

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WEATHERFORD ISD

Utility program garners Best-In-Class recognition

Nets 21 percent savings

By **Melissa Winn**
The Community News

With the cost of utilities seeing some of its highest rates throughout Texas, it isn't surprising that finding ways to cut those costs is at the top of everyone's minds.

Luckily for Weatherford ISD, an initiative that began four years ago has produced \$2.32 million in utility savings and earned the district recognition for being healthier and more efficient.

At a special meeting Aug. 28, representatives from Cenergistic, a company that helps clients understand how energy is consumed and provides solutions to minimize waste, shared with the district how its efforts and cost-saving measures equated to 21 percent savings and a 28 percent reduction in energy use.

Additionally, WISD earned a Best-In-Class designation after all 11 of its campuses received ENERGY STAR® Certifications from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The recognition is presented to the most efficient buildings and signifies each are in the top 25 percent.

"Weatherford ISD has created a stellar program," said Dr. William S. Spears, CEO and Founder of Cenergistic, in an email. "Rising to the top in all the metrics — healthier, more efficient buildings; savings; and comfort, the district is truly Best-in-Class. [WISD Superintendent] Dr. Beau Rees and board, with other administration, faculty and staff members are to be commended for their leadership."

ENERGY STAR® is a voluntary EPA program that helps business and individuals save money and protect the environment and has strict guidelines of 75 percent or higher to meet to earn the rating.

Since 2019, the rates for electricity and natural gas have risen dramatically. In the base year, electricity has gone from approximately 8 cents per kwh to now nearly 13 cents. Natural gas has risen to \$1.47 from \$1.15 and while the increase hasn't been noticeable in water/sewer rates, it has changed by about 10 cents.

To arrive at the numbers, audits of each building are conducted. In the last 12 months alone, 1,087 audits were completed by Cenergistic's Eric Akins, who works with district staff and his company's engineers and other specialists, to optimize systems and schedules to get the best results.

"The outcome is healthier, more efficient buildings using less energy and lower related costs," said Cenergistic's Vice President Wayne Couldron.

To continue reading visit <http://www.community-news.com/stories/utility-program-garners-best-in-class-recognition,48150>



SECONDS TO SPARE



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cole Crawford is given the hero treatment after his last-second field goal gave the Aledo Bearcats a 48-45 win over 6A powerhouse Denton Guyer on Friday, Sept. 1. The win gives the Bearcats a 2-0 record against strong competition leading into district.

Ex-Students' Association Banquet

The Aledo ISD Ex-Students Association will hold their banquet on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Aledo Learning Center Training Room. Visitation will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the meal will be served at 6 p.m.

All ex-students of Aledo ISD are encouraged to attend. The cost will be \$25, which covers the meal, expenses, and \$5 for dues.

If you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend, send a note to Aledo Ex-Students' Assn., P. O. Box 737, Aledo, Texas 76008. For more information, call Ann Grace at 817-291-9846 or email rag70803@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving Trot: The Next Generation



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Niki Thompson and her son, Tagg, presented the 2022 check for \$109,000 to the family of Carter LeBaron.

Thompson, Harris to co-chair this year's race

By **Ashlyn Poole**
TCN Intern

Under founder Rhonda Torres' direction, long-time committee members Whitney Harris and Niki Thompson were titled co-chairs of this year's Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot.

With trot season officially kicked off, the two shared insight into their experiences and roles, and how those have changed over 13 years. After all, both Harris and Thompson were there from the beginning.

"Marsha Walters was a dear friend, she was a huge part of this community," Thompson

said. "She was a school nurse for years and when she was in need, Rhonda rallied the troops and we all showed up for Marsha, and we loved Marsha."

The trot was supposed to be a one-time thing. Actually, Marsha was the reason the tradition continued. Now 12 races in, the co-chairs and committee have no intention of ever stopping the race.

"It was gonna be for Marsha and that was it," Harris said. "The next year Marsha, working in the schools, knew of Aiden (Malloy, the second Thanksgiving Trot recipient) and she came to Rhonda and said, 'I want to have another one, we need to keep going.' The rest is history."



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Whitney Harris, left, presented the 2019 check for \$85,000 to the family of Emma Vidal.

The trot grew with the community. In its first year, the race had 350 runners and raised \$14,000. Last year, almost two thousand racers participated and the check was written for \$109,000.

"What's been really cool to see is that even with the new growth, it's just added to our success and people are on board," Thompson said. "It's just been a reinforcement of everything that this community stands for — they stand for one another and when someone's in need, they show up."

The Thanksgiving Trot is funded entirely by community sponsors and participants, and all money raised goes toward the year's recipient.

"It's a blessing to us to be able to bless these families, even though we're not the ones writing all the checks," Harris said. "It's a collaborative effort but it blesses us all on Thanksgiving morning to get to see it all come together."

Registration for this year's race is now live. The committee added a long-sleeve shirt option, which costs an additional \$10 at checkout.

This year's recipient is Jared Chasteen, a self-employed colon cancer patient.

Find more on the interview video at <http://www.community-news.com/stories/thanksgiving-trot-the-next-generation,48151>

For more information about the Thanksgiving Trot, visit <https://www.aledothanksgivingtrot.com/>.

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In & Around Parker County

Aledo Athletic Club - Your Bridge to Health and Fitness

Americans struggle, year after year, around getting fit, eating better, and losing weight.

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

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

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

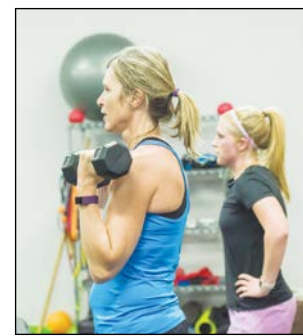
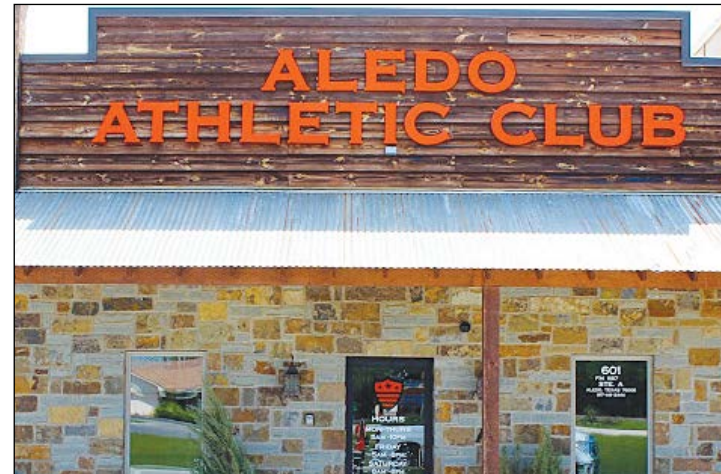
That changed in 2006 or 2007 when he came to Aledo and started working out with a trainer. He weighed 296 in January and competed at 178 pounds in December.

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

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

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

"I was the king of the late night drive thru — whatever is quickest, because my schedule was hectic. I made every excuse in the world," Davis said. You have to plan, you have to have a goal and, and then you have to have a plan B for when that when that goal doesn't work



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

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

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

accommodate beginners up to fitness enthusiasts.

