

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Special words from Toren



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Aledo ISD bus driver Tom Black (center) and his aide Shelly Golden helped 6-year-old Coder Elementary kindergarten student Toren Dixon, who is non-verbal autistic, learn to say "I love you Mommy."

### Bus driver and aide help youngster give mom precious gift

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

In a world where folks are rushing to buy the latest gadget for Christmas, Michelle Dixon

received a gift worth more than any amount of money on the planet.

Her son, Toren, told her he loves her.

On the surface, that might not seem like anything unusual. After all, that phrase is quite common.

However, not in Toren's world. In fact, speaking had not ever been a part of the 6-year-old Coder

Elementary kindergarten student's life as he born with non-verbal autism.

With the help of two caring Aledo ISD employees, however, Toren surprised his mom last Christmas with the words, "I love you mommy." Not even Santa himself could bring as precious a

gift if he'd had his elves focusing on nothing else all year.

But bus driver Tom Black and his aide Shelly Golden believed there was more to Toren than a silent youngster. So they began working with him with the goal of getting him to utter those words his mother had longed to hear.

Turn to **TOREN**, page 3



Welcome to the 28th annual Good News edition of The Community News.

Twenty-seven years ago, we made a decision that one issue of the paper each year ought to emphasize good news. News about pandemics, train wrecks, and political corruption can take a back seat while we celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of a new one.

We invite you to check community-news.com for breaking news during the holidays.

We hope you enjoy this issue - and we hope you and all who are dear to you have a wonderful 2023!



CONOR LEE/GRACEPOINT MEDIA

The Coyote's General Manager Dave Cowley brings years of experience to Weatherford College's new radio station.

### The Coyote bringing beautiful noise to area

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Coyotes are a common sight in North Texas, and they have a distinctive sound when they howl.

The Coyote at Weatherford College also has a unique sound as the new radio station at 88.5 FM and 102.5 FM combines a plethora of genres for all musical appetites. When tuning in one might hear John Denver, followed by Jackson Brown, followed by Garth Brooks, and then Culture Club. There could be a little Bonnie Tyler somewhere in there, and don't tune out before Earth, Wind & Fire make an appearance, along with Alan Jackson, Shania Twain, and even KC & the Sunshine Band.

"Alabama to the Eagles is an easy transition," said Dave Cowley, the station's general manager. "It works because radio is so fragmented now. What you can't get is personality, and us being local in Weatherford is making a huge difference."

Turn to **COYOTE**, page 3



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# After-prison program gave Mederos hope and more

By John English  
The Community News

Elizabeth Mederos still remembers the day in 2017 when she asked her father if she could live with him.

The Weatherford woman was awaiting parole after serving four years of a 10-year sentence for embezzling more than \$500,000 from her former employer.

A condition of parole in the state of Texas is that the parolee have a place to stay, and Mederos felt certain that it would not be a problem.

Her father's answer was straight and to the point.

"He said no," Mederos said.

After four years in an environment that Mederos described as "degrading and dehumanizing," she was devastated.

"At the time, I was just like, 'What? Don't you know who I am?'" Mederos said. "Now reflecting back, I'm glad he said no."

Mederos, 49, struggled with a lifetime of addiction that eventually led her to incarceration in 2013. She said that she embezzled to help support a pain-killer habit, which she developed following a car accident in 2004.

While being told no was the last thing she expected, it forced her to dig deep and search for a different way out.

"I was kind of lost at that point, and fortunately, a unit parole officer gave me the information about Sanctified Hope," Mederos said. "And then another inmate talked about going to Sanctified Hope, because she knew she needed something different. That started the whole process of learning about Sanctified Hope and what they had to offer."

Sanctified Hope is a Christ-centered transitional home for women who have recently been released from prison according to its website <https://sanctifiedhope.org>, with a mission of guiding and empowering formerly incarcerated women through a Christ-based ministry to inspire lifelong changes and become successful citizens of their community.

Mederos said she was given \$50 when leaving prison and \$50 when she reported for parole, and said had it not been for Sanctified Hope, she simply would not have made it.

"They provided for everything, so I didn't have to worry about survival," Mederos said. "That was the first initial difference for me. The other difference is the amount of support and love I received. They

were like the hands and feet of Jesus for me. They accepted me just the way that I was with all of my pain, all of my past, all of it. They tried to build me up, not tear me down."

And it was there that Mederos slowly began to put her life back together.

"At that point, I just wanted a job," Mederos said. "My number one goal was to have a job, because there were only so many things that I could do. I was feeling defeated, because I was going on job interviews and being told no every time."

"But it was the community, the Parker County Center of Hope that have these community leaders who will come in and help with resumes, help explain those gaps in employment in a positive manner, and that's hard, because how do you speak positively about prison?"

The Center of Hope also had people from Weatherford College come in and discuss their education programs at Sanctified Hope.

At first, Mederos was not interested.

"School was not on my radar," Mederos said. "I just wanted a job."

But eventually the Parker County resident warmed to the idea when two representatives of Weatherford college informed her of a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) program.

"I told them, 'I have a felony; can I do that?'" Mederos said. "And they were like, 'you're hired! We want people like you because of your experience...it just goes to show that God uses all things.'"

Currently a Counselor with the Recovery Resource Council in Fort Worth, Mederos graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington on Dec. 16 with a Masters degree in Social Work.

The best part for her is that she has been able to give back to Sanctified Hope in the form of case management and counseling.

"I'm able to sit down with the clients and kind of help them navigate the reentry process," Mederos said.

While many aspects of Mederos' work with Sanctified Hope are rewarding, two episodes stand out for her.

"There was one lady in particular who graduated and was able to go to dental school and get her license to become a dental assistant," Mederos said. "I got to watch her life transformed through the program. But then also, as a drug counselor in that position, I have worked with women with CPS cases, and I had one client



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Elizabeth Mederos experienced the help of Sanctified Hope and is now helping others, such as in this photo, as she is working as a case management counselor for the program.

who was at a point where her children had been removed and she was feeling lost and experiencing a lot of the same emotions I felt when I entered the program.

"I was able to work with her and share that strength and experience and give her hope. She went from having her children taken and almost losing them to foster care to having them returned to her under monitored supervision. To see that change — to see that hope restored and seeing them believing in themselves is amazing."

Mederos' relationship with her family is fully restored, as well, and one particularly touching moment came during the holiday season a few years back.

"It was a slow process," Mederos said. "When I came to Sanctified Hope I was told by my family that if you leave that program, don't ever call us again. So they had to see that I was doing something different. They would receive the newsletters and updates, and then I would be able to call them."

"At first it was kind of stand-off-ish. It wasn't until that Christmas that my son came to visit. We were sitting in the car and I'm crying and telling him I was sorry. He said, 'Mom, I forgive you. I just want to see you do better.'"



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Elizabeth Mederos is hard at work in her office as a case management counselor for Sanctified Hope after having gone through the program herself upon her release from prison.

But Mederos was doing much more than better — she was unknowingly serving as a source of inspiration for the young man. Her son recently graduated from Weatherford College with a degree in Criminal Justice.

"He saw all the changes in me and the fact that I was pursuing an education and doing something different with my life," Mederos said.

"It actually inspired him to go to school."

Reflecting upon her time with Sanctified Hope, Mederos said that it made all the difference in the world in the person that she has become and the life she currently enjoys.



