

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Sweet Victory



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo head football coach Tim Buchanan holds up the State Semifinal Championship trophy for his players following the Bearcats' rain-soaked defeat of No.1-ranked Longview at Kincaide Stadium in Dallas on Saturday, Dec. 10. For more on the game and upcoming state championship game, see page B1.

ALEDO ISD Growth Committee seeks community perspective

Plans to have recommendations by February

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

On Tuesday and Thursday last week the Aledo Growth Committee opened its doors to the broader community seeking perspective from school district residents regarding the rapid growth Aledo ISD continues to experience.

Before inviting the community into the discussion, the AGC previously met 10 different times for dozens of hours to present a heavily researched and well-thought-out plan in the meetings last week. The list of action items the committee worked through in preparation for the meetings included touring the existing schools to take stock of repairs needed on current infrastructure, listening to a demographer's report charting Aledo's growth trends both historically and projected, and discussing the state of the district's financial affairs with Aledo ISD's financial planner.

The meeting began with a presentation co-led by Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn and co-chairman of the AGC, Dan Reilley. Bohn and Reilley took turns advising attendees of all the information the committee's worked with since its inception in August while placing a particular emphasis on key categories like projected growth of student population and the impact of inflation on future projects facing the district.

Joshua Wyche and his family moved to Aledo in early November. Thursday's meeting served as a confirmation of sorts they'd made the right choice in picking Aledo as their new home.

"It was incredibly impressive that they invited the community to engage with the committee that's been meeting since August," Wyche stated. "The level of detail, transparency, and engagement with the questions we asked, regardless of what the position is, was very refreshing to hear. Especially for someone who has not lived in this community but for a short period of time. That matches up well with the three reasons we moved to this community."

Once the presentation portion of the meeting concluded, attendees were broken up into table groups to discuss their ideas and concerns related to the material.

Turn to GROWTH, page A6

Price of fitness

For Aledo woman, outlook on life top award

By John English
The Community News

For Dr. Kella Price, physical fitness and proper mental health go hand-in-hand.

The Aledo woman recently competed in the Dr. World North America Pageant where she received two awards and had the opportunity to practice what she preaches along the way.

Price, 45, who holds an MS in Exercise Science and Wellness, an MBA in HR Management, and a doctorate in Business and HR Management, said the virtual pageant is not exactly what most people would imagine, but does include a lot of the same categories.

"It's an international pageant where the motto is 'smart is beautiful,'" Price said. "So all of the contestants are women who hold terminal, or doctorate degrees. It looks at areas like community service, mentorship, community engagement, and academic achievement. There's also an interview

component—so some of the typical things you would find in a pageant are not a part of this pageant. "For instance, there is not a fitness or swimwear event, but then there is an evening wear component, and most of it is based on those areas I mentioned."

Price finished third runner-up in the competition and said her feelings about her performance were somewhat mixed.

"It's not what I was hoping for," Price said. "But I did place in the top four in the pageant."

The Aledo woman did receive the Dr. World Community Engagement Award and the Mentor of the Year Award at the competition.

A total of three events were held over the weekend of the pageant, including Dr. World, Dr. America, and Dr. United States of America, and the Mentorship award was actually for all the contestants in all three pageants.

Price said she originally entered the competition to demonstrate that she believes in her methods.

Turn to FITNESS, page A3



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Dr. Kella Price of Aledo recently competed in the Dr. World North America Pageant where she received two awards and had the opportunity to further spread her message of healthy living.

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Christmas on the Square

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Christmas on the Square on Dec. 3. The festival includes music, food, vendors, and lots of activities geared to families and children. Photos by Randy Keck/The Community News



Find more photos here

BELOW: Chris Hummel from the Weatherford Citizen Police helped manage traffic for safe street crossings. **TOP MIDDLE:** Jacob Cunningham is all smiles as he peeks out from the gingerbread house. | **TOP RIGHT:** Astrid Dietrich gets a hug from Mrs. Claus aka Peggy Hutton.



LEFT: Sierra Tiffin and Katie Petree wrote letters to Santa at the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce booth. | **MIDDLE:** Larry Piper was the engineer on the mini train that ran throughout the day. | **RIGHT:** Randy Cutshall, Peggy Hutton, and Donna Dickinson pose at the Mistletoe Booth.

LEFT: Charlotte Cooper was dressed for the season at her booth. | **MIDDLE:** Baylee Snyder and Maddee Burk visit Peanuts characters at the First Bank Texas booth. | **RIGHT:** The Hall Middle School Choir was among performers for the day.

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FITNESS

from page A1

"I am a fitness, nutrition, and life coach, and I actually coach a lot of women who are preparing for pageants," Price said. "I thought this would be a good opportunity to share in that experience and show them that I model the same behaviors and set an example for my clients."

"But I think it's also a great venue to encourage people to get involved in their communities, serve as leaders in their organizations, and give back with community service and mentorship. It's really a great platform for all of those."

Price has participated in a host of other competitions, including the Marine Corps Marathon, the Ragnar Relays, the Yuma Territorial Half Marathon, a 36-mile bike race, and a Rim-to-Rim 25-mile Grand Canyon Extreme Hike for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation,

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Price's husband served in the Marine Corps for 20 years and got a job with Lockheed Martin upon retirement.

The Price family has lived in Arizona and moved to Aledo in 2019.

A strong advocate for mental health awareness, Price said that good mental health is a critical part of what she tries to teach her clients.

"It ties in very closely with my job as a mindset coach," Price said. "A lot of times having a positive mindset impacts your health and wellness goals and level of success. Through mental health advocacy, I can help my clients work through mental health issues to have a positive and happy life. So I educate people in the community and around the world. I'm a mental health first-aid instructor, and I teach classes for that. I am also a yoga therapist and work with a lot of people with PTSD."

Price recently returned from a trip to Asia in October where she was working with Rotary International and a couple of local clubs in India to launch a mental health initiative there.

"I was able to speak to several schools while I was there about mental health education," Price said. "So that was very exciting."

Price is a 14-time published author, with most of her research focusing on self-help for women and mental health topics.

She is currently working on two Christian-based books that tie in health and wellness with faith.



Read this story online



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Dr. Kella Price of Aledo recently competed in the Dr. World North America Pageant where she received two awards.

"The first one is specifically focused on women and bringing hope into your life with a positive self image," Price said. "There is a lot of comparison in today's society, and a lot of women are left feeling like they are not enough. They are both devotional books. There will also be multimedia components, so I will have links in the books to access workouts or meditations or other supporting documents to help improve a woman's self-esteem and improve her outlook on life and positivity through these exercises."

Price has faced her own health issues, having been diagnosed with Hashimoto's Disease and Rheumatoid Arthritis, and said she tries to relay a message of hope for people suffering from chronic conditions through her books.

The trainer and life coach said fitness, nutrition, and good mental health are passions for her because of how much they can improve a person's outlook on life.

"I realized through my own journey as a mom and a wife and as someone who owns several businesses, that it's a hard balance," Price said. "And if you're not taking care of yourself, you won't be the best in your career or the best mom, and may not have the energy or patience to balance all of the things you are trying to balance as a woman in today's society."



