

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## ALEDO SCHOOL BOARD

### Budget remains a hot topic

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, Jan. 16, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. As the district continues to expand, and projects abound to meet the needs of a growing district, financial discussions remain a constant point of emphasis during the meetings.

Before getting into the brass tacks of the agenda on Tuesday, several members of the Aledo Bearcats football team, including first-year head coach Robby Jones, were on hand to receive recognition from the Board. Aledo ISD Superintendent, Dr. Susan Bohn announced plans for an event next week to celebrate all those involved with hoisting a 12th state championship trophy here in Aledo.

"We have a championship celebration coming up on January 24," Bohn said. "Obviously, I think most people know that our football team won the championship again. We're super, super proud for them, holding the record. We're also very grateful to all of the students and staff who were involved in 16 weeks of football - hundreds and hundreds of kids and, of course, their parents who are involved, too. We would love for everybody to come out to celebrate those students and staff who made that happen this year."

The celebration honoring the Bearcat football team, and all of those associated with the program, is set for Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Tim Buchanan Stadium. Festivities will start at 6 p.m.

### The bond between us

Chief Facilities and Construction Manager Chris Campbell gave an update on the 2023 bond progress. Campbell stated the topping out ceremony for Lynn McKinney Elementary School, where the final steel beam for the structure was placed and secured, was held recently. Now that the skeleton of the building is complete, the building should be dried in by the end of February as the project remains on schedule.

Campbell also updated the board on a project to address the aging HVAC units at the high school. He stated during their assessment, his team found 26 units on the roof of the high school in need of being replaced.

Currently, Campbell is awaiting bids for the new units and their installation, but stated he expects the bid to come back at around a \$1.5-\$1.6 million price point. Should the bid come back with a higher price tag than expected, he and his team plan to narrow down which specific units are in dire need of replacement in order to keep the cost of the project as close to the \$1.5 million threshold as possible.

While fielding questions from the board, Campbell stated it appears the two HVAC units the district replaced

Turn to **BUDGET**, page 6



## Purple Heart



JIM ZIMMERMANN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

(From left) Weatherford City Council member Zack Smith, Police Chief Lance Arnold, officer Preston Harper K-9 Jack, council member Heidi Wilder, and Mayor Paul Paschall. K-9 Jack received a Purple Heart award for being injured in the line of duty while answering a call with Harper. Turn to page 2 to read full story.

## ALUMNI REPORT

### McClellan turning pro

Former Bearcat left mark on Bama program

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Jase McClellan has played his final game for the Alabama Crimson Tide, having declared for the NFL Draft.

The former Aledo Bearcat made a mark on the Crimson Tide during his four seasons with the program under now retired coach Nick Saban.

Participating ever since he was a true freshman, McClellan helped Alabama win a national championship in 2020, finish as runner-up in 2021 and reach the College Football Playoff again this season.

In fact, in the 27-20 overtime loss to Michigan in the semifinals at the Rose Bowl, McClellan led all rushers. He gained 87 yards on 14 carries and scored both of Alabama's touchdowns, the first on a 34-yard run for a 7-0 lead and the second from 3 yards out for a 17-13 advantage.

McClellan also caught two passes for 11 yards against the Wolverines.

Officials with the Alabama football program said McClellan wasn't available for interviews as he contemplated his future. However, he wrote in an Instagram post, "Thank you, Bama

Turn to **FOOTBALL**, page 9

## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

After hitting a leadoff double, Texas Ray slides into third base during the home half of the second inning in Game 1 of the area softball playoffs.

### MAY 5

The temporary water supply connection between the City of Willow Park and Fort Worth is no more. The supply from Fort Worth will work in conjunction with Willow Park's own 25 wells.

Willow Park Public Works Director Michelle Guelker noted that the line which will also connect Hudson Oaks was in the final stages. When finished Hudson Oaks would be able to start turning on its pumps as well.

As to how much water the cities can draw from Fort Worth, Guelker said, "We have up to 3.5 million gallons (per day) we can take, but I don't think either of us are anywhere close to being big enough to use that."

Described as a "rising tide couple," Lance and Julie Turner of

Aledo were honored by Express Employment Professionals as Franchisee of the Year at the company's International Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.

The Turners own two Express franchise locations in downtown and northern Fort Worth. The Turners first joined Express in 1995 and for nearly 30 years they have sought out volunteer projects and initiatives that help all franchisees, working to develop and mentor the next generation of owners while lending a hand to established offices.

The Weatherford College Foundation welcomed nearly 700 attendees to the 13th annual Taste of Parker County held at Heritage Park. Proceeds went toward scholarships and other support for the college.

The Weatherford Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution presented its Good Citizen Award to graduating seniors from seven Parker County high schools, and awarded scholarships to two others at a reception at North Side Baptist Church in Weatherford.

The recipients were Payne Wellman, Aledo; Addison Roberts, Brock; Conner Kirchhefer, Millsap; Addisyn Retz, Peaster; Roree Willis, Poolville; Todd Smith, Springtown; and Kaitlyn Pickett, Weatherford.

The DAR Good Citizen Award recognizes a graduating senior from each of the schools for their outstanding character, leadership, service, and patriotism demonstrated in their homes, schools and communities. Weatherford



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Seniors (from left) Sena'a Lemen, Mallory Miller, and Maddi Warren played their final golf tournament for Aledo at the 5A State Tournament.

High School seniors Emily Farmer and Lauren Lee were presented scholarships from the organization. The scholarships are provided to students who plan to attend Weatherford College.

Aledo Laycats pitcher Taylor McKean pitched a perfect game against Fort Worth Trimble Tech in the first round of the playoffs. She struck out 14 of the 15 batters she faced.

The Aledo Racquet Cats spring season came to an end at the 5A Region 1 Tournament in Lubbock. The team qualified eight players from District 5-5A and six advanced to the second round in doubles. To qualify for regionals, a player must finish first or second at district. Scott Mason and Bryanna Orr advanced in mixed doubles, while Craig Mason and Hogan Posey advanced in boys doubles.

### MAY 12

Aledo Independent School District voters approved a \$123,800,000 bond proposal that will include a 2.5 cent Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate increase.

The bond proposal, which was constructed by 49 community members who made up the Aledo Growth Committee, was approved by a margin of 2,582 for (56%) to 2,026 votes against.