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

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

Aledo Athletic Club has both machines and free weights, cardio equipment, and personal training. You can go all the way from basic calisthenics to CrossFit all under one 4,000 square-foot roof.

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

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

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

Aledo Athletic Club is located at 601 South FM 1187 in Aledo. Find out more by visiting <https://aledofitness.com/> or call 817-441-2444.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION**Proposition Number 1
(HJR 126)**

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

**Proposition Number 2
(SJR 64)**

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

**Proposition Number 3
(HJR 132)**

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

**Proposition Number 4
(HJR 2- Second Special Session)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax**

purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

**Proposition Number 5
(HJR 3)**

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

**Proposition Number 6
(SJR 75)**

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

**Proposition Number 7
(SJR 93)**

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment would require PUC to allocate

money from the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

**Proposition Number 8
(HJR 125)**

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

**Proposition Number 9
(HJR 2)**

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

**Proposition Number 10
(SJR 87)**

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

**Proposition Number 11
(SJR 32)**

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment

to expand the authority of the legislature with regard to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

**Proposition Number 12
(HJR 134)**

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

**Proposition Number 13
(HJR 107)**

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

**Proposition Number 14
(SJR 74)**

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

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We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper.

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

The Community News does not charge for timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee.

Capital Highlights

Hundreds of new laws go into effect



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

A total of 774 new laws went into effect on Sept. 1, affecting Texans in many areas of their lives, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. The new laws concern property taxes, registration fees and voting access, among other issues. Several have drawn court challenges from opponents.

A few examples of the new law include:

- Book vendors must create a rating system for books deemed "sexually relevant" or "sexually explicit." House Bill 900 is currently being challenged in an Austin federal courtroom by several Texas book sellers. Other major legislation concerning schools provides nearly \$330 million over the next biennium to increase school safety infrastructure and resources.
- The cost of a new electric car goes up \$400 after Senate Bill 505 passed both chambers unanimously, adding a new registration fee. In addition, owners of existing electric cars now must pay a new \$200 annual registration fee, with the money from both fees going to the state highway fund, which is primarily financed by gasoline taxes.
- Governmental entities in Texas are now banned from

implementing COVID-19 restrictions, such as vaccine mandates or requiring the wearing of masks under Senate Bill 29.

Law eroding local power ruled unconstitutional

A Travis County judge last week declared unconstitutional a new state law stopping cities and counties from passing ordinances that go beyond what is allowed under state law. The ruling came just before the so-called "Death Star" bill went into effect, the *Texas Tribune* reported.

The state has appealed the ruling by State District Judge Maya Guerra Gamble. Local officials across the state's urban areas blasted the law as an overreach that prevents them from meeting local needs, such as providing water breaks to construction workers. That municipal requirement is now banned under state law.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner hailed the ruling.

"The Governor's and Legislature's ongoing war on such home-rule cities hurts the state and its economy, discourages new transplants from other states, and thwarts the will of Texas voters who endowed these cities in the Texas Constitution with full rights to self-government and local innovation," Turner said in a statement. "This self-defeating war on cities needs to end."

Gov. Gregg Abbott defended the bill, saying, "Texas small businesses are the backbone of our economy. Burdensome

regulations are an obstacle to their success."

Paxton's impeachment trial slated to begin

The impeachment trial of suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was set to begin Tuesday, Sept. 5 in the Texas Senate. The embattled state official faces 20 articles of impeachment, including misuse and abuse of office; disregard of duty; bribery; securities fraud; false and misleading statements; and dereliction and unfitness for office, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

It would take a two-thirds vote of the Senate to convict Paxton.

Meanwhile, *The News* reported some of Paxton's former employees claim he pursued perks beyond what is alleged in the impeachment articles, including trips to the Caribbean and Europe that cost taxpayers more than \$90,000 for his security detail. David Maxwell, who once headed the law enforcement division of the attorney general's office for Paxton, said Paxton once bought a \$600 sports coat from a hotel store while attending a conference and billed it to the event's organizer.

"He was all about money," said Maxwell, who is also a former Texas Ranger, the state's elite law enforcement division. "He always had his hand out."

Paxton has consistently denied all the allegations against him.

To continue reading visit <http://www.community-news.com/stories/hundreds-of-new-laws-go-into-effect.47995>

Thistles&Roses

Food waste is a bigger problem than we think



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

Have you ever thought about food waste? I had thought about it, mostly in terms of our household, but some recent news reports and some online research have revealed to me some shocking statistics about food waste on a broader scale that I did not know.

It is time we started thinking about food waste if we are responsible citizens. And while we are at it, we need to think about hunger in the world and the U.S.

According to Feeding America, www.feedingamerica.org, 119 billion pounds of food is wasted in the U.S. every year. That is 130 billion meals and \$408 billion dollars worth of food thrown away each year. According to FA, that is a staggering 40 percent of all food produced going to the landfills.

Their website says 34 million Americans face food shortages, including 9 million children.

The causes of food waste are many:

- Food thrown away at homes, schools and restaurants
- Unharvested crops because the price is too low for the producer
- Problems getting food to market because of transportation problems
- Food that is not up to grocery stores standards because of color or appearance

According to the World Wildlife Fund, www.world-wildlife.org, U.S. schools waste 530,000 tons of food annually. Of that amount, 50 percent is wasted fruit and vegetables.

I saw a recent news report in which a school janitor had photographed a garbage can filled with some 50 unopened cartons of milk in a school cafeteria. The milk was not expired and cool to the touch!

World wide the numbers are even more appalling. According to UNICEF, 328,000 people world wide are facing hunger in 2023. A Forbes magazine article by Niall McCarthy in 2021 reported that 931,000 tons of food is wasted in the entire world annually.

According to the Halcyon Movement, www.thehalcyon-movement.org, 25 percent of the world's fresh water is used to grow food that is never eaten. Water is so precious and we find many ways to waste it.

Another U.N. report states that eight percent of greenhouse gases are produced by uneaten, rotting food.

What can we do about it locally? According to an NBC 5 KDFW report, four students from the Dallas ISD's School for the Gifted and Talented created an app called FoodNex. The app, which the reports says is similar to a dating app, connects businesses with extra food to local food pantries and food banks.

We also should begin at home. According to multiple websites, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, www.usda.gov, the average U.S. household wastes a third of all food purchased.

More about that in a future column. For now take a few moments, and maybe come back and reread these statistics later. Ponder just what food waste means to the world, your family, and to you.

Idle American

Augusts With Tears



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

Usual readers-- both of you, and a few relatives who sometimes read to see if I "got it right"--may remember that a month ago, I decided to put my "quill back in the goose" until September.

A few cool days in New Mexico beckoned, and off we drove to the Land of Enchantment, neither footloose nor even close to fancy free, as it turned out.

Brenda, my wife of 57 years joined me, along with Sailor, our beloved rescue dachshund who was also invited by our longtime friend--retired educator Delnor Poss. Delnor masqueraded as a basketball official for colleges and universities throughout the land for several decades.

A widower for more than a year, he welcomed us to his inviting three-story home that he largely constructed himself over a couple of decades, starting with a modest A-frame structure.

At age 88, he's still doggedly determined to "get it right," just as he did as a game official. Long-time golf coach and athletic director at Midland College, he can't abandon the work ethic he learned early in his hard-scrabble life. Now, he's a consultant at Eastern New Mexico's Ruidoso campus, down the mountain from his Alto, NM, home that features breathtaking balcony views in all directions.

