

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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A Bearcats Dozen Bring home 12th State Championship



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo Bearcats celebrate after defeating Smithson Valley 51-8 for their 12th state title at AT&T Stadium on Dec. 15. Read more beginning on page 3.

ALEDO ISD

Demographic projections

Trustees get updates

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Days after closing on a 100-acre land purchase north of Old Weatherford Road, the Aledo School District Board of Trustees met on Monday, Dec. 18, for their regular monthly meeting.

The procured land sits to the north of McAnally Middle School and to the northeast of the future Lynn McKinney Elementary School site currently under construction.

Aledo ISD traded 50 acres of land it previously owned for a 50-acre parcel owned by Walsh Ranch to go along with the purchase of the adjoining 50 acres. The district spent \$1.95 million of the \$7 million budgeted for the acquisition of land afforded

Turn to **AISD**, page A2



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Workers are removing twisted train segments and more than a dozen 20-foot cargo containers after a stuck 18-wheeler was hit by a train on FM 5 near Annetta Elementary School. The incident happened at noon on Saturday, Dec. 16, and destroyed 180 feet of track. According to the Texas Department of Public Transportation, the driver was out of his cab and unhurt when the Union Pacific train hit the truck, but the engineer of the train was treated for minor injuries.

HUDSON OAKS

Transportation bond

Passage excites city administrator

By Melissa Winn
The Community News

It's no secret to anyone driving on either surface streets or Interstate 20 that Parker County is experiencing exponential growth.

In fact, the county has the designation of being the sixth fastest growing in the U.S.

Trying to keep pace, county commissioners called for a \$130 million transportation bond to be placed on the November ballot. The bond, which voters passed by a 59 percent to 41 percent margin, includes a total of 35 projects that focus on enhancing I-20, FM 730, FM 1187, and several intersections.

That's welcome news to Sterling Naron, Hudson Oaks City Administrator.

"The passage of the bond signals that the taxpayers are prepared to invest in transportation projects and work with state and federal partners to address issues facing our

Turn to **BOND**, page A2

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ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

THSCA honors

19 from Aledo earn accolades

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Intelligence and success often go hand-in-hand, or perhaps trophy-in-case.

Take, for example, the Aledo High School athletic program. Nineteen senior athletes were named academic all-state by the Texas High School Coaches Association.

To qualify for academic all-state, a player must be an athlete, student trainer or manager in good standing with the team, of good moral character, a senior and have an overall grade-point average of 92 or above, including courses from grades 9-11 and courses completed from grade 12 (weighted GPAs accepted).

"This shows we have really intelligent athletes," Aledo football coach Robby Jones said. "We can teach them to do a lot of different things."

Honored from Aledo were:

Football - Nathan Hall, first team; Jackson Parker, first team; Davhon Keys, first team; Carter Campbell, first team; Logan DeFranzo, second team; Lexi Steffe (manager), second team; Alex Arana second team; Allie Graham (manager), honorable mention; Nathan Patridge, honorable mention; Brett Turner, honorable mention; Tyson Timms, honorable

mention; Jayton "Boogie" Owens, honorable mention; Caden Atwood, honorable mention.

Team tennis - Scott Mason, second team; Ibrahim Choudhry, honorable mention.

Volleyball - Natalie Anderson, first team.

Cross country - Caden West, second team; Vincent Luffey, second team; Aubrey Connelly, honorable mention.



AISD

from page A1

by the passage of the 2023 Bond Election last spring.

The newly purchased property is intended to house a second high school facility once the need arises. No plans for a second high school currently exist.

To go along with the land procurement, the board welcomed Kris Pool to the meeting on Monday. Pool represents Population and Survey Analysts (PASA), a third-party demographics company utilized by the district to ensure they are prepared for the future growth that will inevitably take place.

Pool spent the first few minutes of her presentation providing the board with an update on where the official numbers for the district landed versus PASA's projections for the year. The birth rate and average number of children per household in the district continued to tick up over the last year from 0.59 children per household in 2022 to 0.61 children per household in 2023.

PASA expected the incoming kindergarten class to grow by 73

students across the district for this school year. However, the actual number of kindergarten enrollees shrank by five students compared to 2022, missing projections by a net of 78 students.

Contrarily, second grade enrollment exceeded expectations for the year, growing by a total of 87 students.

Pool mentioned a majority of the growth coming into the district stems from new home construction. New homes constructed in the district are responsible for approximately 400 new students a year right now. That number is expected to increase to around 900 students per year over the next 10 years.

PASA put together their projected growth track for the district, highlighting three scenarios they believe are the most likely outcomes given the historic growth trends recorded for Aledo ISD.

In their slow-growth trend projection, PASA noted Aledo ISD's total enrollment for the 2023-24 school year is 8,146 students. In this scenario, if the lower kindergarten class size experienced this year becomes a norm due to housing developments slowing across the district

in the event mortgage rates stay high, birth rates stabilize rather than increase, and charter schools move into the district, PASA projected total enrollment for the 2033-34 school year to be 14,145.

In their moderate-growth scenario, where mortgage rates flatline resulting in fewer new home purchases in the district, kindergarten class sizes continue along the previously recognized trend with this year being an anomaly, and only one new charter school moving into the district, their projection is for the district to more than double over the next 10 years to 16,811.

In the high-growth projection scenario, PASA expects mortgage rates to decline prior to the election, birth rates to increase along their current trend, no notable development of charter schools in the district, and the kindergarten class sizes to increase year-to-year as expected, they predict Aledo ISD could be responsible for educating 20,105 students by 2033.

Season of giving

Trustee Jennifer Taylor took a moment at the beginning of the meeting to recognize the AdvoCats group for all their work this holiday season with their



BOND

from page A1

community," he said. "Most residents are excited about it and ready for the various projects to come to fruition."

Naron credited both County Commissioners Jacob Holt and Mike Hale for keeping Hudson Oaks involved in the process early.

"[They listened] to the community's needs and concerns...through various meetings with myself and Mayor Tom Fitzpatrick," he explained, adding that there were also town hall and public meetings.

Of the various projects, Naron said that the improvement of the east and west corridors, such as frontage roads that fully connect and the connection of Bankhead Highway, will be "vital" to complete prior to the expansion of I-20.

"This will provide [relief] while I-20 is under construction with various lane closures and allow local residents to navigate the county without needing to get onto [the highway]."

One of the projects Naron is looking forward to is the expansion of Oakridge Drive, a multi-jurisdictional road with Hudson Oaks, Parker County and Weatherford all responsible for various portions of the road.

"This reconstruction and expansion will fix a deteriorating road surface and create a safe route for the many families, teachers and buses that travel that road to and from Mary Martin Elementary on a daily basis."

Naron added that the projects being addressed by the bond are "long overdue" and that it will enhance the community by creating improvements and safety enhancements.

"The exciting part will be the county's ability to leverage these approved dollars for increased state and federal funding to stretch these dollars even further."

