

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

Profrac Holdings to relocate to city

Agreement to bring 200 jobs

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Willow Park City Council approved a 380 economic development agreement with Wilks Development that allows for the relocation of the headquarters of Profrac Holdings to Willow Park. The action was taken at the council's meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Profrac already has offices in the Shops at Willow Park, but this agreement will bring their entire headquarters to the city in the same area as their current offices. City Manager Bryan Grimes announced the company plans to build a 60,000 square-foot building and bring around 200 new jobs to the community.

Profrac primarily operates in the hydraulic fracturing wells industry within the oil and gas sector.

"The instant economic impact is priceless," Grimes said. "You can't put a price tag on 200 people looking for lunch on a Tuesday."

Grimes said the city will pay up to \$300,000 in incentives to help facilitate the agreement. Of that, \$150,000 will be paid in the first six months and the rest upon certification of occupancy.

"This is not cash up front," Grimes stressed. "This council values performance-based incentives."

No official date has been announced for start of construction.

"What it will do for us is great," Mayor Doyle Moss said, noting the influx of new workers will also bring a financial boon. "Two hundred people, that's a lot of money."

Wastewater plant funding approved

The council took the latest step in the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. They approved the issuance of certificates of obligation not to exceed \$4 million to assist with financing the project.

The majority of the cost for construction of the plant will come from the anticipated release of about \$11.5 million to the city from the Texas Water Development Board. The certificates of obligation are being issued to cover the remaining cost.

At its Nov. 14 meeting, the council voted to award a new bid for construction of the plant to Mesquite Construction, Inc. out of Mesquite.

The plant will be able to generate up to 750,000 gallons of water daily, based on current and projected future water usage because of

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ALEDO ISD

School district closes on 100-acre school site

Location set for new high school when needed

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

Aledo ISD recently closed on a land purchase and partial land swap totaling 100-plus acres north of Old Weatherford Road for a future high school site.

AISD purchased about 50 acres and swapped about 50 acres with the Walsh Ranch Development to add up to about 100 acres just north of McNally Middle School and just northeast of Lynn McKinney Elementary School, which is under construction. The land purchase was for \$1,959,580; the district will have responsibility for developing infrastructure on the site as required by the city of Fort Worth.

"With the passage of the Aledo ISD 2023 Bond, we were able to complete these transactions for a site that will allow for a large comprehensive high school to be built when growth and our community indicate it is time for another high school," Superintendent Dr. Susan

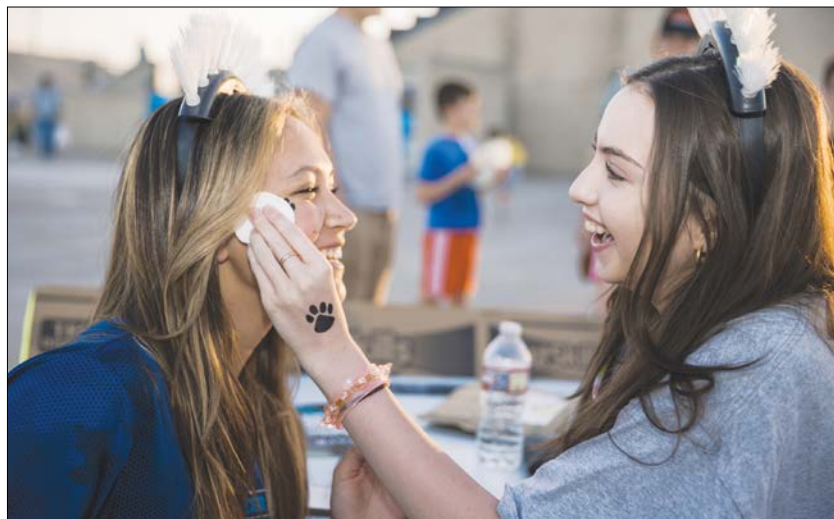
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The new high school site is just to the north of the new Lynn McKinney Elementary School and McNally Middle School.

ALEDO ISD

2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



KCSTUDIOS KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI

Hailey Vandiver gets a paw print tattoo from Chloe Wilson before the annual Aledo Children's AdvoCats Run, Walk or Crawl Glow Run on March 24.

MARCH 24

Runs came at a premium during a classic pitchers duel in the Aledo Bearcats' District 5-5A opener on Tuesday, March 21, as the visiting Brewer Bears left town toting a 3-1 win.

Two Trinity Christian Academy freshmen were named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 4A All-State Team for the 2022-2023 basketball season. Sadie Gough was named First Team All-State, and was the TAPPS District 1-4A Offensive Player of the Year in addition to first-team all-district honors. Emily Ickert was named to Second Team All-State and was the TAPPS District 1-4A Newcomer of the Year in addition to first-team all-district honors.

The Business Development Group of Aledo recently held its annual clay shoot, which benefits local school and youth organizations. Shooters from several schools par-

ticipated in the youth shoot earlier in the day. That was followed by a shoot for adults later.

Two Bearcats were honored by the league's coaches as members of the All-District 5-5A basketball team. Drew Clock was selected for the first team and Brandon Fields was named to the second team.

MARCH 31

Volume five of The Best of Texas Scholastic Photography featured work from 10 Aledo High School students and graduates who were taught by teachers Linda Greenwood and Emily Pyeatt Arnold: Ava Bathurst, Kaylee Halfmann, Megan Hoke, Alyssa Lively, Chloe Mahle, Alex Mount, Reagan Petersen, Marissa Powell, Jordan Prokell and Taylor Tiberger.

The East Parker County Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards at its "Sparkles & Spurs Gala" on March 21 at The Springs Event Venue.

The Texas Senate unanimously approved a \$16.5 billion package to lower property taxes and inject billions of dollars into public schools.

The Aledo Children's AdvoCats hosted 575 runners at their annual Run, Walk, or Crawl Glow Run on Friday, March 24.

After defeating Fort Worth North Side on Friday, March 24, in bi-district, the Aledo Ladycats soccer team ran into their toughest adversary to date on Tuesday, March 28 when they lost in the area round against Midlothian's Lady Panthers with their state championship aspirations. Aledo pitcher

Taylor McKean has struck out 15, walked one, and surrendered a single hit in a 14-0 victory on March 27 at Wichita Falls rider. The win was her fourth consecutive shutout consisting of 26 straight shutout innings. In that span she struck out 47 and walked just two.

After suffering a 3-1 loss to Brewer at home on Tuesday, March 21, Aledo head baseball coach Chad Barry emphasized the Bearcats' need to address their approach at the plate, especially with two strikes. In the following week the Bearcats outscored opponents 19-2 as they redeemed the loss to the Bears with an 11-2 win at Brewer on Friday, March 24. They followed up that performance with an 8-0 shutout in Granbury on Tuesday, March 28.

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SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo Varsity Winterguard team that won the Tulsa WGI is composed of (front row, from left) captains Morgan Furlow, Kathleen Campbell, and Daniela Hernandez and (back row) Elizabeth Kehrt, Meredith Thomas, Mahalia Houchen, Faith Canady, Delaney Means, Adriana Olazaran, Libby Van Cleef, and Leah Novak.

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2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Leah and Aylett Miller drew the winning entries at the Aledo Lions Club 28th annual Charity Dinner on March 28. Among the prizes was a choice between a golf cart and \$10,000. Lions Club member Bob Carlson supervises.

MARCH 31 (CONTINUED)

The Aledo Bearcats came up short in a 3-2 battle against the hosting North Side Steers in their Class 5A bi-district matchup Friday, March 24.

The Aledo High School varsity track teams were both first-place finishers at the Owl Relays in Joshua.

The Aledo Varsity Winterguard team won the Tulsa Winter Guard International (WGI) competition. The Aledoans placed ahead of second-place Lafayette High School in Wildwood, Missouri and third-place Liberty High School from Liberty, Missouri.

APRIL 7

The City of Willow Park voted to purchase the building housing their new city hall. The city moved its offices into the building in January, and decided to issue certificates of obligation for \$8.5 million to cover the purchase and renovations.

