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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving the Greater Aledo Area: Aledo · the Annettas · Hudson Oaks · Willow Park, Texas

CELEBRATION!



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Stacy Andrews reacts to the arrival of the Aledo Education Foundation Prize Patrol to her music classroom at Coder Elementary School. She was approved for the "fast cash" grant of \$2,030 during the fall.

MAJOR FOOTBALL ANNOUNCEMENT

At press time, Aledo ISD was prepared to make a major announcement concerning the Aledo High School football program. Due to our press schedule, the announcement will be made between the time we send the paper to press and the time we pick up printed copies. Please visit www.community-news.com or The Community News Facebook page for the announcement.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Singing Cadets from Texas A&M performed to a full house at Aledo United Methodist Church on Wednesday, Jan. 9. A project of the Parker County Aggie Moms' Club, more information on the concert will be in the Jan. 18 issue.



Jon and Dottie Vandagriff have established a new endowed scholarship fund in the Weatherford College Foundation, making their fund the first new scholarship of the sesquicentennial year.

WC turns 150 years old in 2019 and the college is spending the year celebrating its history and heritage.

The Jon and Dottie Vandagriff Scholarship is earmarked for students intending to pursue a career in the field of history. Jon, a well-known local historian, has written a history of Parker County as well as a new pictorial history book entitled "Weatherford College: The First 150 Years." The new book will be available at the Sesquicentennial Kickoff Reception Thursday, Jan. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Alkek Fine Arts Center.

WILLOW PARK

City considers changes to drought policies

Water agreement with Fort Worth requires changes to drought contingency plan

By Randy Keck

The Willow Park City Council heard from City Administrator Bryan Grimes about proposed changes to the city's drought contingency plan and conservation policy at the council's meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

"We have an impending agreement with the City of Fort Worth," Grimes said. "We will have to adapt to their drought contingency plan."

One advantage touted is that the change will simplify the city's current five-stage restrictions down to three.



"Three stages will make us uniform with the surrounding communities," Grimes told the council.

Grimes said when Willow Park ties on with Fort Worth at a future date, the particular stages of water restrictions will be triggered by lake levels in the area. Until then, the restriction levels would be triggered based on the city's well production levels.

Grimes said he would like the city to hold public hearings in preparation of changing the city's water policies. As part of the Fort Worth plan, the city would also embark on a public education program regarding responsible water use.

The city experienced severe water shortages during the summer of 2018 due to declining production in the city's wells. Grimes reported that, due to rehabilitating some of the well's, the city's water production now exceeds what peak demand was during the summer. The city is also going to accept bids for two additional wells.

No action was taken on the water policy.

The council did, however, vote unanimously to make changes to the makeup of its Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) board. Previously nine members, which consisted of the entire city council and three city staff, the new board will consist of the mayor, one city council member, and three at-large residents of the city.

The TIRZ is a method whereby the city provides a set time of property tax discounts in exchange for development in the city. The Shops at Willow Park are an example of such a project.

In other business, the council approved the appointment of Michael Chandler and Richard Kasparian to the city's Board of Adjustments.

The city will hold a meeting on Jan. 22 to consider concrete bids for additional Ranch House Road construction.



Brenda Kindred, a 2015 graduate of Aledo High School, graduated from Sam Houston State University in December with a BBA degree in Accounting. In high school, Brenda was a member of the Bearcat Regiment and the

Aledo TMEA State Champion Concert Band. She was a member of the Bearkat Marching Band at Sam Houston.

Brenda has accepted an accounting position with Deloitte, a top five accounting firm, in Arlington, Virginia.





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St Around Parker County

Clear Fork Veterinary Clinic provides for the care of your pet

When Darryl McEndree was a student in Aledo schools, he might not have imagined the changes that have occurred since, or that he might one day have his own veterinary clinic here.

Yet here he is, with the opening of Clear Fork Veterinary Clinic in May of 2018. The clinic is situated conveniently on the south side of the I-20 service road between FM 1187 and Walsh Ranch Parkway.

"I was raised here – I went K through 12 in Aledo," McEndree said. "It was all basically on one campus. It was back before we were a very large community at all. We had a convenience store and a service

station, a post office and a bank – and that was it!

McEndree graduated from Aledo High School in 1990. After high school he received a scholarship from Weatherford College, where he spent his first two years of college.

"That allowed me to get a scholarship to Texas Tech. After I graduated from Texas Tech I got into veterinary school at Texas A&M."

After veterinary school it was not a tough decision for McEndree to return to Aledo. He worked for Dr. Randy Doran while a student at Aledo High School and Weatherford



College.

"As I was graduating, he asked me to come back," McEndree said. "Originally I didn't know where we were going to go, but knowing Randy – he was a good veterinarian, a good, honest man, he practiced good medicine, and is a good Christian – my wife said, 'why don't you go work for him and get some of the green off of you, and after we get the green off of you we'll see where we go from there."

McEndree worked for Doran a couple of years and was then invited to become a business partner.

"Back then the clinic was small, but as the area grew the clinic grew," McEndree said. In 2009 he and some partner veterinarians purchased the clinic from Doran.

In 2012 he sold the practice, but continued to work there until 2015.

At that point McEndree moved west, going to work for Pets Western Animal Hospital in Mineral Wells. Interestingly, the clinic is on the Parker County side of Mineral Wells, so McEndree has technically worked in Parker County for the entire 18 years he has practiced.

Now back in east Parker County, McEndree limits his practice to small animals.

The clinic offers complete life stage healthcare, including wellness exams, vaccinations, hospital care, and pain management.

Diagnostic and treatment services are available including dental, surgery, radiology/imaging, internal medicine, pharmacy, and emergency. In addition, the clinic offers boarding, micro-chipping, heartworm/flea products, and RX food.

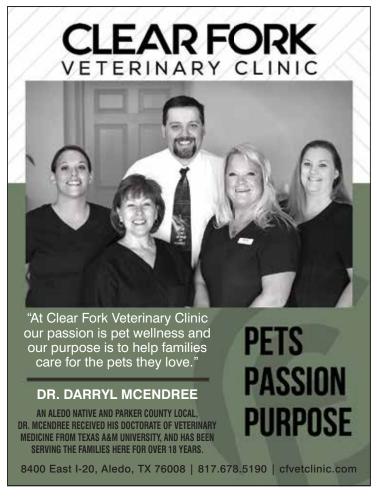
You can schedule an appointment for your furry friend by calling 817-678-5190. Clear Fork Veterinary Clinic s located at 8400 East I-20 in Aledo. For more information, visit cfvetclinic.com.









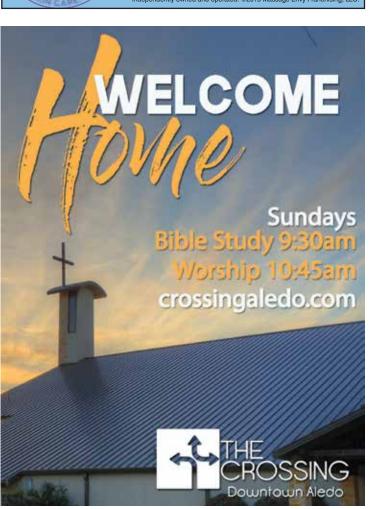








A FREE QUOTE!





THE COMMUNITY NEWS January 11, 2019 **3A**

2018 - The Year in Review, cont'i



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN KERTOK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS July 6 issue - Ali Winters and Kevin Delcarson cut a rug on the sidewalk during Hudson Oaks' annual Boomin 4th celebra-

Leah Young was appointed to fill the Willow Park city council seat vacated by John Gholson.

Aledo ISD added two new administrators: Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Amber Crissey and Shanna Smith, Assistant Principal at Vandagriff Elementary School.

Prairie Ridge residents continued to protest a proposed office park at the Aledo City Council meeting.

JULY 13

Willow Park city engineer Derek Turner presented a review of the city's water systems to the city council, citing issues with the city's wells as the cause of the city's water supply issues.

The Starbucks slated to be constructed in Willow Park was put on hold.

North Central Texas Council of Governments Director of Transportation Michael Morris visited the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce to discuss transportation projects in north Texas.

Stuard Elementary School teacher Kelli McCoy was awarded the Excellence in Mathematics Teaching award at the Texas Regional Collaboratives annual meeting.

Local home designers Brett and Kara Phillips new show, "Home to Last" debuted on HGTV.

JULY 20

The town of Annetta began the process to switch to automated water meters, cutting back on the city's utility expenses while adding the ability to remotely detect leaks and make more accurate readings.

Aledo ISD heard a demographic report from Templeton Demographics, stating the Morningstar and Walsh developments are the fastest growing areas of the district.

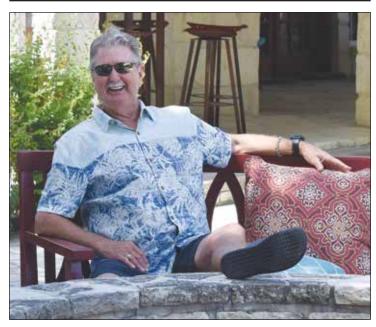
"Wilsonfest" raised thousands of dollars fro the family of Wilson Adams, who is battling a brain tumor.



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

July 6 issue - Friends and family of Aledo High School teacher Elmi Martinez came out in force for a fundraiser to help with medical expenses following a diagnosis of a cranial tumor. Shown are Elmi Martinez (center) and her family: Kaitlyn Aguilar, Breanna Aguilar, Aubrey Martinez, Leroy Martinez, Christopher Aguilar, and Vicky Salazar.

<u>JULY 27</u>



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

July 27 issue - Randy Galloway loves relaxing and entertaining on his spacious back porch, as he is seen above. Galloway retired from his daily radio show in October 2013 and has made Aledo his full-time residence.

Aledo High School graduate Rachel Parnell was featured upon her new post as Production Manager at Imagination Fort Worth.

The City of Willow Park moved to Stage 4 water rationing in the wake of a 200,000 gallon-per-day loss from poorly functioning wells.

Annetta North musician Danny Wilkerson released his first solo album, which was mastered at Abby Road Studios.

Sports maven Randy Galloway was featured living a wimp-free retirement in Aledo.

AUGUST 3



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

August 3 issue - Harper Harbuck, Avery Suddereth, Laney Stewart, Channing Green, and Kacyn Musselwhite showed off their moves at Mini Cheer Camp.

The city of Aledo annexed property along Champions Drive and Bankhead Highway and rezoned the property from agricultural to light industrial.

Boy Scout Troop 1099 travels on a summer adventure through the Rocky Mountains.

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees began sessions on the 2018-19 budget, with Chief Financial Officer Earl Husfeld telling the board there will be a little wiggle room. "The arrow is definitely pointing up now," said Husfeld.

The City of Willow Park activated an emergency tie-in to the city of Weatherford to obtain water. The measure allowed Willow Park to begin taking its well offline for rehab and repair.

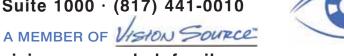
Aledo City Council member Kim Hiebert related tales of working with Bridges to Prosperity, which builds bridges in under-developed countries to create access to essential health care, education, and economic opportunities by building footbridges over impassable rivers.

