

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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EVENTS

Beginner Band Fair set for Jan 21



JANUARY 21

The Aledo band program will host a Beginner Band Fair for incoming middle school students from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus cafeteria. The purpose of the fair is to help potential band students find the right instrument that is best suited to the student. An online questionnaire is available for parents and students to fill out before the fair. Incoming McAnally students and parents should visit <https://www.mcanallyband.com/beginner-band-registration.html>. Incoming AMS students and parents should visit <https://www.aledomsband.com/>.

No previous band or musical experience is necessary. For more information, call Aledo Middle School Band Director Simon Bosch at 817-441-5197 or email sbosch@aledoisd.org; or call McAnally Middle School Band Director Joey Qualls at 817-555-1598 or email jqualls@aledoisd.org.

JANUARY 23

'Building an Art Website' panel discussion

The Weatherford Art Association will hear insights from working artists who have created their own art websites on the latest online platforms from 6-7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, at Barlow Hall, 125 South Waco in Weatherford. The discussion will feature tips for beginners as well as seasoned art professionals on the pros and cons of online platforms including:

- Print-on-demand services
- Shared space services
- Template sites
- Social media

The panel features working artists Carol Acedo, Sarah Clawson, Kathy Cunning, Jerry Shidal and moderator Carolyn Bernard Young. The meeting is free and open to the general public and WAA members. For more information, visit weatherfordart.com.

FEBRUARY 25

The Town of Annetta will hold its annual Clean-Up Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 25. Lunch will be provided to volunteers. For more information, call the city at 817-441-5770 or visit www.annetatx.org.

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CITY OF ALEDO

Bailey Ranch Road renovation set to begin

Construction will start about Jan. 23

Staff Reports
The Community News

The process to smooth out that bumpy ride down Bailey Ranch Road is set to begin — along with the inevitable complications that come from the renovation of a well-trafficked roadway.

The City of Aledo spent the earlier part of this year patching the western end of the road, but the area between FM 1187 and Champions Drive is due for a complete do-over.

The Aledo City Council awarded the construction project to Nu-Way Construction, LLC at an early December Council meeting.

The project is complicated by the fact that a housing development, major senior living center, fire station, businesses, Aledo High School and Daniel Ninth Grade Campus, and a preschool all utilize the roadway.

The \$3.2 million project is set to begin on or around Monday, Jan. 23, and will be accomplished in phases over 10 months, plus construction of a new sidewalk on the south side once road construction is complete.

Phase one was originally anticipated to be a brief, full roadway shutdown between Champions and Creekview Terrace. However, that work will now be incorporated into Phase Two, which will require



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Patchwork repairs over the years have made Bailey Ranch Road a bumpy ride. Construction will begin in late January to rebuild the eastern end of the roadway.

a shutdown of only the northern or westbound side of the roadway. Eastbound traffic on the south side will remain unaffected.

Phase two is estimated to take about six months and will include rebuilding the northern half of the roadway. During Phase Two, traffic will be eastbound only in order to ensure that the fire station's emergency responders have quick, convenient access to FM 1187. This rebuild of the north side will

include enough roadway surface to accommodate two-way traffic in later phases.

Phase three shifts to rebuilding the southern portion and will take about two months. There will be two-way traffic during phase three, allowing better access to the schools, neighborhoods, and businesses.

Phase four will also take about two months and will involve roadwork at the intersection of

Champions and Point Vista Drives, rebuilding a quarter of the intersection at a time to minimize impacts.

Key features of the new roadway will include a narrowed, two-lane configuration; hatched or striped median; left-turn lanes at roadway intersections and major driveways; right-turn lane at schools' eastern driveway; thicker 8-inch pavement with 8-inch lime subgrade; and

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2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JUNE 3

Several Aledo residents gathered to welcome back Marine Major Rob Boudreau after eight months of deployment in Okinawa. The event began after his wife, Sarah, asked Rob Bratcher, aka "Aledo Joe," who can often be seen carrying an American flag, if he would greet the returning major with his flag at the Aledo Diner.

Several citizens gathered at the Parker County Courthouse for a special meeting of the Parker



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

In her last official act after 16 years as mayor of Aledo, Kit Marshall swore in new Mayor Nick Stanley at the city council meeting on Thursday, April 26.

County Commissioners to dispute the results of the recent runoff elections. When the results were originally posted online there was a discrepancy of 2,070 votes. It was determined that a tabulating button was inadvertently not pushed until the next morning, at which point the problem was solved.

The Ladycats clinched a return to the 5A State Softball Tournament with wins of 8-2 and 10-3 over Lubbock Monterrey in the Region I final. They improve their record to 33-2 and run their winning streak to 24.

The Bearcats swept Abilene Wylie to advance to the Class 5A Region I final in baseball.

JUNE 10

In the Precinct 4 Commissioner's runoff race, Eric Contreras asked for a paper ballot recount after narrowing the gap against Mike Hale to 10 votes (2,460 to



JACKIE HAYSLIP

Senior Madysen Boutwell cheers as she runs home after hitting the ball over the fence during the fourth inning against Lubbock Monterrey during the Friday, May 27, playoff game. The Ladycats hit three back-to-back home runs during the fourth inning.

2,450). In the District 60 State Representative race between Glenn Rogers and Mike Olcott, many votes that were not counted until the next day following

the election narrowed that gap to around 300 votes, so Olcott requested a hand recount in Parker County. He also requested recounts in Stephens and Palo Pinto Counties.

The Ladycats' magical softball season ended in the Class 5A state semifinals as Georgetown won 3-2 in eight innings. Neither team scored until Aledo went up 1-0 in the bottom of the sixth, Georgetown took a 2-1 lead in the top of the seventh and the Ladycats tied the game in the bottom of the seventh. Aledo ended the season with a 33-3 record and a second consecutive state tournament appearance after finishing as runner-up in 2021.

In one of the most unforgettable (or perhaps they'd rather forget) ends to a season, the Bearcats' baseball campaign came to a close as they dropped two of three games in a best-of-three series against Mansfield Legacy in the 5A Region I final. Legacy rallied to win the opening game 8-5 in eight innings on Friday night, followed by Aledo's 12-4

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TEXAS 2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Nelson appointed Secretary of State

Governor Greg Abbott officially appointed Jane Nelson to serve as the 115th Texas Secretary of State on Thursday, Jan. 5.

Upon the filing of her official appointment, Nelson issued the following statement:

"I am deeply honored to continue my career as a public servant as Texas Secretary of State, and am grateful for the confidence Governor Abbott has placed in me to serve in this critical new role. As Secretary of State, I hope to continue safeguarding the integrity of our state's elections and enhance transparency so that all Texas voters can have confidence in fair, accurate elections across each of our 254 counties. I also look forward to working with our many international partners - including our largest trading partner, Mexico - to enhance Texas' position on the global stage and continue building our reputation as a global economic powerhouse."

Nelson will be formally sworn in by Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht on Saturday, Jan. 7.

The Texas Secretary of State serves as the state's chief election officer; provides a repository for official, business and commercial records; publishes rules and regulations; and commissions notaries public. In addition, the secretary serves as senior advisor and liaison to the governor for Texas Border and Mexican Affairs, and serves as Chief International Protocol Officer for Texas. The secretary is one of six state officials named by the Texas Constitution to form the Executive Department of the State. The first Secretary of the Republic of Texas was Stephen F. Austin.



of the Senate Finance Committee for four sessions. She was a member of the Senate State Affairs Committee, which oversees election policy, for eight sessions. She served as chair of the Sunset Advisory Commission, the Nominations Committee, the Select Committee on Cybersecurity and the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. She was also a member of the Legislative Budget Board, the Legislative Audit Committee, and the Privacy Protection Advisory Council.

In addition to writing four balanced state budgets, Secretary Nelson has a long list of accomplishments, including establishing the Cancer Research & Prevention Institute of Texas (CPRIT), reforming medical liability, achieving tax relief, overhauling the foster care system, expanding access to mental health care, and passing more than 30 bills to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Her work has been recognized with dozens of awards, including from the American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, Texas Association of Business, Texas Council on Family Violence, CASA, Texas Hospital Association, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Texas PTA, Texas Retired Teachers Association, the Women's Health Coalition and many others. She has a 100% voting record in support of Texas small businesses.

