



Special Senior Edition

C/O 2022

# Senior Celebration

## From Patients to Graduates: Three Survival Stories

Alayna Falcon  
Editor In Chief

What may be seen as a miniscule task to others or something they feel obligated to get over with, may be a major accomplishment to someone else.

After experiencing life in survival mode while everybody else wasn't, seniors Daniel Reign Rodriguez, Natalie Cecilia Mota, and Reagan Paige Frankum are to soon walk across the stage and receive their high school diplomas, all sharing a certain characteristic in common: Overcoming cancer.

After being diagnosed with Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma at the ripe age of 10, Mota had to make a major transition. From consistently running around, happily playing soccer and softball, to constantly hearing the wheels of rushing gurneys, panicked footsteps, and heart monitors. Instead of learning multiplication tables, she was learning medical terminology and the differences between her medications.

"When my doctor diagnosed me, my first instinct was to fight, as I couldn't run," Mota said. "I just told myself to not feel or think. I didn't have time to be sad and pushed everything to the back of my head. I told myself, 'You don't have cancer. Cancer is just a label. You're just really sick and have to get better. That is what you have to do.' So I was like, 'okay let's fight.'"

Though battling a large tumor in her lymph, which would often leave her weak and breathless, Mota remained trying her hardest to stay strong for others as they did for her. After she shaved her head, a benefit was held in her honor at the softball field she used to always play at.

"I remember that was the first time I really felt like I wasn't alone," Mota said. "There were a lot of people backing me up and I finally felt a sense of peace that I would be okay. Coach Ricky let me shave his head too. He said 'We're in this together,' so we shaved each other's head."

Although she tried to remain the smiling, energetic, and good-spirited little girl her doctors and nurses saw her as, Mota was often found discouraged as she noticed her dissimilarities with others. As she was the only bald 10 year old wearing a mask when she went



**Built Jacket Tough**  
Seniors Natalie Mota, Daniel Rodriguez, and Raegan Frankum are all childhood cancer survivors who will graduate in a few short days.

out in public, she felt insecure. But when she would feel down, she found herself remembering her mother's words of encouragement.

"My mom once told me,

'They're not looking at you because you're bald, they're looking at you because of how beautiful you are.' That is when I saw myself different," Mota said. "After that I felt confident

in how I looked and embraced being bald. After that, anytime anyone looked at me, I would just tell myself, 'they just think that I'm pretty because I had a really good shaped head.'"

Meanwhile, starting back in the summer of 2016, although having consistently woken up with a fever and being told by multiple doctors that there was nothing wrong, Rodriguez soon found that out to be otherwise as he became diagnosed with Leukemia. As your average person's white blood cell count estimates between 4,000-11,000 per microliter, Rodriguez's ranged around an alarming 60,000 per microliter.

"I didn't even get to make it to the next school year. I was 12 years old when everything happened. That cancer is a type of cancer in the blood, not a tumor or growth. Your body is pretty much fighting against itself, to sum that up. So I ended up getting a lot of chemotherapy, which sucked awful."

Furthermore, as the cancer was not going to go away by itself with regular chemotherapy, Rodriguez ended up having to undergo a bone marrow transplant, with his older sister as his donor.

"So when you get a bone marrow transplant, it's killing your whole immune system," Rodriguez said. "Like there is nothing left of you, so they can make room for the new immune system. So with all that, I threw up so many times, lost all my hair, and ended up developing scar tissue on my lungs."

With no solid immune system yet, Rodriguez was often assigned to a specified floor of the hospital, as anything could make him sick.

"I could not leave the floor, which was probably as big as your average classroom," Rodriguez said. "I had to ride in an ambulance and that was the only time I got outside. Even then, I had to wear a breathalyzer mask, as they had to make sure I didn't breathe anything. I also couldn't touch anything. So yeah, that was the only time I got to 'taste freedom' and honestly, through all that, it's super hard. It takes a lot of work to look this good, believe it or not."

Lastly, after having a hard time sleeping due to experienc-

ing an uncommon pain in her back, Frankum almost immediately went to the doctor where they took a biopsy and soon saw the big mass in her ovary. At the age of seventeen, she was diagnosed with Ovarian cancer.

"I didn't have any realization of how serious it was," Frankum said. "Like I knew it was serious, but I didn't exactly know how big of a deal it was."

After ultimately discovering a major tumor in her left ovary, Frankum ended up having surgery to take out her whole left ovary completely. However, the tumor unfortunately ended up coming back in her right ovary, just relatively not as severe. This led to another surgery, taking out that whole ovary as well.

"My mom was with me the whole time," Frankum said. "She was the one that took me to the hospital and was there for me by my side. She was definitely concerned, very cautious, and always keeping an eye on me. I think it may have been harder for her than it was for me."

Just a little over a month ago, the Make a Wish Foundation granted Frankum's wish to have an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV). After much contemplation and taking the rules and regulations into account, she ultimately decided on what would make her the happiest.

When it comes to planning their futures, Frankum hopes to one day become an event planner. Meanwhile, Rodriguez hopes to one day become a residential electrician. And for Mota, after wishing she had a doctor who could understand her, her goal is to one day become a pediatric oncologist and be that for her patients.

