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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving Aledo · the Annettas · Hudson Oaks · Willow Park, Texas

WILLOW PARK

Grant will help police enforce traffic safety

By Rick Mauch

Traveling through Willow Park via Interstate 20 is about to get a little safer.

At least that's the plan after the city council approved an agreement between the Willow Park Police Department and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The agreement puts in place a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) - Impaired Driving Mobilization e-Grant to be awarded to the WPPD.

Through the 80/20 matching grant, TxDOT will award the WPPD up to \$11,965.09 (80 percent) and the city will match up to \$2,991.28 for four "waves," or specific times of the year. During each wave Willow Park police officers will work overtime to conduct high visibility saturation of patrolling within the enforcement zone (the city limits), especially along the I-20 corridor.

"As part of our commitment to public safety, we entered into an agreement with TxDOT to reduce traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities," Willow Park Police Chief Carrie West said.

Willow Park Police Sergeant Jaclin Ramirez presented the request to the council, noting that the department has responded to 120 crashes in the past 12 months.

"That doesn't include assists we do all the way to the county line," Ramirez said, adding that speeding is almost always a factor.

The speed limit along I-20 through Willow Park is 70 miles per hour.

Ramirez noted that the enforcement will not include traffic stop checkpoints.

The waves include:

Christmas/New Year's, Dec. 16-Jan. 1. Spring Break, March 3-19.

Independence Day, June 23-July 9. Labor Day, Aug. 18-Sept. 4.

Ramirez said there will be a two-week campaign period with the public through such outlets as schools, social media and

New engineer hired

Following the council's recent approval to create the position of city engineer, one was hired. Gretchen Vasquez has joined the city staff, coming from Aledo and also with experience in Cleburne, City Manager Bryan Grimes said.

"She has extreme municipal knowledge. We look forward to getting her up and running," Grimes said.

Vasquez will supplement the work currently contracted out to Jacob and Martin. She will assist in nearly all levels of both the development department and public works.

Her duties will include - but are not limited to — plan reviews, input on development projects, consulting with the public works director to improve the water and sewer systems, streets, drainage, and other infrastructure needs as required.

Turn to GRANT, page A5



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kathleen Campbell performs with the Aledo High School Colorguard during halftime of the Aledo-Killeen Shoemaker bi-district game on Nov. 10.

Kim remembered as hero after death in Ukraine

By John English The Community News

Two days before his 35th birthday, Aledo High School graduate Paul Kim was killed in action in the War in Ukraine.

According to "Spravdi," the Ukrainian Centre for Strategic Communication, Kim died while helping to liberate the Mykolaiv region in Southern Ukraine.

Kim served for 12 years in the United States Army, rising from the rank of private to the rank of captain, and was eventually assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division where he served in Iraq.

When the War in Ukraine started, Kim felt compelled to help out in any way he could, and decided to join the International Legion for the Defense of Ukraine in August.

He was killed in action on Oct. 5 and laid to rest Nov. 4 at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Kim was described by a fellow officer as "an intelligent, inquisitive and scholarly soldier, and before enlisting in the legion visited as many of the historical sights in Ukraine as the war would allow."

The same soldier, who wishes to remain anonymous, said Kim's last measure of fortitude needs to be recognized and honored.

"Captain Kim died a hero, defending his democratic beliefs and the right of Ukraine to live freely," the soldier said. "He felt the fight against Russian imperialism in Ukraine was a greater fight for the entire free world and the values it holds dear."



LEGACY.COM

But before Kim ever entered the armed forces, he was a student in the Aledo School District where he was known for having a keen interest in history.

Kim graduated from AHS in 2006 and joined the army right out of high school.

"I was coach of the social studies academic team, and that year, the team he was on won state," Randal McKinney said. "He was a good kid. He was soft-spoken, and everybody seemed to like him."

A former government teacher at Aledo High School, McKinney said he had Kim in class and on his academic team, and said,



UKRAINIAN CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

even then, he had a strong desire to serve

"He was a smart kid," McKinney said. "It kind of surprised me that he did not go to college right out of high school. He enlisted in the army. He was excited about joining the military. He had gone that spring to some type of military training over spring break. He wanted to serve."

Kim eventually did go on to graduate from the University of Oklahoma, and was a big OU football fan.

Turn to **HERO**, page A2



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Bearcats of Character

October

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees recognized 11 students as the October 2022 Bearcats of Character for the character trait teamwork. Positivity Project - or P2 - says that someone displaying teamwork has the ability and willingness to place overall group success as a higher priority than individual achievement. Teamwork means committing to a larger group effort and constantly maintaining the Other People Matter mindset, which is essential to success within any team or community!

The students recognized on at this meeting were selected by staff members at their school for their notable display of teamwork each and every day!

Karly Laughley, 12th grade **Aledo High School**

Karly Laughley is a natural



born leader and advocate for others. Karly has spent many hours volunteering with and preparing for our new Excite cheer team. She is always looking for new ways to involve and improve the program.

She also has a gift of working with students in our Peer Coach class. Karly is passionate, resilient and willing to assist with any task. She offers encouragement and motivation not only to her peers, but to the adults at Aledo

Kyle Ochoa, 12th grade Aledo Learning Center

High School!

Kyle works diligently in class and encourages classmates to do the same. He makes an



Ochoa

course content and is inclusive of all students at ALC. Recently, he brought the campus together over each student's love for snack foods! His attention to his peers and assistive nature brings others together to work with him as a team.

Ethan Pickett, 9th grade **Daniel Ninth Grade**



Pickett

Ethan exemplifies working within a team. He consistently steps up and fills whatever role needs to be filled, whether that is as a leader or as someone who takes on the "dirty jobs". Ethan does what

it takes to make sure his group is productive and, ultimately, successful.

Diamond Ramos, 7th grade Aledo Middle School

Diamond is always so cheerful

when he comes into RLA class for seventh period. Even near the end of the day, he is willing to help others and is the first to ask for clarification and shares the information with his group. My class would not be the same



without his great smile, positive attitude, and eagerness to participate and work with others.

Maddison **Bullion.** 7th grade **McAnally** Middle School

Maddison is great at building up team morale on and off the court. So far this season,



Bullion

Bearcats of Character named for effort to help others with their Maddie has demonstrated that she Students will is a team player for the entire volleyball program. When she's not on the court, you can hear her saying, "It's alright guys", "you got this!", "keep it up!", and so much more to support every player. When she's on the court, she supports her teammates, has great communication, and encourages them in huddles.

Daxton Forbes, 1st grade Annetta Elementary School

Dax welcomes all students onto his team. He works with others using kindness, patience, respect for oth-

ers' ideas and abilities. No matter what team he is on. he works well with everyone and cheers others to success!



Forbes

Hector Palacios, 3rd grade Coder Elementary School

Hector is always the first to offer

help to someone or pitch in when needed. He often looks for ways to help out without being asked. He is a positive influence to those around him and wants everyone to succeed! We are thankful to have him in our class!



Palaclos

Bryce Long, 4th grade **McCall Elementary School**

Mrs. Bryant, one of Bryce's teachers, shares that Bryce LOVES participating in group activities and projects! Bryce's positive attitude shines so bright and his classmates enjoy working with him! Mrs. Reynolds, the School Counselor, agrees that the students truly love having Bryce in their group as she witnesses this often when he comes with his class to Guidance lessons.

often shout out to Bryce for him to come join their group. She sees first hand what a big smile and positive attitude he brings to the groups he is a part of.



Austyn Wiatrek, 5th grade **Stuard Elementary School**

Her classmates say- "she works well and gets the work done and

is nice to her partners; she is always ready for the challenge and, whoever she works boy or girl, she works well with them; she has a great smart mind and teamwork defines Mrs. her!!!



Arnold, her 5th grade math teacher says, "I agree with Austyn's classmates! She happily works with anyone in class and does a great job encouraging her friends to get the task done. She is a great leader and an asset to our class."

Sophia Cabral, 4th Grade **Vandagriff Elementary School**

Sophia loves teamwork. She makes sure her team is prepared

for the task at hand. She always makes sure everyone is included when it's their turn or role in the project or game. She is a natural leader amongst her team and they look to her as such. She is



always supportive and tries to help if her teammates are not successful.

Hayden Brady, 4th Grade **Walsh Elementary School**

Hayden has been a team player in our classroom from day one. If she sees someone struggling, she

is always willing to help them out, whether it be with academic help on an assignment, making sure others are included in a group task, organizing their belongings, catching them up on makeup



work, etc. Part of our grade level social contract is being inclusive and pushing towards our goals. Hayden understands that in order to reach our goals as a classroom communi-

> ty, it takes all team members working together. She embodies the characteristic of teamwork and I'm so proud of her for her dedication to all.



QUOTABLE

Character is like a tree and reputa-tion like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

Abraham Lincoln



Matt Morris



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Guest Column

The looming mental health crisis



Dr. Glenn Rogers

Following World War II, mental health advocates began a movement in Texas addressing the issue of failing state hospitals. At the time there were only seven state hospitals, which were overcrowded, prison-like, and inadequately staffed.

Reformers pushed for the creation of community mental health institutes, where patients could receive better care and protection, contrary to what the former "insane asylum" system provided. In 1965, the Texas Legislature passed a bill which created the Comprehensive Community Mental Health-Mental Retardation (MHMR) Centers.