Ultimately, Naron said increased traffic impacts everyone in the county, not just Hudson Oaks residents, and that while the bond passage is a positive first step, the solutions won't happen overnight.

"The community will need to be patient with the county as projects of this size and scope take time to plan, engineer, design and construct," he said. "Locally, we are excited."

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It never gets old

Bearcats climb the summit again for 12th state title

By Rick Mauch
 The Community News

Over the past decade and a half it's virtually impossible to be a player who has come through the Aledo Bearcats football program and not have won a state championship.

Yet, as the week began, that's the position wide receiver Trace Clarkson and defensive end Cooper Kohan, both seniors, found themselves in.

Though the Bearcats won a state title in 2022, both were on the sidelines watching with knee injuries that kept them out the entire season. And while they played part of the season as sophomores in 2021, that was one of the rare seasons the Bearcats did not win a championship.

Now, they can also tell their children and grandchildren what it feels like to win a state championship as a player as the Bearcats defeated Comal Smithson Valley 51-8 at AT&T Stadium on Friday, Dec. 15.

With 12 state championships, the Bearcats added to the state record they already owned as the program with the most state titles in Texas history.

"I had in my room a bunch of goals for this season, and at the end of the day, going 16-0 and winning state tops them all," said Clarkson.

"This is where I was born and raised. I'm always going to be proud to be an Aledo Bearcat."

Clarkson finished the game with four catches for 72 yards.

"It was tough watching last year," Kohan said. "Once I got hurt I realized what I lost and that I kinda loved it. This is what I've dreamed of since I was a kid, winning a state championship and a perfect season."

"This is everything I wished for. I'm gonna miss all these guys and it's so great to share this state championship with them."

Kohan ended the night with four tackles.



HISTORY FOR JONES

While he's celebrated winning state championships before, this is the first time Robby Jones has enjoyed one as a head coach. What's more, he accomplished something that's never been done before at Aledo.

Amidst the vast plethora of records the school holds, never before has a head coach gone undefeated in his first season at the helm of a Bearcats football program. With Friday's win, Jones guided Aledo to a 16-0 season, the fifth time in program history - all since 2009.

Interestingly, all five perfect seasons came after Jones was named offensive coordinator in 2009 - and, of course, head coach this season.

"It's special. My name is attached to it. Offensive coordinators don't have their name attached, so, yeah, this is really

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 6



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: The Bearcats celebrate after winning their 12th state title. | **BOTTOM:** Trace Clarkson (11) had four catches for 72 yards against Smithson valley.

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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

Property tax cuts go into effect



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

A total of \$18 billion in property tax cuts were approved by more than 80% of voters in the November general election and should be reflected in property tax bills that are due by Jan. 31. The cuts come in the form of increased home exemptions, lower school district rates, and limiting the amount property appraisals can rise.

Many taxing districts sent out bills before the election that factored in the decrease, anticipating voter approval. For example, in Gregg County in Northeast Texas, the tax bill noted on the back sheet that the lower amount was contingent on voter approval of the proposed amendments. If the amendments had not passed, taxpayers would be billed for the difference.

According to the state comptroller's office, a typical homestead valued at \$350,000 will see a tax savings of about \$1,000. Prior to the approval of the tax cuts, Texas ranked sixth highest in the nation in property tax rates, partly because the state does not have a state income tax.

Paxton impeachment cost taxpayers \$4.3 million

The Dallas Morning News reported last week that the taxpayer cost of impeaching Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was more than \$4.3 million. More than two dozen lawyers worked to prosecute Paxton leading up to

and during his two-week trial in the Senate. That chamber acquitted him of all 20 charges after the House voted overwhelmingly to impeach Paxton, who is under indictment for securities fraud and was accused of abuse of office.

Lawyers billed more than 7,800 hours related to Paxton's impeachment, The News reported after seeking copies of all invoices and related documents. Co-counsel Dick DeGuerin defended the amount of work done by attorneys.

"Everything we did was justified, and I won't retreat from that statement ever," DeGuerin said. "We presented strong evidence that Paxton just surrendered the power of his office in a corrupt way. It's just that his financial supporters threatened retaliation against the Republicans that would have voted for conviction."

Paxton has vowed to campaign in the Republican primary against House members who voted for his impeachment, especially House Speaker Dade Phelan.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," Paxton said in a statement released by his campaign. "Whether it's the House costs, Senate costs, or the overall impeachment session costs, many millions more were incurred on Dade Phelan's sham and needless impeachment."

Phelan said Paxton's refusal to testify before the House on a proposed \$3.3 million settlement of a whistleblower lawsuit prompted the investigation that led to the impeachment.

"The investigation, impeachment, and trial of Ken Paxton shed a clear, unflinching light on who Paxton is and the lengths to which he will go to stay in power," Phelan said in a statement.

Texas members of Congress face sparse election opposition

Texas has 38 seats in the U.S. House, and 35 incumbents are seeking re-election, the *Texas Standard* reported. Of that number, 16 do not have a primary challenger, while five will face no opposition in the general election as well.

Of the remaining three seats — all in North Texas — two members are retiring, while U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, opted to run against U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz next November.

"It is not at all uncommon for incumbents to pretty much coast to reelection, even if they are challenged in the primary or the general election. Incumbents have an enormous advantage in name I.D. and ability to fundraise, connections and networks within the district," Todd Gillman of *The News* said.

Board signs off on school library book rules

The State Board of Education approved guidelines for Texas school libraries to use in implementing policies to ban the possession or purchase of books considered "sexually explicit." The guidelines follow passage of a bill in the last regular session requiring book vendors to supply ratings for titles that contain sexual content. The law is being challenged in court by a coalition of book vendors and associations.

"It was a work of deep value and importance to bring the library standards to fruition. In Texas, parents have been identifying this issue to schools without the necessary support of law," said

SBOE member Audrey Young, R-Trinity.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission must also adopt the standards. Each of the state's 1,000-plus school districts must approve a policy that explains how school libraries acquire books and other materials.

Judge upholds ban of TikTok on state-issued devices

An Austin federal judge last week upheld the state's ban of TikTok on government-issued devices such as phones, laptops or tablets, *kut.org* reported. U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman upheld the policy that was challenged by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, which claimed the ban was unconstitutional.

"Texas's TikTok ban is limiting the use of an app on state-provided devices and networks, which is not a blanket prohibition," Pitman wrote. The ban followed concerns that the Chinese company that owns TikTok — a social media platform — could provide sensitive data to the Chinese government.

TikTok spent about \$1.5 billion on an initiative called Project Texas to address national security concerns. The Biden administration has called for the company to sell TikTok or face a national ban. A bill passed by Congress bans its use on federal government devices.

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.



Idle American

A blessing of beds



Dr. Don Newbury

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We have eyes to see and hearts to serve, yet somehow don't recognize the importance of both purpose and passion until we see needs up close at life's intersections.