The Aledo Lions Club paid homage to deceased member Charlie McLain at its annual Charity Dinner on Tuesday, March 28, at the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus cafeteria.

Weatherford College has inked its latest articulation agreement with Our Lady of the Lake University for students completing WC's Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science in Organizational Leadership. While working on their BAAS degree, WC students can enroll in Master of Science in Organizational Leadership courses from OLLU that will count toward both degrees.

Willow Park geared up for the return of Willow Bark on April 15.

The Lone Star State continues to lead the nation in jobs added with 58,200 new positions in February, bringing the state to nearly 14 million total non-farm jobs, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. February also marked two full years of uninterrupted job growth in the state.

On Friday, March 31, the Bearcats baseball team made short work of Granbury with a 10-0 win that imposed a run rule in the fifth inning. Directly following that performance, Aledo was shut out on Saturday, April 1 on the road in Birdville and then again on Tuesday, April 4, at home by Saginaw.

The Aledo Bearcats golf team won their district title by 40 strokes over runner-up Wichita Falls.

Aledo pole vaulter Sean Gribble cleared a school and personal-record 17 feet, 0.75 inches to top the field in the 95th Annual Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays at the University of Texas in Austin on Saturday, April 1.



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RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

U.S. Congressman Roger Williams (right) presents an American flag to Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss to celebrate the move into the new city hall. The presentation was made at the April 11 city council meeting.

APRIL 14

The Willow Park City Council voted unanimously to approve an ordinance establishing the regulation of residency for sex offenders at its regular meeting Tuesday, April 11. The ordinance defines child safety zones within the city. It regulates sex offenders who are required to register for offenses related to a victim less than 16 years of age from establishing a permanent or temporary residence within 1,000 feet of the child safety zones.

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter took in 20 German Shepherds after the Parker County Sheriff's Department conducted a large seizure of dogs that appeared to be abandoned at a residence in Springtown on Monday, April 10. The intake tightened the capacity at the shelter.

Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1 announced the groundbreaking and construction of a new fire and rescue training center at 1439 Farmer Road. The center would have five state-of-the-art training structures and numerous training props occupying more than 15,000 square feet.

After a number of fits and starts, the long-rumored addition of Jake's Burgers and Beer made it official that they planned to open in Aledo.

Strays welcome - The Community News looked at ways people can reach out to help lonely and neglected animals.

The Aledo softball team pushed its win streak to 14 after a pair of wins over Saginaw and Forney in the previous week. The Ladycats earned a 13-3 run-rule victory over the visiting Lady Rough Riders on Thursday, April 6. That performance was followed by an extra-innings affair that lasted 10 frames before Aledo put Forney away on the road, 2-0, on Tuesday, April 11.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Noe Villa seals air-conditioning ductwork in the location where Jake's Burgers planned an opening.

Aledo quarterback Hauss Hejny announced that he was changing his college commitment from Duke to TCU.

The Aledo Middle School boys and girls won the seventh-grade divisions of the Power Five District Track Meet, while the McAnally eighth-grade girls won their division and the AMS eighth-grade boys placed second. The meet was held April 3 at Brewer Stadium in Fort Worth.

It was an up-and-down week for the Aledo Bearcats baseball team, which was shut out 8-0 by Saginaw at home on April 4. They bounced back to shut out the Rough Riders on the road on Thursday, April 6, followed by a 4-2 road loss to Northwest on Tuesday, April 11.

APRIL 21

The Aledo ISD announced late on Friday, April 14, that Jake Bean would succeed Stephanie Maroney

as the principal at Vandagriff Elementary School the next school year, and newcomer Katie Griffin will take the lead at Stuard Elementary School.

By Dan Reiley, co-chair of the Aledo Growth Committee, contributed a look at the first 100 years of growth in the Aledo Independent School District. It was about 100 years ago that a new three-story red brick school was built to house all grade levels in Aledo ISD.

Six health science students represented Aledo High School at the HOSA (future health professionals) state competition at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock.

Kamryn Kupper was a state qualifier in Sports Medicine.

Addison Redifer was a state qualifier in Research Poster.

The team of Petey Montoya, Lanham Watts, Audrey Hood, and Taylor Smith placed in the Top 10 for Public Health.

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COURTESY OF NORI SULLIVAN

Twins Rebecca (left) and Samantha Sullivan are shown on the big screen at the Houston Livestock Show.

Twins Rebecca and Samantha Sullivan recently won big with their showing of Boer Goats at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the latest in a long line of success for two who were officers in the Aledo FFA program.

Behind the one-hit pitching of Brenlee Gonzales, the Ladycats softball team improved to 8-0 in district with a 1-0 victory over the Northwest Lady Texans on March 31. Gonzales struck out eight, walked two, and hit a batter.



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Reagan Davis beats the throw to home plate, scoring Aledo's only run of the night on March 31 against Northwest. It was enough, as the Ladycats left there with a 1-0 victory.



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CITY

from page one

growth expectations. That capacity was reduced from the 1 million gallons in the original bids, but the plant can be modified to accommodate such use should the need arise in the future.

Current water usage in Willow Park is about 350,000 gallons per day.

Grimes described the current facility as a "package plant" designed to not last more than 10 years.

"We're five years into it. We started this in 2020 and here we are now in 2024," he said.

The new plant is set to be north of Interstate 20 near Crown Point Boulevard. It's only a few hundred yards from the current location on the north end of the new Crown Point Development.

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

Annexation approved

Following a trio of public hearings at its December meeting, the council voted Tuesday to approve the annexation of almost 11 acres on East Bankhead Highway, clearing the way for further annexation of just more than 31 acres of land owned by Dustin and Jayme Haney into its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

In order to do this, council approved the annexation of around 7,800 feet of East Bankhead Highway connecting the two properties.

Planning and Development Director Toni Fisher said plans are to build a roller skating rink on the land behind Fortified Fitness gym, which is at 9744 E. Bankhead Hwy.

ESD to lease public safety building

With the November 2022 election of the Willow Park Fire Department to transition to Parker County Emergency Services District 1, the city has allowed the ESD to use the fire department portion of the public safety building. Now, after discussion with ESD staff, the city and the ESD have entered into a lease agreement.

ESD will pay \$7,500 per month (\$90,000 per year) for the use of the facility via a 24-month lease with the option to extend. If the lease is extended, the rent will increase to \$7,875 per month (\$94,500 per year).

Another honor for Bearcats

At the start of Tuesday's meeting, Mayor Doyle Moss presented a proclamation to the Aledo Bearcats football team, honoring them for their most recent state championship and perfect season.

Head coach Robby Jones was on hand to accept, along with senior players Tyson Timms, Brett Turner, and Alex Arana.

The Bearcats extended their state record of having the most championships of any program, winning their 12th title and second consecutive, defeating Comal Smithson Valley 51-8 at AT&T Stadium in mid-December. It capped a 16-0 season, making them only the third program in the United States with five such seasons, the others being Southlake Carroll with eight and Celina with five.

Election contract approved

The city contracts with Parker County for elections and the council approved renewal of the contract for 2024.



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss presents a proclamation honoring the Aledo Bearcats for their recent state championship. Pictured (from left) are senior players Brett Turner and Alex Arana, Moss, head coach Robby Jones, and senior Tyson Timms.

If the city is unable to cancel the election, Willow Park City Hall will be a polling location on election day at an additional cost. The cost will be provided at a later date as Parker County will need to access how many associate election judges will be needed along with voting clerks.

Subsequently, the council ordered the general election for May 4. Council seats 3 (Greg Runnebaum), 4 (Lea Young, also mayor pro tem) and 5 (Nathan Crummel) are up for re-election.

King's Gate next step

The next step in the widening of the Kings Gate Road Bridge was taken by council as they approved hiring the appraisal services of Cultivate Real Estate and ML&M Realty Advisors, LLC.

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property

Acquisition Policies Act, commonly called the Uniform Act, states that before the initiation of negotiations, the local government must appraise the property. Additionally, before a good faith offer is made, a qualified review appraiser must examine the presentation to assure that they meet all applicable appraisal requirements.

