



IT'S ALL

ABOUT
culture
and aesthetics



This issue highlights the people and programs that help shape our campus community, including a feature on a beloved food service worker, whose dedication keeps students fed and smiling.

We also take a look back at an exciting and hardworking band season filled with memorable performances. Our sports coverage spotlights the water polo team's determination and growth throughout the year. Readers will find an update on the major construction projects transforming areas of the campus and improving future learning spaces.

Finally, we introduce the new school librarian, whose fresh ideas and passion for reading are already making an impact.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

Future Forward: Alvin High School Renovations

Cristene Stuksa
Rhys Rodriguez
Staff Writers



Courtesy photo

Computer generated projection of the outside view of the new CTE building

Alvin High School students are experiencing some major changes and construction happening on their walk to the LK building.

As a result of the 2025 Alvin ISD bond program, approximately \$97.7 million will fund the renovations. The project started in the 2025 school year and is estimated to be completed in the fall of 2028.

“We’ll begin starting on certain areas after spring break,” principal Robert Ford said, “So we’re looking at about a two and a half year project.”

Major changes will include a new CTE building for various career classes, cafeteria expansions, new LGI’s, a redo

of the old auditorium utilized for office space and the removal of the Underground.

“I definitely have some good memories of the underground and the old auditorium.” Alvin High School principal Ford said, “I think the new renovations bring in a little bit of something new, but it still keeps the traditional campus”.

While the changes spark up some nostalgic memories for Alumni, many of the historical characteristics will be saved from the construction. For example, many of the trees cut down in construction will be salvaged to make benches as well as decorative letter logs around

the campus.

“I’m glad Alvin High School is finally getting an update,” senior Miranda Lopez said, “Too bad I’m leaving before I get to see it.”

The renovations will primarily affect the newer generation of incoming students in the 2028-2029 school year, however ongoing construction also affects students who attend classes in the LK currently.

For example, students who have a class in the LK when the weather is unfavorable will be held in the cafeteria until said weather has passed. The same goes for students already inside the LK for that class period.

“Students who are

going to be coming here in the future are going to have the opportunity to have new facilities and state-of-the-art equipment,” Alvin High School principal Ford said, “And so I look forward to that.”

The school’s new look is something many alumni and students are all excited about. The much awaited updates will help boost the quality of education for many upcoming students and make AHS a beautiful campus while holding on to the much-loved traditional atmosphere.

“I’m excited to see what the new Alvin High School will look like,” freshman Claire Goldston said.



Courtesy photo

Top: Computer generated projection for the foyer of the old auditorium area. This new area will feature offices and LGI space
Bottom: A Computer generated view of the projected classroom/ lab space for health science classes.



Courtesy photo

Powderpuff

Powderpuff is an annual game that Alvin hosts every year for juniors and seniors to celebrate the end of a successful football season by switching the roles up on the field a little. Girls act as players, and guys act as the coaches or cheerleaders. This year the senior class won with a great game of 16-0.



FEATURES

Opening a new chapter of life

Abigail Sampson
Staff Writer

Reading is a passion for many people, and it is for Amy Louthan, the new librarian. After being a Language Arts teacher for 10 years for grades third to sixth grade, she became a librarian for Walt Disney for eight years and Alvin Jr. High for 10.

"It's great to see students I've had previously and see how they've matured," Louthan said. "I love to see students at this age because they are really figuring out who they are and what they want for their future. If I can help any student in this part of their journey, I am happy to do so."

Reading has always been an integral part of Louthan's life and a part she loves to share with others, making them feel included in the library. Her goal is to create a space where students can go to get help and enjoy their time there.

"I've had a passion for reading my whole life. I was always the kid in class reading when there was any extra time. I always have a book that I'm reading - print or on my Kindle, and sometimes both. I like emotional stories, fol-

lowed by mysterious and tense," Louthan said.

Not only does it take passion, but it can take the right push from those around you, which is what Louthan got from her mother and professors to be able to pursue her passion.

