

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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New high-end golf community planned on Kelly Road

Avanzada Golf & Ranch Club part of larger master-planned community

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Last week Avanzada Golf & Ranch Club announced the development of a new 1,100-acre high-end golf community at the intersection of Hwy. 377 and Kelly Road in Parker County.

The new golf course community is being referred to as the "crown jewel" of the larger 2,400-acre master-planned Kelly Ranch Estates.

The entire development lies within the boundary of the Aledo ISD.

Avanzada's founder is PGA Tour veteran JJ Henry, who will work with award-winning golf course architect Jim Lipe, considered one of the best golf course architects in the industry. Henry's inspiration for the name "Avanzada" came from the history of Fort Worth, once known as "Trinity Outpost." "Avanzada" is the Spanish word for "outpost."

Henry's partner in Avanzada is Fort Worth native and developer Bubba Vann. Vann, like Henry, is a TCU graduate and successful entrepreneur and developer of the renowned South Padre Island Golf Club.

Both men feel in a sense that they are coming home.

"I went to school here at TCU in the mid '90s — I started here in '93," Henry said. "I worked my way up; I was a college player of the year in '98. And in essence for the last 25 years I've been playing in the PGA Tour."

Henry met his wife at school, and they live locally.

"I'm a little bit in that transition — I'll be 48 in April, and these guys are getting younger and I'm getting older. For the latter part of 25 years, I've basically been a part of these high-end golf communities, golf courses, clubhouses, amenities, and I just thought at some point, it'd be really nice, with the right group and the vision and the attention to detail, to be able to create that vision with the right team in place. Avanzada will allow me to incorporate the best things I have seen and experienced during my PGA Tour career."

Henry has a team of experienced professionals to bring the vision to reality, beginning with Vann, who still owns South Padre Island Golf Club, but who is also happy to return to the area. Vann played golf at the

Turn to GOLF, page 2



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Carter LeBaron and his family react when presented with a check for \$109,000, the proceeds from this year's Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot. Shown also are event co-chair and emcee Nikki Thompson and son, Tagg. For more on the event, see page 4.

Aledo ISD Growth Committee welcomes public to upcoming meeting

By Ryan Wade
Community News

Aledo continues to be a community experiencing rapid growth. One of the key issues a growing community inevitably faces is ensuring the local school district can stay out in front of the growth to keep schools from becoming overwhelmed by the perpetual influx of new students.

With that in mind, the Aledo Growth Committee has met nearly a dozen times since its inception in August. The committee has spent more than 25 hours studying data related to enrollment trends within the district, facility needs, instructional priorities, and the district's financial standing just to name a few topics of discussion.

Now, the committee is prepared to host the community at meetings on Dec. 6 and Dec. 8. Both meetings will be at the Aledo ISD Administration Building. The meetings will begin at 5:30 both nights.

"Our goal is to give a short presentation to the community members who want to come to show the progress and the work of the committee to date," said AGC co-chair Dan Reilly. "Then to facilitate some small group discussions with members of the committee clustered with members of the community to ask what other information they need and what ideas do they have?"

The committee plans to meet once more prior to opening the doors to the community in order to line out the framework of the Dec. 6 and 8 meetings. Reilly mentioned the committee plans to walk the members of the community through a brief presentation to ensure everyone in attendance is up to speed on all the pertinent data the committee has worked with.

"It is imperative for the community to be engaged and informed on our growth and how we best answer that growth," Reilly said.

The committee, comprised of more than 50 members of the Aledo community, with the help of various experts brought in to aid the committee in making the most informed decisions possible, have identified several needs Aledo ISD will face in the near future.

"Right now, I would tell you that the consensus of our committee is, our first need in the immediate future is more capacity at the elementary

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Aledo enters Star Trek universe



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT+

Dawnn Lewis as Captain Carol Freeman and Jack Quaid as Ensign Brad Boimle in STAR TREK: LOWER DECKS streaming on Paramount+ series. Photo: PARAMOUNT+ ©2022 CBS Interactive, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Latest starship in animated series named for the city

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Local Star Trekkers were thrilled to learn that Aledo has now entered the Star Trek Universe via the latest fully-automated Starfleet ship in the new Texas Class, the U.S.S. Aledo.

The Aledo was unveiled on Oct. 20, when "Trusted Sources," the ninth episode of season three of *Star Trek: Lower Decks* was streamed on Paramount+.

Lower Decks is one of the latest Star Trek series, and the first animated series in the franchise since the 1970s. It is also the first Star Trek series classified as a comedy. It follows the adventures of the low-ranking

crew of the Starship Cerritos, a California Class ship.

The series began in 2020 and has received numerous award nominations, including one Primetime Emmy nomination. It is among the IMDbPro Top 200 Most Popular TV Titles 2020-2021, and recently Paramount+ announced a fourth season is in the works.

Turn to TREK, page 2



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TREK

from page one

But what was the inspiration for the U.S.S. Aledo?

The writer of the episode, Ben M. Waller, answered that question.

Waller, who has been with the series since its inception, was the moving force behind the name.

"At the start of season three, we knew that we wanted to be building towards the reveal of like a Texas Class of ships," Waller told *The Community News*. "The philosophy behind the ships in our show is the ships that might have been overlooked by the big flashier ships in Starfleet like the Enterprises and the Voyagers."

In the California Class of ships that originally populated the series, Waller said ships named after other California cities (in addition to Cerritos) have moved in and out of the show.

"But we knew we wanted to have a Texas class. And at the beginning of every season, our showrunner Mike McMahon will decide who's

going to do which episode. So he'll say, 'you you write this episode, you write this episode,' and he assigns them at the beginning."

All the writers then work together to come up with story lines for each episode.

"At the start of season three, with the Texas class coming out, I immediately knew what city I'd name it, why I'd name it that, and I just prayed that I would get assigned the episode where the Texas class flagship was finally revealed, because I wanted it to be the Aledo," Waller said. "I was assigned the ninth episode. And as I was watching everyone start to write their episodes, I was reading the drafts as they came in. And I was like, 'please don't reveal the ship, please don't reveal the ship.' And we finally got to my episode, and we started to talk."

McMahon decided Waller's episode would be the one to reveal the

first Texas Class starship, and Waller was elated.

"So I went home. I wrote it up, I threw the Aledo references in there as much as I could, because my wife and her family are actually from Aledo and I wanted to include it as a little bit of a heartfelt tribute to them."

Waller's wife is Vicky Papa, who graduated from Aledo High School in 2003.

Waller's inclusion of Aledo references in his episode was not yet a done deal, however.

McMahon liked Waller's draft, "but the thing with writing TV is it goes through about 100 people before it finally gets to the air," Waller said. "And the whole time I'm thinking, 'I don't know if they're going to know Aledo or I don't know if it's going to fit what they're looking for in terms of the philosophy behind the way we name our ships.' And every time it went to a new draft, I kept checking them



Ben Waller



Read this story online

GROWTH

from page one

school level," Reilly stated. "We knew that during the last bond. The projections back then were showing that elementary school number seven would more than likely need to be on the ground by 2025. The newest demographic projections confirm that."

While the committee has met several times leading up to the open meetings next week, Reilly stressed the importance of community feedback and ideas before the committee moves forward with its recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

"Our goal on Monday is to come up with some sort of framework - we might not have a complete package built - but at least our priority list will be identified with some loose numbers associated with that," said Reilly. "Then we can go to the community and

say, 'Here's what we've been working on. Here's the process we took. Here's the demographic information. Here's where we're leaning. What are your thoughts? What are we missing? Is there anything else we need to consider before we go to the Board with a recommendation in February?'"

Following the community meetings in December, the committee will meet two to three times in January if necessary to finalize its recommendations for the Board of Trustees. The first recommendation the AGC plans to present to the board is a long-range facility master plan to meet the ISD's enrollment needs for the future. The second recommendation will be a bond proposal for a potential special election in the spring.

