

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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CITY OF ALEDO

Bailey family donates land to city

Council approves special election for Feb. 7

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

Aledo's City Council reconvened on Thursday, Dec. 1, for the final time in 2022 with several business items on the agenda.

A major order of business focused on a donation of two parcels of the Bailey Ranch to the city by the Bailey family. As part of the donation the Bailey family expressed a desire to see the land be used to expand the trail system in Aledo. The council unanimously approved the acceptance of the gift on behalf of the city.

City Manager Noah Simon will coordinate with members of the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club, who were on hand for the meeting, to outline details for the trail systems implantation and future maintenance.

"Up until these donations were made the [Weatherford Mountain Bike] Club has been working with developers to manage these trails. Now we've got this relationship where we've been working with the City of Aledo for several years," President of the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club, Larry Calvin said. "Now this land donation is happening, we'll be able to hit the ground running. More communities in Texas need to be doing this kind of stuff.

"Getting land is the biggest obstacle to creating outdoor spaces for people. Ninety-seven percent of Texas is privately owned. We need to start fostering these relationships with non-profits, mountain bike clubs, and municipalities to start creating outdoor spaces. That's what's happening right now."

"It also doesn't hurt that the land is prime real estate," added WMBC officer, Aaron Garmin. "It's beautiful. It's huge, mature trees. It's a creek. It's perfect for mountain biking. Generally, when people have in interest in donating land for mountain bikers to build on it tends to be like garbage dump kind of space. That's not what this is. It's beautiful!"

Calvin said the donated land, which sits at the intersection of Bailey Ranch Road and Point Vista Drive, will allow WMBC to expand the trail system that currently exists in the Parks of Aledo by 25% to 30%. Construction of the trail system on the donated land is expected to begin in 2023.

Special Election

The first order of business at the meeting was to address the pending

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SEASONAL SIGHTS



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A young visitor takes in the lights at the Hudson Oaks Tree Lighting on Dec. 2. For more photos of the event, see page A4.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

McCall Elementary School student Addison Bruns jumps and dances under an artificial snow machine at Christmas Tyme in Aledo on Dec. 3. More photos from the event can be found on page A7.

PARKER COUNTY

Vigils offer support to family of Athena Strand

Showing solidarity with Wise County

By **Randy Keck**
The Community News

Residents of Parker County turned out at two vigils held on Tuesday to show support for the family of Athena Strand, the young girl who was kidnapped and killed in Wise County last week.

Both vigils were held on the east side of the Parker County Courthouse. Among those at the first vigil at 7 a.m. on Tuesday morning was the person who drove Athena's school bus. Many people gathered to pray and pay respects.

Parker County Judge Pat Deen organized the two gatherings that included remarks from Van Houser, the pastor at North Side Baptist Church in Weatherford.

Deen said the second vigil was put together quickly in response to people who wanted to attend the morning vigil, but couldn't.

At the 6:30 p.m. vigil, Deen began by pointing to the Christmas Tree at the east side of the courthouse, saying the tree was a gift to the county.

"The beauty of this tree is you can change the color of it in an instant," Deen said, adding that Athena's favorite color was pink and her favorite holiday was Christmas, so all the lights on the tree were changed to pink.

"Within an instant, we were able to change the color because of the technology of the tree. I've actually been in touch indirectly with the mother, and it has given her an immense amount of joy that we would do something like this, and this happened so quickly."

Addressing his duties as county judge, Deen said he goes to the jail each week to magistrate and bond out people who were arrested the night before. He said a troubling incident has happened the last couple of weeks.

"Every time, there's at least one sexually aggravated assault of a child under 14 — 'repeat offender' is what those words are on the arrest. That's tough," the visibly moved judge said. "One of the very important things we're going to do is talk about the need and the urgency and the importance of coming together as a community — coming together whether it's Parker County, Wise County, the whole state of Texas, the entire country needs to come together at this time."

Deen introduced Houser, who said the vigil was designed to express grief and come together as a community.

"There was a precious, healthy seven-year-old girl whose future was snatched from her family and friends. The world stood by and saw once again that evil is a reality in this world. And evil has become something that's become more obvious — it's become more ferocious," Houser said.

Houser said he could imagine the delight that would have been in Athena's eyes seeing the Christmas tree lit up in pink. He said the reason Athena's kidnapping and death has had such an impact is that it hits close to home.

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VIGIL

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"Fear and grief tend to be the only two things that draw us to God anymore; when we get afraid and realize we don't have control," Houser said. "All of a sudden we realize we need something bigger than we are — a source that can help us through this."

"And it's right in your mind, our safety is shaken — that causes us to realize we need each other. We need each other to be able to stand together to fight back against this predator."

Houser said it would be difficult to imagine the suffering in the hearts of Athena's parents.

"After trying over and over again over 50 years, there's little I can do to stop the pain. Because you see the pain is attached to love. And the only way they can stop grieving is to stop loving. So as they love and they grieve that out, our job is to come alongside them and hold them up until they can walk again. And that's what these events do. It says to them 'you're not alone. We do understand.'"

The difficult and inevitable question when evil strikes is "why?" How could this be allowed to happen?

Houser said "There is no reason, there is no rationalization, there is no answer for why it occurred. It happened because the mind of man can be destroyed and the mind of an individual can become so warped, that they become a predator to their own people."

He mentioned pornography, some web sites, and violent video games as factors that can lead to the idea that "a human life is not that precious." But, he added, "every life is a valuable life. Each one of us understands the value of that."

Houser also pointed to lack of responsibility and lack of structure as factors in the overall problem. He said there is a difference between liberty and license.

"A child has to learn that there's something that goes with liberty, and that is responsibility," Houser said. "And the more we relieve people of responsibility for their actions, the more we're going



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Leslie and Ella Folsom were among the people who gathered to show support for the family of Athena Strand at a Tuesday night vigil. They are shown speaking with Van Houser, pastor at North Side Baptist Church in Weatherford.

to see people who are warped and troubled end up in more and more of these situations. People need to be held accountable for their actions, regardless of what the cause might be."

Houser said he did prevention work nationally for more than a decade of his career.

"Everybody thought what we got to do is keep guns away from kids and kids away from guns, and sex away from kids and kids away from sex, drugs away from kids. No," he said, "prevention is equipping your child to walk through a drug-filled, sex-crazed violent world safely," Houser said.

Houser spoke about the nature of forgiveness, referring to Athena's grandfather, who posted on social media that he would forgive the killer.

"I'm like Athena's grandfather," Houser said. "In my place, I want to — I want to kill that guy. I want ahold of him — I want nobody around. I want whatever I've got in my flesh, I want him to pay and I want him to pay in such a way that I can get my revenge. But I gotta tell you something. I don't want his heart in me. I don't want hate in my heart. I don't want to live my life with bitterness. God's given us a way that we can get past this. You see, forgiveness isn't just good for the other person. It's good for us."

He added that forgiveness does not get the evil-doer off the hook.

"God's gonna see that justice is done," Houser said.

Houser closed by exhorting the gathered crowd not to give in to fear, and to pray for the family of Athena.

"Having a healthy respect for this world is vital. But fear will cripple you and I will not let the actions of perverted minds steal my peace. I will walk in confidence. And I will walk in hope. But I will walk aware," Houser said. "Please pray for the families of Athena. All the people saw the bus driver here this morning. Can you imagine taking that child to school every day on the bus and then finding this out? The teachers in the classroom and the children are there trying to get some understanding where there is no understanding. All we can do, folks, is hold them up. What we've got to do is pray for and walk this family through. And we together can do this."



COURTESY OF PAT DEEN

LAND

from page A1

vacancy left by Councilman Dan Herbert following his resignation from the council during the November meeting. After several weeks of inquiry by the council regarding potential dates for the special election to fill the vacancy, the council approved the special election slated for Feb. 7, 2023. Sign-ups for the election are already underway and will end on Dec. 29.