In other words, Cultivate will prepare the value appraisals and ML&M will review their work to insure accuracy. For both levels of appraisal, the City of Willow Park must use appraisers approved by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

The total cost for the appraisal services is \$8,000 (\$6,000 to Cultivate, \$2,000 to ML&M).

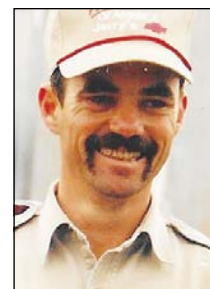
In October, the council approved amending an advance funding agreement with TxDOT to widen the King's Gate Road Bridge over

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Obituaries

Ricky Don Green

Ricky Don Green, age 64, passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2023.



Ricky Green


Ricky was born on November 12, 1959, in Weatherford, Texas to Carl and Fern Green. Throughout his life, he was known as a jack of all trades and a master of all of them as well. He could do just about anything he set his mind to. Ricky was a great mechanic and spent many years as a heavy equipment operator. He also worked at several ranches and bred bucking bulls. In his spare time, he enjoyed watching rodeo, going hunting, and fishing.

Ricky is survived by his parents, Carl and Fern Green; wife, Cynthia Ann Green; son, Mason Green and his fiancée, Priya Seth; daughter, Erica Green and fiancé, John Weimer; daughter, Jessica Carr; grandchildren, True Weimer, Bode Green, and Kaitlyn Wilhelm; former wife and mother of his children, Debra Vechnak; brother, Steve Green and his wife, Melanie; sister, Terri Tanner and her husband, Brian; niece, Stevi Macke and her husband, Brandon; many cousins; uncles; and aunts.


A visitation was held from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at Galbreath Pickard Hilltop Chapel, located at 4941 Interstate 20 Frontage Road in Willow Park.

The Community News
January 12, 2024


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

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

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

Capital Highlights

Voter registration deadline for primary approaches



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

The deadline to register to vote in the Texas Democratic and Republican primary elections is Feb. 5. Voters on March 5 will choose their nominees for president, U.S. Senator, all 38 U.S. House members from Texas, and a number of other state and local offices, from the Texas Supreme Court to district attorneys, sheriffs and county commissioners.

Any registered voter can cast a ballot in either party's primary election, but not both primaries in a single election cycle. Successful nominees in the primaries advance to the general election. Early voting begins on Feb. 20 and ends on March 1.

Anyone who wants to confirm their voter registration status can go to votetexas.gov.

Razor wire case goes to Supreme Court

The U.S. Justice Department last week asked the U.S. Supreme Court for an emergency ruling to allow Border Patrol agents to resume cutting razor wire installed by the state along the U.S.-Mexico border, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

"Texas's placement of the wire near the riverbank in Eagle Pass has proved particularly problematic for Border Patrol agents," the justice department wrote in its plea. "By preventing Border Patrol agents from reaching non-citizens who have already entered the United States, Texas's barriers in Eagle Pass impede agents' efforts to apprehend and inspect migrants under federal law."

Gov. Greg Abbott has accused President Joe Biden of impeding immigration enforcement.

"Americans and courts will reject Biden's hostility to

immigration laws," Abbott posted on X. "Texas will continue to deploy National Guard to build border barriers and repel illegal immigrants."

Community colleges get millions in additional funding

The state's community colleges are receiving millions in additional funding under a move to merit-based funding and a departure from funding based strictly on enrollment numbers, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

House Bill 8 was signed into law by Abbott in June. Community colleges now are receiving state money based on how many degrees, certificates, transfers and "credentials of value" are awarded. The state budget is allocating \$683 million in additional funds to the state's 50 community college districts.

"It's a game changer, not just for bottom line revenue that will come to our colleges, which is sorely needed, but it is a game changer again because it will really allow us to focus on what we're really there for and that is to serve the students that grow in our colleges," Ray Martinez, CEO of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, said.

More than a third of state agencies using AI

More than one third of state agencies are using some form of artificial intelligence, according to a 2022 report from the Texas Department of Information Resources. *The Texas Tribune* reported agencies such as the Texas Workforce Commission are using chatbots to serve patrons. In the TWC's case, the chatbot was designed to help Texans sign up for unemployment benefits after the pandemic in March 2020 vastly increased the number of jobless claims.

"This is going to totally revolutionize the way we do government," said state Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake. Capriglione wrote

House Bill 2020, which is aimed at helping the state make better use of AI technology. It creates an AI advisory council to ascertain how state agencies are now using AI and whether a code of ethics is needed.

Some of the current uses of AI by state agencies include translating languages into English, enhancing cybersecurity and fraud detection, and translating speech into text at call centers.

Texas economy still booming

New data released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Texas economy continues to grow faster than the nation as a whole for the fifth quarter in a row. During the third quarter of 2023, the state's gross domestic product - the value of all goods and services produced - grew in Texas at an annual rate of 7.7%, considerably higher than the national GDP's growth of 4.9%.

"Texas is America's undisputed economic leader, outpacing the nation in economic expansion and job growth," Abbott said.

Kansas posted the highest percentage increase in the nation at 9.7%.

Novelty plate sales on the rise

Whether it is buying a personalized plate, supporting one's alma mater or opting for a plate with a black background, Texans spent more than \$10 million on novelty plates in 2023, *The News* reported.

While plates with black backgrounds have been the top sellers for the past three years, there has also been an increase in personalized plates.

"More people are wanting to add their own personal message on their plate that means something to them," said Steve Farrar, CEO of My Plates.

The maroon plate purchased by Texas A&M University fans dominated the school-related

novelty plates, followed by Texas Tech University plates.

Cedar pollen clouds causing misery for many

It's that time of year when many Texans suffer from itchy, watery eyes, sneezing fits, and runny noses, caused by pollen from mountain cedar trees and commonly called "cedar fever." As the *Houston Chronicle* noted, while cedar fever is most often associated with the Ashe juniper common in Central Texas, red cedars in the eastern part of the state also pollinate around this time.

Pollen production peaks in mid-January and tapers off by spring.

"During cold fronts, it gets very dry and windy and the pressure changes very rapidly," said Jonathan Motsinger of the Texas A&M Forest Service. "This triggers the opening of pollen cones and the release of pollen grains. When the conditions are right, you can actually see the pollen blowing off of some trees."

Allergy medications can provide some relief, and it is advisable to keep doors and windows closed until the pollen dissipates.

Feral hogs spotted on Galveston beach

It is not exactly peak tourist season on Galveston beaches, but a group of feral hogs have decided to visit Galveston Island State Park, officials reported.

Photos released by park officials show the hogs traipsing along the beach at night, leaving hoof prints in the sand. Roughly half of all the feral hogs in the United States take up residence in Texas.

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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Dr. Don Newbury

newbury@speakerdoc.com

When this weekly piece first saw the light of day in February, 2003, I promised to share stories worthy of belly laughs--or at least chuckles. I also vowed to offer occasional gems of wisdom. I wanted these "gems" to be worthy of comparison to the precious pearls of Majorca. Sadly, most more nearly resemble costume jewelry from the Dollar Store.

Here they come--in random order--to usher in a new year:

1) We are barraged by bank ads, each claiming to provide down home comforts for bosom-buddy customers, all of whom will be defended to the death. In my view, there's not a dime's worth of difference in most banks. I'll settle for the one whose checks can be easily torn from checkbooks without mangling. Another observation: The folks making the loans are NOT

the same ones featured in TV bank ads.

2) My friend Judge Stephen Rogers offers a marriage tip that husbands should take to heart: "If your wife wants farm animals for Christmas, you want farm animals for Christmas."

3) Like many thousands of other Sunday School classes, our bunch gathers for a Christmas dinner in early December, with each couple or individual bringing a \$15 gift. The presents are stacked prominently, then lifted, shaken and/or carefully examined by potential "giftees."

