

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

### Good News is coming

As we head toward the end of a difficult year, we here at *The Community News* want to wish you a safe, healthy, and blessed holiday season.

Next week will be our annual *Good News issue*, and we promise it will contain good news!

We do plan to get it to press early and our office will be closed the week of Christmas.

On a sadder note, we learned that Kenton Harvey, former pastor of Aledo Church of Christ, passed away this week. We do not have details at press time, but wanted to make the community aware, as Kenton was a very long-time resident and community leader.

## ALEDO

### Council hears citizen feedback

By Melissa Winn  
The Community News

Modifications to the design process for North Pine Street improvements were recently approved after representatives from Kimley-Horn outlined public wants and needs.

Kimley-Horn's Ivan Gonzalez outlined for Council members the Pine Street and Aledo Commons projects commented on by residents after the original designs were put on the internet for input.

But Gonzalez stated now that the first two tasks – data collection and conceptual design – were completed on Pine Street, final design would be temporarily put on hold in order to evaluate costs related to the proposed improvements.

Traffic flow, drainage, and the coordination of existing rights-of-way, among other items, caused Kimley-Horn to halt moving into the last stage.

Additionally, some residents expressed concern over proposed traffic routes on the plan that they said would create more cars "speeding through" their neighborhood.

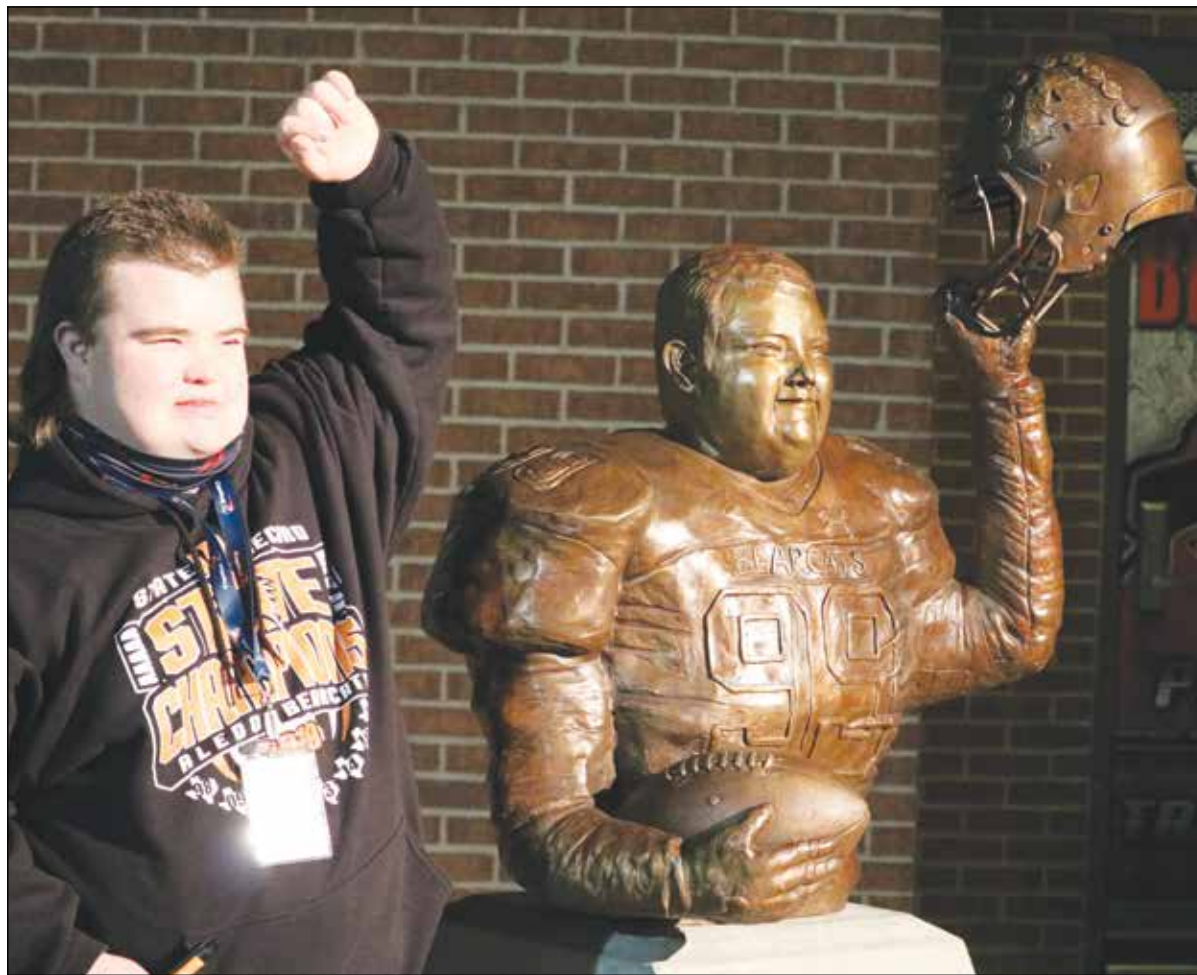
"A lot of plans look great on paper but disregard actual consequences," one resident noted.

Gonzalez addressed those concerns by saying that traffic analysts would review traffic patterns and also implement abatements like trees, narrower lanes and on-street parking to try to alleviate the ability to ignore posted speed limits.

"It might also be worth having police officers there to help with compliance," he said.

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## Lasting Honor



BRELEIGH MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Blaze Mayes is shown next to a bust that was unveiled in his honor at the western end of Bearcat Stadium on Thursday, Dec. 10. Mayes was a Bearcat team favorite before he graduated from Aledo High School.**

### Blaze Mayes honored with bust unveiling

By Mercedes Mayer  
Special to The Community News

As was the case anytime Blaze Mayes entered the football game for Aledo over the last few years, Mayes stole the show again last Thursday night. Only this time, it was to permanently be part of Bearcat football lore.

The Aledo football team unveiled a bust of fan- and team-favorite Mayes – a student-athlete with Down syndrome who graduated from Aledo High School last year – on Thursday during halftime of Aledo's 77-13 bi-district playoff win over Dallas Hillcrest at Bearcat Stadium. The statue sits in the southwest corner of the stadium near the entrance to the Bearcats' locker room.

"Blaze was a very important part of this program and has been for a very long time," Aledo ISD athletic director Steve Wood said. "A lot of his classmates were very close to Blaze, and they wanted to leave something here to always look at and think of Blaze Mayes coming off the field, raising that helmet up and getting the crowd fired up."

"We'll have Blaze here as long as this stadium is here."

Houston sculptor Shirley Scarpetta, who specializes in bronze sculptures, completed the



bust after parents of Mayes' former teammates raised the funds to pay for it. It was installed at Bearcat Stadium without the Mayes family knowing.

