

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO ISD

Winter storm damage repairs under way

District resumes instruction after storm

By **Makenzie Plusnick**
The Community News

Aledo ISD is quickly repairing the damages caused to facilities by the winter storm the week of Feb. 15.

Several different parts of the district were damaged, including McAnally Intermediate School, Aledo Middle School, Bearcat Stadium, and the Baseball and Softball Complex, said Director of Communications Mercedes Mayer. All damages were due to pipes bursting and flooding parts of the facilities, she said.

McAnally Intermediate School had the most damage. Flooding started in the front office and covered the north part of the building, including the library, several classrooms, and offices, Mayer said.

The district quickly moved to ensure students were able to return to classrooms Monday. Since McAnally is set to be converted into an elementary school, some classrooms that were flooded now have concrete floors for the remaining school year until renovations begin this summer. These are the only major changes to classrooms, according to Mayer.

The only area that was not ready for students was the library,

which has since been reopened, Mayer said.

“We had an amazing team come together at the end of last week and through the entire week-end to get ready to go for students on Monday morning on schedule,” she said.

Repairs at AMS are ongoing as different issues occur, Mayer said. None of the damage at the school was in student-occupied areas, she added.

Bearcat Stadium’s concession area was flooded, and the Baseball and Softball Complex’s bathrooms and concession area were flooded. Repairs to both facilities are expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

Many people in the community have reached out to the district to find out how they can help. AISD recommends looking into the AdvoCats, which helps district families in need, and the Aledo ISD Education Foundation, which funds the Employee Crisis Fund.

The school board is set to vote March 22 on submitting a waiver to the Texas Education Agency to excuse the days the district was closed. The district expects to have the waiver accepted and to not extend their school year, Mayer said.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Aledo ISD workers begin cleanup at the Bearcat Stadium concession stand, where burst pipes cause water damage during Winter Storm Uri.

WILLOW PARK

Council votes to establish storm water drainage fee

By **Brandi Addison**

The Community News

After two silent public hearings on Tuesday evening, Feb. 23, Willow Park city council voted to establish fees for storm water drainage, hoping that it will help put an end to the city’s history of drainage issues.

The issue was first identified by consulting engineers in early 2019, but there has been no way to fund the solution without utilizing funds needed for other issues, councilwoman Lea Young said.

The new ordinance, which establishes storm water drainage as a utility, authorizes the city to levy monthly fees for drainage maintenance, which can be used to fund the drainage projects.

“Having this system set-up (will allow) these funds to be used for drainage projects, instead of taking it out reserves, which could be used for other things, such as ... roads,” Young said, adding that this city has done this for emergency situations in the past.

Both residential and commercial properties will be required to pay the drainage fees.

For a single-family residential property, the storm water drainage rate would be \$5.50 per month for 1,500 square feet of living space and \$11 per month for 3,000 square feet of living space.

“I’m not ever thrilled that we have to assess new fees, new rates, things like that,” Young said. “But we simply have problems to take care of, and this is the best way to do it.”

While city council opened two public hearings for residents on Tuesday night, no one joined the discussion. Young said, in the past, residents have supported the idea.

“I have yet to have one citizen come to me to say they oppose this ordinance,” Young said.

Willow Park residents and businesses will begin to see the charge on their utility bill in the coming months.

Area teachers honored by Weatherford College

Catherine Williams, 10th-12th grade AP history and economics teacher at Aledo High School, and Kimberly DeNeeffe, first-grade teacher at Trinity Christian Academy, are among 35 teachers from across the region honored by Weatherford College at the 2021 Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebration held recently at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center.

Celebrating its 25th year, the Harvey Academy honors exemplary teachers in the memory of Professor Emeritus Jack Harvey, who taught at WC for 23 years and was considered among his peers as a “master teacher.”

“Mrs. Williams designs relevant, rigorous work that

Turn to **HARVEY**, page 2



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Maddie Edwards is one of four Ladycats who will swim at the state meet next week. Edwards qualified individually in two events, and as part of a relay team. For more, see the story on page 9.



Volume 31, Number 9
Published Weekly

Pay Ahead

Texas prepaid tuition program deadline approaches.

PAGE 2

Shootout

Bearcats win against Brewer in a soccer shootout.

PAGE 7



Season Ends

Bearcats end basketball season at bi-district.

PAGE 6

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Williams DeNeefe

HARVEY

from page one

challenges her students to think at high levels. She is continuously looking for ways to improve and grow, demonstrating a love of learning and growth mindset for her students," according to the award presented.

"Regardless of the educational needs of her students, she [Kimberly DeNeefe] always finds the time to work with them and assist them in their learning. Incorporating fund games and activities in the curriculum, she is able to make learning fun, instilling a love of learning and school that stays with the students long after they have left her class."

Other awards were presented to teachers from Alford ISD, Azle ISD, Birdville ISD, Bowie ISD, Boyd ISD, Bridgeport ISD, Brock ISD, Bryson ISD, Burleson ISD, Castleberry ISD, Chico ISD, Elite Christian Academy, Garner ISD, Gordon ISD, Graford ISD, Granbury ISD, Huckabay ISD, Jacksboro ISD, and Joshua ISD.

Additional recipients represented Lipan ISD, Millsap ISD, Mineral Wells ISD, Muenster ISD, Palo Pinto ISD, Paradise ISD, Peaster ISD, Perrin-Whitt CISD, Poolville ISD, Santo ISD, Springtown ISD, Stephenville ISD, Weatherford ISD, and Weatherford College.