Mental retardation is now referred to as intellectual disability (ID) and when the MHMR acronym is still used, it stands for "My Health-My Resources".

Over the years, mental health services have expanded and improved vastly, yet the shortage of effective mental health services is a growing crisis. Across House District 60 and throughout Texas, this issue is creating consternation among school administrators and teachers, law enforcement agents, and mental healthcare providers.

Since the pandemic, teaching professionals overwhelmingly attest that mental health issues among students have sharply increased. Reports of threatened suicide and depression have risen and, in parallel, necessary disciplinary actions have risen.

One district reported more than two hundred instances of suicide-outcry by students in one year a substantial percentage were elementary students. Local health authorities report an increased number of youth admitted into treatment and substance abuse counseling.

While many districts have one counselor or crisis intervention still insufficient resources to address this crisis. This is especially true for smaller districts that cannot afford to fund social workers. Pecan Valley Centers for Behavioral and Developmental Healthcare provides service for Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties. They have agreements with school districts which allow mental health staff on campuses. Their collaboration has been effective. Case workers can detect mental disorders early, they can refer students to higher levels of care, and students can avoid absences from school.

Jails across the district have seen an increase in their populations of inmates with intellectual disabilities, psychiatric disorders, and drug and alcohol addictions.

One sheriff reported that 50 percent of the jail's inmates need mental health treatment. When a defendant is found incompetent to stand trial, they are required to be admitted to a state hospital for treatment. The issue, however, is that defendants are stuck on the wait list for many months before they get admitted because the beds at all the state hospitals are occupied.

As of June, the average wait time for a maximum-security bed was more than 500 days and for a minimum-security bed the wait time was more than 200 days across the state. The inadequate number of beds in state institutions is costly and dangerous for county jails. Inmates must voluntarily take medication and, unfortunately, many do not. This may create a dangerous environment for both law enforcement officials and other inmates. The cost for any inmate's medical treatment, mental or physical, is the

burden of the county, and very often this can be an exorbitant cost.

facilities unequipped and unable to properly address mental health crises. Their staff often face abuse and mistreatment when deal-

ing with those with psychological disorders. Pecan Valley Executive Director Coke Beatty believes there are solutions to relieve the burden

specialist at each campus, there are currently on law enforcement. He suggests creating a Crisis Drop-Off Facility, a location where individuals currently in mental health crises could go after being arrested, rather than to the county jail. Mental health staff would be trained and equipped to deal with those with mental disorders or severe intellectual disabilities. Beatty also recommends funding so sheriffs' departments can hire more mental health deputies. They would be able to screen individuals immediately once they arrive on the scene and allow patrol units the time to deal with other crimes.

> Pecan Valley Centers wants to do more for their communities, but they are currently extended beyond their limits. Their ideal staff-to-client ratio is one case worker to 150 clients. Now due to extreme staff shortages, some counties have a ratio of one case worker to 400 clients.

> It is time for the Legislature to increase resources for local healthcare authorities. The situation is much different in a post-pandemic world and mental healthcare workers need assistance.

> Caseworkers need higher wages and mental healthcare centers need more staff to effectively manage caseloads. The 87th Legislature provided \$400 million to renovate and expand the state mental health facilities. The 88th Legislature can take that further by providing additional funding for private psychiatric beds since the state hospitals are full, allowing centers like Pecan Valley to contract locally for inpatient beds.

> As Texans, we share a strong legacy of helping our neighbors. As a state representative, it is part of my moral obligation to help those in need and invest in services that will ultimately resort in less cost to the

> > State of Texas and its citizens. Local healthcare centers need increased funding to continue providing dynamic care to our communities. As we enter the 88th Legislative session, an investment in enhanced mental healthcare will be a high priority.

God Bless Texas!

Read this

story online

Glenn Rogers is the representative for State House District 60, which includes Parker County.

TCA senior named National Merit Semifinalist

senior Shane Houston has Semifinalist.



Merit Scholarship Program, initiated in 1955, recognizes about 50,000 academically talented high school students each year out of the 1.5 million or so who

The National

take the PSAT/NMSQT. About 16,000 of these students (less than 1% of each state's high school seniors) are selected as National

Merit Semifinalists. To qualify as a National Merit Finalist, Semifinalists must complete additional requirements, such as earning ACT or SAT scores that confirm their PSAT performance, receiving a positive recommendation

from their principal, and demonstrating consistently high academic performance in high school classes.

About 7.250 of those finalists will be chosen as Merit Scholarship winners in the 2023 competition. Winners can receive scholarships

Trinity Christian Academy from the National Merit organization, corporate-sponsored been named a National Merit scholarships, and scholarships from universities. Shane has completed all requirements, including writing an original essay, to be considered.

National Merit Finalists will be announced in February or March,

"Shane's intellect was evident in class, but more than that he was always a grounding and empathetic presence who could speak on any topic with maturity," said Anabel Cruse, TCA Secondary Teacher.

"I am so impressed with Shane's level of academic output," said TCA Secondary Principal Jesse Whiteaker.

"To score as highly as he did and earn this accomplishment is truly remarkable and his TCA faculty family is so very proud of him. It has also been really cool to see the exciting opportunities that this designation has made available to him."

Shane is the son of Dr. Mark and Nancy Houston of Aledo. Shane says his three most influential academic teachers during high school at TCA have been Kimberly Cyphert, Jason Breisch, and Anabel Kruse.



HERO

from page A1

He was deployed to Iraq for 11 months between 2007 and 2008, and McKinney said he now has a mission of his own - to make surethat people never forget Kim or his sacrifice.

The Hudson Oaks man said he is not sure how, but he would

like to find a way to honor Kim and to commemorate his courage and devotion.

just think he should be remembered," McKinney said. "I know there is a policy of not naming buildings for fall-

en soldiers now because there have been so many, so I am not sure where that leaves me, but there has to be something we can do. I thought about a scholarship, but I don't have the money for that, and

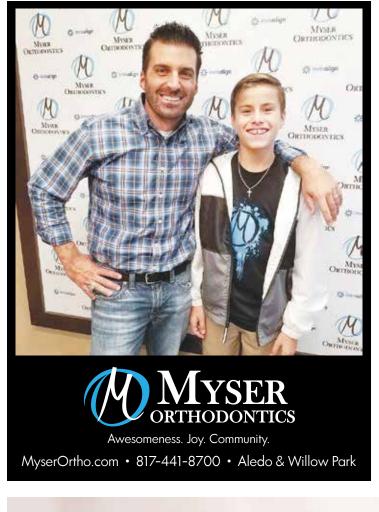
I don't know where the funds for a scholarship would come from. It seems like it would require a continual fundraising type of thing to make it worthwhile."

McKinney said he has been researching various ways to honor Kim's service.

> "I would just like to get his story out there," McKinney said. "There are philanthropists and just a lot of good people in the Aledo area. I don't know what options are out there. I just think he should be recognized. I knew him personally, and he was a good kid. He wasn't a football hero, but he was strong in academ-

ics and he served his country."

McKinney, who taught in the Aledo ISD for 32 years, said he is committed to get something done for his former student, but could also use some help.







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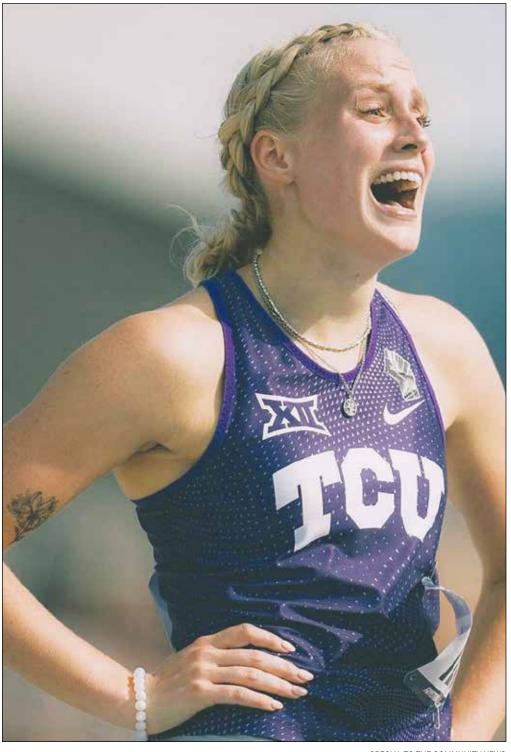
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Life& Community

November 18, 2022 THE COMMUNITY NEWS www.community-news.com

Morris advances to first NCAA cross country championships



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Gracie Morris catches her breath after a race for TCU.

By Rick Mauch The Community News

Gracie Morris continues to make great strides with her college cross country

Yes, a pun was intended, but there is nothing cliche' about what the former Aledo standout is doing at the next level. Her latest accomplishment is qualifying for Saturday's NCAA Cross Country Championships in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Morris qualified after finishing second at the NCAA South Central Regional on Nov. 11, earning an automatic bid. She matched the highest individual finish ever for a TCU female at the meet, joining Mary Kinyanjui, who won in 2003.

She is also the first TCU runner to qualify for the NCAA Championships since Brenley Goertzen in 2016 after placing third at regionals.

Morris's time in the 6K race was 20:17.1, more than a minute ahead of her previous best time of 21:37.5 that placed her 11th at the Big 12 Championships on Oct. 28, where she placed 18th.

"My coaches have been telling me all season I was going to make it," Morris said. "By the time I was 4K into the race I knew I was going to qualify."