Obituaries

Pat Martin

Patricia "Pat" Martin, age 75, passed away on Saturday, December 10, 2022.

Pat was born on October 29, 1947, in Rotan, Texas to Fred and Bernice Rutledge. Her family, which included two sisters and one brother, lived a few years in Brock, Texas, before moving to what she considered her hometown, Weatherford.

Here she was well known throughout Parker County for her kindness, glowing personality, and fierce work ethic. Pat has been recognized on numerous occasions for her acts of kindness and positive impact on the community.

Pat was one of a kind who loved unconditionally and could bring out the best in everyone. She was a beacon of light that shined bright even on the darkest of days through her positive energy and genuine love for those around her. She was equipped with the armor of God and wielded her words of nurture and care to oppose evil nature daily. There would never be an opposition that was too great for Pat for she knew her strength was unbound as she truly walked with God.

One of her greatest strengths was her ability to laugh and bring joy in the face of any challenge or obstacle. Her laugh and outlook on life was contagious to those around her and she welcomed everyone to take a breath and see the world as she did. She saw each day as a blessing and an opportunity to serve.

Pat's family meant the world to her, especially her grandchildren. Planning her next trip was something she enjoyed every chance she got.

Pat's career in the land title insurance started almost by accident. She entered Gabe Vick's office 48 years ago to get a divorce and he ended up giving her a job. The Weatherford Junior College graduate has worked in the title business since that day in 1974.



Pat Martin

When Pat was so quickly accepted in the community business world, being a single mother raising a son, she decided to start giving back. Pat was a founding member of the Parker County Health Foundation, a founding member of the Weatherford ISD Educational Foundation, and was actively involved with the WISD foundation board.

Pat became involved in the community by joining the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce and serving on its board of directors. She was also a member of the Weatherford Lioness Club (now Weatherford Lions) and mentored students at Weatherford ISD for 15 years. She served on the board of the Parker County Committee on Aging for several years, along with serving Meals on Wheels to local residents.

She served on the Parkview Terrace Housing Facility Board, doing so for more than 20 years. She was actively involved in Willow Park Baptist Church, including being a children's leader with the Bible Study Fellowship.

Patricia is survived by her husband, Jimmy Ray Martin of Weatherford; sister, Karen Gandee of Lake Worth; son, Brandon Chenault and wife Rakisha of Willow Park; daughter in love, Robbye Dalton of Willow Park; step children, Tracie Martin, Tory Martin and Annabeth Martin; 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, James Rutledge; and sister, Lynne Gilbert.

A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at the Willow Park Baptist Church, with burial following at Gouldbusk Cemetery.

The Community News
December 16, 2022

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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.

City of Willow Park
Doyle Moss, Mayor
December 9 & 16, 2022

Capital Highlights

Retiring senator named Secretary of State



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Retiring state Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, has been named the next secretary of state by Gov. Greg Abbott. She replaces John Scott, who announced his resignation effective at year's end.

Scott was the third nominee for the post not confirmed by the Senate. He was appointed in October 2021, and the Legislature has not met since then. Nelson, who is completing 30 years in the Senate, should be a strong candidate for approval because of her lengthy tenure there. A new legislative session convenes in January.

The secretary of state's office, among other duties, oversees the state's election process.

"I look forward to this new chapter of public service and appreciate the confidence Governor Abbott has placed in me to serve as Secretary of State," Nelson said in a statement. "Voters expect fair elections with accurate, timely results, and I am committed to making that happen. Texans with all political views should have faith in our election system."

TikTok banned on all state-issued phones

Abbott last week ordered all Texas state agencies to ban use of the social media app TikTok on any government-issued device, saying it risks allowing China to gain access to "critical U.S. information."

The popular video-sharing application is owned by a Chinese company and is used by an estimated 85 million people in the United States.

TikTok maintains the Chinese government has never tried to access the data of its users, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Abbott said he is prepared to work with state lawmakers to make the ban permanent during the next session, and to extend the ban to devices issued by local governments, such as cities and counties.

"We must work together to stop the Chinese government's efforts to collect, store, and distribute Texans' data and personal information," Abbott wrote in a letter to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan.

TPWD biologists stress testing harvested deer

The recent discovery of chronic wasting disease in Kaufman County has spurred biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to stress the importance of testing deer taken this hunting season to curb the spread of the deadly disease.

The neurological disease is highly contagious and affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose. It has been found in 17 Texas counties and documented in both captive and free-ranging deer in 30 states and three Canadian provinces, according to TPWD.

Anyone hunting in an established CWD zone must bring their deer to a check station within 48 hours of harvest for testing.

There are about 30 check stations and drop boxes across the state. For more information, visit the TPWD website at tpwd.texas.gov.

State's largest teacher prep program under fire

The Texas Education Agency is recommending that Texas Teachers of Tomorrow have its accreditation revoked after failing to improve training of teacher candidates. The Dallas Morning News reported the company, which certifies thousands of teachers mainly through online courses, failed to meet demands by TEA that it ensure all candidates receive adequate actual classroom training.

The State Board of Educator Certification met Friday to consider the company's fate. Texas Teachers of Tomorrow and TEA are expected to present arguments before an administrative judge, and the case could stretch on for months or even more than a year.

The company has been on probation for several months, and TEA found it did not meet the terms of their agreement to improve. The state already faces a teacher shortage that could be exacerbated if the company's accreditation is revoked.

TABC working with retailers over holidays

'Tis the season for tipping, and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is working with retailers to prevent illegal alcohol sales. TABC plans inspections across the state to ensure retailers are following the law and not selling to people younger than 21 as well as those who are visibly intoxicated.

"Now is the best time, before the holiday season kicks into high gear, for business owners and managers to educate their staff on ways to prevent illegal alcohol sales," TABC executive director Thomas Graham said.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, drunk driving was a factor in nearly one-fourth of all traffic deaths last year. Businesses who violate state alcohol laws face fines or suspension of their alcohol licenses, while individuals could face misdemeanor charges resulting in a fine or jail time.

Holiday happenings at state parks

State parks across Texas are hosting a variety of holiday events in December, including themed guided walks, scavenger hunts, and more, according to TPWD. However, anyone planning to visit a state park should reserve their day pass in advance to avoid being turned away from parks that reach capacity. You can do so on the TPWD website (tpwd.texas.gov) or by calling 512-389-8900.

A full list of holiday events at state parks is on the TPWD website.

COVID-19 cases continue to rise

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the past week in Texas rose once again, this time to 30,096 with 91 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a slight increase, with 1,977 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients across the state.

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.



Read this story online



Thistles&Roses

Say what? Keeping up with football jargon



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

College football will dominate the TV airwaves for the next 30-40 days with the innumerable number of bowl games and the national playoffs. It seems impossible that my alma mater, TCU, has had the season it has.

Football has not changed much in the many years since I played at O.D. Wyatt High School in Fort Worth, but the language and terms have. I realize that I am "old school" (mostly just old) but some of these changes confuse me a bit. If you share my confusion, please read on.