More information along with meeting recap videos can be found online at www.aledoisd.org/AGC.



Read this story online

ALEDO ISD

Trustees approve purchase process for 19 acres on Champions Drive

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to empower Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn to enter into a contract to purchase about 19.5 acres of land on Champions Drive at a special meeting on Monday, Nov. 28.

The land is on the west side of Champions Drive and stretches from Bailey Ranch Road to Buchanan Drive.

According to background information presented to the board, the school district made an offer on the property, stating "The District is currently seeking real property sites within the district to purchase for future school facilities."

"The Administration has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to purchase the tract," Bohn said at the special school board meeting.

The property is adjacent to the property that contains Aledo High School and the Don R. Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.

"Aledo ISD is working to purchase the Bailey Ranch 19.5-acre property to provide the district options as we plan for future growth," Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn told *The Community News*. "Since it is contiguous to our current property and can be accessed via the marquee drive east of Daniel Ninth Grade Campus and also via Champions drive, it offers us flexibility for future facilities."



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
The Aledo ISD has made an offer on 19.5 acres adjacent to the Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.

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GOLF

from page one

D3 level before transferring to TCU, and later moved into real estate. He worked alongside Landmark, which built some of the premiere golf courses in the country.

"I started out as a home builder working alongside them and learned the business and then I was able to become the developer of South Padre Island Golf Club, which I still own today," Vann said. "And so when JJ and I started talking about two and a half years ago, I moved my family up here. I always wanted to get back to Fort Worth being a TCU grad. And so we put our heads together."

Vann said he had a great deal of admiration for Henry.

"When I was blowing and going early in my career in 2006, this guy was playing on a Ryder Cup, you know, best 12 Americans in the world. And so obviously somebody that I held in highest regard being a golfer, the way he always lived his life and his character, and so we decided to put this together. We searched high and low to find the right piece of dir, and I like to think that God designed this golf course."

Course designer Lipe is a long-time Jack Nicklaus associate whose task will be to design a golf course that challenges the better golfers while also providing an enjoyable experience for beginners.

"The property at Avanzada will allow Jim and me to design a great golf course, one of the best in Texas," Henry said. "As a famous architect once said, 'The best golf courses are built by God.' Avanzada has been blessed with mature hardwoods, 200 feet of elevation changes, rolling hills, long views, and half a mile of water frontage from Bear Creek. I am excited to bring my vision for golf and a new healthy lifestyle community to Parker County. I look forward to making Avanzada my new home."

Additionally, Mike Sheridan, who has also worked with Nicklaus, will be involved from the master-plan point of view. Also



Key players in the Avanzada Golf & Ranch Club are (from left) Bubba Vann, developer; Jim Lipe, golf course architect; JJ Henry, PGA Tour player and developer; Mike Sheridan, land planner; and Gilbert Little, developer.

involved in the project are private banker Gilbert Little, and Justin Hammond and Gilbert Eagle, who will handle the real estate side.

The Big Picture

Avanzada Golf & Ranch club rests within the heart of the new Kelly Ranch development. The 2,400-acre master-planned development will encompass three new communities, Rio Vista at Kelly Ranch, La Dorada at Kelly Ranch, and Avanzada Golf & Ranch Club.

Lots in the 100-acre Rio Vista Phase I are already being developed.

Kelly Ranch will also take advantage of nearly 1.5 miles of Highway 377 frontage with luxury retail shopping, restaurants, and entertainment with its 65 acre "Shops at Avanzada" development. Along with the resort feel brought by retail shopping and a champion golf course, Kelly Ranch will feature all of the

necessary development needed for a day-to-day life. New grocery store, medical office buildings, Aledo ISD school sites, and class A business offices will be located along the eastern most border of the development at the cross roads of Highway 377 and Kelly Road.

The residential portion of Avanzada will be a high-end gated community. Dirt will start turning on the residential portion in January, and the golf course will begin work in late spring, with a target date of fall 2024 to begin golfing.

Vann said the first step is to cut the lanes for the fairways.

"We need to make sure the golf course fits the way we want. We took this piece of property, we found the best 18 golf holes, and then we built around them," Vann said of the course plans. "A lot of guys are like, 'oh, we got to cram it in over here.' We took the best 18 golf holes — it's about the golf. Golf is the flagship service."

"This won't be a golf course where you're worried about hitting into somebody's back yard," Henry added. "The setbacks for both the golf course and the home sites are such where we probably won't have a single out of bounds on the entire course."

Henry painted a picture of his vision for the course and home sites.

"The unique thing, if you're familiar with Bear Creek, is in spots it goes up to 50 feet wide, beautiful limestone cliff lines that get up, six, seven stories high in points. So, to catalog that unique feature from a golf perspective here in our area is something that we're excited to be able to work into the the architecture and the the layout of the golf course," Henry said. "The golf course footprint itself will be down low in and around the creek among a lot of the hardwoods. We have almost 200 feet elevation change from our western boundary down to Bear Creek — some beautiful vistas of even downtown Fort Worth — we'll

"We took this piece of property, we found the best 18 golf holes, and then we built around them."

Developer Bubba Vann

have a lot of those long Texas views and you'll have the real estate up high, the golf down low so you'll have a lot of unique features."

Lots will begin at \$290,000 and go to about \$850,000 in the first phase, but later phases will have lots priced at up to \$2.5 million.

Community atmosphere

Henry and Vann said they value family. Henry's first exposure to golf was being a caddy for his dad, and his son was his caddy at one point on the PGA tour.

His son has turned out to be quite a golfer himself, and will go to the university of Oklahoma next year on a golf scholarship.

"The great thing about golf, the great thing about community and the uniqueness is all the honesty, the integrity, the sportsmanship," Henry said. "We want this to be a center spot and a place in town that everybody can be proud of and say 'hey, yeah, that's part of our town — that's part of our community.'"

"Golf is a big part of my family as well. My wife played college golf at the University of Texas," Vann said. "I'm in the golf business. 'We're passionate about the game, and about building something that we'll be proud to play.'"

Both men plan to have homes in the Avanzada community.

Avanzada is in the process of setting up an office in central Aledo to provide information to the community. For more information, visit avanzadagolf.com.



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Thanksgiving Trot raises record amount for LeBaron family

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The annual Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot again saw more than 1,000 people turn out on a drizzly Thanksgiving morning to bring sunshine to a local family.

The annual one mile and 5K runs raised a record \$109,000 for the LeBaron family of Aledo.

Carter LeBaron, 13, is being treated for T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and funds raised will help with hospital and medical expenses, and supplement lost income.

The Nov. 24 race was the 11th annual such event that has helped local families who are experiencing catastrophic medical crises.



LEFT: The Lilavois family came ready to run. Shown are Jordain and Ashley along with children Addyson, Brooklynn, Cason, and Jape. | CENTER: Mary and Jude Harris stopped by the donut table. | Hot dog! Noah Kieta finishes the race in costume.



LEFT: Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley welcomed runners to the 5K. | CENTER: Runners bust out at the beginning of the one-mile run. | RIGHT: One-mile participants cross the finish line.

PHOTOS BY
RANDY KECK
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Finishing the 5K.



LEFT: New Life Fellowship pastor Dean Suedmeyer began both races with a prayer.

Capital Highlights

Changes urged in funding community colleges



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

A report submitted to state leaders ahead of the 88th legislative session's opening in January urges lawmakers to develop "an innovative new model" to fund community colleges.

The Texas Commission on Community College Finance, established last year by the Legislature and consisting of 12 lawmakers, business leaders, and community college leaders, offered three sets of recommendations for supporting the state's strategic plan for higher education:

- Reward community colleges for positive student outcomes
- Increase affordability and financial aid
- Increase capacity at colleges to meet changing workforce needs

"We need a funding model for our 50 community college districts that is bold, strategic, and fully aligned with our emerging workforce needs," said Woody Hunt, a member of the commission and longtime business leader.

