ACS STARTS TALKING

“Say Something”

By ISAIAH SWAGGERTY
Red and Blue Editor

AHS has continued its ongoing fight against social isolation and suicide prevention with the program new to the school district: Say Something. Say something gives students the opportunity to speak up anonymously if they see a fellow student being bullied, or peers who are showing signs of depression, or social isolation.

The app itself was introduced to students on December 7 when students and teachers alike watched several video presentations, each teaching students the signs of social isolation to watch for. Students were implored to download the Say Something app following said presentations.

Since these presentations, far more anonymous calls have come in, each varying in stature. From students seeing another student sitting alone, to several calls that resulted in police visits. When submitting a report in the Say Something app, the app asks for things such as names, a description of the those described in the report, as well as what occurred to cause a report. Things such as fights, signs of hopelessness or social anxiety, as well as substance abuse, theft and so on are available to report on the app.

“Our kids have done a great job of letting adults know through the ARS and through email and face-to-face conversations. They are the eyes and ears of our school and they have created a Say Something culture at AHS,” said Shawn Jackson, Principal.

Students can also report an issue by going to SaySomething.net, as well as texting 1-844-SAYNOW. You may just save a life in doing so.

ACS PROGRAM SEeks to Fight Social Isolation, Suicide

Last year, 12 teens in five Stark County school districts took their own lives, prompting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate it as a “suicide cluster” with a “contagious” element.

In June, the CDC released a report saying that Ohio’s suicide rate had increased by 36 percent between 1999 and 2016. The 1,706 suicides in 2016 averaged five per day, or one every five hours.

The Alliance City School District takes these staggeringly high numbers seriously. The district has begun a program to combat a major cause of suicide: Social isolation.

The district has adopted “Start with Hello,” a program that originated with the Sandy Hook Promise. The program is dedicated to publicizing and combating the growing epidemic known as social isolation.

“Social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely or treated like you are invisible,” according to the “Start with Hello” website. It can lead to health problems such as depression and anxiety, and an increased risk of suicide.

School counselors will implement activities aimed at getting students out of their comfort zones and getting to know each other better. Their efforts will range from classroom conversations to all-school assemblies, all aimed at bringing social isolation to an end.

“My first mission is the safety of my students,” said Guidance Counselor Allison Morrison, who heads the program at Alliance High School.

She said that while she has not dealt with thoughts of suicide, she knows many people who have. In her job as guidance counselor, she sees the damaging effects of social isolation.

“That’s why I want to give my kids a purpose, and hope,” said Morrison. “And with ‘Start with Hello’ I can do just that.”

Using the program, Morrison and other counselors tell students how to look for signs of social isolation in themselves and others, along with resources to combat the problem. She implores them to seek help if they or their friends have thoughts of suicide and to remember that saving a life is far more important than saving a friendship.

The program at Alliance High began during national Suicide Prevention Week. On Sept. 12, students took a survey that asked about their feelings and received bracelets promoting suicide prevention.

The last week of September became “Start With Hello” week at the high school. On Sept. 24, students watched a video from Beyond Differences, an organization that fights stereotypes and promotes inclusiveness in high school, as well as middle school.
The Alliance Aviators concluded another successful Homecoming Week with a 21-0 win over the Carrollton Warriors Friday, Oct. 12th. This gives them a three game winning streak and second consecutive shutout. The Aviators now have a record of 5-3.

Two touchdowns were scored by Noah Durst-Hawkins and one was scored by Demarlo Brooks.

The evening of the Homecoming game provided the opportunity for current students, alumni and community members to all come together to cheer on the Aviators. Before the game, the AHS marching band played at a tailgate at Parkw wanty for community members. “I think it was fun for everyone,” said sophomore Matthew Eversdyke who is a trumpet player.