We "yakked" for two nights, recalling specific hills and valleys of our lives. The short time there was golden, and then.

The second night, a phone call at an unseemly hour bore sad news. Gone from this life was a close friend of some 30 years. Caleb Pirtle, 82, who wrote more than 90 books, was the best author I've ever known.

Vacation thoughts dissipated. We began the 550-mile drive home the next day, my mind whirling with brief stories I might share a few days later at his memorial service. He always wrote "just right." Compared to his writing, my words--written or spoken--didn't have a chance.

Ever modest, Caleb called himself a "used word salesman."

Then, another call was equally unwelcome. A friend from college years, Ray Hildebrand, also 82, had passed in Kansas City.

He was to music what Caleb was to journalism. Ray, too, was in a league by himself.

Though best known for writing and singing "Hey, Paula"--a #1 song on secular charts in 1963-- he was a consummate composer of contemporary Christian songs. He was a forerunner of this genre, differing from most composers today who are given to repetition(s). Of the some 500 songs he composed, more than half have been published, many of which even old-timers sing, not knowing they sprang from his creative mind.

As sportswriter Blackie Sherrod once said of daily columnist George Dolan, before God made George, he broke the mold.

Friends joke that fun-loving Ray, too, may have been made in a broken mold.

Due to an earlier commitment to speak at the Brownwood Kiwanis Club's 100th anniversary dinner, I was unable to attend his Kansas City funeral the same day. Three hundred others did, though. They "open-miked" through a memorial service of more than two hours. Everyone loved Ray; many spoke.

We watched the streamed service, awash in tears interspersed with laughter of bygone days.

One friend told of Ray's erratic driving habits, explaining that his speed was determined by the tempo of music from his car radio.

He said that if "Old Man River" were playing, Ray might be driving 30 MPH on a freeway, backing up traffic for miles. "Shake, Rattle and Roll," however, might mean he was pegging 95 MPH on a country road, passing all vehicles with abandon.

Rare talents both, they were model Christians, and memories of them are cherished.

The month of "column silence" is one of two such respites in two decades, both in August.

The other was in 2020. A few days into "vacation," Julie Choate, our oldest daughter, died suddenly at age 50 of a pulmonary embolism. Perhaps future column lapses won't be announced, or won't be in August.

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, remains active as a columnist, author and speaker. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Facebook: donnewbury.

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

SEPTEMBER 12

Book Club at the Library
The East Parker County Library is hosting a book club on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. They will be discussing *Killer of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders* by Dave Grann (Soon to be a major motion picture.)



SEPTEMBER 14

Alzheimers Association Monthly Support Gathering
Alzheimers Association offers a monthly support group gathering on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Meetings are from 1-3 p.m. While caregivers attend support group, volunteers offer activities for their care receivers with Alzheimer's/dementia. For details, contact Sally Bond at ssbrn75@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 16

Morningstar 5k Color Run
Join us for the 1st annual 5K Color Run and 1 mile Fun Run Fundraiser from 8 - 10 a.m. on



Saturday, September 16. All proceeds go to Aledo Children's AdvoCats! Come walk or run and have some fun!

Hosted by Riverside Homebuilders.
Registration Fees (after August 15th):
• 5K: \$35.00
• Fun Run: \$25.00
Info and sign up: <https://bit.ly/3K3MgBn>

SEPTEMBER 25

Teen Time
Middle and High Schoolers are invited to the library on Monday, September 25, at 5 p.m. to help decorate the East Parker County Library for fall by transforming pumpkins into your favorite book characters. Snacks provided.

SEPTEMBER 29

Homeschool at the Library
The East Parker County Library will have Homeschool at the library on Friday, September 29, from 12:30-2 p.m. Themed books, STEM activities, Lego and crafts.



OCTOBER 7

Aledo UMC Lord's Acre Fall Festival
Join this fun annual event from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, at Aledo United Methodist @ 100 Pecan St in Aledo, Tx for a day full of fun, vendors, food, a Kid's Zone, a Country Kitchen, Silent & Live Auction, and much more!



OCTOBER 14

Aledo Fall Fest
Aledo Fall Fest will be from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. n Saturday, October 14. It will be a fun day of shopping, music, food and activities! Gather up your friends and family. Shop & Experience Downtown Aledo through local shops & restaurants along with spe-

ACROSS

- TX JoBeth Williams 1980 comedy "Crazy"
- poetic sea eagle
- simplified "night"
- TXism: "hombre" (mean)
- of war
- TXism: "fits like ugly on an"
- apron, e.g.
- spice up
- TXism: "hat and no cattle" (pretentious)
- Fort Worth money plant uses magnetic 3-down inks to foil counter
- the Alsatian group founded Castroville, Texas
- 1924 slogan: "Me for ___ Ain't Got a Durned Thing Against Pa"
- TXism: "he ain't got both ___ in the water" (slow witted)
- cowboy headgears
- it was once Formosa
- TXism: "pope Catholic?" (yes)
- this Porter was in "True Blood" with TX Jim Parrack
- 1976 film starring TX Kristofferson and Streisand (4 wds.)
- TXism: "the wall and see if it sticks" (try it out)
- "got ___ in the door"
- Diego ___ is often credited with leading an early Spanish expedition
- TXism: "in ___ age" (long time)
- "don't have a ___ to stand on" (can't prove it)
- "t" letters in 38-down
- TX Martha Hyer film: "The ___ of Katie Elder"
- pianist, TX Cliburn (init.)
- Gulf shrimp catcher (2 wds.)
- a fight between Texas clans
- was victorious
- he took title from TX Foreman in 1974
- TXism: "rug ___" (child)
- TX John Cornyn is on the ___ committee
- "Jackson County Herald-" (newspaper)
- see 21-across
- Texas film critic, Rex
- to state or assert
- TX George H.W.'s "Operations Desert Storm" (3 wds.)
- TX Perot's first naval rank (abbr.)
- TXism: "___ could talk the legs off an iron stove"
- TXism: "give ___ without the sizzle" (be brief)
- workplace safety agcy.
- TX Pride's "I Believe That You've Stopped Loving Me"
- Frankston's KOYE, at its beginning
- "give ___ rest"
- TX Chiles (init.)
- ___ Pleasant (abbr.)
- Friona High class
- HIV disease
- "Wet ___" in Anthony, Texas
- TXism: "___ would ___ a maggot" (tastes bad)
- TXism: "dot the 's' and cross the ___"
- in Hill County on highway 171
- TXism: "tear jerker" (___ movie)
- military subdivision

DOWN

- TX John Cornyn is on the ___ committee
- "Jackson County Herald-" (newspaper)
- see 21-across
- Texas film critic, Rex
- to state or assert
- TX George H.W.'s "Operations Desert Storm" (3 wds.)
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- in Hill County on highway 171
- TXism: "tear jerker" (___ movie)
- military subdivision

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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cial pop-up vendors!
OCTOBER 21

ALEDO-FEST
will be on Saturday, October 21, from 1 - 5 p.m. at Aledo High School's south parking lots. This year's event will fea-

ture live music and many activities for kids of all ages! Meet your local businesses at the many vendor booths, do some gift shopping and early holiday finds, and get a little something for yourself! Come hungry for a variety of food

trucks on-site for good eats & autumn treats! For questions or more information, please contact Deana McMullen, City Secretary, at City Hall: 817-441-7016, or cell/text: 817-829-4024, email, or visit Aledo City Hall.

