

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PARKER COUNTY

## Jury gives 17-time convicted thief 17-year sentence for 18th theft

### Parker County District Attorney's office

Special to The Community News

In a jury trial that concluded Tuesday, Jan. 17, in Weatherford, a Fort Worth man with 17 previous theft convictions received a sentence of 17 years in prison for stealing power tools from Home Depot.

Dremel Lamont Roberts, 41, was arrested by Weatherford Police Officers on Aug. 9, 2022, after being caught on video stealing \$755 of Milwaukee brand power tools. Roberts pled guilty and elected to have a jury determine his punishment.

"Ordinarily, a theft in which under \$2,500 of merchandise is stolen is a misdemeanor," said District Attorney Jeff Swain. "However, when someone has two previous theft convictions, it becomes a felony. If a defendant has prior felony sentences, that sentence can be enhanced as well."

Assistant District Attorneys Abby Placke and Al Charanza, who tried the case for the prosecution, admitted judgments showing that Roberts had 34 convictions, of which 18 were felonies. A dozen of those felonies were for theft and two more were for unauthorized use of a vehicle. He also had four evading arrest with a vehicle convictions and a conviction for delivery of cocaine.

Nearly all of Roberts' previous convictions were in Tarrant County. None were from Parker County. His previous sentences ranged from nine days in jail to five years in prison. Roberts was on parole for a felony theft offense when he committed the Home Depot theft.

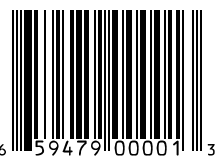
"At a certain point, it's just time to say enough is enough," Swain said. "With a range of punishment of two to twenty years, this jury obviously agreed with our prosecutors that, for this defendant, the time for us to say 'we're done' is now."

Placke expressed that sentiment during her closing argument Tuesday afternoon, when she told jurors, "His track record has shown you that no jury verdict will ever be able to deter him from committing new offenses. But a strong jury sentence may deter him from coming back to Parker County."

"It's never right to lie, cheat, or steal," Charanza said during his closing argument. "We instill that in our children, expect it of our co-workers, and acknowledge it as a basic principle of our society."

"Even when he was caught red-handed, he wasn't honest about who he was with the Weatherford officers," Swain said. "Since he gave a fake name, they didn't finally confirm who he was until they ran his fingerprints through the AFIS fingerprinting system at the jail. This was yet another indicator of Mr. Roberts' character."

Turn to **JURY**, page 2



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BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

State Rep. Glenn Rogers presented a proclamation congratulating the Aledo Bearcats on their state championship at a community celebration held on Wednesday, Jan. 19, at Bearcat Stadium. Because the celebration was held right at press time, we will have extended coverage in the Jan. 27 issue.

PARKER COUNTY

## Deputies recover several stolen trailers

### Diesel fuel also believed to be stolen

By **Danie Huffman**  
Parker County Sheriff's Dept.

Parker County Sheriff's deputies recovered several stolen trailers when they responded to a criminal trespass call in the

4100-block of White Settlement Road east of Lake Weatherford on Jan. 9.

The homeowner said he was in the process of evicting the tenant. When he arrived at the property to serve the eviction notice, he observed several

trailers on the property which were believed to have been stolen.

The tenant told deputies that one of the trailers belonged to a friend who was not on scene, and claimed the trailer was not stolen.

Deputies ran a check on the trailers confirming a Road Force cargo trailer and a Liberty utility trailer found on the property were reported stolen out of Parker County. Deputies further confirmed a Jayco travel trailer,

Turn to **TRAILERS**, page 2

## New shelter brings more hope for animals

By **Rick Mauch**  
The Community News

The overpopulation of animals is a challenge in a lot of places, including Parker County. Now, one of the state's largest animal sanctuaries is coming to Aledo.

The new sanctuary from Saving Hope Animal Rescue, expected to open early this year, will cover almost 15 acres. Services will include a veterinary clinic, puppy pods for nursing mother dogs, intake housing, an educational barn, a senior sanctuary for older dogs – and, of course, an adoption center.

Why Aledo? Just down the road is the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter.

"We had been looking for land for a couple of years and we felt like this worked because of the development going on in Aledo, but also the acreage was perfect and the price was right," said Saving Hope Executive Director Lauren Anton. "Aledo is a tight-knit community of people who care."

Anton said they will also take in cats, and if other animals work with the environment they are open to taking them in, getting them safe and putting them up for adoption.

The official name will be Saving Hope Rescue Ranch and Senior Sanctuary.

"We try to stay away from the facility connotation as it sounds cold and loud," Anton said.

The animals will not be caged and will have plenty of turfed space to run and play, Anton said. It is also a no-kill shelter.

Saving Hope has saved more than 6,000 animals since it was founded in 2017. Last year alone they took in more than 1,600 dogs and more than 1,000 cats.

"We decided to start a sanctuary/place because we have over 1,000 animals in foster care, which increases our vet bills as well as decreases sustainability of the organization," Anton said.

"We will always have fosters, but Aledo will not only provide on-site adoption options, but will



have a senior sanctuary as well as quarantine for newly saved dogs and cats."

Of which there are plenty, especially now that the world is returning to normal post-COVID pandemic. Suddenly animals that were once company during the pandemic have been sent away, enhancing the problem.

"Once it waned, everyone having to return to their jobs, priorities changing and inflation were among some of the reasons

for animal welfare decreasing," Anton said. "All shelters and rescues are full. We need a base camp

to assure the animals will have a second chance and will provide a happy place for people to visit, volunteer. Where people can go and not feel sad about the dogs, but happy and spread the word about animals and their ability to educate and promise there is hope for the future."

For more information, visit <https://savinghoperescue.org/>.



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2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Lincoln Finley waves to birthday greeters during the parade in his honor held on Sept. 10.



Agricultural Science Instructor Krysti Kelley and artist Lisa Voight look over the mural before it is moved outside the ag building on Sept. 20.



The Aledo High School Bearcat Regiment won first place and won Outstanding Percussion and Music at the Mansfield Preview of Champions on Sept. 25 after winning all captions in the prelims.

SEPTEMBER 23

The Philip W. Bradford Agriculture Science Building at Aledo High School sported a striking new exterior addition on Sept. 20 after installation of a mural by department students. The mural's development came about as the result of efforts by the school's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter.

The Bearcat Regiment Percussion Ensemble won first place and all captions awards at the 2022 HEB Drumline Contest on Sept.17.



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The Texas Association of School Administrators and Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) announced that Annetta Elementary School would be among 55 projects included in the 2022-23 Exhibit of School Architecture.

The Aledo High School alum Jay King was featured. King is board operator and host of "The Ticket Top 10" at 1310/96.7 FM The Ticket, one of the most popular radio stations in the Metroplex. The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team got two wins on the road against Saginaw and Rockwall Heath.

Hawk Patrick-Daniels rushed for almost 300 yards as the Bearcats defeated Azle 55-20.

