

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

State Rep. Phil King is shown with Aledo Bearcats JJ Earle (1) and Caden Anderson (29) at a state championship celebration on Monday, Feb. 1. King and State Sen. Drew Springer presented resolutions honoring the Bearcats' tenth state championship. Players, trainers, and cheerleaders received their UIL state championship medallions and had photos with Head Coach Tim Buchanan and Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn. Also shown is school board member Forrest Collins. More photos can be found on page 2.

## ALEDO

### Re-zone attempt in Lasater addition fails

New plat, annexation application accepted

By Brandi Addison  
The Community News

Following a series of community voices that strongly opposed the rezoning of three lots in the Lasater addition, the Aledo City Council took no action at its regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28. The issue died due to lack of a motion on the part of the council.

Community members stood among the council with issues stemming from emotion and law.

Residents expressed concerns that the history, character, and charm of their neighborhood would be diminished with the changes.

The zoning change was requested by Doug Boyd, the owner of the three lots, who wanted to develop the three lots into five smaller lots.

The property in the subdivision — a namesake of Mayola Lasater, who was a well-known business owner, political leader, and long-time resident of Parker County — was first planned in 1955, which pre-dates the city's own ordinances.

Resident Susan Houghtalin told council during citizens' input that she wants to preserve the history that Lasater has brought to past residents and long-time residents.

"Our fear is that, if approved, it will set a precedence that will reshape the Lasater addition until the character and charm and little piece of history will be lost forever," Houghtalin said.

The proposed changes would transition the addition from a single-family residential district to a planned development and bring in five two-story row houses, which Houghtalin said would "stick out like a sore thumb" in their rural neighborhood.

Jim Eggleston, a prominent attorney in Parker County, spoke to the council on behalf of neighborhood residents, who gathered in the crowd behind him.

He said if the item is approved the city would face legal issues due to two contractual problems: the setback line on the covenants and variance from the ordinance.

He added that, aside from potential legal issues, there has been a "lack of foresight" and planning by the city, as the proposed development would offer no drainage support and limited parking and cause a potential obstruction for fire access in the currently undeveloped alleyway.

"You can see the shortfall in the efficiencies in the size and the setback ... the drainage, parking, no shoulder, no sidewalks, bar ditches — those issues have just been thought through."

### Preliminary Plat and Annexation

The council also approved a preliminary plat for The Enclave, a

Turn to ALEDO, page 3

## Earle receives Tom Landry Award

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

For the third time since The Landry Award was first awarded, an Aledo Bearcat has his name on the trophy. On Jan 29, CBS Sports DFW announced that Jo Jo Earle was the recipient of the annual award given to the top Texas high school football player in north Texas.

"This means a lot," Earle said after the medal draping ceremony at Bearcat Stadium three days after winning the award. "Compared to the other candidates who deserved it as much as I did, it feels amazing. Knowing how amazing Tom Landry was as a person, winning this award really caps off my high school career really well."

Earle is now the second Bearcat to win the award, the other being running back Johnathan Gray in both 2010 and 2011, and the second wide receiver to be given the award.

Other finalists for the award included Cedar Hill quarterback Kaidon Salter,

Denton Guyer quarterback Eli Stowers, Lovejoy quarterback R.W. Rucker, and Southlake Carroll quarterback Quinn Ewers.

Past winners include Johnathan Gray, Cleveland Browns defensive end Myles Garrett, and Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray.

Earle found out he won the award over zoom meeting with all other finalists.

"I had a cameraman in my house," Earle recalled with a laugh. "He told me that everyone else had a cameraman in their houses. After they announced I had won, he walked out of the back with the trophy and told me that he already knew I had won. So I guess I was the only one with a cameraman in my house."

The award adds to a list of accolades that Earle has received in his career with the Bearcats. He will be in Tuscaloosa next year playing for the national champion Alabama Crimson Tide alongside former teammate Jase McClellan.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

JoJo Earle, recipient of this year's Tom Landry Award, is shown at the state championship celebration on Monday, Feb. 1, with Head Coach Tim Buchanan and Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn.



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Published Weekly

### Bombing Baskets

Bearcats drop threes against Rider.

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### The Best Dogs

Richard Henderson says the best dogs are found in shelters.

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### Tennis Begins

RacquetCats place second in Peach Bowl Tournament.

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# ALEDO

from page one

5.5-acre subdivision on property owned and adjacent to Faith Presbyterian Church in Aledo. Developers agreed that the homes in the 21-lot development would join the Parks of Aledo Home Owners Association.

Because emergency access to the development would be through the church property, Mayor Kit Marshall asked the fire marshal and the Emergency Services District No. 1 fire chief if they approved of the plan.

The next phase of the Parks of Aledo, Parks of Aledo Bluffs, was on the agenda in the form of a petition from the property owners for annexation of the 87.67-acre development just west of Aledo High School into the city.