One sports announcer, whose name I cannot keep straight, seems to be the leader of these changes. I never can remember if his name is Herb Kirkstreit or Kirk Herbstreit. Legendary announcer Brent Musburger called him "Herbie" which seems it would be a nickname for Herbert, but I think his name is Kirk Herbstreit, at least for now.

Some of his phrases involve the running game where the team snaps the ball and runs as far as they can until stopped. We used to call it a run up the middle; just that, a run up the middle. Now Herbie calls it running downhill, which used to be mostly a term for snow skiing. There may be some slope on a football field to help with drainage, but there are no hills. What was wrong with calling it a run up the middle? Would the opposite term be "uphill"? That would be odd to say a runner was running "uphill."

If a running play was wide around the end, we called it running wide, or a sweep. Now it is almost always called a "jet sweep." Why? A sweep is a sweep. The runners are really fast these days, but they are not jets. I think it just sounds cooler to the announcers.

The passing game is another area of change. If a pass was a long pass, it was a deep

pass, or a long pass. Now it is called "going vertical." I don't see players levitating. We used to call a short pass to a running back out of the backfield a swing pass. Now it is called a "wheel route." I just don't get that metaphor but I have learned what it means. A screen pass, where linemen feign a block while a receiver sneaks behind the hard-charging defenders, is still mostly still called a screen, but now we have "bubble" screens. I guess when it doesn't work, the defense has burst the bubble!

We used to call a run in the open field just a run where the runner has escaped the defenders and has run a long way before being tackled — a run in the open. If a defender made a big tackle on such a runner, it was called an open-field tackle. Now we call it "space." I think of space as the "last frontier" from Star Trek or the old sci-fi TV show called "Lost in Space." Again, I ask why call it "space" instead of "open?"

A lot of jargon is used to describe college football players. There are "true freshmen." (Would the opposite be a "fake" freshman?) There are also red-shirt freshmen. A red shirt is a player who does not play one of his eligible years so he gets another year of eligibility. Some broadcasters are now calling players "red-shirt sophomores." It seems to never end. It used to be colleges had freshman teams and freshmen couldn't play until they were sophomores. I think freshmen, true or redshirts, should be able to play. Freshmen are freshmen, what difference does it make if they are "true" or "red-shirts?"

I am adjusting to the times, and I understand change is inevitable in all parts of life. I am learning the new words, even if they don't make complete sense to me. Still, some things never change. The team who scores the most points is called the "winner" and the team scoring fewer points is the "loser."



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The Community News

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

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

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

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

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

Weatherford Lights the Night

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce hosted its third annual Weatherford Lights the Night Parade on Saturday, Dec. 3. Thousands of people lined the parade route to enjoy brightly-lit floats. Photos by Randy Keck/The Community News.



Find more photos here



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GROWTH

from page A1

An AGC member guided the discussion utilizing open-ended questions while recording responses from their assigned table. Information gathered during the exercise will be used by the committee in upcoming meetings as they finalize their recommendations to present to the board of trustees in February.

A particular point of discussion that commonly lingered at each of the table groups was the issue related to a potential second high school.

"We were in agreement the [need for additional] elementary is the highest priority," stated Aledo resident Tim Gibson. "Our table consensus was a high school has to be right there as well. We see that as a very imminent issue that can't get pushed much further down the road."

Gibson's wife, Stacy, was also on hand for the meeting. For her, the discussion related to the growth projections caught her by surprise.

"The numbers in nine to 10 years, or what they're projecting them to look like, it's actually shocking," she said. "And that we're at near capacity of most of our elementary schools already, and that the McAnally school's going to be at capacity in just a couple years, it's just kind of shocking."

When asked what she sees as the largest obstacles facing the district as it relates to dealing with the growth Aledo continues to see, Bohn pointed to the lack of commercial real estate creating two large hurdles the administration deals with regularly.

The first of those hurdles is, with a majority of the land surrounding Aledo being privately owned ranch land, there is no commercial real estate for the ISD to purchase in order to build new facilities to match the growth rate. The second part of the riddle with little commercial real estate is the lack of local commerce from which the community can derive necessary taxes apart from bond elections to fund future projects.

While the obstacles in front of the district are certainly a challenge, Bohn is confident they are just part of the growing pains of a thriving community, pointing to cities like Prosper and Frisco who faced similar issues on their way to becoming the bustling communities they are today.

The AGC is slated to meet twice in January, with the option for a potential third meeting if needed, in preparation to send its final recommendation forward to the board a month later. To find out more information on the AGC online, visit aledoisd.org/AGC.

The Community News will continue to cover this story as it unfolds in future editions.



Read this story online

WILLOW PARK

Lease signed on new city hall

Drainage and street repairs to begin

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Nothing like some shiny new digs to get the new year started off right.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Willow Park City Council announced a move to a new city hall location in 2023. The city signed a 30-month lease on a new address at 120 El Chico Trail, just off Interstate 20.

The building is being vacated by T.G. Mercer Consulting Services. The lease is effective Jan. 1. City Manager Bryan Grimes said the plan is to be in the new location by February.

The space in the new building is about 8,700 square feet, almost triple the current 3,189 square feet city officials are currently working in, and have been for many years.

"I'm excited. People will have a door on their office so they can carry on private conversations. We'll have council chambers," Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss said.

"I stopped by one day and saw a sign, looked at it (the building) and got Bryan and Bill (Funderburk, assistant city manager) to look at it," Moss continued. "This will be great for us."

Moss said that while the new location might not be permanent, it will give the city ample time to assess its future city hall plans.

Drainage, Street issues to be addressed

The first phase for improving the city's drainage and streets



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A meeting room in the new Willow Park City Hall; city officials plan to make the move into the Mercer Building in early 2023.

was approved Tuesday night as the city council voted to accept a bid of \$731,035 from Humphrey & Morton Construction Company, Inc. for Phase I.

The schedules for the work consists of improvements to the Pleasant Ridge culvert crossing near El Chico, regrading of an earthen channel from Sam Bass Road to Squaw Creek Road, and improvements in the channel along the eastern city limits flowing to El Chico.

"For years our residents have been struggling with drainage issues," Grimes said. "We're very pleased with the bid. It came in low."

Phase I is expected to take around six months to complete.

Bids for the second of the two phases are planned to go out early next year.

Earlier this year, the council voted to approve the issuance of certificates of obligation in an amount not to exceed \$4.25 million for this project. The payback will be two-fold, Grimes explained, with the drainage coming from fees the city has been collecting from residents since October of 2021 to fund storm drainage improvements and the street repairs coming from the city's interest and sinking fund (a savings account that, in most instances, requires monthly

deposits to be set aside only for payment of debt service.

The drainage fee rates, reflected in the utility bills of residents, are \$5.50 per month per 1,500 square feet of living area. For example, 2,000 square feet is \$7.32 per month, 2,500 is \$9.19 and 3,000 equals \$11.

"This is the fruits of those fees," Grimes said.

Certificates of obligation are similar to general obligation bonds, except that they do not require voter approval before they are issued. Certificates of obligation are also guaranteed by the city's taxation power.