The Homecoming court was also recognized before the game. Freshmen attendees included Rustina Torres and Jay Ron Daniel, sophomore attendees were Olivia Franks and Andrew Dart, junior attendees were Kate Bodenh and Moe Thompson and the senior attendees were Allison Wagster and Drevyn Jones. Ki’Erah Martin and Cameron Cox were crowned Homecoming Queen and King. During the marching band’s halftime performance, the junior and sophomore participants of the Carrier and Tech programs were invited to wear their uniforms in order to be recognized. Senior Saniar Nagle is involved in the cosmetology program at AHS. She stated that she “loved” seeing her peers get recognized and only wished this had happened longer.

The Aviator’s win made the students even more excited for the Alliance Horror Story-themed dance the following night put on by Student Senate.

ATHLETICS

The Alliance High School Football EBC Championship Team was among the 226 athletes recognized at the annual Fall Athletic Awards Night on Thursday, November 7th. The band, players and the player’s families of fall sports all gathered in the auditorium for a Rose Ceremony recognizing all senior athletes.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, then welcomed Mike Schott, the athletic director, to kick off the evening and he spoke positively about the coaches, players and supportive parents.

“I would like to say some thank you that are very well deserving and on behalf of myself, Athletic Department and all of our coaches. All of us would like to say a special thank you to Alliance City Schools Board of Education and Superintendent Jeff Talbert and his administrative team and all of their continued support for all of the athletic programs, “ Schott said.

While the football team had memorable and successful season winning the EBC Championship for the second year in a row, all teams were recognized. All teams were released to separate rooms for individual sports teams awards.

The EBC First Team Honorees are as follows, for the golf team: Richard Elliott and Blake Hood; for Boys’ Soccer: Nick Deack and James Gray; for Girls’ Soccer: Julia Schwartz; for Boys’ Soccer: Gus Jackson and Trevor Straut; for Girls’ Soccer Cortynne Phillips; for Volleyball: Carl Beckett; for Girls’ Tennis: Alyssah White; and last, but certainly not least, the Football team’s very own, Demarlo Brooks, Gavin Geier, Mujah Hickson, Brandon Muzee and Jeff Talbert.

By CELINE MONASTRA
Red and Blue Staff Writer

Flight Awards Night

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By ALLIE COX
Red and Blue Staff Writer

The Alliance Aviators Marching Band celebrated the end of their season with their annual concert in the high school auditorium. The band performed songs from their pregame and halftime performances, as well as the stand tunes. De-thro underclassmen player Matthew Eversdyke said, “I think we played really well. I thought ‘Wipeout’ was very fun.”

Senior fluter player Anna Zumbur agreed that the concert went well.

“It was a great way to end the season,” she said, adding that her favorite song was “Shout Out To The Greatest Show” from their halftime performances because “it’s upbeat and it sounded good.”

Director Shaun Fontaine spoke of how grateful he and the rest of the band are to have their new bus, to the Band Boosters and community fundraising efforts. Maintenance and Garage staff provided an old Bluebird bus after the band outgrew its instrument trailer.

Fontaine also spoke of their next project. The band is looking for sponsors and donors in order to display all of the former AHS Marching Band uniforms. Senior band members were recognized as were some of those members told of their favorite memories from their time in the band. Senior band members were also recognized during Senior Night at Friday’s football game. The seniors voted to perform “I Want You Back” during halftime. Band members are looking forward to starting another successful concert season band.

By ALLIE COX
Red and Blue Staff Writer

The Alliance Aviators Boys Golf team finished the 2018-2019 season with a record of 9-5 overall and 8-4 in the EBC for the second year in a row.

They had two young men placed on the 1st team all-EBC, Richard Elliott and Blake Hood, one on the second team, Sean Kelly and two Honorable Mentions, Noah Thomas and Ty Young.

BOY’S SOCCER

The Boys Soccer team finished the season with a 9-7-2 record. The team enjoyed some late season success and won an impressive first round playoff game against Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary.

The team benefited from increased numbers, which allowed the program to carry a JV team. Junior Nick Deack was solely a few goals away from breaking a school record and Trevor Straut saved the team in numerous situations as goalkeeper.