The commission also recommended the state make community colleges more affordable by increasing financial aid provided by the state, more aid for dual-credit courses, and supporting work-based educational opportunities, such as internships and apprenticeships.

Under the state's current system for funding community colleges, most revenue comes from tuition and property taxes levied by the college district. The state also contributes some funding.

New power grid market draws skeptics

The state Public Utility Commission is proposing an untested structure for the state's power grid after legislators ordered its overhaul in the wake of the 2021 winter storm. The *Dallas Morning News* reported the proposed "performance credit mechanism," or PCM, "offers power producers a financial reward to have their plants available during times when Texans are consuming the most energy."



Read this story online

Some lawmakers are skeptical. State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, questioned why the PUC would create a new, untested market mechanism, according to *The Morning News*. In addition, a consulting firm hired by the PUC did not recommend the PCM.

The public and stakeholders have until Dec. 15 to submit comments on the proposal.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what the marketplace and people tell us," said Peter Lake, chairman of the PUC.

Feds provide disaster aid after storms

The federal government has approved a request by Gov. Greg Abbott for disaster aid for a dozen Northeast Texas counties hit by severe weather and tornadoes earlier this month.

The U.S. Small Business Administration granted access to its loan program to businesses and residents in Lamar, Morris, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Marion, Red River, Titus, and Upshur counties.

"Northeast Texas residents and business owners will now have access to critical financial support as they rebuild, repair, and recover from the physical damage and economic injury caused by this storm system," Abbott said.

Applicants may apply online at disasterassistance.sba.gov or by calling 800-659-2955.

Search and rescue drone program proves useful

The use of drones by game wardens with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has helped to find two missing persons recently and assisted in the arrest of a man in East Texas wanted in a shooting and assault. Game warden Michael Hummert responded to a report of an elderly man who had gone missing the night of Nov. 3.

"The setting sun prevented us from locating him through usual means," Hummert said. "The thermal drone picks up body heat, which is necessary to locate someone at night. With the cold creeping in, it was imperative to find him quickly."

The Erath County sheriff's department used cell phone records to determine a general location. Hummert mapped out a search area and located the man with the drone using a thermal scan and led to deputies to the location. A similar

situation occurred nine days later in Bell County. Hummert again used his drone to locate the missing person.

Heading farther east, another TPWD drone operator, Doug Williams, was called to assist authorities searching for a suspect who shot at and assaulted two people, then fled into the woods. Using another thermal drone, Williams found the suspect hiding in the brush during freezing weather. He was arrested and later treated for hypothermia.

"Empowering our division with the drone program in cooperation with Gear Up for Game Wardens donations creates a lifeline where there wasn't," said TPWD's Lt. Matthew Bridgefarmer. "Game warden drone operators arrive first on scene to locate lost boaters and hikers. We search in the aftermath of natural disasters. At the end of the day, this program saves lives."

No COVID-19 vaccine mandates for students

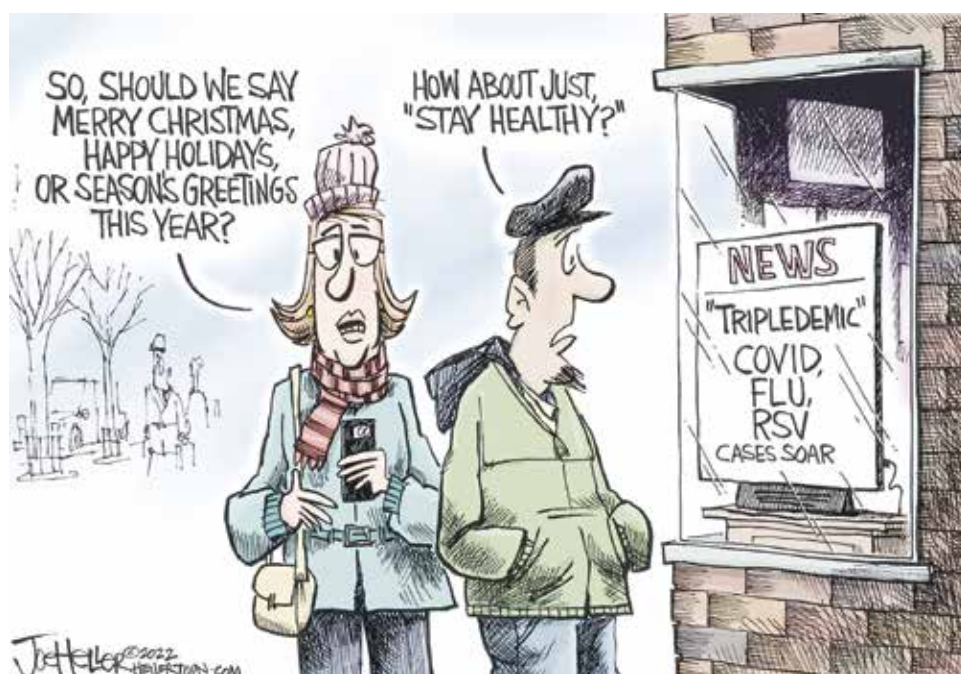
Abbott has told the Texas Education Agency and school superintendents that the COVID-19 vaccine cannot be mandated as part of school entry requirements. This overrides a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control that added the vaccine to immunization schedules for adults and school-aged children.

"Regardless of what the CDC may suggest, in Texas, the COVID-19 vaccine remains voluntary. Texas schools shall not require students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for any reason," Abbott's letter to TEA and school chiefs said.

COVID-19 cases decrease across state

The number of new cases of COVID-19 reported in Texas during the past week dropped to 9,836, with 40 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations rose to 1,259 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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.



Slings&Arrows

Adventures in my own special space-time continuum



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

It has been a very interesting week around *The Community News*.

As I write this it is Wednesday. Less than a week ago a huge crowd of people showed up at the crack of dawn in front of Bearcat Stadium to punish themselves by running 5K for the benefit of a local family.

I have to say when I saw the number of people who came out on a drizzly morning, I got a lump in my throat. The Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot is a testament not only to the hard-working group that puts it together every year, but also to the vast number of people in this community who exhibit real love, generosity, and community spirit.

I tend to worry, when we see the growth curve that is about to happen, if this community can maintain its character and ethos. I sure hope so, and as long as there are groups like the Thanksgiving Trot board, the Aledo Childrens' AdvoCats, and other groups that maintain the community spirit we have, we are in good hands.

Then on Friday the community filled up the visitors' side at the Midlothian ISD stadium to watch the Bearcats as they seek to get back to the state championship game.

The Midlothian game featured a tenacious group playing for the home team. From the press box, it looked a little scary to this third-string sports reporter who filled in for the first-string and second-string sports reporters who were traveling for Thanksgiving.

I should not have worried — in my experience the Bearcats have always been great at making halftime adjustments, and both the defense and offense

stepped up when the game was on the line.

If you have followed this far you may be wondering what any of this has to do with my own special space-time continuum.

Allow me to explain.

The person who normally lays out the pages of the paper has been sick, so I am filling in to get our pages to the printer.

As I sat down to write this, I told our printer I would have the paper ready "in a couple of hours."

People who work with me know how notoriously bad I am at estimating how much time a task will take.

I usually err on the overly-optimistic side, so I often find myself wondering why I didn't get as far along on a task than I thought I would.

Minutes become hours, hours can become days.

In that way, I'm kind of like a construction contractor who tells you how long your project is going to take.

So in that regard, when I told my printer it would be a "couple of hours," I'm emotionally bracing myself for 4-6 hours at best.

In the "olden days" my dad used to help me put together the paper.

While everything is electronic now, back in those days I would desinn pages on the computer, and we would print them out in sections on a laser printer.