Last month, Ray and Mickey West of the hostess group brought several dozen puzzles to be handed out to all guests. (They'd collected them during COVID'S worst times, completing each of them at least once. They figured it was time for others to enjoy the puzzles.) Not knowing the party would be awash in puzzles, Lee Anne Goddard brought a two-piece puzzle gift for some "lucky" class member. After all the, uh, "relocation" of gifts ended, Edith Minor wound up with the puzzles Lee Anne brought. Forcing a smile, Edith admitted that she doesn't have the patience

to work puzzles, considering it a victory when she finds the four corner pieces....

4) My Uncle Mort keenly remembers when strong campaigns for women's rights began back in the 1960s. (I do, too, entitling one of my speeches, "From Adam's Rib to Web Pages and Fibs," explaining that with this sweeping historical reference, there's no way I could get off the subject.) Anyways, Mort says he's kept a sharp eye out to see if media advertising continues to give equal time to the fairer sex. Whatever, he says he still hasn't seen or heard any commercials about cutting out the "middle woman"....

5) Having spouted speeches from behind lecterns for more than 60 years, I have sometimes enjoyed--but more often endured--all kinds of introductions. Some have been so generous, it has occurred--albeit briefly--that I might consider running for "sainthood," or at least for public office.

One night at a long-ago banquet, the introducer--a man I'd never met--had no bio sheet. "All I need is your date of birth," he said. I complied. Here's how I was introduced, almost verbatim: "Our speaker was born in Brown County

on September 7, 1937. This means that he's had 45 years, three months and four days to prepare his remarks, so they darned sure ought to be good." After this single statement, he sat down.

6) About 60 years ago, one of my early bosses was the late Dr. Bryan Wildenthal, for a dozen years president of Sul Ross State University. He shocked me one day with this observation: "Don, wouldn't it be wonderful if somehow, home teams could somehow always win?"

I immediately thought him to be way off base, but the longer I live and the more times I've seen cash, compromises and "convictionless" decisions carry too many days, I'm ready to reconsider. Exhibit A is a recent announcement that ESPN will pay \$920 million for exclusive television rights to 40 NCAA championships over the next eight years. Forget NCAA setting policy; TV pulls the strings. Maybe pickleball is the only sport left standing without a huge price tag.

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues writing and speaking. Contact: newbury@speakerdoc.com. 817-447-3872.



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 40, No. 7

Kid Scoop Together

Clean Sweep!

Your family volunteered to help sweep around your school, but you'll need the key to the supply closet. Can you get to it faster than a family member?



Martin Luther King, Jr. DAY OF SERVICE

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."
- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Service was at the heart of Martin Luther King's philosophy. He urged Americans to take action to improve the lives of others.

In 1994, Congress passed the *King Holiday and Service Act* to support efforts to make the King holiday a day of service. Since then, millions of Americans have honored the memory of Dr. King by making Martin Luther King Day as a "day on" instead of a "day off."

People across the nation spend Martin Luther King Day volunteering to make their communities better places. Some will plant community gardens, clean up parks or beaches, and others will read to children or the elderly.



Take a look at this list of MLK, Jr. Day Service ideas. Then look at each picture. Number the project you think each kid chose in the circles.

1. Clearing an elderly neighbor's sidewalk.
2. Collecting canned goods for a food bank.
3. Help coach a younger child's team.
4. Help a neighbor with some yardwork.
5. Play a game at the senior center.



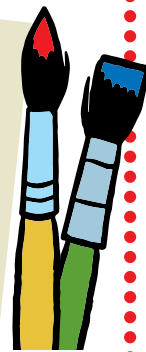
School Sign Painter

Write in the missing vowels to complete these signs.

SCH__L
CL__N UP D__Y
TH__S M__ND__Y!

USE THE
R__CYCL__ AND
C__MP__ST__B__NS!

H__LP M__KE
OUR SCH__L
B__TT__FUL



Many communities have a place that helps volunteers find ways to help others. Write the letter that comes after each letter of the alphabet on the spaces at right to find a place you can call to see how you can be of service to your community.

V
U N K T M S D D Q
B D M S D Q

Service Starts at Home

Sometimes the best place to be of service is in your own home. Make a list of five things you could do on Martin Luther King Day to help your mom, dad, a grandparent, brother, sister or neighbor.

TASK	COMPLETED
Empty the dishwasher for mom	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Extra! Extra! Helping Others

Look through the newspaper to find:

- An organization that helps others
- A person helping others
- Adjectives about helping
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events

Standards Link: Civics: Know how various American holidays reflect values, principles and beliefs of Americans.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Trash Bag Team

These students helped with a park clean up. How many bags of trash did each student fill? Use the clues to complete the chart.

- The 4 students filled a total of 15 bags.
- No one filled more than 7 bags.
- None of the students filled the same number of bags.
- Cassidy filled 5 bags.

Students	Bags
CASSIDY	
OWEN	
BODIE	
SAM	
TOTAL	15



Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Use a variety of strategies to solve problems.

Double Double Word Search

- ACTION
CLUES
GARDENS
GREAT
HELPING
HOLIDAY
HOME
IDEAS
KING
PROJECT
MEMORY
DAY
READ
SERVICE
STUDENTS

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



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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Problems in the News

Reading your local newspaper is a great way to learn how to help your community. Look through today's newspaper and find one or more problems in your community. Is there something you could do to help?

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.



Why was the broom late?

ANSWER: It overslept.

Write On!

Make a Difference

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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
VOLUNTEER

The verb **volunteer** means to work or help someone for no pay.

The fourth grade students **volunteer** to read to the kindergarten students.

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

2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sophia Cohodes and Madison Burgwald show their four legged pals Cricket and Heidi at Willow Bark on April 15.

APRIL 21 (CONTINUED)

The cities of Willow Park and Weatherford were considering an adjustment in their boundaries. The adjustments would take place between the extraterritorial jurisdiction of both cities.

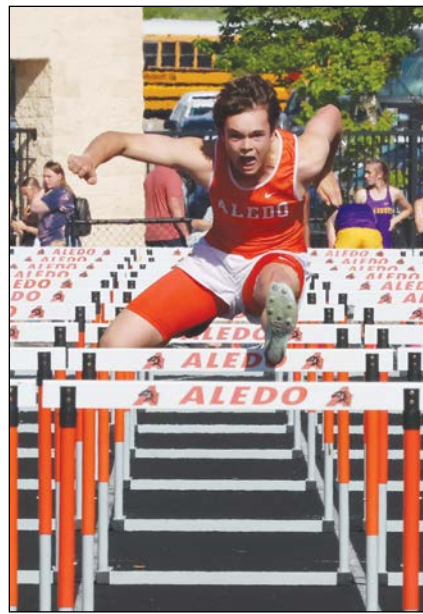
The Weatherford College Board of Trustees approved a proposal from Imperial Construction for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations on the Weatherford campus during their April meeting on Thursday, April 13.

The City of Willow Park hosted its latest Willow Bark event on Saturday, April 15, at McCall Elementary School. Vendors, children's activities, contests, and "weenie dog" races highlighted the day. Funds raised from the event benefited Parker Paws.

The Weatherford Art Association has announced the winners of its annual art competition for the students of Parker County in grades 6-12, and the winners list included several students in the Aledo ISD. Winners included Aledo High School student Graciela Gonzales, who won "Best of Show" with her painting "Man's Best Friend." Aledo High School student Cory Tilley won third place in the Art 2 Grades 9-12 category. Aledo High School student Mars Luna won third place in the Art 1 High School division. Sorin Hohman won first

place in the Art 2 Grades 9-12 category. Aledo High School student Madeline Gordy won second place in the Art 2 Grades 9-12 category. Aledo High School student Ari Storms won first place in the Art 1 high school competition. Sage Symns won first place in the Advanced Placement category. Jetta Hess, a student at McAnally Middle School, placed second in Art 2 (grades 7 and 8). Aledo High School student Caleigh Garner won first place in the Art 3-4 category.

