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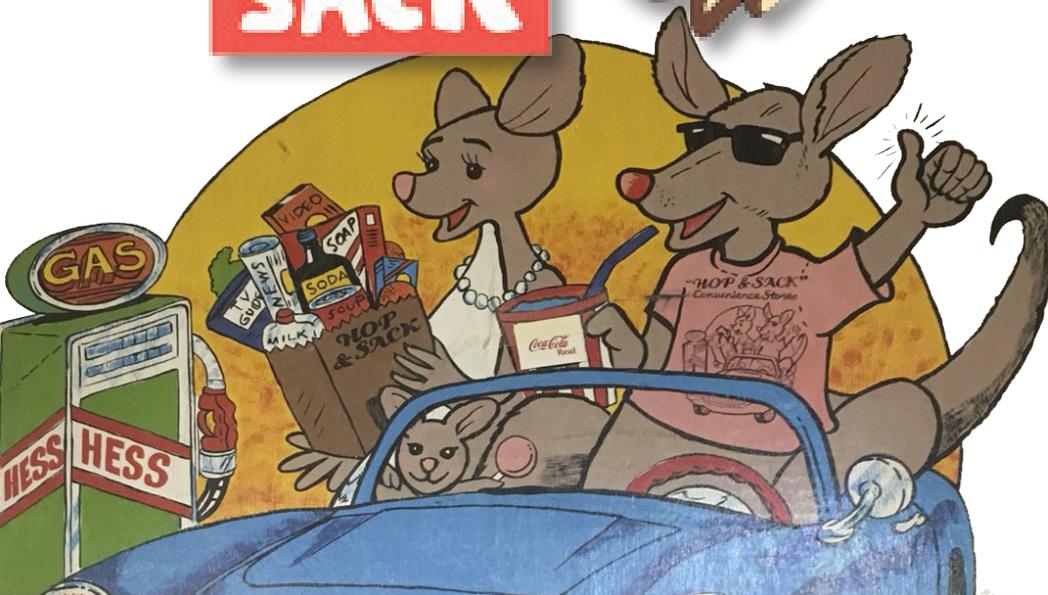
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ON THE COVER



Cover illustration by Altus artist Lindsay McKenzie, whose murals dress up several buildings in town. Her son, Maverick, inspects her handiwork. Photo by Larry Miller, Altus Times.



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High and Mighty: a century of progress

Altus' history begins with a settlement on the Salt Fork of the Red River east of Altus, known as Frazer. Though you may hear that Altus was once Frazer, that's a common misconception. Instead, Frazer was its own community with its own post office established in 1886 and stationed until Dec. 21, 1896.

By Katrina Goforth

Frazer was settled by the McClellan family who lived there until Bitter Creek, off what was then called Frazer River, flooded on June 4, 1891. Some of the settlers of Frazer struck a deal with the Neal family to settle what is now Altus. A post office was established in Altus on Oct. 27, 1890, prior to the flood date, but there were still settlers living in Frazer.

Altus means "high" in Latin, but that isn't why the town wears the moniker. Another Altus settler, Wiley Baucum, named the town after his former home, Altus, in Franklin County, Arkansas.

None of this would have been possible without the thriving cattle industry. After the Civil War, ranchers drove cattle north from Texas through Indian Territory (present Oklahoma) to the railroads in Kansas. Cattle drivers would cross the ford at the Red River north of the present Oklahoma-Texas border 10 miles north of Vernon, Texas. A trading post established in 1878 by Jonathan and Corwin Doan gave the ford its familiar name, Doan's Crossing.

John McClellan of Frazer agreed to carry mail from the post office in Doan's Crossing for three months free of charge. Cowboys stopped at his home for mail and cool buttermilk that earned the homestead the name "Buttermilk Station." The cattle industry is still a major contributor to the area's economy.

One year after statehood (1907), the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway and the Altus, Wichita Falls and Hollis Railway built lines through Altus. In 1907,



Rick Carpenter | Altus Times

The Jackson County Courthouse, located in historic Downtown Altus, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as the judicial seat for the entire county. "Crossing the Red" by Harold T. Holden sits to the front and center of the courthouse.

there were 1,927 residents. By 1910, there were 4,522 residents. The area boasted eight cotton gins, two cotton compresses and 19 wholesale businesses.

Altus now boasts a population of approximately 19,000 residents, due in part to the progress of the last 100 years. With the addition of the Lugert Dam in the 1930s at what is now Quartz Mountain Nature Park in Lone Wolf, farmers and ranchers were able to shake off the dust of the 1930s with a new irrigation system built using Works Progress Administration labor. Cotton and wheat continue to be the major crops of Southwest Oklahoma with research into other crops like

sesame and guar that are more sustainable in drought conditions not uncommon in the area.

The addition of Altus Army Airfield in 1942 led to what is now Altus Air Force Base, home of the Mighty 97 Air Mobility Wing. Like cotton and wheat, the Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, C-17 Globemaster III and the newly added KC-46 Pegasus (2019) are as common in Altus as the Eastern Redbud tree and Red-tailed Hawk.

Altus is the county seat of Jackson County. The Jackson County Courthouse, located in Downtown Altus, is on the National Register of Historic Places along with the Downtown District.



Rick Carpenter | Altus Times

Altus Air Force Base's latest arrival is the KC-46A Pegasus that first started arriving in February.

History of Altus Air Force Base

Activated as a multi-engine flight training school in 1943, Altus Air Force Base has been the cornerstone of southwestern Oklahoma for more than 75 years. With an average of more than 300 days of weather conducive to flying each year, a generally flat landscape and few obstructions, the base was then, and is still, ideally situated for young Airmen to hone their flying skills. Over the next seven decades, the base evolved to become the premier air mobility training location in the United States Air Force.

By 97th AMW Public Affairs

During WWII, students honed their skills on training aircraft such as the Cessna AT-17, the Curtiss AT-9 and to some extent the Beechcraft AT -7. Once confident and capable, the students received their wings and transferred to their next assignment operating the type of aircraft they would use in combat over the European and Pacific theaters. At the end of hostilities in Europe, Altus Army Airfield was inactivated as a training location and placed on temporary inactive status.

After reactivation on Aug. 1, 1953, Altus AFB served briefly as a Tactical Air Command base, operating the C-47 Skytrain before switching to an operational

Strategic Air Command wing with the first all jet-engine powered bomber, the B-47 Stratojet.

Through the 1950s and into the 1960s, the base would also experience many mission changes to include the regular use of in-flight refueling with the KC-97 Stratofreighter and alert missions with the B-52 Flying Fortress and the ageless KC-135 Stratotanker. Also, during the early 1960s the base hosted a ring of 12 Atlas missile silos around the local area.

As the Air Force expanded during the Cold War and the war in Southeast Asia, the base received another new mission, air transport. In 1967, the Air Force selected Altus AFB for the training site for its most versatile transport or cargo aircraft, the C-141 Starlifter and the enormous C-5 Galaxy. The clear skies and wide expanses of Oklahoma proved to be best suited for the mission. By the start of the 1970s, Altus AFB had three aircraft assigned: the KC-135, the C-141, and the C-5. Through the 1980s and the 1990s, these three aircraft became a common sight in the skies above Southwestern Oklahoma.

As the 20th Century drew to a close, Altus AFB welcomed the arrival of the agile C-17 Globemaster III in 1996. This aircraft, with a unique winglet, an expansive cargo area and powerful engines, is

the newest cargo aircraft in the Air Force. Even before its arrival, the base began training pilots and loadmasters to operate and fly the aircraft designed for use as an intermediate short-airfield cargo aircraft.

The dawn of the 21st Century marked the retirement of an old workhorse. In 2001, following 32 years at Altus AFB, the C-141 was released from active duty.

The following year the Altus AFB mission grew again when the Air Force moved the basic loadmaster course from Sheppard AFB, Texas, to Altus AFB. The initiative combined similar training programs to reduce the number of moves required by trainees while cutting overall costs.

In August of the same year, the 97th AMW reorganized as a "combat wing." The Air Force-wide change involved the inactivation of the 97th Logistics Group and the task of all aircraft maintenance fell to the 97th Maintenance Directorate comprised of only civilian maintainers. The transformation involved the inactivation of the 97th Transportation Squadron. Its mission was combined with that of the redesignated 97th Supply Squadron as the 97th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Additionally, the 97th Contracting Squadron became part of the 97th Support Group, now called the 97th Mission

Support Group.

In 2005, the wing expanded the training of the C-17 in two areas. First, adding the opportunity for dual-row airdrop delivery, doubling the amount of equipment the aircrews can bring directly into the combat theater of operations and second, training the aircrews on the use of night vision goggles. This provides crews with increased survivability during low-light operations, especially in combat.

In 2007, the C-5A Galaxy mission, the basic loadmaster and the basic boom operator courses left Altus and transferred to Lackland AFB, Texas, with the C-5 training mission becoming the responsibility of the U.S. Air Force Reserve. In addition, the Airfield Officers Training Program ceased operations at Altus AFB and the training transferred to the Air National Guard.

In 2019, the Air Force began training pilots and boom operators on the KC-46, the latest fueling and cargo airplane.

Along with training, the men and women permanently assigned to Altus AFB continually deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Since 2001, the wing has sustained an average of 150 personnel a year deployed at any one time.

Although numerous mission changes have occurred over the years, Altus AFB has continued to perform the basic mission it started in 1943, providing a safe environment to train military personnel and prepare them for action worldwide.



Main Street Altus schedules an annual Walkin' On Chalk event in the spring. It allows artists of all ages to compete for prizes while getting out and enjoying the outdoors.

SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTERS

Altus Public Schools

Altus High School
400 N. Park Ave., Altus
580-481-2167

Altus Junior High
1601 S. South Park Lane, Altus
580-481-2173

Altus Intermediate School
1221 N. Howse, Altus
580-481-2155

L. Mendel Rivers Elementary
3000 Veterans Drive, Altus
580-481-2183

Altus Elementary School
1820 Sunset Drive, Altus
580-481-2180

Altus Primary School
1200 Glenda, Altus
580-481-2185

Altus Early Childhood Center
1100 N. Forrest, St., Altus
580-481-2151

Central Junior High
412 W. Cypress St., Altus
580-481-2173

Washington Elementary
School
301, E. Cypress St., Altus
580-481-2133

Eugene Field Center
350 S. Forrest St., Altus
580-481-2108

Blair Public Schools

PO Box 428
610 Zinn
Blair, Okla. 73526
Administration:
Phone: 580-563-2632
Fax: 580-563-9166
Blair High School - 580-563-2486
Blair Elementary - 580-563-2235

Chattanooga Public Schools

507 4th Street, Chattanooga,
OK 73528
580-597-3347
Chattanooga High School
507 4th St., Chattanooga
580-597-6638
Chattanooga Elementary
School
403 3rd St.
580-597-6638
Davidson Public Schools
500 S Main St, Davidson, OK
73530

580-568-2511

Duke Public Schools

300 Chickasaw St
Duke, OK 73532
Phone: (580) 679-3311

Frederick Public Schools

Administration:
817 N 15th St, Frederick, OK
73542
Phone: 580-335-5516
Frederick High School
312 N. 15th St., Frederick
580-335-5521
Frederick Middle School
817 N. 15th St.
580-335-5516

Prather Brown Elementary
211 S. 13th St.
580-335-5713
Frederick Elementary
520 E. Mimulus Ave.
580-335-3513

Grandfield Public Schools

Grandfield School District
811 West 3rd
P.O. Box 639
Grandfield, Oklahoma 73546-
0639
Office: 580-479-5237

Fax: 580-479-3381

Grandfield Elementary
416 Main St., Grandfield
580-479-3288

Granite Public Schools

507 West Sixth Street
PO Box 98
Granite, OK 73547
Phone: 580-535-2104
Fax: 580-535-2106

Great Plains Technology Center

Tillman-Kiowa Campus
2001 E. Gladstone
Frederick, Ok 73542

580-335-5525

Hollis Public Schools

415 N Main St, Hollis, OK
73550
Phone: 580-688-2707

Mangum Public Schools

Superintendent:
400 N Pennsylvania Ave,
Mangum, OK 73554
Phone: 580-782-3371
Mangum High School
301 N. Oklahoma Ave., Mangum
Phone: 580-782-3343

Mangum High Football field
357 W. Grant St., Mangum
Edison Elementary School
201 W. Madison St., Mangum
580-782-3371

Navajo Public Schools

Navajo Public Schools
15695 South County Road 210,
Altus,
580-482-7742
Superintendent's Office
219 N. Lee, Altus.
Phone: 580-481-2100
Fax: 580-481-2129

Olustee-Eldorado Public Schools

606 E 6th St, Olustee, OK
73560
Phone: 580-648-2243

Snyder Public Schools

Superintendent
718 E St.
580-569-2273
Phone: 580-569-2773
Fax: 580-569-4205
Snyder Grade School
921 C St., Snyder
580-569-2800

Snyder Public School Band
Room
317 10th St., Snyder
580-569-2691

Southwest Technology Center

711 West Tamarack Rd., Altus,
OK 73521
Phone: 580-477-2250
Fax: 580-477-0138

Tipton Public Schools

1000 S. Broadway; PO Box
340, Tipton, OK 73570
Phone: 580-667-5268
Fax: 580-667-5267

Veteran recalls time when 5 brothers served in WWII

By Rick Carpenter

The last of five brothers who served in World War II at the same time said none of the brothers could communicate during the war and they never knew where the other brothers were located or whether they were even alive.

But Kenneth Bartlett, who just turned 94 and still lives at his home in Hollis, said his 11-siblings went to church in the Halsmith community in southwest Harmon County. And one thing he remembers most about growing up there, is that the “womenfolk were the most sincere, prayingest women I’d ever seen. They were so serious, they would kneel on their knees and cry during prayers for hours.”

Bartlett credits their prayers and the “good Lord” for bringing all of the Halsmith community soldiers — not just his family — home without a single injury.

Kenneth Bartlett was in the U.S. Marines while his brothers Frank and James joined the Army and Charles and Howard served in the Navy. Kenneth said while he served in Guam, Guadalcanal and Okinawa, Frank and James served in France, Normandy and Germany, among other Northern European countries. Meanwhile, Charles and Howard, who they called Lindy, were trained in San Diego where Lindy served aboard the USS Beatty. Major battles were fought in Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Normandy and Germany. While major battles

were fought in each of those regions, he doesn’t know where his brothers served.

Kenneth remembers taking a stroll across an airfield between airplane landings in Guam when he came upon an aircraft that was surrounded, shoulder-to-shoulder, with armed military personnel guarding an airplane. When they saw him cutting through the shortcut across the field, they raised their rifles ready to defend the aircraft.

He got out of there quickly, but he remembers seeing the “Enola Gay” painted on the side of the aircraft. Three days later, it would make history as it dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The Enola Gay flew from Guam to Tinian Island, a small island that the U.S. had just secured days before. Guam was too far away for the Enola Gay to fly to Japan and back, so it landed in Tinian Island where it was refueled and armed.

Kenneth said he served mainly as a dispatch in Guam where he delivered mail and drove generals and colonels around. He said his unit was prepared to invade Japan before the second atomic bomb destroyed Nagasaki and the Japanese eventually surrendered.

At the end of the war, he remembers going to Peking, China as a dispatch as he watched a Japanese leader turn over his sword to the Chinese. There, he drove Gen. Alexander Vandergriff, commander of the Marines, but eventually got some time off where he went to

the Great Wall of China.

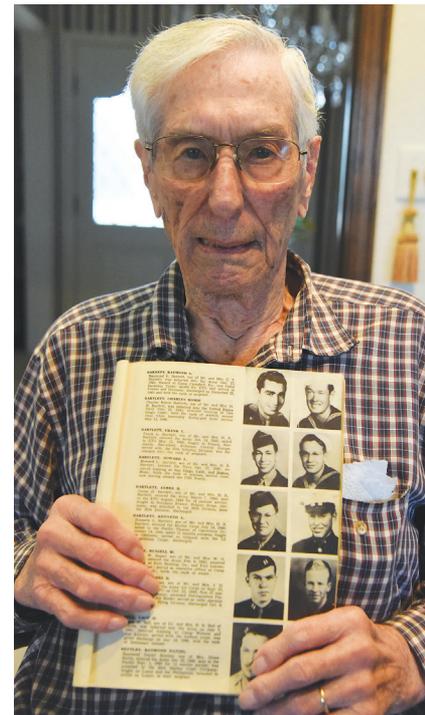
Kenneth jokingly blames a Hollis High School basketball coach for letting the local draft board know about his eligibility for the draft. As a forward, he was averaging about 25 points a game for Westview High School and he said the Hollis coach was trying to recruit him to play for Hollis. The coach wanted him as a ball player, but his dad said he’s a “boll puller.” Kenneth pulled as much as 1,000 pounds of cotton a day during harvest time.

Not long after Westview defeated Hollis, he was drafted at age 18.

Kenneth said he could never let his family know where he was located for security reasons and officers would screen their mail and censor it. But he wrote a coded message to his future wife, Lorene Mayhugh, and her sister decoded the message and learned he was in Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

After the war, the couple married and continued the farming life in Harmon County and extended into Childress, Texas. The couple eventually owned about a half-dozen farms but the couple agreed to retire in 1981. He’s sold off all but two farms.

His four brothers who served in World War II all died in their 80s. He lost his wife of 67 years to Alzheimers about four years ago, but he took care of her at home until her final days. And while he says his legs aren’t as strong as they used to be at 94, his mind hasn’t lost a beat as he recalls his war-time experiences, often for the first time.



Kenneth Bartlett holds up a book with the photos and military history of Harmon County men who served in World War II. At the top right of the pages starts the series of Bartlett brothers with Charles, then on the second row, Frank and Howard, and on the third row, James and Kenneth.

Kenneth said he and his brothers never spoke a word about what happened to them in the war or what they saw, although one brother mentioned he saw Benito Mussolini, the fascist dictator of Italy from 1922 until 1943. That’s all he ever heard about their war experiences, but he said he knew they were in the real battles. The brothers operated under a system of “if you don’t ask questions, you won’t get answers.”

Altus city, chamber officials embrace military community

By Rick Carpenter

What started in 1962 with local business leaders going on a quail hunt and flying the quail meat to Washington, D.C. has turned into a three-day event with as many as 60 Altus residents swarming on the U.S. Capitol to show appreciation for Altus Air Force Base.

By the 57th Annual Quail Breakfast in 2019, the Altus delegation had fine-tuned the event to schedule meetings between the City of Altus and Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation, members of the Altus Military Affairs Committee with Pentagon officials and the entire delegation meeting with the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee's professional staff.

Of course, the event, which feeds more than 160 congressional staff members, military brass, Congressmen and Senators, became so big that the quail breakfast is now catered. And business leaders and Altus Chamber of Commerce officials arrive on a Sunday to follow through with the logistics that they have worked on for the last year.

The base employs 1,507 civilians and 1,420 military personnel while another 1,743 students come through the base for training each year. Altus Air Force Base is home to the Air Force's 97th Air Mobility Team where it trains combat-ready pilots, loadmasters and boom operators for the KC-135, C-17 and the newest KC-46A which arrived in Altus on Feb. 8, 2019.

In a city with a population hovering around 20,000, local leaders recognized early on the



U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe address the 57th Annual Quail Breakfast in April 2019.

importance of those nearly 3,000 jobs as well those students who come here for training.

At the 2019 Quail Breakfast, Military Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Leverett told the group that there were so many generals and high ranked officials in the room that he only had time to recognize three-star generals and higher. That's a testament to the relationship the committee has developed with high ranking government officials.

Altus residents use the breakfast to not only shore up relationships with the military and congressional officials but also to discover what attributes the military community focuses on in cities with a base located nearby. Most recently, military officials have told the delegation that Airmen want to live in communities with a high quality of life and excellent education.