My dad would wax the back of the pieces and paste them down on paste-up sheets. One time we were working on the paper, and dad said "how much longer do you think it will be."

I answered "probably a couple of hours."

My dad had a way of clarifying, and asked "is that regular hours or Randy hours?"

Yeah, he got it.

Some dance to the beat of their own drummer.

I work according to my own clock.

The Community News

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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.

Obituaries

Jacob Ryan Barlett

Jacob Ryan Barlett, beloved son and brother, passed away at age twenty-four on November 19, 2022.



Jacob Barlett

Jacob was born on June 8, 1988, and grew up in Aledo with his mother Meredith Smith, his father Christopher Logsdon, and his stepparents Dan Smith and Jennifer Logsdon.

Family was incredibly important to Jacob, and he poured his love out to his siblings Jackson Logsdon and Zachary Logsdon, as well as bonus siblings Korbin Smith, Robert Eaton, and Rebecca Kozar. Jacob's loving spirit was also shared with his Aledo friends and his youth group at Springtown Church of Christ who enjoyed his infectious smile and his incomparable loyalty. Jacob's ultimate joy was found when he was surrounded by the people he loved.

Jacob adored baseball, the sport he played throughout his life, and he was known to spend his birthday at Rangers games each year with family and friends. Travel was another love of Jacob's that was sparked by a Colorado trip with his youth group during high school. One of his favorite adventures was a roadtrip across the country that took him as far as South Dakota as well as returning him to his beloved Colorado, where he felt at one with nature.

Jacob was preceded in death by his "Pawquaw" James McBee, his "Nana" Lousara McBee, his "Granddaddy" Mike Logsdon and "Poppy" Noel Glenn Smith. He loved them all dearly.

Jacob is survived by his grandparents "Nonnie" Pamela Logsdon, "Mimi" Joyce Smith, "Mimi" Pat Bird and "Poppy" Eldon Bird, parents, Meredith and Daniel Smith, Christopher and Jennifer Logsdon, his siblings, Jackson Logsdon, Zachary Logsdon, Korbin Smith, Robert Eaton, and Rebecca Kozar, and a wealth of loving aunts, uncles, and cousins who will all miss Jacob profoundly.

A memorial service was held on Monday, November 28, 2022, at North Side Baptist Church in Weatherford.

If you prefer not to send flowers, please consider donating in honor of Jacob Barlett to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention or similar organization. If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), text "STRENGTH" to the Crisis Text Line at 741-741 or go to suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

The Community News
December 2, 2022

Kody William Farmer

Kody William Farmer, 48, beloved father, son, nephew, and esteemed friend, passed away on Monday, November 21, 2022.



Kody Farmer

Kody was born May 13, 1974, in Weatherford, to Gerald Farmer and Cathy (McLaughlin) Farmer.

Kody had a passion for shooting sports and was a proud member of Defender Outdoors gun club. Those who knew him best agree that he was highly esteemed among his peers.

During his life, he took pleasure in filling his life with his family, friends, and coworkers. Kody was General Manager for Huggins Honda, oftentimes giving of himself and supporting his

coworkers in a mentorship role. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all.

Kody is survived by his cherished daughter, Maddyson Farmer; father, Gerald Farmer; aunt, Sharon Farmer; uncle, Jimmy McLaughlin; brother in law, Troy Becker; and many close cousins. He is also survived by close friends, Zane Young, Kevin, and Omar; as well as many respected coworkers.

Kody was preceded in death by his wife, Kimberly Farmer, and his mother, Cathy Farmer.

A funeral service was held on Friday, November 25, 2022, at Galbreath Pickard Hilltop Chapel in Willow Park.

The Community News
December 2, 2022

Frank J. Kszyminski

Frank J. Kszyminski, 81, passed away on Sunday, November 20, 2022.



Frank Kszyminski

Frank was born August 1, 1941, in Blue Island, Illinois, to Frank Kszyminski and Eleanor (Martino) Kszyminski.

Speaking several languages fluently, Frank was an accomplished linguist. He was proud to be a second-generation American, who was half Polish and half Italian; Frank proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Training NCO.

Upon completion of his military service, he spent many successful years working as a computer operator for Justin Boots. Frank enjoyed every moment that he was able to spend with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, making many memories for them to cherish. He was skilled at printing and developing photography, and he thoroughly enjoyed building and flying remote control airplanes.

Frank was respected in his community and served as the former treasurer of the East Parker County Library and was a member of Aledo Church of Christ.

Frank served as a deacon in the church and especially enjoyed the children of the congregation. He and Darlene taught the first and second grade class for many years.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Betty Lou and Shirley.

Left to cherish Frank's memory and to carry on his legacy are his beloved wife, Darlene (Coppedge) Kszyminski of Aledo; three children, Michael Kszyminski of Weatherford, Glenn Kszyminski of Aledo, and Joanna Williams of Aledo; five grandchildren, Preston, Matthew, Kelsey, Brittany, and Corey; five great-grandchildren, Tye, Stryder, Wyatt, Kyson, and Colter; and nine siblings: Tommy Kszyminski, Jerry Kszyminski, Virginia Mendoza, Margie Blaurock, Mary Jane Wolf, Debbie Heuring, Carol Ray, Rose Schrader, and Richard Kszyminski.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, December 10, 2022, at Aledo Church of Christ, 201 FM 1187, Aledo, Texas 76077.

The Community News
December 2, 2022

William McLeRoy

William Robert McLeRoy passed away November 15, 2022.



Bill McLeRoy

Bill was born in Dallas on June 9, 1943, to Richard Ransom McLeRoy and Polly Minton McLeRoy. He was committed to service above self and he contributed to civic, economic, and cultural improvement wherever he lived.

Bill graduated from of Austin College (BS) and Texas Christian University (MA) and was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin in Mexican history. Bill's career included positions at Central Virginia College, American Medical International, Austin College, and in 1996, founder and senior principal of The Whitestone Group, which served local, regional, and national nonprofit clients. He offered extended education fundraising and philanthropy courses through Texas Christian University. Bill was a Certified Fundraising Professional.

Bill served as museum design and exhibit advisor to museums in Amherst, Virginia; Sherman, Texas, and Galveston. With his wife, Sherrie, he co-authored an Amherst County history and *Strangers in their Midst: A Study of the Free Black Population of Amherst County Virginia*. He also wrote articles on philanthropy to Fort Worth and national business publications.

Together with Eduardo A. Peniche, a native Mexican colleague in Virginia, Bill hosted a live radio series on changes in Latin America on WPVR-FM. Together they also wrote articles for *Novedades* about the pending Panama Canal treaty. As a member of a community college business and cross-cultural center, Bill produced guides for business representatives traveling to Latin America. He also hosted a live series, "The Community College and our Region," on WSET-TV.

Bill served as council member and Mayor Pro Tern for the city of Aledo, and as treasurer of the Aledo Economic Development Corporation. He was part of the Aledo multi-year development of a strategic master plan that led to construction of a new four-lane landscaped entry to the city, building a new comprehensive water and waste water system to meet future growth, and producing a master parks and recreation plan.

He served on the East Parker County Library advisory council member, as a Gladney Center volunteer, and on the KERA Public Broadcasting board of directors. In addition, he was a director of the Partnership for Planned Giving Lone Star Chapter; (and president), director of Fort Worth's Funding Information Center, and a director of

the Rotary Club of Western Fort Worth Foundation.

He served on the Boy Scouts of America (Texoma Council) executive board, as an independent director for Grayson County State Bank, on the Junior Achievement Grayson County board of directors, Main Street Sherman and Denison boards of directors, Medical Plaza Health Services Foundation (Sherman), and Sherman ISD Educational Foundation as its founding president. He was a graduate

of Leadership Sherman, president of the Sherman Rotary Club, and chairman of the Sherman Rotary Club Educational Foundation. He served on the Cuchara Association Board of Directors (Colorado), and Archeological Society of Virginia Central Virginia Chapter board.

