Familiar Sight Waving Man profiled, page 2

JANUARY 8, 2021 · WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM · 75 CENTS

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving Aledo \cdot the Annettas \cdot Hudson Oaks \cdot Willow Park, Texas \equiv

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

As we were preparing the paper for press on Wednesday, domestic terrorists had breached security at the United States Capitol building.

Our news mission is local, and there are others more equipped than we are to cover that event and its aftermath.

However, it did not seem appropriate to go to press without at least making it a part of our permanent record.

The storming of the seat of our government had not occurred as it did Wednesday since the War of 1812. Our Capitol and the White House remained safe even when President Abraham Lincoln could see Civil War battles raging from the windows in the White House.

The last time in my personal memory I felt the way I did today was on Sept. 11, 2001, and that, too, was a press day for us.

It is a sad, tragic, and embarrassing day for our country.

Our prayers go out for the safety of our elected officials and the staff people who work in the Capitol complex, and for our country.

- Randy Keck

Statement from former President George W Bush:

Laura and I are watching the scenes of mayhem unfolding at the seat of our Nation's government in disbelief and dismay. It is a sickening and heartbreaking sight.

This is how election results are disputed in a banana republic - not our democratic republic. I am appalled by the reckless behavior of some political leaders since the election and by the lack of respect shown today for our institutions, our traditions, and our law enforcement.

Levitation?



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sam Forman appears to levitate during the Aledo-Lucas Lovejoy football game on Jan. 1 at Globe Life Park. His jump was an attempt to block a field goal. The Bearcats are seeking a record 10th state championship. For more, see page 6.

ALEDO ISD District one of 12 recognized for ground-breaking program

By Mercedes Mayer



source of financial assistance to Aledo

PARKER COUNTY COVI **19 Update** Vaccinations begin – sort of

The violent assault on the Capitol - and disruption of a Constitutionally-mandated meeting of Congress - was undertaken by people whose passions have been inflamed by falsehoods and false hopes.

Insurrection could do grave damage to our Nation and reputation. In the United States of America, it is the fundamental responsibility of every patriotic citizen to support the rule of law.

To those who are disappointed in the results of the election: Our country is more important than the politics of the moment. Let the officials elected by the people fulfill their duties and represent our voices in peace and safety. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Aledo ISD was one of 12 Texas school districts recognized for an outstanding, ground-breaking program with the release of Texas School Business magazine's 14th Annual Bragging Rights special issue. Bragging Rights, which calls for nominations and is published every December, recognizes school districts that have implemented programs that are bettering the lives of Texas students, schools, and communities.

Aledo ISD was chosen for the **Bragging Rights issue**

for its Employee Crisis Fund that is funded through a partnership with the Aledo Education

A The Aledo Education Foundation supports Aledo ISD staff and teachers in many ways, including grants for flaverouser
sources in many ways, including grants for classrooms

ALEDO ISD A helping hand in times of need

Foundation.

The Employee Crisis Fund was approved in 2015 to provide a

FDIC

ISD employees who are facing an emergency situation and are unable to handle immediate short-term financial obligation(s) in which the applicant has fallen behind as a result of the crisis.

"Our community's compassion toward and support of our Bearcat staff is amazing, and we are honored to be able to share that with school districts from across the state in the Bragging Rights issue," Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "Our Employee Crisis Fund has been created and fully funded by the Aledo Education Foundation,

Turn to AISD, page 2

By Randy Keck The Community News

Parker County recently received its first allocation of COVID-19 vaccinations from the State of Texas, but the initial allotment - about 2,000 doses, was rapidly used.

The Texas Department of State Health Services determines where the state's allocation of vaccines goes.

The state developed phases of vaccination distribution. The first phase, 1A, was for health care workers. The first tier of that allocation was for workers in hospital settings who work directly with COVID-19 patients and long-term care staff who work directly with vulnerable residents.

The first tier also includes EMS providers, home health care workers, and residents of long-term care facilities.

Turn to COVID, page 2

Nail Biter

Bearcats come from behind to advance.

PAGE 6



Charlie McLain celebrates 91st birthday.

/olume 31. Number 2

Barn Dance Reunion

PAGE 3

Your Reach

Across Texas

Just Got

Got Mulch? Band boosters begin mulch sale.