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Kid Scoop Together:

Unscramble it!

Unscramble this list of words.
Hint: They all have something to do with money!

VESA

□ □ □ □ □

RANE

□ □ □ □ □

NEPYN

□ □ □ □ □

CLINEK

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

MEDI

□ □ □ □ □

LOADRL

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

VINEST

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

TONADE

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

HACS

□ □ □ □ □

PEDNS

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

ROBRWO

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions; Spelling: Use the conventions of spelling.

Kid Scoop-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **WANT** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| | | | W |
| | T | | A |
| | | | N |
| W | | | T |

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: SURVIVE

The verb **survive** means to continue to live.

Living things must have water to **survive**.

Try to use the word **survive** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

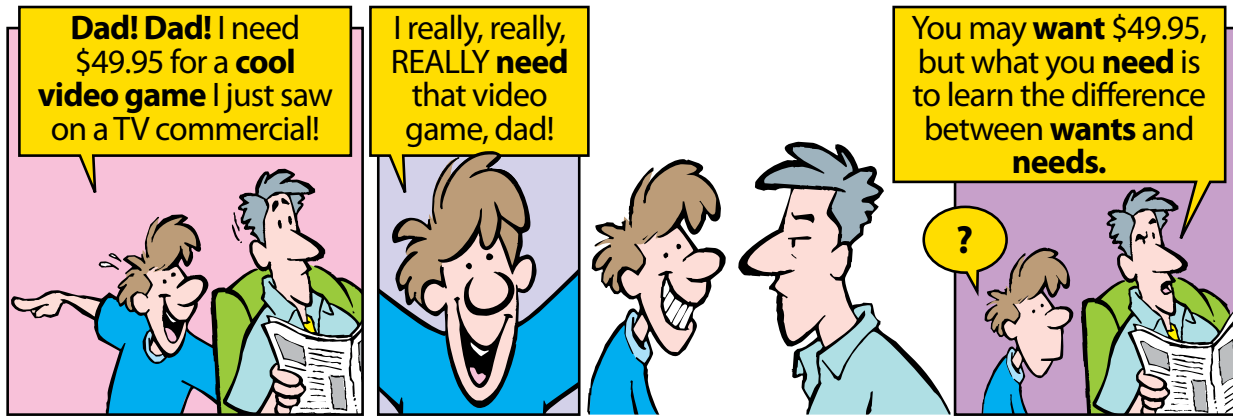
WANTS AND NEEDS

A **need** is something you *must have* in order to survive. You need shelter, clothing, food, water and sometimes medicines.

A **want** is something you would *like to have*, but can live without. A music player, a computer, a television and a bike are wants, not needs.

Sometimes it is hard to decide if something is a need or a want. For example, cake is a food, but it is not a need. It's a want.

Which of these following foods are more wants than needs?



What do you need?

Look at each picture. Put a green N on each picture that shows something you need each day.

Put a red W on each picture that shows something you might want, but not need.

Standards Link: Economics: Know that goods and services can satisfy people's needs and wants.

What do you think?
In today's world, is education a want or a need?

Standards Link: Economics: Differentiate between needs and wants.

Snack Time Puzzler

The school cafeteria is making students think before they buy a snack. The prices are all written in code!

Code: A = 1 B = 2 C = 3 and so forth until you get to **Z = 26**

To figure out what each snack item costs, you must first find out what number goes with each letter in the word. Then, add the numbers that "spell" each word to get the price.

For example: **C H I P S**
3¢ + 8¢ + 9¢ + 16¢ + 19¢ = 55¢

JUICE BAR

CARROTS

CRACKERS

CHEESE

GRANOLA

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums using money.

WANTS and NEEDS Newspaper Search

Look through the newspaper for pictures of things that represent wants and needs. Paste them into the spaces below.

| WANTS | NEEDS |
|-------|-------|
| | |

Standards Link: Economics: Understand the difference between basic survival needs and nonessential items.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Four students were asked to list their needs. How many did each student list? Use the clues to complete the chart.

- None of the students listed more than five needs.
- No one listed the same number of needs.
- The total number listed was 13.
- Hayley listed three needs.
- Dylan listed fewer needs than Hayley.
- Kayla listed the most needs.

| STUDENT | NEEDS |
|--------------|-------|
| Hayley | |
| Dylan | |
| Kayla | |
| Oscar | |
| TOTAL | |

Standards Link: Algebra: Solve number problems involving addition and subtraction.

Double Double Word Search

- WANTS
- NEEDS
- THINK
- SNACK
- SHELTER
- WATER
- SURVIVE
- MUSIC
- VIDEO
- BIKE
- FOODS
- CAKE
- PLAYER
- PRICES
- ITEM

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | C | E | I | K | D | E | B | E |
| O | E | D | I | V | N | C | A | K | E |
| S | F | M | U | S | I | C | A | B | T |
| W | H | O | D | I | H | V | I | N | E |
| E | N | E | O | W | T | K | R | W | S |
| A | E | N | L | D | E | E | A | U | T |
| N | W | A | N | T | S | T | M | A | S |
| N | D | N | E | R | E | Y | A | L | P |
| S | E | C | I | R | P | R | E | D | S |

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Strangest Careers

Find ten professions mentioned in today's newspaper that are unusual. Cut them out and paste them on a paper in order from most to least uncommon. Do you know anyone who is involved with these professions?

Standards Link: Economics: Students understand basic economic concepts and the role of the individual in a free-market economy in terms of the specialized work that people do.

What's the difference between a baseball player and a tired dog?

ANSWER: A baseball player wears a full uniform. A tired dog just pants.

Write On!

I Make a Difference

Tell about how you make a difference in someone's life in your family, at school or in your community.

FOOTBALL

Bearcats win on Crawford's kick

Game-winner comes on final play

By Jim Zimmerman
The Community News

Every athlete dreams of being called on to win the game with seconds left on the clock. To most it is just a fantasy, but for Aledo's Cole Crawford it became a reality Friday night.

The junior placekicker strolled out and nailed a 21-yard field goal as time expired to give the Aledo Bearcats a 48-45 victory over the 6A state-ranked Guyer Wildcats.

After a lackluster and scoreless first quarter on the part of both teams, they combined for 40 points in the second quarter. Aledo's Hauss Hejny hit Hawk Patrick-Daniels on a 42-yard fly route for the first score of the game to open the second quarter for the Bearcats (2-0, No. 1 in Class 5A Division I), who won for a 16th straight game.

The Wildcats (1-1, No. 11 in Class 6A) scored on a 22-yard field goal by Ford Stinson at the 7:12 mark. After both teams exchanged possessions, Guyer's quarterback Logan McLaughlin found Josiah Martin for a 21-yard score giving Guyer a 10-7 lead at the four-minute mark of the second quarter.

After Aledo's Aven Lawrence brought the kick back 32 yards,

Aledo's offense went to work. Hejny handed the ball off to sophomore Raycine Guillory and he went 35 yards for the Bearcat score and Hejny ran in the 2-point conversion, giving Aledo a brief 15-10 lead late in the second quarter.