With the Mayes family in the end zone to celebrate the unveiling of the Bearcats' ninth state championship monument, attention turned to the west end zone for the surprise unveiling with former teammates as well as members of the current Bearcats team surrounding the statue and cheering on Mayes.

"This place is special," said Dr. Les Mayes, Blaze's father.

"The parents are special and the kids are special. There was a weight on our shoulder trying to find a place to raise Blaze, and there's not a perfect place out there but this is as close as it gets. This is special."

A video of Blaze Mayes entering the Bearcats' 2018 state title game as a wide receiver went viral with ESPN, Fox Sports Southwest and other media outlets sharing it.

The bust shows Mayes cradling a football with his right hand while raising his Aledo helmet with his left hand.

## ALEDO ISD

### Trustees approve new campus names

More teacher workdays ok'd

By Melissa Winn  
The Community News

It was a busy night for Aledo ISD trustees Monday as a calendar update, new campus names, bond progress and the schematic design for McAnally Intermediate Renovation were all approved.

Elementary school No. 6 will now be Annetta Elementary School; Middle School No. 2 will be McAnally Middle School; the current McAnally addition/conversion to elementary will now be Vandagriff Elementary School and the current Vandagriff conversion will become Aledo ISD Early Childhood Academy.

The new Annetta Elementary School name is effective immediately, while the other changes will happen as construction is closer to completion.

Prior to the name changes, Tyler Boswell, Director of Construction and Facilities, updated the board on the status of the numerous projects.

He showed drone photos of Annetta Elementary and said that things are progressing rapidly. Recently, two concrete pours have taken place and framing was scheduled on Friday. Boswell said the project was a bit ahead of schedule and that there were about 100 people on site and more crews are anticipated in the coming days.

McAnally Middle School (Middle School No. 2) recently had about 13 contractors show interest in working on the project and Boswell said he expects construction to begin in mid-January.

Board members later approved the schematic design for the McAnally Intermediate renovation, which includes a 9,000 square-foot storm shelter and an overall 100,000 square-foot layout.

For the second time this school year, the board approved an update to the calendar in order to add two teacher work days/student holidays in the spring.

Students will now be off on Feb. 12 and March 22 to allow teachers more time to plan and prepare, communicate with students and parents, grade assignments and input grades and create and load content in the learning management systems (for

Turn to **AISD**, page A3



Volume 30, Number 51  
Published Weekly

### Drive Thru Santa

Kids visit Santa in a new way at Aledo United Methodist Church.

PAGE B3

### Three more...

Three more Aledo Bearcats commit to universities.

PAGE A2



### Playoff record

The Aledo Bearcats tied their bi-district scoring record last week.

PAGE A6

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## Signing Day

Three Aledo Bearcats signed with their chosen universities on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 16.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**LEFT:** Chris Wright signed with the University of North Texas. He is shown with Mardra Floyd, Bobby Wright, and Felisha Wright. | **CENTER:** DeMarco Roberts will play football at Lamar University. He is shown with Jacoby Roberts, Jetori Campbell, and Jacoby Roberts, Sr. | **RIGHT:** JoJo Earle signed with the University of Alabama. He is shown with Cedric Robinson, James Williams, Teresa Robinson, and Traci Williams.

## 5 tips to protect your pet during the holidays

We all know that cats and dogs love to chew (and unfortunately swallow) a surprising array of household items. In fact, one of the most common claims received at Trupanion, a pet insurance company, is for Foreign Body Ingestion.

The holidays, along with all of its festive decorations, provides additional chewing opportunities – and potential emergency visits to the veterinarian – for our furry friends. So as we all start to deck the halls this

holiday season, Trupanion, offers up these five holiday items (along with related mishaps from Holidays past) to keep pets away from the vet this holiday season.

1) Tinsel  
Tinsel and ribbon can cause a tangled mess in the intestines if swallowed by a pet – ideally it should not be used in households with cats.

2) Ornaments  
Make sure to hang any small or fragile ornaments

high enough on your tree to avoid the wagging tail of your dog or a paw swipe from your cat. Keep in mind that for many cats there is no safe height.

3) Holiday lights  
Pets are drawn to holiday lights, just like we are. The only difference is they may be tempted to chew on them. Be sure to also keep the electrical cords taped down or out of reach.

4) Turkey bones  
Bones from turkey and other traditional main

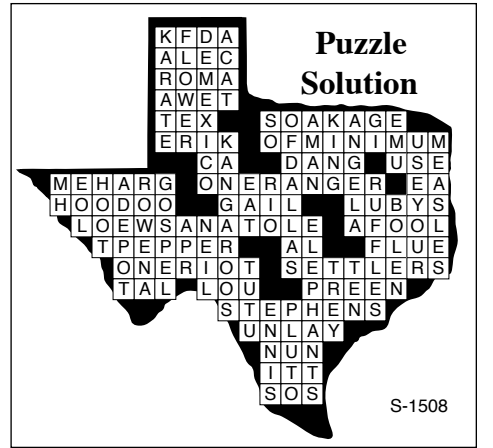
courses around the holidays can have dangerous effects when in the mouths of dogs and cats. Cooked bones especially can splinter and break, causing serious internal injury.

5) Holiday plants and trees

Many holiday plants can cause gastrointestinal upset if ingested by your dog or cat; these include holly, mistletoe, and amaryllis. Lilies are also extremely toxic for cats, even contact with the pollen or water in

the vase may be enough to cause kidney failure.

“If you have a Christmas tree, make sure it is secure – it doesn’t take much for a cat or excited dog to knock it over,” said Dr. Sarah Nold, Staff Veterinarian at Trupanion. “You should also take care to restrict your pet’s access to the tree’s water or ingestion of the tree’s needles, because both may cause vomiting and diarrhea, and can contribute to a tipped tree.”



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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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# Obituaries



**Charlie Pyeatt**

## Charles Delbert Pyeatt, Jr.

Charles Delbert Pyeatt, Jr., passed away peacefully at his home Dec. 6, 2020, with his daughter, Sharla, who was also his caretaker, by his side.

"Charlie," as he was known by family and friends, was dearly loved and his sense of humor and smile will be greatly missed. He was a Fort Worth native, attended Arlington Heights High School, and graduated from Texas Tech University. Charlie worked for Johns Manville, downtown Fort Worth, for many years until his retirement.

Charlie was preceded in death by his wife, Sherry; parents, C.D. Pyeatt, Sr., and Katherine; and brother, Ronald "Dodie" Pyeatt.

Survivors include daughters, Debra (Paul) Lee, Melissa Cheatham and Sharla (Joe) Thompson; grandchildren, Chase and Taylor Lee, Drew and Macey Cheatham, and Shelby and Charlie Thompson; sister-in-law, Janice Pyeatt; brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Pat Sinex; and nieces, Jana Allen, Leigh Ann Ranslem, Jennifer Abramzyk and Sarah Greene.