Turn to page 2



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WEATHERFORD CITY COUNCIL

# K-9 Jack honored

By Jim Zimmermann  
The Community News

The New Year brings new beginnings and new opportunities for fresh starts, and a chance to reflect on the past and how we can make the new year better.

One of the ways we can appreciate the events of the past is to recognize them and give them the accolades they deserve. Tuesday night, Jan. 9, was one of those opportunities.

On Nov. 16, 2023 K-9 officer Preston Harper and his partner, K-9 Jack, were on patrol when they were called to a situation that involved a person who had a history of violent behavior. During the encounter, the individual had a weapon and, without hesitation, K-9 Jack put himself between officer Harper and the person trying to do them harm.

K-9 Jack was wounded in this act of bravery and the individual was apprehended at the scene.

K-9 Jack was recognized for his bravery Tuesday night and awarded the Purple Heart from Weatherford Police Chief Lance Arnold in front of a standing room only crowd at

the city council meeting. The entire Weatherford Police department, dignitaries, and citizens gave officer Harper and K-9 Jack a standing ovation as the medal was placed around his neck.

"When I first saw Jack go to work, I knew he was special. To see him track and do his apprehension duties, you knew he was special," Arnold said. "To see him work and interact with individuals at schools and public engagement, I knew that he was especially extraordinary."

"He has proven time and time again that he is a valuable asset to our organization."

K-9 Jack has been with the department since 2018.

Due to the case still being under investigation, Arnold could not release any more details about it at this time.

### Catalyst Commercial agreement

The council approved professional services agreements with

Catalyst Commercial, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for services relating to retail recruitment, a housing study and I-20 zoning overlay. In other words, a study to do research on if a new housing development would be good for Weatherford.

"The housing study includes insights into demographic trends, housing affordability, and insight on growth metrics. Completion of this study is a crucial step towards informed decision-making, ensuring that our city's housing policies align with the evolving needs of our residents and demand from the market," Assistant Economic Development Director Ashley Seitz said. "The I-20 zoning overlay will create a special zoning district to exercise greater control over the aesthetic, functional and safety characteristics of development and redevelopment along Interstate 20."

### Next meeting

The next meeting for the Weatherford City Council is Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.



JIM ZIMMERMANN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford Police Chief Lance Arnold awards a Purple Heart to K-9 Jack at a recent Weatherford City Council meeting while officer Preston Harper looks on. K-9 Jack was injured in the line of duty while answering a call with Harper.

## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Jaden Allen runs a leg of the 800-meter relay for Aledo at the UIL State Track and Field Meet on Thursday, May 11, 2023 in Austin.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Taylor Hindman of Aledo High School cleared a career-best 12-6 to take second place at the UIL State Track Meet on May 12.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The East Parker County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at the new East Parker County Sub Courthouse on Tuesday, May 16. County officials shown in front are (from left) Tax Assessor-Collector Jenny Gentry, County Judge Pat Deen, Pct. 4 Commissioner Mike Hale (cutting the ribbon), and Pct. 4 Justice of the Peace Tim Mendolia.

### MAY 12 (CONTINUED)

The bond focuses on immediate student capacity needs at the elementary level, additional and repurposed space at the high school level, the need for the district to repair, maintain, and improve facilities as well as facility safety and security equipment as technology improves, and that provides additional funding for AISD to purchase buses, technology, and land to meet needs due to growth.

The Willow Park City Council approved new solid waste fees in the city, retroactive to May 1. The

city has not updated the solid waste fee schedule in almost a decade.

The new contract with Republic Waste Services of Texas, Inc. will have a monthly rate of \$20.78 for the next year, which includes recycling and a 95-gallon cart. It will increase by 4% each of the next two years, beginning May 1 (2023), resulting in a fee of \$21.48 per month in 2024 and \$22.22 per month in 2025.

The Aledo Ladycats ended another

successful softball season, albeit short of their goal of a third straight trip to the state tournament, with a 26-6-1 record. They won District 5-5A and advanced to the second round of the playoffs before getting upset by Richland.

Trinity Christian Academy's Amberlie Daniels captured a pair of gold medals at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 4A State Track and Field Meet in Hewitt. Daniels won one individual gold medal, winning the high jump by clearing 5 feet.

She then joined Libby Tovar, Gracee Whiteaker, and Sophie Scott to win the 1600-meter relay with a time of 4 minutes, 7.46 seconds.

Also medaling for the Lady Eagles was Ella Cockrum with a silver in the discus. For the Eagles, the 800 relay of Matthew Sykes, Caleb Nelson, Evan Chrane and Hudson Quinn also brought home a silver medal.

### MAY 19

Aledo ISD named Dr. Ingia Saxton as Assistant Superintendent of Student and Community Programs, Karen May as Assistant Principal at McCall Elementary School, and Audra Ellerbusch as Early Literacy Specialist.

Elected officials and well wishers joined with the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce to hold a ribbon cutting at the new East Parker County Sub Courthouse on Tuesday, May 16. The facility, located at 16600 Old Weatherford Rd. (just to the south of the Morningstar development), houses an office of the Parker County Tax Assessor-Collector, the Pct. 4 Constable, and the Pct. 4 Justice of the Peace.

Vehicle registrations can be handled at the new office both through in-person visits and by way of a drive-thru window. The building's

Turn to page 3

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## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Judy Flanigan, with the assistance of Captain John Stuart US Navy, presented a flag on behalf of Senator Phil King's office to Jean Buford to honor her 100th birthday.

### MAY 19 (CONTINUED)

functions were relocated from the old Brookshire's building on the north side of I-20 in Willow Park.

Bearcats of Character who exhibited the trait of humor were featured:

Aiden Stover, Aledo High School; Willie Salmon, Aledo Learning Center; Kyle

Stodola, Daniel Ninth Grade Campus; Ledger Hudman, Aledo Middle School; Wyatt Bobo, McAnally Middle School; Rosie Case, Annetta Elementary School; Ethan Hungerford, Coder Elementary School; Jordan Rodriguez, McCall Elementary School; Henry Abstein, Vandagriff Elementary School; and Will Wurster, Walsh Elementary School.

Weatherford resident Jean Buford has clearly seen a lot. But even she was overwhelmed by the turnout for her 100th birthday party at the Parker County Senior Center. A crowd of about 200 in attendance joined the Webster Brothers (Don and John) in singing happy birthday, among other activities to show their love for their favorite centenarian.



