

altus high school's the COLLAR

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What's Inside Bulldog Nation

Student Features	2
E-sports	3
All-State Orchestra	3
Basketball	4
Teacher Spotlight	4
Bulldog Bites	5
Senior Spotlight	5

January at a Glance:

- 22nd—Bulldog Swimming to Area Championships
- 22nd—Basketball vs. Elk City @ 8:15 p.m.
- 22nd—Lady Basketball vs. Elk City @ 7 p.m.
- 23rd—Lady Bulldog Basketball vs. Cache @ 7 pm
- Bulldog Basketball vs. Cache @ 8:15 pm
- 25th—Choir Candy Sale Begins

The Collar Staff

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Rebecca Borghini, Taylor Johnson, Clarissa Lopez, Savannah Shipman, & Kylee Strickland

"Dig Up the Best for You"

By Clarissa Lopez
Staff Writer



Media Production Class Members. Photo by Mrs. Green.

The Altus High School Media Production class was first introduced at a Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Green is the Media Production class advisor. This class will share current events with students, teachers, parents and staff.

Their broadcast is called *The Bulldog Bark*. Topics that will be covered include: clubs, sports, facts of the week, and more. *The Bulldog Bark's* motto is, "Dig up the best for you."

Their videos will be available every Tuesday morning on the Altus Public Schools website.

They plan on posting their introduction this week and a video by January 26th.

The Media Production

class is available to students during first hour only. Students interested in joining must speak to their counselor. Candidates should be outgoing, motivated, and technology oriented.

Mrs. Green states, "When I was asked to teach this class, I immediately liked the idea. I went home and started brainstorming ways we could turn *The Bulldog Bark* into something amazing."

All of the Media Production class members include: Daniel Johnson, Main Anchor and Reporter; Rheanna Rothchild, Director; Reagin Roudebush, Weather Reporter; Kenzly Schmidt and Paige Yates,

Sports Anchors; Joshua Gauden and Angel Galaz, Camera Operators; and Tanzania Willis, Jared Tapia, and Diego Julian, Editors. Mrs. Green and her students work together as the producers.

Junior Daniel Johnson states, "The Media Production class is a fun class that teaches you technology skills that someone interested in video production would want."

Covid-19 has presented some challenges for the production such as crew members becoming quarantined and delayed equipment. Although Covid-19 keeps interfering, they are working as a team to make this a successful project.

Natalie Blonien

By Grayce Gilliam
Senior Editor



Natalie Blonien is a freshman here at Altus High School. She was born and raised in Altus, Oklahoma.

Natalie likes playing golf. She comes from a family of golfers: Brandon Reyes, Priscilla Reyes, and Megan Blonien. Her sister's passion for golf inspires Natalie everyday to love golf. She also wants to live out her dad's legacy of golf!

Her father, Mike Blonien, passed away of cancer when she was six years old. She states, "My dad was a great father and golf instructor. He would give lessons to anyone who would let him." Her mom, Patsy Villarrel is number four of ten children. She is a stay at home mom who is always there for her children.

Her sister, Priscilla, won two team state championships. Her other sister, Megan, is a four time individual state

champion. She went to college at OSU.

After high school, Natalie plans to play golf for a Division I college like Oklahoma State University, but she is not sure what she wants to study.

One thing that Natalie enjoys about Altus High School is coming to school every day and seeing her friends.

Something cool Altus High School students may not know about Natalie, is that she has met Rickie Fowler at Carson Creek in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Also, this past summer she made the Teen World Championship in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

One thing that motivates Natalie is her dad and knowing how much he loved golf.

Her favorite quote is, "No matter how good you get, you can always get better." by Tiger Woods.

Grey Winsett

By Kylee Strickland
Staff Writer

Grey Winsett is a freshman at Altus High School. He grew up here in Altus, Oklahoma.

Grey is involved in football, wrestling, and baseball at Altus High School. Grey plays defensive tackle in football.

Grey likes to spend his free time hunting, fishing, or playing football. He also likes hanging out with friends and his girlfriend. He has two brothers named Rawley and Nash Winsett. Rawley is at Altus Junior High, and Nash is at Altus Intermediate School. Grey's mom, Kelley Winsett, is a K-12 online teacher, and his dad, Luke Winsett, is a cotton farmer.

