

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO ISD

Board of Trustees approve bond proposal

Election set for May 6

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The Aledo Growth Committee presented their final draft of a \$123.8 million bond proposal to the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees during a special meeting on Monday, Feb. 12.

The board approved the proposal unanimously, 5-0. If approved by voters in the May 6 election, the bond issue will increase property taxes 2.5 cents per \$100 of taxable property value.

"This has been one of the most amazing committees to work with as far as dedication, just diving into

the data, and asking, 'what does the community want? What do the kids want?' and coming up with a recommendation," AGC co-chair Kelli Stumbo said. "There's a sense of pride when you get to build something like that and see that you've been able to present it for others to see the same importance. We've put in a lot of hours. We've learned so much. It's just nice to see it all come to fruition."

Based on property assessment data presented to the AGC back in August when the group began meeting, the average homeowner in Aledo will pay an extra \$89.76 in taxes the next two years to fund

the interest and sinking (I&S) side of the ISD's budget that covers debt service payments for large projects.

Over the last five years the overall tax rate for homeowners residing inside Aledo ISD has fallen 22.71 cents due to tax compression on the maintenance and operations (M&O) side of the budget as rates have decreased from \$1.595 to \$1.3679 per \$100 of taxable property value.

All the information the AGC, which is comprised of more than 50 resident volunteers living within Aledo ISD, has worked from since the group began meeting back in August can be found online at aledoisd.org/AGC.

"I always say that this is the start," AGC co-chair Dan Reilley said after the meeting. "It feels like graduation day from high school, but you're starting college next week. What we've done is recommend something, and now it's our obligation to make sure the community understands the what and the why. That's the next step."

So, why is this bond necessary and what are taxpayers getting for their dollars?

The primary reason behind it is the necessity of dealing with the growing student population within Aledo ISD. The latest demographic projections supplied to the AGC

in January 2023 shows five of six elementary schools in Aledo will exceed capacity by the 2024-25 school year. The AGC felt a seventh elementary school was vital in order to keep classrooms from growing too large and taking a negative toll on the education of students.

If the bond is approved, construction for Elementary No. 7 will begin later this year on property the ISD already owns next to the new McAnally Middle School on Old Weatherford Road. Construction will take about a year with doors of the 107,500 square-foot facility

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ALEDO ISD

Brandy Belk named new athletic director

Will begin on March 6

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

Brandy Belk has been named Aledo ISD's athletic director, filling the position after AD Steve Wood announced his retirement in January. Belk, who has been the University Interscholastic League assistant director of athletics since 2017, will start on March 6 and will transition alongside Wood through the rest of the school year as Wood will retire in June.

"We are thrilled to have Brandy joining our Bearcat Leadership Team as our athletics director," Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "As we continue to grow, we will continue to expand athletic opportunities for our students, and Brandy's leadership experience will be invaluable."

Prior to the UIL, Belk was the assistant director of athletics (2013-2017) at Lake Travis ISD and worked as a teacher and coach in Lake Travis ISD (2008-2013), Leander ISD (2002-2008) and Georgetown ISD (1998-2002). Belk taught PE, health, special education, and college and career readiness courses over her teaching career. Her coaching experience includes being a head girls basketball coach at Vista Ridge High School in Leander ISD, head cross country coach at Lake Travis High School, and middle school girls athletics coach in both Lake Travis ISD and Georgetown ISD.

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WILLOW PARK

In new digs, council discusses possible new police station



Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss cuts the ribbon signifying the official opening of Willow Park's new city hall location at 120 El Chico Suite A on Feb. 14. Also shown are Weatherford City Manager James Hotopp; Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes; Willow Park City Council members Eric Contreras, Chawn Gilliland, Nathan Crummel, Lea Young, and Greg Runnebaum; Mary Robb-Carter; and Linda Moss.

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

In its first meeting at the new city hall, the Willow Park City Council discussed another possible future home for the city's police department.

At the request of Mayor Pro-Tem Lea Young, council voted to form a committee to look into the creation of a new police station should a new facility be required — depending on actions and decisions made by Parker County Emergency Services District 1 (ESD1). Currently, the city has no plans, design, or conceptual drawings for a standalone police station.

In November Willow Park residents voted to have their fire station annexed by ESD1. The process of that annexation is underway, but what does that mean for the police department?

The police department currently shares the Public Services Building with the fire department, but ESD1 may purchase the building and make it solely a fire station. If that happens, the PD will have to find a new home.

ESD1 was meeting at press time to discuss the possible purchase of the Public Safety Building.

"I feel like the committee should assess the needs of the police department," Young said, referencing more than the current situation. "What is it the police department needs for the long term?"

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ALEDO ISD

Lynn McKinney set to retire in June

Kim Raymond to become deputy superintendent

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

The Aledo ISD announced that Deputy Superintendent Lynn McKinney will retire at the end of this school year.

McKinney is the district's longest-tenured employee, serving 37 of her 44 years as an educator in Aledo.

When McKinney jokes that she's held just about every position

in the district, she's not too far off. She's been:

- first-grade teacher (1986-88);
- sixth-grade resource teacher and vice principal of K-3 Aledo Elementary for half of the day (1988-89);
- vice principal at K-3 Aledo Elementary for a half-day and vice principal at Aledo High School for the other half-day (1989-90);
- principal of Aledo High School (1990-99);
- assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction (1999-2001);

- assistant superintendent of special programs - which included special education, 504, homeless, federal programs and testing coordinator (2001-11); and
- deputy superintendent (2011-present).

"Lynn McKinney's impact on Aledo ISD is so incredibly vast and very much immeasurable," Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "She broke barriers as the



Lynn McKinney

first female principal of Aledo High School and never looked back with several critical leadership roles in our district. She has seen Aledo ISD grow from two school buildings to now 12, and she has made it her life's work to see that our district, our staff and our students succeed.

"I am blessed to have had the chance to work with and learn from her these last five years. We will miss her tremendously

Turn to **RETIRE**, page 2

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RETIRE

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but we're so excited for her to enjoy retirement!" Bohn said.

Before arriving at Aledo ISD, McKinney worked for Teacher Corps (1979-80), taught at Sam Houston High School in Houston ISD (1980-81) and taught at Campbell Elementary in Austin ISD from 1981 to 1986. In 1998, McKinney was the TASSP Region 11 Outstanding Secondary Principal and one of five state finalists for TASSP State Secondary Principal of the Year. In 2000, she won East Parker County Chamber Of Commerce's Woman of the Year award.

"I knew Aledo was a special place when I moved here in 1986 but I could have never imagined I'd be here 37 years later having met so many staff members, students and community members that I love so dearly," McKinney said. "My husband Randal — who also retired from Aledo ISD — and I proudly raised our two boys in this community and know there's no better place for families.

"We have always had such amazing students and staff in Aledo, and I feel fortunate to have been part of the school community that makes Aledo ISD so special. I know I am leaving our district in good hands, and I can't wait to see the greatness that is Aledo ISD continue to grow," McKinney said.

Raymond named district's Deputy Superintendent

Kimberly Raymond, who joined Aledo ISD as the district's assistant superintendent of student and community programs in June of 2022, will become the new deputy superintendent after McKinney's departure.

Raymond's responsibilities have included a focus on student programs — career and technical education, early college instruction, advanced academics, special education/Section 504, dyslexia, gifted & talented, English as a Second Language, early childhood, fine arts, counseling, health services, libraries, physical education, academic U.I.L., behavior support, safety and security, student



Kimberly Raymond

enrollment/registration, federal, state and local grant opportunities, strategic planning, and coordination of summer and community programming.

"We are excited for Kim to serve our students and staff in this new role," Bohn said. "She has already made an impact on the programs she serves, and I cannot wait to see her continue to grow our leaders and, in turn, ensure exceptional experiences for our students."

