

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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CITY OF ALEDO

City Council approves new PD committee

Early voting for Feb. 7 election now open

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Since taking office, one of Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley's big objectives has been to stand up a police department for the residents of the city. That endeavor took a significant step forward during the city council meeting on Thursday, Jan. 26.

The Aledo City Council voted to appoint Josh Nichols, Lt. Corey Brasher, Stanton Pearson, Chris Sutton, Chief Stephen Watson, Mayor Stanley, and City Manager Noah Simon to the Public Safety Advisory Committee. The charge of the committee is to discover best practices for standing up a police department in a growing community like Aledo and benchmark with other cities who have recently added police departments themselves.

Early voting for Feb. 7 special election now open

The special election to fill the vacant seat on the Aledo City Council

Turn to **VOTING**, page 3

ALEDO ISD

District announces Buchanan, Wood retirement

Robby Jones to be new head coach; search on for new AD

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

Aledo ISD announced on Jan. 27 the retirement of both AISD athletics director Steve Wood and head football coach Tim Buchanan at the end of this school year and the promotion of assistant head coach and offensive coordinator Robby Jones to head football coach for the Bearcats.

Wood, who has been at Aledo for 21 years as defensive coordinator, head

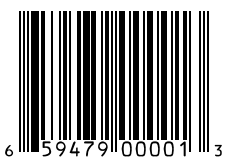
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Tim Buchanan



Robby Jones



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Winter Fun



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lydia Rush and Penelope Rodriguez race down a hill in the Walsh neighborhood as they enjoy the winter weather on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

WILLOW PARK

Council approves amending trail plan

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

At its recent meeting on Jan. 24, the Willow Park City Council approved an amendment to the city's 2019 parks and trails master plan.

"We had a plan in there, but it was just generic. It was just a concept," said Toni Fisher, Willow Park Planning and Development Director. "We planned on having trails, but we weren't sure where they were going to go."

The council has been working with Larry Colvin, Senior Designer for Civil, Landscape, and Trails for Baird, Hampton & Brown, Inc (BHB). He is also the president of the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club (WMBC). WMBC will manage the trails and maintain, along with being involved in the designing and building.

Colvin was instrumental in the design and implementation of the Parks of Aledo Trail system and has spent many uncompensated hours for the past year and a half working with Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss, Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young, and city staff with designing a single-track trail plan for the City of Willow Park.

BHB and the WMBC are working hand-in-hand on the project, which will be more than 25 miles when complete. This will include up to nine miles for Willow Park, which will also serve as a centerpiece between Weatherford and Aledo.

The overall trail will be a combination of single track and concrete designed for hiking/biking and walking/running. No motorized vehicles will be allowed, not even electric bikes, Fisher said.

"It's not going to be a bunch of dirt bikes riding in front of your house," Fisher said. "It's green space. This is family friendly."

Turn to **TRAIL**, page 6

Two musicians named All-State Band



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sophomore French Horn player Isabella Stamper and junior Jane Claire Anderson (Flute) were recently named to the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band, and will perform at the organization's upcoming convention in San Antonio. More band honors can be found on page 5.

ALEDO ISD

AGC presents final draft proposal to Board of Trustees

Big-ticket item would be elementary school No. 7

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

During a special meeting of the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees on Thursday, Jan. 26, the Aledo Growth Committee presented the final draft of the group's bond proposal as part of a special election in May of 2023.

The committee, comprised of 50 volunteers from the community, has met 15 times since August

of 2022. They recommended the board seek a 2.5 cent property tax increase that would raise the average homeowner's property taxes by \$89.76 per year in 2023 and 2024.

The overall tax rate for Aledo ISD has decreased 22.71 cents over the past five years.

Based on market valuations from August 2022 when the group began meeting, the AGC decided the 2.5 cent increase was sufficient for meeting the district's immediate needs while leaving adequate bonding capacity for the future as a number of key factors remain in flux.

"A couple meetings ago, [Forrest] Collins (school board member) came to address the committee and said, 'Listen, do the right thing. Do what you as the committee think is the right thing and let the community decide if they agree with you or not. If you do the right thing, you can't go wrong.' I feel comfortable that we're doing the right thing for our children, right now," AGC co-chairman Dan Reilley said after making the presentation to the Board.

So, what does the community get for their tax dollars if the bond is approved?

The big-ticket item on the list is Elementary School No. 7. With the perpetual expansion within the district, the demographers project Aledo ISD enrollment will exceed capacity at the elementary level by the 2024-2025 school year. With a functional capacity between the six current elementary schools of approximately 4,000 students, the district will surpass 4,500 students in grades kindergarten-fifth within two years at the current growth rate.

Elementary School No. 7, with an estimated cost of \$59.8

Turn to **TRUSTEES**, page 3

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Bearcats of Character

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees recognized the January 2023 Bearcats of Character for the character trait Self Control at their regular meeting in January. In tandem with launching the character education program Positivity Project - or P2 - trustees have recognized the good character on display by the students across all of Aledo ISD since last year as Bearcats of Character.

The Bearcats of Character strength Trustees recognized in January was self-control. P2 says that self-control is the act of managing behavior in a way that positively influences goal attainment and living up to standards. Experts say that self-control is an important trait as it allows individuals to delay the short-term gain in pursuit of a greater, long-term success. It gives people the power to lead healthy lives, study for an exam, or practice a musical instrument. Some psychologists have likened self-control to a muscle that gets stronger the more it's used.

The students who were recognized and the comments from their nominating teachers follow.

Kyle Scharlow
Aledo High School, 11th grade

Kyle has shown growth and strength this year. He has exhibited maturity and self control and accepts responsibility for his actions. Kyle independently seeks out guidance and support when needed.

Laurel Williams
Aledo Learning Center, 11th grade

Laurel comes to class and immediately gets to work. She does not get distracted by the surrounding students or her cell phone. She has the self-control to focus on her goal of finishing her classes and resists the urge to give up. Laurel has shown that she will be successful due to her ability to exhibit self-control.



Zayden Parker
Daniel Ninth Grade, 9th grade

I recommend Zayden Parker for the Bearcat of Character for the trait of self-control. In my time of coaching Zayden, I have grown to know that he is an intense competitor. With this personality, Zayden has always demonstrated a tremendous amount of self-control while on the basketball floor and also within his every day life. Although Zayden wants to win at everything he does, he consistently maintains composure, focus, and treats everyone with the respect they deserve.



Caden Seaberry
Aledo Middle School, 6th grade

Caden is a smart, caring young man with a big, sensitive heart, who exercises his ability to control his emotions and to stay calm in stressful situations. He has developed this essential characteristic through hard work and by facing every single challenge that comes his way, including lots of times when he didn't really want to.

In class, Caden has made incredible gains, but it was a long, slow, cognitively and emotionally demanding process. Facing a task that is overwhelmingly difficult and that is

sure to expose all of one's weaknesses would make anyone feel vulnerable. Those are exactly the kinds of tasks that Caden faced each day in class. There were plenty of times when he was discouraged and probably would have liked to quit and just walk away, but Caden stayed at it. Sometimes he got pretty quiet, but over time he found his voice and he began to speak up about those feelings and those impulses. And as he spoke, he began to master those thoughts and behaviors that had kept him down and made him feel small and incapable. Caden learned self-awareness and self-control and he practiced it day after day until he began to conquer his fears, and his challenges, and some pretty big goals!

Caden uses his power for good; he will speak up to help resolve an argument between friends, calming emotions without taking sides, and is kind enough to make sure both parties feel seen and heard.

Andrew Thomas
McAnally Middle School, 7th grade

Andrew Thomas has been selected by his teacher, Mrs. Alison, as McAnally Middle School's Bearcat Character Champion! Mrs. Alison shares that Andrew has grown tremendously in the year that I have known him; especially in the area of self-control. He is pleasant, motivated and comes to class ready to learn. He is engaged, asks great questions and is making great gains in learning as a result. He recently shared that he was thinking about his life one day and the struggles he was having. He decided that he didn't want his life to be like that any more, so he thought about what kind of life he did want and decided to start being the kind of guy that did better in order to have a happier life. It was such a powerful testament to his character and the power of self-awareness. I'd say he is doing a terrific job becoming that guy that he wants to be!