The Community News  
December 18, 2020

# AISD

from page one

both remote and quarantined students).

Feb. 16, which was already a student holiday but a professional learning day for teachers, will now be converted to a teacher work day.

As was previously the case, this change is possible because the district is using minutes already built into the calendar so it will not extend the school year. The district still has a day and a half available, in addition to two bad weather days to work with, if necessary.

Camp Fire, which hosts after-school care for Aledo ISD elementary campuses, will offer paid childcare for Aledo ISD students on the dates that were changed. Parents and guardians can find information and register at <https://>

[www.campfirefw.org/after-school/aledo-isd/](http://www.campfirefw.org/after-school/aledo-isd/).

Earlier this year, the board approved an updated calendar that turned Oct. 30, Nov. 13 and Dec. 18 (previously a half-day) into full student holidays after teachers were feeling overwhelmed keeping up with the additional workload placed upon them due to the loss of planning periods due to remote learning.

Deputy Superintendent Lynn McKinney said at Monday's meeting that the district had received "positive feedback" from teachers and staff about being given extra time to catch up.

"We have received great feedback that teachers have been very appreciative of that time to work and meet and take care of all of the things we ask them to do," McKinney said. "The principals have given very positive feedback that it has been very helpful."

## ACROSS

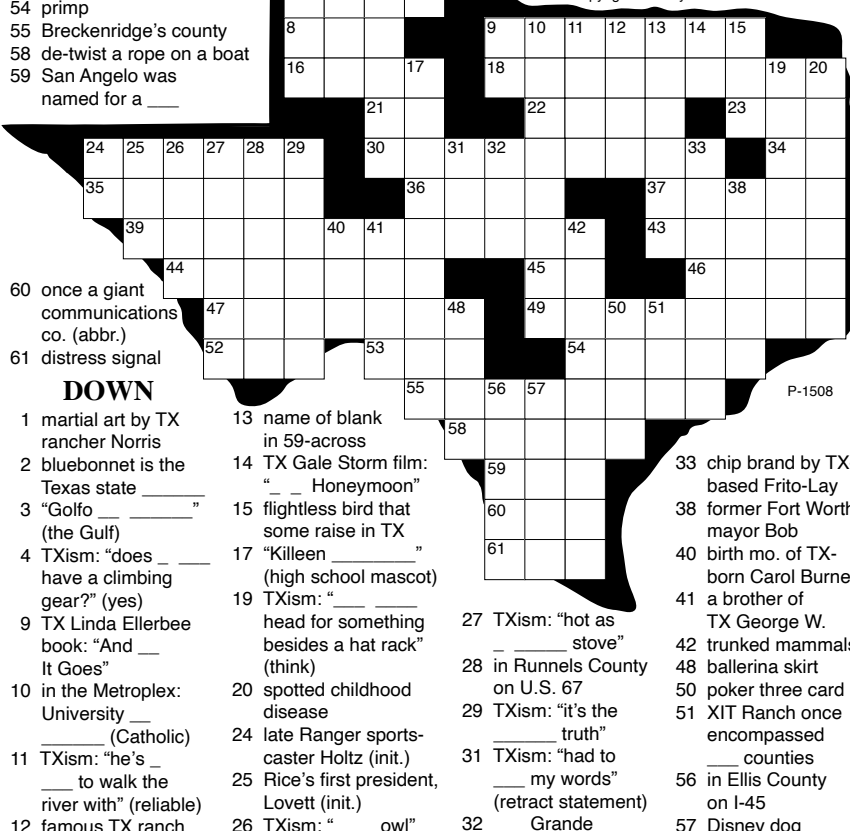
- 1 Amarillo TV station
- 5 Baldwin of "Aviator" about TX Hughes
- 6 in Starr County on U.S. 83
- 7 TXism: "shaking like \_\_\_ dog"
- 8 Texas State Fair icon: "Big \_\_\_"
- 9 oil leakage results in the ground?
- 16 this Estrada starred with TX Fairchild in TV's "Honeyboy"
- 18 TAAS replaced "Texas Assessment \_\_\_ Skills"
- 21 state of Rangers foe Angels (abbr.)
- 22 TX Roger Miller tune: "\_\_\_ Me"
- 23 TXism: "\_\_\_ it or lose it"
- 24 "Ma's" secretary of state, Emma G.
- 30 with 47-across, Texas Ranger motto (2 wds.)
- 34 he was "Mingo" when TX Fess was "Daniel" (init.)
- 35 old Mason County feud: "\_\_\_ War"
- 36 TX Borden of milk condensing fame
- 37 TX cafeteria
- 39 once a big Dallas hotel (2 wds.)
- 43 TXism: "\_\_\_ and his money are soon parted"
- 44 TX soda namesake: Charles \_\_\_

## DOWN

- 1 martial art by TX rancher Norris
- 2 bluebonnet is the Texas state \_\_\_
- 3 "Golfo \_\_\_" (the Gulf)
- 4 TXism: "does \_\_\_ have a climbing gear?" (yes)
- 9 TX Linda Ellerbee book: "And \_\_\_ It Goes"
- 10 in the Metroplex: University \_\_\_
- 11 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ to walk the river with" (reliable)
- 12 famous TX ranch
- 13 name of blank in 59-across
- 14 TX Gale Storm film: "\_\_\_ Honeymoon"
- 15 flightless bird that some raise in TX
- 17 "Killeen \_\_\_" (high school mascot)
- 19 TXism: "\_\_\_ head for something besides a hat rack" (think)
- 20 spotted childhood disease
- 24 late Ranger sportscaster Holtz (init.)
- 25 Rice's first president, Lovett (init.)
- 26 TXism: "\_\_\_ owl"
- 27 TXism: "hot as \_\_\_ stove"
- 28 in Runnels County on U.S. 67
- 29 TXism: "it's the \_\_\_ truth"
- 31 TXism: "had to \_\_\_ my words" (retract statement)
- 32 \_\_\_ Grande
- 33 chip brand by TX-based Frito-Lay
- 38 former Fort Worth mayor Bob
- 40 birth mo. of TX-born Carol Burnett
- 41 a brother of TX George W.
- 42 trunked mammals
- 48 ballerina skirt
- 50 poker three card
- 51 XIT Ranch once encompassed \_\_\_ counties
- 56 in Ellis County on I-45
- 57 Disney dog

# TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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# ALEDO

from page one

The money that was initially set for the final design phase will be repurposed to be used on the additional storm drain calculations, paving design, street plans and other items that need to be reworked for the conceptual design of Pine Street Plaza to be workable.

Council approved the item, and it was also noted that in addition to more design work, conversation with TxDOT will also be needed on crosswalks and street designs.

Back in November, a request for input from the public was initially requested for not only the Pine Street Trailhead Plaza but

also on Aledo Commons.

The Aledo Commons concept was created based on the City's previously agreed upon vision and it included an amphitheater, multi-activity spaces, a crosswalk and expanded parking.