Louthan hopes to be able to provide that push for others as well. Being able to make the choice easily for what she is interested in, even though it meant leaving the classroom for the library.

"I want students and staff to know I am here to help. I hope to create a feeling of belonging in the AHS Library. I want students to realize that

the skills they learn in the library can be used in any library. I would love to create, "A Library of Things," similar to the Alvin Public Library.

It would have items other than books that could be checked out and returned.

"It will take time to learn what students would be interested in and to gather the items, but I hope to begin gathering items soon," Louthan said.

Being a librarian has pushed Louthan to do things she never thought she could and get leadership opportunities that have left a lasting impact.



Serving Smiles

Gabrielle Rodriguez
Annaliese Binder
Staff Writers

As the heart of the school lunch program, they are tasked with nourishing bodies, feeding 2,763 hungry kids every day, and keeping a smile on their faces at the same time. These people are none other than our hardworking food service workers or lunch ladies. They navigate everyday chaos with grace and ensure that every student has access to a nutritious meal.

Enedina Mata is one of the wonderful lunch ladies who prep and serve meals. She is a sweet lady with a personality as big as her heart. She's as approachable as she is hardworking, making it easy for students to speak to her and laugh with her. For students, the school lunch line is one of the few places in the building where they interact with an adult who's not evaluating them or judging them. Unlike teachers who assign grades or administrators who enforce discipline, cafeteria workers like Mata are consistently sweet and friendly figures.

"I don't like other jobs," Mata said. "I like this one." To Mata, being a lunch lady has more to it than just serving food.

"My favorite part of this job is the kids. I enjoy laughing and socializing with them each day." Being a school food service worker is perfect

for Mata, as being able to light up someone's day with her bubbly attitude is her favorite thing to do. The type of genuine happiness she experiences in the cafeteria is, as she notes, something you truly can't find just anywhere. In many other work environments, interactions are transactional or purely professional. Here, they are personal and friendly.

"I just wanted to do it,"

students and staff members who may or may not need it. Although her role in this school may not be a significant factor, she as an individual has left more students and staff touched or motivated than the school as a whole has.

"A boy told me that I look pretty today. Then I said, 'Thank you... grab your food and go!'" Said Enedina. Working with kids also comes with its



Enedina said. Picking a career path is one of the most important choices you will make in your life. Enedina, however, is confident that she made the right one. An authentic affirmation of her work explains how she knows she made the right decision when choosing to be a lunch lady. Her daily reward of laughs with students, jokes with coworkers, and a sense of humor she brings to the cafeteria fulfills her heart's desire to help brighten the day of stu-

ments. Those moments are more funny than not. These genuine, unscripted, and hilarious moments make her job very entertaining. Ultimately, Enedina's job is much more than serving food to hungry students. It's about providing a steady, occasionally hilarious, presence that nourishes both the body and the mind of the student community.

"I like talking to the kids, just not all of them. I'm just joking... maybe," Enedina said.

The Heat Is Jacket Supply Co. is open for business

Luis Saucedo Cubillos
Gavin Sanchez
Staff Writers

Business club is a club that does shirt for the school of Alvin high school

Business Club is a new club that started this year. While this club is new, there is a bright future ahead. This club gives people the opportunity to learn how to run a business and collaborate with others. The club is also planned to work around students' extra curricular activities. Everyone is welcome to join, as long as they are interested.

"Joining is easy, anyone interested can come to a meeting or talk to one of our members or our advisor. Since the club is still growing, it's the perfect time to join and help us build something new," President

Destiny Hernandez said.

The club was created so clubs and sports don't have to outsource shirts from other companies, instead they can be made at the school. This isn't only faster and more efficient, it also allows students to get opportunities.

"Business club was created to start an apparel business. It gives students an opportunity to learn how to run a business. Students being interested in entrepreneurship or t shirt design should join," sponsor Lacey Stewart said.

The great thing about this club is everyone is welcomed no matter what, this helps students connect with others and learn at the same time.

"You get to develop

real world skills like leadership and teamwork, and since the club is new, members have the chance to really shape its direction," Hernandez said.