Prior to Aledo ISD, Raymond was the deputy superintendent at Lockhart ISD from 2016 to 2022 with service as the Lockhart ISD interim superintendent from May through June 2018. She was a high school (2008-2016) and middle school principal (2006-2008) and assistant principal (2004-2006) in Lake Travis ISD. Raymond was also an assistant principal (2002-2004) and teacher (1995-2002) in Leander ISD as well as a teacher at Dobie Middle School in Austin ISD from 1993 to 1995.

Raymond has a bachelor of arts from Southwest Texas State University and a master's in education from Texas State University as well as a superintendent's certification from the University of Texas at Tyler.

"I have enjoyed so much being a part of the Bearcat community and have learned quickly why Aledo ISD is such a special place to work," Raymond said. "We have such amazing students and staff, and I am excited to expand my role and serve the district as deputy superintendent.

"I do have big shoes to fill as Lynn McKinney has been such a servant leader for Aledo ISD for so many years, but I have been blessed to have been able to learn from Mrs. McKinney and to count her as one of my friends over the last nine months," Raymond said.

Read more about Lynn McKinney's remarkable career at Aledo ISD in next week's issue of *The Community News*.



Read this story online

DIRECTOR

from page one

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead such a well-known and respected athletic program in Aledo ISD," Belk said. "An extremely high standard of excellence has been set, and I am looking forward to continuing that for the benefit of our Bearcat and Ladycat sports teams and coaches."

Belk's current responsibilities at the UIL include directing volleyball, basketball, spirit, swimming and diving, and softball. She also focuses on UIL policy, compliance, and eligibility. In her previous athletic administration experience, Belk's responsibilities included personnel management, overseeing a department budget plus a multi-million dollar bond budget, and coordination

and management of athletic facilities.

"I cannot think of a better person to lead Aledo ISD's athletic program than Brandy Belk," retiring longtime head football coach Tim Buchanan said. "Brandy is well respected statewide and someone who I trust will continue and grow the great athletic traditions that we have in Aledo. We are lucky to have Brandy joining our Bearcat family."

"Our next athletic director will lead the district as we grow into a 6A high school, and Brandy's experience of helping lead a successful program in Lake Travis before she started working at the UIL will help Aledo stay competitive and make that transition," Steve Wood said. "I have always enjoyed working



Read this story online

with Brandy and appreciated her leadership at UIL events, and I look forward to introducing her to what makes being a Bearcat and Ladycat so special — which starts with our incredible coaches and student-athletes — over the next few months."

Belk regularly presents at THSCA Coaching School and TGCA Summer and Satellite clinics. She is a member of the Texas Girls Coaches Association, Texas High School Coaches Association, Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, National High School Athletic Directors Association, National Federation of High School Associations, and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

BOND

from page one

ready to open at the beginning of school in the fall of 2024.

The \$59.8 million building will expand the district's capacity by 889 students in grades K-5. Previous projections for the building had a price tag of \$66 million. However, once it was decided what property would be used for the new elementary school, the engineers determined less dirt work will be necessary than previously supplied in their estimates. Following discussions with staff at the other elementary schools, the architects were also able to streamline the floor design for the new building, which allowed them to further cut costs by shrinking the square footage of the facility.

Included in the bond package is \$25.2 million for improvements and updates to Aledo High School and the Daniel Ninth Grade campus. Another

\$17.8 million is earmarked for the purchase of land that will quickly be put to use as demographic projections anticipate the district exceeding middle school capacities by the 2027-28 school year and the high school following right behind during the 2028-29 academic year.

Another \$21 million will be used to update technology and security measures at each campus, replace 50% of the bus fleet that has higher miles along with wear and tear, and to make some of the long list of maintenance improvements across the district.

"I just want to reiterate to the community that this is just step one," Reilly said with regard to dealing with the continued growth projected over the next several years. "This is a multi-phased approach. We have a path going forward. This is only the first step."

Aledo is not alone in feeling these growing pains of being a rapidly expanding community. As the entire Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex continues to grow at a rapid pace along with the surrounding communities, several other districts in the area have either just passed bonds or are currently working to pass bonds of their own.

For example, Decatur ISD just approved a bond proposal for May as well. With their high school at 108% of capacity, and their middle school population at a staggering 145% of capacity, the proposed bond will raise taxes for property owners by 24.63 cents per \$100 of taxable value.

Likewise, Bridgeport ISD finds itself in a similar situation. The district just announced a bond election scheduled for May, as well, where residents will decide on a 29.33 cent increase in taxes levied against each \$100 of taxable value for property owners.



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COUNCIL

from page one

Mayor Doyle Moss said of the committee, "I'd love to chair it."

Also, Place 1 Council Member Eric Contreras asked to be considered as a member of the committee.

Unbudgeted expenses with new city hall

New digs don't come cheap, but there's little debating city officials needed a new home — which they now have. In fact, before Tuesday's meeting, an open house was held and residents had an opportunity to tour the facility at 120 El Chico, which is almost three times as large as previous location on Ranch House Road.

In response to a request from some members of the council, City Manager Bryan Grimes provided an update on the un-budgeted expenses connected to the move, which took place in mid-January.

"We didn't foresee this when we put the budget together last summer," Grimes said.

The total un-budgeted expenses connected with the move come to around \$205,000.

To pay for this, Grimes recommended adjusting the budgeted sales tax projection for this fiscal year from \$1.72 million to around \$2 million. Currently, the city has raised almost \$950,000 in sales tax, which projects to around \$2.28 million, an increase of more than a half million dollars over the original projection.

Grimes noted that moving expenses will come to around \$50,000.

Per the rental agreement that was authorized by council in November 2022, the city's rental expenses are approximately \$17,000 per month. Grimes added that it is important to note that the \$17,000 per month includes base rent (\$11,620), building expenses, utility expenses, and other associated costs such as water consumption. Therefore, some of the costs included in the \$17,000 have been budgeted to a certain extent.

For example, electricity costs had been budgeted for the building on Ranch House Road. While there

are still expenses at Ranch House, Grimes stressed it is anticipated that the impact will be nominal and should not have a significant impact on the budget.

Here is a breakdown summary of un-budgeted expenses:

- Base Rent: \$140,000
- Moving Expenses: \$50,000
- Utilities: \$15,000
- Total: \$205,000

Wastewater treatment plant

The City of Willow Park continues to move toward the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and pipeline and the subject of an agenda highlight Tuesday.

The wastewater plant plans and specs have been reviewed by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The TCEQ has approved the documents and the TWDB had some comments, which city officials have addressed and they will now resubmit the plans and specs.

Derek Turner, engineer with Jacob & Martin, said the expectation is to have final approval to bid the project within 45 days, though he added "We talked to the water board and they said they expect about a 30-day turnaround."

The project will bid for five weeks and a construction contract could be issued within 60 days of the bid opening, barring any unforeseen issues.

"If they hold to their time frame we'd be looking at early April," Turner said of when bids can start to be accepted. "The review is what's been the holdup."

Construction time is expected to be 365 days, which results in an anticipated completion date in mid-July 2024. The lease of the existing wastewater plant will expire in August 2024.

The proposed location of the new plant is north of Interstate 20 near Crown Point Boulevard, not far from the site where Willow Park Baptist Church just opened a new church. It's only a few hundred yards from the current location on

the north end of the new Crown Point Development.

The city and WPBC agreed to a land swap, with the church getting property where the current treatment plant sits for development.

Drainage project update

Turner also delivered an update on the city's drainage project, with the first phase under contract and now scheduled to begin on April 1 due to delivery time of materials.

"Culverts, in particular, are significantly delayed," Turner said.

Some drainage improvements that were part of the overall project are already underway and being completed as part of the street reconstruction, most notably, the culvert for Squaw Creek under Sam Bass.