At the regional meet, Morris made major advancements in the final two-thirds of the race. She was in 13th moved up to fifth at 4K.

"This proved to me I'm stronger than in the past. I'm excited about track season," Morris said.

The overnight forecast for Championships and quali-

place at the 2K split and mile, clocking a 4:40.81 for fourth at the Big 12 Indoor Championships.

In the spring of 2022 in track she placed fourth at the Big 12 Outdoor

"This proved to me I'm stronger than in the past. I'm excited about track season."

Gracie Morris

Stillwater Friday is calling for a low of 23, meaning at race time (8 a.m.) temperatures will be in the upper 20s or low 30s with sunny skies.

"I don't think the wind is supposed to be bad, so that'll help some," Morris said.

After much success running cross country and track for Aledo, Morris began her college career at the University of Texas, where she enjoyed a modicum of success. She won her first collegiate track competition in the mile at the Charlie Thomas Invitational.

She transferred to TCU prior to the 2021-22 indoor



track season, and though she only ran race, broke school record for the

fied for the NCAA Meet in the 1500-meter with a time of 4:24. That same season she broke a couple of school records, posting a 2:05.38 in the 800 at the Alumni Muster and a 4:14.59 in the 1500 at the Tom Jones Memorial. She began her season by finishing first in the 800 at the TCU Invitational.

Earlier this cross country season Morris won one race and was second in another at the 5K distance. She was third in another race at 4K.

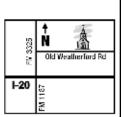
Running for Aledo, Morris was fifth at state cross country as a freshman, third as a sophomore and second as a senior. She did not compete in 2018 because of an injury.

In track at Aledo, she won state in the 800 and was second in the 1600 as a freshman and was fifth in the state in the 1600 as a junior.

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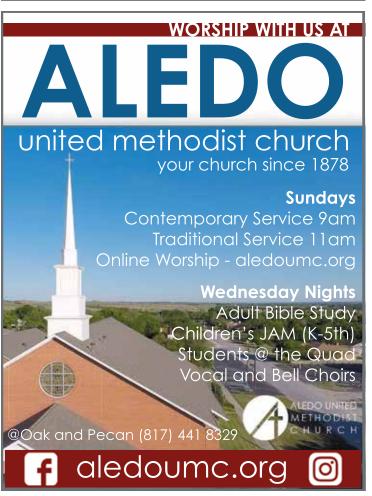
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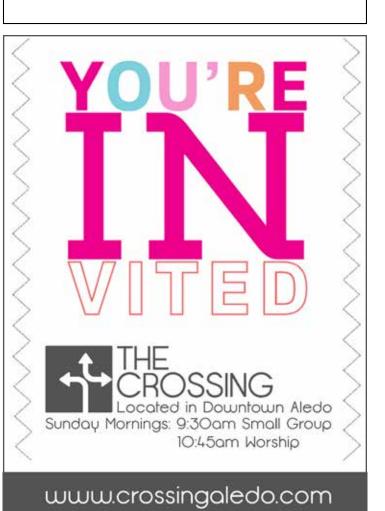
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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

November 18, 2022 A5



ROSE HOFFMAN/CITY OF WILLOW PARK

Jim Martin (center), shown with his wife, Pat, was honored with a proclamation by Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss (right) at the start of Tuesday's city council meeting.

GRANT

from page A1

Her salary, along with full benefits, will be funded from public works and the general funds. However, expectations are for the cost to be neutral as the development costs (e.g. plan reviews, etc.) being assessed by Jacob and Martin will partially supplement the salary.

New boat business

The council approved a special use permit for a boat dealership/sales/service just off of I-20 on the south side, near the Trinity Bible Church and Trinity Christian Academy.

The applicant, Tommy's Boats, plans to construct two buildings with a combined 17,700 square feet, the primary one-story building to be used as an office, showroom, and service area. The second will be a vertical storage/display building, which will showcase three boats.

Mayor addresses recent election

Though it wasn't a topic on the agenda, Mayor Doyle Moss commented on the recent election in which Willow Park citizens voted to allow for the annexation of the city's fire department by Parker County Emergency Services District 1.

For months, officials from the city and ESD1 have stressed such a decision would be good for all, providing many more dollars to the city for projects such as streets and parks, and perhaps even a new city hall. They have also noted that it would mean increased benefits and more for the fire department staff, and perhaps even additional staff.

"I'm excited for the chief and firemen for the vote we had," Moss said. "I know with ESD1 it'll be a good transition."

The annexation will allow funding that has gone to the fire department, largely the projected \$1.4 million in sales tax, to be used for other purposes.

Tree lighting

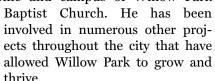
The city's tree lighting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at city hall. The evening will include hot chocolate and cookies. Also, Santa will make a special trip down from the North Pole for photos.

The public is invited to the free event.

Proclamation for Jim Martin

Longtime Willow Park resident and businessman Jim Martin was honored with a proclamation prior to Tuesday's meeting. He began working in Willow Park in 1989 and was instrumental in the development of the city, including connecting water and sewer to the Squaw Creek Downs/Trinity Meadows racetrack, which is now the home of the Willow Park North development.

Martin bought, developed, deployed utilities, and sold more than 200 acres now known as Crown Pointe supporting retail, medical office buildings, surgical centers, senior living facilities, Texas Health Neighborhood Care and Wellness, and the new home and campus of Willow Park



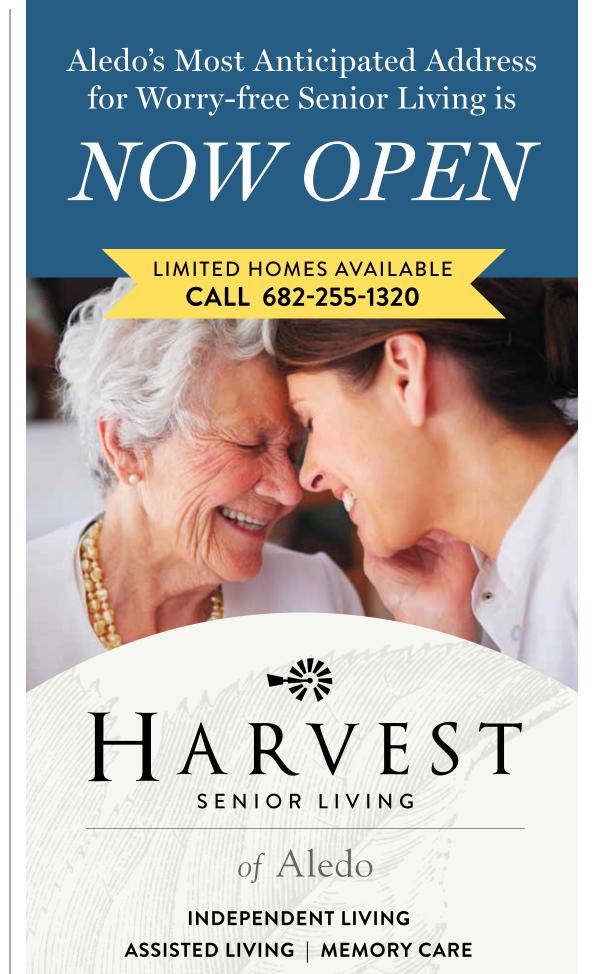
He and his wife, Pat, are enthusiastic supporters of all things related to the city, including being contributors to the city's first responders

and nonprofits.

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ONGOING

СоНоНо

The CoHoHo Christmas Corridor is a free holiday light display at Gene Voyles Park in Hudson Oaks. Bring the family and enjoy a dif-

ferent themed light show each week with more than

75,000 lights starting at 6 p.m. every night from Dec. 3 to New Years. Also, there will be a scavenger hunt available as

you stroll the Corridor. QR codes are available to scan in the park. Just three easy steps: 1. Take a picture, 2. Tag them on social media #HEBCOHOHO. 3. Pick up your prize at City Hall. Other special Hudson Oaks events include carriage rides and food trucks from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 9-10 and Dec. 16-17.

For more information, visit https://events.hudsonoaks. com/cohoho.

Pathway of Lights

The City of Weatherford will host a walk through show called Pathway of Lights throughout December at Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 Willow Park Christmas

Tree Lighting

Willow Park tree lighting The City of Willow Park will host a Christmas tree lighting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at City Hall (516 Ranch House Road) and the public is invited to the free event.

The evening will include hot chocolate and cookies. Also, Santa will make a special trip down from the North Pole for photos.

THURSDAY. NOVEMBER 24

Thanksgiving Trot The annual Thanksgiving Trot 5k and 1 mile will take off at 8 a.m. on Nov. 24 at Bearcat Stadium.

The event raises funds to provide financial support to a member of our community who needs assistance in meeting their needs. Registration fee is \$25. For more information, visit www. aledothanksgivingtrot.com.



SATURDAY. NOVEMBER 26

Celebration of Lights

The eighth annual Celebration of Lights in Weatherford will run from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26, at the corner of York and **Dallas Streets in downtown** Weatherford. In addition to the tree lighting at 6 p.m., activities include photos with Santa, carriage rides, hay rides, ice skating, train rides, and face painting. For more information, visit https://www.facebook. com/celebrationweatherford/.