The city has reacted by working to shore up recreational activities through city parks and voters recently passed the first bond issue in more than 60 years to help the Altus Public School build safe rooms for schools, repair recreational facilities and playground equipment and replace worn out activity buses.

Through the Chamber, a group of city leaders who join the



Here, U.S. Sen. James Lankford makes a point during his meeting with Altus leaders.

Committee of 100 also welcome newly transferred Airmen and their families to the community and go out of their way to assist them throughout their stay.

The Altus community embraces and welcomes the military community by illustrating uncommon patriotism



Rick Carpenter | Altus Times
U.S. Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, left, visits with Altus Military Affairs Committee Chairman Dr. Joe Leverett during the 57th Annual Quail Breakfast in the Russell Senate Office Building in April 2019.

throughout the year and works to continue building that relationship through the annual Quail Breakfast and other activities.

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Get fit in Altus

By Ryan Lewis

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it's sometimes easier to grab a cheeseburger, large fries and soda for lunch and find a place to eat and get away from the world for a little bit than it is to cook up a well-balanced meal at home.

After too much of this, however, poor nutrition and a sedentary lifestyle will begin taking a toll on one's physical and mental health, leaving them feeling generally unwell.

The Mayo Clinic recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity a week while also recommending strength training for all major

muscle groups at least two times a week.

Many people don't own expensive home gyms, treadmills or other exercise equipment and find themselves at a loss for where to go. Some also struggle with how to even begin.

Luckily, for any who live in the area, Altus offers plenty of affordable options for exercising and almost all of them are open 24 hours a day with keycard access.

Whether physical fitness is a top priority in one's life or a stress reliever and whether you're looking to drop a few pounds or keep in peak physical condition throughout the year, there is something for almost everyone within just a few miles drive from the center of the city.



Ryan Lewis | Altus Times

Samuel Texidor takes time during his day to get a workout in with some of the new equipment at Stand Strong Fitness.

Stand Strong Fitness Center

300 W. Commerce St.
580-301-6006

Stand Strong Fitness is one of the most complete gyms in the Altus area offering an assortment of classes, tanning from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 24-hour keycard access to a gym. The gym offers 12 highly trained instructors to lead classes ranging from a relaxing yoga session to an intense Zumba experience.

Memberships for gym only access starts at \$40.25 per month. Stand Strong also offers a package of unlimited courses and access to the gym for \$56.60 per month. For those who would rather have the payment set up to draft automatically each month, Stand Strong offers a discounted price of \$32.65 per month for gym only access and \$48.95 for access to the gym and unlimited courses.

A 10 percent discount is offered for educators, military personnel, medical personnel, law enforcement personnel, senior citizens and city employees.

Body Work Gym

3000 N. Main St. Suite 200
580-480-1011

Body Work Gym has a location in Altus and a location in Hollis and offers 24-hour access with the use of a keycard. The gym offers free and stack weight equipment, treadmills, elliptical cross trainers, recumbent bikes and tanning beds, among other equipment.

A membership to the gym

costs \$35 per month with an initial \$5 fee for the keycard or \$30 per month with auto-draft.

Fusion Fitness

1211 N. Thomas St.
580-301-7383

Fusion Fitness offers 24-hour access with the use of a keycard and boasts modern gym equipment, four tanning beds, two saunas and showers and over 30 instructor-led classes each week which are held at Tribe Fitness Studio one block away.

Memberships begin at \$40 month-to-month or \$30 per month with auto-draft. Fusion Fitness also offers a 10 percent discount to all educators, military personnel, firefighters, police officers, hospital employees and students.

With an active Fusion Fitness membership, it costs an additional \$40 per month for unlimited course access at Tribe Fitness Studio located at 1012 Falcon Road.

Other fitness options:

CrossFit Ruach

219 N. Main St.
580-305-0538

10th Planet Jiu Jitsu

321 W. Commerce
580-482-0030

Brandon's Martial Arts Studio

701 S. Main St.
580-471-2219

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MAIN STREET ALTUS POINTS OF INTEREST

Main Street Altus is an organization dedicated to promotion and revitalization of the Historic Downtown Altus District.

By Lynna Wilmes
Director, Main Street Altus

In June of 2018 the Downtown Altus area was recognized for its historical significance and was added to the National Register of Historic Places. There are many historic destinations in the Altus area which are listed on the National Register.

Main Street Altus has several annual events such as “Walking on Chalk” which is held during the spring where artists create chalk art on the Downtown Altus sidewalks. Another interesting aspect of the day is a banner contest conducted in association with the Altus High School Art Department where students compete by creating banners to be displayed around the square. To add another bit of fun to the day the Jackson County Health Department has “Open Streets” which is a day of interactive activities and events.

May brings the most anticipated event of the year, “Rock N Rumble,” a two-day event

with a car-show and cruise in the Downtown Altus area. Thousands of people line the streets of Altus for a Cruise of Classic Cars and following that an Open Cruise. Friday night there is a band and dance on the Courthouse Square with vendors and lots of activities. Saturday there is a full day with the Car Show and several activities such as a Motorcycle Poker Run, Burn-Out Contest, Live Band and much more! This year due to Covid-19 the date has been moved to Sept. 18-19, 2020.

Early Fall brings the “Farm Fest Chili Cook-off.” The entire downtown square is full of Chili Cook-off contestants vying for the prize of “Best Chili.” You can buy a chili tasting kit and try samples of all of the competition recipes. Vendors and events such as music, dance, gymnasts, a petting zoo and more fill the day with non-stop fun!

During the year, many retail events occur such as Crazy Days, Holiday Open House and the highly anticipated Candy Cane Cash Sweet Stakes Drawing where one lucky winner will be the winner of \$10,000 along with several other smaller prizes.

If you are in Historic Downtown Altus be



Katrina Goforth | Altus Times

Cars lined up for 2018 Rock-N-Rumble in Downtown Altus and across town at a local nursing home bringing the classics to the classics.

sure to check out our murals which are new to the area and take a few photos tagging #MainStreetAltus!

There is always something fun and entertaining to do and great merchants ready to welcome you to the Historic Downtown Altus Square. For more information you can contact Main Street Altus 482-2277 or visit our website www.mainstreetaltus.org.



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ALTUS / QUARTZ MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AIRPORT

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“The Window to Southwest Oklahoma”

2 miles north of Altus on HWY 283
580-482-8833

Entertainment in Altus

By Katrina Goforth

Throughout the year, Altus is alive with entertaining community events, festivals, lecture series and musical performances that showcase the diversity and history of Southwest Oklahoma. Whether you're looking for an evening out or a weekend of fun, there's a little something for everyone.

New to the community, the Altus Pop Expo (APECon) is a comic-con style event that includes three days of comic book vendors, local artists, cosplaying competitions, and special appearances by comic book industry professionals.

The first APECon featured DC Comic artist Jerry Bennet and the 501st Legion along with local cosplayers from Project Next, a custom costume design company in Altus. APECon is held the last weekend in February. The next date is February 28-March 1.

Also in February, the Chocolate and Wine Festival, hosted by the Armed Services YMCA, is all in the name — an evening of chocolate, wine, music and dancing. Spend a romantic evening with someone special or treat yourself to a fun night out.

Love pageants? Altus has two! In February, we crown Miss Altus — a young woman who has poise, intelligence,

heart and talent. In August, we crown her sister Miss Altus Outstanding Teen who embodies the Miss Altus spirit.

In October, the Armed Services YMCA hosts Oktoberfest set against the backdrop of the historic Wichita Mountains at Quartz Mountain Lodge and Resort in Lone Wolf. The event includes traditional German fare, beer and music.

Music is a big part of entertainment in Southwest Oklahoma. Live music can be heard throughout the week at Val's Restaurant and Pub, on weekends at Scooters Dance Hall and Orient Drugstore & Grill in Blair, and in a concert-style venue

at Altus Music Hall. You can also hear local musicians at city-sponsored events such as the Fourth of July Celebration, New Year's Eve and events sponsored by Main Street Altus like the Cotton Pickin' Chili Cookoff and Rock-N-Rumble.

Want someone a little more low-key? Take in a movie at Heritage Park Theater — open 7 days a week, the theater shows current movies and new releases — or spread out a blanket on the grass at Hightower Park for Movies in the Park on a breezy summer night.

Whether you're looking for music, food or fun, Altus has you covered.

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Katrina Goforth | Altus Times

Students rehearse for the Altus High School Musical "Mary Poppins."

Art in Altus

By Katrina Goforth

Altus is home to Instagram-worthy art like “Crossing the Red,” a statue in Downtown Altus depicting the cattle drives across the Red River on the Chisolm Trail and “Vision Seeker,” a statue in Hightower Park depicting a Native American sitting deep in thought. But with a little more searching, you will find Altus has more than meets the eye.

Wander Downtown and you’ll find a mural of the famous H.T. Holden “Crossing the Red” across from historic NBC Bank — a piece of architectural art in its own right. You’ll find Art Deco influences at The Towers Apartments that have been new-

ly restored to a historic aesthetic and an old movie theater turned art gallery.

Held in one of four original Downtown Altus movie theaters, the Wigwam Art Gallery features exhibits of Oklahoma and Native American artists ranging from the traditional to the unexpected. NBC Oklahoma Bank owns more than 1,000 pieces of art and displays them in rotation at the Wigwam Gallery. The Wigwam Gallery, located next to NBC Bank at 123 W. Commerce, is only open during regular banking hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an appointment which can be made by calling Aaron Moses at (580) 481-3150 or by email at amoses@nbcok.com.

If you’re out for dinner and drinks at Val’s Restaurant and Pub, stop and admire the local-



Katrina Goforth | Altus Times

Altus teenagers were encouraged to draw their favorite fairy tales as part of an annual reading program promoted by the state through the local libraries. Here Jewlie Brzozowski, 15, an Altus High School student, paints upside down a castle scene on a mural that when finished will hang throughout the summer in the Altus Public Library.

ly-painted mural of the Osage Shield and get carried away by the hearts and flamingos that give the building an eclectic feel.