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SUBMIT STORIES, PHOTOS OR IDEAS

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-441-7661, ext. 207 or email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in the event that we have further 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. If you want photos mailed back to you, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Articles are accepted in a variety of formats: CD, typewritten, handwritten, faxed or e-mailed. Electronic submission is preferred.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

Capital Highlights

Texas Legislature to convene with list of big issues to tackle



edsterling@texaspress.com

The 86th Texas Legislature con-

venes Jan. 8 as the partial shutdown of the federal government that began Dec. 22 enters a third week.

As always, lawmakers' priorities will be the writing of a two-year state budget and deciding how to fund it. In the 140 days of the regular session, they also will consider public education funding, property tax reform, health care, public safety, transportation, water, and a host of other issues.

After the oath of office is administered by Texas' new Secretary of State David Whitley, the first order of business for the 150-member Texas House of Representatives will be to elect a new speaker to succeed Joe Straus, the San Antonio Republican who presided over the body for five consecutive two-year terms. In the fall, Rep. Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, eventually secured more than 76 pledges from fellow House members, the

minimum number needed to win the race for speaker. Other House members who declared their candidacy for the office and later withdrew include Republicans John Zerwas of Richmond, Drew Darby of San Angelo, Travis Clardy of Nacogdoches, Phil King of Weatherford, Walter T. "Four" Price IV of Amarillo, Tan Parker of Flower Mound and Democrat Eric Johnson of Dallas.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, won a second fouryear term, and again will preside over the Texas Senate. The lieutenant governor and the speaker will choose committee chairs and committee members before hearings commence and proposed legislation is heard.

Oldest WWII veteran dies

Richard A. Overton, America's oldest-living World War II veteran, died Dec. 27 in Austin. He was 112.

Born May 11, 1906, in Bastrop County, Overton lived in his home on Austin's Richard Overton Avenue, a street renamed in his honor on his 111th birthday.

Overton enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940 and served in the 188th Aviation Engineer Battalion, an all-black unit operating on various Pacific islands, including Hawaii, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Palau and Guam. He mustered out of the service in 1945.

Services with full military honors and burial are set for Jan. 12 in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

"Richard Overton is an American icon and a Texas legend," Gov. Greg Abbott said on Dec. 28. "With his quick wit and kind spirit he touched the lives of so many and I am deeply honored to have known him. Richard Overton made us proud to be Texans and proud to be Americans. We can never repay Richard Overton for his service to our nation and for his lasting impact on the Lone Star State. On behalf of Texas, Cecilia and I offer our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends." DD

Founder of airline dies

Herb Kelleher, chairman emeritus of Dallas-based Southwest Airlines, died Jan. 3. He was 87.

The New Jersey native arrived in Texas in 1967 to open a law practice. With client and business partner Rollin King, Kelleher incorporated Air Southwest Co., later named Southwest Airlines.

In June 1971, the fledgling carrier opened gates at Love Field in Dallas and began service to Houston and San Antonio. The airline, with its fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft, grew to be a major carrier with destinations from coast to coast and in other countries.

Tax collections increase

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Jan. 3 said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.87 billion in December, an amount 4.7 percent more than collected in December 2017.

"Growth in state sales tax revenue continues to be led by remittances from oil- and gas-related sectors," Hegar said. "The year-over-year rate of growth has moderated, as expected, due to strong collections from a year ago, as well as the decline in the price of crude oil."

Also, Hegar said, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in December 2018 was up 6.5 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

In the month of December, the comptroller's office reported the following revenue from other major taxes:

- Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes: \$395.9 million, down 4.5 percent from December 2017;
- Motor fuel taxes: \$314.3 million, up 3.5 percent from December 2017; and
- Oil and natural gas production taxes: \$478.5 million, up 20.7 percent from December 2017.

Ed Sterling is Director of Member Services for the Texas Press Association.

TheIdleAmerican

Mormons in the News



Don NewburyNewbury@speakerdoc.com

I don't know much about the Mormon Church, but I've always viewed most adherents as being generous with both their gifts and their time.

They number some 15 million worldwide, and in Utah – where about two million of three million citizens are Mormons – there's considerable "co-mingling" of issues at both the state house and the church house. (Since Utah attained statehood in 1896, all of its governors – save two – have been Mormons.)

Most "church news" is spawned during semi-annual meetings, but a surprising new law from the state house kicked in on Jan. 1. Permissible blood alcohol content for drivers is now 0.05 percent, the lowest of any state. This law goes against the grain of many drivers, so it might be well-noted that Utahns in the legislature who pushed this bill may add "courageous" to their names.

Tourism officials are howling, fearful that this new law will have a negative effect on the throngs of snow-skiers who are attracted to the state's picturesque slopes annually.

One lodge owner growled that visitors who have come in great numbers to "ski Utah" may not show the same enthusiasm if they abandon their "suds" when they "drive Utah."

Uber drivers – particularly the "teetotalers" – may do well to head for Utah.

Utah legislators admit that their intent is to eliminate ALL driving while drinking. They believe their constituents agree. Decades ago, Utah was first to lower the limit to 0.08 percent.

Officials in several states have discussed the possibility of lowering DUI alcohol blood level percentages to 0.05, like Utah, and four states put it to vote.

The measure was voted down in Washington, Hawaii, Delaware and New York.

Here's a final word about Mormons, who, over the long haul, have dug in their heels over most church doctrine.

This year, however, they adopted a new schedule for Sunday services, yielding to our "hurry up" culture. Henceforth, their Sunday services – worldwide – will be

scheduled for two hours, not three.
In so doing, Mormon worship times will be in line with most US

mainline denominations.

Researching Mormon beliefs, I learned that devout members are opposed to alcohol, as well as hot drinks. One source indicated that it is acceptable to drink iced tea or iced coffee. (I may be requested to

check additional sources.)

Years ago, I addressed an audience of about 250 Colorado bankers at a remote camp. The caterer arrived at about the same time I did, and hustled to get ready to

She had no helpers, so I joined several bankers in dispensing food and pouring coffee. One banker, a Mormon, refilled coffee cups throughout the banquet hall. "If it gets out at the church back home that I promoted coffee-drinking, I'll be in trouble," he said.

Meanwhile, at Baylor

Meanwhile, Baylor University faithful are offering strong "AMENS" for their second-year head football coach, Matt Rhule. He suffered through a 1-11 season last year, when he vowed that his Bears would be in a bowl game in 2018.

And he made good. BU managed a 6-6 regular season record and then upset Vanderbilt in

Houston's Texas Bowl, 45-38.

Jubilant BU players "fumbled" the Gatorade cooler when dousing their coach. The vessel bonked him upside the head. He claimed the "injury" didn't warrant concussion protocol.

Bowl Game

Anybody else "up to here" with football bowl games? We've had a spate of them, with 40+ post-season games since mid-December. At some of them, television camera operators tried to avoid showing the grandstands, where there were far more "no shows" than "shows."

Most reports of bowl games this year did NOT reveal actual attendance.

This reminds me of a situation decades ago at Texas Tech University, when football attendance was miserable. They left a couple of seats vacant between fans, hoping their "spread out" pattern would look something like "sold out" on TV sets.

Dr. Newbury is a former educator who "commits speeches" round about. Comments/inquiries to: newbury@ speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com Twitter: @donnewbury. Facebook: don newbury.

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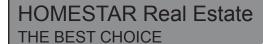
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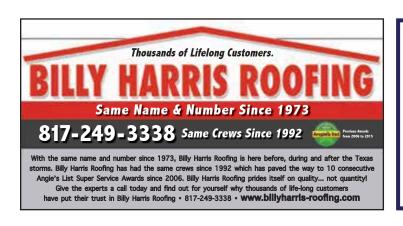
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'Prize Patrol' awards \$117k in grants

If it's the first day back from winter break, it's time for the Aledo Education Foundation "Prize Patrol." Members of the foundation, AISD administrators, school board members, the AHS drum line, cheerleaders, and Mr. Bearcat march down the halls awarding grants to teachers and counselors.

This year more than \$117,000 was awarded, including "fast cash" grants that were approved in the fall.

> Photos by Randy Keck The Community News



Jeff Wade presented the grant for "Listen Up! Audiobooks for All" to **McCall Elementary School librarian Debbie Bennett.**



Christi James presented the grant for "Ready, set, transform" to **McCall Elementary School teacher** Lara Decker.



Mr. Bearcat, the Aledo High School cheerleaders, and the AHS drum line accompanied the prize patrol.



Courtney Edwards presented the grant for "Bearcats Getting **CENTERED** with Social-Emotional **Learning!" to McCall Elementary** School's Shannon Reynolds.



Kari Anderson presented two grants to Catharine Clay at Vandagriff Elementary School. The first was a "fast cash" grant from the fall, "The Quest for One to One." The second was "New Learning Spaces."



Stokes and Stephanie Smith, who were excited about the Lego **Land Learning grant at Vandagriff Elementary School.**



Stuard Elementary School Librarian Tracey Haggard reacts to the news that she received a grant for \$2,360 for new learning tables in the



Jayne Wood at Stuard Elementary School got a hug from Candi Lear, and a grant for "Knick-Knack Paddy Whack...Give a Note a Name!" in Stuard's kindergarten music pro-



Emily Mooney at Stuard Elementary School was presented a "Shake, Wobble & Learn!" grant by Jennifer



Kimberly Martin at Stuard Elementary School was excited to learn she was the recipient of a grant for "There's a New Chick in Aledo!"



Rebekah Getz at Stuard Elementary School received a \$4,669 grant for "Making the Connection." She is shown with AISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn.



Susan Simpson of Stuard Elementary School is shown with Courtney Edwards, receiving the grant for "Butt Where Will I Sit?"



Kari Anderson is shown with Stuard Elementary School's Della Reed, who received a grant for "Wiggle It Just a Little Bit."



Christi James is shown with McAnally Intermediate School's Nikki Dover, who received a grant for "Learning with iPads."



Kari Anderson and AISD board member Jennifer Loftin are shown with Aledo Middle School teacher Lynda Wright, who received a grant



Marla Jones received a grant for "Book Tasting " Sampling Great **Books " at Aledo Middle School.** She is shown with Courtney Edwards.



Kari Anderson, left, and Aledo **Education Foundation Executive** Director Shawn Calloway, right, presented the grant for Genes in Space to Brooks Smith at Aledo Middle School.



Juanita Britton and Rachael Black received a grant to do a sleep study using DNA to determine if a person is an "early bird" or a late sleeper at the Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.



Jennifer Taylor presented Roy Burns a grant for "S.W.A.T. -Students **Working Together At Team Building"** at Aledo High School.



Korie Kiser received two grants for forensic-related studies at Aledo High School.



David Caruso received grants for "Advanced Laboratory Inquiry into Thermodynamics" and "Advanced Laboratory Studies in Electrostatics." Yep. We will explain those in a future issue.



Tiffany Holland in the Aledo High School Ag Department, received two grants: "Floral Design Mobile **Demonstration Table with Mirror**" and "Wildlife Management Technique Replica Package."



Aledo High School ag teacher Kody Knight received a grant for an "Engine driven welding machine and welding trailer set up."



Krysti Kelley received a grant for "Putting the Science into Aledo **Agricultural Science Department"** presented by AISD board member **Hoyt Harris.**

<u>AUGUST 10</u>



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

August 10 issue - Superintendent Susan Bohn visited with Preston James and his family. at Bearcat Nation 101.