Read this issue online

The Aledo Bearcats ended the 2023 track season with a fourth-place finish in the 800-meter relay at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet. The quartet of Hawk Patrick- Daniels, Jaden Allen, Hauss Hejny, and Aven Lawrence - all juniors - clocked a time of 1:26.61 seconds. They narrowly missed the medal podium by .62 seconds.

Turn to page 7

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## ALEDO, TEXAS

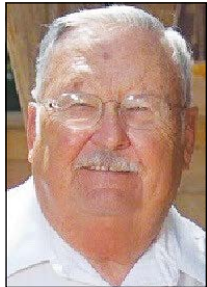
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## Obituaries

### Paul "Johnny" Nicholson

Paul Nicholson, 88, passed away peacefully at his home in Aledo on January 7, 2024. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and cherished memories.



Paul Nicholson

Born on July 7, 1935, in Garber, Oklahoma, Paul Lee Nicholson was the son of Bertha Irene and Phylander Lee Nicholson. He grew up in Codell, Kansas, and upon completing his education, enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served from 1955 through 1976. He was an Airman with the Eighth Fighter Wing which was headquartered at Eubon, Thailand, during the Vietnam War. He was also a 3rd level Master Mason in Paradise, Kansas, Lodge #290, and was a member in good standing.

Paul ultimately retired from Carswell AFB as a Senior Master Sergeant. Paul launched his civilian career with General Dynamics (Lockheed Martin) where he was the quality control inspector for the F-16 aircraft in Fort Worth,

Texas; Ankara, Turkey; and Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he retired after 20 years of service.

Throughout his life, Paul was known for his hard work ethic, his competitive spirit, and his commitment to his family. He was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Joan "Mimi", three-days shy of 68 years. Mimi and Papa enjoyed many happy years of RV travel throughout the country and Europe. They also enjoyed spending the winter months at Canyon Lake with their many dear friends from across the country.

As a father, Paul was a constant source of support and guidance to his four children: David, Ken, Diane, and Jan. In the early years of living in New Hampshire, the family was known as "The Six Nicks" and enjoyed the summers in New Hampshire camping and boating on Lake Winnepesaukee and drag racing at The New England Dragway with the NHRA drag racing series.

Paul's love for his family will continue to live on in the hearts

of the families' surviving members: His wife, Joan Nicholson; his son, David Nicholson, and his wife, Nur; his son, Ken Nicholson, and his wife, Laurie; his daughter, Diane Taylor, and her husband, Paul; and his daughter, Jan Flynn, and her husband, Mike. Paul also leaves behind 9 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren; a brother, Melvin Nicholson; and many other friends and relatives.

The funeral service to honor and celebrate Paul's life were scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, at the Aledo United Methodist Church to be presided by Joel Robbins, Senior Pastor, AUMC. Paul's final resting place will be the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas, where he will receive military honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating to the Aledo United Methodist Church in Paul's name. The family thanks each of you for your prayers during this difficult time.

To leave an online condolence for the family, visit <https://bit.ly/paul-lee-nicholson>.

The Community News  
January 19, 2024

### Jimmy Lewis Soules

Jimmy Lewis Soules, 78, departed from this life on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Jimmy was born January 31, 1945, in Enid, Oklahoma, to Luther Soules and Letha (Karnes) Soules.

Ever quick with a prank or a joke, Jimmy was known for his storytelling and making everyone smile, which is why he was nicknamed "Grin-daddy" by his grandchildren. Jimmy took great pride in his family and his profession. Farming and ranching were a way of life for him. He believed in the honor and privilege of working the land and feeding people.

He was a man of great integrity, character, devotion, and love, who always put others before himself. His hard work was reflected in his weather-worn hands and ruddy cheeks. He was a large man with a larger personality and heart. His favorite pastimes included driving his tractor, checking cows, and his greatest joy of all: bragging about his three grandchildren. His legacy will continue through the family he loved.

Jimmy is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Linda (Allen)



Jimmy Soules

Soules of Aledo; son and wife, Tim and Michelle Soules of Aledo; daughter, Jennifer (Soules) Alford of Brock; granddaughter, Dr. Kameron Soules; grandson, T.J. Soules (currently attending Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska); granddaughter, Mya Alford (currently attending West Texas A&M in Canyon); sister, Wanda Bradshaw; sister and husband, Donna Kay and Mark Mauldin; large extended family, and many friends and neighbors.

If you prefer, in lieu of flowers the family asks that you donate to a charity of your choice.

The graveside service will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, January 20, 2024, at the Hurst Ranch Cemetery in Hamilton County, near Star, Texas, officiated by Hank Kilgore. Serving as pallbearers are Tim D. Soules, T.J. Soules, Chad Boykin, Douglas Karnes, Randall Calaway, David Hale, Brandon Hyles, and Bill McElroy; honorary pallbearers are Terry Tosch, Bobby Boykin, Karry Harper, Wayne Coffman, Mark Mauldin, and Ed Sanders.

The Community News  
January 19, 2024

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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

# Quakes prompt officials to limit disposal wells



**Gary Borders**

gborders@texaspess.com

The Texas Railroad Commission has suspended nearly two dozen permits that allow oil and gas companies to inject saltwater into the ground, which regulators say has contributed to increased earthquakes of greater magnitude in West Texas.

The *Austin American Statesman* reported the 23 disposal wells hold hundreds of thousands of barrels of produced water, which is a toxic brine. A 2022 report said the state generated 3.9 billion barrels of produced water from extracting oil and gas.

The RRC instructed major companies to no longer dispose of saltwater in Reeves and Culberson counties, which had seven earthquakes last year, including a 5.2 magnitude temblor that was the fourth highest in state history.

Meanwhile, the RRC has developed a framework for pilot programs to recycle produced water "safely and economically."

"Operators will apply for authorization to conduct pilot studies, and RRC will issue a permit or letter of authorization if the application meets requirements. The operators would compile data of how treated produced water can be reused in certain activities that are safe and protective of human health and the environment," the news release said.

The goal is to reduce the amount of produced water injected back into the ground, reducing earthquake incidents.

"This framework opens up the potential to use treated produced

water in ways that have never been seen before in Texas, which is a win-win for conserving water resources, and protecting the environment and Texans," Wei Wang, executive director, said.