This phase includes:

- The channel and culvert improvements along the east city limits down to El Chico Trail.
- The culvert replacement at the creek crossing on Pleasant Ridge Lane.
- The channel running from Sam Bass Road to Squaw Creek.
- The Phase 2 improvements are in design and approximately 75% complete.
- Channel improvements between Crown Pointe Boulevard and the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.
- Roadside ditch and culvert improvements along Squaw Creek between Chuckwagon Trail and Saddle Trail.
- Channel and culvert improvements on Chuckwagon and Interstate 20 westbound frontage.
- Channel Grading on the creek next to the East Parker County Chamber and north of
- I-20.
- Grading and culvert improvements on the northwest corner of the Castlemount loop.
- Regrading and erosion improvements in the ditch on the ridge above the Willow Park
- North development.
- Ditch grading and culvert improvements

along Vista Drive and Live Oak Road.

Fort Worth water update

Michelle Guelker of the city's public works department gave an update on the use of Fort Worth water.

Guelker reported the pump station building is almost complete, with only some electrical work (lighting and outlets) still needing to be installed.

The pumps for Willow Park have been set and aligned. Rotation testing will be done once Hudson Oaks pumps are also set and aligned.

The sewer line from the pump station is installed and officials said they expect it to reopen this week.

The ground storage tank build is complete and pressure testing of the tank has been completed. Bacteriological sampling of the tanks still needs to be completed.

Supervisory control and data acquisition controls have been installed and need to be activated once the plant is ready to go online.

The pipeline from the pump station to Hudson Oaks still needs to be pressure tested and bacteriological sampled before being put online.

Street project update

Recently hired City Engineer Gretchen Vasquez gave an update on street projects, including an updated schedule.

Crown Road Phase 1 completion plans are for early April. The contractor has stated that they will work internally and push to meet the original completion dates for all phases. The date of completion of all work is Nov. 19.

Temporary mailboxes have been installed along Crown Road. As for traffic, additional signage (wrong way signs) have been northbound with police presence to enforce the signage.

AT&T relocated several of their utility boxes outside the edge of the proposed concrete pavement.

Trinity Court, Trinity Drive, and Sam Bass Court: The contractor will begin working on Trinity Court,

Trinity Drive, and Sam Bass Court in the coming weeks.

Opioid settlement

The council voted to opt in and become part of the settlements reached by the Texas Attorney General with Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart, authorizing Grimes to execute all documentation necessary to participate in the settlements.

The Office of the Texas Attorney General announced proposed settlements have been reached with Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart with Allergan paying \$135 million, CVS paying \$304 million, Walgreens paying \$340 million, and Walmart paying \$170 million to Texas and its political subdivisions. Of the settlement amount, the vast majority is earmarked for use by Texas and its political subdivisions to remediate and abate the impacts of the opioid crisis. The actual amount that Texas and the political subdivisions will receive will depend upon the participation of cities, counties, and other political subdivisions of the state.

City Attorney Pat Chesser said such paperwork has been filled out a couple times before, noting "We haven't gotten any money yet."

Chesser added, "I think there's a continued effort by the attorney general's office to bring justice for opioid abuse."

Chesser said he estimates that, should the city receive any money from the settlements, it would be a little more than \$25,000. Perhaps more important, it would give them the opportunity to participate in grant programs in the region totaling more than \$50 million.

Proclamation

The evening began with a proclamation for Pastor Jon Sherman, Trinity Bible Church, who is retiring from being lead pastor after having served the church since 1999. He will remain with the church as pastor emeritus. Moss read the proclamation to the crowd and council, which gave roaring applause.



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Capital Highlights

Abbott issues disaster declaration, seeks fed help



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Gov. Greg Abbot has issued a disaster declaration for Texas counties affected by the early February ice storm and is seeking a federal declaration as well for areas in Southeast Texas affected by rare January tornadoes. The ice storm caused considerable damage to property and power outages in the affected areas. The declaration for ice-storm damaged counties includes Denton, Hays, Henderson, Milam, Smith, Travis, and Williamson counties.

"Through this disaster declaration, we will be able to provide additional assistance to Texans and communities who have experienced property damage and localized power outages from this ice storm," Abbott said.

The ice storm brought tree limbs snapping and crashing onto power lines. More than 170,000 Austin households were without power for several days, with some going more than 10 days without power.

Abbott also requested a presidential disaster declaration for counties in Southeast Texas hit by tornadoes and severe storms in late January. That request includes Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, and Orange counties. If that request is granted, residents and businesses in those counties would have access to federal loans and grants.

Religious freedom bills draw bipartisan support

Three bills have been filed in the Texas House aimed at improving Texans' ability to practice their religions. The Austin American-Statesman reported that state Rep. Salman Bhojani, D-Eules, filed the bills to expand the state's list of optional holidays to include more religious holy days; prevent standardized tests being given on those days; and ensure that religious leaders of all faiths can legally perform marriages.

Bhojani, one of the state's first Muslim legislators, was joined at a news conference by Republican state Rep. Jacey Jetton, R-Richmond, who is Christian, and fellow Muslim state Rep. Suleman Lalani, D-Sugar Land.

"As legislators, it is our duty to ensure that Texas is the religious

freedom state, where we can practice our faith with pride, where we can pray in a church, synagogue, mosque, temple, jamatkhana, or gurdwara, where we can love God by any name," Bhojani said.

Plan to ban TikTok on state-owned devices released

Abbott last week also announced a security plan to ban the use of the popular video app TikTok as well as other software on all state-issued devices, as well as personal devices used to conduct state business. Abbott contends the Chinese-owned company can harvest data from TikTok user's devices and poses a security risk to Texas.

After Abbott issued the initial order in December, The University of Texas at Austin banned TikTok on all its Wi-Fi networks. The latest security plan also includes other lesser-known apps, such as WeChat. A number of hardware manufacturers are also prohibited from being used by state agencies and employees.

TikTok, which is known for its short videos, is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance and has more than 86 million users in the United States.

A wet January for parts of the state

January brought above-average rainfall for large swaths of East Texas while the rest of the state had below-average precipitation,

hydrologist Mark Wentzel wrote in the Texas Water Development Board's monthly report. Drought conditions expanded by five

percentage points to include 54% of the state, while statewide storage in water supply reservoirs is at 72.5% of capacity, down about 10 percentage points from what is normal this time of year.

Drought conditions have been all but eliminated in the eastern portion of Texas, while much of the state is in moderate to severe drought conditions. The worst drought conditions now are in a circle of counties around Bexar County.

Wentzel predicted that except for northeast Texas, much of the state will see expanded drought conditions.

"However, with the anticipated breakup of La Niña conditions later this year, there is some hope that the rest of Texas may see at least some easing of drought conditions as early as May," he wrote.

Final round of emergency SNAP benefits

This month brings the final allocation of emergency food benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and distributed to eligible households by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. The extra minimum of \$95 per household began during the start of the COVID-10 pandemic and has provided nearly \$10 billion in added food benefits since its inception. However, Congress recently passed legislation ending the emergency benefits, which go to about 1.6 million Texas households.

"We're thankful that we've been able to help millions of Texans by providing more than \$9.7 billion in additional

benefits since the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was passed," said Wayne Salter, HHSC deputy executive commissioner.

Goats pay a visit to Target store in Spring

A pair of goats went shopping inside a Target store in the Harris County city of Spring last week, perusing the aisles until the Harris County Livestock Unit corralled them. The Houston Chronicle reported the pair were first seen lying down between the store's sliding entrance doors, then proceeded to wander about the interior.

It is unknown where the goats came from and how they ended up inside Target. Maybe they were looking for PetSmart?

COVID-19 cases show decline

The number of new cases of COVID-19 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in Texas in the past week dropped to 25,229, with 189 deaths reported. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state dipped slightly to 1,952, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The number of actual cases is likely higher, since people who test positive using a home kit generally are not reported in the case count.