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District Director Doug Shaw talked water and aquifers with members of the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce. Parker County had more wells dug in 2017 than any other county in Texas.

Parker County Commissioners review voting machine systems and contemplated a change in Parker County to bring in machines with a paper trail.

Leaders from Aledo ISD attended the Parker County Safety Summit to discuss school safety and best practices for keeping students safe.

AUGUST 17



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

August 17 issue - Kade Callaway, Chase Anderson, and Joshua McCarley help "distribute" t-shirts to the audience during the annual Aledo ISD Convocation, welcoming teachers and staff back to school.

Aledo ISD received an "A" grade in the new Texas Education Agency Accountability Ratings. "It's not necessarily the most important data, but it's a good measure of student achievement," said superintendent Susan Bohn. "The staff deserves recognition for this accomplishment."

Willow Park began replacing and repairing their water wells in an effort to get the city's water systems capable of dealing with customer demands. City administrator Bryan Grimes reported the city's sales tax numbers continue to climb.

Aledo ISD police officers conducted "active shooter training" as part of their emergency preparedness.

The Willow Park Police Department welcomed Captain Daniel Franklin to its ranks.

Samantha Reveles received her diploma from Aledo High School after leaving the school eight years ago. District staff worked closely with Reveles for months to help her meet the requirements for graduation.

AUGUST 24



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

August 24 issue - Emily Botts took a test drive in a Willow Park fire engine at the Oakridge Church of Christ Back to School fair.

The iconic Aledo Paint Shack was moved to storage in an undisclosed location after repeated vandalism and messes continued to disrupt the grounds of the Aledo Church of Christ, where the building was located.

Aledo ISD school board members received an update on district safety, including the addition of an Intervention Counselor to the school staff. Other additions include upgraded locks to classroom doors and additional police officers.

An armed robbery in the parking lot of a Hudson Oaks movie theater leaves local residents concerned; the suspects were later arrested for another robbery.



ROSEALEE HOFEMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

August 24 issue - Local sports fans turned out in force for the annual "Meet the Bearcats."

AUGUST 31



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

August 31 issue - Aledo Middle School band members Marec Hendrix and Nick Haas took the field at Bearcat Stadium during "Meet the Bands."

The City of Aledo presented its new budget, which included street repairs and upgrades to Bearcat Park

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees approved a \$68-million dollar budget which included across-the-board raises for teachers and staff, new positions, and an increase in spending in custodial and ground services.

Two firefighters from Parker County Emergency Services District 1 returned from assisting the battle against California

Students returned to classes in the Aledo ISD.

<u>SEPTEMBER 7</u>

Parker County Judge Mark Riley abruptly resigned prior to the end of his term. Judge-elect Pat Deen was eventually appointed Careity Rocks. to fill the seat.

A murder case that remained unsolved for 31 years concluded when a 61-year-old Eastland man is convicted of the 1987 murder of Wendy Kae Robinson.

Willow Park's new public safety building began construction.



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

September 14 issue - Baby goats visited the East Parker **County Library during Story Time.**



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brennen Baker presented pins to his grandparents during a Court of Honor when he received his Eagle Scout.

<u>SEPTEMBER 14</u>

The Aledo Education Foundation awarded its first "Fast Cash" grants totaling \$4,183.91 to teachers in Aledo ISD.

Engineer Chuck Stark presented a concept plan for a new 35-acre site for Willow Park Baptist Church to the Willow Park

The Aledo Wine and Art Festival enjoyed a healthy second year in spite of rain during the festival's main event.

SEPTEMBER 21

Residents in the Aledo and Annetta areas became vocal with complaints about postal service. The postal service responded that it was going to address the issues, but as of the end of the 2018, residents reported that service had not improved.

Local students were given free heart screenings through the Living for Zachary organization.

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees began consideration of the process to become a District of Innovation, allowing the district more flexibility in areas such as scheduling.

The Careity Foundation held it successful annual fundraiser,

SEPTEMBER 28

Chet Burdette of Aledo became a published artist when his coloring book, "Chet's World of Curious Characters," hit print.

The town of Annetta's FY 2019 budget was adopted, with heavy emphasis on road repairs, street maintenance, and water/ wastewater system improvements.

Phase 2 of the Ranch House Road reconstruction project in Willow Park was completed.



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

September 28 issue - Aledo High School held its annual **Homecoming Parade.**



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OCTOBER 5



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

October 5 issue - The Class of 1968 was spotlighted at the annual Aledo Ex-Students Association Banquet.

Beth Ann Simmons was crowned the 2018 Aledo High School Homecoming Queen.

Aledo City Administrator Ken Pfeifer retired; Bill Funderburk was appointed as his interim replacement.

Brian Lixey was named mayor pro tem in Hudson Oaks.

OCTOBER 12



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

October 12 issue - Susie McIntire delivered an inspirational message to attendees at the annual Pink Luncheon.

Local artist and historian Homer "Tot" Norris died, leaving behind a large body of work documenting Parker County. A tree was planted at the Aledo Community Center in his honor.

On a 2-1 vote, the Willow Park City Council narrowly approved a rezoning request and preliminary plat for a property along Bankhead Highway where an independent senior living facility is planned.

Mayors from east Parker County took part in a panel at the monthly luncheon of the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce to discuss local economic development.

OCTOBER 19



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

October 19 issue - Lori Vasquez (left) celebrated her birthday with Veronica Martinex and Jean Tocco at the Hudson Oaks Craft and Cork.

A suspect was arrested in an armed robbery case where two Aledo Sonic employees were robbed at gunpoint while making their nightly bank drop. Tyvaughn Napier, 22, was indicted later in the year.

Aledo ISD Board of Trustees members approved a plan to go forward with pursuing a District of Innovation status.

Hudson Oaks' annual event "Craft and Cork" was a rousing success, adding two new events to make the celebration a three-day-long affair.



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

October 26 issue - Maxxon Dollar took third place for his "Gizmo" costume at Aledo Fest. He is pictured with Aledo mayor Kit Marshall and Chelsea Dollar.

OCTOBER 26

Aledo ISD hosted a School Priority Month event, allowing government officials to see first-hand the work being done in classrooms in the district.

Early voting turnout for the November 2018 midterms easily surpassed 2016 numbers in the first few days of early voting.

NOVEMBER 2

Walsh Elementary School principal Sheri Coll steps down; assistant principal Kerry Cooper was selected to serve as interim principal for the remainder of the school year.

Aledo ISD hired Tyler Boswell as the Director of Construction and Facilities.

The Willow Park Police Department announced their "Citizens Police Academy," coming in March 2019. The Willow Park Fire Department announced their "Citizens Fire Academy," beginning in January 2019.

NOVEMBER 9

Parker County voted 80 percent Republican in the mid-term elections. A measure to require voters to approve annexation into a city in Parker County passed easily.

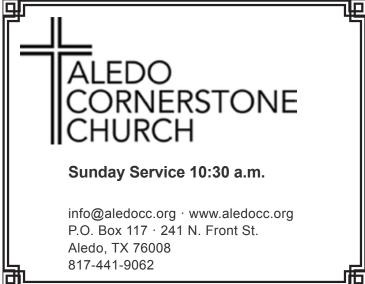
Willow Park Baptist Church paster Clark Bosher discussed plans for the church's new mega-campus, which will include a gym, athletic fields, and an ampitheater. "This is going to belong to east Parker County," Bosher said. "We are so excited to be bringing it here."

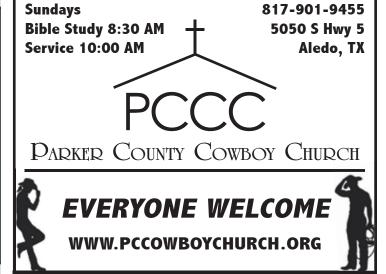


BOB BUCKEL/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

November 9 issue - Seniors Bradley Raettig and Noah Novak look across the field of 7,000 soldiers as a part of Aledo High School's commemoration of the end of World War I.

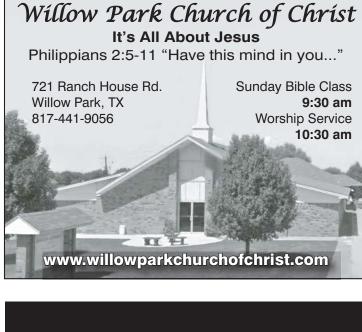
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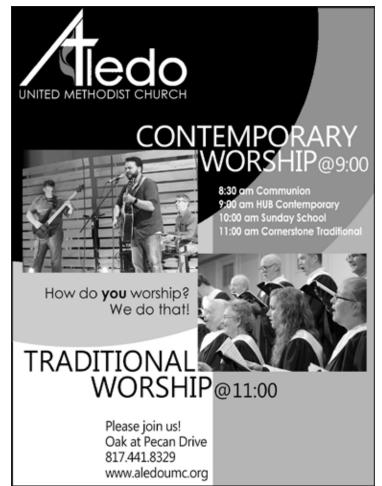












JANUARY 11, 2019

Events

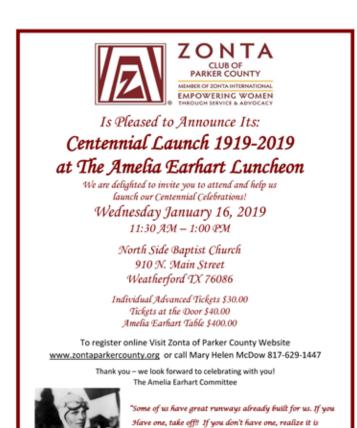
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TEXAS

CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

More information on most events, and more events, can be found at www.tcn.news/events



JANUARY 12

NAACP Meeting

The Parker County/ Weatherford NAACP Branch 6321 will hold a general membership meeting from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 at the Historic Mount Pleasant School, 213 Raymond George Way in Weatherford. For more information, visit facebook. com/NAACP6321/.

JANUARY 13

Parker County Texas Democratic Women

The Parker County Texas Democratic Women will meet at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at the Weatherford

urself and for those who follow after you!" Amelia Earbart Public Library, 1014 Charles Street. Everyone is invited. For more information,

call Jeannie Lockett at 817-

JANUARY 14

596-3315.

443-3546.

our responsibility to grab a shovel and build one for

Parker County Active Democrats

The Parker County Active

Democrats will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at the 20th Century Club, 321 S. Main in Weatherford. Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m. with meeting starting at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited. For more info, call Claire Olson at 817-

JANUARY 16

Amelia Earhart Luncheon

The Zonta Club of Parker County will host its Centennial Launch at the Amelia Earhart Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at North Side Baptist Church in Weatherford. Individual tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. Price for an Amelia Earhart

table is \$400. To register, visit www.zontaparkercounty.org or call Mary Helen McDow at 817-

629-1447. **JANUARY 21**

Rotary Club of Aledo

The Rotary Club of Aledo meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Sunny Street Cafe, 229 Shops Blvd., Ste. 103 in Willow Park, For more infor-

mation, visit aledorotary.



JANUARY 22

Tahmahkera to address Aledo Lions

Lance Tahmahkera will give a presentation to the Aledo Lions Club at 12 p.m.