### Last year was hottest ever for Texas

It likely comes as no surprise to all of us who endured last summer, but 2023 was the hottest ever recorded in Texas, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and reported by the *Texas Tribune*.

The average temperature in the state measured 68.1 degrees last year, beating the previous 2012 record by 0.3 degrees. Every year since 2000 in Texas has been warmer than the 20th century average, said John Nielsen-Gammon, state climatologist. Last year was 3.5 degrees hotter than the 20th-century average in the state.

"That consistent warmth is because of climate change," Nielsen-Gammon said.

Texas wasn't alone in feeling the heat. Since federal record keeping began in 1895, last year was the fifth warmest in the contiguous United States, not counting Hawaii and Alaska.

"You can think of (2023) as kind of a preview of the future and it's not pretty," Andrew Dessler, professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M University, said.

### Paxton asks high court to shield him from deposition

Attorney General Ken Paxton is asking the Texas Supreme Court to keep him from being deposed in a long-running whistleblower lawsuit filed by four former employees at the agency.

The aides claim they were wrongfully fired after complaining

to the FBI about Paxton's conduct concerning a prominent campaign donor.

The *Statesman* reported Paxton filed the motion with the high court after an appeals court rejected his attempt to avoid being deposed. That ruling allows the whistleblowers to continue their suit, which comes after a \$3.3 million settlement agreement last year imploded when the Legislature refused to pay for it.

An investigation into the whistleblowers' claims led to an investigation that resulted in the House impeaching Paxton, who was acquitted in the Senate. Paxton contends he complied with the nonmonetary terms of the settlement agreement, which included retracting a disparaging news release, and that the Legislature's refusal to fund the settlement does not warrant continued settlement talks or a trial.

"The Legislature considered and rejected OAG's request for funding, and even added a rider to the appropriations bill forbidding OAG from settling this case with taxpayer funds," the attorneys for the whistleblowers wrote in their response.

### Homelessness in Texas on the rise

Homelessness in Texas grew by more than 12% last year, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The *Tribune* reported more than 27,000 Texans were unhoused when homelessness advocates conducted their annual Point-in-Time count last January, with 43% of those living on the streets.

Higher rents and the end of pandemic-era safety nets such as federal rent relief funds and a moratorium on evictions are being blamed for the increase. Homelessness rose in nearly every

demographic group, according to the Point-in-Time estimate.

"We're in a huge affordability crisis," said Eric Samuels, president and CEO of Texas Homeless Network. "There's a lot of people out there at risk of homelessness. And if they fall into homelessness, we have a lot fewer units to help them escape homelessness."

### Rabies vaccine bait airdrop marks 30 years

Planes are taking to the air in South Texas to kick off the 30th annual oral rabies vaccine airdrop, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"Our goal is to vaccinate coyotes and gray foxes along the border to maintain herd immunity against rabies and keep new or previously eliminated rabies variants from becoming established in Texas," said Kathy Parker, project director. "We will be distributing vaccine baits over 18 border counties this year."

The project is expected to last two weeks. Vaccine baits are dropped along half mile intervals. More than 820,000 oral vaccine baits will be dropped. Since the airdrop program began, the number of animal rabies cases caused by the variants found in South Texas dropped from 122 cases in 1994 to zero cases by 2000.

There have been no human cases of rabies attributable to the rabies cases found in that region since the program began.

*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@texaspess.com](mailto:gborders@texaspess.com).*



## Idle American

# L.O.P.—A Modest Proposal



**Dr. Don Newbury**

newbury@speakerdoc.com

Several years ago, a wise guy—or perhaps a wise gal—sent an email that latched on and won't let go. It read: "In your column today, I discovered several dozen well-chosen words."

Oh, that it could have been left at that, without a second sentence: "Unfortunately, they were intermingled among 600 that weren't."

Ouch! Such could be said of most of my weekly meanderings that will have spanned 21 years come February. It's an ongoing challenge to write "well-chosen words."

Most of the time, I have sought high roads, hoping to produce a few grins that soften the impact of hurtful news.

Recent news in the world of higher education—a career I chose to follow 63 years ago—is causing sleep deprivation, so I'm going to write about it.

Too much news involves dollar marks followed by too many zeroes. Sadly, at the center of it all is what we have always called "intercollegiate athletics," usually with an addendum claiming the NCAA to be a national association of "student athletes." In a few programs around the nation, it's a stretch to conclude that some

vaunted athletes deserve to have "student" in front of their names.

Now, finally in the fourth paragraph, today's headline makes sense. The "L.O.P." I suggest that 15 or 20 major universities be "lopped off" to go their own way. Then, there might yet be a healthy future for true "student athletes" in the remaining institutions.

Yep, this would mean that most universities could resume their initial objectives. For these, the tails no longer would wag the dog.

I won't attempt to name universities suggested for the L.O.P.—but you, I and they know who they are. Clearly, they belong in the new L.O.P.—the League of Plenty.

Currently, there are 100 or so institutions galloping along as fast as they can, trying to keep up, believing that their success, prestige, enrollment—and fund-raising, of course—hinge on big time sports.

There are many problems with such thinking. A comic strip featured more than 100 years ago in the defunct *New York Globe* provided an observation repeated across the years.

"Just when we think we've caught up with the Joneses, they refinance." The point applies here: The "almosts" who continue to seek the holy grail will fail. The golden rule still applies—them with the gold rule.

My head was reeling with numbers recently during a drive to Waco as I listened to sports radio. I learned that Texas A&M was writing a \$76 million check(s) to deposed football coach Jimbo Fisher, and that at least

Turn to L.O.P., page 6

## Guest Column

# Vouchers are not conservative



**Dr. Glenn Rogers**

glenn.rogers@house.texas.gov

*Editor's Note: Glenn Rogers is the state representative for Texas House District 60, which includes Parker County. He is also a candidate for re-election in the upcoming Republican Primary. His opponent in the primary, Michael Olcott, did not respond to calls and text messages in time to submit an opposing view for this issue.*

The right of every child to a safe, secure, and quality education has been a core value of Texas since our independence.

Following our independence in 1836, Texas has had six different constitutions, with the current Texas Constitution being amended 530 times since 1876. Nevertheless, throughout decades of revision, secession, and reconstruction, our state has never wavered from its promise to provide education to every Texan.