Thankfully, such consciousness--the kind leaving lumps in our throats and guilt in our minds--results when we hear accounts from folks whose lives have changed direction through the pursuit of serving others.

In this season of commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, in a straw-strewn stable with no crib for his head, we are jolted by a jarring fact. In the here and now, some three percent of American children sleep nightly on the floor, on worn out sofas and even on piles of clothing worn during the day.

Luke Mickelson, living the good life with his family in Twin Falls, ID, built a bed for a girl named Hailey, a bedless six-year-old in his town. Seeing her plight, sharing her tears and determined to do more, he began his fulltime philanthropic pilgrimage almost five years ago. Sole purpose of his

non-profit organization, "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," is to work toward reducing--perhaps even eliminating--what he calls "bedlessness."

Luke's calling has helped him sleep better, too, because he has ignited both passion and purpose in the hearts of thousands of others. There's been a national chorus of "What can we do to help?" Bed-building across the land by volunteers in some 300 chapters abounds. There's no end in sight.

"No kid sleeps on the floor in our town" is a slogan not only fostered, but deeply heartfelt.

Representatives of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" tell their stories wherever possible, one of their main targets being civic clubs. Thankfully, SHP representative Bruce Crenshaw visited my Burleson, Texas, Lions Club a few months ago, and the results have been electrifying.

He shared his sense of "passion and purpose" magnificently, and since his visit, 10-12 of our members have built 180 beds for Texas Lions Camp. They've also delivered and set up beds in dozens of area homes and apartments, their joy matching the delight evident in the eyes of children opening gifts on Christmas morning. One much-talked about recipient kissed her bed.

The impact of SHP is staggering. Magnitude of SHP continues to grow in both the USA and Canada. Want a

statistic? Some 57,000 beds have been built and delivered in 2023 ALONE! Volunteers have built, delivered and set up all of the beds. Mickelson walked away from a well-paying job in favor of giving all his energies to the tax-exempt organization--one which has highest standards in the world of non-profits. It passes the test of truth and integrity long admired and envied by the Dr. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Mickelson and his followers are sharing with thousands of others the joy of "giving back," kindling the fires of passion and purpose that may have slowly been reduced to smoldering, now aflame with energy, support, and enthusiasm.

Stories about SHP abound on the Internet, including its website, shpbeds.org. There's also information on how others can get involved by providing time, energy and support, perhaps all three.

It is noted that the organization has some national sponsors, the kind who contribute at least \$50,000 annually.

One such sponsor is Lowe's. Here's a grand example of how Lowe's and SHP faithful can "build something together."

On the SHP website, one may identify children who need beds. There will be a positive response, even if it takes a while.



Luke Mickelson, Charity Founder

There are many reasons, of course, why this charity has found its place quickly. Though Jesus never had an earthly place to lay His head, he was able to change the world as he traveled the then-known world on foot.

Crude as the manager was, surely it was immersed in love. He bade little children to come unto Him, and, for all of us, he promised assurance of rest. Most of us have more than we need and recognize the importance of a good night's sleep. May God bless you, Luke Mickelson, and all the folks he's inspired.

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks regularly throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.



Look at it This Way

McKinley brings more than wins to Weatherford



Rick Mauch
sports@community-news.com

When I first moved to the area in 1996 it was in the middle of winter. In fact, the day we made the move from Tyler to Weatherford it was pouring rain and freezing cold.

Like any move, it was both exciting and scary. Now, having lived here almost three decades, with the exception of a couple years we moved to Colorado, I would say I have adapted well.

Sometimes I still wonder if others have gotten used to me and my idiosyncracies - or ever will - but that is a subject for another time. I haven't been stoned or run out of town - yet - so that's something to brag about to the grandkids, I reckon.

As I have said for as long as I can remember - which, if it's not a song lyric from the 1970s or a University of Alabama football highlight, is admittedly dwindling by the day (the lovely Mrs. Junell will say by the hour) - the Lord's going to put you where he's going to put you, so you might as well pack your suitcase and go willingly.

Meeting Bob

All of this is leading up to spotlighting one of the first friendly faces I met upon my arrival, Bob McKinley, coach of the Weatherford College Lady Coyotes basketball team. Not too long after I got here we were introduced and I've been proud to call him my friend ever since.

And at no time have I been happier for him than recently when he won his 1,000th game as a coach. That's a lot of victories, a lot of time on the sidelines, and a lot of time being one of the most positive influences young ladies - and men, as he once coached both the Coyotes and Lady Coyotes - will ever encounter in their lifetime.

I know, he influenced mine and continues to.

A winner on many levels

First of all, Bob is a winner. Of course, the 1,000th victory makes that obvious, but he's also led the Lady Coyotes to several national tournament appearances, including a fourth-place finish in the late 1990s.

But Bob is a winner at much more than on the court. He's devoted, first and foremost to his family, which he has always made time for as he, like most coaches, walks that delicate line between work and family life.

He adored his wife of many years, Dee, who passed away in December of 2020. He did more than love her, he honored her, respected her and listened to her.

While the rest of the world has difficulty holding onto something for even 57 minutes, Bob and Dee were together 57 years - and it's obvious her memory will inspire him for the rest of his own life.

Having been at WC well over four decades, and having numerous opportunities to leave, Bob opted to stay because he chose being at home instead of bolting for more money and prestige. There's no doubt he could have enjoyed great success at a much larger program, but as he would likely say if asked, "Why leave when I'm happy here?"

Bob loves being in a position to mold young lives, many of whom face challenges students at other schools don't. Many of the talented players who take the junior college route do so because they have wrinkles to work out in life. Bob has smoothed out many wrinkles in his career.

Many players had their lives adjusted in a more positive direction simply by being in his atmosphere, going from a questionable future to one of greatness.

He's loyal to his players long after they no longer wear the WC uniform. Ask him about almost anyone who's ever been on his roster and he can immediately tell you where they are now, what they are doing, about their family - and, of course, how happy he is for them. Often, he'll add, "I was just talking to them yesterday," or "I got an email from them just the other day."

And it's not only the players who were stars and standouts for him. He can update you on players who rarely got into a game, most always tossing in a compliment like, "They worked about as hard as any player I've ever had," or "They didn't have as much talent as some others, but I wish every player had their heart."

One great heart inspires another, Bob.

Weatherford owes him a debt

Bob would disagree, but the city of Weatherford and Parker County as a whole - heck, even the entire Metroplex - owes Bob a heap of thanks. Largely because of him, the Lady Coyotes are recognized and respected throughout the country - even the world, given how many players from other countries he brought to America to better their lives.

Of course, they helped his basketball program, but helping them come here opened doors they might not have otherwise been able to walk through.

With the recognition of the basketball team comes attention for the city of Weatherford. The city deserves to be known throughout, to be certain, and the success of Bob and Weatherford College are a big reason why and a large part of the many things the community has to offer.

Who knows how much longer Bob will coach? He's still very good at his job, so no one is going to force him into retirement - nor should they. He's earned the right to call it quits when he decides.