Bearcats of Character exhibiting



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Evan Thompson leaps a hurdle en route to a second-place finish in the 110 hurdles at the district track meet.

the trait "Love of Learning" were featured. Those selected were Ty Hand, Aledo High School; Hector Acosta, Aledo Learning Center; Joel Stoker, Daniel Ninth Grade Campus; Ezekiel Reyna, Aledo Middle School; Claire Ashby, McAnally Middle School; William Nuttall, Annetta Elementary School; Ainsley Davis, Coder Elementary School; Gianna Morales, McCall Elementary School; Natalie Hromadka, Stuard Elementary School; Veer Devgun, Vandagriff Elementary School; and Allie Youngberg, Walsh Elementary School.

Superb outings on the hill by Robert Burk on Friday, April 14, and again on Tuesday, April 18 by Matthew Clark went a long way toward helping the Bearcats establish the elusive consistency they needed as they beat Northwest and Azle by scores of 5-3 and 5-0, respectively.

For the 10th time since 2012 the Aledo Ladycats golf team qualified to compete in the Class 5A State Tournament after finishing second at the Region 1 Tournament in Lubbock earlier in the week. Team members playing for head coach Brian Mourning and assistant coach Tom Croft were Maddi Warner, Mallory Miller, Kyla Morales, Sana'a Lemen, and Emily Crick.

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats repeated as District 5-5A champions Wednesday and Thursday, April



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Boyd Thompson leaps over a Northwest baserunner while attempting a double play.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of ESD 1 prepare to symbolically break ground for the new training facility off of Farmer Road during a ceremony on Friday, April 21.

12-13 in the league meet held at Bearcat Stadium. For the Bearcats, it was their fourth consecutive district championship since 2019 (there was no meet in 2020 due to COVID-19), while the Ladycats won for a third straight year.

The Aledo Ladycats softball team extended its win streak to 15 consecutive games without a loss while maintaining their perfect District 5-5A record behind a 15-1 rout of Brewer's Lady Bears on April 14.

Aledo senior forward Clay Murador was named the Co-Offensive MVP on the All-District 5-5A Boys Soccer Team by the league's coaches.

APRIL 28

Early voting began for local-area elections in preparation for the main voting day on May 6. The biggest item for most voters in east Parker County was the Aledo Independent School District's \$123,800,000 bond proposal. The proposal was recommended to the school board by a committee of area residents who studied the facility needs of the rapidly-growing school district.

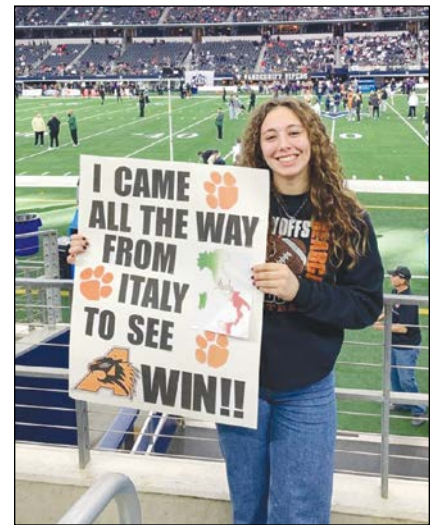
It was a combination of tears and smiles when the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the district's next elementary school after Deputy Superintendent Lynn McKinney at a special meeting on Thursday, April 20.

On any given day hundreds of young people can be found in the spring at the Aledo Athletics ballparks participating in the national pastime. A photo page captured many of these players from on April 13.

Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1 broke ground on a state-of-the-art training facility on Friday, April 21, that will be housed at 1439 Farmer Road. The 15,000 square-foot structure will allow the department to train in real-world scenarios that are presently lacking in many facilities in neighboring counties.

Elena Aresi's a foreign exchange student from Italy, became a certifiable devotee of Bearcat Nation when her adopted school's team won the 5A-Division I state championship. Aresi, 17 at the time of the story, grew up in the city of Milan and came to the U.S. in August of 2022 to spend her junior year abroad and expand her horizons.

Turn to page 7



GINA DAVIS/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Elena Aresi, a foreign exchange student from Italy, is shown at the 2022 state championship game, won by the Bearcats.

Matt Morris

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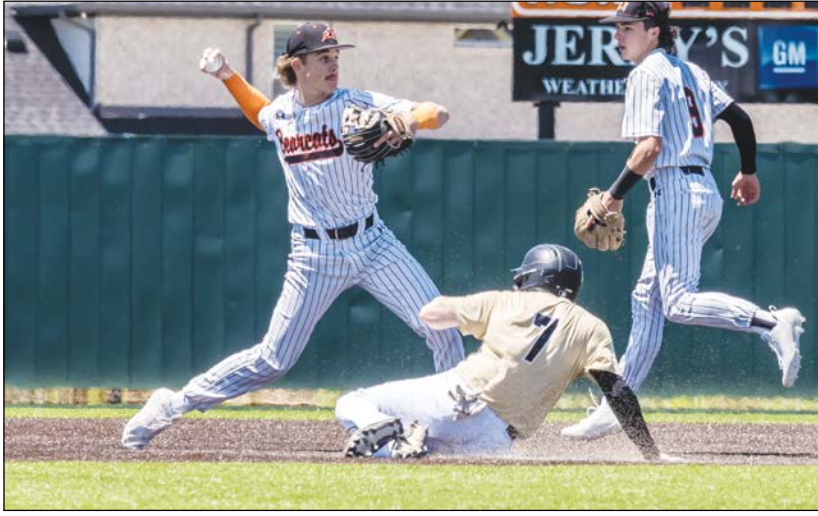
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2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

After running away with the final two games of the regular season against Azle and Granbury, Aledo's Ladycats (24-5-1 overall, 12-0 in District 5-5A) ran away with the No. 1 seed heading into the softball playoffs.

The Aledo Bearcat baseball team put it all together in the last two weeks of the regular season to win four in a row while simultaneously securing the No. 1 seed in District 5-5A. Aledo took care of Azle on the road with a 15-7 win on Friday, April 21, that included a nine-run eighth inning. They followed up that performance on Saturday, April 22, with a 2-0 shutout of Mansfield Lake Ridge as they celebrated Senior Day. On Monday, the Bearcats secured their spot atop the District 5-5A standings with another shutout victory, their ninth of the year, over Wichita Falls Rider, 7-0.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trace Mazon completes a double play during the Bearcats' final game of the regular season against Wichita Falls Rider on Saturday, April 29.

the Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats repeated the accomplishment at Texan Stadium in Justin in the Area 5/6 Meet on Friday, April 21, and consequently qualify for the Region 1 meet in Lubbock.

in Lubbock Wednesday and Thursday, April 19-20.

Sophomore Emery Thompson of the Aledo Ladycats was named the Defensive MVP on the All-District 5-5A Girls Soccer Team. She is one of a dozen players to receive accolades from the coaches in the league.

Aledo senior golfer Braylon Mahanay again qualified to compete at the Class 5A State Golf Tournament after qualifying at the Region 1 Tournament

To be continued.



A little more than a week after sweeping to championships in the District 5-5A Meet on their own turf,

ALEDO

from page one

Bohn said. "We have been able to turn what years ago was planned to be a future high school site on Old Weatherford Road into three school sites for our community."

The McAnally Middle School site land adjacent was originally purchased by the district in 2007 as a future high school site. At that time, it was predicted that Aledo ISD would need a second high school by 2017. However, demographic reports in 2019 indicated room to grow at the 9-12 grade levels and a more pressing need for a second middle school in Aledo ISD, and building McAnally Middle School on that site was included in the Aledo 2019 Bond proposal created by the community-led Bearcat Growth Committee. McAnally

Middle School opened in August of 2022.

The committee included in the 2023 bond package recommendation to the Board of Trustees the district's seventh elementary school. Shortly after the 2023 Aledo ISD Bond was approved by more than 56% of voters in May of 2023, construction began on Lynn McKinney Elementary School, which will open in August of 2024 just northwest of McAnally Middle School and east of the Morningstar neighborhood.

"With our rapid growth, it is imperative that we continue to have ongoing discussions with developers and land owners so that we can purchase land or in many instances receive donated land for future school sites," Board President Forrest Collins

said. "This is work that never stops, but we have built many relationships in the last 4-5 years that have helped us be in the position to have options and opportunities for land that we've never had before."

