

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving Aledo · the Annettas · Hudson Oaks · Willow Park, Texas

CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES

Weatherford history and beauty spotlighted

Tour celebrating 40th go-round

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Nothing says Merry Christmas more than a brightly lit home, filled with joy and cheer.

Such homes are abundant and have become an annual tradition in the Parker County Heritage Society's (PCHS) Candlelight Tour of Homes, which takes place Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

This is the 40th year for the tour, which began in 1983 - skipping the COVID pandemic year of 2020.

"People come primarily from throughout the North Texas area, mostly Parker County and Fort Worth, but we have had people from other states and countries, usually when they were visiting relatives in the area or staying at the JRB (Joint Reserve Base) in Fort Worth," said Jo-Alice Davis of the PCHS.

This year's tour will have six houses plus Chandor Gardens at 711 W. Lee and St. Stephens Catholic Chapel at 211 S. Main on the route. Two of the houses on the tour this year are also businesses at 110 S. Walnut and an 212 E. Lee.

Homes on the route are at:

- 505 W. Josephine.
- 413 W. Lee.
- 402 W. Simmons.
- 201 W. Rentz.

"We are so appreciative that the Parker County Heritage Society organizes and hosts the annual Candlelight

Turn to TOUR, page 9

Season of Joy



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Three-year-old Julieta Busby delights in a snowflake she caught on the end of her finger at Christmas Tywme in Aledo on Dec. 2. Turn to page 5 for more photos from the event.

Weatherford College Texas Wesleyan added to list of WC articulation agreements

Crystal Worley
Weatherford College

The presidents of Weatherford College and Texas Wesleyan University signed a transfer agreement earlier this week for WC's organizational leadership graduates to enter TWU's Masters of Business Administration program.

WC President Tod Allen Farmer and TWU President Emily Messer were joined by key administrators from their respective institutions to sign the agreement on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

The new enrollment program establishes a seamless transfer experience for students who complete WC's Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Organizational Leadership program with a 3.0 or higher grade point average. The application fee for the program is also waived.

Learn more about WC's bachelor's degree offerings and transfer opportunities at wc.edu and click on programs.

Turn to COLLEGE, page 7

World Series celebration

Aledo salutes Bradford

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledoans gathered by the hundreds at the Bearcat Baseball Field on Monday, Dec. 4, to celebrate one of their own.

Cody Bradford made his return to Aledo following a

remarkable rookie campaign with the Texas Rangers that saw the 25-year-old make his first Major League start, his first play-off appearance, and win his first World Series all in a matter of six months time.

"I can't thank coach (Chad) Barry and his wife, Mrs. (Sunshine) Barry enough," Bradford said during the event.

"Sunshine did such a good job putting this event on. They made it really easy on my wife and me. They told us where to be and when. The rest they put on.

"We're just so grateful to come back to a community that shows this much support."

The event kicked off with hundreds of fans, friends, family, and media swarming the gates of

Tim Buchanan Stadium as they made their way down the path to the baseball and softball complex. People lined the roadway as Bradford and his wife, Madi, waved to the crowd from the back of a pickup, courtesy of long-time Aledo baseball supporter, Moritz Chevrolet.

Turn to BRADFORD, page 7



PHOTO BY MAYOR DOYLE MOSS

Once again this year, youngsters in Willow Park have their own direct pipeline to Santa Claus. The city has placed this mailbox outside city hall.



6 59479 00001 3



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bearcat head baseball coach Chad Barry presents a jersey to Cody Bradford while announcing No. 18 is officially retired at Aledo. Bradford's number is the only one to be retired in Bearcat history. Also shown are (from left) former Bearcat head football coach Tim Buchanan and Aledo ISD Athletic Director Brandy Belk, and Bradford's wife, Madi.

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In & Around Parker County

Ring Leaders — 41 years of serving Parker County

Ring Leaders Kennel has served Parker County and its surrounding cities for 40 years, making it one of Aledo's oldest businesses.

Alaina Tenseth and her late husband, John founded the grooming and boarding business together in the mid-1970s.

When they decided to move west, the small-town business relocated from its original Fort Worth facility in October 1981 — and has stayed in Aledo ever since.

Its local facility offers 30 inside-outside runs that are climate-controlled and eight luxury suites, which are 8-foot-by-10-foot rooms with a patio area. Additionally, all animals have access to play areas.

When boarded, Tenseth, who shares property with the facility, said there's always someone physically present to watch the dogs and cats. There are also surveillance cameras.

"We never leave the animals unattended," Tenseth said.

Ring Leaders Kennel offers overnight boarding to all breeds and sizes of cats and dogs. It also offers full-grooming services to dogs and can provide specialized grooming for cats on an as-needed basis, though it is not a common service offered by the kennel.



Tenseth she has been grooming and boarding animals for more than 45 years. It's a career she receives joy from and doesn't plan on changing.

Her longest-lasting clients have been with her for nearly 40 years — since 1975 — through the move from Fort Worth to Aledo.

Many have used Tenseth's services through a long lineage of pets.

"We've gone through several generations of pets and several generations of people," Tenseth said. "And we've never taken any of them for granted."

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Weatherford Light the Night Parade

Tree Lighting

PHOTOS BY RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Annetta mayor Sandy Roberts and Weatherford mayor Paul Paschall celebrate the lighting of the tree at the courthouse in Weatherford on Saturday, Dec. 2.



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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. 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

Texas Supreme Court hears abortion ban challenge



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a case that could decide whether medical exceptions to the state's abortion ban are written clearly enough to protect pregnant women who face serious health risks, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

The 22 plaintiffs include women who contracted sepsis while waiting to terminate a nonviable pregnancy, and women who traveled hundreds of miles for abortions of a nonviable twin in order to protect the healthy fetus. An attorney for the plaintiffs argued the vague language in the law has left doctors unable or unwilling to perform abortions.

An attorney for the state argued the law is clear and that doctors are responsible for denying abortions allowed during medical emergencies.

"Some of these women appear to have fallen within the exception but their doctors still said no. That's not the fault of the law, that's a decision of the doctor," Beth Klusmann, assistant solicitor general, said.

An opinion in the case is likely to take several months.

Border car chases led to 74 deaths in two years

At least 74 people have been killed and 189 injured during high-speed car chases near the U.S.-Mexico border since Gov. Greg Abbott launched Operation Lone Star, a multi-billion dollar border security initiative, according to a report published by Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit agency.

The group analyzed data obtained from the Texas Department of Public Safety from March 2021, when Operation Lone Star began, through July 2023. It indicates more than two-thirds of vehicle pursuits conducted in the state during that period occurred in the 60 counties involved in Operation Lone Star.

"Operation Lone Star puts undue pressure on law enforcement to chase cars, sometimes with very little basis, resulting in deaths of drivers, passengers, and even bystanders," said Norma Herrera, a Texas-based consultant to Human Rights Watch. "Our review of the cases over 29 months identified at least 7 bystanders killed in these car crashes, including a 7-year-old girl out to get ice cream with her grandmother."

Col. Steve McCraw, DPS director, in an interview with *The New York Times*, said the department relies on its own troopers to decide when it is appropriate to give chase, and that a trooper who did not use appropriate caution would be held accountable.

Food banks under extreme pressure

A study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that 15.5% of Texas households are "food insecure," meaning they lack consistent access to health and affordable food – the second-highest rate in the nation. Food banks across the state are warning those challenges could get worse, the *Texas Tribune* reported.

About 3.3 million Texans receive assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with the number of older Texans getting SNAP benefits rising. From January 2020 through October 2023, the number of Texans aged 65 and older rose 28%, while the increase was 19% for those aged 60-64.



Operators of food banks, which are nonprofit organizations, blame rising housing costs during the pandemic for the increase in demand for its services.

"The rising cost of housing is the problem," said Teresa Jackson, founder and CEO of Sharing Life, a Mesquite charity that offers food, clothing, medicine, and educational programs. Sharing Life distributes food to more than 100 food pantries around southeast Dallas.

Adding to the distress is that thousands of Texans are waiting for months to receive new food stamp benefits, according to the *Statesman*. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is supposed to process applications within 30 days but is only hitting that target about 75% of the time. That leaves about 138,000 unprocessed applicants who must wait longer for benefits.

Food stamp recipients are required to work unless they are elderly, disabled or caring for children. Nearly 80% of Texas food stamp recipients are in families with children.

Real Christmas trees boost state economy

More than four million real Christmas trees are sold in Texas each year, providing nearly \$400 million in direct contributions to the state's economy, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Texas Christmas tree industry employs nearly 4,000 people with a payroll of more than \$97 million.

"The process of going as a family to pick out a tree is a fun activity that supports rural economies across the state," Aaron Stottlemeyer, with the service, said.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, with the first recorded tree planting in Texas occurring in Jasper in 1935. Texas ranks second in the South in Christmas tree production.

Turn to **COURT**, page 7

Idle American

Maximizing Mascot Mix-ups



Dr. Don Newbury

newbury@speakerdoc.com

The State of Texas is known far and wide for its citizens' love of football. Taken a step further, names of school mascots can cause head-scratching and sometimes absolute disbelief when their plural names are discovered.

There are some "doozies." I don't know if Trivial Pursuit is often a game of choice these days, but Googling for what groups of creatures are called can help us understand why name foul-ups can produce heat when games--trivial or football--are taken seriously.

The public address announcer at a recent play-off football game in Crowley between Brownwood High School and Springtown High School learned quickly that fans of both schools want "plural" of their team mascots to be "done up right." And, since football is a team sport, the guy at the microphone described multiple Lions and Porcupines numerous times.

It was brought to his attention that referencing Lions and Porcupines as being in packs or bunches simply wouldn't get it done.

The poor announcer already had much on his plate, what with scheduling commercials, pronouncing players' names correctly and discharging other verbal responsibilities. He may have been caught unawares. In previous games, he probably wasn't challenged when referring to multiple players as being in packs or bunches.

Turn to **MASCOT**, page 7

GuestColumn

City of Aledo working to improve water meters, billing, and communication



Noah A. Simon

citymanager@aledotx.gov

The City of Aledo is working hard to expand our water and wastewater services to meet an influx of new residents while also modernizing and upgrading older equipment and infrastructure. These are critical services our residents rely on around the clock.

