alex where senior LaKysia Johnson hit a Grand Slam. They then played one game Friday with Varsity winning yet another game 5-1 against Cheyenne.

They wrap up their regular season with senior night at their new field on Monday, September 28th.

Homecoming Week is October 5th-9th. The dress up days include: Monday- TV/ Movie Character Day, Tuesday- Pajama Party, Wednesday- BBQ Dad vs Soccer Mom, Thursday- Senior Citizen Day, and Friday- Bear Hunt (wear Blue & White or wear Camo).

Each night AHS will hold a festive event for friendly competition between classes. Monday is door decorating. Tuesday is kickball. Wednesday is a volleyball tourney,, and Thursday is Lip Sync Battle. Coronation of King & Queen will be at halftime of the football game. No parade or dance will be held this year.

Kaylie Sands

By Adeline Perkins
Senior Managing Editor

Kaylie Sands is a freshman here at Altus High School, and she grew up in Altus.

Kaylie has a younger sister and lives with her mom and dad. Her dad's name is Matt, and he is a firefighter. Her mother's name is Annie, and she does finances. Kaylie says her family motivates her the most in life.

After high school Kaylie plans to become a Veterinarian and own her own business. Kaylie is still deciding, but she thinks she want to attend Oklahoma State University to attend their veterinary medicine program.

Kaylie's favorite thing about Altus High School is getting to be around her friends and dance family.

Her main interest includes dance, which she has been doing for four years. She decided she liked dancing due to her previous exposure to gymnastics and dance competitions.

She likes the ability to grasp concepts and quickly adapt to changes of routines in dance.

Something AHS students may not know about Kaylie is that she participates in horseback riding. She's taken this hobby and even traveled out of the country for it; she's even been in numerous competitions and won medals at national competitions. Her favorite part of horseback riding is being with her horse and having fun. She wanted to ride horses because she loved watching them at rodeos.

Her favorite quote is "Live your life to the fullest."

Jace Helton

By Savannah Shipman
Staff Writer

Jace Helton is a freshman at Altus High School. He grew up in Lubbock, Texas, and moved to Altus four years ago.

His main interests are football and basketball. His cousin, an AHS alumni and former Bulldog football player Koby Bates, inspired Jace to love football. Koby has made a huge impact on Jace's dedication to the sport because Koby taught him to never give up.

Even though Koby inspired Jace to play football, Jace's favorite sport is basketball. He is excited for the opportunity to play for the Bulldogs this fall.

What he likes most about playing sports is that it drives him to not give up until he accomplishes his goal.

Jace's family means a lot to him because they push him through everything to do his best and won't let him get down on himself; they always bring him up.

After high school Jace plans to go to college on a basketball scholarship. He currently works for Brandon Bush at the Bush Farms.

Jace's favorite thing about AHS is the atmosphere and how all the sports here are a family.

Something that AHS students might not know about Jace is that he went to nationals in basketball, and he went to a basketball camp in Las Vegas for some of the best basketball players in the country.

Jace's favorite quote is, "I can't relate to lazy people; we do not speak the same language. I don't understand you, and I don't want to understand you," by Kobe Bryant.

Photo by Shanda's Shots Photography.

Teacher Spotlight: Rebecca McCasland

By Gracie Taylor
Senior Editor

Rebecca McCasland is a new teacher at Altus High School. She teaches sophomore and freshman English. This is her first year teaching, but she has worked for Altus Public Schools for two years as an activity accounts manager.

Mrs. McCasland was born and raised in Dexter, New Mexico, which is a small town outside of Roswell, New Mexico. She graduated high school from Dexter High School. She also graduated with her bachelor's degree at Eastern New Mexico University.

Mrs. McCasland decided to be a teacher because she has always wanted to make a difference in the community around her. She hopes that she can accomplish those goals by being a teacher.

She and her husband, Justin, have lived in Altus for ten years. They also have two sons, Connor and Caden. They are the ages of 8 and 6. Her favorite memory with her and her family is when they went on a trip to Creede, Colorado.

When she isn't teaching her students, she likes to make crafts such as making her sons' costumes and embroidering blankets. She also likes to play board games and have movie nights with her family.

She states, "Something that people may not know about me is that I have a twin sister, and we like to do mud runs (5Ks) together. I like to travel to new places and see new things. I am definitely a mountain girl though. I always have to go several times a year!"

Mrs. McCasland's favorite quote is, "Always believe something wonderful is about to happen."

Future Teachers begin Tutoring

By Sara Howard
Senior Managing Editor

The Altus Student Education Association (ASEA) is a student organization for future educators.

ASEA organizes teacher appreciation week and Read Across America Day in the spring. They normally job shadow teachers from Altus Public Schools in the fall, but cannot this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

This year, the club is planning to further branch out and help the community through several events. They will follow CDC guidelines in all of their events.

2020-2021 ASEA Members. Photo by Sara Howard

One of these events is a tutoring night for all of Altus Public Schools. The members will assist in homework for all students grades Pre-K through 12th. They will help each student based on their individual needs. The tutoring night will be held in the AHS Cafeteria or the Southern Prairie Library in order to allow room for social distancing.

They are also planning to begin a program to nominate a teacher of the month at the high school which would be voted on by the student body. The teacher would be recognized throughout Altus Public Schools and the community. The teacher would also be rewarded with a gift bag.

If you are interested in joining the Altus Student Education Association, they meet the first Wednesday of the month immediately after school in Mrs. Garrison's room, 225.

2020-2021 STUCO Officers Announced

By Clarissa Lopez
Staff Writer

Student Council recently held class elections for the 2020-2021 school year.