Caroline Klein
Annetta Elementary School, Kindergarten

Mrs. Smith, Caroline's Kindergarten teacher, says about Caroline, "Caroline is an extremely dedicated student who uses her self-control to learn to read, working in her center. I notice her self-control especially when we are doing whole group on the rug while doing Really Great Read and Heggerty. I know her self-control plays extremely important in her gymnastic accomplishments. For these reasons (and a lot more) I have nominated Caroline for demonstrating self-control.



McCoy Minchew
Coder Elementary School, 3rd grade

McCoy Minchew is a model student. He is always attentive and respectful. There are plenty of opportunities to just go crazy in the music classroom, and he shows so much self-control by not giving in. I can always count on McCoy to be ready to participate fully in whatever we are singing or playing, and I know that he will be on-task! It is a joy to have McCoy in the classroom. -Stacy Andrews, Music Teacher



JJ Lunsford
McCall Elementary School, 5th grade

Mrs. Harbuck, JJ's Science teacher says "Jeffrey, known as JJ at McCall, shows self control everyday by quietly working hard to do his work, despite temptations to join in side conversations and such. He always works hard to stay calm and makes an amazing effort to communicate his emotions to others which can be a challenge for any 5th grader. He uses self-control with kindness every day."

His ELAR teacher, Mrs. Hilton, says "JJ is a remarkable kiddo who approaches learning, communicating, and life uniquely...and always with self control. He is a young man whose mind is filled with amazing thoughts, but his articulation of his thoughts and feelings is incredibly insightful. This new year we chose words or phrases to revolve our New Year Resolutions around. We explained the whys that served as motivation, and then listed action steps to help us achieve those goals. While JJ's word wasn't "self control," his thoughtful explanations about his resolution had everything to do with self control. I was simply inspired, as I perceive him as a student who thinks reflectively before he acts or says anything in class, and yet his goal showed his desire to grow that same personal strength in his home life, where many of our kiddos struggle the most in practicing discipline and self control. JJ is truly one of a kind, and I am just thrilled for him to receive this recognition."

Turn to **CHARACTER**, page 3

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CHARACTER

from page 2

Brooks Hundley Stuard Elementary School, 1st grade



Hundley

leader. - Mrs. Getz, 1st Grade Teacher

Students can be great at many things, but what makes Brooks exceptional is his ability to combine greatness with self-control. He is able to recognize the needs around him and think before acting. His controlled, helpful, and thoughtful decisions are the makings of a fantastic

Lilly Happ Vandagriff Elementary School, 5th Grade



Happ

Lilly displays self control through every situation, even difficult ones, with grace and a positive attitude. She displays great leadership and being a role model to her peers by making good choices and helping others to make good choices. Lilly is a wonderful student and friend to everyone. She sets a positive example for her classmates by being self-disciplined. Lilly is a natural leader in the classroom and in Student Council. She brightens any room she walks into! Awesome job Lilly.

Lilly displays self control through every situation, even difficult ones, with grace and a positive attitude. She displays great leadership and being a role model to her peers by making good choices and helping others to make good choices. Lilly is a wonderful student and friend to everyone. She sets a positive example for her classmates by being self-disciplined. Lilly is a natural leader in the classroom and in Student Council. She brightens any room she walks into! Awesome job Lilly.

Knox Disney Walsh Elementary School, 1st Grade

From Knox's teacher, Mrs. Tarvin: Knox shows self-control on a daily basis and I am so proud of the growth he has made this school year. He works on his school work and works towards achieving personal goals. When he is feeling frustrated/upset/sad he is able to use self-control and advocate for himself to let me know what he needs. During unstructured time (lunch, recess, and specials) Knox uses self-control by keeping himself and staying in his own personal bubble space while being respectful of others personal space. I am so proud of him!



Disney

From Knox's teacher, Mrs. Tarvin: Knox shows self-control on a daily basis and I am so proud of the growth he has made this school year. He works on his school work and works towards achieving personal goals. When he is feeling frustrated/upset/sad he is able to use self-control and advocate for himself to let me know what he needs. During unstructured time (lunch, recess, and specials) Knox uses self-control by keeping himself and staying in his own personal bubble space while being respectful of others personal space. I am so proud of him!

VOTING

from page one

left when former councilman Dan Herbert resigned his seat for Place 5 in Nov. 2022 will be held on Feb. 7. Three members of the community have stepped up to run for the open seat. Voters will see Duane Beck, Summer Jones, and Stanton Pearson named on their ballots.

Early voting will continue to be open through Friday, Feb. 3. Those who wish to participate in early voting may do so at the Aledo Community Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

On Election Day polls will open at 7 a.m. Polls will remain open until 7 p.m.



Read this story online

Bailey Ranch Road reconstruction officially underway

Any Aledo residents driving on or near Bailey Ranch Road over the last week may have noticed some changes are underway. The 10-month reconstruction effort officially began on Jan. 23 with the closure of the westbound lane. Residents seeking to head west on Bailey Ranch Road are quickly figuring out alternative routes to get them to their destinations.

"It was a little bit challenging, because it's something new," said Simon of the traffic issues experienced by drivers as the project got underway. "This is obviously a very impactful and disruptive project. We found that as the week went on, it got better and better. It's going to take some

time for people to get used to the detours and the new routes."

The current phase of the project, which will see the north side of the Bailey Ranch Road completely rebuilt and expanded from the dirt up, is expected to last six months. Once this phase is complete, enough concrete will exist to reopen both lanes to east and westbound traffic while the south side of the road is repaired.

"There was never going to be a good time to do this project," Simon said. "We've gotten a lot of calls and emails. We've seen the stuff on social media. The main comment we see and hear is, 'Why didn't we do this in the summer?' It's a 10-month project. This is not a repaving project. Repaving can be done quickly. This is a complete reconstruction, meaning the entire existing

road has to be removed. Then the sub-base has to be re-established with a new road poured on top of it, plus the drainage system and whatnot. It's needed and necessary."

When the initial construction of Bailey Ranch Road was completed 20 years ago the sub-base was done incorrectly resulting in catastrophic failure of the road system. As the structure has continued to crumble over time, the area has seemed more like a torture test for a vehicle's suspension system than a leisurely drive down a side street in town. Once the project is complete, the new and improved Bailey Ranch Road will include east and west lanes, a turn lane, and a sidewalk allowing pedestrians to travel the length of the road safely removed from traffic.

TRUSTEES

from page one

million, will have the capacity to house an extra 889 students with doors ready to open in the fall of 2024 if the bond passes in May. The 107,500 square-foot building will be constructed on land the district already owns adjoining the new McAnally Middle School on the northwest end of the property.

Updates given to the committee on Monday, Jan. 23, from the engineers show a reduction in overall cost for the project since the district already owns the property, which will require less initial excavation to prepare the site for construction than previously anticipated. The original price tag for the project was \$66 million.

The next item of business on the proposal is \$25.2 million earmarked for updates and improvements to the Aledo High School and Daniel Ninth Grade campus. The largest portion of those funds (\$20.3 million) would be used to provide additional flex spaces and repurpose other spaces to meet the current program needs at the ninth

grade and high school levels. The remaining \$5 million is budgeted to replace the 20-year-old classroom furniture the students use each day while on campus.

Also on the agenda is \$17.8 million to address the greatest need the district has at this point in time - the purchase of land.

According to the demographers' report, Aledo ISD will exceed student capacity at the elementary level by 2024, at the middle school level by 2027, and at the high school level by 2028. Regardless of what actions the residents of Aledo and the board decide to take, the procurement of land is a vital part of the future for the district. The funds will allow the district to acquire plots of land when the opportunity arises while maintaining flexibility with how the land is utilized to best meet the needs of the district going forward.