Then, see if you can find the larger-than-life bronze globe on South Lee Street and the puzzle pieces on the corner of

Sequoyah and Main Street.

Stop in at the Altus Public Library to see murals painted by Altus’ children and teens as well as their special hand-painted banners hanging from the ceiling — each one painted by a student in Southwest Oklahoma.



The historic Towers Apartment are conveniently located in downtown Altus, OK close to shopping, restaurants and entertainment. We have immediate opening for new residents. We are affordable income housing for the elderly and disabled. Rent is based on 30% of total annual income, minus any out of pocket medical expenses you may have. We offer 24/7 security cameras controlled access to enter building and all utilities are paid by the Towers Apartments. We also offer FREE transportation wherever you wish to go, grocery shopping, doctors appointments, or to visit a friend. Onsite laundry facility, fitness room, computer and a storm shelter. You will love living at The Towers with so many amenities at your finger tips.

THE TOWERS APARTMENTS



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Go back in time at Museum of the Western Prairie

By Katrina Goforth

Tucked away in a half dugout reminiscent of the homes of the early settlers of Southwest Oklahoma, The Museum of the Western Prairie combines history and art to provide learning opportunities for visitors of all ages.

With its collection of more than 35,000 artifacts and photographs, interactive exhibits and historically accurate half dugout, 1891 ranch house, a working windmill and water pump and farm equipment, the Museum provides a little something for everyone.

Venture through the Ice Age and discover the ancestors of the buffalo that roamed Oklahoma and can still be found in protected herds. Learn the history of

the Wichita Mountains – formed 300 million years ago – now lowered, but once towering over the golden plains. Experience the traditions and culture of the Native Americans who called this land home. Understand the role European settlement had on the agricultural, industrial and economic history of Southwest Oklahoma. Follow Oklahoma history from the prehistoric era through statehood, the Dust Bowl and Great Depression, and subsequent wars to present-day. Guided tours are available with prior notice.

After experiencing the history that shaped this land, venture into the Museum's two galleries for art displays from local and Oklahoma artists and historians.

Stay for a live musical performance or reading from a local author. Then, take



Katrina Goforth | Altus Times

The 1891 Cross S Ranch House was the oldest ranch house in Jackson County when it was moved, brick by brick and reassembled at the Museum of the Western Prairie.

the kids over to Imagination Station Park located across the parking lot for a picnic and recreation.

The Museum of the Western Prairie is located at 1100 Memorial Drive off Falcon Road. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and for special events. Tickets are \$4 for adults; \$3 for seniors and military members; and \$1 for students and children.

For more information, call (580) 482-1044, or find them on Facebook at Museum-WesternPrairieAltusOK.

JCMH offers variety of medical services in Altus

Jackson County Memorial Hospital in Altus wants to be the provider of choice for quality patient care. It serves the residents of southwest Oklahoma and north Texas and strives to be the best place for patients to receive care, employees to work and physicians to practice medicine. A 49-bed non-profit hospital, it is Joint Commission accredited and the second largest employer in Jackson County.

The primary care clinics include Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology. It also offers such services as Orthopedics, General Surgery, Women's Imaging, Diabetes care, Counseling, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy, a Cancer Center, Home Care and Hospice, Assisted Living and a Sleep Lab.

Patients can be confident in the dedication of the staff to

provide the latest in quality care and treatment to you and your family. JCMH has just added two Xenex Germ Fighting Robots to enhance its measures in infection prevention. The robots utilize high intensity UVC light which penetrates the walls of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, mold, fungus and spores, rendering them unable to reproduce or mutate, killing them on surfaces.

For visitors, it recently opened a Starbucks, serving Starbucks coffee. Located outside the front entrance of the hospital, it has free wifi, Starbucks coffees and teas, snacks, sandwiches and desserts. Its Auxiliary operates the Snack Bar and Gift Shop in the Front Lobby for the convenience of our guests.

Find out more information about the hospital, our services, and career opportunities at www.jcmh.com.

Library offers fun, information programs for all ages

By Katrina Goforth

The Southern Praire Library System serves Altus and the surrounding communities. With annual literacy programs, the Altus Public Library offers free programs for children, teens and adults that promote literacy and learning.

On Wednesday mornings at 10:30, the library hosts storytime — an hour of story-telling and a small craft for pre-school age children. For the child who struggles to read confidently, the library brings in Knox, a service dog-in-training, once a month for Reading with Dogs.

LEGO club gives children

a safe place to work on motor skills and problem-solving skills while having loads of fun, and family movie nights give children and parents a chance to spend time together without spending money at a theater.

For teens, the library offers teen-centered activities, movies and snacks on the last Tuesday of the month, a Teen Book Club, DIY crafts, movie nights and a Spring Break Teen Mural Program. You can see the fruits of the Teen Mural Program hanging on the walls of the library.

The library also offers children and teens the opportunity to learn important tech skills in Code Club where

children learn how to make websites, video games, apps and animations, preparing them for a world full of technology.

The library's summer reading program encourages children and teens to engage in reading with prizes, crafts, activities, special performances from children's acts and snacks, all centered around a statewide theme. Past themes include "Libraries Rock" and "A Universe of Stories."

But libraries aren't just for children. Once a month, the library and Museum of the Western Prairie host a book review open to people of all ages. These book reviews often include historically



Altus Public Library Branch Manager Bailee Hutchinson.

themed books written about Oklahoma history or by Oklahoma authors. There are even light refreshments served.

If you're new to the area, stop in and sign up for a library card. With interlibrary loans, digital readers, and a genealogy section, there are more than just books in the library.

See "What's New" in children's, young adult, fiction and nonfiction at Altus Public Library.



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Southwest Technology Center has a dual approach to training employees

Southwest Technology Center's mission, "Changing lives one career at a time," is carried out through the school's two divisions which include full-time programs and the Business Development Center. Ten full-time training programs, designed for high school students and adults, offer comprehensive career training to students in the communities of Altus, Blair, Duke, Granite, Hollis, Navajo, and Olustee-El-dorado. The programs are free of charge to junior and senior students attending high school and on a tuition basis to adults. High school students enroll through their high school counselors and adult students enroll at the campus located at 711 West Tamarack Road.

With a primary focus on workforce certifications, the programs offered include automotive technology; aviation and aerospace technology; biomedical sciences; business and computer; construction trades; cosmetology; health science technology; metal fabrication; teacher preparation and practical nursing.

The Business Development Center allows a one-stop shop for business and industry in the served communities to utilize for various training needs. The Business Development team works with individuals in new business start-up, growing businesses, government contracting, safety training, customized training, customer service and a multitude of various services.

Also, in the Business Development Center, adults seeking short-term educational opportunities to gain employment can take advantage of many different certification courses offered in the evening or daytime. From healthcare courses such as Certified Nursing Assistant and phlebotomy to vocational trades such as welding, there is a program to fit individual needs.

For more information about Southwest Technology Center and the programs/services offered visit www.swtech.edu, 711 West Tamarack Road in Altus, or call (580) 477-2250.

Rick Carpenter | Altus Times

Kiondra Carter, 28, who said she's been doing women's and men's haircuts since she was 12, illustrates practicing hair cuts on a mannequin head at Southwest Technology Center. Cosmetology is one of the nine programs offered to high school students at SWTC.

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400 US-283, Blair
(580) 563-2000

Fat Daddy's Grill

901 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 482-2828

Fred's Steakhouse & Saloon

2011 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 480-0555

General Store of Elmer

17503 US-283, Elmer
(580) 687-4350

Jo's Place

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(580) 706-2442

Orient Drugstore & Grill

107 W. Main St., Blair
(580) 563-4300

Slick's Drive Inn

107 N. Louis Tittle Ave., Mangum
(580) 782-3711

Sundance Café

22469 Lodge Road, Lone Wolf
(580) 563-2424

Western Sizzlin' Buffet

3200 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 477-1717

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Altus Donuts & Fried Rice

1215 E. Broadway St. Altus
(580) 477-0988

Fortune Cookie Oriental Restaurant

119 S. Hudson St., Altus
(580) 477-0775

Mangum Donuts & Thai

720 N. Louis Tittle Ave., Mangum
(580) 706-5055

Sakura

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(580) 379-4533

Tong's

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(580) 335-3030

Wei's Garden

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(580) 482-1250

Life is a Batch Bakery

1220 W. Broadway St., Altus
(580) 301-5175

Ye Olde Donut Shoppe & Bakery

813 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 482-6696

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Billy Sims Barbecue

1126 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 302-7300

Phatboy Phil's

121 S. Hudson St., Altus
(580) 379-3200

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Joe Dan's Saloon & Dance Hall

1900 E. Broadway St., Altus

Christie's Bar

112 S. Hudson St., Altus
(580) 706-9586

Scooters

2101 E. Broadway St., Altus
(580) 482-2184

Trader Tom's Tavern

2308 E. Broadway St., Altus
(580) 477-2373

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(580) 482-4580

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(580) 482-0757

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(580) 482-4400

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(580) 482-1900

800 S. Main St., Frederick

(580) 335-7777

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1200 E. Pecan St., Altus
(580) 379-5030

Just Brew It Coffeehouse

106 W. Cypress St., Altus
(580) 482-7007

Very Good Coffee Company

106 S. Main St., Frederick
(580) 335-2026

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1200 Falcon Road, Altus
2001 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 379-0888

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Restaurant (Oklahoma-based)
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2516 E. Broadway St., Altus
(580) 477-0048

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McDonald's

220 E. Broadway St., Altus
(580) 482-7555

Sonic Drive-In

1113 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 482-8787

500 S. Main St., Frederick

(580) 335-3197

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(580) 379-9700

Taco Bell

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(580) 482-7612

Whataburger

2728 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 482-3370

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118 E. Main St., Blair

(580) 563-9380

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(580) 482-1444

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(580) 782-2221

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1001 S. Main St., Frederick
(580) 335-2248

The Grill Mexican Kitchen

1216 N. Main St., Frederick
(580) 335-2784

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220 S. Main St., Altus
(580) 649-4040

The Plaza Restaurant

2512 N. Main St., Altus
(580) 379-4453

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West Floral Ave., Frederick
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Taqueria Hernandez

101 N. Hudson St., Altus
(580) 482-2300

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813 E. Broadway St., Altus
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(580) 477-1376

1201 E. Broadway St., Altus

(580) 477-4444

618 S. Main St., Frederick

(580) 335-7588

Western Oklahoma State College sees change, growth

Nestled in the southwest corner of the state, Western Oklahoma State College was established as Altus Junior College in 1926.