The Rotary Club of Western Fort Worth recognized Bill's service as an Outstanding Rotarian. Together with his wife, he received the Friend of Grayson County CASA award. The Fort Worth Chapter of the national Association of Fundraising Professionals recognized him as the 2016 Outstanding Fundraising Professional as the recipient of the Ben Franklin Award. He was an Eagle Scout and recipient of Scouting's God and Country Award.

Bill considered himself a part of all that he had met. His personal interests included volunteer service, mountain hiking, visiting museums, international travel, musical performances, woodworking, and photography. His philanthropic interests encompassed higher education, conservation, historic preservation, human services, and public broadcasting.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Richard R. McLeRoy, Jr.

He is survived by Sherrie, his loving and strong wife of 48 years; his beautiful and caring daughter, Ann Elizabeth Rodgers; son-in-law, Cole Rodgers; granddaughter, Isabel Rodgers; grandson, Coleson Rodgers; and cherished cousins and friends.

The funeral service will be at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29, at Greenwood Chapel in Fort Worth. Interment will be in Greenwood Memorial Park. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Monday at Greenwood.

Memorials may be made to the Texas Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org/texas), Rotary Club of Western Fort Worth Foundation (P. O. Box 100125, 76185-0125), and Baylor University's School of Law Minton Lecture Series (www.baylor.edu/law), or to an organization of the donor's choice.

The Community News
December 2, 2022

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Events

December 2, 2022
 THE COMMUNITY NEWS
 www.community-news.com

More events can be found at www.community-news.com/calendar

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.com/cohoho>.

Aledo High School Jazz Band Concert
 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, entertainment, vendors, and holiday-related activities for children and adults.

In addition, all boutiques and stores will be open for gift shopping. For more information, visit <https://www.weatherford-chamber.com/chamber-events/christmas-on-the-square.html>.

Aledo 45th annual Craft Fair
 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, 128 Elm St. in Aledo. About 40 vendors will be there with unique gift ideas. Concessions will also be available.

Christmas Time in Aledo
 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. 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. For more information, see The Community News' Christmas Guide at www.community-news.com/stories/christmas-2022.1180.

Weatherford Lights the Night Parade
 The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce will present 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 ISD Ninth Grade Center (1007 South Main) and proceed around

the courthouse and then west on Palo Pinto to Waco Street.

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-on-the-square.html>.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Band Concert
 Aledo Middle School and McAnally Middle School will provide a holiday-themed concert. Time and location TBA.

Firefighter Santa food drive
 Firefighter Santa will be at the Aledo Fire Station at 991 Bailey Ranch Road from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Donate a non-perishable food item and get a picture with Firefighter Santa. Monetary donations can also be made at <https://venmo.com/AledoFire-Foster>.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Band Concert
 The Aledo High School Band will provide its holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 8, in the AHS Auditorium. Time TBA.

Firefighter Santa food drive
 Firefighter Santa will be at the Annetta Fire Station at 701 Thunderhead Lane from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- professional cowboy assoc. (abbr.)
- Granbury's county
- TXism: "pay ___ never mind"
- this k.d. & TX Roy Orbison won a "Crying" Grammy
- TXans might have this retirement acct.
- TX George W. to Laura
- San Antonio street: "Gomer" _____
- TXism: "if it ain't true, there ain't ___ in Texas"
- this Liam starred with TX Martin in "Leap of Faith" (init.)
- Dallas public transportation co. (abbr.)
- TX Wiley Post airplane: Winnie _____
- in Collin County on highway 289
- TXism: "fast enough to catch _____"
- he danced with TX Ginger (init.)
- where Texas kids don't get to play much (2 wds.)
- lion sound
- DeNiro action thriller film (1998)
- TXism: "cautious as a _____ a big bone"
- cattle fat
- 5/3/91 was the date of the final one for "Dallas"
- TXism: "___ two-steps to his own beat"
- Gov. ___ Lanham (1902-06)
- TXism: "got ___" (inclined)
- to make excited
- TXism: "___ his hide"
- TX Debbie Reynolds 1952 musical: "Singin' ___ the Rain"
- milk farm
- TX George H.W. chose this Justice Thomas
- TX Kenny sang "Through the ___"
- bro's sib
- "bear," in Mexico
- TXism: "___ pusher" (writer)
- fly high
- LBJ & "Lady" _____
- religious tables dir. to Mineola from Buna (abbr.)
- LBJ's party (abbr.)
- TXism: "he's a frisky fiddler"
- famous Galveston pirate Jean
- Mc____, TX
- TX Roddenberry genre: sci-____ hospital nurses (abbr.)
- "oh, woe _____"
- what the grumpy dog might do to the pesky kid? (2 wds.)
- TX Wraylon's "Are ___ Hank Done It This Way"
- full of information
- TX Joe ___ Baker
- unusual
- Rusk Co. seat
- TX Roy Orbison's "___ the Lonely"
- converts hides into leather
- with "cup," an inhalation spasm
- Greek fable teller
- TXism: "___ a little cane"

DOWN

- Dimmit County namesake
- TX Howard Hughes, Sr. invented drilling _____ cone bit
- 39th governor, John
- TXism: "if he's ___ he'll bark"
- TX Wills: "Ah ___ take it away Leon"
- TXism: "a hard dog to keep ___ porch"
- Big Bend is only spot in U.S. where you can see this warbler
- TXism: "watchful as ___ a tree"
- female hog
- martial art: ___ chi chuan

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Breakfast with Santa
 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) will host Breakfast with Santa from 9 a.m. to noon at Central Christian Church, 1602 South Main Street in Weatherford. Each child who attends will receive a breakfast bag and gift. Activities include letters to Santa, Pictures with Santa, and a craft table to make crafts. Admission fee is \$5, or free to foster children and the families served by CASA. For more information, call 817-599-6224.

Candlelight Tour of Homes

The Parker County Heritage Society will host its annual Candlelight Tour of Homes from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10. Five historic homes will be on this year's tour. Tickets for adults are \$20 and tickets for children 12 and younger are \$12. Purchase tickets online at www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com or purchase at the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce on the day of the tour.

Christmas at the Castle

The Pythian Home will host Christmas at the Castle from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1825 E. Bankhead in Weatherford. Be sure to take a camera to explore the historic structure, which will be decorated for Christmas. The event is free, but donations are welcome. For more information and to obtain tickets, visit <https://pythianhome.ticketleap.com/christmas-at-the-castle/details> or call 817-594-4465.

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FOOTBALL

Bearcats, Spartans meet for another round

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

It's been a month and a half since the Aledo Bearcats went into Burseson and spanked the Centennial Spartans 64-21.

That is the lone loss on the Spartans' (12-1) otherwise perfect season, the best season in program history, to be exact. That win, followed by a 35-21 win at Denton Ryan the following week on Oct. 21 propelled the Bearcats (11-2) to their 15th consecutive district championship.

Now, in order to continue their quest for an 11th state championship, the Bearcats are going to have to defeat the Spartans again, this time on neutral ground Saturday at 2 p.m. at The Star in Frisco.

Aledo coach Tim Buchanan is making it clear, however, that folks should not expect another blowout — something he's been stressing to his players all week.

"You have to remind them that Centennial has continued to improve. They're a better football team now. They used their loss to us to get better," Buchanan said. "Coach (Kyle) Gellar did a good job of rallying the troops.

"They did with their loss what we did with our two to start the season. They've learned and improved."

The Bearcats have won 11 straight since opening the season with a 24-17 loss at Dallas Parish Episcopal and a 44-14 home loss to Denton Guyer. Those teams have a combined record of 24-1 and are still in their respective playoffs (TAPPS Division I and 6A Division II).