Students can even put this experience on their resume. This club gives experience to students so when they get a job they can use it.

"Because we're still getting started, there's a lot of planning and figuring things out as we go. But that's also part of what makes it fun, it's a learning experience for everyone," Hernandez said. This also should not interfere with any extra curricular activities that students might have.

"Not at all, we know students have a lot going on, so we're keeping

things flexible, especially as we're starting out. As long as members communicate and manage their time, it's definitely possible to be in Business Club along with other activities," Hernandez said.



CAMPUS LIFE

Teachers Love for Math is Exponential

Ellie Jannise, Editor
Daphne Gonzalez, Staff Writer

It's not the silence of concentrated effort you hear echoing from these math classrooms; it's the hum of genuine discovery. Two passionate educators have completely rewritten the script on how math is taught, ensuring that their deep adoration for the subject is the first thing students absorb every single day. The dynamic duo of differential equations is helping students in unique ways.

Guy Faith Jr. and Charles Ruff are both math teachers at Alvin High School. Ruff teaches AP Calculus AB and BC, and Faith teaches AP Precalculus. Both teachers have made an incredible impact on students, mainly through the passion they convey for their subject, which is reflected in their students' learning.

"My initial interest in math really hit during the fourth grade. When I

was a fourth grader, and I didn't know why, but I went up to my teacher and said everything's moving a little slow and so she was like well here's a textbook, there's a table, go at your own pace. I got about three or four chapters ahead of everybody by the end of the year. So I mean, I've loved math ever since just figuring it out on my own," Faith said.

Although both men love math, becoming a teacher wasn't always part of the plan. For instance, Faith previously worked multiple different jobs, including a manager position at a Subway. Despite their varied backgrounds, both teachers knew that math was the only subject they wanted to teach.

"Originally, I didn't plan on becoming a teacher, but when I started, I knew that I wanted to teach math, and that's what I've done since."

Ruff said.

Despite math not being the original plan, both teachers love teaching math and seeing their students gain that same love.

"When teaching math and seeing the light bulb go off the moment that you're going over something, and you find that one way for a kid to understand is so rewarding," Faith said.

These teachers don't just love their subject secretly; it's known, from Faith's 13 math shirts, to the enthusiasm shown in both of the classrooms.

"My passion shows, and it comes off, I mean, I love what I do. I love working with kids, and I love doing math, and you know my one goal in the end is that people see that and that they take my passion and continue to try to do it on their own as well," Faith said.



Alvin High School

the Clarion



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The Jazz Line

Micah Rodriguez
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We have all heard of jazz bands in movies and TV shows, but did you know that Alvin High School has its very own jazz band? It is a separate program from the band you might have seen at a football game or in a parade. They rehearse after school every week while still being a part of the regular concert band.

Junior Alex Hernandez is the drummer for the jazz band. He marches tenors during the fall and for the indoor drumline. During the spring, he plays trumpet, and you usually can find him practicing in the band hall.

"Playing jazz music can expand a musician's palette," Hernandez said. "There are opportunities to improvise and do your own thing along with the band."

Jazz can be a tool for aspiring musicians to try new methods for playing. Here, they can express themselves without much concern over "being wrong." This is especially important to the students who want careers in music and education.

Leonardo Rodriguez is one of the pianists for the jazz band. He plays the trumpet during the fall and spring as well as synthesizer for the indoor drumline. "We are performing All I Want for Christmas is You and A Very Jazzy Christmas," Sophomore Rodriguez said. "There's trumpet, trombone, saxophones, and rhythm, which is tuba, bass, drum set, and piano."

A jazz band is typically much smaller than a normal concert band, including half the sections of a normal band. This means everyone's part is much more important to the whole, giving everyone a chance to shine. This includes solos and duets, which are much more prominent in Jazz than in typical bands.

David Moreno is a



trumpet player in the fall, spring, and jazz band. "Join it, it's fun," Senior Moreno said. "It's less sophisticated, more just feelings instead of playing what's on the page."