Council to create advisory board

As Aledo continues to grow, a significant point of interest for Mayor Nick Stanley continues to be the establishment of a police department. Up to now Aledo has relied upon the Parker County Sheriff's Department for any law enforcement issues that have arisen. In light of population growth in the community, both experienced and expected, the council approved a measure during the meeting to form an advisory board designed to research best practices for standing up a police department in a growing community.

The Community News will have more on that story as it develops.



Read this story online

WATER

from page A3

could indeed be beneficial for use in industries such as agriculture and for other municipal needs. They project that the state could treat an estimated two billion barrels per year of produced water.

In the upcoming Legislative session, infrastructure is going to be a priority — and that includes water. Recently, I was invited to become an inaugural member of the Texas Water Caucus. The Caucus will serve as an educational platform to inform fellow members of our state's most important water issues, elevate water as a top policy priority, and support the next generation of water champions at the Texas Legislature.

As the population of District 60 booms, it is critical to remain ahead of potential water issues to ensure that the basic needs of residents are met. Legislators are eager to continue researching solutions and are ready to implement plans to protect one of the most fundamental elements of life—water.

Glenn Rogers is the representative for House District 60 in the Texas Legislature, which now includes Parker County

Obituaries

Joann Young

Joann (McKenney) Young passed away Thursday, December 1, 2022 in Weatherford.

Joann was born October 24, 1933 in Fort Worth, the daughter of Luther and Margaret (Dobbs) McKenney.

Joann grew up as a member of First United Methodist Church of Weatherford. Later in life, she was an active member of Aledo United Methodist Church.

Joann loved her family, both her natural family and her church family. She was a member of the Ukeladies. She will be remembered as an eccentric southern lady and will be missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lon Young; son,



Joann Young

Randall Young; and brother, David McKenney.

Survivors include her son, Yale Young (Shannon); daughter-in-law, Jonna Young; grandchildren, Tyler Young (Lori), Carrie Young, and Jordan Doyle (Blake); great-grandchildren, Sallie and Sterling Young, Finnegan and Collins Doyle; and a host of extended family members and friends.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests that donations may be made in Joann's memory to Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Drive, P. O. Box 126, Aledo, Texas 76008; 817-441-8329; www.aledoumc.org

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Capital Highlights

Patrick lays out legislative priorities



Gary Borders
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Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick outlined his goals for the upcoming legislative session, calling them “general concepts,” according to the Austin American-Statesman.

With an estimated \$27 billion surplus, the Legislative Budget Board voted last week to boost the Legislature’s spending capacity by 12.3% — the largest increase allowed under the state constitution. But that still leaves the Legislature having about \$14.5 billion in the piggy bank above its spending limit.

Consequently, property tax reduction is one of Patrick’s priorities. He is calling for a hike in the homestead property tax exemption from \$40,000 to \$60,000, as well as an expansion of personal property exemptions for businesses, the Statesman reported.

Other priorities include strengthening the state’s power grid, boosting border security and law enforcement measures, such as increasing pay for sheriffs and a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence for anyone who uses a gun while committing a crime.

Patrick stressed that the Legislature has the ultimate say.

“So much of what I’m laying out today is not specific, because it’s really up to the members to write the bills in the Senate and the House,” Patrick said. “It’s good that the Legislature is back. We have an extraordinary opportunity, like we have never had before, to chart the future of the state of Texas.”

Rainy Day Fund, highways get boost from oil, gas revenues

A significant amount of the state’s current surplus is coming from oil and gas industry tax revenues, with the latest contribution being \$7.3 billion split equally between the Rainy Day Fund and the State Highway Fund. A 2014 constitutional amendment mandates that 75% of oil and gas tax revenue that exceeds the amount collected in 1987 be split evenly between the two funds.

“Revenue from the oil and gas industry is what’s in the Rainy Day Fund, accounts for billions to the State Highway Fund, and contributes to state funds that pay for schools, universities, and

first responders,” Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Wayne Christian said.

Report: Private border wall could collapse

A U.S. Department of Justice report kept secret for more than a year and produced by the global engineering firm Arcadis concludes a private border wall along the Rio Grande in Hidalgo County is in danger of collapsing if the area receives extreme flooding.

The report, obtained by ProPublica and The Texas Tribune, concludes the wall built by Fisher Industries doesn’t meet basic international building code and industry standards. Its foundation is far shallower than previous border walls built by the federal government.

The feds reached a settlement with Fisher Industries last May requiring that the fence be inspected quarterly, that bollards be removed, and that a gate be maintained to allow for the release of floodwaters.

An attorney for Fisher Industries said the company “strongly disagrees” with the report. However, several civil engineering experts say the settlement ignores the report’s conclusions. Alex Mayer, a civil engineering professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, said the agreement overlooks what he termed the wall’s flawed design, as pointed out by the report.

“It just shows the shoddiness of the whole effort. It worries me even more,” Mayer said.

The two news organizations spent 15 months trying to obtain the Arcadis report, which confirms their earlier reporting about the privately built wall’s potential flaws.

Texas traffic congestion increased in 2021

Delays on the state’s most crowded roadways grew last year, though they are still below pre-pandemic gridlock levels, according to the latest study by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. The institute has conducted the study annually since 2009.

This year’s “winner” for most gridlocked stretch is Houston’s West Loop, which held onto the title it garnered the previous year. Rounding out the top five of roadways one might consider avoiding if possible are the Woodall Rogers Freeway in Dallas; Interstate 35 in Austin; and

Houston’s Eastex and Southwest Freeways.

Researchers say traffic delays cost a ton of money in lost time and wasted fuel — more than \$3.8 billion on the state’s busiest road sections last year, though that is about 10% lower than pre-pandemic levels.

Delays are not confined to the state’s largest cities. Gridlock affects areas of all sizes, according to the institute, which has compiled a complete list of 1,860 road segments in 23 urban regions across Texas. The list can be found at mobility.tamu.edu.

Lawmakers sign NDAs to get Uvalde info

A half-dozen Texas lawmakers signed nondisclosure agreements to obtain investigative records from the Texas Department of Public Safety concerning the May shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde that have thus far been kept secret from the public.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that state Sen. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, whose district includes Uvalde, was one of the six. Others include Sens. Royce West, Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa and Paul Bettencourt, and Reps. Dustin Burrows and Tracy King, according to the DPS. Most of the agreements were signed in June or July.

Since the shooting, which killed 19 students and two teachers, parents and others have fought for investigative records that might explain the failed law enforcement response at the school. A coalition of media outlets, including the Statesman, have sued seeking the public release of information from DPS.

COVID-19 cases rise in state

The number of COVID-19 cases in the past week in Texas rose to 21,026, with 43 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That is more than double the number of new cases reported the previous week. There are 1,750 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations throughout the state — also an increase, 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.



State Representative Update

Water is Life



Dr. Glenn Rogers
glenn.rogers@house.texas.gov

Years ago, on a veterinary mission trip to Haiti, I was astonished when I witnessed a daily routine in the village where we worked. Early in the mornings, villagers walked for miles and miles to a stream to gather water. They carried huge jars, filled them up with water, and balanced them on the tops of their heads to make the journey homeward.

This act required immense balance, because any drop of water that was lost on the trek would mean one less drop they could have to quench their thirst. Literally hours per day were spent in the pursuit and transport of water. As a rancher, rain and water availability is a daily discussion, but watching this ordeal intensified my understanding that water is humanity’s source of life, and the average American takes it for granted.

Back home, many Americans are blessed to have water at their disposal. But what if, when we went to turn on our faucets, nothing came out? Not even a drip? It seems doubtful that this question would cross many peoples’ minds.

