

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WEATHERFORD

## Council votes to accept transportation awards

### One national, one state

By Jim Zimmerman  
The Community News

The Weatherford City Council voted to accept two transportation monetary awards, one from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and one from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), at its city council meeting on Nov. 14.

The grant from the USDOT is \$224,000 with a local matching amount of \$56,000. The TxDOT grant is \$966,000 with a \$240,000 local match. Both grants are an 80/20 percentage partnership.

The USDOT grant will go toward funding of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, while the TxDOT award will go toward the Weatherford Active Transportation Plan.

"The award of both grants represents a huge win for the citizens of Weatherford," said Director of Public Works Chad Marbut.

Marbut said through the Safe Streets for All grant from USDOT, the city will develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan to address roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Once in place, Weatherford will be positioned to compete for construction funds through the year 2026.

Weatherford is one of only 12 cities in Texas and among only 235 nationwide to receive such a grant.

The Active Transportation Plan will allow the city to survey, catalog and analyze pedestrian and bike needs throughout the city.

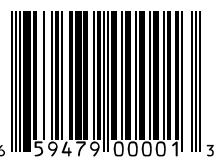
"With it, we will also perform a route study and preliminary design to extend our Town Creek Hike and Bike Trail System from downtown all the way out to Cartwright Park, effectively unlocking over 20 miles of additional trail that connects to Mineral Wells," he explained. "Both awards demonstrate how Weatherford leverages local dollars for access to substantial federal and state funding for our citizens."

### New non-patrol vehicles

The council voted to allow Weatherford School District to replace older non-patrol Weatherford Police Department vehicles with brand new ones.

The council approved the purchase six non-patrol vehicles from Southwest Ford/Gilchrist Automotive for an amount not to exceed \$208,000 through an interlocal agreement with the Weatherford Independent School District.

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 3



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MUSIC

## Former Bearcat found right tune

### Gatlin working on country music career

By John English  
The Community News

Aledo High School alum Gatlin Johnson might just have the perfect name for a country music singer and songwriter.

A former running back on the Aledo Bearcats football team, Johnson now makes his home in Lubbock where he attends Texas Tech University and pursues a career in country music.

Johnson, 21, said his hometown is still a major part of who he is today.

"I'm very proud to be from Aledo," Johnson said. "It feels like all I did was focus on football and school. A lot of people were really surprised by the whole music thing when I got to college, like, 'What the heck? I didn't know you did that.' But I've come to realize that growing up in Aledo was very special."

So special, in fact, that Johnson's roots in the Aledo area and Parker County play an important part in his music.

"I just write songs that mean something to me," Johnson said. "I think that's why they come out that way. Home means a lot to me and that's what I write about. And that's why I think it's cool when people connect with my songs because I'm just writing songs that mean something to me. Seeing that they mean something to other people too is great."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GATLIN JOHNSON

Former Aledo Bearcats football player Gatlin Johnson has a budding career in country music.

### Finding his passion young

Johnson said that he first became interested in Country music when he was still a boy.

"As a family, we always played music in church," Johnson said. "My dad played guitar and my mom sang. Me and my sister would sing with them, and that was kind of the

origin. And then as I got older, I started playing guitar in the church. That was kind of what I did on Sundays. I would play in the church band."

Johnson then started to focus more on football and eventually walked on at West Texas A&M University.

Turn to **MUSIC**, page 7

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

## Board presented with changes to dual credit funding

### House Bill 8 having impact on community colleges

Crystal Brown Worley  
Weatherford College

Dr. Sarah Lock, Weatherford College's associate dean of dual credit, eLearning and education, provided the Board of Trustees with an in-depth look at the impact of House Bill 8 on the future of dual credit at their November meeting on Thursday.

Approved during the 88th Texas Legislature, HB 8 redefines how community colleges are funded through state allocations. One part of this funding that could greatly impact WC is the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) system for dual credit funding. Colleges may opt in or out of the FAST system.

Currently, high school students taking dual credit courses through WC pay the in-district tuition rate of \$117 per credit hour. If WC opts out of FAST, the board of trustees can continue to set that tuition rate.

If the college opts in, the state sets the tuition rate for dual credit students at \$55 per semester hour. Students eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch receive free tuition, and the state reimburses the college.

The college is eligible to receive performance funding of \$1,700 for each dual credit student once they earn 15 hours under both options.

While opting in would cut WC's tuition revenue from dual credit students in half, opting out may also cost the college due to students turning to other dual credit sources.

For the 2023-24 academic year, WC expects to net \$1.7 million from dual credit students. Using those same figures and adjusting to FAST system standards, that amount drops to \$1.6 million if there is no decrease in dual credit students.

"Please understand that these numbers are projections, and there are a lot of contingencies," Lock said. "This is our optimistic projection if we opt in. If we opt out, understand that they will have more affordable options. So, opting out doesn't mean that we retain (the current dual credit enrollment figures)."

Lock predicts the college could see dual credit tuition revenue decrease by \$500,000 to \$875,000 with districts choosing other options.

"When the permanent funding rules come out in January, we're

Turn to **COLLEGE**, page 3



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NBT Financial held a groundbreaking on Nov. 13 in The Shops at Willow Park. NBT began in north Fort Worth in 1973 and now has branches in Hurst, Burleson and Azle. Shown are Mark Swift (credit analyst), Sean Woodring (Branch President), Shawn McCage (Branch Manager), Shaylee Pierick (Personal Banker), and Jordan Forrest (Loan Assistant). The new 5,000-square-foot facility is expected to open in August of 2024.

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**COUNCIL**  
from page one

“The vehicles are driven by detectives in the criminal investigations division and supervisors in the support and administration divisions,” said Lance Arnold, Assistant City Manager

and Weatherford Chief of Police. “The new vehicles will replace existing vehicles that range from 13-19 years old with well over 100,000 miles on each.

“I specified them as non-patrol because



they don’t have emergency lights, markings, or other patrol equipment like computers and radios. Our detectives and other non-patrol staff use them to respond to incidents and other events after the initial patrol response.”

**COLLEGE**

from page one

going to evaluate the impact of this very closely, not only on the college but on all of our highly valued K-12 educational partners,” said WC President Tod Allen Farmer.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the minutes of the October board meeting.
- Approved the financial reports ending Oct. 31.
- Approved the annual review of a local policy on appropriations and revenue sources.
- Approved to move the December board meeting from Dec. 14 to Dec. 7.
- Ratified the purchase of 301 East Park Avenue for use as an alumni house.
- Approved the even distribution of the college’s votes to the presented slate of candidates for the board of



directors to the Parker County Appraisal District for 2024-25.

- Approved the determination of prevailing wage on construction projects for the 2023-24 fiscal year as required by the state.
- Approved a change order to the Vickie and Jerry Durant Hall construction contract to include 24 parking spaces at the corner of Martin Drive and College Park Drive near the Kingsley Building.
- Received written reports from the Wise County campus, academic, student services and the annual equities in athletics report.

In his President’s Report, Farmer:

- Congratulated the volleyball team on hosting and winning the NJCAA Region V volleyball tournament last week and wished them luck at the national championship next week in Kansas.

- Announced the college now officially owns Canyon West Golf Course, and new programs including culinary arts and turf management will be added at that location soon.
- Announced that the college, Parker County Attorney John Forrest and a community group are partnering on a Turkey Drive Luncheon to be hosted by WC on Thursday, Dec. 14, with the hopes of providing 300 turkeys to local residents in need.
- Announced the MBA transfer agreement signing ceremony between WC and Texas Wesleyan University has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. Nov. 28, in the Community Room of the Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building.
- Announced the resignations of WC police sergeant Eric Villanueva and associate degree nursing instructor Cindy Turner.

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# In & Around Parker County

## CALL ON ATEX TRASH SERVICE

Atex Trash Service is a locally owned, family owned business that prides itself on excellent service for an affordable price. After 11 years in business, Atex Trash Service is building an outstanding reputation as a company that is truly here to build something simply by helping others, and it is that hometown business model philosophy that has quickly made them one of the fastest growing businesses in the community.

“We work hard to take good care of our customers and we are committed to building our business with sound principles and ethics in mind,” said Tim Green, one of the owners. “We strive to be a helpful and positive influence in the community, to be fair and honest in our business practices and to always make our decisions based on what is in the best interest of our customers, our employees and the community while maintaining a healthy company.”

Many of us are cutting back, and being careful about what we spend in this economy. We want to save money on household necessities, but when it comes to services around our home, we don't want to sacrifice our peace of mind to save a few dollars. We want our service providers to be honest and dependable, worthy of our trust.

Billy Green is that kind of man, and he raised his son, Tim, to treat others with respect. He encouraged and developed Tim's heart of service. Watching his father, Tim had an example of great moral character and strong work ethic. Together they are a glowing example of honesty, reliability and self-sacrifice. When you have the opportunity to visit with them, you instantly feel at ease. Their positive attitudes are contagious, and you will leave with a smile.

Together, Billy and Tim started Atex Trash Service as a way for them to serve their community - their neighbors. Being able to make a living serving others is a dream come true for Tim. Atex Trash Service has been helping area residents save money on their residential trash pick-up since July 2010. Tim and Billy Green are the dynamic duo of father and son teams, proving that you can provide Superior Quality Service at the Lowest Price.

Atex provides weekly trash pick-up for a flat rate of \$35 a month for their standard service. “We realize however, not every family's needs are the same,” said Tim, “We are able to customize plans for smaller and for larger families.” They serve Parker, Tarrant, and Wise County areas

outside of Azle, Springtown, Weatherford, Poolville and Aledo, and the area continues to grow! Just call and see if they can help you. Since they are a local, family-owned company, you know who will answer the phone when you call. Tim and Billy are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and later if you need them. Just call 817-344-8464.

You can also contact Atex through their website 24 hours a day at [www.atextrash.com](http://www.atextrash.com). It's an easy-to-navigate website where you can contact Tim, sign up for new service, and even securely pay your bill online. You can also see what others have to say on their Testimonial Page or look them up on Facebook.

Operating this business means the whole family can work together! Tim's sons Laken and Gaige have grown up, and they're now the third generation with Atex helping to take care of the community.

“I'm happiest when I am doing for others,” said Tim, “and to be able to build something positive with my family, well, I simply couldn't ask for anything more.”

Give Atex a call and see how they can help you. You'll be glad you did!



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#### Content Submission Policy

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 or email [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com). Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information.

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

# House kills school choice plan



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas House on Friday defeated a proposed voucher plan, also leaving in doubt a comprehensive public school funding plan that became tied to it, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. A coalition of rural Republicans and Democrats joined together to take education savings accounts out of the bill by an 84-63 margin.

It's unclear whether proposed record funding increases for schools and teacher raises will survive this fourth special session. Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick made vouchers a priority. Versions of their priority have passed the Senate but continue to be stymied in the House. This special session ends the first week of December.

### Bill passes to allow undocumented migrants arrests

A sweeping border security bill that allows state and local police to arrest undocumented migrants is headed to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. The bill also allows state district judges to order those migrants be returned to Mexico.

In addition, a separate bill that provides billions in funding for expansion of a border wall is headed back to the Senate for final approval.

Abbott has indicated he will sign both bills. Legal experts and Democratic legislators say the bill allowing law enforcement to arrest undocumented migrants is unconstitutional.

"Texas Republicans proudly passed legislation that will allow Greg Abbott's Department of

Public Safety to imprison Black and Brown migrants for simply existing in our state," Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa said.

The bill's sponsor, state Rep. David Spiller, R-Jacksboro, defended the measure.

"We still know that the Biden administration has failed and refused to enforce federal immigration laws and secure the border," Spiller said.

### 60th anniversary of JFK's assassination noted

The 60th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is Nov. 22, with a number of events taking place in Dallas, where Kennedy was killed in 1963. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas is marking the event with a "Two Days in Texas" exhibition that revisits Kennedy's visit to Texas through eyewitness accounts of his time in Texas before the assassination.

The sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, now a museum, was the primary crime scene. An all-day remembrance is also taking place at the Texas Theatre in Oak Cliff, which is where Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested after killing Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit.

### LNG plant's plans put on hold

A liquified natural gas terminal planned for Port Arthur has been halted, at least temporarily, after the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled consistent emission standards were not applied, the *Texas Standard* reported.

The complaint was brought by an environmental group which claimed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality was going to allow the plant to have higher emissions than similar plants in Texas.

Amy Dinn, with Lone Star Legal Aid, which brought the lawsuit, said in an interview that "We were very concerned that this additional pollution from this facility, if allowed to go forward at the permitted limits TCEQ had approved, would cause potential health impacts for the community that lives there because they're already forced to have a lot of air pollution."

Once the court releases its final decision, the plant's permit application will go back to TCEQ.

### TikTok ban challenged in court

An Austin federal judge will decide whether a ban of TikTok on state-owned and issued devices will stand. A lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Coalition of Independent Technology Research, [kut.org](http://kut.org) reported. Arguments were heard in the case last week.

The coalition represents university faculty who wish to continue using the social media platform for research and teaching purposes at state institutions. Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the ban on TikTok, which is owned by a Chinese company, last December.

Jameel Jaffer of the Knight First Amendment Institute said plaintiffs are seeking an injunction to lift the ban.

"Their work is about the social media platforms," Jaffer said. "They study the social media platforms, write about the social media platforms, propose regulatory reform relating to the social media platforms. And the ban is impeding them from doing that work."

Todd Dickerson of the Texas attorney general's office maintained the ban is a precautionary measure, that few researchers are affected, and that faculty can do their work with TikTok on their personal devices.

### Cinnamon applesauce pouches recalled

Elevated levels of lead have been found in several cinnamon applesauce products, prompting a recall and a warning from the Texas Department of Health Services that children who consumed those products should be tested for lead exposure.

The recalled products include:

- WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree pouches
- Schnucks brand cinnamon-flavored applesauce pouches and variety pack
- Weis brand cinnamon applesauce pouches

Some of the recalled products are sold in Texas through a number of retailers. Parents are urged to check their homes and discard these products.

### Getting home safe for the holidays

The holiday season begins this week, and the Texas Department of Transportation is urging everyone to drive sober and urge their loved ones to do the same.

During last year's 32-day holiday season, 108 people were killed and 229 seriously injured by drunk drivers in crashes across the state.

"A safe and sober ride should be at the top of your list when making plans with family and friends," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said. "If not, you risk your job, your life, and the lives of others. It's just not worth it."

Law enforcement will be on heightened awareness from Dec. 16 through Jan. 1, looking for drunk drivers.

*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, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).*

## Idle American

# 'Making Do' Back When



**Dr. Don Newbury**  
newbury@speakerdoc.com

"You oughta get yourself an Apple watch," a friend suggested. I stopped short of suggesting that he should keep time however he chooses. I countered that I will stick with a calendar, sun dial and wristwatch.

Perhaps noting an ever-so-faint smile, he blathered on, explaining what Apple watches can do, even hailing an ambulance if a watch-wearer has a fall. (He did whisper a disclaimer on the 911 call feature if the carpet is too thick or the battery too low.)

I walked away in thanksgiving, not so much seasonal, but thinking that I am lucky to have a few friends who embrace technology and really want to do their part in keeping me "vertical and ventilating."

The conversation made me think of my old daddy, who probably never thought himself to be versatile. Familiar with grueling farm work and a do-everything

guy with wrenches and pipes, he greatly valued his wind-up stopwatch used mostly when he officiated basketball games.