ACROSS

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- _ a hornet's nest" 22 actor Jack in 1963

The free diaper event only has 50 spots available. To participate in the event, you must be a new client; must be pregnant or the biological parent or legal guardian of a child younger than six months; have photo ID; and must have parental documents for the child receiving diapers (birth certificate

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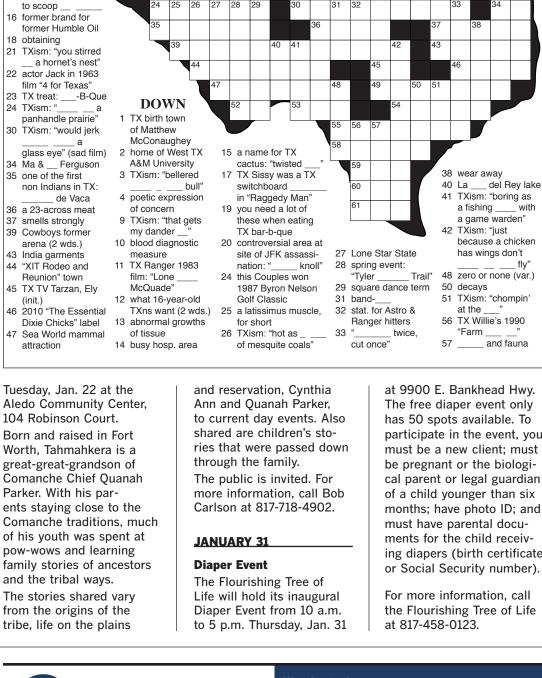
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NOVEMBER 16

Aledo ISD Superintendent Susan Bohn outlined a plan to board trustees to seat a "Bearcat Growth Committee" to advise the board on new facilities and bond measures.

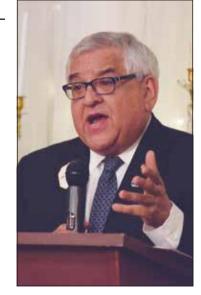
The Willow Park City Council approved an agreement with the City of Hudson Oaks to obtain surface water from the City of Fort Worth.

Tri-County Electric purchased the medical building on Bailey Ranch Road for new offices in Aledo.

Eric Contreras was appointed to fill the Willow Park city council seat vacated after the death of council member Norman Hogue.

Veterans Day was observed throughout the Aledo ISD.

Worth.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

November 16 issue - T.J. Tijerina was the featured speaker at Aledo Lions Club 50th anniversary celebration. at the intersection of Walsh Ranch Parkway and Interstate 30. The Thanksgiving Trot set records in its eighth year, raising \$58,000 to benefit the family of Wilson Adams.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

November 30 issue - Lauren Jett does photo favors for the Kochosky family - Matthew Michelle, Mia, Drake, and Galen, with family member Amanda Coffman. The Kochosky family are new to Texas and said they are glad they chose a community-minded area like East Parker County to live. They attended the annual Thanksgiving Trot.

NOVEMBER 23

The Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County broke ground on a new facility to better assist Parker County families.

DECEMBER 7

Parker County Assistant District Attorney Jeff Swain visited Aledo High School criminal justice students to help them learn about real-world criminal justice applications.

The Parker County Sheriff's Office cleared at least 11 county and two city burglary cases after arresting three individuals. Christmas Tyme in Aledo saw its largest turnout yet; event planner Toni Fisher estimated around 7,500 people attended. An outdoor meeting area to the west of Oak Ridge Church of Christ in Willow Park recently received an upgrade, courtesy of local Girl Scouts.



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

December 7 issue - Avery Street and Addie Minton performed with Just for Kix at Christmas Tyme in Aledo.

DECEMBER 14

The Willow Park City Council approved a permit and site plan for Springhill Suites by Marriott, which will include an event

Aledo ISD superintendent Susan Bohn addressed the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce to talk about growth and instructional focus.

Stuard Elementary School teacher Kathy Morehead died suddenly, leaving the Aledo ISD community mourning.

Aledo ISD trustee Bobby Rigues received the Ambassador of the Year award from Friends of Texas Public Schools during a gala at the Baylor Club in Waco.

Fireman Santa began making the rounds through Aledo neighborhoods.

<u>DECEMBER 21</u>

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees appointed the Bearcat Growth Committee.

The Willow Park City Council approved rezoning for the senior living complex on Bankhead Highway.

Aledo High School Honor Winds, choir, and jazz band performed the annual "Christmas at the Pops."

DECEMBER 28

The annual Good News issue contained stories about a bomb sniffing dog who came to Aledo from Afghanistan, the Bearcats' state championship, and more good news!



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

December 28 issue - Area residents began "painting the town orange" in readiness for the state championship football game. Aleq Garcia, Reagan Bonneau, Harli Self, and Kristian Zamaripa deck the windows at Trinity River Oral Surgery in Willow Park.

Heavenly - Touches Massage

November 23 issue - Daniel Ninth Grade Campus student Grace Larsenwas accepted as one of 15 DFW area students into the Teen Art Program at the Modern Art Museum of Fort

Developer Kyle Wilks gave an update on development along

The board of directors for the Upper Trinity Groundwater

Construction on a new pediatric care facility from Cook

Children's Health Care System is under way

Conservation District considered a rule change that would

restrict the minimum lot size for a new water well to five acres

The City of Aledo announced the circus will return to Aledo on

I-20 to the Willow Park city council.

Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

NOVEMBER 30

instead of the current two.





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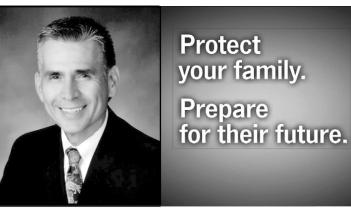
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BASKETBALL

DISTRICT-OPENING DELICATION DELICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Ladycats play solid defense, unselfish offense in 62-26 blowout over Abilene Cooper in girls' 4-5A opener

By Tony Eierdam

A basketball coach's dream is when its team combines hard-working, in-your-face defense with an offense that spreads the scoring.

After the girls' District 4-5A opener on Jan. 4 at Abilene Cooper, Aledo Ladycats head coach Nikki Hyles got just that from her feisty

Paced by a defense that allowed single digits in the first three quarters and an offense that almost saw four players reach double figures in scoring, the Ladycats cruised past the Lady Cougars, 62-26.

Considering there are only eight district games on the schedule due to the five-team league, it was a big win for the Ladycats (17-8, 1-0 in 5-5A), especially on the road. The Aledo ladies will continue district play at 6:15 p.m. at home Friday, Jan. 11 against Abilene Wylie.

"Everything starts with defense," Hyles said. "We had a long week the schedule) so we worked hard on position defense and we worked on playing tight defense without fouling.

"It was nice not playing in a Christmas tournament because we had four straight days of solid practice leading into this game. We played great defense - it was a good team effort."

Three players reached double Addyson Hebel, each with two.



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo junior guard Riley Sale (4) sails down the middle of the lane on her way to a layup during the Ladycats' 62-26 victory at Abilene Cooper in the girls' District 4-5A opener Jan. 4 at Cooper High School. The Ladycats will continue district play at 6:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 at home against Abilene

figures in scoring while another recorded nine points. Riley Sale and Elizabeth Allanach each scored 12 points to lead the Ladycats, with Haley Herrin pouring in 11.

Senior post Maddie Shumway this past week (without games on added nine points while pulling down seven rebounds.

> "It was really even scoring, which I like," Hyles said. "This was big to win the district opener, and I think the kids handled the travel really well. It is also big to win that first district game on the road.

Also scoring for the Ladycats were Kalen Atonio with eight Hyles was pleased to see the points, Audrey Pearce with four, and Ladcyats share the ball on offense. Kylie Anderson, Emma Fowler and

Game recap

The game was a runaway from the start. After Cooper took a 2-0 on consecutive free throws, the Ladycats countered with a 16-2 run to take a 16-4 lead after the first quarter.

After junior guard Riley Sale gave the Ladycats a 4-2 lead - and a lead the squad would not relinquish -Herrin swished a three-point basket and Allanach followed with consecutive treys to extend the Ladycats' lead to 12-2.

Aledo ended the run on three made charity shots by Sale and a free throw by Shumway for a 12-point lead after eight minutes.

The pace of the game slowed in the second period as the teams combined for just 15 points. A jumper



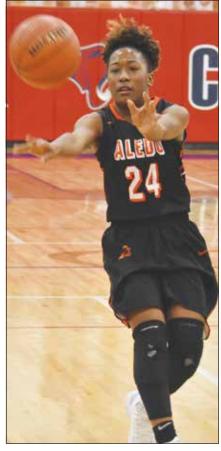
TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ladycats freshman guard Addyson Hebel (33) puts on the brakes while looking for an open teammate during Aledo's win at Abilene Cooper. | **RIGHT: Aledo junior varsity guard** Laila Grubbs (24) sends a pass to the baseline during the Ladycats' 38-21 victory over Abilene Cooper in the District 4-5A opener at Cooper High School. The Ladycats were 1-1 in sub-varsity action at Cooper on Jan. 4 as the freshman Ladycats fell to the Lady Cougars.

from the right perimeter by Pearce followed by a three-pointer from the left perimeter by Allanach stretched the lead to 23-6.

Pearce turned playmaker later in the quarter, sending a pinpoint pass down low to Kylie Anderson for a layup on the left side to increase the lead to 23-7. Cooper hit a three at the buzzer from behind the half-court line as the Ladcyats enjoyed a 25-7 cushion at the half.

Aledo scored the first 10 points of the third quarter - which began with a trey from Sale and ended with a three by Herrin - to extend the lead to 35-10. The Ladycats would score 23 points in the period to take a 48-16 lead into the fourth quarter.



Ladycats JV 38, Cooper 21

Abby Morrison scored 12 points to lead Aledo. Also scoring were Carson Fronk with eight points, Tori Schairbaum, Hannah Glover and Laila Grubbs, each with four, Mikayla Brinkman with three, Caroline Erb with two and Emily Delaune with

Cooper 39, Ladycats freshmen 36

Sophie Smith scored 13 points to lead the Ladycats. Also scoring were Olivia Tregallas with seven points, Hannah Engle and Shelby Bostick, each with five, and Nicole Altieri and Kaylee Lucas, each with two.

FOOTBALL

TO THE WINNER, THE SPOILS

Bearcats QB Bishop selected as District 5-5A MVP; Aledo sweeps superlative awards

By Tony Eierdam The Community News

Aledo junior quarterback Jake Bishop headed a list of Aledo Bearcats who earned All-District 5-5A honors.

Bishop, who completed 140 of 199 passes (70 percent) for 2,231 yards, 26 touchdowns, and just two interceptions, was voted by the coaches as the district's Most Valuable Player.

And in an award that usually is received by a skill-position player, Aledo senior offensive lineman Cameron Callaway was selected as 5-5A's Offensive Player of the Year.

Rounding out the superlative awards, Aledo senior defensive end Colt Ellison was named the district's Defensive MVP; sophomore receiver Jo Jo Earle was named Newcomer of the Year; and Aledo senior safety/tailback/returner Tre Owens was selected as Utility Player of the Year.