The remaining \$21 million is allotted to allow the Board to upgrade security and technology across the district, replace



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Co-chairs of the Aledo Growth Committee, Dan Reilley and Kelli Stumbo, present their recommendations to the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees during a special meeting on Thursday, Jan. 26.

approximately 50% of the bus fleet, and repair or replace items such as aging HVAC units.

The AGC will meet for the final time on Monday, Feb. 6. On the agenda during the meeting, the committee will revise the final proposal based on recommendations from the board of trustees and the community feedback forms. They will conclude the meeting by putting together their long-range proposal for the

board that will extend over the next 10-15 years.

"I know there's a lot more to do," Reilley said, speaking of the work that still lay ahead of the AGC. "We just have to sit back and wait on the data points to come in so we can start Phase 2. I don't think in a high-growth district, you can ever say, 'We're good, stick a pin in it,' because the next wave always comes."



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

The Community News does not charge for time-limited 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

Lawmakers push \$15K teacher raises



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

A group of House Democrats is proposing a \$15,000 raise for the state's teachers and a 25% raise for other state employees by using some of the state's record budget surplus. State Rep. James Talarico, D-Austin, announced the bill last week and was joined by Democratic legislators and teachers, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

"This moment demands bold action, and that's what our state is known for," Talarico said. "House Bill 1548 would be the biggest teacher pay raise in Texas history. In Texas, we go big or we go home. Let's go big on teacher pay."

While the proposal may not gain traction in the GOP-controlled House, it could spur debate as the state faces a growing exodus of public-school teachers. The Dallas Morning News, which analyzed teacher salaries across the state, reported that major suburban and urban districts pay educators the most, while rural school districts and charter schools pay the least.

The highest average teacher salary is in the Houston region at \$62,589, while the lowest average teacher salary was in the Abilene region, according to the Texas Education Agency. The state operates 20 educational regions.

Disaster declaration for Southeast Texas communities

Gov. Gregg Abbott last week issued a disaster declaration for

Harris and Orange counties after at least one tornado touched down in Pasadena, Deer Park and neighboring Southeast Texas communities. The Texas Division of Emergency Management has requested preliminary damage assessments.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported no injuries despite the considerable damage in the area.

Abbott urged Texans with damage to their homes or businesses to complete a self-reporting damage survey at damage.tdem.texas.gov. Damage should also be reported separately to insurance agencies.

Texas leads nation in job creation in 2022

A December employment release from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates Texas led the nation in job creation with 650,100 non-farm jobs added last year – a 5% rate, the fastest in the nation. Coming in second with 621,400 new non-farm jobs was California.

"Texas works when Texans work, and in this legislative session, we will continue expanding opportunity and ensuring Texas remains the best state to live, work, build a business, and raise a family," Abbott said.

The state's unemployment rate stood at 3.9% in December, slightly higher than the national average of 3.5%. Total Texas employment reached a new high of 13.705 million at year's end.

Heat-related deaths reach two-decade high

Heat-related deaths in Texas reached a new high last year, according to a Texas Tribune analysis of state data since 1999. The state's second-hottest summer and the worst drought since 2011 combined to increase risk of

heat exhaustion and heatstroke. At least 268 in the state were killed by heat, with a large portion of those being migrants who died after crossing the border, the Tribune reported.

The analysis showed six of the top 10 counties for heat deaths since 1999 are on or near the Texas-Mexico border, with Webb County having the highest number at 325. Migrant experts and local officials along the border say the number reported is almost certainly a "dramatic undercount."

Local parks grants total \$9.8 million

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved more than \$9.8 million in local parks grants last week "to help create and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities." The grants are allocated to local governments on a 50/50 basis. Once a park is funded, it must remain in existence in perpetuity, be properly maintained and open to the public.

Grants went to 20 cities of varying sizes for nature trails, native gardens, playgrounds, splash pads, dog parks and sports fields.

A full list of grants can be found on the tpwd.texas.gov website.

Bills push for accountability after Uvalde shooting

The state senator whose district includes Uvalde has filed four bills related to the mass shooting at Robb Elementary last May. Sen. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, filed bills to "reduce gun violence, increase support for school shooting victims and survivors, and push for accountability for

the flawed law enforcement response to the mass shooting," the *Statesman* reported.

Several families of the Uvalde school shooting victims joined Gutierrez for the announcement last week. One bill would create a school violence victims' compensation fund. Another would eliminate qualified immunity protection for police officers. The law enforcement response to the shooting has been widely criticized.

Another bill would raise the minimum age to purchase military-style rifles.

"When will it be enough bloodshed? Are you waiting for it to happen to you or your family before you stop to think about your gross negligence?" said Velma Lisa Duran, the older sister of Irma Garcia, one of the two teachers killed in Uvalde, the *Statesman* reported.

COVID-19 cases dip slightly

The number of new cases of COVID-19 in Texas during the past week dropped slightly to 23,530, with 194 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services was 2,513, down about 300 from the previous week. Only reported cases are tallied, and people who test positive with a home test kit likely are never reported.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist.

He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.



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Guest Column

Texas Public Information Act's 50th anniversary an excellent time to strengthen the landmark law



Kelley Shannon
kelley.shannon@foift.org

Fifty years ago, responding to public demand in an era of reform, Texas enacted a sweeping law ensuring the people's right to know about their government.

The Texas Public Information Act – originally known as the Open Records Act when it passed in 1973 – was one of the strongest transparency laws in the nation. It allowed Texans to hold their state and local governments accountable by obtaining all sorts of public records.

"The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know," states the act, born after the Sharpstown stock fraud scandal that gripped state government.

Despite those bold words, the act has been eroded by subsequent legislation, court rulings, and maneuvers by some government officials to sidestep the law. In the current Texas legislative session, we, the people, must protect and strengthen the Public Information Act and maintain our state's open government legacy.

The Texas Sunshine Coalition is doing exactly that. Sixteen diverse organizations are working together to push for bipartisan transparency legislation. The non-profit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas is part of the coalition and was founded on the belief that access to public records allows everyone to scrutinize and speak up about government.

The Sunshine Coalition aims to shore up the Public Information Act so taxpayers can view "super public" information and other key provisions in government contracts; create a uniform "business