Two new positions were offered: Spirit Coordinator and Public Relations Coordinator. For the Freshmen, Bray Davis is president. Vice President is Gracen Hawthorne. Secretary is Abbey Marple.

For the Sophomores, Lexie Scott is president. Vice President is Todd Duncan. Secretary is Wyatt Jensen. For the Juniors, Carlee Fort is President. Vice President is Carly Thomas. Secretary is Nick Duncan.

Student Body President is Lexie Kelley. Student Body Vice President is Rylee Borrego. Student Body Secretary is Jessi Atchley.

Spirit Coordinator is Kaleb Shive. PR Coordinator is Sarah Scott. Delegates are: Kylie Allemeier, Reagin Roudebush, Luke Gallagher, Destiny Pantoja, and Hailey Ross.

2020-2021 STUCO Officers , Coordinators & Delegates. Photo by Clarissa Lopez

Besides Homecoming, STUCO plans to attend OASC. They are also planning to bring back, 'Hi How Are You? Day". Student Body President, Lexie Kelley states, "STUCO is the place to be. STUCO brings everyone out of their comfort zones and allows others to be around peers that have similar interests."

STUCO's moto is RISE (Real Inclusiveness Serves Everyone). STUCO continues to grow and plans to be a better council for the future of AHS.

Teacher Spotlight: The Cocannouer's

By Grayce Gilliam
Senior Editor

Coach Cocannouer was born in San Diego, California, and he lived there for fourteen years. He then moved to Oklahoma in the eighth grade and has been here ever since.

Coach attended Tuttle High School and Southwestern Oklahoma State College where he received his Bachelor's in Science and his Master's Degrees.

He has been teaching for forty-one years and is teaching weight lifting and coaching football. He has always wanted to be a coach since he was in the seventh grade, because he thought the coaches were cool.

Coach Cocannouer's dad is retired out of the Navy. Coach Cocannouer has a twin brother, who is fifteen minutes older than he is. He also has a sister who is four years younger than him.

Coach Cocannouer and his wife were married this summer. They have a total of seven grown children between them. Their two dogs, Molly and Duke, were their best man and maid of honor at their wedding.

Mrs. Cocannouer is a secretary at AHS. She has been a national aquatics director for the Boy Scouts. She has also taught sailing for twenty years and is also a professional swimmer. Rona states, "We are both very competitive people."

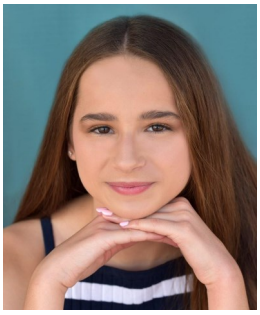
Sports has always been one of Coach Cocannouer's interests. He also enjoys playing golf and fishing.

Something AHS students may not know about him is that he lived on Midway Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean for two years. He was also inducted to the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame in 2005. Coach Cocannouer's favorite quote is, "Winners find ways to win."

Bulldog Bites

By Rebecca Borghini

What is your favorite thing about fall?



Freshman Calista Pavelschak says, "The style of clothes and overall aesthetic of fall."

Sophomore Carson Petty says, "The cooler weather and my birthday."

Junior Brooklynn Strickland says, "The cooler weather and spooky season."

Senior David Fortuna says, "Watching football games. I love OSU!"

Senior Spotlight: Maya & Trystan

By Kylee Strickland & Adeline Perkins
Senior Editor & Senior Editing Manager

Maya Sanchez is a senior here at AHS and has attended Altus schools for almost six years. Maya is a military brat, and Altus is the longest place she and her family have lived the longest. She will have lived in Altus for six years in January 2021.

Maya has two brothers, Pete Sanchez Jr. and Ricardo Sanchez. Her brother Pete currently lives in Lubbock, Texas, working for Verizon. Ricardo recently got his master's degree from Baylor University in engineering. Her parents, Pete and Marcy Sanchez are the most hardworking people that Maya knows.

Maya's parents were stationed in England and there she attended pre-k. In grade school Maya states, "I couldn't hear nor communicate very well due to consistent ear infections. Reading was the only thing that helped me complete my speech therapy. Without it, I wouldn't be taking college courses right now."

Maya plans to major in Animal Science, Biomedical Science, or Biology depending on what school she attends. After completing her basic classes she plans to apply for Veterinary school. Something that you may not know about Maya is she loves knitting.

Maya's favorite quote is, "Falling down is not a failure. Failure comes when stay where you have fallen." by Socrates.

Trystan Gonzalez is a senior here at AHS and has been attending APS on and off since second grade.

Trystan grew up in places like Alaska, England, Maryland, Washington, and New York. Trystan lives with his mom, dad, and two younger siblings. His mom is an X-Ray technician at JCMH and retired from the Air Force after 20 years. His dad has been a nurse for over 30 years and even worked at places like the Pentagon. Trystan has five siblings, two younger than him and three are older.

Trystan plans to attend Oklahoma University and enroll in their ROTC program. After college he plans to be a pilot for the Air Force. Trystan was a part of the AFJROTC program AHS used to offer. Trystan says he loves the structure and integrity it offered.

Trystan credits his family and friends as inspiration to get up every day. He says they make him want to be the best he can be. He loves that he's not as shy as he used to be; he feels he's a better leader and a person.

Trystan's favorite quote is, "We fall, we break, we fail; but then, we rise, we heal, and we overcome."

Some things AHS might not know about Trystan is all the places he's been. He stood on the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. He's explored most of Europe and has seen monuments like the Stonehenge, the leaning tower of Pisa.