The council accepted the petition and public hearings will be held on the annexation in the future.

Council voted to join an agreement with Edmonds & Association for the preparation of a Home Rule Charter for the City of Aledo, but held the item to appoint members for March or April.

It also voted to join an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company, in effort to establish an "Aledo Quiet Zone" at the railroad crossing on Underwood Road.



**Michelle Lowe (right), Municipal Court Administrator with the City of Willow Park, was awarded the Professionalism Award by the North Texas Chapter of the Texas Court Clerk's Association (TCCA) during a city staff presentation on Tuesday, Jan. 26. The Professionalism Award recognizes an individual in the court profession who, through performance above the expected job standards, has brought honor, public awareness, or enhanced the image of our courts. Michelle will be recognized during a Willow Park City Council meeting scheduled for Feb 9.**

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

# Board approves 2021-2026 strategic plans

The Weatherford College Board of Trustees approved the 2021-26 academic, technology and facilities strategic plans during the board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 14.

The plans provide for future planning and assessment at the college.

Mike King, a planner with Huckabee Architects, spoke specifically on the facilities plan which includes a number of new buildings, green spaces, and a parking garage for the Weatherford campus.

The conceptual plan includes a new student union building and large green spaces to be used as student activity zones in what is now the main parking lot.

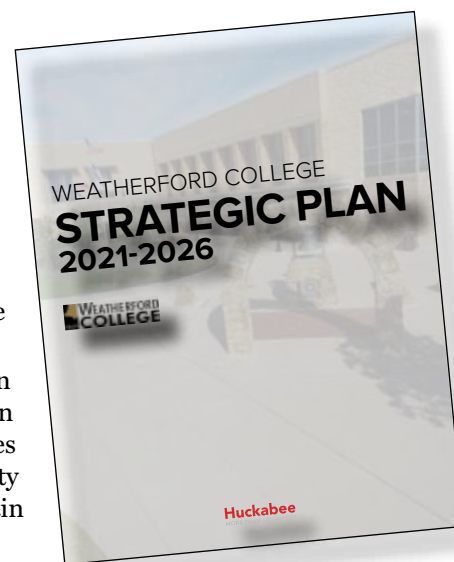
"As we come into campus now, the concern was 'What catches our eye? What do we want to see when we first drive into campus,' King asked. "Right now you see a large parking lot and that's our impression of Weatherford College. First impressions are very important. So we felt like what needed to happen is a new student union building could possibly be located in this place."

From there, a pathway would connect the new roundabout on College Park Drive to the historic arch at the top of the hill. The green space could be a place for student activities and group meetings.

To replace lost parking, a garage could be constructed on top of existing parking.

Other possible structures in the five-year facilities strategic plan include additional student housing and a new tennis center.

Looking further into the future, the plan calls for a possible addition to the Don Allen Health Science

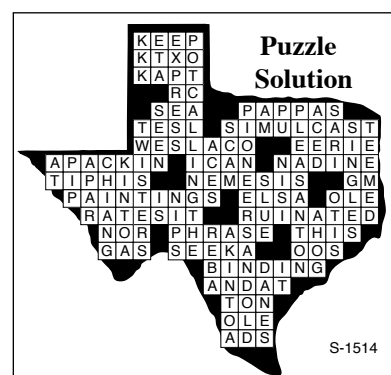


Building, creating additional pedestrian pathways, a new business building and a new gymnasium/coliseum.

The facilities strategic plan presented by Huckabee and approved by the board does not bind the college to building any of the structures outlined in the plan.

"Strategic planning is generally a view from 30,000 feet," said Dan Curley, WC general counsel. "As we consider things from that view we know the devil's in the details. We also know that if we're planning something that's supposed to give us guidance for five years, it has to be revisited on a regular basis."

View the entire facilities strategic plan presented by Huckabee online at <https://www.wc.edu/public/upload/files/about/StrategicPlan21-26.pdf>.



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**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CITY OF ALEDO**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Aledo, Texas, will receive written qualifications only, for CITY HALL NEEDS ASSESSMENT, as stated in the Request for Qualifications documents.

The City shall receive Qualifications from qualified professional architectural firms for the City of Aledo as outlined in the Request for Qualifications.

Said Qualifications must be in the office of the City Secretary, City of Aledo, P.O. Box 1, 200 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, Texas 76008, NO LATER THAN 1:00 P.M. CST on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Qualifications that are postmarked but not received until after this deadline will not be accepted. Qualifications received after the post-ed cut-off time will not be accepted.

All Qualifications are to be marked clearly on the outside "REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - CITY HALL NEEDS ASSESSMENT".

Qualifications may be mailed to City of Aledo, P.O. Box 1, Aledo, Texas, 76008 or delivered by courier or in person to the City Secretary's office, Aledo City Hall, 200 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, Texas, 76008.