Secretary Nelson and her husband, J. Michael Nelson, owned and operated an aircraft component manufacturing company in Denton County. They have five children and 12 grandchildren.



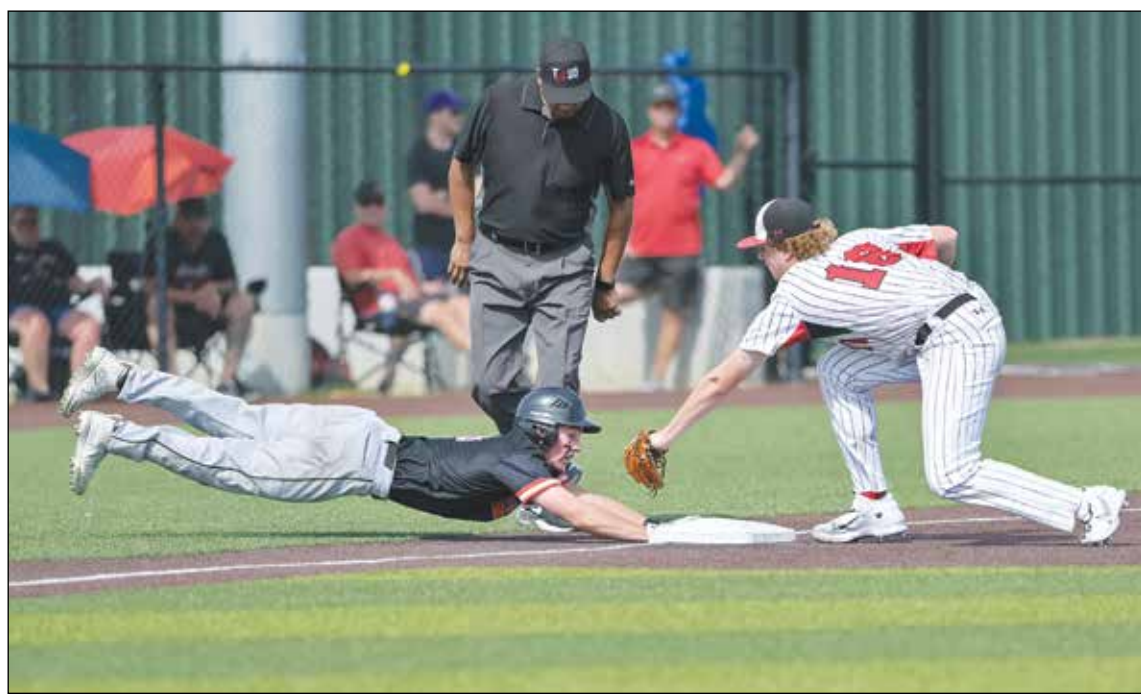
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About Jane Nelson

Jane Nelson was appointed the 115th Texas Secretary of State by Governor Greg Abbott on Jan. 5, 2023.

Secretary Nelson is a businesswoman and former teacher who served two terms on the State Board of Education and 30 years as a state senator representing north Texas.

The first woman in Texas legislative history to chair a standing budget-writing committee, Secretary Nelson was chair



KIRSTEN GALLON

Leftfielder David Jones has to make a quick dive back to safety at third base in the third game of Aledo's state semifinal series against Mansfield Legacy.

JUNE 10 (CONTINUED)

win Saturday afternoon to force a third game that same day. The Bearcats led the deciding game 9-1 entering the top of the seventh inning, but then Legacy erupted for 12 runs and came away with a 13-9 victory.



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JUNE 17

The two hand recounts requested the previous week in runoff elections were concluded. It was confirmed that Mike Hale defeated Eric Conteras by the narrowest of margins for Parker County Precinct 4 Commissioner and that Glenn Rogers held off Mike Olcott in the State Representative District 60 race.

Ticket sales get underway for the 37th annual Parker County Peach Festival. The event area expanded by 25% in 2022.

After two long years of delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Texas Sports Hall of Fame - Media class of 2020 was honored. It included Aledo resident Randy Galloway. During his induction speech Galloway paid tribute to his friend and former Community News sportswriter the late Tony Eierdam. "I've never met a sportswriter who loved his job more than Tony," Galloway said. Will Bushaw of Weatherford won the boys cut-



Read this issue online

ting championship at the Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals in Abilene. The victory earns him a berth in the National High School Rodeo Association Finals in Gillette, Wyoming in July.

JUNE 24

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter held grand opening ceremonies for the Rees-Jones Foundation Medical and Surgical Center. The facility is more than 3,000 square feet. Previously, those services were performed in a room of around 300 feet.

The Weatherford College women won the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association championship in Casper, Wyoming, the first team national championship in the school's history. The team roping duo of WC's Jace Helton and Cisco's Riley Kittle also brought home a championship. Also, Brie Wells was runner-up in breakaway roping and Bradi Good placed third in barrel racing. Goat tyer Kristin Reeves had the fastest time in the history of the event ever at the College National Finals Rodeo, posting a time of 5.5 seconds in one round, placing third overall.

After much success with their respective programs, Aledo High School golf coaches Joe Roquemore (boys) and James Mullins resign to focus more on family and teaching. Both coaches led their teams to the Class 5A State Tournament in May. Mullins also coached the Ladycats to state in 2021.

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Pediatric & Adolescent Dentistry

Robert Casey Stroud, D.D.S., P.C.
Michael Ball, D.D.S., P.L.L.C.

Diplomate of American Board of Pediatric Dentistry
Fellow of American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



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ORDINANCE NO. 2022-170

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, AMENDING SUBSECTION 26.5, "RESTAURANT OR CAFETERIA WITH DRIVE-IN SERVICE OR DRIVE-THROUGH," OF SECTION 26, "SPECIFIC USE PERMIT (SUP)," OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-31, THE CITY OF ALEDO ZONING ORDINANCE, BY EXPANDING THE SUP REQUIREMENT TO ALL PROPERTIES THAT FRONT FM 1187, FM 5, CHAMPIONS DRIVE AND BAILEY RANCH ROAD, AND TO PROHIBIT RESTAURANT DRIVE-THROUGH QUEUE LANES FROM BEING LOCATED BETWEEN THE BUILDING AND THE PRIMARY STREET FRONTAGE; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 5. PENALTY CLAUSE

Any person, firm, or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, or refuses to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of, any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined as provided in Section 1-10 of the City Code of Ordinances for each offense. Each day any such violation or violations exist shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law, and it is so ordained.
PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2022.

Mayor Nick Stanley

City Secretary Deana McMullen



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Need help with taxes?

AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program gearing up with free assistance

By Linda Whitehouse
Special to The Community News

Volunteers with the AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program are gearing up to help area residents with their 2022 income tax returns. The volunteers are trained and tested in current tax law using IRS material to assist in filing basic income tax returns such as a form 1040 with schedules A, B, D, EIC, M, R, SE, and limited Schedules C and E. Appointments are available at the following locations:

Weatherford Library, 1014 Charles St., Weatherford, TX 76086 - Call 817-6931-3176 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2bh86r7w> The hours will be 10:00-4:30 on Mondays,

Wednesdays & Thursdays; 12-4:30 on Fridays and Saturdays. Azle Library, 333 W. Main St., Azle, TX 76020 - Call 817-444-7216 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p9ez3d6> The hours will be 10:00-4:00 on Tuesdays, 1:00-6:30 on Thursdays and 12:00-4:00 on Fridays.

Boyce Ditto Library, 2300 SE Martin St., Mineral Wells, TX 76067 - Call 940-328-7880 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p97cv4m> The hours will be 10:00-4:30 on Tuesdays.

Hood County Library, 222 N Travis St, Granbury, TX 76048 - Call 817-382-1005 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/39txdrtrt> The hours will be 10:00-4:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays.

Decatur Library, 1700 Hwy 51 South, Decatur, TX - Call 940-393-0290 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p9sw534> The hours will be 10:30-5:00 on Mondays.