The Pine Street concept has both business and activity spaces, a proposed trail to connect to Farm-to-Market Road 1187, and an area for art.

There was a total of 68 comments received (46 on Pine Street and 22 on Aledo Commons) and those were taken into consideration and analyzed by Kimley-Horn representatives and city staff before being presented to council members at the last meeting on Dec. 10.



**Eggleston King, LLP has established a new permanent scholarship endowment with the Weatherford College Foundation. Pictured at the historic 1879 bell are Jim Eggleston and WC President Tod Allen Farmer.**

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



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Capital Highlights

# Supreme Court rejects Texas AG's lawsuit



**Cris Cobler**  
ccobler@texaspress.com

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton challenging the results of the presidential election.

President Donald Trump and 17 Republican attorneys generals had joined the lawsuit, which asked the Supreme Court to toss out the elections in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The lawsuit claimed the states "exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to justify ignoring federal and state election laws and unlawfully enacting last-minute changes, thus skewing the results of the 2020 General Election."

Texas Democrats accused Paxton of filing the lawsuit to distract voters from his own legal problems. More than 100 Republican members of Congress signed an amicus brief supporting the Texas lawsuit.

Sen. John Cornyn, the senior Texas Republican, did not. He told CNN that "I frankly struggle to understand the legal theory of it. No. 1, why would a state, even such a great state as Texas, have a say-so on how other states administer their elections? We have a diffused and dispersed system and even though we might not like it, they may think it's unfair, those are decided at the state and local level and not at the national level."

**Shining less bright**

The Texas Education Agency partially extinguished STAAR for this school year because of the pandemic.

The agency said the A-F ratings would be paused for 2020-21 school year because of the disruptions to learning. Students still will take the STAAR test to provide information about individual learning.

"The last nine months have been some of the most disruptive of our lives. The challenges have been especially pronounced for our parents, teachers and students," Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in a statement. "We continue to prioritize the health and safety of students, teachers and staff in our schools this year while working to ensure students grow academically."

The Texas State Teachers Association, which has opposed the standardized testing, said the TEA's decision didn't go far enough.

"Teachers already can tell parents how their children have been performing during this school year," the teachers union said in a statement. "All the STAAR test will do is what it always has done: Measure a student's ability to take a test. And it will force teachers, who already are working long hours adapting lesson plans for virtual and in-person instruction, to waste invaluable time on STAAR preparation and administration."

**COVID black market**

Federal agents seized more than 100,000 counterfeit N95 surgical masks being stored in an El Paso warehouse.

The fake masks, likely made in China, were headed to a hospital on the East Coast, officials said. The raid was conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

ICE launched Operation Stolen Promise in April to protect U.S. consumers from fraud and other crime stemming from the pandemic.

The federal agency warns "that high public demand for access to vaccines and

treatments will lead to illegal attempts to introduce counterfeit versions of these items into U.S. and global marketplaces." In response, Homeland Security has started Operation Stolen Promise 2.0, which focuses on this emerging public health threat.

Officials urged the public to report suspected fraud involving counterfeit vaccines and treatments to covid19fraud@dhs.gov.

**Fewer surprises**

Texans' complaints about surprise medical bills are down 96 percent through the first 10 months of the year, according to a new report from the Texas Department of Insurance.

In 2019, the Texas Legislature enacted a law to address the problem of surprise medical billing. The law removed consumers who have state-regulated plans, making up about 20 percent of residents, from billing disputes between health care providers and insurance plans. The protections took effect in January.

An agency spokesman provided highlights of the report:

In the 10 months, the state agency received 37 consumer complaints about such medical bills. That compares to 854 such complaints received from January through October 2019. Most of the 2020 complaints involved confusion about coinsurance amounts or concerned health plans not regulated by the agency.

The new law enables providers and plans to resolve billing disputes through arbitration and mediation. The state agency, which helps carry out the law, established an online portal to enter the system and built a list of certified arbitrators and mediators.

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

Thistles & Roses

# Alternate reality: a Dallas team could have won Super Bowl LIV



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

When I watched the Super Bowl earlier this year and watched Patrick Mahomes lead the Kansas City Chiefs to a comeback win over the San Francisco 49ers, I thought back over 50 years and again wondered if the wrong team left Dallas.

Your reaction if you are of a relative young age is probably, "What the heck are you talking about?"

Do you remember or have you ever heard of the Dallas Texans and their double overtime win over the Houston Oilers in 1962 to win the American Football League Championship? You may have heard of Hank Stram and maybe Lynn Dawson, but how about Abner Haynes or E.J. Holub? Stram was a legendary NFL coach and Haynes was a great running back. Holub was a center/linebacker. Dawson was the quarterback.

I like to fracture metaphors and aphorisms, so, I say — "Those who don't remember history are doomed to forget it!"

But back in the 1960s when I was a young child, there were two professional football teams in Dallas: the Cowboys and the Texans. My team was the Texans and I learned the names of many of the players. I was crushed when, after defeating the Oilers, owner Lamar Hunt moved the Texans to Kansas City.

He was a wise man and a shrewd investor and he decided that Dallas was not big enough for two pro football teams. The Cowboys were here in the old NFL, and then the NFL had more money and influence than the AFL so Mr. Hunt, owning an AFL team, left town for Kansas City.

The Chiefs won Super Bowl IV over the Minnesota Vikings in what was considered an upset. That was the last Super Bowl before the two leagues merged into one, known today as the NFL. Holub started at center and linebacker. He played many times over 55 minutes in a game as a two-way starter. That does not happen anymore.

Turn to **THISTLES**, page A5

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**Town of Annetta North Public Notice**

"Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Annetta North will conduct a public hearing at 7:00pm on January 12, 2021, at the Annetta Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 2836 FM 5, Annetta, Texas, regarding an ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Annetta North, by rezoning Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 1 of the Underwood Hill 2nd Addition, in the Town of Annetta North, also known as property described as approximately 8.72 acres situated in the Thomas Rolston Survey, Abstract Number 923 and the Jacob Brockman Survey, Abstract Number 47, Parker County, Texas, from "AG" Agricultural to "R-2" Single-Family Residential District-2.0 Acre Lots. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and will be heard."

Robert Schmidt/ Mayor

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Merry Christmas!

# THISTLES

from page four

It took me a long time to become a Cowboy fan. I felt betrayed as a child that "my team," The Dallas Texans, would leave the state. It still seems a little odd that there is now a Houston Texans team and the Oilers moved to Tennessee and became the Titans.

I have since grown up and realize, I have teams I like to watch and I like to watch win, but they aren't "my" teams. They belong to rich guys who have no qualms about picking up the team and leaving for more money.

The Oakland Raiders were moved so many times, it takes a real trivia buff to keep up. Al Davis moved them from Oakland to Los Angeles. Then they were moved back to Oakland and now they are in Las Vegas. Davis is now deceased.