Qualification documents may be obtained at the City of Aledo City Hall, 200 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, Texas, 76008. Qualification documents will be ready for pickup on and after February 1, 2021. Request for Qualification documents may also be downloaded at [www.aledo-texas.com](http://www.aledo-texas.com). Information may be requested by email to Bill Funderburk at [bill.funderburk@aledo-texas.com](mailto:bill.funderburk@aledo-texas.com)

The City of Aledo will NOT entertain Qualifications received by any electronic means.

The right is reserved to reject any and all Qualifications or to accept the Qualification which is deemed by the City of Aledo to be in the best interest of the City of Aledo. The City of Aledo also reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the process.

For additional information, contact the City of Aledo at (817) 441-7016, or Facsimile at (817) 441-7520.

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# Young Fans



## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

42 "turn of a \_\_\_\_\_"

45 TXism: "enjoyed about all \_\_\_\_\_ I can stand"

46 Exxon \_\_\_\_\_ station

47 "\_\_\_\_\_ fortune"

48 James Bond, et al. \_\_\_\_\_

49 fastening together \_\_\_\_\_

52 TXism: "up \_\_\_\_\_ 'em juice" (coffee)

53 2,000 pounds \_\_\_\_\_

54 TX Stuart Hamblen wrote "This \_\_\_\_\_ House"

55 advertising messages \_\_\_\_\_

**DOWN**

1 disfavored white supremacist grp.

2 arrival guess at Hobby (abbr.)

3 with 12 down, a Texas newspaper

4 TXism: "that's the \_\_\_\_\_ kettle black"

8 TXism: "children should be \_\_\_\_\_ and not heard"

9 Johnson County event: "\_\_\_\_\_ Settlers Reunion"

10 morning time \_\_\_\_\_

11 Plutonium symbol \_\_\_\_\_

12 "nice" city in Atascosa County

13 hit an unreturnable tennis serve \_\_\_\_\_

14 garment worn in India by women

15 Texas tornadoes \_\_\_\_\_

16 dishonest scheme \_\_\_\_\_

17 TX resident Andy Roddick was a world no. 1 tennis player in 2003

18 was full of \_\_\_\_\_

20 17-down played for the "Austin \_\_\_\_\_" in 2015

22 TXism: "chompin' \_\_\_\_\_ the bit" (eager)

23 domino spot \_\_\_\_\_

24 score of 5 on the longest golf hole (2 wds.) \_\_\_\_\_

34 TXism: "the brand \_\_\_\_\_ still smoking" (rare steak)

35 sips of liquor \_\_\_\_\_

37 this Thorpe helped the Rockets win 1994 championship

40 TXism: "happy as \_\_\_\_\_ in mud"

43 country singer McEntire

44 a horse is \_\_\_\_\_ donkey

50 large short-haired dogs: "Great \_\_\_\_\_"

51 TXism: "I got the hang of \_\_\_\_\_"

**Fans start young at Aledo High School basketball games. Cason Luffey, left, concentrates on the Aledo-Rider game on Tuesday night. Cason is a student at Coder Elementary School and just turned 7-years-old. Kellen Kubicsek, right, found other entertainment. Kellen may be the Bearcats' youngest fan at 7 months old.**



PHOTOS BY RANDY KECK

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## Thistles & Roses

# Shelter dogs are the best



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

“Major” became the first adopted shelter dog to live at the White House with President Joe and First Lady Jill Biden. That is a first that was long overdue. I learned a long time ago that shelter or street rescue dogs are the best.

I admit I am sometimes more than a little judgmental that some folks think shelter dogs are second-class citizens, preferring to buy a pure bred dog with a pedigree.

All of our dogs since my wife and I bought our first home in the TCU area in 1984 have been shelter dogs. Some of them have been pure-bred dogs that were abandoned. And sometimes we have adopted strays from the street, some of them injured and abused.

When it was “decided” that we would get a dog, we

went to the Humane Society of North Texas on Lancaster Street in Fort Worth. It was a moving and overwhelming experience. The cacophony of sounds and the desperation of the candidates for adoption was hard to take. I wanted to save them all.

We went to the shelter to get one dog, and ended up adopting three at the same time. Three was the limit for pets allowed per household in Fort Worth.

There was Princess, a beautiful sweet-natured silver coat Collie-German Shepherd mix, was first. She was already named. Then Strider, a playful German Shepherd-Chow mix was next. I thought we were done, but then —

Well, then I saw the depressed, downtrodden, matted-fur, desperately-malnourished Afghan who I would name Guinevere. The sign said “Found wandering on Beach Street.” She had what looked like warts on the joints of her legs. She would barely lift her head. We took her out of the cage and walked her. Something about her was special. The shelter said that they needed to “inspect” our fence to be

sure she could not escape at our home. I said “fine,” but we wanted to adopt her.