Cleburne Library, 302 W Henderson. Cleburne, TX 76033 - Call 817-556-8804 The hours will be 10:00 to 2:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The program provides free tax help for area resident taxpayers with special attention to those age 60 and older. However, you don't have to be a member of AARP or older than age 60. Taxpayers with complex returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance. People who are interested in seeking help from the AARP Tax-Aide volunteers should bring the following items with them when they come in:

- Copy of last year's income tax return;
- W-2 forms from each employer;
- Unemployment compensation forms;
- SSA-1099 form if they were paid Social Security Benefits;
- All 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-B, etc.) showing interest and/or Dividends

and documentation showing original purchase price of assets sold;

- 1099-misc showing any miscellaneous income;
- 1099-R form if they received a pension or annuity;
- All forms indicating federal income tax paid;
- Dependent care provider information (name, employer ID number or social security number and address);
- Health care documents such as form 1095-A, 1095-B or 1095-C.
- A list of expenses and charitable donations if itemizing deductions;
- Social Security cards or other official documentation for themselves and for their dependents.



Read this story online

BAILEY

from page 1

a school crosswalk with high-visibility flashing beacon.

Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley recently said that the primary focus for the city this year on undertaking critical improvements to Aledo's infrastructure has become even more pressing in light of the region's recent dynamic growth.

For more information, visit aledotx.gov. Additional updates during the course of the project will be available through The Community News newspaper and website, and City of Aledo social media.

For specific questions about the project, call contact Aledo's Director of Public Works Gary Enna at 817-441-7016 or email publicworksdirector@aledotx.gov.



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EVENTS

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APRIL 15

Weatherford College will host its second annual Flute Festival from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 15 in the Alike Fine Arts Center at Weatherford College.

Guest artists are Stephen Clark and Greg Patillo. Registration is free. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3Clikx4>. For a Spotify playlist, visit <https://bit.ly/3IP7piy>.

2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Willow Park City Council voted to post notice of issuing certificates of obligation not to exceed \$4.25 million to address the city's drainage issues. The city has been collecting drainage fees since October of 2021 for this issue, with the fees reflected in the residents' utility bills.



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JULY 1

Representatives from Population and Survey Analysts (PASA) laid out to the Aledo ISD board what their estimates tell them is coming to the district in the next five to 10 years at a workshop on Monday, June 27.

The demographers said Aledo ISD's student population has grown every year since 2008, but the rates of growth are



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY

Angela Fritz (foreground) and Kris Pool laid out growth projections at a workshop of the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees on Monday, June 27.

increasing as well. The growth will only accelerate in the future based on numbers provided to the board by Angela Fritz, a demographer with PASA.

"So, by fall 2026 you guys can have an enrollment of 11,700 students is what we're projecting and by fall 2031 a possible enrollment at 17,564," Fritz said.

The Aledo City Council voted to approve a development agreement that will allow for the voluntary annexation of 238 acres of Dean Ranch into the city, opening the door for development according to Aledo community standards.

Parker County Judge Pat Deen signed an emergency declaration banning fireworks use in Parker



Read this story online

County the week of July 4 due to drought conditions.

The Willow Park City Council approved a budget of up to \$17,000 for each of the next three years to contract someone to install more lights and decorations in places such as the public safety building and city hall for Christmas.

About 40 Aledo residents gathered at an outdoor town hall meeting on June 28 to provide input on the first phase of the city's Pine Street redevelopment project.

The Aledo Clay Busters shooting team garnered four medals and many personal best scores when they competed at the Texas Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) State Championship on June 9-12 at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.

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Capital Highlights

What to expect in legislative session



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

The 2023 Texas legislative session opened Jan. 10, with property taxes, gun control, and the power grid expected to be among the top issues on the agenda.

The Texas Standard talked to political journalists Niki Griswold of the Austin American-Statesman and James Barragàn of the Texas Tribune to see what might be upcoming.

Griswold predicts the “so-called culture war issue” could take center stage, with a number of bills already filed regarding the rights of transgender children and their parents, as well as battles over what books should be made available to children in the classroom and libraries.

Barragàn said the state’s predicted \$27 billion surplus will attract a number of factions wanting a piece of that action. Gov. Greg Abbott has called for about half the surplus to be spent on property tax relief, while House Speaker Dade Phelan is pushing for more spending on infrastructure.

Griswold pointed out that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wields considerable power in the Legislature and is keenly interested in more fixes to the state’s electric grid.

The regular session will last 140 days, as set by the state constitution.

Ag agency: Climate change threatens food supply

A new report released last week by the Texas Department of Agriculture concluded climate change is a potential threat to the state’s food supply and could produce food insecurity. The report comes after a historic drought decimated crops and forced ranchers to sell the highest number of livestock in more than a decade.

The Texas Tribune reported the food access study, published by TDA and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, noted that “climate instability is strongly associated with water quality, soil degradation, droughts, fires, floods, and other environmental disasters.”

The report was submitted to the Legislature on Dec. 31 and points to other factors that make it harder for Texans to access and afford food, such as wages not keeping up with inflation and lack of access to food in rural areas.

“The important takeaway here is that there are significant gaps that need to be addressed between what researchers calculate to be a living wage in Texas, the wages that Texans are actually receiving, and many of the poverty thresholds that determine eligibility for assistance programs,” the report says.

Abbott calls for action on ankle monitor violations

Abbott last week sent a letter to legislative leaders calling for legislation to create criminal penalties for parolees who cut off their ankle monitors.

That action comes in the wake of an October incident in which parolee Nestor Hernandez was charged with pulling a handgun and killing two hospital employees while visiting his girlfriend and their newborn child at Methodist Hospital in Dallas. He was shot by a Methodist Hospital police officer but survived and is now being held without bond on capital murder charges.

A few weeks later another parolee, Zeric Jackson, was accused of fatally shooting a man at his former girlfriend’s Dallas apartment.

“It is clear that the ankle monitors, a condition of their parole, were not effective in deterring or otherwise preventing these individuals from going on to commit violent crimes, resulting in three innocent lives being lost,” Abbott wrote.

Currently, there are no criminal penalties for a parolee cutting off an ankle monitor.

Beware of online phone scams

The Texas Department of Insurance is urging Texans, especially older adults, to beware of both phone and online scams. In 2021, more than 6,700 Texans 60 and older reported losing more than \$159 million to fraudsters, TDI reports.

Some common scams:

- A caller offers to fix a non-existent computer problem or to renew a software or security subscription that does not actually exist.
- A caller purports to be a grandchild calling from another country and needing hundreds of dollars quickly.
- A call or email that says you have won a sweepstakes or lottery but requires you to pay thousands of dollars in bogus fees in order to claim the larger prize.
- Someone adopts a fake identity to gain affection and confidence, in hopes of eventually building a relationship that enable the scammer to steal money.
- More information is available on the TDI website: tdi.texas.gov.

Emergency SNAP benefits again extended

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has again provided the state with more than \$344.1 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits for the month of January, benefitting about 1.6 million Texas households

The funds are distributed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Each SNAP household will receive at least \$95 in emergency allotments in addition to its regular allotment.

Since April 2020, the federal government has provided more than \$9.3 billion in benefits to Texans through SNAP.

“We know these benefits will help families start 2023 with healthy and nutritious foods,” said Texas HHS Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter.

RRC unveils interactive map of orphaned wells

Using federal infrastructure funding, the Texas Railroad Commission has launched an interactive map of orphan wells that have been plugged or are scheduled to be plugged.

The RRC received a \$25 million initial grant in 2022 from the U.S. Department of the Interior as part of the federal infrastructure act. So far, 128 orphan wells have been plugged, with plans to plug about 800 more abandoned wells by the end of the fiscal year.

Another \$318 million in federal funding may be available to plug orphaned wells, according to the RRC. You can view the interactive map at tinyurl.com/38tjm4wy.