The Rams have gone from Los Angeles to St. Louis and now back to Los Angeles where they share a new SoFi stadium with the Los Angeles Chargers, who used to be the San Diego Chargers. Two teams are sharing the

same stadium in LA! There is still a St. Louis Cardinals baseball team but their football team with a similar logo became the Arizona Cardinals.

If there is a city that has been left in the lurch by professional sports it has to be San Diego. They lost their Clippers basketball team and their football team to Los Angeles. For now, they still have the Padres as their MLB baseball team. That could certainly change at any time.

I realize that there are so many things I can't control, and sports marketing and ownership are in that category. We are willing fools to throw our money at professional sports and the bottom line is just that, the bottom line. And there is the ancient adage that fools and their money are soon parted.

I still wonder just what would have happened if Lamar Hunt had kept the Texans in Dallas and gone head-to-head with the Cowboys in the same market. Maybe the Dallas Texans, lead by Patrick Mahomes, would have won the Super Bowl this year!

# Texas retired teachers launch online tutoring portal

Endeavor aims to return hope to Texas students learning from home

Texas children are living through a reality that many parents and school administrators never thought possible – learning the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, and more through videoconferencing. On Dec. 3, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) launched a new online tutoring website to help students achieve academic success, whether they are learning in a traditional classroom or from home.

"None of us have ever experienced 'distance learning' in our school system the way today's children are," said Tim Lee, Executive Director of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) and its 501(c)(3) charitable partner organization, TRTF.

"We're already seeing an impact on their academic readiness and success, and we decided to take action. By partnering with peer-tutoring platform Knack, the

TRTF Tutor Program aims to be the largest community of retired teacher tutors in Texas and the U.S.," Lee explained.

The Foundation's tutoring service will engage retired Texas public school teachers who have the experience, time, and dependability needed to engage with students of all ages and educational needs. Retired teachers onboard the platform will be able to earn extra income to support their retirement and general costs of living. The average TRS monthly pension is \$2,000 per month, and most Texas retired teachers do not receive Social Security benefits.

School students using the platform will receive the educational support they need as they adapt to virtual learning environments that have quickly become the primary mode of education for most Texas families; and parents gain access to reduced cost, reliable tutoring services focused on empowering students to succeed.



As part of the program launch, TRTF is undertaking an ambitious \$10 million fundraising effort to donate 250,000 hours of tutoring to Texas schools.

"These are unprecedented times. We have a responsibility to think bigger and do more than ever," Lee said. "Just imagine the difference we can make together by connecting thousands of Texas

retired teachers with our students and schools. TRTF is also calling on all interested TRS retirees to consider being a tutor on the platform. Our belief is that demand will be very high, and we want to rise up and meet the challenge," concluded Lee.

To learn more and sign-up for the program, visit [www.trtf.org](http://www.trtf.org).

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# Sports

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CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Anatomy of a tackle: Stanton Smith brings down a Hillcrest runner.

FOOTBALL

## Bearcats' big win over Hillcrest ties record

77 points scored in bi-district game

By Mercedes Mayer  
Special to The Community-News

A classic chicken-or-the-egg argument arose last Thursday night in the form of the dominant Aledo offensive line and the Bearcats' quick, elusive running back.

Did Aledo's offensive line make DeMarco Roberts look so stellar or was it Roberts who made the O-line look good when the Bearcats racked up 285 rushing yards with about half a dozen explosive plays in a 77-13 win over Dallas Hillcrest?

"I think it goes both ways," said senior right tackle Rocco O'Keefe. "DeMarco can make us look really good on some plays, but I think we can make DeMarco look pretty good."

"Demarco can bulldoze between three defenders and juke out every guy on the field," O'Keefe said. "He's a really big part."

Roberts finished with five carries for 151 yards – a whopping 30 yards per carry – and two touchdowns, and the Bearcats established their dominance early and often to win their first-round playoff game for the 25th year in a row. Aledo will face North Forney (9-1) in the Area Round on Friday, Dec. 18, at Globe Life Park in Arlington.

"When DeMarco doesn't have to avoid a tackle until he's 10 yards down field, that means your

offensive line did a pretty good job" Aledo head football coach Tim Buchanan said.

Senior receiver JoJo Earle started the scoring with a 33-yard touchdown reception from Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi three-and-a-half minutes into the game, and that four-play drive would be the longest of Aledo's seven first-half scoring drives.

Earle had his fair share of explosive plays, too, with four receptions for 127 yards and two touchdowns in the game (the other a 69-yard TD pass from Fowler-Nicolosi). The Bearcats (8-1) had 587 total yards while giving up only 59 yards to Hillcrest.

"We talk more about getting better each week as opposed to worrying about who we are playing," Buchanan said. "You can't control how good or bad they are. You've got to work on yourselves. That's what we've done for a long time, and that's what we're trying to keep doing."

An Aledo fumble on its third possession gave Hillcrest a short field, but Stanton Smith's sack of Hillcrest quarterback Carter Sido forced the Panthers into a 36-yard field goal attempt, which was good.

Cue Roberts. In Aledo's ninth one-play drive of the year, Roberts shook off three would-be tacklers for a 59-yard touchdown run and a 14-3 Aledo lead.

Hillcrest responded with a 12-play drive capped off by another Reed Malphurs field goal – this



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
Jason Llewellyn pulls in a touchdown pass against Hillcrest.

Turn to FOOTBALL, page A7



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jaedon Pellegrino (2) crosses the goal line in traffic against Hillcrest.

FOOTBALL

## Bearcats look to North Forney

Elimination game for early scrimmage opponents

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats football team is no stranger to playing on the weekend before Christmas. Having made nine state title appearances since 2009, it has almost become a tradition. However, this year is a little different. The Bearcats are only in the second round of the playoffs due to the COVID-19 four-week delay to the start of the season. While classes 4A-1A will be at AT&T Stadium playing for their state championships, Aledo will be just across the street at Globe Life Park in Arlington to take on the North Forney Falcons.

If that team name sounds familiar, it is! North Forney came to Bearcat Stadium back in September for the scrimmage that opens every season. Both teams have changed in a lot of ways since that scrimmage, but it was still a window into

what can be expected on Friday afternoon.

Aledo will go into the game as the favorite to advance to the regional semifinals, but it will not be an easy task. North Forney comes in averaging 42 points per game behind senior quarterback Jacob Acuna. The six-foot signal caller already has more than 1,500 yards passing and 14 touchdowns on the season. Kameron Allen has been on the receiving end for eight of those touchdowns. The duo could give the Bearcat secondary some trouble. Senior running back Ty Collins joins Acuna in the backfield for the Falcons. Collins only needs 17 yards to eclipse 1,200 for the year.