Athletically inclined, T. J. Newbury officiated high school basketball games at small schools in Brown and adjoining counties during the Depression.

Usually, the only game official, he often endured three days and nights working both boys' and girls' basketball tournaments, usually pocketing \$10 for what today would be considered cruel and unusual punishment for such taxing toil. His duties didn't stop with whistleblowing. He also kept the "official time." He'd likely have been the official scorer, too, had there been a way to hang the book from a belt loop. Further, he kept a close eye on the chalk board, where a youngster kept track of the score for all to see.

Thankfully, this was before the three-point shot, so young score keepers only had to add one or two points (free throws or floor baskets), so advanced mathematical acumen wasn't required.

At one game in the mid-1940s, a classmate who usually arrived at the gymnasium early enough with chalk in hand to be named score keeper languished at home with a "bad cold."

My dad assigned the youngster's duties to me. During one thoughtless moment, I blundered, and the recollection still causes moistening of eyes and twitching of body.

After a successful three throw, I awarded the shooter two points. Immediately, Dad stopped the game, gently asking for a re-count.

Worse, though, were the cutting comments of classmates, some of whom were snickering that I couldn't even add "one" and get the right answer.

Oh, the cruelty of it all.

Dad didn't bring it up on the way home. In fact, he comforted me, just as he had a year earlier when I was a third-grader.

During an arithmetic lesson, Mrs. Byrd asked, "Don, what's 'tootum' three, 'tootum' four and 'tootum' five?"

Later, I realized she probably slurred the word "times," but it sounded like "tootum" to me. I answered, "Mrs. Byrd, I'm not even sure what 'tootum' is."

I spoke to the Southwest Christian School football team recently, conveying details of a recent visit to the doctor, who asked me to recite the alphabet.

Expecting the question, I memorized a modified, rapidly-fired answer: "Z, y, x, w, v, u, t,

s, r, q, p, o, n, m, l, k, j, I, h, g, f, e, d, c, b, a." His jaw dropped, the doctor answered, "Now forward, smart aleck."

It made Coach Jeff Dixon think of his late father, whose grade school desk was directly under the letter "Z," one of the big letters of the alphabet strung above the blackboards. Jeff said that when the teacher asked him to recite the alphabet, he innocently began with "Z.".....

Enough of this. I'm not buying an Apple watch. Challenged by QR codes, artificial intelligence and other technical stuff, I have drawn dirt lines that I have no plans to cross. I am, however, conveying deepest Thanksgiving greetings beautifully worded on a sign seen recently: "Pray for eyes that see the best in people, for a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad and a soul that NEVER loses faith in God." Happy Thanksgiving!...

*Dr. Newbury, a longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks regularly throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com).*



BASKETBALL PREVIEWS

## Blue-collar Bearcats, young Ladycats

### High hopes for new season

By **Ryan Wade**  
 The Community News

Aledo's 2022-23 hardwood season was not kind to the Bearcats. After getting off to a hot start in non-district play, the Bearcats finished the season with a 14-14 overall record while going 4-8 in District 5-5A action. Aledo lost six games by a single possession and dropped the final four games of the year, missing the playoffs by a single game.

Making matters worse, in the final game of their prep basketball careers, seniors Drew Clock and Brandon Fields both suffered game-ending knee injuries as Northwest pulled out a 57-53 victory.

While the memory of those games lingers in the mind of Bearcat head coach, JD Robinson, he knows the time has come to look forward, and not behind.

Aledo features a lot of new faces on the floor this season. In 2023, the Bearcats graduated seven seniors, including four starters. Point guard Ulises Garcia, shooting guard Drew Clock, three guard Exavier Anderson, and forward Brandon Fields all graduated from Aledo High School last spring.

Only starting center, Jack Sawyer, and guard Jackson Todd saw

Turn to **PREVIEW**, page 12

FOOTBALL

## Back with a burst

### Guillory's return sparks Bearcats to third round

By **Rick Mauch**  
 The Community News

Ray Guillory had waited a long time for his first high school playoff game and he wasn't about to waste the opportunity.

As a freshman standout at Mansfield Lake Ridge in 2022 the Eagles did not reach the playoffs. After moving to Aledo for his sophomore season, he sat out the Bearcats' 27-6 bidistrict win over Killeen Shoemaker.

But Friday, Nov. 17 against Lubbock Cooper (8-4) at Memorial Stadium in Wichita Falls, Guillory finally found what it's like to play in a postseason game as the Bearcats (12-0) won 48-31.

The Bearcats advance to play Red Oak (12-0) in the third round. The game will be played Friday, Nov. 24, at Choctaw Stadium in Arlington, former home of the World Series champion Texas Rangers, with the time yet to be confirmed.

"This felt great. I've been itching for this all week," Guillory said after rushing for 180 yards and a pair of touchdowns. "I feel great. Last year I was at home on the couch eating popcorn at this time of the season."

Before the game, Aledo coach Robby Jones said the plan was to use Guillory in limited action. However, after he reeled off carries of 16, 36 and 27 yards on



BRELEIGH MAYER

Devhon Keys bursts through the line for a Bearcat touchdown. Keys scored three touchdowns in the game Friday, Nov. 17, against Lubbock Cooper in Wichita Falls.

three of his first five carries, it was evident he could do more.

"I'm happy to see it. He kinda surprised me," Jones said. "He kept telling us how good he was feeling. He looked great."

The highlight of Guillory's night was a 78-yard touchdown run four minutes into the second half that gave Aledo (12-0) a 35-17 lead. He managed to weave his way through heavy defensive traffic near the sideline en route to the end zone.

"I thought I was going to step out of bounds," Guillory said. "My quarterback ran down the field like a bullet and helped me out (with a block). I love Hauss (Hejny). He's my role model."

Hejny had his own standout night. The TCU-bound QB rushed 16 times for 115 yards, including a 29-yard touchdown that put Aledo ahead 21-14 midway through the second quarter after Cooper had tied the game. He also completed 11 of 17 passes for 122 yards with a 7-yard TD

pass to Kaydon Finley as Aledo took at 28-17 halftime lead.

Guillory's night ended with a 10-yard touchdown run with just over two minutes left in the game to provide the final margin of victory.

With his performance, Guillory is closing in on a 1,000-yard season. He leads the Bearcats with 953 yards and a dozen touchdowns rushing, along with having caught 10 passes for 175 yards and four more scores.

Turn to **FOOTBALL**, page 12



# Celebrity Cutting

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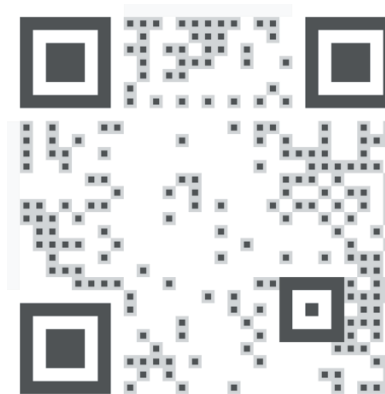
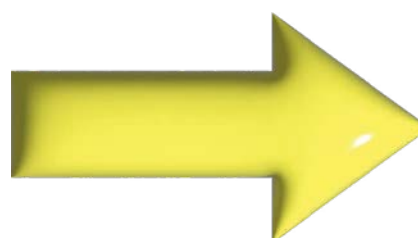


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# MUSIC

from page 1

"I played for a year and broke my foot," Johnson said. "In recovering from that, I had a lot of time on my hands, and I picked up the guitar again and that was when I started writing songs."

"Then I posted a video of one of my songs, and someone hit me up about playing the Main Street Festival and Dance in Godley. I went and played it and met some really cool people. A bunch of my family and friends came out and supported me and that was really cool."

"One of the other guys playing there was a guy named Slade Coulter. He was really nice and his band was super cool, and he was really encouraging. He told me to stick with it and keep playing."

## Getting experience

When Johnson returned to college, he started playing some open mic nights in Amarillo until a friend of his helped him find a place to play, and got his first gigs set up there.

"I just played at different places in Amarillo after I stopped playing football," Johnson said. "Then I transferred to Texas Tech this past year. I've been in Lubbock since January, and it's starting to pick up."

"It's been really cool to meet a lot of new people. They take care of me and each other. If they need an opener, they will ask me to do it, and while I've been up here I have met some amazing musicians that I have been playing some full band gigs with, which has been really fun."

## Influences

Johnson counts Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson as a songwriter, and Sturgill Simpson among his influences, and said his favorite part of performing is seeing the crowd's reaction to his work.

"I love it that music connects with people," Johnson said. "I think

it's really cool to see how it can move people. I'll write a song, and it may hit somebody in a totally different way than I meant to or maybe exactly the way I meant to. And just the fact that somebody can connect to words that I came up with is exciting."

Johnson has written several songs, and when it comes to which he prefers out of singing or song-writing, he said it is a difficult choice

"I like to do them both," Johnson said. "Part of performing is trying to find the balance between your own songs and covers. Everybody wants to hear George Strait, for instance. So I guess the best part for me would be writing songs that people like and performing them. I've gotten to the point at a few places around here where people know my songs, and I think that is the best part is just performing one of my own songs and having people enjoy it."

## Challenges/revelations

Johnson added that his musical career has not been without its challenges, saying there were a few things he did not anticipate.

"One of the tougher parts of the business right now is getting booked at places you want to get booked," Johnson said. "I'll play wherever, really, as long as I have a crowd. The cool thing about Lubbock is that you can really play at any restaurant in town and somebody in there will end up listening to you and maybe staying the whole time."

"Finding full band gigs is my challenge right now because at the end of the day, everybody's got to get paid. I could ask people to play for free, but I don't want to. So finding a place that will pay enough where I can pay everybody is a challenge."

Johnson said there has also been a rather pleasant revelation that really motivates him to keep writing.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GATLIN JOHNSON

Former Aledo Bearcats football player Gatlin Johnson left football to focus on a budding career in country music as he attends Texas Tech University.

"The biggest surprise to me so far is how many people enjoy my songs and are really engaged supporters," Johnson said. "It has been really cool to see folks responding to my tunes and hitting me up."

The 2021 AHS graduate plays an average of five gigs a month and is able to cover his expenses by performing.

## Growing up with all genres

Johnson said while his focus is Country music, he grew up in a household where all genres were welcome.

"I was exposed to all kinds of music growing up," Johnson said. "My dad was into old Country and would listen to Bon Jovi and other bands. My sister is older than me and she liked new Country, so I was exposed to both of those."

But I really wasn't exposed to Texas Country until I was in high

school. And what's kind of funny is that a lot of those songs I didn't hear except for at football practice."

## The right choice

With being a part of the tradition of football excellence at Aledo High School, Johnson said quitting football to focus his efforts on music and school was difficult to do.

"It was a really tough decision," Johnson said. "I still sometimes think I could have done this or done that, but at the end of the day, nobody knows when the right time to stop playing football is except you."

"It was the right decision at that time. I spent two semesters playing football and got hurt both semesters. I had my first surgery ever, and playing running back on a broken foot was not ideal."

"But I really don't think it was all the injuries for me. Growing

up playing high school football in Aledo — it's really tough to match that energy and competitiveness and the camaraderie that existed in the locker room. You kind of find a lot of guys doing it for themselves at the next level, and I wasn't really into that."

But the Parker County man has discovered his true passion, and for that, he is truly grateful.

"I just want to keep gigging and writing," Johnson said. "I have another song coming out and then I have some more projects that I'm really excited about at the beginning of 2024. One is a video and recording project I have planned for early January that should be released no later than March, which I am super pumped about. It's to just kind of show everybody what it's like to do music in Lubbock, Texas."



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

**NOVEMBER 25**

**MERRY WELLS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL & LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE**

Merry Wells season starts the Saturday after Thanksgiving with an all-day Christmas Festival on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 11 am-6 pm. As you stroll downtown Mineral Wells, you'll find a food truck park, lots of artisan-made goods, activities for the kiddos and live performances from local music and dance troops. At 6 p.m. the Merry Wells Lighted Christmas parade is a spectacular event that will delight even the scrooge-iest of on-lookers. Locals go all out to make this a parade you won't soon forget.



**NOVEMBER 28**

**Home for the Holidays**  
The Parker County Extension Education Association invites everyone to the 23rd Annual "Home for the Holidays," from 10a.m. - 2p.m on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at Central Christian Church Fellowship Hall, located at 1602 South Main Street in Weatherford.

The event will include interactive stations including Extension Education Club booths, over 20 area vendors, cookie decorating, informational presentations, cooking demonstrations, Christmas bingo and more. There will be entertainment, raffles, door prizes, a silent auction, and more. The cost to attend is \$5.00 per person. There will be lite lunches available for \$5.00 per person. Tickets are available at the doors, also from Extension Education club members and at the Parker County Extension Office. For more

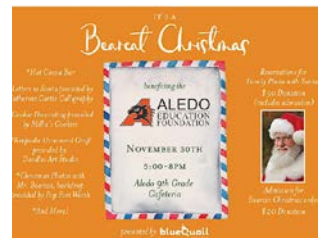
information contact the Parker County Extension Office at 817-598-6168.

**NOVEMBER 29**

**Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
Join us for an unforgettable experience at the Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Nov.29 at the Heritage Park Amphitheater (503 Santa Fe Dr). This marks the kick-off for a whole month of Holiday in the Park - Pathway of Lights. Witness a spectacular holiday drone show with double the drones from last year, take pictures with Santa, and we also have an awesome surprise after the tree lighting count down!

**NOV. 29-DEC. 31**

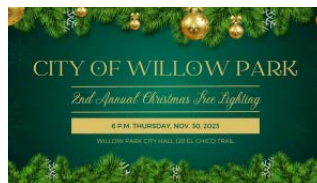
**Pathway of Lights**  
Take a magical journey through an enchanting pathway at the Heritage Park Amphitheater between 6-9:30 p.m. Immerse yourself in the festive spirit as you wander through the crisp night air, captivated by the majestic 46-foot live tree, a dazzling 20-foot animated tree, and an array of delightful holiday exhibits. There will also be food vendors.



**NOVEMBER 30**

**A Merry Bearcat Christmas**  
It's A Merry Bearcat Christmas presented by BlueQuail Clothing Co. and benefitting Aledo Education Foundation from 5 - 8p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, at the Don R. Daniel Ninth Grade Campus in the Cafeteria. Celebrate the season with Letters to Santa, cookie decorating, keepsake

Christmas ornament craft more. Along with Santa himself, Mr. Bearcat will be there in the main event area, ready for family photos. For a \$50 Donation you get a ticket for a professional digital family photo with Santa by Keith Hill Photography and MORE Already have your Santa family photo this year? Make a \$20 Donation for an admission ticket.



**2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting**

Make plans to join us for our official Christmas kick-off at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30. This year's tree lighting will be held on November at the NEW City Hall location at 120 El Chico Trail! Featuring treats and hot beverages from DonutNV Aledo, Texas and Travelin' Tom's Coffee of Alliance Fort Worth. Holiday music from the students of Trinity Christian Academy - Willow Park. And of course, a special guest appearance by a big guy in a red suit.