Earning first-team honors from Aledo were junior tailback Jase McClellan - who finished with 2,073 rushing yards and 48 touchdowns - senior tight end Devan Daugherty, sophomore receiver Hampton Fay, senior center Logan Escamilla, senior offensive guard Chandler Knandel, senior offensive tackle Colby Thomas, senior defensive end Will Greenwood, senior defensive tackle Jett Barton, senior linebacker Zach Reinert, senior linebacker McCain Smith, junior linebacker Max Lucas, sophomore cornerback DeMarco Roberts and senior safety Jake Ford.

Bearcats earning second-team honors include junior fullback Jordan Montes, senior receiver Tripp Jones, senior receiver Mylan Hayhurst, senior offensive guard Cooper Thompson, senior defensive tackle Cody Stone, junior cornerback Collin Johnson, and junior punter Cade Jones.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo junior quarterback Jake Bishop was voted as District 5-5A's Most Valuable Player for the 2018 season. The second-year starting signal caller completed 140 of 199 passes (70 percent) for 2,231 yards, 26 touchdowns and two interceptions.

5-5A SUPERLATIVE AWARDS

MVP - Jake Bishop, quarterback, Aledo Off. MVP - Cameron Callaway, offensive lineman, Aledo

Def. MVP - Colt Ellison, defensive end, Aledo

Newcomer - Jo Jo Earle, receiver, Aledo Utility Player of the Year - Tre Owens, safety, running back, kick returner, Aledo



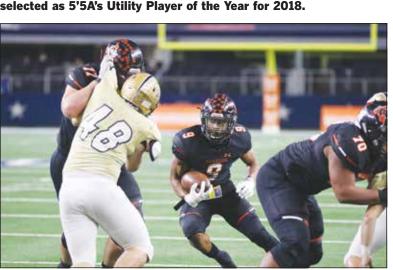
CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo senior defensive tackle Colt Ellison (44) was voted as District 5-5A's Defensive Player of the Year for the 2018 season.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo safety, tailback, kick returner Tre Owens (19), shown returning an interception for a touchdown in the state semifinals, was selected as 5'5A's Utility Player of the Year for 2018.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo junior tailback Jase McClellan was selected to the District 5-5A's first team. McClellan led the district in rushing yards, and finished a 16-game season with 2,073 rushing yards and 48 touchdowns on the ground.



HOWARD HURD III/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo senior offensive lineman Cameron Callaway (54) was selected as the district's Offensive Player of the Year for 2018.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bearcats sophomore receiver Jo Jo Earle (91) was voted as District 5-5A's 2018 Newcomer of the Year.

2018 - The Year in Sports, cont'

(Editor's note: The following are excerpts from each dated issue of 2018. Events written may have not happened on these days but were published on these dates)



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Former Aledo All-America running back Johnathan Gray gives a speech during h is inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame in May.

<u>AUGUST 10</u>

Bearcats begin August practices. Ladycats win volleyball opener over Waco Midway.

AUGUST 17

In an unique volleyball match that featured wife versus husband head coaches, the Ladycats came back from a two-game deficit to win the next three games to defeat Weatherford in five sets at Aledo. The Ladycats are coached by Claire Gay, whose husband, Nick Gay, is the Weatherford coach. Claire avenged a loss to her husband from the previous year.

AUGUST 24

Bearcats host Byron Nelson in scrimmage which was their final tune-up before the 2018 season opener. No. 6 Ladycats fall to No. 1 Lovejoy in pre-district match at Carrollton.

AUGUST 31

The Bearcats are ranked No. 1 in Class 5A in the Associated Press preseason poll as the 'Cats get ready for their season opener at Denton against Guyer. Ladycats defeat Arlington Seguin in volleyball.

<u>SEPTEMBER 7</u>

No. 1 Bearcats shut out Denton Guyer, 40-0, in 2018 season opener. Aledo junior Graydon Morris won the Marcus Invitational cross country meet with a time of 15:15.

SEPTEMBER 14

Playing at the "Battle on the Border" at Shreveport's Independence Bowl, the Bearcats defeat Bentonville, Ark, 51-14. Ladycats defeat Midlothian Heritage in volleyball.

<u>SEPTEMBER 21</u>

Ladycats defeat Argyle in final tune-up before beginning District 4-5A volleyball play. Bearcats enjoy bye week. TCA Eagles defeat Frisco Legacy Christian to move to 2-1 in non-district football play.

SEPTEMBER 28

Ladycats win first two District 4-5A volleyball matches. TCA Eagles fall to 2-2 after loss to Bullard Brook Hill. Abilene Wylie defeats Aledo in fall team tennis as squad drops to 2-1 in district play.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Following their 55-19 win over Fort Bend Marshall in the Class 5A, Division II state championship game, the Aledo Bearcats celebrate the school's eighth state football championship.

<u>OCTOBER 5</u>

Bearcats move to 2-0 in District 5-5A after 52-6 blowout win over Everman. Ladycats volleyball falls to Wichita Falls Rider but defeat Abilene Cooper to stay in second place in 4-5A. AHS tennis defeats Wichita Falls Rider to clinch second place in District 4-5A.

OCTOBER 12

Tied 21-21 at the half, Bearcats score 27 unanswered points in second half on their way to a 48-29 win over Midlothian and move to 5-0 overall. Ladycats weep Abilene Wylie at Wylie to stay in second place and a game behind Rider in District 4-5A volleyball.

OCTOBER 19

Bearcats (6-0, 4-0) score on all seven possessions in 46-6 victory over Burleson. Wichita Falls Rider defeats Ladycats at home to win District 4-5A championship. The Ladycats will be the second seed from the district in the playoffs. Graydon Morris wins 4-5A cross country meet and both the girls' and boys' teams advance to regional meet. The boys won the meet and the girls placed second. Aledo netters defeat Lubbock Coronado in bi-district playoffs. TCA Eagles win district football opener.

OCTOBER 26

Under muddy conditions on a grass field, the Bearcats defeat Cleburne, 56-20, at Cleburne, as the 'Cats move to 7-0 and 5-0 in 5-5A. Aledo netters defeat El Paso Chapin in area round but fall to Amarillo in regional quarterfinals. Graydon Morris wins regional cross country meet to advance to the state meet. TCA Eagles down Lubbock Trinity Christian, 37-14 as TCA raised its record to 4-3 and 2-0 in district. AHS netters eliminated from playoffs by Amarillo.

NOVEMBER 2

Ladycats defeat Lubbock Cooper 3-1 in opening round of vollevball playoffs, Bearcats rout Waco University 66-0 to go 8-0 overall and 6-0 in 5-5A. TCA Eagles remain unbeaten in district play after 38-0 win over Midland Trinity.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo safety Trey Owens' 103-yard interception return for a touchdown in the state semifinal win was featured on Dec. 14 on ESPN SportsCenter's Top 10 Plays of the Day.

NOVEMBER 9

Graydon Morris wins boys' state cross country meet for second consecutive year. Ladycats fall in five sets to Amarillo in regional volleyball quarterfinals. Bearcats move to 9-0 and 7-0 in 5-5A after 58-14 win at Joshua. TCA Eagles down Lubbock Christian 35-17 to stay unbeaten in district play. Former Ladycats two-time state champion golfer Cheyenne Knight qualifies for the 2019 LPGA tour.

NOVEMBER 16

Bearcats run the table in District 5-5A with a 49-7 win over Arlington Seguin for an 8-0 district record and 10-0 overall. It was Aledo's 83rd consecutive district victory dating back to 2007, an ongoing state record. TCA Eagles defeat Coram Deo 20-14 to win TAPPS District I championship. Basketball Bearcats fall in season opener at home to Brock. Ladycats basketball team grabs first win of the season with 42-41 comeback win at Jacksboro. The Ladycats came back from a 16-point halftime deficit.







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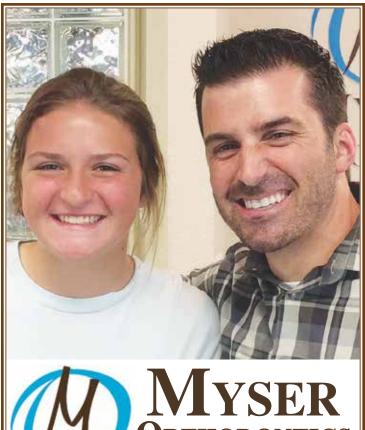
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Bearcats blow out Seagoville, 48-13, in first round of playoffs. TCA Eagles defeat Colleyville Covenant 46-7 in second round of playoffs. Eleven Ladycats earn all-district volleyball honors with Hannah Jones (C-Offensive MVP), Daleigh Ellison (Blocker of the Year) and Sarah Morehead (Setter of the Year) earning superlative awards.

NOVEMBER 30

Bearcats run past Lucas Lovejoy 62-28 for area (second) round playoff win. TCA Eagles win second-round playoff game, 42-7, over Pantego Christian to advance to state semifinals. Basketball Bearcats defeat Joshua, 58-43, for their second consecutive win. Ladycats defeat Fort Worth O.D. Wyatt but fall to state-ranked Stephenville.

DECEMBER 7

Bearcats defeat Dallas South Oak Cliff, 28-14, in regional semifinal game. The game featured a three-hour weather delay. TCA Eagles down Coram Deo, 13-7, to advance to the TAPPS Division III state championship game. Basketball Bearcats rout Stephenville, 65-37. Ladycats crush Fort Worth Nolan Catholic,

DECEMBER 14

TCA Eagles come back from 14-3 deficit with two fourth-quarter touchdowns to defeat Boerne Geneva School, 15-14. The winning touchdown came on a Tito Gabaldon quarterback sneak with 31 seconds left in the game. Of note, TCA's field goal was kicked by senior Cobey Bixler, who had missed most of the season battling testicular cancer. Bearcats defeat Frisco Reedy, 26-16, to capture Region II title and advance to the state semifinals. Ladycats win home basketball tournament. Ladycats hitter Hannah Jones named to all-state volleyball team.



BRETT GIST/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

January 11, 2019 **13A**

Trinity Christian Academy senior quarterback Tito Gabaldon sneaks through the pile to score the game-winning touchdown for a 15-14 victory in the TAPPS Division III state championship game.

DECEMBER 21

Bearcats blow out Wichita Falls Rider 63-7 in state semifinals and advanced to the Class 5A, Division II state championship game. Trey Owens' 103-yard interception return for a touchdown was featured on that night's ESPN SpostsCenter's Top 10 Plays of the Day. Fifteen TCA Eagles earn All-District 1 honors with Cody Athey (Co-MVP), Brayden Smalley (Newcomer of the Year) and head coach Joe Hamstra (Coach of the Year) earning superlative awards.

DECEMBER 28

The Aledo Bearcats defeat Fort Bend Marshall, 55-19, in the Class 5A, Division II state championship game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. The win was the eighth state football championship in school history, the seventh in the last 10 years and second in the past three seasons. Junior tailback Jase McClellan was voted by the media as the game's Offensive MVP, while linebacker Wyatt Harris as selected as the Defensive MVP.

BASKETBALL

MOMENTUM

Bearcats defeat Country Day, 45-32; begin District 4-5A play on two-game win streak

By Tony Eierdam

Momentum is on the side of the Aledo Bearcats as they head into District 4-5A play.

On Tuesday, the Bearcats traveled to Fort Worth to take on Country Day and came away with a convincing 45-32 victory.

The win, combined with a win at Sherman on Jan. 4, elevates the Bearcats' record to 8-17. Aledo will begin District 4-5A play at home at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 against Abilene Wylie.