The Aledo Bearcats golf team began the 2022 fall season by once again competing in one of the nation's elite high school golf tournaments, the Bart Granger Memorial Memorial at Pecan Valley near Benbrook. The Aledo Ladycats golf team began the season in strong fashion, winning the championship of the Lady Pirates Fall Classic Friday and Saturday at Harbor Lakes Golf Course in Granbury.

The Aledo cross country teams ran in the Paschal Invitational on Sept. 17 at Athletic Performance Ranch.

SEPTEMBER 30

The Willow Park City Council approved an agreement between the city and Trinity Christian Academy to provide a school resource officer for the private school at its Sept. 27 meeting.

In one year's time, Aledo High School nearly tripled its number of students earning National Merit Commended Student status, going from six in 2021-2022 to 16 in 2022-2023.

The Aledo City Council unanimously approved a budget of more than \$11.7 million for the Fiscal Year 2023 at its meeting on Sept. 23. The budget includes a property tax increase to 38.3 cents per each \$100 evaluation, an increase from 32.7 cents.

The Aledo tennis team remained undefeated in district with one match remaining. Aledo's Ladycat volleyball team

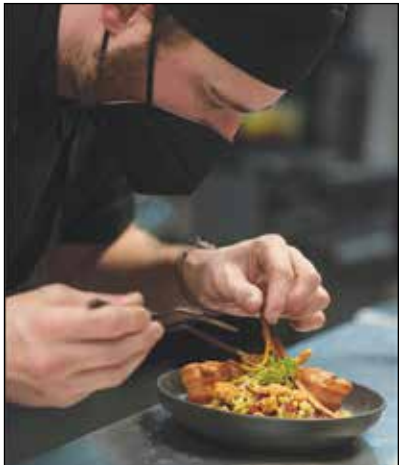


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swept Azle's Lady Hornets on Sept. 27, improving to 3-0 in district play and 4-0 overall since suffering their last defeat at the hands of Northwest.

Finding himself in the position of executive chef at two upscale restaurants in Arkansas at the age of 27, AHS graduate Alex Duke took his career in a new direction working for master chef Zach Engel at Galit, a new upscale restaurant in Chicago.

Turn to page 5



John Duke puts finishing touches on a plate. He was featured in the Sept. 30 issue.



Rev. Troy Miklos (right) from The Summit in Aledo converses with David Seely on Sunday, Sept. 25. Miklos was at the home to say a blessing on a ramp church members installed at the Seely home.

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# Events

January 20, 2023  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
www.community-news.com

More events can be found at [www.community-news.com/calendar](http://www.community-news.com/calendar)



**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 musi-

cal experience is necessary. For more information, call Aledo Middle School Band Director Simon Bosch at 817-441-5197 or email [sbosch@aledoisd.org](mailto:sbosch@aledoisd.org); or call McAnally Middle School Band Director Joey Qualls at 817-555-1598 or email [jqualls@aledoisd.org](mailto: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 Cuning, Jerry Shidal and moderator Carolyn Bernard Young. The meeting is ree and open to the general public and WAA members. For more information, visit [weatherfordart.com](http://weatherfordart.com).

**FEBRUARY 25**

**Clean-Up Day**  
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.annettatx.org](http://www.annettatx.org).

**ACROSS**

1 this Lawrence moved Exxon headquarters to Texas

5 Billy Ray Cyrus hit: "\_\_\_\_\_ Breaky Heart"

6 TXism: "you can write \_\_\_\_\_ ink" (positive)

7 "Acton State Historical \_\_\_\_\_"

8 Adam's mate

9 this Zapruder filmed JFK assassination

16 sprinter Lendore who ran for ACU and A&M

18 TX Mahomes won S. \_\_\_\_\_

21 Belt in 2020

22 Junction High class antique autos

23 Amarillo's "\_\_\_\_\_ State Fair & Rodeo"

24 "\_\_\_\_\_ way" (sick or unhappy)

30 Texas-based 1943 film: "\_\_\_\_\_ Cowboys"

34 this Davis was a Ranger pitcher from 1999 to 2003 (init.)

35 bean or pea, e.g.

36 De \_\_\_\_\_ TX

37 an undocumented one might cross Rio Grande into Texas

39 TXism: "weak as a two- \_\_\_\_\_"

43 aquarium fish

44 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ the towel" (give up)

45 TX Strait's "You Look \_\_\_\_\_ Good in Love"

46 "dip" sidekick

47 TXism: "lends a hand"

49 Stafford High mascot

52 \_\_\_\_\_ Olde Shoppe

53 "sun" in Mexico

54 TXism: "she could charm \_\_\_\_\_ out of a tree"

55 TXism: "dull as week- \_\_\_\_\_ pop"

58 "loosy \_\_\_\_\_"

59 Colt .45, e.g.

60 "long time \_\_\_\_\_"

61 Texas is 29 times bigger than this NE state (abbr.)

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ on concrete" (city boy)

2 energetic

3 name of 3 Texas towns including one in Titus County (2 wds.)

4 TX Phil who was all-around cowboy in 1971 & 1972

9 state where Jerry & Jimmy played college ball (abbr.)

10 wife of a baron (but not a cattle baron)

11 "Flower Gardens Banks," 100 miles off Galveston

12 Texas is \_\_\_\_\_ state

13 a cowboy always has \_\_\_\_\_ with him

14 heat relief (abbr.)

15 "The Katy" back in the day: "\_\_\_\_\_ Railway"

17 TXism: "he couldn't drive a \_\_\_\_\_ a snowbank" (inept)

19 have pizza delivered home (2 wds.)

20 abducts someone

24 birth state of TX

25 Beatty of 1990 film "Big Bad John" with TX Jimmy Dean

26 59-across to a mobster (2 wds.)

27 TXism: "he couldn't for a \_\_\_\_\_ nightmare" (poor)

28 Samuel developed \_\_\_\_\_ code

29 old Texas mission: "San Francisco \_\_\_\_\_ Tejas"

31 modern pastime: "surfing the \_\_\_\_\_"

32 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ half a mind to" (inclined)

33 Waggoner heiress

38 TXism: "if \_\_\_\_\_ been a snake, it would have bit you"

40 intox. offense in TX

41 TXism: "swap spit"

42 Texas school policy: "\_\_\_\_\_ Play"

48 work hard

50 young male (2 wds.)

51 "get \_\_\_\_\_ of it"

56 TX-born Joshua who co-wrote "South Pacific"

57 uncooked bread

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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P-1619

**APRIL 15**

**Flute Festival**  
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/3IP7pij>.



**EVENT SUBMISSIONS**

Send event submissions to [events@community-news.com](mailto:events@community-news.com). Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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## 2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

The Aleo Anglers float rounds a corner during the 2022 Homecoming Parade on Monday, Oct. 3.

### SEPTEMBER 30 (CONTINUED)

The Aleo Bearcats and Ladycats cross country teams competed at the Birdville Flyin' Hawks Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 22 and both varsity teams swept to titles. The Aleo Bearcats football team extended its district win streak to 106 with a 73-7 win over Saginaw.