Defensively, the Falcons average giving up 22 points a game. The defensive front is the strong point. Statistically, the Falcon defense is no different than Mansfield Timberview's defense. If the Bearcat offense can get the push up front and use both aspects of the offense

Turn to FORNEY, page A7



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# FORNEY

from page six  
to drive down field, that should be the difference maker.

What should not go overlooked is the head coach of the Falcons. Randy Jackson has history with Aledo. He was the head coach at Mesquite Potet back in 2010 when the Bearcats beat the Pirates in the semifinals 29-27, and he was the head coach at Grapevine in 2016 when Aledo met the Mustangs in the area round in the "Tittletown" season before he took over at North Forney in 2017. Jackson knows what he can expect from the Bearcats,

and he will no doubt have his squad well prepared.

If there is anything that could give a better look into this matchup, each team does have one thing in common. They both played Frisco Lone Star. The Falcons came away with a 34-31 win, holding off a late comeback, back in Week 1. A week later, the Bearcats squeaked out a win 34-32 at home. That being said, the second half of Friday's game will be pivotal for both teams.

Friday's winner will get the winner of South Oak Cliff vs. Frisco, which will be played Friday night in Dallas.

# FOOTBALL

from page six  
one from 45 yards out - to cut Aledo's lead to 14-6.

Cue Roberts again. Roberts went untouched for 50 yards, stiff-armed a Hillcrest defender down the left sideline and set up Aledo at the 12-yard line with a 63-yard run. Fowler-Nicolosi connected with Jaedon Pellegrino for a 12-yard touchdown pass on the next play for a 21-6 Aledo lead on the second of 10-straight Bearcat scoring possessions.

Fowler-Nicolosi finished the night completing 8 of 15 passes for 190 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions. Brant Hayden went 4-for-5 with 86 yards, including a 58-yard touchdown pass to Logan Flinta.

Jeremiah James continued the dominance on the ground, finishing with eight carries for 87 yards and three touchdowns, including a 43 yarder.

Aledo led 49-6 at the half, and its 77 total points tied last

year's 77 points in a bi-district win over Dallas Kimball for the most points in a bi-district game in school history.

After a bit of musical chairs on the offensive line with players shifting and filling in as needed throughout the season, Aledo's offensive line has started to jell, Buchanan said. Opposite O'Keefe is Maddox Epperson at left tackle, then right guard Grant Jefferis, center Brady Wood and left guard Gunner Allen.

"We finally have a group that communicates well together and they're starting to trust one another and spend more time at one spot instead of [moving around]," Buchanan said. "I think they're having more fun right now because we're able to keep them in one spot.

"I'm proud of the offensive line - that's what led to the explosive plays tonight was big holes at the line of scrimmage."

Well, argument settled.

## BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

# Bearcats continue early season success

The Aledo Bearcats continued to dominate pre-district opponents, coming away with three wins in the past week and extending their season record to 11-1.

Senior Landry Simmons was hot from the three-point line over the three games, sinking 13.

The Bearcats are scheduled to play Brownwood at home on Dec. 18, with the freshman game at 3:30 p.m., JV at 4:45 p.m., and Varsity at 6 p.m. The 'Cats will play Lake Worth on Dec. 29 at home.

### Aledo Bearcats 57, Glen Rose 52 12-11-2020

Aledo	11	22	15	9	57
Glen Rose	7	5	18	22	52
Daniel Sohn 21, Landry Simmons 15, Clark Crawford 11, Camden Yielding 5, Peyton Wiggins 4, Trever Darton 1					

### Aledo Bearcats 59, Joshua 46 12-12-2020

Aledo	21	22	7	9	59
Joshua	15	10	11	10	46
Landry Simmons 27, Clark Crawford 12, Daniel Sohn 12, Cam Yielding 8					

### Aledo Bearcats 43, Midlothian 42 12-15-2020

Aledo	14	7	12	10	43
Midlothian	13	4	12	13	42
Landry Simons 19, Cam Yielding 10, Clark Crawford 6, Daniel Sohn 5, Xavier Anderson 2, Peyton Wiggins 1					

### Ladycats drop two

The young Ladycats varsity team dropped two games during the week, falling to Abilene Cooper and Liberty Christian.

### Aledo Ladycats 45, Abilene Cooper 47 12-11-2020

Aledo	11	11	11	12	45
Cooper	6	8	13	20	47
Audrey Pearce 14, Presley Hull 9, Addyson Hebel 7, Claire Byars 6, Kylie Anderson 4, Sophie Smith 3, Reagan Davis 2					



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Clark Crawford comes down with a rebound in recent action.

### Aledo Ladycats 43, Liberty Christian 64 12-15-2020

Aledo	10	9	8	16	43
Liberty	18	8	17	21	64
Addyson Hebel 13, Audrey Pearce 11, Claire Byars 10, Reagan Davis 4, Presley Hull 2, Lauren Hawk 2, Kenzie Grau 1					

### Ladycats JV 22, Abilene Cooper 39 12-11-2020

Aledo	4	4	5	9	22
Cooper	17	10	5	7	39
Natalie Anderson 9, Lauren St. Peters 6, Sarah Tillotson 4, Meredith Brown 2, Avery Gray 1					

### Ladycats JV 46, Liberty Christian 21 12-15-2020

Aledo	17	21	6	2	46
Liberty	7	7	2	5	21
Natalie Anderson 20, Lauren St. Peters 6, Haley Farmer 6, Sarah Tillotson 4, Karli Britton 4, Hannah Good 2, Jessica Dysart 2, Taylor Paetzold 1, Meredith Brown 1					

### Ladycats Freshmen 46, Abilene Cooper 29 12-11-2020

Aledo	13	19	4	10	46
Cooper	6	4	7	12	29
Caroline Browning 16, Lexie Steffe 6, Addi Durrand 4, Presley Bergen 4, Daniella Tregellas 2, Sidnee Woodyard 2, Aiden Stover 2, Aubrey Connelly 4, Juliana Caggiano 2, Kennis Marx 4					

The Ladycats are scheduled to play at Krum on Friday, Dec. 18.