Many people aren't aware that Alvin High School has had a jazz band, and this might be caused by the popularity that Alvin's marching band holds, especially since they made finals in

a competition for the first time in six years. Even though this is an issue, there is no doubt that the amazing jazz performers will make a name for themselves in the coming years.

"Jazz band is a more unclean version of a concert band; and you can switch up whatever you want while playing," Senior Moreno said.

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ARTS AND CULTURE

The Show Is Over

Reflections from a successful season

Annie Olvera, Mia Krall
Staff Writers

The Alvin High School band has officially wrapped up one of its most eventful and rewarding seasons this November.

The new Director of Bands, Casey Watson, has been a key factor in leading the band to success, as evidenced by noticeable improvements this season. Along with new band members joining the field, the leaders are making their mark, and the band made it to the finals in a competition for the first time in six years! The program will only continue to improve as the years progress.

"This year's show is *Mercury Rising*, and it's about tension, building under pressure, and then the final release," director John Anderson said. The band played the music from Dante's Peak, "Mercury" from Gustav Holst's "The Planets," and "Under the Surface" from Encanto by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

"I've seen a little bit of everything improve over the years. The color guard has been moving up; they've medaled several times in the past three years at competitions. The non-varsity bands have gone up as far as difficulty and ratings at UIL. The top band is gonna be doing a much more difficult program than they have in the past. The winter drumline program went to state last year, and it was their first time having a winter drumline indoor percussion program in probably five years. So it's been an "across the board" movement," Anderson

said.

Since the 2025 marching season, the Alvin band has been looking to make their mark in the marching band world. They are playing more advanced music, and some students are participating in indoor percussion, a division of marching band composed of front ensemble and battery.

"Gulf Coast Classic is an inventational marching contest that is hosted by the Clear Creek ISD schools at Challenger Stadium," Anderson said. This is the third year this competition has taken place, and all three years the Alvin band has competed. This year, the band competed in this competition, where they placed 9th in the preliminaries and 9th place overall in finals.

"UIL region is the state-run circuit for a lot of different sports, also through choir, cheerleading, and, for us, band. Region is the smallest part of the marching contest sanctioned by the state. So all of the bands in our region go to the UIL region contest, technically not a contest, it's an evaluation. So, if a band performs their absolute best, they can receive a one, which is superior, and you can receive a five, which, you can imagine, is the opposite. Once the bands go to the UIL region, if they get a one, they advance to the UIL area. [UIL] Area is composed of about three to four regions, combined, and all the bands compete against each other for placement. For every five bands that attend [UIL] area, one gets

to advance to state," Anderson said.

This year, the Alvin band made sweepstakes in their region, receiving all ones; a celebratory achievement! All four of the Alvin ISD bands also made sweepstakes, which has not been done in a while. In UIL Area, the Alvin band placed 24th out of 29 bands.

"I hope to see numbers continue to go up. I'd like to see the band up near 250; we are about 200 right now. That's wind, drums, and guard all combined. I'd also like to see us go back to competing in the Bands of America circuit. This band was competing in Bands of America from about 2017 to 2019. In a couple of years, at least, I'd like to see our band compete at that regional level," Anderson said.

Bands of America, BOA, is a nationwide band competition and music education advocacy organization in the United States. Founded in 1975, BOA provides educational opportunities and gives bands across the country the chance to perform in the finest of venues, such as Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. These competitions give bands the possibility to be nationally recognized and provide a high-level performance experience, hopefully encouraging young students to pursue music education.

"This season overall has been one of my all-time favorites. As the head drum major, I was able to see so much growth, not only from the freshmen but also from upperclass-

men. Even though having a new director was a big change. I enjoyed the new perspective on marching band that the directors taught me," senior Brooklyn Nelson said.

Senior Brooklyn Nelson is oboe player and also the head drum major. She has been an active major since her junior year and a member of the band throughout her high school career.

"I have seen the band's dedication and teamwork change so much throughout the years. Going from many people showing up late to practices or complaining so much, to students willing to show up early and help each other out to make sure everything that needs to be done is done," Nelson said.