PAGE 2



ABILENE \star BAIRD \star CLYDE \star HASKELL \star STAMFORD MUNDAY ***** GRAPEVINE ***** MID-CITIES/BEDFORD WEATHERFORD ***** HUDSON OAKS ***** WILLOW PARK (Coming Soon)

First Bank *****Texas First National Bank

fnbweatherford.com



COVID from page one

The second tier of 1A vacci-

nations are designated for staff

in outpatient facilities who work

with symptomatic persons,

direct staff in free-standing

emergency facilities and urgent

care clinics, pharmacy staff

who provide direct services

to clients, public health and

emergency personnel who pro-

vide vaccinations and testing,

last responders who provide

mortuary or death services to

decedents with COVID-19, and

Marshal - Office of Emergency

1A people," Hughes said, add-

ing that long-term care facilities

have contracts with CVS and

Walgreen's for inoculations in

1B phase, which is designated

for "people for whom there is

strong and consistent evidence

that COVID-19 makes them

more likely to become very sick

or die." That includes people

65 years of age or older and

people 16 years of age and older

with at least one chronic medi-

cal condition that puts them at

1B inoculations, as of press time

all available vaccines have been

assigned, although Hughes said

he expects more doses coming

do is work with their personal

ed, the health recommendation

is to continue wearing masks,

social distancing, and hand

had a COVID-19 death toll of

99 people. About one in every 18

residents of Parker County has

tested positive for COVID-19.

As of Jan. 6, Parker County

"The best thing people can

Even after being vaccinat-

within the next week.

physicians," Hughes said.

While the county has started

increased risk.

washing.

The county has entered the

long-term care facilities.

Services for Parker County.

Sean Hughes is EMC/Fire

"We've gotten through the

school nurses.

Spreading joy one wave at a time

By Christopher Amos

There is something special about a wave and a smile.

Since early summer, Joe Batcher has been causing grins and waves while walking the length of FM 1187 from the mid-Aledo area to I-20 and back, waving at every driver and passenger that zooms by while displaying his "hey there" grin.

A wave is multipurpose and versatile. It can acknowledge another's presence, call for silence, and say both "hello" or "goodbye" to someone you know. But a wave is most pleasant as the salute of friendship to a stranger.

"It doesn't cost anything to be kind," Batcher said as he strolled northbound at about 5 p.m. Afternoon rush hour is his favorite time to walk because the 66-year-old Lockheed retiree can wave at the largest number of folks that way.

"If I can make a person smile for a moment and maybe wave, that is enough for me," Batcher said nearing the stoplight at Bailey Ranch Road. "Sometimes they may think I am trying to get a ride or something or maybe they see me too late, but most of them wave back."

Batcher's enthusiasm can earn a carload of waves, a thumbs-up or a toot on the horn from motorists who expect to see him and don't get caught off guard.

He has one speed – fast. And Batcher carries no water bottle. During the summer he is shirtless but said he is bundling up a bit in colder weather.

His route from his home near McAnally Intermediate School to the highway and back is six miles round trip and sometimes he walks further. He doesn't walk FM 1197 every day but takes every other day off to ride his bike 30 miles on trails in Benbrook.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Joe Batcher waves to drivers on one of his regular walks down FM 1187.

Band boosters begin mulch fundraiser

The Aledo Band Boosters are selling mulch as a fund raiser for the band program.

Mulch options include Texas Native[®] Hardwood Mulch, Texas Native[®] Black Label Mulch, Texas Native[®] Cedar Mulch, and Texas Native[®] Rojo Red Mulch.

Mulch is \$4.50 per two-cubic-foot bag with a five-bag minimum order. Pallets with 65 bags of the same kind of mulch are \$292.50.

Pickup and delivery will be on March 6.

For more details, visit forms.gle/ BwaLR9n7G1afDfZH7.



AISD from page one

which always steps up in big ways to fill needs in our schools. AEF is a special organization, and we are so grateful for the community members who lead the organization and all of those who support their work."

Aledo ISD was honored for this brag-worthy program alongside the following school districts and programs: Bryan ISD, Odyssey Academy; Corsicana ISD, Penguin Project; Goose Creek CISD, Here, We Grow Giants; Gruver ISD, Farm Scholarship; Levelland ISD, Therapy Dog Program; Liberty Hill ISD, All Girls Considered; Palacios ISD, In-House Special Education; Pine Tree ISD, Day of the Dead Program; Throckmorton Collegiate ISD, P-20 Model; United ISD, Suicide Prevention Program; and Vidor ISD, Behavioral Health Program.