When she was walked back toward her cage by the shelter worker, she went limp and collapsed like a protester and refused to move. They picked her up and she splayed her feet out at the door resisting with all her might.

But most compelling was a deep, mournful, penetrating wail of grief that came from deep within her. She was overcome with sadness to be going back to her cage. We were determined to take her home.

After the fence inspection we picked her up and took her to our veterinarian. I was concerned about what I thought were warts. Turns out, they were large cockle burrs deeply entangled in her fur. They were cut out fairly easily. We cut the rest of the matted fur off. She was an emaciated sad mess.

When we got her home, she was still in a funk of doggy depression. She would barely move her head or wag a tail. There was just no reaction or interaction with us. I began to wonder how it would turn out.



**Guinevere**

A few nights later, she was lying down in the living room and I petted her head and neck and removed my hand. She suddenly pressed against my hand wanting more affection. She became desperate for human contact. The depression lifted.

After some proper nutrition and grooming she turned in to the most beautiful

Afghan hound you ever saw. Taking her for walks in the neighborhood was a joy and she looked so beautiful as her fur shimmered when she walked or ran.

I always wondered what her story was behind her being found wandering Beach Street, but I can tell you rescuing her was one of the most

rewarding experiences of my life.

If you are looking for a pet, the Weatherford Shelter and the Humane Society of North Texas have a never-ending number of dogs waiting for homes.

There might just be another Guinevere out there looking for you.

## Capital Highlights

# Vaccine pace picks up slowly



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

It's an honor to take over writing “Capital Highlights” from two capable predecessors, Chris Cobler and Ed Sterling. They are tough acts to follow, but I'll do my best.

Chris has accepted another challenge, so Mike Hodges, executive director of the Texas Press Association, asked if I wanted to take on this task. I echo what Chris wrote in his first piece last July. The need for providing reliable and accurate information is greater than ever, especially as we continue to fight a pandemic that reaches into all corners of Texas and has upended our lives. If there is a Texas topic you think I should cover, please email me at gborders@texaspress.com.

Capital Highlights appears in more than 100

newspapers across the state. My focus is searching through the activities of state agencies, the Legislature and elsewhere for news that affects the readers of these newspapers. Your input is welcomed and appreciated.

The rate of COVID-19 vaccine administration is slowly increasing in Texas as we enter the second full month of shots going into arms. The Texas Department of State Health Services last weekend reported that about 1.6 million Texans — overwhelmingly frontline health workers, people over 65 or those with chronic health conditions — have received the first dose. Just over 400,000 are fully vaccinated. The state has received 3.16 million doses so far; nearly half remain to be administered. Texas ranks near the bottom in per-capita doses administered when compared to other states, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Defense sent 80 medical military personnel last week to Abilene,

Lufkin and Eagle Pass to assist in administering the vaccine in those cities. “The medical personnel deployed to our communities will provide much-needed support to our front-line healthcare workers,” Gov. Greg Abbott said in a news release.

The state surpassed two million COVID-19 cases with nearly 36,000 fatalities as January came to a close. A total of 11,473 COVID-19 patients are in Texas hospitals as of Jan. 31, according to TDSHS. Across the state, there are only 753 intensive-care beds available. Even as vaccines are being administered, health officials across the state are urging Texans to wear masks and follow other safety protocols that have been in place since last March.

### Grants available for special needs students affected by COVID-19

Abbott and the Texas Education Agency late last week announced the rollout of a grant program for eligible

families of children with “significant cognitive disabilities and complex educational needs.” The \$1,500 grants can be used to purchase educational resources and services through the TEAs supplemental special education services program.

A total of \$30 million was allocated, which could provide help for up to 20,000 students. To find out if your child is eligible, email the agency at ssesinfor@tea.texas.gov or call 855-772-3839.

### Texas Lyceum poll measures impact of the pandemic

The Texas Lyceum, a non-partisan group of movers and shakers based in Austin, released its annual survey last week. It painted a fairly negative picture of the state's economy as a result of the pandemic and illustrated the widespread impact of the coronavirus on Texans. Responding to the pandemic is the most important issue facing the state, according to 37 percent of respondents. Political corruption and

leadership ran a distant second at 10 percent.

The 2021 poll presented the most negative views of the state's and nation's economies since the Great Recession of 2008. Additionally, four in five respondents said they knew someone who had contracted COVID-19, while half knew someone who had died from it. On the somewhat brighter side, nearly three-fourths were either “very hopeful” or “somewhat hopeful” that the nation would get the pandemic under control in the next six months. But just 45 percent of Texans say they plan to get vaccinated when it becomes available to them.

The complete poll results can be found at texaslyceum.org.

### Score one for the chiropractors

In a decade-long battle between the Texas Medical Association and the group that represents the state's chiropractors, the Texas Supreme Court ruled late last week that the lawful scope

of practice for chiropractors includes nerves and related testing as it pertains to the musculoskeletal system. TMA originally sued the Texas Board of Chiropractor Examiners in 2011, arguing that such diagnoses exceeded what chiropractors were licensed to do.