In addition to this new site, Aledo ISD also closed on the purchase of 20 acres directly east of Daniel Ninth Grade Campus and west of Champions Drive in 2022. As discussed by the Aledo Growth Committee and presented in their long-range plan for growth, the 20-acre site could potentially hold a future College and Career Academy for high school students. The AGC continues to meet and study enrollment, bonding capacity, construction costs, legislative actions and more to help determine when additional high school space will be needed.



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TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- San Antonio AM
- TX Ivory Joe Hunter's "Since ___ You Baby"
- TXism: "suit ___ company" (family)
- Dallas public FM
- TX Willie's "Turn ___ the Party's Over"
- "ugly" in Mexico
- UT QB in 1973 Cotton Bowl victory
- Emmitt's home state (abbr.)
- this TX David was Colorado Rockies pitcher (1993-96)
- pizza toppings
- this moves "Big Tex's" jaw (2 wds.)
- archaic plural of cow
- historic ___ R. Swenson Cattle Co."
- TXism: "grabbing ___ straws"
- "Tapestry" artist (2 wds.)
- NM ski destination for some Texans
- init. of Gov. Runnels (1857-59)
- 1st newspaper in Texas territory: "___ Texas"
- TXism: "scared ___ out of my wits"
- EI ___ Texas
- what UT's Darrell Royal called the goal line (2 wds.)
- pre-owned vehicle: ___ car
- this Linares was first director of Texas Lottery
- TXism: "___ tailed tooter" (party animal)
- Indian warrior (2 wds.)
- ex-Cowboy Dorsett
- TXism: "___ as dirt"
- mother of ex-Cowboy coach Jimmy Johnson
- ch. 8 in Dallas refused to air this cop series when it first started (2 wds.)
- dog or bat disease
- brandin' or shootin' or shootin'
- TXism: "___ wit" (stupid)
- explosive letters?
- TXism: "grabbing ___ straws"
- 1st chance for football score (2 wds.)
- very old Lockhart church: Episcopal
- south Dallas suburb
- TXism: "hard as ___ putting up ___ in a windstorm"
- actor Ngor of film "Vietnam, Texas"
- Gen. Robert ___
- young fellow ___
- TXism: big frog the pond" (VIP)
- TXism: "never sign anything in the ___ a neon light"
- TXism: "works from can't see ___ see" (hard worker)
- Houston married daughter of Chief ___ -te-ka ___ streak"
- in Wichita County on highway 258
- NASA drink
- TXism: "the ___ itchy trigger finger"
- sauropod track in Glen Rose (2 wds.)
- grinds food finely
- TX Cyd Charisse first stage name
- TXism: "she talks ___"
- bet the lot (2 wds.)
- TX Willie hometown
- Ewe & Lamas, Too"
- TX singer Bobby in TX-filmed "State Fair"
- public auction, e.g.

DOWN

- 1st chance for football score (2 wds.)
- very old Lockhart church: Episcopal
- south Dallas suburb
- TXism: "hard as ___ putting up ___ in a windstorm"
- actor Ngor of film "Vietnam, Texas"
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- public auction, e.g.

Look at it This Way

Aledo duo have more greatness ahead



Rick Mauch
 sports@community-news.com

The best senior high school football players in America competed at the prep level for one last time this past Saturday at the Alamodome in San Antonio in the All-American Bowl. The game featured the best high school athletes across the United States.

It included a pair of Aledo Bearcats, Davhon Keys and Hauss Hejny.

Think about that for a minute. The absolute best 108 players across the entire country - and two, not one but two, are from the same school. Add to that Aledo is a school that is not among the largest in its own state, not even in the largest classification.

But no reputation is larger.

Folks in Texas are well aware of how great Aledo football is. This game featuring two Bearcats is further proof that the program is renowned across the United States.

But then, when you win more championships (12) than any other program in the history of the state best known for high school football, it's pretty much impossible not to be

Turn to FOOTBALL, page 9

WRESTLING

Bearcat grapplers medal

By Rick Mauch
 The Community News

In their first competition of 2024, the Aledo Bearcats had six wrestlers finish in the top five of their respective divisions at the Azle Hornets Nest Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 6.

Leading the Aledo contingent was Samuel Belyeu in the 165-pound division. He finished second, running his season record to 19-7. He won four matches by fall, including the first in 55 seconds, before dropping an 8-4 decision to Josue Martinez (16-2) of Springtown in the championship match.

In the 113-pound division, Brice Bohn placed third to improve to 17-7 on the season. He won his first match in a fall, had a bye, won in a fall, lost in a fall and defeated Hayden Harrison Harrison (22-14) of Azle in an 8-4 decision in the third-place match.

Also for the Bearcats, Brady Powell (3-2) was fourth at 190, as was Bryce Vonasek (18-8) at 215. Ian McCormick (10-7) and Kyle Scharlow (9-5) each placed fifth at 138 and 150 pounds, respectively.

"This was a great tournament for my boys competed well coming off Christmas break," head coach Austin Stockon said.

The Bearcats were competing at the Springtown Tri-Meet at press time. The Ladycats were making their 2024 competition debut at that same match. Both teams will compete in a dual

Azle Invitational



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSTIN STOCKON

The Aledo Bearcats wrestled in the Nest Invitational this past weekend, hosted by the Azle Hornets. Pictured (from left) are Brady Powell, Bryce Vonasek, Randy Dixon, Brice Bohn, Sam Belyeu, Antonio Madera and Ian McCormick.

at Northwest on Wednesday, Jan. 17, followed by traveling to Weatherford for the Battle of Parker County on Saturday, Jan. 20.

Azle Hornets Nest Invitational Saturday, Jan. 6

Aledo varsity results

113 pounds: Brice Bohn (17-7) placed third and scored 19 team points. Won by fall at 1:52, received a bye, won by fall at 1:31, lost by fall at 1:57, won 8-4 decision.

126: Grady Saunders (6-9), placed seventh, 4 team points.

138: Ian McCormick (10-7) placed fifth, scored 14.5 team points. Won 10-3 decision, lost by fall at 1:25, received a bye, won by fall at 2:25, won by fall at 2:01.

150: Kyle Scharlow (9-5) placed fifth and scored 12.5 team points. Lost 7-6 decision, won 17-10 decision, won by fall at 2:27, won 7-6 decision, won 2-1 decision.

157: Antonio Madera (7-13) placed 11th and scored 2 team points.

165: Samuel Belyeu (19-7) placed second and scored 28 team points. Won by fall at 55 seconds, won by fall at

2:29, won by fall at 2:54, won by fall at 1:45, lost 8-4 decision.

175: Randy Dixon (11-11) placed ninth and scored 4 team points.

190: Brady Powell (3-2) placed fourth and scored 19 team points. Won by fall at 2:32, won by fall at 2:32, lost 11-7 decision, won by fall at 4:24, lost 5-3 decision.

215: Bryce Vonasek (18-8) placed fourth and scored 19 team points. Won by fall at 55 seconds, won by fall at 45 seconds, won by fall at 1:14, lost 9-6 decision, lost by fall at 2:55.



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FOOTBALL

from page 8

known coast-to-coast. That reputation is also reflected on college rosters across the land, with one former Bearcat (Jase McClellan) having won a national championship (2020), finishing second (2021) and reaching the College Football Playoff final four this season.

The two Bearcats who played Saturday will soon be joining a college roster as well. Keys has committed to play linebacker at LSU and Hejny will enter the battle for quarterback at TCU.

National spotlight

The game was broadcast on NBC TV and Peacock. While a thorough search for statistics from the game proved impossible to find, I did watch the contest and both Aledo players played for the West Team, which jumped out to a 24-7 lead and held on to win 31-28.

Keys had a most impressive solo tackle on special teams. A video of the play continues to make its way around social media.