"When it comes to graduation, it makes me emotional in the sense of I didn't know if I was going to even make it this far, let alone make it to 11 years old," Mota said. "But knowing that through all I went through, I did it. I finished it. I could have given up long ago, but I still did what I could, and I am proud of myself. When I was told there were other kids that had cancer and are graduating, that made me really happy, because we did it. We made it out and that makes me happy."



# ENTERTAINMENT

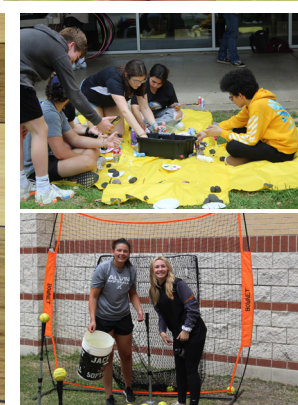
## YELLOWJACKETS ALWAYS READY TO PLAY

Traditions are an important aspect of school culture, and all of them returned this year.

On March 4, seniors showed up to school in their carefully planned childhood outfits, ready to participate in a day of fun, including a costume contest, a picnic in the park, and an Easter egg hunt.

“The time went by so fast and it was so enjoyable eating outside with my friends. These fun events make the last year fun,” senior Alania Garcia said.

In addition, Club day was on April 22 and the entire student body participated in food, fun activities, and games in the courtyard. Student Council and other clubs hosted the event, which lasted for approximately two hours during the school day.



### Fun Days Are Best Days

Students were very excited to bring back AHS traditions for the first time in a couple years. After a COVID hiatus, Club Day returned for students. A short reprieve in the regular grind of the school day. Club day featured exciting games and fun foods and snacks for purchase.

## Final Show of Expertise

The 2022 AISD Spring Art Show was held on April 28 in Liberty Hall at Freedom Field. This event showcases art samples from across

the district, grades k-12. This event is fun for the whole family with food trucks and activities, but is also a great avenue for fine arts students to

show their work. Several Alvin High students were represented at the show. Below are a few selections of creative pieces from AHS

students. This event takes place twice a year, so plan to attend next year's event.



Elizabeth Tath, senior



Emily Garza, senior



Bones Fleming, senior  
Martin Amaro, sophomore  
Brynn Williams, senior



Amanda Jett, senior

## Wild Lights

## Prom Queen and King Royalty April 2

Natalie Mota and Lyle Harriman





# SENIOR FEATURES

## Number One Rules

Tatum Peters  
Staff Writer

Being a part of the top 20 is a goal for lots of high school students, and succeeding in placing that high is an extremely competitive challenge. Senior Kali Lewis was up to that challenge and is officially Alvin High School’s 2022 Valedictorian.

The success of being named number one means a lot of things: dedicating free time to studying, competition with classmates, and the stress, which can certainly invade the brain. These are the emotions, mindsets, feelings, and the life Lewis has faced throughout her time in high school.

Childhood for many people can be defined in many different ways. Lewis describes hers using the word “passion.” Throughout her childhood, she had one goal in mind. That meant she had to do her absolute best and succeed at the highest level.

“Working every day and keeping goals in mind helped me get here,” Lewis said. “Not making excuses, time management, and getting things done ahead of time were key,” Lewis said.

Students spend 1290 hours at school per year, which is about 77,400 minutes. And Lewis uses that time to her advantage, taking any minute of available time to work ahead.

“During the school week, any time I spent at home was either sleeping, studying, and doing homework,” Lewis said.

## Lewis Named Valedictorian



**Rise To The Top**  
Senior Kali Lewis is enjoying her accomplishment as valedictorian for the class of 2022. She has worked hard all through her entire school career to get where she is today. “I will be majoring in chemical engineering and minoring in music at the University of Kentucky with academic and music-performance related scholarships. I plan to work in the field of renewable energy and resources.”

“During lunch and any free time during class would also be used to study for upcoming tests or completing assignments.”

Even though Lewis spends lots of time working, she still carves out time for school activities. She has left an impact, not only in class, but in concert band, marching band, NHS, and HYS (Houston Youth Symphony). She even started a group called Carols for Change that plays holiday music to

raise money for charity. She also did Kuk Sool Won martial arts throughout her junior year. Lewis has also learned many life lessons through her time in band.

“There have been so many wonderful teachers I’ve had the privilege of being taught by,” Lewis said. “But I have to say Mr. Junkin, my music theory teacher and marching band director, has been great. He’s always there for me, supporting my musical interests and helping me through my seasons as a drum major. He also comes to my HYS concerts outside of school.”

Her journey was not always easy, dealing with the mental stress of working so hard at school, but for her, school isn’t a place to just learn how to solve equations. Students can learn so many life skills, such as how to work with other students and learn how to navigate many different types of personalities. One thing that Lewis learned was how to manage her time and understanding how to control the urges to give up.

“I’m most proud of how much I’ve grown and changed over the years,” Lewis said. “We are all different people than we were freshman year, but looking back and thinking about how much I’ve learned about myself is the most rewarding thing.”

## Different Sides of The Coin

Hunter Kneifel  
Staff Writer

The Blanco twins have spent the past four years integrating themselves into almost every facet of the school. Together and apart, each has been involved in cultivating many different organizations and clubs on campus.

Born just one minute apart from each other, fraternal twins Alex and Eric have a tight bond. While they often say or do the same thing, this does not mean that they are “clones” of each other. They each have unique personalities with different hobbies, individual achievements, and future goals.