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



GuestColumn

Republicans should keep family matters private



Zan Prince
zan@zanprince.com

Friends,
Happy 2023! We are well into the new year with a fresh start, but before we know it, we will be in the 2024 Election Season. 2022 was probably the most hateful, dishonest campaign season that I've ever witnessed. Candidates or their surrogates falsely attacked and accused their opponents. Many opponents reacted to the attack, and nobody really talked about the issues.

We lost key races across the country because we got distracted from the very real issues. Parker County, Texas, and the United States need to have our very real problems debated and addressed

without personal attacks. AND Republicans have the right answers to those problems!

Just think about it...who wants the Democrats' version of "good" government: open borders, unlimited handouts, and out of control government spending that results in out of control inflation? Who really wants to leave American oil and gas in the ground while President Biden insists that we buy from OPEC, Venezuela? Who really believes that a nuclear armed Iran is beneficial to the United States or any other country in the world?

Friends, Republicans could have control of the White House, the United States Senate, and the House of Representatives because we have answers to the problems. We need to stand up, stay focused on issues, refuse to get in the mud, and do the right thing for America.

Republican friends, please refrain from contributing to the mud fight.

If you hear something inflammatory, don't assume it's true and don't react as though it's true. Please don't say, "if that's true, then..." before you know. I heard a lot of folks complaining about the quality of the Republican nominees in the Pennsylvania and Georgia Senate races.

Now there's two problems with complaining about Republican nominees. First, the Republican primary voter put them on the ballot. Second, the choices in the primary may be less than we would like because there's a whole lot of potential candidates waiting on us to stand up for them, to stop believing every accusation. Remember, Justice Kavanaugh was accused of all kinds of insanity that turned out to be false. President Trump was investigated for a Russian hoax created and spread by Hillary Clinton that turned out to be false.

Our party discussion is a family matter that needs to be private, then

supported by the whole. We need to STOP fighting with each other and start working together against Democrats.

Our government is based on the integrity of the individual, on personal accountability. It's time to stop rewarding bad behavior in campaigns. We need to stand up for what's right, for those that are attacked! Then we need to vote! We'll have another chance to put America back on course, and we need to make sure that we do just that. Please prepare to be in the fight for our country in the next and every election! You have the power to be the difference!

Congratulations to Rachael Watson, our 2023 Parker County Republican Women President. Let's stand with her to continue to make a difference. May God continue to bless each of you and the United States of America!

Zan Prince is a former Parker County Republican Chair and 2022 Parker County Republican Women Chair.



Read this
story online

Willow Park Baptist Church to inaugurate new home

It's been 10 years coming, but Willow Park Baptist Church will officially open the doors of its new home at 777 Crown Pointe Blvd. this Sunday, Feb. 19, at 10 a.m.

Watch next week's issue or coverage of the historic move of this congregation into its new 130,000 square foot facility.

Photos by Randy Keck/The Community News



LEFT: The new church has a guest services area on the way to the atrium. There are four entrances to the church compared to only one at the old one. | **RIGHT:** The new sanctuary seats 1,500.



LEFT: The youth area is equipped for both teaching and recreation. | **CENTER:** | The children's areas upstairs have slides to the ground floor. There are different sets of slides for different age groups. **RIGHT:** The baptistry is located in the atrium, which is large enough to accommodate the full congregation, although baptisms can also be viewed on the big screen in the sanctuary.

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SOCCKER

Varsity teams take home wins versus Granbury

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledo's soccer teams hit the road bound for Granbury on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The Ladycats pitched their second shutout of the season as they plundered the Lady Pirates, 3-0. Meanwhile, the Bearcats outduelled the Pirates, winning a shootout 4-3.

The Ladycats (11-4-2 overall, 5-1 in District 5-5A) scored all three of their points in the first half of action as Presley Clayborn, Sydney Mcguire, and Georgia Zirbser each found the back of the net in the contest. Jourdan Hart picked up a pair of assists in the game. Reagan Krajca earned an assist of her own in the match.

On the other end of the pitch, Ladycat goalkeeper Jamie Smith earned her second clean sheet of the season stopping all five Lady Pirate shots on her goal.

The Bearcats improved to 9-3-4 overall on the season and 3-2 in District 5-5A action with their shootout victory over Granbury.

Clay Murador scored the lone goal for the Bearcats in regulation with an assist by Robby Sloan. With Granbury also getting on the board with a goal in regulation, the two squads headed to a shootout with the game tied at a goal apiece.

Austin Randriamahefa, Colt McCoy, Cole Crawford, and Cooper Trice all scored goals during the shootout for the Bearcats. Meanwhile, Aledo's goalkeeper Zach Taylor made a pair of saves to hold off the Pirates and ensure victory for his club.

Both Aledo varsity soccer clubs will be in action again on Friday as they travel to Wichita Falls Rider to take on the Raiders on their home field.



Read this story online

TENNIS

Aledo braves weather in tourney



Paige Federman and Elli Kate Bussmeir took third place in girls A doubles at Birdville.

By Cathy Mason
Special to The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team competed in a tournament hosted by Birdville ISD on Friday, Feb. 10. Temperatures in the 40s and skilled competition led to a challenging tournament, but a great effort was made by all team members.

Paige Federman and Elli Kate Bussmeir took third place in girls A doubles, and the boys A doubles



Francois Britz and Ibrahim Choudhry won the consolation bracket at the Birdville ISD Tournament.

pair of Francois Britz and Ibrahim Choudhry won the consolation bracket.

The mixed doubles pair of Bryanna Orr and Scott Mason placed fourth, and the boys doubles pair of Hogan Posey and Craig Mason placed fifth.

The team was competing in the Keller Timber Creek tournament at press time. They will play in the Cowtown Classic Feb. 24-25.



Read this story online

SOFTBALL

Ladycats start with road win

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats began their quest for a third consecutive trip to the state tournament with a 3-1 road victory over Waxahachie Monday, Feb. 13.

The Ladycats are ranked No. 5 in the state in Class 5A by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Last season they dropped an extra-inning heartbreaker in the state semifinals after reaching the title game in 2021.

Brenzee Gonzales paced the Ladycats against Waxahachie with a 3-for-3 performance at the plate. This included a double, triple, RBI and a stolen base.

Addie Perry (triple) and Texas Ray (double) also had extra-base hits.

Natalie Touchet got the pitching victory with a save from Gonzales. Touchet struck out 13 over six and a third innings, while

Aledo	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	7	1
Waxahachie	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	1

Gonzales did not allow a baserunner in two-thirds of an inning.

The Ladycats are competing in the Forney Tournament Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 16-18.

Aledo hitting: Brenzee Gonzales 3-3, 2B, 3B, RBI, SB; Texas Ray 1-4, 2B, RBI; Addie Perry 1-4, 3B; Ana Flores 1-4; Delaney Rosser 1-3, RBI; Taylor McKean BB; Kennis Max BB; Maddy Jarvis BB.

Aledo pitching: Natalie (W) 6.1 innings, 5 hits, 1 ER, 13K, 4 BB; Gonzalez (SV) 0.2 innings, 0 hits, 0 runs, 1K, 0 BB.



Read this story online

BEARCATS

from page 12

Aledo started off the night honoring the seven senior hoopsters along with their families as they took center stage on the court to receive encased jerseys to commemorate their final season in Aledo.

With the playoffs out of reach, the Bearcats' strategy for the finale seemed to be to play purely for the love of the game and each other. Five seniors — Drew Clock, Exavier Anderson, Ulises Garcia, Brandon Fields, and Brant Tubbs — started the game for Aledo.