In 2022, the City began the design and engineering for the required upgrades to expand and renovate our wastewater treatment plant. The estimated total cost of these improvements is more than \$25 million. The City has secured some low-interest funding through the Texas Water Development Board for system improvements such as the Clear Fork Sewer Interceptor project completed earlier this year and continues to seek funding

opportunities to keep project and borrowing costs as low as possible for our customers.

Additionally, this year, we've begun installing new automated water meters that will more accurately monitor water flows to our customers. The meter upgrade project is expected to be complete by the end of the year. It will allow customers to view their account and water usage online at any time through a new online customer portal. These improvements will even help customers identify potential leaks to investigate and repair. Given the severe drought conditions we experienced this summer and fall, it's important to use water wisely to conserve limited supplies.

With these improvements and changes comes a learning curve – for our small, dedicated staff and for our customers. We are working to respond to many calls, emails and visits from our customers asking questions about recent water bills, the new meters and higher water use. November utility bills were sent out this week along with a detailed insert explaining the September and October billing issues that occurred for some customers and

our actions to address them. We encourage customers to review this information for answers to questions you may have.

I want to personally apologize for these recent issues that have caused confusion and taken extended time to investigate and respond. With limited staff and the number of inquiries, response times have been much longer than normal. Please know that we are working as quickly as possible to follow up on each call and email received. If you still have questions about your bill, please complete the Utility Bill Inquiry Form online at www.aledotx.com.

At City Council's direction, we have hired a third-party contractor to conduct a thorough and rigorous audit of the utility billing process – from meter to payment. The contractor will report their findings back to Council and the newly developed Utility Billing Advisory Committee. We will also share the auditor's results with our customers and take the necessary actions based on those recommendations. The audit is expected to take up to 120 days to complete. In the meantime,

our staff is working diligently to investigate and resolve recent billing issues to avoid them in the future.

On Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m., we will host a virtual customer information meeting about the Aledo water system, rates, new meters, billing improvements, conservation and the independent audit process. You can register for the Dec. 14 information meeting and read the bill insert on the City's website at www.aledotx.com. The meeting will be recorded and available online for future viewing. This is one example of how we are working to increase our water communications and will be providing information, updates and resources more frequently.

Our team is dedicated to serving the community and committed to doing what it takes to meet your needs and earn your trust. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support while we make the improvements needed to modernize our utility system and processes and better serve our community.

-Noah A. Simon, City Manager



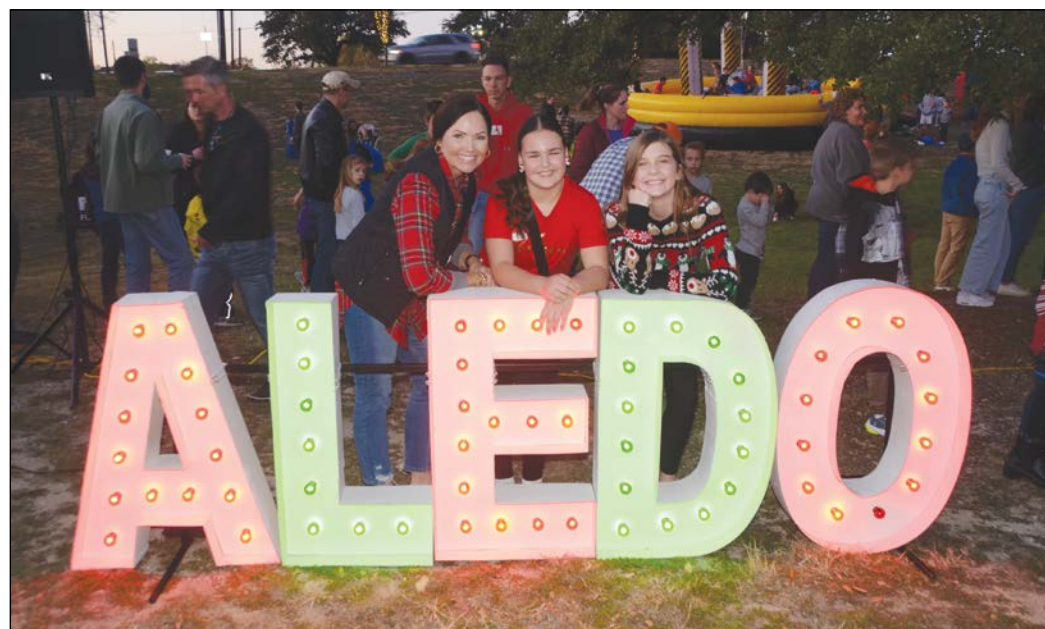
Christmas Tyme

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS.

The annual Christmas Tyme in Aledo was again well-attended as local merchants teamed up with the city to provide numerous entertainment and food-related activities.



Vendors for Christmas Tyme in Aledo.



Christina Bailey, Elizabeth Bailey and Rugh Lindly pose for a group picture at the ALEDO display.



Nova Ramsbacher twirls in the swirls of a snow machine.



The Texas High Road band entertains the crowd.



The Aledo United Methodist Church choir sets the mood with Christmas carols.



Zach Kovach ropes his first steer at the Aledo Ag-Backers display.



Ruby Eason, Austen Smith, and Rhea Smith wrap free hotdogs for hungry Christmas Tyme in Aledo event goers. Hot dogs, snacks and drinks were sponsored by First Financial Bank with donations going to Aledo Advocats and Aledo Lions Club.



Christopher Nash gets the chocolate and graham crackers needed for his freshly toasted marshmallow from Natalie Gass.



Riley and Rusty Reese met a new friend at the Layla Horse Rescue tent.



Cooper Newton leaps onto a giant dangling ball in a bounce house.

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Kid Scoop Together: Proof It!

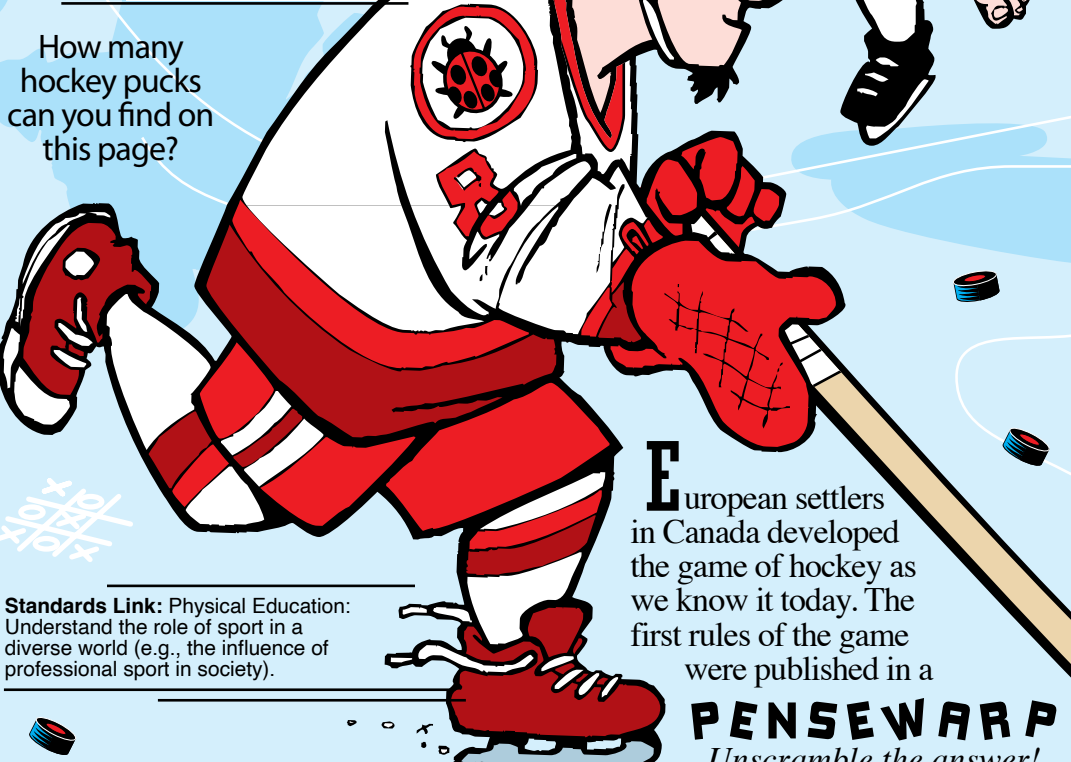
Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and circle the **eight errors** you find. Then rewrite it correctly on the lines below the article.

Hockey!

How many silly things can you find in this hockey scene?



How many hockey pucks can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the role of sport in a diverse world (e.g., the influence of professional sport in society).

Swish, click, swoosh. Swish, click. Click! Click! CLACK! "GOAL!"

These are the lively sounds of a hockey game!

Who were the first people to play hockey? No one knows for

sure. But for hundreds of years, kids have been sliding stones and other objects across ice with sticks and tree branches. Over the years, in different parts of Europe, a variety of games played on ice with sticks and sliding objects were created.

WHACK!

A hockey puck slammed into the article about pucks, scattering the letters a, b and c. Can you put them all back where they belong?

Ho_key pu_ks weren't _lw_ys m_de of _l_k ru_er like they _re tod_y. The e_rly pu_ks were pro__ly __lls, _ut other obje_ts, su_h_s stones, lumps of _o_l, or frozen _ow or horse poop were _lso used. Wooden pu_ks were used for m_ny ye_rs. Mothers sometimes put hot _ked pot_toes into their _hildren's sk_tes so th_t the sk_tes would _e_ozy _nd w_rm when the _hildren re__hed the rink or pond. The pot_toes were not thrown _w_y. They eventu_lly froze and were used _s pu_ks. Although ru__er w_s invented in 1939, it w_sn't until the l_te 1880s th_t someone thought of m_king ru_er pu_ks.