Our founders believed that this promise was essential to securing the posterity of our state from generation to generation; however, almost a century and a half later, this value is under attack. Under the guise

of promoting choice, proposed school voucher programs are a "trojan horse" attempt to privatize Texas' education system, and drain our already underfunded public education of necessary resources for millions of children.

A voucher program is a policy of diverting state and taxpayer resources marked for public education to private entities. Proponents of this system try to claim that children are "trapped in the public education system they were raised in." This is, quite frankly, not true.

Texas already has one of the most robust "school choice" systems for parents in the nation. Between open-enrollment public schools, private schools, charter schools, homeschools, and online learning, parents have plenty of available options to place their child wherever they see fit.

Since 1995, when the Texas Legislature created the Public Education Grant (PEG) program, parents of children in failing schools have been able to receive grants to transfer them to other schools. Only a few hundred parents have asked for a PEG, with transportation issues cited as the most common reason this program has not been more utilized. Vouchers do not increase the number of choices available to a parent; they only serve to finance these private institutions with taxpayer money.

Turn to VOUCHERS, page 6

## New barber shop gives nod to Aledo history

### Former location of Burton Coder Barber Shop

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

It is nice when a classic building gets restored. However, it is wonderful when a local classic and prominent building is restored to its original purpose.

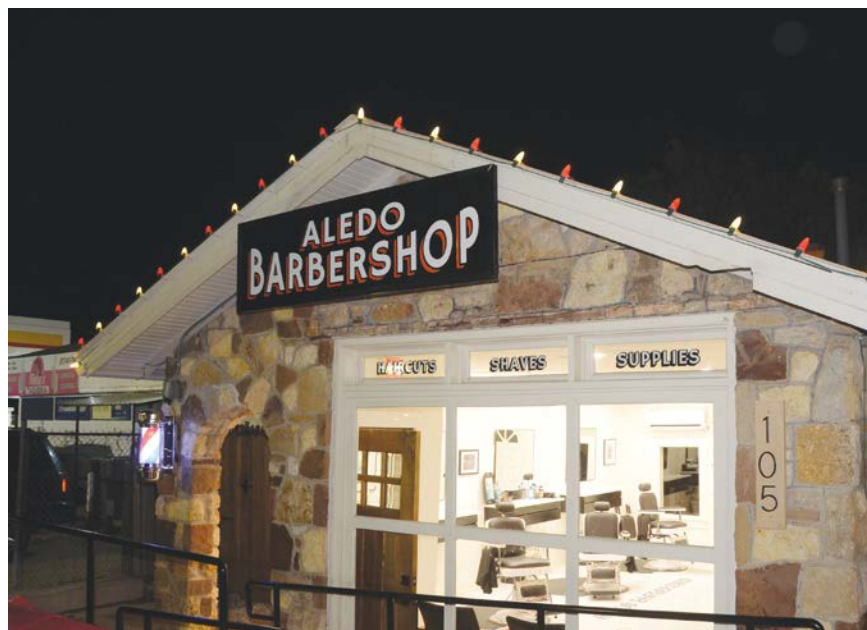
Although tiny, the rock building in Aledo is hyper-visible. It faces Front Street beside the railroad tracks just off the main drag of FM 1187, right behind the Shell station convenience store.

Over recent decades it has been a workshop, a storage building, and beauty shop — but each only briefly. For the most part of modern times it has been vacant, primarily because it was tiny and in need of upgrades.

Jacob Razo had his sights on the vacant building to open a barber shop even before he saw a map of Aledo dated 1930 with the notation "Burton Coder Barber Shop" and an arrow pointing to the location. Burton, a real estate businessman and occasional barber, had a home next to his shop, which was removed years ago.

"It was like it was meant to be," Razo said standing in front of the shop. "It has been a year in the making, but here we are."

The awning has been improved and a handicap ramp and parking installed, but the big surprise waits inside. Patrons step back in time as they enter a pristine old-school barbershop with classic barber chairs and black and white hexagonal tile



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

It took a year of remodeling an original downtown Aledo building for Jacob Razo to open a barbershop with a nod to the area's history.

sporting "Aledo Barbershop" across the floor.

Razo was inspired by his grandfather, Joe Guerrero, a retired barber in Fort Worth. He also credits his brother, Jonathan Razo, for encouragement to start the business. However, his business partner and "the brains behind the business," he says, is his wife, Annie. Outside the barber business, the couple is kept busy with Roman, Camila, and Maddison, who attend Coder Elementary School.

One of Aledo's famous long-time residents, Terry Hyles, attests to the historical significance of the newly opened shop.

"One of my earliest memories was being dropped off near that barbershop by the railroad tracks

back in fifth grade when I rode in on the bus. I had to high-tail it from there to get to school on time," the longtime rancher and Aledo supporter recalled. "It was always a barber shop back then. If Coder wasn't at the shop folks could go next door and get him."

Many people had their first glance inside the new shop during Christmas Tyme in Aledo when Razo greeted the passing crowd with refreshments and stories of the building's history. He explained the shop is open by appointment now and will soon be staffed regular hours to accept drop-in customers for cuts both common and modern as well as beard grooming.

For more information, visit [aledobarbershoptx.com](http://aledobarbershoptx.com).



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jacob Razo was inspired by his grandfather, a retired Fort Worth barber, when remodeling and opening Aledo Barbershop on Front Street in downtown Aledo.

### INNOVATION

## Youth used time off to create board game



PHOTO COURTESY OF GERI FINK

Aledo youth Josh Fink spent part of his holiday break creating a new board game.

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Like many youngsters, Josh Fink loves playing games. He also loves creating them.

During the holiday break, the 13-year-old went old school in his gaming. He spent part of his time inventing a board game titled "Dragon Dungeon."

"The idea for this game came from the help of my friend Henry Todd. We were at his house playing with ideas from YouTube and some books we've read," Josh said. "We made a slide show and then I decided to turn it into a game."

The game should not be confused with "Dungeons and Dragons," which actually has no winners and losers in its conventional form. "Dragon Dungeon" is won when, well, someone defeats the dragon.

It is also suitable for all ages, Josh said.

The game is an example of how Josh is always thinking, said his mother, Geri Fink.

"Josh is a super fun, creative kid. He prefers to be busy most of his waking hours," Geri said. "His mind is always going. We call him the 100% kid because no matter what he is doing, he gives everything he has, every single day of his life."