Read this story online



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: A hallway in the new Willow Park City Hall | RIGHT: Decor in the new Willow Park City Hall; city officials plan to make the move into the Mercer Building in early 2023.

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Sports

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FOOTBALL

Bearcats have chance for payback in state championship game

Aledo meets College Station Cougars on Saturday

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Since the Aledo Bearcats began their run of state dominance in 2009, they have now reached the state championship game 11 times. In the 10 previous trips they brought home nine state titles.

The one time they came up short was five years ago against College Station in a 20-19 loss that ended a 31-game winning streak.

Now, the Bearcats (13-2) have a chance for some payback Saturday as they will once again meet the Cougars (13-2) in the Class 5A Division I state final Saturday at 11 a.m. at AT&T Stadium, the site of their first matchup.

"We had some things go wrong. Sometimes the ball doesn't bounce your way and it didn't that night, but that was a good game between two good football teams and this one will be also, just hopefully with a different outcome," Aledo coach Tim Buchanan said.

This will actually be Buchanan's first meeting as a head coach against College Station. He was the athletic director in 2017 and Steve Wood was the head coach.

It was one of the few blemishes on Wood's record as leader of the Bearcats. From 2014-2018 he went 75-4 with three state championships and this runner-up finish.

The Bearcats bring a 13-game winning streak into the contest after starting 0-2 for the first time since before Tim Buchanan came to town in 1993. The Cougars have won seven consecutive.

Lots of depth

Both teams have had a lot of players see action and produce this season:

Passing: Aledo has had three players throw passes season, with two throwing touchdown passes. College station has had five players throw a pass, including three who have at least two touchdowns.

Rushing: 16 different players have carried the ball at least once this season for the Bearcats with half of those scoring at least one TD. The Cougars have had 13 ball carriers with seven finding the end zone.

Receiving: 16 Bearcats have caught at least a single pass and five for touchdowns. For the Cougars, 14 have hauled in a reception and eight have a TD.

Tackles for loss: Aledo 90 by 22 players. College Station 109 by 17 players.

Sacks: Aledo 19 by 10 players. College Station 27 by 12 players.

Interceptions: Aledo 13 by 10 players. College station 10 by eight players.

Fumble recoveries: Aledo 12 by nine players. College station six by four players.

Turning point of respective seasons

Both the Bearcats and Cougars had key turning points in their regular seasons that propelled them to their successful playoff run. Both came after rough starts to the season.

For Aledo, it was actually a two-fold situation. First, they traveled to Burleson to face a Centennial team that was 6-0 and looking to end Aledo's now 111-game district winning streak. The Bearcats left with a 64-21 rout that gave them a newfound boost of confidence.

The Spartans (12-2) only other loss all season was 42-21 to Aledo in the Region I final.

That first win at Burleson was followed the next week with a trip to Denton to take on another state power, Ryan. Much had been made about this game ever since the UIL put them in the same district in



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Davhon Keys (3) and Cap Mooney are in on a tackle against Longview.

the February realignment. The game was much closer than the previous week, tied at 21 in the fourth quarter before the Bearcats scored twice to win 35-21 and clinch their 15th straight district championship.

The Bearcats had opened the season with back-to-back losses at Dallas Parish Episcopal (24-17) and at home to Denton Guyer (44-14). Episcopal won the TAPPS Division I championship and Guyer reached the Class 6A Division II semifinals.

College Station was humbled in its season opener by Lucas Lovejoy, 52-27, on a neutral site. Later in the season, the Cougars dropped a 49-38 decision to Georgetown, which they avenged with a 52-28 victory in the playoffs.

But it was their ninth game of the season, when they trailed A&M Consolidated 21-0 after the first quarter, that the Cougars came back for a 38-28

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page B3



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hawk Patrick-Daniels opened the second half against Longview with a 60-yard touchdown run.

BASKETBALL

Bearcats take second place in Aledo Tournament

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledo's varsity Bearcat hoops team added another piece of hardware to the trophy case over the weekend following a second-place finish in the Aledo Moritz Classic Tournament.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Xavier Anderson goes to the hoop in action last week at the Bearcats' home tournament.

The Bearcats (8-5) earned wins over Coronado and Canutillo in the first and second rounds of bracket play. Unfortunately, Aledo came up short in the championship game against a stalwart squad from Richland, who took home top honors.

"Overall, I feel really good," Bearcats head coach JD Robinson said after the championship game. "We took some good steps."

Richland entered the championship game with a lone blemish on their 2022-23 season record, but had reeled off five straight wins since their Nov. 29 loss to Midlothian.

The Royals wasted no time getting their offense underway as Richland's Mark Rucha led the charge, accounting for 12 of his team's 24 first-quarter points.

At the Bearcats' end of the floor, the home team struggled to cope with the defense of Richland. The Royals held Aledo to less than 25 points in the first half of action, which was a first in the tournament for the hosting Bearcats.

Richland's athleticism allowed them to put tremendous pressure on the Bearcats resulting in numerous turnovers. Those turnovers frequently resulted in two-on-one scoring opportunities on their end of the floor, allowing the Royals to outpace Aledo throughout the contest.

Robinson commended the Royals during a post-game interview saying, "We can't really simulate what we get from Richland. They're a dang good basketball team. They've been beaten one time this year. We knew what we were going to get from them, and we can't simulate that."

Aledo continued to play aggressively at both ends of the floor throughout the contest in an effort to force the Royals to

Turn to **HOOPS**, page B3

BASKETBALL

Ladycats boast winning record after feasting on Lady Blues

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

For the first time in the 2022-23 season, Aledo's Ladycats are above .500 as they moved to 9-8 on the year after pouncing on Graham last Friday. The 55-14 decimation of the Lady Blues stands as Aledo's largest margin of victory to date.

"We struggled a little bit early on this season," Ladycats head coach Nikki Hyles stated after the game. "We played a lot of really good teams. It's nice to see we learned a lot from that and started to put some things together."

Putting things together is exactly what the Ladycats did.

Aledo's defense swarmed the Lady Blues early and often, putting immense pressure on the visiting team from end-to-end of the floor. The Ladycats' defensive pressure forced numerous turnovers and poor shot selection that kept Graham off the board until the waning seconds of the first quarter. Hannah Williams was finally able to crack open the goose egg for the Lady Blues as she went 1-of-2 from the charity stripe with nine seconds remaining in the opening stanza to get her team on the board.

Meanwhile, on the offensive end of the floor for Aledo it was a case of everything that could go right for the Ladycats did. McKenzie Grau and Reagan Davis dialed up a pair of long-range buckets early to give the home team an early 6-0 advantage. On the ensuing possession by Graham, the Ladycats forced a quick turnover before running their offense like a well-oiled machine. Davis capped off the possession, knocking down a picturesque jump shot from just inside the free-throw line to put Aledo up by eight and force the Lady Blues to take their first timeout of the contest with 4:17 left in the first.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Claire Byars puts up a shot against Graham.