"School districts across Texas sent in their nominations this year, and each one deserves to be noticed," Texas School Business Editorial Director Dacia Rivers said. "It's our hope that the 12 districts we chose inspire others to follow in their footsteps. The mission of Texas School Business is to share the good news happening in Texas public schools, and there's never a shortage of news-worthy school programs for us to cover."

For 46 years, Texas School Business has served as the news magazine for public education in Texas. Since 2014, it has been produced by the Texas Association of School Administrators (tasanet. org). To read the 14th Annual Bragging Rights issue online, visit texasschoolbusiness.com.







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Obituaries

Kenton Harvev

Kenton Harvey died December 14, 2020 at the age of 83 years.

His body has been donated to science and a memorial will be held later this year.

"Kenton" William Harvey was born to Claude "C.W." and Ida Harvey on October 15, 1937 in Fort Worth,

Texas. As a child, Kenton lived with his family at the Farmer's dairy. He attended first grade at Aledo. Kenton then moved with his family to Azle to begin a dairy. Kenton was a graduate of Azle High School, Weatherford College, and Stephen F. Austin State University.

At Azle High School Kenton was active in baseball, basketball, track, and Future Farmers of America.

While in Weatherford College, he served for one year as Texas state president of Future Farmers of America. He was an FFA exchange student to Great Britain in 1958.

While at Stephen F. Austin State University, he was FFA president and chosen Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

At the age of 50 he was introduced to the sport of golf and became an avid golfer. He was a baseball buff and studied baseball trivia. Kenton was also a domino enthusiast, especially the game of "42," which was played at all family gatherings and for which he won several tournaments in his later years.

In August of 1959, Kenton married his high school sweetheart, Shelia Fay Stewart (Azle HS Class of 1959), and they embarked upon a marriage lasting 52 years, ending with Shelia's death in 2011.



recognized for that work.

Although he excelled at farming, his first love was preaching the gospel of Christ. He served as minister for churches of Christ in the cities of Poolville, Briar, Justin, and Aledo, and occasionally Boyd and Santo. Kenton returned to Aledo in 1977 as preacher for the Aledo Church of Christ where he remained for 40 years.

Kenton enjoyed being a part of the Aledo community whether it be shooting hoops in the old rock gym, participating in Aledo High School and Weatherford College Alumni activities or supporting the work of the local FFA chapter.

He also preached in many revivals through the years and officiated many weddings and funerals. Kenton was preceded in death by his parents and wife. He is survived by his son, Perry Harvey and wife, Gloria; daughter Angela Harvey and husband Dan Archibald, all of Fort Worth; sister, Patsy Glover and sister-in-law, Linda Dabney, both of Azle; grandchildren, Kaleb Harvey, Parker Harvey; Oliver Archibald and wife Dorcas Leung; Lucas Archibald, Noah Archibald, Savannah Harvey, and Sebastian Archibald.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest memorials, if any, be made to your local church of Christ or to the Foster's Home for Children in Stephenville, Texas. The Community News

January 8, 2021

Barn dance this Saturday for Charlie McLain's 91st birthday

Long-time Annetta resident Charlie McLain celebrated his 91st birthday on Jan. 7.

In 1968 through the 1970s, Charlie and his late wife Betsy hosted barn dances on Saturday nights for the young people of Aledo.

One of the items on Charlie's bucket list is a barn dance reunion.

For now, there will be a dance.

There is an open invitation to Charlie's barn dance from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Charlie's place (for directions, call 817-565-4296 or 817-751-4393).

Collections from the barn have been cleaned and organized and will be auctioned off at the dance.

The reunion is scheduled for 6-10 p.m. on May 15, 2021. For more information, look up "Charlie's Barn Dance Reunion" on Facebook.



Charlie McLain

Capital Highlights New year can't shake focus from COVID-19



Cris Cobler ccobler@texaspress.com

It's a new year, but the news out of the capital continues to focus on COVID-19. Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted last week that "a significant portion of vaccines distributed across Texas might be sitting on hospital shelves as opposed to being given to vulnerable Texans. The state urges vaccine providers to quickly provide all shots. We get plenty more each week."