Yet just in recent years, water crises have hit states and cities across the nation. From the Flint, Michigan contaminated water, to the severe western droughts draining Lake Mead, and to the floods disrupting water systems in Jackson, Mississippi, it is evident that America is not immune from water crises. To keep local communities safe, it is imperative to stay aware of the warning signs and of the solutions to water problems.

In Parker County, many residents rely on groundwater from the Upper Trinity Aquifer. Others, in much of western Parker County, have extremely limited groundwater and must

rely on water piped in from Mineral Wells (which comes from Lake Palo Pinto) or Brazos River water that has been through a reverse osmosis (RO) system. The Walnut Creek Special Utility District relies on water from Lake Bridgeport.

For several years, Parker County has been among the top counties for drilling new wells. On average, counties drill less than 50 wells per year. In 2017, Parker drilled 600. In 2021, the county drilled 1,154; that number led the state by a substantial margin. For perspective, the second-place county drilled 525 wells. In 2022, through September 30, the county has drilled 1,149 wells.

The Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has been monitoring the situation since 2009. Not surprising, their work has shown water is being used faster than it is being replenished. Their research indicates that pumping affects the fluctuation of water levels more so than rainfall patterns.

During dry and hot summers, private well owners tend to water their lawn more than usual, contributing to the fall of water levels. The UTGCD recognizes the need for alternative water sources in Parker County and is funding a study for Parker and Wise counties; an over-reliance on groundwater is not sustainable.

In Palo Pinto County, efforts are under way to create a new reservoir, Turkey Peak. This project aims to double the available water to Palo Pinto Municipal Water District No. 1. This will ease the county’s risk of a water shortage, which is especially relevant during dry conditions like the ones seen this past year. The project is projected to be completed no earlier than 2027, so between now and then, Palo Pinto Lake will continue to be the major reservoir supplying water in the county. A lake is only useful however, if there is an efficient water treatment plant. Palo Pinto’s plant is 70 years old, due for a major upgrade.

Last session, the Legislature proactively searched for solutions to water shortages. Senate Bill 601 created the Texas Produced Water Consortium. The consortium’s diverse team of researchers concluded in their report that water produced from oil and gas operations

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The Community News

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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.

Hudson Oaks Christmas

The City of Hudson Oaks hosted its annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 2 at Gene Voyles Park.

The event featured thousands of lights, Santa's Workshop, train rides, and other family activities.

Photos by Randy Keck/The Community News



Find more photos here



LEFT: Brandi Dickey and Kathy Coats paused in the giant Christmas ornament. | **MIDDLE:** Members of First Baptist Church of Weatherford served hot chocolate. Shown are (from left) Dale Reed, Mary Beth Reed, Holly Branch, Hylda Nugent, and Debbie Pipes. | **RIGHT:** Children pose in the midst of the lighted bear.



MIDDLE LEFT: Ryan Kelly lays out his wish list with Santa. | **MIDDLE:** Weatherford High School Blue Belles performed before the tree lighting. | **RIGHT:** Lights adorned the park and will be on display throughout the season. | **BOTTOM LEFT:** Luke Underdahl and Jack Gwaltney enjoyed the lights. | **MIDDLE:** Lights depict a manger scene. | **RIGHT:** Patrons lined up for the mini train ride.

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'Remember Athena Strand'

2,500 gather to mourn 7-year-old who touched countless hearts

By Rick Mauch
Courtesy of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Around 2,500 people — about five times the size of Paradise — turned out for a vigil Tuesday at First Baptist Church of Cottdale to celebrate the life of Athena Presley Monroe Strand.

Folks came from all over, many who never met her, and letters from others in places as far away as Nebraska and Rhode Island highlighted an evening of thoughts and prayers centered on a young girl whose favorite color was pink and who touched countless hearts.

Athena, 7, was kidnapped and killed late last week by a FedEx Ground driver who was making a delivery at the gate outside her rural home in Paradise according to law enforcement officials. Her body was found Friday near Boyd. Tanner Lynn Horner, 31, faces charges of kidnapping and capital murder. He is in the Wise County Jail on \$1.5 million bond.

Shortly before the service began, a smattering of rain sprinkles fell upon the crowd. However, they stopped once the candles were lit and the first words were uttered by Pastor Charles Pugh of the First Baptist Church of Cottdale. Once Pugh closed the service, another sprinkle or two could be felt.

Coincidence? Or did Heaven itself stop crying long enough so as not to douse any candles?

The evening began with a message from Athena's mother, Maitlyn Gandy, who asked the crowd, "I don't care if it's five years from now or 10 years from now, remember Athena Strand."

Someone from the crowd shouted, "She's in Heaven!" which prompted someone else to add,



ABOVE LEFT: An estimated 2,500 people attended the vigil in Wise County. | RIGHT: Artwork at the vigil honored Athena.

"You'll be with her again someday!" The two comments brought a smile to her face.

Pugh reminded the crowd that in honoring Athena they should "cry, laugh, celebrate and mourn together."

With pictures of Athena adorning the front of the stage, a host of speakers took turns through tears as they remembered her.

"It's normal to ask why, but there's no easy answer and no why that's going to take away the pain," said Chris Hurst, pastor of Grace Fellowship Church in Paradise. "The only way to get through the pain is to look forward to the hope God has for us. So, we stand arm-in-arm with one another, love one another, encourage one another."

Which prompted another response from the crowd: "Like tonight."

Henry Moran of the Wise County Sheriff's Office was one of the first to start searching for Athena after she was reported missing. He's also the father of two young daughters.

"Monsters aren't just part of a bedtime story. Monsters are real, and unfortunately one was in our community," he said, reminding folks that, "You might not know or have all the right things to say, but you can be present. Our community is present."

Then, he added, "Walk like Athena, live like Athena and love like Athena."

Associate pastor Chris Erickson of the First Baptist Church of Cottdale said every time his young children take a trip to see their grandpa, he opens his arms wide and they run into them. He assured the crowd that Athena did that same thing with Jesus.

"When Athena closed her eyes on this earth, she opened them and ran into the arms of Jesus, and he said to her, 'Welcome home. I've been waiting.' And now she's waiting for us."

"And wearing pink!" came a response from the crowd.

"Hug your kids, hug your family, mend some relationships," Erickson continued. "When you see a pink



Athena's mother, Maitlyn Gandy, told the crowd at Cottdale to remember Athena Strand.

sunrise or a pink sunset, think of Athena and ask 'How can I help someone else?'"

Lindsey Thompson, Athena's first-grade teacher at Paradise Elementary School, read some letters from Athena's classmates. She shared some of Athena's favorite things to do at school, including

dancing and creating her own dance moves. She described Athena as being a friend to everyone, saying, "Playing and having fun was her specialty."

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Events

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

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.



TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 TX John Wesley Hardin was killed in the ___ Saloon
- 5 TXism: "it's right ___" (location)
- 6 Asian River catfish
- 7 "Houston Museum of Fine ___"
- 8 works a job (3 wds.)
- 16 "___ the tail on the donkey"
- 17 death notices in the Hereford Brand
- 21 "___ Kendall Inn" in Boerne
- 22 TXism: "fits like ugly ___ ape"
- 23 seat of McMullen County
- 24 COVID caused us ___ our hands often
- 29 TXism: "happy as ___ with two tails"
- 30 state has an official herd of ___ bred Texas Longhorns
- 31 TX Willie recorded "All of ___" (1978)
- 32 TXism: "sweating like ___ water"
- 34 Fort Hood is a U.S. post in Texas
- 35 TXism: "run it ___ lawyer" (finalize)
- 36 ___ Busch has a brewery in Houston
- 37 "weighs ___" (heavy)
- 38 TX Roddenberry's show: "Star ___"
- 39 great Aggie RB who also played for the Chicago Bears briefly (2 wds.)
- 41 TXism: "big crop of locks"
- 42 Chris ___ Doux sang "Cadillac Ranch"
- 43 a person who was raised in 44-across
- 44 the Lone Star State
- 45 Santa ___, TX
- 46 "Dear" Smith's job in the Texas revolution

DOWN

- 1 "busy as a bartender ___"
- 2 former Cowboy star safety, Waters
- 3 Stanton's county
- 4 TXism: "wipe the slate clean"
- 9 western "___ Belle Starr" (1953)
- 10 TXism: "___ of bones" (skinny)
- 11 "___ star" (badge)
- 12 TX actor Rip (init.)
- 13 Winnsboro's "___ Trails Festival" in October
- 14 Texas is 3rd largest state in U.S.
- 15 Perry's creator Stanley Gardner
- 18 TX Pride hit: "___ Rather Love You"
- 19 this architect designed the state capitol (3 wds.)
- 20 TXism: "___ as an egg-sucking dog"
- 22 fragrance-free
- 24 when repeated, a British "adios"
- 25 TXism: "at the drop ___ hat" (impulsive)
- 26 TXism: "three sheets to the ___"
- 27 TXism: "worthless ___ a hair cut"
- 28 actress Wilson who was on "Dallas" and "Walker, Texas Ranger"
- 29 camping shelter (2 wds.)
- 30 paid athletes
- 33 "got no ___ for it"
- 34 TXism: "got ___ ear" (tone deaf)
- 35 Dennehy of "The Big Year" with TX Owen Wilson
- 37 former McAllen company: "Right ___"
- 38 DFW transports large exhibitions
- 40 chops wood
- 44 "three" in Mexico
- 47 chicken fried steak, e.g.
- 49 swap



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ALEDO ISD PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that, on December 16, 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

Citizens may sign up to speak at the public hearings.

News Sports Subscribe Events

Christmas Time in Aledo

The City of Aledo hosted its annual Christmas Time in Aledo on Dec. 3. Thousands of area residents and visitors flocked downtown for food, entertainment, family activities, and shopping.

Photos by Christopher Amos/
The Community News



Find more photos here



LEFT: Close friends Eliana DePauw and Zoe LaPraim help each other around the skating rink. | **TOP:** Aledo United Methodist Church members sing "Oh! Holy Night" at the church's free hot chocolate booth. | **RIGHT:** Santa gets a lift to work.



TOP: McCall Elementary School student Addison Bruns jumps and dances under an artificial snow machine. | **BOTTOM:** Friends Zoe Schuster, Dylan Formby, and Brynlee Hackfeld decorate socks that will be given to area nursing homes at the Aledo 4-H booth.



TOP: Rowan Lapenna roasts a marshmallow with the help of mother, Tiffany Lapenna. | **BOTTOM:** Coder Elementary student Faye Puniwai-Baker gives four-year-old sister Ansley a lift at the high jump challenge.



Aaron Gilbreath steadies daughter Presley for her first try at ice skating.



Madelyn Benjamin gets help and encouragement on the skating rink from grandmother Jane Phillips.



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In & Around Parker County

The Helms family behind Overture Home Care keeps their focus on helping Parker County residents live independently and safely

In the seven years since Denise and Rob Helms of Parker County founded Overture Home Care to provide local residents with a more personal level of care so that they can age with dignity and as much independence as possible, they've been proud to watch their business and their family grow together.

"Denise and I made the decision to launch a home care business focused on caring for the elderly in their home, which is their number one desire — to age in place," Rob said. "Denise has a long history of experience in the senior care arena. In the geriatric business as a registered nurse, she spent 30 years working in skilled nursing, hospice, and home health care and it seemed like a good transition."

"As people age, it becomes difficult to remain independent," Rob continued. "We help people with a wide range of services. Our professionals do a customized plan of care specifically for each client, with everything from assistance with bathing and dressing, eating, light housekeeping, and errands. Then we also do chronic illness support for people with conditions like diabetes or for folks that may be suffering with Alzheimer's,



and we provide care for people with Parkinson's or Multiple Sclerosis, and stroke recovery. In addition, we do quite a bit for people who are trying to overcome an illness that resulted in a hospital stay, whether it's surgery or a cardiac event, something where

they need a little help for a short period of time at home."

Recently, the Parker County contingent of the Overture Home Care family has grown to include not just Denise, Rob, and former McNally Intermediate School principal Zach

Tarrant, who serves as Overture Home Care Executive Director, but also Denise and Rob's grown children: son Austin Helms, who serves as Operations Manager and daughter Alex Helms, who serves as Intake Coordinator.

To continue growing and providing the highest level of service, Overture has moved swiftly to address the challenges and rising costs facing our communities. Overture has increased wages across the board, instituted weekly payments and added quarterly bonuses as well as referral bonuses to their compensation packages. They have also added an onsite skills lab and provide essential Dementia Live® education to all new hires.

In the wider community, Rob, Denise, Zach, Austin and Alex are all active in charitable organizations and events such as Aledo Children's AdvoCats, the Thanksgiving Trot, Wilson's Warriors, and Hearts of Hope.

Overture would like to assist you and your loved ones. They offer a complimentary consultation to assess the home care needs of each client. As a family-oriented business, they understand the challenges that families face, and encourage family members to participate in this process.

Overture Home Care can be reached at 817-887-9401 or at OvertureHomeCare.com. The phone line is staffed 24/7 and they are waiting for your call.



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FOOTBALL

Historic powerhouses to clash in state semis

Bearcats, Lobos both have great traditions

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Two of the most historic Texas high school football programs ever will clash for the first time Saturday at Kincaide Stadium in Dallas as the Aledo Bearcats (12-2) and the Longview Lobos meet in the Class 5A Division I state semifinals.

Aledo has more state championships (10) than any program in the state, including nine since 2009. The Bearcats are in the postseason for a 27th consecutive season and have advanced each time they've gotten there.

While the Lobos only have one official state championship to their credit, winning the 6A Division II championship in 2018, their history of success goes back many more years than even the Bearcats. In the past 99 years, the Lobos have had 84 winning seasons, and since fielding their first team in 1909 Longview has 755 victories.

"When you look at them, they have been a fantastic program for many years," Aledo head coach Tim Buchanan said. "They've been winning a lot of football games for a long time."

As for this year's matchup, Buchanan said, "Defensively, we've got to make them drive the football to score and not have big plays. Offensively, blocking them. They're not giants, but they're so athletic."

After 14 games into the season, some might think there's not much left to fine tune. Buchanan, however, said there is.

"Fundamentally, on defense we're still looking at taking out blocks. We're young. There's a lot of fundamental stuff we're still working on."

The winner of Saturday's game will meet the winner of the game between Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial (12-2) and College Station (12-2) in the state championship

game at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Another unbeaten

The Lobos have held the No. 1 ranking in the state all season. After Buchanan's first 0-2 start in his coaching career the Bearcats climbed back to No. 3.

Longview took out No. 2 Mansfield Timberview last week, 37-21.

Taking out undefeated teams is nothing new for the Bearcats, however. They traveled to Burleson and handed Centennial its first loss, 64-21, on Oct. 14. Then, in the third round of the playoffs they went to 12-0 Midlothian and came home with a 27-21 victory.

"We're not going into this game thinking we're lucky to be here," Buchanan said. "These kids have developed their own personality. We've improved as a team, as a coaching staff. The biggest thing is no one panicked after that bad start — and it's not like we got beat by a couple of bad teams."