In recent years, the Alvin band has improved in overall performance. This has given the members confidence that they can reach above and beyond, and the skills to finally make the finals round.

"I was literally shocked. It's a different feeling being on the field. For years, I've sat with my stomach in knots, hoping there was a chance. But it was ten times more nerve-racking knowing that we actually had a shot. We were so shocked, we didn't even salute," Kate Dare said. Success on the field comes from strong leadership. Both from the band directors and from student leaders.

"Leadership has improved so much throughout my four years. When I came in as a freshman, I could not even tell

you who the leadership was because they did not stick out to me as leaders. But as the years went on, it got so much better, especially this year, because they knew when to step up and take initiative," Nelson said.

The leadership process is fairly simple. Experienced upperclassmen can try out and apply to become section leaders. Section leaders are responsible for the success of their individual sections by teaching and helping the members of their sections. Section leaders take on extra responsibilities to help move the team forward. Freshman Emma Rodriguez is a flute player and has seen how successful the band has been this season.

"I think the season went really well. I didn't really know what to expect as a freshman, but I thought it was so fun!" "I've never experienced a marching band competition before, but I can't even begin to explain how amazing it felt to hear our band's name on the announcements. It honestly felt amazing to be a part of such an amazing show!" Rodriguez said.

After putting in all of their hard work throughout the season, the Alvin High School Band made the finals.

"Making finals absolutely did inspire me to improve! I think the thing that inspired me the most was how happy everyone was when we made the finals. It just feels so amazing to see the people you look up to the most be genuinely

happy and proud," Rodriguez said.

With all the after-school practices, competitions, and football games, all the band members made lots of memories throughout the season.

"There's one game I remember where my section leader Alli's shako, fell over her head, and she was unable to see the entire show. It was really inspiring to see her march the entire ballad blind," Rodriguez said.

Senior Bassoon player and woodwind captain Haley Higginbotham has been impressed and excited with the new direction of the band.

"The new band director came in with some ambitious expectations. Although many were not on board with his leadership, he has arguably made the band better. The band has improved in both marching technique and playing ability in the past year," Higginbotham said.

"When we made finals, I think we were all ecstatic. It was the first time in the band's history that we had made finals, so it was pretty surreal." Higginbotham said.

With a new head director for the band, things have changed a lot for the students.

"Having a new head director that was not, at least initially, widely liked, made this season different. But the commitment level and effort that members put in this year were definitely higher than it has been in the past," Higginbotham said.



Jacket band sounding beautiful at our football games and competitions, filled with jacket pride to be able to show up and perform as a Alvin high school band member.



ATHLETICS

Josie Gertson, Chief Editor
Joshua Cheek, Staff Writer

The Race To Regionals

The wait is officially over for the Cross Country team. A notable 13-year span without a male qualifier ended this year, as an athlete secured his ticket to the Regional meet with an exceptional time of 17 minutes and 7.4 seconds for the 3.1-mile course.

This year, the cross-country team had a very successful season, with 11 athletes winning medals at district, including three varsity athletes: Zackary Mendoza, Reagan Strban, and Sarah Delapaz. This is an incredibly hard achievement to accomplish. Zack achieved a spot in 7th place, successfully earning a spot for regionals, while Reagan was 11th, only one spot away from advancing.

“My biggest achievement was being one spot off from regionals. It was really brutal and upsetting, but I’m still proud because I medaled and gave my best,” Strban said.

Strban is one of the best female runners; she does volleyball, track, and cross country, and last year advanced to the second round of district. She does cross country to keep in shape for track and volleyball, but also

because she loves the environment and teammates she has.

“I feel very connected through cross country. I met great people like Reagan and Baylin. I made a friend through Zach, and we worked out together. Zach’s good at pacing and has great sportsmanship,” Hannah Talbott said.

Talbott’s appreciation for her connections with her teammates was similar to Mendoza’s, who also found some of his motivation and support in his teammates.