Guyer's hurry-up offense had the Bearcats' defense on its heels all night. Denton was able to score in just three plays as McLaughlin threw a 59-yard strike to Josiah Martin, giving Guyer a 17-15 lead with less than two minutes left in the second quarter.

But Aledo also has the ability to score quickly. Hejny was starting to have one of his best games as the Bearcat offensive line was allowing him time to find his receivers.

He completed a pass to Colton McCoy for 25 yards and then he scrambled 32 yards on a second-and-10 to the Guyer's 1-yard line. Guillory was also making his presence known as he took the handoff and scored from a yard out. Hejny completed the 2-point conversion to Tyson Timms and Aledo led at halftime 23-17.

Little did anyone know that this was just the beginning of an offensive shootout and for the next 24 minutes.



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Turn to FOOTBALL, page B2 Cole Crawford's last-second field goal sealed Aledo's win over Guyer.

CROSS COUNTRY

TCA girls third at Burleson

Whiteaker wins individual title

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Grace Whiteaker topped the field as the Willow Park Trinity Christian Lady Eagles took the team title in the Class 4A and Under Division at the Burleson Elk Run on Friday, Sept. 1.

Whiteaker clocked a time of 13 minutes, 2.8 seconds over the 3,200-meter course. Also in the top five from TCA was Emma Saadeh in fourth place with a time of 13:53.4.

The Eagles placed eighth as a team with Wilson Winchester finishing second individually. He ran the 5,000-meter course in 17:56.1.

Also running for the Lady Eagles were Brooklyn Mathieson, 24th; Madison Clark, 29th; Meagan King, 32nd; Adalyn Endsley, 34th; and Ellery Wright, 59th.

Also running for the Eagles were Brandon Speight, 35th; Andrew Cowley, 44th; Luke Rodgers, 45th; and Michael Spillers, 48th.



VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats rebound at Midway



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ava Reding sets the ball during recent action against Paschal.

Highland Park stops win streak

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Following their first hiccup in a dozen days while on the road in Dallas at Highland Park on Friday, Sept. 1, the Aledo Ladycats varsity volleyball squad rebounded on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at Waco Midway.

The Lady Scots halted Aledo's eight-match win streak with a three-set sweep. But the Ladycats, looking for redemption on Tuesday, mauled the Lady Panthers on their home court with a sweep of their own, winning by scores of 25-22, 25-22, and 25-9.

Even though the outcome wasn't what they hoped, the Ladycats (19-7) held their own against a stout top 6A program from Highland Park. The Lady Panthers bested Aledo by tallies of 14-25, 22-25, and 24-26 to take the match, but the Ladycat netters put on a quality performance in the loss.

Alyssa Todd and Kinley Elms collected 16 and 14 kills in the match, respectively. Todd followed up that stalwart performance with 16 more

kills to her credit against Midway for a total of 32 on the week.

Aledo's offense continues to run through Ava Reding. The junior setter earned 25 assists against Highland Park before picking up another 15 on Tuesday. As impressive of a stat line as that is on its own, she scored an ace in both matches from the service line, and collected 15 digs along the way.

Speaking of digs, the Ladycats are digging the defensive play of first-year varsity starter, Ella Meador. In her last two outings, Meador prevented opposing offenses from scoring 26 points with her defensive prowess.

At the net, Haley Lowe's blocking ability is unparalleled this season. She combined for nine blocks in the past two matches, giving her a total of 64 to this point in the season with league play right around the corner.

Aledo's officially reached the business end of the schedule as District 5-5A play gets underway on Friday, Sept. 8. The defending district champion Lady Texans from Northwest come to town dragging their 15-7 record in tow. That match is slated to get underway at 6 p.m.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
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GAME DAY ADVANCE

Bearcats look to continue record district win streak

Host Northwest Friday

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

At the start of the 2007 district football season, the Aledo Bearcats lost back-to-back games, 31-28 to Stephenville and 35-28 to Everman.

That was the last time the Bearcats would be on the losing end of a score in a district contest. None of the current players were even in school and at the time the program had only one state championship.

Now, of course, they have 11 state titles and are favored to make it an even dozen this season. And the program enters this week's matchup at home against the Justin Northwest Texans (2-0) with a national-record 111 straight league victories.

"We don't win because of the streak. Our main goal is to win each week," Bearcats coach Robby Jones said.

And that's exactly what they've done for 16 straight games dating to last season, including a 2-0 start this season. The latest victory in that streak came Friday at Denton Guyer, ranked No. 11 in Class 6A in the state, as the Bearcats escaped with a 48-45 victory on a last-second 21-yard field goal by Cole Crawford.

Jones said the victory against the 6A powerhouse on the road gave his team added confidence as they try to win their league for a 16th straight season.

"To go along with that confidence, we don't need to ease off," he said. "We've got to continue working on the little things so that when we get to the playoffs we're peaking."

The most recent district scare came at home against Midlothian in 2019. The Bearcats had to rally for a fourth-quarter touchdown to force overtime, where they won 34-28.

For the most part, however, the victories have been convincing, including last season when Aledo outscored its opponents by an average of more than 40 points. It began with a 49-20 thumping of Northwest on the Texans' home field, starting the Bearcats on their current 16-game win streak that



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hawk Patrick-Daniels had three catches for 93 yards and a score.

included the 5A Division I state championship.

"They have a system just like we have and their kids play within that system," Jones said. "They didn't play their best game against us last year and they're going to come in looking to do better."

Looking for more

The Texans' playoff appearances streak of five consecutive years pales in comparison to the Bearcats' streak of 27, but they certainly enter league play with plans to extend it.

What they'd really like is something else Aledo has done for 27 straight years, win a postseason contest. The Texans reached the third round of the playoffs in 2018, but have eliminated in the opening round each of the past four.

A higher finish than fourth, which is where they placed last season, would enhance those chances. Of course, all roads to anything more than second place goes through Aledo.

Head-to-head

The Bearcats lead the all-time series with the Texans 10-6-1. They've won the past five matchups.

Since Aledo's record district winning began, this is the fourth season the Bearcats and Texans have been in the same district. Aledo has won the previous three meetings by a combined score of 158-47.

Hejny back in familiar role

After primarily passing the football in the season opening 50-35 victory against Dallas Parish Episcopal, Bearcats quarterback Hauss Hejny saw more running action at Guyer - oh, and he also had another sterling game throwing the ball.

Hejny rushed 16 times for 143 yards against Guyer. He also completed 16 of his 20 pass attempts for 243 yards and a TD.

"That 80 percent completion rate, plus his speed and ability to move, makes him one of the most dangerous quarterbacks in the state," Jones said.

In the opening game Hejny rushed only twice for a dozen yards. He completed nine of 15 passes for 185 yards and two TD.

Hawk settling in

When the season began Hawk Patrick-Daniels was set to move into a new role as split receiver, which he showed against Guyer



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Quarterback Hauss Hejny completed 16 of 20 passes for 243 yards passing and 143 yards rushing on 16 carries.

that he is comfortable in that position. However, Jones said the plan is to continue to use him as a running back alongside Ray Guillory now and then, as indicated by his rushing 10 times for 87 yards and two TD against Parish Episcopal.

Against Guyer, Patrick-Daniels hauled in three catches for 93 yards, which included a touchdown.