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# COYOTE

from page 1

The point is The Coyote, which held its grand opening party in early December at the Nan and Bob Kingsley Building, truly does have something for everyone. Toss in local news, sports, weather, and community events and you have the perfect community station — at least Cowley certainly thinks so, and judging from those in attendance, he has a lot of folks in agreement.

“We don’t want to know what’s happening on the High Five, we want to know what’s going on at the square in Weatherford,” said Cowley, who hosts the morning show with long-time local radio personality Brent Baker, who is also a vice president at the college.

“The variety is something that’s familiar and easy to listen to,” said Austin Haye.

“We’ve got a great community with a lot of different tastes. It’s a community one-stop shop,” added Cayan Mullins.

Oh, and don’t forget it’s also a learning opportunity for Weatherford College students. Claire Spencer, a sophomore student ambassador, for example, had a chance to broadcast the news recently after Baker heard her speaking at an event and liked her voice.

“I think it’s great to get the students involved,” she said, adding that it was also a lot of fun.

“We will put many, many students on the air. We have used several already. Once we get rolling in 2023, you’ll hear students hosting their own shows,” Cowley said.

Cowley said to also look for more special musical programming, such as the recently broadcast Dr. Heyyoung Song’s piano recital live from the Alkek Fine Arts Center. They’ll also have Weatherford College sports broadcasts such as Coyote basketball, baseball, softball, and a weekly coaches show.

“We are having the most fun educating our future broadcasters,” said Andrea Cantrell, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of WC. “Bob Kingsley is alive and well here at Weatherford College.”

Kingsley, a broadcast legend and a member of the National Radio Hall of Fame, recorded his weekly country music countdown show “Bob Kingsley’s Country Top 40” and before that “American Country Countdown” in his Bluestem Studios housed in the building for years before his death in October of 2019. He and Nan were longtime Weatherford residents and she donated the building to the college following his death.

Among the many artists who recorded in the studios with Bob Kingsley are all-time greats such as Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Blake Shelton, Toby Keith, Keith Urban, Martina McBride, Brad Paisley, and many more. Those same artists can now be heard on The Coyote.

“The new radio station is another example of Weatherford College’s continued progress. We’re able to support our local business community and not only produce education but entertainment as well,” WC President Tod Allen Farmer said.

“This station will be so good for the community in the coming years. Local news, high school and WC sports, promoting non-profit events,

and just connecting the community,” Baker noted. “Parker County and the surrounding areas will benefit and so will our students.

“The goal is a professional-sounding radio station that’s focused on the local community, and that’s why the college hired Dave Cowley. We applaud President Farmer and the board for having the vision to see this through.”

Cowley said the idea for the Coyote came when the Beard family decided to sell the 88.5 and 102.5 radio frequencies.

“Mac Smith (WC board president) had told me that he had envisioned WC having a campus radio station. Having worked as the morning show host for over 20 years on those two frequencies, the Beards offered to sell it to me at a reduced price before they officially put it on the market,” Cowley said. “I told President Farmer about the offer, and he proposed that the college purchase the station, and asked me to basically help build a radio studio from the ground up in the Kingsley studios.

“The whole thing had to have been pieced together by a higher power because Bob could have built a recording studio anywhere — why right next to WC? Bob’s widow, Nan, had told me that Bob’s dream was to have a radio station in that building. Well, here we are.”

Cowley has been working on the air for 35 years with stints at KLUR in Wichita Falls, KJNE in Waco, along with local stops at WBAP, 1220 KZEE, 95.9 KYXS (The Ranch in Mineral Wells) and 102.5/88.5 CHUCK FM. From 1993 to 1998 he hosted/wrote/produced a four-hour nationally syndicated oldies radio show called “Class Reunion” to more



CONOR LEE/GRACEPOINT MEDIA

Brent Baker, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Weatherford College, has been a long-time partner with Dave Cowley on the morning show.

than 40 radio stations coast to coast. In 1995, wrote/produced and hosted a two-hour Country syndicated show, “The Red River Cafe” to radio stations across the Lone Star State.

He’s also interviewed more than 100 of the greatest artists in early rock, pop, rhythm and blues and country music and is currently using those interviews for his podcast “Talking Trax.”

Cowley said he can think of no other station that is following the same format as The Coyote.

“It really started with 90s country music and continues today. A lot of it sounds so much like classic rock.

If the Eagles had released their first album in the 90s, they’d be considered a country band,” he said. “I just figured no one would be offended listening to ‘Take It Easy’ (Eagles), followed by ‘Check Yes or No’ (George Strait), followed by ‘Suspicious Minds’ (Elvis Presley), followed by ‘Tell Me Lies’ (Fleetwood Mac). It really works with a lot of people.”

Farmer said of Cowley, “Talk about a guy who made a vision become a vibrant reality. Now we have a new tool in our tool bag. Exciting times ahead for Weatherford College and this is a big part of it.”

# TOREN

from page 1

For this, Black and Golden have been nominated for an Aledo ISD Circle of Greatness Award in the Auxiliary category. The nomination came from Toren’s mother, in fact.

“This year my son rode the bus of Mr. Tom and Ms. Shelly. We just wanted to reach out and say they are amazing,” Michelle wrote. “I waited four years to hear those words.

“Everyday they make him excited to ride the bus and go to school. They make us feel safe when he gets on that bus. We know he will make it to his destination with a smile. I

have watched them sing and dance with the kids. It is one of the best things I have ever experienced. They just have pure love for their careers and the kiddos they take care of.”

Black said they worked with Toren by “continually waving at him and trying to work with him with small talk and sing to him.”

While this was Black’s first time to work with a nonverbal student, Golden had done so before as an aide to a former bus driver. She said a trust was established then and again with Toren by simply calling him by name, playing with him, smiling, and working to cheer him up if he was upset.

“Ask him, ‘Are you ready for school?’ and to go home or see mom or dad?” Golden said.

Golden said they also worked with Toren to say hi and bye to each student boarding and exiting the bus.

“He is learning more words everyday it seems,” she said.

Black said another breakthrough was when Toren’s brother said “Bye Bubba” and Toren repeated it back to him. They also worked with Toren to get him to tell his mother goodbye every morning.

“It melted our hearts to hear him talk,” Golden said.

But the most special moment was when Toren said those four

words to his mother, Black said. He called the occasion a “very emotional and proud moment,” adding that he felt “like part of the family.”

But then, Black said much of the success with Toren came from treating him like his own child.

“I would do this for any child and treat them like my own,” he said.

“He is my buddy and makes me feel good that I feel like I’m doing my job and helping these kids,” Golden said.

“Our bus drivers are often the first people from the district that many of our students see in

the morning and last people from the district many see in the afternoon,” Aledo ISD Transportation Director Ranjan George said. “They take pride in keeping our students safe and also in getting to know them and caring for them.

“There is no doubt Tom and Shelly truly care for Toren, and I am so glad they were recognized for this honor.”

Other Circle of Greatness nominees so far this year are:

Professional category: Emily Kelley, Walsh Elementary teacher.

Paraprofessional category: Javier Lopez, McAnally Middle School.

Campus Guest Teacher category: Ron Cook, Aledo Middle School.



## Matt Morris

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## Capital Highlights

### Winter storm called 'once in a generation'



**Gary Borders**  
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An arctic storm that swept through the state bringing low temperatures and high winds also affected roughly two-thirds of the country's population, according to the National Weather Service, bringing the coldest Christmas in decades to parts of the country.

The Dallas Morning News reported around 190 million people across the United States were under some type of winter weather advisory starting last Thursday.