Alex is currently president of the Drama Club, the choir secretary, and provides the morning announcements. He has found major success in Theatre Arts, where he qualified for Nationals at the Texas State Thespian Festival for Solo Musical. He plans to continue his Theatre career at Texas State University, majoring in Theatre Education.

“I’ve devoted 10 plus years of my life to the fine arts, and I can’t imagine doing anything else,” Alex said. “I literally dream about how I would design and direct things in my sleep. I chose Texas State because it has an outstanding Musical Theatre department.”

Meanwhile, Eric is involved with the NHS, is the boys basketball team’s manager/student assistant, and he was elected senior class officer. Eric is also especially talented in



engineering.  
“My fondest memory of my high school career is when I completed a robot that had a couple dozen codes I made from a computer in order to program the robot to move based on distance from a wall,” Eric said. “With no instructions or ideas from Google, it took about 2.5 months to build.”

Eric plans to continue his passion at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he plans to study in Civil Engineering.

“I hope people remember me most as a person who was kind hearted and always there for anyone who needed anything,” Eric said. “The legacy I hope to leave is that I put all my actions towards helping better society, and not just myself, at the end of the day.”

Like his twin, Alex has left a lasting impression on his classmates and the culture of Alvin High.

“I hope people remember me for sounding so energetic at 8AM,” Alex said. “Along with being a friendly face to others, as we need more kindness in the world.”

## Jackets Move On, Move Forward

From Staff Reports



“Future students should know that someone you’ve known for a few months can have more of an impact on you than someone you’ve known for years.”  
-Alicia Lopez



“Some advice I’d give is to don’t let number discourage you. They don’t define who you are. I also learned to have more awareness, seeing who I can trust.”  
-Brandon Reynoso



“High school is only temporary and it will get better. Remember to take your time and don’t be too hard on yourself. My favorite memory would be working on the yearbook and having fun with my fellow editors.”  
- Amber Matula



“Take advantage of any opportunities to restest or get extra credit your teachers give you. Don’t let your grades define your self worth.” - Charlize Barron

“Some advice I would give to future generations is that if you want to be good at something, you are going to be uncomfortable. You can’t be comfortable and find success.” - Nick Bates



“Don’t try and make everybody happy. It’s not possible. Focus on your goals and your dreams and put in the hard work for yourself, not anybody else.”  
- Anna Wilson



“Don’ get sad over small stuff. Let time take it’s course and everything will fall into place. Just be patient and kind to the world; it doesn’t need more negativity.”  
- Mustafa Shakeel



“Don’t compare yourself with others. Be organized and don’t slack off in school because it will catch up with you.”  
- Trang Nguyen



# SENIOR NEWS

## Reflections From 2022 Top Ten Grads

Mahmure Iagjioglu  
Staff Writer



#1 Kali Lewis

“I will be majoring in chemical engineering and minoring in music at the University of Kentucky with academic and music-performance related scholarships. I plan to work in the field of renewable energy and resources, and hope to continue being involved in music. Since coming to terms with the fact that in a few months I’m going to leave everyone and everything I’ve ever known behind, I’ve begun to appreciate the little things. I’m beginning to realize just how much I cherish my childhood here and all the wonderful people in my life.”



#2 Riley Mager

“I plan to attend Texas A&M, majoring in Biomedical Engineering. After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to attend medical school. I hope to become a physician and treat patients of all ages, making the most positive impact I can within my community. I hope to be successfully balancing both my family and professional life. I also hope that I am able to find time to do the hobbies I love. The biggest lesson I learned this year was to be myself; the opinions of others should not ever hinder you from being authentic.”



#3 Amber Matula

“I will be majoring in sustainability studies and minoring in English at the University of Texas at Austin. It has become my passion to help the earth, and I am so excited to learn more about what we can do as people to protect our environment. I would like to eventually become an environmental lawyer. I am looking forward to the new opportunities Austin provides. The biggest lesson I’ve learned this year is to give myself a break. Mental health and happiness is important.”



#4 Abby Goolsby

“I will be majoring in criminal justice at Norwich University with a Presidential Academic Scholarship. I’m working towards becoming either a veteran rehabilitation psychiatrist or criminal psychiatrist. I look forward to furthering my education in a new environment. This year, I learned to remember each moment, each person, each detail, each feeling best you can. One day you’ll miss every last one of them.”



#5 Alejandra Acosta

“My plans after high school are to attend the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in Art History and form part of the Polymathic Honors Program minoring in Neuroscience. I want to become a doctor, but I am not sure what specialty yet. I hope to start my own clinic after I graduate and have completed my residency for medicine. My advice to underclassmen is to take a workload that is challenging, but is not overpowering your mental health.”



#6 Susan Henderson

“I plan on majoring in either nursing or biology while simultaneously completing the prerequisites for medical school. I am enrolling at Baylor University to partake in their Pre-Health program. My dream career is to be an obstetrician gynecologist specialized in maternal-fetal medicine and/or reproductive endocrinology and infertility. The most rewarding prize after graduation is being finished with high school. I’m ready to start a new chapter.”



#7 Silvana Galicia

“I’m planning to major in anthropology and minor in music. I’m not completely decided on one college yet. My ultimate goal for a career would be to become an ethnomusicologist as a researcher and university professor with a doctorate’s degree. I’m most looking forward to being able to live autonomously, making my own decisions while pursuing what I love to do. I’m excited about the freedom that college brings and being able to schedule my classes as needed.