Coming out of the timeout Aledo picked up right where they left off. Claire Byars and Caroline Browning capitalized on some high percentage scoring opportunities down in the paint to put the home team up by a 12-1 tally at the end of the first quarter.

Turn to **LADYCATS**, page B8

In & Around Parker County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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FOOTBALL

Six Eagles garner all-district honors

Staff Reports
The Community News

Six members of the Trinity Christian Academy Eagles football team were named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools All-Division III District 1 Team by the league's coaches.

Junior linebacker Jake Wallis was named to the second team. He led the team in tackles with 64, along with a sack and a tackle for a loss.



Read this story online

Honorable mentions are senior running back Evan Crane (262 yards, 3 TD), senior offensive lineman Jack Lytle, senior athlete Caleb Nelson (133 yards, 3 TD rushing; 7 catches, 109 yards receiving), junior defensive back Matthew Sykes (36 tackles, 1 interception) and junior defensive lineman Jackson Sykes (26 tackles, 1 sack, 5 tackles for loss).

HOOPS

from page B1

make mistakes and capitalize on the shift in momentum. To Richland's credit, they continued to take care of the basketball, never allowing the Bearcats to get back into the game.

"Our goal is to get better every game and every possession," Robinson stated. "We took some steps today, but I think we got hit in the mouth. Now it's a matter of if we respond or not."

With his squad preparing to enter district play on Dec. 20, Robinson is optimistic about where his team goes from here.

"We got better this week," he said. "Bottom line, regardless of the outcome of this game, we've gotten better. That's our goal every day. Our guys work hard. They're resilient. They're going to come back to work. We want to be playing our best ball as we approach Christmas break, but we can get a lot better."

Aledo started off the tournament with a hard-fought 57-51 win over Coronado in overtime. The game started off tight with both teams posting a dozen points in the first quarter of action. The Bearcats took over between the book-

ends, posting a 17-point second quarter to head into the break leading 29-21. The home team added 11 more



Read this story online

points in the third stanza to take a 40-27 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Coronado's offense rose from the ashes like a phoenix in the fourth as the Thunderbirds' offense put up 22 to knot the game at 49 all at the end of regulation.

As free basketball started, the Bearcats defense clipped the Thunderbirds' wings in overtime as Coronado scored a single bucket in crunch time. Aledo added eight points as they advanced in the winner's bracket.

In the second round of the tournament Aledo came away victorious after a highly competitive game against the Canutillo Eagles. The Bearcats took the early advantage in the contest. Though it was close throughout, the Bearcats prevailed 49-40 to secure their place in the championship game.

Moritz Classic

First round

Aledo	12	17	11	98 - 57
Coronado	12	9	6	222 - 51

Aledo scoring: Brandon Fields 19, Jack Sawyer 12, Drew Clock 11, Exavier Anderson 11, Brant Tubbs 2, Ulises Garcia 2

Semifinals

Aledo	15	11	518 - 49
Canutillo	8	14	810 - 40

Drew Clock 18, Brandon Fields 16, Jack Sawyer 8, Exavier Anderson 5, Brant Tubbs 2

Championship

Aledo	11	13	99 - 42
Richland	24	18	1511 - 68

Drew Clock 18, Brandon Fields 11, Jack Sawyer 4, Brant Tubbs 3, Jackson Todd 2, Owen Peterson 2, Zayden Parker 2

BEARCATS

from page B1

victory. A loss in that game would have made them the No. 3 seed in the district, whereas they ended up sharing the title with A&M Consolidated and Georgetown, all with 6-1 records, settling for the No. 2 seed in the postseason.

Much playoff success

While the Bearcats have a lengthy history of having won at least one playoff game each season since 1996, the Cougars have a run of their own post-season success since opening in 2012.

The first two seasons College Station played a freelance schedule before beginning competition in the University Interscholastic League in 2014. Since then, however, they have reached the playoffs every season and in each one since 2015 they have also reached at least the second round.

This is Aledo's 11th state final since 2009 and they have nine state championships in the previous 10 trips. College Station has one state title in 2017, but has also reached the finals for a third time now in six seasons with a runner-up finish last season.

So, while the intimidation of tradition does help programs such as Aledo, Buchanan doesn't believe that will factor into Saturday's game as College Station has established its own tradition in a short time.

"They've won one (state championship)," he said. "They believe they can beat us. They have beaten us."

Another connection

This season has seen a few connections between Buchanan and his past. He grew up in Killeen and was later an assistant coach there at Ellison. The Bearcats' first-round playoff opponent was Killeen Shoemaker, whom Aledo had never played before.

Earlier in the season the Bearcats hosted and defeated The Colony. Buchanan was also an assistant coach there in the 1980s.

And now, there is another connection to the city the opponent is from. Buchanan was an assistant coach on the 1991 state champion A&M Consolidated program coached by his friend Ross Rogers — whose dad Gene was the athletic director in Killeen when Buchanan was still in high school.

"What Ross Rogers developed in College Station I tried to develop here," Buchanan said. "If you look at our coaching manual it's the same one we had at Killeen Ellison in 1985 and it was similar to the one Gene Rogers had at Killeen."

"One of the things we do here I learned from Ross, who learned from his dad: we want to be excited about

football in November and December, not just August. It's hard to do that, but we actually plan that way."

Another first-time foe

This will be the fifth time this season Buchanan will be competing as a head coach against a team for the first time. So far he is 3-1, with the loss coming 24-17 at Dallas Parish Episcopal to open the season.

Since then, the Bearcats defeated The Colony 52-7 at home and opened the playoffs with a 37-0 victory against Killeen Shoemaker at home.

And, last week, Aledo overcame a 14-3 halftime deficit to defeat No. 1 Longview 17-14, handing the Lobos their lone loss this season in 15 games.

No title talk

While the Bearcats are playing for yet another title — which would be the 11th in team history — Buchanan said there is not a lot of talk about that with the players. Instead, the focus is on what got them to this level, and it's been the same message week after week, he said.

One of Buchanan's philosophies is handling your own business. You can't control what your opponent is doing to prepare, but you can control yourself.

"Get your job done. Do your job," Buchanan said.

"The last thing I need to do is put pressure on them. They know exactly what they're playing for."

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (13-2) vs. College Station Cougars

When: Saturday, 11 a.m., AT&T Stadium

What: Class 5A Division I state final

How Aledo got here: Won District 3-5A Division I, defeated Killeen Shoemaker 37-0 in bi-district, Lubbock Cooper 45-21 in area, Midlothian 27-21 in the third round, defeated Burleson Centennial 42-21 in Region I final and downed Longview 17-14 in the state semifinals.

How College Station got here: Finished second in District 11-5A Division 1, defeated San Antonio Wagner 37-19 in bidistrict, defeated Angleton 27-20 in area, defeated Georgetown 52-28 in the third round, topped Smithson Valley 26-21 in Region III final and downed Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial 33-7 in state semifinals.

College Station offense: The Cougars average 37.8 points and have scored 40 or more points five times. Leaders are: QB Arrington Maiden, 1,961 yards, 14 TD, 3 interceptions passing; RB Aydan Martinez-Brown 283 carries, 1,909 yards, 20 TD; WR Jackson Verdugo 53 catches, 872 yards, 7 TD.