Even my daughter Kinsley and I owe him a debt. Thanks to Bob, she was asked to sing the National Anthem at a few WC games, a memorable moment that certainly didn't hurt on a college resume' either.

Personally, thanks Bob for the story ideas you've given me, for the respect you have shown me in my own profession, and mostly because of the friendship you've shown me. I love it when my friends reach major milestones and achieve greatness. You, my friend, are about as great as they come with 1,000 victories on the court and many more in life.



WEATHERFORD

Council meets for last time in 2023

Alcohol sales near church denied

By Jim Zimmerman
The Community News

The last meeting of the year for the Weatherford City Council, held on Dec. 12, was one that had a large agenda with a full chamber of concerned citizens - and one item up for approval that three council members debated for more than 35 minutes before Mayor Paul Paschall decided to referee the situation.

Alcohol near church voted down

The council was tasked with a request for authorizing a variance for the sale of alcohol at a location less than 300 feet, door to door, from Victory Baptist Church. Normally, the sale of alcohol is prohibited by state regulations within 300 feet of a church, public hospital, or a public or private school.

The controversy arose due to an incorrect measurement by both the city and the Texas Alcoholic and Beverage Commission, City Manager James Hotopp explained.

"The city measured from the church door to what we believed was the point of origin to measure to. The TABC also made the same mistake and after the correct ending point was determined, the front door to door measurement was 246 feet and not the required 300 feet," Hotopp said.

Even though the variance was not approved, staff and the business owner are still in discussion.

Downtown debates

The item that took the most time and most discussion concerned the approval of a Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement with Downtown Weatherford Square Initiative for a one-year term retroactive to Oct. 1, 2023 in the amount of \$150,000. Board member Zack Smith researched the company and found a small discrepancy in their accounting when they filed taxes.

Mayor Pro Tem Heidi Wilder had several concerns on how that

would reflect on the image of the City of Weatherford if they hired a firm that made financial mistakes. Council member Kevin Cleveland was quick to let everyone know that the company in question was indeed doing the right things, and that their work was not a reflection of the small, financial error in question.

The three council members would go back and forth over the next 35 minutes explaining each one's reasoning for either approving or not approving the motion that was up for vote.

The debate reached a point where Paschall stepped in and asked if all parties involved could discuss this matter further at a more appropriate time. The time for a vote followed a few minutes later and there were three yes votes and two nos, thus approving the motion after all.

Other items

*The appointment of Howard McClurkin to the Municipal Utility Board and the reappointment of Mayor Paschall to Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Boards No. 1 and No. 2. Zack Smith was also appointed to both to TIRZ boards. TIRZs are used as forms of tax increment financing, which is an economic development tool to incentivize both development and redevelopment.

The proposed purchase of shade structures for a pickleball complex was canceled. The council all agreed that the city could use the \$407,850.00 funds another way to benefit the citizens of Weatherford.

A 1.6-acre tract of land was rezoned from an entertainment center to suburban living. It will be divided into three residential lots. One home is currently on one of the lots and the other two will be future projected home sites.

A zoning map for the Sapphire addition, located at 504 Center Point Rd., was amended from agriculture to heavy commercial. The change is so a storage area can be constructed for the heavy-duty equipment.



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BOYS BASKETBALL

FOOTBALL

Saginaw bests Bearcats

Overtime buzzer beater

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

In their first District 5-5A game of the season on Tuesday, Dec. 19, the Aledo Bearcats battled back from a nine-point deficit at halftime to force overtime before dropping a heartbreaker to Saginaw at the buzzer, 58-57.

"When we give up 33 points in the first half, that's not good enough," Bearcats head coach JD Robinson said after the game. "Everybody's going to look at the last play, but we played well enough in the second half to win. I wouldn't want the ball in anyone else's hands to step up there and shoot free-throws, except Joaquin [Pacheco]."

"That's not what beat us. We've got to get stops down the stretch. We lost track of man and ball. We did a bad job on the weak side. But I think we played a heck of a game in the second half, defensively. We played well enough to win."

Aledo (8-7 overall) came out with a different look from their starting lineup against the Rough Riders. Robinson opted to go with a bigger group to start the game, giving Cohen Christie the start in lieu of Jackson Todd. Along with the increase in size came a more methodical approach early on. After winning the opening tip, the Bearcats melted a full minute off the game clock before Pacheco popped off a long ball from behind the arc to put the home team on the board with an early 3-0 lead.

The two teams traded blows as the game stayed close through the opening minutes with Aledo maintaining a slim lead. However, that changed with 3:16 left in the first quarter as the Rough Riders took their first lead of the game with the score at 8-7.

Brett Barclay knocked down a three-pointer to put the Bearcats back on top in their ensuing possession. But Saginaw answered right back with a three-pointer by Jaiden Gastile to make it an 11-10 game with 2:46 left in the opening frame.

The two teams battled at both ends of the floor with neither offense able to sink another basket until Jason Roseberry scored the final bucket of the quarter from three-point range to give Saginaw a 14-10 lead through one quarter of action.

In the second quarter Aledo's defensive woes came knocking. The Rough Riders outpaced the Bearcats 19-14 in the second stanza as the visiting team took a nine-point lead into the break with the score 33-24.

"I challenged them at halftime," Robinson said. "And they responded. You just want to win those close games. You've got to win those."

To continue reading visit <http://www.community-news.com/stories/saginaw-best-bearcats,67934>

Bearcats vs. Saginaw - Dec. 19

Aledo	10	14	15	11	7	57
Saginaw	14	19	6	11	8	58

Aledo scoring: Jack Sawyer 27, Joaquin Pacheco 15, Cohen Christie 4, Owen Peterson 3, Brett Barclay 3, Jackson Todd 2, Cade Cunningham 2, Kaden LoBaugh 1.

All-District 3-5A Division I

Bearcats dominate league honors

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

To the surprise of no one, the state champion Aledo Bearcats dominated the All-District 3-5A Division I honors in the way they dominated league play.

The Bearcats went through district play undefeated - again - going 8-0 on their way to another 16-0 season overall. They will carry a national record 119-game district winning streak into next season.

Senior quarterback Hauss Hejny was named the District MVP by the league's coaches, while senior linebacker Davhon Keys was chosen as Defensive MVP. The Aledo coaching staff was named the District Staff of the Year.

Hejny, who has committed to play for TCU next season, completed 64 percent of his passes for 2,709 yards with 27 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He also rushed for 1,026 yards and 13 TD.

Keys, who is bound for LSU, posted 110.5 tackles, of which 99 were solo. He had 19 tackles for losses totaling 55.5 yards, along with four sacks totaling 34 yards in losses. In addition, he had three interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown, two fumble recoveries and a pair of blocked kicks.

Keys was also named the Defensive MVP of the state championship, a 51-8 Aledo victory against Comal Smithson Valley on Friday, Dec. 15 at AT&T Stadium.