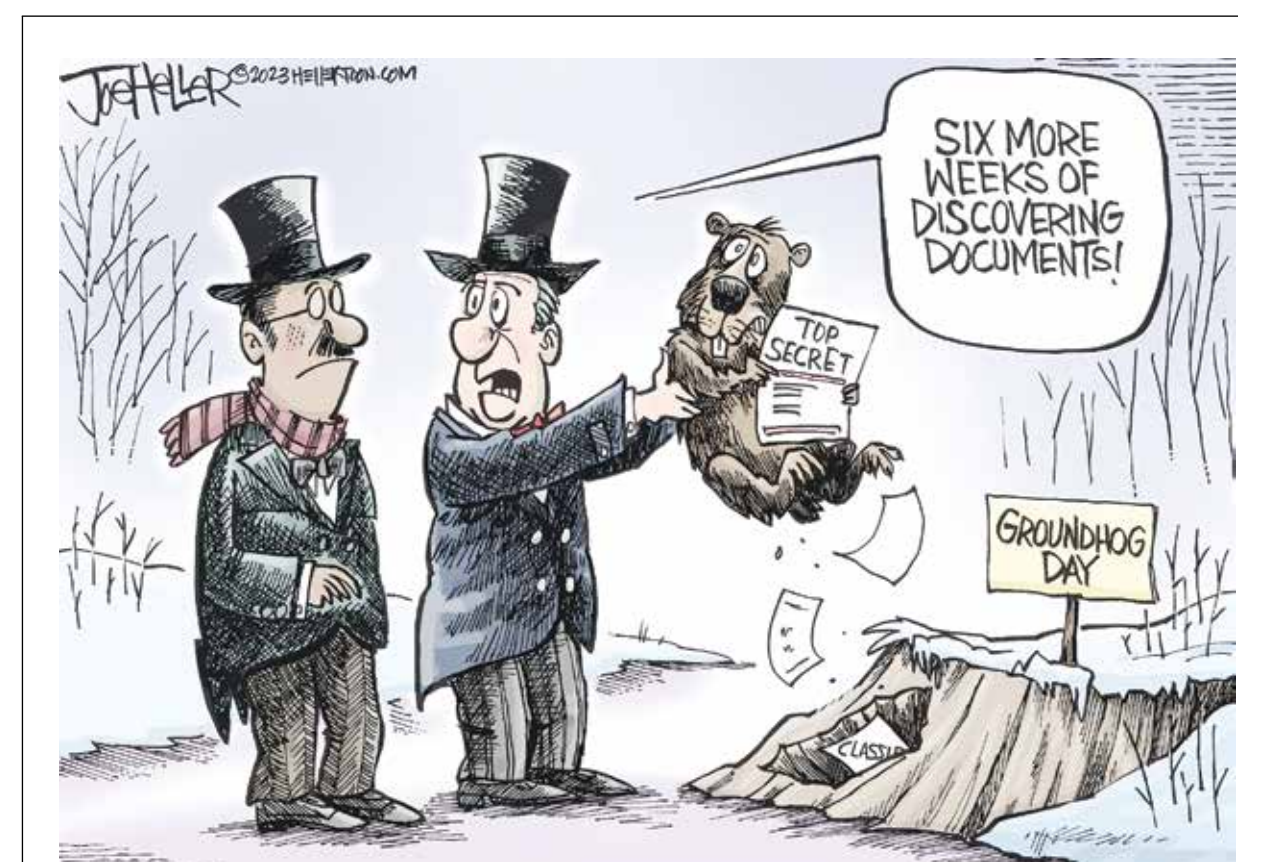
definition requiring governments to respond to public records requests, even on days of remote work; require that governments provide certain data to requestors in searchable-sortable spreadsheets; and restore public access to dates of birth in criminal justice and political candidate records.

Another coalition pillar is to allow recovery of attorneys' fees if a requestor must sue to get public information. A series of court decisions have made this extremely difficult by allowing governments to hand over documents

at the last minute – after months of litigation – and avoid paying any of the requestor's legal fees. Consequently, governments may be inclined to ignore or delay records requests.

Meanwhile, the FOI Foundation of Texas works every legislative session to defend the Texas Open Meetings Act, the state's other major transparency law that was expanded during the early 1970s reform movement. Its enforcement provisions must remain available to everyday citizens. That includes civil court

Turn to LAW, page 6



ALEDO ISD

AHS places 50 members in All-Region Band

Two musicians named All State

The Texas Music Educators Association audition process resulted in two Aledo High School band members being named to the All-State Band. In addition, 10 students made All-Area and 50 students earned a chair in the All Region Bands.

Sophomore French Horn player Isabella Stamper and junior Jane Claire Anderson (Flute) were the All-State honorees who will perform at the All State Band Concert at the TMEA Clinic and Convention on Saturday, Feb. 11, in San Antonio.



Read this story online

"The TMEA

Audition process plays a huge part in the development of the individual player in the Aledo Band Program," said AHS Band Director Joey Paul.

- Audrey Garrett - Flute, Ninth Grade Band
- Anna Carpenter - Oboe, Symphonic Band, Area
- James Leising - Oboe, Concert Band
- Scott Mason - Clarinet, Symphonic Band, Area
- Hannah Clark - Clarinet, Symphonic Band
- Jackson Sirois - Clarinet, Symphonic Band
- Nick Brandt - Clarinet, Concert Band
- Tyler Jackson - Clarinet, Concert Band
- Taylor Salas - Clarinet, Ninth Grade Band
- Allison Maruschak - Bass Clarinet, Symphonic Band, Area
- Nolan Golden - Bass Clarinet, Symphonic Band
- Andrew Moseley - Bass Clarinet, Concert Band
- Garhett Daves - Alto Saxophone, Symphonic Band, Area
- Caleb Fisher - Alto Saxophone, Symphonic Band
- Kobey Hogg - Alto Saxophone, Symphonic Band
- Addison Bean - Alto Saxophone, Concert Band
- Laedin Utley - Alto Saxophone, Ninth Grade Band
- Luke Bogner - Alto Saxophone Ninth Grade Band
- Jerry Olazaran - Tenor Saxophone, Symphonic Band
- Rhett Wilkerson - Tenor Saxophone, Concert Band
- Ethan Price - Tenor Saxophone, Ninth Grade Band



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
All-Area Band members from Aledo High School are (front row, from left) Allison Maruschak, Garhett Daves, Isabella Stamper, Samantha Elston, and Jackson Schneider and (back row) Anna Carpenter, Marco Nava, Luke Shelton, Jane Claire Anderson, and Scott Mason.

- Teague Shelton - Bari Saxophone, Concert Band
- Jackson Schneider - Trumpet, Symphonic Band, Area
- Jack Grimm - Trumpet, Concert Band
- Tony DeLaGarza - Trumpet, Concert Band
- Jay Bice - Trumpet, Ninth Grade Band
- Isabella Stamper - French Horn, Symphonic Band, Area, All State 1st Chair Symphonic Band
- Alexis Fisher - French Horn, Symphonic Band
- Jillian Guess - French Horn, Symphonic Band
- Sarah Miller - French Horn, Concert Band
- Andrew Boykin - French Horn, Ninth Grade Band
- Marco Nava - Trombone, Symphonic Band, Area
- Luke Willis - Trombone, Concert Band
- Jonathan Bullock - Trombone, Concert Band
- Mason Heimke - Trombone, Alternate, Concert Band
- Christian Chevalier, Trombone, Ninth Grade Band
- Gavin Meador - Bass Trombone, Concert Band
- Luke Shelton - Euphonium, Symphonic Band, Area
- Jude McDonald - Euphonium, Symphonic Band
- Gustin Paul - Euphonium, Concert Band
- Anna Simmons - Euphonium, Ninth Grade Band
- August Lamber - Tuba, Concert Band
- Logan Trinkka - Tuba, Ninth Grade Band
- Marshall Anderson - Percussion, Symphonic Band
- Kailyn Link - Percussion, Concert Band

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Weatherford Art Association names Artists of the Month for January

The Weatherford Art Association started its year by recognizing the work of some of its members.

First place was captured by artist Linda W. Young for her acrylic painting, "...And A Good Cup of Coffee." This richly lit rendition of an iconic cowboy at the end of his workday is sourced from a photograph gifted to Linda by artist James Spurlock 20 years ago. The model is famed artist Doug Prine. This work and other works by Linda will be on view at the Doss Heritage and Cultural Center during February.

Second place went to photographer Carmen Davailus, for a photograph on metal, "Grace and Strength." The artist conveys an image of aging calla lilies showing

both strength and vulnerability. In her words, "The soft reflection reminds us of how flowers can be a metaphor for life." Her photograph will be displayed during February at First Bank Texas in downtown Weatherford.

Third place was awarded to Cindi Neverdousky for her oil painting, "Peaches." A platter of velvety peaches rests in a warm setting surrounded by lovely pottery and fabric detailing. Cindi noted, "I worked with doing one stroke at a time to create the effects of this still life." Cindi's painting can be viewed throughout February at the Fort Worth Community Credit Union on South Main Street in Weatherford.

As part of its mission as a non-profit 501(3-C) corporation, the Weatherford



COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD ART ASSOCIATION

LEFT: Linda W. Young shows her first-place entry, "...And A Good Cup of Coffee." | **CENTER:** Photographer Carmen Davailus, shows her second-place entry, a photograph on metal, "Grace and Strength." | **RIGHT:** Cindi Neverdousky shows her third-place entry, an oil painting, "Peaches."