The first meeting with Centennial was something of a "coming out" party for Aledo quarterback Hauss Hejny. While he showed steady



Bearcats celebrate after the final stop to win the regional semifinal against Midlothian. Shown are Cap Mooney (20), Jaden Allen (2), Matt Gonzales (91), Lawson Moore (40) and Jake Gillespie (0).

BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

improvement all season, he burst through for 448 yards of offense and six touchdowns that night, completing 13 of 14 passes for 272 yards and four touchdowns, along with rushing 12 times for 176 yards and two more touchdowns.

"He gained a lot of confidence throwing the football. The biggest thing was letting things happen instead of trying to make things happen," Buchanan said of Hejny. "Same with his running. He's learned to run smart."

The Bearcats had four scoring drives that lasted one or two plays and took up less than 45 seconds

— including three of less than 20 seconds. Aledo had the ball for 17 minutes compared to 31 for Centennial.

"The ball bounced our way a lot in that game," Buchanan said. "They are a good football team. They are not 43 points worse than us."

The game was tied at 14 after the first quarter before the Aledo defense adjusted to force the Spartans to throw more. The result was a change from Centennial having 141 yards in the opening quarter to just 161 over the next three, while Aledo racked up 537 total yards.

"If they are able to stay within their gameplan, they are very dangerous. I think they are better than Midlothian," Buchanan said.

The Spartans' offense is similar to Midlothian's. Aledo rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat the Panthers 27-21 last week in Midlothian, while Centennial downed upset-minded Abilene 24-14.

Perfect in rematches

This will be the sixth time since 2009 that Aledo will meet in the postseason an opponent they faced in the regular season. They are 5-0 in the previous meetings, including

3-0 against Stephenville and 1-0 against both Saginaw Boswell and Mansfield Legacy.

In 2009 they defeated Stephenville both in the regular season (20-16) and in the area round (26-23). In 2010 they downed the Yellowjackets to open the season (20-3) and again in the state quarterfinals (18-10). In 2011 they avenged a season-opening 48-47 loss to Stephenville with a 33-0 win again in the state quarterfinals.

In 2016 Aledo ended the regular season with a 49-24 win over Boswell, followed by a 42-14 win in the state

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 11

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WRESTLING

Aledo wrestlers shine in meets

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Aledo wrestlers came home with plenty of honors at both the varsity and junior varsity level in tournaments recently.

The varsity boys and girls competed in the Talon Tournament in Haslet. The Bearcats were highlighted with a first-place finish by Collin Chaney in the 285-pound division, while Brice Bohn and Chad Thomas were each third at 106 and 120 pounds, respectively. Zachary Attaway placed fourth at 150 pounds.

"Great day for our Bearcat wrestlers!" said an excited coach Austin Stockon. "As a team we placed top five."

Chaney, competing in his first tournament ever, pinned all four of his opponents to take the title. One of his matches lasted just 46 seconds.

Freshman Bohn and Thomas, a team captain, both fell to regional qualifiers their first matches but were able to battle back.

The Ladycats placed second in their weight classes, team captains Avery Kernan (106) and Kyra Wright (114), along with Baillie Sessom (185). Riley Blankenship (144) placed fourth, while Serafina Ceron (120) and Arianne Mathias (144) each finished fifth.

Turn to **WRESTLE**, page 11



The Trinity Christian Academy Lady Eagles won the championship in the fifth annual TCA Turkey Shootout last week. During tournament play they went 4-0, defeating Weatherford Christian, Garner, and Prestwood North, before defeating Fort Worth Christian in the championship game. The Lady Eagles are currently 8-0 on the season and will begin district play vs Grace Prep on Dec. 13. Shown are (front row, from left) Meghan Young, Berlynn Kaznowski, Caroline Thompson, Maverick Gonzales, Sadie Gough, Ella Cockrum, and Christina Kuschel and (back row) Emily Ickert, Margaret Cowley, Giuliana Marcantonio, Macy Prestwood, Ava Luecker, and Avery Tiwiter. Not shown are coaches Matt Garnett and Jaden Isler.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

SWIMMING

Roberson sets another record at TISCA meet

By Derek Gregory
Special to The Community News

Led by another record-setting day by sophomore Haley Roberson, Aledo had eight athletes compete at the Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association North Zone invitational Nov. 18-19 at Debbie Weems Natatorium in Mansfield.

Roberson bested her own record in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5 minutes, 14.51 seconds to place fourth overall. Roberson also competed in the 200 freestyle, placing ninth with a time of 1:56.77.

Also posting a pair of top-10 finishes was senior Sam Ogden, who was eighth in the boys 100 freestyle, clocking 49.86 seconds, along with a 10th-place time of 55.50 in the 100 backstroke.

Advancing to finals for the boys were senior Tanner Howse, 20th in 200 freestyle, 1:54.63 and 18th in 100 butterfly, 57.08; and junior Porter Lane, 22nd in 100 butterfly, 57.93.

Sophomore Corah Satterfield was 21st in the 100 butterfly with a 1:07.48.

Also qualifying for individual events but not reaching the finals were sophomore Victoria Crews (100 freestyle) and freshman Natalie Hutson (100 backstroke).

Competing on relays were Ogden, Lane, Howse and Kyle Scharlow for the boys, along with Hutson, Roberson, Satterfield and Crews for the girls.

The girls medley relay finished 15th in preliminaries. The boys freestyle relay placed 16th overall.

Sophomore Avery Faulkner and junior Hunter Gregory were relay alternates.

Morris first from TCU to compete at NCAA meet since 2016



Staff Reports
The Community News

Former Aledo standout Gracie Morris wrapped up her first cross country season at TCU by competing in the NCAA Championships this past Saturday on the Oklahoma State University course in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Morris clocked a time of 20 minutes, 52.4 seconds in the 6K race to place 142nd in the field of 254. She is the first TCU runner to qualify for the NCAA Championships since Brenley Goertzen in 2016.

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

Morris's time of 20:17.1 at regionals was more than a minute ahead of

her previous best time of 21:37.5 that placed her 11th at the Big 12 Championships.

After transferring to TCU prior to the 2021-22 indoor track season, Morris broke the school record for the mile with a 4:40.81 for fourth at the Big 12 Indoor Championships. In the spring she placed fourth at the Big 12 Outdoor Championships and qualified for the NCAA Meet in the 1500-meter.

She holds TCU track records in the 800 (2:05.38) and 1500 (4:14.59).

At 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 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.



Matt Morris

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Notice is hereby given that, on December 9, 2022, Aledo ISD Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing at the Aledo ISD Administration Board Room/1008 Bailey Ranch Rd, Aledo, TX 76008, to discuss possible Board action on the following item:

1. Creation of the *Project Redeemer Reinvestment Zone 001* pursuant to Texas Tax Code §312.0025
2. Public Hearing on the Application of Hanwha Q Cells Americas Holdings Co. for an Appraised Value Limitation

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BEARCATS

from page eight

quarterfinals. In 2017, the Bearcats topped Legacy 24-3 in the regular season and again in the state semifinals, 28-21.

In each of the five seasons in which they've had a rematch in the playoffs the Bearcats advanced to the state championship game - winning four and finishing second in 2017.

What a difference a game makes

Take the Aledo loss out of Centennial's season statistics and there is a significant difference in their stats — particularly on defense.

The Spartans have only surrendered 145 points in their 12 victories, an average of 12.1 points. Add in the loss to Aledo and that number escalates to 16.1 points per game.

Passing grade

The Aledo pass defense has yet to give up a postseason touchdown. In fact, they've yet to have an opponent reach 100 yards in the air.

The Bearcats surrendered 92 yards with two interceptions and a sack in a 37-0 win over Killeen Shoemaker, just 12 yards in a 45-21 victory against Lubbock Cooper and 42 yards with two half sacks against Midlothian.