Indicative of this, Fink is also one of the area's best young

"We call him the 100% kid because no matter what he is doing, he gives everything he has."

Gerri Fink

runners/walkers. He won a national championship in race walking and qualified nationally in running for the Mach I Track Club out of Weatherford this past summer. His siblings, older brother Jack and younger sister Jenna were with him in Des Moines, Iowa for the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics.

Among the games rules:

- The youngest player moves first.
- Players can only move one space at a time.
- Every other round the dragon moves.
- If a monster beats a player, that player must return to the home space and start over.
- To challenge the monster, a player moves their marker to the monster space.
- The game is over when someone defeats the dragon.

While this is the first board game Josh has created, it's not the first game to spring forth from his ingenuity. He's created a few games for class assignments, including a

chess-type game, a true/false game about Bill Gates and most recently a block coding game for computers about George Washington Carver.

"His George Washington Carver game is simple, but well thought-out and fun. I was really impressed by his research and how he implemented the pieces into a game," Geri said.

Josh said he has considered marketing his new game, but it does use copyrighted graphics from the internet, so he'd have to come up with an alternative for that aspect of it. Also, don't be surprised if more games emerge from his mind, a mind that is constantly looking beyond the surface of whatever it is he is playing.

"I can't remember a time when I wasn't interested in games and how they are made. I get excited over all types of games," he said.

"I am always proud of Josh and his creations," Geri said. "If you leave him alone for several hours he will always create something unique and fun."



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# L.O.P.

from page 4

one football player at a major university was paid MILLIONS this year under the guise of the new NCAA N.I.L. program (name-identification-likeness).

I found both bits of news sickening.

While in Waco, I called Grant Teaff—a friend of 67 years—to wish him a happy 90th birthday. He confirmed a figure that he shared with me years ago. When he arrived in Waco to SUCCESSFULLY revive Baylor's football program in 1972, he signed on for an annual salary of \$25,000, one that had reached \$50,000 when he retired 21 seasons later. (BTW, he compiled a record of 170-151-8 and two Southwest Conference championships.) And, he didn't even have an agent!

I dream of the "good old days," when playing fields were more level, and competing for league championships was enough. We need more coaches like Grant Teaff, R. C. Slocum, Jess Neely and Rusty Russell, among a short list of others. Remember Rusty? He left Temple High School to coach at Fort Worth's Masonic Home, finding out that they didn't have a football stadium, or even a football!

For my proposal to gain traction—and I know the odds are miniscule—trustees and regents must re-examine why their institutions were founded and assume their duties to develop and defend policies.



Or, they can trudge on, allowing television to orchestrate major decisions to be carried out by its NCAA lap dog.

*Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues his regimen of writing and public speaking. Contact: 817-447-3872, email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.*

# VOUCHERS

from page 4

A voucher is a flat rate that pays for a portion of tuition. The family is then expected to cover the remaining cost out of pocket - an impossible task for many low to middle-income families.

The average cost of a private school in Texas is about \$11,407 per student per year, with some costing more than \$30,000. Additionally, attending private school may require substantially more financial resources to actively participate in the private school culture.

Recently proposed voucher programs have offered parents \$8-10,500 towards tuition. This means that families who want to exercise their vouchers are still expected to pay the difference per each child to enroll them in a private school. The end result is that the majority of Texas families remain in public schools with less funding, whereas more wealthy families who can afford private education outright get a taxpayer-subsidized discount.

In a thorough review of voucher programs in other states, a range of 75% (Arizona) to 90% (Ohio) of students receiving vouchers had NEVER ATTENDED public schools. In Louisiana, 99% of the states' "voucher tax" goes directly to families that bring in more than \$200,000 per year. These hardly

seem like programs that get low to medium income students out of public schools. Rather it reeks of an expensive entitlement program creating clear winners and losers.

The same principle is also true with acceptance standards. Even though a parent has an educational voucher, this does not mean a private or charter school must accept their child. Private schools have the discretion to not admit any student based on academic performance, behavioral issues, disability, residence, or income level. Once again, most Texas parents would have their children in a public school system that is continually stripped of resources to subsidize education for those who already could pay and be accepted.

Considering these schools are private, the State of Texas would be funneling money into organizations with little accountability. Private schools do not have to comply with the same transparency standards as a traditional public education. Once these private entities start receiving public funds, the line between private and government regulation begins to blur.

Parents who choose private or homeschool education for their children expect a certain level of independence in their education. Texas home schools and private schools are currently some of the least regulated in the country. Voucher programs would alter traditional private education by

destroying that independence from government. While proponents of vouchers often like to say, "Let the money follow the child," the follow-up is the "government follows the money."

Public school board members are elected and held accountable by the ISD residents, the salaries of superintendents are made a public record by the Texas Education Agency, and all instructional materials are reviewed by an elected State Board of Education.

When problems arise within our public schools, the taxpayers and the state can act. In the 86th Legislative Session, the Texas House passed HB3, which provided sweeping reforms to our education system. The 87th legislature approved Senate Bill 3, banning the teaching of Critical Race Theory in K-12 classrooms and House Bill 25 to prevent biological males competing in women's sports. The 88th legislature passed HB 900, "The Reader Act," which prohibits the purchase of sexually explicit library material and sets out standards for library material selection and removal.

These conservative victories would not have been possible without an education system that is accountable and transparent at all levels of government. These changes are examples of direct responses to a transparent accountability system allowing for open exposure and correction. Public schools are far from perfect, but are continually

subject to transparency and continuous improvement. Private schools receiving vouchers desire no public accountability.

As Texans, it is better that we handle problems out in the open and not masked behind private authority. As a parent of a recent public high school graduate, I know, firsthand, the desire to make sure she has the best education afforded to her. I believe there is a need for public, private, home, and charter schools to allow parents the choice to select the type of education that works best for their children. Yet, to maintain this balance, we cannot embrace changes that will make components of our taxpayer funded education system less accountable.

The more than \$32 billion surplus available for the 88th Legislature would have allowed for both enhanced public school funding and a limited voucher program. However, in 2011 Texas legislators were faced with a major budget shortfall and were required to take \$5 billion away from public schools, an amount that has never been fully recovered. It would not be conservative to implement a massive voucher entitlement program expecting continued large budget surpluses.

Ultimately, vouchers can only be maintained by raising property taxes and/or defunding our public schools. Neither of these should be acceptable to conservative Texans.