CROSS COUNTRY

This fall, the Cross Country team was at the largest size it has been in years with 15 boys and nine girls. A team highlight for the boys team was their performance at the Tuslaw Invitational, where, on a muggy morning, they came in 3rd place, their best team finish in the past three years.

The standout runner on the boys team this year was Junior Tommy Gress, with a season best performance of 18:06 at the District meet. The girls team also made a huge amount of progress as a team, beating more teams this season than in the last two years.

On the girls team, sophomore Julia Schwartz had a great season, her best time being 21:30, and received 2nd Team EBC honors.

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No members of Key Club don’t wield keys.

One of Alliance High’s many extracurricular organizations, Key Club is “a locally based organization that allows high schoolers to do service projects, give back to the community and promote their leadership skills for future endeavors,” according to Rachel DePriest, Language Arts teacher and the club’s advisor.

Key Club partners with the Alliance chapter of Kiwanis Club of Alliance and with UNICEF, an international organization that provides medical supplies, immunizations and educational options to children in more than 190 countries around the world.

Key Club members volunteer at multiple events throughout the year, including the Kiwanis Pancake Jamboree; the Alliance Community Pantry food drive; Scarf Bombing, which donated winter clothing is diastereois in care packages throughout Alliance; Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF; and selling cotton candy at Days in the Park during the Carnation Festival.

The Pancake Jamboree, which was held Saturday, Nov. 3, in the high school cafeteria, is a full breakfast offered to anyone in the community for $6. It’s a great example of the many volunteer opportunities offered by Key Club.

“If you don’t want to talk to anyone and just want to make pancakes you can make pancakes,” said DePriest, laughing. “If you want to socialize, you can run around and clean tables and talk to people. There’s a job for everyone.”

This is DePriest’s first year as the advisor of Key Club. Chris Schilling, the long-time advisor, “passed the pancake spatula” to DePriest, who shadowed him for a year to learn the ropes.

“Key Club is an excellent way for students to become involved in giving back to their local community and to have fun at the same time,” Schillig said. “I am always impressed by how many Alliance High School students give up unsellably of their time to help others, and I know this year will be no exception.”

DePriest agreed, saying she is excited that Key Club membership has increased to more than 60 this year.

To join Key Club, students are supposed to pay a $10 membership fee, but “as long as students are willing to show up and participate, we’ll take you,” DePriest said. “The community supports the schools by paying taxes, so it is nice to have community involvement for the students.”

Anna Zumber, a senior and four-year member of Key Club, concurred, saying: “It’s a great opportunity for kids to give back to the community.”

Key Club offers two scholarships to senior Key Club members with the funds raised throughout the year: the Clark Kennedy Award and the David Webster Award, both named after former AHS Key Club members who died during or soon after high school.

Each is given to a student who shows exemplary citizenship, responsibility and leadership.

“Last year 50 students earned scholarships, and this year we want to achieve that and more,” said Zumber, who was the first in her time for students to think about their future. Jackson also went on to assure students who aren’t interested in future plans. “If you are concerned because you don’t know where you are going in your future, don’t worry. That is completely normal and we are here to help you become successful,” he said.

Finally before releasing the attendees from the assembly to the gym, Jackson said he wanted to leave a final message to the present students that if they are still lost or confused, they can text @aviators1281010 for further information on scholarships, and that they wouldn’t worry about the availability of certain scholarships because there are scholarships for students who might not be top of the class academically. In the gym students found themselves able to speak to over 60 vendors, spanning from college reps, to employers, as well as tech schools, bankers, and Goodwill, who were prepared to show students how to dress to impress.

In the gym, students were able to speak to more than 60 vendors, including representatives from colleges such as Malone University and University of Northwestern Ohio, and trade schools such as TIDDS Technical Institute, as well as local businesses, nonprofits and other organizations such as Kiwanis International and United Way.