Many health providers and county health department officials responded that they were working as quickly as they could to give shots to front-line health care workers and lacked the doses necessary to move to what Texas calls phase 1B Department of State Health Services, phase 1B recipients include those 65 and older and those 16 and older with medical conditions that would put them at greater risk from COVID-19.

Various state news outlets reported Texans in phase 1B could not find any vaccine available to them vet. The state health department encouraged the public to check its website weekly for updates on vaccine availability.

In the meantime, people should continue wearing a face mask when in public and follow all social distancing guidelines, health officials said.

AG blocks Austin

The city of Austin and Travis County tried to impose New Year's weekend restrictions on restaurants, but Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Gov. Abbott won the final round of a legal battle.

The local officials' order limited restaurants to drive-thru, curbside

recipients. According to the Texas pickup, takeout, and delivery services between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. from Dec. 31 to Jan. 3. Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Judge Andy Brown imposed the three-day restriction to limit social gatherings over the holiday weekend after the state reported a record number of hospitalizations and new cases.

> "Mayor Adler and Judge Brown do not have the authority to flout Gov. Abbott's executive orders by shutting down businesses in Travis County and our state's capital city," Attorney General Paxton said in a statement.

> District Judge Amy Clark Meachum denied Paxton's motion, saying the state had not shown "imminent and irreparable harm." The AG immediately asked the 3rd Court of Appeals to block the order, but that court rejected his appeal. Paxton then went to the Texas Supreme Court for an emergency stay of the order. The high court granted the injunction late Jan. 1 without comment.

> > Turn to CAPITAL, page 4



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CAPITAL from page three

Food benefits increased

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will provide \$204 million in emergency SNAP food benefits during January as the state continues its response to the pandemic.

Recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program also will see an additional 15 percent in their total benefits in January because of recently passed federal legislation.

"As we continue through the new year, these benefits offer nutritious food to those who need it most, especially in these trying times" Wayne Salter, of HHS, said in a statement.

The state received federal approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend the maximum allowable amount of SNAP benefits to recipients based on family size. The emergency January allotments are in addition to the almost \$2 billion in benefits previously provided to Texans between April and December.

Beginning in January, recipients will receive a 15 percent increase in their total benefits, which will continue monthly until June 2021. The additional 15 percent increase and the emergency allotment amount should appear in recipients' accounts by Jan. 23. Administered by the state agency, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to 1.7 million eligible low-income families and individuals in Texas.

Texans in need may apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at YourTexasBenefits. com.

'I know Chuck'

The new year brought another California company's headquarters to Texas.

Financial services firm Charles Schwab recently announced a \$26 billion merger with TD Ameritrade.

As part of the merger, the combined company's headquarters officially moved Jan. 1 from San Francisco to Schwab's \$100 million campus in Denton County.

In a press release, Schwab said the Westlake location and facility in Denton were chosen and designed as a more centrally located hub for Schwab's nationwide operations. Before the merger, Schwab had more than 2,500 employees at its Westlake campus, and about 2,000 employees worked at TD Ameritrade's location in Southlake.

Gov. Abbott welcomed Charles Schwab in a tweet last week and reassured Texans that the influx of California companies wouldn't change the Lone Star state.

"I've talked to Chuck, I know Chuck," Abbott tweeted. "He wants to keep Texas, Texas."

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com.

Year in review 2020

Continued from the Jan. 1 issue.

JUNE 5

The Aledo High School Class of 2020 got a graduation ceremony after all with a socially distanced ceremony at Bearcat Stadium.

The Aledo City Council, via WebEx, declined a rezoning request from residential to commercial for a property along Old Annetta Road, directly behind the Hidden Valley subdivision.

Two sisters and graduates of Aledo High School plan a Black Lives Matter march that will begin at Aledo School and travel through the city of Aledo. "We have really just experienced being a minority in a community where it's a majority of white people and nonwhites have been the victim of racism," said Danielle Trought. "We're really pretty much hoping that this would really help shine a light on Aledo – just to see what they stand for. Are we black people? Are we just athletes to them? Are we actually people?"