# BUDGET

from page one

on the roof of the high school last year are the only two that are not the original units from the construction of the high school. That means over 90-percent of the HVAC units at the facility are older than the students attending class at AHS every day.

He also added that, due to the age of the existing HVAC units, necessary parts for repairs are becoming more difficult and more costly to come by.

## Money talks

Dr. Bohn advised the board that, due to the lack of school funding being passed by the Texas State Legislature during the four special sessions called by Governor Greg Abbott before the end of 2023, discussions related to the 2024-25 school budget are about to begin. The district will hold monthly budget workshops from now through the spring as they work to figure out ways to deal with the budgetary shortfalls for next year.

Bohn stated the preliminary findings suggest the district will

need to cut just under \$4 million in order to avoid adopting a deficit budget for 2024-25. Board President Forrest Collins and Bohn have already started addressing the budgetary issues with staff across the district in an effort to keep them apprised to the issues facing the district. During the meetings they've informed the staff that next year's budget will look similar to the current budget, only tighter due to the lack of funding coming from Austin.

"I think one of the most important things Susan has conveyed

to everyone in these meetings is, "You're going to have a job," said Collins. "Your job may look a little different, but you're going to have a job next year. No one is losing their job."

## Other items

After being presented with a draft of the schedule during their last meeting of 2023, the board approved the 2024-25 instructional calendar. The board also approved May 4, 2024 as the date for the upcoming board of trustees election for places 1, 2, and 3.

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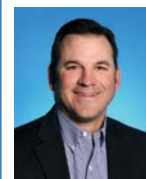
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## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### MAY 19 (CONTINUED)

Two Ladycats received medals at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet, one with a record-setting performance and the other capping a comeback from an injury that could have kept her from competing at all in 2023.

Add to that, a third — a freshman, at that — had a career-best performance and top-five finish. Leading the performances was junior pole vaulter Taylor Hindman. She cleared 12 feet, 6 inches to place second and win a silver medal. In the shot put, junior Lauren St. Peters had a throw of 46-4 for third place and a bronze medal. And in the 800-meter run, freshman Sofia Brandenburg finished fifth with the best time of her young career, 2 minutes, 13.32 seconds.

Former Aledo Bearcat pitcher Cody Bradford makes his Major League Baseball debut with the Texas Rangers in a game against the Atlanta Braves. While his first big league start didn't go as he hoped, the lanky left-hander displayed a fearless tenacity, even while facing some of the best hitters the game has to offer. He pitched five innings, surrendering six runs on seven hits with two walks and three strikeouts. Bradford would later go on to pitch in the World Series and help the Rangers to their first world championship.

The Aledo Bearcats' baseball season came to an end against Cleburne in the second round of the

playoffs. They finished 23-12 and captured the District 5-5A championship.

The Aledo Ladycats made their third consecutive appearance at the Class 5A State Golf Tournament and 10th since 2012, saying goodbye to seniors Mallory Miller, Sena'a Lemen and Maddi Warren. They were joined by junior Kyla Morales and freshman Emily Crick.

### MAY 26

The Aledo ISD School Board voted unanimously at a special meeting on Monday to rename its athletic complexes for coaches Tim Buchanan and Steve Wood. The duo



EMMA DAVIS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

From left: Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn, AISD Board member Hoyt Harris, player Jake Gillespie, Tim Buchanan, Steve Wood, and player Brett Turner were on the stage as it was announced that athletic facilities would be named for coaches Tim Buchanan and Steve Wood. The players had artist renderings of the new facilities.

combined to win 11 state championships for the football program, eight under Buchanan in 1998, 2009-11, 2013, 2019-20 and 2022 and three under Wood in 2014, 2016 and 2018. Wood was the defensive coordinator for the 2009-11 and 2013 teams. Wood and Buchanan announced their retirement at the same time earlier in the year.

The public turned out in heavy fashion for a celebration honoring the two coaching greats as they made their way into retirement.

The Willow Park City Council and staff moved a step closer to closing the deal on making 120 El Chico Trail their permanent home with the approval of the sale of bonds in two separate certificates of obligation totaling \$8,670,000.

One certificate was issued at \$4,420,000 and the other for \$4,250,000. The former is for tax exempt space to be used by the city and the latter is for space leased by other clients and is subject to federal investment taxes. Far Out Hospitality, owner of Fort Worth's popular Press Café, announced it will



Read this issue online

open a second location in the City of Aledo. Press Cafe prides itself on having a unique take on contemporary American classics.

Soon-to-be Weatherford College graduate and former Aledo student Mya McKinney is announced as a finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship. This highly selective scholarship was designed to create a clear pathway to a four-year degree by offering up to \$55,000 per year.

Aledo Bearcat golfer Braylon Mahanay finished his high school career with a third straight appearance at the Class 5A State Tournament. He shot a 157 over two days to tie for 39th individually. He is now a member of the Weatherford College golf team.

Nine Aledo Bearcats were named to the All-District 5-5A Baseball Team, led by league MVP shortstop Trace Mazon. Left fielder Brooks Dwinell was named the Offensive Player of the Year. Pitcher Matthew Clark was named first-team, along with des-



ALEDO GOLF

Braylon Mahanay of the Aledo Bearcats finished his high school golf career by competing at the Class 5A Boys State Tournament at White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown. He will compete for Weatherford College next season.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Five years after being hospitalized and undergoing surgery for an extremely rare brain tumor, Gracie Kirby is now an Aledo High School graduate.

igned hitter Andrew Cambre, second baseman Boyd Thompson and outfielder Garrett Rester. Second-team honors went to outfielder Bryce McCain, pitcher Robert Burk and pitcher Luke Saunders.

Four Trinity Christian Academy athletes signed to further their academic and athletic careers at colleges and universities. Canyon Kelley signed with Schriener University to play basketball and Bella Sigala signed with East Texas Baptist University to be a part of their sand volleyball team. Two cheer athletes signed letters: Abby James with Tarleton State University and Olivia Vajdos with Abilene Christian University.



Read this issue online

### JUNE 2

Aledo ISD handed out about 540 diplomas, signaling the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Gina Henze, assistant principal at McAnally Middle School, was named the new principal at Coder Elementary School. Henze had been at McAnally for one year. Previously she served as an assistant principal at Miller Elementary School in Arlington ISD. She also served as an elementary summer school principal, a support interventionist, a science enrichment teacher, and a sixth-grade teacher in Arlington ISD.