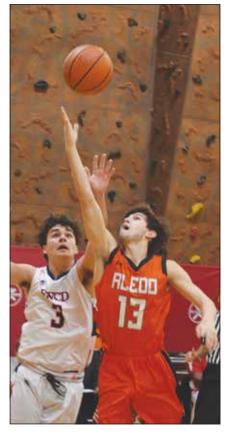
"I told the guys after the game that we are now 0-0," Bearcats head coach Fred Jones said, alluding to the fact that the 'Cats open District 4-5A play Friday. "We have won our last two games, and it is always good to have momentum heading into the district opener.

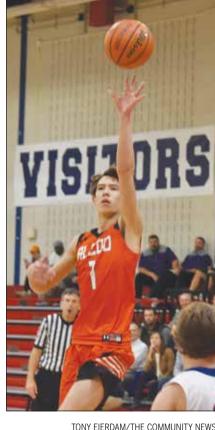
Aledo will open district play at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 at home against Abilene Wylie.

One key to the win was defense. The Bearcats held Country Day to single digits in three quarters.

"For us, playing defense is non-negotiable," Jones said. "We have to play defense; we have to get







TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo post Cole Niitsch elevates through the lane Tuesday night during the Bearcats' 45-32 win at Fort Worth Country Day. Aledo opens District 4-5A play at home at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 against Abilene Wylie. | CENTER: Aledo guard Austin Hawkins (13), shown executing a layup, scored a team-high 14 points to lead the Bearcats over Country Day Tuesday night at Fort Worth. | RIGHT: Bearcats freshman guard Daniel Sohn (1) elevates to the basket Tuesday night during the Bearcats' win at Fort Worth Country Day.

stops. We talk every day about having focus, and for us our focus has to be defense. We feel we have a chance if we focus on defense."

mission, 20-18, Aledo guard Austin Hawkins got hot in the third period with 10 points - including a pair of three-point buckets - to help the Trailing by two points at inter- 'Cats to a two-point lead, 30-28, as run to take a 40-30 lead. Post Truen

the game moved to the fourth quarter. Hawkins led the Bearcats with 14 points.

Aledo began the final stanza 10-0

Johnson scored on two driving layups, and Hawkins added another trey in the run.

"We were efficient on offense in the second half," Jones said. "We had eight turnovers in the first half and three in the second half. That was a big difference in the game. We got the same looks at the basket in the second half that we had in the first.

"We started to knock down those shots in the second half. I told the guys at halftime to just keep playing and to take rhythm shots and it paid off in the second half."

Defensively, the Bearcats did not allow the Falcons to score for the first 5:41 of the final period. Aledo closed the scoring by connecting on five of six free throws for a 13-point

Also scoring for the Bearcats were Tre Owens with nine points, Johnson with eight, Dietrich and JW Comiskey, each with five, and Max Newell with four.

Jones said he used a lot of rotations to try different combinations. Jones welcomed back the return of junior guard Reid Dietrich, who had been injured.

"In the first half, we had a lot of different pieces going in and out," he said. "We kind of narrowed down our rotation in the second half and I think it helped build some chemistry and rhythm. I think that made a difference in knocking down shots."



Matt Morris

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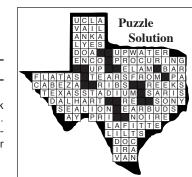
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By: Doyle Moss, Mayor Date: January 2, 2019

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SOCCER

BACK TO THE PITCH

State runner-up Bearcats hope to get back to title tournament in 2019

By Tony Eierdam

Last year, the Aledo Bearcats were dubbed by their head coach Derek Vierling as the "Cardiac Kids" based on six consecutive one-goal wins in the playoffs that led the 'Cats to the Class 5A state championship match where they fell to No. 1 Frisco Wakeland.

Although the Bearcats graduated leading scorer and all-state midfielder Max Owens and all-state goal-keeper Conrad Garbowski – among a few key graduates – Vierling still feels he has the returning pieces to challenge for a third consecutive district championship and a deep run in the playoffs.

The Bearcats have four key players coming back from the state-finalist team – seniors Brandon Wrinkle, Connor Steele and Clayton Holt, and junior Micco Little.

"Brandon scored two game-winning goals last year in the playoffs; Micco and Connor each scored a couple of playoff goals," Vierling, in his 18th season at Aledo, said. "Unfortunately Clayton got hurt in the last district game and although did not play in the playoffs he was a key player through district.

"Connor and Brandon have been on varsity for four years, and they are captains this year. After the alumni game (Dec. 29) they both came up to me and said, 'I think we are going to be all right."

Vierling feels his returning players can each boost their goal totals from last year.

"I think offensively we will be OK," Vierling said. "Brandon was our second-leading goal scorer last year with 16 goals, and if he makes the typical junior-to-senior jump I can see him scoring 20-25 goals. Clayton is the strongest and fastest player that we have, and I think he can contribute 15-20 goals.



CHRIS D'AVINO/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo all-district, first-team midfielder Micco Little is a returning starter from the 2018 state-championship match team.



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo junior midfielder Brandon Wrinkle (7) will return for the Bearcats in 2019.

"I also think Micco can score somewhere in the 15-to-20 goal range. Connor is a good distributor and I can see him pushing 20 assists. I feel good offensively. I think Harper Smith at forward – our first sub off the bench last year – can contribute offensively as well."

Other midlfielders include seniors CJ Harper, Chris Aguilar and Michael Owens; juniors Trey Guilbault, Brett Peterson and Ben Clements; and sophomores Dylan Dobransky and Alex Meche.

While comfortable with his offense, Vierling admits a little

uneasiness concerning his defend-

"We will have all brand-new starters on defense," he said. "We have had a sophomore, Parker Trice, who has really stepped up. He was a JV defender last year and he has really come on – he had a good fall season. (Junior) Tommy Breaux got in the state championship game last year and I see him as a starter, so he has some experience.

"(Senior) Austin Jones played forward last year but I am moving him to the back. He is 6-2, and hopefully his size can be a big help in defending corner kicks."

Other defenders include seniors Vinny Altieri and Nik Smith; junior Jacob DeCasas; and sophomore Cale McCoy.

Probably the big question for Vierling for 2019 is how to replace Garbowski, a German foreign-exchange student last year who carried the team on its "cardiac" playoff run. Vierling will have two goalkeepers with little or no varsity experience.

"We have a sophomore, Ryland Yates, and a junior, Ben Oaks, who both played JV last year," Vierling said. "Yates came up to varsity last year but got hurt at the end of district play. I am going to use January to see who steps up and separates himself. Our non-district games will really matter as far as goal-keeper and other positions.

"I am going into (pre-district matches) wanting to win every game, but what is more important is finding a starting 11 players."

Bearcats notes: The Bearcats (3-1) defeated Keller Central, Fort Worth North Side and Cedar Hill while losing 1-0 Burleson to finish in third place last weekend at the Boswell tournament. The Bearcats are hosting the Moritz Kia Tournament of Champions (Jan. 10-12). The boys' championship match is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 at Bearcat Stadium.

BEARCATS' VIERLING EARNS NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR HONORS

By Tony Eierdam

Although he is well known as one of the top high school soccer coaches in the area and state, Bearcats head coach Derek Vierling has now earned national respect.



Vierling

Vierling, who guided the Bearcats to the Class 5A state championship in 2018, was named the 2018 Winter Region High School Coach of the Year by the United Soccer Coaches Association.

The national award winner came from a pool of coaches who each won regional coach of the year awards. Vierling was named the 5A State Small School Coach of the Year (for all classes not 6A) for the region.

"The coaches in Texas voted on me," Vierling explained. "That put me in the running for a national award which they put in three categories – fall, winter, and spring – and Texas falls under winter. There were 18 or 19 "winter" coaches voted on and I was chosen."

Vierling, entering his 18th year at Aledo, has led the Bearcats to a pair of state-championship match appearances and has had his team in the playoffs for 16 of the past 17 years.

"When I saw the email (naming him the winner) I thought it was kind of cool," Vierling said. "OK, I was pretty pumped. I called Reed (his son and former player) and my dad right away. I think it sheds a positive light on our program and high school soccer in Texas.

"We had a special year (in 2018) where we only lost one game – unfortunately it was the last one (state championship match). It was a good ride and a lot of fun. But as far as the awards, it feels good to be recognized – it feels good when someone tells you that you did a good job."







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FRESH START

With key returning scorer, solid mid field, Ladycats expect success in 2019

By Tony Eierdam

It was an unfamiliar scene for the Aledo girls last season when the Ladycats were eliminated from the playoffs in the first round.

This year offers new hope with the return of goal-scorer Brooke Jones and a solid midfield of veteran players as the Ladycats embark on the 2019 season.

Ladycats head coach Bryan Johnson explained Jones' absence from the team last year. She was a starter and key goal scorer her freshman and sophomore seasons at Aledo.

"Brooke played with the (United States National Women's) Developmental Academy last year and we welcome her back for her senior year of high school soccer," Johnson said. "She learned a lot there, and that will help her and our team this year.

"Brooke brings a 'Cameron Huddleston attitude' to our team (Huddleston was an all-state player and member of the Ladcyats' state-finalist team in 2017 currently playing at Oklahoma State University). She works hard and wants to win.

"She is a demanding player and will be a team leader. Her and Vanessa Rajan are our captains. Vanessa is a four-year starter at defender and midfield, and she will play more of a defensive role this year. Vanessa is a great leader on and off the field, and she is just great to be around. She is always positive, and I feel she will be a great leader for our young team."

Scorers

Although the Ladycats lost their top two scorers to graduation from last season, Johnson feels others are ready to share the scoring load.

"I feel our strongest attribute will be our play in the mid field," Johnson said. "Our forwards – our front line – will be really young. Our midfielders will have to dominate the game for us to be able to score

"Brooke will be a midfielder along with Grace Ornelas, Hunter Jones and Caroline Miller as our midfielders. Caroline has had a fantastic offseason. We also have a freshman – Arwen Wise – who will play midfield but we are looking at her as more of an attacking threat."

Other midfielders include sophomores Grace Bertram and Olivia Caggiano.

The Ladycats' forwards include freshman Ashlyn Laughley, senior Megan Crawford, junior D'Anjelah Allen and freshman Reece Warren.

"Ashlyn Laughley will play up top (forward), and even as a freshman she has what I describe as 'it," Johnson said. "She has been a very dominating player in the offseason and during our first tournament, and with her and Brooke taking the scoring load I think we have a chance to win a lot of games."



CHRIS D'AVINO/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Returning for her senior season after a year in a national youth soccer developmental program is Aledo midfielder Brooke Jones, shown shooting at the Mansfield Timberview tournament last week. Jones is expected to be one of the Ladycats' top scorers in 2019.

Defense

Johnson will rely on an experienced defense, many of which played two years ago when the Ladycats reached the 2017 state championship match.

"(Sophomore) Avery Betancourt and (junior) Reagan Knesek will be our center backs," Johnson said. "I think with them and (senior) Lauren Crawford and Vanessa (Rajan) back there we will have a lot of speed. We worked a lot on defense during offseason, and I am excited about that unit.

"I feel comfortable with our defenders, and if we can just score a few goals we will win some games. Hey, winning 1-0 each time would be fine, especially with the district we are in."