In a split decision, the high court overturned a ruling from the Austin Court of Appeals that had sided with TMA. Matt Webb, attorney for the chiropractic board, said in an email: “Today's decision was not only legally sound but a victory for common sense and patient care. A different outcome could have drastically curtailed access to critical chiropractic care for patients across the State of Texas.”

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

# The Community News

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**SUBMIT STORIES, PHOTOS OR IDEAS**  
We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-441-7661, ext. 207 or email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should

include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper. Send submissions to news@community-news.com.

Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph. For ease in submitting photographs electronically, visit our contact form at community-news.com/contacts.

The Community News does not charge for timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee. The deadline for submitting announcements is noon Friday for the following week's paper.

# Sports

FEBRUARY 5, 2021  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

## ON THE SIDE

Spring Sports

### FEBRUARY 5

**Boys' Soccer** vs. WF Rider, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

**Girls' Soccer** vs. WF Rider, Away, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

**Softball scrimmage** vs. Ennis, Home, VAR - 6 p.m., JV - 4:30 p.m.

**Girls' Basketball** vs. TBD, VAR - TBD

**Boys' Basketball** vs. Wichita Falls, Away, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 6:15 p.m., Fr - 5 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 8

**Var Boys' Golf** at Pringle Open, Away

### FEBRUARY 9

**Boys' Soccer** vs. Wichita Falls - Field E, Away, JV - 7 p.m.

**Boys' Soccer** vs. Wichita Falls - Memorial, Away, VAR - 5 p.m.

**Girls' Soccer** vs. Wichita Falls, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

**Softball scrimmage** vs. W'Ford, Away, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

**Girls' Basketball** vs. TBD Var

**Boys' Basketball** vs. Brewer, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 6:15 p.m., Fr - 5 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 10

**JV Boys' Golf** 18 Hole, Away, JV - 9 AM

### FEBRUARY 12

**Boys' Soccer** vs. Brewer, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

**Girls' Soccer** vs. Brewer, Away, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

**Varsity Tennis** vs. S Hills Tournament, Away

**Softball scrimmage** vs. Mansfield, Home, VAR - 12:45, 2:30 p.m., JV - 4:30, 7:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 13

**Softball scrimmage** vs. Mansfield, Away

### FEBRUARY 15

**Var Boys' Golf** at Max Memorial, Away, VAR - 9 AM

### FEBRUARY 16

**Softball** vs. Centennial, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 17

**JV Girls' Golf** at Burlison Centennial Tournament, Away, JV - 8 AM

**Track & Field** vs. Weatherford JV, Home

### FEBRUARY 18

**JV Tennis** at Timbercreek Tournament, Away

**Track & Field** at Weatherford Var, Away

**Softball** at Var Mid-Cities Tournament

### FEBRUARY 19

**Boys' Soccer** vs. Granbury, Away, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

**Girls' Soccer** vs. Granbury, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

**Varsity Tennis** at Wichita Falls Tournament, Away

**Softball** vs. TBD, Away, JV - TBD

### FEBRUARY 23

**Boys' Soccer** - Covid Make-Up

**JV Tennis** at Grapevine Tournament, Away

**Softball** vs. Lakeridge, Away, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5 p.m.

**JV Boys' Golf** at Buzzy Open, Away, JV - 8 AM

### FEBRUARY 24

**JV Girls' Golf** vs. Burlison HS Tournament, Away

### FEBRUARY 25

**Track & Field** at 4 Teams JV & Var, Away

**Softball** at Var Mansfield Tournament, Home

## BASKETBALL

# 3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3-3

## Bearcats bomb the basket against Rider

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

Three-pointers rained down like fire on the heads of the Rider Raiders when they visited the Aledo High School gym to take on the Bearcats in a district basketball game on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

The 'Cats jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead when Landry Simmons and Cam Yielding hit nothing-but-net threes, followed by an inside two points by Daniel Sohn, who led scorers in the game with 15 points.

Rider responded with a trey to pull within five at 8-3, but Yielding and Simmons each connected from outside the circle to put the Bearcats up 14-3.

Peyton Wiggins added a basket and Simmons hit his third three-pointer to round out Aledo's scoring in the first quarter, leading 19-9.

Clark Crawford started Aledo's second-quarter scoring on a baseline drive, and then Drew Clock joined the three-pointer club to put the Bearcats up 24-9. Rider responded with five points before Clock again hit the basket from the key and scored the next basket with a put-back. The Bearcats went to the dressing room up 28-20.

Wiggins started the third-quarter scoring with a three-pointer of his own, Simmons scored on a fast-break pass from Sohn, who also scored on another fast break to put Aledo up 35-20 before Rider got on the board for its only three points of the quarter. Sohn scored from the baseline, added two points on free throws, Yielding dropped another bomb, Sohn scored on a fast-break assist from Simmons, Yielding hit a field goal, and Sohn scored on another fast break to put Aledo up 48-23 at the end of the third quarter.