Representatives from First National Bank were also present. The bank was donating $10 for every AHS student who presents a business card from Kent State University or Youngstown State University. Thanks to Allison Mullins, head of Career Night, the night couldn’t have gone better, and this is further enforced by her own words when she said “I think everything went superbly. We had over 100 vendors in the auditorium and over 200 in the gym.”
The AHS Jetsetters kicked off their 2018-2019 competition season with a send-off show on Nov. 1 and participated in the Ada High School competition Nov. 5.

The send-off concert on Thursday gave the selective show choir a chance to perfect their skills for their first competition in Ada. They were also able to perform for friends, teachers and family who may not have been able to travel to the competition.

This year brings some new additions for the Jetsetters, including a backup band and stage crew to enhance their performances. The 32 singer/dancers, nine band members and eight stage crew who traveled to Ada performed in the morning and qualified for finals in the evening.

The Jetsetters competed against eight other schools, two of which were also in their Class B division. They took home the first runner up award in Class B and fifth runner up overall after the even performances. Junior DeSean Hollins was named Outstanding Performer for the competition.

Carrie Chunat AHS choir director gave the audience a brief summary of how competitions work, along with describing some of the awards that the Jetsetters compete for every year. In past years, they’ve brought home accolades such as Best Vocals, Best Costumes, Best Choreography, People’s Choice Award and the Outstanding Performer Award from competitions with schools from many states.

This year, the Jetsetters’ theme is “Feel It.” The brightly-clad ensemble rushed onto the stage in pink dresses and black suits for their energetic show. They began with “Good Feeling,” with Destini Howard and Jocelyn Austin rapping in the middle of the song. They then transitioned to the ballad “Make You Feel My Love,” with soloists Kiera Hairston, Destini Howard and DeSean Hollins, with beatboxing by Karleigh McCracken.

Next, Nick Deack led the boys through “The Way You Make Me Feel.” The girls re-appeared in retro green, silver and black dresses with high black boots to sing “I Feel The Earth Move.” The Jetsetters closed out their sensational show with “Feel It Still.”

According to several members, the Jetsetters are excited about their upcoming season.

“This was my last first performance,” said Destini Howard, a senior and soloist. “I couldn’t have imagined being on the stage with a better group of kids.”

Junior Tommy Greer agreed, saying: “We worked really hard this summer, and it’s nice to see our hard work pay off. The finished product is really great.”

Their new costumes for this competition season have drawn a lot of attention for their Bashy looks, a staple of the Jetsetters. They were designed by Randall S. Lance, who also serves as the group’s choreographer.

Jetsetters Are “Feelin’ It” With New Competition Show

By JULIA SCHWARTZ
Red and Blue Staff Writer

By ERIC DUNN
Red and Blue Staff Writer

Ensuring the audience with supsensful and true music that seemed to belong in a horror movie seemed to be the goal of the orchestra performing in the annual Strings Spooktacular concert on Oct. 25.

This is the eleventh year of the popular concert, with performances from both the high school and eighth grade orchestras. Performers were dressed in a wide variety of costumes ranging from an endearing squid to a convincing Sasquatch.

The concert was widely anticipated by the high school orchestra, where it is “a favorite for many of our band - according to Orchestra Director Crystal Sabik.

The eighth-grade orchestra opened the event with a rendition of “March of the Shadows” by Brian Balmages, a piece filled with unexpected harmonies and rhythmic twists,” according to Troy Russell, Principal at Alliance Middle School and one of the announcers for the concert.

The middle school performers continued with “Creatures” by Brian Balmages, a unique song that combines the sounds of the instruments with the rhythmical beats of a stomping feet.

The high school orchestra was then handed the spotlight, beginning with a song inspired by an abandoned amusement park in New Orleans titled “Ghost Carnival” by Erik Morales. Next was “Dies Irae: Fantasy” by Deborah Baker Monday, an adapted hymn from the 13th century that means “Day of Wrath.”