Hejny showed why the Horned Frogs are looking to him as their possible quarterback of the future. Yes, he threw a couple of interceptions - one on a ball that was beautifully thrown and should have been a TD had it not been for the defender taking it away from the receiver on a jump ball, and the second was after the ball was batted around in the air and bobbled so many times Hejny himself had a chance to catch it.

But Hejny showed poise, perhaps best indicated on a play where he delivered a pinpoint pass for a first down while getting hit on a third-and-7 play.

Overall, he looked like a guy who could be leading Horned Frogs offenses to many touchdowns in the years ahead.

Keys, on the other hand, looked like a guy who could be stopping opponents from scoring very many touchdowns.

Looking ahead

Both Keys and Hejny have the potential to leave their mark on their



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALL-AMERICAN BOWL & FACEBOOK
Former Aledo quarterback and TCY commit Hauss Hejny as he prepared to play in the All-American Bowl, alongside his Bearcat teammate Davhon Keys, who was welcomed to the LSU Tigers with a billboard, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

respective college programs, otherwise they would not have been playing in San Antonio to begin with.

With the Southeastern Conference, in which LSU plays - and with the Tigers being one of the better teams in the league - local fans will get plenty of chances to see Keys. Likewise, TCU and the Big 12 can regularly be seen locally, and it's a lot easier for them to drive a few miles down the road to Amon Carter Stadium.

There is a lot to learn about the college game for both of them, but neither was the high school All-American they became when they first entered the Aledo

program. Like all great athletes, they combine their talent with a strong ability to learn and improve.

And, like many great athletes, they are as hard workers as you will find.

Case in point, they both graduated early and are now each reporting to their respective schools to get a jump not only on a quality education - both are very smart, Keys was even offered a scholarship to Stanford - but also to get started on all they can learn about their new football program.

Saturday might have been the first time we saw Keys and Hejny on national TV, but it definitely won't be the last.

LADYCATS

from page 12

In the second half Aledo's advantage was slim, as they outpaced the Lady Hornets by just a bucket in the third and fourth quarters, respectively. However, the second quarter ended up being sufficient to put the game out of reach for Azle.

Next up for the Ladycats is a trip to Granbury on Friday, Jan. 12, where they meet up with the Lady Pirates, also 4-1 in league play. Tipoff is 6:15 pm.

Ladycats vs. Azle - Jan. 9

Aledo	12	16	15	10	53
Azle	9	5	13	8	35

Aledo scoring: Natalie Anderson 15, Ella Isbell 8, Kinley Elms 3, Caroline Browning 7, Elizabeth Griffin 5, Brooklyn Dempsey 5, August Carlone 3, Rebekah Jarrell 2.

Ladycats vs. Brewer - Jan. 5

Aledo	8	14	12	12	46
Brewer	9	15	20	15	59

Aledo scoring: Kinley Elms 17, Ella Isbell 13, Natalie Anderson 8, Elizabeth Griffin 3, Brooklyn Dempsey 3, Caroline Browning 2.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Natalie Anderson lays up a shot on a fastbreak during recent District 5-5A action against Saginaw. Anderson dropped a season-high 15 points to lead the Ladycats over Azle on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Aledo is pleased to issue this Request for Proposals to identify a firm or joint venture to successfully assist the city in keeping the existing SCADA system functional and implement certain improvements for the City's water and wastewater SCADA system.

The City is requesting Statements of Qualification's (SOQ) regarding SCADA system management and installation.

Submittals will only be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

RFP # PW-2024-003

CITY OF ALEDO – Water and Wastewater System SCADA System Upgrade

Request for Proposals (RFP) documents may be obtained in person from the City of Aledo City Hall, 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, Texas 76008 or downloaded at www.aledotx.gov. RFP documents will be ready for pickup on and after January 5, 2024.

The City of Aledo website will be updated with addenda, additional reports or other information relevant to the RFP. 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-submittal conference on January 17, 2024 at 9:00 AM. The pre-submittal 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, January 19, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. Questions that result in changes to the RFP will be answered in writing and copies distributed to bidders of record in the form of an addendum.

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FOOTBALL

Seals coming to TCU

Former Roo expected to battle for starting QB spot

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The TCU Horned Frogs spent the entirety of the 2023 football season looking for the heir apparent to Max Duggan, who quarterbacked them to the national championship game as a junior.

They still haven't found him.

Now, going into the 2024 campaign, former Weatherford Kangaroo and Vanderbilt Commodore Ken Seals has added himself to the mix of those vying for the job. Seals entered the transfer portal following his senior season in 2023 and will join the Horned Frogs as a graduate student.

"Blessed to announce I'm committed to TCU," Seals posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Chandler Morris started seven games for the Horned Frogs in 2023, posting a 4-3 record. However, a knee injury kept him out of five games in which they posted a 1-4 record.

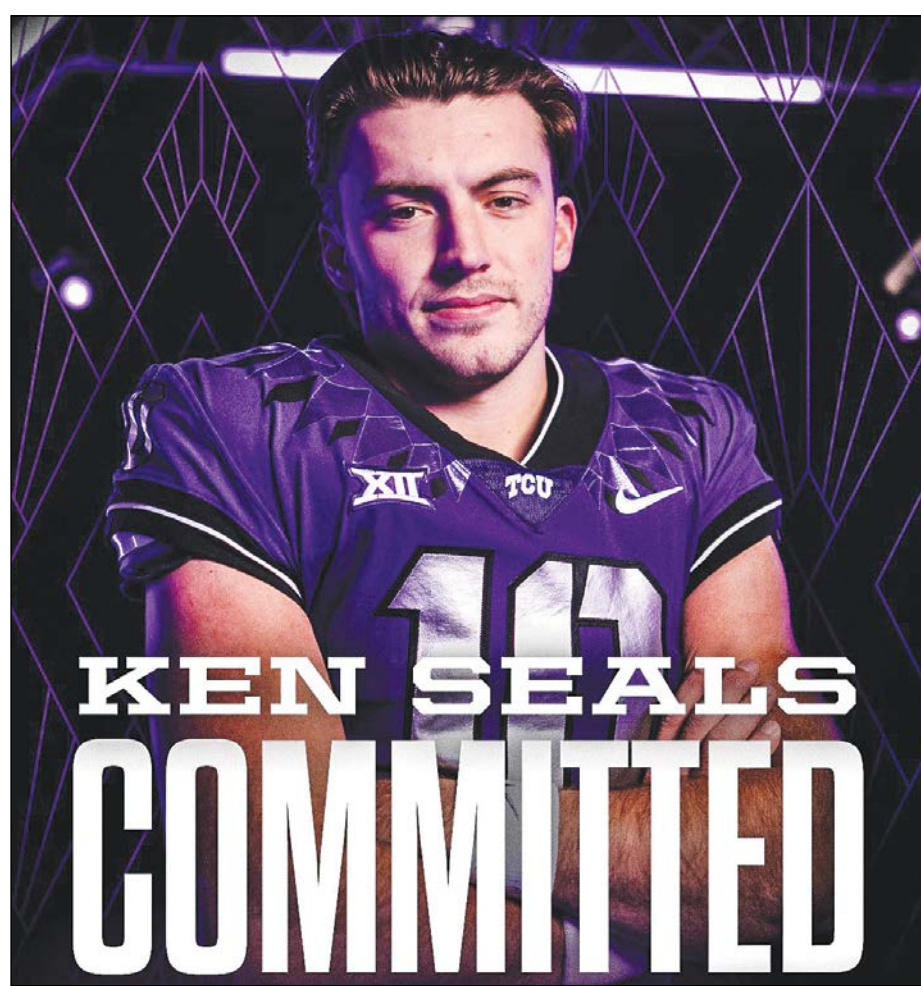
Morris entered the transfer portal after the season.

During the 2023 season, the 6-foot-3, 220-pound Seals played in nine games and started six for the Commodores (2-10). He was named the starting quarterback against Missouri to replace AJ Swann who suffered an injury.

He finished the season completing 98 out of 170 passing attempts for 1,122 yards and 11 touchdowns against four interceptions. In his college career, Seals passed for

Seals played in and started nine games as a freshman, followed by starting the first six games of his sophomore season before getting injured. He did not see game action as a junior.