JUNE 12

Danielle and Brittany Trought, along with other students, alumni, and local leaders, held what was probably Aledo's first every social justice march. The march was peaceful, with



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo High School Class of 2020 celebrates at the end of the graduation ceremony on Friday, May 29, at **Bearcat Stadium.**

a variety of speakers. "We have to acknowledge that too often the wheels of justice come to a grinding halt when the victim is a black person," said Aledo ISD Board of Trustees member Forrest Collins. "When I'm saying 'Black Lives Matter,' I'm not saying that my life doesn't matter. I'm not saying that my wife doesn't matter. I'm not saying that my kids don't matter. What I'm saying to my black brothers and sisters is 'I love you. I care for you. I see you in pain. I don't know your experience because I'm not black, but you should know I'm there to support you.'"

Plans for the two Aledo Middle Schools were unveiled at a meeting of the Aledo ISD Board of

Trustees. The second Aledo middle school campus is being built along Old Weatherford Road north of Interstate 20. The board also approved the purchase of some furniture for other campuses using designated bond funds.

JUNE 19

The Aledo City Council called a town hall meeting to discuss a proposed Taco Bell location on the north



college student ok, light cleaning duties 817-441-7480.

Educational Program

Faith Presbyterian Day School in Aledo is looking for an Educational Program Assistant. Responsibilities include teaching enrichment classes as well as assisting in the office and classrooms. This is a 3 day per week (Tues.-Thurs.) part-time position.

Assistant

Please contact Misty Gober at dayschool@faithaledo.com or 817-441-6262 for more information or to apply.



The Center is proud to welcome, Talha Riaz, MD He is seeing patients at our Weatherford and Mineral Wells locations



end of town. The restaurant is opposed by a number of residents who listed concerns about law enforcement, interstage signage, and the type of clientele who might frequent a Taco Bell, among others.

The Willow Park City Council approved a loan application with the Texas Water Development board to fund a future wastewater plant project. The final details of the project location and other logistics were not yet determined.

The Well Church opened its

Turn to next page

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Dr. Riaz is excited to be in North Texas where he will be close to his family and looks forward to helping and providing its community members with exceptional care. Dr. Riaz and his wife Dr. Bismah Siddiqui are parents to one daughter and are thrilled to be starting their new chapter in life here. In his spare time, Dr. Riaz loves to travel with family and friends, enjoys music, and is also a huge soccer fan (Fan of Liverpool FC).



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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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38 WR Beckham, Jr.

40 TX Perot's first

41 TX "petticoater" Meredith Mac_

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51 TXism: "_

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42 TXism: "skinny as a

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true there _____ cow in Texas"

TX Ginger's mother

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_ many

TEXAS

CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison



About 35 residents attended a town hall meeting in Aledo to

doors on a new permanent home in Willow Park.

provide input on a proposed Taco Bell.

ment of "master plan" for the city.

JUNE 26 The Annetta Town Council approved plans to develop an agreement to provide water service for the Aledo ISD Elementary School No. 6, which will be partially located within the boundaries of Annetta. A related rezoning

decision is tabled.

Urban Air Adventure Park opens in Hudson Oaks. Owned and operated by local couple Sean and Linda Sandefur, the entertainment destination offers a variety of options for families.

Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy holds graduation exercises for the Class of 2020.

<u>JULY 3</u>

Going against legal advice, the Aledo City Council denied a plat for a proposed Taco Bell. The council also voted to approve a 90-day moratorium on commercial development in the city's main corridor, and moved forward with develop-

Parker County Judge Pat Deen issued an emergency order requiring face masks in the county in areas where social distancing is not possible and more than 100 people are present. At the same time, Deen and the commissioners court faced mounting pressure from opposing groups on the question of whether or not to remove the Confederate statue on the courthouse lawn.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Elliott Martin celebrates kindergarten graduation at Trinity **Christian Academy on June 19.**

The Annetta North City Council discussed the ongoing effects of the pandemic on the town and reappointed Rob Watson as Mayor Pro Tem.

The City of Hudson Oaks announced changes to its annual "Boomin 4th" celebration, canceling in-person festivities but keeping the fireworks show.

<u>JULY 10</u>

Three local residents who recovered from COVID-19 shared their experiences. "I was one of those people where I saw one of those stories and it was like another testimony. People saying 'take it seriously'," said Ryan Newsome, a former star football player for the Bearcats. "And it just went over my head - it went in one ear and out the other. It was so sensationalized in my mind. But then I ended up getting the virus. So it definitely humbled me."