Since its humble beginning, Western has opened its doors to students, faculty, staff and community members to grow and develop. More than 90 years later, it still pledges to provide a comprehensive two-year, post-secondary education for residents of southwest Oklahoma and beyond.

Under the leadership of sixth-president Dr. Chad Wiginton, the college has seen

growth and change across campus. The college received an award for being one of the top online programs in the state, and faculty and staff are looking forward to things to come.

Western is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and holds a number of specialty accreditations, including the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National League of Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Okla-

homa Board of Nursing.

The college offers more than 20 degree programs and multiple certificate options. Students can attend classes on campus, online or via Zoom. They can study a field that interests them, with programs such as aviation, nursing, agriculture, liberal arts, military studies and more.

Those who attend may receive financial aid or other scholarships. Only 20 percent of all Western students receive some sort of federal student loan, but 80 percent receive grant or scholarship aid.

In 2019, the WOSC Foundation, Inc., established a scholarship fund to benefit military students in southwest Oklahoma. Altus is home to not only the college, but also Altus Air Force Base. Western saw a need to help those students, and the Mighty 97th Scholarship Fund was created.

Western is proud to offer so many options for students in southwest Oklahoma. There is a spot for everyone at Western Oklahoma State College. For more information, visit wosc.edu.

Elekta Versa HD Linear Accelerator Technology is Now Available at Cancer Centers of Southwest Oklahoma

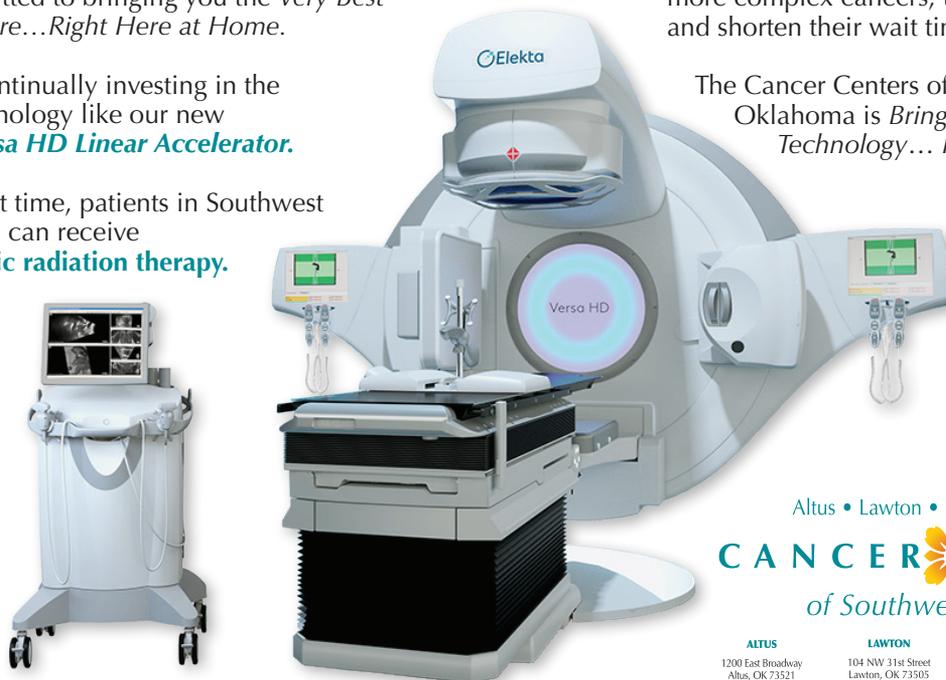
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Local golf courses offer options for all levels

Golf is one of the world's oldest sports that is still being played today, and its popularity doesn't appear to be fading anytime soon. That holds true across the

By Ryan Lewis

globe and in Altus, where anybody in the area can enjoy a round of golf at one of the area's many golf courses.

Oklahoma weather can be unpredictable, but southwest Oklahoma typically sees more sunny days than cloudy ones while also boasting mostly mild temperatures in the winter, paving the way for a great game of golf almost any time of the year.

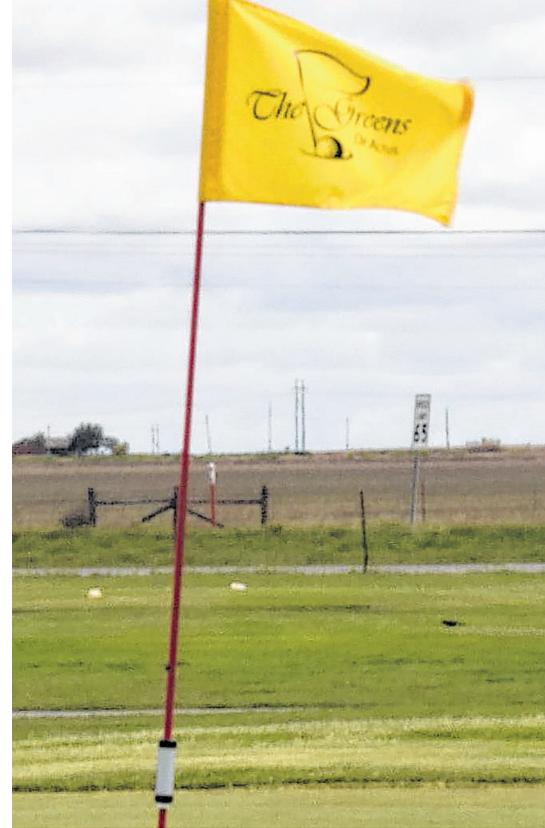
Most of the golf courses in Altus and surrounding areas are friendly enough for the occasional player while also providing a challenge to some of the more consistent golfers.

For those looking to golf closer to home, The Greens of Altus is an attractive option for those seeking a challenge on the greens.

Located at 20650 U.S. Highway 62 just past the railroad tracks east of Altus, The Greens is a traditional 9-hole golf course composed of two par-3 holes, five par-4 holes and two par-5 holes over 3,363 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 36. The course rating at The Greens is 34.9 with a slope rating of 118 on Bermuda grass. The course also features a 12-tee driving range.

Currently, the course is open for play from 2 p.m. to sunset on Monday and 8 a.m. to sunset from Tuesday through Sunday.

The green fees including a cart on a 9-hole round of golf are \$14 during the week and \$18 on the weekend. For an 18-



Ryan Lewis | Altus Times

The Greens of Altus has become a hot spot for golfing in recent years as it continues to improve and draw golfers.



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Ryan Lewis | Altus Times



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The Greens of Altus Golf Course has gone through quite a transformation over the years and features lovely views both close to the clubhouse and scattered throughout its nine holes.

hole round of golf with a car, the green fees are \$21 during the week and \$27 on the weekend.

For more information, contact The Greens of Altus at 580-480-0209.

For those golfers with base access and looking for a little more challenging course, look no further than Windy Trails Golf Course at 209 E. Fir Dr. on the north side of Altus Air Force Base.

The Windy Trails is one of the more challenging courses in the area, offering both 9- and 18-hole play.

The 18-hole course is a 71-par course with approximately 6,731 yards of play from the longest tee. The course rating is a tough 72.3 with a slope rating of 115 on Bermuda fairways and Pencross and Crenshaw bent-grass greens with 25 bunkers located throughout the course.

The pro shop is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday. As long as you are to the pro shop by 6 p.m., you will be allowed to tee off and play until dark.

Fees are \$10 for 18 holes for E1-E4, GS 1-5, NAF 1-2, \$14 for 18 holes for EF-O3, GS 6 and above and NAF 3-4 and \$18

for 18 holes for civilian guests. The fee for a golf cart rental through 18 holes is an additional \$10. Windy Trails offers discounted prices for 9-hole golf as well as for annual memberships.

For more information, contact Windy Trails at 580-481-7207.

For those looking for a more scenic golfing experience, the Quartz Mountain Golf Course is located just a short drive from Altus at 22469 Lodge Road in Lone Wolf.

Originally a 9-hole golf course, the course was expanded into an 18-hole, par-71 golf course in 1993. With approximately 6,595 yards of play from the longest tee, the Quartz Mountain Golf Course has a rating of 71.8 with a slope rating of 119.

The course is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the summer. From Tuesday through Friday, the green fee with a cart is \$25 for 18 holes. On Saturday and Sunday, the green fee with a cart is \$29. A bucket of balls for the driving range is \$5, and there is a golf clubs rental fee of \$10 for those who don't have a set.



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The Quartz Mountain Lodge, surrounded by beauty, hiking trails and peaceful living.



Ryan Lewis | Altus Times

The Linda Wiginton Aquatic Center offers a year-round indoor pool and a seasonal outdoor pool with both high and low diving boards and two water slides.

Fun aplenty offered in southwest Oklahoma

There is a belief that to have fun in Oklahoma, one must travel a great distance to find it. In southwest Oklahoma, that could not be further from the truth.

Although Altus and its surrounding communities are all relatively small in comparison with cities like Lawton and Oklahoma City, the opportunity for a fun day outside or an adventure exists both inside the city limits and with just a short drive north.

By Ryan Lewis

Whether you're looking to spend a relaxing day out on the lake or looking for a little bit of friendly competition in any of the major sports, those things exist without the need for a long car drive.

Roughly 20 miles north of Altus in Lone Wolf lies Quartz Mountain Nature Park, a place that offers plenty of options for adventure with little to no expense.

Lake Altus-Lugert is a sprawling 6,260-acre stretch of water that offers a place for people to get away and enjoy the great outdoors, whether it be by swimming, by boat, by jet ski or through a relaxing day

fishing. When one is done fishing, there are plenty of hiking trails around the mountain to explore that offer a chance to see the lake from a different view.