Canceled basketball games, quarantined students, and inclement weather didn't stop Trinity Christian Academy's annual Eagles for Life Fundraiser benefiting Grace House Ministries. TCA students, families, and staff brought in donations as well as encouraged community donations in this year's fundraising efforts. Though it looked different this year with the absence of their normally-scheduled basketball game, TCA had great success in their efforts. A TCA representative said they love partnering with Grace House Ministries and serving the community. Pictured are Charley Rickey (Executive Director for Grace House Ministries) and Denise Hobbs (TCA Office of Development).

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Texas Prepaid Tuition Program enrollment deadline approaches

Texas families can lock in today's cost of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities by enrolling their children in the tax-advantaged Texas Tuition Promise Fund® before the close of the current general enrollment period on Feb. 28.

"It's never too late to start planning for a child's college education, so I'm encouraging Texas families and individuals to remember the upcoming deadline to prepay and lock in today's rates for all or some future tuition at two- and four-year Texas public colleges and universities," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "Families will find that when it comes to planning for their children's future education, every little bit adds up."

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program, allows participants to prepay undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees by purchasing tuition units for a four-year degree, two years of community college or just a few semesters. For additional flexibility and portability, the plan also can be used at Texas medical and dental institutions; Texas private colleges or universities; out-of-state colleges or universities; or career schools, where tuition and schoolwide required fees are not locked in and the benefits and payouts would be based on the transfer value.

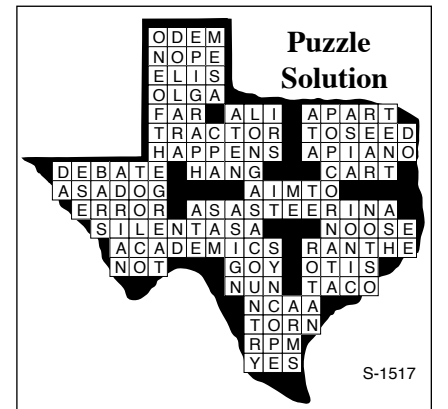
To enroll children younger than 1 in the program at 2020-21 prices, the deadline is July 31. The next general enrollment period begins on Sept. 1, with new contract prices

based on Texas public college tuition and schoolwide required fee costs for the 2021-22 academic year.

Complete plan information — including residency and other requirements, current prices, enrollment forms and more — is available online at TuitionPromise.org, or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.

The program's outreach team also offers free webinars to provide an overview of the plan and discuss the different tuition unit types and payment options, as well as provide information about Texas Match the Promise FoundationSM matching scholarship opportunities. Visit the Texas Tuition Promise Fund website for information about how to register to attend upcoming webinars and about residency and other requirements.

Participation in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund® does not guarantee admission to, or graduation from, any college or university. Only the named purchaser may direct redemptions, withdrawals, changes in the designated beneficiary or other contract changes.



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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Work continues on the latest First Bank Texas location in Willow Park. The facility will be a training center and headquarters for First Baird Bancshares Corporation.

BUSINESS

First National completes merger with First Bank Texas

First National Bank in Weatherford, chartered in 1880, has completed a merger with First Bank exa, and will continue to operate under the First Bank exa name.

According to a release from the bank, it will remain a family-owned, Texas-operated, community bank.

First Bank Texas has 16 locations throughout the west and north central regions of Texas, and will

continue to make all decisions locally. First Bank Texas is the leading community bank in its primary markets, demonstrated by its strong market shares.

"We are very excited to complete our merger with First National Bank Weatherford," said First Bank Texas President and CEO Mike Rhea. "First Bank Texas is a respected high-service community bank

with a leading position in Central and West Texas. We are proud to be under one umbrella of community banks. We look forward to building on the strong customer relationships that First National Bank has nurtured for more than 141 years."

"Our team is excited to have added several more locations," said Lin Bearden, First Bank Texas, Parker County President. "This bank

growth will help us better serve our customers. There will now be a First Bank Texas location near you in many more cities across Texas. Our employees, will continue to provide the best customer service in banking that our customers have enjoyed for many years."

The bank will remain a family-owned and operated bank, giving back to the communities it serves, as

it has for over 141 years. First Bank Texas offers a wide variety of banking products and the very latest in technology and security in banking.

First Bank Texas will open a new location in Willow Park in the summer of 2021, and that location will serve as headquarters for First Baird Bancshares Corporation.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 in San Patricio County on U.S. 77

5 TXism for "no"

6 Whitney, Manning, & UT grad Wallach noted pianist from Texas, Samaroff

8 TXism: "a ___ piece" (distant)

9 this boxer took TX Foreman's title in 1974 in Zaire

12 TXism: "come ___ at the seams"

17 a John Deere, e.g.

19 TXism: "gone ___" (deteriorated)

21 "what ___ in Vegas, stays ___"

22 instrument for 7-across (2 wds.)

23 Biden and Trump did it twice in 2020

28 TXism: "I got the ___ of it" (learned)

29 H.E.B. transport

30 TXism: "happy ___ with two tails"

31 TXism: "I ___" (intend)

35 Astro or Ranger mistake

36 TXism: "as much chance ___ packing plant"

42 TXism: "___ mummy's tomb"

44 TXism: "put my ___ head in a ___" (created trouble)

46 part of college that isn't athletics

48 "___ gauntlet"

49 TXism: "he's ___ playing with a full deck"

50 non-Jew, to a Jew

51 elevator man

52 TX-born Debbie Reynolds 1966 film: "The Singing ___"

53 TX-based restaurant chain: "___ Cabana"

54 biggest TX universities are ___ Division 1

56 late TX actor "Rip"

13 TXism: "high as ___ picture show"

14 continent for Texas mohair exports

15 TX Nimitz's rank before WWII: "___ admiral"

16 camping shelter

18 TXism: "tax wrangler" (abbr.)

20 TX Willie's "Why ___ I Have to Choose" co. prosecutor

23 ___ dir. from Marlin to Groveton

25 saloons

26 this TX Peterson is a star NFL RB

27 "Hughes ___" was the beginning of Howard's wealth

32 with 33-down, TX Willie sang "Let ___"

33 "___ Be ___"

34 Jay Novacek pos. 36 enjoyed supper 37 General Houston

38 "it's ___ of the times"

39 relating to ions

40 a Texan wants to move to the north? "___ much"

41 TX Mary Kay ___ state on Canadian border, directly north of TX (abbr.)

45 a boot width medical word for "fainting"

48 in Fisher County on highway 70

55 2nd Amendment subject



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WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Board moves forward with financing plan for new building

By Crystal Brown Woerly
Special to The Community News

The Weatherford College Board of Trustees approved moving forward with the issuance of revenue bonds in the amount of \$29.5 million to fund the construction of the Workforce and Emerging Technologies Building during their Thursday meeting.