Seals became only the third true freshman quarterback to start a season opener in the Southeastern Conference since 1972.



Former Weatherford Kangaroo quarterback Ken Seals has transferred to TCU after four years at Vanderbilt.

He also set a Vanderbilt freshman record with 1,928 passing yards and is only the third true freshman to throw for over 1,000 yards in a season for Vanderbilt. He passed for 12 TD opposite 10 interceptions.

In his entire career for the Commodores, Seals appeared in 28 games and started 22, throwing for 4,292 yards and 28 touchdowns with 22 interceptions. He completed 61 percent of his passes.

Seals also made news when he signed a name/image/likeness deal with the cryptocurrency company FTX. The company has also signed several high profile professional athletes to their brand, including NFL quarterback Trevor Lawrence and former NFL QB legend Tom Brady.

Seals grew up in Azle and attended Azle High School before transferring to Weatherford High School during his sophomore year making him ineligible for that season. He then led the Kangaroos to the postseason both as a junior and senior.

In his high school career, Seals completed a school-record of 5,714 passing yards and 53 passing touchdowns for Weatherford. He also had 187 carries with 712 yards and 12 rushing touchdowns.

Seals had numerous college offers, including Boston College, Cincinnati, Florida Atlantic, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana State, North Carolina State, Nevada, Princeton, Rutgers and University of Texas-El Paso.

SUBVARSITY REPORT

Ladycats JV, freshmen sweep Brewer

Staff Reports
The Community News

Basketball

Aledo JV 47, Brewer JV 32

Aledo	13	15	9	10	-	47
Brewer	9	5	7	11	-	32

Aledo scoring: Karsyn Evans 20, Kennedy Cardenas 6, Kaelee Berkley 5, Jaylee Owens 4, Jordyn Edington 3, Mesoma Emeka-Okoye 3, Coral Slough 2, Breleigh Mayer 2, Jenna Haeussler 2.

Aledo freshmen 46, Brewer 14

Aledo	14	13	8	11	-	46
Brewer	2	4	2	6	-	14

Aledo scoring: Sarah Edwards 12, Nealee Parsons 10, Journee Shackelford 8, Autumn Gudel 7, Braylin Wiggins 5, Macie Laidley 4.

Wrestling

Azle Hornets Nest Invitational

Aledo results

89-10 pound division: Matthew Douglas, first place, 23 team points. Won by fall in 3:40, won 8-6 decision, won 15-3 major decision.

111-117: Keydan Lemen, seventh place, 4 team points.

118-123: Noah Chasteen, second place, 18 team points. Won by fall at 1:36, won 7-5 decision, lost by fall at 3:31 to teammate Dylan Chandler.

118-123: Chandler, first place, 26 team points. Won by fall at 1:46, won by fall at 1:46, defeated Chasteen.

124-131: Blain Fisher, third place, 12 team points. Won 13-5 major decision, lost by fall in 42 seconds, won 6-2 decision.

124-131: Ezekiel Reyna, sixth place, 6 team points.

124-131: Reed Lotter, eighth place, 1 team point.

129-132: Trace

Cardoza, eighth place, 1 team point.

129-132: Blaze Beasley, seventh place, 4 team points.

134-140: Konnor Scharlow, sixth place, 6 team points.

139-142: Lynden Walker, eighth place, 1 team point.

142-144: Briley Perkins, second place, 20 team points. Won by fall in 22 seconds, won by forfeit, lost by fall in 41 seconds.

144-151: Ilan Barriento, fourth place, 11 team points.

151-158: Austin Smith, sixth place, 6 team points.

159-169: William Reese, fifth place, 10 team points.

169-173: Johnathan Neff, seventh place, 4 team points.

176-188: Brandon Gonzalez, seventh place 4 team points.

191-198: John Hardin Li, seventh place, 4 team points.

199-212: Tyler Navarro, first place 26 team points. Won by fall in 37 seconds, won by fall at 1:11, won by fall at 1:01.

199-212: Giovanni Chau, third place, 15 team points. Won by fall at 2:37, lost by fall in 37 seconds, won by fall in 2:41.

213-224: Cooper Cypher, first place, 26 team points. Won by fall in 23 seconds, won by fall in 19 seconds, won by fall in 1:09.

221-252: Dean Timmerman, third place, 13 team points. Won 3-2 decision, lost by fall at 1:11, won by fall at 1:58.

253-281: Omari Din-Mbuh, second place, 20 team points. Won by fall at 2:17, won by fall at 3:41, lost by fall at 5:27.



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BOYS BASKETBALL

Bearcats bounce back against Azle

Get first district win

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledo's varsity hoops squad picked up their first district win of the season on Tuesday, Jan. 9, with a dominant 56-31 win over Azle. The Bearcats (12-9 overall, 1-2 in District 5-5A) bounced back against the Hornets following a 50-31 defeat to Brewer on Friday, Jan. 5.

Controlling the action at both ends of the floor, the Bearcats wasted no time jumping out to a healthy lead as the game got underway. Joaquin Pacheco and Jackson Todd worked the ball around the perimeter while Jack Sawyer took care of business down in the paint. The trio led Aledo to a 20-2 lead by the end of the first quarter as they mixed up their offensive attack.

In the second quarter, Todd and Pacheco continued to lead the charge for the Bearcat offense. The duo combined for 14 of Aledo's 19 second-quarter points as the Bearcats went into the break at halftime with the game in hand, 39-7.

When play resumed in the third quarter, it was much the same. Aledo's defense eased up on the Hornets a touch, but the offense created opportunities to score almost at will. In total, five Bearcats contributed to the

scoring onslaught to start the second half as Aledo took a 56-17 advantage into the final stanza.

Aledo coasted through the final quarter with the outcome all but decided to pick up their first district win of the season.

Next up on the schedule, the Bearcats will head to Granbury on Friday, Jan. 12, as they look to plunder the Pirates and earn their second district win of the year. Tip-off for that game is slated for 7:30 pm.

Bearcats vs. Azle – Jan. 9

Aledo	20	19	17	0 - 56
Azle	2	5	10	14 - 31

Aledo scoring: Jackson Todd 16, Joaquin Pacheco 16, Jack Sawyer 11, Cohen Christie 4, Kaydon Finley 4, Owen Peterson 3, Kaden LoBaugh 2.

Bearcats vs. Brewer – Dec. 19

Aledo	5	8	12	6 - 31
Brewer	6	17	10	17 - 50

Aledo scoring: Jack Sawyer 11, Jackson Todd 10, Joaquin Pacheco 9, Cohen Christie 1.

NEXT GAME

@ Granbury Pirates
Friday, Jan. 12
Tip-off 7:30 p.m.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Joaquin Pacheco drives the lane during recent District 5-5A action against Saginaw. Pacheco scored 16 points in the Bearcats' win over Azle on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ladycats rout Azle

Tied for second in district

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

After suffering their lone defeat since entering district play to Brewer's Lady Bears on Friday, Jan. 5, the Ladycats trounced Azle on Tuesday, Jan. 9, to solidify their hold on second place in the District 5-5A standings.

Aledo's 53-35 rout of the Lady Hornets improved their overall record to 21-8 and 4-1 in district.

Senior guard Natalie Anderson had her best individual performance of the season. Like a thoroughbred at The Preakness, Anderson hustled her way up and down the floor while depositing a season-high 15 points to lead Aledo's offense.

The Ladycats bested Azle every quarter, starting off with the opening frame where Aledo put up a dozen points to take an early 12-9 lead.

As the second quarter got underway, the Ladycats found their groove. Defensively, they shut out the Lady Hornets, allowing just five points over eight minutes of play. Offensively, Aledo tacked on 16 points of their own to take a lopsided 28-14 lead into the half.

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Congrats

National FFA SAE Grants



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

From left: Preston Ross, Garrett Hoff, Alexa Rohe, Emmi Garrison each received a \$1,000 FFA SAE grant. The four Aledo High School students are among only seven grants offered statewide.

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