### OCTOBER 7

The annual Mayors' Food Drive gets underway for Parker County Center of Hope to feed struggling families. The food drive was started by Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss 15 years ago in Parker County. In 2022 3,500 bags were distributed to churches, businesses, and mayors to fill with food items. Throughout the 15 years, more than 130,000 pounds of food have been collected for Parker County Center of Hope through this food drive.

Robert Seely, 33, who was born with Spina Bifida, was the recipient of a new wheelchair ramp from the Center of Hope and local volunteers. Seely lives with his mother, Michelle, in the Yes mobile home community of Aleo. Reverend Troy Miklos from The Summit in Aleo, representatives from the Center of Hope, friends, and volunteers gathered to bless and celebrate a



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BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Toby McDonald (12) pulls down a South Hills runner. Also shown is Brayden Thomas (46).

newly-completed wheelchair ramp for Robert.

Aleo High School walked away with the District 5-5A team tennis championship with a 17-2 home victory against Granbury.

Trinity Christian Academy played its first true homecoming football game against Lake Country Christian School. Ben Camp and Libby Tovar were elected Mr. and Ms. TCA during TCA's homecoming game. The Homecoming Court also included Elle Smith, Walker Merrill, Rio Lipsky, Shane Houston, Margaret Cowley, Seth Roetman, Olivia Quinn, Ryan Leet, Ava Luecker and Christian Valdez.

The theme of this years Aleo High School Homecoming Parade was "Road Trip." Student organizations went all out to deck up their floats with a range of destinations.

Aleo Bearcats golfer Braylon Mahanay got a glimpse at his possible future when he competed on one of the world's most renowned golf courses. Mahanay competed on the Pebble Beach course in southern California, which has hosted several major golf tournaments, including the 2019 U.S. Open. He was there to

compete in the PURE Insurance Championship, a PGA Tour event affiliated with the First Tee program.

Mahanay not only stepped on the course, he tamed it. He tied for first place after the 54-hole tournament concluded. However, he lost in a scorecard playoff to Bryson Hughes from Florida. Mahanay was also paired with PGA golfer Lee Janzen during the week, though each competed individually in their respective divisions.

The Aleo Bearcats football team improved to 4-0 in District 3-5A Division I and 4-2 on the season with a 52-7 home victory over The Colony.

### OCTOBER 14

With folks in Willow Park concerned about the future of their fire department in advance of what would later be an annexation by Parker County Emergency Services District 1, city officials and officials from ESD1 offered reassurance that there would be a fire department in Willow Park no matter the election outcome.

Legendary Aleo Bearcats running back Jonathan Gray is spotlighted as the team's new running backs

coach. Gray led the Bearcats to three consecutive state championships from 2009-11. His 205 touchdowns as a Bearcat are more than any high school running back in history and his 10,889 career yards ranks sixth all-time nationally.

The annual Rayfield Wright Golf Tournament was held at Squaw Creek Golf Course in Willow Park, and for the first time it was without his smiling face and jovial attitude as a highlight. Still, his big, kind heart and spirit was present as the event once again benefited first responders in Willow Park, along with the Community Food Bank.

The tournament, which began in 2019, was formerly named the Rayfield Wright Celebrity Golf Tournament. However, after his passing in April of 2022, it became a memorial event.

The Aleo Bearcats football team defeated Fort Worth South Hills 68-0 in homecoming to improve to 5-0 in District 3-5A Division and 5-2 overall.

At halftime of the Bearcats' victory, Samantha Elston was crowned Homecoming Queen. The Homecoming Court included Elston, Savannah Thompson, Kendra Pellegrino, Landrie

Thurman, Ruthie Pulliam, Abigail Souza, Scarlet Wermuth, and Hannah Clark.

The Aleo Racquetcats advanced to the second round of the Class 5A team tennis playoffs by defeating Fort Worth North Side 11-0.

### OCTOBER 21

The Aleo Children's Advocats organization marked its annual membership meeting with the recognition that it has been in operation two decades. The annual meeting came just 10 days after the Advocats Help & Hope Luncheon at Ridglea Country Club.

Former Granbury Lady Pirates basketball coach Leta Andrews, the winning-est basketball coach in history with 1,416 victories, spoke to the Zonta Club of Parker County. The event was in the form of a Q&A session with former Miss Texas Gloria Gilbert Barron.

Turn to page 7



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MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Gray and Patrick-Daniels celebrate after a play.

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### PUBLISHER/EDITOR

**Randy Keck**

rkeck@community-news.com

Direct Line: 817-386-1469

### DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

**Loydale Schmid**

lschmid@community-news.com

Direct Line: 817-386-1467

### CIRCULATION

**Barbara Russell**

brussell@community-news.com

### PAGE AND AD DESIGN

Laura Finer

### BUSINESS ASSISTANT

**Emma Davis**

### DELIVERIES

**Reagan Tomlin**

### EDITORIAL STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

**Rick Mauch** - News and Sports

**Ryan Wade** - News and Sports

**Chris Amos** - Features/Photography

**Breleigh Mayer** - Photography

**Kristin Morales** - Photography

**Kathy Chruscielski** - Photography

**Kirstin Gallon** - Photography

**John English** - Features

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Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph.

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.

## Capital Highlights

# Speaker open to resort-style casinos in state



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, told The Dallas Morning News and other media outlets that he is open to bringing resort-style casinos to Texas. But don't expect to find slot machines in 7-Eleven stores if casino gambling is legalized.

"What I don't want to see is to walk into every convenience store and see 15 slot machines," Phelan said. "I want to see destination-style casinos that are high quality and that create jobs and that improve the lifestyle of those communities."

The gambling industry is preparing for another strong push to bring gaming to one of the few major markets that doesn't allow it. But other state leaders seem more hesitant, including Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who said in December that he "doesn't see any movement on it."

Gov. Greg Abbott has softened his once-strong opposition to legalized gambling, echoing Phelan's support for casinos that also feature golf courses, luxury hotels and other amenities.

The Morning News report said the Dallas-Fort Worth area would be a top location because of its strong convention and tourism industry, as well as access to major airports.

### House rules allow Democrats to chair committees

New House rules adopted in the first week of the legislative session allow the appointment of Democrats to chair certain committees, despite being in

the minority in that chamber. The Texas Standard reported that was a victory for Phelan, who defied Republicans wanting to ban Democrats from holding chair positions.

In Phelan's first speech after being reelected speaker, he talked about the importance of both parties working together.

"After watching Congress attempt to function last week, I cannot imagine why some want Texans to be like D.C.," Phelan said, referring to the protracted battle over electing a U.S. Speaker of the House.

Another provision is aimed at stopping legislators from skipping sessions to break quorum by levying fines every day they are absent without leave. During the 2021 session, House Democrats left Texas for 38 days in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to block passage of a slate of voting restrictions.

### Wildfire danger returns to state

A series of dry cold fronts sweeping through this week bring the potential of increased wildfire risk to parts of the state, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. On Jan. 11, the service responded to five requests for assistance on wildfires that burned more than 740 acres across the state. The largest of these was the Cellers Hill Fire in Throckmorton County.

As of Sunday, the only active blaze was the 23-acre Grub Hill Fire in Wise County, which was 90% contained.