"Pretty much all of our starters made first or second team," Aledo coach Robby Jones noted. "We had some first-team caliber players who didn't play a lot of district, so they didn't get seen as much by the coaches, but they were certainly good enough to be on there."

Also honored from the Bearcats were:

First-team offense
- RB Ray Guillory, soph. (1,207 yards, 17 TD rushing; 10 catches, 175 yards, 4 TD receiving, all despite missing five games with an injury); TE Tyson Timms, sr. (28 catches, 360 yards, 3 TD); WR Trace Clarkson, sr. (50 catches, 963 yards, 7 TD); WR Hawk Patrick-Daniels, sr. (state championship game Offensive MVP; 948 yards, 15 TD rushing; 28 catching, 390 yards, 3 TD receiving, committed to Tyler Junior College); C Alex Arana, sr.; G Carter Campbell, sr.; T DJay Williams, sr. (committed to Louisiana-Lafayette).

First-team defense - DE Cooper Kohan, sr. (28 tackles, 9 for loss, 2 sacks, 1 interception, 1 fumble recovery); DT Decker Sanders, soph. (30 tackles, 6.5 for loss, 2 sacks); ILB Ky Howington,

sr. (35.5 tackles, 2.5 for loss, 1 interception, 1 fumble recovery, 1 blocked kick); OLB Ben McElree, jr. (42 tackles, 8.5 for loss, 1 sack); CB Jaden Allen, sr. (32 tackles, 1 interception, committed to Arkansas); CB Chris Johnson, sr. (44 tackles, 3.5 for loss, 2 interceptions, committed to Arizona State); S Jake Gillespie, sr. (58.5 tackles, 4.5 for loss, 1 interception, committed to Stephen F. Austin); S Boogie Owens, sr. (47.5 tackles, 1 for loss, 2 interceptions, 1 fumble recovery).

Second-team offense - FB Brett Turner, sr.; WR Kaydon Finley, soph. (39 catches, 602, 6 TD); WR Blake Burdine, jr. (13 catches, 218 yards, 3 TD); G Peyton Williams, soph.; T Joshua McCarley, sr.; K Cole Crawford, jr. (72-of-74 PAT, 7-of-11 FG, long of 38 yards).

Second-team defense - DE Carson Dempsey, soph. (25.5 tackles, 10 for loss, 5 sacks, 1 blocked kick); DT Jaxon Richter, jr. (2.5 tackles for loss); CB Aven Lawrence, sr. (13 kickoff returns, 33.8 average, 1 TD).

Honorable mentions - WR Colton McCoy, — (19 catches, 382 yards, 3 TD); DE Cooper Cyphers, sr. (4.5 tackles for loss, 2 sacks, 1 interception returned 49 yards for TD); DE Jacob McIntire, jr.; DT Caden Atwood, sr. (26.5 tackles, 3 for loss); DT Talan Forman, jr. (20.5 tackles).



BEARCATS

from page A3

special, but I've enjoyed them and they've all been great," Jones said.

Jones has been with the Aledo program since 2000.

"I've been here longer than these kids have been alive," he said, recalling a special memory.

"I remember when they came up as seventh-graders in 7-on-7 they wore these really fancy uniforms, kind of a spandex," he said with a chuckle. "I could tell even then they were special, and they are."

Slow start, big recovery

At the game's beginning, the Bearcats struggled to get anything going as the Rangers took an 8-0 lead just past the midpoint of the first quarter.

A safety was followed by a 49-yard field goal by Clayton Amaya for a 5-0 Smithson Valley lead. The field goal was the longest ever by a player in a 5A championship game and the second longest at any level in a Texas high school title contest.

Then, after an interception and a subsequent facemask penalty against Aledo, the Rangers were set up at the Bearcats' 8 yard line. That's when the Bearcats defense stole back the momentum.

Even though the Rangers got a 30-yard field goal out of the possession, Aledo's defense forced

them back five yards in three plays with tackles for loss by Carson Dempsey and Davhon Keys.

"It was important for us to go out and help the offense," Keys said. "They were struggling, but we knew it was just a matter of time before they got it going and it was our job to help them out."

After picking up no yards on their first three possessions, the Bearcats offense followed the momentum stolen by the defense. They went 75 yards in 11 plays, capped by the first of three touchdowns on the night by Hawk Patrick-Daniels, a 23-yard run.

"When our defense bowed their backs, that inspired us," said Aledo quarterback Hauss Hejny who threw for two TD and ran for another. "If they're going to make big stops like that, it's our job to do our part and take over on offense."

Daniels would score on a 7-yard run early in the second quarter for a 14-8 Aledo lead and add a 51-yard run in third as the Bearcats built their lead to 38-8.

MVPs

Keys and Patrick-Daniels ended their Aledo careers in grand style, being named the Defensive and Offensive Players of the Game, respectively.

Keys, who has committed to play for LSU next season and is graduating early, posted 12 tackles, including two for a loss with a sack. His tackle for a loss midway

through the first quarter helped turn the momentum in Aledo's favor and the Bearcats never surrendered it back.

Patrick-Daniels ended the night with '86 yards rushing on 16 carries and three touchdowns. Ironically, he was tackled in the end zone for a safety on his first carry and had minus 6 yards on his first two carries before becoming unstoppable for the rest of the game.

"I got mad, and when I get mad I play motivated," Patrick-Daniels said, adding about the defense, "Defense wins championships. They did their part and then we came back on offense and made them proud."

All around dominance

How dominant were the Bearcats in winning their 12th title? They outgained the Rangers 546 yards to 69.

The Aledo defense was so controlling that if Smithson Valley, which averaged 1.5 yards per play, ran six straight plays the Rangers would be facing a seventh down and 1. On the other hand, each time the Bearcats ran a play it was close to being a first down as they averaged 9.1 yards per play.

Never gets old

Even with their 11th state championship since 2009 (12th overall), Jones said it never gets old.

"I'm so happy for the kids, happy for the program. And the community and the school district has supported the heck out of what we do," he said. "It's great to win for them."

"It never gets old. It's always nice to win another one."

Class 5A Division I State Championship At AT&T Stadium, Arlington Aledo 51, Smithson Valley 8

Aledo	7	17	20	7	51
Smithson Valley	8	0	0	0	8

SV - Safety
SV - Clayton Amaya 49 FG
SV - Amaya 40 FG
A - Hawk Patrick-Daniels 23 run (Cole Crawford kick)
A - Patrick-Daniels 7 run (Crawford kick)
A - Kaydon Finley 69 pass from Hauss Hejny (Crawford kick)
A - Crawford 35 FG
A - Colton McCoy 29 pass from Hejny (Crawford kick)
A - Patrick-Daniels 51 run (Crawford kick)
A - Hejny 10 run (kick failed)
A - RJ Blake (7 run (Logan DeFranzo kick))

Statistics Team
First downs: Aledo 25, SV 6.
Rushes-yards: Aledo 42-337, SV 24-33.
Passing yards: Aledo 209, SV 36.
Caught-thrown-int.: Aledo 10-18-2, SV 10-25-0.
Punts-avg: Aledo 1-29.0, SV 8-40.4.