**DECEMBER 1**

**COHO Tree Lighting**  
Join us for the lighting of the COHO tree from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 at Gene L. Voyles Park 3248 Inspiration Dr, Hudson Oaks, TX 76087. It's an evening of FREE holiday fun brought to you by Jerry's Chevrolet! Enjoy activities in Santa's Workshop, snap a picture

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- 1 Lone \_\_\_ State
- 5 TXism: "it ain't a \_\_\_ there ain't a cow in Texas"
- 6 go by horse
- 7 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ hombre" (mean)
- 8 agcy. that regulates Texas utilities
- 9 TX Trini sang "\_\_\_ Had a Hammer"
- 12 TXism: "old \_\_\_"
- 17 some say an \_\_\_ your socks will cure the flu
- 19 it was Letterman's nightly list (2 wds.)
- 21 Fox \_\_\_ carries NFL football games
- 22 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ walk the river with" (reliable)
- 23 "the die \_\_\_" (no turning back)
- 28 hankerings
- 29 TX Vikki Carr album: "\_\_\_ Hombres"
- 30 this 1967 hurricane hit Texas hard
- 31 horny \_\_\_ (lizards)
- 35 \_\_\_ of cotton
- 36 museum Institution in Washington, D.C.
- 42 the Alamo was originally "Mission San \_\_\_ Valero"
- 44 TX Charley Pride's "Kiss an \_\_\_ Good Mornin'"
- 46 Seur \_\_\_ led first French expedition in Texas
- 48 liquid absorber
- 49 first 2 init. of president born in Denison, Texas
- 50 high school student, e.g. Spanish for "little girl"
- 52 driver's license agcy.
- 53 it's used to catch shrimp in the Gulf (2 wds.)
- 54 "\_\_\_ Day" (Wednesday)
- 56 \_\_\_ City, Texas in Upshur County
- 57 "Surf the \_\_\_" (online)

**DOWN**

- 1 TXism: "\_\_\_ feedbag" (eat a meal)
- 2 Quannah \_\_\_ Chief newspaper
- 3 impudence
- 4 this Donna was in "Apache Trail" with TX Chill Wills
- 9 "\_\_\_ the plan" (privy to)
- 10 Galveston had the \_\_\_ exchange in Texas
- 11 TXism: "\_\_\_ slinger" (writer)
- 12 TX Tanya Tucker sang "One Love \_\_\_ Time"
- 13 TXism: "he's still got \_\_\_ in his garters" (able)
- 14 health resorts
- 15 TXism: "pay \_\_\_ never mind" (disregard)
- 16 they hang on basketball rims
- 18 in debt
- 20 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ spring chicken" (old)
- 23 this Berlin wrote songs for TX Ginger 1936 film "Follow the Fleet" (init.)
- 24 "\_\_\_ Rim State Park" on the Gulf
- 25 Havana's country
- 26 TXism: "does \_\_\_ office business"
- 27 seasoned
- 32 TX Roy Orbison's "\_\_\_ Pretty Woman"
- 33 TXism: "honest \_\_\_ the day is long"
- 34 TX Strait's "What \_\_\_ You Say to That"
- 36 bro's sib
- 37 water ditch around a castle
- 38 wasted time
- 39 "hole \_\_\_"
- 40 TXism: "he could shoot the eye out of \_\_\_"
- 41 saying "no" (abbr.)
- 43 symbol for sodium
- 45 noted black golfer, TX Elder (init.)
- 47 guaranteed
- 48 Crackle and Pop's amigo
- 55 New York's NL team in MLB

with Santa, a ride on the COHO Express and watch The Grinch with Jim Carrey on the big screen. Chairs, blankets and coolers are welcome. No glass.

**Classics and carols concert, Weatherford College choir**  
The WC Choir will be present this holiday musical event in the Texas Hall on campus at 225 College Park Dr. from 7-9 p.m.

**DECEMBER 2**  
**Christmas on the Square**  
From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. visitors to downtown Weatherford will enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas. The event will feature plenty of vendors from the community providing an opportunity to shop as well as activities and treats for people of all ages, including live carolers, an entertainment

stage and lots of free family activities. Kids, be on the lookout for the red mailbox and have your letters mailed to Santa.

**Christmas Tyme in Aledo Arts & Crafts Fair**  
The Arts & Crafts Fair is held from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Come by and shop for unique, one-of-a-kind gifts!

**Christmas Tyme in Aledo**  
Christmas Tyme in Aledo from 5 - 9 p.m. There are many attractions scheduled all over the downtown Aledo area with holiday fun, food, and entertainment for all ages; and, many of the local storefront businesses stay open late, providing activities and refreshments for visitors! We also heard Santa will be stopping by again this year!

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 4**  
**"Messiah" performed at Weatherford College**  
Beginning at 7 p.m., the Weatherford College Fine Arts Department will present G.F. Handel's "Messiah" in the Alkek Fine Arts Department.

**DECEMBER 9**  
**Breakfast with Santa**  
What's Christmas like without a visit with Santa? CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is enhancing it with Breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. at Central Christian Church, 1602 South Main St. The event is open to the public and the cost is \$5 per person otherwise. The event will include letters to Santa, pictures with Santa, Santa's elves, balloons, crafts and glitter tattoos. visit <https://casa-hopeforchildren.org/> for more information.

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**42nd Annual Oklahoma Select Bull Sale.** Sat. Dec. 2nd - 1 p.m., 800 East B Street, Atoka, OK. Just East of Hwy 69-75. 806-790-2535, www.lawrencefamilymousin.com.

**Farm, Ranch, Construction Equip. Auction.** 9 a.m., Dec. 2, 1036 S. FM 331, Sealy, TX. Onsite and online. Switzer Land & Auction Services, 979-885-2400.

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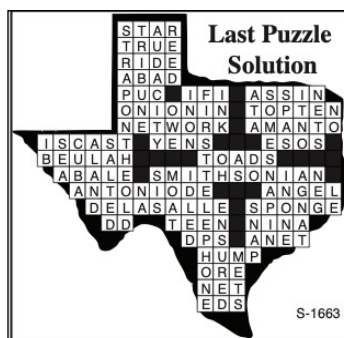
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CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS  
CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION**

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas, shall convene at 6:00 p.m. on January 9, 2024, at the City Municipal Complex located at City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation, in one or more series, in an amount not to exceed FOUR MILLION DOLLARS (\$4,000,000) for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) constructing, acquiring, purchasing, renovating, enlarging, equipping, and improving wastewater system properties or facilities, including the acquisition of land and rights-of-way therefor, and (ii) professional services rendered in connection with such projects and the financing thereof; such certificates to be payable from ad valorem taxes and a pledge of the surplus net revenues of the City's Waterworks and Sewer System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$22,452,127 (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$35,898,068; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$8,140,295; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is February 15, 2054. The above information excludes \$39,742,873 in principal amount of outstanding debt obligations the City has designated as self-supporting which the City reasonably expects to pay from revenue sources other than ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that in the event such self-supporting revenue sources are insufficient to pay debt service, the City is obligated to levy ad valorem taxes to pay such debt obligations. The certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 271, Subchapter C, as amended.

Crystal Dozier  
City Secretary  
City of Willow Park, Texas

**TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER 12, 2023 AT ANNETTA METHODIST CHURCH, 2836 FM 5, ANNETTA, TEXAS ADOPTING THE TOWN'S 2024 BUDGET

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FOOTBALL ADVANCE

# Bearcats, Hawks to meet in Round 3

## Battle of unbeatens

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

It's not often a 12-0 team finds themselves in a position of being the underdog, but someone has to be when it's a pair of teams with perfect records.

In this case, one of the two 12-0 squads happens to be a team - Aledo - that is seeking its 12th state championship, while the other - Red Oak - is looking for its first.

Something will give when the two powerhouses square off Friday night at 7:30 at Choctaw Stadium in Arlington, formerly Globe Life Park and the former home of the World Series champion Texas Rangers.

"They're very good, well coached, good defensively and as explosive a team on offense as you'll find," Aledo coach Robby Jones said of the Hawks.

Odds are similar words were used by Red Oak coach Melvin Johnson of the Bearcats.

### Head-to-head

To continue their quest for a title, the Hawks are going to have to do something they've only done once in 11 previous meetings with the Bearcats - get a rare victory. Ever since winning the first meeting 64-6 in 1960, Aledo has dominated the series.

The lone exception is the Hawks' 40-8 win in 1964. Their last meeting was in 2019 and the Bearcats won 34-14 in this same round of the playoffs, the only other time they've met in the postseason.

### Comparing offense/defense

Both the Bearcats and Hawks bring high-scoring offenses and stingy defenses into the contest. Aledo is outscoring its opponents by an average of 49-15, while Red Oak is winning by a 35-17 average.

"They can score in one play all of a sudden, they have that kind of speed," Jones said. "Amarillo (the Hawks' second-round opponent) got a 14-point lead on them, then boom! Boom! Just like that it was tied."

The Bearcats have topped 40 points offensively nine times, compared to three for the Hawks. Aledo has a season high of 71 points, also scoring 70 in another game. Red Oak has a season high of 63.

On defense, Aledo has three shutouts and has held five opponents to a touchdown or less. Red Oak has one shutout, held another foe to a field goal and has held four opponents in all to a TD or less.

### Hawks QB in question

Red Oak starting quarterback Reggie Moody has been on the sidelines in a boot the past two games, so his status is in question this week. He suffered an injury in the regular season-ending 21-7 victory against Midlothian, in which he was 13-for-13 with a pair of touchdowns before exiting.

For the season, Moody has completed 70% of his passes for over 2,500 yards with 28 touchdowns and eight interceptions. In his absence, running back Chris Martinez has thrown for over 500 yards with seven TD and three interceptions.

### Close games

Aledo has two close games decided by less than a touchdown and both were against teams from Denton. In pre-district they traveled to Denton and defeated Class 6A Guyer (7-4) on a last-second field, 48-45. In a home district game, they scored on a late Hauss Hejny touchdown run to avoid an upset, winning 25-19 after Ryan (8-3) rallied from a 17-0 deficit to take the lead.

Red Oak has won four games decided by four points or less. In

pre-district they won at The Colony (5-5) 19-16, in district they topped Killeen Shoemaker (7-4) 17-14 and Lake Belton (8-3), 38-34, both on the road. To open the playoffs, they won at home over Burleson Centennial (7-4), 35-32.

### Common foes

Despite being from different districts, the Bearcats and Hawks have three common opponents this season.

The Colony - Aledo won 60-14 there, Red Oak won 19-16 there.

Killeen Shoemaker - Aledo won 27-6 at home, Red Oak won 17-14 there.

Burleson Centennial - Aledo won 42-0 at home, Red Oak won 35-32 at home.

"Their team has found a way to win football games," Jones said, adding that scores can be deceiving because matchups are different.

### Third-round success

Since their postseason run of 28 years began in 1996, the Bearcats are in the third round for a 24th time. Of the previous 23 times they've reached this round, they've won 21 times.

The only exceptions are Dallas South Oak Cliff in 2021 (33-28) and Texas Liberty-Eylau (33-24) in 1999. South Oak Cliff went on to win the 5A Division II state championship and Liberty-Eyleau won the 3A Division I title.

In both cases, Aledo went into the game as the defending state champion.

### First year head coaches

The game will feature a pair of head coaches who are in the first season leading their respective programs - and one will experience their first loss at the helm of that program.

Jones took over the Bearcats program after serving as an assistant for a couple decades, including

offensive coordinator since 2009, after Tim Buchanan retired. While he is going for his first state title as a head coach, he was onboard for the 11 Aledo has won since 2009.

Melvin Johnson of Red Oak was promoted to head coach this season after serving in an interim capacity and leading them to a 9-3 record last season.

### No strangers to venue

The Bearcats are no stranger to Choctaw Stadium, having played there three times in the COVID-19 riddled 2020 season. They won all three games, including two in the playoffs, en route to another state title.

Aledo opened that season with a 70-7 win over Weatherford in the venue. In the second round of the playoffs they defeated North Forney there, 49-24, and also posted a 52-48 win against Lucas Lovejoy in the state quarterfinals.

### Win streaks

The Bearcats bring a 26-game win streak into the game. It's the third longest in team history, starting with the third game of last season.

The longest streak is 31 games in 2016-17 under former coach Steve Wood. The Bearcats went 16-0 and won the 2016 state championship and returned to the title game in 2017, falling 20-19 to College Station.

In 2009-10 with all-everything running back Johnathan Gray they won 29 consecutive and the first two of three straight state championships. That streak ended with a 48-47 loss to Stephenville to start the 2011 season.

The 2020 and 2021 teams won 23 straight, including the 2020 state title, before the streak was ended by now two-time defending Class 5A Division II state champion Dallas South Oak Cliff.

### Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (12-0) vs. Red Oak Hawks (12-0).

What: Class 5A Division I Region I semifinals.

When/where: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Choctaw Stadium, Arlington.

Returning starters: Aledo 7 offense/5 defense, Red Oak 6 offensive/6 defensive.

Last week: Aledo defeated Lubbock Cooper 48-31, Red Oak defeated Amarillo 35-28.

Last season: Aledo, 14-2, 5A Division I state champions. Red Oak, 9-3, area round.

Aledo offensive players to watch: RB Davhon Keys (9 TD, mostly in the Raider package), QB Hauss Hejny (681 yards, 11 TD rushing; 1,966 yards, 68% completions, 21 TD, 3 interceptions passing), WR Trace Clarkson (43 catches, 768 yards, 6 TD).

Red Oak offensive players to watch: RB/QB Chris Martinez (1,250 yards, 10 TD rushing; 527 yards, 7 TD, 3 interceptions passing), QB Reggie Moody (70% completions, 2,529 yards, 28 TD, 8 interceptions passing; 409 yards, 3 TD rushing, missed past two games with an injury), WR Taz Williams (73 catches, 1,142 yards, 13 TD), WR Brayden Robinson (41 catches, 649 yards, 7 TD, ran anchor leg of state champion 4x100 meter relay last track season), WR Rodney Malone (29 catches, 461 yards, 4 TD, ran third leg of state champion relay).

Aledo defensive players to watch: CB Chris Johnson (32 tackles, 3 for loss, 2 interceptions), S Boogie Owens (40 tackles, 2 interceptions), DT Decker Sanders (23 tackles, 3 for loss, 2 sacks).

Red Oak defensive players to watch: LB Mekhi Williams (128 tackles, 14 for loss, 7 sacks), DT/DE Kaiden Bates (74 tackles), S Maurice Wells (3 interceptions), S Zachary Smith (70 tackles, 3 interceptions).

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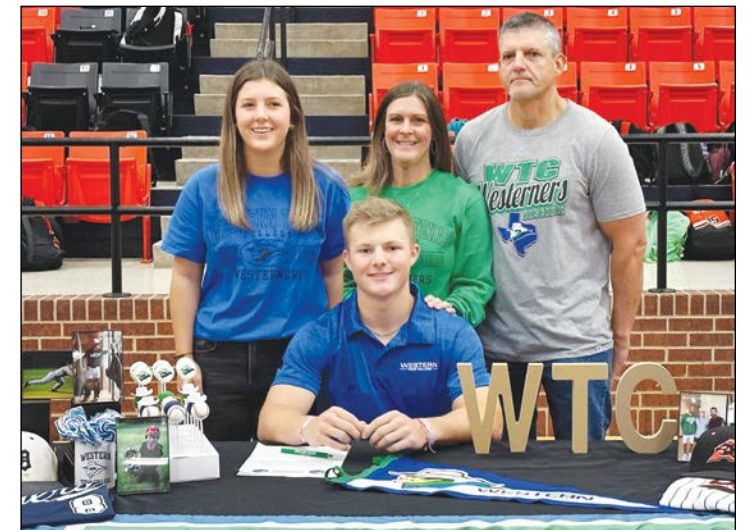
Jake Bumgardner – Amarillo College – Baseball  
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Emaree Gibson – Friends University – Women's Soccer  
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Lauren St. Peters – University of Nebraska – Track and Field  
Jennifer Jarvis, John Jarvis, Karli Jarvis and Colton St. Peters



Caroline Browning – Concordia University (Nebraska) – Women's Basketball  
Kristen, Scott, Natalie and Samantha Browning



Vincent Luffey – Abilene Christian University – Cross Country/Track  
David, Alicia, Nolan and Cason Luffey



Skylar Lambert – East Central University – Volleyball  
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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Ladycats freshmen compete in Weatherford tourney

### Split four contests

The Aledo Ladycats freshmen went 2-2 in four games in the Weatherford Tournament this past weekend.