Currently, 69 counties are under burn bans.

### Prisoners launch hunger strikes over solitary confinement

A large-scale hunger strike protesting the state's solitary confinement practices began last Tuesday, with about 300 people in Texas prisons

reportedly participating, according to the Texas Standard. The prisoners are protesting the state's practice of placing inmates in solitary indefinitely.

Michele Deitch, director of the Prison and Jail Innovation Lab at the University of Texas at Austin, said prisoners have gone on hunger strikes to push the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to meet months-long demands for change. Besides ending indefinite solitary confinement, also called restrictive housing, the prisoners want to move to a behavioral-based system rather than a status-based system. Under the latter, prisoners can be placed in solitary simply by being labeled a gang member, not necessarily for breaking any rules.

"I do believe that it is something that the agency should take a very hard look at, whether there are ways that they could be approaching this issue that are both safe and more appropriate," Deitch told the Standard.

### From La Niña to El Niño? Possibly

The 2022 drought didn't turn out to be as severe as that of 2011, but it still caused widespread economic damage to crops and livestock, as well as shrinking water-supply reservoirs. As the state heads into 2023, Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, is among forecasters predicting an end to the conditions that resulted in reduced rainfall and warmer temperatures for the last few years.

"The National Weather Service is expecting that La Niña will dissipate, and then, possibly by the summer to next fall, we might actually be in El Niño conditions, the opposite to La Niña. And those conditions (could) actually bring Texas a

wetter and cooler winter than is normal," Wentzel wrote.

The most severe drought now is centered in the Texas Hill Country, in Kendall and surrounding counties, and in the extreme northern boundary of the Texas Panhandle. Drought conditions have ended in East and Southeast Texas.

Wentzel wrote he expects "some easing" of drought conditions this spring.

### Wildlife vaccine bait airdrop underway

The Texas Department of State Health Services has renewed its battle against rabies along the Texas border by airdropping vaccine bait from planes leaving Edinburg, Del Rio, and Alpine.

"Our goal is to vaccinate wildlife, with target species being coyotes and gray foxes, along the border to maintain herd immunity and to keep past variants from being reintroduced or new variants from entering Texas," said Dr. Susan Rollo, director of the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program. "We will be delivering vaccine baits to 18 counties this year."

About 814,000 oral rabies vaccine baits will be dropped in the 29th year of the program.

### COVID-19 cases rise slightly

New cases of COVID-19 in Texas in the past week rose to 35,632 with 148 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. DSHS reported 3,427 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals, also an increase.

*Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.*



Read this  
story online

## Thistles&Roses

# Christmas in Costa Rica



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

Our family had never spent a Christmas and New Years outside of Texas but this past year of 2022, because of changes in family circumstances, the whole family went to Heredia, Costa Rica.

This was one of the best holidays of my lifetime.

My older son married a Costa Rica woman three years ago and our daughter in law had not been with her family at Christmas in four years, so it was decided that both families would spend a Christmas in Costa Rica. My birthday is Dec. 29, so I had multiple parties with the many family and friends I have made in Heredia. Having "Happy Birthday to You" sung to you in Spanish is really special.

Heredia is a family-oriented town and province that we have been visiting since 1995. Some of us stayed with our long-time friend and 85-year-old matriarch of the Calderon family, Yolanda Calderon. Yolanda was one of the first women elected to the Costa Rica Congress in the 1970s. Her cousin, Rafael Calderon, was president of Costa Rica. She was so happy to have us be her house guests.

Her house is like a scene from a Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel (see the movie "Love in the Time of Cholera.") The tiled floors, many sitting areas, spacious kitchen, cabinets filled with china and crystal, and traditional Spanish furniture have a certain ambience. The cat, Lolita, rules the home and the chihuahua, Lucy, constantly yaps.

Christmas Eve is more emphasized with family than Christmas Day. We had some really nice family time. It was very interesting with the conversations switching back and forth from English to Spanish depending on the language spoken by the various participants. Some spoke Spanish only. Some spoke English only. Some of us were bilingual and switched back and forth.

We managed side trips to Britt Coffee headquarters where tours are offered and there is a superb al fresco restaurant and bakery. I disclose I have been importing and selling Britt Coffee for 20 years.

We also went to the Toucan Rescue Ranch (TRR), an animal rescue organization whose board I have been a member of for many years. We learned that CBS' 60 Minutes filmed last fall and will air a report in coming months about TRR.

New Year's Eve was really special at the in-laws' house. We learned some interesting Latin American customs. At midnight each person eats twelve grapes slowly, making twelve wishes for the twelve months



of the coming year. Another custom we observed in the neighborhood is people walking around the block with empty suitcases in hopes of taking many trips in the coming year. Many of us did the same. Fireworks were set off in the San Jose Valley at midnight and we could observe from the balcony of the home the many fireworks exploding above us on the mountains and below us. It was amazing.

The experiences are too many to recount, but one of the most special times was when I went alone across the town plaza with its fountain, the old fort, and the Parochial Church of the Immaculate Conception built in 1797. Families sat on park benches. Little children chased pigeons. Palm trees waved in the breeze.

I went into the church where people



have sat and prayed and meditated for centuries. I sat and prayed and contemplated the many things that happen to us in life. I offered prayers for peace and healing of the many hurtful things that divide us. I thought about the importance of relationships, good friends, and most especially, family. May all of us have a blessed 2023.



Read this  
story online



# State Representative Update Who is Keeping Score?



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

My great great grandfather, Dr. Edwin Clay Rogers of Fannin County, served in the 5th Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1840-41. He served alongside Sam Houston, who had termed out in his first tenure as President of the Republic and was elected as a congressman from Fayette County. These were one-year terms. In the Fannin County Historical Museum in Bonham, there is an exhibit of old medical textbooks and instruments used by Dr. Rogers. One instrument, a small, brass-bell-shaped device, was used to examine Sam Houston's ear. You might say Doc Rogers had ole' Sam's ear ...

Sam Houston once declared, "Texas has yet to learn submission to any oppression, come from what source it may." Since Texas achieved her independence from Mexico, Texans have long lived by this proclamation. As the 88th Legislature began this January, Houston's words were on my mind. I will strive to represent our district without succumbing to any oppressive force.

My short time as a public servant has been eye-opening, revealing to me that there are forces that seek to oppose the truth, that wish for Texas to fall out of the hands of the people, and that seek to undermine lawmakers who refuse to follow orders. My first obligation is to serve my House District 60 constituents.

Property tax relief and securing the border are at the top of the list this session. People in Parker, Palo Pinto, and Stephens counties also need policies that improve infrastructure, such as water systems and roads. Law enforcement, educators and social workers request improvements made to mental health care. Teachers desire deregulation from the TEA and more substantial support from the state. Citizens yearn for local control over their own affairs. There are a multitude of non-partisan issues that the legislature must address this year and I am devoting myself to taking proper care of my home district first.



Read this story online

Doing so will not make me the most popular legislator with certain elements within my own party. It certainly will not earn me great ratings from "scorecard" results that will undoubtedly fill mailboxes next election cycle with hit pieces.