Aledo offense: The Bearcats are averaging 42.8 points and have scored 40 or more points nine times. Leaders include: QB Hauss Hejny 1,1776



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jake Gillespie (O) makes a tackle against Longview.

yards, 17 TD, 6 interceptions passing, 125 carries, 1,135 yards, 13 TD rushing; RB Hawk Patrick-Daniels 182 carries, 1,344 yards, 21 TD rushing, 10 catches, 96 yards, 1 TD receiving; Caleb Pope 89 carries, 520 yards, 13 TD rushing, 9 catches, 92 yards receiving; WR Jalen Pope 55 catches, 1,017 yards, 11 TD; WR Kaydon Finley 21 catches 396 yards, 6 TD; Tyson Timms 25 catches, 332 yards, 3 TD.

College Station defense: The Cougars surrender 21.6 points per game. They have one shutout and have held five opponents to a touchdown or less. Leaders are DB Harrison Robinson 140 tackles, 1 interception, 2 fumble recoveries; DB Tony Hamilton 113 tackles, 10 for loss, 3 interceptions; LB Jaylor Bellows 98 tackles; DE Korbin Johnson 18 tackles for loss.

Aledo defense: The Bearcats' defense is surrendering 16.5 points with two shutouts. They've held five opponents to a TD or less. Leaders include: LB Dahvon Keys 99 tackles, 8.5 for loss, 1 interception (returned 73 yards for TD), 1 fumble recovery; DB Jake Gillespie 75 tackles, 6.5 loss, 1 interception, 1 fumble recovery; DB Andrew Parkhurst 65 tackles, 11 for loss, 5 sacks; DB Boogie Owens 41.5 tackles, 2 for loss, 1 interception, 2 fumble recoveries; LB Cap Mooney 37 tackles, 3.5 for loss, 1 sack; DT Ansel Din-Mbuh 32 tackles, 15 for loss, 4 sacks; DB Jaden Allen 33 tackles, 1.5 for loss, 0.5 sacks, 3 interceptions.

College Station special teams note: A. J. Tisdell has returned one punt and one kickoff for a touchdown this season.

Aledo special teams note: The Bearcats are surrendering an average of nine yards per punt return and no touchdowns on punt or kickoff returns.

College station turnovers/takeaways: 13 turnovers (7 fumbles, 6 interceptions), 16 takeaways (6 fumbles, 10 interceptions).

Aledo turnovers/takeaways: 17 turnovers (7 fumbles, 10 interceptions), 25 takeaways (12 fumbles, 13 interceptions).

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Reagan Davis, Basketball

A week after averaging more than a dozen points in the Burleson Tournament, Davis came back to lead all scorers in a 55-14 victory against Graham with 13 points. Her night included a steal and a coast. She added five rebounds and three steals.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



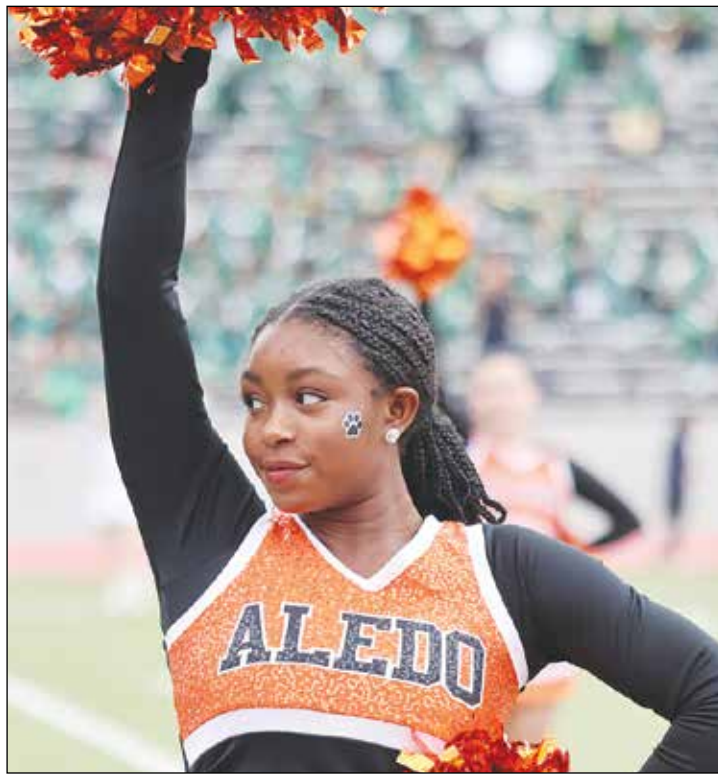
**Ansel Din-Mbuh,
Football**

The Bearcats defensive tackle was a force in the Longview backfield as Aledo defeated the Lobos 17-14 last Saturday to advance to the Class 5A Division I state championship game. He was a part of four tackles (2 solo, 2 assists), had a sack for a 6-yard loss and a tackle for a 6-yard loss, in addition to a pair of quarterback hurries.

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DECEMBER 22
Blood Drive
 The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 12-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, at Church at the Crossing gym, 128 Elm Street in Aledo. To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: churchatthecrossing.

Thursday, Dec. 29, at VFW Post 4746 R.D. Nelson Memorial Post, 224 Zion Hill Road in Weatherford. To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: VFW.

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Send event submissions to events@community-news.com.