European settlers in Canada developed the game of hockey as we know it today. The first rules of the game were published in a

PENSEWARP

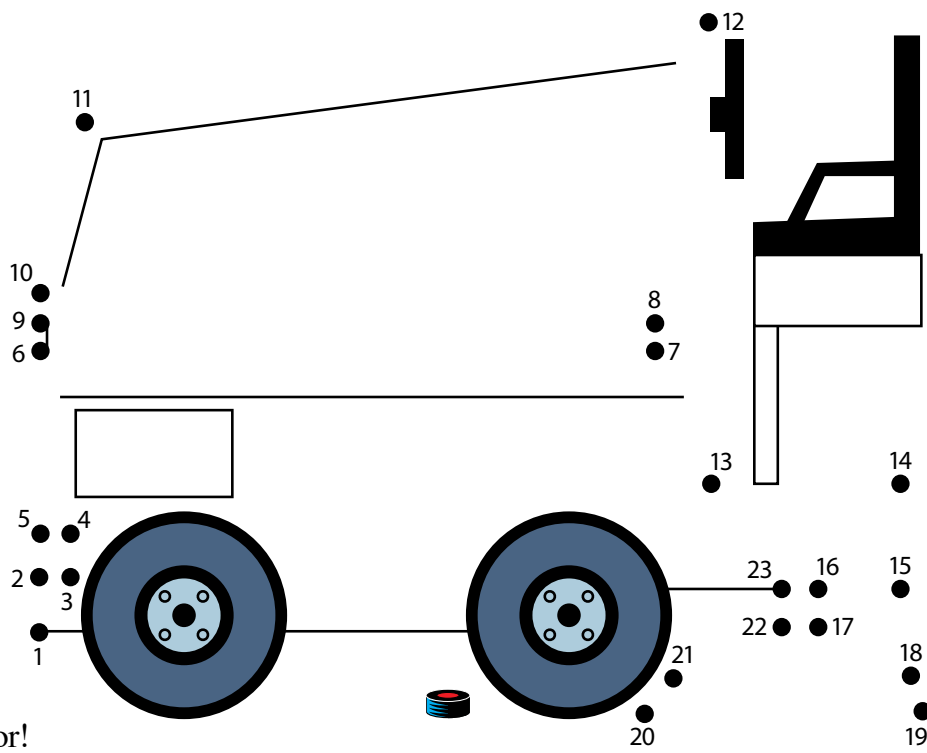
Unscramble the answer!

Source: Backcheck: Hockey for Kids Library and Archives Canada

The Zamboni® Ice Resurfacing Machine

Ice hockey players push off and skate in bursts of speed up to 30 miles per hour! These quick starts, stops and turns chew up the ice very quickly.

In 1949, a man by the name of Frank Zamboni solved the problem of rough, chopped-up ice. He invented a machine that smoothed the ice by applying a layer of water which freezes to the top of the ice surface. This machine is still used today. It smooths the ice and is called a Zamboni® ice resurfacing machine after its inventor!



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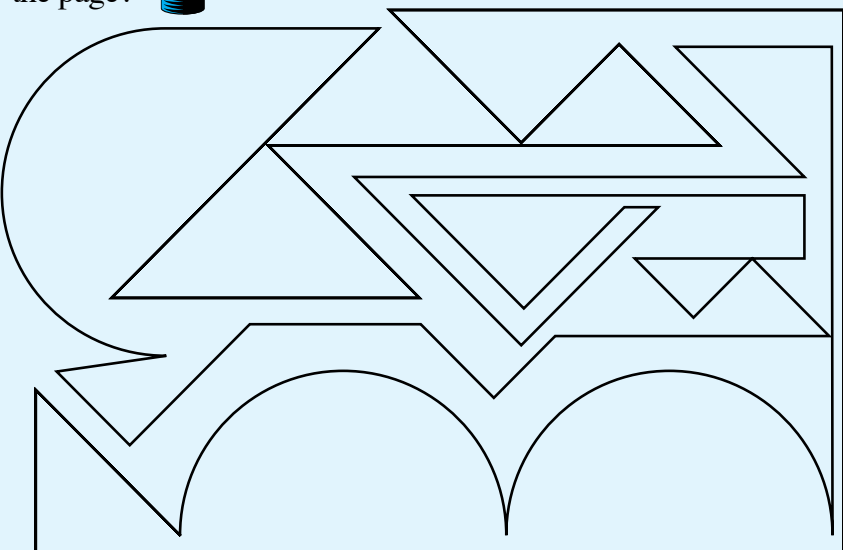
Extra! Extra! Hockey Words

Look through today's newspaper for words that go with the game of hockey. The words can be nouns, verbs or adjectives. Put the words in ABC order.

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing. Spelling: Put words in alphabetical order.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Icy Art Can you redraw the pattern a skater left on the ice without crossing over any lines or removing your pencil from the page?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- HOCKEY
- STICKS
- PUCKS
- ZAMBONI
- PENCIL
- INVENTOR
- POTATOES
- COZY
- SKATES
- GAME
- RINK
- THIN
- FROZE
- POND
- COAL

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

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

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

Standards Link: Writing: Use strategies to edit written work.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: OBJECT
One meaning of the noun **object** is any solid thing that can be seen or touched.

Sally looked for an **object** to slide across the ice.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Good Sports

List characteristics of someone displaying good sportsmanship. Ask students to look in the newspaper for a picture of an athlete demonstrating good sportsmanship and explain why they chose that picture.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the elements of socially acceptable conflict resolution in physical activity settings.



How do hockey players stay cool during a game?

ANSWER: They stay close to their fans.

Write On! Hockey Happiness

Write an **alliteration** about ice hockey. **Alliteration** is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words. **Example:** *Awesome ants always agitate!*

BRADFORD

from page one

Huge turnout

Once the parade concluded, people filled the stands and the grounds around the baseball field

where it was standing room only to greet Aledo's prodigal son.

"We weren't sure how many people to expect," said head baseball coach Chad Berry. "I figured there would be several. But this community always does that. They support their kids. They support

their extracurricular programs. It doesn't matter if it's the band or the football team.

"So, to see one of their own come through this program and do the things [Bradford] has been able to do, and to come back for us to celebrate with him, I think it means the world to this community. I think they're showing him that tonight."

During the ceremony, Aledo mayor Nick Stanley read a proclamation from the city, hereby making Dec. 4 Cody Bradford Day in Aledo.

Surprise announcement

What happened next came as a shock to the lanky left-hander.

Barry took to the mic, informing Bradford and all the members of Bearcat Nation on hand that Bradford's high school number, 18, is officially retired.

"Oh, my gosh," Bradford exclaimed. "That's insane. I was not expecting that. It's a true honor. I hope that's motivation for guys coming up that they can do it too."

Barry presented a framed Aledo baseball jersey sporting No. 18 to Bradford before directing his attention to the right-field wall. On the wall just below the scoreboard is a commemoration of Bradford's time and accomplishments during his prep baseball career at Aledo.

While retiring his number came as a surprise to Bradford, for coach Barry it's been an aspiration from early in his coaching career he hoped to fulfill one day.

"I've kind of had that in my mind as long as I've been coaching," coach Barry recalled. "If I ever had a kid that made it to the majors, I almost felt like that was worthy of retiring a number. And then winning a World Series on top of that in your rookie season, I think it's got to happen."

The right time

When Bradford called early in the morning the day before he made his Major League debut back in May, coach Barry knew the time had come. He just couldn't have imagined the ride this season would be from May to November.

"At that point, I felt like the things I want for this program, and the things I want the kids to get out of this program, he was an example of when he was here," the coach stated. "He wasn't necessarily the best athlete. He wasn't necessarily the best player. But, you weren't going to find anybody that was going to outwork him. Somebody that believed in himself, somebody that managed his time well, that put in the time.

"Whatever he did, he worked very hard at to try to be the best he could be. That time, effort, and work ethic, you're seeing the fruits of that labor. To me, that right there is exactly why I do what I do.

"I couldn't be more happy for him. Nobody deserves it more than him," coach Barry added.

A little rest, then back to work

Bradford is currently taking some time off before ramping up his off-season program in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, Bearcat baseball will start preseason practice shortly after the first of the year.

With Aledo baseball players lining the basepath, Bradford offered some encouragement before heading into the upcoming season.

"Good luck to those guys," Bradford said. "I hope they work really hard when people are watching and work even harder when people aren't watching. That's what really makes the difference in high school and to make it to the next level.

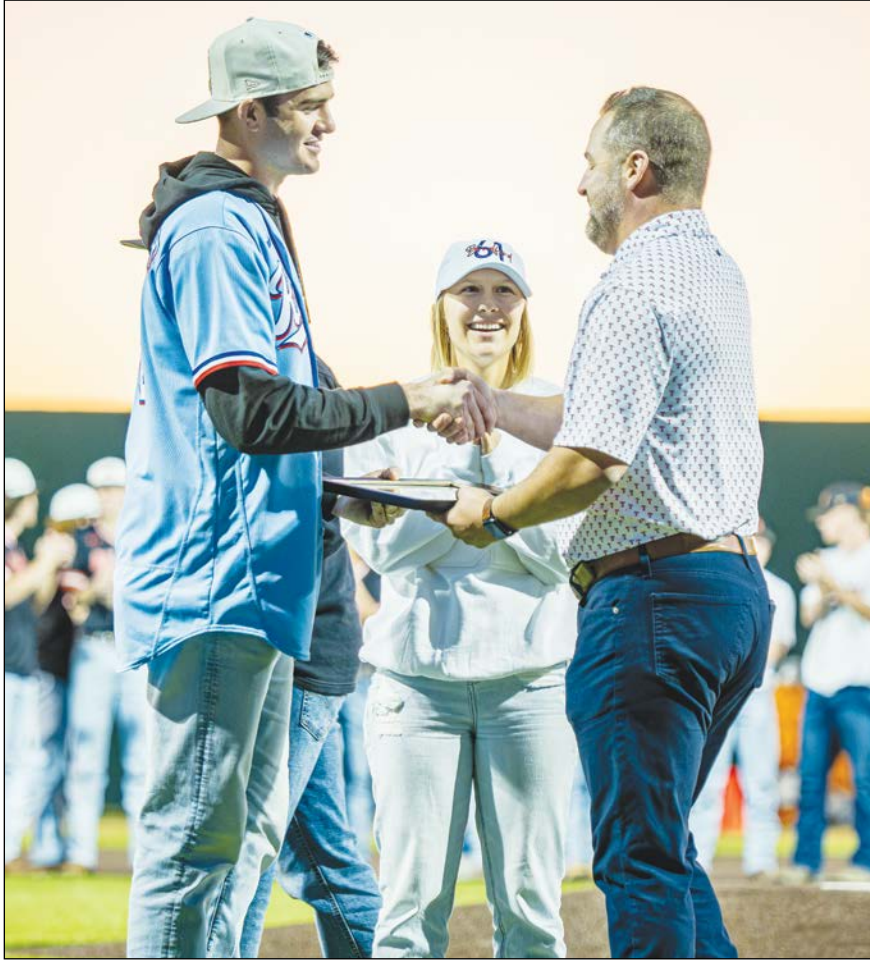
"Hard work can take you a long way. If you put your trust in the right places - put your trust in God - He can open up an infinite amount of doors that you never thought was going to happen."