As has been the consistent practice of Empower Texans (now Defend Texas Liberty PAC), there will be a series of what are termed "Scorecard Votes." That is, legislation designed by hyper-partisan political agents for the exclusive purpose of creating attack ads for the next election cycle. Usually, these are bad policies that pose as conservative legislation. Most of the time, they are meaningless votes. Unfortunately, there are legislators who will vote simply to earn the favor of a scorecard: but not me.

In accordance with Houston's declaration, I have yet to learn submission to any oppression. I am always going to vote to improve my community and to protect our conservative ideals, always in accordance with the United States and Texas Constitutions. I will vote in ways that support limited government - both federal and state, and local control. I will help craft legislation that will have a positive impact on the people in my district. I will support public schools as required of legislators by Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution.

Politics is often energized by hate. That will not be the case in our office. If you live in the district, my office will be there to serve you, regardless of whether we agree on every issue.

My pledge is this: I will make votes after prayerful consideration and always seek what is best for people of this district, not as directed by special-interest PACs or phony scorecards.

My staff and I will strive to remain positive throughout the session, even as things get tough or intense. When faced with opposition, I will cling onto the Truth and will remember who I serve-God, my country, the Great State of Texas and House District 60.

*Glenn Rogers is the state representative in House District 60, which includes Parker County*



## 2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Emma Hancock spent a lot of time enjoying the bounce slide at the Aledo United Methodist Church annual Lord's Acre.**

### OCTOBER 21 (CONTINUED)

Aledo United Methodist Church held its annual Lord's Acre event to raise funds for mission projects.

Hauss Hejny passed the biggest test of his career as Aledo's starting quarterback in dominating fashion. He also ran past defenders like they were statues in leading the Bearcats to a 64-21 thrashing of previously unbeaten Burleson Centennial on the Spartans' own turf. Hejny was involved in almost 450 yards of offense, along with six touchdowns. He passed for four TD and 269 yards while rushing 12 times for 175 yards and two more scores.

Aledo Swimcat Haley Roberson shattered her own pair of school records at the NISD Invitational at the Northwest ISD Aquatic Center. Roberson posted a time of one minute, 58.01 seconds in the 200-yard freestyle, besting her previous mark of 2:01.69. She also swam a time of 5:17.73 in the 500 free, eclipsing her former record of 5:19.54.

The Aledo varsity boys and girls cross country teams won another District 5-5A championship, while the junior varsity boys posted a perfect score en route to their

championship and the JV girls finished third. It was a fifth straight district title for the varsity boys and a fourth in five years for the varsity girls. Jack Fink defended his district title, coming in first with a time of 16 minutes, 43.88 seconds over the 5K course. Molly Garrison won the girls championship, clocking a 19:26.20.

### OCTOBER 28

Cross Timbers Baptist Church in Willow Park celebrated its new name with a ribbon cutting at its fall festival. It was formerly named First Baptist Church.

Some progress appeared to be happening in the community debate concerning noise from the Parker County Ice House when the facility hosts large outdoor concerts, according to a report from Christopher "Topper" Sowden from Sowden and Associates, Consultants in Acoustics and Entertainment Technologies. Sowden reported to the Willow Park City Council at its meeting, offering some suggestions as to how to further help with the issue.

Behind another big night from quarterback Hauss Hejny, the

Aledo Bearcats football team won 35-21 at Denton Ryan, wrapping up a 15th consecutive championship. Hejny rushed 13 ties for 132 yards and two touchdowns, along with completing 10 of 13 passes for 151 yards and another score.

The City of Aledo hosted its annual AledoFest with fun, food, and entertainment.

The Aledo Anglers kicked off their 2022-23 fishing season with a tournament at Possum Kingdom Lake. AAC produced three teams in the top 10, competing in a field of 217 boats.



Read this issue online

Led by the runner-up individual finish of freshman Molly Garrison, the Aledo Ladycats continued a strong tradition of success in the Aledo cross country program, qualifying as a team for the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet. Jack Fink qualified individually for the Bearcats. Also on the Ladycats team were Aubrey Connally, Sidney Tillotson, Elizabeth Griffin and Sophia Brandenburg.

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Kristen Lawler and daughter Hazel took a wild bull ride at the annual Aledo Fest, held Saturday, Oct. 15, at Aledo High School.**

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BASKETBALL

Bearcats defend home court with pair of wins

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Aledo's Bearcat varsity hoops squad successfully thwarted a pair of invasion attempts to their home court over the last week. On Friday, Jan. 13, the Bearcats held on to win a close 38-35 contest against the Granbury Pirates. They followed up that performance with a 22-point rout of Wichita Falls Rider on Tuesday, Jan. 17, winning by a final tally of 65-41.

After collecting back-to-back wins, the Bearcats' overall record improved to 12-7 on the season (3-2 in District 5-5A).

"Rider beat Azle," Aledo head coach JD Robinson stated, harkening back to the Bearcats' loss to the Hornets on Jan. 10. "Rider got them into overtime. They can get hot from three. Tonight, we did a good job defensively of not letting them get loose too much. Still, I think we gave up too many points. We're always trying to set a goal within the game. I felt like we gave up too much."

Nearly three minutes melted off the clock to start the game before either team got on the board with a bucket. On the defensive end of the floor the Bearcats pounced on the Raiders, not allowing Wichita Falls to get off a single shot early.

Meanwhile, Aledo struggled to post a score of their

own, but not for a lack of trying. The Bearcats took shots on the basket in each of their first three possessions but could not get the shots to fall. Drew Clock was finally able to break the stalemate at the 5:03 mark of the first quarter when he knocked down a jumper from the free throw line to put the hometown team on the board. Rider was called for a foul on the play, giving Clock an opportunity to convert three the old-fashioned way. The free throw missed the mark, however, as Aledo went up 2-0.

The rest of the first quarter belonged solely to the Bearcats. In the final 2:30 of the first quarter Aledo dropped 11 more points while shutting Rider completely out in the first eight minutes of action. Clock dialed up a long-range shot to hit for three before following up with a short jumper inside the paint on the ensuing possession. Brandon Fields picked the pocket of a Raider player before going coast-to-coast for a breakaway layup to put the Bearcats up 9-0. He added two more to the hometown tally, knocking down a pair of shots from the charity stripe with 1:04 left in the opening quarter to put Aledo up 11-0. Hauss Hejny capped off the offensive onslaught for the Bearcats in the first quarter, knocking down a short jumper in traffic.

At the end of one quarter of play Aledo held a 13-0 lead. Rider trailed by double-digits the rest of the way.

"It was ugly to start," Robinson said of the first quarter. "We persevered. We really tried to speed them up a little bit to see if we could get some easier shots and not have to go against their zone on every possession and see if we could get some stuff in transition. I thought Drew (Clock) played really well tonight. He did a good job of not settling too much, of punching gaps, and putting pressure on the defense."

Points in transition were a point of emphasis for Robinson's strategy that his squad carried out with great efficiency. Clock forced a pair of notable turnovers in the second quarter that turned into fast-break points on the offensive end of the floor for the home team.