Art Association provides monthly demonstrations to increase the knowledge of its members and support arts education for the community at large. Meetings are held from 6 to 7:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at 125 South Waco in Weatherford. For more information, visit weatherfordart.com.



Read this story online

LAW

from page 4

action, when necessary, to prevent or compel an action by a government to ensure compliance with the open meetings law. The FOI Foundation weighed in on this provision with an amicus brief in court.

In another recent legal brief, the FOI Foundation supported the Odessa American in the newspaper's ongoing lawsuit against the city of Odessa to enforce the release of basic public information "promptly," as called for in the Public Information Act.

Government officials who stall by seeking unnecessary attorney general rulings or ignoring requestors are not honoring the intentions of the law. All state and

local government information in Texas is presumed to be available to the public, unless specific legal exceptions apply.

Many Texans believe our state is exceptional; the historic Public Information Act is one of the reasons it is special. The 2023 legislative session is an excellent time to improve this landmark law governing the people's right to know.

Today's lawmakers have an opportunity to continue their predecessors' commitment to open government so that it endures for generations to come.



Read this story online

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the nonprofit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. For more information, visit www.foift.org.

TRAIL

from page one

Goals of the amendment include:

- Identify areas on public and private lands that are suitable for trail development within the city limits and extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of Willow Park.
- Establish a framework of cooperation between the City of Willow Park, trail steward nonprofits, private property owners and land developers to create single track trails and bikeways.
- Provide land developers with a concept plan for public/private trail development partnerships.
- Identify bikeways within the city that connect single track trail networks with one another.
- Create a forum to educate the public on the stewardship responsibilities of single track trail sustainability.

Partner with municipalities adjacent to Willow Park and the North Central Texas Council Of Governments to create a cohesive trail network in Eastern Parker County.

Along with Willow Park, nearby cities and communities such as Hudson Oaks, both Annettas, Aledo, and Weatherford will benefit, Fisher said.

"Everybody can plug a piece into this and be a part," she said, noting that when the dots are connected it will be the East Parker County Trail.

In fact, Fisher said there is a hope that someday there will be a trail that runs from Dallas to Mineral Wells that will include this trail.

"Larry dreams this stuff up in his sleep. He's incredible," she said.

Election set

The council also set an election for May 6. There will

be two council seats and the office of mayor up for election.

Currently, along with Mayor Doyle Moss, Council Member Place 1, held by Eric Contreras and Place 2, Chawn Gilliland, will be on the ballot.

Board appointments


Three commissioners of the Board of Adjustments were reappointed by the council. They are Michael Chandler, Place 1; Cynthia Neverdousky, Place 3; and Michael Caldwell, Place 5.

Reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Board are Rodney Wilkins, Place 1; Billy Weikert, Place 3; Jared Fowler, Place 5; and Zachary Walker, Alternate 1.

Parks Board reappointments are Lea Young, Ex-Officio, Place 1; James McKibben, Place 3; and David Wagner, Place 5.



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Events

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

FEBRUARY 2

Parker County Republican Party

Weatherford ISD school board member Adam Feriend will be the program when the Parker County republican Party holds its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2, in the Strain Community Room at the Doss Student Center at Weatherford College. For more information, email Scott Utley at parkercountygop@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 3

Baskerville

Theatre Off The Square (TOTS) will present "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" on weekends beginning Feb. 3 through Feb. 19. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays at 114 North Denton St. in Weatherford. "Baskerville" is a fast-paced comedy based on Arthur Conan Doyle's classic "The Hound of the Baskervilles." Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors (60+)/



students/children under school age. Matinee tickets are \$15 for all ages and no other discounts apply. Purchase tickets in the box office prior to each show or visit <https://www.theatre-offthesquare.org/>.

FEBRUARY 14

Willow Park City Hall opening

The public is invited to a ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Willow Park's new City Hall: 120 El Chico Suite A in Willow Park. The city will also host an open house with tours beginning at 4:30 p.m. that day prior to the city council meeting at 6 p.m.



FEBRUARY 25

Annetta 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.annetatx.org.

Bearcat Mardi Gras Ball

The Aledo High School Class of 2024 Project Celebration Committee has planned a festive February evening to benefit Aledo High School Class of 2024 Project Celebration. The Bearcat Mardi Gras Ball



will run from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, at The Social Space, 205 S. Calhoun St. in Fort Worth.

The Ball will feature the Celebrity Bartending event featuring TCU football players and Aledo alumni, Colt Ellison and Wyatt Harris, a buffet dinner, drinks, and additional activities. For more information, visit aledopc2024.com.

MARCH 25

AdvoCats Run, Walk, or Crawl

The Aledo Children's AdvoCats have announced that the annual Run, Walk, or Crawl Glow Run will be held Saturday, March 25, at Bearcat Stadium.

The Glow Run is a night-time fun run in the heart of Aledo that raises money for the programs of the AdvoCats.

Participants in the Glow



ACROSS

1 TXism: "would ___ maggot" (icky)

5 this Riley was a LB for the Houston Oilers (1981-86)

6 dye for hair coloring

7 loaf around

8 TXism: "give ___ rest" (shut up)

9 assn. for Texas MDs

12 stinging insects

17 just the tea, please (2 wds.)

19 TXism: "busy ___ -armed paper hanger"

21 in San Patricio County on U.S. 181

22 north-westernmost county in Texas

23 TXism: "takes a big ___ rope him" (large man)

28 saddle ___ (chafed)

29 "I don't want to hear a ___ out of you"

30 TXism: "___ marm" (teacher)

31 city in Nebraska and Texas

35 "it's just the ___ of the iceberg"

36 TXism: "he ___ own two feet" (independent)

42 Hereford: "The Town With ___"

44 venomous "Texas ___ Snake"

46 in Sam Houston State Park: "Long-leaf ___"

48 Asian tiered tower

49 fifth state due north of Texas (abbr.)

50 "do it or ___!"

51 TXism: "___ to" (similar)

52 environ. protector

53 cattle enclosures

54 TX Cheyenne Knight golfing assn.

56 had supper

57 TXism: "hit me like a ___ of bricks"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

1 former event by three singing Texas brothers: "

12 TXism: "light ___" (cheapskate)

13 TXism: "flat ___"

14 "Black Friday" event

15 word after "ski" or "telephone"

16 Kellogg's "___ Crackle and Pop"

18 self-importance

20 "Hook '___ Horns!"

23 this Levi created blue jeans (init.)

24 final mo. of the State Fair of Texas

25 birth state of Gov. "Pappy" O'Daniel

26 camper or infield fly ball (2 wds.)

37 ripped in two what an old Texan can tell (2 wds.)

39 TXism: "happy as a ___ slop"

40 brandin' tools

41 TXism: "got an overdose of woe"

43 Cowboys' Dalton Schultz pos.

45 ___ Grange, Texas

47 "___ conclusion" (decide with little information)

48 daddy

55 this Peter wrote "North Dallas Forty"

Run can choose to participate in a 1K or a 5K race that begins and ends at the Aledo High School track. Additional event information will be provided as available. For more information, visit <https://aledo-advocats.com/index.php/advocats-rwc/>.

MARCH 31

Bearcats 'n Boots

The Aledo Education Foundation will present its annual Bearcats 'n Boots gala fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. on Friday, March 31,

at the Hilton Downtown in Fort Worth.

Live entertainment will be provided by Lonestar. The event will feature live and silent auctions, a three-course meal, an open bar, and complimentary valet parking.

Tickets range from \$3,000 for a table of 10 \$15,500 for platinum investor.

To purchase tickets, make a donation, or browse auction items, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/bnb2023/welcome>.

APRIL 15

Weatherford College 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/3CiiKx4>. For a Spotify playlist, visit <https://bit.ly/3IP7piy>.

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Look at it This Way

New era for Bearcats, but expect continued success



Rick Mauch
sports@community-news.com

Tim Buchanan and Steve Wood, architects behind the past 10 Aledo state football championships, are retiring. The announcement came last Friday morning, Jan. 27, a day I thought was going to be spent in my pajamas getting some writing done — or lounging on the sofa with the TV clicker to see if “That ‘90s Show” is any good.