Before the game even started, Clock was battling a knee injury during warmups that negatively impacted his mobility. As the game got underway issues with the knee only got worse for the Bearcats' resident sharpshooter. Only able to play for short periods of time, the injury affected his playing time significantly, limiting him to just five points on the night.

To make matters worse, with the game barely underway fellow-senior guard, Fields took a nasty spill onto the hardwood after being fouled while jockeying for a rebound just 3:41 into the game. Laying face down on the floor, he cried out in agony, causing a hush to fall over the crowd. After several minutes of being looked over by the team trainer he was assisted off the court by two coaches as he hobbled to the training room.

He was unable to return to action in the final game of his high school career.

As for the game itself, the Bearcats were highly competitive, in spite of their top two scorers being sidelined with injuries. Robinson subbed fresh players into the game throughout the contest, which not only kept fresh bodies on the floor, but also gave each varsity player an opportunity to see some quality minutes during the game.

Garcia kicked off the scoring for Aledo right away as he converted

the three-point play the hard way as he drew a foul down in the paint putting up a layup just 22 seconds into the game. Clock drove the lane for his first bucket of the night with a layup of his own a minute later.

Fields scored his only basket of the contest at the 4:52 mark when he followed an attempted three-pointer by Clock that banked off the iron. Fields soared through the air over a Texans defender to get the tip-in rebound to give the Bearcats a 7-6 edge through the first three minutes of play.

By the end of the first Northwest had secured a slight lead at 18-14. Scoring slowed for both teams in the second frame as the Texans outpaced the hosting Bearcats 12-7 to extend their lead to nine points heading into the half up 30-21.

Aledo spent the second half clawing their way back into contention. The Bearcats were able to get the score to within a single possession, 55-53, as Garcia knocked down a three pointer from the top of the key with just 10 seconds remaining in the contest. A

pair of 1-for-2 trips to the free throw line for Northwest in the waning moments of the game produced the final score.

Looking ahead to the 2023-24 season, Robinson emphasized the work starts now.

"We're going to see what [the returning players] are made of. We're going to put them in a ton of games over the spring and the summer. We've got to put them in a ton of games just to build some camaraderie and see where this chemistry goes with this next group. There's a lot of question marks right now. But we've got good kids. We've got good kids, because we've got good parents here. They're going to step up and they're going to get better."

Bearcats vs. Northwest — Feb. 14 Varsity

Aledo	14	7	13	20	53
Northwest	18	12	12	15	57

Aledo scoring: Exavier Anderson 11, Ulises Garcia 10, Brant Tubbs 9, Jack Sawyer 6, Drew Clock 5, Nevishan Warnesuriye 3, Luke Stabbekoorn 3, D'Leon Starnes 2, Brandon Fields 2, Owen Peterson 2.



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Events

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

FEBRUARY 17

Piano Performance
Pianist Evan Mitchell will perform "Reflections."



A recital of solo piano works by Florence Price, Johannes Brahms, Missy Mazzoli, Claude Debussy, and Franz Schubert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17, in the Alkek Fine Arts Center at Weatherford College. The concert is free to the public, and doors open at 7 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.

FEBRUARY 27

Mixed Media Demonstration

Weatherford artist Sarah Fino will demonstrate creative collage techniques and applications on "junk journals" at the Weatherford Art Association meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb.

27, at 125 S Waco St. in Weatherford. Sarah will show you how creative collage techniques and everyday papers, fabrics, drawings and photos can combine with your ideas to make journals that are personal works of art. The program is free and open to WAA members and the general public. For more information, visit weatherfordart.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 nighttime fun run in the heart of Aledo that raises money for the programs of the Advocats. Participants in the Glow 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/>.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 Linden is the seat of this county
- 5 Paul Reubens was _____wee
- 6 TX Bonnie & Clyde killed at least _____ people
- 7 Spurs "Pop" was 3 times NBA "Coach of the _____"
- 8 a State Fair mo. creator of cartoon "Cowpokes" (2 wds.)
- 16 TXism: "_____ light idea" (inspiration)
- 18 Amarillo "Ranch" has ten of these buried nose-first
- 21 "In Dreams" TX singer Roy (init.)
- 22 a Columbus ship
- 23 this Masterson fought Indians in Texas
- 24 speak spitefully
- 30 this Air Command used at least 9 bases in Texas
- 34 SMU great Kyle Rote's suffix
- 35 in 2023, U.S. taxes _____ April 18
- 36 Cuero is seat of De _____ County
- 37 hubbub
- 39 TXism: "he's a ring- _____" (party animal)
- 43 rock 'n roll "King"
- 44 army person _____ "You Why"
- 45 birth name of TX born Joan Crawford: Lucille Fay _____ Sueur
- 46 Blake Shelton hit: "_____ Country"
- 47 dies with a valid will on SMU campus
- 49 George W.'s is located on _____wee
- 52 _____dah! (fantasy)
- 53 TX Bob Wills line: "Ah _____, take it away Leon"
- 54 "hoity-_____ " (pompous)
- 55 TX-born Kate Capshaw debuted on soap opera "_____ of Night"
- 58 rueful
- 59 TXism: "throw some leather _____ horse" (saddle up)
- 60 TXism: "the whole _____ and caboodle"
- 61 TX Nash hit: "I Can _____ Clearly Now"

DOWN

- 1 home of West Texas A&M
- 2 TXism: "just down the road _____"
- 3 TX Ted Cruz and TX John Cornyn _____
- 4 soothsayer
- 9 summer necessity in Texas (abbr.)
- 10 TX Don Henley co-wrote "I _____ You Why"
- 11 actress Adams of "Raquel" with TX Lynda Day George
- 12 Cowboys " _____ of Honor"
- 13 John Steinbeck's Texas widow
- 14 birth state of Charles Goodnight (abbr.)
- 15 TXism: "smack _____ in the middle"
- 17 TXism: "it's _____ didley squat"
- 19 Ted aka "Lurch" first acted in Dallas
- 20 strain and pressure
- 24 29th & 32nd governor " _____ Ferguson"
- 25 this Howe played for and managed Astros
- 26 grassy land (poetic)
- 27 TXism: "chucklehead"
- 28 TXism: "it'll warm your _____ but always cut the cards"
- 29 TXism: "I need that like an armadillo _____ highway"
- 31 _____ Grande
- 32 big Dallas cell phone company
- 33 toothpaste brand since 1873
- 38 TXism: " _____ tickler" (pianist)
- 40 a Morse Code dot
- 41 Texans like it iced
- 42 say again
- 48 TXism: " _____ high on the hog" (rich)
- 50 TXism: "trust every- _____ but always cut the cards"
- 51 oil _____
- 56 in Bowie County on U.S. 82
- 57 TX Banks who was "Mr. Cub"

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[advocats.com/index.php/advocats-rwc/](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.bid-pal.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.

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SWIMMING

Aledo swimmers prep for state

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

A first-time competitor at state last year, Aledo swimmer Victoria Crews, like many, realized it's pretty cool competing under the brightest spotlight high school swimming can offer.

So, of course, she couldn't wait to return. But getting back can sometimes be more challenging than getting there in the first place.

Crews and fellow sophomore Haley Roberson, along with senior Sam Ogden, all did exactly that. They honed their skills even more and, as a result, are once again swimming at the UIL Class 5A Swim Meet at the University of Texas in Austin Friday and Saturday, Feb. 17-18.

"Being able to return to state is a reflection over the last year and shows how much growth I have had," Crews said. "Last year after state, I learned and was able to see how much I needed work throughout the off season and in season to make it again. Really working on technique and my mental health helped me with that."

Aledo will be well-represented this weekend with eight swimmers competing, twice as many as last season. In 2022, Roberson and Crews were on a pair of relays (200 and 400-yard freestyle) and Ogden competed in the 100 free.