More honors

In addition to the announcement by coach Barry, two more announcements were made.

Aledo High School is starting a scholarship in his name. It will go to a baseball player annually with the best grade point average.

Also, proceeds from T-shirt sales at Monday's event will benefit the Miracle League of DFW. It was the charity of choice by the Bradfords.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo mayor, Nick Stanley, gives Cody Bradford a plaque containing the official declaration making December 4, Cody Bradford Day in Aledo.



MASCOT

from page 4

He took correction well, however, and subsequent plural references were spot on. It's not news to many folks that two or more lions constitute a pride, but I'm thinking one might need to be closely involved with Springtown athletics to know the plural of "porcupine." So you'll know in the future, when we're talkin' two or more porcupines, they are a "prickle of porcupines." Now you know, and so does that public address announcer. (An aside: With Pickleball the new "semi-athletic" game rage, they'll understandably come up with something called "Prickleball" in Springtown.)

Researching the subject of plural names for animals, birds and other creatures fascinates to the max. Often, two, three or even more names are deemed acceptable.

In the case of guinea fowls, plural names differ, depending on whether they are on the ground or in flight. On the ground, they are a gaggle.

Once in flight, they become a flock. (One of 'em--waddling around on earth or flying alone in search of his or her flock--remains a goose.)

Remember, you read it here first....

Without leaving this general topic, let us segue to acronyms, some that are confounding and bitterly misunderstood. An example is the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport in California. When founded, it was called Fresno Air Terminal. Therein is the reason for its airport code: "FAT."



One woman--unaccustomed to flying--was indignant at the luggage carousel, upset that "FAT" was printed in large letters on each bag tag.

"I'll blame it on artificial intelligence this time," she said. "But if I ever visit Fresno again, they'd better 'smarten up.' I don't want to see anything about my weight, on luggage tags or otherwise."

A former travel agent provided the previous account from her list of "you-ain't-gonna-believe-this" memories.

She remembers one guy who had super-sensitive eyes that called for eyedrops multiple times daily. The travel agent learned this when she asked him if he preferred a window or an aisle seat.

"Oh, an aisle seat for sure," he replied. "I have a terrible time if anything blows into my eyes; if I took a window seat, someone might open a window. No telling what might blow in at 35,000 feet."

While on the topic of air travel, it seems there is a diminishing number of regional airlines. Though it slowly grew to major status, Texas International Airlines started out as Trans Texas Airways. It included service to smaller towns in Texas, some with population as small as 6,000.

It had numerous nicknames, including "Tree-Top Airways" and "Tinker Toy Airways."

Some wag jokingly described Trans Texas Airways thusly: "Trick or Treat Airways," adding, "a trick to get on and a treat to get off."

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks throughout Texas. Contact by phone: 817-447-3872; email, newbury@speakerdoc.com.



COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

WC President Tod Allen Farmer and TWU President Emily Messer were joined by key administrators from their respective institutions to sign the agreement on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

COLLEGE

from page one

COURT

from page 4

First-ever sighting in Texas of rare bird

Bird watchers recently flocked to a state park in hopes of seeing a little bird only rarely seen in the United States and for the first time in Texas. The gray-collared becard is a tropical bird that lives in Central America. Texas State Parks posted a "Rare Bird Alert" that alerted bird watchers of the sighting at Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville, *The News* reported.

The bird has only been seen in the United States twice before, both times in Arizona.

Meanwhile, scorpions are in strong supply


Texans are reporting an invasion of scorpions in their homes, according to numerous online reports. Wizzie Brown with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service told the *Houston Chronicle* that these distant cousins to spiders often move indoors with changing weather conditions, such as rainfall or dropping temperatures.

The striped bark scorpion is the most common and one of the most

venomous in Texas. They measure about 3/8 inches in length and are yellowish tan in color. While venomous, scorpions found in Texas are not considered lethal.

Brown advises sealing cracks and crevices on the outside of homes, not stacking firewood or other items against the house, and trimming trees and shrubs so they don't touch or hang over the roofline.

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



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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.

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 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://casha-hopeforchildren.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)



THURSDAY, DEC 14

Help for the Holidays

The Alzheimer's Association offers a monthly support group gathering on the 2nd Thursday of every month.

ACROSS

- 1 San Antonio AM
- 5 TX Ivory Joe Hunter's "Since ___ You Baby"
- 6 TXism: "suit ___ company" (family)
- 7 Dallas public FM
- 8 TX Willie's "Turn ___ the Party's Over"
- 17 "ugly" in Mexico
- 18 UT QB in 1973 Cotton Bowl victory
- 20 Emmitt's home state (abbr.)
- 21 this TX David was Colorado Rockies pitcher (1993-96)
- 22 pizza toppings
- 24 this moves "Big Tex's" jaw (2 wds.)
- 29 archaic plural of cow
- 30 historic ___ R. Swenson Cattle Co."
- 31 TXism: "grabbing ___ straws"
- 32 "Tapestry" artist (2 wds.)
- 34 NM ski destination for some Texans
- 35 init. of Gov. Runnels (1857-59)
- 36 1st newspaper in Texas territory: ___ Texas"
- 37 TXism: "scared ___ out of my wits"
- 38 El ___ Texas
- 39 what UT's Darrell Royal called the goal line (2 wds.)
- 41 preowned vehicle: ___ car

- 42 this Linares was first director of Texas Lottery
- 43 TXism: "___ tailed tooter" (party animal)
- 44 Indian warrior (2 wds.)
- 45 ex-Cowboy Dorsett
- 46 TXism: "___ as dirt"
- 47 mother of ex-Cowboy coach Jimmy Johnson
- 48 ch. 8 in Dallas refused to air this cop series when it first started (2 wds.)

- 50 dog or bat disease
- 51 brandin' or shootin'
- 52 TXism: "___ wit" (stupid)
- 53 explosive letters?

DOWN

- 1 1st chance for football score (2 wds.)
- 2 very old Lockhart church: ___ Episcopal
- 3 south Dallas suburb
- 4 TXism: "hard as putting up ___ in a windstorm"
- 9 actor Ngor of film "Vietnam, Texas"
- 10 Gen. Robert ___
- 11 young fellow
- 12 TXism: big frog ___ the pond" (VIP)
- 13 TXism: "never sign anything in the ___ a neon light"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

The next meeting will be from 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Aledo United Methodist Church. Volunteers offer activities for care receivers (with Alzheimer's/dementia) while caregivers attend meetings. For details, contact Sally Bond at ssbrn75@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

Winter Wonderland

Celebrate the holiday season at The Shops at Willow Park from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. at 210 Shops Boulevard Willow Park, TX 76087



Join Willow Park North and The Shops at Willow Park for our inaugural Winter Wonderland. This event is

free for everyone and perfect for the whole family. Featuring vendors, food trucks, holiday beverages, winter photo ops, a balloon dome, face painting, and more.

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Send event submissions to events@community-news.com.

Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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201 W. Rentz Street



402 W. Simmons Street



413 W. Lee Avenue



505 W. Josephone Street

TOUR

from page one

Tour of Homes. It is always a crowd favorite for locals and visitors highlighting some of the most beautiful & historic homes in our community," Weatherford Chamber of Commerce President Tammy Gazzola said. "It is wonderful seeing the history of the homes shared as well as preserved."

How it started/growth

The PCHS originally had a Spring Tour for several years. However, Davis said it became hard to find homes whose yards were "great" and the tour was hard on the owners because of that.

"They also thought about doing a night tour," she said. "Several other towns had successful Christmas Tours, including Waxahachie and Cleburne. So, they visited those Tours and decided to emulate or copy them since we have so many historic homes.

"I've been involved with the Heritage Society since we moved back to the area in 1994 and had attended some of the original Spring Tours and Candlelight Tours with my mother-in-law before we moved here, always a good time."

The numbers have ebbed and flowed over the years, Davis said, noting that advertising and publicity has changed a lot.

Taking the tour

"Last year almost 1,000 tickets were sold, but we are aware that a number of people just jumped in to see the homes when they saw the signs and crowds at a home," she said.

Visitors this year will receive a wristband when they purchase a ticket and they are supposed to be checked at the door to each home.

With tickets (tour booklet) in hand and wristbands on, people can go to the homes in any order. There will not be anything provided to eat or drink.

At the home they will first hear an actor talk about its history, generally on the front porch. Then they will walk through the home led by a docent, most will see the first floor only.

They will be led to the back exit by another docent.

"It is a fun thing for families or friends to do, especially if they like history, older homes, or Christmas - who doesn't?," Davis said. "Probably not small children or those who can't be controlled."

She added that most of the homes have steps to go up on the porch and to leave, so tourists need

to be able to navigate these. Sorry, no wheelchairs, baby strollers, etc.

Where the money goes

The PCHS is a 501(C)3 organization designed to promote the preservation of buildings, homes, and sites of historic or architectural significance within Parker County, to promote the maintenance of documents and records which describe the heritage of the county, and to promote civic interest in historical projects, education and culture throughout Parker County.

Over the years the PCHS has supported many local projects, including more recent projects such as refurbishing and shoring up the structure of the Prince Memorial CME Church on West Oak Street. That included rebuilding the porch and the roof.

Year before last they donated \$20,000 to Chandor Gardens to help pay for their long-range master plan. They also helped Chandor with the restoration or replacement of several other items through the years.

The PCHS also accepts grant requests to help historic projects throughout the county per their mission Statement:

Since 1983, the Heritage Society has used the funds raised during its annual Candlelight Tour to accomplish a variety of preservation tasks in the area.