Opposing quarterbacks are 14-for-37 so far in the playoffs.

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (11-2) vs. Burleson Centennial Spartans (12-1)

When: Saturday, 2 p.m., The Star in Frisco

What: Class 5A Division I state quarterfinals

How they got here: Aledo is the champion of District 3-5A Division I and defeated Killeen Shoemaker 37-0 in bidistrict, Lubbock Cooper 45-21 in area and Midlothian 27-21

in the third round. Centennial is the runner-up in 3-5A Division I and defeated Lake Belton 56-28 in bidistrict, Amarillo Tascosa 31-7 in area and Abilene 24-14 in the third round.

Centennial offense: The Spartans are averaging 40.8 points per game and have topped the 40-point mark six times.

Aledo offense: The Bearcats are averaging 44.8 points and have scored 40 or more points eight times. Leaders include: QB Hauss Hejny 77-for-132, 1,423 yards, 14 TD, 4 interceptions passing, 93 carries, 1,022 yards, 12 TD rushing; RB Hawk Patrick-Daniels 162 carries, 1,180 yards, 19 TD rushing, 9 catches, 97 yards, 1 TD receiving; Caleb Pope 81 carries, 510 yards, 12 TD; RB Ryan Cox 89 carries, 435 yards, 3 TD; WR Jalen Pope 43 catches, 793 yards, 10 TD; WR Kaydon Finley 18-335 yards, 4 TD; TE Tyson Timms 23-298, 3 TD; Gavin Olenjack, 13-293, 2 TD.

Centennial defense: The Spartans are giving up 16.1 points per game. They have two shutouts and have held seven opponents to two touchdowns or less.

Aledo defense: The Bearcats' defense is surrendering 16.3 points on average with two shutouts. They've limited five opponents to a TD or less. Leaders are: LB Dahvon Keys 80.5 tackles, 6 for loss, 1 interception (returned 73 yards for TD), 1 fumble recovery; DB Jake Gillespie 63.5 tackles, 4.5 loss, 1 interception, 1 fumble recovery; DB Andrew Parkhurst 56 tackles, 10 for loss, 4 sacks; DB Boogie Owens 37 tackles, 1 for loss, 1 interception, 2 fumble recoveries; DT Ansel Din-Mbuh 23.5 tackles, 14 for loss, 3 sacks; DE Lawson Moore 21 tackles, 8 for loss; DB Jaden Allen 27.5 tackles, 3 interceptions.

All-time record head-to-head: Aledo leads the series 5-0 and has won by an average score of more than 35 points.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Dahvon Keys bursts through the line to score the game-winning touchdown against Midlothian. Keys had three carries in the game and also accounted for 14 tackles on defense.

FOOTBALL

Bearcats come from behind to defeat Midlothian

Fourth quarter touchdowns take down Panthers

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats took another big step on their journey toward what they hope will be another trip to the state championship by defeating Midlothian 27-21 on Friday, Nov. 25, at Midlothian ISD Stadium.

Aledo took the opening kickoff and wasted no time getting to the end zone on their first possession.

A squib kickoff by Midlothian landed at the Aledo 32 where Kaydon Finley pounced on it.

A quick pass to Hawk Patrick-Daniels picked up 8, and a screen pass to Jalen Pope picked up another 11, putting Aledo in Midlothian territory at the 49.

Quarterback Hauss Hejny picked up another 19-yard chunk on a keeper, and three plays later Aledo found itself with a fourth down with a half yard to go at about the 20. A defensive offside penalty against Midlothian moved the ball to the 14, and from there Patrick-Daniels carried the ball to the end zone for Aledo's first score.

The 10-play drive consumed about four-and-a-half minutes.

Midlothian found some success on the ground on their first possession, taking the ball from their 25 to the Aledo 28 in seven plays and a penalty against the Bearcats.

Bearcats Carson Dempsey and Andrew Pankhurst took some wind out of the Panthers' sail when they sacked the Midlothian quarterback. The Aledo defense shut down the Panthers on the next play, and with a 4th and 11 at the 34, Midlothian opted to go for a first down.

The Panthers attempted a double-reverse-pass which fell incomplete, and the Bearcats had the ball back at their 34. A penalty pushed them back to the 29, but that only added to Hejny's 71-yard touchdown run up the middle, giving Aledo a 14-0 lead with less than two minutes left in the first quarter.

It appeared that Midlothian's next drive might be stymied when, on a second-down play, Jake Gillespie tackled the Midlothian quarterback in the backfield. It was all for naught as the Bearcats were called for offsides.

As the second quarter began, Midlothian broke for a 46-yard run and took the ball to the Bearcat 3-yard line before scoring on the next play, pulling within a touchdown at 14-7.

Aledo had a tough time moving the ball on the next drive, and Midlothian took the ball at their own 27 following a Bearcat punt.

Midlothian also had trouble moving the ball, and on a 4th and 3 at their 45 tried a reverse.

Defensive end Lawson Moore was having none of that, and Aledo took over at the Midlothian 32.

The Bearcats marched all the way down to the Midlothian 3-yard line, but a missed field goal gave Midlothian back the ball, and four plays later they were back in the end zone to knot the score at 14-14.

Second half

Aledo kicked off to begin the second half, and the Bearcat defense held the Panthers to a three-and-out. A botched fake punt play, resulting in a penalty against Midlothian, gave Aledo the ball only 15 yards from the end zone.

Turn to F'BALL, page 14

WRESTLE

from page one

For Sessom, it was her first tournament ever in which she's competed. "Our girls got the Talon Tournament kicked off with some great wins," Stockon said.

JV competes at Martin

The junior varsity boys had their first tournament of the season, competing at the Warrior Invitational, hosted by Arlington Martin.

Three wrestlers won all of their matches by pins, Grady Saunders

(126), Antonio Jimenez (190) and Bryce Vonasek (190), there were two divisions at 190 pounds).

Second-place finishers were Carlos Obregon (215) and Lucas Todd (157). Placing third were Jayden Escalera (120), Luke Turner (157) and Michael Parks (165).

Finishing fourth were Jack Opstad (120), Grayson Hubbell (138), Kyle Krall (157) and John Hardin (190).

Ian McCormick (132), Brennan Allen (144) and Samuel Belyeu (175) each took fifth in their classifications, while Kaleb Coomer (106) and Jackson Rudnick (126) were sixth.

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Baillie Sessom, Wrestling

In her first tournament, Sessom very nearly won her weight class, taking second in the 185-pound division at the Talon Tournament in Haslet.

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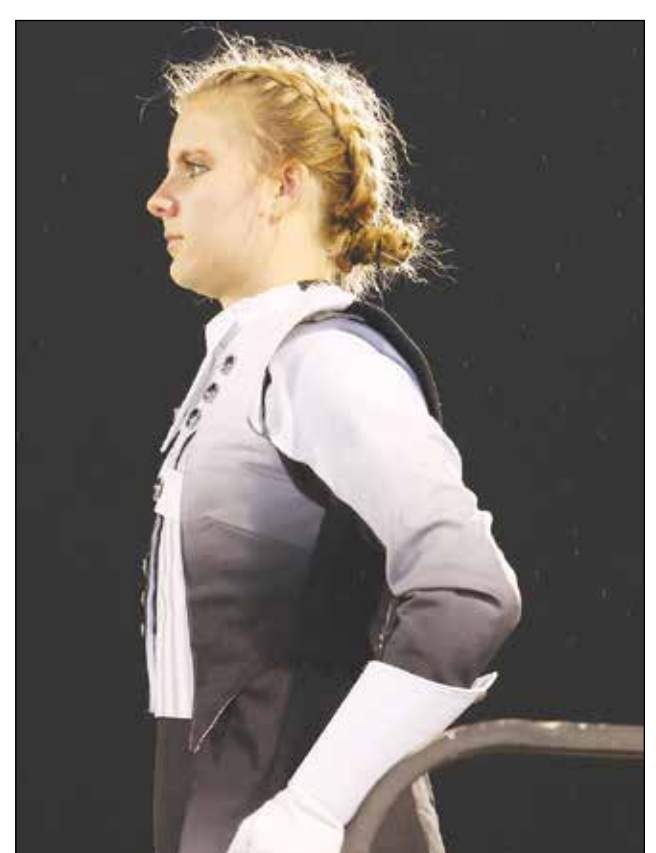
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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



**Collin Chaney,
Wrestling**

Competing in his first tournament ever, Chaney pinned all four of his opponents to win the 285-pound weight class at the Talon Tournament in Haslet. One of his matches lasted just 46 seconds.