Roberson will compete in the most events of any from Aledo, four. Individually, she will swim in the 200-yard individual and the 500 freestyle, both of which she won at the recent 5A Region II Meet in Mansfield. She swam a time of 2:09.16 in the 200 IM and 5:14.86 in the 500 free.

She will join Crews, sophomore Corah Satterfield, and freshman Natalie Hutson on the regional champion 200 medley relay and the regional runner-up 200 freestyle relay. The 200 medley posted a time of 1:54.40 and the 200 free clocked a 1:46.13.

Ogden will be joined on the regional runner-up boys 200 medley relay by senior Tanner Howse and juniors Porter Lane and Kyle Scharlow. The quartet set a school record at regionals with a time of 1:42.37, eclipsing a mark they set a couple weeks earlier by swimming 1:43.79 at district.

In addition, Ogden qualified for state individually with a runner-up finish at regionals in the 100 backstroke with a time of 54.25 seconds.

Crews and Hutson also have individual events after runner-up finishes at regionals. Crews is in the

Turn to **STATE**, page 11

WRESTLING

Bohn going as alternate

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Chad Thomas made a promise to himself last season following the 5A Region I Wrestling Tournament. Though he qualified after a strong performance at district, he went 0-2 at regionals.

He said if he got back, it would not happen again.

And indeed it didn't. In fact, his season isn't over yet.

Thomas joined a short and elite list this past Saturday, Feb. 11, becoming the second wrestler in the short history of Aledo's program to qualify for state. Ansel Din-Mbuh was the first in 2022, the first season the school had a program.

Thomas qualified by placing third in the 120-pound weight class at the Class 5A Region I Meet at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, scoring 16 team points. It comes on the heels of also placing third in the District 4-5A Tournament the previous week in Azle.

The top four from each weight class at regionals advanced to state.

Thomas, a senior, will take a 28-8 record into the state tournament, which will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16-17 at The Berry Center in Cypress.

Thomas qualifies for state

"Last year he went 0-2 and vowed that it wouldn't happen again," Aledo coach Austin Stockon said. "Chad was then able to get a win over Azle's Wyatt Hicks, who had beaten him at the district tournament. Then Chad had another repeat match wrestling Lubbock Coronado's Ian Garza, who Chad defeated for third place at both the district and now regional tournament. After competing so well at the regional tournament Chad hopes to continue his success at the state tournament this week in Cy-Fair. We will wrestle Friday and Saturday, you can follow along on TrackWrestling or watch live on the NFHS app.

Thomas' march to state began with a 10-4 decision over Matthew Rodriguez of El Paso Bel Air in the opening round. He then defeated Diego Tino of Hereford in a fall at 5:15 of the match.

Thomas was edged in his third match by regional champion Malachi McClenton of Amarillo Caprock in a close 9-7 decision. He bounced back to win a 9-5 decision over Wyatt Hicks of Azle, who had defeated him at the district tournament.

In the third-place match, Thomas bested Ian Garza of Lubbock Coronado in a 10-4 decision, his second big win over Garza, who he also defeated for third at district.



ALEDO ISD

Senior Chad Thomas (left) will compete this weekend at the state wrestling tournament. Freshman Brice Bohn is an alternate.

Narrowly missing a qualifying berth at state was freshman Brice Bohn in the 106 division. Bohn, who is 29-9, placed fifth and scored 11 team points. He will be an alternate.

Bohn began with a 10-4 decision against Julia Lopez of El Paso Ysleta, but fell to regional champion Michael Ruiz of Canyon Randall in a fall at 1:05 in the second match.

Bohn rebounded by defeating Christian Verdugo of Clint Horizon

in a pin at 57 seconds and nipping Rylan Luttmer of Saginaw, who had pinned Bohn twice before this season, in a 5-4 decision. Jonas Casillas of El Paso Del Valle topped Bohn in a fall at 3:31 before Bohn won a rematch with Lopez, 6-4.

"Brice is a tough competitor and I cannot wait to see what these next three years hold for him. I picture that this will not be his last trip to

Turn to **WRESTLE**, page 11

BASKETBALL

Ladycats pounce on Everman to begin playoff run



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: Claire Byars scores against Everman in the bi-district on Monday, Feb. 13. Byars reached 1,000 career points as a Ladycat during the game.

RIGHT: Reagan Davis goes in for a layup after stealing the ball from Everman in bi-district playoff action.

Byars hits 1,000-point mark

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledo's Ladycats started off their playoff run white hot as they dismantled former foe, Everman, in the first round of bi-district action, 55-40, on Monday, Feb. 13.

A trio of Ladycats ended the contest with double-digit scoring. Claire Byars led all scoring for both teams in the game as she posted 21 points on the night with a dominant performance in the post. Presley Hull and Reagan Davis had excellent nights of their own as they finished with 15 and 10 points, respectively.

Byars also posted another remarkable achievement, scoring her 1,000th point during her four years as a Ladycat.

Aledo (17-16) never trailed in the game. The Ladycats secured a double-digit lead

early as they went up 14-4 on Everman (17-18) in the first quarter. The Lady Bulldogs rallied back in the second quarter to cut Aledo's lead to just two, 21-19, heading into the break at halftime.

Coming out of the break, the Ladycats put the throttle down in the third. Offensively, they were able to score at will while putting up 19 points in eight minutes of action. At the other end of the floor, Aledo pressured Everman relentlessly, holding the Lady Bulldogs to just seven points in the third frame.

In the fourth quarter the Ladycats outpaced Everman one last time, outscoring the Lady Bulldogs 15-14 in the final stanza to advance to the next round.

The Ladycats were playing Colleyville Heritage (17-14) in the area round at press time. The winner will face Brewer (27-3) or Midlothian Heritage (29-7) in the third round early next week.

Ladycats vs. Everman - Feb. 13 Varsity

Aledo	14	7	19	15	55
Everman	4	15	7	14	40

Aledo scoring: Claire Byars 21, Presley Hull 15, Reagan Davis 10, Kandle Boggus 5, Caroline Browning 2, Liz Griffin 2.



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ALEDO ISD

Fourteen athletes sign letters of intent

Staff Reports
The Community News

Fourteen athletes from Aledo High School signed letters-of-intent to play their respective sports at the college level on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

The list included six from football, three from baseball, two from golf, one from softball, one from swimming, and one gymnast.

Football signees from the 2022 Class 5A Division I state champion Bearcats are:

- Ryan Cox, Howard Payne University.
- Lawson Moore, Central Missouri University.
- Bryon Moreno-Wheeler, Midwestern State University.
- Andrew Parkhurst, Hardin-Simmons University.
- Jalen Pope, Oklahoma State University.
- Isaac Sohn, University of North Texas.

Pope had originally committed to Air Force in the early signing period in December and Sohn committed to the

University of Texas-San Antonio before both changed their decisions.

Also, Ansel Din Mbu committed to Washington State during the early signing period.

Baseball players who signed Tuesday are Garrett Addington, North Central Texas College; Matthew Clark, Hill College; and Trace Mazon, Weatherford College. All three of those schools compete in the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference, so they will play each other during the coming season.

In golf, Braylon Mahaney committed to Weatherford College, which revived their program in the 2021-22 school year. Dylan Kiser committed to Texas Wesleyan University.

Softball player Chloe Cox signed with the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and swimmer Tanner Howse signed with Hendrix College in Arkansas. Autumn Adkins signed with State University of New York at Cortland in gymnastics.