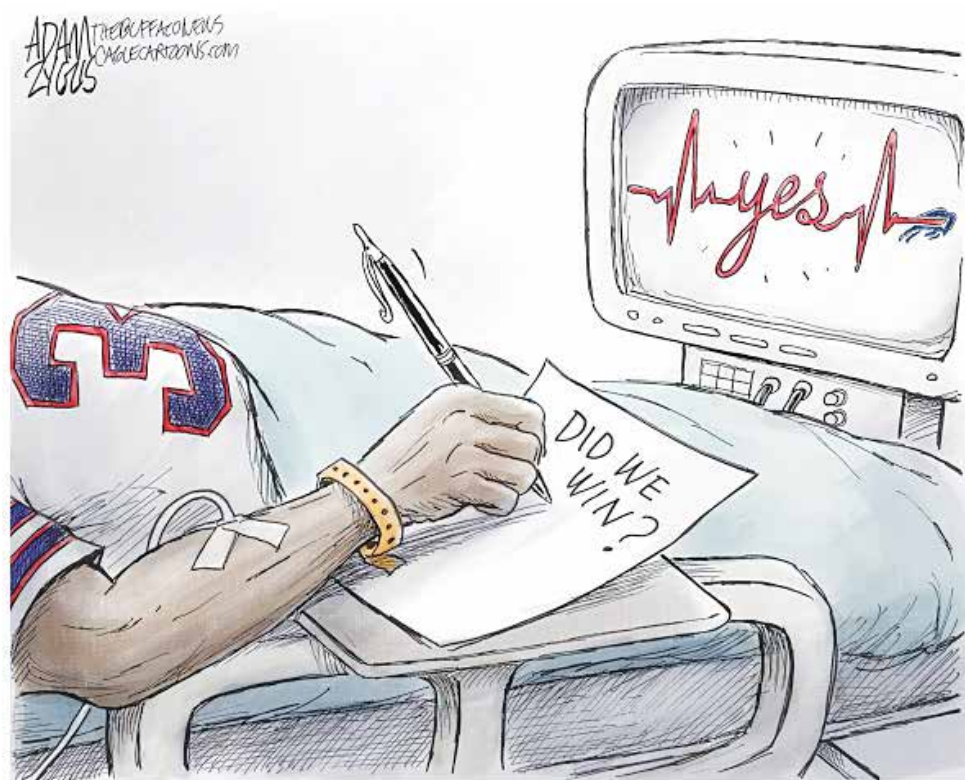
COVID-19 cases rise in past week

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the past week in Texas rose to 39,019, with 131 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized in the state also rose to 3,445, 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.



Read this story online



State Representative Update

Defending our local schools



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

As I watched schools from my current and new districts (Albany, Aledo, and Brock) at the UIL High School Football state championships at AT&T Stadium surrounded by 40,000 fans, parents, teachers, and students, one recurring sight truly inspired me — players taking a knee to pray.

Public schools and teachers are under attack more than ever. The 88th legislative session will be the most challenging in Texas history as some politicians seek to defund public schools, privatize education, and make school board elections hyper-partisan. The hatred and vitriol seems to have no bounds.

Michael Quinn Sullivan, the publisher of Texas Scorecard, tweeted last January that public education is a “babysitting” service offered at the convenience of government employees. “Public education in Texas is about employing otherwise unemployable adults, not educating kids,” he tweeted. Jonathan Stickland who heads up the Defend Texas Liberty PAC tweeted recently, “If you love your kids, you will do everything possible to keep them out of government (public) schools.”

The billionaire financiers of these groups, such as Tim Dunn and Faris Wilks, have long advocated for privatization of public schools. Former gubernatorial candidate, Don Huffines recently referred to public schools as “underperforming woke schools.”

Recently, I listened to the Perrin FFA Ag Issues contest team as they prepared for the state contest. The public speaking skills and poise exhibited by these FFA young people demonstrates the impact of a quality public education experience.

I also attended events to support Palo Pinto County youth that show livestock. These young people represent a bright

future for our local communities, state and nation. Leadership development and respect for others are core principles of FFA programs in public schools.

At the Capitol in November, I welcomed the award-winning Santo High School Marching band for a capitol tour and it was incredible to interact with these talented students.

In December, while watching several high school playoff and state championship games there was nothing “woke” about the competition, patriotism, and community pride I witnessed. It was absolutely uplifting to watch the Brock Eagles and their opposing team come together in the middle of the field after the game for a moment of silence and prayer. Then I watched the Aledo Bearcats win their 11th state championship. Coach Tim Buchanan and his staff, the Bearcat Regiment, Bearcat cheerleaders, Bearcats dance team, parents, fans and the great community of Aledo all contributed!

These are not “woke” public schools. Branding all public schools as “woke” or as “a babysitting service” with a broad brush is, quite frankly, a lie. Politicians or pundits without a real message simply attack with venom and hate.

Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires the Texas Legislature to maintain a system of free public schools for all Texans. My goal for the 88th legislative session, which starts January 10, is to support and help improve our Texas public schools.

“Pot shots” aimed at our public schools by politicians and political operatives to score points with their radical base is not productive and does not represent Texas ideals. More than five million Texas public school students, over one thousand districts and 400,000 teachers and staff deserve better.

Glenn Rogers is the State Representative for Texas District 60, which includes Parker County.



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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. 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.

2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Quinn Romero and Alexa Miller play in the bubbles at a foam party during Camp Fire Day Camp at Walsh Elementary School on June 20.

JULY 8

Aledo High School graduate Shannon Bearden was featured. Bearden was the principal architect on the new McAnally Middle School and renovations to Aledo Middle School.

Parker County Sheriff's investigators sought the public's assistance in identifying and locating suspects involved in a residential shooting which occurred Sunday evening, July 3, in Aledo

Aledo business owner Brent Gough was voted in as the new president of the Weatherford College Foundation Board of Directors.



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Aledo Bearcats' defensive tackle Ansel Din-Mbuh changed his football jersey number from 38 to 32 to honor Noah Bates, an 11-year-old who died in a UTV accident.

JULY 15

Willow Park Fire Chief Mike Lenoir announced his retirement. John Schneider was named as his replacement.

for the Baltimore Orioles affiliate Delmarva Shorebirds.

West Texas A&M University President Walter V. Wendler and Weatherford College President Tod Allen Farmer signed a memorandum of understanding on June 28 for a graduate school transfer agreement between the two schools.

In its first full season back since 2019 the Mach I Track Club returned in blazing style by qualifying 16 competitors for the upcoming Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Greensboro, North Carolina July 31-Aug. 6.



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TREY FREEZE / TREYFREEZE.COM

Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts provides some attention to Shelby, one of the horses at Layla Horse Ranch during its ribbon cutting on June 25.

JULY 22

The Layla Rose Ranch horse rescue opened in Annetta with a ribbon cutting by Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts.

Through hard work and determination, Cade Pulido landed a spot on the 2022 Bearcats' baseball roster.

The Aledo All-Stars 10-U baseball team won their World Series.

Brian Mourning was named new head golf coach at Aledo High School.

Aledo High School graduate Hunter Rosson announced on July 11 that he would spend his final two years of eligibility at Ohio State University.



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JULY 29

The rapid enrollment growth in the Aledo ISD was on everyone's mind when the school board voted to convene a growth committee to formulate a plan for needed future facilities and to develop



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Bearcat Regiment began marching drills in the Aledo High School parking lot in late July.

the inevitable bond proposal that would fund them.

Members of the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees got a quick education on Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code at a special meeting on Monday, July 25, in the wake of a request from an unnamed company to approve



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an application that would mitigate property taxes on a possible \$3.7 billion solar panel facility on Walsh Ranch.

Stacy Lynch and Stephanie Rich with Lynch Legacy Realty Group in Parker County announced the closing of a 1,495-acre purchase of a portion of the Dean Ranch. Lynch represented Levens Capital LLC in the purchase of the historical site.

Turn to page 6

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2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 29 (CONTINUED)

Parker County Sheriff's Deputy Adam Rozneck was honored by the Parker County Commissioner's Court on Monday, July 25, for his life-saving actions on July 4 in Aledo, providing CPR while emergency medical units responded.

Aledo's Braylon Mahaney won the Fort Worth Boys Junior Golf Championship. Aledo graduate Aly Saunders placed sixth in the girls tournament, along with bringing home the Wendell Conditt Award for leading after the opening round.

AUGUST 5

Recent Aledo High School graduate Gabby Schultz led a project to further beautify the Cross Timbers Garden in Willow Park.

The City of Aledo contracted with Advanced Paving Company to perform maintenance work on E. Oak Street, Walnut Street, Elm Street, W. Oak Street, and Underwood Road.

Lexi, a German Shepherd, recovered from a porcupine attack when veterinary technicians removed more than 300 quills from her face and body.

Sean Gribble, Brad Campbell, Braylon Brown, Taylor Hindman, and Claire Campbell, members of the VaultCats Pole Vault Club located between Aledo and Azle, qualified for the national meet by medaling at the state meet in

Corpus Christi. Incoming freshman Mark Cerja, Jr. competed in the Bassmaster National Championship on July 29-30 in Huntingdon, Tennessee, and brought home the title with a two-day tally of 18 pounds, 5 ounces.