Fumbles-lost: Aledo 0-0, SV 0-0.
Penalties-yards: Aledo 4-39, SV 5-50.
Third-down conversions: Aledo 7-of-9, SV 3-15.
Fourth-down conversions: Aledo Aledo 1-1, SV 0-1.
Time of possession: Aledo 23:04, SV 24:56.

Individual leaders

Rushing
Aledo: Patrick-Daniels 16 carries, 186 yards, 3 TD; Hejny 13-77, TD; Kaden Winkfield 6-31; RJ Blake 4-23; Ben McElree 2-12; Keys 1-8.
SV: Cade Spradling 13-25, Caleb Peagler 6-14.
Passing
Aledo: Hejny 9-of-17, 202 yards, 2 TD, 2 int.; Gavin Beard 1-1, 7 yards, 0 int.
SV: Ryland Walker 10-24-0, 36 yards.
Receiving
Aledo: Finley 3 catches, 89 yards, TD; Trace Clarkson 4-72; McCoy 2-41, TD; Tyson Timms 1-7.
SV: Freddie Dubose 7-31, Cole Freud 2-4.
Tackles
Aledo: Keys 12, Jaden Allen 6, Caden Atwood 6, Owen Henderson 4, Cooper Kohan 4.
SV: Jaxon Maynard 13, Spradling 10, P.K. Moeller 7, Owen Hack 7, Hudson Woods 5.
Tackles for loss
Aledo: Keys 2 (11 yards), Carson Dempsey 1 (3 yards), McElree 0.5 (1 yard), Chris Johnson 0.5 (1 yard).
SV: Hack 1 (1 yard), Woods 1 (5 yards).
Sacks
Aledo: Keys 1 (9 yards).
SV: None.
Interceptions
Aledo: None.
SV: Zach Gingrich 2 (14 yards).



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FOOTBALL

Senior leadership

Patrick-Daniels, Keys named state championship MVPs

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Sports is a world of conflicting dichotomies. More often than not, players who perform the best are the ones most focused on team success rather than their own elevation.

The athletes who prove to be the most valuable, are the ones who are willing to do whatever is best for the team.

As Aledo cruised to a 51-8 victory over Smithson Valley for the program's 12th state championship and second consecutive, the most valuable players on the night were a pair of seniors who've made a career out of giving their all in whatever situation the team needed them in at the time.

Back and forth to the top

In his first season at Aledo in 2022, Hawk Patrick-Daniels quickly earned the job as the team's starting tailback. As a junior he shined coming out of the backfield for the Bearcats on the way to helping capture State Title No. 11.

But, with young Ray Guillory moving into the district at the start of the 2023 and Jalen Pope pursuing his collegiate career at Oklahoma State, what was best for the program was for Patrick-Daniels to spread his wings elsewhere.

His selfless commitment to the team meant surrendering the starting job at running back and moving to wide receiver. With no complaints or arguments to be had, he faced the challenge head-on simply because it was best for the team.

Spending most of the season as a wide receiver and a backup tailback when the time came was as natural a transition from play-to-play as anyone could hope. Patrick-Daniels' mix of vision, speed, agility, and burst made him a phenom in both positions whenever his number was called.

When Guillory struggled with injuries late in the season, Patrick-Daniels was there. When the young tailback went down for the rest of the year during the postseason with another injury, Patrick-Daniels was there.

One could surmise it is only fitting that a player so willing to do whatever is best for the team, would have his best performance on the grandest of stages.

That's exactly what he did.

In the state championship, Patrick-Daniels carried the ball 16



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Davhon Keys was named Defensive MVP in the game.

times for 186 yards and three touchdowns. He had touchdown carries of 23 yards, 7 yards, and his longest run of the night was his final touchdown of the game that went for 51 yards. Averaging 11.6 yards per carry for the contest, he solidified his spot as the Offensive MVP of the game.

"It's amazing," he said after the game, crediting his blockers. "I can't do it without my o-line. I gotta give credit to my o-line. Hands down the best o-line. They created holes for me even when it wasn't possible. I gotta give credit to my o-line for getting me those touchdowns."

In true fashion, when asked what he credits his ability to successfully make the transition between running back to wide receiver and back to running back while earning an Offensive MVP in the state championship, Patrick-Daniels said, "I gotta give credit to our head coach (Robby Jones). Anything he needs me to do, I'm gonna do it. Wide receiver, running back, defense - anywhere he needs me, I'm there."

Patrick-Daniels will continue his football career next season as a freshman at Tyler Junior College.

Dominant on defense

On the other side of the ball, Davhon Keys has been everything the Bearcats needed him to be as their starting linebacker and captain. The biggest game of the year, and the last game of his high school career, was no exception.

Keys had a hand in a dozen defensive stops for Aledo in the final game of his prep career. He stuffed Smithson Valley ball carriers behind the line of scrimmage twice and earned the defense's only sack of the game.

As if his performance on the defensive side of the ball wasn't enough, head coach Robby Jones opted to call Keys' number on a fourth-and-1 from the Aledo 48 with 9:36 left in the third quarter. Keys took the handoff from quarterback Hauss Hejny and powered his way through the line before contacting the Smithson Valley secondary. Churning his legs through the tackle attempt, he picked up several yards after contact before finally being brought down with the use of his facemask after a 9-yard gain that kept the drive alive for the Bearcats.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hawk Patrick-Daniels was named Offensive MVP.

"Coach Jones has done an incredible job," Keys said of the head Bearcat. "We're a rowdy group of teenagers. It gets kind of hard to reel us all in. But, coach Jones did a great job of that and got us to a point where we're focused on the goal and didn't slack off."

After he graduates from Aledo this month - along with Patrick-Daniels - Keys will transition from a Bearcat into a Tiger, as he has committed to play football for LSU next season.

"I'm excited and extremely blessed," he said of the opportunity to

play in the SEC. "The Lord put me in a great position. I'm just going to take advantage of what He gave me."

All-American Bowl selections

Keys isn't quite finished playing high school football as a Bearcat. He announced Saturday via Twitter that he will participate alongside Hejny in the All-American Bowl in San Antonio on Jan. 6, 2024.

The All-American Bowl is a showcase of the top 100 high school players across the nation. That game will air on NBC at noon.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior quarterback Hauss Hejny scores a touchdown. Hejny will participate in the All-American Bowl on Jan. 6, 2024

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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.

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. 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.

NOV. 17 - JAN. 1

Lightscape

The international, sellout sensation Lightscape returns this holiday season to dazzle audiences for a second consecutive year. Don't miss the reimagined Lightscape.



With an astonishing 80 percent newly designed displays, this year's reimagined event promises an even more immersive and magical experience for visitors of all ages. Tickets are now on sale. Lightscape runs Nov. 17 through Jan. 1.