Some of the notable projects/donations include:

1. Relocation and renovation of the log cabin located immediately south of the double log cabin at Hollands Lake Park.
2. The Second Ward school house relocation and renovation at Soldier's Spring Park (it was burned to the ground by vandals).
3. Refurbishment and renovation of the Parker County Courthouse.
4. Restoration of the caboose located next to the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.
6. Restoration of Greenwood Memorial Chapel on Greenwood Cut-off Road and work on the Greenwood Cemetery.
8. 1888 Parker County map restoration.
9. Chandor Gardens.
10. B-29 memorial plaque in front of the Weatherford Public Library.
11. Texas Pythian Home.
13. Weatherford Public Library Genealogy Room and Heritage Gallery.
14. Parker County Committee on Aging (for future senior citizens center).
15. Storybook Summer (purchase student summer reading materials)

Tour highlights

413 W. Lee Avenue

Remax Trinity Real Estate & Michelle Worthington-Alamo Title

A Victorian Queen Anne historical home is a type of architecture that was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As you approach this 1892 Queen Anne's home you will immediately notice the steep roofs with intersecting gables and the one-story wraparound porch with columns. There are ornamental fish scale shingles which enhance the beauty of this house.

The house has the original pine floors which are in pristine shape even though they are 130 years old. The house still has five of the original case windows with the wavy glass.

505 W. Josephone Street

A magnificent high style Tudor Gothic Revival was completed in 1939 along with the three-unit rental property next door.

Only three families have lived in this stately manor with all its original features. When the present owners purchased the property in 2022, the three-unit rental property was sold separately. This red brick and stone Tudor with a slate roof and the detached garage with an apartment for servants complement the character of this house, along with the diamond glass bay window.

The kitchen is original except for the stove.

110 S. Walnut Street

Citizen's National Bank

Wright Dudley Taylor moved to Weatherford at the age of 13. He worked with his father and they formed the Taylor and Taylor Real Estate Company. In 1891 Wright married Catherine Noland and in 1892 they built their first home. The house was built at the southwest corner of Church and Walnut Street where they raised their three children. The house was sold but remained a residence until 2022. It now has been updated although many of the original features are still there and is a Cultivate Real Estate Agency. This house is in the heart of Weatherford.

Campbell-Watson Home

201 W. Rentz Street

Kimberly Benge Photograph and Recaptured Charm

Built in 1902 by a hardware merchant named Carter, this home is best known as the Campbell house. Dr. Campbell, a prominent Weatherford physician, purchased the home around World War I and lived there until his death.

This home sits high atop Weatherford on several wooded acres, outlined by original iron fencing. Striking both inside and out, this home features tin ceilings, wainscoting, period lighting, and elegant wooded casework around doorways and windows, all original to the home. Of particular interest is the beautiful custom cabinetry in the kitchen and master bath that blends seamlessly with the home original features. Period antiques and window treatments combined with the architectural features create a turn of the century feel. This home is truly a Weatherford historic showplace.

Urbanology Cottage

212 E. Lee Avenue

Lisa Jacobs-Williams Trew Real Estate Company

The former Rose Garden Cottage sits on just over one-fourth of an acre. It was originally part of a five-acre tract of land purchased in 1869 for \$150. In 1921 Z.B. Mays purchased the five acres and built the bungalow style home in 1922. Vera Ragle purchased the home in 1947 and she lived there until 1981. She was remembered by locals as a loving school teacher who also taught music lesson in the home. In 2008 the Gillespie's purchased the home and turned the house into Weatherford's first stand-alone bed-and-breakfast cottage.

In 2022, it was sold and is now a welcoming eclectic 100-year-old cottage which has been re-imaged by the award-winning interior design firm-Urbanology Design, into just the right mix of vintage charm and modern sophistication. It is now an Airbnb with all the cozy charm and thoughtful design you could dream of, with a whole lot of adventure, whimsy, and mystery.

402 W. Simmons Street

Holland Lake Rehabilitation Center and Wellness Center

Celebrating its 134th year, this little jewel sits proudly in Weatherford's Historic Neighborhood. The Victorian Cottage has a transitional style leaning toward Eastlake, demonstrated by the traditional Victorian "fish scale" shakes on the gable, coupled with the simple "Star of Texas" detailing. Inspired by the ornate beauty of large Victorian architecture, the homes offer a charming and sophisticated living experience. From the intricate details of the exterior façade to the rich colors and textured materials, these small

40TH CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES

Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in Weatherford

Tickets: \$20 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and under.

Where to get: They must be purchased in advance at the Weatherford Chamber Commerce, 401 Fort Worth Hwy. through 2 p.m. on Dec. 8, or at the Doss Heritage and Cultural Center, 1400 Texas Dr. through 5 p.m. on Dec. 9. Tickets can also be purchased online at ParkerCountyHeritageSociety.com, then picked up at the Doss through 5 p.m. Dec. 9.

Victorian houses exude timeless elegance. Inside, you'll find high ceilings and decorative moldings. This five-room Victorian cottage was built between 1889-1900 for Mrs. Frankie Hutchison.

Gary Peterson bought the home in 2006 and did extensive remodeling, adding to the historical elements.

St Stephen's Chapel

211 South Main St.

PlainsCapital Bank

The first Catholic Church in Weatherford was built at the present site in 1882 and the first rectory in 1888. It was built on land purchased by the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese in Galveston for \$300. In 1900, a group of nuns came to Weatherford from New York and established a school at the corner of South Main and Lee Street streets, in a five-room house.

During this period (188-1889), the original church burned and Mass was conducted in the school. In 1902 the present red brick church and frame rectory was built. The basically Queen Anne style has elements of English Gothic Design.

The stained-glass windows are original throughout the building. Notable is the circular rose window with the Virgin in the center.

Originally the red brick building had no basement. In 1923, the basement of the church, which serves as the church hall, was hand dug by parishioners in 1923 led by the Czech contingent.

In 1902, the grapes and vine decoration on the upper walls was added to the church interior. In 1951, Father E. J. Johnson contacted the world-renowned British portrait artist, Douglas Chandor, who completely redecorated the interior of St. Stephen's. The main altar and side alters were painstakingly done in imported marble paper and gold leaf. He was tragically unable to see his work at the church completed.

In 1953 the Priests of the Irish Province of the Pallottine Fathers were commissioned to care for the Parishioners of St. Stephen's. This year we are celebrating 70 years of the Pallottine Priests serving St Stephen Catholic Church. According to the church leaders "It was wonderful the way the "expanded mission group" worked together sharing their talents to recreate the chapel.





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BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS – August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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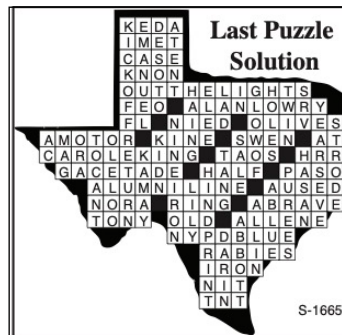
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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ladycats pounce on Cleburne

After 3rd in tourney

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

It's been a busy week for Aledo's Ladycats basketball squad. After playing five games in three days during the Burlison Tournament and securing a third-place finish in the process, the Ladycats returned to their regularly scheduled contest on Tuesday, Dec. 5, with a 48-34 win on the road in Cleburne.

Coming off a string of performances that earned them all-tournament honors, Elizabeth Griffin and Kinley Elms went right back to work against the Lady Yellowjackets on Tuesday. The duo led the Ladycats in scoring on the night, with 12 points and 10 points, respectively, to their credit.

Aledo came out to a hot start in the first quarter, as they put the home team in an early hole. The Ladycats controlled both ends of the floor, scoring at will on their end while shutting down Cleburne's offense on the other. Through the first eight minutes of action, Aledo held a nine-point advantage over their host, 15-6.

The pace slowed dramatically in quarter number two. The two teams combined to post just 10 points in

Turn to **LADYCATS**, page 13

FOOTBALL

Bearcats back in semifinals

Make short work of Abilene in inaugural meeting

By **Rick Mauch**
The Community

The Aledo Bearcats and Abilene Eagles had never played a game against each other in their many seasons of football — a history that includes 18 state championships.

After Friday night's contest at Tarleton State University's Memorial Stadium in Stephenville, the Eagles might want to wait a while before the two meet again.

The Bearcats (14-0) dominated the contest from the outset, winning 56-21 to run their winning streak to 28 games and advance to their 13th state semifinal in 15 seasons. In the previous dozen times they won 11 to move on to the state final — and then won 10 of those.

In short, the Bearcats are two wins away from their 12th state championship in team history. They will next face Forney (13-1) at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Midlothian Multi-Purpose Stadium.

The Jackrabbits outlasted upstart Lancaster (8-6) 43-41 on Friday, Dec. 1

Jumping out early

Before the Eagles (11-3) hardly got off the bus they found themselves in a 28-0 hole as Aledo scored on its first four possessions. Three of the touchdowns came before the game was even five minutes old.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Davhon Keys fights his way across the goal line for one of his three touchdowns against Abilene.

The Bearcats took the opening kickoff and marched 67 yards in six plays, with Devhon Keys scoring his first of three touchdowns on the night from 4 yards out in the Raider formation, in which he takes the snap from center. Following an 18-yard TD run by Hawk Patrick-Daniels and a wild kickoff recovery, Keys again found the end zone on a 5-yard run and Aledo had a 21-0 lead before some folks had made it to their seats.

On the kickoff, the ball bounced off an Abilene player and ricocheted back into Aledo territory,

where Chase Wilburn pounced on it for the Bearcats.

The first quarter ended with Aledo quarterback Hauss Hejny connecting with Colton McCoy for a 16-yard touchdown. It was the first of two TD throws for Hejny, who also hit Trace Clarkson for a 50-yard score in the fourth quarter that gave Aledo a 56-14 lead.

Dominant Defense

The Bearcats were most dominant with their run defense. They limited the Eagles to minus 2 yards on 17 carries.

"We just played more aggressive than they did," Keys, a linebacker, said. "They are a really good team. They made it to the fourth round, but we just came out aggressive and took it away from them."

Aledo Head Coach Robbie Jones praised the game plan of defensive coordinator Brad McCone and the way the players carried it out.

"We came in with a really good game plan and the kids executed it extremely well," Jones said. "Our defense played lights out the entire football game."

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 13

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GAME DAY ADVANCE

Bearcats, Jackrabbits to renew rivalry

First playoff meeting for teams

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

At the turn of the century, Aledo and Forney meeting on the football field was an annual occurrence. They played six consecutive seasons from 2000-05, never before and never since, with all six games being predistrict encounters.