It isn’t, but I found that out late Friday night as my day suddenly got busy. I changed from pajamas to blue jeans and skedaddled to the Aledo indoor practice facility for a press conference. Well, I actually wasn’t in that big a hurry as my good friend and Aledo School District public relations guru Mercedes Meyer had notified me earlier that morning.

By the way, the football program — and I suspect the overall sports program — will continue to be great. We’ll get to more on that in a minute.

Normally, a trip to visit with Buchanan — or Buc most call him — is something I look forward to. In our weekly visits during this football season, my first to cover the team from start to finish, our conversations ranged from how his defense was going to deal with the opposing offense, or vice-versa, to if politicians spent as much time doing their jobs as they do fighting we might actually get some things fixed in this country.

But this day had a little bittersweet feeling to it. This visit was not to talk football — we’d done that earlier in the week in reflecting on the season. This was a farewell visit, at least farewell as far as football goes.

Two of the finest men I’ve ever known, Buc and Steve, were saying goodbye to their careers.

I mentioned how visiting with Buc was always a pleasure and the conversations would often wander (always wrapping up with football, though — we are professionals, after all), likewise for Steve. I didn’t cover any of his teams for an entire season like I did Buc, but the times I had to visit with Steve were always enjoyable and enlightening.

After all, being professional doesn’t mean you can’t also enjoy a great conversation with a friend. I do consider both of these guys friends.

Turn to **ERA**, page 9

BASKETBALL

Bearcats drop heartbreaker to Saginaw

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

It took two extra frames to get a verdict in the Tuesday, Jan. 24 showdown between the home team Aledo Bearcats and the visiting Saginaw Rough Riders. When the final buzzer sounded following 32 minutes of intense action on the hardwood, it was Saginaw who walked out of the gym victorious by a 66-64 tally.

The loss dropped Aledo’s overall record on the season to 12-9 (3-4 in District 5-5A competition).

In the second overtime the Rough Riders built up a six-point lead with just less than a minute remaining on the clock with the score at 62-56. Aledo wasn’t ready to wave the white flag of surrender, however, as they went on a 7-4 run to make it a one-possession game at 66-63 with just seven seconds remaining.

On the ensuing Bearcat possession following a trip to the free throw line by Saginaw, Aledo raced down the floor with point guard Ulises Garcia finding long-range specialist Drew Clock open with enough time to take a final

shot from three-point land in hopes to tie the game up once more as time expired. Clock’s three-point shot was just off the mark as it bounced off the iron before falling to the floor.

However, the ball wasn’t the only thing that fell to the floor. Clock managed to draw a foul on the shot that sent him crashing to the hardwood below and giving the Bearcats one final chance to cinch the game up before the buzzer.

Clock stepped to the free throw line shooting three with a fraction of a second left on the clock. The first shot from the charity stripe found its mark as he snapped the twine to make it a 66-64 tally with two shots remaining.

As he released his second attempt the ball rattled around the rim, but did not go through the hoop. A look of disappointment mired Clock’s countenance as an echo of awes from the hometown crowd filled the arena.

With one final shot from the line Clock attempted to bounce the ball off the backboard in a

Turn to **OVERTIME**, page 11



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Exavier Anderson soars towards the basket during the Tuesday, Jan. 24 66-64 double-overtime loss to Saginaw.

BASKETBALL

Ladycats win over Saginaw

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

It came down to the wire, but Aledo’s Ladycat hoopers hung on to win Tuesday, Jan. 24’s match-up with Saginaw, 49-46, and get some redemption from their first meeting this season along the way.

The win over the Lady Rough Riders puts Aledo back over .500

on the season (15-14) and in District 5-5A action (5-4).

“Every game right now we’ve got to try to win it out in order to try to make the playoffs,” said Ladycats head coach Nikki Hyles. “This district is so tight anybody can beat anybody. We’ve just got to take care of business one game at a time.”



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kenzie Grau sinks the free throws to seal the 50-46 victory over Saginaw on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

Take care of business is certainly what the Ladycats did through the first three quarters of action. Aledo jumped out to an 18-9 lead at the end of the first quarter before extending the lead to a dozen points as they went into the break, up 32-20.

Late in the third quarter as the Lady Rough Riders transitioned to a full-court press, and Aledo struggled against the pressure early on. Turnover opportunities allowed Saginaw to trim the lead in the waning moments of the third to just 10 points right as the Lady Rough Riders outside shooting game began to heat up.

An interesting moment in the action — or perhaps pause in the action is a more precise way to put it — came with about two minutes left in the third as Aledo’s Presley Hull came up with a steal before putting up a layup off the fast break scoring opportunity. Hull’s shot bounced off the backboard, played off the rim, before running out of steam as it came to rest on the neck of the rim.

The officials had to use a second ball to retrieve the game ball off the goal and resume play with Saginaw taking over possession according to the rule book.

Aledo continued to struggle against the full-court blitz by the

Lady Rough Riders early in the final frame. Saginaw managed to convert turnovers into points on the board as they raced to cut away at the Ladycat lead late in the game.

Just in the nick of time, Aledo gained confidence dealing with the defensive pressure from Saginaw as they continued to hold off the Lady Rough Riders with time ticking down.

“We’ve got to be able to handle the pressure,” Hyles said. “They did a good job of playing tight. We had to change some things up and throw some things in at timeouts that were new. The kids picked up on that quick and did a good job.”

With about 30 seconds remaining in the contest Aledo did just enough at the free throw line going 3-of-6 to pull out the win. With seven seconds left in regulation Kenzie Grau sank her first attempt of a 1-and-1 opportunity that put the Ladycats up by four to make it a two-possession game. The Lady Rough Riders failed to convert any points as the final few seconds melted away as the Ladycats successfully defended their home court.

Turn to **LADYCATS**, page C6



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RETIRE

from page one

football coach, and athletics director, retires after 42 years in education. Wood had other stops in his career as a teacher and assistant football coach at Port Lavaca High School (1981-1984), Pasadena Dobie High School (1985-1992), and Saginaw Boswell High School (1993-2001).

Wood became Buchanan's assistant head football coach and defensive coordinator in 2002, then was promoted to head football coach from 2014-2018 while Buchanan stepped away from coaching to become Aledo ISD's athletics director. Wood's Bearcat teams won three state championships (2014, 2016, 2018) in four title game appearances. Wood amassed a 75-4 record in five seasons.

"I have so many memories and proud moments from 42 years in education, and these last 21 years in Aledo have been unforgettable," Wood said. "What we have been able to accomplish is remarkable, and I have enjoyed being a part of it as an assistant coach, a head coach and an athletics director. I will certainly miss our kids and getting to know them and cheer them on, but I will be a Bearcat for life."

Steve Wood and Tim Buchanan

Wood and Buchanan flipped positions before the 2019 season with Wood becoming the district's athletic director and Buchanan returning to the sidelines as AHS head football coach. Wood won four state titles as an Aledo assistant coach (2009, 2010, 2011, 2013), three as the Bearcats head coach (2014, 2016, 2018), and three as athletics director (2019, 2020, 2022) for 10 total state titles.

"I am so grateful for the impact Steve Wood has had on our athletics program in Aledo," AISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "I have seen it time and again his love for our student-athletes and coaches, and his genuine interest in the success of both. To know him is to love him. We'll definitely miss his leadership but wish him well in his much-deserved retirement after 42 years in education and his 21 years in service to his Bearcats."

Buchanan legacy includes 11 state titles

Legendary Aledo Bearcats head football coach Tim Buchanan announced his retirement after 30 years at Aledo (25 as head coach) and 40 years in public education and coaching overall — and just six weeks after the Bearcats won their UIL-record 11th state title 52-14 over College Station at AT&T Stadium on Dec. 17, 2022.