"Hawk has some moves some receivers just don't have," Jones said. "He is going to be a dangerous weapon there."

Special teams improvement

In the first game the Bearcats struggled some on special teams. Against Guyer there was a notable difference.

Not only did Crawford kick the winning field goal, he kicked three extra points and his kickoffs averaged 38.6 yards with two touchdowns. Pierce Ling, a move-in from Montgomery Lake Creek, took over punting duties and had two punts for a 35.5 average.

Davhon Keys provided a highlight when he returned a botched extra point 80 yards for two points.

Also, Hejny ran in a two-point conversion and Tyson Tims caught a two-point conversion pass.

"We've got a lot of confidence in Cole. I had all the confidence in the world he would make that field goal," Jones said. "We've still got some things to work on with special teams, but it was certainly better against one of the state's best 6A teams."

Defense misleading

Don't be fooled by the fact that the Bearcats' opponents have scored 80 points in two games. For one thing, one of those scores was an 80-yard interception return.

However, Jones also noted that they have played two of the state's top offenses.

"We've faced two very good offensive teams. Our guys made some big stops when it counted," Jones said. "That sack Davhon (Keys) had against Guyer to set them up in a third-and-long was huge."

Rankings

Aledo retained its No. 1 ranking in Class 5A Division I, having knocked off two other state-ranked foes in Dallas Parish Episcopal at

Turn to ADVANCE, page B3

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Game at a glance

Justin Northwest Texans (2-0) at Aledo Bearcats (2-0)

District 3-5A Division I opener for both teams

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Tim Buchanan Stadium

Returning starters: Aledo 7 offense/5 defense, Northwest 5 offensive/5 defensive.

Last week: Aledo won 48-45 at Denton Guyer, Northwest won 31-28 at McKinney North.

Last season: Aledo, 14-2, 5A Division I state champions. Northwest, 7-4, bidistrict. Bearcats won 49-20 at Northwest.

Aledo offensive players to watch: QB Hauss Hejny (18 carries, 155 yards rushing, 1 TD; 25-of-35 passing, 428 yards, 3 TD, 0 int.); WR Hawk Patrick-Daniels (4 catches, 101 yards, 1 TD receiving; 16 carries, 83 yards, 2 TD rushing).

Northwest offensive players to watch: QB Leddie Thompson (34-of-50, 302 yards, 2 TD, 2 int. Passing; 14 carries, 46 yards, 1 TD rushing), RB Saheed Duradoye (37 carries, 264 yards, 1 TD), RB Nathaniel Jean (29 carries, 166 yards, 3 TD).

Aledo defensive players to watch: DE Carson Dempsey (5 tackles, 3 sacks, 4 for loss), DE Cooper Kohan (4 QB hurries).

Northwest defensive players to watch (stats not available): DB Jay Harrington, LB Noah Grier.

ADVANCE

from page B2

home and Guyer on the road. Also from the district, Denton Ryan, which was off this past weekend, is ranked No. 7.

Elsewhere in District 3-5A Division I Last week's results

Frisco Wakeland 34, Brewer 27 Venus 33, South Hills 18 Burlison Centennial 14, Frisco 13 Northwest 31, McKinney North 28 Fort Worth North Side 27, Saginaw 21 Royse City 49, The Colony 35 Azle 14, Grapevine 13 Denton Ryan, open

This week's games Thursday, Sept. 7

Saginaw (0-2) at Burlison Centennial (2-0)

Friday, Sept. 8

Azle (1-1) at Denton Ryan (1-0), 7 p.m. South Hills (0-2) at The Colony (0-2), 7 p.m. Brewer (0-2) open

Thoughts on District

Jones believes the district overall will be tougher this season. Last season it featured three teams (Aledo, Ryan, Centennial) ranked in the state's top 10 most of the season.

"All up and down there is more experience in the district," Jones said.

Through the first two weeks, Aledo, Centennial and Northwest are all 2-0, while Ryan is 1-0. Azle is 1-1.

FOOTBALL

from page B1

Wild second half

Aledo received the second-half kick and was unable to make any headway and Pierce Ling, a newcomer to the squad after moving in from Montgomery Lake Creek, came in to punt for Aledo. Denton's offense marched the ball down to the Aledo 39 and McLaughlin hit Corbin Glasco for the Guyer touchdown.

What happened on the next play took a little steam out of the momentum Denton was building.

The snap came back and the holder for Guyer dropped the ball and Aledo's Davhon Keys picked it up and went 80 yards for two points for the Bearcats, giving Aledo a 25-23 lead with 8:45 left in the third quarter.

Aledo took the ensuing kickoff and was moving the ball well before fumbling at the 50-yard line.

Denton's offense did not waste any time. McLaughlin did most off his damage while he was scrambling and found Keagan Steimazewski for a Guyer touchdown. The 2-point conversion failed but Guyer took the lead at the 6:30 mark of the third quarter, 29-25.

At this point the game switched to a different speed.

Aledo's next eight of nine plays were running plays. The only pass was on a third-and-15 from the Guyer 16 when Hejny hit Patrick-Daniels on a 44-yard catch at the Denton 40. The Bearcats faced a third-and-goal from the 2-yard-line when Keys took the handoff and scored for Aledo. The PAT was no good and Aledo lead 31-29 with less than three minutes left in the third.

Again, the Guyer hurry-up offense went to work. They were able to move the ball on the Bearcat defense and running back Sterling Schneider ran in for the 5-yard score. The 2-point conversion was good and Guyer now lead 37-31 to end the third quarter.

Aledo started the fourth quarter with a 12-play 78-yard scoring drive as Guillory scored from 2 yards out, giving Aledo a slim 38-37 lead.

Aledo's defense was able to force Denton to punt and the Bearcats had the ball on their own 26 with less than nine minutes left in the game.

Aledo had another 11-play, 74-yard drive when Guillory scored on a 5-yard run to give them a 45-37 lead with less than five minutes left.

McLaughlin threw a 64-yard touchdown to receiver Corbin

CROSS COUNTRY

AMS opens season at Azle

Fink wins individual title

Staff Report
The Community News

Seventh-grader Jack Fink of Aledo Middle School took first place in the Azle Cross Country Meet on Wednesday, Aug. 30. He clocked a time of 5

minutes, 37.18 seconds over 1 mile to top the field of 97 boys.

The AMS eighth-grade boys and girls each placed second. The seventh-grade boys were third and the seventh-grade girls were sixth.

Eighth-grader Ashlynn Durnil was sixth out of 131 girls, clocking a 6:40.56. Eighth-grade boy John Stodola was ninth out of 106 with a time of 6:02.84.



Glasco. The 2-point conversion was good and the game was tied at 45 with four minutes left in the game.

The final drive for Aledo didn't have the most ideal start. The Bearcats started at their own 8-yard line. Hejny, Keys, and Guillory were the three of the four components for Aledo's success. The fourth was the offensive line.

Calmly, coach Robby Jones relied on their run game to put Aledo in the position to win the game. They marched to Guyer's 3-yard line and called timeout with 0:02 left on the game clock.

Enter Crawford. The snap was good and his kick was, too.

Aledo avenged their 44-14 loss last year.

Aledo hosts Justin Northwest (2-0) next Friday to begin district play. The Texans defeated McKinney North, 31-28, this past Friday.