#8 Anna Wilson

“I plan to attend college at Texas A&M university in college station in hopes of majoring in mechanical engineering. After college, I plan on trying to get a job in the space industry as an engineer and possibly applying for the astronaut program. I am looking forward to moving on to the next part of my life and having new opportunities, especially those involving traveling to new places. This year, I’ve learned that it’s okay to let go of things and people that are no longer good for you. You have to do what’s best for you.”



#9 Alexia Sims



#10 Alexander Borgfeld

“I will be attending Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in computer engineering. I’m most excited to not have to wake up at 6 in the morning everyday. The biggest lesson I learned this year was the Taylor series in calculus. In 20 years, I see myself with a nice job and family. To all underclassmen: work smarter, not harder.”

### Remaining Top Ten Percent Grads:

Charlize Barron, Madeleine Geiman, Keith Carle, Victoria Caughman, Kearstyn Vail, Tanner Marek, Gricell Garcia, Katelyn Reynolds, Jacob Amerson, Eric Blanco, Gregory Bingham, Alex Blanco, Samantha Allbright, Idaly Rivera, Jessica Whitney, Kaianna Morris, Ezekiel Flores, Joan Wuenschel, Ohm Bhatt, Michael Robin, Norma Aguilar, Lauren Alexander, Anna Metcalf, Chloe Sadler, Ariana McFarland, Denton Warren, John Hoffman, Marcus Wilson, Lincoln Peterson, Emanuel Delapaz, Addison Hansen, Angelica Purl, Karen Tath, Caleb Falcon, Laurryn May, Mary Batty, Courtney Salter, Eden Haneline, Alissa Moreno, Katlyn Persons, Raney Nelson, Chloe McLeod, Alexa Allbright, Juan Lopez, Esmeralda Mendoza, Erica Moyer, Alayna Falcon, Elizabeth Tath, Aastha Bhatt, Lorenzo Cedillo, Henry Padilla, Estefania Burgos, Sage Barmettler, Kelly Scott.

## Driver Roll Up To Graduation Please

Graduation is fast approaching and here is all the info needed to make the event a success for each senior. Alvin High School’s 2022 graduation ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 26 at 7:30 PM at Freedom Field. Each graduate will receive 10 tickets for the ceremony for friends and family. Children three and under do not need a ticket. Blown horns and noise makers are prohibited at the field.

**Graduate Dress Code**

With a purpose to contribute to the noble and courtly ambience our students deserve as they graduate, the school has a specific, mandatory dress code for graduates. At commencement, graduates must wear the newly designed cap, gown, and tassel. The tassel is to be worn on the left until the moment students are declared graduated.

The Class of 2022 ladies are required to wear a dress with a straight skirt that is of a color

that does not show through, nor extend, below the gown. As high heels are NOT permitted, due to the turf on the field, dark-colored flats, sandals, or wedges are required. The ladies may also adhere to the gentleman’s dress code, if they choose.

The Class of 2022 gentlemen are required to wear a school-appropriate, collared shirt, short-sleeved is optional, with black or brown dress trousers or slacks. Shoes must be regu-

lar, black or brown, dress shoes or boots. No tennis or casual shoes are allowed. Facial hair and piercings must be within the limits of the AISD Dress Code. Jeans or denim material is NOT permitted. NO exceptions. In addition, students are NOT allowed to decorate the tops of their caps, due to district policy.

Graduates who arrive to the activities in the improper attire will be turned away and not allowed to participate until they

can change into the accepted formal attire before departure.

If a student needs assistance or has any questions, please speak with senior sponsor, Sienna Flores.

The teachers who were voted by seniors to read senior names are Eva Cantu, Nathan Mansfield, Sherina O’Neal, Donna Pauley, Tina Peterson, James Shewmake and Marie Tucker.



# FEATURES

## REMIXING

Logan Cockrell  
Staff Writer

### Teaching Styles

Soundcloud is a platform where everyday people can create works of musical art. With over one hundred million users, one of those is our own talented Nathan Mansfield.

Since his freshman year of high school, Mansfield has been creating his own music for the enjoyment of all those lucky enough to discover his Soundcloud. You can find him under the name, Nathan Mansfield. He typically makes instrumental and orchestral music, finding inspiration from film soundtracks and their composers.

“My style reflects what I listen to,” Mansfield said. “I listen to a lot of film soundtracks, like Hans Zimmer and Danny Elfman.”

Mansfield owns and plays many instruments. The instruments he includes most in his music are the guitar, piano, and various string instruments. He also owns a kalimba.

“I start by humming a tune while driving to work or something,”

Mansfield said. “Then I’ll use my instruments and just play around a little bit.”

Mansfield uses an app where he stores his musical samples and can work on them anytime, always having many tunes in the works.

“Whenever there is a big event happening in my life, that is when I’ll start a project,” Mansfield said. “When my son was born I made a song and called it Miles.”

Apart from his musical hobby, Mansfield also indulges in art.

“During the STAAR testing is when I work on my big projects,” Mansfield said. “I’m still working on a children’s book for my mother in law that she wants to get published.”

The book is about an armadillo, named Caldero, who ventures away from his home, despite his parents telling him not to and learns a valuable lesson.