“My teammates were my favourite part. Doyle and Joaquin always pushed me — Joaquin came with me to regionals as my little cheerleader. Slade, my brother, pushed me every day. Reagan’s like the boy version of me — I’m really gonna miss her. I’ll miss Trey, Mason, and Slade too,” Mendoza said.

Along with the connections he has made with his teammates, he has also made a special bond with his coach, Mikiyta Edwards.

“Coach Stepney’s my favorite coach I’ve ever had. She’s always cheering, every mile, every meet. She knows exactly

what to say to make you run faster and how to help you when you mess up. She’s always there for us — I even go to her office every day to talk. Coach White’s great, too. He’s not as loud, but his words are powerful,” Mendoza said.

Stepney was completely thrilled that Mendoza was running so well at the district. Mendoza went into the district ranking number 25, and at the meet, he passed her in 8th place.

“I screamed, ‘You’re in eighth, Zach! I believe in you!’ When I saw him finish, he was in 7th — I started yelling, clapping, screaming so loud that many people thought I was his mom. It was the first time in at least 10 years that a boy had made it this far. I was so proud — I lost my voice, clapped my hands until I had blood clots. It was such an emotional, proud moment,” Stepney said.

The trip to regionals was just as nerve-racking. With the pressure of an important race that no one has qualified for in years, and a lot of the student body supporting him during his send-off, it takes a toll on athletes.

“It was a lot — mainly

the planning and making sure Zach handled the pressure. Nobody from Alvin had been to regionals since 2009, so I had to keep him calm and make things feel normal. He handled it well until race time. The terrain was hilly, and we weren’t used to that. He was disappointed not to do better, but I reminded him that this is something no one’s done since the year he was born. It gave him and the team great experience for next year,” Stepney said.

Although Mendoza did not advance from regionals, he understands that just making regionals was a huge milestone for not only himself but the team.

“We’re building. I got this program three years ago when athletes didn’t take running seriously. I came from a track background and had to learn cross country from scratch. I dreaded long distances before this. But after seeing our growth and what we achieved this year, I can honestly say I love cross country. I’m proud of them and look forward to continuing to build this program,” Stepney said.



Zachary Mendoza and Coach Mikiyta Stepney at the cross country send off

Ellie Jannise,
Josie Gertson
Chief Editors

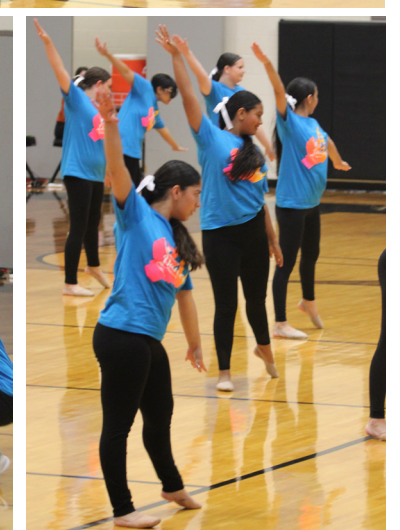
Dance Dimensions is an annual event where dancers from the AHS feeder pattern come together for a night to showcase their skills. The event featured impressive performances from middle schools, including Harby, Fairview, and Alvin Junior High, alongside the sophisticated routines of the High School Dance Class, the Male Athlet-

ics Dance Class, and the Jacketiers.

Every dazzling routine was a testament to the students’ hard work. They spent countless hours perfecting their technique, embodying the choreography, and getting stage-ready to deliver a performance that truly showcased their learned skills and commitment to the art of dance.



Jackets dancing for their performances in front of a huge supportive crowd of parents and staff at the Dance Dimensions Show in November.



THE FORUM

Gravity's Prank vs. The Voice in Your Head:

Ellie Jannise, Chief Editor

Losing your balance and having your water bottle and lunch kit fly out of your hands as your knees hit the hard pavement, causing a rip in your jeans and an abrasion on your knee, leaving small pieces of the concrete and dirt on you. As you try to get up covertly, you feel your cheeks getting hot and your face getting firetruck-red. While standing up, you see the scrutiny and judgment on others' faces who noticed you had fallen while doing a task as simple as walking.