"This is quite the arctic cold air outbreak," said Hunter Reeves, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth. "This air has been bottled up in Canada and is letting loose, headed straight south."

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which manages nearly all the state's electric grid, reported Friday that grid conditions were adequate to handle current demand for power. ERCOT is providing a dashboard that monitors supply and demand across the state. Texas is coming up on the second anniversary of Winter Storm Uri, which resulted in power outages throughout much of the state and at least 137 deaths. The storm resulted in several measures to improve the grid's reliability.

Temperatures in the latest arctic storm were in single digits Friday throughout much of the state.

#### Study on antisemitism in Texas released

A committee established by the 2021 Texas Legislature has submitted its first study on antisemitism in Texas, laying out eight recommendations to the state's leaders and lawmakers.

The Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission (THGAAC) report concludes "antisemitic incidents have grown more frequent and extreme in Texas in recent years," reflecting a national and global trend. Five of the recommendations can be implemented directly by the commission through its ongoing advisory role to universities, school districts, government agencies and law enforcement, largely through training and outreach.

Three of the commission's recommendations require legislative action in the upcoming session:

- Creating a state-funded security grant program to help religious organizations, schools and community centers harden their security infrastructures.
- Prohibiting state-funded colleges from implementing academic boycotts, such as those promoted through the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.
- Scheduling "listening tours" for lawmakers to speak with THGAAC, local educators and museum officials to better understand their needs around Holocaust and antisemitism education.

#### Drunk-driving prevention program underway

Through New Year's Day, the Texas Department of Transportation is teaming up with law enforcement across the state to target motorists driving under the

influence of alcohol. Nearly one-fourth of all traffic fatalities during last year's monthlong holiday season involved drunk driving.

"With everything going on in the world these past few years, we want everyone to be able to celebrate this joyous time of year without the tragic consequences of drinking and driving," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "Get together with family and friends and have a great time, but please find an alternative way home if you choose to drink. You have many options available."

The state has launched a series of public service announcements emphasizing its Drive Sober. No Regrets campaign.

#### Tips to prevent space heater fires

With the winter weather comes an increased risk of fires caused by space heaters, which have resulted in several fatalities in Texas during the last few years. The Texas Department of Insurance offers the following tips for keeping the household safe when using these popular heaters:

- Inspect the heaters before using, making sure there are no cracked or broken plugs or loose connections.
- Don't place the heater too close to furniture, bedding or clothing, keeping at least 3 feet of space between the heater and anything that can burn.
- Always plug heaters directly into wall outlets, not into extension cords or power strips.
- Be aware that children or household pets can inadvertently knock over a heater or get too close and burn themselves. Keep heaters out of hallways and other spaces where either two-legged or four-legged critters pass by. Ideally, look for models that shut off automatically when tipped over.
- Never store flammable liquids in the same room as a heater, and always turn space heaters off before leaving the room or going to bed.

#### Sustainably dispose of Christmas trees

For those who chose to buy a live Christmas tree either from one of the state's 175 Christmas tree farms or retail outlets, there are several sustainable ways to dispose of the tree once the holidays have passed. The Texas A&M Forest Service offers a number of alternatives to sending the trees to landfills.

Real trees are biodegradable, and many communities have tree recycling programs. Contact your local waste management company for information. Another possibility is mulching the tree to provide insulation around trees and garden plants.

Christmas trees also can be used as pond and wildlife habitat, providing a place for aquatic species to flourish in ponds and lakes. Trees can also be placed in yards and turned into bird habitats by tying bird feed, orange slices or popcorn to the branches.

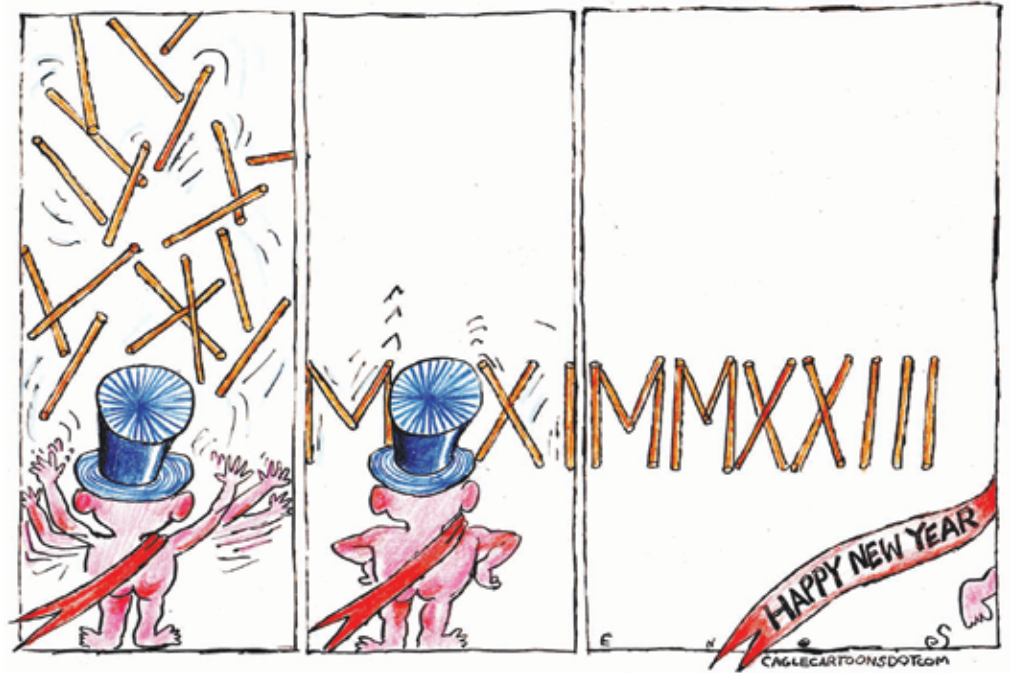
#### COVID-19 cases rise slightly

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week rose slightly to 31,169, with 120 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patient hospitalizations also rose slightly to 2,327, 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.*



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## Thistles&Roses

### Regaining sight



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

"Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly".... Mark 9:25.

This is definitely a good news column for me personally and for others who are the beneficiaries of modern cataract surgery. I feel like the blind man in the scripture!

This essay is for those who are thinking about cataract surgery, but aren't so sure of what to expect.

I was not born blind, but I was extremely nearsighted. My first grade teacher, Mrs. Williams, informed my parents that I moved up front to see assignments on the blackboard in class, and she was concerned about my sight.

I was given an eye exam and glasses were prescribed. I could see well with them on. Everything was a blur with them off. I endured the teasing by classmates of being called "four eyes," etc. Glasses frames were not so good in those days. I was constantly scratching the lenses and breaking the frames, which I taped up. It was a good day when my parents could afford new glasses, and like most people, the prescription was constantly changing.

From that time on, I had to wear corrective lenses (contacts were something of a miracle back then) in order to see. Corrective lenses were a requirement of my driver's license. If I was given a ticket from a policeman, if I was wearing contacts, they would shine a flashlight in my eyes looking for the contacts.

In recent years, I noticed gradually, that even when I wore lenses, I was not seeing so well. In recent months, I admit it had gotten much worse. I went to an ophthalmologist who confirmed that I

was in dire need of cataract surgery. I had been leery of such surgery but, Dr. Subir Bhatia assured me that it is a pretty simple surgery.