Standard and Poor's recently awarded WC an A+ rating and the college anticipates locking in a 2.893 percent interest rate on the 30-year bond.

Administrators expect to complete the bond purchase next week and have funds in hand March 11. The first debt payment will occur in August. The bond will be paid back using revenue generated from tuition and fees.

Bond funds will also go toward the college reserves to pay back what WC has spent on construction of the building so far as approved by the board in May 2020.

The three-story, 70,000-square-foot building will allow WC workforce programs to move into the next era of job training with ample room for the college's new robotics program and future projects such as cybersecurity, automation and simulation.

The facility will also house long-time programs including machining, industrial maintenance, cosmetology and workforce health professions programs. Workforce Solutions will

be a tenant in the facility, the first such arrangement of its kind in the state.

In other business the board:

- Approved the financial reports ending Jan. 31.
- Approved the disposal of obsolete and surplus items through e-waste recycling.
- Approved the buyboard cooperative contract proposal on synthetic turf for the baseball field.
- Approved a request for proposals for fleet vehicles.
- Approved TASB policy update AD (Local) Educational Role, Mission Purpose and Responsibility.
- Approved TASB police update 40.
- Received reports on Guided Pathways, the demand study and the quality enhancement plan.
- Received an update on the demand study.
- Received an equities in athletics report.
- Received the proposed 2021-22 tuition and fees schedule.

During his President's Report, Dr. Tod Allen Farmer:

- Recognized the college's 25th annual Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebration held last week where 35 of the finest teachers from across the region were honored.

- Recognized WC alumnus Neil Noakes, a 20-year veteran of the Fort Worth Police Department, on his new position as chief of police for the City of Fort Worth.

- Congratulated associate history professor Scott Williams on having his professional paper proposal accepted for presentation at the highly selective American Historical Association Conference.

- Announced another successful Coyote Area Math Championship at WC. For next year, the 20th anniversary of the event, the event will be renamed in honor of late WC mathematics professor Pat Cook.

- Congratulated baseball players Brenden Dixon and Caden Hawkins on being named players of the week by the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference.

- Announced the retirement of Susie Brookes, humanities and sciences administrative assistant; Cheryl Livengood, associate degree nursing instructor and program director, Nancy Mulanax, WC police department records specialist, Janice Odom, fine arts secretary; and the resignation of Jaqueline Mendoza, food services worker, and Cheryl Rodriguez, dual credit and e-learning LMS administrator.

Texas Speaks Survey

Texas residents can have input on major state issues

Texas citizens of all ages can participate in a survey, Texas Speaks, now that will look at what the major issues that needs to be addressed for the next two to four years in our state. Texas Speaks is a survey giving communities throughout the state an open forum opportunity to express the strengths and needs of our communities. The survey, led by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is being conducted for the first time online and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. <https://texaspeaks.tamu.edu>

Scott Cummings, AgriLife Extension program leader for Organizational Development shares, "This is an opportunity to empower and listen to the people of Texas."

The survey aims to engage as many citizens across the state of Texas as possible while gaining accurate information to help support communities at both state and local levels.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is a grassroots organization. The organizations have involved Texas citizens and volunteers through assessing issues, planning and implementing programs and evaluating programs in Texas, since its inception. We serve and have

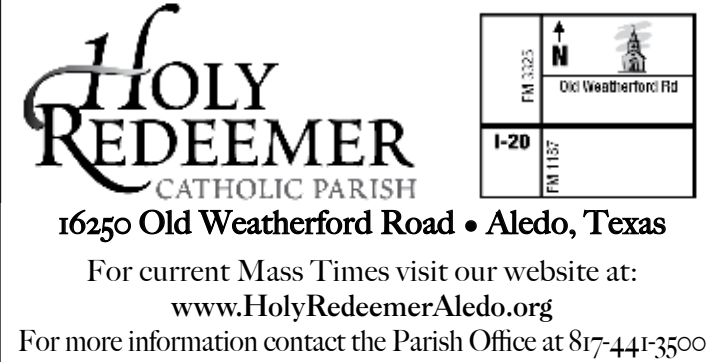
a presence in every county in the state of Texas. To help identify both the issues and successes in each county, it is important to listen to the people in all counties. The anonymous survey will be looking to understand and solve issues facing Texas communities, identifying relevant issues fundamental to the program development of AgriLife Extension, and it will include an open feedback section for areas not listed within the survey.

Data from the Texas Speaks survey will be compiled at local levels and given to stakeholders. Statewide data will be made available to state and local agencies and decision-makers.

This survey, in the past, has been conducted in person and within each county. This year's online survey allows for growth in engagement due to increased accessibility of the survey itself. The more data we have, the more representative it will be of the state.

Ten minutes of your time is not very long. It will however provide us with valuable information. We would like to have as many people as possible to participate. <https://texaspeaks.tamu.edu>

For more information or questions. Please contact the Parker County Extension Office at 817-598-6168.