Dallas Parish Episcopal, which defeated the Bearcats 24-17 in Dallas to open the season, went on to finish 12-1 and win the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division I state championship. Denton Guyer, a 44-14 winner in Aledo in the second week, is 14-0 and playing DeSoto in the Class 6A Division II semifinals Saturday.

Still no opposing TD passes

The Aledo defense still hasn't given up a touchdown pass or allowed an opposing quarterback to throw for 100 yards in the postseason.

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, 42 yards with two half sacks against



Jaden Allen (2) picks up yardage for the Bearcats against Burleson Centennial.

BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Midlothian and 53 yards with a sack against Burleson Centennial.

Opposing quarterbacks are 19-for-55 so far in the playoffs.

Last decade and a half

While both teams have been successful for many years prior, looking at the past decade and a half, it has been a phenomenal run for the Bearcats and Lobos.

Since 2008, Aledo has a record of 209-15, including a playoff record of 71-5. They've won nine state championships and appeared in another state final.

In that same span, Longview is 170-36 with a postseason mark of 45-12. Along with their 2018 state championship, the Lobos have been state runners-up three times in 2008, 2009 and 2017.

Turn to FOOTBALL, page B3



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A smiling head coach Tim Buchanan talks to his players following the Region I Championship win over Burleson Centennial.

BASKETBALL

Ladycats take home hardware in Burleson Tourney

Hull earns all-tournament honors

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The hoops season started a bit slower than Aledo's Ladycat basketball squad hoped after dropping seven of their first 11 heading into the Burleson Tournament last Thursday. Head coach Nikki Hyles has stressed the importance of learning from those early losses so that her squad can work to shore up their weaknesses as the season progresses before heading into district play later in December.

That's precisely what the Ladycats have done.

Aledo earned a third-place finish over the weekend, posting a 4-1 record in pool play. Boasting wins over Arlington Martin, Tyler, and Everman, the Ladycats' record improved to 8-8. They capped off their strong tournament performance with a 54-30 win over Frisco Centennial on Saturday.

Senior shooting guard Presley Hull earned a spot on the all-tournament team for her individual contribution on the hardwood. She posted 52 points during the duration of the tourney.

Aledo kicked off the tournament by getting one in the win column early as they bested Everman's Lady Bulldogs 71-58. The Ladycats pounced on Everman to start off the first quarter with a 21-14 advantage. From there they never looked back as



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ladycats Reagan Davis and Presley Hull battle for a rebound with Arlington Martin players.

they led the Lady Bulldogs all four quarters of the contest.

Those early wins in tournament play typically just boil down to which team is better. The second game of the day when both teams are already fatigued usually comes down to a question of heart. In Game 2 against Tyler, the Ladycats put theirs on full display as they edged out the Lady Lions by a tally of 69-65.

Refreshed from a good night's rest, the Ladycats returned to action last Friday against Arlington Martin to start the day. Aledo's stalwart defense frustrated Lady Warrior players, fans, and coaches alike. That frustration reached its crescendo midway through the second quarter.

The Ladycats began the second frame with a 10-2 run before

Turn to TOURNEY, page B2

BASKETBALL

Bearcats boast 2-1 record in Kangaroo Classic

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

With just three veteran players suiting up for Aledo this hoops season, head Bearcat JD Robinson has stressed the importance of his young team growing up in a hurry. As seniors Brandon Fields and Xavier Anderson suffered injuries that forced them to exit the Kangaroo Classic early, the untested members of Aledo's varsity basketball squad survived their trial by fire, winning two-of-three in the tourney.

Wins over Springtown and Paradise propelled the Bearcats to 7-4 thus far into the 2022-23 campaign.

"We have to use preseason right now to get ready for district," Robinson said following the loss to Crowley last Friday. "That's our goal. Dec. 20 we want to be trending towards our best basketball."

The Bearcats kicked off the Kangaroo Classic matching up with Springtown. Aledo jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter with their offense on fire. Led by Fields and fellow-senior guard Drew Clock, the Bearcats put up 25 points in the first quarter to take an eight-point lead early.

The second and third quarters quieted down at Aledo's end of the floor as the Bearcats posted just 13 offensive points in 16 minutes of action. Springtown took advantage of the lack of offensive output to take the lead late in the third. As the fourth quarter started the Bearcats found themselves on the business end of a 42-38 tally.

Down four heading into the final stanza, Aledo became wildly aggressive in the lane as they sought to take advantage of higher percentage shots. The change in offensive philosophy yanked the momentum back to the Bearcats as they put up 20 fourth-quarter points while holding Springtown to just six in the final frame. Aledo departed the first round of action on the winning side of the bracket, 56-49.

When second-round action began on Friday the Bearcats squared off against a Crowley squad that was arguably the most athletic team Aledo has faced to this point in the season. The Eagles also featured some big bodies down in the paint, which forced the Bearcats to focus heavily on shooting around the perimeter.

With Fields unable to play and Anderson forced out of action with his injury early in the second quarter, Aledo's young team struggled to match up with Crowley. Aledo went just 3-of-17 from three-point range while also struggling to overcome the size difference closer to the basket, shooting just 35% inside the paint. By the time the final whistle blew, the Eagles soared to a 53-42 win.

In the final game of the tournament, still down two veteran starters, the Bearcats stepped on the hardwood looking for some redemption.

They found just what they were looking for.

The lone veteran starter Clock put up 23 points to lead Aledo over

Turn to CLASSIC, page B2



Read this story online



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ulises Garcia puts up a shot against Crowley in the Weatherford Tournament.

CLASSIC

from page B1

Paradise in a game that was rarely in doubt. Jack Sawyer and Jackson Todd added 14 and 12 points to the Bearcat tally, respectively, as Aledo ended the tournament on a high note with a 66-56 victory.

"We've got guys that can really shoot the ball," Robinson said. "We go through some slumps here in the last couple games shooting the ball. But every possession we want to put our head down, get a paint touch, look for guys that are open, and create for each other. I think we've got a lot of unselfish guys."

"We're gonna get better," he added. "This was good for us. We had to fight through a little adversity, so it was positive. It's always good to win, but we just want to keep getting better every day."

Kangaroo Classic at Weatherford

Aledo	25	6	7	20	56
Springtown	17	10	15	6	49

Aledo scoring: Drew Clock 15, Brandon Fields 13, Brant Tubbs 11, Jackson Todd 5, Xavier Anderson 4, Owen Peterson 2, Ulises Garcia 2, Jack Sawyer 2, Luke Slabbekoorn 2.

Aledo	11	9	10	12	42
Crowley	18	6	15	14	53

Aledo scoring: Clock 24, Sawyer 7, Todd 5, Peterson 3, Garcia 3.

Aledo	20	20	14	12	66
Paradise	19	11	10	16	56

Aledo scoring: Clock 23, Sawyer 14, Todd 12, Tubbs 6, Peterson 3, Slabbekoorn 3, Garcia 2, Zayden Parker 2.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Drew Clock drives to the basket against Crowley in the Weatherford Tournament.

CROSS COUNTRY

Aledo's Tillotson receives elite honor



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sidney Tillotson

Staff Reports

The Community News

Aledo senior cross country runner Sidney Tillotson has been named a Legacy All-Star by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

"This is a very prestigious honor, as only 20 cross country runners (5A and 6A combined) are chosen throughout the state," said Aledo coach Mike Pinkerton.

Tillotson will receive a certificate of achievement, as well as a letter jacket patch from the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

Tillotson helped the Aledo Ladycats advance as a team to the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet this fall. She also placed sixth individually at the District 5-5A Meet and 41st at the Region I Meet.

Nominated athletes must be graduating seniors. Also, their grade point average, class rank, extracurricular activities and cross country success are considered.



Read this story online

TOURNEY

from page B1

officials issued a technical foul to the Lady Warrior bench. McKenzie Grau went to the charity stripe representing Aledo, where she knocked down both free throws to put her team up by a dozen with 4:36 remaining in the half.