With 4,284 park acres, Quartz Mountain has become the perfect destination for a quick weekend getaway in the summer. For those looking to stay overnight, there are eight cabins with kitchenettes and the Quartz Mountain Lodge, which features 118 guest rooms and suites.

If roughing it in the great outdoors is more your style, Quartz Mountain Nature Park also offers five separate campsites with a total of 99 primitive sites. Those who are looking for a little more shelter can use the RV sites, which feature 19 locations with full hook-ups and 100 locations with electric and water hook-ups. If a shower is an everyday necessity, the park has that too scattered throughout.

On the North Shore is an ATV area that features sand dunes, just a stone's throw from the lake for those seeking a thrilling adventure.

If swimming and boating are not quite what some are looking for, there are

plenty of other activities to check out. Just before reaching the lake is the Quartz Mountain Fun Park, home to a Ferris wheel, bumper cars, go-carts and a tilt-a-whirl. The go-carts are \$6 per five-minute ride for a single car and \$10 for a double. The bumper cars and other carnival rides are \$3 per ride. There is a delicious snow-cone stand for those needing an ice-cold refreshment in the scorching summer heat or a tasty food stand for those needing to replenish energy after all the fun.

Just to the south of the fun park are the Quartz Mountain Water Slides featuring two slides and a splash pool, which open the third week of April and stay open until the last weekend in September. The hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

An all-day wristband for \$12 allows patrons to come and go from the park, so long as the wristband isn't removed. For those looking for temporary fun, there is a \$5 pass for 30 minutes. There is a height requirement of at least 36 inches to go down the slide, and one can use either a tube or a mat to ride.

Just up the road and over the bridge,

tucked down to the south of the main road, is the Quartz Mountain Paddle and Putt. For those who want to duke it out in paddle boat races and those who are not quite ready to showcase skills on the golf course and want to settle for a little miniature golf first, this is the place to be this summer.

But for those looking to hang around Altus and have fun, there are plenty of options available for that as well.

In the middle of town is the Altus Reservoir, a place for one to exercise, fish, have a picnic or enjoy a day outside in the sun. The reservoir features approximately two miles of shoreline and 140 surface acres of open water. Although the reservoir isn't open to swimming, there is plenty of other fun to be had there and in the surrounding areas.

For those wanting to swim, the Linda Wiginton Aquatic

Center is the place to be in Altus. With both an outdoor and an indoor pool, the Linda Wiginton Aquatic Center offers a place to have fun and beat the heat without breaking the bank or leaving Altus. The facility features both high and low diving boards as well as two water slides. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. Summer passes are also available. The pool is open in the summer, from May until September, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact the pool at 580-481-2269.

For those looking for an expense-free water adventure, there is the Altus Splash Pad, located just west of the City of Altus Gymnasium at 601 Katy Drive. The splash pad offers 23 ground spray features, 11 above-ground features and nine action-reaction features, which are things like canons,

spinning objects or dumping buckets.

If a local park is more to your taste, Altus has 19 parks located around the city, including Hoyt Shadid Park next to the reservoir. Hoyt Shadid Park features several play areas, picnic areas and an Oklahoma City Thunder basketball court.

Also offered in Altus are young sports programs for those with young kids at home. In the fall, the Altus Parks and Recreation Department offers flag football, cheerleading and soccer. In the winter, girls' basketball, boys' basketball and wrestling are offered, and in the spring, baseball, softball and soccer are offered. Fees and requirements vary for each sport. For more information, call 580-481-2266.

And don't forget one of the most significant events of the summer, the Spirit Sprint Triathlon, which is an event

that kicks off the America Spirit Festival. Registration for the Spirit Sprint Triathlon costs \$50 for athletes looking to complete it all on their own, or \$75 per team for those looking to complete the event as part of a relay team. This annual event celebrates freedom with music, food and fun the weekend before July 4.

The triathlon draws athletes from all over, both young and old, novice and veteran to a morning of friendly competition. The race begins with a 500-meter swim at the Linda Wiginton Aquatic Center, which transitions into a 14-mile bike ride and ends with a 5-kilometer run around the reservoir.

This year's event is scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 28.

For more information, call the Altus Parks and Recreation Department at 580-481-2265.



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Altus Air Force Base serves as area's largest employer

By Rick Carpenter

Altus Air Force Base is the largest employer of Jackson County and Altus. The base employs 1,507 civilians and 1,420 military personnel while another 1,743 students come through the base for training each year.

Altus Air Force Base is the U.S. Air Force's primary training site for the KC-135, the C-17 and the newly commissioned KC-46A Pegasus. The KC-46A is expected to bring 300 new jobs to the Altus area.

Jackson County Memorial Hospital in Altus is the second largest employer with 736 full- and part-time employees.

Bar-S Foods, which produces meat products including bacon, hot dogs, sausages

and lunch meats, is the third largest employer with 640 full- and part-time employees.

Other top employers and the number of employees:

- Altus Public Schools, 425 employees;
- Wal-Mart Super Center, 300 employees;
- The City of Altus, 272 employees (216 full-time and 56 part-time);
- Western Oklahoma State College, 236 employees (92 full-time, 144 part-time and adjunct);
- Southwest Technology Center, 44 full-time employees;
- Western Equipment, 43 employees;
- United Supermarket, 40 employees;
- Hobby Lobby, 40 employees; and
- Turbines, Inc., 23 full-time employees.



Rick Carpenter | Altus Times

Altus Public School and City of Altus officials were on hand in February when Altus Air Force Base officially received the first KC-46A Pegasus. The new aircraft will generate about 300 new jobs at the base, the city's largest employer.



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Frederick is County Seat of Tillman County

By Kathleen Guill

kathleen@press-leader.com

Frederick is the county seat of Tillman County. With a population of roughly 3,000 people, it has a small town charm that draws tourists from across the states and abroad with its many annual festivals and events. Frederick is an agriculture-based community that primarily produces wheat, cotton and cattle. Frederick is home to the Van Der Laan dairy and Henniges Automotive which are the city's main employers.

Frederick also boasts the Frederick Army Airfield which includes a restored World War II hangar that houses the World War II Airborne Demonstration Team.

In 1902, the towns of Gosnell and Hazel merged to take advantage of the Blackwell, Enid and Southern Railroad. The town was named Frederick after the son of a railroad executive. In 1962, a flagpole was erected in Pioneer Park, fulfilling the agreement between Gosnell, Hazel and the railroad.

President Teddy Roosevelt visited Frederick in 1905 to meet with Jack Abernathy, the famed barehanded wolf hunter. Jack may have been famous for hunting wolves bare-handed, but it's the story of his two boys, Bud and Temple Abernathy, that people still

talk about today.

Louis Van "Bud" Abernathy (Dec. 17, 1899 - March 6, 1979) and Temple Reeves "Temp" Abernathy (March 25, 1904 - Dec. 10, 1986) are well known for riding on horseback from Frederick to Santa Fe in 1909 when they were just 9 and 5 years old, without adult supervision. It would be the first of many such trips for this adventurous duo.

After they completed their Santa Fe journey, they decided to ride horseback to New York City, again by themselves, to meet Theodore Roosevelt when he returned from his trip to Africa and Europe in 1910. By this point, they were already known as celebrities and were greeted as such. They rode their horses in a parade just behind the car carrying Roosevelt. While in New York, the boys purchased a small Brush Motor Car, which they drove, again by themselves, back to Oklahoma, shipping their horses home by train.

In 1911, they accepted a challenge to ride horseback from New York to San Francisco in 60 days or less. They agreed not to eat or sleep indoors at any point of the journey. They would collect a \$10,000 prize if they succeeded. However, after an arduous 62 days, two days past the agreed upon time-frame, they were forced to give up the prize. They did manage to set a record for the time elapsed for the trip.



Kathleen Guill | Press-Leader

Notable people from Frederick include the Abernathy Boys, who are well known for their many cross-country trips on horseback at young ages, their first trip occurring at just 5 and 9-years old.

In 1913, the boys purchased an Indian motorcycle, and with their stepbrother, Anton, journeyed by motorcycle from Oklahoma to New York City. This was their last documented adventure.

Books on the Abernathy Boys are available for purchase at the Townsite Muse-

um in Frederick.

In 1907, the City of Frederick was incorporated, Oklahoma became a state and the Katy Railroad came to Frederick. By 1915, Frederick had 15 miles of sidewalks and crossings, and 75 miles of wide, graded, rolled streets. The first paved streets were laid in 1918.



Courtesy photo | Gary Daniels

At Fall Jump School 2018, other World War II aircraft arrived in Frederick to join Boogie Baby and Wild Kat to conduct formation training for their trip to Normandy in June of 2019.

WWII Airborne Demonstration team huge part of Frederick

Tucked away in Tillman County is a World War II Army Airfield. Frederick Army Airfield was opened Sept. 23, 1942 to train pilots. Although the Airfield's military flight operations ceased on October

By Kathleen Guill
kathleen@press-leader.com

1945, stepping through those doors is like stepping back into history.

Now owned by the World War II Airborne Demonstration Team, Frederick Army Airfield is a bustling community full of World War II history enthusiasts who want nothing more than to "Remember, Honor, and Serve" those who served their country so bravely and selflessly.

The WWII Airborne Demonstration Team was founded in 1998 to honor and serve the memory of the men who fought and died to preserve America's freedom during WWII. The activities of the Foun-

dation also recognize and honor those who served and survived that conflict. Many WWII veterans visit the Hangar during Open Hangar days which are the culmination of Summer and Fall Jump Schools.

Veterans usually dress in their WWII uniforms. Members of the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team dress in period-correct WWII uniforms and attire. Even some visitors get into the spirit of World War II and dress up either in uniform or 1940s attire. Military displays and memorabilia are displayed by various vendors and historians at Open Hangar days, held in the summer and the fall.

The Team's goal is to foster, promote and engage in research of WWII airborne operations and military history and to inform and educate the public through airborne operations demonstrations throughout the United States. Their activ-

ities within the community and at public events focus on educating others about the winning traits and motivations of the WWII heroes who fought for America.