What I did not know is that there is a so-called "standard lens" and there are varieties of upgraded lenses. A cataract is a clouding of the eye's normal lens and during the surgery, the lens of the cataract eye is removed. It is replaced by a new synthetic lens. The standard lens may not correct all of a patient's needs. I took the upgrade, and I am glad I did.

The catch is that private insurance and Medicare will not pay for the upgrades. For me, the upgrades were worth it, but each individual should discuss their particular needs with their doctor.

They do one eye at a time. It is outpatient surgery. You wear your street clothes. Unless there is a special circumstance, there is no general anesthesia. It is a local anesthesia, using drops. They do NOT stick a needle in your eye! I didn't feel it at all. The doctor talked to me during the surgery.

The procedure usually takes less than 30 minutes. Dr. Bhatia put a patch on the operated eye, which he removed the next day at his office.

The miracle was, my sight was 20/20 in the operated eye as soon as the patch was removed. After the second surgery, I had 20/20 in the other eye.

I now no longer have to wear glasses or contacts, The upgraded lenses correct vision such that I no longer need readers and it corrects my astigmatism. That is why I feel

like the blind man from the Bible! It is a major quality of life improvement. So, if you have been hesitating about cataract surgery, make an appointment with a doctor and get a consultation. You too may experience a modern miracle!



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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

SEEING CLEARLY

# Lions use new screening device to determine vision abnormalities

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

The Aledo Lions Club took the opportunity to use its new PlusOptix S12C vision screener for the first time on Nov. 16 at the Aledo ISD Early Childhood Academy.

The device takes a quick measurement of the eyes and compares the measurements with age-specific thresholds to

determine if the student might need to be referred to an eye care professional.

More than 100 students were screened for vision abnormalities in about two hours. Lions who participated were Troy Miklos, Ben King, Kit Marshall, and Jeff Streetman. They were assisted by Burleson Lion Bill Ayers who brought another S12C screening device.



Read this story online



BOB CARLSON/ALEDO LIONS CLUB

**TOP:** Lions Troy Miklos, Ben King, Kit Marshall, and Jeff Streetman. | **BOTTOM:** Aledo Lions Club member Jeff Streetman utilizes the PlusOptix vision screener at the Aledo Early Childhood Academy.

**ACROSS**

- 1 belch
- 5 TXism: "beats anything I \_\_\_ saw" space agcy. in Houston
- 7 Pickens of film "Streets of Laredo"
- 8 TXism: "a horse of a different color"
- 9 male mail carrier
- 16 TX Kenny Rogers' "I Don't \_\_\_ You"
- 18 TXism: "he could put a loop \_\_\_ on a mule's back" (good roper)
- 21 TX Nolan threw seven \_\_\_-hitters
- 22 Muslim ruler
- 23 UH basketball team from 1982 to 1984: "\_\_\_ Slama Jama"
- 24 TXism: "jumpy \_\_\_ on ice"
- 30 TXism: "movin' \_\_\_ fiddle" (dance fast)
- 34 former Cowboy star RB Emmitt (init.)
- 35 "Hell \_\_\_ Fury Like a Woman Scourged"
- 36 stats for Astro Yordan Alvarez
- 37 Texas "wheeler dealer" Billy Sol
- 39 TXism: "confused as a \_\_\_ a petrified forest"
- 43 make fun of
- 44 Kia Sedona, e.g. in Winters, \_\_\_ - Hale Museum"

- 46 Texas drink: \_\_\_ tea
- 47 injury for Astro or Ranger pitchers: \_\_\_ cuff
- 49 joins the army
- 52 dir. from Weatherford to Quana
- 53 this Pilgrim co-founded "Pilgrim's Pride" in Texas
- 54 black-\_\_\_ pea
- 55 when the water level stops falling on the Texas coast (2 wds.)

- 58 this Donna was the "Dr Pepper Girl" (1963-68)
- 59 pecan
- 60 nat'l ID
- 61 "Tube" online video platform abbr.

**DOWN**

- 1 Dallas-born actor Robby
- 2 Texas birth town of Dale Evans
- 3 Houstonian is a Houston \_\_\_
- 4 flat-bottomed boat
- 9 O'Brien of Texas-based "The Over-the-Hill Gang" (init.)
- 10 bigger than normal
- 11 TX Dan Jenkins book: "\_\_\_-Tough"
- 12 Texas baseball great, Speaker

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
**community-news.com**

BASKETBALL

# TCA Lady Eagles enjoying strong season

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

The Trinity Christian Academy Lady Eagles are enjoying a strong basketball season as the team enters the holiday break.

The Lady Eagles (14-3) are ranked ninth in the state in TAPPS 4A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. They split a pair of contests against fellow state-ranked teams to end the year, falling 46-39 at No. 8 Midland Classical and winning 66-58 at No. 4 Lubbock Trinity Christian.

Against Lubbock, Emily Ickert (23) and Sadie Gough (20) combined for 43 points. Ickert hit four of six attempts from three-point range and Gough was 14-of-16 at the free throw line.

Also, Caroline Thompson scored 12 points with five rebounds and Margaret Cowley scored eight with five rebounds.

Against Midland, Gough scored 21 points and Ickert added 10.

"We have a great group of young ladies that are very tough and play really hard," said coach Matt Garnett.

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# Bearcats of Character

Aledo ISD Board of Trustees recently honored 11 students for exhibiting the Positivity Project - or P2 - character trait of Integrity on their campus.

P2 says that integrity really boils down to always doing what is right, even when nobody is watching. People with integrity practice what they preach and maintain a consistent pattern of behavior aligned with their values. Integrity is closely aligned with the character strengths of honesty and authenticity. People with integrity tell the truth and have alignment in their thoughts, feelings, and actions.

The following students are Bearcats of Character for November 2022:

**Aledo High School**

**Jerry Olazaran, 12th grade**

Jerry Olazaran shows incredible integrity and leads by example at all times. Band director Jake Albin said "he acts the same in band and out of band...his character is simply outstanding. He says 'yes sir' for everything. There is never a day that he isn't approachable, teachable, and respectful! Jerry is the type of kid that elevates the students around him. Kids want to be just like him. He treats everyone respectfully. He is uplifting, he is genuine, and he is fair minded. I trust Jerry completely. He is exactly the kind of leader that we want in our program...a true servant for others!"

**Aledo Learning Center**

**Skylar Haley, 10th grade**

Skylar was nominated for this month's Bearcat of Character award by several of her teachers. She demonstrates integrity in her daily interactions with staff and peers. She is honest about her work and



**Olazaran**



**Haley**

is reflective about how her actions impact herself and those around her. Skylar shared a story during P2 guidance about a time when she could have taken something, but she chose not to. In sharing her story, she showed her integrity from her past actions and in being an example for other students on campus.



**Okoye**



**Dorsey**

**Daniel Ninth Grade Mesoma Emeka Okoye, 9th grade**

Mesoma Emeka Okoye is a very bright student who always displays integrity. According to Coach Martinez, she comes in, puts her phone in the holder (without being told to), and gets busy on her bell work. She then helps get her table going as well.

"When we are doing individual Canvas assignments, I never have to question if Mesoma is doing her work because she is almost always the first to be done and usually offers to help others—a true example of integrity in the classroom. I have also witnessed Mesoma holding the locker room door open for others in the morning, showing her compassion for her teammates/friends.

Ms. Staats, English teacher, enthusiastically agrees with Coach Martinez. She shared that she often observes Mesoma helping her classmates with work and is always very encouraging. She is kind in the way she talks to everyone and is always so positive. She is making an impact daily and shows others, through her words and actions, what it looks like to live a life of integrity.