That was followed by “Two Scenes from the Hollow” by Kirt Mosier, a two-part piece based on “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.”

The high school orchestra was then joined by the grade 10 graders to play the final song of the evening, “Snaking Nymphias” by Doug Spata, a playful piece characterized by a “cartoon pick-pick” style, said Russell.

As the piece was performed, members of the seventh grade orchestra walked among the audience, handing out candy.
Former Alliance Graduates Honored at Alliance High School

By ERIC DUNN
Red and Blue Staff Writer

The Distinguished Alumni Assembly was held at Alliance High School on Oct. 1, bringing 100 the number of inductees since the Distinguished Alumni Committee was created in 1966. With a short introduction from Judge Robert Lavery, chair of the Distinguished Alumni Committee responsible for choosing the inductees, the first of the alumni was brought to the stage.

"There’s not a thing that hasn’t been touched by an artist," said a 1969 graduate Robert Benjamin. Benjamin pursued a career in art following his graduation from high school, discovering his passion for landscape paintings and becoming enamored with the New Mexican countryside.

Many of Benjamin’s works are displayed in public and private collections across the country, such as the Smithsonian Institution’s Collection of Fine Arts in Washington D.C. Benjamin’s speech was in line with his life’s work, ever feel you need help, a friend, remember education is the wealth. And to be successful in life.

"All of you can be successful," Blebea said. "Each of you, enjoy your life and do what you are in your third grade to make the choices to have a positive and surrounding people who are positive," King said. "Important that you surround yourself with the right people, trust in what you can do," Blebea detailed a four-step plan for success to the audience, emphasizing the importance of defining your interests and skills, avoiding addiction, doing the right thing and maintaining your faith.

The last to be inducted was Ernest S. Prince, a civil rights organization, for over 30 years until his retirement from the Colordo School of Mines in 1999. Prince talked about his husband had on those around him, advocating for the underserved and making his family feel loved.

Prince spoke about the audience to follow in Ernest Prince’s footsteps, they told them to live their lives “with dignity.”

"Service, responsibility, dignity. These are just some of the things with which we start our lives. Calling them “shining examples of our lives” with dignity.

Eckley worked some words of wisdom into his stories, saying “if you make a mistake, be like my dad, get over it.”

The last to be inducted was Ernest S. Prince, a civil rights activist who was a member of the 19th League of Womein, an equal organization, for over 30 years until he passed away in 2011. Speaking for him was his wife, Cheryl Prince.

"Service, responsibility, dignity. These are just a few of the words that describe Ernest Prince," in her speech, she said. "Instead of focusing on the offenses, focus on the achievements, Eckley instead focused on some of the things that he remembered from his childhood.

Blebea detailed a four-step plan for success to the audience, emphasizing the importance of defining your interests and skills, avoiding addiction, doing the right thing and maintaining your faith.

"If you can do something, you can do it," Blebea said. "Each and every one of you should be successful." Blebea detailed a four-step plan for success to the audience, emphasizing the importance of defining your interests and skills, avoiding addiction, doing the right thing and maintaining your faith.

Robert Benjamin, Judge Robert Lavery, Chair of the Distinguished Alumni Committee, honored alumni Robert Benjamin, honored alumni Dr. John Blebea, the first African American to speak on the stage.

Lorenzo Scott and Greg King were recognized as Pathfinders Award recipients during the assembly held at Alliance High School on Feb. 8. The second Pathfinders Award assembly began with senior Dynasty Ford presenting the history of the Pathfinder Awards. The Pathfinder Award assemblies were created in 2017 to recognize men and women who have served as inspirations within the community.

First to be recognized as a Pathfinder was Lorenzo Scott. He was presented with the Humantarianism and Art Pathfinder Award by junior Nick Odhfield.