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City of Annetta South, Texas

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND THE CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Annetta South, Texas will hold a public hearing at a meeting that begins at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

Further notice is given that, a second public hearing is scheduled where the request and the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission will be considered by the City Council at a meeting that begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

At such times and place, the Commission and the Council will hear and take action on a request of Ricky Ray Merz for a replat of Tax ID parcel R000108968 of the Rick Merz Estates in the City of Annetta South, Parker County, Texas. Proposed is to replat the existing lot into two lots.

Citizens are invited to attend and participate in the public hearings.

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AUCTIONS
Guns of Estate Auction - Feb. 27, 10 a.m., Wheeler County Show Barns. 50+ Guns: rifles, shotguns, handguns, ammo, 80 gun safe. See www.loydsauction.com for info & pictures. See Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers on Facebook, Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers (806) 334-0407 (Lic. 7119), Cole Wilson Auctioneers (806) 662-5796 (Lic. 17319).

Special Female Sale, Sat. Feb. 27, noon, Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Hallettsville, TX. Available to buy & bid online: LiveAuctions.TV 2.0, Margo Paetzl (937) 515-1194, Kim Hagan: (361) 293-4720, Mark Hagan: (361) 293-8116, Mike Heller: (361) 293-4949, David Heller: (979) 743-0436.

EVENTS
Southeast Texas Boat, Sport & RV Show, March 5-7, Ford Park, Beaumont, TX. See over 50 brands in 1 location! SETXBOATRVSHOW.COM.

Golden Triangle Home & Garden Show, March 5-6-7, Ford Park, Beaumont, TX. See a multitude of Home Improvement Professionals in 1 location! GoldenTriangleHomeAndGardenShow.com.

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Capital Highlights

Millions of Texans dealing with water supply issues



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Warmer temperatures over the weekend and continuing this week melted most of the snow from the state's roadways and roofs. But Texans are still dealing with broken pipes that flooded homes and businesses, damaged municipal water systems, and continued power outages in scattered areas, mainly in East and Central Texas.

At the height of the power crisis, more than four million Texans were without electrical service — a number that shrank to less than 32,000 as of Sunday, according to the PowerOutage.us website.

As of last weekend, more than half the state's population had some type of disruption in their water service, from having no water to low pressure, which made it necessary to boil water before safely using it for drinking, cooking, or bathing. Tiffany Young, spokeswoman for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, reported Friday that more than 1,300 water supply systems and 62% of Texas counties were affected.

Federal disaster declaration partially granted

Gov. Greg Abbott's request for a federal disaster declaration was partially granted on Saturday. President Joe Biden granted the request for individual assistance in 77 Texas counties (<https://tinyurl.com/3doyhwnt>). Individuals and business owners in counties included in the federal disaster declaration can begin applying for assistance online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585. Biden had previously issued a state of emergency for all of Texas, allowing FEMA to go into action.

State's power grid 'minutes' from failing; Abbott urges legislative action

As electricity demand overwhelmed capacity last week during the height of the storm, the chief of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the power grid for most of the

state, told the media that the grid came close to having a catastrophic failure that could have taken months to repair. Grid operators began rolling blackouts to cut demand. "It needed to be addressed immediately," said Bill Magness, president of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). "It was seconds and minutes (from possible failure), given the amount of generation that was coming off the system."

Abbott last Tuesday added reform of ERCOT as an emergency item this legislative session, calling the organization "anything but reliable." Also, Attorney General Ken Paxton has issued civil investigative demands to ERCOT and 11 power companies demanding documents and data related to the power outages, emergency plans, energy pricing, and other items related to the winter storm power failures. Paxton said in a press release that ERCOT and other entities "grossly mishandled" last week's winter disaster.

Abbott met with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dade Phelan, and eight members of the Legislature on Saturday to discuss how to address the spike in energy bills affecting many Texans after the power outages.

The Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, also has begun an investigation into the outages. Chairman DeAnn Walker, said, "We must act swiftly to discover not only how this crisis came together, but also take meaningful steps to protect electricity customers."

Tips on filing insurance claims for damaged homes

The Texas Department of Insurance offers several tips if filing a homeowner's claim for damage caused by broken water pipes, downed tree limbs, or other damage from the storm. TDI advises contacting your insurance company or agent as soon as possible to file a claim. Also:

Make a list of damaged property. Take pictures or video of the damage.

Take steps to protect your home from further damage. Turn off the water, cover broken windows and holes in your roof if possible. Keep receipts on anything you spend to make temporary repairs.

Try to be present when the insurance adjuster comes to inspect the damage or leave a note on how you can be reached.

Keep a list of everyone you talk to at your insurance company.

Get more than one bid, check references, and don't pay upfront.

Storm slows rate of vaccinations across Texas

Scheduled COVID-19 vaccinations were rescheduled in metro areas and vaccine hubs throughout the state due to the storm.

People in Texas vaccinated with at least one dose passed the three million mark, and 1.313 million people were fully vaccinated as of Sunday. COVID-19 vaccine distribution will ramp back up as the state recovers from the winter storms, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Nearly 600,000 first doses are coming this week from the Centers for Disease Control and are being shipped to 563 providers in 230 Texas counties.