Grey's plan after high school is to get an animal science degree from Oklahoma State University and enlarge

his families cattle operation.

One thing he enjoys at Altus High School is the welcoming environment coming into his freshman year. Something you may not know about Grey is that he goes to Colorado every year to go fly fishing for trout. One of his most memorable trips is going on a week hiking trip with his uncle in the Grand Canyon. A fun fact about Grey is that he is not a late sleeper; he has never slept past 10 a.m.

Grey is motivated by the people who push him to do his best! His favorite quote is, "Blood, sweat, and respect. The first two you give. The last one you earn." by Dwayne Johnson.

Grey is very excited to embark on his high school journey!



Virtually Played

By Taylor Johnson
Staff Writer

E-sports is becoming one of the fastest-growing programs in schools all around the world. Many new job opportunities are being made available in this ever-expanding industry.

Due to Covid-19, it has been an unusual year. Normally, Open House is held the last week of August and the first week of September, with tryouts the following week.

The purpose of the E-sports program is to give opportunities for success to students while also fostering a competitive and team building experience.

E-sports teaches participants many relevant skills, such as streaming, production, programming, and management.

By participating in E-



E-Sports practice. Photo by Zac Caffey.

sports, students can deepen their levels of interaction and communicate more effectively, readying them for life after high school. There are scholarships available to assist students in paying for college. Nowadays, colleges with E-sports programs offer help to create new viable paths leading to higher aca-

demic opportunities for those who may never have considered obtaining a degree.

Currently for Super Smash Brothers, there are nine players with four alternates. For Rocket League, there is one team of three with three alternates.

Rawsen Mitchell

By Sara Howard
Senior Managing Editor

Rawsen Mitchell was recently selected for the Oklahoma All-State Orchestra. He is one of four trombone players selected, and he holds the second chair.

He went through a three-part audition process. Rawsen had to use a specialized website that only let him record once and within a certain time frame.

For the first round, Rawsen had to record three pre-selected pieces, his scales, and a sight-reading piece. The three pieces represented different styles of music and tested different skills. The sight-reading piece was given to Rawsen during the audition, and he was given a short amount of time to look over the piece before he had to perform it for the judges.

For the second and third rounds, Rawsen had to rec-



Rawsen Mitchell with his parents. Photo courtesy of That Altus Band.

ord one new piece of music that was more difficult.

His favorite thing about AHS is the arts program because the teachers are connected to their students and love to do their jobs.

He states, "The places I've been through the music program have influ-

enced many parts of my life. It introduced a true passion for music, especially jazz."

After high school, Rawsen plans to enlist in the Air National Guard for photojournalism. He then plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to major in Architectural Design.

Teacher Spotlight: Kristen Rempel

By Savannah Shipman
Staff Writer

Kristen Rempel is a teacher here at Altus High School. She has been teaching for 18 years, 15 of them in Altus and three in Midwest City.

Mrs. Rempel decided to go into teaching because of her junior high teacher. She also loves being around kids.

She states, "Teaching is something I've always wanted to do. I enjoy experiencing my student's accomplishments and watching them grow up to become successful people."

She grew up in Altus. She graduated from Altus High School in 1997 and graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2001.

She has been married to Jim Bob Rempel for 17 years, and they have three daughters, Avery, who is 15, Landry, who is 10, and Collins, who is 8. They also have two dogs which are bernedoodles named Gundy and Gussie.

Mrs. Rempel loves spend-

ing time with her family and friends. Her favorite thing to do is watch her kids play sports.

Some of her favorite pastimes include: watching murder mysteries and documentaries, antique shopping, and redoing old furniture.

Mrs. Rempel states "I previously taught at Altus Junior High for 15 years. This is my first semester at Altus High School. I am taking Mrs. Sherman's place and excited about this new journey. I have enjoyed getting to see my previous students from seventh grade. Everyone at AHS has been very welcoming and eager to help. Although I miss my Altus Junior High family and students, I am thrilled to be here."