With just less than five minutes to play Clock punched the ball loose from a Rider guard. He quickly scooped up the loose ball before hitting Exavier Anderson on the outlet pass with nothing but wide-open space between Anderson and the basket. Anderson took flight, gently laying in the uncontested layup as the Bearcats took a 13-point advantage at that point.

Little more than two minutes later Clock was at it again, creating chaos on the defensive end of the floor. After forcing another turnover, he took the ball coast-to-coast himself, capping off the fast-break score with a layup of his own.

At the end of the first half Aledo held a commanding 31-17 lead over the Raiders.

"Every game is a grind, so to get one like that is good," commented Robinson. "We were able to get some other guys in there to play."

And those other guys took full advantage of the opportunity.

Defensively, Robinson challenged his young subs not to surrender more than eight points in the final four minutes of play. They held Rider to seven points.

On the offensive end of the floor Owen Peterson knocked down a pair of three pointers in the final quarter of action. Boogie Owens and Jack Sawyer had long-range splash-downs of their own as they hit their first three-pointers of the season late in the contest.

Owens knocked his three-pointer down in front of the home team bench, sending his teammates into a frenzy as he collected high fives as he trotted down to the defensive end of the floor. The score with 25 seconds remaining in the



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Ulises Garcia looks to pass the ball to teammate Jack Sawyer after being met in the lane by a Granbury defender on Friday, Jan 13. The Bearcats went on to win 38-35.

game ended up being the last of the contest to close out the game in style for Aledo.

Bearcats hold off Granbury in low-scoring affair

With just 16 seconds left in the game and his team up by one, Clock stepped to the free throw line before knocking down both shots from the

charity stripe to give Aledo a 38-35 advantage.

On the ensuing possession the Pirates scampered across half-court before calling a timeout with 10 seconds remaining. As that break in the action came to an end Granbury quickly called a second timeout to complete their strategy session attempting to send the game into overtime.

Turn to BEARCATS, page 12



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2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Clara Whisenant holds a painting of herself in her younger days created by an old friend, Daniel Norris. He worked for she and her husband Ray when they owned the Mobile station near downtown Aledo and it was a present for her recent 100th birthday.**



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Leukemia patient Lincoln Finley tossed the coin at the beginning of the Aledo-Brewer district finale.**



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Carter LeBaron and his family react when presented with a check for \$109,000, the proceeds from the 2022 Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot. Shown also are event co-chair and emcee Nikki Thompson and son, Tagg.**

NOVEMBER 4

The Aledo City Council addressed several key issues facing the growing community during a marathon session. A key measure resolved during the three-hour affair will enable City Manager Noah Simon to place and maintain traffic control devices and parking limitations within the Aledo city limits. The amendment made to Chapter 77 of the Code of Ordinances came following several close calls involving students from Aledo Middle School nearly being struck by automobiles when attempting to cross FM 1187 after school.



Read this issue online

Clara Whisenant turned 100 years old. She and her late husband Ray owned the Mobile station near downtown Aledo.

U. S. Congressman Roger Williams met with business representatives at the Aledo ISD Administration Building.

The Ladycats volleyball team swept Fort Worth North Side to open the Class 5A playoffs.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Vivian Parker leaps for a kill against Northwest in the Ladycats' bi-district victory.**

NOVEMBER 11

The Aledo City Council met in a special session to address several issues the city will be faced in deciding in the future. The three-hour epic addressed topics ranging from delinquent property taxes to updated proposals to the new municipal complex.

Voters in Willow Park, by an almost 2-1 margin, approved the Parker County Emergency Services District 1 annexation of the city's fire department. Moving forward in future budgets, the money that would in the past have gone to fund the fire department can be used for streets, parks and other projects. Also, city officials have said without having to fund the fire department, a tax decrease is likely.

Naval aviator Robert Gustavson announced his retirement after 20 years of service as he and his family land in Aledo.

The East Parker County Chamber of Commerce announced that former Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall has become the chamber's first Honorary Member.

Trinity Christian Academy held its annual TCA Gift Market. The annual event provides a venue for small businesses and raises funds for the school.

Led by freshman Elizabeth Griffin, the Aledo Ladycats finished the season with a 10th-place finish at the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. Griffin, one of four freshmen on the Ladycats, posted a career-best time of 19 minutes, 11.1 seconds over the 5K course, which featured some slick and muddy spots following a heavy rain the day before. Sophomore Jack Fink, the lone competitor for the Bearcats, greatly improved on his 2021 appearance at state. He clocked a time of 16:21.6 this year to place 32nd, improving from



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RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Brice Bohn was undefeated after his first five matches for the Aledo wrestling team.**

94th as a freshman, with a time of 17:01.2. Griffin and Fink were also named All-Region I, along with freshmen Molly Garrison and Sofia Brandenburg.

The Aledo Bearcats football team wrapped up another perfect district slate, defeating Brewer 47-6 for their 111th consecutive league victory dating to 2007.

The Ladycats volleyball season came to an end with a 3-1 loss to Argyle in the second round of the playoffs. The Ladycats finished with a 31-16 record, including 10-2 and second place in District 5-5A.

NOVEMBER 18

Traveling through Willow Park via Interstate 20 got a little safer after the city council approved an agreement between the Willow Park Police Department and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The agreement puts in place a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) - Impaired Driving Mobilization e-Grant to be awarded to the WPPD. Through the 80/20 matching grant, TxDOT will award the WPPD up to \$11,965.09 (80 percent) and the city will match up to \$2,991.28 for four "waves," or specific times of the year. During each wave Willow Park police officers will work overtime to conduct high visibility saturation of patrolling within the enforcement zone (the city limits), especially along the I-20 corridor.

Aledo High School graduate Paul Kim was remembered. He was killed two days before his 35th

birthday in action in the War in Ukraine. According to "Spravdi," the Ukrainian Centre for Strategic Communication, Kim died while helping to liberate the Mykolaiv region in Southern Ukraine. Kim served for 12 years in the United States Army, rising from the rank of private to the rank of captain, and was eventually assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division where he served in Iraq.

Former Aledo Ladycat Gracie Morris competed in her first NCAA Cross Country Championships in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Morris qualified after finishing second at the NCAA South Central Regional on November 11, earning an automatic bid. She matched the highest individual finish ever for a TCU female at the meet, joining Mary Kinyanjui, who won in 2003. She is also the first TCU runner to qualify for the NCAA Championships since Brenley Goertzen in 2016 after placing third at regionals.

A total of 14 athletes from Aledo signed letters-of-intent to play their respective sports at the next level, including five from baseball, four from volleyball, two from girls soccer, and one from boys soccer. Baseball signees include Andrew Cambre, Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana; Bosten and Brooks Dwinnell, Grayson College in Denison; Bryce McCain, McLennan Community College in Waco; and Trace Mazan, Weatherford College. Signing from volleyball were Alyssa Gonzalez, TCU; Maddie Frank, Tarleton State; Payton Hilmer, Harding in Searcy, Ark.; and Mia Little, East Central Oklahoma University in Ada, Oklahoma. Softball signings featured Natalie Troughet to the University of Missouri and Texas Ray to Tulsa. Reagan Krajca, Stephen F. Austin; and McKenna Vela, Dallas Baptist, signed from girls soccer. Clay Murador signed to play men's soccer at Indiana.