The Ladycats continued to dominate as they increased their lead by 16 at the break before eventually winning the contest by 17.

Game 4 saw Princeton's Lady Panthers put the lone blemish of the tournament on the Ladycats' record. Aledo jumped out to the early lead in the contest as the first quarter came to a close with a score of 21-12. Princeton used the final three frames to inch their way back into the contest before finally taking

the lead and ultimately the game as they pulled off the three-point victory, 58-55.

After a close first half of action in the final game of the tournament for the Ladycats, Aledo blew Frisco Centennial away in the second half en route to 24-point thrashing on Saturday morning.

Aledo went into the break leading the Lady Titans 23-20. When they returned to action in the third stanza, the Ladycats exploded on the offensive end of the floor, matching their total from the first half with 23 points in the third quarter.

On the other end of the floor the Ladycats preyed on Centennial, only surrendering four points in eight minutes of action. From there, Aledo was able to coast to victory in the fourth

securing their spot on the podium.

Burleson Tournament

Aledo	21	24	18	8	71
Everman	14	16	10	18	58

Aledo scoring: Claire Byars 17, Presley Hull 14, Kinley Elms 11, Reagan Davis 8, Natalie Anderson 5, Caroline Browning 5, Kenzie Grau 3, Kandle Boggus 2, Ella Isbell 2, Taylor Paetzold 2, Haley Farmer 2.

Aledo	25	12	14	18	69
Tyler	20	17	10	18	65

Aledo scoring: Davis 14, Hull 14, Elms 14, Boggus 11, Grau 10, Browning 4, Farmer 2.

Aledo	14	25	17	6	62
Martin	8	15	12	10	45

Aledo scoring: Davis 14, Elms 13, Hull 9, Grau 8, Boggus 5, Browning 5, Paetzold 4, Isbell 2, Farmer 2.

Aledo	21	13	12	9	55
Princeton	12	17	16	13	58

Aledo scoring: Byars 23, Davis 11, Hull 8, Grau 6, Boggus 5, Elms 2.

Aledo	14	9	23	8	54
Centennial	11	20	4	6	30

Aledo scoring: Byars 16, Browning 11, Davis 8, Hull 7, Elms 4, Anderson 2, Isbell 2, Grau 2, Farmer 2.

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FOOTBALL

from page B1

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (12-2) vs. Longview Lobos (14-0)

When: Saturday, 2 p.m., Kincaid Stadium, 9100 Polk St., Dallas

What: Class 5A Division I state semifinals

How Aledo got here: Won District 3-5A Division I, defeated Killeen Shoemaker 37-0 in bidistrict, Lubbock Cooper 45-21 in area, Midlothian 27-21 in the third round and Burleson Centennial 42-21 in Region I final.

How Longview got here: Won District 7-5A Division I, defeated Crosby 49-15 in bidistrict, Frisco Lone Star 38-17 in area, Port Arthur Memorial 51-7 in third round and Mansfield Timberview 37-21 in Region II final.

Longview offense: The Lobos are averaging 46.7 points per game and have topped the 40-point mark 10 times. In the playoffs they have outscored their opponents 175-60. Leaders include: QB Jordan Allen 62% completions, 1,851 yards, 23 TD, 3 interceptions; RB Taylor Tatum 206 carries, 1,840 yards, 33 TD; RB Alijah Johnson 104 carries, 871 yards, 12 TD; WR Jalen Hale 45 catches, 936 yards, 14 TD.

Aledo offense: The Bearcats are averaging 47.5 points and have scored 40 or more points nine times. In the postseason, Aledo has outscored its foes 151-63. Leaders include: QB Hauss Hejny 61% completions, 1,170 yards, 17 TD, 4 interceptions passing, 106 carries, 1,085 yards, 13 TD rushing; RB Hawk Patrick-Daniels 171 carries, 1,233 yards, 20 TD rushing, 9 catches, 97 yards, 1 TD receiving; Caleb Pope 84 carries, 516 yards, 13 TD, 9 catches, 92 yards receiving; WR Jalen Pope 52 catches, 950 yards, 11 TD; WR Kaydon Finley 21 catches 396 yards, 6 TD.

Longview defense: The Lobos are giving up 9.8 points per game. They have two shutouts and have held nine opponents to one touchdown or less. Leaders include DB Jakevon Curry (3 interceptions) and DB Ta'darion Boone (1 interception, 1 fumble recovery).

Aledo defense: The Bearcats' defense is surrendering 16.6 points on average with two shutouts. They've limited five opponents to a TD or less. However, in their 12-game winning streak since starting the season 0-2, Aledo is

giving up just 13.8 points per game. Leaders include: LB Dahvon Keys 89 tackles, 7.5 for loss, 1 interception (returned 73 yards for TD), 1 fumble recovery; DB Jake Gillespie 72 tackles, 5.5 loss, 1 interception, 1 fumble recovery; DB Andrew Parkhurst 63.5 tackles, 10 for loss, 4 sacks; DB Boogie Owens 37 tackles, 1 for loss, 1 interception, 2 fumble recoveries; LB Cap Mooney 32.5 tackles, 3 for loss, 1 sack; DT Ansel Din-Mbuh 29 tackles, 14 for loss, 3 sacks; DB Jaden Allen 30 tackles, 3 interceptions.



Read this story online

FOOTBALL

Bearcats pull away from Spartans to reach state semis

Next up: unbeaten Longview

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Aledo defensive tackle Bryon Wheeler could hardly contain himself following the Bearcats' 42-21 victory against Burleson Centennial in their Class 5A Division I Region I final Saturday afternoon at the Ford Center in Frisco.

Not only are the senior and his Bearcat teammates one win away from playing for another state championship, his late-game interception helped pave the way.

Yes, you read correctly, a rally stopping interception by a defensive lineman.

"I was just thinking we're going on!" said an excited Wheeler. "I felt my shoulder go back with the guard, then as I leaned forward I said to myself, 'I gotta get this.' It's a lineman's dream come true."

The Bearcats (12-2), with their 12th consecutive victory, once again find themselves in the state semifinals for 12th time in 14 years. In nine of the previous 11 seasons they went on to win a state championship.

Next up for Aledo, which is ranked No. 3 in the state, is No. 1 Longview (14-0). The Lobos disposed of No. 2 Mansfield Timberview 37-21 in the Region 2 final.

This will be the first meeting ever between Aledo and Longview. The Lobos are themselves a perennial playoff power, including winning a 6A Division II state championship in 2018.

Wheeler's interception came when Centennial (12-2) was attempting a last-gasp comeback in the final few minutes. It gave Aledo the ball at the Spartans' 44 and three plays later quarterback Hauss Hejny connected with Jalen Pope for a 41-yard touchdown to put the finishing touches on the Bearcats' second victory against Centennial this season.

Aledo won their District 3-5A Division I matchup in Burleson 64-21 on Oct. 14.

"There was a college coach looking at him the other day and I said he's one of the most intuitive linemen I've ever seen," Aledo coach Tim Buchanan said of Wheeler. "He showed it on that play."

The game was more like three contests in one. Aledo jumped out to a 21-0 lead, scoring on its first three possessions, a 42-yard run by Hejny, a 1-yard run by Caleb Pope and a 12-yard run by Hawk Patrick-Daniels.

Then, starting with little more than three minutes left in the first half, Centennial came roaring back with three consecutive scores of its own. Quarterback Phillip Hamilton had TD runs of 16 and 54 yards, followed by a 14-yard TD scamper by Aiden Hicks, and suddenly the runaway of before had become a 21-21 tie a little more than a couple minutes into the second half.

In a yeoman effort, Hamilton finished the game with 231 yards rushing on 33 carries.