Mrs. Rempel's favorite quote is "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." by Dr. Seuss.



Order on the Court

By Rebecca Borghini
Senior Editor

Kelly Cox is the head boy's basketball coach at AHS. The coaching staff consists of: Kevin Clothier (offensive coordinator), Jordan Boone (defensive coordinator), and Rob Colline (special teams coordinator).

The basketball team's motto is, "Keep getting better." They also like to say, "These pretzels are making me thirsty."

They have a great group of seniors this year, who provide leadership to the younger players.

Seniors this year include: Branson Ford, Marcus Hartman, Luke Clothier, Reggie Haywood, Laethon Patterson, Christian Pelfrey, Austin Revilla, DeAndre West, and Jordan Guyton.

Key younger players are: Kris Vuittonet, Stephon Sterling, Byke Burrow, Keythen Kellison, Devin Madison, Donovan Bradley, Clayton Adams, and Jared Raasch.



Boy's basketball game. Photo by Micala Davis.

Some difficulties experienced this season include being quarantined twice for two weeks at a time, the second one lasting into Thanksgiving. Coach Cox says, "This has caused us to miss time on fundamentals, conditioning, and how to run the plays we want on offense."

Something the coaches want their

players to take with them through life is that things are going to get tough. However, going through adversity will only make you stronger. Coach Cox expresses, "These are a great bunch of kids, and they are ready to get better everyday. I love them personally, and I love being their coach."

Bulldog Bites

By Adeline Perkins

"What are some of your New Year's Resolutions?"



Freshman Blake Hocker states, "To be a better football player."



Sophomore Ashlynnne Hayes states, "To become the best version of myself."



Junior Lane Pearl states, "To get a six pack."



Senior Kaydee Helin states, "To work on time management."

Senior Spotlight: Makenzy & Taylor

By Lilian Easter and Gracie Taylor
Junior and Senior Editor



Makenzy Augustine is a senior here at AHS. She moved here her sophomore year. Makenzy grew up in Larned, Kansas.

One of Makenzy's interests is dancing. She was on a competition team for six years in Kansas. She is on the AHS dance team and has been an athletic trainer for two years.

Makenzy lives with her mom, Dina Mercer, her brother, Dutch Mercer, and Henlee and Hadlee Gregg. Her father, Joe Augustine, lives in Kansas with her brother, Kaleb Augustine.

Makenzy plans to attend The University of Oklahoma to obtain her medical degree. She then wants to

branch out to The University of Central Oklahoma for their forensics program. Makenzy's overall plan is to become a forensic pathologist.

Makenzy's favorite thing about AHS is the opportunities that are available to every student, including sports, college, and clubs.

Something AHS students may not know about Makenzy is that her great-grandma, who graduated from Altus High School, was one of the girls who came up with the idea of KAY Klub.

Makenzy is motivated in life by others' assumptions of how she will turn out in life. She is inspired by her aunt, Meredith Eaton. Makenzy states, "She had a rough time in her senior year of high school, but still managed to work and go to school while raising a kid."

Makenzy's favorite quote is, "You always have to be better than what they expected you to be."

Taylor Kellison is a senior here at AHS. He moved here two years ago from Snyder, Oklahoma. Taylor grew up in Brighton, Colorado.

Some things that motivate Taylor are his six brothers, his friends, and his childhood. He wants to be better to prove people wrong.

His hobbies include: lifting weights, swimming, music, and hanging out with his friends. Taylor is a swimmer for the Altus High School Swim Team.

Taylor's favorite thing about

Altus High School is how everyone is so welcoming with open arms. He loves the staff, Coach Wig, Coach Michael, and Mr. Avila.

Taylor states, "I love my friends here at AHS, and the staff has always been so helpful and kind to me."

After high school, Taylor plans to attend Western Oklahoma State College and then Southwestern Oklahoma State University to become a physical therapist and a fitness trainer.

One thing people may not know about Taylor is that music and working out are his therapy and escape from struggles in his life.

One of Taylor's favorite quotes is, "To understand great peace you have to have gone through great pain."