Sohn started the fourth quarter with a trey, Simmons fed Jason Llewellyn under the basket, and Crawford scored on another assist from Simmons.

Braedyn Eicke scored to put the Bearcats up 57-24 and Christian Hillman added two free throws before Ethan Pierce added another three to close out Aledo's scoring.

The Bearcats hit a total of 10 three-pointers from six different players in the game.

The win against Rider follows a loss to Azle on Jan 28. With two district games remaining, the Bearcats are a full game behind Brewer in the district standings. Brewer stands at 7-1 while the Bearcats are 6-2. Rider and Granbury are tied for third with records of 4-4, while Azle sits at 3-5 and Wichita Falls is winless with a record of 0-8.

The Bearcats have at least second place in the district clinched. Assuming a win at Wichita Falls and a Brewer win at Rider on Friday, the Bearcats would have a bite at the apple in the district finale on Tuesday at home against the Bears.

The Ladycats also had a split week, defeating Azle 46-44 on Jan 29 at home but falling to Rider 22-52 on the road on Tuesday. Addyson Hebel (15), Audrey Pearce (14), and Claire Byars (10) were in double-figures for the Ladycats against Azle.



Braedyn Eicke passes to a teammate in Aledo's 62-35 win over Wichita Falls Rider on Feb. 2.



Drew Clock sinks one of the Bearcats' 10 three-pointers against Wichita Falls Rider on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

## Slings&Arrows



Randy Keck  
rkeck@community-news.com

# Missing Tony but know he is there in spirit

'How About Them Bearcats!'

This is the spot where readers of *The Community News* became accustomed to seeing Tony Eierdam's almost-weekly "As I See It" columns regarding his insights and opinions on the local sports scene.

When you lose a key player or staff member, it takes a while to get the boat sailing on an even keel, and we're still working to get there. And part of that is to try to fill the gaps as best we can.

There was a sports-related topic I wanted to write about, and I hesitated to take Tony's spot, but this is where the sports commentary belongs.

So before I get to the topic at hand, I'll acknowledge that nobody could cover and write about Aledo sports the way Tony did. Add to that the fragmentation of our duties due to COVID-19, and I can safely channel Lloyd Bentsen about me trying to do this: "I knew Tony Eierdam. Tony Eierdam was a friend of mine. And I'm no Tony Eierdam" when it comes to sports.

Tony would take this spot when he was either excited about something or mad at the UIL, both of which could apply this week, but I'm going to focus on the excitement.

Back in the old days I was the sports guy (as well as everything else) here at the paper. Over more than 25 years I have covered successful athletic teams at Aledo High School.

I have covered volleyball at regional and state tournaments, we have seen soccer at state, I have covered Aledo athletes at the state track meet, I have seen the softball and baseball teams go to state, I have seen girls' basketball have extremely successful seasons, I've seen cross country runners break state records, I've seen swimmers standing at the top of the podium.

And, of course, I've seen the unequaled success of the Bearcat football program.

The problem is that I am, and have always been, a basketball guy. I was not a gifted athlete growing up, and it became clear as I entered high school that if I wanted to be in sports, I needed to pick one and focus on it.

Basketball was that for me.

I think we had 30 players on the freshman team at Iowa Park High School. My growth spurt prior to my freshman year led me to be both clumsy and out of fashion. In a time when Levi's bell bottoms were the must-have fashion, I was constantly asked if I was expecting rain due to the jeans, which fit when they were

Turn to **SLINGS**, page 7



**Matt Morris**

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# SLINGS

from page six

bought, being too short just a couple of weeks later.

Anyway, out of the 30 players on the freshman team, I think I was number 28 or so. If we were ahead or behind by more than 40 points, I might get to play.

But focusing on the one sport was good for me. Lots of jumping rope and running over the summers, hours of driveway basketball with older varsity players I invited to the house, year-round shooting hoops made me a starter when I was a senior, and led to being recognized for my talents on the court.

All of which leads me to my excitement.

Over all those years of seeing Aledo sports teams excelling at one time or another, the boys basketball program never really took off.

There were times when we squeaked into the playoffs, but overall there has not been a lot of success.

I've watched this year's Bearcats play on a few occasions now, and while it often gives me a pang of regret the it would have been Tony at the game instead of me, I am also thankful for the opportunity to re-connect with coverage of local sports and I know he is there in spirit.

And I am especially happy with the success of the Aledo Bearcats basketball team.

I don't know that I have ever seen a Bearcat basketball team with as much promise as this one. The guys play well, they play unselfishly, and they win.

If you are on the opposing team and you miss a basket, you better get back because these guys will have the ball back down on the offensive end of the court in a flash.