Mansfield is talented in many aspects of life and those lucky enough to become his students are in a wonderful year.



#### Ready to Jam

English teacher, Nathan Mansfield, takes his interests and hobbies and uses them to incorporate into his lessons. Mansfield also performed in the annual teacher Lip Sync Battle sponsored by DECA club.

## Guiding the Way For Student Success

Hayley Touchet  
Staff Writer

Officer Jorge Trevino wouldn’t let anything get in his way of helping and saving his fellow students and coworkers. Yes, he might have been in law enforcement for 34 years, but that doesn’t stop him from doing what he does best.

Trevino has vivid memories of being eight years old and already knowing that he wanted to be a police officer, never considering any other profession. He isn’t sure of the reason, but he has always admired police officers. He started working at AHS 10 years ago. He worked in upper management for about five years but returned to Alvin High School about three years ago. He retired from the Galveston Police Department as a Lieutenant after 24 years of service.

“I absolutely enjoy my work here at AHS,” said Trevino. “I believe that this job truly allows you an opportunity to make a difference in a young person’s life.”

School district police officers receive additional special training that regular police officers do not. One of the aspects covered in this additional training is the development of the human brain. Among many other things, they learn that the human brain is not fully developed until the age of 25. One of the sections of the brain that takes the longest to

develop is the part that deals with impulsivity and decision making. It is certainly no surprise that kids will sometimes make bad decisions and act on impulse.

It is important that the officers make every effort to help students make good decisions. But if they find themselves dealing with a student that has made a bad decision, it is just as important that they do everything possible to find a non-punitive option to deal with the incident when possible.

“The days just fly by for me,” Trevino said. “Even on days when there is not much ‘police work’ to do, we manage to keep ourselves busy by walking around and ensuring that we are seen.”

Trevino said that his most fun part about his job is interacting with students and learning about their future plans. His least fun part is definitely when he has no choice but to make an arrest and transport a student to juvenile detention, or in some cases, to the county jail. He believes that patience is an important quality, but knowing that respect is a “two way street” is probably what he has found most beneficial in effectively doing his job. Nobody likes to be disrespected or pushed around. You can accomplish so much more when you treat



#### To Protect and Serve

Officer Jorge Trevino works hard in protecting and providing service to the students and staff of AHS.

people with respect, even when they are not initially showing you the same courtesy.

“One of my responsibilities at AISD Police Department is Field Training Officer (FTO),” Trevino said. “I have the wonderful opportunity of meeting and welcoming almost every newly hired officer to our agency. They spend a minimum of two weeks with me at AHS getting an orientation in school policing. In some instances, they have already been to other school campuses.”

Trevino cherishes a moment between him and a student a few years ago. He handled a threat incident involving a student. He talked to the student about her participation in the incident and explained that she wouldn’t be in any legal trouble, but added that she definitely needed to be careful about

what she said to people. He then asked her why she was so quick to anger. She responded to his questions and talked practically nonstop for the next 40 minutes or so about the hardships that she had faced with her family and how she vented her anger at everybody. He asked her a couple of questions along the way but mostly he just listened as she talked and, a couple of times, even cried while she was telling her story. He found out later on that she was part of the ROTC program and she had nominated him as an inspirational educator. Trevino was flattered by the gesture, but feels all he did was listen.

“I absolutely enjoy my work here at AHS,” Trevino said. “I believe that this job truly allows you an opportunity to make a difference in a young person’s life.”

## End Of Year Celebrations: Recognizing Top Staffers of 2022



### Chrysta Andersen

Anderson has been at AHS for three years and loves her position. She saw the opportunity spot and seized her chance. She is excited to be working in the same place she graduated.

“It’s always a puzzle, but it’s fun and I enjoy it,” Anderson said. “I didn’t think I would get this position, so that was a surprise too.”

### Paraprofessional of the Year



### Rebecca Van Horne

Teacher Rebecca Van Horne was in her office when the band came down the hall to tell her the great news of being voted teacher of the year.

“It was a surprise when I got it,” Van Horne said. “I felt a sense of application for the work I have done as a teacher and instructional coach.”

### Teacher of the Year



### Brenna Jernigan

Algebra 1 teacher, Brenna Jernigan, was voted Rookie of the Year, at the same school she attended, by fellow staff as she seems to be excelling in the classroom.

“I am honored to have received this title,” Jernigan said. I did not think I was going to get it because I am only one of so many exceptional rookie teachers this year.”

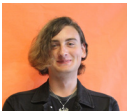
### Rookie of the Year



# SENIOR STAFF COLUMNS

## BITE BACK

Logan Cockrell  
Staff Writer



If you saw me during my freshman year, then saw me now, I would seem like a completely different person. I'm sure every senior feels the same way. We've all come so far. Whether by rise or fall, none of us are the same person we were four years ago. Although I reminisce on my freshman and sophomore years with mostly disdain, I do appreciate the lessons I learned during that time. If it wasn't for my failure those years, as a student and a person, I would never have had my chance to rise.

My junior year was exceptional. One of the most memorable years of my life so far. I was surrounded by people who adored me and aspired to be like me, but I had no real friends. And I was perfectly okay with that, for a while anyway. I used to say that I wasn't lonely, just alone. As the days went by though, I concluded that my mindset was that of denial. I was lonely after all.