Buchanan - who amassed a 281-58-3 coaching record — won eight



Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn is shown with Robby Jones, center, and Head Coach Tim Buchanan, at the state championship ceremony.

state championships, which ranks tied for second behind the 11-man state record holders Carthage's Scott Surratt and Gordon Wood (Brownwood/Stamford). G.A. Moore also won eight state titles at Pilot Point and Celina.

"We will most certainly miss Coach Buc on our sidelines at Aledo," Bohn said. "In 30 years, he has created a culture and a community of Bearcats who are extremely proud. His high expectations, his extreme preparation, and his desire to see each student-athlete in his program succeed are just a few of the reasons that he'll retire as one of the most decorated and respected coaches in Texas state football history."

"Personally, I am grateful that, when I was named superintendent in Aledo ISD in 2018 and I asked Coach Buc to stay, he rethought the retirement he had already announced at the time. He chose to stay on as athletics director and even came back as head coach for a second stint. I have been honored and blessed to have worked alongside both Coach Buc and Coach Wood and to have seen first-hand the impact they have had on our community and defining what it means to be a Bearcat," Bohn said.

Buchanan finishes with 20 seasons with double-digit wins and two undefeated seasons. His only losing season was his first, in 1993. Buchanan went 8-0 in state title games, winning in 1998, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2019, 2020 and 2022. During his five years as Aledo ISD athletics director when former defensive coordinator Steve Wood took over as head coach, the Bearcats won three more state titles (2014, 2016, 2018).

Aledo's 11 state football titles are an all-time UIL record regardless of classification. Between Buchanan and

Wood, Aledo has a 111-game district win streak that's still active; Aledo's last district loss was on Oct. 5, 2007.

"When you get into coaching, you have big plans and dreams but never could I have envisioned that nearly 40 years later, I'd be leaving with eight state titles as a head coach and three as an athletics director," Buchanan said. "When I came to Aledo, the school was on its sixth head football coach in five years - one two years before me had left after two days. We had a lot of work to do, but we had the buy-in of thousands of young men and Bearcats who grew up wanting to be a part of something special."

"I am proud of the work we've done and, honestly, I do sometimes step back and say, 'wow' as I think of all of the coaches, administrators, trainers, parents, student-athletes and so many more who have been a part of something so special as what we have in Aledo," Buchanan said.

Buchanan will be inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor this summer in Houston during the THSCA Coaching School and Convention. Prior to Aledo, Buchanan was an assistant coach at Bastrop (1984), Killeen Ellison (1985, 1987), The Colony (1986) and A&M Consolidated (1988-1992) where he won the 1991 Class 4A state title as an assistant coach.

"I am honored to have been able to work with Coach Buc over the last 18 years and to have seen first-hand the impact he's made on thousands of young student-athletes," Aledo High School principal Angi Tims said. "His student-athletes are not only good football players but also good students and representatives of Aledo High School. He has set a very high standard for excellence. We're going

"I am proud of the work we've done and, honestly, I do sometimes step back and say, 'wow'."

ERA

from page 8

I could go into the plethora of wins they had (Buc finished with 281 in 25 seasons, Wood accumulated 75 in five seasons) and the number of state titles they accumulated (Buc has eight, Wood three), but anyone who knows the shape of a football is fully aware of that. I know from experience their reputation extends far beyond the borders of Texas as when I mentioned Aledo football when I lived in Colorado, a lot of folks had definitely heard of the Bearcats.

I remember even telling someone one time while we lived there that Aledo has won more playoff games in AT&T Stadium than the Cowboys have played there. They responded, "Oh, yeah, I'm not surprised."

But what separates coaches such as Buc and Steve from many is how they truly develop a relationship with their players and the community. They ran a program that former Bearcats coast to coast take pride in for the rest of their lives. A lot of schools claim to have their "nation," but with programs such as Aledo it is true.

From big-time college football to one of the most popular sports talk radio stations in the U.S to major award-winning musicians (that "Fancy Like" song from Chil's commercials, Aledo alums wrote that), Bearcat imprints are everywhere.

No, the football program didn't create all of that, but a winning and

successful culture did. And there is no more successful culture on this planet than Aledo football. It is the cornerstone of a successful overall sports program that is second to none.

And who have been the athletic directors at Aledo for the past 30 years? Buchanan and Wood. Buc had the job from 1993-2018 and Wood took over from 2019 until his recent retirement. During that time Aledo also won state championships in baseball, softball and golf, along with state finals appearances on volleyball and boys and girls soccer.

This isn't counting individual state championships in a variety of sports, none more notable than current LPGA golfer Cheyenne Knight.

In 2013-14 Aledo became the only team ever to win football, baseball and softball state championships in the same school year.

Obviously, the coaches of those respective programs deserve the ultimate credit, but the point is winning begets winning. And when you've got two of the best doing the hiring of other coaches, well, you see what you get with Aledo as the example.

Moving Forward

Long-time assistant coach Robby Jones will guide the Bearcats football program going forward. As Buchanan noted, it's time for him to start building his own legend.

Jones has an idea of what it's like to follow one of the all-time greats. His father, Jerry (not the bozo with

the Cowboys), followed G.A. Moore at both Celina and Pilot on his own way to winning more than 200 games in a quarter century as a head coach.

The Bearcats are in great hands with Robby, who had been the offensive coordinator since 2009. In that tenure, the Bearcats averaged a mind-boggling 49 points per game, including averaging 45 in the playoffs.

It was Jones who was the offensive mastermind behind the highest scoring offense in history at any level. The 2013 Bearcats are the only team in history to score more than 1,000 points in a season, outscoring their opponents 1,023 to 140 (Wood was defensive coordinator that season).

In announcing the turning over of the reins to Jones, Buchanan called him the best coach on the staff, including himself. They just don't come any better than that concerning compliments.

When Wood stepped in to replace Buchanan in 2014, the Bearcats didn't skip a beat, going 15-1 and winning state. While that would normally be one whale of a prediction for any other coach, this is Aledo and Jones is going to be leading a team that should certainly enter next season as the favorites to capture title No. 12.

So, Buc moves on to enjoy hunting and being outdoors more, and Steve will hone his golf game. Both will have more time for family.

And both will always be Bearcats, with another family member building on that same foundation.



Athletic Director Steve Wood and Head Coach Tim Buchanan are shown at the state championship celebration on Jan. 18.

to miss him but wish him nothing but the very best in retirement."

During Buchanan's time as athletics director from 1993 to 2018, Aledo won state titles in golf (2007), softball (2008, 2014, 2015) and baseball (2014) and played for state championships or qualified for the state tournament in boys soccer, girls soccer, volleyball and girls basketball. The school also had several individual state champions in track and field, cross country, and golf.

Jones has 10 state titles as OC

Robby Jones, longtime assistant head football coach and offensive coordinator at Aledo High School, has been named the new head football coach for the Bearcats. Jones, who started at Aledo in 2000, has won 10 state titles as offensive coordinator at Aledo.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be the next head football coach at Aledo High School because it is the top program in the state of Texas," Jones said. "Since I've been a Bearcat for 23 seasons, you'll probably notice that not a whole lot will change. We know what works, and we're going to stay the course and continue with the great traditions, the high expectations and the incredible work ethic that are well established in our program."

"It is not easy to follow a coaching legend, but I know Coach Buc will be my biggest supporter. I can't wait to continue to build upon what Coach Buc and Coach Wood have done in Aledo," Jones said.

Prior to Aledo, Jones was a history teacher and an assistant football, basketball, track and baseball coach in Dublin from 1995 to 1997. He was a teacher and an assistant football, basketball and track coach and head golf coach in Munday ISD from 1997 to 2000. Jones has also been the head track coach at Aledo since 2018.

In his 14 years as Aledo's offensive coordinator, the Bearcats have averaged 49.4 points per game with a 45 points per game average in the playoffs.

"I cannot think of anyone more qualified to take over the Bearcat football program than Robby Jones," retiring head football coach Tim Buchanan said. "Robby has dedicated 23 years to Aledo High School and is one of the very best coaches I know both in X's and O's and in his dedication to kids. I cannot wait to see him succeed."