They began the tournament with a 44-29 victory against Burselon, then dropped a 38-37 heartbreaker to Stephenville. That was followed with a 46-18 win over Cleburne and a 43-31 loss to Granbury.

Scorers for Aledo were:

Vs. Burselon - Sarah Edwards 28, Braylin Wiggins 8, Nealee Parsons 4, Autumn Gudel 2,

Ruby Tarrant 2.

Vs. Stephenville - Edwards 16, Tarrant 12, Gudel 4, Wiggins 2, Hayden Spoon 2, Parsons 1.

Vs. Cleburne - Edwards 20, Spoon 9, Parsons 6, Gudel 5, Wiggins 4, Olivia Hancin 2.

Vs. Granbury - Edwards 15, Wiggins 7, Tarrant 6, Gudel 3.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Ladycats bring home top hardware

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

After dropping their home opener to Tenaha on Tuesday, Nov. 14, the Aledo Ladycats got back on track over the weekend as they ran the table en route to a tournament championship in Brock. Aledo won four games in three days to capture the trophy.

Aledo's Brooklyn Dempsey was named Tournament MVP. Caroline Browning, Elizabeth Griffin, and Kinley Elms were named to the All-Tournament Team representing the Ladycats.

The opening round of tournament play got underway on Thursday, Nov. 16, where Aledo matched up with Liberty Christian. Aledo pulled out a 50-35 win as they looked to Day 2.

On Friday, Nov. 17, Aledo took to the court for a pair of games as they worked their way through the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds. In the quarterfinals, the Ladycats defeated the Australia Dunkaroos, 64-47.

In the semifinals Aledo met up with Stephenville. A second-half rally made the difference as the Ladycats came from behind to sting the Honeybees, 37-33, to advance to the tournament championship game against the hosting Lady Eagles.

For the second game in a row the Ladycats fell behind early before dropping the hammer in the second half to pull off the comeback. Aledo outpaced Brock 15-9 in the final quarter to seal their spot atop the podium.

The Ladycats will enjoy a bit of downtime during the Thanksgiving holiday before getting back to action when they host Sanger on Tuesday,

Nov. 28. Tipoff for that match-up is slated for 6:15 p.m.

### Brock Tournament Ladycats vs. Liberty Christian – Nov. 16

Aledo	17	10	12	11	- 50
Liberty	15	4	6	10	- 35

Aledo scoring: Brooklyn Dempsey 16, Brenna Clock 11, Elizabeth Griffin 6, Caroline Browning 5, Kinley Elms 4, Ella Isbell 4, Kate Jackson 3, Natalie Anderson 1.

### Ladycats vs. Australia Dunkaroos – Nov. 17

Aledo	15	16	16	17	- 64
Australia	7	20	14	6	- 47

Aledo scoring: Dempsey 16, Griffin 16, Elms 11, Browning 10, Anderson 5, Isbell 4, Rebekah Jarrell 2.

### Ladycats vs. Stephenville – Nov. 17

Aledo	6	2	20	9	- 37
Stephenville	14	9	5	5	- 33

Aledo scoring: Griffin 14, Dempsey 9, Elms 7, Browning 4, Isbell 3.

### Championship Ladycats vs. Brock – Nov. 18

Aledo	11	2	10	15	- 38
Brock	13	10	3	9	- 35

Aledo scoring: Isbell 11, Elms 10, Griffin 6, Dempsey 4, Browning 4, Anderson 3.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brooklyn Dempsey drives by a Tenaha defender during the Ladycats' home-opener on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Dempsey was named the Most Valuable Player of the Brock Tournament after Aledo took first place on Saturday, Nov. 18.

## Ladycats down Everman

### Gudel, Edwards combine for 42

The Aledo Ladycats freshmen defeated Everman 53-32 recently as Autumn Gudel scored 22 points and Sarah Edwards added 20.

The Ladycats broke the game open with a 16-6 run in the third quarter after holding a 25-19 half-time lead.

Also scoring for Aledo were Nealee Parsons, six points, Braylin Wiggins, three; and Ruby Tarrant, two.

## Ladycats JV blasts Tenaha

### Eleven players score

The Aledo Ladycats junior varsity team outscored Tenaha in every quarter in winning 74-14 recently.

Eleven players scored for Aledo, led by Karsyn Evans and Mesoma Emeka-Okoye with 12 points each. Also scoring were Jaylee Owens and Kaelee Berkley with eight points each, Kennedy Cardenas and Savannah Salas with seven points each; Lily Heckathorn with six; Natalie Browning and Breleigh Mayer scored five each; and Jenna Haussler and Coral Slough had two each.

## FOOTBALL

from page 6

### Keys continues knack for end zone

Though known mostly for his defense, which garnered him a scholarship to play for LSU, Aledo linebacker Davhon Keys has a knack for getting into the end zone on offense, something that dates back to last season.

And Friday night was no different.

In the Raider package, in which he and three other defensive players come in on offense, Keys scored three times against Cooper. Often, he will take a direct snap.

Keys gave Aledo a 7-0 lead with a 4-yard run just over four minutes into the game to cap a 12-play, 75-yard opening drive, the longest by either team

in the game. Then, after Cooper Kohan recovered a Cooper fumble at the Aledo 20 on the Pirates' opening drive, the Bearcats went 80 yards in 10 plays with Keys again capping the drive for a 14-0 lead.

Keys would later add a 29-yard run early in the fourth quarter to give Aledo a 42-31 lead after Cooper had scored back-to-back touchdowns to close within four points.

"That's the reason we put Davhon in there. His strong body is hard to stop," Jones said. "He's a really good runner."

Keys now has nine touchdowns this season.

### Pulling away

Twice in the game the Bearcats had to pull away after rallies by feisty Cooper. After Aledo went up 14-0, the Pirates responded with touchdown runs by Jayden Hibbler of 1 and 20 yards. Hibbler ended the night with a yeoman effort of 168 yards and four touchdowns on 19 carries.

The Pirates' second touchdown came after a perfectly executed outside pooch kick. It landed in the middle of a group of players when a Cooper player batted it downfield where the Pirates recovered at the Aledo 29.

Then, after Aledo built its lead to 18 points, Hibbler had TD runs of 5 and 25 yards to pull the Pirates to within 35-31.

"We felt like they were more explosive (this season) with the addition of Hibbler," Jones said.

Hibbler transferred to Cooper this season after being the district MVP last season playing for Lubbock Monterrey.

Jones praised his own offense for responding to the challenge on each occasion.

"I like the way we executed on offense. We had a couple of weeks where we weren't," he said. "We got big plays out of the pass and run."

### Cyphers makes return

Aledo defensive end Cooper Cyphers made a solid return on defense against Lubbock Cooper after missing several weeks with an injury. He posted three tackles, all solo, and had two quarterback hurries.



## PREVIEW

from page 6

significant minutes last season, which translates into the Bearcats having a number of inexperienced players learning how to be varsity athletes on the job.

"We've shifted our entire offensive philosophy and scheme," Robinson said while examining his team heading into this season. "We're completely different than we were with [Clock, Fields and Anderson]. With Ex, Drew, and Brandon we could stretch the floor pretty well and create space. Now Jack Sawyer is going to be an integral part of our offense and our defense. We're trying to really feed him and get him touches in the paint and around the rim."

Along with Todd and Sawyer, Owen Peterson, Luke Slabbekoorn, Kellen Christy, and Boogie Owens will be the six seniors on this team responsible for showing the younger players the ropes of varsity competition. What this group of Bearcats may lack in star power and experience, they make up for in work ethic and cohesion.

"These guys are naturally really close," Robinson said. "It's a close bunch. We don't have any egos in the gym - which you can argue is that a good thing, or a bad thing?

But we don't have to coach effort right now. We don't have to motivate guys. As coaches we can just work on the X's and O's and how we operate.

"Their work ethic is top-notch. That's what really sets them apart. This group is willing to come in and just put their head down and go to work every day. They're a true blue-collar group. When you get people like that, everybody just kind of pulls the rope in the same direction. They make my job really easy as far as just showing up and going to work every day. None of them care about who gets the glory. They just want to win."

Winning will not come easy. It never does in this district.

Brewer's Bears defeated the Bearcats in both of their meetings as they won the District 5-5A last season with their deliberate style of play. Robinson expects them to be just as tough and deliberate of a ballclub this season, except more athletic than they have been in the past.

The district runner-up Granbury Pirates return all five starters from last season. The experience they gained as a group while sitting atop the district heap is sure to make them a formidable foe heading into the 2023-24 season.

"We had some guys who ran on high emotions last year," Robinson recalled. "We loved that about them,

but it can be a bit of a crutch at times - kind of an Achilles' heel. These guys are just level. None of them seem to get too high, or too low. That's right where you want guys to be at. We want guys to show emotion and to celebrate, but when it affects your play, that's different."

Last season the Achilles' heel for Aledo was the free throw line, where the Bearcats shot just 62%. When every possession matters and a single possession can be the difference between winning and losing, as was the case so often for the Bearcats last season against district opponents, having players who are able to stay mentally focused and keep their emotions in check is likely to be a difference-maker at the charity stripe late in games.

"I don't know everybody's philosophy [as it relates to free throws], but it's a mental thing," Robinson stated. "All of our varsity players for the most part can shoot the basketball and knock a free throw down. You just have to be mentally tough to get up there and do it."

Another aspect that may help the free throw percentage tick up from last season is the rule change eliminating one-and-one free throws. In the past, once a team committed seven fouls in the half, the opposing team entered the bonus where they were given the opportunity to shoot a one-and-one free throw.

For the season, he now has 6.5 tackles, including five solo, with four hurries. He also returned an interception 49 yards for a touchdown.

### Former Bearcat offers praise

Pirates wide receiver Jayden Kennard played his freshman and sophomore seasons in the Aledo program before moving into the Cooper program before his junior season. He had a solid performance against his former program, catching three passes for 33 yards and rushing one time for 19 yards.

"I love those guys. I don't know if I've had a better year and a half in my life than the time I spent there," Kennard said.

He added that he believes the Bearcats are on their way to a 12th state championship after what he saw Friday.

"I don't think there's anybody in the state who can stop them," he said.

### BEARCATS 48, PIRATES 31

Aledo	14	14	7	13	- 48
Lubb. Cooper	0	17	14	0	- 31

A - Davhon Keys 4 run (Logan DeFranzo kick)

A - Keys 5 run (DeFranzo kick)

LC - Jayden Hibbler 1 run (Cub Patton kick)

LC - Hibbler 20 run (Patton kick)

A - Hauss Hejny 29 run (DeFranzo kick)

A - Kaydon Finley 7 pass from Hejny (DeFranzo kick)

LC - Patton 33 FG

A - Ray Guillory 78 run (DeFranzo kick)

LC - Hibbler 5 run (Patton kick)

LC - Hibbler 25 run (Patton kick)  
A - Keys 29 run (DeFranzo kick)  
A - Guillory 10 run (kick failed)

### Team statistics

First downs: Aledo 26, Cooper 19.

Rushes-yards: Aledo 40-348, Cooper 32-225.

Passing yards: Aledo 122, Cooper 112. Caught-thrown-intercepted: Aledo 11-17-0, Cooper 13-21-0.

Fumbles-lost: Aledo 0-0, Cooper 2-1.

Punts-avg.: Aledo 1-36, Cooper 2-38.0.

Penalties-yards: Aledo 4-50, Cooper 6-60.

Third-down conversions: Aledo 4-6, Cooper 5-9.

Fourth-down conversions: Aledo 3-3, Cooper 0-2.

Time of possession: Aledo 23:32, Cooper 24:28.

### Individual leaders

#### Rushing

Aledo: Guillory 12 carries, 180 yards, 2 TD; Hejny 16-115, TD; Keys 7-46, 3 TD; Hawk Patrick-Daniels 4-13; Blake Burdine 1-(-6).

Cooper: Hibbler 19-172, 4 TD; Jackson Austin 4-35; Jayden Kennard 1-19; Cash Truby 2-3; Ryan Rodriguez 6-(-4).

#### Passing

Aledo: Hejny 11-17-0, 122 yards, TD. Cooper: Rodriguez 13-21-0, 112 yards.

#### Receiving

Aledo: Trace Clarkson 5 catches, 54 yards; Patrick-Daniels 1-21; Finley 3-23, TD; Blake Burdine 1-16; Tyson Timms 1-8.

Cooper: Jaden Allen 5-53, Kennard 3-23, Austin 4-19, Hibbler 2-13, Gage Piepkorn 1-4.

Aledo tackle leaders: Keys 8.5, Chris Johnson 8.5, Jake Gillespie 7, Carson Dempsey 4.

Aledo tackles for loss: Keys 2, Ben McElree 1.

Aledo fumble recovery: Cooper Kohan.

specialist who used her high motor and excellent footwork to frustrate opposing offenses.

While the rest of the starters are young, they're not without experience. Kinley Elms, Ella Isbell, and Elizabeth Griffin all scored varsity minutes last season, especially late in the year. This season will be different with respect to their role on the team. Last season they were subs. This season they're starters tasked with leading and bearing the weight of the team's success upon their shoulders.

In spite of the youth and limited experience at the varsity level her squad possesses heading into the 2023-24 season, Aledo head coach Nikki Hyles believes the upside with this group is extraordinary.

Looking at the District 5-5A setup, Hyles knows Brewer will be tough to beat again this season. Returning all their starters will likely have the Lady Bears at the top of the heap in the district standings once again when the season ends.

However, Hyles is confident by the time the district schedule starts in mid-December, the experience her young team gains before then will be worth its weight in gold. She expects when the regular season ends, the Ladycats will be in the mix for the No. 2 or 3 seed coming out of district heading into the playoffs.





BOYS BASKETBALL

# Bearcats rally past Roos

## Stage fourth-quarter rally

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Aledo's Bearcats had their toughest test of the young season on Friday, Nov. 17, when they took on Weatherford on the Kangaroos' home court. After trailing for the first three quarters, the Bearcats turned the intensity all the way up, frustrating the Roos at both ends of the floor, as Aledo went on to a 55-51 win.

"We've got a group of guys that haven't really done this together at all," Bearcats head coach JD Robinson remarked about his young team. "Every win for us is good. But to play behind for the majority of the game - I really challenged them at halftime that I didn't think we were that tough."

"That has to be our M.O. We've got to be blue collar. We've got to do the little things right. We've got to be mentally tough and physically tough. We did that the second half."

With the win, Aledo moves to 2-1 on the season.