Tickets are required for admittance, with entry times available every 15 minutes from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. nightly.

<https://fwbg.ticketapp.org/portal/pages/lightscape>



Merry Christmas

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS
1 gauge to check rpm on Santa's reindeer?
5 ____ Stanley Gardner was an honorary TX Ranger
6 day when "nice" TX youngsters get presents (abbr.)
7 largest continent
8 TX "Mr. Sam" who was speaker of U.S. House (init.)
9 Texas-born Gene Autry wrote "Here Comes ____ Claus"
14 TXism: "changes his mind as often ____ does his socks"
18 holiday garland
20 Texas government building
22 holiday greenery or Texas rock-'n-roller Buddy
23 help Santa's helper (2 wds.)
24 Santa's elves work behind-_____
29 TX Bobby who co-founded the "Black Panthers"
30 "you need to ____ that baby!"
31 TXism for "Scrooge": "____ flint"
32 this Philbin was like Santa Claus on "Millionaire" show
33 "Star Wars" missile defense system (abbr.)

DOWN
1 TX Tanya song about Texas (4 wds.)
2 moonwalker Neil and Cowboy Dorance
3 TX-born Gen. ____ Chennault founded the "Flying Tigers"
4 TXism: "____ few bricks shy of a load"
9 pig's place
10 ____ Belo founded The Dallas Morning News
11 TX Blue Bell flavor: "Cookies ____ Cream"
12 best little puzzle in Texas (abbr.)
13 Clyde High School football class
14 elves to Santa
15 T-bone and Ribeye
16 "festive" Archer County town?
17 Metroplex Tex-Mex chain (2 wds.)
19 TX handyman Carrell and Mr. Neiman
21 private detectives (abbr.)
24 actress Garr (init.)
25 Santa's jolly shout when repeated
26 beige
27 "____ fine" by the Easybeats
28 what to do with a tiger (2 wds.)
37 birth state of Davy Crockett (abbr.)
38 univ. in Lawton, OK
39 suitable
40 hot tub or resort
41 TXism: "flew off the handle"
42 Larry, Moe, or Curly (2 wds.)
43 looks through the blinds for Santa
44 TXism: "it belongs to me ____ the bank"
45 TX Tanya (init.)
46 ____ McArdle painted "Dawn at the Alamo"
48 TXism: "rile up"

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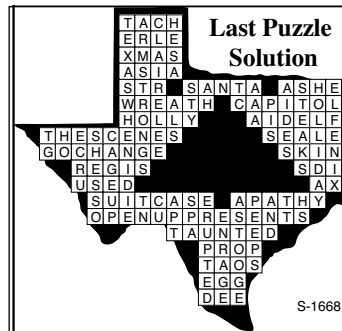
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Aledo will accept bids submitted only in writing until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2023 to establish a multi-year contract from a qualified person, firm, or corporation to provide janitorial services for the City of Aledo and surrounding areas as designated by the City of Aledo. The janitorial services to be performed under this Contract will include City property.

Bid # PW-2024-002

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Bid documents may be obtained without charge at the City of Aledo City Hall, 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, Texas 76008. Bid documents will be ready for pickup on and after **December 8, 2023**. Request for Bid documents may also be downloaded at www.aledotx.gov.

The City of Aledo website will be updated with addenda, additional reports or other information relevant to bidding the services. It is the sole responsibility of all plan holders, whether they have received digital downloads or paper copies of the plans and specifications, to periodically check for Addenda which may have been posted on the City of Aledo website.

There will be a non-mandatory pre-bid conference on December 19, 2023 at 9:00 AM. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Community Center Conference Room, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, TX 76008.

Bidders should submit all inquiries and/or questions concerning this project to the person identified below by Friday, December 22, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. Questions that result in changes to the specifications will be answered in writing and copies distributed to bidders of record in the form of an addendum.

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PHOTOS BY BRELEIGH MAYERS



LADYCAT OF THE WEEK

Brooklyn Dempsey
Basketball


The freshman had a standout week, scoring 35 points in a pair of victories for the Ladycats. First, she scored 11 points in a 51-37 win over Wichita Falls Rider. The, she came back with 24 points, outscoring Northwest all on her own in a 68-16 victory.

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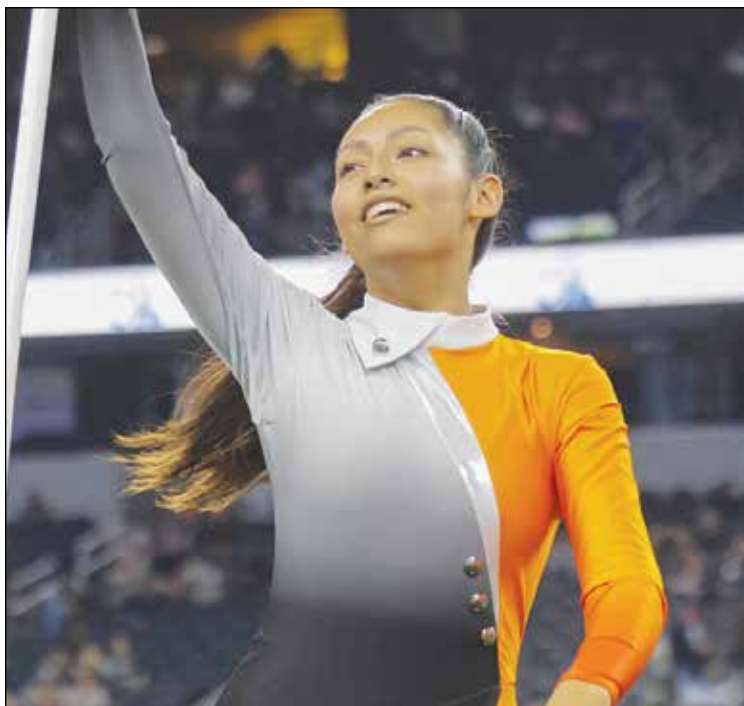


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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Hawk Patrick-Daniels
Football

The senior finished his career as an Aledo Bearcat by being named the Offensive MVP in a 51-8 victory against Comal Smithson Valley in the Class 5A Division I state championship game at AT&T Stadium on Friday, Dec. 15. He rushed for 186 yards and three touchdowns on just 16 carries.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ladycats trounce Saginaw

Remain undefeated in district play

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Christmas came early this year for Aledo's Ladycats. On Tuesday, Dec. 19, while hosting Saginaw in the third District 5-5A contest of the hoops season, the Ladycats had everything clicking as they decimated the Lady Rough Riders 85-20.

"This was a great team basketball game," said Ladycat head coach Nikki Hyles after the game. "Offense, defense, we played as a team. We were always looking for the open person, always being unselfish. It was just great basketball."