Jones and his entire family are long-time Bearcats. Jones' wife Cheryl has worked as a teacher and administrator in Aledo ISD since 2000 and has been the principal at the Aledo Learning Center for the last seven years. His son Dane graduated from Aledo in 2018 and played football for four years, and son Cade graduated in 2020 and played four years of football and baseball at Aledo.

"We are excited to introduce Robby Jones as our next head football coach, but we know he's no stranger to our community or to Bearcat football," Bohn said. "Coach Jones has been a constant in this program for 23 years, and I know he will continue to build on our rich football tradition at Aledo. He has a passion for football and for making his student-athletes be the best they can be. Congratulations, Coach Jones, on this well-deserved promotion to head football coach at Aledo."

Jones also comes from a football family. His father, the late Jerry Jones, had a head coaching record of 206-77-7 in 25 years at Celina, Maypearl, Pilot Point and Prosper. He followed legendary football coach G.A. Moore twice in his career - when he took over after Moore at Celina and then at Pilot Point. Robby Jones' two brothers have also coached, with his brother Rocky Jones retiring from coaching at Aledo just last season.



Read this story online

TENNIS

Aledo opens season in Peach Bowl

Staff Reports

The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team began their spring season on Jan. 27 in the annual Peach Bowl tournament, held on various courts throughout the area. Four groups of players finished in the top four places of their respective bracket.

All 10 groups competed in the A Division, meaning they all were seeded in the top 16 of the 24 entries in their specific discipline.

The boys doubles team of Scott Mason/Hogan Posey won first place. In mixed doubles, Craig Mason/Bryanna Orr finished in third place.



Read this story online



Bryanna Orr and Craig Mason



Scott Mason and Hogan Posey

Classifieds

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The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas is accepting proposals for construction of 10 new homes in the Vega Land Subdivision. Deadline: Feb. 28, 2023, by 3 p.m. Specifications: Purchasing@ktttribe.org or 830-773-2105.

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NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL EMMETT GIOTIS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Michael Emmett Giotis, Deceased, were issued on December 19, 2018, in Cause No. 22P455, pending in the Probate Court of Parker County, Texas to: Zarmina Giotis, Independent Executor.

The location of said Independent Executor is Tarrant County, Texas, whose office address in Tarrant County is:

c/o John J. Corbin, Law Office of John J. Corbin
 1020 Macon Street, Suite 12
 Fort Worth, TX 76102

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them, care of John J. Corbin, 1020 Macon Street, Suite 12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, attorney for the Independent Executor, Zarmina Giotis, within the time and manner prescribed by law.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ John J. Corbin
 John J. Corbin TBN 24036402
 Law Office of John J. Corbin
 1021 Macon Street, Suite 12
 Fort Worth, Texas 76102
 (817) 332-5414; (817) 332-1540 (fax)
 Attorney for Estate of Michael Emmett Giotis, Deceased

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-163A

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALEDO, AS AMENDED, BY CHANGING THE ZONING OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES, SPECIFICALLY Lots 8-9, Block 9, lasater addition, an addition to the city of aledo, parker county, texas, CURRENTLY ZONED AS r-2 (single family residential district), TO PD r-2 (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT) WITH r-2 single family residential district USES; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REFLECT SUCH CHANGES; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 6. PENALTY

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 not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. In addition, 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 may be subjected to such civil penalties as authorized by law.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law, and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 25th DAY OF AUGUST, 2022.

Nick Stanley, Mayor

ATTEST:
 Deana McMullen
 City Secretary

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The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas is accepting proposals for construction of 10 new homes in the Vega Land Subdivision

Deadline: Feb. 28, 2023 by 3 p.m.

Specifications: Purchasing@ktttribe.org or 830-773-2105

All proposals and scope of work will need to include materials, equipment, and labor for 10 new wood frame homes. Proposals must be received in a sealed envelope labeled: CONSTRUCTION OF 10 NEW HOMES IN THE VEGA LAND SUBDIVISION. A performance and payment bond will be required for this project. All proposals should be sent/delivered to: PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, Government Building, 2212 Rosita Valley Rd., Eagle Pass, Texas 78852

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S-1621

SOCCER

Northwest sinks hosting Bearcats

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The Bearcats fell to 1-1 in district 5-5A action (7-2-4 overall) following a 3-1 loss to the visiting Northwest Texans on Friday, Jan. 27.

For head Bearcat Derek Vierling, Friday's match on the pitch was a tale of two halves.

"The second half was much, much better," Vierling said emphatically after the game. "That first half was very uninspiring, so-to-speak. They played well in the second half. A couple freshmen stepped up. We met in the locker room and got it sorted out. I thought we played well in the second half. Even with 10 men, we played well."

The reference to 10 players harkened back to the 31:09 mark in the second half. Trailing 2-1 the Bearcats worked deep in their own territory to clear the ball out as Northwest advanced their attack. Hunter Waugh collided shins with a Texans player with an impact that echoed through the cold night air.

Both players rolled around on the turf writhing in agony as several moments passed. With assistance from the training staff Waugh was able to get back to his feet as he hobbled towards the sideline. As the Northwest player continued to lay on the ground and the Texans coaches Waugh was



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aleo goalkeeper Zach Taylor attempts to block a shot during a penalty kick in the second half of the Bearcats' 3-1 loss to Northwest on Friday, Jan. 27.

given a red card, leaving the Bearcats with just 10 players throughout the remainder of the contest.

"It's unfortunate Hunter got the red card," Vierling said. "At worst it should've been a yellow card. But, we've got to overcome that."

Trailing 1-0 for much of the first half, the Bearcats got on the board when Cole Crawford drove home a penalty kick for his team-leading ninth goal of the season with 3:23 remaining before halftime.

With just less than a minute remaining in the first half, Northwest regained the lead.

Goalkeeper Zach Taylor dove to his left to block a shot from the Texans with 56 seconds remaining on the clock. The ball ricocheted off the upright, shot all the way across the goal before ricocheting off the other upright and ultimately finding the back of the goal.

The Texans added their third and final goal of the match with 31:09 left in the contest as Taylor attempted to block a penalty kick. He managed to get a hand on the ball, changing its trajectory. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to deflect the ball away from the goal as the score put the Bearcats down by two goals.



Read this story online

SOCCER

Ladycats topple Lady Texans

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledo's Ladycat soccer team improved to 7-4-1 overall (1-1 in district 5-5A) with their 6-1 mauling of the visiting squad from Northwest on Friday, Jan. 27, at Bearcat Stadium.

Aledo took a 4-0 lead into halftime before adding two more goals during a half that saw as many fireworks off the field as on it.

With 36:42 remaining in the match, Ladycat forward Sydney Mcguire was toppled by the Lady Texans goalkeeper. A penalty was called by the referees resulting in a several minute delay as chaos ensued.

The referee who made the call took time to explain his position to a trio of Northwest players while the Lady Texans coach yelled at the referee from the sideline. Once his explanation to the Lady Texan players concluded, the referee took the next several minutes to discuss the matter with the Northwest coaching staff.

When play finally resumed Mcguire drilled home the PK to put the Ladycats up 5-0.

Northwest got on the board with their lone score of the match shortly after Mcguire's penalty kick to cut the hometown lead to 5-1 with 35:19 left to play. Aleo fired right back, however, as



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aleo's Georgia Zirbser drives past a Northwest defender during the Ladycats 6-1 win over the visiting Lady Texans on Friday, Jan. 27.

Harper Smith fired a missile from about 60 feet out that sailed just under the crossbar before finding the back of the net. Smith's goal at the 34:24 mark of the second half concluded the scoring rally for both teams.

"All in all, I thought we played well," Ladycats head coach Brian Johnson

said after the match. "We played everybody. That's impressive when you can get 22 girls in a game. I was excited with the play of our midfield. When we settled down, found our wings, and played some soccer we looked good."



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