### AMS Scores

The Aledo Middle School Bearcats and Ladycats swept Joshua Nichols: **7th Bearcats** A 52-2, B 50-4, C 59-0 **8th Bearcats** A 43-19, B 45-5, C 49-3 **7th Ladycats** A 49-2, B 31-6, C 30-2 **8th Ladycats** A 32-26, B 21-16, C 30-10

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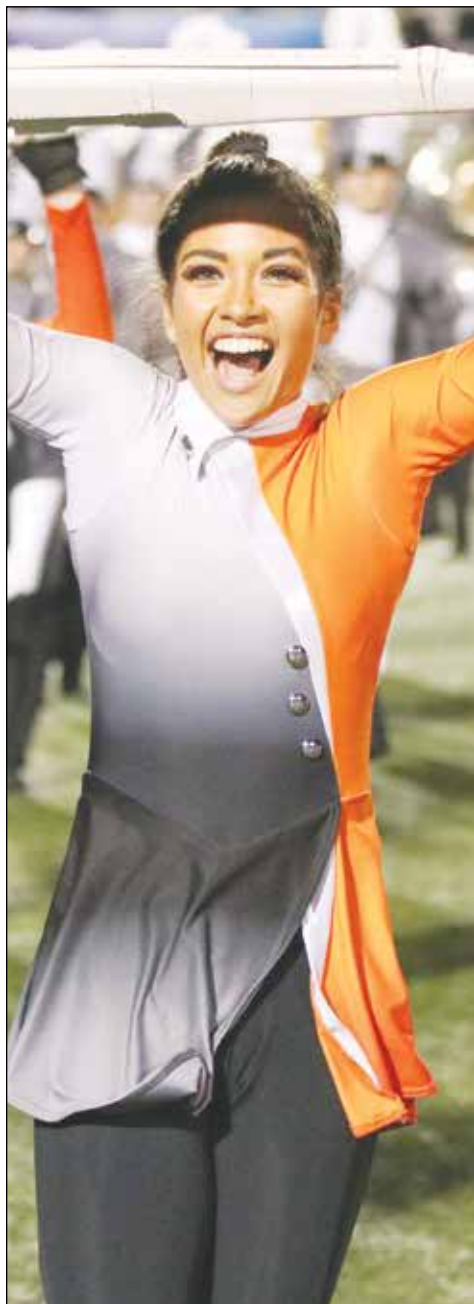
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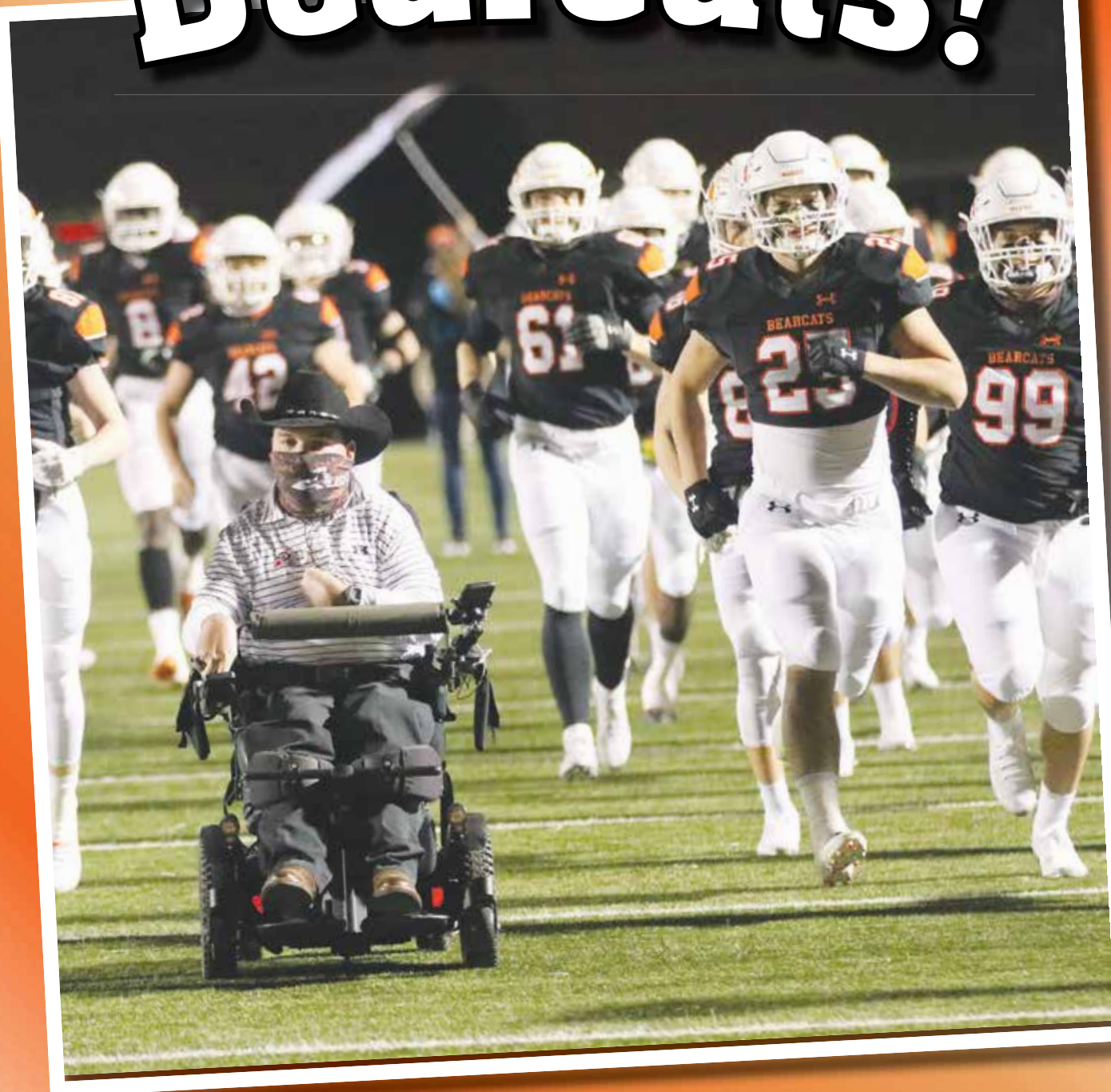
## 126 RANCH HOUSE ROAD