Read this issue online

The Aledo Bearcats opened the football playoffs with a victory

for a 27th consecutive season, routing visiting Killeen Shoemaker 37-0 at home.

Basketball and wrestling seasons got underway for Aledo High.

NOVEMBER 25

The number of Aledo High School students recognized as National Recognition Program Scholars by the College Board increased 226.6% in the past year. AHS had 127 students earn 136 total honors in 2022, up from 39 students earning 57 honors in 2021.

With a game time temperature of 34 degrees in Sweetwater, the Aledo Bearcats won their 10th consecutive game and advanced to the third round of the playoffs for a 10th straight season by defeating Lubbock Cooper 45-21.



Read this issue online

The Aledo boys basketball team had little trouble defeating rival Weatherford 60-37.

DECEMBER 2

Avanzada Golf & Ranch Club announced the development of a new 1,100-acre high-end golf community at the intersection of Hwy. 377 and Kelly Road in Parker County. The new golf course community is being referred to as the "crown jewel" of the larger 2,400-acre master-planned Kelly Ranch Estates. Avanzada's founder is PGA Tour veteran JJ Henry, who will work with award-winning golf course architect Jim Lipe, considered one of the best golf course architects in the industry. Henry's inspiration for the name "Avanzada" came from the history of Fort Worth, once known as "Trinity Outpost." "Avanzada" is the Spanish word for "outpost."

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

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Questions may be submitted online to the Questions and Bid submission site on or before Tuesday, January 31, 2023, by 2:00 PM CST.

**Deadline for submission of proposals online is no later than 2:00 PM CST on Friday, February 24, 2023. Submit proposals online to the Questions and Bid submission site prior to the deadline.**

It is the responsibility of the submitting entity to ensure the proposal is received in a timely manner. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered for award, regardless of whether the delay was outside the control of the submitting firm.

The Aledo Independent School District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to make awards as they may appear to be advantageous to the District and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

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2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

DECEMBER 2 (CONTINUED)

Class, the U.S.S. Aledo. The Aledo was unveiled on Oct. 20, when “Trusted Sources,” the ninth episode of season three of “Star Trek: Lower Decks” was streamed on Paramount+. Lower Decks is one of the latest “Star Trek” series, and the first animated series in the franchise since the 1970s. It is also the first Star Trek series classified as a comedy. It follows the adventures of the low-ranking crew of the Starship Cerritos, a California Class ship.

Carter LeBaron and his family were presented with a check for \$109,000, the proceeds from the 2022 Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot. Carter, 13, is being treated for T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and funds raised will help with hospital and medical expenses, and supplement lost income.

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to empower Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn to enter into a contract to purchase about 19.5 acres of land on Champions Drive at a special meeting. The land is on the west side of Champions Drive and stretches from Bailey Ranch Road to Buchanan Drive.

Aledo sophomore Haley Roberson broke another of her own records competing in the Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association North Zone Invitational at Debbie Weems Natatorium in Mansfield. Roberson bested her own record in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5 minutes, 14.51 seconds to place fourth overall.

The Trinity Christian Academy Lady Eagles basketball won the championship in the fifth annual TCA Turkey Shootout, improving to 8-0 on the season.

The Aledo Bearcats football team continued its march through the post-season, rallying



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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**A young visitor takes in the lights at the Hudson Oaks Tree Lighting on Dec. 2.**

from behind in the fourth quarter to defeat a previously 12-0 Midlothian team on the Panthers' home field. It was Aledo's 11th consecutive victory, improving them to 11-2.

DECEMBER 9

Several vigils were held throughout North Texas, including two in Weatherford, in memory of 7-year-old Athena Strand, who was kidnapped and murdered near her home in Paradise the week before.

Aledo's City Council reconvened for the final time in 2022 with several business items on the agenda. A major order of business focused on a donation of two



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Astrid Dietrih gets a hug from Mrs. Claus aka Peggy Hutton at Weatherford's Christmas on the Square.**

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

Among the many area Christmas celebrations, the City of Aledo hosted its annual Christmas Time in Aledo. Thousands of area residents and visitors flocked downtown for food, entertainment, family activities, and shopping.

Aledo senior cross country runner Sidney Tillotson was named a Legacy All-Star by the Texas Girls Coaches Association, one of only 20 runners from across the state to be so honored. Tillotson helped the Aledo Ladycats advance as a team to the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet in the fall.

In a rematch with Burleson Centennial, the Bearcats won big again, 42-21, to move on to the Class 5A Division I state semifinals.

DECEMBER 16

The Aledo Growth Committee opened its doors to the broader community seeking perspective from school district residents regarding the rapid growth Aledo ISD continues to experience. Before inviting the community into the discussion, the AGC previously met 10 different times for dozens of hours to present a heavily researched and well-thought-out plan. The list of action items the committee worked through in preparation for the meetings included touring the existing schools to take stock of repairs needed on current infrastructure, listening to a demographer's report charting Aledo's growth trends both historically and projected, and dis-



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BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Aledo head football coach Tim Buchanan holds up the State Semifinal Championship trophy for his players following the Bearcats' rain-soaked defeat of No. 1-ranked Longview at Kincaide Stadium in Dallas on Saturday, Dec. 10.**

cussing the state of the district's financial affairs with Aledo ISD's financial planner.

Aledo's Dr. Kella Price won two awards at virtual Dr. World North America Pageant. Price, 45, who holds an MS in Exercise Science and Wellness, an MBA in HR Management, and a doctorate in Business and HR Management, received the Dr. World Community Engagement Award and was named Mentor of the Year.

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Christmas on the Square. The festival included music, food, vendors, and lots of activities geared to families and children.

The Weatherford Chamber also hosted its third annual Weatherford Lights the Night Parade. Thousands of people lined the parade route to enjoy brightly-lit floats.

The Willow Park City Council announced a move to a new city hall location in 2023. The city signed a 30-month lease on a new address at 120 El Chico Trail, just off Interstate 20. The building was being vacated by T.G. Mercer Consulting Services and City Manager Bryan Grimes said the plan is to be in the new location

by February. The space in the new building is about 8,700 square feet, almost triple the current 3,189 square feet city officials had been working in for many years.

The Aledo Bearcats basketball team finished second in its own Moritz Classic Tournament.

After a delay of more than two hours because of lightning strikes, the Aledo Bearcats football team defeated No. 1 and previously 14-0 Longview 17-14 to advance to another state championship game. The Lobos led 14-3 at the half before the Aledo defense took control in the final two quarters.