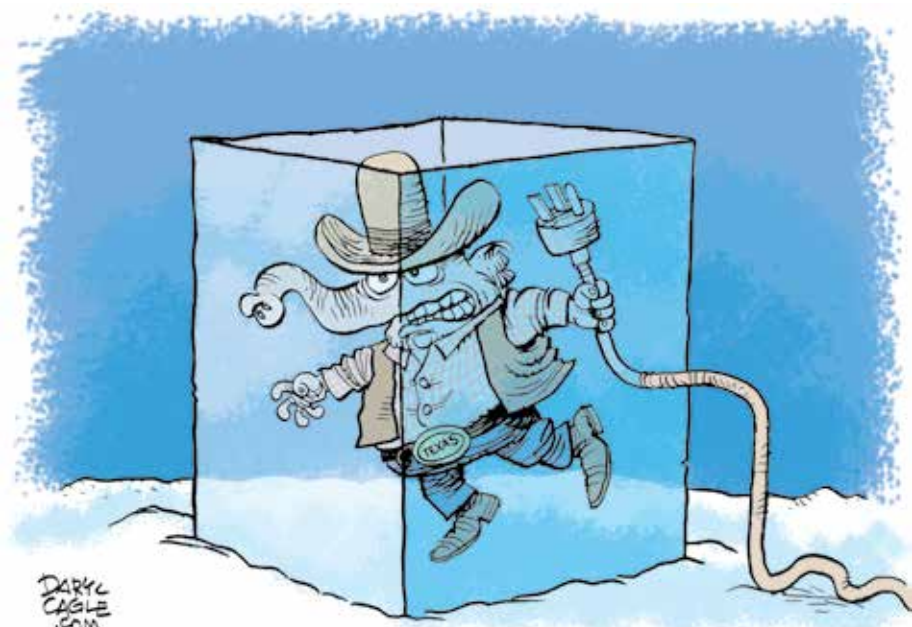
In addition, the state has ordered 364,830 second doses intended for people first vaccinated a few weeks ago. A TDSHS news release stated that people who had their second dose appointments delayed by the winter weather "should rest assured knowing that vaccine will be available, and their appointments will be rescheduled."

For more information, go to this site: <https://tinyurl.com/duocrcgb>. People without internet access can dial 2-1-1 to access information about vaccine providers.

COVID-19 cases in state continue to drop

While some reporting may have been delayed because of the storms, the Coronavirus Resource Center at the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine reported 33,423 cases in Texas last week — fewer than half reported the previous week. The number of new deaths also dropped by more than half, with 892 reported. Again, the numbers may be skewed by the storm's effects on power outages at Texas hospitals and other factors. We'll see what next week's numbers indicate.

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.



Thistles & Roses

Human error and catastrophe collide



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

We who live here in Parker County found that out the very hard and deadly way in recent days here in North Texas.

Most people, including me, had never heard of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, ERCOT. The term "reliability" does seem like an oxymoron.

At 2:55 a.m. on Feb. 15, the power went off in our house. The temperature was plunging to single digits. One faucet, despite dripping and electric heaters, had already frozen before losing power. Our family and many, many others had no clue about the ordeal we were about to endure. It would be Wednesday, Feb. 17, before power was restored in our neighborhood. And getting the well pumps turned back on and restoring water was another challenge.

The so-called rolling blackouts, designed to keep things manageable, never happened. The wheels fell off of any rolling blackouts and we found ourselves back in the primitive stone age times of having to stay by a fire just to survive. The basic needs of humans to survive are water, food, and shelter.

We were reduced to these basics as we had a fire in the fireplace and wood we had stored to burn and a roof over our heads. With no power and pipes freezing, we lost water. We had containers of fresh water. We had food in the house, but many did not. The other basic needs of indoor plumbing and going to the bathroom were problems of another nasty sort.

I have to say that Tuesday morning, Feb. 16, when the temperature went to zero and below was a major challenge and a time of despair. Without layers of clothes and a fire, I am not sure what we would have done. The roads were treacherous and there really was not a place to go. Most of our friends and neighbors were in the same boat. We were luckier than many as we have one of the few gas ranges in our neighborhood and we could make hot beverages and cook food.

On Saturday, Feb. 20, we carefully turned the well back on to discover a leak

that could have caused major damage if we had not been there. An angel of a plumber, Gerardo, was working at a neighbor's house and came right over fixed the leak in what had to be record time.

So we are more or less back to the abnormalities of life as we know it. And how it could go from zero to eighty plus degrees from one Tuesday to the next is another testament to the vagaries of Texas weather.

It was sad to hear of people who froze to death or died from various types of carbon monoxide poisoning. The reports of water damage to houses and apartments are very sad. Reports are that more than 70 people died from this event called Uri. (Where did that name come from?)

So what do we do now? Was this an act of God that was simply going to be bad no matter what, or were there human errors that occurred because of a lack of preparation and planning?

So far it seems that there were preparations that ERCOT could have made and there was a lack of candor, sometimes called lying out their rear ends, about the gravity of the situation.

Sometimes some Texans want to be so independent that we shoot ourselves in the foot. We pompously had our very own electric grid and could not borrow power from other states. The reasoning was that Texas wanted to avoid federal regulation.

Folks, I believe in self reliance and avoiding federal regulation but there are some things that private enterprise, driven by profit motivation to the detriment of society, can't or won't do.

It is interesting that ERCOT is a "non-profit" entity of some sort who contracts with private enterprise power producers. They certainly should be a non-profit because I would not have confidence in them ever to make money.

Note El Paso, so far out there in west Texas, was on another grid and had relatively few problems.

Supposedly, investigations will occur, and changes made so that we are better prepared in the future. This was supposed to happen in 2011 when we had the last event of this type.

Then things warmed up, and we forgot about it.

Really, I have little faith that we have the resolve and will actually to make the necessary changes. We will get slammed again, property will be damaged and lives needlessly lost again.

The Community News

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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 26, 2021
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BASKETBALL

Road ends at bi-district

Bearcat fall to Birdville in playoffs

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats ended their season in the playoffs against a strong Birdville team on Saturday, Feb. 13, at Richland High School.

Richland had a distinct height advantage, with two big men starting at 6-6.

"Our tallest guy on the floor is 6-5, and we've only got one of those," Bearcats' head coach JD Robinson said after the game.