Other defenders include junior Alayna D'Avino, sophomore Brooke Franklin, sophomore Ashby Sale, and junior Riley Sanders.

The big question facing Johnson this year is at goal-keeper, where for four straight previous year the position was held by all-state goal-keeper Mackenzie Covington. Freshman Emma Davis has been given the starting job, but she will be challenged by sophomore Emily Thomas.

"The freshman, Emma Davis, is our starter," Johnson said. "She is very confident, and Emily will also get a chance to play – she was my JV 'keeper last year. What I like about Emma is she is vocal – she directs traffic.

"As a freshman she is not as technically sound as Mack (Covington) was her freshman year, but Mack beat out a senior her freshman year – Emma doesn't have anyone to beat out. I feel Emma is going to be a good goalkeeper, and she has fit in well with the team.

"Emily has also done a good job for us and she will be a good backup. It stinks being the No. 2 'keeper,

ALEDO HIGH SCHOOL

but she is important and needs to be here."

Tough District

Johnson feels the Ladycats will be in the toughest district (new 4-5A) he has seen in a while; along with Aledo, it is comprised of Wichita Falls Rider, Wichita Falls High School, Abilene Wylie, and Abilene Cooper.

"We have never beaten Rider or Old High (Wichita Falls High School)," Johnson said. "Abilene Wylie made the regional final and got beat by (state champion) Midlothian Heritage, but they are going through a coaching change (along with a jump in classification).

"My concern this year is we are a young team and road games will be challenging. Old High and Rider are very well coached – those coaches have been there forever – and although I would want to win the district, if we finish second I feel we will accomplish something. Any time you finish below second place the playoffs will be a struggle (against higher-seeded teams)."

Ladycats notes: The Ladycats (3-0) defeated Waco University, Lucas Lovejoy, and Haltom last week at the rain-shortened Mansfield Timberview tournament. Aledo, which scored 19 goals in three matches (paced by six goals from Laughley) won a points tiebreaker to win the tournament. The Ladycats are hosting the Moritz Kia Tournament of Champions (Jan. 10-12). The girls' championship match is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 at Bearcat Stadium.

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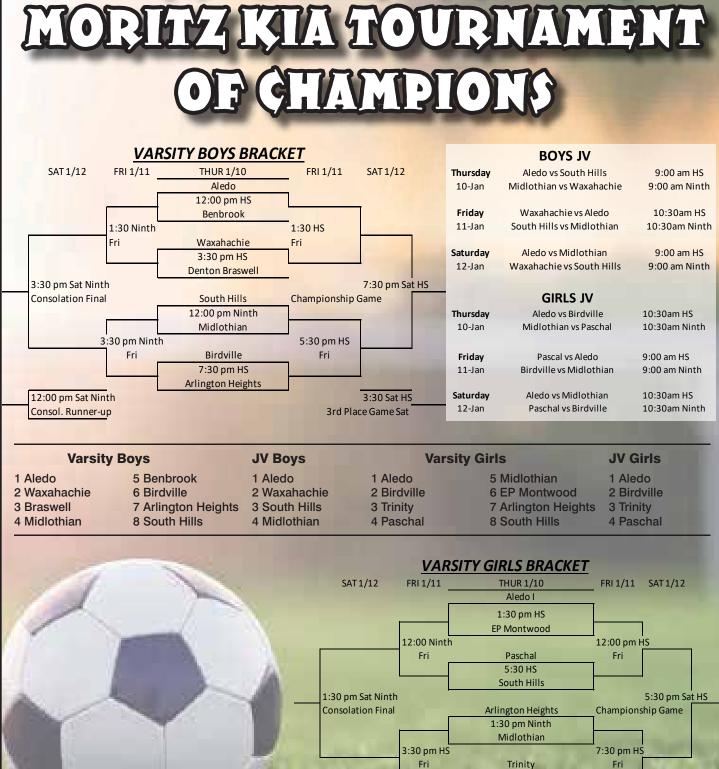
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TCA Champs

Skaggs, Hamstra see TCA reaping rewards after state football championship

By Tony Eierdam

For a growing private school such as Trinity Christian Academy, exposure is an element that is crucial for its growth and success.

For TCA, nestled in East Parker County between Aledo and Weatherford, it could not have bought the kind of exposure it has gotten from its football program.

In just three short years after going from six-man football in the Texas Christian Athletic Federation (TCAF) to the 11-man game in TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools) - the TCA Eagles have won the school's first football state championship, defeating Boerne Geneva, 15-14, in the TAPPS Division III state championship game on Dec. 7.

Just the exposure from going to TAPPS and the 11-man game three years ago has added to the enrollment of the school, and winning the state championship, according to TCA Head of School Mike Skaggs, will be invaluable to the school's brand and exposure.

"The state championship has made our school a little more visible, helped our brand as they say, and it could not help but to have done that," Skaggs said. "For us to be able to manage our brand well and not let it become something that we don't want it to become is crucial.

"Our three primary core values are relationships, excellence, and service. This (winning state championship) falls squarely under excellence. It is almost like this is a by-product of something we have been doing for a long time.

"That is not to discredit or say that any other kids or coaches could not have done the same thing - they could; there are a lot of great schools out there that would have loved to have been where we were back in December. But I feel there has been a growing sense of excellence that has kind of bore fruit, and part of that fruit is seeing things here like state championships in football."

The right fit

Skaggs is hoping the state football championship won't necessarily entice athletes to come play at the school - although he said that could be a perk if the student-athlete is "the right fit for us" - but give the kind of exposure that will lead potential students to the school which also excels in academics and arts.

"We have a wall full of pennants," Skaggs explained, "where our students have been accepted to college - more than ever at this point of the year – and the kids realize there are more options ahead of them because of the excellence we are seeing school-wide.

"What does it do for the brand? I think winning the state championship in football is just one more piece of the puzzle that -- and I hate to use the word legitimacy - but it just provides another layer of legitimacy in some people's eyes for us as a school.

"Had we lost that game, we would be just as legitimate of a school – we would still be just as strong in many areas – but it gives people one more reason to give us a look. We realize



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trinity Christian Academy Eagles head coach Joe Hamstra proudly holds up the TAPPS Division III state championship trophy to the TCA fans. The Eagles came back with two fourth-quarter touchdowns to defeat Boerne Geneva School, 15-14, Dec. 7 at Hewitt Midway High School's Panther

that if the individuals are the right fit for here. We want mission-appropriate kids, and football is just part of this, but not all of it. There are so much bigger pieces to our school than football."

The man TCA called to lead the program from six-man to 11-man four years ago, Joe Hamstra - who was the head coach in the school's final year of six man - said the realization from winning state has hit

"It has sunk in," Hamstra, who has also had public school coaching experience, said. "I have been getting congratulations from every coach I have talked to since then, and there has been a good feeling around the school. The state championship represents a lot of hard work that was put into the offseason and season."

Defying the pick

One reason this was a season to remember for the Eagles is that they were picked to finish third in District 1-AAA. TCA won both district games it was the underdog, and won two playoff games against strong favorites, including the state title game over Boerne Geneva.

"We were not favored to win in two district games and two playoff

our football team got great exposure games, including the state champiand that could lead to us getting onship game," Hamstra said. "The some more players, but we only want team we beat (Boerne Geneva) for a state title had 16 players on the allstate team - we had five.

> "Army's coach Jeff Monken has always said 'you need great teams to win; you don't necessarily need great players' or something like that. That is true with us. When you look at a lot of our kids and look at our opponents, most of the time we are playing against kids bigger than us.

> "Their linebackers are weighing 220 pounds and we have linebackers who weigh 165 pounds. But our kids care for each other and play hard for each other and that was the difference this year. A lot of times - including the state championship game - we weren't better individually at each position but we were the better team.

> "Our kids got down 11 in the fourth quarter (of the state title game) and they did not flinch. Our kids just kept on playing, but that had been them all year."

> Skaggs pointed to another area of the Eagles football team that he and the school take pride.

> "What I loved about Joe's team is the number of academic all-state kids on the team.," Skaggs said. "It takes a 90 or above average to make the all-state, all-academic team. That 90 is not an easy thing to come by. It's tough, and especially when



Trinity Christian Academy quarterback Tito Gabladon (6) celebrates after the Eagles defeated Boerne Geneva, 15-14, for the TAPPS Division III state championship on Dec. 7 t Midway High School in Waco.



TCA defenders Gage Scott (2) and Carson Wert (8) converge on Geneva running back Devon Ahrens during the TAPPS state championship game.



you are playing a sport that takes up a lot of time."

Keeping with the program

Hamstra said the move to TAPPS and 11-man football not only has helped the football program, but all of the sports programs at TCA.

"As TCA continues to grow, we are getting more kids out to play at the college level in all of our sports," he said. "I am not sure we did that five years ago. Kids now understand they can play here and still go on to that next level.

"In this day and age of sports where a lot of kids just specialize in one sport, here our kids play at least two sports and some play three. We are a place where a kid can still do that. In fact, our backup quarterback (Kennan Dowling) is always the lead in school plays. That's what makes school fun."

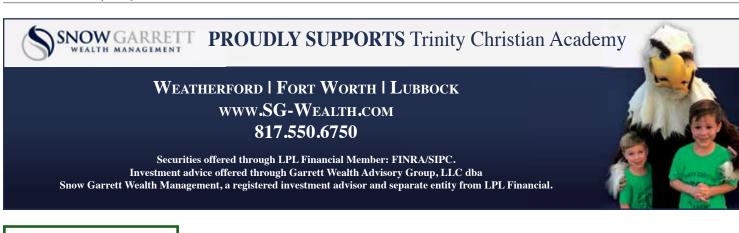
Skaggs feels the growing school has more to offer now than it may have in the past.

"I think over the last five years, and I will give (principal) Ken Nobles props here; he has made TCA a fun place to go to school," Skaggs said. "We have gotten kids from other private schools and they have said 'at my old school we worked hard but it wasn't any fun over there.' We work hard here, too, but here it is just fun. We believe we offer a great high school experience.

"In the past, we have heard some people say that they might be losing something by coming to TCA. And sometimes that is true - there are some programs we don't have that Class 5A or 6A public schools can offer. But a lot of times when they get over here they realize TCA has more than they thought."

And thanks in a large part to the football program, more people around the area will take the time to check out what TCA has to offer.









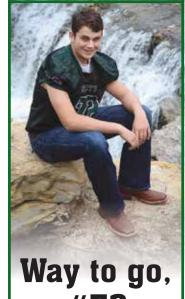
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Twelve of 13 Trinity Christian Academy Eagles shown earned All-District 1-AAA football honors for the 2018 season. Shown, front row (from left), are Landry Smith, Preston Gist, Carson Wert, Caleb Chesney, Tito Gabaldon and Cody Athey; and back row, Marshall Tovar, Brayden Smalley, Jackson Lewis, Cole Alberts, Lars Hanssen and Gage Scott. Not pictured: Sophomore, Jake Povero.