"Kyle Geller's a really good football coach. He figured out a way to get his quarterback downfield," Buchanan said. "It took a while for us to figure out how to adjust. They were in a heavy package and we were in man coverage."

The Bearcats did adjust, however, just as they did in the earlier win in Burleson, which was tied 14-14 after the first quarter. And when they did, just like then, they took control.

With Centennial facing a second-and-9 at the Aledo 30 late in the third quarter, the Bearcats caught Hamilton for a 5-yard loss. Then, they forced him into back-to-back incompletions, taking over at their own 35.

Aledo went 65 yards in a little more than two minutes, regaining the lead for good on a fourth-and-5 touchdown pass of 28 yards from Hejny to Kaydon Finley. Then,



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jake Gillespie (0) pulls down a Burleson Centennial player. Also shown is Davhon Keys (3).

after the Aledo defense forced a Centennial punt, Hejny found Finley for a 26-yard TD pass and a 35-21 lead with 10:50 to play, a score that was aided by a 15-yard penalty against the Spartans for a late hit out of bounds, Centennial's lone penalty of the game.

Hejny finished the game 15-of-20 passing for 278 yards. Nine of his completions went to Jalen Pope for 157 yards.

"We knew we were going to throw the ball, and Hauss knows how to throw," Buchanan said. "We had to throw when we beat them down there."

In two games against the Spartans, Hejny was 28-of-34 for 550 yards and seven touchdowns with no interceptions. He also rushed for 239 yards and three TD in those two games.

In those same two games, Pope caught 17 passes for 280 yards and three TD.

"Over the summer we built that connection," Pope said of himself and Hejny. "He trusts me to make big plays and I trust him to make big plays."

Centennial's last real scoring opportunity was squelched midway through the fourth quarter. They drove from their own 25 to the Aledo 2, but on fourth-and-goal the Spartans were stopped for no gain.

While Centennial's defense forced a punt on the Bearcats' next possession, Clay Murador booted the ball 59 yards to put the Spartans at their own 31. They reached midfield before Wheeler's takeaway.

Class 5A Division I Region I final Aledo 42, Burleson Centennial 21

Aledo	14	7	7	14	42
Centennial	0	14	7	0	21

A - Hauss Hejny 42 run (Clay Murador kick)

A - Caleb Pope 1 run (Murador kick)

A - Hawk Patrick-Daniels 12 run

(Murador kick)
C - Phillip Hamilton 16 run (Truitt Boshier kick)
C - Hamilton 54 run (Boshier kick)
C - Aiden Hicks 14 run (Boshier kick)
A - Kaydon Finley 28 pass from Hejny (Murador kick)
A - Finley 26 pass from Hejny (Murador kick)
A - Jalen Pope 41 pass from Hejny (Murador kick)

Unofficial team statistics
First downs: Aledo 17, Centennial 21.
Rushes-yards: Aledo 28-124, Centennial 52-348.
Passing yards: Aledo 278, Centennial 53.
Caught-thrown-intercepted: Aledo 15-20-0, Centennial 5-18-1.
Punts-average: Aledo 3-42.0, Centennial 2-31.5.
Fumbles-lost: Aledo 2-1, Centennial 1-0.
Penalties-yards: Aledo 3-21, Centennial 1-15.
Third-down conversions: Aledo 6-of-10, Centennial 7-of-12.
Fourth-down conversions: Aledo 1-of-1, Centennial 0-of-3.
Time of possession: Aledo 16:23, Centennial 31:37.



Read this story online

Unofficial individual leaders
Rushing
Aledo: Patrick-Daniels 9 carries, 53 yards, TD; Hejny 13-63, TD; C. Pope 3-6, TD; J. Pope 1-6; Ryan Cox 1-1; Brant Hayden 1(-5).
Centennial: Hamilton 33-231, 2 TD; Jaheim Ababio 5-42; Hicks 6-36; Elijah Zeh 11-31.

Passing
Aledo: Hejny 15-of-20, 279 yards, 3 TD, 0 interceptions.
Centennial: Hamilton 4-of-17, 52 yards, 1 interception.

Receiving
Aledo: J. Pope 9 catches, 157 yards, TD; Finley 3-61, 2 TD; Gavin Olenjack 2-34; Tyson Timms 1-26.
Centennial: Ababio 2-30, Mason Stancliff 1-16, Luke Dotter 1-6.

Tackles
Aledo: Davhon Keys 8.5, Jake Gillespie 8.5, Andrew Parkhurst 7.5, Ansel Din-Mbuh 5.5.

Tackles for loss
Aledo: Keys 1.5, Jake Gillespie 1, Jaden Allen 1, Carson Dempsey 1, Matt Gonzales 1, Cap Mooney 0.5.

Sacks
Aledo: Gonzales.
Interception
Aledo: Bryon Wheeler.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ky Howington (5) and another Bearcat are in on a tackle.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF WILLOW PARK WASTEWATER EFFLUENT LINE

Separate sealed bids for the **Wastewater Effluent Line** project will be received by the City of Willow Park until **3:00 PM on Tuesday, January 10, 2023**, at Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. The project consists of furnishing and installing approximately 5,200 linear feet of 10-inch HDPE effluent force main, 1,980 linear feet of 12-inch HDPE effluent force main, an effluent lift station and associated appurtenances.

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 examined at the following location:

JACOB & MARTIN, LLC; 1508 Santa Fe, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans and specifications from Jacob & Martin, LLC. Contractor shall submit only the required contract documents with their bid.

No Pre-bid conference is required.

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, responsible bidder.

Small and minority firms are encouraged to submit bids for this project.

Copies of the Contract Documents must be ordered online at www.jacobmartin.com. Orders for Contract Documents may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086. Cost for hard copies of the Contract Documents will be \$100.00 for 11 x 17 plans, and digital download of Contract Documents will be

\$0.00. Contractors must purchase a set of Contract Documents to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of **City of Willow Park**, 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 (Water Code 17.183) shall be submitted with each bid. The Contractor shall utilize a surety company which is authorized to do business in Texas in accordance with Surety Bonds and Related Instruments, Chapter 3503 of the Insurance Code.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

This contract is to be funded through a loan obtained from the Texas Water Development Board as part of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. There are a number of special provisions for this funding that bidders, by submitting a bid, acknowledge understanding, including the following: Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for bid (IFB) are expected to be funded in part

by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State of Texas, nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees, are or will be a party to this IFB, or any resulting contract.

Any contract(s) awarded under this Invitation for Bids is/are subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of Section 608 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1388).

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.

Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Department of Labor regulations at 41 CFR Part 60-4, relating to Construction Contractors--Affirmative Action Requirements,

which include the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 and Executive Order No. 13672, in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the Contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates are applicable. All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall be paid wages as described in the section, Mandatory Davis-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements apply to the construction, alteration or repair of treatment works carried out, in whole or in part, with assistance made available by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or a construction project financed, in whole or in part, from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Any contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) and funded under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs shall include the mandatory Davis-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Any contracts or subcontracts in excess of \$2,000 must include the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Requirements found in TWDB Guidance No. DB-0156. Compliance with Davis-Bacon Act and related acts and requirements apply to this project. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the specifications.

For prime contracts in excess of \$100,000, Contractors and Subcontractors must also, under the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, as amended, pay laborers and mechanics, including guards and watchmen, at least one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek. The Fair Labor Standards Act may also apply to Davis-Bacon covered contracts.

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Presley Hull, basketball

The senior guard/forward was named to the all-tournament team after helping the Ladycats to a third-place finish in the Burleson Tournament with four wins in five games. She averaged 10.4 points per game in the tournament, including scoring 14 twice.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Kaydon Finley, Football

The freshman receiver caught a pair of touchdown passes of 28 and 26 yards to break a 21-21 tie as the Bearcats defeated Burleson Centennial 42-21 to advance to the Class 5A Division I state semifinals. He finished the game with three catches for 62 yards.