**Aledo Middle School Wyatt Dorsey, 6th grade**

According to Mrs. Kuhns (6th grade RLA Teacher), "Wyatt Dorsey

is an outstanding individual. One of the things that I most admire about Wyatt is his determination to better himself in every way possible. Wyatt is a leader in and outside the classroom. He leads by example, always doing what is right and never faulting. Those around him notice this and follow suit. I know that Wyatt will continue to achieve great things as he has already set himself up for success!"



**Mendoza**



**Harvey**

**McAnally Middle School**

**Josiah Mendoza, 8th grade**

According to staff at McAnally Middle School, Josiah embodies the true definition of integrity; doing the right thing when no one is looking. Josiah stands out as a silent leader. He is the last to eat his food everyday during his lunch time. He waits in the line, until all of his peers have gone before him, then gets his tray of food and heads to his seat to enjoy his lunch. After lunch, Josiah makes the conscious choice to stay after all the other students have left the cafeteria and help clean up and straighten chairs so that the next grade has a clean and organized cafeteria to enter for their lunch.

"We also see Josiah working extremely hard in all of his academic classes and athletics. He asks for extra help, attends tutorials, and puts in extra hours of work to ensure he is being successful. He puts his very best effort that he possibly can into everything he does; just because it's the right thing to do. McAnally wants to recognize Josiah for going above and beyond when no one was looking, but what Josiah doesn't know, is that we are looking, and we sure are proud."

**Annetta Elementary School Tessa Harvey, 4th grade**

Tessa's teacher, Mrs. Rutherford, said "Tessa exemplifies what it means to have integrity. Her honesty, truthfulness, and sincerity make her a leader in our class. She is reliable, dependent, trustworthy, and a friend to all. If you ever need a helper, a friend, or someone you know you can trust, you seek out Tessa. We are so thankful for everything she brings to our class and school."



**Link**



**Monterroso**

**Coder Elementary School**

**Savy Link, 2nd grade**

Second grade teacher Paige McCarthy said "Savy Link exemplifies the character trait of integrity in everything she does. She is honest, trustworthy, and always does what is right. She is a leader in the classroom and is admired by her peers and teachers for her respectful and positive attitude. She is kind to others and sets the standard for the qualities every Coder Cat should represent." Emily Hearne, Art Teacher, said "Savy is the epitome of integrity. She is kind-hearted, honest, and always puts her best foot forward in everything she does. She is a great leader and a wonderful role model to her peers!"

**McCall Elementary School**

**Victoria Monterroso, 5th grade**

Victoria's nominator at McCall Elementary School said "Victoria is very conscientious of doing the right thing. She works hard and is truthful in words and actions. She also has an uncanny way of holding others accountable for integrity without alienating others. Her actions are always carried out with kindness and

integrity. We are honored to have Victoria represent McCall this month!"



**Durnil**



**Altendorf**

**Stuard Elementary School Finn Durnil, 4th grade**

Finn shows integrity in all that he does. When nobody is looking, he continues to do what he should do because he knows that this is right. He is honest and forthright, even if it means he has to admit he made a poor decision, which is rare. Finn truly shows his character with his actions. His classmates can count on him to make good decisions and lead with integrity.

**Vandagriff Elementary School Caleb Altendorf, 5th Grade**

Caleb is always doing the right thing even if no one is watching. He is honest and a great team player.

**Walsh Elementary School**

**Straus Mernik, 5th Grade**

Straus comes in the classroom everyday with a positive attitude and a smile. He consistently tries his best in all that he does. His work ethic is amazing and such a great example to his peers. Additionally, Straus chooses to do the right thing even when no one is looking.

I have seen him pick up after others, help a student who was injured and needed assistance in the classroom, and always is kind to his peers. He embodies the characteristic of integrity with his honesty, respect for others, and his actions each day.



**Mernik**

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## Obituaries

### Thomas Bryan Smiley, Jr.

Thomas (Tom) Bryan Smiley, Jr. passed away on December 24, 2022.

Thomas was born November 18, 1929 in Schenectady, New York, where he lived briefly before he and his parents returned to North Carolina. He grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he attended high school and met his future wife and love of his life, Barbara Daniel Smiley.

He joined the ROTC with the intention to continue as a Navy pilot after graduation. After attending UNC for two years, he entered the Navy full-time, earning his wings as a Naval Aviator on his 21st birthday in 1950. Tom married his high school sweetheart, Barbara, on July 15, 1951, and the newlyweds moved to California where he was stationed. Tom was a Navy pilot with Attack Squadron Sixty-Five during the Korean conflict, flying off the USS Boxer in a one-man Skyraider. His airplane was chosen to test the use of fixed cameras for intel and one of the pictures that he took flying a mission over North Korea was featured in Time Magazine in 1951.

After leaving the Navy in 1952, Tom and Barbara returned to North Carolina and finished college together at UNC. He then continued his education in Nuclear Health Physics at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. They moved to Texas in 1957 with their twin daughters, Kit and Beth, after Tom accepted a job with General Dynamics in the nuclear program, eventually helping it close safely before moving into environmental health and safety. They completed their family with daughters Laura and BJ. He served in the Naval Reserves for a number of years,

maintaining his flight status and completing his service as a Lieutenant.

Tom and Barbara moved their family to Aledo in 1968. He was able to pursue his love of hobby farming through a large garden, chickens, horses, sheep and dogs. He was a longtime member of the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. After retiring, Tom continued his love of history by traveling with Barbara to many of the state capitals for research about their early history and the Founding Fathers. He continued his great love of the ocean by going to the beach with family regularly throughout his life.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara, who passed away October 12, 2022, and his daughter Beth Smiley Becker, who passed away in 2013. He is survived by daughters Kit Smiley Marshall and husband Hugh, Laura Smiley Paulk and husband Larry, and BJ Smiley Goins and husband Ron; ten grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren. We celebrate his life and remember his devotion to faith and family, his love of the ocean and NC mountains, and especially his love of his beloved wife, Barbara.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, December 29, at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel, 913 N. Elm St., Weatherford, in the stateroom, followed by a service at 10 a.m. Friday, December 30, at the Chapel. Burial will follow in Brown Cemetery, Aledo.

For those wishing to do so, memorials may be made to WallBuilders, Aledo.

The Community News  
December 30, 2022



Thomas Smiley, Jr.

### Sandra Vasquez

Sandra Kay Vasquez, 57, loving wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away unexpectedly on Friday December 16th, 2022 at her home in Aledo.

Sandra was born on November 23, 1965, to Rosario Charles Martinez and Natalie Galindo. Raised in Weatherford, she became a member of Templo Michael Flores of Fort Worth, Sinai. She dedicated more than two decades of her life working



Sandra Vasquez

for Williamson-Dickie. Anybody who knew Sandra knew that her grandbabies were her entire world.

Sandra is preceded in death by her parents, sister Sylvia Martinez, brother Freddy Martinez, and nephew Randy Galindo Jr.

She is survived by her husband, Manuel Vasquez; sons George Flores of Houston, Michael Flores of Fort Worth, and Zachary Flores of Fort Worth; brothers Ricky Martinez

of Decatur, Randy Galindo of Baytown, Chris Martinez of Waxahachie, and sister Christine Guerra of Mineral Wells; "grandbabies" Ashlynn, George, Isaac, Elijah, Benjamin & Oliver; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Sandra is gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

The funeral service was Tuesday, December 27, 2022 in White's Chapel of Memories with interment at Memory Gardens of the Valley.