When asked if he felt the height differential played a role, he responded, "We struggled on the offensive glass a couple times, you know, allowing them to get some extra possessions, and that's hard to overcome at times."

But the bigger factor in the game seemed to be that Birdville got really hot in the second and fourth quarters.

"We missed some assignments a couple times there on 22 (junior guard Chase Henderson, who scored 23 points against the Bearcats)", Robinson said. "We let him get loose. That was a big game plan of ours, to contest every shot that he took, and we didn't do a good job — we got lost on him a couple of times and that hurt us."

"But I was proud of the guys, you know, we fought hard. We just have to get over that hump of winning a playoff game. We turned the ball over too much and didn't do a good enough job on the glass and we've got to do those things to win playoff games."

It looked like Birdville might run away with the game early, jumping out to a 6-0 lead before Robinson called a timeout.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sophomore Xavier Anderson is fouled going to the basket in the first quarter during Aledo's bi-district game against Birdville on Feb. 20.

The Bearcats quickly adapted and came back, first on a put-back by junior guard Daniel Sohn, and then on a three-pointer by junior Peyton Wiggins to pull the Bearcats within one point before sophomore Xavier Anderson scored for the Bearcats on an offensive rebound to give the 'Cats

seven unanswered points and a one-point lead.

Anderson was the breakout player of the game, putting in perhaps his best game performance of the season.

Robinson said there were plans to make Anderson a starter earlier in the season,

but a COVID-19 quarantine delayed those plans.

"He brings another dimension for us defensively. And he is such a great motor, it just goes nonstop. He crashes the offensive glass really well, and just always gives us a burst. I

Turn to **HOOPS**, page 10



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Junior Peyton Wiggins sunk a three-pointer early in the game for the Bearcats.

ON THE SIDE

Spring Sports

FEBRUARY 25-27

Baseball - Southwest Ford Classic in Aledo - TBA

FEBRUARY 26

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

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

Varsity Tennis at Grapevine Tournament, Away

Var Boys' Golf at Bearcat Brawl, Home, VAR - 8 AM

Var Girls' Golf at Burleson Tournament, Away, VAR - 8 AM

MARCH 2

Boys' Soccer - vs Granbury, Away, VAR - 7 p.m.

Girls' Soccer vs. Granbury, Home, VAR - 7 p.m.

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

MARCH 3

JV Tennis at Chisholm Tr Tournament, Away

MARCH 4

Track & Field at Brewer JV, Away

Softball vs. Var Coppell Tournament, Away

MARCH 4-6

Baseball - DFW Clash Tourney - TBA

MARCH 5

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

Girls' Soccer vs. WF Rider, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m. (SENIOR NIGHT)

Varsity Tennis at Chisholm Tr Tournament, Away

Var Girls' Golf at Lady Pirate Tournament, Away, VAR - 8 AM

MARCH 6

Softball vs. JV Hillsboro Tournament, Away

Track & Field at Brewer Var, Away

MARCH 8

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

MARCH 9

Boys' Soccer vs. Wichita Falls, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m. (SENIOR NIGHT)

Girls' Soccer vs. Wichita Falls, Away, VAR - 5:30 p.m.

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

MARCH 10

JV Boys' Golf at Chick-Fil-A Tournament, Away, JV - 8 a.m.

Track & Field at Bearcat Relays JV

MARCH 11

Varsity Tennis at Timbercreek Tournament, Away

Track & Field at Bearcat Var, Home

Softball at JV Brock Tournament, Away

Turn to **SPRING**, page 8



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SOCCER

Bearcats shoot it out past Brewer

First district win for 'Cats

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo soccer team defeated visiting Brewer on the strength of a shootout at Bearcat Stadium on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

After a scoreless first half, goalkeeper Rylan Yates made a stop, and roughly 10 minutes later the Bearcats, on a two-pass play, scored when Dylan Dobransky kicked the ball past Brewer's goalkeeper. Dobransky was assisted by Tyler Oetinger. Brewer came back and scored with about eight minutes left to tie the score at 1-1.

The Bearcats had a chance for the win with 53 seconds left when a penalty kick missed the corner of the net by just a couple of inches. The buzzer sounded with the score tied at 1-1.

In the ensuing shootout, Brewer missed its first kick and Aledo's kick by Rylan Shaffer was blocked.

The next three kicks went in for both teams, as Aledo's Dobransky, Josh Zenteno, and Jace Sims each found pay dirt in the net.

Turn to **SOCCER**, page 8



LEFT: Senior Jacob Costello threatens the Brewer goal during district action at Bearcat Stadium on Feb. 23.. | RIGHT: Senior Tyler Oetinger charges toward the Brewer gol during action Tuesday, Feb. 23, at Bearcat Stadium.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Matt Morris

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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.

<p>First Public Hearing</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Time:</p>	<p>Planning and Zoning Commission</p> <p>Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008</p> <p>Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:00 PM.</p>
<p>Second Public Hearing</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Time:</p>	<p>City Council Meeting</p> <p>Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008</p> <p>Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:00 PM.</p>

The purpose of the hearings is to receive input regarding consideration the following:

- 1) Public Hearing to consider rezoning from (R-1) Single Family Residential District to (C-1) Commercial District- Office, Light Retail, and Neighborhood Services, Lot 46, Block 1, Parker Station Addition, located in the 500 block of Old Annetta Road.
- 2) Public Hearing to consider amending the City of Aledo Zoning Ordinance to establish criteria for Food Truck Parks and to classify Food Truck Parks as a permitted land use with the City Council's discretionary approval of a Specific Use Permit in the following zoning districts of the city:
 - a. A- A Agricultural District
 - b. C-1 - Commercial District - Office, Light Retail, and Neighborhood Services
 - c. C-2 - Commercial District- General
 - d. C-3 - Commercial District- Heavy
 - e. M-1- Manufacturing/Industrial District- Light
 - f. M-2- Manufacturing/Industrial District- Heavy
 - g. DB - Downtown Business District

For further information or questions regarding these public hearings, please contact Gretchen Vazquez or Betty Chew, at telephone number (817) 441-7016.