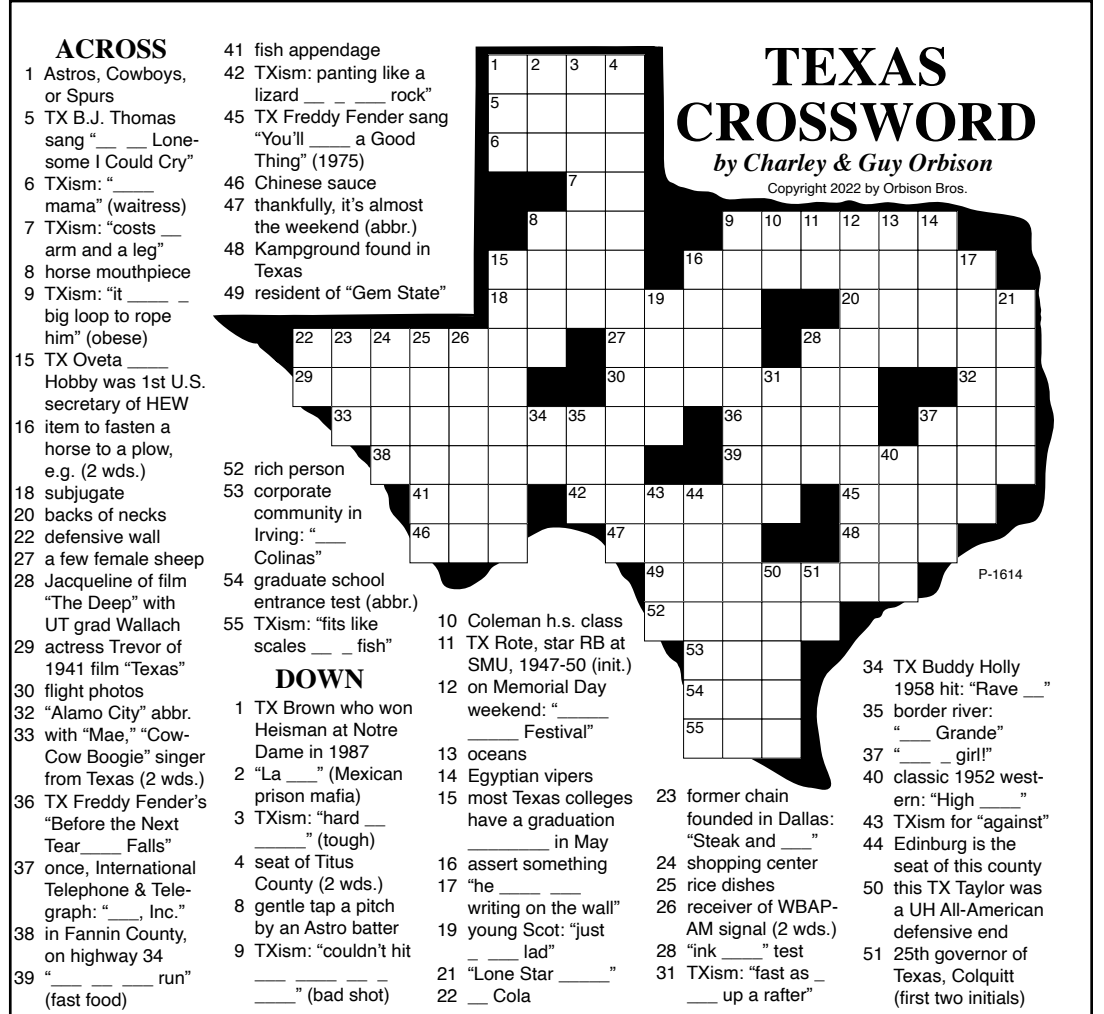
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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- Astros, Cowboys, or Spurs
- TX B.J. Thomas sang "___ Lone-some I Could Cry"
- TXism: "___ mama" (waitress)
- TXism: "costs ___ arm and a leg"
- horse mouthpiece
- TXism: "it ___ big loop to rope him" (obese)
- TX Oveta ___ Hobby was 1st U.S. secretary of HEW
- item to fasten a horse to a plow, e.g. (2 wds.)
- subjugate
- backs of necks
- defensive wall
- a few female sheep
- Jacqueline of film "The Deep" with UT grad Wallach
- actress Trevor of 1941 film "Texas"
- flight photos
- "Alamo City" abbr.
- with "Mae," "Cow-Cow Boogie" singer from Texas (2 wds.)
- TX Freddy Fender's "Before the Next Tear ___ Falls"
- once, International Telephone & Telegraph: "___, Inc." in Fannin County, on highway 34
- "___ ___ run" (fast food)
- fish appendage
- TXism: panting like a lizard ___ ___ rock"
- TX Freddy Fender sang "You'll ___ a Good Thing" (1975)
- Chinese sauce
- thankfully, it's almost the weekend (abbr.)
- Kampground found in Texas
- resident of "Gem State"
- Coleman h.s. class
- TX Rote, star RB at SMU, 1947-50 (init.)
- on Memorial Day weekend: "___ Festival"
- oceans
- Egyptian vipers
- most Texas colleges have a graduation ___ in May
- assert something
- "he ___"
- writing on the wall"
- young Scot: "just ___ lad"
- "Lone Star ___"
- ___ Cola
- TX Buddy Holly 1958 hit: "Rave ___"
- border river: "___ Grande"
- "___ girl!"
- classic 1952 western: "High ___"
- TXism for "against" Edinburg is the seat of this county this TX Taylor was a UH All-American defensive end
- 25th governor of Texas, Colquitt (first two initials)

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LADYCATS

from page B1

In the second quarter of action the Ladycats out-scored Graham 13-2. Byars, Davis, and Grau led the offensive onslaught for the home team as they each scored three points early in the second frame. Hanna Good and Haley Farmer added buckets of their own along the way as Aledo held a commanding 25-3 lead heading into the break.

"The kids are working hard," commended Hyles of her team's effort. "Facing a team like [Graham], sometimes you can get a little bit lax. We really tried to focus on execution and finishing."

Starting the second half up by 22 points, Aledo had the opportunity to put on the cruise control and coast to victory.

They didn't take it.

Instead, the Ladycats continued to play with the hammer down, increasing their lead in each of the final two quarters of play all while getting some quality minutes on the floor for the depth of their bench. In all, 11 of the 13 varsity Ladycats contributed to the team tally by putting points on the board.

"All these kids practice so hard every day, so being able to get them some good minutes and playing time and really get them some experience to see what they're doing in practice and how to put that into a game is great for them,"

said Hyles. "It's great for the team. It's a culture. This team is really good and tight-knit. It's nice to see them cheering each other on."

With the final preseason game under their belt, the Ladycats look ahead as they enter district play.

"We've got a strong district," Hyles mentioned as she prepares her team for the upcoming schedule. "We start off with Wichita Falls Rider. I think they're down this year. But then we come back with Northwest. It's going to take some good basketball to get into the playoffs with Granbury, Brewer, Azle, and Saginaw. We've got a bunch of good teams in our district."

The Ladycats were opening District 5-5A play at Wichita Falls Rider at press time. They host Northwest Friday.

Ladycats vs. Graham Varsity

Aledo	12	13	1515 - 55
Graham	1	2	74 - 14

Reagan Davis 13, Claire Byars 10, McKenzie Grau 8, Presley Hull 5, Kandle Boggus 4, Haley Farmer 4, Kinley Elms 4, Ella Isbell 2, Caroline Browning 2, Hanna Good 2, Natalie Anderson 1

Junior varsity

Aledo	25	15	62 - 48
Graham	3	3	35 - 14

Elizabeth Griffin 21, Breleigh Mayer 6, Savannah Salas 5, Brenna Clock 5, Kinley Evans 5, August Carlone 2, Peyton Flores 2, McKenna Sweat 2.

Freshmen

Aledo	19	19	1011 - 59
Graham	5	4	63 - 18

Alyssa Todd 13, Jordyn Edington 11, Jaylee Owens 8, Mykel Murry 5, Jenna Haussler 5, Mia Valencia 4, Mesoma Emekaokoye 4, Lily Heckathorn 3, Coral Slough 2, Mackenzie Bullard 2, Natalie Browning 2



Read this story online

Worth the wait

Bearcats return from delay to seal another state finals berth

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

What's another couple hours when you've come this far?

After a lengthy delay for nearby lightning strikes, the Aledo Bearcats (13-2) finished the task of knocking off No. 1 ranked Longview (14-1), 17-14, Saturday at John Kincaide Stadium in Dallas.

The win sends Aledo to its 11th state final in 14 seasons. In the previous 10 trips they brought home nine championships.