After winning the opening tipoff, things quickly went sideways for the Bearcats in the opening moments of the game. Aledo took the ball down to their end of the floor, but came up empty in their opening possession.

Weatherford did not have the same issue.

The Roos marched down the court, where Kane Chandler knocked down a long-range jumper to get the scoring underway. Weatherford immediately transitioned to a full-court press to force Aledo turnovers on back-to-back inbound passes. Before the Bearcats could blink, the home team held a 6-0 advantage.

Aledo made adjustments to deal with the pressure at the far end of the floor, but continued to struggle with it on the offensive end.

Meanwhile, Weatherford found ways to get their entire offense involved, as the Roos took a 20-13 lead into the second quarter.

The furious pace of play in the opening stanza took its toll on both teams in the second quarter. The scoring frenzy slowed as each squad put up 11 points before the break. At halftime Weatherford held on to a seven-point lead, 31-24.

The second half started much the same way the first half ended, with the Roos scoring on their first possession of the half with little opposition from Aledo. Robinson quickly called a timeout just 40 seconds into the third quarter to reassert the message he shared during halftime.

Coming out of the timeout, the Bearcats had a completely different attitude from that point on.

"I credit that to Owen Peterson," said Robinson. "I challenged him. I felt like he turned down a charge. It's gotta be who we are. Taking a charge, diving on the floor for loose balls - that has to be our M.O. That's got to be our culture. I challenged him right there. I challenged him that he's got to be a lot tougher than that, and he is. Owen's a tough, tough kid. I don't think he'll turn down another charge after that, and we fed off of that."

After struggling to keep the Roos from scoring in the first quarter, then struggling to make up any ground in the second quarter, the Bearcats began to scratch and claw their way back following that timeout.

Leading the charge for Aledo was Joaquin Pacheco. The junior point guard knocked down a three-pointer before laying one off the glass on a fastbreak on the ensuing possession to cut Weatherford's lead to just four points with 5:15 left in the third quarter.

The visiting Bearcats continued to chip away at the Roos lead

over the next several minutes. After struggling to get his shots to fall in the first two games of the year, Jack Sawyer found his shot and his confidence all while contending with one of the best post players he's likely to see this season in Weatherford's Brenden Ballard. With just over two minutes left in the third stanza, Sawyer laid a short layup off the window to tie the game at 38-all.

It was the first time since the opening score Weatherford did not hold the advantage.

Weatherford outscored the Bearcats 6-2 to close out the third quarter, but their confidence, along with the momentum, had shifted in favor of Aledo.

The opening minutes of the fourth quarter were reminiscent of a heavyweight prize fight as the two teams traded scoring blows with neither backing down. With 3:44 left in the game, Kaden LoBaugh scored on a three-point shot that stunned the Roos. On the ensuing possession the Bearcat defense countered Weatherford's attack as the home team came up empty.

With their opponent squarely on the ropes, Aledo went on the offensive, landing blow after blow. The Bearcats were able to poke the ball loose as Pacheco led the charge to the Bearcats end of the floor. Sliding across the hardwood, Pacheco came up with the loose ball before dishing it off, allowing Sawyer to knock down a six-foot jumper that tied the game at 48-48.

Aledo took their first lead of the game with 2:16 remaining when Peterson was fouled during a three-point attempt. Converting just one of three free throws was still enough to put the Bearcats on top 49-48 with time winding down in regulation.

Sawyer and Pacheco each added a free-throw before Pacheco put the nail in the coffin going



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Owen Peterson reacts after being fouled by a Roos defender during varsity hoops action in Weatherford on Friday, Nov. 17. Aledo earned a hard-fought victory to pick up their first win of the season, 55-51.

coast-to-coast with the steal and layup off a fast break with 32 seconds left.

Ballard converted the old-fashioned three-point play to cut Aledo's lead to just two with nine ticks left on the clock. The Roos flocked to foul Jackson Todd on the inbound pass to send the shooting guard to the charity stripe with eight seconds left. Todd nailed both shots to salt away the game for the Bearcats, 55-51.

"I thought the biggest difference in the second half was we were able to contest and also keep [the Roos] in front," Robinson said. "We had a lot of blow-bys in the first half. I thought we did a much better job of contesting and keeping them in front in the second half."

"Joaquin Pacheco makes a huge play, a huge play, diving on the floor

for a loose ball and we get Jack to the free-throw line. Jackson Todd, on the other end, taking a big-time charge. Those are game-winning plays for us. Those are what sets us apart. Those are what makes a difference between winning and us losing one-possession games. Those plays are what wins games," he added.

Aledo will return to action on Tuesday, Nov. 28 following Thanksgiving break. They head to Midlothian Heritage to take on the Jaguars at 7:30 pm.

### Bearcats vs. Weatherford - Nov. 17

<b>Aledo</b>	13	11	16	15	- 55
<b>Weatherford</b>	20	11	13	7	- 51

Aledo scoring: Joaquin Pacheco 23, Jack Sawyer 14, Jackson Todd 10, Owen Peterson 5, Kaden LoBaugh 3.

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PHOTOS BY BRELEIGH MAYERS



# LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



**Brooklyn Dempsey**  
**Basketball**


The freshman was named the tournament MVP as the Ladycats won the championship of the Brock Tournament. She scored 45 points combined in the four victories, including 16 points twice.

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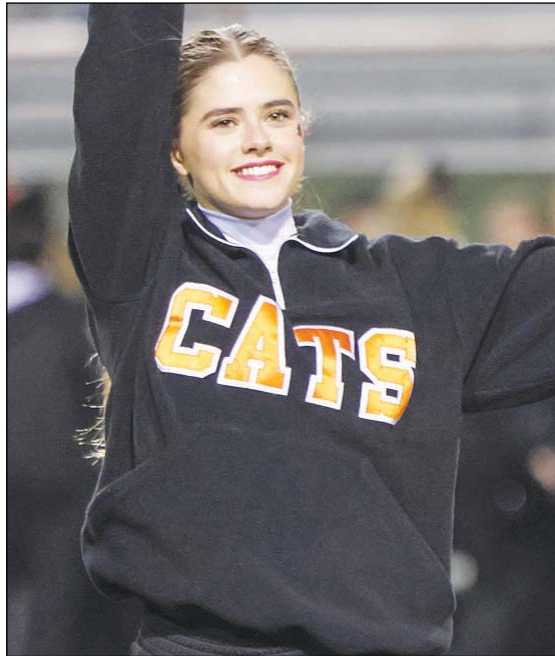
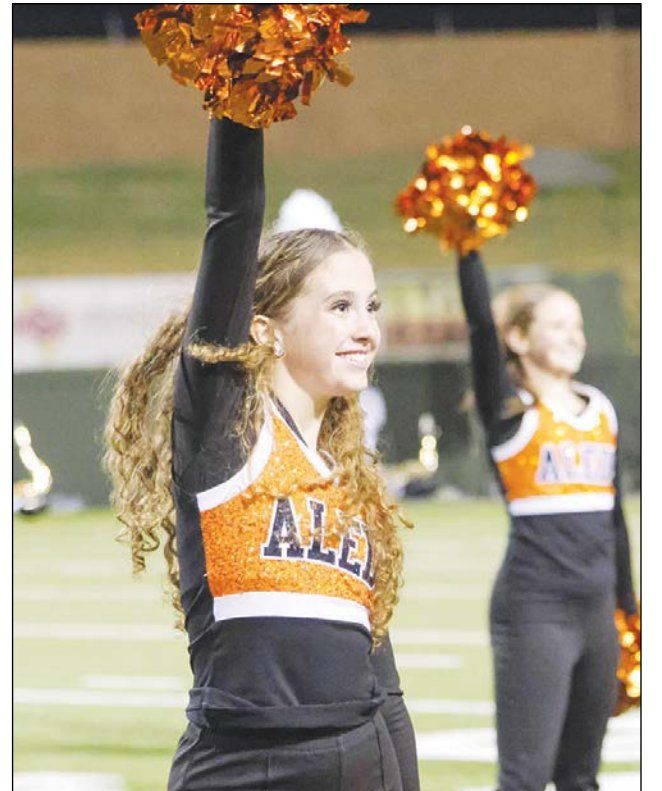
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# BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



**Cooper Cyphers**  
**Football**

The sophomore defensive end returned to action after missing several weeks with an injury. He had three solo tackles, one more than he'd had previously for all his prior games. He also had two quarterback hurries, matching his season total entering the game..

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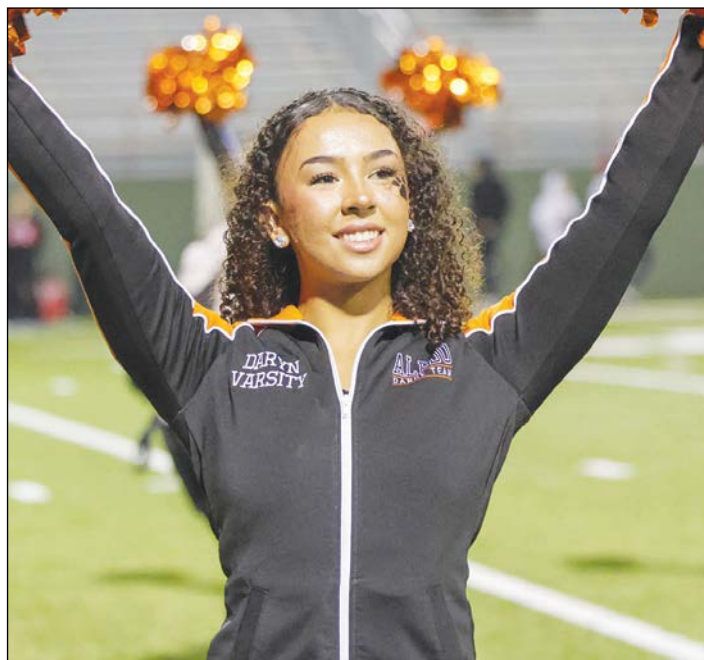
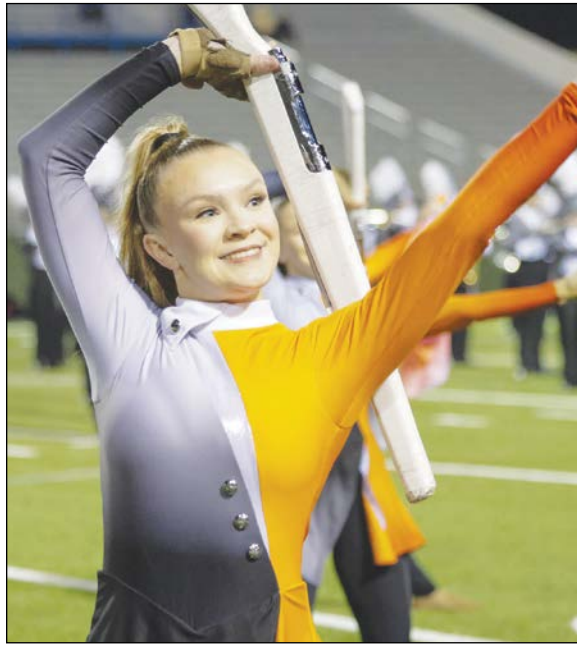
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VOLLEYBALL

# WC season ends at nationals

## Lady Coyotes have memorable campaign

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

In only their second season the Weatherford College Lady Coyotes volleyball team established themselves as one of the top programs in the nation. Coach Kailee May's team advanced to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament this past week in Hutchinson, Kansas.

The Lady Coyotes finished with a 33-6 record that included the championship of both the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference and the Region V championship - the latter tournament played on their own court.

The conference championship was the second consecutive for the Lady Coyotes.

The Lady Coyotes entered the national tournament as the No. 6 seed. They began by disposing of No. 11 Blinn 3-0. After that, however, came three tough losses of 3-0 to No. 3 Miami Dade, 3-0 to No. 2 Northeastern and 3-1 to No. 9 Southern Idaho in the seventh-place match.

Miami Dade advanced to the championship



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

The Weatherford College Lady Coyotes, in only their second season, advanced to the NJCAA Division I Volleyball Championships.

match, falling 3-1 to Florida Southwestern State. Northeastern defeated Salt Lake 3-1 for fifth place.

A pair of Texas teams squared off in the third-place match, with Navarro defeating Trinity 3-0.

### NJCAA Division I Volleyball Championships In Hutchinson, Kansas Weatherford College results

**No. 6 WC 3, No. 11 Blinn 0 WC 25 25 25 Blinn 16 19 21**

WC leaders  
Kills: Abby Hellman 10, Peighton Serda 9, Brooke McHale 8.  
Aces: Meagan Ledbetter 2.  
Digs: Abby Benitez 12, McHale 11.  
Blocks: Selanny Puento 3.  
Assists: Lorena Gomez 21, Abby Folsom 13.

**No. 3 Miami Dade 3, WC 0 WC 24 18 17 MD 26 25 25**

Kills: Puento 12, Serda 8.  
Digs: Benitez 11, Folsom 8, McHale 7.  
Blocks: Puento 3, Hellman 3, Dru Witherspoon 2.  
Assists: Folsom 19, Gomez 12.

**No. 2 Northeastern 3, WC 0 WC 21 20 13 NE 25 25 25**

Kills: McHale 11, Puento 8, Serda 6, Hellman 6.  
Aces: Lexie Pruitt 2.  
Digs: Benitez 14, Folsom 12.  
Blocks: Serda 2.  
Assists: Folsom 14, Gomez 12.

### Seventh place

**No. 9 Southern Idaho 3, WC 1 WC 21 25 19 17 SI 25 21 25 25**

Kills: McHale 13, Puento 13, Serda 8.  
Aces: Ledbetter 3.  
Digs: McHale 14, Benitez 13, Gomez 11.  
Blocks: Serda 5, Puento 5, Witherspoon 2.  
Assists: Folsom 24, Gomez 19.

SWIMMING

# Aledo competes at TISCA event



AVERY FAULKNER

Haley Roberson take a breath during the breaststroke leg of the 200 IM.

## Gruber sets two records

**Staff Report**  
The Community News

The Aledo swim team competed in the Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Meet in Lewisville Nov. 17-18. They were led by Jacqueline Gruber, who set two school records in winning two events.

Gruber clocked a time of 51 seconds in taking first in the 100-yard freestyle and a time of 1 minute, 50.20 seconds in winning the 200 freestyle.

The meet featured 30 top qualifying teams from

University Interscholastic League Class 6A, 5A and the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

Haley Roberson took third place in the 500 freestyle, dropping her own school record to a 5:07.14. She also placed fifth in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:10.39.

For the boys, Porter Lane finished fifth in the 100 butterfly with a time of 51.52.

Other notable performances included:

The girls 200 medley relay of Roberson, Gruber, Victoria Crews and Julia Gordy took ninth with a time of 1:53.32 (missing the school record by .08),

and the same group of girls placed ninth in the 200 freestyle relay with a 1:43.26.

Crews was 10th in the 100 butterfly, clocking 1:00.26.

"This is the most athletes we've taken to this meet in individual events in several years," coach Meghan Roberson said. "To have this many also make finals in individual events is an excellent place to be at this point in the season. I'm incredibly proud of the gutsy swims these kids had this weekend."



# Next Round



## BEARCATS ADVANCE

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# Christmas 2023

## THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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November 24, 2023



# A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

**T**he Christmas season is a very special time of year. It is a season at times of contrasts: from bright lights, candy canes, and carols to quiet, candle-lit observances of the holiday.