WEDNESDAY. NOVEMBER 30

Weatherford Christmas Tree Lighting

The City of Weatherford will host its tree lighting from 6-9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at Heritage Park,

317 Santa Fe Drive. There will be a 50-foot live tree, a holiday drone show, and additional activities.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Hudson Oaks Christmas Tree Lighting

Hudson Oaks will host its Christmas Tree Lighting from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 at Gene Voyles Park (210 Hudson Oaks Drive). The evening will include activities in Santa's Workshop, where you can snap a picture with Santa himself. Take a ride on the COHO Express and watch Disney's

The Santa Clause on the big screen. For more information, visit

https://events.hudsonoaks.

Aledo High School Jazz **Band Concert**

com/cohoho.

The Aledo High School Jazz I band will play at Gene Voyles Park. Concert may be moved to Dec. 3 depending on Aledo High School football playoff schedule. Time TBA.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Christmas on the Square The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Christmas on the Square from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, on the Weatherford downtown square. The annual event

features food, entertain-

ACROSS

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children and adults.

Aledo 45th annual

128 Elm St. in Aledo.

About 40 vendors will

be there with unique gift

ideas. Concessions will also

The 45th annual Aledo

Craft Fair will run from 11

a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday,

Dec. 3 in the gymnasium of

The Church at the Crossing,

gift shopping.

Craft Fair

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have an MLB team

The City of Aledo's annual **Christmas Time in Aledo** activities will run from 5-9 p.m. throughout the central portion of the city.

Christmas Time in Aledo

The event includes vendors, a treasure maze, an outdoor movie, and of course a visit from Santa.

Local businesses will remain open downtown, and many will offer free refreshments and activities.

Weatherford Lights the **Night Parade**

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce will present

annoyance 43 said after making 22 this Grieve was a a minor mistake Rangers (init.) 44 unaligned 23 large rodent 50 this architect de-24 TXism: "get your signed Dallas City Hall (3 wds.) TX Gary Lee Clark to get better to die' Jr. was in 2022 26 Liam of "Taken" film about this rock County, TX "King" (init.) the third annual Weatherford **Lights the Night Parade** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. The parade

will begin at the Weatherford

(1007 South Main) and pro-

ceed around the courthouse

and then west on Palo Pinto

ISD Ninth Grade Center

to Waco Street.

31 olden delivery cart

Darnell (init.)

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34 TX actress,

37 hooligan

The parade features lighted floats, horses, the Weatherford High School marching band, and plenty of fun.

For more information, visit https://www.weatherford-chamber.com/chamber-events/christmas-onthe-square.html.

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November 18, 2022 THE COMMUNITY NEWS www.community-news.com

Capital Highlights

Turnout drops in recent election



Gary Borders gborders@texaspress.com

Voter turnout in the midterm elections again dropped statewide, with little more than 45% of registered voters either casting ballots early or at the polls on Nov. 8. Republican candidates continued to hold a hammerlock on statewide positions, with incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott handily winning a third term over challenger Beto O' Rourke.

The Texas Standard reported turnout in the state's largest counties was well less than 50% and lower than the record 2018 midterm turnout. Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston, said he wasn't surprised at the relatively low turnout.

"Usually, it's hard to get Texans to vote in midterm elections. We saw a sizable increase in 2018 and then a big bump in 2020, but it's starting to look like the 2018 and 2020 numbers were basically an aberration," he said.

In Harris County, turnout dropped from 52% in 2018 to 43% this year. Dallas County saw turnout plunge from 57% in 2018 to 44% this year, while in Tarrant County turnout was 47%, down from 57% in the last midterm.

"The turnout in this election was abysmal. It was way too low. And so, voters need to understand that if they don't participate in the process, then their ability to control what happens in Austin is limited," Rottinghaus told the Texas Standard.

Lawmakers: Get tougher n polluters

The Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, which periodically reviews state agencies, has concluded the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality needs to make frequent polluters more accountable and increase the possible fines companies can face.

The commission consists of 10 legislators and two members of the public. The Texas Tribune reported the sunset commission called for state lawmakers to pass legislation next session that would increase the penalty levels for industrial polluters from \$25,000 per day to \$40,000.

"I think people wanted to send a message that we were cognizant of the burden upon industry while also recognizing the importance of increasing the penalty after this period of time so that the TCEQ has the power and the tools to actually enforce compliance with its rules," said Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and a member of the commission.

The sunset commission's recommendations will be considered during the next legislative session, which begins in January.

Dry October leads to drought level increase

A fairly dry October, except in West Texas, led to an increase in drought levels to 75% of the state, up 14 percentage points from the end of September.

ogist with the Texas Water



story online Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrol-

Development Board, wrote that months of drought have adversely affected

surface water resources and are now beginning to affect ground water resources as well.

For example, the Edwards Aquifer's water level has dropped 35 feet to its lowest level since the 2011 drought. Storage levels in the state's water supply reservoirs are at 68% of capacity — 13 percentage points below normal for this time of year.

"It's too far out to say with certainty, but spring 2023 may be our next best chance for drought relief," Wentzel wrote

Houston business convicted of workers' comp fraud

A Houston-area business has been convicted of a first-degree felony in a worker's compensation scheme.

Sehgal & Sons Enterprises was convicted of concealing payrolls by having two separate payroll accounts but only reporting the smaller account to Texas Mutual Insurance Company. The company was fined \$300,000, according to the Texas Department of Insurance.

"Concealing payroll is a scheme companies use to get lower workers' compensation insurance rates, and that's fraud," said Debra Knight with the Department of Workers' Compensation.

More than \$355 million in public safety grants

Gov. Greg Abbott last week announced more than \$355 million in public safety grants, covering a variety of programs, including victims' services, anti-human trafficking efforts, and law enforcement support. The funding is a combination of state and federal dollars.

The money will go to provide bullet-resistant vests, homeland security, to combat human trafficking, border security, and about a dozen other programs.

"This crucial grant funding will further bolster organizations and agencies as they work around the clock to ensure justice for victims of crime, protect against threats, prevent human trafficking, and support statewide emergency infrastructure, among other critical public safety initiatives," Abbott said.

Whooping cranes spotted on Texas coast

First sightings of the endangered whooping crane have been reported along the Texas coast, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported.

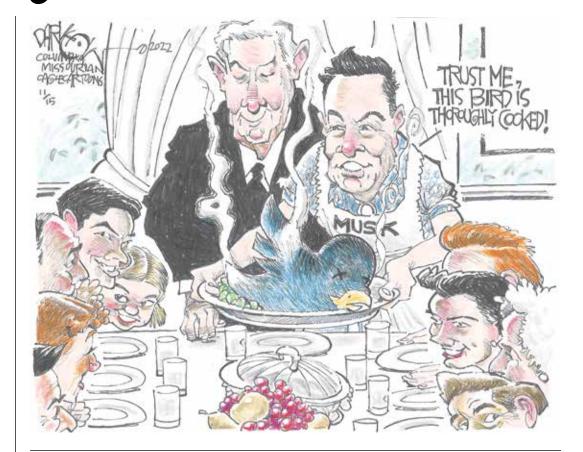
Janess Vartanian, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says that on Oct. 21 a pair of whooping cranes were the first to arrive this season on Matagorda Island. Most will arrive in and around the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in December.

Whooping birds, according to TPWD, are the tallest, rarest birds in North America. The current population is estimated at about 543 birds. They migrate this time of year 2,500 milers from northern Alberta, Canada, to the Texas coast.

COVID-19 cases drop below 10.000

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in Texas dropped to 8,955, along with 32 deaths. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations stayed steady, with 998 reported across the state as of Sunday.

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



Thistles & Roses

Missing the boat on soccer



Richard Henderson

The 2022 FIFA World Cup starts Nov. 20 from Qatar, with the final being played Dec. 18. Past World Cups have not been played at this time, which coincides with NFL football and NCAA college football seasons. American sports fans probably are wondering if the media coverage will conflict with our American football games. It probably will.

As sports interests have evolved, Americans don't care much about "soccer," called football in the rest of the world. Much of the world thinks we are out of step. To each their own, but maybe we should pay more attention. Much of the time we pay no attention, especially our local media sports departments. These local experts don't seem to care or know much about it so we do not care or get educated about it.

When Costa Rica played the United States in the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football Gold Cup in July of 2017 at Jerry World, aka AT&T Stadium, I took a great interest in it because of my Costa Rica connections. Channel 5's Newie Scruggs had a feature on TV about a Dallas Cowboy fishing from a pontoon boat on a Dallas area lake, but not one second about the U.S. v. Costa Rica game. 45,516 fans, including me, attended to watch the U.S. win 2-0.

Mexico has played a lot of teams at AT&T, including Argentina in May 2018. 82, 345 people attended. The local sports coverage again nada, zilch. The news section covered it at Channel 5, but not the sports guys. It is also reflective of how many people of Mexican descent live here and a big market that is sometimes missed.

When the U.S. first received notice about the 2026 World Cup (Yes it is coming here and matches will be played at AT&T) the preliminary coverage was by regular news, not sports.

In their defense, they play to their audience and their market and what is familiar

In 2022, 3.5 billion, with a "b," watched the World Cup on TV. It was described as an event viewed by half the world. 1.2 billion watched the final match. That is six times as many as the 200 million who watched the 2022 Super Bowl. Much of the rest of the world does watch our Super Bowl.