> posed Taco Bell to go through, as required by law. **JULY 17** Aledo ISD began planning for two options for the fall semester: one that involves in-person learning, and one

47 actor Kurt of TX-

52 former Concorde aircraft (abbr.) 53 in 1967 TX A.J. Foyt

49 majestic

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18 TXism for "join" (3 wds.)

22 reading light 23 Cowboy, Maverick,

Spur, Astro, Star,

Rocket, or Ranger 24 in Hill County on I-35

of an Indian weapon

to Texas in "Smokey

____ petticoat" (arrogant woman)

36 country singer Collin

37 TXism: "eatin' _____" (silverware)

39 Leon County seat

43 TX O. Henry story: "Whiskey _____"

44 Caddo Indian tribe

vista" (see ya)

45 TXism: "hasta

46 horse docs

native to East Texas

The Aledo City Council

reversed its position and

allowed the plat for a pro-

30 the business end

in early Texas

34 Burt takes elephant

& the Bandit _

35 TXism: "too big

21 that is (abbr.)

cat's

1 Houston traffic

gridlocks 5 Valley medicinal

for students. Annetta North mayor Robert Schmidt spoke out against a proposed Willow Park wastewater treatment plant near the boundaries of the town. Willow Park City Manager

that involves a virtual choice

Byran Grimes rebutted claims that the location was a "done deal," and explained the process to the public.

JULY 24

12 10-cent coin

13 cowboy before the

roundup was over

14 star role of "Big Top" 1988 film with TX Kris

Kristofferson (init.)

15 a taste of iced tea

17 seat of Kerr County

19 Groveton's county

24 TX Jennifer Love

Hewitt film: "_

25 TXism: "nothing

26 TX "Tighten Up"

sell sheep

to a cattleman'

write home about"

singer Bell, for short 27 TXism: "he could

_ Only'

20 hauls up

The Aledo ISD hires familiar face Mercedes Mayer as the district's new Director of Communications. Mayer, a Bearcat parent who actively worked in a variety of volunteer roles in the district, joined the AISD staff after several years as a member of the communications team for Arlington ISD.

The Willow Park City Council continued to explore the

options for a new wastewater treatment plant site, empowering City Manager Bryan Grimes to move forward with purchase discussions for a site in the southern part of the city.

Aledo residents hold a "Bridge The Blue" rally to show support for local law enforcement.

Citizens of Annetta, led by Kristi Turner, presented a petition to the Annetta City Council requesting a sidewalk on Thunder Head Lane by Stuard Elementary School.

More next week!

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Sports

FOOTBALL

Bearcats win nail biter to advance

Blocked punt changes momentum

By Nolan Ruth The Community News

The first time the Bearcat football team played in 2021, it was pushed to its limits.

In a nail-biting matchup that saw five lead changes, Aledo used a strong fourth quarter to prevail over Lucas Lovejoy, 52-48, at Globe Life Park on Friday night, Jan. 1.

"The kids did a really good job in the second half," head coach Tim Buchanan said after the game. "I'm extremely proud of how they came out and played. Those guys were a good football team.

"Chris Ross is a heck of a football coach. He had our number in the first half and I'm proud of the adjustments we made and the plays we created for ourselves."

Both teams traded punts to start the game before Aledo (11-1) delivered the first strike on a 20-yard run by Demarco Roberts (34 carries, 261 yards, 3 TDs).

Lovejoy (13-1) responded with a 24-yard field goal to bring the score to 7-3. On the ensuing drive, quarterback Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi (6-15, 102 yards, 1 TD) threw to Alabama signee Jo Jo Earle (11 carries, 57 yards, 1 TD, 5 receptions, 94 yards, 1 TD) who took it 50 yards for the score.

Lovejoy struck on a 13-yard pass to bring the score to 14-10 at the end of the first quarter.

Lovejoy rolled in the second quarter, outscoring the Bearcats 21-7. The lone Aledo score came on a 37-yard run by Roberts. The Bearcats trailed 31-21 at halftime.

"We made some crucial adjustments at half," Roberts said about the message at the half. "Every time we ran zone, they always tried to make us go the opposite way. So we had to adjust to their adjustments."