They are relentless — they never stop, they never give up, and they know how to win.

There are probably a lot of factors that contribute to the success of the team so far this season. The kids obviously work hard. They are well-conditioned and they are well-coached.

And maybe, based on the lineup, we can say that Aledo High School is finally large enough to develop some basketball-only players.

There are always good payers who join the team late from football, but it is fun and gratifying to see that we have a team that can win before the end of football season.

As this is written there are two district games remaining. The Bearcats are currently in second place behind Brewer, and the Bears visit Aledo to end district play on Tuesday. It should be a great game.

So to the Bearcats I say "great job" and best of luck in the playoffs!

## Basketball

### Aledo Bearcats at Azle

Varsity - January 29

Aledo	13	15	11	14	53
Azle	11	13	16	23	63

Daniel Sohn 17, Landry Simons 13, Cam Yielding 8, Exavier Anderson 7, Peyton Wiggins 6, Clark Crawford 2

### Aledo Bearcats vs. Rider

Varsity - February 2

Aledo	19	9	20	14	62
Rider	9	11	3	12	35

Daniel Sohn 15, Landry Simons 11, Cam Yielding 11, Drew Clock 7, Peyton Wiggins 5, Clark Crawford 4, Ethan Pierce 3, Braedyn Eicke 2, Christian Hillman 2, Jason Llewellyn 2

### Aledo Bearcats vs. Rider

Freshmen - February 2

Aledo	12	13	1	13	50
Rider	6	7	2	19	54

Cohen Christie 11, Jack Sawyer 9, Vincent Luffey 8, Luke Slabbekorn 6, Tyson Timms 5, Owen Peterson 4, Jayton Owens 3, Halston Main 2, Sam Newbury 2

### Aledo Ladycats vs. Azle

Varsity - January 29

Aledo	7	20	9	10	46
Azle	11	7	6	20	44

Addyson Hebel 15, Audrey Pearce 14, Claire Byars 10, Presley Hull 5, Kylie Anderson 2

### Aledo Ladycats vs Azle

JV - January 29

Aledo	3	11	10	14	38
Azle	14	2	5	10	32

Lauren St. Peters 14, Natalie Anderson 11, Caroline Browning 7, Sarah Tillotson 3, Daniella Tregellas 2, Meredith Brown 1

## Box Scores

### Aledo Ladycats vs. Azle

Freshmen - January 29

Aledo	8	7	4	4	23
Azle	9	2	8	5	24

Addi Durrand 6, Ashley Oberg 2, Aubrey Connelly 2, Lexie Steffe 3, Julianna Caggiano 2, Kennis Marx 8

### Aledo Ladycats at Rider

Varsity - February 2

Aledo	9	7	2	4	22
Rider	11	14	17	10	52

Audrey Pearce 4, Claire Byars 7, Reagan Davis 2, Presley Hull 2, Addyson Hebel 5, Kylie Anderson 2

### Aledo Ladycats at Rider

JV - February 2

Aledo	4	13	14	17	48
Rider	3	7	8	5	23

Natalie Anderson 24, Sarah Tillotson 8, Taylor Paetzold 7, Lauren St. Peters 6, Hannah Good 2, Caroline Browning 1

### Aledo Ladycats at Rider

Freshmen - February 2

Aledo	10	15	16	7	48
Rider	2	6	10	10	28

Addi Durrand 13, Presley Bergen 6, Jenna Seely 5, Sidnee Woodyard 2, Ashley Oberg 3, Aubrey Connelly 4, Lexie Steffe 7, Miyah Baines 2, Kennis Marx 4, Megan Loftin 2

### Aledo Middle School Boys

vs. Burleson Hughes - January 28  
 7-A lost 28-45  
 7-B won 35-5  
 7-C won 24-13  
 8-A won 33-24  
 8-B won 54-16  
 8-C won 41-23

7th Grade is 13-1 Overall  
 8th Grade is 13-1 Overall  
 Program 26-2

### Aledo Middle School Girls

vs. Burleson Hughes - January 28  
 7-A won 36-5  
 7-B won 43-10  
 7-C won 32-5  
 8-A won 39-3  
 8-B won 33-3  
 8-C won 27-4

### Soccer

The Bearcats varsity lost to Azle 0-1. The team is 1-1-1 in district play, 7-2-2 over all. They play Wichita Falls Rider on Friday. The Ladycats did not have a game this week.

# GOT SCORES?

Send your team's scores to sports@community-news.com!

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# TENNIS RacquetCats take second place in Peach Bowl Tournament

By Andrea Garnett

Special to The Community News

The Aledo Varsity Tennis team took second place overall in the local Peach Bowl tournament hosted by Weatherford and Brock High Schools on Friday, Jan. 29. The tournament was the spring season opener for the RacquetCats and they came out strong placing in every division but boys' singles.