Aledo 48, Denton Guyer 45

Aledo 0 23 8 17 - 48
Guyer 0 17 14 14 - 45

Aledo scoring

Hawk Patrick-Daniels 42 pass from Hauss Hejny (Cole Crawford kick).

Ray Guillory 35 run (Hejny run).

Guillory 1 run (Hejny pass to Tyson Timms).

Keys blocked PAT returned for two points.

Key 2 run (Kick failed)

Guillory 2 run (Crawford kick)

Guillory 5 run (Crawford kick)

Crawford 21 field goal

Team stats

First downs: Aledo 28, Guyer 22.

Rushes-yards: Aledo 53-291, Guyer 27-111.

Passing yards: Aledo 243, Guyer 347.

Caught-thrown-int.: Aledo 16-20-0, Guyer 23-30-0.

Fumbles-lost: Aledo 3-1, Guyer 0-0.

Punts-avg.: Aledo 2-35.5, Guyer 2-32.5.

Penalties-yards: Aledo 13-114, Guyer 17-120.

Aledo leaders

Rushing: Hejny 16 carries, 143 yards; Guillory 27-138, 4 TD; Keys 3-26, 1 TD.

Passing: Henjiy 16-20, 243 yards, 1 TD, 0 int.

Receiving: Trace Clarkson 8 catches, 107 yards; Patrick-Daniels 3-93, 1 TD; Colton McCoy 2-45.

Tackles: Jake Gillespie 12.5, Boogie Owens 6, Keys 5.

Sacks: Carson Dempsey 2, Keys 1.

Tackles for loss: Dempsey 3, Keys 1.5, Gillespie 1, Cooper Kohan 0.5.

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Ava Redding
Volleyball
 The junior setter had 59 assists, 25 digs and a pair of aces in the two matches as the Ladycats split a pair of matches, topping Fort Worth Paschal 3-1 and falling 3-0 to Dallas Highland Park.

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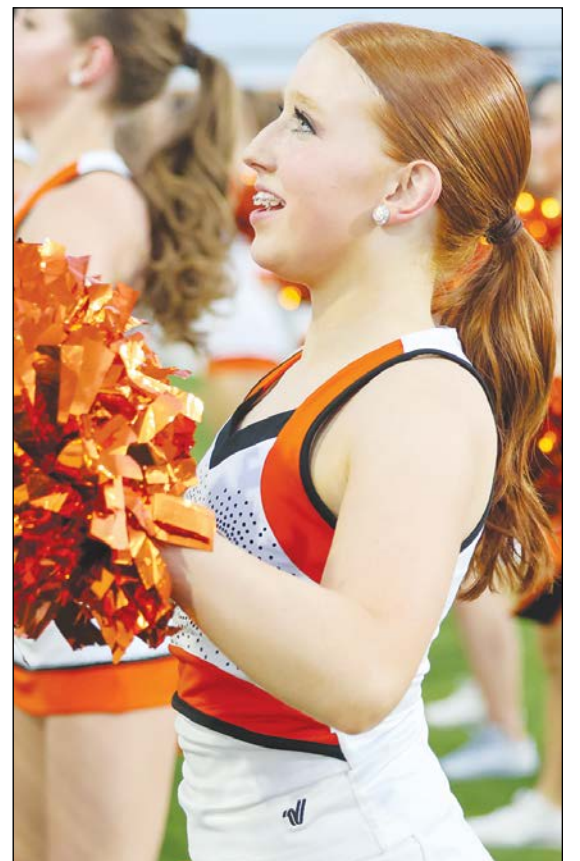


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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Cole Crawford
Football

The junior placekicker came into the contest with two seconds remaining and booted a 21-yard game-winning field goal to lift the Bearcats to a 48-45 win in Denton over the then No. 9 ranked (now No. 11) Class 6A team in the state.

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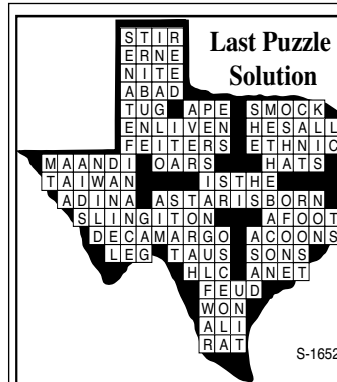
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TENNIS

Racquetcats rout Brewer

Still undefeated in district

By **Cathy Mason**
The Community News

Continuing what has been one of the best fall team tennis seasons in Aledo history, the Racquetcats routed another opponent to remain undefeated.

Their 21-0 win at Brewer on Tuesday, Sept. 5 improved them to 12-0 on the season and 3-0 in District 5-5A.

Boys doubles Line 1 Craig Mason and Scott Mason and Line 3 Will Beyer and Tom Ruminosky easily beat their opponents, posting scores of 6-0, 6-0. Line 2 Jacob

Heckathorn and Francois Britz were on their way to victory when their Brewer opponent had to withdraw due to the heat. They were awarded the match with a score of 6-2, 2-0.

Girls doubles Line 1 Kenley Germany and Bryanna Orr won 6-1, 6-1; Line 2 Elli Kate Bussmeir and Patrice Loftin won 6-1, 6-0 and Line 3 Eleanor Jack and Natalie Nawrocki won 6-4, 6-1. The mixed doubles pair of Benjamin Farmer and Lila Satterfield won 6-4, 6-1.

Some of the singles matches were played with regular sets and some with pro-sets, but all were

won by Aledo. Boys Line 1 C. Mason won 6-2, 6-0; Line 2 Farmer won 8-2; Line 3 S. Mason won 6-0, 6-0; Line 4 Beyer won 8-1; Line 5 Heckathorn won 6-0, 6-1, Line 6 Britz won 6-0, 6-0 and Line 7 Nate Ashabraner won 8-1.

Girls Line 1 Orr won 6-1, 6-2; Line 2 Germany won 6-2, 6-1; Line 3 Bussmeir won 6-0, 6-0; Line 4 Satterfield won 8-2; Line 5 Gracie Heydman won 8-0; Line 6 Sydney Byrd won 7-5, 6-0 and Line 7 Jack won 8-2.

The team has a district bye next week and will return for their last home match against Saginaw on Sept. 19 at 4:00pm.



CATHY MASON/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Will Beyer gets ready to serve.

FOOTBALL - WEATHERFORD

Kangaroos lose game, QB vs. Pearce

Staff Report
The Community News

Richardson Pearce and Weatherford combined for nearly 1,000 yards of offense as the Mustangs outscored the Kangaroos 55-37 at Roo Stadium Friday night. Pearce totaled 508 yards and Weatherford had 463.

After completing eight of nine passes and a touchdown, senior Kangaroo quarterback CJ Thornton left the game due to injury in the first half and never returned. He suffered a shoulder injury and is expected to miss at least a month.

The Kangaroos and Mustangs traded touchdowns through much of the first half, including a 60-yarder from Pearce quarterback Presley

Harper to Noah Self. Pearce scored 27 unanswered points to put the game out of reach.

Harper was 20-of-30 for 297 yards and three touchdowns.

Roo running back JoJo Polk put up 133 yards on 20 carries with one touchdown and Colton McClure added 78 yards and a score. Wide receiver Xavier Holder caught five passes for 109 yards.

Weatherford dropped to 1-1; Pearce improved to 2-0.