Instead of reaching out, I did the exact opposite. I closed myself off entirely. I slammed

the door on everyone. I accepted my loneliness and chose to devote all my time to becoming better in every way possible. To evolve beyond what I was and what everyone thought I could be without anyone. All by myself.

And that is the mindset I maintained for a while. I wasn't happy, but I wasn't unhappy.

It was a rough start to my last year of high school. I had my self image stained a bit, failed to train as heavily and aggressively as I wanted, didn't study as well and often as I desired, and told parts of my life to people I shouldn't have. I unintentionally put myself in situations that caused me to fall. I stopped doing what I loved: martial arts training. Every day, I went deeper into a depression. Each time I tried to pull myself out of it, to stand back up, but I just fell deeper. At my lowest point, I was kneeled down behind a Cottonmouth snake, a very venomous snake, fighting the impulse to force it to bite me.

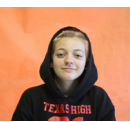
That snake was likely just as scared as I was.

There was a strange giant looming over it after all. The reptile had no certainty of its fate. To it, anything could happen in that moment. No matter what happened in those next few moments, the Cottonmouth was ready to strike. Rather than succumb to fear, it was going to bite back against what caused it to be afraid.

Right then, I focused on the snake's will to fight and survive. If this snake could survive and fight back, then so could I. I couldn't allow this fear to control me, to push me to these radical decisions. If I truly wanted to pull myself out of this viper pit, I had to bite back, just like this cottonmouth snake was doing.

Facing one's most crippling fears is obviously not easy. Standing back up after falling so many times is not easy. But it's the challenges of such tasks that allow us to evolve into the person we want to be. So before you give up and give in, try standing up one more time. Try biting back. You might just be pleasantly surprised at what you can do.

Jordan Hiles  
Staff Writer



Senior year has honestly been a rough year for me. I started off the year with COVID-19, missed the first two weeks of school, and missed my senior sunrise. At the beginning of the year, I didn't think I'd be graduating, but now I'm three weeks away from graduation. You would think that by being a senior, it's supposed to be your easiest year, but for me it is not.

Come to find out, I have a lot of medical issues that didn't show up until this year. I was in and out of hospitals fighting COVID and trying to figure out what was wrong with my body. I honestly didn't think I would make it to the end of the year, with only a few weeks left of school. It's been a struggle all

year, but with my group of friends supporting me and being by my side this whole year, that is what made me a stronger person and has kept me going all year

I know that I have come a long way from my freshman year, I have been through a lot and now I'm a senior at AHS. It's been a good year, but also a not-so-good year. I've had a lot of friends come and go. I don't hang out with a lot of people because there's always drama. As I tell everyone, I'm just a senior in high school trying to graduate. The people I mostly hang out with is the group that saved me. We all have been through similar things growing up and we all relate on a lot of topics, so we never have to go through

things alone. We hang out almost every single weekend or everyday. That group is my life. I don't need anyone else. This group is my lifeline and they truly make me feel alive and want to live life to the fullest. I honestly wouldn't have made it without them.

All I gotta say is just make friends, become a group, stick together no matter what, and don't let anyone try to tear y'all apart. If you have problems, work it out all together, because I promise, it's gonna make your group a whole lot stronger. Learn to live life to the fullest, keep your head up high, focus on the positives in life, your faith in your friends, and you'll see everything starting to come together.

## Always Gotta Stick Together

## A VISION Takes Shape

Alayna Falcon  
Editor In Chief



It happened under the trees on the trail of Independence park. My sister and I never go to the park to walk, but, as it was during quarantine times, that day we decided to finally get some fresh air. The leaves were falling and squirrels were running when I finally had my epiphany. I want to become a psychologist.

Had you asked me three years ago, my answer would have been a day to day exchange between a lawyer, forensic scientist, or a criminal investigator. After taking many law related classes throughout high school, I had come to the realization that I truly could not envision myself doing any of them. However, the thing that remained the same was my empathetic attitude towards others. After growing up

as the youngest sister of four and the youngest of ten cousins, I always gladly subjected myself to actively listen to everyone's concerns and provide whatever they needed. Whether it be guidance, comforting, validation, honesty, or simply my listening ear, I was prepared to comply. Even in school, as friend groups slowly came and went, I still somehow managed to always become the "mom friend." Not because I aspired to know everyone's business or believed I knew what was best in all situations. I simply enjoyed listening to others, and they knew I did.

There would be times when one of my sisters would start closing herself off from us, but the second we were alone together, she would open up. Other times,

one of my cousins would be having a hard time and would call me crying to solely vent to. That day at the with my sister, on the trail of Independence park, was when these moments were first pointed out to me.

As a psychologist, I want to not only provide healing and safety to those who seek them, but allow myself comfort through helping others. To commit myself to be, not only patient with others, but with myself, as I take everyday as a new learning experience to apply to future situations.

My vision has finally begun shaping itself, and as I graduate high school, I look forward to seeing the shaping of my future.

Raegan Frankum  
Staff Writer

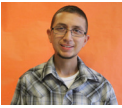


When my senior year started, I was going through one of the harder times in my life, and I had to deal with the stress and anxiety of what I was going through, and senior year together. It all was a lot to handle, but what I got out of the past nine months is that it's important to keep push-

ing through and to work hard to overcome the low times. I tried to participate in all the senior activities going on so I could get the most out of my last year of high school. I tried making friends, and I tried doing things outside of school and going out doing things to keep me busy. My friends have been a

big help when it comes to moving forward and keeping my mind off the stress. My advice to everyone would be that whatever you have going on in your life, it's important to push through. The struggles you are dealing with will pass, and it doesn't last forever.