It is also a season of service. Numerous community organizations, who lend their hands all year, make an even greater effort during this season to make sure all are provided for and remembered.

In this guide, you can read all about the bright lights and celebrations, and you will also find plenty of information about where

you can “plug in” with opportunities to give in the spirit of the season.

We hope your holiday season is filled with love, laughter, joy, fulfillment, and meaning.

- *Randy Keck*  
*Publisher*

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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**McCall Elementary School student Addison Bruns jumps and dances under an artificial snow machine at the 2022 Christmas Tyme in Aledo.**





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## CHRISTMAS TYME IN ALEDO

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

**C**ooler temps and shorter days remind us that the giving season is just around the bend. So why not give yourself a break from the everyday and take in some good ol' fashioned holiday cheer - and maybe find something special to give to someone else in the process?

With that in mind, the City of Aledo has announced the 23rd Annual Christmas Tyme in Aledo. Festivities will take place in downtown Aledo on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Come enjoy an entire day filled with excitement, fun, good food, and great friends. The day will start early with the Christmas Tyme in Aledo Arts & Crafts Fair, which is entering its 46th year, as vendors and shops plan to open at 9 a.m. Shoppers will have the opportunity to score unique gifts for someone special, or a luscious treat for themselves until shopping concludes at 6 p.m.

But, that doesn't mean it's time to go home.

From 5-9 p.m. the Christmas Tyme in Aledo festivities officially get underway.

There promises to be plenty of fun, food, and entertainment for people of all ages. Whether you're very young, or just very young at heart, this is always an exciting time for folks who live in Aledo or those who want to make a special trek to town and join in.

On top of the festivities, many of the local storefront businesses in downtown will remain open until 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. to provide refreshments and activities to their customers.

"Christmas Tyme in Aledo is a long-held tradition in Aledo that has been going on for decades," Mayor Nick Stanley said. "It embodies the essence of the holiday season by showcasing our community spirit and bringing everyone together to enjoy Christmas Tyme in our historic downtown. It's something that my family and I always look forward to!"

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Friends Zoe Schuster, Dylan Formby, and Brynlee Hackfeld decorated socks to be given to area nursing homes.**

- **46th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair** - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Letters to Santa** - 5-9 p.m. Write your letters to Santa. Lots of Craft Activity and Christmas Treats, too. All free
- **Downtown Fun** - 5-9 p.m. - Lots of fun things for kids of all ages; Vendors; Live performances. Free activities; Items for sale and free
- **Outside Vendors & Food** - 5-9 p.m. - Local businesses selling services and products along Elm Street and in Aledo Commons area; Items for sale and free
- **Aledo Businesses** - 5-9 pm: Many storefronts are open to stop in and visit, offering free refreshments, special offers, sales, and door prizes.
- **Visit Santa** - 6-9 p.m. Visit Santa and take a photo at the community center.
- **Annual Tree Lighting** - 6 p.m. at Aledo Commons.
- **Visit Aledo Veterans Plaza to pause and honor our service men & women**



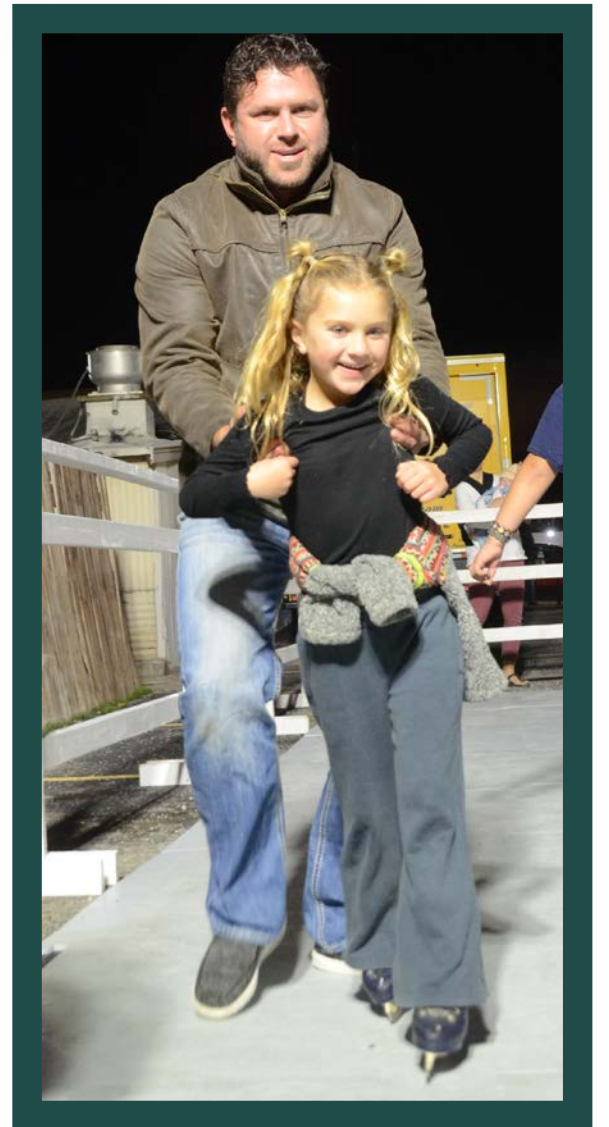
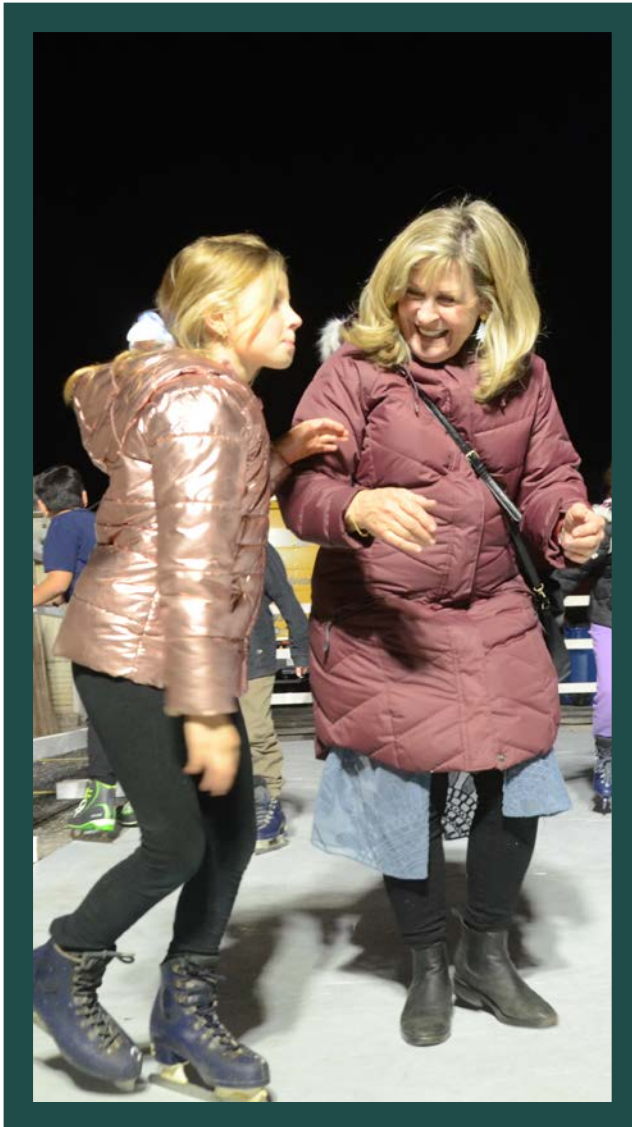




CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**RIGHT: Aledo United Methodist Church members sing “Oh! Holy Night” at the church’s free hot chocolate booth.**

**BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: Rowan Lapenna roasts a marshmallow with the help of mother, Tiffany Lapenna. | Madelyn Benjamin gets help and encouragement on the skating rink from grandmother Jane Phillips. | Aaron Gilbreath steadies daughter Presley for her first try at ice skating.**







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# WEATHERFORD LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAYS AGAIN

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

If holiday lights are your thing - and who doesn't love them - then Weatherford is a place to be this holiday season. Whether it's the annual tree lighting or a walk through an entire pathway of lights, there's enough brightness in town to shine on everyone.

"While every day is special in Weatherford, Christmas is a wonderful time in our city," Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschal said. "From the unforgettable Tree Lighting Ceremony at Heritage Park, to Christmas on the Square, this season brings a magical spirit to our community, complete with true Texas holiday charm. I hope everyone will come out and experience this special time of the year with us."

This year the Christmas tree lighting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29. It will feature a 46-foot tall tree, the tallest one in the history of the annual celebration.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Astrid Dietrih gets a hug from Mrs. Claus aka Peggy Hutton.**





# WEATHERFORD ACTIVITIES

## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29

The always unforgettable experience, which starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Heritage Park Amphitheater, 503 Santa Fe Drive, and marks the kickoff for a whole month of Holiday in the Park - Pathway of Lights.

Visitors will be entertained by a holiday drone show - with double the drones from last year.

There will also be a special surprise after the countdown. Can you guess what it is? You'll have to be there to find out.

## PATHWAY OF LIGHTS

NOV. 29-DEC. 31

Take a magical journey through an enchanting pathway at the Heritage Park Amphitheater between 6-9:30 p.m. Immerse yourself in the festive spirit as you wander through the crisp night air, captivated by the majestic 46-foot live tree, a dazzling 20-foot animated tree, and an array of delightful holiday exhibits. There will also be food vendors.

## CLASSICS AND CAROLS CONCERT, WEATHERFORD COLLEGE CHOIR

FRIDAY, DEC 1

The WC Choir will be present this holiday musical event in the Texas Hall on campus at 225 College Park Dr. from 7-9 p.m.

Turn to **ACTIVITIES**, page 11

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jacob Cunningham is all smiles as he peers out from the gingerbread house.







*Wishing You*  
*All the*  
*Blessings*  
of This Bright & Beautiful Season

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# ACTIVITIES

from page 9

## CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. visitors to downtown Weatherford will enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas. The event will feature plenty of vendors from the community providing an opportunity to shop as well as activities and treats for people of all ages, including live carolers, an entertainment stage and lots of free family activities.

Kids, be on the lookout for the red mailbox and have your letters mailed to Santa. He will respond before Christmas, too!

## WEATHERFORD LIGHTS THE NIGHT PARADE

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

After a day of fun on the square, the day isn't over. This annual and popular parade takes place starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Weatherford Ninth-Grade Center on Main Street and make its way down South Main around the historic Parker County Courthouse.

## "MESSIAH" PERFORMED AT WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

MONDAY, DEC. 4

The Weatherford College Fine Arts Department will present G.F. Handel's "Messiah" in the Alkek Fine Arts Department beginning at 7 p.m.

## CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

For over 40 years, the Candlelight Tour of Homes has provided the opportunity for guests to explore some of Weatherford's most unique private residences on this historical tour that goes from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Each home is interesting for a variety of reasons, including age, size, location, or architecture. For more information, see [parkercountyheritagesociety.com/](http://parkercountyheritagesociety.com/)

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

What's Christmas like without a visit with Santa? CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is

enhancing it with Breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. at Central Christian Church, 1602 South Main St. The event is open to the public and the cost is \$5 per person otherwise. The event will include letters to Santa, pictures with Santa, Santa's elves, balloons, crafts and glitter tattoos. Contact 817-599-6224 or visit <https://casahopeforchildren.org/> for more information.

## INFORMATION

For more information about Weatherford area holiday activities, contact the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce at 817-598-3801 or [www.weatherford-chamber.com](http://www.weatherford-chamber.com).

5 Generations of the Same Family, Same Phone Number, Same Address



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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**LEFT TOP: Larry Piper was the engineer on the mini train. | BOTTOM: Baylee Snyder and Maddee Burk visit Peanuts characters at the 2022 First Bank Texas booth.**

**RIGHT TOP: Randy Cutshall, Peggy Hutton, and Donna Dickinson pose at the 2022 Mistletoe Booth. | BOTTOM: Chris Hummel from the Weatherford Citizen Police helped manage traffic for safe street crossings.**



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*from Our Family to Yours*



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Willow Park, TX 76087

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*For unto us a child is born,  
to us a son is given; and the  
government shall be upon his  
shoulder, and his name shall  
be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.*

*~Isaiah 9:6*



My family, Mandy, and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you and yours!

*Dr. Glenn Rogers*







Letters to Santa Claus are being collected at the East Parker County Library, 201 FM 1187 N in Aledo and during Christmas Tyme in Aledo. Deadline to bring letters is Dec. 22.

Visit Story Time at 10 a.m. on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8!

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS  
IS MY TWO FRONT TEETH!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
FROM

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[www.brushflosswin.com](http://www.brushflosswin.com)



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# CHRISTMAS

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

**H**udson Oaks is preparing for a month-long Christmas celebration starting on Friday, Dec. 1 until New Year's Day.

Included is the annual Christmas in CoHo event at Gene L. Voyles Park, which will go from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1.

Available activities for the night include train rides, photos with Santa, a tree lighting ceremony, and a viewing of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* featuring Jim Carrey as the Grinch.

Starting on Saturday, Dec. 2, the COHO Holiday Light Show officially kicks off for the month. Each week the 75,000 lights at Gene L. Voyles Park will feature a new light show. The display will run from 6-9 p.m. each night.

On Friday, Dec. 8 and 15, COHO will feature live music and food trucks, as well as horse and carriage rides from 6-8 p.m.

Gene L. Voyles Park is located at 210 Hudson Oaks Dr. in Hudson Oaks.