The Kangaroos face Burleson on the road Friday night. The 0-2 Elks are now coached by Chad Worrell, former Brock head coach who led the Eagles to a state championship in 2015 and a state finals appearance in 2017.

Team stats

Rushing yards: W'ford 273, Pearce 204.

Passing yards: W'ford 190, Pearce 304.

Caught-thrown-int.: W'ford 14-19-1, Pearce 21-31-0

Fumbles lost: W'ford 2, Pearce 0.

Penalties-yards: W'ford 8-100, Pearce 7-20.

Weatherford Individual leaders
Offense

Passing: CJ Thornton 8-9-0 1 TD, 96 yards; Colton McClure 1-1-0, 46 yds., Bruin Wright 5-7-1 48 yds., Lane Cowley 0-2-0 0 yds.

Rushing: JoJo Polk 20 carries, 133 yards, 1 TD; McClure 4-78, 1 TD.

Receiving: Xavier Holder 5 catches, 109 yds.

Defense

Micah Moore 7 tackles, Asher Feriend 3 tackles 1 sack.

CROSS COUNTRY

Ladycats third on tough course

Marcus Coach T Invitational

By **Rick Mauch**
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats enjoyed another strong performance on Saturday, Sept. 2 as they placed third in the prestigious Coach T Invitational, hosted by Flower Mound Marcus High School at Denton's North Lakes Park.

The meet is named after former longtime Marcus coach, the late Steve Telaneus. He passed away in April of 2020 after retiring following a career of more than three decades that put him in the National High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Aledo teams competed in the Elite Division. The Bearcats were 16th,

the junior varsity boys placed seventh and the JV girls were 15th.

"It was another good day for the cross country teams Saturday morning. All teams competed on a much tougher course than we saw last week," head coach Mike Pinkerton said. "Everyone did an amazing job."

Madison Larson led the Ladycats varsity with a fourth-place individual finish and a time of 18 minutes, 05.4 seconds over the 5,000-meter course. Micah Neal was 12th at 18:42.6 and Molly Garrison was 19th in 19:01.1.

Also running for the Ladycats varsity were Sophia Brandenburg, 44th, 19:34.2; Mykel Murry, 66th, 20:05.5; Elizabeth Griffin, 70th, 20:09.2; and Mayden Mitchell, 129th, 21:15.4.

Turn to **COURSE**, page B8



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FOOTBALL

TCA blanks Bishop Reicher

First win at Eagle Stadium

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The 2022 gridiron season was a difficult one for the Eagles of Trinity Christian Academy, as the team mustered a lone win and none in their new stadium.

On Friday, Sept. 1, TCA tied their win total from a year ago as they decimated Bishop Reicher, 39-0. The game was also at home, giving them their first win in the stadium that was unveiled last season.

The scoring fury started early as the Eagles put the ball in the end zone twice in the opening quarter. Quarterback Braxton Smith took the snap out of the shotgun and rolled to his left in search of an open receiver. Eyeing Jake Anderson on an out route a couple yards deep, Smith was hit as he threw across his body. A Bishop Reicher defensive back managed to get a hand on the pass as it sailed towards the goal line, but Anderson maintained focus as he stuck with the play, pulling down the pass for the first score of the game.

Minutes later Trinity Christian found paydirt once again from 10 yards out. Running a twin back set out of the shotgun formation, Smith handed the ball off to Pearson Kuykendall on a sweep to around the right side. Matthew Sykes sealed his block to the outside, opening the lane for

Kuykendall to scamper into the end zone for the score.

In the second quarter the Eagles used a pair of defensive turnovers to create scoring opportunities. Defensive end Kadin James blew past his man on the o-line to pick the ball out of the quarterback's hand as he turned to make the handoff. The fumble recovery by James gave the Eagles first-and-10 on the Bishop Reicher 29-yard-line.

Trinity Christian wasted no time converting the turnover opportunity into points on the board as Smith lobbed a pass to the end zone to hit his man over the top for the 29-yard alley-oop.

On the ensuing drive, Bishop Reicher's QB dropped back to pass and immediately had pressure in his face. Hit as he threw, the pass floated in the air, allowing Owen Coates to make a play on the football. Coates secured the interception at the 50 before scrambling all the way to the goal line to put the Eagles up 33-0 heading into the half.

Coming out of the break, the Eagles faced a fourth-and-10 from the Bishop Reicher 20. Lined up in their twin back set out of the shotgun, Smith once again handed the ball off to Kuykendall on a sweep to the right side. Kuykendall found an open patch of grass around the outside of the line as he turned up field, easily picking up the first down without being



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITY CHRISTIAN

Quarterback Braxton Smith breaks away from defenders in Willow Park Trinity Christian's 39-0 victory against Bishop Reicher.

jets, broke a pair of tackles, and toe-tapped along the sideline to stay in bounds just long enough to cross the goal line for the final score of the game.

Smith finished the game with 182 total yards (107 passing, 75 rushing). Anderson caught two passes for 34 yards and Kuykendall picked up 34 yards rushing on just three carries.

The defense was led by line-backer Jonathan Heep with 12

tackles, including two for a loss. Sykes also had an interception.

Next up on the schedule for the Eagles is a road trip to Houston on Friday, Sept. 8. Trinity will take on the hosting Northland Christian Cougars (1-1) at 6:30 p.m. Records for the two teams mirror each other, as both teams dropped their season opener on the road before winning shutouts at home in Week 2.

COURSE

from page B7

Jack Fink paced the Bearcats, taking 42nd in 16:14.8. Layton Ybarra was 47th in 16:18.6.

Also for the Aledo varsity boys, Dominick Barrera, 123rd, 17:16.2; Luke Schabel, 127th, 17:16.8; Anderson Smith, 153rd, 17:40.6; Tyler Connelly, 160th, 17:43.9; and Lincoln Tuin, 215th, 18:43.2.

JV boys results included Ian Robbins, third, 18:08.9; Landon Eaton, 33rd, 19:24.9; Reed Murray, 41st, 19:34.0; Ethan Matthews, 51st, 19:48.0; Reese Copeland, 202nd, 22:05.2; and Isaac Brooks, 267th, 23:27.3.

JV girls results were Aubrey Connally, 11th, 22:06.1; Sadie Williams, 26th, 22:54.2; Maddy Shepard, 160th, 26:05.0; Giana Anaya, 222nd, 27:29.8; and Julia Bettencourt, 279th, 32:20.4.

"We will be taking next week off to rest and recover," Pinkerton said.

The varsity squads will next compete at the Texas A&M Invitational in College Station on Sept. 15 and the JV teams will be at the Paschal Invitational on Sept. 16.

Lady Roos first at Burleson

Led by Rayla Castillo and Remington Boone, the Weatherford Lady Kangaroos took first place at the Burleson Elk Run on Friday, Sept. 1.

Castillo clocked a time of 19:28.7 on the 5,000-meter course, while Boone posted a 19:29.5. Also, Macayla Kopacz was 11th in 20:37.8 and Cheyenne Gorman placed 16th in 20:57.3.

The Weatherford boys were sixth, led by Gal Josh, who placed 21st.

The Weatherford JV boys were third with Andrew Scott taking fourth in 19:07.4. The JV Lady Roos were fourth as Paige Blake placed ninth individually in 23:17.9 and Mia Saldivar was 10th in 23:22.7.



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