I admit that before I was educated about soccer, I did not pay attention or know much. We went to a few Aledo soccer games. My son, who attended Aledo and grew up in our culture, began paying attention and educated me. We are now confirmed Liverpool fans, but also loyal Cowboy fans. I have grown to appreciate the nuances of the game of soccer and I know the names of many of the players.

One nuance which Americans might like is, once a game has started, there are no commercial breaks. As much money as there is in soccer, most of the ad money is at half time. There are dozens of ads scrolling on the screens and the electronic gimmicks on the sidelines. But they don't interrupt the flow of the game. There is no "stepping away "for commercials when a player is injured.

Another thing that takes getting used to is that there is a running clock of 45 minutes for each half. It never stops. The referee on the field has a stop watch and when the 45 minutes is up on the clock, he adds "stoppage time" which is usually 2-8 minutes. That can

> be extended by the referee if there is a stop in play during stoppage time itself. The game is not over until the referee blows his whistle and says it is over, and no one knows when that will be.

> So get ready. Try watching a few games, at least the U.S. games, and you might start developing an

appreciation for it. We just might catch up with the rest of the world!

The Community News

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SUBMIT STORIES, **PHOTOS OR IDEAS**

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

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

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

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

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

Around Parker County

ATEX TRASH SERVICE

Atex Trash Service is a locally owned, family owned business that prides itself on excellent service for an affordable price. After 11 years in business, Atex Trash Service is building an outstanding reputation as a company that is truly here to build something simply by helping others, and it is that hometown business model philosophy that has quickly made them one of the fastest growing businesses in the community.

"We work hard to take good care of our customers and we are committed to building our business with sound principles and ethics in mind," said Tim Green, one of the owners. "We strive to be a helpful and positive influence in the community, to be fair and honest in our business practices and to always make our decisions based on what is in the best interest of our customers, our employees and the community while maintaining a healthy company."

Many of us are cutting back, and being careful about what we spend in this economy. We want to save money on household necessities, but when it comes to services around our home, we don't want to sacrifice our peace of mind to save a few dollars. We want our service providers to be honest and dependable, worthy of our trust.

man, and he raised his son, Tim, to treat others with respect. He encouraged and developed Tim's heart of service. Watching his father, Tim had an example of great moral character and strong work ethic. Together they are a glowing example of honesty, reliability and self-sacrifice. When you have the opportunity to visit with them, you instantly feel at ease. Their positive attitudes are contagious, and you will leave with a smile.

Together, Billy and Tim started Atex Trash Service as a way for them to serve their community - their neighbors. Being able to make a living serving others is a dream come true for Tim. Atex Trash Service has been helping area residents save money on their residential trash pick-up since July 2010. Tim and Billy Green are the dynamic duo of father and son teams, proving that you can provide Superior Quality Service at the Lowest Price.

Atex provides weekly trash pick-up for a flat rate of \$35 a month for their standard service. "We realize however, not every family's needs are the same," said Tim, "We are able to customize plans for smaller and for larger families." They serve Parker, Tarrant, and Wise County areas

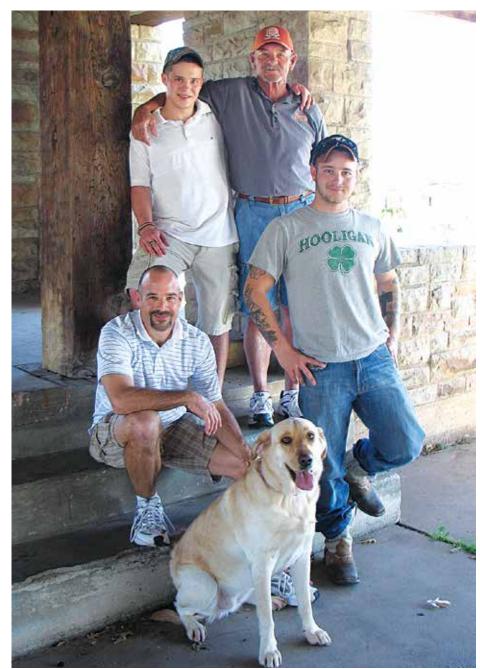
Billy Green is that kind of outside of Azle, Springtown, Weatherford, Poolville and Aledo, and the area continues to grow! Just call and see if they can help you. Since they are a local, family-owned company, you know who will answer the phone when you call. Tim and Billy are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and later if you need them. Just call 817-344-8464.

> You can also contact Atex through their website 24 hours a day at www.atextrash.com. It's an easy-to-navigate website where you can contact Tim, sign up for new service, and even securely pay your bill online. You can also see what others have to say on their Testimonial Page or look them up on Facebook.

> Operating this business means the whole family can work together! Tim's sons Laken and Gaige have grown up, and they're now the third generation with Atex helping to take care of the community.

> "I'm happiest when I am doing for others," said Tim, "and to be able to build something positive with my family, well, I simply couldn't ask for anything more."

Give Atex a call and see how they can help you. You'll be glad you did!







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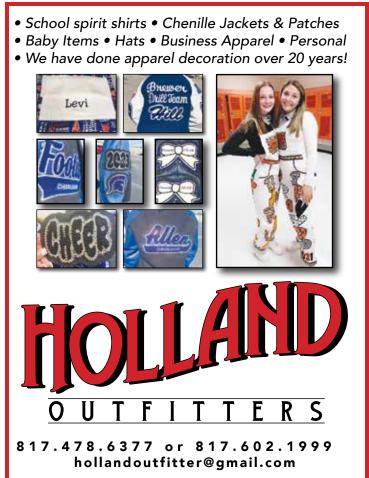
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FOOTBALL

Something's gotta give when Bearcats meet Pirates Friday

Aledo meets Lubbock Cooper for area championship

By Rick Mauch

For years the Aledo Bearcats and Lubbock Cooper Pirates have been dominant figures in the Class 5A football playoffs. However, for one, the season will end much earlier than they are used to as they will face off at 7 p.m. in the second round of the Class 5A Division I playoffs at the Mustang Bowl in Sweetwater.

The Bearcats (9-2) are renowned for having won nine state championships since 2009 and hold the state record with 10 titles overall (1998, 2009-11, 2013-14, 2016, 2018-20).

Cooper (9-2), while yet to play in a state final, has established itself as a power in its own right with a

playoff record of 15-4 over the past four seasons.

And, for both schools, it has been a long time since their season ended in the second round. For Aledo, the last time was in 2012, when they fell 42-30 to eventual state champion Denton Guyer. Cooper last exited in the second round in 2017, falling 45-34 to El Paso Parkland.

With that much success, one would think the Bearcats and Pirates would have met more often in the postseason, but their only meeting ever was in the 2019 Class 5A Division I state semifinals. Aledo won 28-21, going on to dispose of Fort Bend Marshall a week later, 45-42, giving head coach Tim Buchanan a state championship in his return to the helm.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brant Hayden (9) stepped in to lead the Bearcats against Killeen Shoemaker, completing seven of 14 passes for 51 yards and rushing six times for 39 yards.

The Bearcats would win state again in 2020, Buchanan's seventh as a head coach.

In 2021 the Bearcats and Pirates had something in common. Both were eliminated by Dallas South Oak Cliff, which would go on to win the 5A Division II championship. The Golden Bears defeated the Bearcats in the third round 33-28 and dropped the Pirates in the state semifinals 44-10.

Big plays

Both Aledo and Cooper are capable of big plays as they exhibited in their playoff openers.

In the Bearcats' 37-0 victory against Killeen Shoemaker (8-3), running back Hawk Patrick-Daniels burst free for a 72-yard touchdown run to get things started. That was only the latest in quite a few big plays against opponents this season - including several at the most critical times of the season.

Quarterback Hauss Hejny had an 86-yard TD scamper late in the game to seal a 35-21 win at Denton Ryan to wrap up Aledo's 15th consecutive district championship dating to 2008. A week earlier at Burleson Centennial, Hejny threw four touchdown passes of 43 and 32 yards to Jalen Pope and 47 and 76 yards to Gavin Olenjack, along with running for TDs of 75 and 52 yards in a 64-21 victory.

In its 59-7 bi-district annihilation of El Paso Bel Air (8-3), Cooper got long touchdown runs from Abe Brandiger (50 yards), Jackson Austin (73) and Ethan Elkins (88).

"Cooper is well-balanced on offense. Defense is quick and very disciplined," Buchanan said, succinctly describing what Cooper brings to the game.

The big plays aren't just limited to offense, either. The defenses



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Running back Caleb Pope (34) finds an opening against Killeen Shoemaker. Pope had 13 rushes for 64 yards in the game.

have also been steadily improving over the course of the season. Seven times this season the Pirates have limited opponents to 14 points or less and they are 7-0 in those games. The Bearcats have held five opponents to seven or fewer points (two shutouts) and have won all of those games.

Hauss is good to go

Hejny was held out of the bi-district victory with a groin pull. However, Buchanan said his starting quarterback is "100%." In his absence last week, the Bearcats' offense was led by Brant Hayden, who drew praise from Buchanan for his workman-like performance. Hayden was 7-for-14 passing for 51 yards and rushed six times for 39 yards, all while not turning the ball over. The Bearcats also committed just one penalty for 5 yards.

First-round streaks

Both teams have been extremely successful when it comes to firstround playoff victories. Buchanan

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page B3

BASKETBALL

Bearcat hoopsters fall short in season opener



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Drew Clock drives past a defender in the Bearcats' close loss to Crandall on Nov. 11.