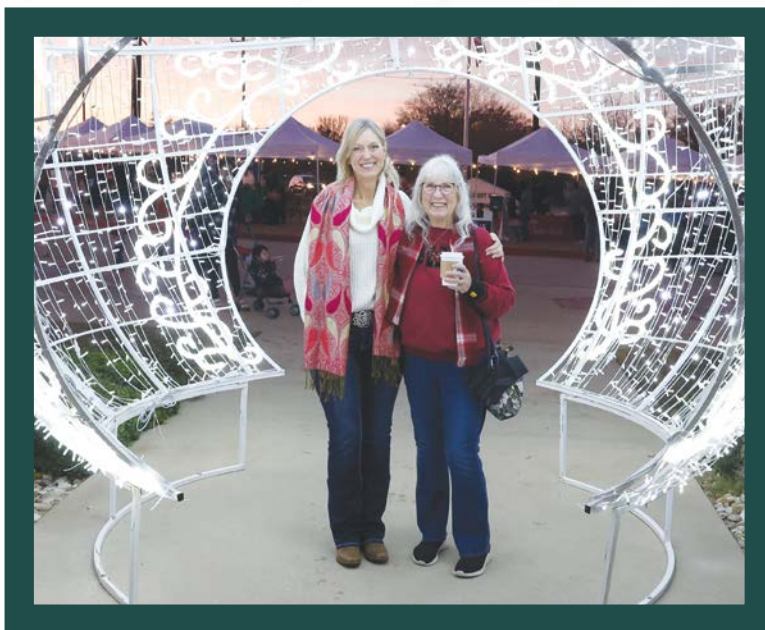
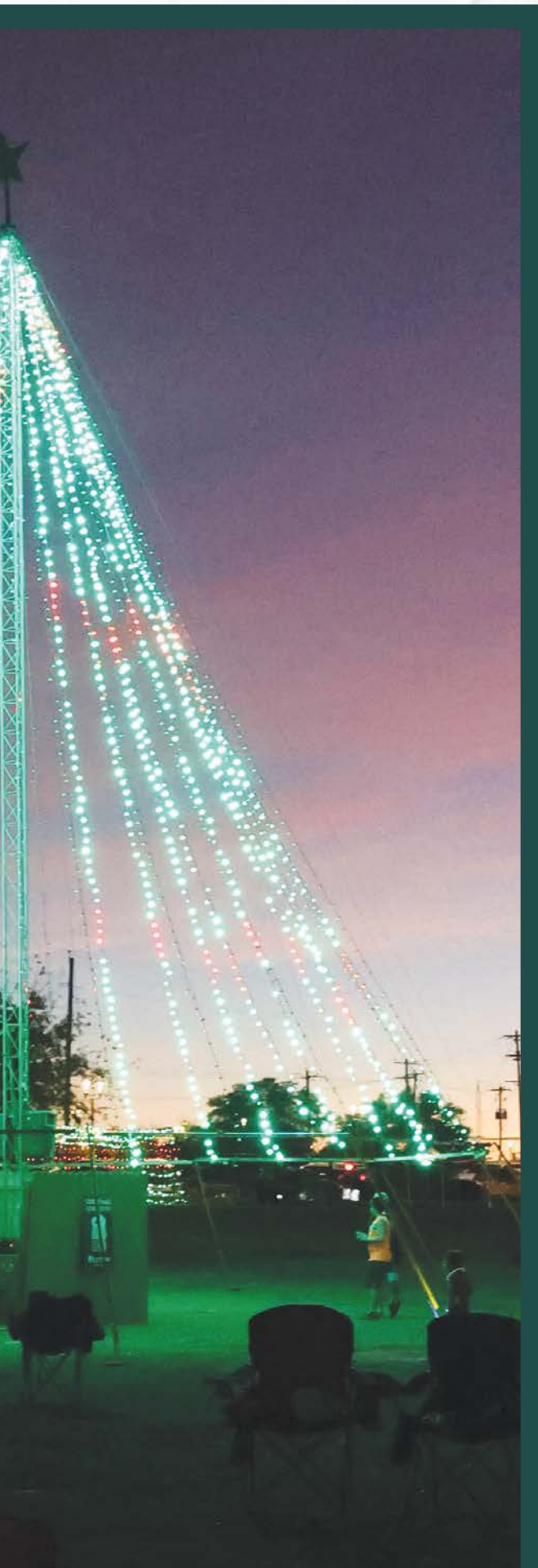
RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**TOP RIGHT:** Members of First Baptist Church of Weatherford served hot chocolate. Shown are (from left) Dale Reed, Mary Beth Reed, Holly Branch, Hylda Nugent, and Debbie Pipes. | **TOP RIGHT:** Patrons lined up for the mini train ride. | **BOTTOM LEFT:** Luke Underdahl and Jack Gwaltney enjoyed the lights. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Christmas tree lights.





# S IN COHO



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**TOP:** Lights depict a manger scene. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Brandi Dickey and Kathy Coats paused in the giant Christmas ornament. | **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Children pose in the midst of the lighted bear. | **BOTTOM:** Ryan Kelly lays out his wish list with Santa. | **CENTER:** Children run underneath the large lighted Christmas tree in December 2022.





# WILLOW PARK CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

By Staff Reports  
The Community News



In what is becoming a new tradition in Willow Park, the city will hold its second annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.

This year's event will be held at the new city hall, 120 El Chico Trail. It will

feature treats and hot beverages from DonutNV in Aledo and Travelin' Tom's Coffee of Alliance Fort Worth.

Students from Trinity Christian Academy in Willow Park will perform holiday music.

And, of course, a special guest appearance by a big guy in a red suit is always a must at a Christmas event.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss welcomed Santa Claus at last year's event.**



*Christmas Lights Decorations*

**Willow Park Ace Hardware - 4951 E Interstate 20  
Mon-Sat 8-7 Sun 8-6**



*Gifts Wreaths Garland*







**Willow Park Planning and Development Director Toni Fisher and Communications and Marketing Director Rose Hoffman have been busy little elves turning the new city hall into a beautiful Christmas celebration! After Thanksgiving the city hall lobby will host a photo op spot next to the indoor tree, just in time for the lighting of the outdoor tree Nov. 30.**



*Merry Christmas*

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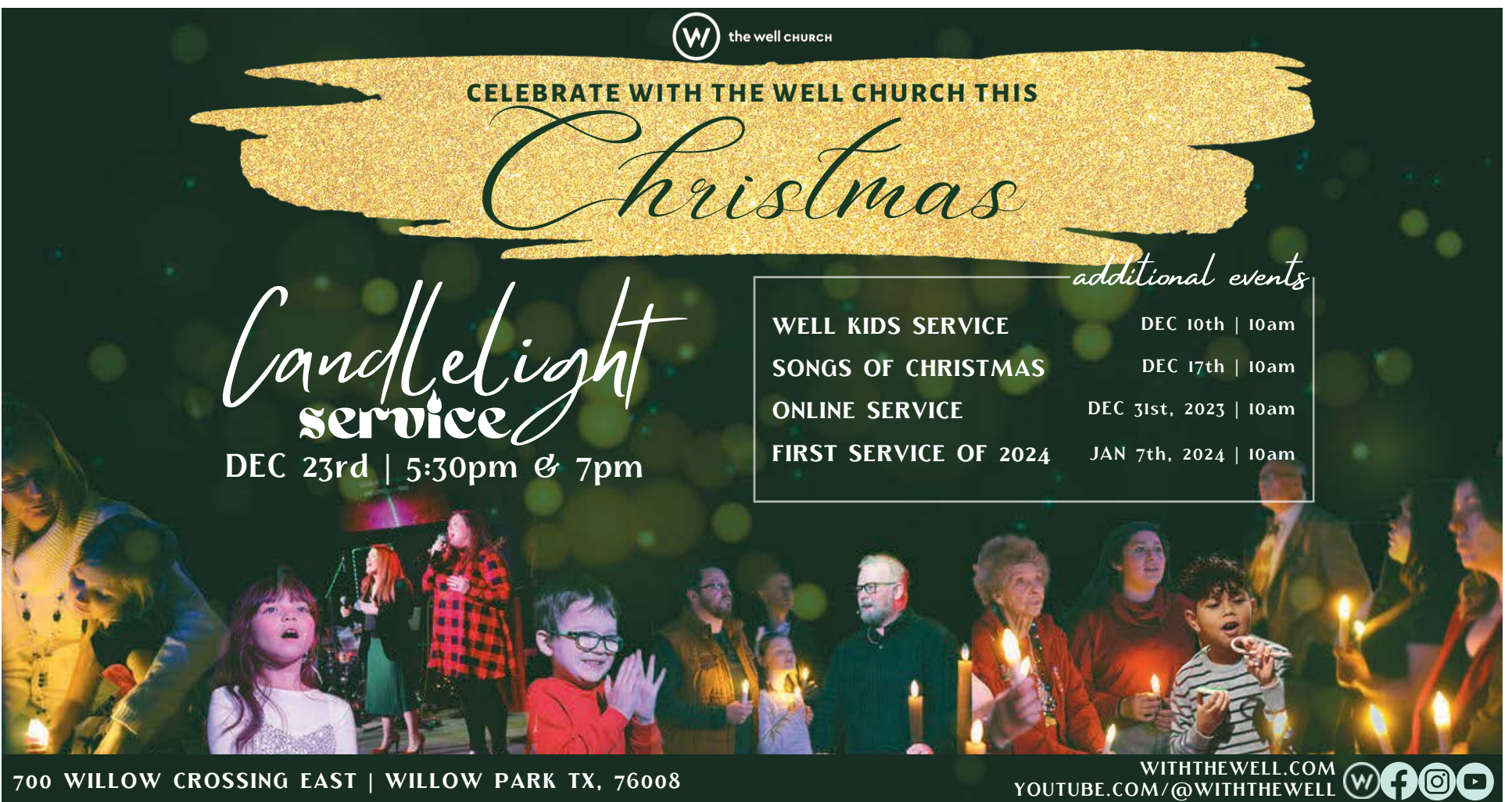
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*additional events*

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SONGS OF CHRISTMAS	DEC 17th   10am
ONLINE SERVICE	DEC 31st, 2023   10am
FIRST SERVICE OF 2024	JAN 7th, 2024   10am

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# FIND WHAT YOU NEED AT THE HOPE CHEST

It is not quite Christmas yet but, it is not too early to do some Christmas shopping at The Hope Chest, the very upscale resale shop, at the Center of Hope (1318 Clear Lake Road, Weatherford).

Proceeds from sales go to support the very many programs at the Center, which include basic needs such as food. There are also many education programs, all of which can be seen at the Center's website, [www.centerofhopetx.com](http://www.centerofhopetx.com). The resale shop has its own website at [www.thehopechestresale.com](http://www.thehopechestresale.com).

The Center is celebrating 25 years of service to the Parker County area. It is supported by many local businesses, churches, and individuals. It is a Christian-based ministry.

You can donate money and groceries to

the pantry, which provides food items to those in need. You can also donate items for sale to the Hope Chest, and you can shop for bargains for quality merchandise. Some of those items, pictured here, are now for sale. You can be a volunteer.

The Center provides free hot meals free of charge to any and all who come from 10 am to 2 pm, Monday through Thursday.

They also give 10% off all Hope Chest sales on Wednesdays.

You can go to the Center of Hope, have lunch, donate some items of food or merchandise, and shop for bargains at the resale shop.

Christmas is just around the corner!

- Richard Henderson





# EVENTS

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

### MERRY WELLS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL & LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

Merry Wells season starts the Saturday after Thanksgiving with an all-day Christmas Festival on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 11 am-6 pm. As you stroll downtown Mineral Wells, you'll find a food truck park, lots of artisan-made goods, activities for the kiddos and live performances from local music and dance troops.

At 6 p.m. the Merry Wells Lighted Christmas parade is a spectacular event that will delight even the scrooge-iest of on-lookers. Locals go all out to make this a parade you won't soon forget.



## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

The Parker County Extension Education Association will once again host the 23rd Annual "Home for the Holidays" on Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Central Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 1602 S. Main Street in Weatherford.

This year's event will include interactive stations including Extension Education Club booths, more than 20 area vendors, cookie decorating, informational presentations, cooking demonstrations, Christmas bingo and more.

There will also be entertainment, raffles, door prizes, a silent auction, and more.

The cost to attend is \$5 per person. There will be lite lunches available for \$5 per person. Tickets are available at the doors, also from Extension Education club members and at the Parker County Extension Office. For more information contact the Parker County Extension Office at 817-598-6168.



## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

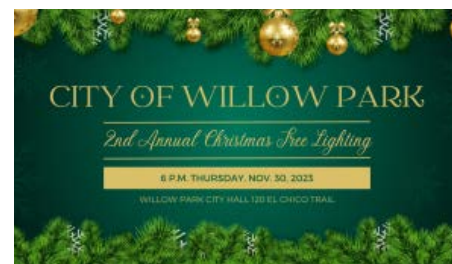
The always unforgettable experience, which starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Heritage Park Amphitheater, 503 Santa Fe Dr., and marks the kickoff for a whole month of Holiday in the Park - Pathway of Lights.

Visitors will be entertained by a holiday drone show - with double the drones from last year.

There will also be a special surprise after the countdown. Can you guess what it is? You'll have to be there to find out.

## NOV. 29-DEC. 31

Take a magical journey through an enchanting pathway at the Heritage Park Amphitheater between 6-9:30 p.m. Immerse yourself in the festive spirit as you wander through the crisp night air, captivated by the majestic 46-foot live tree, a dazzling 20-foot animated tree, and an array of delightful holiday exhibits. There will also be food vendors.



## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

**2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting**  
Make plans to join us for Willow Park's official Christmas kick-off at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30. This year's tree lighting will be held on November at the new City Hall location at 120 El Chico Trail, featuring treats and hot beverages from DonutNV Aledo, Texas and Travelin' Tom's Coffee of Alliance Fort Worth. Holiday music from the students of

Trinity Christian Academy - Willow Park. And of course, a special guest appearance by a big guy in a red suit.



## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

### COHO Tree Lighting

Join Hudson Oaks for the lighting of the COHO tree from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 at Gene L. Voyles Park 3248 Inspiration Dr, Hudson Oaks, TX 76087. It's an evening of FREE holiday fun brought to you by Jerry's Chevrolet! Enjoy activities in Santa's Workshop, snap a picture with Santa, a ride on the COHO Express and watch The Grinch with Jim Carrey on the big screen. Chairs, blankets and coolers are welcome. No glass please.

### Classics and carols concert, Weatherford college choir

The WC Choir will be present this holiday musical event in the Texas Hall on campus at 225 College Park Dr. from 7-9 p.m.



## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

### Christmas on the Square

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. visitors to downtown Weatherford will enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas. The event will feature plenty of vendors from the community providing an opportunity to shop as well as activities and treats for people of all ages, including live carolers, an entertainment stage and lots of free family activities.

Kids, be on the lookout for the red mailbox and have your letters mailed to Santa.



### Christmas Tyme in Aledo Arts & Crafts Fair

The Arts & Crafts Fair is held from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Come by and shop for unique, one-of-a-kind gifts!

### Christmas Tyme in Aledo

Christmas Tyme in Aledo from 5 - 9 p.m. There are many attractions scheduled all over the downtown Aledo area with holiday fun, food, and entertainment for all ages; and, many of the local storefront businesses stay open late, providing activities and refreshments for visitors! We also heard Santa will be stopping by again this year! Bring your friends and family to enjoy this joyous annual Christmas event!

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

### "MESSIAH" PERFORMED AT

### WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Beginning at 7 p.m., the Weatherford College Fine Arts Department will present G.F. Handel's "Messiah" in the Alkek Fine Arts Department.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 9

### CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES

For more than 40 years, the Candlelight Tour of Homes has provided the opportunity for guests to explore some of Weatherford's most unique private

Turn to **EVENTS**, page 21



## EVENTS

from page 20

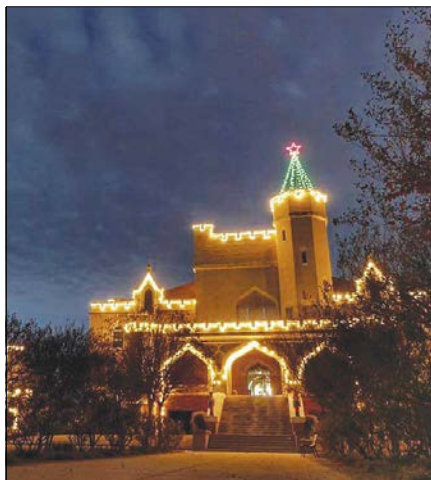
residences on this historical tour that goes from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Each home is interesting for a variety of reasons, including age, size, location, or distinctive architecture.

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

What's Christmas like without a visit with Santa? CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is enhancing it with Breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. at Central Christian Church, 1602 South Main St. The event is open to the public and the cost is \$5 per person otherwise. The event will include letters to Santa, pictures with Santa, Santa's elves, balloons, crafts and glitter tattoos. Contact 817-599-6224 or visit <https://casahopeforchildren.org/> for more information.