Coming away with first place in mixed doubles was the team of Ian Leslie/Katie Siddons. The pairing of Jax Joiner/Hogan Posey in Boys' doubles placed third, with Michael Birdwell/Zane Martin coming in right behind them in fourth place. Girls' doubles Georgia Posey/Maddie Farmer placed second and Lyla Edwards/Allie Farmer were fourth place. Cambell Charrier placed second in Girl's singles winning the only medal in that category.

The RacquetCats were scheduled to face Nolan Catholic Wednesday in a team dual in Aledo.



Cambell Charrier placed second in girls singles.



Georgia Posey and Maddie Farmer placed second in girls doubles.



Hogan Posey and Jax Joiner placed third in boys' doubles.



Ian Leslie and Katie Siddons placed first in mixed doubles.

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**Notice of Public Hearings**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council of the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas will conduct public hearings in the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas.

First Public Hearing Location:	Planning and Zoning Commission Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008
Date:	Thursday, February 11, 2021
Time:	6:00 P.M.
Second Public Hearing Location:	City Council Meeting Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008
Date:	Thursday, February 25, 2021
Time:	6:00 P.M.

- The purpose of the hearing is to receive input regarding consideration of a request for a Zoning Change from (A) Agricultural District to (PD R-2) Planned Development Single Family Residential District – 87.67 acres of land situated in the E. Oxer Survey, Abstract Number 1031, and the J. Wray Survey, Abstract Number 1639, Parker County, Texas.
- The purpose of the hearing is to receive input regarding consideration of a petition for annexation into the City of Aledo 87.67 acres of land situated in the E. Oxer Survey, Abstract Number 1031, and the J. Wray Survey, Abstract Number 1639, Parker County Texas.

Published in *The Community News*, February 5, 2021 and posted at Aledo City Hall February 1, 2021.

Deana McMullen, City Secretary

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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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## Signing Day

Ten Aledo High School seniors signed letters to attend colleges and universities on Wednesday at the high school.

Signing were Ethan Headrick, Schreiner University, baseball; Audrey Pearce, Houston Baptist University, volleyball; Lilly Taylor, University of Central Arkansas, volleyball; Abby Thompson, Dominican College, volleyball; Logan Reiter, McMurry University, soccer; Alex Striejewski, Austin College, football; Grant Jefferis, Stephen F. Austin State University, football; Gatlin Johnson, West Texas A&M University, football; Sam Forman, TCU, football; and Caden Anderson, West Texas A&M University, football.

Photos by Mercedes Mayer



**Ethan Headrick, Schreiner University, baseball**  
Ann Marie, Dairrell, and Ethan Headrick and coach Chad Berry



**Audrey Pearce, Houston Baptist University, volleyball**  
Brooke, Audrey, and Greg Pearce



**Lilly Taylor, University of Central Arkansas, volleyball**  
Rich, Lilly, and Holly Taylor



**Abby Thompson, Dominican College, volleyball**  
Britney, Boyd, Abby, and Jon Thompson



**Logan Reiter, McMurry University, soccer**  
Stephanie and Logan Reiter and Patsy Clark



**Alex Striejewski, Austin College, football**  
Alex and Greg Striejewski



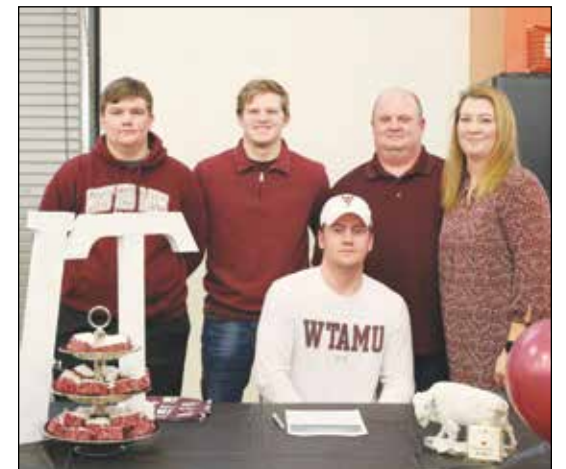
**Grant Jefferis, Stephen F. Austin State University, football**  
Virginia, Grant, and Will Jefferis



**Gatlin Johnson, West Texas A&M University, football**  
Gracie, James, Gatlin, and Michelle Johnson



**Sam Forman, TCU, football**  
Ava, Reagan, Kate, Sam, Brett, and Max Forman



**Caden Anderson, West Texas A&M University, football**  
Chase, Ryan, Caden, Shane, and Sherame Anderson

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# JV Hoops



Jack Mitchell is fouled going to the basket against Rider on Tuesday.



LEFT: Brandt Tubbs guards a Rider shooter. | MIDDLE: Grant Pangle goes in for a score. | RIGHT: Dylan Keith Elevates for a shot.



PHOTOS BY RANDY KECK  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS

# 2021

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