By Ryan Wade

Friday's season opener against the visiting Crandall Pirates didn't go the way the Aledo Bearcats hoped.

Drew Clock knocked down a last-second three-pointer as time expired, but was unable to draw a foul as the Pirate defenders played the final possession of the game with their hands behind their backs en route to a 55-54 upset over the hosting Bearcats.

"I thought we played really hard," Aledo head coach JD Robinson commented after the game. "We've got a lot of guys out there that have never done this before. This is a good game for us to play. Crandall's a tough team. We had to defend a 6-8 kid down in the post that we're not used to doing in practice. We're just going to have to get a lot tougher. We're

going to have to grow up a lot quicker than what we thought we needed to."

Aledo used a pair of back-to-back three-pointers by Brandon Fields and Jack Sawyer to take an early 6-3 lead less than two minutes into the game. Though the Bearcats were never able to put much distance between themselves and the visiting Pirates, they did maintain the lead throughout much of the contest.

It wasn't until the 4:12 mark midway through the fourth quarter when Ethan Ortega dialed up a long distance three that Crandall sprung ahead of the Bearcats for the first time since the early moments of the contest. As with the rest of the game, the score remained close from then on. However, as the final minutes of the game melted

ALEDO, TEXAS

HOURS: M-F 8-5 •SAT 8-2

away, it was the Pirates who held a paper-thin advantage.

With the game close in what had remained a highly contentious affair throughout, a moment of high drama ensued with just four seconds remaining in the game and Crandall in the bonus. Down by two, the Bearcats were forced to foul in hopes of regaining possession for one last-ditch effort to steal the game from the Pirates. Clock rushed to foul Crandall's Marlon Linton, Jr.

Linton took exception to the play, returning the foul with a shove of his own. Clock responded in kind with a chest bump before the referees quickly separated the two players. A double technical was issued canceling out the need for free throws, leaving Linton to shoot the one-and-one for the foul.

Linton knocked down both ends of the one-and-one to put Crandall up by four, 55-51, with just four seconds left in regulation.

Needing a three-pointer plus a foul to have any hope of tying the game and forcing overtime, Clock took the inbound pass quickly down the floor. His last-ditch effort from behind the arch fired true to popped the twine just as the final buzzer sounded. With no foul call on the play, however, the Pirates held on to take the win in the season opener.

"We're going to have to be a lot tougher defensively," Robinson said while reflecting on the physicality of the game. "The guys have been working really hard ever since the spring and coming into the

Turn to **OPENER**, page B3

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B2 November 18, 2022 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Several from Aledo sign to play in college

Staff Reports The Community News

A total of 14 athletes from Aledo recently signed letters-of-intent to play their respective sports at the next level, including five from baseball, four from volleyball, two from softball, two from girls soccer, and one from boys soccer.

Baseball signees include Andrew Cambre, Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana; Bosten and Brooks Dwinnell, Grayson College in Denison; Bryce

McCain, McLennan Community College in Waco; and Trace Mazan, Weatherford College. They helped the Bearcats advance to the Class 5A Region I championship round this past spring.

Signing from volleyball were Alyssa Gonzalez, TCU; Maddie Frank, Tarleton State; Payton Hilmer, Harding in Searcy, Ark.; and Mia Little, East Central Oklahoma University in Ada, Oklahoma. They were

Turn to COLLEGE, page B7



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

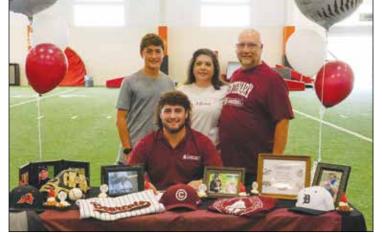
Alyssa Gonzalez – TCU volleyball Rachelle, Chris and Jett



Nathalie Touchet - University of Missouri softball Liz, Chad and Alaina



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Andrew Cambre - Centenary College of Louisiana baseball



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Bryce McCain - McLennan Community College baseball Travis and Susan



Mia Little - East Central University volleyball Brandi, Troy and Marysa

Brooks Dwinell - Grayson College baseball

Brittany, Dustin, Bosten and Parker



Texas Ray - Tulsa University softball

Kristi, Alan, Ashley and Jessica

Jen, Eddie and Grant



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT **REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS**

2023 HVAC RENOVATION ALEDO ISD EARLY CHILDHOOD ACADEMY

The Aledo Independent School District (the District) will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals for the 2023 HVAC Renovation at Aledo ISD Early Childhood Academy until 2:00 PM CST on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. Although we are legally required to accept paper bids, we strongly request bidders submit electronically on our bidding website https://aledoisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx. Paper bids will be accepted in the Business Department at the Aledo Independent School District Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008. When filing this bid electronically, please do not send us a paper copy, as the electronic version will prevail. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at Aledo ISD Early Childhood Academy, 408 FM 1187 S., Aledo, Texas at 10:00 AM CST on November 18, 2022. It is highly recommended that companies that submit proposals attend. Proposal evaluation criteria are listed in the Proposal and Contract Requirements section of the proposal documents. The engineer for this project is EMA Engineering & Consulting. Plans and specifications will be released on Friday, November 11, 2022. Drawings and specifications may be examined at the following locations: TEXO/AGC/iSgFt Plan Room, Lawton Reprographic Centers (14305 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas 75244, Phone: 800-364-2059); DFW Minority Business Council (2710 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 900, North Stemmons Tower, Dallas, Texas 75207, Phone: 214-630-0747); and Virtual Builders (5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75240, Phone: 214-687-9000). The link to access plans and specifications may be found in the Event Details tab for this bid on our bidding site shown above and on the Business Department Bid Documents page of the District's website: https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/4288. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal that provides the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect

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FOOTBALL

Bearcats open playoffs again with rout

Bi-district winning streak now at 27

By Rick Mauch

The Community News

Old habits are hard to break.

The last time a team played the Aledo Bearcats to within a couple of touchdowns in a bi-district game, none of the players on the current team were even born. It was 2002, a 12-0 victory against Fort Worth Dunbar.

Some thought Killeen Shoemaker might pose the toughest challenge in two decades when they came to Bearcat Stadium Thursday night. After all, like the Bearcats, they brought an 8-2 record into the contest - and their two losses were by a combined eight points

to fellow playoff teams Midlothian (No. 5 in the state) and Red Oak.

They were wrong.

In what has long been typical fashion, the Bearcats had little trouble disposing of the Grey Wolves 37-0. This is the 27th consecutive season in which Aledo has won its first-round postsea-

"That's pretty neat," Bearcats coach Tim Buchanan said of extending the streak, something he's said he takes some of the greatest pride in among the program's many state and national records.

"I wasted a lot of Pepto Bismol worrying about this one," he added with a

The streak is also something the players take a lot of pride in.

"Every once in a while you stop and think about how long it's been. Twenty seven years, wow!" said senior defensive tackle Bryon Wheeler.

"It means a lot as a tradition and it means a lot for us to be a part of that," added senior Zach Reynolds.

Now the Bearcats, ranked No. 3 in the state and on a nine-game winning streak, advance to the second round where they will meet El Paso Bel Air (8-2) or Lubbock Cooper (8-2). Aledo has won nine consecutive second-round games since a 42-30 loss to eventual state champion Denton Guyer in 2012.

On paper Shoemaker looked to be a formidable foe. They came out of a tough district in which the top four teams had a combined regular-season record of 34-6, they featured a

Turn to PLAYOFFS, page B7

BEARCATS

from page B1

has said the Bearcats' streak of 27

Meanwhile, Cooper has won 10 straight bi-district games and 12 of the

Denton Ryan (7-4) fell 29-28 to Red Oak (9-2), while Northwest (6-5) was bested 51-34 by Midlothian (11-0).

Should the Bearcats top Cooper and Midlothian defeat Amarillo (6-5), the Panthers would be Aledo's third-round

> in 2019 in Aledo, a 34-28 Bearcats over-



Read this

Aledo Bearcats (9-2) story online

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When: 7 p.m. Friday, Mustang Bowl, 1205 Ragland Rd., Sweetwater What: Class 5A Division I area

How they got here: Aledo is the champion of District 3-5A Division I and defeated Killeen Shoemaker 37-0 in bi-district. Cooper is the runner-up in 2-5A Division I and defeated El Paso Bel Air 59-7 in bi-district.

Cooper offense: The Pirates are averaging 28.5 points per game and are coming off their most explosive output of the season as they scored 42 points in the first quarter alone against Bel Air. Running back Abe Brandiger gained 135 yards on just 11 carries, including a 50-yard TD run, one of several big scoring runs. Others were Ethan Elkins for 88 yards and Jackson Austin for 73

Aledo offense: The Bearcats are averaging 46.5 points and have scored at least 35 points in each of their nine straight wins. Leaders are: Passing - Hauss Hejny 61-for-104, 1,242 yards, 13 TD, 3 interceptions. Rushing - Hawk Patrick-Daniels 141 carries, 1,068 yards, 16 TD; Hejny 62 carries, 710 yards, 9 TD; Caleb Pope 70-426, 12 TD; Ryan Cox 83-414, 3 TD. Receiving - Jalen Pope 38 catches, 718 yards, 10 TD; Kaydon Finley 14-316, 4 TD; Tyson Timms 22-289,

Cooper defense: The Pirates have held

four opponents to nine points or less and are surrendering an average of 17 points.