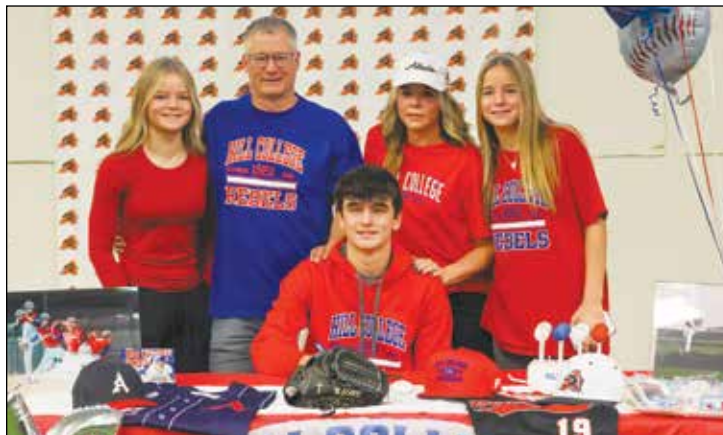
Turn to **INTENT**, page 11



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Garrett Addington (North Central Texas College baseball) is shown with Matt, Candace, Ellie and Adurey Addington.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Autumn Adkins (State University of New York at Cortland gymnastics) is shown with Heather and Justin Adkins.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Matthew Clark (Hill College baseball) is shown with Ben, Angela, Addison and London Clark.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Chloe Cox (University of Mary Hardin-Baylor softball) is shown with Dewayne Cox and Ann Hamre, Duke Cox and Jules Hamre.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Ryan Cox (Howard Payne University football) is shown with George, Kim, Katie and Cole Cox.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Tanner Howse (Hendrix College swimming) is shown with Stacey and Mike Howse.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Dylan Kiser (Texas Wesleyan University golf) is shown with Laurel and Jacob Kiser, Gay and Rolf Larson.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Braylon Mahaney (Weatherford College golf) is shown with Chris, Candice and Brinley Mahaney.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Trace Mazon (Weatherford College baseball) is shown with Johny, Becky and Kaler Mazon.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Lawson Moore (Central Missouri University football) is shown with Gabe, Staci and Jillian Moore.

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Public Hearing Notice
Town of Annetta North
 Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Annetta North, Parker County, Texas will conduct a public hearing on March 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Annetta Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 2836 FM5, Annetta, Texas to consider a request for a Zoning Change from "AG" Agricultural to "R-2" Single-Family Residential District-2.0 Acre Lots. The property is approximately 3.71 acres and know as Abstract No. 129 of the Andrew J. Bell Survey, Parker County, Texas commonly known as 980 Buck Dobbs Road, Aledo, Texas 76008. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and will be heard.
 //Robert Schmidt, Mayor

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
 The Aledo Independent School District is accepting sealed proposals for the following project:
 RFP 23-021023
 Exchange of approximately 50 acres of surplus real property owned by Aledo ISD located in Parker County, Texas.
 Information concerning the Request for Proposal may be found on the Business Office Purchasing page of the Aledo ISD website:
<https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/4288>
 All sealed proposals are due by 2:00 PM CST on Friday, March 3, 2023 at the following address:
Aledo ISD
Attn: Earl Husfeld
1008 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, Texas 76008
 The Aledo ISD reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal that provides the best value to Aledo ISD, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.
 If you have questions or need additional information regarding the RFP, email Earl Husfeld at ehusfeld@aledoisd.org.

community-news.com

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS FOR CUSTODIAL SERVICES
CSP 23-021723-2
 The Aledo Independent School District (the District) will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals for Custodial Services until 2:00 PM CST on Friday, March 24, 2023. Bid details can be accessed on our bidding website at <https://aledoisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. Although we are legally required to accept paper bids, we strongly request bidders submit electronically on this website. Paper bids will be accepted by the Business Office at the Aledo Independent School District Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008. When filing this bid electronically, please do not send us a paper copy, as the electronic version will prevail. A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting and Site Tours will begin at the Aledo ISD Administrative Building located at 1008 Bailey Ranch Rd., Aledo, TX, 76008 on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 9:00 AM CST. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal that provides the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
 Aledo Independent School District, a Pre-K through 12th grade Texas school district, is soliciting requests for competitive sealed proposals (CSP) for E-Rate Category One Internet Access Services.
E-Rate 2023 Category 1 Internet Access 470# 230002773
 Questions and Bid Submission Site:
<https://kelloggllc.bonfirehub.com/portal>
 FCC Forms 470 are available online:
<https://data.usac.org/publicreports/Forms/Form470Rfp/Index>
 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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STATE

from page 8

100 butterfly and Hutson the 100 backstroke after regional times of 1:00.94 and 1:02.22, respectively.

"Having previous experience at state makes me feel more relaxed and confident in my abilities," Roberson said. "I know what to expect the second time around, whereas the first time it was all new and a bit daunting.

This time around the nerves aren't as bad and I can focus on racing instead of the overwhelming environment."

Roberson is seeded ninth in the 200 IM with a time of 2:09.16 and 11th in the 500 free at 5:14.86. The top 16 times from Friday's preliminaries will advance to Saturday's competition.

Hutson said she is glad to be making her first trip to state alongside seasoned veterans.

"The thing I'm most excited about is getting to race with some of the best athletes in the state. It will definitely be a humbling experience," she said. "Getting to partake in such a high level event as a freshman is overall exciting."

Aledo coach Scott Abel said the main thing is for the swimmers to have the experience of a lifetime. Getting to state

is an unforgettable experience, whether it's the first or a subsequent trip.

"I'm excited for these kids to have this experience, particularly our seniors," Abel said. "High school period is so quick that opportunities like this allow it to live forever. They earned this moment and it is all about them and their teammates."



Read this story online

WRESTLE

from page 8

the state tournament," Stockton said.

"Our boys wrestled well. Every single one of our boys at least won one or more matches at our regionals. This was not the case last year, Ansel Din-Mbuh was our lone state qualifier and the only one to win that day," Stockton continued. "This year the boys were on a mission and proved themselves.

"This group of senior boys (Jacob Ellerbusch, Chad Thomas, Zachary Attaway, Britton Collins, Jason "Colonel" Douglas, Ty Hand, Max Toth, and Bryon Moreno-Wheeler) have committed to this program the last two years and their success comes from their determination and hard work. They will be missed but I appreciate everything they have done for this program and the legacy they have created."

Moreno-Wheeler (11-6) split his four matches and finished eighth in the 285 division. He will continue his athletic career at Midwestern State University next year to play football.

Also for Aledo, all seniors:

132 pounds: Ellerbusch went 1-2, scoring four team points and finishing the season with a 17-13 record.

144: Attaway went 1-2, scoring three team points and finishing season 26-14.

157: Hand went 1-2, scoring 2.5 team points and finishing season 17-15.

190: Collins was 1-2, scored three team points and finished season 25-12.

Two Ladycats compete at regionals

Ladycat sophomores Avery Kernan and Kyra Wright also competed at this past weekend's regional tournament. Kernan was in the 107 weight class and Wright in 114.

Both were 0-2 in regional competition. They qualified after finishing fourth in their respective weight classes at district.

Kernan finished with a 15-9 record and Wright was 13-10.

"Our girls had a tough day at regionals, but both are sophomores, so I look forward to watching what they can accomplish the next two years," Stockton said.