Published in *The Community News*, February 26, 2021 and posted at Aledo City Hall February 22, 2021

Deana McMullen, City Secretary

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SPRING

from page six

MARCH 11-13

Baseball - Drew Medford Classic at Paschal/Heights - TBA

MARCH 12

Boys' Soccer - Covid Make-Up

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

Var Girls' Golf at Burleson Tournament, Away, VAR - 8 AM

MARCH 16

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

MARCH 17

Girls' Soccer vs. Azle, VAR - 11 a.m.

MARCH 19

Baseball vs. Abilene High - Away - 5 p.m.

MARCH 20

Baseball vs. Joshua - Home - 1 p.m.

MARCH 22

Boys' Soccer vs. Alvarado or COVID Make-Up, VAR - TBA

MS Track & Field - TBD, Home

MARCH 23

Baseball vs. Brewer - Away - 7 p.m.

Boys' Soccer - Covid Make-Up

JV Tennis at Quad Match, Away

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

MARCH 25

JV Girls' Golf at Brock Tournament, Away

Track & Field at Decatur Tour JV, Away

MARCH 26

Baseball vs. Brewer - Home - 7 p.m.

Varsity Tennis at Quad Match, Away

Softball vs. Wichita Falls, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5 p.m.

Track & Field at Decatur Tour Var, Away

MARCH 30

Baseball vs. Granbury - Home - 7 p.m.

JV Tennis at Grapevine Tournament, Home

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

MS Track & Field at Granbury, Away

APRIL 1

Baseball vs. Granbury - Away - 7 p.m.

Varsity Tennis at Grapevine Tournament, Home

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

APRIL 8

MS Track & Field at Burleson Hughes, Away

APRIL 9

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

APRIL 10

Baseball vs. Trinity - Away - 1 p.m.

SOCCER

from page seven

Coming down to the final kick, Yates blocked the Brewer attempt, and Oetinger's kick went past Brewer's goalkeeper for the Aledo win.

Aledo head coach Derek Vierling said Chad Petro and Jacob Costello led the defense.

The Bearcats' record is not 7-4-3 overall, and 1-3-2 in district, where they are currently in fourth place.

The Ladycat soccer team defeated Brewer on the road on Tuesday, 3-1.

Grace Ornelas, Ashlyn Laughley, and McKenna Vela scored for the Ladycats, with Madison Bilbia assisting Laughley's goal.

The Ladycats are 3-2 in district 8-4 overall.

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 12 issue of *The Community News*, we mis-identified Josh Zenteno as Taylon Kessler. We regret the error.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo goalkeeper Rylan Yates (0) makes a stop during Aledo's contest with Brewer on Feb. 23.

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Four Ladycat swimmers headed to state meet

Staff Reports
The Community News

Four Aledo Ladycats will represent AHS at the UIL State Swim Meet on Tuesday, March 2, at the North East ISD Natatorium (just north of San Antonio).

The Girls 200 yard Medley Relay team, composed of Kamryn Kupper, Maddie Edwards, Ava Willis, and Breanna Olivieri, placed first at the regional swim meet to qualify for the competition.

Edwards also qualified individually in the Girls 100 Freestyle and the Girls 100 Breaststroke.

The road to state began at the District 5-5A Swim Meet in Mansfield on Jan. 21. The district competition for Aledo includes Azle, Granbury, Wichita Falls, Wichita Falls Rider, Wichita Falls Hirschi, Burkburnett, Decatur, and Boyd.

Boys competing included Porter Lane (Fr) in 100 yard freestyle and 100 yard Butterfly. Travis Decker (Jr) in 50 yard freestyle and 100 yard backstroke. Also, Sam Ogden (So.) competed and advanced to Regionals with 1st place finishes in both the 200 yard Individual Medley (2:08.12) and the 100 yard Backstroke (57.83).

Girls District competitors: The 200 yard Medley Relay team placed 1st, with a time of 1:58.99, and consisted of Kamryn Kupper (backstroke), Maddie Edwards (breaststroke), Ava Willis (butterfly), and Madi McDonald (freestyle). 200 yard Freestyle: Kiera Gregg (Jr) 2nd place (2:08.00), 200 yard IM: Kamryn Kupper (So) 2nd place (2:25.47). 50 yard freestyle: Breanna Olivieri (Fr) 1st place (26.84), Mia Flowers (So.) 6th place (29.82), 100 yard butterfly: Ava Willis (So) 2nd place (1:03.48), 100 yard freestyle: Maddie Edwards(Jr) 1st place (56.25), Breanna Olivieri (Fr) 4th place (1:00.21), Madi McDonald(Fr) 5th place (1:01.39). 500 yard



Bearcat and Ladycat swimmers at the district swim meet included (from left) Kamryn Kupper, Kiera Gregg, Madi McDonald, Travis Decker, coach Tiffany Williams, Maddie Edwards, Ava Willis, and Sam Ogden. Not pictured: Breanna Olivieri, Porter Lane, Mia Flowers, and Abby Morrison. Kupper, Edwards, Willis, and Olivieri qualified for the state swim meet on March 2.

freestyle: Kiera Gregg (Jr) 2nd place (5:42.56). 200 yard Freestyle Relay team placed 1st with a time of 1:49.25, and included Kamryn Kupper, Ava Willis, Madi McDonald, and Maddie Edwards. 100 yard backstroke: Kamryn Kupper (So.)