You try your best to finish walking to class, wiping the dirt off yourself, desperately trying to hide your embarrassment.

Going to an outdoor school like Alvin High School means that tripping is almost guaranteed due to the imperfect terrain outside, such as

the mammoth-sized tree roots that are protruding out of the soil, the cracked, unlevel concrete, and the grass that is filled with inconsistent dips and changes. Even inside the school, walking up staircases with the extra weight from your backpack can make it much more difficult, and in the hallways that are sometimes filled, it's easy to trip over someone's foot.

This means that tripping should be trivial and not something to harp over, although it is something we all feel embarrassed about. It's the loss of control and how obvious such a small mistake is. It's not something that can be hidden once you fall; it's the embarrassment of getting back up.

Talking to yourself is something that can be embarrassing, like making a list out loud that was meant to be in your head,

or trying to think through something and saying it out loud. But only the people near you hear it; it's not like the whole hallway saw you pummel onto the ground. Talking to yourself can be awkward, sure, but it can be amended. Tripping is a public blunder and cannot be covered.

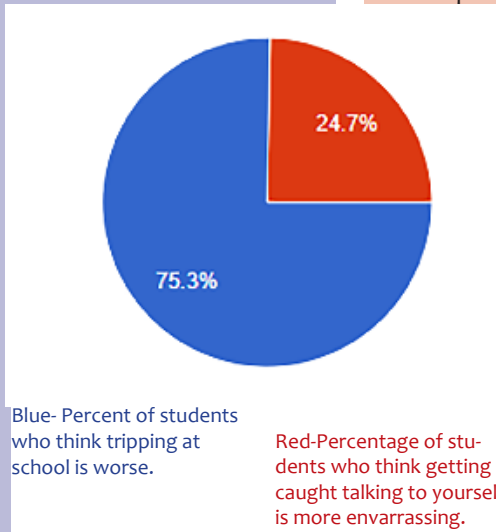
Josie Gertson, Chief Editor

The words slip out before you can stop them. Just a whisper at first. "Don't forget the last step, divide by three," but in the dead quiet of the classroom, it might as well be shouted. A couple of your classmates' heads turn around to look at you. Someone snickers. Your teacher pauses mid-sentence. Heat floods your face, slow but deep, crawling up your neck and settling into your ears. Unlike a fall, which is over in mere seconds, this moment lingers. You can't pretend it

didn't happen because the sound came from you. There's no dust to brush off, no quick recovery, just the echo of your own voice hanging awkwardly in the air.

Talking to yourself in class isn't an accident of uneven ground or heavy backpacks. It feels like a betrayal of your own mind, like your thoughts escaped without permission. You try to shrink back into your seat, suddenly hyperaware of every breath, every movement, terrified that another thought might leak out. The room feels smaller now, tighter, as if all eyes are still on you even after everyone has turned back to their work. Unlike tripping, which everyone understands as a mistake of the body or the ground, this feels like a mistake of who you are. At least when you fall,

everyone sees the same thing: an accident. When you talk to yourself, no one knows what it means. Were you nervous? Confused? Weird? The silence afterward is louder than any laughter. You don't get the clean ending of standing up and walking away. Instead, you sit there, trapped with your embarrassment, afraid to move, afraid to think too loudly, afraid that the smallest slip of your voice might expose you all over again.



Blue- Percent of students who think tripping at school is worse.

Red-Percentage of students who think getting caught talking to yourself is more embarrassing.



Jadyn Gomez
Assistant Editor
Mariah Acosta
Staff Writer

Hauntings on Johnson Street

As the fall leaves trickle down, a cold breeze envelopes the residents of Alvin, Texas, as they listen to the ghostly tales and rumors encompassing the town.

In a town with an extended history, a century-old mystique of ghost stories and haunted tales remains prominent throughout the streets, historic homes, abandoned buildings, and the center of Alvin High School, whether in an archive of up-to-date anecdotes or in experiences from long-standing community members.