TCA ALL-DISTRICT 1 HONORS

Superlative awards

Newcomer of the Year: Freshman, Brayden Smalley

Co-MVP: Senior, Cody Athey

Coach of the Year: Joe Hamstra

1st team offense

Senior, Cole Alberts - Offensive

Senior, Preston Gist - Running

Senior, Carson Wert - Wide

Receiver 1st team defense

Back

Senior, Cody Athey - Linebacker Senior, Caleb Chesney - Defensive

Junior, Lars Hanssen - Defensive

Line Senior, Carson Wert - Defensive

2nd team offense

Senior, Cody Athey - Running

Back Senior, Tito Gabaldon - Quarterback

Junior, Lars Hanssen - Offensive

2nd team defense

Senior, Preston Gist - Defensive

Senior, Landry Smith - Linebacker Junior, Marshall Tovar - Defensive

Honorable mention offense

Senior, Caleb Chesney - Running Back

Senior, Jackson Lewis - Wide

Receiver

Senior, Gage Scott - Kicker Freshman, Brayden Smalley -

Offensive Line **Honorable mention defense**

Senior, Tito Gabaldon - Punter Senior, Jackson Lewis - Defensive

Sophomore, Jake Povero -

Linebacker

Senior, Gage Scott - Defensive

Freshman, Brayden Smalley - Defensive Line

EIGHT TCA EAGLES RECEIVE ALL-STATE HONORS

Eight Trinity Christian Academy football players receive All State honors after their incredible season. TCA finished as the undefeated TAPPS Division III District 1 District Champions and 2018 TAPPS Division III State Champions.

1st Team All State:

Senior, Cole Alberts - Offensive Lineman

Senior, Cody Athey - Defensive Linebacker

Senior, Caleb Chesney - Defensive Secondary

Junior, Lars Hanssen - Defensive

Lineman 2nd Team All State: Senior, Preston Gist - Offensive Back Honorable Mention All State:

KRYSTAL LEWIS/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior, Carson Wert - Offensive

These football players also achieved Academic All State. Qualifications for Academic All State are: being a junior or senior, earned 1st or 2nd team all-district honors and has a cumulative GPA of 90 or better.

Senior, Cody Athey

Senior, Preston Gist

Junior, Marshall Tovar

Receiver

Senior, Cole Alberts

Senior, Caleb Chesney

Senior, Tito Gabaldon

Senior, Landry Smith

Senior, Carson Wert











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STATE CHAMPIONS!

TCA Eagles erase 11-point, fourth-quarter deficit to defeat Geneva School, 15-14, to earn TAPPS D-III state championship

By Tony Eierdam

Four years ago, Trinity Christian Academy hired Joe Hamstra to lead the Eagles' football program for a transitioning from six-man football to the 11-man game.

Not only was it a big jump -Hamstra actually was the head coach in the Eagles' final year of six man but the athletic department itself was moving up to the state's most prestigious private-school extracurricular organization, the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, aka TAPPS.

It took just three years in 11-man for Hamstra and the Eagles to reach the state championship game, and they won it.

TCA came back from an 11-point deficit with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to defeat Boerne Geneva School, 15-14, to win the TAPPS Division III state championship Dec. 7 at Panther Stadium on the campus of Hewitt Midway High School.

It was the first time in school history that TCA (11-3) has won an 11-man state championship.

Hamstra said he did not have a timetable on when TCA could win a state title at this level when he came to the school in its last year of sixman football.

"This is an incredible feeling," he said. "I never put a time frame on winning state once we started playing 11 man, but honestly, I didn't think we could do this in just three years. But we have a great group of kids, and we have a great administration and a lot of support.

"Even though we came back with two late touchdowns, the key was our defense getting some big stops down the stretch. We got a couple of big plays on offense, and I think we



BRETT GIST/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trinity Christian Academy senior quarterback Tito Gabaldon sneaks through the pile to score the game-winning touchdown for a 15-14 victory in the TAPPS Division III state championship game.

wore their defense down a bit. Our kids just fought their butts off."

Senior Leadership

It was also the final high school football game for seniors Tito Gabaldon, Caleb Chesney, Cody Athey, Haden Deere, Gage Scott, Preston Gist, Carson Wert, Landry Smith, Jackson Lewis, Kayden Kelly, and Cobey Bixler.

"I am so pleased that our seniors won the last football game they played," Hamstra said. "They are so special, and I am so proud of them and proud all of our kids."

Trailing 14-3, TCA got back into the game when quarterback Gabaldon sent a pass down the sideline to receiver Gist at about the Geneva 45. The pass was deflected by a GHS defensive back, but Gist alertly stayed focused on the ball, and when he pulled it down at about the 40 he beat one defensive back on his sprint to the end zone to cut the lead to 14-9 with nine minutes left in the fourth quarter.

TCA went for the two-point conversion but did not reach the end zone, leaving the score at 14-9.

After forcing a punt, TCA took over at its own 30 with 6:15 left in the game. Gist had two long runs at the beginning of the drive, the first for 16 yards and another for 22 that brought the ball to the GHS 19.



BRETT GIST/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TCA defensive back Haden Deere (1) and linebacker Jake Povero (68) stop a Geneva ball carrier during the state championship game.

offsides penalty brought the ball to the GHS 1, but on the next play TCA was whistled for illegal procedure, putting the ball back to the GHS 6.

On third and goal from the six, TCA lost two yards to set up a fourth and goal from the GHS 8. On a throw to the end zone on the next play, GHS was called for defensive holding to give TCA new life and the ball at the 3.

On first and goal, Chesney gained two yards, and on second and goal from the one, Gabaldon called his own number and blasted into the end zone, with 31 seconds left to play, to give TCA a 15-14 lead.

"I knew that it was it - that it Runs by Chesney and a GHS was the last play (TCA was out of to our program and to our school.

timeouts)," Gabaldon said. "I knew we had to get it in, and we did. The line gave me enough room to get in."

The two-point run failed, and TCA forced GHS out on downs to win the state championship.

Reflections on the Victory

"This is hard describe. This is fantastic," Chesney said. "These group of guys are amazing. Three years ago we were playing six-man football, and when we switched to 11-man I never thought we could win state before I graduated.

"No one thought we would be here, and we proved them wrong. This win will attract a lot of attention

"We were underdogs going into four different games this year (two in district, last two games in playoffs) and we pulled through. We were not supposed to win those games but here we are."

Gabaldon echoed Chesney's feelings.

"This is an incredible feeling," he said. "Getting to play with these guys - I would not trade that for the world."

Geneva took a 7-0 lead on its opening possession, capping a threeplay, 45-yard drive with a three-vard touchdown run by running back Devon Aherns and Austin Dennis booting the extra point.

The game, played for the most part with rain falling, turned defensive as each team traded punts twice and GHS recovered a TCA fumble.

TCA got on the board when an eight-play drive stalled deep in GHS territory. Bixler - a cancer survivor and lineman who switched to placekicker as a chance to get on the field and play - booted a 24-yard field goal with 9:00 left in the second quarter to cut Geneva's lead to 7-3.

"I had only started kicking on Monday (Dec. 10) before this game," Bixler said. Bixler, a senior and twoyear starter prior to this year, recovered from testicular cancer in time to suit up for the title game. "When I made contact with the ball I thought it was accurate, but I was not sure if I kicked it far enough. But it barely made it above the bottom-right corner and it was just enough."

Although not known at the time, Bixler's field goal would prove to be the difference in the game.

Late in the opening half TCA drove the ball to Geneva's 25, but GHS defensive back Ethan Houser also GHS' starting QB - intercepted a pass and returned the pick to the

Two plays later, Ahrens crossed the goal line from two yards out, and with 1:30 left in the half, Dennis added the PAT to extend the lead to 14-3, where it remained at the half.

TCA 3 0 12 -15 GHS 7 7 0 0 -14

TCA senior Bixler kicks cancer and game-winning points

By Tony Eierdam

After Trinity Christian academy senior Cobey Bixler noticed he was rapidly losing weight this past summer he knew something was not right.

Bixler, two-year starter at TCA prior to the 2018 season, was diagnosed with testicular cancer at the young age of 17.

"It was surprising," Bixler said. "I didn't want to hear it, but after a few minutes God calmed me down. He let me know that if I let it get to me then the non-believers would think 'apparently cancer is bigger than your God.' I know for a fact that that is not true.

"After a few tears I knew that it was time to get to work (to beat the cancer) and that this would be part of my (life) story. My mindset was to see what God had in store for me. After understanding what I was about to go through, I never really thought I would play football again. I had four rounds of chemotherapy that went from August to the end of October."

The news for Bixley after the four chemo sessions was good - he had beat the cancer.

"In early November I had a scan and they told me I still had spots on

my lungs," he said. "It had spread to my lungs, and after a biopsy they told me the spots on my lungs were non-cancerous."

The TCA coaches then sought out a plan to get Cobey on the field at least once in his senior season, so they asked him to practice placekicking. He had suited up for the first time all season for the state championship game. During the other games he stood on the sidelines in street clothes and his game jersey.

-Bixler started kicking the week of the state championship game. He never really thought he would get a chance to kick a field goal.

"The first field goal I had ever kicked was that Monday (of the state championship game) in practice," Bixler said. "And then I was kicking in the state championship game."

Setting the Scene

Trailing 7-0 and with 31 seconds left in the first half, TCA head coach Joe Hamstra sent Bixler out to kick a 24-yard field goal.

"I was so nervous right before the snap," Bixler said. "Before the game in warmups I did not make a single kick, and that is why I was nervous. The holder, Preston (Gist) was actually calming me down saying 'You got this, just breathe and kick."

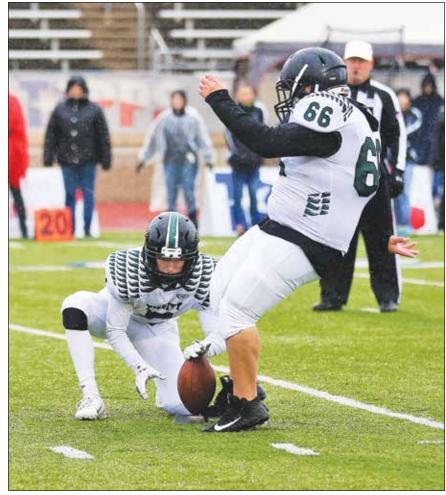
Incredibly, Bixler's low, linedrive kick cleared the crossbar to cut Geneva's lead to 7-3. It was a tremendous psychological boost for the Eagles. Not only had they got on the board and cut the lead to four points, but Bixler's teammates mobbed him after the kick.

"When I made contact with the ball I thought it was accurate, but I was not sure if I kicked it far enough," Bixler recalled. "But it barely made it above the bottom-right corner and it was just enough. The sidelines and our crowd went crazy, and it was a sign that I had beat cancer."

In a short span of six months, Bixler went from cancer patient to state champion. It is a time period he certainly will never forget.

The kick also proved to be the state-championship winning points. Each team scored two touchdowns, but in the end it was Bixler's successful kick that made the difference in the outcome.

"We were thinking before the game how cool it would be to win state, and then it actually happened," he said. "I felt like I was in a movie and I was the main character. But it was God working for me throughout the whole time, and I am thankful it happened."



BRETT GIST/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trinity Christian Academy senior kicker Cobey Bixler kicks a 24-yard field goal during the first half of the Eagles' 15-14 win over Boerne Geneva School for the TAPPS Division III state championship.

We Salute the Trinity Christian Eagles On **Their Winning Football Season and 2018 Texas State Championship** FIRST FINANCIAL BANK MEMBER FDIC



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