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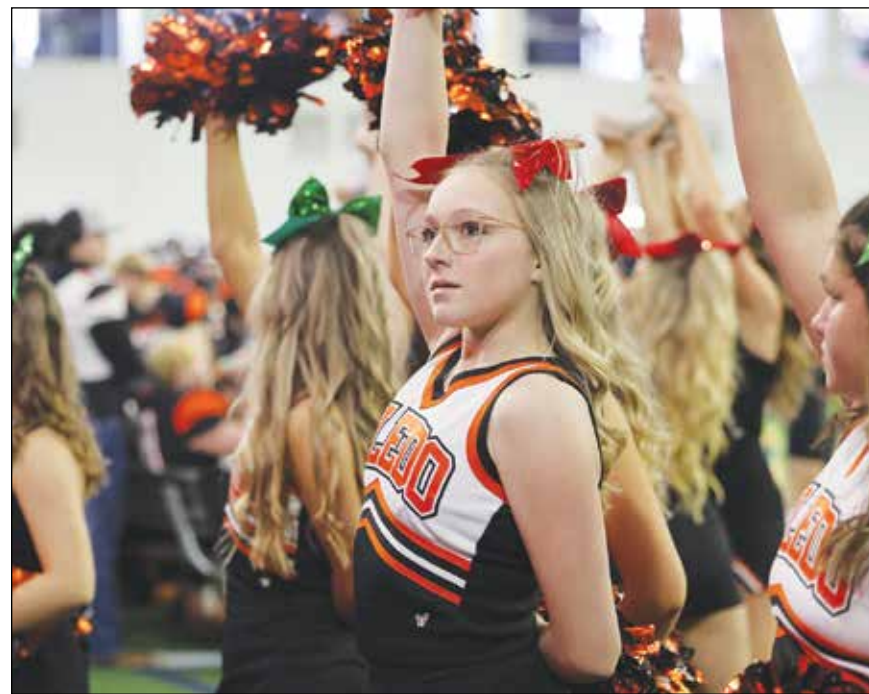
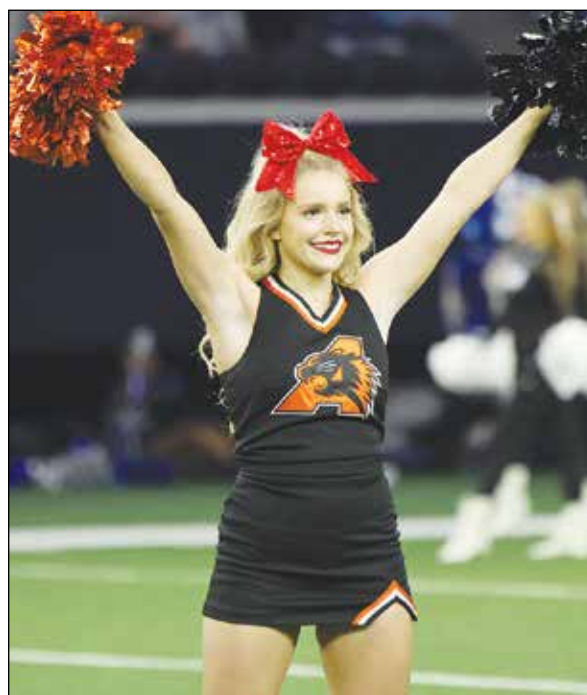
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VOLLEYBALL

Two from TCA named all-district

Staff Reports
The Community News

Two members of the Trinity Christian Academy volleyball team were named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools All-District 1-4A Team by the league's coaches.

Honored were seniors Bella Sigala on the second team and Margaret Cowley as honorable mention.

Both were a force on both sides of the ball. Sigala posted 167 kills and served 28 aces. Defensively, she had 282 digs with 19 blocks.

Cowley had 140 kills with 22 aces, along with 62 blocks and 49 digs.

"Bella has always worked hard on and off the court. If she is not at school, she is spending her time working on volleyball to reach her goal of being a collegiate athlete," TCA coach Jessica Sims said. "She is diligent and has been a strong leader on the TCA volleyball court for the past four years.

"Margaret has demonstrated Christian leadership and Christ's love to her teammates during her four years as a high



Margaret Cowley

school athlete," Sims continued. "She is a force to be reckoned with on the volleyball court, and she showcases those skills with the varsity basketball team, too. She always works hard and gives encouragement on and off the court. She will always go the extra mile for a teammate."

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SWIMMING

AHS swimmers second, third at Granbury

By Derek Gregory
Special to The Community News

The Aledo swim teams competed in Granbury recently at the Hood County YMCA, with the Ladycats finishing second and the Bearcats capturing third.

The Ladycats took first place in both the 200-yard medley and 200 freestyle relays. Each team featured freshman Natalie Hudson, along with sophomores Haley Roberson, Corah Satterfield and Victoria Crews.

The Bearcats were second in the 200 medley relay with seniors Sam Ogden and Tanner Howse joining sophomores Porter Lane and Kyle Scharlow.

In girls' individual finishes, Roberson won the 100 free and 100 breaststroke, Satterfield took the top spot in the 100 back, Hutson won the 200 free and Crews captured the 200 individual medley. Crews was also second in the 100 back, while Matila Moeller was third in the 200 free, Avery Faulkner was third in the 100 back and Satterfield placed third in the 50 free.

Top individual finishers for the Bearcats were Ogden, second in the 50 free, while Hunter Gregory was second in the 100 back.

Aledo will compete in the Debbie Weems Invitational at the Debbie Weems Natatorium in Mansfield Friday.



Read this story online

FOOTBALL

Three former Bearcats among Horned Frogs' title quest

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Three former members of the Aledo Bearcats football team are now playing at TCU as the Horned Frogs seek to become the first team from Texas to capture the College Football Playoff national championship.

From Aledo are three seniors, linebacker Wyatt Harris, his brother and offensive lineman Wes Harris, along with defensive lineman Colt Ellison.

Wes Harris was a part of three Aledo state championship teams in 2013, 2014 and 2016. Wyatt and Ellison were on state title teams in 2016 and 2018.

"I sent them a text congratulating them on qualifying and said, 'Now go and win the darn thing,'" Aledo coach Tim Buchanan said. "That's the mentality they go in with."

Buchanan coached Wes Harris in 2013 on a team that is the only one in history at any level to score more than 1,000 points in a season, going 16-0. Steve Wood coached him to championships in 2014, going 15-1, and a perfect 16-0 in 2016.

Wood was Aledo's head coach in both state title seasons for Wyatt Harris and Ellison, going a combined 32-0 in those seasons. Buchanan



FILE PHOTO/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: Colt Ellison (2) is shown in 7-on-7 action in 2018. |

RIGHT TOP: Wyatt Harris (25) is shown in action in 2016. |

RIGHT BOTTOM: Wes Harris (99) is shown in action as a Bearcat in 2016.



was the athletic director during that time, but returned to coaching in 2019 and Wood became the AD.

The Horned Frogs (12-1) are the No. 3 seed in the CFP and will face No. 2 Michigan (13-0) in the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Arizona on New Year's Eve at 3 p.m. The nightcap

that day is No. 1 Georgia (13-0) vs. No. 4 Ohio State (11-1) in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta at 7 p.m.

The two winners will square off on Jan. 9 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California at 6:30 p.m. All games will be broadcast on ESPN.

They are hoping to join Alabama running back Jase McClellan, who helped the Crimson Tide win the 2020 national championship when he was a freshman. He helped Alabama return to the title game last season before falling to Georgia.

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