### Christmas at the Castle 2023

Texas Pythian Home, Inc. invites everyone to come and tour the beautiful castle while it is decorated with Christmas Spirit from 10a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1825 E Bankhead Dr. Weatherford TX, 76086. This event is free and great for the whole family. Bring your camera and explore the Texas Pythian Home



during Christmas at the Castle.

Also the lights will turn on at 5 p.m. and start going off at 9 p.m. You are always more than welcome to come in at any time and drive around and take pictures.

If you plan to shop or take a picture with Santa, you will need money. It does not cost anything to come and take a tour though.

Photos with Santa are \$10 (\$5 for the Pythian Home and \$5 for the Photographer)

Watch *The Community News* for additional events. Send event information to [events@community-news.com](mailto:events@community-news.com).

# Merry Christmas!

*Come visit our retail store in Cresson (corner of Hwy 171 & 377) for a great selection of holiday food gift items... Smoked Meats, Chocolate Pecans, Flavored Pecans, and more!*

*Happy Holidays to all!*

*from your friends at*

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# Merry Christmas

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# SEASON OF GIVING

**T**he Christmas season is a season of giving. Parker County has numerous social service and charity organizations that are worthy of support.

## Aledo Children's AdvoCats

Aledo Children's AdvoCats is an AISD partner organization, led by women volunteers committed to raising funds to help fulfill and aid unmet needs of children and their families in the Aledo ISD Communities. Its main outreaches include:

**Children's Fund:** working directly with the AISD, CF provides assistance to students in need. Each student's needs are evaluated on an individual basis and all information is confidential. Aide can include unmet needs like medical or dental assistance, living expenses, food, school supplies and school-related expenses or other crises interventions.

**The Clothes Closet:** a clothing resource operated by the Aledo Children's AdvoCats. The service is offered to families recommended by AISD counselors. Qualifying children receive clothes and shoes for school with each new grading cycle, free of charge. The Clothes Closet is also open to the public as a resale shop Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm.

**Angel Project:** a collaborative effort between AdvoCats, AISD, and the community. The school counselors identify students who may benefit from Christmas gifts and holiday meals. AdvoCats collects wish lists and assigns community volunteer shoppers to purchase gifts, and AdvoCats collects and distributes the gifts.

**How you can help:** Membership is available on an annual basis and funds AdvoCats' work. Members receive an Ambassador pass, and access to volunteer opportunities and events.

Clothing donations and monetary donations. Clothes are provided to qualifying children and the resale to the public funds AdvoCats' work.

Donate wrapping supplies - local businesses are helping collect wrapping paper and supplies for families who will receive toys through the Angel Project. Locations: First Bank Texas, Willow Park; Aledo United Methodist Church; Body by Chop; The Summit Church, Aledo; Lil' Cats Preschool at Church at the Crossing; Faith Presbyterian Day School Aledo, and Aledo Dance Teams.

Visit [aledoadvocats.com](http://aledoadvocats.com) or on social media, search Aledo Children's AdvoCats.



## Aledo Education Foundation

The Aledo ISD Education Foundation partners with the community to provide private resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize innovative opportunities for all students in the Aledo Independent School District.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations. For more information, visit [aledoef.org](http://aledoef.org).



## Aledo Young Life

Young Life is an evangelical Christian organization which focuses on young people in middle school, high school, and college.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations. For more information, visit [aledo.younglife.org](http://aledo.younglife.org).



## Careity Foundation

The Careity Foundation is a 501(c)3 that exists to provide direct care that saves lives, gives hope, eases pain, and allows cancer patients and families to focus on healing. All donations stay local.

Attend the Celebrity Cutting at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 at Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum!

**How you can help:** Monetary donations. For more information, visit [careity.org](http://careity.org) or call 817-882-4100.

Careity Foundation  
P.O. Box 126038  
Fort Worth, TX 76126



## CASA

When children enter the child welfare system due to allegations of abuse or neglect, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are appointed by a judge to advocate for the child. CASA volunteers are community members working collaboratively to



## **CASA (continued)**

support children and families involved in the foster care system.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit <https://casahopeforchildren.org/>.

Phone: 817-599-6224  
305 South Rusk St.  
Weatherford, TX 76086



## **Children's Advocacy Center**

The Mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County is to end the cycle of abuse by giving the children of Parker County a voice.

The CAC will coordinate the collaborative efforts between Child Protective Services, law enforcement, and prosecution, in the investigation of child abuse cases by providing specialized forensic interviews, therapeutic recovery services for the victim and their families, medical evaluations, and victim support and advocacy. They will also provide education for schools and communities on child abuse.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations. For more information, visit <https://www.cacparkercounty.org/> or call 682-615-1992.

Children's Advocacy Center  
of Parker County  
1224 Clear Lake Road  
Weatherford, TX 76086



## **East Parker County Library**

The mission of the East Parker County Library is to encourage a love of reading, promote lifelong learning, and broaden informational, educational, recreational, and cultural enrichment opportunities for its patrons.

The library is collecting Letters to Santa through Dec. 22 and at Christmas Tyme in Aledo! Visit Story Time at 10 a.m. on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8! Homeschool at the Library is Dec. 15.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit [epclibrary.com](http://epclibrary.com) or call 817-441-6545.

East Parker County Library  
201 FM 1187 N  
Aledo, TX 76008



## **Freedom House**

Freedom House is a domestic violence and sexual assault service provider in Parker County. They provide a wide variety of services including emergency shelter, counseling, therapy, legal counseling, and transportation.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit [www.freedomhousepc.org](http://www.freedomhousepc.org) or call 817-596-7543 or the Domestic Violence Hotline: 817-596-8922.

Freedom House  
1149 Fort Worth Hwy.  
Weatherford, TX 76086



## **Gathering Hope**

Gathering Hope is an organization that exists to passionately advocate for survivors of miscarriage and infant loss; allow for a safe place to grieve, share, and celebrate

babies; use their pain as a delivery system to reach others who may not know Christ; and build safe and meaningful relationships.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations. For more information, visit [gatheringhope.net](http://gatheringhope.net).

Gathering Hope  
P.O. Box 1631  
Aledo, TX 76008



## **Grace House**

Grace House Ministries is a faith-based pregnancy resource center located in Weatherford. Founded in 1993, Grace House Ministries strives to promote hope, life, and knowledge in the community through Options Clinic, Grace House Pregnancy Center, and Pure Truth in-school training program.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations, diapers (size 5), baby wipes, pacifiers, 4- and 8-ounce bottles, small baby toys, or convertible car seats For more information, visit [www.ghmtx.com](http://www.ghmtx.com) or email [info@ghmtx.com](mailto:info@ghmtx.com), or call 817-599-9080.

Grace House  
919 Eureka  
Weatherford, TX 76086







### **HALO for Freedom**

The HALO for Freedom Warrior Foundation® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Willow Park that is dedicated to our wounded warriors. Its mission is to provide support for wounded warriors as they face the many challenges encountered during their rehabilitation, reintegration and healing process.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and sponsorships. For more information, visit [halofreedom.org](http://halofreedom.org).



### **Hemispherectomy Foundation**

The Hemispherectomy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded to provide emotional, financial, and educational support to individuals and their families who have undergone, or will undergo, a hemispherectomy or similar brain surgery. They provide help which includes, but is not limited to: college scholarships, trade school scholarships, camp fees, life-aid equipment, travel expenses, and other aid as approved by the officers.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations, donations of coloring books, crayons, stuffed animals, board games, new toys, gas cards, gift cards, airline miles. For more information, visit <http://hemifoundation.homestead.com/>.

Hemispherectomy Foundation  
P.O. Box 1239  
Aledo, TX 76008



### **Manna Storehouse**

Manna Storehouse is a non-profit organization operated completely by volunteers and supported by 11 churches and multiple businesses within Weatherford and Parker County. Its mission is to assist those in need to sustain a dignified life which hopefully leads to an improved life style, thereby improving confidence and independence.

**How you can help:** Donations of food, money, clothing, furniture, baby items, kitchen supplies, and other items. For more information, visit [www.mannastorehouse.org](http://www.mannastorehouse.org) or call 817-599-6569.

Manna Storehouse  
129 E. Spring Street  
P.O. Box 9  
Weatherford, TX 76086



### **Miracle League of Parker County**

The mission at the Miracle League of Parker County is to provide a safe and fun environment where those with special needs can play baseball in a stadium of their own; where the rules are limited, the love unconditional, and the joy infectious.

An evening with Santa and Mrs. Clause will run from 6-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 7!

**How you can help:** Monetary donations, sponsorships, and volunteers. For more information, visit [www.miracleleagueparkercounty.com](http://www.miracleleagueparkercounty.com) or call 817-614-6261.

Miracle League Field is located at 2308 Tin Top Road in Weatherford.



### **Parker County Center of Hope**

Through more than 23 years of service, Center of Hope has learned that while addressing the material aspects of poverty is important, true rehabilitation and restoration are only achieved through long-term solutions. It focuses its work on an integrated service model that addresses the holistic needs of individuals and leads them to a path of economic independence and improved quality of life.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations, food donations, or donate items for the Hope Chest resale store. For more information, visit [centerofhopetx.com/](http://centerofhopetx.com/) or [www.thehopechestresale.com](http://www.thehopechestresale.com), or call 817-594-0266.

Parker County Center of Hope  
1318 Clear Lake Road  
Weatherford, TX 76086



### **Parker County Committee on Aging**

The mission of Parker County Committee on Aging, Inc., is to identify and assess the needs of homebound older adults in Parker County and to provide life-sustaining services which allow them to live in the comfort of their homes. A further mission of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit is the operation of Parker County's Senior Center that serves persons aged 60 and older with nutritional, educational, recreational, and social programs and the Meals on Wheels program in the county.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations, food donations, volunteers. For more information, visit [www.pccoa.org](http://www.pccoa.org), call 817-596-4640, or email [info@pccoa.org](mailto:info@pccoa.org).

Come to Jingle & Mingle from 6-9 on Dec. 2! You can also "Stuff the Stocking" with \$20 and a caring message to a local senior.

Parker County  
Committee on Aging  
1225 Holland Lake Drive  
Weatherford, TX 76086





## Parker County Health Foundation

The Parker County Health Foundation enhances health and well-being by providing services through partnerships for Parker County residents who otherwise could not seek treatments.

Boots & Bling featuring Josh Weathers will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, at River Ranch Stockyards!

**How you can help:** Monetary donations. For more information, visit [www.parkercounty-healthfoundation.org](http://www.parkercounty-healthfoundation.org).



## Parker County Pets Alive

Parker County Pets Alive partners with the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter and Riverstone Companion Animal Clinic in Brock to provide life-saving treatment for heartworm-positive dogs adopted from the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations (heartworm treatment is very expensive and without treatment, heartworm positive dogs will die a slow, painful death) and volunteers. For more information, visit <https://parkercountypetsalive.org/donate/>.



## Pure Adventure

The mission of Pure Adventure is to help dads and sons connect, with Christ at the center of their relationship. It provides one-day events that are designed to bring dad and son together through activities, messages, and one-on-one time to create a bond that lasts a lifetime.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations, host an event. For more information, visit [pureadventure.com](http://pureadventure.com).



## Pythian Home

Texas Pythian Home, Inc., is a Christian-based residential child care program with a rich history of more than 100 years of serving children from families in need.

Christmas at the Castle is from 10-6 on Dec. 9!

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit <https://pythianhome.org/>.

Texas Pythian Home  
1825 E. Bankhead Hwy.  
Weatherford, Texas 76086  
817-594-4465



## Sanctified Hope

Sanctified Hope empowers and guides formerly incarcerated women through a Christ-based ministry to inspire lifelong changes and become successful citizens of the community.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers, septic-friendly toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels, laundry detergent. For more information, visit [sanctifiedhope.org](http://sanctifiedhope.org).



## Seeds of Life

Seeds of Life is a non-medical 501 (c)3 non-profit organization located in Parker County. Flourishing Tree of Life is a faith-

based, life-affirming pregnancy and family center that provides resources, mentoring, and education for life skills.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit [friendsofseedsoflife.org](http://friendsofseedsoflife.org).



## Tarrant Area Food Bank

The Tarrant Area Food Bank, including its new Parker County facility, distributes food and provides education for people in need of food assistance. TAFB serves 13 counties in north Texas: Tarrant, Bosque, Cooke, Denton, Erath, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, and Wise.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers; start a food drive; become a sponsor. For more information, visit [tab.org](http://tab.org).



## Thanksgiving Trot

The Thanksgiving Trot is an annual 5k and 1 mile run designed to assist a local family each year that has had to endure catastrophic medical expenses. The 2023 recipient is Jared Chasteen.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations: visit Paypal and donate to @aledotrot or [aledo-thanksgivingtrot@gmail.com](mailto:aledo-thanksgivingtrot@gmail.com).



## Theatre Off the Square

Parker County Fine Arts Association DBA Theatre Off The Square is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation managed by a Board of Directors who donate their time, effort, and resources to benefit this theatre and this community.

**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit [www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org).



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### Theatre Off the Square (continued)

Theatre Off the Square  
114 N Denton  
Weatherford, Texas 76086  
817-341-8687



**How you can help:** Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information visit <https://www.unitedwayofparkercounty.org/> or call 817-596-5986.



### United Way of Parker County

United Way brings residents, business leaders, and representatives from our local community together to identify and address shared community concerns. Its goal is to engage people to understand the issues most important to them and their families - including the ability to access a quality education, obtain good jobs, and to live healthy lives.

### Weatherford Wags

Weatherford Wags is a small, foster home-based dog rescue in Weatherford, dedicated to saving urgent dogs at animal shelters in and near Parker County. They also attempt to help strays and unwanted dogs to keep them out of shelters and get them into loving homes.

**How you can help:** Agree to provide a foster home to a dog, adopt a dog, provide monetary donations, or volunteer.

For more information visit [www.weatherfordwags.org](http://www.weatherfordwags.org) or email [Weatherfordwags@gmail.com](mailto:Weatherfordwags@gmail.com).



### Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter provides animal adoption services, spay and neuter for stray dogs and cats, and shelter for lost or stray animals.

**How you can help:** Adopt an animal from the shelter, provide foster care for a dog, or donate crates to house animals at the shelter.

For more information, visit <https://weatherfordtx.gov/15/Animal-Shelter>.

Weatherford Parker County  
Animal Shelter  
403 Hickory Lane  
Weatherford, Texas 76086.



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# MULKEY FAMILY LIGHTS UP FM 5

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News



**T**he holiday season is upon us, and it will look a whole lot like Christmas now with the popular FM 5 Christmas tree lit.

For several years Garrett Mulkey, with the help of son Grant, has been making motorists smile with a dazzling holiday display on the roadside near their home in McDavid Estates. It started with a blazing Aledo Bearcat sign five years ago greeting motorists a quarter mile south of I-20 and the following year the Mulkey's

added a 32-foot Christmas tree display.

"Once I saw how the people enjoyed the Bearcat I had to do something more," Garrett Mulkey said while leaning from the basket of a crane.

Garrett attached dozens of light strands at the top of the pole while Grant untangled and readied 50,000 green lights to be spread apart and hooked to metal steaks circling the pole to make the tree.

 **FARNHAM**  
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*Merry Christmas*

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*above*"**  
james 1:17

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# Merry Christmas!

Wishing you and your family a warm and cheerful holiday season!

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