Trinity Christian Academy senior Bella Signal qualified to compete in national sand volleyball tournaments.

AUGUST 12

The "Back to School" special section provided sneak peeks of the new McAnally Middle School and renovations at Aledo Middle School and the new location of Vandagriff Elementary School.

On Friday, Aug. 5, the Aledo ISD Police Department, along with Parker County Constables, state troopers, DFW Police, and Fort Worth Police Department, conducted drills at the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus with different scenarios on how to handle intruders.

Willow Park residents were assured the fire department was not leaving as the city participated in talks to join Emergency Services District 1.



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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
DPS Trooper Jeffery Ivey works through a scenario with coaching by Aledo ISD Police Chief Fred Collie on Aug. 5.

Aledo High School incoming sophomore Everett Smick recorded a perfect score in the STAAR science test.

Parker County Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division investigated the deaths of a man and woman who were discovered in the 7000-Block of East Interstate 20 north of Aledo. Investigators located an adult female and an adult male deceased inside a recreational vehicle at an RV park.

The Aledo ISD hosted its annual Bearcat Nation 101 to provide community information to local school district families.

The Ladycats volleyball team lost its first match to a strong Keller team.

Josh Fink of Aledo won a silver medal, Granbury's Gannon Dolan

set a national record, and Jack Fink of Aledo placed fifth in their respective divisions for Mach 1 Track Club in Weatherford at the AAU Junior Olympics in North Carolina.

Joel Thelen of Hudson Oaks tied for second in the Texas State Open at the Cascades Club in Tyler July 26-29. The tournament was part of the Northern Texas Professional Golfers Association Tour.

Aledo Bearcat football practices began on Aug. 8.

AUGUST 19

Willow Park Police Chief Carrie West celebrated five years in that position.

The Aledo ISD notified parents and guardians in the school district that the parking lot gates around Aledo High School, the Aledo Learning Center, Daniel Ninth Grade Campus, and Coder Elementary School will be locked overnight and some during the school day on a set schedule.

At a special Aledo City Council meeting on Aug. 10, Mayor Nick Stanley unveiled the proposed

city budget and property tax rate for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The total budget for all city funds (general fund, water and wastewater, debt fund and economic development fund) is \$11,713,792.

Students in Aledo ISD returned to classes for the 2022-2023 school year.

Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain gave a local church a check for \$18,061 on Wednesday, Aug. 10, for embezzled funds that he recovered using asset forfeiture from a former church secretary's bank account.

After dropping their first match of the season against Keller, the Aledo Ladycats volleyball team traveled to Mansfield for their first tournament of the season. It was a successful weekend for Aledo (9-2) as the team won six in a row in the first two days, before finishing third in the final day.

The Aledo varsity tennis team kicked off their fall season on Aug. 3 with a match against Boswell, winning 17-6. The Racquetcats won all but one of the doubles matches for a commanding lead. The team won 11 out of 16 singles matches to clinch the win.



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NOLAN RUTH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Gavin Olenjack catches a pass in the flat at the Bearcats' opening workout on Aug. 8.



NOLAN RUTH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Garhett Daves, Marco Nava, and Jerry Olazaran get tangled up during the Aledo Band Olympics hoola-hoop relay on Aug. 12. This is the 20th year for the zany team-building event.

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2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

AUGUST 26

With the possible annexation of their department into the Parker County Emergency Services District 1 pending with a Nov. 8 election, several Willow Park residents spoke in opposition to such a move at a public hearing on Aug. 17 at Spring Hill Suites in Willow Park. Several others from the county also spoke in defense.

The Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot has announced that the recipient of its 11th annual race on Thanksgiving Day will be Carter LeBaron, a 13-year-old Aledo ISD student that was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia this past March.

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 23, members of the Willow Park City Council voted to approve the issuance of certificates of obligation in an amount not to exceed \$4.25 million for designing, constructing, acquiring, improving, enlarging, and equipping the city's municipal drainage utility system.

Aledo ISD honored four employees as Circle of Greatness winners for the 2021-2022 school year. Receiving the honor were Vandagriff Elementary School teacher Ashley Watson in the Professional category; Stuard Elementary School special education aide Kayla Palumbo in the Paraprofessional category; transportation/bus driver Bob Brauer in the Auxiliary category; and Daniel Ninth Grade Campus substitute Amy Miller in the Campus Guest Teacher/Substitute category.

The Aledo Bearcats took on Stephenville in their season-opening scrimmage.

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team went 4-4 in the Northwest ISD tournament.

Led by bronze medal performances from Molly Garrison and Jack

Fink, the Aledo cross country teams opened the season with a first-place finish by the Ladycats varsity and a second-place finish by the Bearcats in the Cowtown



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior running back Cap Mooney takes a tumble against Parish Episcopal on Aug. 27

Challenge.

SEPTEMBER 2

Friends of the family scheduled a special parade for 6-year-old first-grade Coder Elementary School student Lincoln Finley, who has leukemia. The parade would include a group of classic cars from the Aledo Auto Club and a classic Corvette, the Aledo Fire Department, the Aledo ISD Police Department, and numerous others from around the area, to help Lincoln celebrate his seventh birthday.

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees adopted the 2022-2023 budget of \$102,668,054 and approved a decrease to the district's overall tax rate for the fourth-straight year.

The Rally Project announced it would again pay tribute to the 343 firefighters who perished on Sept. 11, 2001, with its Field of Flags on Patriot Day weekend, Sept. 10-11 at the Shops at Willow Park.

The Aledo boys and girls cross country squads made the trek to the Southlake Carroll Invitational Saturday, Aug. 27. Aledo coach Mike

Pinkerton said. "Virtually every Aledo runner posted a PR (personal record) at this meet."

Former Aledo Bearcat swimmer Elijah Sohn, a two-time state swimming champion at Aledo, officially transferred out of Southern Methodist University's swimming program to the Sam Houston State University football team.

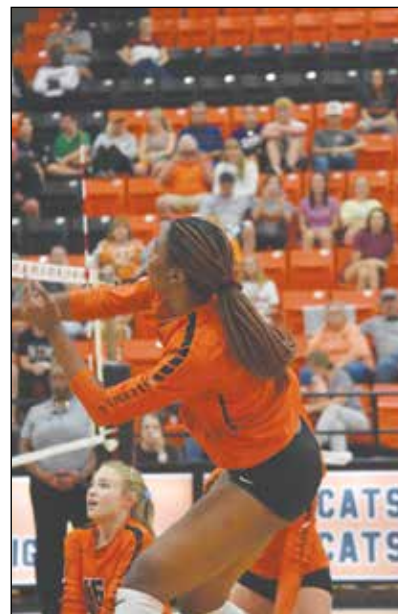
Aledo's comeback attempt in the fourth quarter fell short as the Bearcats lost their opening game to Parish Episcopal. The Bearcats prepared for the highly-anticipated matchup against Denton Guyer.

On Tuesday, Aug. 23, the Ladycats volleyball team played Arlington Lamar in a clean sweep. 9A won in two sets 25-8, 25-10. 9B won 25-12, 25-10. JV won 25-5, 25-12. Varsity won 25-11, 25-13, 25-23. The Varsity Lady Cats dominated from start to finish.

The Aledo varsity team tennis squad was off to a 2-0 start in District 5-5A play, opening with a thrilling 10-8 home win over Wichita Falls Rider before a 14-0 home whitewashing against Northwest.

SEPTEMBER 9

The Community News told the back story of how the Dean Ranch



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lauryn Mack had 18 kills against Waco Midway on Sept. 6.

sale commenced, along with the annexation of 238 acres of that land into the City of Aledo.

Denton Guyer bested the Bearcats 44-14 in both a rare home loss and a rare 0-2 start to the season.

The Aledo team tennis squad improved to 3-0 (9-2 overall) in District 5-5A after easily disposing of Saginaw 18-1 on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

The Trinity Christian Academy Eagles captured their first victory under new head coach Brian Marmion on Friday, Sept. 2, winning at Waco Reicher Catholic 21-13.