# Spirit Page



PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN

## Bearcats!



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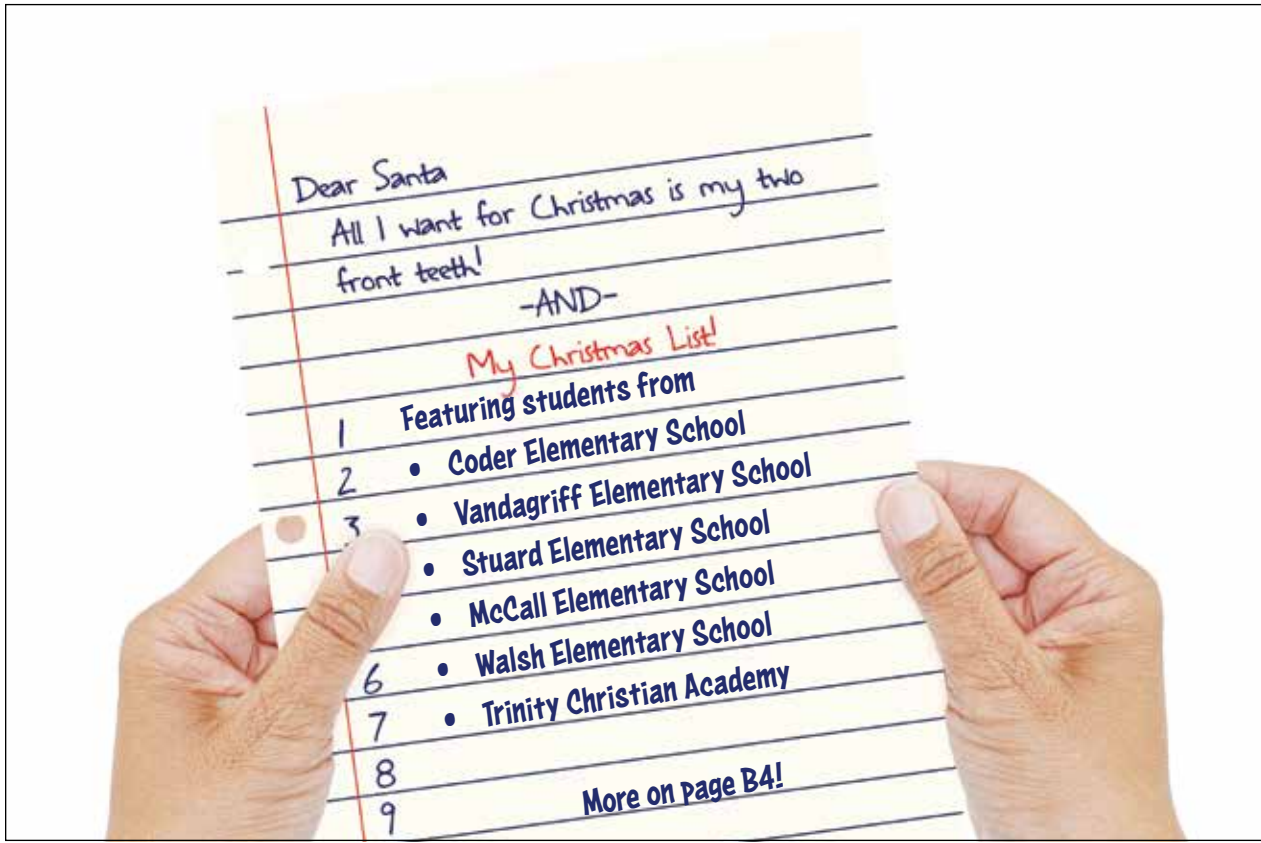
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## All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth



Ellie Gates



Blake Morgan



Emily Wrinkle



Samantha Scoggins



Maddox MacKenzie



Bryce Sudderth



Koen Pierce



Alaunah Davis



Brantley Neundorfer



Becka Clock



Jaxon Moore



Mary McDonald



Noah Graham



Lylah Nepaulsingh



Luke Deary



Aiden Arellano



Jade Manning



Kaya Miller



Elise Bowersock



Koen Mattner



Kaiser Donarumo



Caplin Draper



Brady Schram



Adam Barnett



Aaron Comacho Moreno



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Alice Happ



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Wyatt Burroughs



Cade Harrison



Amelia Hekele



Lily Barnes



William Estes



Layla Hess



Keondis Smith



Jack Washmon



Savy Link



Nolan Carnes



Joshua Wheeler



Esther Wood

QUOTABLE

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”

- Bob Hope

“Peace on earth will come to stay, When we live Christmas every day.”

- Helen Steiner Rice

“One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly.”

- Andy Rooney

Christmas is the day that holds all time together.

- Alexander Smith

# KIDS' CHRISTMAS CORNER

THEY CAN LEARN HOW TO MAKE A SPECIAL DECORATION FOR THE HOUSE, BAKE A GOODIE, AND PLAY A GAME WITH THE OTHER KIDS – ALL THIS IN CHRISTMAS FASHION!



## Marshmallow Peeps Wreath

- What You'll Need:**
- 12" floral foam wreath
  - 4 yards ribbon to cover wreath
  - 1 yard ribbon to hang wreath
  - 3 packs Reindeer Marshmallow Peeps
  - Hot glue gun

**Directions:**  
Wrap the floral wreath with 4 yards of satin ribbon to cover it. Pin into place. Next, attach the Marshmallow Peeps onto the ribbon-covered wreath using your hot glue gun. To hang, use 1 yard ribbon.

photo credit: www.mommysavers.com

## Melted "Frosty" Cookies

- What You'll Need:**
- Cookie Mix
  - White Frosting
  - Food Coloring
  - Marshmallows
  - Pretzel sticks, candy corn, and chocolate chips

**Directions:**

1. Start by making the cookies according to package instructions. There will be two recipe options: the drop cookie or the cutout cookie recipe. Choose the drop cookie recipe.
2. When placing the cookie dough on the cookie sheets, don't worry about making them round.
3. Bake the cookies according to package instructions.
4. When your cookies have cooled, drizzle white frosting on the top.
5. Next, microwave your marshmallows on a greased plate for about 30 seconds.
6. With greased/buttered fingers, remove the marshmallows from the plate and place on the cookies to serve as the snowman's head.
7. Next comes the fun part – decorating! Use pretzel sticks for arms, candy corn for the nose, and chocolate chips for the eyes. Use food coloring to give Frosty some clothes!



## Fun Book Exchange

- What You'll Need:**
- Inexpensive book gift wrapped for each child
  - Book- The Gingerbread Man

**How To Play:**  
Children sit in a circle, each one holding a wrapped book. Someone reads The Gingerbread Man story. Every time the word "ran" is said, the children pass the book to the child on their right. Continue doing until the story is over. Each child will have a special book in their hand to open and read!

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# Drive-Thru Santa

Aledo United Methodist Church conducted a drive-thru visit to Santa Claus on Dec. 5, featuring treats for the kids and, of course, a distanced visit with Santa.



**CHRISTMAS**  
EVE SERVICES

@ ALEDO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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# All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth



Addison Molock



Brock Allen



Tinley Thomas



Genevieve McKinley



Trip Alpuerto



Emily Avance



Brady Smith



Jake Nickell



Brooks Falconer



Hudson Karbo



Emerson Greenhouse



Reighan King



Taylor Williams



Jackson Flores



Nayara Rojas



Stella Martin



Sam Sawyer



Daniella Lopez



Brennyn Anderson



Ana Nisic



Zane Hurst



Klaire Bennett



Case Karonika



Beau Moffitt



Jeremy Koplik



Sophia Buck



Peyton Haag



Zanona Romeo



Madison Pike



Jack Purdin



Carolina Luna



Emma Stainbrook



Avery Cardenas



Juliana Rudd



Amelie Hamilton



Mary Elizabeth Hampton



William Fletcher



Olivia Hyder



Bennett Watson



Collin Templeton



Claire Robertson



Baron Barnhart

Turn to **TEETH**, page B2



## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY TWO FRONT TEETH!

**Robert Casey Stroud, D.D.S., P.C.**

**Michael Ball, D.D.S., P.L.L.C.**

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