The Aledo defense, led by captain Sam Foreman (6.5 tackles, 2 TFL) came up with a crucial stop to start the second half. The offense responded with a long drive that was capped off by a five-yard touchdown run from Earle.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Oliver Crow (61) blocks a punt in Friday night's state quarterfinal game against Lucas Lovejoy. The play shifted the momentum of the game to the Bearcats, who won 52-48 at Globe Life Park in Arlington.



FOOTBALL

Familiar foe Rider faces Bearcats in fifth round

By Nolan Ruth The Community News

Aledo is no stranger to being in the semifinals. Friday's game will be the eighth straight appearance in the fifth round for the Bearcats. This deep into the playoffs, Aledo usually plays an opponent it does

yards and 16 TDs. He has many weapons at receiver, including Nick Darcus and tight end Isaiah Wetzel. All three players started as sophomores in 2018.

The defensive strength for the Raiders is easily the defensive line. The defense will have prob-

lems with Demarco Roberts and

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Lovejoy scored on a one-yard keeper to bring the third-quarter score to 38-28.

Clay Murador got the fourth quarter started with a 43-yard field goal to make it a seven-point game. The Bearcat defense forced a punt on the ensuing drive that was blocked by Oliver Crow. Caden Anderson caught it off the deflection and raced 50 yards to the end zone to tie the game at 38.

Caden Anderson (29) returned Crow's blocked punt for a touchdown, which tied the fourth-quarter score at 38-38. "I heard a block and CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Caden Anderson (29) returns Crow's blocked punt for a touchdown, which tied the fourth-quarter score at 38-38.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jaedon Pellegrino (2) pulls in a pass during the Aledo-Lucas Lovejoy game on Jan. 1.

the ball just fell out of the light and into my hands," Anderson said after the game. "The main goal was to just get as far as I can and get Jo Jo and Demarco the ball to score and get the comeback going."

After an impressive stand by the Bearcat defense, Lovejoy retook the lead on a 42-yard field goal.

The Bearcats would not be denied though, as Roberts received the ensuing kickoff at his 10-yard line and raced 90 yards to give the Bearcats the lead for good with a score of 45-41.

The game was far from over though. With half of the fourth quarter to go, the Aledo defense needed to get another stop to help seal the deal. The defensive line came through, only allowing Lovejoy to gain two yards and forcing a punt. not have much history with. This time will be different.

When the Bearcats take the field on Friday at Apogee Stadium on the campus of the University of North Texas, they will face off against a team they have seen fairly recently. The Wichita Falls Rider Raiders(11-2) will be Aledo's opponent for the fourth time in the last five years.

In 2016 and 2017, the Raiders were the bi-district challenger. In 2018, it was the semifinals at AT&T Stadium. Aledo won all three matchups handily. This time will no doubt be the toughest Rider has been.

The majority of the Raiders are three-year starters that were sophomores in the 2018 match. There is no question that they remember that game and will be looking to exact some revenge.

Quarterback Jacob Rodriguez will lead the charge for Rider. In 2019, Rodriguez threw for more than 3,000 yards and 33 TDs while rushing for more than 1,200

Jo Jo Earle, but the pass rush will be what will give the Bearcats problems. The key for the Bearcats is to

slow down the passing game of the Raiders. Brothers BJ and Jaden Allen, as well as Sammy Steffe, will have a tough task ahead of them. The linebacker support will be crucial as well.

Offensively, Roberts could very well have another busy game ahead of him. Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi will need to be on target as well. If the passing game can be opened up just enough, it would keep the Raider defense guessing just enough to set up the big plays.

Additional tidbit: This is the sixth meeting between Aledo and WF Rider. The Bearcats are 5-0, all coming in the playoffs. However, this could very well be the last meeting between the two teams as Wichita Falls ISD plans to consolidate all three of their high schools into two brand-new schools.

Roberts added one more score for good measure to make it an 11-point lead. Lovejoy scored one more time on a deep pass but was unable to recover the onside kick, and the Bearcats held on to win 52-48.

"All it took was that one play," Foreman spoke about what changed for the defense in the second half. "That blocked punt got the snowball rolling and it didn't stop. After that, we were able to get the stops and get our offense the ball back."

Aledo moves on to the state semifinal the eighth year in a row and will face Wichita Falls Rider at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at Apogee Stadium in Denton. The winner of that game will play for the state championship.