The Trinity Christian Academy Lady Eagles captured the Silver Bracket championship in Fort Worth Christian PIT Tournament on Aug. 19-20, followed by a split of matches the following week.

With four runners in the top 20, the Aledo Bearcats finished second in the Burleson Elk Run XXII on Sept. 2. Meanwhile, the Ladycats had two runners in the top 10 and finished fifth overall as a team.

The Ladycats volleyball team ended its lead-up to district with a win over a scrappy Waco Midway team on Sept. 6.

SEPTEMBER 16

At their meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13, the Willow Park City Council approved the city's budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The budget has anticipated general fund revenues of \$5,124,659 compared to expenses of \$5,124,660.

Sheltered in the portico of Faith Presbyterian Church in Aledo, family and friends set up balloons, a table with cupcakes, and a bull-horn for Lincoln Finley's special parade to celebrate his seventh birthday. The parade started with an Aledo ISD police car and Willow Park fire truck, lights flashing and horns blaring. Next came a slew of Corvettes, a Willow Park police car, and then an assortment of classic cars, cheerleaders, and friends — many poking out of sunroofs — waving greetings and flashing homemade signs of encouragement and birthday wishes.

Aledo High School was home to two National Merit Semifinalists for the second-straight year as Bearcat seniors Luke Shelton and Zach Taylor were recognized on Wednesday, Sept. 14, among the 16,000 semifinalists nationwide and nearly 2,000 in Texas in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

The Aledo varsity Bearcats and Ladycats ran away with the championship of the Mineral Wells Ram Invitational on Friday, Sept. 9. Meanwhile, the junior varsity boys also claimed first.

After years of traveling from Mineral Wells to Godley and various points in between for "home" football games, the Trinity Christian Academy Eagles finally had a football home to call their own with the opening of Eagle Stadium on Sept. 9.

To be continued.



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Matt Morris

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ACROSS

1 Happy New _____ 2023!

5 Guthrie performer at several TX Willie "Farm Aids"

6 Austin FM _____

7 _____ Jo, TX (abbr.)

8 Texans Bonnie & Clyde, e.g.

9 "Big D"

15 Sherilyn of 1992 film "Ruby" about Texas nightclub owner

16 TXism: "I gave him a _____ own medicine"

19 TXism: "lame as _____"

21 "_____ minute!" (hold your horses)

22 Mexican female in Texas

27 apartment expense

28 "_____ your heart be troubled," (Biblical advice)

29 _____ Shoot, TX

30 final month of the State Fair of Texas

32 "nickel" symbol

33 TX Candace was _____ Beck Tyler Cortlandt _____ Tyler" on "All My Children" (1976-95)

36 Smith of Texas-based "Death of a Gunfighter" (1969)

37 TXism: "no flies on _____" (pretty gal)

38 "TXism for 'rogue'"

39 put into the NFL Hall of Fame, like Troy

41 TXism: "two-bit _____" (poor horse)

42 made watertight

45 1-across song: "_____ Lang Syne"

46 "_____ and behold"

47 "Texas Two-_____"

48 assn. for the Rockets, Mavericks, and Spurs

49 cowboy bath night

52 ate at a nice restaurant

53 Cowboy scores (abbr.)

54 poker wager

55 hospital trauma area (abbr.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

1 talk, talk, talk

2 "to _____ is human"

3 Astro pitcher (1990-93) (2 wds.)

4 newspaper for Lamar County town on FM 137 & FM 38 (2 wds.)

8 "Mission Nuestra Senora _____ Purisma Concepcion" (San Antonio)

9 TXism: "a hard _____ the porch" (good canine)

10 TXism: "old _____ sin"

11 country singer and rodeo cowboy Chris _____Doux

12 TXism: "he's _____ snake's belly" (despicable)

13 TXism: "tight as the cinch on _____ horse"

14 soccer guard

15 Texas-based 1985 comedy film starring Kevin Costner

16 TX Waylon Jennings 1970 album: "_____ Think Twice"

17 "stand _____" (put it upright)

18 parody

20 Fair Park has many art _____ buildings

22 email copy abbr.

23 Texas-filmed 1963 western film starring Paul Newman

24 "Ripley's Believe _____ Not"

25 a religious rule

26 happening yearly

28 camera glass

31 "Big _____ National Park"

34 TX actress Sandy (init.)

35 Stilwell, founder of Port Arthur (init.)

37 plural of "hilum"

40 Texas nightclub owner who shot Oswald, Jack

43 just a little (2 wds.)

44 TXism for "leave it alone" (3 wds.)

50 TXism: "take a breather"

51 shameful dismissal from military (abbr.)

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Look at it this way



Rick Mauch

Response to Hamlin collapse showed us life is greater than any game

I've covered a lot of football games in my life.

Never did I think I would see a player die on the field. But I did on Monday, Jan. 2.

Thank goodness Damar Hamlin did not stay that way long. He was resuscitated, but spent several days with us all concerned whether he'd live or die before taking a turn for the better.

He was making a tackle, something he'd done countless times in his life. Then, suddenly he fell backwards onto the turf. Just like that he went from being a mighty gladiator playing the toughest sport in America to someone who could not breathe on his own.

The prayers of myself and many others across the nation and the world continue to go out to him. While he is making what has been labeled as a "remarkable recovery," his future remains in limbo.

From everything I've heard about the 24-year-old Hamlin he is a fine young man, a charitable young man. He started an annual toy drive for children in 2020, shortly after finishing his college career at Pitt.

In his second season as a defensive back for the Buffalo Bills he was living the dream of many youngsters, getting paid lots of money to play the game he loves the most on the world's biggest stage, the NFL.

Now, those dreams have turned into question marks.

I'm glad the NFL opted not to finish the game. I've no doubt they would have continued that night had not more compassionate heads and hearts prevailed. In fact, the original announcement was that the players and coaches would have five minutes before resuming play, and it wasn't until more than an hour later that the game was officially postponed.

Thank goodness the Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals players and coaches said in unison, "No. Not happening."

Without players and coaches, you can't have a game. Kudos to them for putting compassion and human life ahead of touchdowns and field goals.

The ridiculousness of paying the worst player in the league more than most of us will make in a lifetime still exists, as does an ordinary family having to skip making a car payment to see a game in Jerry Jones' stadium.

But so does something else. The unity shown by both teams following the tragedy renews an optimism that pro athletes are not just spoiled millionaires. They have a brotherhood that exceeds even the most lucrative contract and it was on full display that night and even after, as several players followed the Hamlin family to the hospital in support of Damar.

Turn to **HAMLIN**, page 11

ANALYSIS

Despite Monday, this season was fabulous for Horned Frogs and faithful

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Monday night's 65-7 loss by the TCU Horned Frogs to the Georgia Bulldogs in college football's national championship game must have brought back some painful memories for longtime Horned Frogs faithful.

There's no getting around it, that was the one of the worst beat-downs in TCU history. Some have compared it to the likes of Texas' 81-16 dismantling of the Frogs in Fort Worth in 1974.

Stop right there. Quite simply, there is no comparing these Horned Frogs with those teams from the dismal days. That was a time when any chance anyone from TCU had of seeing a national championship decided up close was by purchasing a ticket.

Monday's outcome does not change the fact that this was a magical season for the Horned Frogs. A couple of notable folks from Aledo with longtime ties to TCU were around the Horned Frogs in the days when a handful of wins would have been considered a great season.

Mike Dry's father, F.A. Dry, was the TCU coach from 1977-82. Coming on the heels of arguably the worst coach in Horned Frogs history, Jim Shoffner, who was 2-31 in three seasons, F.A. didn't have much of a foundation. Though there was some progress in the team's competitiveness, F.A.'s record was 12-51-3 in six seasons.

F.A. is now 91. What happened during his time and this season must seem like a trip to another galaxy.

"When my dad got there and I transferred there, the infrastructure wasn't there," Mike said. "TCU would be competitive and in the fourth quarter you'd wait for something bad to happen. Now, look at that Baylor game (a field goal as time ran out for a 29-28 win). That was crazy."

Dry played outside linebacker at TCU from



JV DESIGNS

The horned frog statue stands watch at TCU.

1979-81. He transferred from Tulsa, where his dad coached before taking over the Horned Frogs. F.A. proved he could win at Tulsa, going 31-18-1 in four and a half seasons leading the Golden Hurricane.