The Bearcats won four of the six meetings, with the average score being 16-10. Each team posted a shutout, another game was decided by a touchdown (13-6 Aledo) and another by a field goal (17-14 Forney).

Then, as quickly as they began, the meetings stopped.

Now, the two will face each other once again for the first time in nearly two decades when they tangle at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, at Midlothian in the Class 5A Division I state semifinals. It will also be the first time they have ever met in the playoffs.

The winner will move on to the play the winner between Brownsville Veterans Memorial (12-2) and Spring Branch Smithson Valley (13-1) in the state championship game at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Guillory's status

Aledo sophomore running back Ray Guillory is questionable for Friday's game. He left the 56-21 victory against Abilene in the Region I final at Tarleton State University in Stephenville with a tweak to his sprained knee. The injury kept him out of the final regular-season game and the playoff opener against Killeen Shoemaker.

In two games plus a quarter in the playoffs, Guillory had rushed 31 times for 434 yards and six touchdowns. Despite missing three

complete games and most of last week, he leads the Bearcats with 1,207 yards and 17 TD on 145 carries, along with catching 10 passes for 175 yards and four more TD.

Powerful running games

Both the Bearcats and Jackrabbits have exhibited two of the state's strongest running games this season. Even with the absence of Guillory for most of last week's game, Aledo rushed for more than 300 yards against Abilene.

Much of that is credited to the running of two seniors, quarterback Hauss Hejny (824 yards) and wide receiver Hawk Patrick-Daniels (579), who has filled in more than suitably when Guillory is out. Patrick-Daniels led the Bearcats in rushing last season when he played the position full-time before moving to receiver this season.

Overall, the Bearcats are averaging 253 yards per game.

Forney averages 231 yards per game on the ground. The vast majority of those yards are coming from running back Javian Osborne, who has gained 2,154 yards and scored 39 touchdowns - 37 of which have come rushing.

"We just have to be where we're supposed to be and make tackles," Aledo coach Robby Jones surmised simply.

Offensive lines

Much credit has to be given to the offensive lines of both the Bearcats and Jackrabbits. While exact weight averages were unavailable for Forney, both teams have sizes ranging from around 230 to around 300, with Aledo averaging 275 pounds per lineman.

Much credit has to be given to the Bearcats linemen for the protection they have provided this season. Hejny has rarely been sacked and very few times have runners

been stopped behind the line of scrimmage.

On the other side, there's no questioning the protection the Jackrabbits linemen have been providing and the holes they've been opening up.

Among state leaders

Osborne, only a sophomore, leads Class 5A Division I in points scored (236) and total touchdowns (39). He is second in rushing yards.

For Aledo, Hejny ranks fourth in 5A Division I in total yards (3,238). Also, kicker Cole Crawford is fifth in kicking points with 80.

Close calls

Both teams have had some close calls this season, with two of the Jackrabbits' coming in the playoffs and two against the same team.

The Bearcats needed a last-second field goal to win 48-45 at Class 6A Denton Guyer in a predistrict game. Guyer advanced to the playoffs.

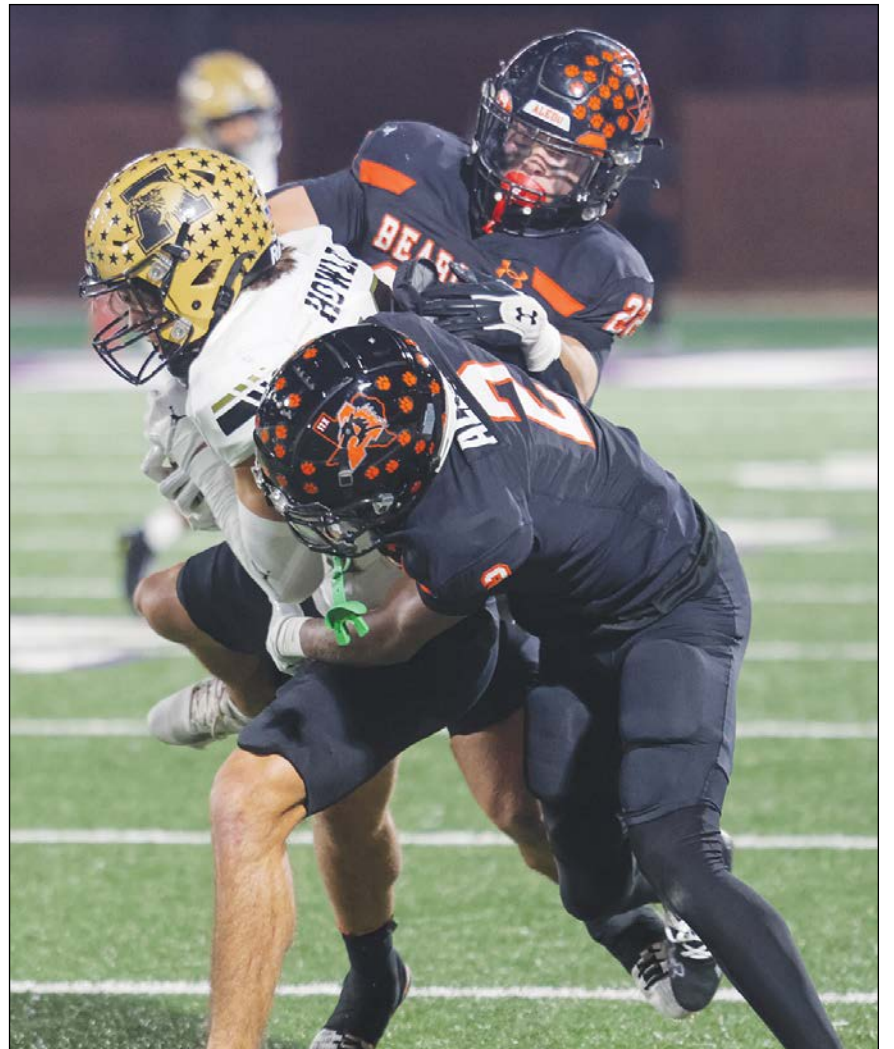
They also needed a late long run TD run by Hejny to avoid being upset by Denton Ryan at home, 25-19, late in the season. Ryan advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

In the regular season, Forney slipped past Lancaster at home 21-20 in overtime. The two met last week in the Region II final, with the Jackrabbits again surviving in double overtime 43-41.

Forney also had a narrow escape against Frisco Lone Star in the second round of the postseason, winning 26-24.

"I always want to beat somebody by four or five touchdowns if I can," Jones said. "But those tough ball-games, you learn from them, and Region II is a tough region. Those games do make you better."

"It was good that we had that matchup with Denton Ryan."



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jaden Allen (2) and Ben McElree (22) pull down an Abilene ball carrier. The Bearcat defense held Abilene to an unofficial minus-two yards in the game.

Common foes

The teams have no opponents in common. Coming from different regions, this is not unusual.

However, going back to last season they do have Longview in common. Aledo overcame a 14-3 halftime deficit against the Lobos, who were ranked No. 1 in the state and 14-0 at the time, to win 17-14 in a game that was delayed for more than two hours because of lightning.

Forney's lone loss this season was 13-7 at home to Longview. The Lobos advanced to the third round

of the playoffs this season before getting upset by Lancaster 27-24.

District success

Aledo and Forney both competed in districts that saw a lot of postseason success beyond their own.

The Jackrabbits competed in District 7-5A Division I. From there, Lancaster advanced to the regional final (four rounds), Longview reached the third round and McKinney North reached bidistrict. The overall district record in the playoffs is 9-3.

Turn to RIVALRY, page 13

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BASKETBALL

from page 16

points in the second quarter on Tuesday with six different players contributing to their tally.

"We shot the ball well early on," Robinson said. "That put us in a good spot being up 10 at the half. Really, just defensively, we were really bad. That's my fault. I've got to do a better job coming off the weekend. We played four games last weekend. I think we're a little fatigued, but everybody is this time of year. We've got to be a lot tougher defensively. That's my biggest concern after tonight."

While pleased with the way his team has performed as of late, especially at the offensive end of the floor, Robinson knows his team has some work to do before they encounter what lurks just around the corner with district play set to start on Dec. 19.

"Our guys are doing a good job of getting the ball inside, and



knowing when and where to put the ball," he stated. "We still got to get better at it, though. We're going to play a lot better athletes than what we've played, even in the past couple of weekends. We've got to be more precise and decisive as to when and where we're doing our post feeds inside, and when to attack."

On the upside, the Bearcats will have ample opportunity to work on some of the areas of their game that need some refining before district play begins. Aledo will host the Aledo Moritz Classic starting on Thursday. The Bearcats open the tournament with their first game set to start at 11:30 am.

Bearcats vs. Springtown - Dec. 5

Aledo	14	21	15	13	63
Springtown	11	14	23	13	61

Aledo scoring: Jackson Todd 23, Jack Sawyer 16, Owen Peterson 11, Joaquin Pacheco 9, Kaden LoBaugh 2, Brett Barclay 2.

BEARCATS

from page 11

The longest run of the night by the Eagles was 6 yards. They lost yardage on eight runs and were held to zero yards on two other runs.

As for the pass defense, Aledo's Cooper Kohan had a key interception midway through the third quarter after teammate Ky Howington blocked a pass. It set up Keys' third TD, a 2-yard run, and a 42-14 lead.

Third Down Struggles

One particular area in which the Aledo defense controlled the game was on third down. They held the Eagles to a 1-for-11 performance.

On fourth down, Abilene was 0-for-3.

Meanwhile, the Aledo offense converted five of 10 third-down chances, including five of their final six after starting 0-of-4.

On fourth, the Bearcats were 1-of-2.

Big Night (and Block) for Hauss

Hejny accounted for more than 300 yards of offense and three touchdowns. He passed for 203 and ran for 105, including a 35-yard score early in the third quarter that put Aledo up 35-14 when Abilene appeared to be on the verge of a rally..

The Eagles scored twice in the second quarter to close to within 28-14 at the half. The first came after an Aledo bad snap on a punt that set Abilene up at the Bearcats' 3-yard line.

Hejny stood out even when he didn't have the ball in his hands. On a 40-yard touchdown run by Patrick-Daniels, Hejny threw what might have been the block of the night to clear the way.

"When I cut back I saw somebody in black shoot past me like a rocket," Patrick-Daniels said. "I didn't know who it was at that moment, but it was a heck of block by Hauss."