The Community News  
December 30, 2022

### Chase Peysen

Chase Cleveland Peysen, 36, died December 9, 2022.

Chase was born December 26, 1985 in Wichita Falls, Texas. He attended Aledo ISD, Texas Tech, and Full Sail University where he excelled in music.

Chase's life can be broken into two completely different novels. In 2005, as a young man, Chase suffered an accident that left him as a quadriplegic.

In the first novel, Chase entertained as a gifted musician. At an early age, he demonstrated that he was musically special. Chase started with the piano at age 7, Saxophone at 11, and drums by high school with the marching band and symphony. He entertained and played for family guests as he stepped through his formative years. In addition, he was involved with several sports, but golf is where he excelled and competed at Aledo high school.

From high school Chase went on to Texas Tech where he met many wonderful friends and had fun working in the university library. He then decided to follow his musical dreams. Full Sail University is a



Chase Peysen

prestigious school within the music community and difficult to gain acceptance. Chase was well on his way towards a possible successful career in the music business when life interrupted.

In Chase's second novel, life was re-created for him... and everyone around him. It is remarkable to witness what a person in his situation must and can endure. Chase, with his amazing attitude, adapted and successfully created and ran a digital design business, Pixel Clear Designs. Pixel Clear business locations included the Magnolia and Downtown districts. He collaborated with the Fort Worth Police Department on challenging web design projects, as well as working with many other local businesses.

His sense of humor was one of a kind and can't be replaced. Chase's mastery of flattery is what endeared him to all that interacted with him...a true gem.

He had neighbors that looked out for him, cared for him, and brought him meals from time to time which was greatly appreciated. He loved so many of the doctors and nurses who tended to him and that he joked around with.

He loved his kitties Smash and Okie, his bulldog Lucy, and his exotic fish on display.

Chase is preceded in death by his grandmothers, Bernadine Peysen, Pat Brantley, and Nina Peysen, and grandfathers Ray B. Peysen and Bill Harned.

He is survived by his best friend, Diana Romero; his parents, Ray Peysen (wife, Jackie), Karen Severson (husband, David); brother, Cole Peysen (wife, Brittany); and precious nephew, Camden Peysen; his grandfather, Danon Brantley; his special Godmother, Stephanie Crow; and a host of family and friends.

The funeral service was held Friday, December 16, 2022 at Thompson's Harveson & Cole Funeral Home.

The Community News  
December 30, 2022

### OBITUARY SUBMISSIONS

Send obituary submissions to [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com). Please include document with photo if available.

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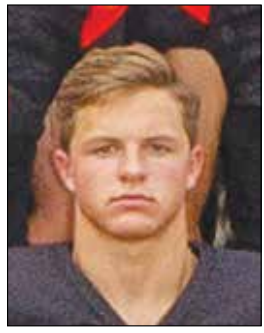
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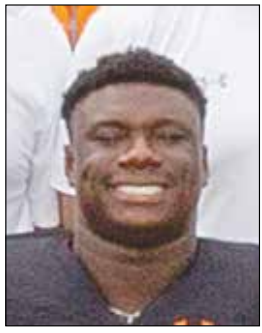
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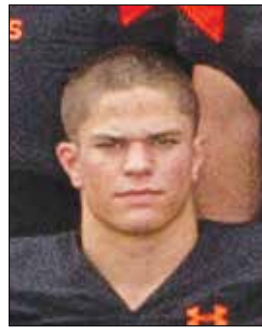
# Bearcats lead all-district honors



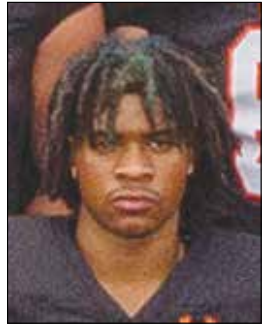
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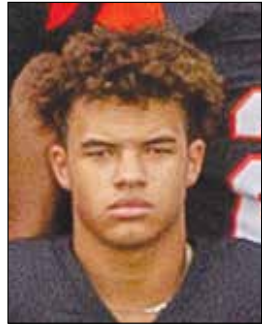
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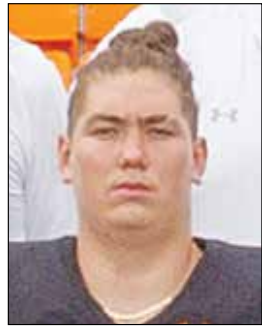
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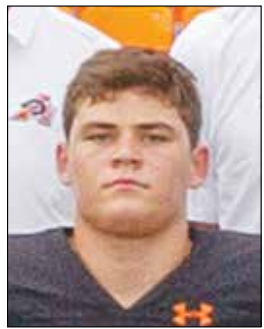
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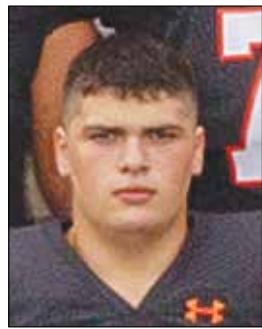
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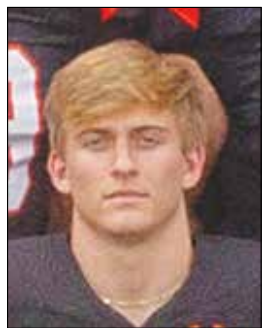
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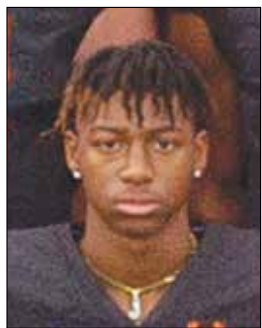
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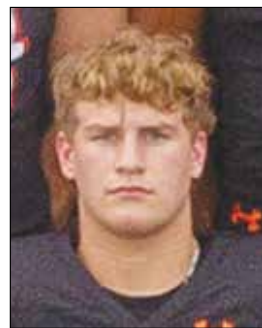
Keys



Mooney



Allen



Parkhurst

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

After capturing the program's 15th consecutive district championship, the Aledo Bearcats had 26 players named to the All-District 3-5A Division I Team by the league's coaches.

Leading the accolades is junior quarterback Hauss Hejny, who was also recently named the MVP of the state championship game after leading the Bearcats to a 52-14 win over College Station. Hejny was chosen as the district MVP after rushing for 1,277 yards and 15 touchdowns, along with completing 60% of his passes for 1,953 yards and 19 touchdowns opposite six interceptions.

The Bearcats garnered two other superlative honors. Senior defensive lineman Ansel Din-Mbuh was named Co-Defensive MVP and junior defensive back Jake Gillespie was selected as Defensive Newcomer of the Year.

Din-Mbuh, who has committed to play for Washington State next season, posted 34.5 tackles this season, including 16 for a loss with four sacks. Gillespie, the state title game defensive MVP, ended the season with 80 tackles, 7.5 for a loss, with two interceptions and a fumble recovery.

### First-team offense selections from Aledo are:

- Hawk Patrick-Daniels, junior running back, 1,410 yards (7.1 per carry), 21 TD.
- Tyson Timms, junior tight end, 25 catches, 332 yards, 3 TD.
- Jalen Pope, senior wide receiver and Air Force commit, 64 catches, 1,247 yards, 14 TD. He also set a Class 5A state championship game record with 228 yards on eight yards, also tying the record of three TD receptions in a 5A title game.
- Max Moeller, senior center.
- Devron Williams, junior guard.
- Isaac Sohn, senior tackle and University of Texas San Antonio commit.