## A brief and tragic, not so tragic, slightly entertaining, mild suggestive language, scenes of violence engaging in nothing short of tomfoolery senior column



Daniel Rodriguez  
Assistant Editor

This has been my first and only year at AHS, but my senior year has been one of the best experiences of my life. Due to medical reasons, I was homebound schooled my 7th through 11th grade years and missed out on many experiences. What a total bummer that was. So, for my last year I have tried to make, nothing short of, the most of every day while I still don't pay taxes and adult. Before we begin our small, brief, and quite frankly awesome senior column, I would like to mention the teacher who was with me throughout my homebound years, Mrs. Coate. She was my teacher for five years and throughout that time she always encouraged me to do my best and never give up on my schooling. Starting from early in the morning, she would begin my lessons and

help me to understand my subjects. Even when I was in a terrible mood, she sat there and took all my death stares. She is a strong pillar in the reasons I ever made it this far. Thank you for everything, Mrs. Coate. I really do appreciate all you did for me, more than I could ever express.

It took a while for me to find my place in this vast establishment, but it is with great satisfaction that I found it and it has become easy after that. My teachers have been key in why this year will live on in my memoirs. All of them having their own unique personalities and stories made coming to class worth it, just to see what new experiences they would bring me. The friends I have made throughout the course of my year are some of the best I've come to know. I do hope to remain in contact with a lot of

them. I have also had a lot of fun with all of the school's events like Kid Day, Club Day, and prom of course. It is a shame that I won't be able to attend any of these again, but the memories are there and that is what's important. This year at AHS has taught me a lot of new skills and even helped me rediscover some old ones. I sadly never tried the cafeteria food, what a missed opportunity. Not to mention, I walked a gazillion miles this year to get to my classes, which were enjoyable, but honestly, schools need to invest in scooters or something.

I have adopted many titles throughout this year, and each one I wear like a badge of honor. AHS, I thank you for the memories. Our time together was brief, but it sure was a good time. Goodbye, for now.



# SPORTS

## Books Turn To Score Under Stadium Lights

Allie Najacht  
Staff Writer

The lights shine down on the stadium, soccer players line the field, sweat dripping down their foreheads as they shake the nerves out. Normally they would be getting ready for a game, but instead of a soccer game, they prepare to sit down and read.

On April 8, the soccer team and their head soccer coach, Christopher Stromeier, hosted Reading Under the Lights, which gave the elementary students in the district the chance to come out to Memorial Stadium and read with the high school kids.

"My wife is part of a Facebook group called 'Friday Night Wives,' which consists of wives of coaches around the United States," Stromeier said. "She saw that this football team in Central Texas did this when they had an off week. They got all the elementary kids up there."

The elementary schoolers and the soccer team enjoyed every minute talking, laughing, and bonding as they read together.

"It impacted them in a positive way," Stromeier said. "Seeing the varsity athletes and soccer players reading and the kids wanting to read with them was nice. The kids were getting book after book, after book, just reading. So it was awesome. It was a good experience."

Every person who took part in the event had good things to say about it. From the elementary students to the varsity soccer players, all said it was a good time.

"The soccer players loved to work with the kids," Stromeier said. "They were a little apprehensive at first because they were convinced it would be boring and that nobody would show up. We ended up having 30 to 40 kids out there, which was more than we thought. The kids loved it and the players loved it. The kids just loved being with the high school kids."

The event was so popular among the community. It is hoped to become more common in future years and even encourage the younger generations to read.

**Getting Involved**  
Soccer players teamed up with the AISD Education Foundation's Book Bus and read to children in the community as part of a new event called "Reading Under the Lights." The event was successful for both players and the children, as everyone involved enjoyed the time on the field. The positivity of the program excited the players as they realized how fun it can be to interact with young members of the community.

Photos by Abigail Mata



## Crowd Pleasing Shows

Idalia LiraAleman  
Staff Writer

The Finest Ladies of Alvin got to amaze the audience once again with the annual spring show. With a lot of emotions, the seniors got to put on their boots, hang their hats, and dance for one last time.

"I feel extremely sad, but I'm also happy because I'm ready to start a new chapter," senior Sofia Ruiz said.

The dancers got to show their growth and strength they've made throughout the year, not only as a team, but also individually. The dancers were excited to showcase the best show made in the 2000s.

"I'm excited because we've gotten to know each other so well throughout the year," freshman Paiton Rainwater said. "Now we're gonna be actually performing as a team, and not just a bunch of strangers, like we were last year."

Most of the dancing members are used to the lights and excitement of the show. Even though they are familiar with this feeling they still feel nervous, but still want to make the best out of it.

"I think that the second



time doing the Spring Show is more of a relaxing thing since we're not actually competing against any other teams," sophomore Maritza Ibarra said. "I feel like even though we're not competing, we still wanna make it the best show that we possibly can. It's just real fun and exciting for the team."

The dancers not only get to feel a mix of emotions when they dance to the beat of the music, but the show also brings them a nostalgic feel.