As a historical organization, the Team stands out from others by focusing not only on the valor of our WWII veterans, but on the traits that made our Greatest Generation unique, including resilience, willpower, vision, humility, tenacity, adaptability and staying power. The Team said it believes that the life lessons that can be learned from WWII veterans are as important as their place in history. Preserving these veterans' stories that can impart those life lessons is central to the pursuit of their mission.

Jump School is about as close as you can get to World War II paratrooper training, according to the Team's website, <http://wwiiadt.org>. The nine-day course is the most professional and detailed course

available in the world. From the moment you walk through the hangar doors at Frederick Army Air Field, or step out the door of the team's C-47 or C-49 on your fifth and qualifying jump, you will be immersed in an atmosphere of a training facility straight out of the WWII era.

The Team owns two WWII Era airplanes that help in their mission.

The WWII Airborne Demonstration Team acquired "Boogie Baby" in 2000, just two years after the Team was founded.

Deemed the workhorse of the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team, Boogie Baby continues putting jumpers into the sky during team training and parachute schools. Since entering service with the team, Boogie Baby has logged more than 12,000 parachute jumps and counting.

Boogie Baby was built at the Douglas Aircraft factory in Oklahoma City in 1942. She was then sent to England as part of the Lend-Lease Program and entered service with the Royal Air Force in 1943 as FL633. While part of the Royal Air Force, FL633 flew missions in the European, Mediterranean and China-Burma-India Theaters of Operation. In 1945 custody was transferred from the Royal Air Force to the French Air Force where she flew until she was again transferred in 1972, this time to the Israeli Air Force. After 56 years of continuous military service she was finally decommissioned and put up for sale. Since Boogie Baby was always a military aircraft and never converted for civilian use she remained in her original configuration complete with radio and navigation compartments, troop seats and paratrooper jump door.

Wild Kat made her debut at Fall Jump School 2017. In July 1940, Eastern Airlines ordered our DC-3, serial number 4089, from the Douglas Aircraft Corporation where she was built at Long Beach, California. Before she was delivered to Eastern Airlines, the U.S. Army Air Corps decided that she was essential to the pending war effort and requisitioned the aircraft for military service. Designating it a C-49 Transport, the Army Air Corps changed its configuration, putting in bench type paratrooper seats and painting it in military colors. On Jan. 24 1941, the aircraft was delivered into service along with an Eastern Airlines crew to ini-



Paratroopers stand up and hook up before going out the door during Jump School hosted by the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team every April, July, and October.

tially operate it. During its commission, the aircraft was used to ferry troops and transport cargo throughout the United States and it remained in service throughout World War II until it was released back to Eastern Airlines in January 1945. The aircraft's World War II service was not glamorous or exciting but it was part of a fleet that saw the DC-3 recognized as playing an essential role in the winning of World War II.

Norwood Thomas is a World War II veteran who often visits the Hangar.

"I took training here in the states, then I went to England, and then we jumped in Normandy, and after we cleared Normandy of the Germans we went back to England. And then in September, we went and had an airborne invasion into Holland. I was in the 82nd Airborne Division before it was airborne. I was in the 101st Airborne Division the day it was activated."

During one of his visits, Thomas made a new friend whom he discovered was aboard the same ship heading to England at the same time he was heading over.

Dan McBride spent 44 days crossing the Atlantic, and all that time he was on board with Thomas and the two of them never met.

"We never met, but we enjoyed the same pleasures aboard that ship," McBride said. "Should we tell her about the pleasures?" McBride asked Thomas.

"We enjoyed sea water showers, filthy food and mess kits, and we couldn't get suds from the soap," Thomas said.

McBride said he slept on a hammock and every time he rolled over he did a 180 and landed on the floor. Not only were McBride and Thomas on the same ship for 44 days, but they also jumped into Normandy on D-Day.

"I landed at about 1:23 squarely on the drop zone, but Dan landed at about 1:15, 14 miles away from his drop zone," Thomas said. "No one landed where they were supposed to."

Thomas said he and McBride knew the same people, but had never met each other during the time they were in the same areas. Thomas and McBride each got to ride in the planes while troopers were jumping.

Thomas was in the news for an entirely different reason several years ago. In February of 2016, Thomas was reunited with his war-time love, Joyce Morris after more than 70 years apart. Thomas was 21 when he met 17-year-old Morris in London before the invasion of Normandy. Air New Zealand flew Thomas into Australia to reunite him with his long lost sweetheart and they spent two weeks together. After the visit, they remained in touch, calling each other multiple times per week. Thomas hoped to visit Morris again but the wartime sweethearts were once again separated when Morris suffered a heart

attack and died in December of 2016.

Ralph Heap is a local World War II veteran. He always has a story to tell. He can sit for hours reminiscing about his time in the war and you can see in his eyes that he's reliving some of the worst and best times of his life.

Heap was drafted into the Army Air Corps in February of 1943 and was honorably discharged in August 1945.

He was a sergeant and served as a crew chief. His job was to load and prepare all bombs dropped by the 722nd Squadron. He also had to detonate all unexploded bombs from cancelled missions.

"The military today is completely different than the military was in my day," Heap said. "Insofar as they told us when we were fighting the Germans that the quicker and the more we could kill, the quicker we could get home. That was our object. There were over 16 million men in arms during World War II spread all over the world."

In July 2019, a WWII Pathfinder made his way to Frederick Army Airfield. LTC Dave Hamilton celebrated his 97th birthday by climbing in the cockpit of Boogie B and flying her over Frederick.

LTC Hamilton enlisted in the United

States Army Air Force the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. During his career, he dropped paratroopers into Normandy during D-Day on June 6, 1944, dropped troopers during Operation Dragoon in August of 1944, and dropped troopers in Holland during Market Garden in September of 1944. In December of 1944, he led C-47s in for a supply drop to the 101st Airborne at Bastogne. Over the course of his military career he performed various duties.

LTC Hamilton said the secret to remaining so young and agile is, "Good genes and the bad aim of a lot of anti-aircraft gunners."

Along with Fall and Summer Jump Schools, the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team hosts a Spring Jump School for Tier II and Tier III students. These students have previous jumping experience, whether through military training and service or through other jump schools.

The ADT participated in the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in June of 2019. They re-enacted D-Day by jumping over each of the drop zones that World War II paratroopers jumped over in 1944, taking the exact same route. They also participated



Ralph Heap is a local WWII veteran who attends Jump School graduation to pin wings on the graduates.

in the 75th Anniversary of Market Garden, and other 75th Anniversary events.

For more information on how to enroll for Spring, Summer, or Fall Jump School, become a member of the Airborne Demonstration Team or to make a donation to the Airborne Demonstration Team contact Laura Goodwin at 469-855-5685 or visit <http://wwiadt.org>.



Kathleen Guill | Press-Leader

Frederick is home to the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team who are based out of the Frederick Army Airfield.



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Frederick is home to the Historic Ramona Theatre, 114 S. Ninth St., that is still in use today. The Ramona Theatre was built in 1929. It has undergone upgrades to keep it in working order, but it has kept its 1920s charm.

Frederick offers small-town charm

Frederick may not have a movie theatre or bowling alley, but there are plenty of sources for entertainment in the small city.

Frederick is home to the Historic Ramona Theatre, 114 S. Ninth St., that is still in use today. The Ramona Theatre was built in 1929. It has undergone upgrades to keep it in working order, but it has kept its 1920s charm. The Frederick Arts and Humanities Council is responsible for the Theatre's upkeep and members routinely host fundraisers to help with the costs associated with keeping the aging beauty in tiptop shape. The theatre is rented out for events throughout the year, which also helps with the costs.

Every June, there are concerts held in the theatre each Saturday of the month, featuring many local musicians, including many Frederick

By Kathleen Guill
kathleen@press-leader.com

Public School students.

Frederick also has two public parks — the Memorial Park, 110 S. 17th St., and the Rotary Park, at the intersection of Millicent Avenue and East Street, — and there is a golf course at the Frederick Golf and Country Club, 1001 N. First St.

The Tillman County Historical Society is responsible for the upkeep of the Pioneer Townsite Museum, 200 N. Ninth St.

“Designed to represent a rural town site in the 1920s, this museum includes several authentic buildings, including the 1901 Frisco Depot, the 1902 Horse Creek School, a 1924 farmhouse and a 1924 church,” the Chamber website reads in part. “The Townsite houses 10+ exhibits of 1920s

rural style living in Oklahoma. The museum's friendly staff is always available for questions and tours. A seasonal garden is also available for viewing. Seasonal crops include cotton, corn and wheat."

Inside the Townsite you will also find the Abernathy Boys Exhibit and Statue. The Abernathy Boys, Bud and Temple, took several cross-country trips, including riding their horses from Oklahoma to New Mexico at just 5 and 9 years old.

The Townsite was home to the June "Concerts in the Park" event until it was moved to the Ramona Theatre a couple of years ago.

Another museum in Frederick is the Crawford Collection, 115 N. Main St. in Frederick.

A post on the Chamber website reads in part, "This is the Crawford family's collec-

tion of amazing trophy mount animals that they have assembled from their hunts throughout the world. It includes approximately 170 specimens, including lions, bears, a bull-elephant, rhino, python, giraffe and many, many more. The animals are not behind glass or ropes, but are positioned so that visitors can move close and walk around them for amazing views."

World renowned artist Jenny Perry offers classes in her studio to anyone looking to learn how to create mosaic art. Her art has been featured in Chicago, California, Washington D.C., Dallas and England. Her studio is downtown at 127 W. Grand Avenue.

Frederick boasts one of the last remaining operating Carnegie Libraries in the United States.

The library was originally



Frederick boasts one of the last remaining operating Carnegie Libraries in the United States. The library was originally a gift from Andrew Carnegie. The library is found at 200 E. Grand Ave. Every Wednesday in June, a children's reading series takes place in the historic building's basement.

a gift from Andrew Carnegie. The library is found at 200 E. Grand Ave. Every Wednesday in June, a children's reading series takes place in the historic building's basement.