Read this story online

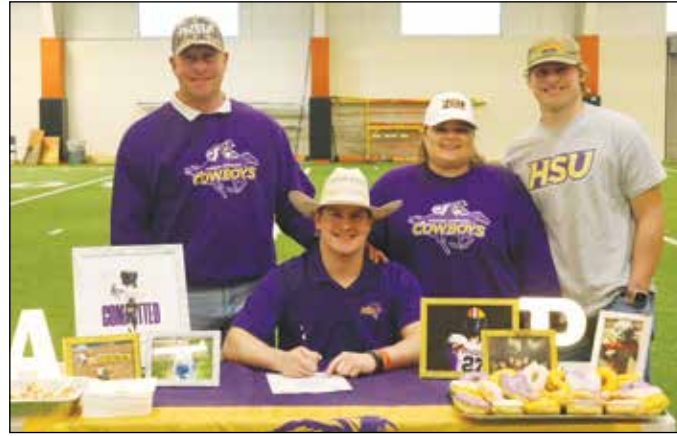
INTENT

from page 9



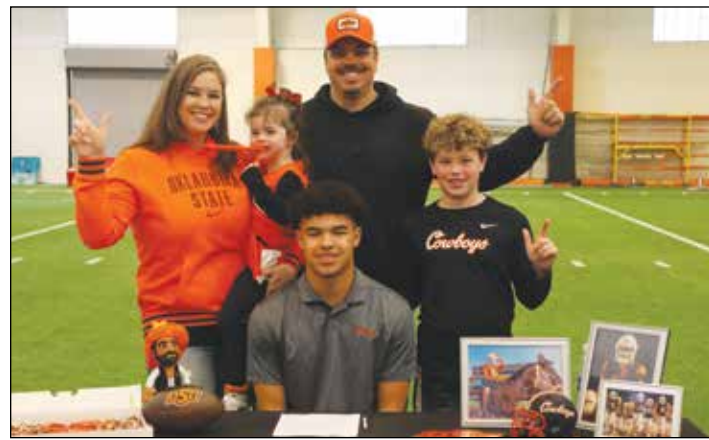
MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bryon Moreno-Wheeler (Midwestern State University football) is shown with Kara, Sophee and Jazy Wheeler.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Andrew Parkhurst (Hardin-Simmons University football) is shown with Bill, Erica and Alex Parkhurst.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jalen Pope (Oklahoma State University football) is shown with Adam, Cassie, Jackson and Addison Pope.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Isaac Sohn (University of North Texas football) is shown with Terrence and Jim Sohn.



ALEDO ISD

Chad Thomas (second from right) qualified for the state wrestling with a third-place finish at regionals.

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS FOR GROUNDS, LANDSCAPE, AND LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES CSP 23-021723-1

The Aledo Independent School District (the District) will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals for Grounds, Landscape, and Lawn Maintenance Services until 2:00 PM CST on Friday, March 24, 2023. Bid details can be accessed on our bidding website at <https://aledoisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. Although we are legally required to accept paper bids, we strongly request bidders submit electronically on this website. Paper bids will be accepted by the Business Office at the Aledo Independent School District Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008. When filing this bid electronically, please do not send us a paper copy, as the electronic version will prevail. A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting and Site Tours will begin at the Aledo ISD Administrative Building located at 1008 Bailey Ranch Rd., Aledo, TX, 76008 on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 9:00 AM CST. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal that provides the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS TOWN OF ANNETTA LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Annetta is now calling for bids for construction of the LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS project. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked "SEALED BID - LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS" and returned to the Town of Annetta, 450 Thunder Head Lane, P.O. Box 1150, Annetta, TX 76008, prior to **10:00 AM, CST, Monday, March 6, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read. The Town of Annetta reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

The project includes the clearing and grubbing, excavation, and construction of a 60,000-gallon ground storage tank foundation (tank to be provided by others, foundation grade ring to be provided within this contract. See drawings for additional information) at an existing pump station facility within the Town of Annetta. Contractor shall also provide general site services, which including the construction of a graded swale nearby the proposed tank foundation, including re-grassing. The proposed tank foundation shall include all site grubbing, staking, excavation, off-site hauling and disposal, select fill and compaction, and the placement of a foundation tank band, per manufacturers recommendations. Contractor shall provide all labor, materials, and equipment to provide a complete and in place installation of the work described above, and as indicated within the Contract Documents.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance Bond, Maintenance Bond, Payment Bond, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and Compliance Provisions may be downloaded from the Town of Annetta's website (www.annetatx.org) directly. Potential Bidders may examine the Contract Documents at the Engineers office, at the following address and location:

Half Associates, Inc.
4000 Fossil Creek Blvd.
Fort Worth, Texas 76137

The cost for Contract Documents is \$50.00 per half size set. The cost of Contract Documents is not refunded. Submit check, cashier check or money order for payment. Cash will not be accepted.

Direct questions regarding distribution of Contract Documents, and the design of the Lakes of Aledo GST Foundation & Grading Improvements Project to Jourdan Johnson, P.E., Half Associates, Inc., at (817) 764-7442.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they consider most advantageous to the Owner. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Award of the contract will be made as a whole to one Bidder. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder. The City reserves the right to throw out any and all bids which are not complete.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of **TOWN OF ANNETTA**, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with the bid.

The party to whom the contract is awarded shall be required to furnish performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety.

TOWN OF ANNETTA

Dates: February 17, 2023
February 24, 2023

By: Sandy Roberts

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BASKETBALL

TCA dominates in area championship

Next stop for 4th ranked Lady Eagles is Fort Worth against Dallas Christian

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The hometown bleachers were packed, and the Trinity Christian Academy Eagles girls basketball team did not disappoint. In fact, they brought the crowd to its feet several times en route to a 65-28 area-round playoff victory over Prince of Peace.

Although Prince of Peace scored the first bucket, the game was never close after the teams were tied at 7 in the first quarter. From there the Lady Eagles simply out-hustled and outperformed their visiting opponent.

Freshman Emily Ickert got the scoring started for the Eagles with a three-pointer, and went on to lead all scorers with 18 points, including four three-pointers. Fellow freshman Sadie Gough added to the opening scoring with a drive up the lane, Giuliana Marcantonio stole a pass and scored, and Meghan Young popped a three-pointer and the Eagles never looked back, scoring 12 straight points to go up 19-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Prince of Peace almost stayed equal with TCA in the second quarter, but went to the locker room behind 13 points, 33-20, at the half.

Things got even worse for the visiting team as they could only muster four points in each of the last two quarters, while Young got hot from outside the three-point circle late in the game.

"They're just such a good group," Coach Matt Garnett said after the game. "Yesterday in practice they worked so hard. They've just bought

into being really tough. They prepare well, and then, you know, we talk about having the courage to be really aggressive. They're a special group."

The Lady Eagles will next face Dallas Christian at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Fort Worth Christian in the Regional Quarter Finals.

TCA vs. Prince of Peace

Varsity

TCA	19	14	14	18	65
POP	7	13	4	4	28

TCA scoring: Emily Ickert 18, Meghan Young 13, Sadie Gough 12, Margaret Cowley 10, Giuliana Marcantonio 8, Maverick Gonzales 2, Macy Prestwood 2



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Freshman Sadie Gough moves the ball up the loor for the Lady Eagles against Prince of Peace in the area campionship victory for TCA.

BASKETBALL

Bearcats honor seven seniors in season finale loss to Northwest



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Seniors from the Bearcat basketball team pose for a pre-game photo on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Aledo lost its final game of the 2022-23 season to visiting Northwest. (Pictured L to R: Drew Clock, Exavier Anderson, Brant Tubbs, Ulises Garcia, Nevishan Warnesuriye, Brandon Fields, & D'Leon Starnes)

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The 2022-23 basketball season didn't end the way the Aledo Bearcats would have liked. Following the team's best performance of the season back on Feb. 3 as they dismantled Azle with an 81-53 rout at home, the Bearcats concluded the season on a four-game losing skid capped

off by a 57-53 loss to the Northwest Texans on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Dropping four in a row knocked them down to fifth place in the District 5-5A standings, and left them out of the playoff picture with a 4-8 league record (13-14 overall).

"I'm proud of [the players]," head coach JD Robinson said after the game. "I wish it could've gone different.

We had so many close games where we were one possession away. A couple defensive stops here, a couple free throws there, a couple missed assignments here and there, and our season's completely different. I'm going to learn a lot from it. I've learned a lot from these guys. I'm just really proud of them."

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Read this story online

State Bound



Senior Chad Thomas and Freshman Brice Bohn

Good luck at the state wrestling tournament!

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