DECEMBER 23

The Aledo Bearcats completed a turnaround from the first ever 0-2 start to a season under coach Tim Buchanan to win 14 straight games and the program's 11th state championship. In capturing the 5A Division I championship, their fourth state title in five seasons and their 10th since 2009, they defeated College Station 52-14 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. In the post-game press conference head coach Tim Buchanan jokingly referred to himself as “eight-time Timmy,” as he has been at the helm of eight

Turn to page 12

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT						
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022						
Data Control Codes		10 General Fund	50 Debt Service	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	98 Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>						
5700	Local and intermediate sources	\$ 47,563,209	\$ 20,397,065	\$ 257,687	\$ 1,691,487	\$ 69,909,448
5800	State program revenues	21,769,074	233,738	-	391,793	22,394,605
5900	Federal program revenues	537,473	-	-	7,539,845	8,077,318
5020	Total revenues	69,869,756	20,630,803	257,687	9,623,125	100,381,371
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
Current:						
0011	Instruction	38,972,551	-	7,369,345	3,657,288	49,999,184
0012	Instructional resources and media services	804,012	-	202,901	145,662	1,152,575
0013	Curriculum and instructional staff development	675,466	-	-	116,252	791,718
0021	Instructional leadership	879,258	-	-	8,710	887,968
0023	School leadership	3,585,746	-	-	25,018	3,610,764
0031	Guidance, counseling, and evaluation services	2,375,085	-	-	461,588	2,836,673
0033	Health services	683,969	-	-	69,203	753,172
0034	Student (pupil) transportation	3,744,248	-	88,399	8,794	3,841,441
0035	Food service	102,340	-	51,226	3,458,731	3,612,297
0036	Extracurricular activities	3,044,709	-	452,756	20,131	3,517,596
0041	General administration	2,927,562	-	-	42,273	2,969,835
0051	Facilities maintenance and operations	8,527,812	-	22,106	387,905	8,937,823
0052	Security and monitoring services	1,018,610	-	-	740	1,019,350
0053	Data processing services	1,789,373	-	-	2,060	1,791,433
0061	Community services	8,591	-	117,121	-	125,712
Debt Service:						
0071	Principal on long-term debt	-	9,830,000	-	-	9,830,000
0072	Interest on long-term debt	-	10,414,941	-	-	10,414,941
0073	Bond issuance cost and fees	-	11,519	-	-	11,519
Capital Outlay:						
0081	Facilities acquisition and construction	1,957,671	-	61,660,545	-	63,618,216
Intergovernmental:						
0091	Contracted instructional services between schools	348,258	-	-	-	348,258
0099	Other intergovernmental	855,097	-	-	-	855,097
6030	Total expenditures	72,300,358	20,256,460	69,964,399	8,404,355	170,925,572
1100	<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	(2,430,602)	374,343	(69,706,712)	1,218,770	(70,544,201)
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>						
8911	Transfers out	( 102,041)	-	-	-	( 102,041)
	Total other financing sources (uses)	( 102,041)	-	-	-	( 102,041)
1200	<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES</b>	(2,532,643)	374,343	(69,706,712)	1,218,770	(70,646,242)
0100	<b>FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING</b>	31,726,930	3,174,010	81,659,776	753,096	117,313,812
3000	<b>FUND BALANCES, ENDING</b>	\$ 29,194,287	\$ 3,548,353	\$ 11,953,064	\$ 1,971,866	\$ 46,667,570

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2022 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

**Aledo High School Principal Angi Timms ducks as the Aledo Bearcats celebrate their 11th state championship in football. The Bearcats defeated College Station 52-14 on Saturday, Dec. 17, at AT&T Stadium in Dallas.**

**DECEMBER 23 (CONTINUED)**

of the state championships, with now athletic director Steve Wood coaching the others.

Shortly before the state championship game, Buchanan received news that he will be inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor next summer. Buchanan is one of five coaches who will be honored at the THSCA Hall of Honor Banquet sponsored by Balfour at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Houston. The banquet is held in conjunction with the annual THSCA Coaching School and Convention, which will take place July 16-18 in Houston. Tickets will be available March 1.

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees

met in a special session, finalizing approval for the Chapter 313 Value Limitation Application as part of a proposal that could see a \$3.7 billion solar panel facility erected on Walsh Ranch. Following several months of coordination with the Texas State Comptroller, the Parker County Economic Development Council, and the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, the board passed the measure unanimously.

Parker County Sheriff's deputies arrested a man following an early morning pursuit in which he reached speeds up to 100 mph. Sheriff Russ Authier said the incident

and arrest stemmed from a traffic stop in the 15800 block of South US Highway 377 shortly after 2 a.m. Additional officers from Benbrook and Fort Worth Police responded to assist in the pursuit as the driver entered East Interstate 20.

The Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District announced a new annual rainwater harvesting grant program for Montague, Wise, Parker, and Hood Counties.

Sophomore Haley Roberson scored 45 points for the Aledo Ladycats and set two school records at the Debbie Weems Natatorium in Mansfield. Roberson had a first-place finish and a school record in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:08.23, besting the previous school record of 2:08.35 set in 2013. She also had a second-place finish and another school record in the 100 free-style with a time of 54.40, besting the previous school record of 55.32 set in 2017.

**DECEMBER 30**

Weatherford College held a grand opening for its new radio station The Coyote, 88.5 FM and 102.5 FM. The station 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. The station will also focus heavily on community news and events, including

Weatherford College Coyote sports. WC is one of the few community colleges to have its own radio station.

Three Aledo football players signed letters of intent to play in college. 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.

Cameron Martinez, a 2012 graduate of Aledo High School, was 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.



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."**

BEARCATS

from page 8

As play resumed Granbury managed to get a look at the hoop from behind the arc. The ball found nothing but iron as Sawyer pulled down the rebound that would've sealed the fate of the Pirates.

However, Granbury managed to tie up the ball, creating a jump ball situation. With the arrow pointing in the visiting team's direction, the Pirates had one last attempt to cinch up the score.

Aledo's defense held strong to bring an end to the drama and to the Bearcats' losing skid at the same time.

"We had a hard-fought game against Brewer, obviously," Robinson said following the close win over Granbury. "Azle I just didn't think was our best effort. We didn't shoot the ball well. I think we were 3-for-17 from three, and that affected our defense. I thought we were a lot more mentally tough [against Granbury]."

Aledo will hit the road again on Friday when they travel to Justin to take on Northwest in another District 5-5A matchup.

"They're scary," Robinson commended the Bearcats upcoming foe. "They're dangerous. They pass the eye test. They're big, they're long, they're physical, they're good athletes. They'll be a good test for us on the road in a big game."

That game at Northwest is slated for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

**Bearcats vs. Wichita Falls Rider – Jan. 17 Varsity**

Aledo	13	18	14	20	65
Rider	0	17	5	21	43

Aledo scoring: Drew Clock 19, Jack Sawyer 9, Brandon Fields 8, Owen Peterson 8, Exavier Anderson 5, D'Leon Starnes 4, Brant Tubbs 3, Boogie Owens 3, Ulises Garcia 2, Hauss Henjy 2, Zayden Parker 2.

**Bearcats vs. Granbury – Jan. 13 Varsity**

Aledo	9	12	7	10	38
Granbury	4	13	8	10	35

Aledo scoring: Drew Clock 16, Brant Tubbs 9, Brandon Fields 4, Jack Sawyer 4, Exavier Anderson 3, Jackson Todd 2

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