For more information on

the Pioneer Townsite, the Ramona Theatre, or other places to visit in Frederick, visit frederickokchamber.org or call the Chamber office at 580-335-2126.

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Kathleen Guill | Press-Leader

The Frederick Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show draws customers and vendors to the area from across the United States.

Frederick's Fantastic Oyster Fry deemed 'Pearl of the Plains'

Often referred to as the "Pearl of the Plains," Frederick's Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show celebrated its 31st year in Frederick in 2020. This local event brings tourists

By Kathleen Guill

kathleen@press-leader.com

through town in high volume.

After spending 30 years in Manitou, Frederick's Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show moved to Frederick. The oyster fry first began in 1952. Bramlett Johnson brought oysters back from the Gulf Coast of Texas. After frying and serving them to the Manitou school board, it became an annual fundraiser.

The oyster fry took a brief hiatus after the Manitou school closed its doors. The Frederick Chamber of Commerce adopted the event and held Frederick's first oyster fry March 16, 1990. The tickets were \$7 and someone from the Chamber went to Texas and brought back 120 gallons of oysters.

The oyster fry has now been held in Frederick for 30 years. So, for more than six decades, someone has driven to Texas and brought back fresh oysters. To ensure the oysters are safe, they are immediately packed in ice before they're transported to Frederick for breaching and frying.

According to a press release sent from the Frederick Chamber of Commerce March 9, 1990, people could buy oysters for \$1 a plate at the oyster fry. The Parent-Teacher Association or PTA came out \$30 ahead and decided to make the oyster fry an annual event.

"In 1983, 724 people were served 120 gallons of fried oysters," the release reads. "By this time, the price of oysters had become so high that the people of Manitou decided to discontinue the event."

In 1991, The Frederick Oyster Fry was mentioned in USA Today in the "Across the USA — News From Every State" section.

Twyla Elsener has been involved with

the oyster fry since its beginnings.

"Bramlett Johnson brought that first gallon back in 1952 just to feed the school board," Elsener said. "My grandfather was actually on the school board at that time. Then they thought, hey, we can do this as a fundraiser and so that's what they did."

In 1990, the Chamber board of directors agreed to take over the event.

"We [the board] went to Hester with the idea of taking over the oyster fry," Elsener said. "Now it's their biggest fundraiser every year."

The oysters had been served breaded for many years and about 10 years ago, they started serving them raw. They're served with a side of coleslaw that is the original recipe from when the event was held in Manitou.

The oysters are now served with a red sauce that, according to Elsener, is a Louis Box original recipe. The sauce and the coleslaw are both handmade in the Prather Brown Elementary School kitchen.



Kathleen Guill | Press-Leader

The Frederick Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show draws customers and vendors to the area from across the United States.

“I’ll tell you a couple of fun facts from the first year,” Elsener said. “We ground all the crackers we used to bread the oysters in little food processors. We’d do them in little home food processors. We did that for probably five or six years until we had enough sense to use what the school had.”

Today, the oyster fry serves thousands of people who come from across Oklahoma and Texas, and some even as far away as Georgia and New Mexico. The Oyster Fry date changes from year to year, so

visit frederickokchamber.com to keep up to date with events.

Tourists can visit the Pioneer Heritage Townsite Museum and Abernathy Boys Exhibit, the Hackberry Flat Center, take a tour of the historic Ramona Theatre, or visit several downtown shops, including one of the last Carnegie libraries still open to the public.

For details on this or other Chamber events, contact Felisha Crawford at 580-335-2126 or frederickcc@pldi.net or visit www.frederickokchamber.org.

ANNUAL EVENTS IN FREDERICK

- The Tillman County Jr. Livestock Show,
- Frederick Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show,
- Airborne Demonstration Team Jump School,
- Abernathy Boys Celebration,
- Tillman County Fair,
- Arts in Action Festival,
- Cotton Festival,
- Girls on Main, Downtown Frederick,
- Breakfast with Santa, and
- Frederick Christmas Parade and Chamber Buck Giveaway.



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Discover Mangum

It may be hard to believe, but Greer County was once bigger than the states of Delaware or Rhode Island. The county contained more than 1.5 million acres. From 1907 until 1909, "old" Greer County was carved up into four other counties - Greer, Beckham [merged into parts of Roger Mills County], Harmon County and Jackson County.

Mangum, which was incorporated in 1883, remained the county seat for Greer and it has preserved much of its history. The city is about 12 miles west of Quartz Mountain State Park and Altus-Lugert Lake at the junction of highways 283 and 9. It features several events during the year, including the famed Rattlesnake Festival, which has been held for more than 50 years on the last Friday and Saturday of April.

About 3,000 people call Mangum home, down from nearly 5,000 in 1930. It was also the setting for the 2008 movie "Beer for My Horses," starring Toby Keith, who is from Moore.

The town features a square with the county courthouse, built in 1906, as its center. Around it are dozens of small stores and shops. The downtown also has three buildings constructed by the WPA - a

By **Larry Miller**

larry@altustimes.com

Depression-era federal work program: The Armory, the Post Office, and the Library.

Other historic buildings include the original Methodist Church building built in 1898, the Franklin Hotel built in 1928, a former hospital that is now used by the Old Greer County Museum, the Veterans Memorial Wall, and the Masonic Building.

The community was named for Capt. A.S. Mangum, who participated in the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas, in 1836. He and a small Texan military force led by Sam Houston defeated a larger Mexican army, and it ultimately led to the independence of Texas. For his service, Mangum was given land by Texas in Greer County, which was claimed by Texas until 1896 when the Supreme Court ruled the land belonged to the United States.

The city is among a few in Oklahoma that has its own power plant, substation, and distribution system. In 1927, a light bulb installed at the Mangum Fire Station is still burning more than 90 years later.

City Hall can be reached at 580-782-2250.



Larry Miller | Altus Times

Outside the Old Greer County Museum, statues of longhorn steers are surrounded by dozens of granite monoliths featuring early county pioneers.

ANNUAL EVENTS

February

Junior Livestock Show
Annual Chamber of Commerce
banquet

April

Rattlesnake Derby and Flea
Market

June

Oklahoma Summer Arts Insti-
tute

July

Independence Day Celebration

August

Antique Car Show and Citywide
garage sale

September

Greer County Fair

October

Fall Arts Institute workshops

November-December

Greer County Christmas



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Larry Miller | Altus Times

Folks looking for a small, peaceful community should check out downtown Granite, which is nestled in the foothills of Walsh and Headquarters mountains.

Discover Granite

Granite is a small town in Greer County located at the junction of highways 9 and 6. It is only a few miles west of Quartz Mountain State Park and Altus-Lugert Lake, which features water sports and hiking. It lies at the foot of granite mountains – the edge of town is literally against hills of large boulders that make up the foothills of Walsh and Headquarters Mountains.

By Larry Miller
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At the turn of the 20th Century, Granite was a boom town littered with tents and saloons.

It was incorporated in November of

1900. News accounts at the time referred to the town as a “western oasis,” a place to raise and educate children. The school district has about 250 students K-12.

It remains a very small town, although its population is officially over 2,000. However, half of those residents are kept at the Oklahoma State Reformatory, a granite rock structure built in 1909 that houses mostly medium-security inmates. The prison is the area’s largest employer.

There is also a 30-foot granite mosaic featuring Oklahoma’s native son, Will Rogers.

Contact City Hall at 580-535-2116.

ANNUAL EVENTS

April

Town wide garage sale
Easter Egg Hunt

May

Alumni Parade and Celebration

July

Independence Day Celebration
Town wide garage sale
Romero’s Classical Guitar Institute
and Art Show

October

Town wide garage sale
Halloween carnival

December

Christmas Celebration and Santa

Railroad dispute leads to the founding of Snyder

Charles G. Jones founded the town of Snyder in Oklahoma Territory in 1902. It was located two miles south of Mountain Park. Jones was the president of the Oklahoma City and Western

Railroad. He had a dispute with the town of Mountain Park.

Jones named the new

town for Bryan Snyder, an employee of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway (Frisco), which ran north and south through the townsite.

The town had its fair share of trouble during the early years, with a tornado killing 113 people in 1905, and fires destroying most of the buildings along Main Street in 1906 and 1909. Those buildings were replaced by brick buildings and the town continued to grow. By 1910, Snyder was a booming city of 1,122 residents.

The economy of Snyder and the surrounding area is largely dependent on farming and ranching. Important crops are cotton, corn, wheat and hay.

Snyder is home to Tom Steed Lake, which has 6,400 surface acres and 31 miles of shoreline and is a great spot for camping and fishing. Great Plains State Park is located on the shore of Lake Tom Steed and includes recreational activities like fishing, boating, skiing, swimming, picnicking, hiking and nature trails, as well as RV and tent camping. Facilities also include comfort stations, group picnic facilities, lighted boat ramps, a bait shop, playgrounds and a swimming beach.

Annual events held in Snyder include an Easter Egg Hunt, usually held the weekend of Easter, Carrie's Salon and Boutique's holiday open house called Sip 'N Shop that takes place the first Thursday in December.

The Pussycat Salon and The Rose Cottage also participate in Sip 'N Shop.

The Snyder Chamber of Commerce also hosts a Christmas parade and an annual fall festival in October. The Snyder public school and Mountain Park public schools take turns hosting their class reunions every other year.

NOTABLE PEOPLE FROM SNYDER

- James V. McClintic, who was a politician, attorney and farmer who moved from Texas to Snyder in 1902. He served in a number of elective local and state offices, finally serving for 10 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He returned to Oklahoma to practice private law. He died near Chicago aboard a train and was buried in Oklahoma City.

- Jack L. Treadwell was a highly decorated career officer in the U.S. Army who was living in Snyder when he enlisted in 1941. He served in WWII and Vietnam and retired with the rank of colonel in 1974. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1945 for his actions in Germany in April 1945.



The town of Snyder, OK. was founded in 1902.

Kathleen Guill | Frederick Press Leader



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