### First-team defense choices are:

- Lawson Moore, senior end, 26 tackles, 10.5 for loss.
- Bryon Wheeler, senior tackle, 25.5 tackles, 5 for loss, 1 sack, 1 interception, 1 fumble recovery.
- Davhon Keys, junior inside linebacker, 102.5 tackles, 8.5 for loss, 1 interception returned 73 yards for a TD, 2 fumble recoveries.
- Cap Mooney, senior outside linebacker, 40 tackles, 3.5 for loss, 1 sack.
- Jaden Allen, senior cornerback, 41 tackles, 3 interceptions.
- Andrew Parkhurst, senior safety, 70.5 tackles, 13 for loss, 6 sacks.

### Named to the second-team offense were:

- Brant Hayden, senior quarterback, 60% completions, 634 yards, 6 TD, 4 interceptions.
- Caleb Pope, junior running back, 534 yards, 13 TD.
- Brett Turner, junior fullback, 2 carries for 53 yards, 1 TD.
- Gavin Olenjack, senior wide receiver, 16 catches, 335 yards, 2 TD.
- Kaydon Finley, freshman wide receiver, 26 catches, 417 yards, 6 TD.
- Carter Campbell, junior guard.
- Isaac Knott, senior tackle.

### Second-team defense choices were:

- Christian Hillman, senior end, 19.5 tackles, 3.5 for loss, 2.5 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries.
- Chris Johnson, junior cornerback, 29.5 tackles, 2 for loss, 2 fumble recoveries.
- Jayton "Boogie" Owens, junior safety, 43.5 tackles, 2 for loss, 1 interception, 2 fumble recoveries.
- Nathan Wood, senior punter.



Read this story online

WRESTLING

# Bearcats sweep in tri-match

## Ladycats drop close contest

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats defeated visiting Benbrook 49-27 and Carter Riverside 63-6 on Dec. 14, while the Ladycats dropped a 36-30 contest to Benbrook.

The match with Carter-Riverside ended with pins from all but one wrestler. Jimmy Kyser, wrestling in the 215-pound weight class, kicked off his varsity debut with a second-period pin at 3:56. He also won by forfeit against Benbrook.

"It was a great performance from the whole team," said coach Austin Stockon.

The Benbrook match got started by a second-period pin by Brice Bohn (106 pounds) at 2:34. This was followed up by pins from Chad Thomas (120) at 1:29, Jacob Ellerbusch (132) at 49 seconds, Colonel Douglas, (165) 2:29 into his match and Max Toth (175) at the 2:32 mark. Wins also came from Grady Saunders (126) on a 9-6 decision and Ty Hand (157) on an 11-2 major decision. Also, Britton Collins (190) won by forfeit. Freshman Brady Powell (157) showed off his skill in his varsity exhibition with a second-period pin.

Pins against Carter Riverside were by Thomas (126), 2:54; Zach Attaway (150), 3:05; and Collins, 2:42. Also, Kyle Scharlow (144) won a 7-6 decision, while Bohn, Ellerbusch, Douglas and Toth won by forfeit. Hand (157) won by injury default by his opponent. In exhibition matches, Collins and Scharlow also won by fall.

The Ladycats might have won their match against Benbrook were it not for three forfeits in which they did not have wrestlers in those weight classes.

Meanwhile, Avery Kernan (107) won in a pin at 49 seconds, Kyra Wright (114) posted a second-period pin at 3:54, Arianne Matias (145) had a third-period pin at 4:46 and Baillie Sessom wrestled up a weight class at 235 and won by a pin at 1:43. Riley Blankenship (152) won by forfeit and also got a pin in her exhibition bout.

The Bearcats and Ladycats return to the mats on Dec. 30 at the Azle Quad.



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FOOTBALL

# Three Bearcats commit to college ball

**By Rick Mauch**  
The Community News

As they prepared to compete for another state championship for Aledo football, three senior members of this season's squad participated in an early signing celebration on Dec. 13 at Aledo High School.

The official NCAA early signing date is Dec. 21. However, the Aledo School District was closed for Christmas break then, so head coach Tim Buchanan announced the ceremony was moved up.

Signing were defensive tackle Ansel Din-Mbuh with the Washington State Cougars, wide receiver Jalen Pope with the United States Air Force Academy Falcons in Colorado Springs, and offensive lineman Isaac Sohn with the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners.

"All of them have a really high ceiling on what they can do after they leave high school," Buchanan said.

Din-Mbuh has been a force on defense this season. Of his 32 tackles, nearly half (15) have been for a loss. He also has four sacks and has put more pressure on quarterbacks like a human vise grip.

But as much as his talent, Buchanan said Din-Mbuh's leadership will do as much to make him a standout in college. He is graduating early and plans to head to Pullman, Washington next semester to get started in college, Buchanan said.

"His personality and leadership will be great for Washington State," Buchanan said. "He received more



Mercedes Mayer/Aledo ISD  
Ansel Din-Mbuh will play at Washington State University. He is shown with Isabella Zama, Rosaline Zama, Akhil Din-Mbuh, Omari Din-Mbuh, Katherine Mbuh, and Newton Mbuh.

votes for captain than any other player we've ever had."

As for his talents, Buchanan noted that, along with running a low 4.8 or high 4.7 in the 40-yard dash, Din-Mbuh is incredibly strong. He noted that he can lift 300-plus pounds directly over his head with a pause.

"Not a dead lift (where the weights are lifted to the waist and then up), he just lifts it straight up," Buchanan said. "He can pick up so much weight it scares me."

Pope has 55 catches for 1,117 yards and 11 touchdowns this season.

"Jalen is really starting to develop," Buchanan said. "He's gone from a little receiver to a big-time player."

Sohn was injured early in this year's playoffs, but was a force on the

line for the majority of the team's season. Behind his blocking the Bearcats averaged more than 40 points per game and had two players top 1,000 yards in rushing, junior running back Hawk Patrick-Daniels and quarterback Hauss Hejny, while Hejny has also passed for almost 1,800 yards.

"He has the work ethic and frame to turn into one of the better offensive linemen in college football," Buchanan said.

"If he keeps developing he's going to be special. I believe they are all going to have successful college careers."



Read this story online



Mercedes Mayer/Aledo ISD  
Jalen Pope will play football at the Air Force Academy. He is shown with Cassie, Adam, Addison, and (not pictured) Jackson Pope.



Mercedes Mayer/Aledo ISD  
Isaac Sohn will play football at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is shown with Jim, Coby, Elijah, Daniel, and Isaiah Sohn.



Special to the Community News  
Cameron Martinez, 2012 graduate of Aledo High school, finds his name plaque.

## Aledo alum named to Sarah Lawrence College Athletic Hall of Fame

Cameron Martinez, a 2012 graduate of Aledo High School, has been named to the Sarah Lawrence College (SLC) Athletic Hall of Fame, the first such honor since the college joined NCAA Division III in 2015-2016.

Martinez was the college's Athlete of the Year for four consecutive years for his accomplishments in swimming. Martinez was also a member of SLC's men's volleyball team, where he led in kills and digs during the 2015 season. While he was successful on the court, his greatest

athletic achievements during his time as a Gryphon came in the pool.