"TCU ruined his coaching career," Mike said, though just like his son, F.A. remains a fan and even made the trip to Los Angeles to see Monday's game with Mike.

F.A. never had another head coaching gig after his time at TCU, though he did work as an assistant for nine years at Baylor after.

Mike credits legendary Horned Frogs coach Gary Patterson for "stabilizing the program."

"He was like a business entrepreneur going against a Fortune 500 company," Mike said of Patterson, who was also there cheering on his former team.

Mike's nephew, Matt Panfill, was a safety when he played high school ball at North Crowley. Patterson moved him to defensive end and by the time he graduated he went from 195 to 245 pounds and was a three-time all-conference selection.

"Who would have thought that? That's what I mean by resourceful," Mike said.

Mike is the president and founder of Athletic Performance Ranch near Aledo. He works with all sorts of athletes and he said many are now giving TCU an even closer look than before.

"A lot of our kids have TCU on their radar where they didn't before," he said. "Also, what they've done with their social media has helped."

Of course, nothing is more attractive than winning. And, in spite of what happened Monday, TCU's program is, without question, a winner.

The current rules involving the transfer portal and name/image/likeness also appear to be helping the Horned Frogs.

"If the NIL money is there, why not come to Fort Worth? We can compete for a national championship here. We can get exposure here," Mike said.

Former Miss Texas enjoyed season

Gloria Gilbert Barron, Miss Texas 1982 and a 1985 TCU graduate, made a record with former

TCU head football coach Jim Wacker entitled "I Was Purple When Purple Wasn't Cool" when Wacker was leading the program.

She's still purple and purple is very cool these days, especially in the Fort Worth area. But she remembers the dismal days, when the team was 14-27-4 during her time at the school.

"It was exciting to go to the games, but we didn't win," she said. "But everybody kept going and the team kept on trying. And we never stopped dreaming."

In her final year at TCU, the Horned Frogs appeared to turn a corner as Wacker led them to an 8-4 record in his second season at the helm. They started the next season 3-0, but recruiting violations led to Wacker dismissing All-American running back Kenneth Davis and five others from the team. They finished 3-8 and did not have another winning season under Wacker.

And while Monday night didn't turn out like Barron and her fellow TCU faithful were hoping for, she remains faithful and optimistic that a national championship is out there for her team.

"I don't think Horned Frog fans ever give up," she said.



Read this story online

CROSS COUNTRY

Aledo freshmen garner state honors

Staff Reports
The Community News

Two members of the Aledo Ladycats have been named to the 2022 Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 5A All-State Cross Country Team. Honored were freshmen Elizabeth Griffin and Molly Garrison.

The duo were key in helping the Ladycats advance as a team to the 5A State Cross Country Meet. Griffin placed 21st state and Garrison placed 41st.

Garrison also won the District 5-5A Meet, leading the Ladycats to the team title as well, and was second in the Region I Meet. Griffin was third in the District 5-5A Meet and 13th at the Region I Meet.

"Congratulations to these two amazing athletes and their accomplishments during the cross country season this year," said Aledo cross country coach Mike Pinkerton.



Elizabeth Griffin



Molly Garrison



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WRESTLING

Aledo wrestlers third in tourney

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats returned to Azle this past weekend for the Nest Invitational, just one week after a strong second-place showing in the Hornet Dual Tournament. This time the Bearcats overcame a rough start to finish third.

Maxwell Toth paced Aledo, taking first place in the 165-pound division. It was the second consecutive meet in which a Bearcat won an individual title as Colonel Douglas won at 157 a week before.

Also for Aledo, Chad Thomas finished in a three-way tie for first in the 120 division, but wound up second via a tiebreaker. He defeated the tiebreaking winner, however.

Two others finished third in their respective divisions, Brice Bohn at 106 and Britton Collins at 190.

The Aledo junior varsity also had a strong showing, with 20 of 36 wrestlers placing fourth or higher.

Placing first were Ian McCormick, Brady Powell, Samuel Belyeu, Randy Dixon, Bryce Vonasek and Carlos Obregon.

Runners-up were Briley Perkins, Jayden Escalera, Michael Parks, Ethan Pickett and Kruger Summers.

Third-place finishers included Grady Saunders, Brennen Allen, Lawson Stewart, Lucas Todd and Anthony Rivas.

Capturing fourth were Samuel Haught, Mark Graham, Tyler Navarro and Anthony Flower.

The Aledo varsity boys and girls were competing in a tri-meet at Springtown at press time, as was the JV in their league meet in Keller.



Read this story online

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

There is a connection between winning and intelligence. After all, would a coach let an athlete see much action in a game if they only knew 60% of the playbook?

Clearly, the athletes at Aledo High School know a lot of the playbook in their respective sports — and in the classroom as well. The fall sports programs had a total of 28 athletes and two trainers honored as academic all-state by the Texas High School Coaches Association, along with six athletes earning the same honor from the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

Leading the accolades were 21 athletes and two trainers from the Bearcats football program honored by the THSCA. The team recently won the Class 5A Division I state championship, the 11th in program history.

Volleyball garnered four honors from the THSCA and four from

the TGCA, while cross country had three THSCA recipients and two from the TGCA. The Ladycats volleyball team finished second in District 5-5A and advanced to the second round of the playoffs. The Ladycats and Bearcats won the district cross country championship and the Ladycats advanced to the 5A State Meet.

To be nominated for THSCA Academic All-State, a student must be an athlete, student trainer or manager in good standing with the team, of good moral character, a senior and have an overall grade point average of 92 or above (including courses from grades 9-11 and courses completed from grade 12). Weighted GPAs accepted.

To be nominated for TGCA Academic All-State, a student/athlete must be a graduating senior with an overall GPA of 94 or above for grades 9-11, must be a varsity participant or member of the support staff of that sport in good standing and be of good moral character.

Here's the complete list of recipients from Aledo:

Texas High School Coaches Association

Football - Elite team: Sawyer Storck. First team: Max Moeller, Christian Hillman, Toby McDonald, Caden Petty, Luke Shelton, Isaac Sohn. Second team: Brody Heimke, Isaac Knott, Andrew Chasteen, Cayson Hand, Jena Claffy (trainer), Kenneth Lohmer. Honorable mention: Ansel Din-Mbuh, Gabriel Sherrod, Tanner Wheaton, Clay Murador, Tabb Witt, Caden Boukadoum, Ethan Smith, Cap Mooney, Callie Stevens (trainer), Jalen Pope.

Volleyball - Second team: Payton Hilmer, Madison Jarvis. Honorable mention: Madison Frank, Mia Little.

Girls cross country - First team: Sidny Tillotson. Second team: Caitlyn Weimer.

Boys cross country - First team: Henry Zedler.

Texas Girls Coaches Association Volleyball - Maddie Frank, Payton Hilmer, Maddy Jarvis, Mia Little.

Cross country - Sidny Tillotson, Caitlyn Weimer.

Bearcats aplenty among academic all-state



Read this story online



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Brandon Fields drives the lane against Brewer on Jan. 6. Fields had seven points in the game.

BUZZER

from page 12

Right from the get-go slowing down the pace of play was exactly what Brewer did. Aledo scored first when Clock knocked down a short-range jumper down low little more than a minute into the contest. The Bears answered back with a score of their own before going ahead 3-2 during a trip to the charity stripe. On the following possession by Brewer, Anderson forced a turnover before going coast-to-coast and finishing with a dunk to put the exclamation point on the play.

With the hometown crowd on their feet as the Bearcats reclaimed the lead at 4-3 at the 4:35 mark in the first quarter the Bears called their first timeout in an attempt to slow the game back down.

The plan worked to perfection.

Over the next 4:31 of play not another point was scored by either side until Brewer's Javier Espino made a layup with three ticks left on the clock to put the Bears on top 5-4 at the end of the first.

Offense picked up for both squads in the second quarter, but the game remained a low-scoring affair. Heading into the break at halftime Aledo trailed 17-15.

After trailing for much of the first half the Bearcats reclaimed the lead with 4:20 left in the third quarter as Jackson Todd hit both shots from the free throw line. The 24-22 advantage wasn't much, but it was enough



Read this story online

to get the hometown crowd emphatically involved with a lot of basketball left to play.