Scott, King Recognized as Pathfinder Recipients

By CHEYANNE GONZALES
Special to The Red and Blue

Lorenzo Scott and Greg King were recognized as 2019 Pathfinder Award recipients during the assembly held at Alliance High School on Feb. 8. The second Pathfinders Award assembly began with senior Dynasty Ford presenting the history of the Pathfinder Awards. The Pathfinder Award assemblies were created in 2017 to recognize men and women who have served as inspirations within the community.

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The Assembly Coordinator for the event said that the event was successful.

"The ability to save a life is something that’s important, Dr. John Blebea, who is a son of honored alumni Dr. Wilton “Bill” Eckley and Cheryl Prince, wife of the late by helping with the event, Pre Med students get the opportunity to put what they learn in class into practice. They learn to look for the signs of fainting, plus the importance of hydration and nutrition when donating blood, according to Woodruff.

"It’s a pretty good experience," said Vanita Jenkins, a supervisor with Vitalant in Canton. "After we set up, it goes pretty smoothly."

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Students and Staff Have a Ball at Dodgeball Tournament

ALLIE COX
Red and Blue Staff Writer

Students had the opportunity to kick off winter break with the first Patches O’Houlihan Dodgeball Tournament, which was inspired by the 2004 film “Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story.” A total of 14 teams of either students or teachers participated. The “Dodge Duranpos” team was comprised of juniors Sam Holt, Will Rose, Gus Jackson, Adam McMillen, Shawn Edgy, Nathan Simons, Trevor Strata and Lawyer Pen rid. They defeated the team of “Skittle That Killz” with members Cameron Cox, Demarko Brooks, Kadrion Moore, Mikel Hicks, Deyvon Wood, Brandon Alexander, Brydlyn Harmon, Gavin Brum, Nick Oldfield, and Ty Young. The teacher team comprised of Joe Reichle, Phillip Yarian, Dan Oberhauser, Thomas Richardson, and I enjoy looking for subtle ways to bring out the comedy for everyone in this show. Everyone needs to get in on the fun.”

Construction Trades teacher Brian Swank is also teaching a new Set Design class, which will create the set for the musical. This is the first time the students will be responsible for 50 percent of the set design. “Students have so many tools for creativity they just needed someone else to lead them towards making their ideas a reality,” he said.

Tickets will be $10 for adults and $8 for students and senior citizens. They will go on sale three weeks before the production.

By JANE COOK
Red and Blue Staff Writer

The Alliance High Music Department promises to get audiences “All Shook Up” when their spring musical debuts April 11th. The department announced just before Winter break that their biggest production of the year would be the 2004 musical featuring songs made famous by Elvis Presley, aka the King of Rock and Roll.

“Probably what I’m looking forward to the most is the creative outlet that this show will provide,” said Ms. Carrie Chunat, who directs the production.

“I really enjoy staging and choreography, and this show is full of fun music with lots of dance potential,” she said. “I like how humorous the show is. It’s very light-hearted and witty, and I enjoy looking for subtle ways to bring out the comedy for the audience.”

The musical has a large cast and many different kinds of parts, Chunat said. It offers lead roles, supporting roles, small roles, and chorus parts. Students in the chorus can even decide which choral numbers they wish to do.

The musical takes place over a 24-hour period in 1955 and is based off of the Shakespearean comedy, Twelfth Night. Shakespeare’s work, like the best choice because there are a variety of characters, strong comic leads, and lots of fun music and dance, which are all things that I feel the vocal music department does well right now.”

Rachael Wagner plays the female lead, Natalie, and Ryan McKnight is the male lead, Chad. DeSean Hollins portrays Natalie’s dad, Jim. Kiera Hancock is Sylvia and Unikka Threats plays her daughter, Lorraine. Dennis will be played by Tommy Gress, and Miss Sunday by Savannah Heller. Matthew Eversdye portrays Dean and Stefan Thulacker is Sheriff Earl. Katie Blake is Mayor Matilda Hyde and Raquel Johns plays Henrietta.

“I think people should come see the show because everyone loves Elvis,” Rachel Wagner said. “There’s a little something for everyone in this show. Everyone needs to get in on the fun.”