Spooky Encounters

An eerie website called "Ghost of America" compiles the stories and experiences of what some Alvin residents call the supernatural phenomenon—here are some of the encounters, unfortunately, without names given.

"We knew what we heard and were scared to go back. Verhalen Road in Alvin, TX, has more than spirits. It has a truly demonic vibe."

Anecdotes of Oak Bend Drive remain, especially along the older homes in the neighborhood.

"All the paranormal activity stopped after Hurricane Harvey flooded the neighborhood, and my house was completely redone. I've lived in multiple places since my

last post and have never felt scared once at any of those locations, like I did at this house before."

A cemetery and funeral home are nearby, leaving residents to speculate about the area.

"I've always wondered about that area, even during the summer, it seemed that as soon as you passed through the gates, it was noticeably cooler."

Over on Beargaurd street, locals ecstatically express their haunted experiences.

"We do have spirits here. Two have been seen, and our dog started barking one night at a corner in our bedroom."

Some residents take an active role in these interactions, seeking out these experiences with the paranormal.

"On another jog, I saw a mist in the cemetery that had no logical explanation. I decided to take my KIL, which detects EMF(changes in electromagnetic fields). I had the highest spike I've ever had right at the corner of Elm Street. One in particular, I have made contact with. He said he was 'Louie'. He sounded like an elderly man."

Stories from AHS

Over the course of many years, teachers and staff at AHS have compiled stories, rumors, and their own ghostly

encounters,

Dr. Donna Pauley has lived in Manvel for 50 years and taught at Alvin for 31 years.

"When I was a kid, I heard a story of a teenage ghost who was killed in

An accident at a train crossing. If you stopped at a particular crossing on a particular night and put your car in neutral, the ghost would come behind you and push the car across the tracks, leaving behind ghostly fingerprints on the back bumper," Pauley said.

Harby Junior High is a prominent location for rumors and strange occurrences.

"I went to the campus on a Sunday, as I was leaving the teacher's lounge after making copies, I walked past the elevator. The doors opened, and I screamed. I remember thinking, "Why did I scream? Nobody is here." I then looked at the elevator, and at that moment, the elevator doors closed...I ran to my classroom and left as soon as I could...the elevator required a key to operate it. That was the last time I went to the campus alone," Advanced Academics Specialist Michelle Deleon said.

Deleon experienced multiple startling incidents at the school.

"After a school dance, security footage showed a single balloon floating down the hallway past the big staircase. When it reached the end of the hall, it did not drift left but made a sharp turn. The strange part is that this happened when no one was in the building," Deleon said.

The old auditorium building in the school elicits similar feelings among the community.

"If I had to pick a spot where ghosts might reside at Alvin High School, it would be the old auditorium and the underground beneath it, both are seen in a shadowy spot, and are also one of the oldest buildings still on campus," Pauley said.

The Luke Kennedy building, where CIS Counselor Yanelly Ramirez resides, is one of the oldest buildings at AHS.

"The LK building appears to be the most haunted, recently, in my office, both my student and I heard a knock that didn't come from the welding shops," Ramirez said.

While some are ghost believers and invite the possibility of the supernatural, others are doubtful.

"I am a skeptic when it comes to believing in ghosts. I think it is my sci-

ence background. In order to believe something, I need sound evidence. With that being said, I have had some personal experiences that I find hard to explain. I do find ghost stories entertaining. I also enjoy going on ghost tours in different cities. What's better than the stories is learning the history through them," Deleon said.

Personal life experiences and events lead others to welcome the possibility of ghosts and the paranormal.

I do believe in ghosts. My brother died when we were in our 20s.

"Three weeks after his death, he visited me and my grandmother on the same night. When we compared notes, what we both thought was a dream was not a dream at all. We had the exact same conversation with him, word for word," Pauley said.

Whether rooted in fear, excitement, skepticism, or personal loss, ghost stories spread throughout the town of Alvin, the school, and generations.