Midway through the fourth quarter Aledo's lead extended to seven points — the largest lead of the contest for either team. Fields sank a short jump shot with 4:37 remaining in the contest to put the home team up 33-26.

True to form, the Bearcats going on a 6-2 run to start the fourth quarter triggered a Brewer timeout in an effort to slow the pace of play.

Once again it worked.

Over the next two minutes the Bears erased Aledo's lead before regaining control of the scoreboard when Perez hit his shot from beyond the three-point line. With 2:13 remaining in the game the Bearcats found themselves trailing 36-34.

Clock knocked down a long-range jumper from just inside the arch to tie the game up at 36-all with a buck 37 left to play before the game reached its inevitable conclusion.

"I thought we did a bad job down the stretch," Robinson stated. "On the 7-0 run there we got a little lackadaisical on defense, and Brewer will punish you. That's what they did."

The Bearcats will be back in action on Friday when Granbury comes to town. Tipoff for that district matchup is slated for 7:30 p.m.

Varsity

Aledo	4	11	12	9	36
Brewer	5	12	7	14	38

Aledo Scoring - Drew Clock 17, Brandon Fields 7, Jackson Todd 6, Xavier Anderson 4, Jack Sawyer 2.

HAMLIN

from page 8

No amount of diving catches, slam dunks, end zone celebrations, or home plate high-fives will better exemplify what players and coaches for both teams did in the wake of this on-field tragedy. They showed love, class, and compassion, things all young people cannot see enough.

With all due respect to the highlight reels on SportsCenter, the emotion shown by the Bills and Bengals in this moment is 100 times more worth showing. It's also much more impactful.

The game is exciting. The game is dangerous. Trophies are wonderful things to hoist after the greatest of victories.

The game is also played by real life human beings. We were reminded of that by Damar Hamlin.

We were also reminded that not all pain in the game is restricted to the football field, and that there is a fine line between battling for a championship and fighting for your life.

The Buffalo Bills may be lifting the Super Bowl championship trophy next month. In the meantime, let's pray that Hamlin comes away with the biggest victory of his life.



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Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Special Election held on February 7, 2023 will be tested on January 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at Parker County Courthouse Annex, 1112 Santa Fe Drive, to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Jenise 'Crickett' Miller
 Parker County Elections Administrator

AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automáticamente que se usará en la Elección especial celebradas el 7 de febrero de 2023 se probará el 19 de enero de 2023 a las 9:00 am en el anexo de la corte del condado del Parker, 1112 Santa Fe Dr, para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

Jenise 'Crickett' Miller
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LADYCATS

from page 12

struggled to handle Brewer's pace or pressure in the game as well.

Brewer overwhelmed the Ladycats on both ends of the court en route to a 26-point victory, with the final score standing at 75-49.

"We've got to handle pressure better," Hyles said after the game. "We struggled setting up an offense; struggled on the offensive side because of their athleticism. We've got to be able to handle that a lot better."

The first quarter of action was highly competitive with Aledo surging late to close the early gap. The Ladycats scored seven of the last nine points in the opening stanza to finish out the first trailing by just three points, 17-14.

As the second quarter began the Ladycats found themselves in quicksand. From then on the harder they struggled, the deeper the hole got. By the time the half ended Brewer expanded the lead from three points at the end of the first to a dozen points heading into the break.

Coming out of the half trailing 35-23 the Ladycats put up 16 points in the third quarter. However, the quicksand only got deeper as the Lady Bears rallied during the same stretch, posting 21 of their own. With three quarters gone Aledo trailed by 17.



Read this story online

Coasting to the finish wasn't the plan for Brewer in the final quarter of action as the Lady Bears posted 19 more points while holding Aledo to just a dime in the final eight minutes of play.

Varsity

Aledo	10	8	20	9	49
Azle	14	17	5	2	38

Aledo scoring: Reagan Davis 12, Caroline Browning 10, Kandle Boggus 7, Presley Hull 6, Kinley Elms 6, Claire Byars 4, Natalie Anderson 2.

Junior Varsity

Aledo	11	14	3	10	38
Azle	4	4	5	7	20

Aledo scoring: Savannah Salas 9, Peyton Flores 7, Brenna Clock 6, Maddox Lucas 5, August Carlone 5, Kinley Evans 4, Breleigh Mayer 2.

Varsity

Aledo	14	9	16	10	49
Brewer	17	18	21	19	75

Aledo scoring: Claire Byars 26, Kandle Boggus 7, Caroline Browning 5, Presley Hull 4, Reagan Davis 3, Ella Isbell 2, Kenzie Grau 2.

Junior Varsity

Aledo	7	14	7	20	48
Brewer	2	1	9	1	13

Aledo scoring: Kinley Evans 15, Brenna Clock 7, Maddox Lucas 7, Breleigh Mayer 7, August Carlone 6, Peyton Flores 4, Rebekah Jarrell 2.



LEFT: Kenzie Grau attempts to stop a Brewer layup. | RIGHT: Caroline Browning works the post in action against Brewer on Jan. 6.

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BASKETBALL

Brewer sinks buzzer beater to best Bearcats

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Losing is never easy, but some losses sting more than others.

That was the case on Friday, Jan. 6, when the visiting Brewer Bears managed to sink a last-second shot to steal the win from the Bearcats on their home court in a tightly contested 38-36 contest.

Following a strong defensive stand that lasted 1:11, the Bearcats regained possession with 26 seconds left in regulation before immediately calling a timeout with the score tied at 36-all. After a quick strategy meeting, play resumed with the Bearcats inbound the ball on the far end of the floor. Aledo raced across half court to begin setting up their offense for one final attempt at closing out the game.

Point guard Ulises Garcia dribbled around the right side of the perimeter before handing it off to Exavier Anderson. Anderson returned the ball to the top of the key before passing off to Drew Clock. Clock moved to his left, dribbling the ball a pair of times before Brewer's Julian Perez forced a turnover for the Bears.

Perez quickly found Carron Gibson with the outlet pass as Gibson raced down the floor with Aledo's Brandon Fields in hot pursuit. Gibson threw up the left-handed layup over Fields' outstretched arms before crashing to the hardwood below. The ball played off the glass, falling through the hoop just as time expired.

"A game like that, every possession matters," Bearcats head coach JD Robinson said after the game. "We've got to value every possession. When every possession is that monumental, you've got to take care of it. We can't turn the ball over."

Brewer operated with great deliberation on the offensive end of the floor throughout the contest, resulting in few scoring opportunities for both clubs. Any time the Bearcats transitioned from



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Drew Clock moves the ball up the court. Clock led scorers with 17 points against Brewer.

man defense into zone, the Bears were content to melt the clock away just inside midcourt. Multiple times during the contest Brewer was able to burn more than a minute off the clock before attempting a single shot.

"That's the way they play every game," Robinson said of Brewer's offensive philosophy during a post-game interview. "We knew what it would be. It's hard to speed it up when they want to slow it down."

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BASKETBALL

Ladycats get back in the win column at Azle

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledo's Ladycats worked their way back into the win column on the road in Azle on Jan. 10. Reagan Davis led the Ladycat offense with a dozen points as her team returned home with a 47-38 victory as a souvenir from the trip.

The opening stanza of action saw the two teams deadlocked at 14 apiece through the first eight minutes of action. In the second quarter the Lady Hornets managed to sting Aledo's offense taking a 31-23 lead into the break.

Coming out of halftime the Ladycats found their way. Aledo's offense went on a run on one end of the floor while dominating defensively on the other. Heading into the final quarter of play

the visiting squad from Aledo held a 39-36 lead.

With eight minutes left to play Aledo's defense slammed the door shut on a potential Lady Hornet comeback. The Ladycats pounced on Azle, allowing just two points in the last quarter of action while posting 10 of their own.

The Ladycats (12-13 overall, 2-3 in District 5-5A) return to action on Friday when they host Granbury at 6:15 p.m.

Brewer upends Ladycats

Heading into Friday's contest against Brewer's Lady Bears, Aledo head coach Nikki Hyles knew her team would struggle to deal with the visiting team's athleticism. Unfortunately, the Ladycats

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JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Ladycats varsity basketball team cheered with excitement when the team tied Azle 36-36 in the fourth quarter of their home game on Tuesday, Jan. 10. The Ladycats went on to win the game 47-38.

Congratulations!



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