Saginaw came into the game with a 1-0 record in District 5-5A after defeating Northwest back on Dec. 12. On Friday, the Ladycats traveled to Justin where they mauled the Lady Texans 68-16. With both squads finding success early in their respective district schedules, Tuesday's game meant a lot to both teams heading into the Christmas break.

Aledo (14-7 overall, 3-0 in district) got the game started like they'd filled up on candy, candy canes, candy corns, and syrup. On their first possession, Natalie Anderson knocked down a three-pointer right in front of the Saginaw bench to get the home team on the board. Elizabeth Griffin and Brooklyn Dempsey sank

a pair of free throws apiece to get the Ladycats out in front by seven points in short order.

Saginaw got on the board with a layup down at their end of the floor with just under six minutes left in the first quarter. But that one basket was like throwing gasoline on a fire.

The Ladycats scored 29 unanswered points over the five minutes of play. Griffin scored 13 of Aledo's points during that time, including a stretch where she buried a trio of three-pointers in a row. By the time the first quarter came to its conclusion, Aledo held an insurmountable 37-5 lead over the Lady Rough Riders.

Holding such a commanding lead gave Hyles an opportunity to get everyone on the team an ample amount of quality minutes.

"We had a really good week of practice," Hyles said of the preparation her bench players had leading into the matchup. "They've started finding each other. They've started finding a groove. They're starting to execute what we've been asking them to do. They've just done a great job."

In total, 10 different players put points on the board for the Ladycats. As a team they shot 56-percent from the field as they dominated the Lady Rough Riders at both ends of the floor and everywhere in between.

"It's great to see everybody do exactly what they're supposed to be doing," Hyles said of the Ladycats' performance.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Natalie Anderson lobs a shot over a Saginaw player for two of her 16 points in the game. The Ladycats won 85-20 on Tuesday, Dec. 19, to remain undefeated in District 5-5A play.

"Rebounding, shooting the ball that well, finding the open person - the communication at both ends was great. I couldn't be happier going into the break on that note."

The Ladycats will get back to work for a day of practice before hitting the road on Thursday, Dec. 28, when they participate in the Wimberley Tournament. They'll play six games between Thursday

and Saturday before returning to district play on Jan. 5, when Brewer comes to town.

Ladycats vs. Saginaw - Dec. 19

Aledo	37	16	12	20-85
Saginaw	5	6	2	7-20

Aledo scoring: Elizabeth Griffin 16, Natalie Anderson 16, Brooklyn Dempsey 10, Caroline Browning 9, Kinley Elms 8, Kate Jackson 6, Brenna Clock 6, Ella Isbell 5, Rebekah Jarrell 5, August Carlone 4.

SWIMMING

Aledo teams compete in Weems Invite

Another record for Roberson

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo swim team participated in the Debbie Weems Invitational in Mansfield Dec. 8-9 and Haley Roberson led a contingent of strong performers by setting a school record in the girls 100-yard backstroke.

Roberson posted a time of 59.51 seconds in finishing third in the event. She also won the 200 freestyle, one of three events won by Ladycat individuals as Jacqueline Gruber placed first in the 50 free and 100 breaststroke.

The boys 200 free relay also captured first place.

"We saw some very strong 6A teams and some solid 5A teams at this invitational. These relay and individual placings are a strong showing by our much smaller team," Aledo coach Meghan Roberson said. "What is especially impressive about these swims is that, for the most part, they're not main events for these swimmers. We won't see them compete in them at district regionals/state. It shows what a strong swimmer they are all around, not just in one or two events."

Aledo will next compete on Senior Night against Fort Worth Paschal on Jan. 11 at Wilkerson-Greines Activities Center in Fort Worth.

For results visit <http://www.community-news.com/stories/aledo-teams-compete-in-weems-invite,67939>



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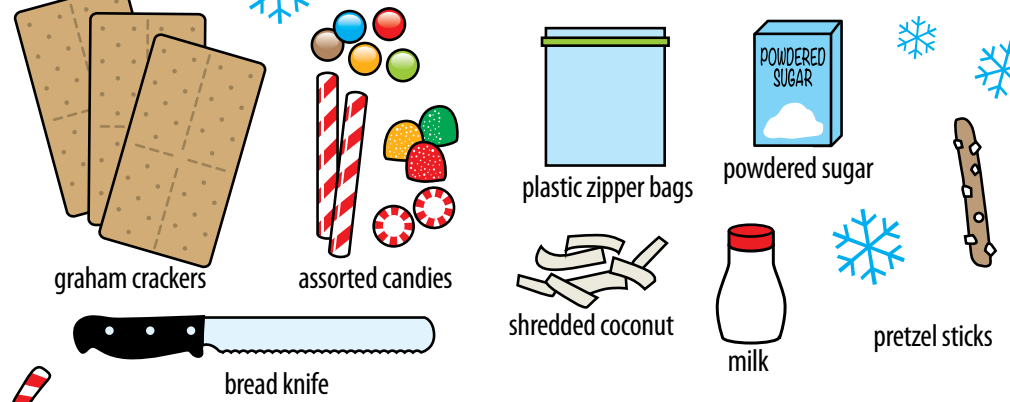
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E	D	G	R	A	D	C	N	L	L
S	S	A	E	D	I	S	G	E	K

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
CONSISTENCY
 One meaning of the noun **consistency** is the degree of firmness or stickiness.
 The mud was the **consistency** of bread dough.
 Try to use the word **consistency** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Winter Clues

Look through the newspaper for ten or more clues that it is winter in your town. Write a paragraph describing the winter holidays in your town. Incorporate words that you found in the newspaper.
 Standards Link: Writing Applications: Use descriptive language that clarifies and enhances ideas.

Who delivers Christmas presents to gingerbread men?
 ANSWER: Crisp Kringle

Write On!

I built my house of ...
 Finish this sentence and then write five details about your home.

All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth



Allison Cleworth



Teddy Hall



Grady Edwards



Sully Surratt



Charlotte Gabaldon



Adalee Light



Avi Bingaman



Brazos Weaver



Max Park



Ethan Evans



Luisi Barijo



David Garcia



Paige Fisher



Wren Pulley



Addison Quinn



Carolina Sherman



Alec Russell



Luke Duba



Emma Douthit



Brighton Weaver



Kinsley Waldrop



Agnes Wood



Daphne Pastusek



Lucas Hall



Levi Birau



Ellison Whitehead



Chase Grindle



Charlie Maxwell



John Slaughter



Rachel Leaverton



Edda Wilks



Selah Saylors



Evan Sciacca



Lakyn Mears



Liam Rich



Major Baucom



Hunter King



Tessa McCollum



Maria Reck



Beckett Saint



Archer Price



Ethan Ash



Colton Brown



Olivia Ostrow



Landry Langford



Addison Lilavois



Wyatt Horton



Rebekah Clader



Colton Farris



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY TWO FRONT TEETH!

Robert Casey Stroud, D.D.S., P.C.

Michael Ball, D.D.S., P.L.L.C.

Pediatric & Adolescent Dentistry

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