"I went to the spring show a couple of times before I joined the team and it was always so mesmerizing for me," senior Emma Molder said. "I loved all of the lights and the dancers on stage were always there to impress. That is partially why



Photos By: Mahmure Iagjiogu

I love the Spring Show so much. I get to dance for the little girls out there watching, wanting to do what we do, and help them feel the joy I had at their age."

## Colors & Creativity

Alicia Buenrostro  
Staff Writer

Color guard is said to be a place where you can be yourself and you don't have to worry about being judged. Students can make jokes, have fun, and just truly be themselves. Everyone in the color guard and winter guard are friendly and have a nice bond.

"Flags and rifles and just being able to be me are my favorite things about being in color guard," member Julie Ojeda said.

Color guard is said to be very fun when you're in it and students have the opportunity to experience many different things. Members use rifles as well, so it's not just about spinning flags.

"Colorguard is a visual representation of music using flags, dance, rifles, and sa-

bres," member Katie Laliberte said.

Color guard brings joy to many people and brings people closer together, almost like a second family. When you get to high school and want it to be remembered as a safe place you could go and have fun, color guard does just that.

"I found a family through spinning with my friends," member Lauren Alexander said. "Anyone can join, anyone can spin, and anyone can fall in love with this art. It's a very welcoming and accepting environment. I think everyone should give it a try. Color Guard has always been a sort of safe-haven for me. I've always seen it as a place to express myself and let go of my troubles."



Courtesy Photos  
Winterguard performs at the final competition of the year.



# NEWS

## ADVICE FOR INCOMING SENIORS

Gabriel Nieto  
Staff Writer

Juniors are beginning to be more aware of their approaching new titles. Very soon, the Class of 2023 will be seniors. Many current juniors are also wondering what they could do to have a smoother transition into senior year and graduation. These students will attempt to be making post graduation plans and make big decisions about their futures. Luckily, the school has multiple counselors who can help with questions about transitioning into senior year.

Lead counselor, Robin McCann, offers many tips to incoming seniors.

First: Remember grades. Junior and senior year are just so important for student grades to be good. The counselors will provide GPAs and class ranks. The kids in the top 10 percent of the class, after their junior year of high school, can apply to any public school in Texas and get automatic admission, as

long as they meet the admission requirements. So keep those grades up and work hard to succeed.

Next: Create your wishlist. In order, decide your top choice for college or trade school, decide your most realistic choice, and then your for sure choice.

Also think about attending either a two or four year college, and which you prefer. If you want to go to a four year university, and you are not in the 10 percent, and you want to really try to get your basics done and get your GPA up, a community college would be a great choice. You can apply during the summer if you want to go to a 4 year college. Students want to choose a college based on the major they choose. If that college has their major, they should look at the locations where that college may be, to make sure they want to be in that area.

Also always remember: There are other options. You can go to a public university, but also remember there are great trade schools and certification programs out there for various careers. From being an ultrasound tech, to a medical assistant to a welder, there are so many options. There are always technical schools and community colleges to turn to for help. It's a great thing to do if you want to save money and plan for a future to make good money.

Finally: There is money available to help, but you must look. You can always apply for scholarships at any school you choose. They have their own scholarships and want you to apply for your financial aide. You are able and eligible to apply for scholarships at the college itself.

Some students choose a community college because you save quite a lot of money and you can

get more help usually through community colleges, financially. Apply for any scholarship opportunities you can and remember to fill out the FAFSA application to see if you can be awarded any funds.

Incoming seniors can start planning now for a great senior year, so you can land on two feet after high school. Seek out help from teachers and counselors if you have questions.



### Ready To Serve

Lead counselor Robin McCann gives valuable advice as the class of 2023 is preparing to step into the roll of senior class.

## Jacket News Bids Adieu



### Until Next Year

Clarion News team, led by Editor-in-Chief Alayna Falcon, has completed their year of publishing. With four printed news papers completed and multiple online stories and photo galleries at jacketnews.com, the team has big goals for next year. The first goal is an increased social media presence and also plans to begin a podcast. "The are excited about plans for next year and we are hoping the student body will enjoy the podcast," publications adviser Jessica Tompkins said.

## Congratulations 2022 Graduates

- AHS News Team



Alayna Falcon  
Jordan Hiles  
Logan Cockrell

Daniel Rodriguez  
Raegan Frankum

Alvin High School

the Clarion



Alicia Buenrostro  
Raegan Frankum  
Mahmure Iagjioglu  
Katrina Tadlock  
Logan Cockrell  
Kyleigh Elmore  
Natalie Horton  
Jordan Hiles

Hunter Kneifel  
Idalia Lira  
Allie Najacht  
Tatum Peters  
Gianna Regan  
Hayley Touchet  
Lexi Ventura  
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The Clarion is a publication of Alvin High School. It is created by the 2021-2022 student newspaper staff for student information. Opinions expressed are purely opinions of the staff, not the school.

CLASS FLOWER  
WHITE ROSE

CLASS MOTTO  
FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT



CLASS SONG  
TIME OF OUR LIVES  
BY: PITBULL

PROM THEME  
WILD LIGHTS

ALVIN HIGH SCHOOL 2022

## CLASS FAVORITES 2022

CONGRATULATIONS, SENIORS

CLASS SPONSOR  
SIENNA FLORES

CLASS COUNT  
APPROX. 645



CLASS COLOR  
SAGE GREEN