Wasting no time as a first year student, Martinez broke six program records in his first season and would go on to own nine individual program records and was a part of all five relay records. On top of recognition within the SLC program, Martinez impressed at the conference and region levels as well. The swimmer won the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association Douglas McDevitt Award as the top male

swimmer in the league for the 2015-16 season in addition to being named Skyline Most Outstanding Swimmer.

He earned First Team All-Conference Awards in both the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons and was named Skyline Swimmer of the Week an impressive eleven times in his final two years with the Gryphons. In his final season as a Gryphon, which was also SLC's first year in the NCAA, Martinez was named an Honorable Mention All-American,

qualifying in the 200 IM, 100 Butterfly, and 200 Butterfly. At the NCAA National Championship meet, he finished ninth in the 200 Butterfly, winning the B final with a time of 1:48.22.

Martinez returned to Sarah Lawrence following graduation as an assistant swim coach, where he would remain until 2018. He continues to remain heavily involved with the sport by working as a trainer and a coach in a swim program.



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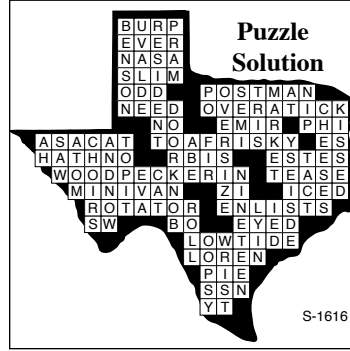
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**Notice of Public Hearings**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council of the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas will conduct public hearings in the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas.

**First Public Hearing**  
 Location: **Planning and Zoning Commission**  
 Aledo Community Center  
 104 Robinson Court  
 Aledo, Texas 76008  
 Thursday, January 12, 2023  
 6:00 P.M.

**Second Public Hearing**  
 Location: **City Council Meeting**  
 Aledo Community Center  
 104 Robinson Court  
 Aledo, Texas 76008  
 Thursday, January 26, 2023  
 6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the hearings is to receive input regarding consideration the following:

- 1) Consider an application for a Specific Use Permit (SUP) at 709 N FM 1187, Suite 400, in the El Presidente Addition, City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas.
- 2) Consider and action to recommend approval of an Ordinance to create standards for tree preservation.
- 3) Consider and action to recommend approval of an Ordinance amending Sections 36, "Planning and Zoning Commission," and Section 37, "Zoning Board of Adjustment," of the City of Aledo Zoning Ordinance to provide for four alternates to serve on the to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

For further information or questions regarding these public hearings, please contact the City of Aledo at (817)441-7016.

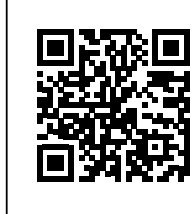
Published in *The Community News*, December 30, 2022, and posted at Aledo City Hall, December 28, 2022.

Deana McMullen, City Secretary

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# In & Around Parker County

## Aledo Athletic Club - Your Bridge to Health and Fitness

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Those goals often seem elusive in our busy world, but Aledo Athletic Club can help you get there.

Owner Shane Davis wasn't always as fit as he is today. In fact, he once weighed about 400 pounds. Following college he put on weight, and struggled with yo-yo dieting.

"I needed to figure out how to get healthy and enter the gym," Davis said. "I got under 300 pounds, but never really stayed there."

That changed in 2006 or 2007 when he came to Aledo and started working out with a trainer. He weighed 296 in January and competed at 178 pounds in December.

"It took discipline — there were a lot of things that that I had to dispel from my mind of what constitutes a healthy meal," Davis said. The issue wasn't just losing the weight, it was keeping it off.

"I think that's where most diets today fail," Davis said. "They, can get you where you want to go, but they can't keep you there."

Shane has taken what he learned and now provides the coaching and support to help others reach their goals as well.

"I was the king of the late night drive thru — whatever is quickest, because my schedule was hectic. I made every excuse in the world," Davis said. You have to plan, you have to have a goal and, and then you have to have a plan B for when



that when that goal doesn't work out — you're sitting in a restaurant that you didn't plan on being in and what do I do now?

"And that's, that's where I can help you. My phone's on 24/7. If I'm awake, I'm answering, if you know ahead of time, hey, I'm gonna go to this restaurant, we look at the menu together, I help you pick out the best meal for you. And I don't think you're gonna get that a lot of other places."

Aledo Athletic Club is celebrating its 10 year in business, and can

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"What we are probably best at is being supportive of your goals, whether you're a beginner, or whether you're an experienced lifter, you can come into our gym, and you're gonna be welcomed with open arms. And if you need help, we're going to be here to help you; if you know what you're doing, you're welcome to go on your own."

Shane knows the struggles many people deal with in getting healthy because he has been there.

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Whatever your goals, Shane and Aledo Athletic Club can help you get there.

"I understand the motivation," Davis said. "And I also understand that sense of desperation when you feel like you're trying everything, and yet the scale isn't moving or it's barely moving. You've got to

find some reasons to continue on, whether that be for your own health or someone else's health, but you've got to keep going. As with anything in life, if you keep fighting, and you keep pushing, and you keep your your head down, you will see success."

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FOOTBALL

# Former Horned Frog inspires Bearcats

**By Rick Mauch**  
The Community News

It's not often the Aledo Bearcats are underdogs, but they were in their Class 5A Division I state semifinal contest with No. 1 Longview on Dec. 10. Of course, the Bearcats, No. 3 in the state, paid no attention to rankings or records and knocked the previously unbeaten Lobos 17-14 to reach the state championship game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Former TCU Horned Frog Elvis Gallegos attended the team's weekly pre-game dinner and offered some inspiration and a few bits of life advice prior to the Longview game. Now the Horned Frogs' Spanish radio announcer, he was a member of the team that traveled to Norman, Oklahoma, in 2005 and defeated the Sooners and running back Adrian Peterson, holding the Heisman Trophy candidate to less than 100 yards rushing.

"At TCU I was a part of building something. Were they (Oklahoma) the better team? Maybe so, but not on that day," Gallegos said.

"I know this, I know the impact of football. I've played, I've coached. Remember this, remember the journey. This is the best part."

Gallegos is also a missions pastor. He

said he uses a four-pronged "big game approach" to life and success. He said it also applies to missions such as the one the Bearcats were on again this season as they sought to win the program's 11th state championship and 10th in 14 years.

"One day you're going to lead a family. You can't be passive. You will have to be assertive in life. You don't wait for a big play to come to you."

"Understand what courage truly is. We need courageous men in the world, guys who are protectors. I've played scared before. It got me hurt. You can't be scared. Courageous men are what's needed to stand up for what's right."

"Take ownership. You've got to be held accountable. There will be a moment on Saturday when you will be tested. You accept it, own it, move on from it. Be the first guy to say, 'That's my bad.'"

"You're playing for a greater good. How will the community and coaches talk about you for years to come? You're leaving a legacy behind. People know about you across the country. You should be proud of that."



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**TOP:** Former TCU player Elvis Gallegos holds a team photo of the Aledo Bearcats football team. | **TOP RIGHT:** Gallegos speaks to the Aledo team at a team dinner offering words of inspiration and encouragement before their game against Longview.



**LEFT:** (From left) Kimble McCoy, Heather Epley, and Ami Hillman prepare to serve food to the Aledo Bearcats football team during a team dinner on Dec. 8. | **RIGHT:** (Clockwise) Jacob Smith (light blue shirt), John Hillman, John Epley and Terry Hayden prepare pancakes for dinner.



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