Aledo defense: The Bearcats' blanking of Shoemaker was their second of the season. Also, they have held five opponents to a touchdown or less. In all, opponents are averaging 15.5 points, but only 11.3 in the winning streak. Leaders are: Tackles - Dahvon Keys 59, Jake Gillespie 49.5. Andrew Parkhurst 43. Boogie Owens 37. Tackles for loss - Ansel Din-Mbuh 12, Parkhurst 9.5, Lawson Moore 7. Sacks - Parkhurst 3.5., Din-Mbuh 3, Christian Hillman 2, Carson Dempsey 2. Interceptions - Jaden Allen 3, Chris Johnson 2. Fumble recoveries - Owens 2, Skylar Frank 2.

Team rushing yards per game: Aledo 274.1. Cooper NA.

Team passing yards per game: Aledo 169.1, Cooper NA.

Team rushing yards surrendered per game: Aledo 101.5, Cooper NA.

Team passing yards surrendered per game: Aledo 145.9, Cooper NA.

Turnovers: Aledo 13, Cooper NA. Takeaways: Aledo 18, Cooper NA.

All-time record: The only other time the Bearcats and Pirates have met was in the 2019 state semifinals. Aledo won 28-21 and went on to win a second consecutive state champi-

OPENER

from page B1

summer. They're working hard in the weight room. They're working hard on their bodies and their conditioning. We've just got a long way to go and a short time to get there."

In spite of a high degree of physical play, especially in the paint, the officials allowed the two teams to play through most of it unfettered by foul calls.

"It was great for us," Robinson said. "We need that environment. We need to be able to play through that contact. You can't really simulate what we got against Crandall in our practices. That physicality is great for us. District basketball games are going to be really physical; they're going to be strong. We've just got to do a good job of matching that intensity in a smart way."

Part of handling the physical play is making free throws when those opportunities come. In the season opener, the Bearcats were just 50 percent from the stripe, knocking down seven of their 14 attempts.

Clock led the Bearcats in scoring in the opener with 15 points. Sawyer finished the game with 13 points. Brandon Fields added another 10 to round out the scoring leaders for Aledo.

The Bearcats will be in action for game two of the 2022-23 season on Friday when they host the 0-0 Weatherford's Kangaroos at 7:30 pm.

Bearcat JV Edges Crandall

Read this

story online

Following a slow start to the action for Aledo's JV hoopsters, the squad managed to find their groove in the second quarter

> to take the season opener against Crandall's junior varsity team, 42-40.

Aledo began play

struggling to find the bucket, allowing the visiting Pirates to jump out to a 9-3 advantage early. The Bearcats added 14 points in the second quarter to take a slight advantage heading into the break at 17-16. From there, they didn't look back as they held on to seal the game by a bucket.

Zayden Parker led the Bearcats in scoring with 11. Owen Peterson and Brett Barclay cashed in with eight points each. Joaquin Pacheco added seven of his own while Anthony Calderon tacked on five more to Aledo's total. Brox Uhlmer rounded out the offense for the Bearcats with three points.

Box Scores Ladycats Freshmen vs Burleson - Nov. 11

10 10 13 1 1 Aledo

Burleson 6 2 0 5 13 Jaylee Owens 13, Lily Heckathorn 12, Natalie Browning 5, Mesoma Emeka Okoye 4, Coral Slough 2, Mykel Murry 2, Mackenzie Bullard 2, Jenna Haussler 2, Alyssa Todd 2

Ladycats JV vs. Burleson -Nov. 11

Aledo	14	9	6	4	33	}
Burleson	2	5	8	4	17	′
Elizabeth Gr	iffin	10, Ma	addox	Luc	as	10
Savanah Sala	s 9, F	Rebekał	ı Jarre	ell 2,	Brer	nn
Clock 2						

Ladycats Varsity vs. Sanger - Nov. 11

Aledo	10	6	12	11	39	_
Sanger	17	13	8	11	49	
Reagan Davis	16, CI	aire B	yars 8	, Kenz	ie Gra	1
4, Kandle Bo	oggus	3, Ca	roline	Brow	ning	3
Presley Hull 3	3 Nata	lie An	dersor	12	_	

Ladycats Varsity vs. Dallas Trish Episcopal - Nov. 15

Aledo 8 18 7 12 45 **Parish** 15 10 21 15 61 Claire Byars 21, Kenzie Grau 7, Caroline Browning 7, Reagan Davis 4, Kandle Boggus 3, Presley Hull 3

Bearcats Varsity vs. Chisholm Trail

15 10 15 12 52 Chisholm 18 18 15 11 62 Brandon Fields 12, Brant Tubbs 11, Drew Clock 9, Jack Sawyer 6, Jackson Todd 5, Owen Peterson 5, Ulises Garcia 4

straight years with a bi-district win is among the things he's most proud of.

past 13 in which they've played.

Elsewhere in the district

The Bearcats and Burleson Centennial (10-1) were the lone teams to move on to the second round of the postseason. Centennial disposed of Lake Belton (8-3) 56-28 and will take on Amarillo Tascosa (10-1) Friday in Wichita Falls.

opponent. The last time they met was

time district victory.

Game at a glance

vs. Lubbock Cooper Pirates (9-2)

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TOWN OF ANNETTA LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Annetta is now calling for bids for construction of the LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS project. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked "SEALED BID - LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS" and returned to the Town of Annetta, 450 Thunder Head Lane, P.O. Box 1150, Annetta, TX 76008, prior to 10:00 AM, CST, Friday, December 16, 2022 at which time they will be publicly opened and read. The Town of Annetta reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

The project includes the clearing and grubbing, excavation, and construction of a 60,000-gallon ground storage tank foundation (tank to be provided by others) at an existing pump station facility within the Town of Annetta. Contractor shall also provide general site services, which including the construction of a graded swale nearby the proposed tank foundation, including re-grassing. The proposed tank foundation shall include all site grubbing, staking, excavation, off-site hauling and disposal, select fill and compaction, and the placement of a foundation tank band, per manufacturers recommendations. Contractor shall provide all labor, materials, and equipment to provide a complete and in place installation of the work described above, and as indicated within the Contract Documents.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and Compliance Provisions may be downloaded from the Town of Annetta's website (www.annettatx.org) directly. Potential Bidders may examine the Contract Documents at the Engineers office, at the following address and location:

Halff Associates, Inc. 4000 Fossil Creek Blvd. Fort Worth, Texas 76137

The cost for Contract Documents is \$50.00 per half size set. The cost of Contract Documents is not refunded. Submit check, cashier check or money order for payment. Cash will not be accepted.

Direct questions regarding distribution of Contract Documents, and the design of the Lakes of Aledo GST Foundation & Grading Improvements Project to Jourdan Johnson, P.E., Halff Associates, Inc., at (817) 764-7442.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they consider most advantageous to the Owner. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Award of the contract will be made as a whole to one Bidder. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder. The City reserves the right to throw out any and all bids which are not complete.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of TOWN OF ANNETTA, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with the bid.

The party to whom the contract is awarded shall be required to furnish performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety.

Dates: 11/15/2022

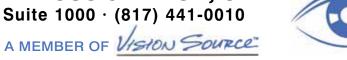
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By: Mayor Sandy Roberts

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK

Elli Kate Bussmeir - tennis

She was named the District 5-5A Co-Newcomer of the Year when the coaches in the league selected the fall team tennis accolades. She was also named first team line 2 doubles (with partner Paige Federman) and line 2 first team singles.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



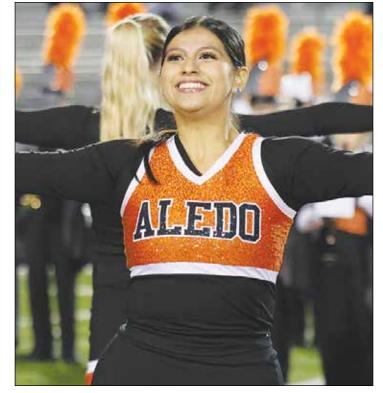
Brant Hayden - football
Stepping in at quarterback for injured starter Hauss Hejny, Hayden was a model of efficiency in managing the game in a 37-0 bi-district victory against Killeen Shoemaker. He completed seven of 14 passes for 51 yards and rushed six times passes for 51 yards and rushed six times for 39 yards, committing no turnovers.

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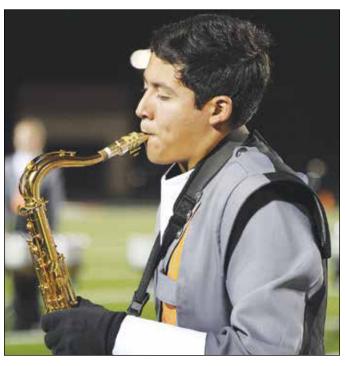


















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TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER 13, 2022 AT ANNETTA METHODIST CHURCH, 2836 FM 5, ANNETTA, TEXAS ADOPTING THE TOWN'S 2023 BUDGET

//SE

ROBERT SCHMIDT, MAYOR

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ASSOCIATION

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Paving, Grading, Drainage, Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvements to serve Rio Vista Phase I, Parker County, Texas will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

12:00 Noon, Friday December 9th, 2022

And publicly opened. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the place of opening prior to the time stated above. Any bidder desiring an electronic copy of the proposal form and bid documents should email their request to mariaf@barronstark.com.