Hejny said, "I played receiver my sophomore year and many of my plays were blocking."

Jones noted, "When he was playing receiver he was one of the best blockers we had." Then, he added, "You hold your breath every time that kid gets contact. But he's going to go compete, doing whatever it takes to help the team win."

Guillory leaves game

After getting off to a big start, running back Ray Guillory left the game for the Bearcats in the first half. He returned for limited action, but left the game again with what is suspected to be a flare-up of the sprained knee that sidelined him for the last game of the regular season and the first game of the playoffs.

Despite limited action Friday, Guillory gained an unofficial 65 yards on just five carries. He leads the Bearcats in rushing this season with more than 1,200 yards and a team-best 21 touchdowns scored.

His status for the next round was uncertain immediately after the game.

LADYCATS

from page 11

the second stanza with Aledo leading 21-10 at the break.

Coming out of the locker room to start the second half, the Ladycats went back to work. For the third quarter in a row, they outpaced the Lady Yellowjackets, increasing their lead to 37-16 with just eight minutes left in the game.

The hosting Lady Yellowjackets more than doubled their production for the game in the fourth quarter, as they

put up 18 points in the final eight minutes of action. However, it was too little, too late as Aledo went on to win by 14.

The Ladycats will return to action on Friday when they hit the road once again. They'll travel to Brock where they will take on the Lady Eagles in the final matchup before the start of district play next week.

Tipoff for Friday's contest in Brock is slated for 6:15 p.m.

Ladycats vs. Cleburne - Dec. 5

Aledo	15	6	16	11	48
Cleburne	6	4	6	18	34

Aledo scoring: Elizabeth Griffin 12, Kinley Elms 10, Natalie Anderson 7, Brooklyn Dempsey 7, Ella Isbell 6, Kate Jackson 4, August Carlone 2.

Ladycats vs. Lubbock Coronado - Dec. 2

Aledo	9	13	17	13	52
Coronado	9	14	15	6	44

Aledo scoring: Brooklyn Dempsey 14, Elizabeth Griffin 11, Kinley Elms 11, Ella Isbell 7, August Carlone 5, Kate Jackson 4.

Ladycats vs. Denton Ryan - Dec. 1 (Game 2)

Aledo	12	3	9	8	32
Ryan	11	9	17	17	54

Aledo scoring: Caroline Browning 10, Elizabeth Griffin 8, Ella Isbell 5, Kinley Elms 5, Brooklyn Dempsey 2, Brenna Clock 1, August Carlone 1.

Ladycats vs. Arlington Martin - Dec. 1 (Game 1)

Aledo	15	14	10	8	47
Martin	9	7	8	2	26

Aledo scoring: Kinley Elms 10, Ella Isbell 9, Caroline Browning 9, Brooklyn Dempsey 7, Natalie Anderson 4, August Carlone 4, Elizabeth Griffin 4.

Ladycats vs. Burleson - Nov. 30 (Game 2)

Aledo	13	8	16	9	46
Burleson	14	12	7	14	47

Aledo scoring: Kinley Elms 15, Brooklyn Dempsey 10, Natalie Anderson 7, Ella Isbell 4, August Carlone 4, Elizabeth Griffin 3, Caroline Browning 3.

Ladycats vs. University - Nov. 30 (Game 1)

Aledo	17	14	16	13	60
University	3	2	10	4	19

Aledo scoring: August Carlone 10, Caroline Browning 9, Ella Isbell 7, Brooklyn Dempsey 7, Rebekah Jerrell 7, Brenna Clark 6, Elizabeth Griffin 5, Kinley Elms 4, Natalie Anderson 3, Kate Jackson 2.

RIVALRY

from page 12

"It shows that you had to go through some very tough games in district, you're battle tested," Jones said. "They had to beat some good teams just to get out of their district."

The Bearcats competed in District 3-5A Division I. From there, Justin Northwest reached the third round, Ryan reached the second round and Centennial lost in bidistrict. The overall district play-off record is 7-3.

Offense/defense

Both teams can score a lot of points. Aledo is outscoring its opponents 50-17 this season, while Forney is outscoring theirs by a 46-16 margin.

In the playoffs, Aledo has a 48-23 scoring advantage per game, compared to Forney's 44-28.

On the season, each team has topped the 40-point scoring margin 11 times. Aledo reached 70 twice and 60 once, while Forney reached 60 four times.

On the defensive side, Each team posted three shutouts and held five opponents to a touchdown or less.

Takeaways/turnovers

Typically, great success is connected to an advantage in the takeaway/turnover aspect of the game. Not so with the Bearcats.

Aledo actually has a minus in that category. The Bearcats have surrendered the ball 18 times and have taken it away from opponents only 16 times.

The Jackrabbits, meanwhile, are plus 13 in the category.

However, as Aledo proved last week against Abilene, which entered the contest with a plus-28 in the category, giving up the ball doesn't mean an automatic score for the opponent. Aledo turned the ball over twice on interceptions and had a takeaway via an interception by Cooper Kohan.

The Bearcats scored after their takeaway and Abilene got no points off of their two takeaways.

"It's a credit to our defense. Even though we don't have 30 takeaways, our defense is getting those stops when we do turn it over," Jones said.

Jones also credited his defense for coming through with big plays when it matters most. For example, they held Abilene to 0-of-3 on fourth down and the Eagles were 1-of-11 on third down.

"It's making the stops at the right time," he said. "You've got to make plays at the right time."

Quick turnaround

It wasn't that long ago that the Jackrabbits were among the worst teams around. From 2016 to 2020 they were 11-38, including an 0-9

record during the COVID-19 season of 2020.

When current coach Jeff Fleener took the helm in 2021, he inherited a team that was riding a 15-game losing streak. They won their first game under him, 21-20 over Whitehouse, and went on to go 7-4 and reach the playoffs.

They again went to the playoffs last season, finishing 7-4 again, before finding the success of this season.

Raider in college?

While he is best known for his play at linebacker, Davhon Keys makes no secret that he loves running the ball on short yardage plays and scoring touchdowns. With his three against Abilene he has 12 TD on the season, including seven in the playoffs.

"I get into that [Raider] and try to assess my defense. It's fun. I enjoy it," he said. "I've got great guys around me."

Keys has committed to play for LSU next season. When asked if he might get to run the ball in similar situations, he said with a smile, "Tentatively, they're thinking about it."

Semifinal success

This will be the 13th time since 2009 the Bearcats are playing in a state semifinal game. They are 11-1 in the previous dozen contests, going on to win state 10 times.

The lone time they did not win in the semifinals was in 2015, when they lost 42-21 to Mansfield Lake Ridge, which then lost the state championship game 56-0 to Richmond George Ranch.

That is the only time in the past 14 seasons in which Aledo did not win state or was eliminated from the postseason by the team that went on to win state.

Unbeaten in Midlothian

Since Midlothian Multi-Purpose Stadium opened in 2006, the Bearcats have had good success there, having yet to lose a game in the facility. This includes three notable playoff victories on their way to state championships.

In 2013, the season the Bearcats set a national record (which they still own) by becoming the only team at any level to score 1,000 points in a season - with Jones as the offensive coordinator - they defeated Ennis 29-6 in the state semifinals. Surprisingly, the game was tied 0-0 at the half as each team had a long possession that took up most of each of the first two quarters.

In 2018 the Bearcats defeated Dallas South Oak Cliff 28-14 in the third round of the playoffs. The game featured a long lightning delay and South Oak

SUBVARSITY REPORT

Ladycats blast Sanger

Staff Reports
The Community News

Aledo JV girls basketball Ladycats 57, Sanger 9

Aledo	13	17	13	14	57
Sanger	5	2	0	2	9

Aledo scoring: Karsyn Evans 17, Jaylee Owens 6, Mesoma Emeka-Okoye 6, Lili Heckathorn 6, Savannah Salas 6, Breleigh Mayer 4, Kaelee Berkley 4, Jenna Haeussler 2, Coral Slough 2, Kenneday Cardenas 2, Natalie Browning 2.

Aledo freshmen girls basketball Aledo 45, Sanger 11

Aledo	19	8	9	9	45
Sanger	2	3	2	4	11

Aledo scoring: Sarah Edwards 22, Autumn Gudel 12, Braylin Wiggins 3, Macie Laidley 2, Ashlynn Jenkins 2, Isla Revard 2, Ruby Tarrant 2.

AMS girls vs. Everman

Seventh-grade: A Team lost 44-19, B Team won 35-13, C Team won 34-4.

Eighth-grade: A Team won 25-23, B Team won 37-0. No C game was played because Everman was short some players.

AMS girls vs. Brewer

Seventh-grade: A Team won 23-21, B Team won 39-6, C Team won 37-7.

Eighth-grade: A Team won 34-8, B Team won 26-12, C Team won 35-2.

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (14-0) vs. Forney Jackrabbits (13-1).

What: Class 5A Division I state semifinal.

When/where: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, Midlothian Multi-Purpose Stadium.

Returning starters: Aledo 7 offense/5 defense, Forney 5 offense/8 defense.

Last week: Aledo defeated Abilene 56-21 for the Region I championship. Forney defeated Lancaster 43-41 for the Region II title.

Last season: Aledo, 14-2, 5A Division I state champions. Forney 7-4, bidistrict.

Aledo offensive players to watch: WR Colton McCoy (17 catches, 341 yards, 2 TD, back strong in the playoffs after missing several games with injury and illness), RB Kaden Winkfield (415 yards, over 6 yards per carry, 5 TD, depending on status of Guillory, could see more action), RB Hawk Patrick-Daniels (579 rushing yards, almost 6 yards per carry, 10 TD; 28 catches, 390 yards, 3 TD receiving; a multiple threat and has kept the running game strong when Guillory is out).

Forney offensive players to watch: RB Javian Osborne (2,184 yards, 37 TD rushing, 2 more receiving), QB Kyle Crawford (60% completions, 2,413 yards, 29 TD, 8 int. Passing, 3 TD rushing), WR Kofi Edful (61 catches, 936 yards, 12 TD).

Aledo defensive players to watch: LB Davhon Keys (95 tackles, 16.5 for a loss, 4 sacks, 3 int., one returned for TD, 2 fumble recoveries, nearing a second straight 100-plus tackle season), CB Chris Johnson (35 of 38 tackles have been solo, 2 int., team leading 10 pass breakups),

Forney defensive players to watch: LB Landry Hopkins (112 tackles, 8 for a loss, 2 fumble recoveries), LB Kelvion Riggins (82 tackles, 7 for a loss, 5 sacks), CB Aaron Flowers (73 tackles, 7 int.).