4th place (1:07.19), Ava Willis (So) 6th place (1:08.90), and Madi McDonald(Fr) 9th (1:11.19).

100 yard Breaststroke: Maddie Edwards won 1st place with 1:10.54.

The Regional Swim Meet was also held in Mansfield on Feb. 5-6.

This year's COVID-19 protocol meant the 2021 UIL Swim and Dive post-season structure was changed from previous years to decrease the number of swimmers at the Regional and State meets. This made it even more difficult

for swimmers to advance, as the changes meant only the top four places in each event, individual and relays, qualified to advance to the Regional meet in February. In prior years, the top six places at District advanced to Regionals. At Regionals, for 2021, only the first-place swimmer per event in each of eight Regions automatically advances to State (previous years it was the top two finishers). After that, the next eight swimmers with the best regional final times overall advance to the State meet. Aledo's Region 2 includes Districts 5-8, and includes 38 schools. Meaning, this year, there will be 16 swimmers (or relay teams if a relay event) advancing to the State Swim and Dive Meet instead of 24 per previous years' rules.

Regional Swim Meet

Results

- **Girls 200 yard Medley Relay:** 1st place with a time of 1:55.00, team included Kamryn Kupper, Maddie Edwards, Ava Willis, and Breanna Olivieri.
- **Girls 200 Freestyle:** Kiera Gregg 10th place (2:11.48)
- **Girls 200 IM:** Kamryn Kupper 5th place (2:26.11)
- **Boys 200 IM:** Sam Ogden 5th place (2:06.69)
- **Girls 50 Freestyle:** Breanna Olivieri 5th place (26.60)
- **Girls 100 Butterfly:** Ava Willis 2nd place (58.79)
- **Girls 100 Freestyle:** Maddie Edwards 1st place (55.37) also, Breanna Olivieri 11th place (1:00.21)
- **Girls 500 Freestyle:** Kiera Gregg 10th place (5:47.79)
- **Girls 200 Freestyle Relay** placed 2nd with time of 1:45.77, team included K.Kupper, A. Willis, B. Olivieri, and M. Edwards
- **Girls 100 Backstroke:** Kamryn Kupper 7th place (1:06.33)
- **Girls 100 Breaststroke:** Maddie Edwards 1st place (1:09.14)
- **Boys 100 Backstroke:** Sam Ogden 3rd place (57.49)
- - State Qualifier

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HOOPS

from page six

thought he did an exceptional job on 23 (junior Daniel Sykes) — 23 is a really good player for them. 'X' did a great job guarding him and held him to six points, which was very pretty big."

Birdville responded, scoring off an Aledo turnover, and then Anderson was fouled attempting to score. He made one of the free throws to knot the score at 8-8.

Birdville responded with a score, but senior Landry Simmons sunk one of his patented three-pointers to put the Bearcats back up. Sohn closed out the quarter with a scoring drive to the basket that put Aledo up 13-10 at the end of the first quarter.

Birdville dominated the second quarter. Anderson tipped in a basket after a Birdville score, but Birdville got hot, sinking three treys and a basket to go up by 10, 15-25.

Simmons hit another three-pointer, but Birdville scored on an offensive rebound. Simmons responded with another three, but

Birdville scored again before Cam Yielding gave the Bearcats another two points as the half came to a close with the Bearcats down 23-29.

Aledo gained back a point of its deficit in the third quarter, holding Birdville to seven points but only scoring eight. Aledo's scored came on a drive and a score under the bucket by Anderson, a basket by junior Clark Crawford under the bucket, and two free throws by Sohn.

Birdville had another hot fourth quarter, matching its second-quarter 17 points. The Bearcats scored by working the ball in to Sohn, followed by two free throws by Sohn.

Sohn also scored on a full-court fast break and a drive to the basket.

At the end of the game senior Braedyn Eicke came off the bench and sunk a three-pointer.

The fourth quarter was marred by a technical foul called against Aledo about halfway through the quarter.

Anderson dove on the floor after a loose ball, and a Birdville player jumped on top of him. Anderson pushed the player off

of him. The refs called a technical foul against Anderson.

"They [refs] told me after the game they screwed that up," Robinson said. "He got on the floors on the ball and the kid jumped on top of him — they should have called a technical on him [Birdville player]."

The Bearcats ended the season with a 20-6 record.

"Any time you win 20 games, it's I think it's a really good year," Robinson said. "I'm not a big silver lining kind of guy though. We want to win a playoff game. We had a chance to win a district title. We were knocking at the door on a few program opportunities to really put us over the hump. We just have to keep getting better, bottom line, we just have to get back to work. I don't know how to do anything else."

The team will have 12 returning players next year, losing only two seniors.

"We have some good guys that are going to be able to step in and we're going to miss Landry [Simmons] without a doubt. He's just such a good program guy,

such a great teammate, just super, super selfless. We're going to miss all those games with his leadership on the floor and off the floor. He came at the right time, and hopefully, our guys have learned a lot from him.

"We're gonna really miss him and [Braedyn] Eicke as well — he's a behind-the-scenes guy, and he does such a great job of just showing up every day and giving his best. They are both really good leaders, on and off the floor. And so, we're gonna miss that."

The roster will be full of senior leadership next season, and has younger players to step up as well.

"Drew Clock and Exavier Anderson — those guys are going to step in, and I think keep it rolling. So I'm excited about what we have. I think we're gonna be a lot more seasoned next year — experience matters"

Aledo vs. Birdville

Aledo	13	10	8	11	42
Birdville	12	17	7	17	53

Daniel Sohn 14, Landry Simmons 9, Exavier Anderson 9, Peyton Wiggins 3, Braedyn Eicke 3, Clark Crawford 2, Cam Yielding 2



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Junior Clark Crawford goes to the basket late in the game.

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