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F'BALL

from page 11

Tough Panther defense and a penalty left Aledo with a fourth down. The Bearcats lined up for a field goal, but tried a play that worked for them last year, with a pitch back to kicker Clay Murador, who took off toward the end zone. Unfortunately for the Bearcats, he was tackled at the 11-yard line, giving the ball back to Midlothian.

The Panthers put together a 13-play drive which, in addition to eating up most of the third quarter, ended in a Panther touchdown, and Aledo found itself on the short end of the score for the first time, 21-14.

On the next possession Patrick-Daniels broke free for a big gain, but a penalty called the play back, and the drive ended with a punt.

Midlothian picked up 14 yards on the next play and then let the clock run out for the third quarter.

Following a Midlothian punt, Aledo took the ball at its own 21. Patrick-Daniels broke through for a 34-yard pickup, and then on a 4th and 5 play, Hejny connected with Jalen Pope on a long pass that took the ball to the Midlothian 18. From there, Patrick-Daniels found a big hole and ran the ball to the end zone.

The extra point tied the score at 21 with 8:13 left in the game.

A touchdown can change the momentum of a football game, but what happened next probably broke the momentum in Aledo's favor for the rest of the game.

Following the touchdown, Aledo kicked off and the deep man for Midlothian opted to field the ball at the goal line. He bobbled the ball, and was crushed by the Aledo oncoming defense at the 3-yard line.

The Bearcat defense held for three plays, and Midlothian had to punt from its own end zone, giving the Bearcats the ball at the Midlothian 41-yard line.

On a third-and-10 play from the 41, Hejny hit Jalen Pope on the sideline at the 29 for a first down, but a facemask penalty pushed the Bearcats back 15 yards.

On a third-and-23, Hejny found Cap Mooney at the 20-yard line.

The next play, on fourth-and-one, the Bearcats snapped the ball directly to Davhon Keys, who rushed up the right side of the line for a touchdown.

With less than three minutes to play, the rest of the game was not without drama, as the missed extra point on Keys' touchdown only put the Bearcats up by six, and the Midlothian

offense had shown during the game it could put together drives on the ground.

The defense ended up stopping Midlothian when it counted most, and the Bearcats walk away with a regional semifinal victory of 27-21 against a tenacious Midlothian team.

Keys reflected on the direct-snap touchdown after the game.

"The play was designed to go left," Keys said. "Pre snap, it looked like it was crowded. He snapped the ball, I looked left and I started to panic. I happened to glance right. I saw it was wide open. The linemen collapsed their guys, and I took off. I saw one dude, made a miss, and then got into the end zone, and it was the best moment of my life."



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BASKETBALL

Visiting Jags down Bearcats at home

Finish third in WF tourney

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Every team has an off night once in a while. On Tuesday the hosting Aledo Bearcats had one of their own.

The visiting Jaguars of Midlothian Heritage edged out the home squad by a 44-42 tally to bring Aledo's record on the season to 5-3.

Coming off a third-place finish in the Fantasy of Lights Tournament in Wichita Falls the week before, the Bearcats hoped to keep the ball rolling as they returned to action following the Thanksgiving break.

Unfortunately, Aledo struggled to get in a rhythm offensively while also being dominated on the boards by Midlothian Heritage on the defensive end of the floor.

The Bearcats went just one-for-12 from behind the arc in the contest. At the same time, the team collectively made just nine of 17 attempts from the free throw line, as well.

Aledo's offensive woes coupled with the Jaguars 16 offensive rebounds Midlothian converted into 10 second-chance points ended up being just enough to seal the deal for the visiting squad.

Exavier Anderson led the way for Aledo's offense with 11 points on the night which included the

lone three-pointer for the Bearcats. Jack Sawyer ended the night with double-digit scoring, as well, as he posted 10 points.

Drew Clock, Aledo's resident sharpshooter, struggled from three-point range going 0-for-5, but still managed to put up nine points in the game.

Jackson Todd and Brandon Fields both add four points to the game total. Brant Tubbs and Luke Slabbekoorn ended the night with a bucket apiece.

Bearcats vs. OKC – Nov. 25

Aledo	19	12	14	16	61
OKC	14	6	17	14	51

Drew Clock 23, Jack Sawyer 16, Brandon Fields 13, Exavier Anderson 4, Brant Tubbs 3, Jackson Todd 2

Bearcats vs. North Central Texas Academy – Nov. 25

Aledo	22	13	16	11	62
NCTA	7	10	13	7	37

Brandon Fields 25, Jack Sawyer 11, Exavier Anderson 9, Owen Peterson 5, Drew Clock 4, Jackson Todd 4, Brant Tubbs 2, Nevishan Warnesuriye 2

Bearcats vs. Braswell – Nov. 26

Aledo	12	7	9	16	54
Braswell	16	19	15	10	60

Drew Clock 22, Brant Tubbs 7, Brandon Fields 7, Exavier Anderson 6, Jackson Todd 6, Jack Sawyer 4, Ulises Garcia 2

Bearcats vs. Van Alstyne – Nov. 26

Aledo	19	14	13	13	59
Van Alstyne	16	11	17	6	50

Drew Clock 20, Brandon Fields 14, Brant Tubbs 9, Exavier Anderson 8, Jack Sawyer 4, Jackson Todd 2, Zayden Parker 2

BASKETBALL

Ladycats fall To Lipan

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats' season record fell to 4-7 following a 75-32 loss on the road in Lipan on Tuesday.

Lipan's Lady Indians controlled the action throughout. A dominant first quarter put the Ladycats in a 22-point hole early on. Lipan continued the onslaught in the second quarter as Aledo went into the break trailing by a tally of 41-9.

When play resumed in the second half the Ladycats were held to just eight points in the third frame, but did muster a respectable rally in the fourth quarter racking up 15 points along the way.

Natalie Anderson led the way for the Ladycats offensively with eight points on the night. Caroline Browning added six points of her own. Claire Byars and Presley Hull accounted for four points each. Reagan Davis and Kinley Elms contributed three points each to Aledo's cause. Taylor Paetzold and Haley Farmer rounded out the Ladycats scorers with two points each.

Ladycats JV vs. Lipan – Nov. 29

Aledo	12	8	6	4	30
Lipan	8	5	13	9	35

Maddox Lucas 8, Savannah Salas 7, Elizabeth Griffin 5, Peyton Flores 5, August Carlone 2, Breleigh Mayer 2, Brenna Clock 1

Ladycats vs. Ab. Wylie – Nov. 22

Aledo	12	12	13	10	47
Abilene	8	12	13	9	42

Reagan Davis 12, Kandle Boggus 9, Kenzie Grau 9, Claire Byars 8, Kinley Elms 6, Presley Hull 3

Ladycats Frosh vs. Ab Wylie – Nov. 22

Aledo	13	8	11	2	34
Abilene	9	11	1	2	23

Lily Heckathorn 11, Alyssa Todd 5, Natalie Browning 4, Mackenzie Bullard 3, Jenna Haeussier 3, Kayna Atchinson 2, Jordyn Eddington 2, Jaylee Owens 2, Mesons Emeka Okoye 2

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