The Bearcats, whose 10 state championships (they also won one in 1998) are a state record, will meet College Station (13-2). The Cougars knocked off Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial 33-7 in Saturday's other semifinal.

The championship game is Saturday at 11 a.m. at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

It was looking as if the Bearcats and Lobos would avoid the fate of a delay, unlike other teams throughout the North Texas area. Then, with 56 seconds remaining and Longview facing a second-down-and-16 from midfield, the teams were sent to their respective locker rooms and spectators to their cars and/or buses to wait out the stoppage.

With each nearby strike the delay clock resets to 30 minutes. Due to repeated strikes the clock kept resetting, thus the long delay.

On the final play before the delay, Lobos quarterback Jordan Allen was sacked for a 6-yard loss. When they returned to play, so did the pressure on him as he was forced into back-to-back

incompletions, followed by a tipped pass by Christian Hillman that was caught for a 1-yard loss.

"We just walked in and said, 'We're gonna keep doing what we're doing. It's working in the second half,'" Aledo coach Tim Buchanan said. "Ansel (Din-Mbuh), (Byron) Wheeler, (Lawson) and (Christian) Hillman did an unbelievable job getting pressure on the quarterback and didn't give him a chance to get the ball off."

Running back Caleb Pope said a lot of things were going through his and his teammates' minds during the break, including the Lobos having struck for a pair of second-quarter touchdown passes that gave them a 14-3 halftime lead. However, he said there was confidence the defense could finish the job.

"We just talked about staying focused and the staying on key until the end of the game, just finish," he said.

Clay Murador gave Aledo a 3-0 lead after the first quarter with a 37-yard field goal, a period in which the Bearcats held the ball for eight and a half minutes. Longview struck back with touchdown passes of 27 and 55 yards from Allen to Jalen Hale in the second quarter. The first TD came after a deflected pass turned into an interception that set them up at the Aledo 39.

On the opening drive of the second half, however, Aledo began to regain control and on the fifth play, Hawk Patrick-Daniels broke out of a scrum and raced 60 yards to the end zone to make the score 14-10.

After being held to 7 yards on five carries in the first half, Patrick-Daniels led all rushers with 111 yards on 11 carries. His touchdown run was more than the 53 Aledo had on 16 carries in the entire first two quarters.

On the next possession after a Longview punt, the Bearcats went 65 yards in six plays, capped by a 10-yard TD from Davhon Keys.

"We figured out who to block and who to block them with at halftime," Buchanan said.

With less than three minutes remaining in the game, the Lobos reached the Aledo 29 before fumbling. The Bearcats' Andrew Parkhurst fell on the loose ball.

Longview forced a punt that was held up by the heavy oncoming win, taking over at the Aledo 44 with 1:16 remaining and a timeout left. Following the sack they were forced to call their final timeout, ironically, seconds before the game was halted, which might have altered their strategy a bit coming out of the delay.

The Bearcats defense held the heralded Longview running game to 102 yards on 34 carries. They posted three sacks and seven tackles for loss, along with four other plays for zero yards.

A moment of excitement occurred on special teams when Murador fielded a bad snap on a punt attempt inside his own 10-yard line and scampered 24 yards for a first down as the third quarter was coming to an end. Though the Bearcats did eventually punt on the drive, Murador's 51-yard boot gave Longview the ball on its own 20-yard line instead of around midfield.

"It was a really good football game. I'm gonna tell ya, Longview is a really good football team and John King's a heck of a football coach," Buchanan said.

Read the rest of this story, along with photos and video highlights, at <https://www.community-news.com/stories/worth-the-wait,14173>

Go Bearcats!



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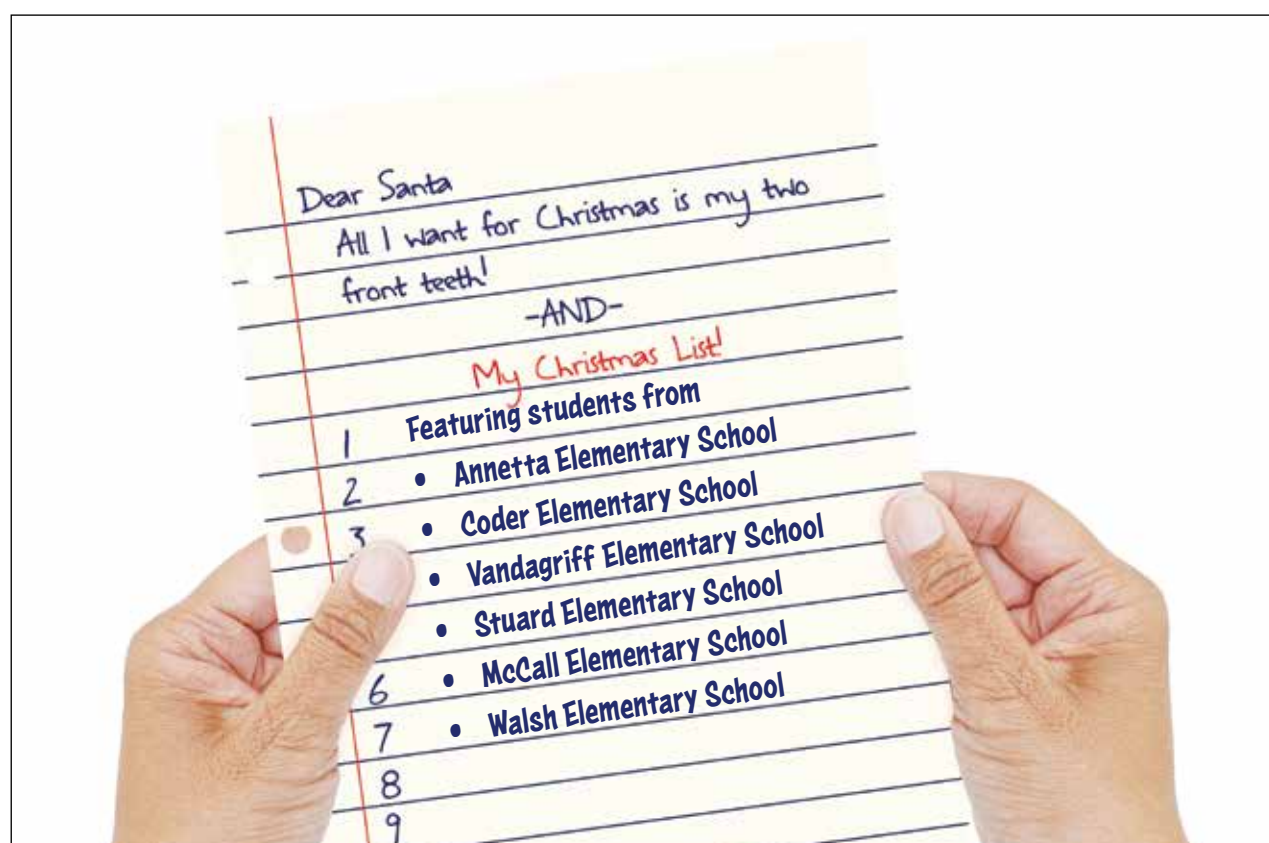
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