JANUARY 8, 2021 **7**

Sports year in review 2020



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo defensive lineman Jack Tregellas demonstrates an interesting drill to get stronger by bench pressing his brother, Wynn Tregellas, a future Bearcat. Athletes were finding unique ways to stay in shape during COVID-19 school closure.

APRIL 10

The UIL continues to change guidelines on sports, making it unclear whether spring sports will return in 2020.

Aledo graduate and baseball standout Taco Anderson gives an update on his experiences and future with the New York Yankees baseball organization.

Trinity Christian football coach Joe Hamstra sends training videos to players to compensate for missed spring practices.

Local athletes get creative to stay in shape during the shutdown.

APRIL 17

The Bearcats football secondary, returning three starters, looks to the 2020 season.

The Bearcat and Ladycat softball programs work remotely with their pitchers to keep them in shape during the closure.

Ladycat volleyball will return 11 players, including second year setting Mattie Gantt.

<u>APRIL 24</u>

Texas Governor Greg Abbott officially shuts down schools and high school sports through the end of the school year, leaving athletes in Aledo ISD heartbroken and disappointed.

Bearcats first-team all-state offensive tackle Aiden Hays signs with Harding University.

<u>MAY 1</u>

Aledo soccer freshman Clay Murador earns the District 4-5A Midfielder of the Year award. Nine other boys make the all-district team.

Ladycat soccer player Ashlyn Laughley is named the District 4-5A Most Valuable Player, and 13 other Ladycats earn all-district honors.

Aledo football player Keenan Hess is moved to inside linebacker for the 2020 season.

MAY 8

Four former pole vaulters from Aledo High School credit coach John Rhodes with their post-secondary success.

A position switch and graduation leaves the Bearcat football team thin at wide receiver as coaches discuss their options for the 2020 season.

The Ladycat volleyball team looks to the 2020 fall season, bolstered by the return of 4-5A Hitter of the Year Lily Taylor.

MAY 15

The Bearcat baseball team reflects on a premature end to their much-anticipated season. "We don't talk about it a lot, but we are definitely upset about it," said senior Cade Jones. "But it is what it is -

there are things happening right now that are bigger than us completing our season."

Tim Buchanan, Bearcats head football coach, discusses how continuity in his coaching staff contributes to the Bearcats' success.

MAY 22

A young Ladycat softball team bides their time until they have a chance to make their mark. "I know these moments reinforce strength of character for future adversity, but right now I know their hearts are hurting and there's nothing I can do to ease their pain," said head coach Heather Myers. "I hope they can find peace through this struggle and know they are loved by many."

Aledo Ladycat basketball players Riley Sale and Melia Miller earned all-state, all-academic honors.

MAY 29

The University Interscholastic League allows for summer conditioning to begin June 8.

to the 2021 season after their year was cut short in 2020. "It is a travesty that the soccer team and the seniors in particular were not able to finish their season," said head coach Derek Vierling. "We had a very special team this season."

Aledo HS athletes return for summer conditioning work; all summer camps for younger students are canceled.



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo Ladycats head softball coach Heather Myers keeps in compliance by sanitizing softballs.

Eyeing basketball for college, Aledo senior Max Newell instead accepted a track offer from Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

Eleven members of the Ladycat softball team earned all-district, all-academic honors.

JUNE 12

The Ladycat soccer team reflects on a 2020 season cut short. "For the seniors, words can't express how devastated I am for them and the way their season and high school year had to be completed," said head coach Bryan Johnson. "These seniors had a great soccer career."

The Aledo High School athletic trainers return to their posts, with new duties that include COVID-19 protocols.

JUNE 19

Bearcat and Ladycat athletes, returning for summer workouts, start slowly and begin with fundamentals after their time away.

The TCA Eagles and Lady Eagles also return for summer workouts, shaking off the rust.

JUNE 26

Indoor sports such at the AHS basketball team also return to practice, but under very carefully controlled conditions. "This is definitely better than not getting to practice at all," said Ladycats head coach Nikki Hyles. "This gives us an opportunity to focus on fundamentals."

The UIL announces it will allow live broadcasts and streaming of football games to better promote social distancing during the fall season.





Life insurance



Bearcat soccer looks ahead

<u>JUNE 5</u>

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