Cliff officials wanted to go home and return the next day, while Aledo officials wanted to wait out the delay and return to play. Aledo prevailed and the game was played well into the night.

Last season in the third round, the Bearcats met an undefeated Midlothian team. Aledo trailed 21-14 going into the final quarter before rallying to win 27-21.





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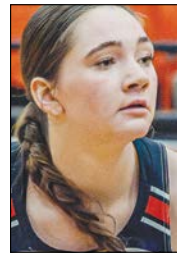
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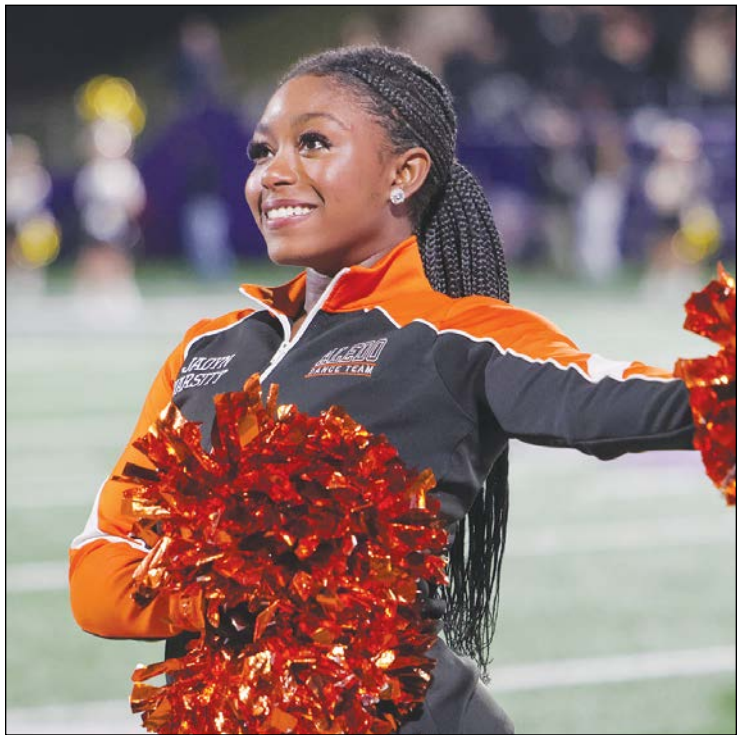
Kinley Elms
Basketball

The junior led all Aledo scorers as the Ladycats went 3-2 over the past weekend in the Burleson Tournament. She scored 45 points, including double digits in three games with a high of 15 in one.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Colton McCoy
Football

After battling injury and illness for much of the season and missing several games, the senior receiver had his best game of the post-season and his second best game overall in 2023. He caught three passes for 38 yards and a touchdown in a 56-21 win over Abilene in the Class 5A Division I Region I final.

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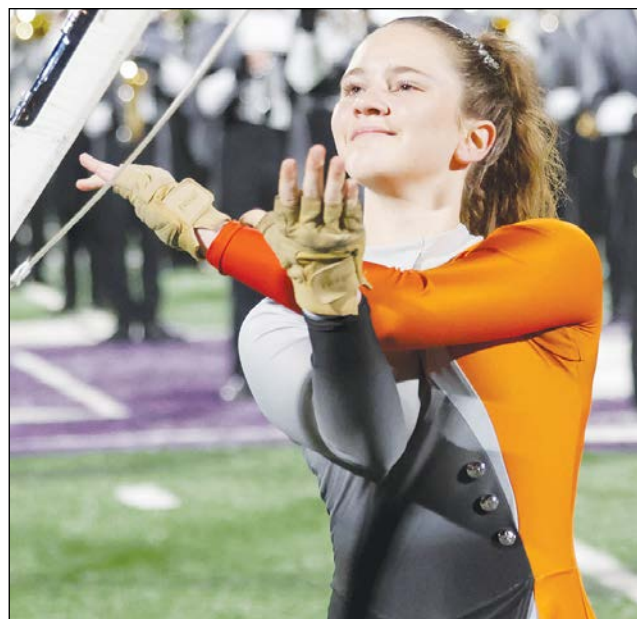
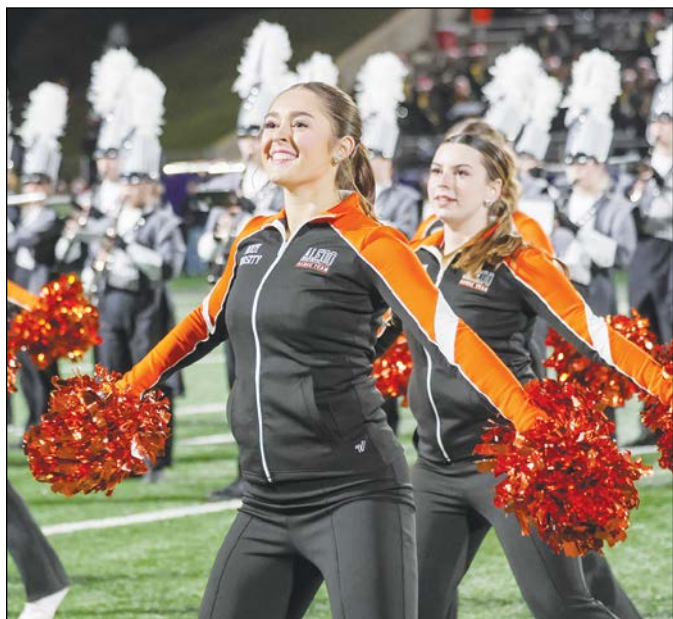
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BOYS BASKETBALL

Pacheco's clutch score leads Bearcats past Springtown

First home game in three weeks

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

After having not played on their home court in 21 days, Aledo went down to the wire with Springtown on Tuesday, Dec. 5, before Joaquin Pacheco took an inbound pass the length of the floor for the go-ahead score with just four seconds left on the clock.

The Bearcats defense struggled all night, but managed to come up big when they needed it most, as the Porcupines came up empty at the final buzzer with Aledo picking up the 63-61 win.

For Aledo hoops head coach, JD Robinson, the disappointment in the Bearcats defensive performance weighed heavy even with the win.

"We lost track of our man several times," Robinson said during the postgame interview. "Our goal is to see man and ball at all times. There were several times where we lost one or the other. We were late rotating. That's something we talk about all the time, is seeing man and ball."

Aledo held a 10-point lead at halftime, but a tumultuous third quarter defensively provided Springtown with the opportunity to get back in the game. The Porcupines scored 23 points, while taking nine shots from the free-throw line, cutting the Bearcat lead to just one possession, 50-48.

With Springtown reeling the Bearcats back in during the third quarter, the stage was set for a

drama-filled finish as the fourth quarter got underway. A pair of buckets by Jack Sawyer at the 7:37 mark, and the 4:12 mark gave the home team some breathing room with six points dividing the two teams and forcing Springtown to take a timeout.

Following the brief intermission, Dayne Thompson knocked down a three-pointer to cut the lead in half, keeping Springtown within striking distance, 55-52, with 3:57 remaining. In the ensuing possession, Owen Peterson answered back with a three of his own to put the Bearcats back up by six, 58-52, with just over three minutes remaining.

The action stayed quiet as a minute's worth of time trickled away on the game clock. With 2:01 left, Braylon Easter hit Springtown's second trey ball of the fourth quarter, once again slashing Aledo's lead in half.

In the final two minutes, the combatants traded opportunities at the charity stripe with neither able to seize a notable advantage. However, a pair of trips to the line with under 30 seconds left in the contest for the Porcupines knotted the game up at 61-61 with just 11 seconds left on the clock following a 2-for-2 trip to the stripe for Easter.

Robinson called a timeout to talk his guys through the plan to end the game with one final bucket.

As action resumed Pacheco curled near the baseline at the far end of the floor to take the inbounds pass from Jackson Todd. From there he raced down the floor



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Joaquin Pacheco scores the game-winning basket with four seconds left in the game. Aledo defeated Springtown 63-61 on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

passing by multiple Porcupines with relative ease. As he reached the top of the key the Bearcats had a favorable 2-on-1 situation with Sawyer setting up shop near the low post.

With the lone defender unable to leave his man fast enough, Pacheco glided towards the goal, laying the ball off the glass for an easy go-ahead bucket that put Aledo up 63-61 with four ticks left on the clock.

Springtown took the inbounds pass, raced down the floor where they were greeted by the Bearcats at half-court. Throwing up a desperation shot from well beyond the three-point line as time ran

out, the ball found nothing but air as Aledo walked off the hardwood having successfully defended their home court.

Aledo jumped out to an early lead largely due to their ability to knock down long-range jumpers behind the arc. Todd and Owen Peterson both knocked down multiple three-pointers in the first half, including a buzzer-beater by Peterson that put the Bearcats up 14-11 at the end of the first quarter.

One of the things Aledo does better this season than last, is getting everyone involved in the offense. The Bearcats posted 21

Turn to BASKETBALL, page 13

WRESTLING

Aledo grapplers place at elite tourney

First of two home matches next Monday

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo boys and girls wrestling teams competed in the Mike McCready Memorial Invitational at Colleyville Heritage this past weekend. Three Aledo wrestlers placed among the top six in their respective weight classes.

For the boys, Sam Belyeu placed fourth in the 165-pound division. Meanwhile, Brice Bohn took sixth in the 113 category.

The girls were led by Ari Mathias, who placed fifth in the 138 category.

"It was a great tournament, and we got to see some solid competition," Aledo coach Austin Stockon said. "Both teams competed well and are continuing to get better in each tournament. Come out next Monday and support our varsity wrestlers as they compete at home starting at 5:30 p.m. in the AHS gym."

The boys and girls are competing in the Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD Invitational at Chisholm Trail High School Friday and Saturday. Monday, they will host their first home match of the season when they take on Benbrook and Carter Riverside in a tri-match.

After that, the Bearcats and Ladycats won't be home again until Jan. 22 when they host Brewer on Senior Night. That will also be their final home match of the season as the district tournament is Feb. 1-2 in Vernon, followed by regionals and state.

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