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of the Paving, Grading, Drainage, Water & Sanitary Sewer Improvements, for Rio Vista Phase 1.

A performance bond, payment bond, and maintenance bond in the amount of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract and upon payment of all persons supplying labor or furnishing materials WILL be required by the Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

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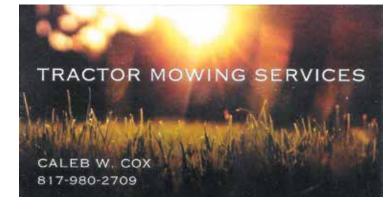
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of NRT, LLC

from page B3

part of a Ladycats squad that reached the second round of the postseason recently.

Softball signings featured Natalie Trouchet to the University of Missouri and Texas Ray to Tulsa. Both were key as the Ladycats reached the 5A State Tournament in the spring.

Reagan Krajca, Stephen F. Austin; and McKenna Vela, Dallas Baptist, signed from girls soccer after they were part of the Ladycats' playoff team last season.

Clay Murador signed to play men's soccer at Indiana. He helped the Bearcats to the postseason this past winter and recently re-joined the football team as a placekicker.



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Payton Hilmer - Harding University volleyball Kim and Shon



McKenna Vela - Dallas Baptist University soccer



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Madison Frank - Tarleton State University volleyball Michelle and Matt Frank



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Reagan Krajca - Stephen F. Austin State University soccer Brian, Kat and Kennedy



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Clay Murador - Indiana University soccer Chaz and Molly Cobb and Alex Murador

PLAYOFFS

from page B3

big-play offense and a defense that specializes in putting opponents in long-distance situations.

Instead, it was the Aledo defense that dominated. They held the Wolves to 61 total yards, including an eye-popping negative 28 rushing on 19 carries.

"That was the most impressive thing we did, not give up the big play," Buchanan said. "Coach (Brad) McCone came up with a great game plan and the kids stuck to it."

The Bearcats held the Wolves to zero or negative yardage on 10 running plays and two passing plays. They posted three sacks, including one in the end zone for a safety.

They also intercepted two passes, including one returned 40 yards to the Shoemaker 5-yard line by Aven Lawrence and another by Jaden Allen.

On offense, Brant Hayden got the start at quarterback after regular starter Hauss Hejny was out with a slight injury. Hayden managed the game well with no turnovers, completing seven of 14 passes for an unofficial 51 yards and rushing six times for 39 yards.

"Hauss could have played, but we didn't need him," Buchanan said. "Brant's a good quarterback. He understands the game and he did what we needed him to do."

All five Bearcat touchdowns were on the ground, with Hawk Patrick-Daniels scoring twice on runs of 72 and 10 yards. Caleb Pope also ran for scores of 5 and 6 yards.

Patrick-Daniels led all rushers with an unofficial 108 yards on a dozen carries. That put him over

1,000 yards on the season with 1,068 yards and 16 touchdowns, both of which lead the team.

The victory was the second shut $out \, of \, the \, season \, for \, the \, Aledo \, defense$ and the fifth time they've held an opponent to a touchdown or less.

Class 5A Division I bi-district Aledo 37, Killeen Shoemaker 0

A - Hawk Patrick-Daniels 72 run (Cole Crawford kick)

A - Caleb Pope 5 run (Crawford kick)

A - Patrick-Daniels 10 run (Crawford kick)

A - C. Pope 6 run (Crawford kick) A - Dahvon Keys 2 run (Crawford kick)

A - Safety

Official team statistics First downs: Aledo 23. Shoemaker 7. Rushes-yards: Aledo 48-271, Shoemaker 19-(-28).

Passing yards: Aledo 77, Shoemaker 89. Caught-thrown-intercepted: Aledo 10-180. Shoemaker 12-27-2.

Punts-average: Aledo 2-31.0, Shoemaker

Fumbles-lost: Aledo 0-0, Shoemaker 0-0. Penalties-yards: Aledo 1-5, Shoemaker

Third-down conversions: Aledo 6-11, Shoemaker 2-11.

Fourth-down conversions: Aledo 1-3, Shoemaker 1-4.

Time of possession: Aledo 27:24, Shoemaker 20:36.

Individual leaders (unofficial) Rushing

Shoemaker: Jamarius Stewart 5 carries,

9 yards. Aledo: Patrick-Daniels 12-108, 2 TD; C. Pope 13-61, 2 TD; Ryan Cox 12-59; Brant Hayden 6-39;

Jalen Pope 1-18; Keys 1-2, TD. **Passing** Shoemaker: Malachi Jerome 11-for-26, 75 yards, 2 intercep-

Aledo: Hayden 7-14, 51 yards;

Gavin Beard 3-for-4, 26 yards.

Receiving

Shoemaker: Maurice Starr 4 catches, 27 yards; Javante Carson 2-24.

C. Pope 4-27, Zach Reynolds 2-16, J. Pope 1-10, Tyson Timms 1-9, Patrick-Daniels 1-8, Kaydon Finley 1-7.

Interceptions

Aledo: Aven Lawrence (40-yard return),

Jaden Allen. Sacks

Shoemaker: Zavian Tibbs.

Aledo: Andrew Parkhurst 1

Tackles

Aledo: Jake Gillespie 7.5, Keys

Tackles for loss

Aledo: Keys 1.5, Ansel Din-Mbuh 1.5, Parkhurst 1, Cap Mooney 1, Lawson Moore 1.

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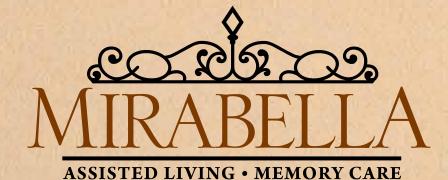
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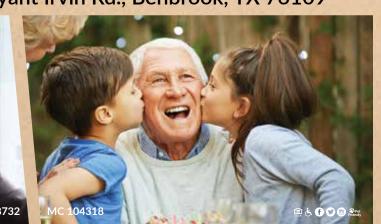
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B8 November 18, 2022 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

WRESTLING

Aledo opens season at Weatherford, Midlothian

Staff Reports The Community News

The Aledo wrestling teams had a busy opening week to the season, particularly after the season got started a day later than was

The season began with a dual match at Weatherford on Nov. 9. The match was originally planned for outdoors a day earlier in Kangaroo Stadium, but Mother Nature had other plans. Due to the humidity level, the mats could not be deemed safe and the match was moved indoors to the Outback on the WHS campus.

The Aledo girls team started off with two wins by Avery Kernan (107 pounds) with a 21-second pin and Kyra Wright (114), who also won by a pin in the first period. While there were several other close matches, the Lady Kangaroos came away with a 54-12 victory.

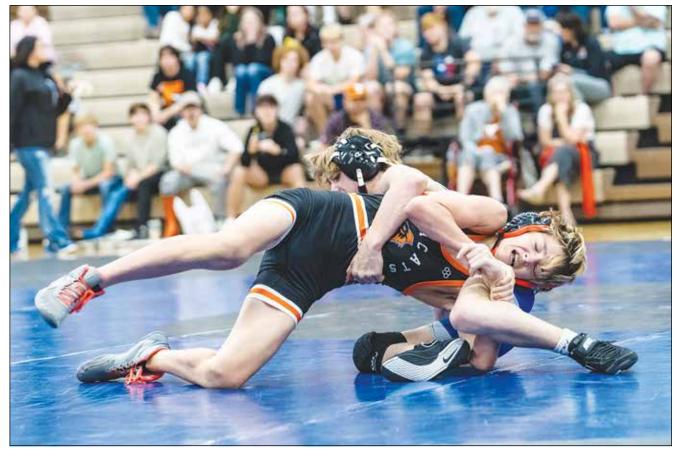
The Aledo boys came up short in the team total of their match by a 40-33 score. Bearcat highlights included a first-period pin by freshman Brice Bohn (106), followed by another pin by Jayden Escalera (13).

Jacob Ellerbusch (312) continued the momentum with a pin of his own in the second period and Zachary Attaway (150) was able to get a 5-3 decision after a hardfought match.

Max Toth (165) returned from a season ending injury last season,to give the Bearcats a big pin in the first period of his match. Britton Collins (190) finished up the night with a win by injury disqualification.

Midlothian Heritage **Tournament**

This past weekend the Bearcats and Ladycats went to Midlothian Heritage for their dual tournament.



RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

LEFT: Kyra Wright won by a pin in the first round at the opening match in Weatherford on Nov. 9. | ABOVE: Brice Bohn is undefeated after five matches for the Aledo wrestling team.

The Aledo boys started the day off solidly with a 60-12 win over Gatesville. Aledo won every match by a pin.

Next, the Bearcats took on Midlothian Heritage and lost a close 39-36 match. It was topped off with pins from Ellerbusch, Bohn, Collin Chaney (285), and Kyle Scharlow

Bearcats fell to a pair of strong 6A programs (Aledo is 5A) against Wylie (60-21) and Highland Park (57-24).

Bohn was the standout of the day, going undefeated with four pins.

The Ladycats dropped a 42-24 match to a tough Midlothian Heritage

The next two matches the squad. The dual started with two pins from Kernan and Wright. Following this, both Arrianne Mathias (145) and Rilie Blankenship (152) both got their first wins of the year coming via pin.

Both teams will head to the Talon Tournament in Eaton Friday (girls) and

Saturday (boys).







Congratulations on your great performances!

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