State Rep. Glenn Rogers, whose district includes Parker County, was among 121 members of the Texas House of Representatives who voted to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton. The overall vote was 121-23, with majorities of both Republicans and Democrats voting for the motion. Paxton was charged with bribery, abuse of office, and obstruction. In all there were 20 articles of impeachment.

The 2023 Aledo High graduating class included Gracie Kirby, who battled a rare brain tumor since 2018, so rare that she was only the 16th person ever in the world to receive such a diagnosis. Central Neurocytoma blocks the flow of cerebral spinal fluid, causing fluid buildup.

While her tumor was benign, and not life-threatening, there were many times Gracie felt otherwise. She had constant headaches, nausea, vomiting, visual, and behavioral changes, also undergoing surgery. Gracie's experience inspired her to study nursing with a minor in psychology or speech pathology in college with plans to attend the University of Oklahoma.

The Weatherford Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its 120th anniversary on May 23 with a tea at Northside Baptist Church.

Aledo High School held Fine Arts Signing Day. Eight students signed to continue their fine arts studies at colleges and universities: Zane Martin signed with University of Alabama in theatre, Luke Shelton signed with Texas A&M University in music, Garrett Gibson signed with University of North Texas in music, Victoria Duffey signed with Tarleton State University in choir, Elizabeth Miller signed with TCU in choir, Allison Maruschak signed with Texas A&M Corpus Christi in band, Jack Grimm signed with TCU in band, and Gerry Olazaran signed with TCU in band. Two competitors from Weatherford came home with championships in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals in Saginaw. Reagan High captured the top spot in breakaway roping and Taygan Bertsch won first place in ribbon roping, ahead of runner-up Haiden Smith of Weatherford.



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Six Aledo athletes signed college letters-of-intent: Penner Unruh, Arkansas State Mid-South Junior College, baseball; Presley Clayborn, McMurry University; Sean Gribble, Texas Tech University, pole vaulting; Sena'a Lemen, Wayland Baptist University, golf; Connor Mitchell, Ottawa University, baseball; and Henry Zedler, John Brown University, cross country.

Turn to page 9



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo High School Band Director Joey Paul leads the opening of the annual "Night at the Pops."



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BASKETBALL

## Ladycats reach midpoint in second place

### Pull away from Granbury in second half

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats basketball team, following a 41-33 victory at Granbury on Friday, Jan. 12, have reached the midpoint of the District 5-5A race in second place. The Ladycats (22-8 overall) are 5-1 in league play, a game behind Brewer and a game ahead of third-place Granbury.

In defeating the Lady Pirates, Aledo held a 21-20 halftime lead, but stretched its advantage to six points, 32-26, entering the fourth quarter.

Kinley Elms led eight Ladycats who scored, bucketing a dozen points.

The Ladycats improved to 5-1 in games decided by eight points or less this season.

### Pirates top Bearcats

The Bearcats' woes in District 5-5A continued with a 70-63 loss at Granbury on Jan. 12. They dropped to 1-3 in district and to 12-10 overall.

It was the 14th game decided by eight points or less for the Bearcats this season. They are 7-7 in those games.

Scoring statistics for the Bearcats were not available at press time.

The Bearcats and Ladycats will host Justin Northwest on Friday, Jan. 19 and travel to play Saginaw on Tuesday, Jan. 23. The girls tip off at 6:15 in each game and the boys start at 7:30 p.m.

### Ladycats 41, Granbury 33 - Jan. 12

<b>Aledo</b>	14	7	11	9	- 41
<b>Granbury</b>	11	9	6	7	- 33

Aledo scoring: Kinley Elms 12, Ella Isbell 7, Elizabeth Griffin 6, Brooklyn Dempsey 6, Natalie Anderson 4, August Carlone 3, Caroline Browning 2, Kate Jackson 1.



GIRLS SOCCER

## Moritz Kia Tournament



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Emery Thompson (2) celebrates with her teammates after scoring in the Ladycats' 2-1 loss to Lake Travis in the opening round of the Moritz Kia Tournament on Thursday, Jan. 11.

### Youthful Ladycats gain valuable experience

**By Ryan Wade**  
The Community News

For the Aledo Ladycats soccer club, the 2024 campaign has been about one thing so far this season: Experience.

Regardless of wins, losses, or ties, with a roster full of young players still getting used to playing at the varsity level, getting as much time on the pitch as possible is invaluable with district play slated to start in a week's time.

Ladycats head coach Bryan Johnson is still working with the ingredients, looking to find a winning recipe. The Moritz Kia Tournament over this past weekend was the perfect opportunity for Johnson and his team to mix up the lineup and gain a significant amount of experience at the same time.

"We're actually really young," Johnson said of his club. "We don't have any goal scorers. They're all gone, so we're generating goals however we can. We've had eight different goal scorers. We're not scoring a lot of goals, but we play well together as a team."

"It's early days. We're still learning. We're still growing. I'm still looking for that mix. The girls performed. That's what I'm most proud of," he added.

Aledo (2-4-1) started off the tournament on Thursday, Jan. 11, by taking on a stalwart Lake Travis squad coached by former Bearcat Will Maloney. In his first year at the helm in 2023, Maloney led the Lady Cavaliers to a second-place finish in District 4-6A.

Looking to make a statement in his return to Aledo, Maloney's Lady Cavaliers got on the board first, just 10 minutes into play. Ladycat goalkeeper Ava Fennell gave a valiant, leaping effort on a shot over her head that ricocheted off her gloves before finding the net to put Lake Travis up 1-0 early in the first half.

Not to be outdone, Emery Thompson netted a goal as she fired a long-range shot from 32 yards out, beating the Lake Travis keeper to find the upper-right corner of the goal. Thompson's goal tied the match, 1-1, with just under 10 minutes remaining until the break.

Despite significant pressure by Lake Travis, Fennell successfully defended her goal with a number of diving stops. Unfortunately, her streak came to an end with 40 seconds left in the half as Lake Travis secured a second goal to make it a 2-1 affair, which would be the final score.

The second half was a tale of competitive spirit for the Ladycats, as Lake Travis used their depth to

keep fresh bodies on the pitch for the final 35 minutes. Aledo never wavered, as they continued to find a way to hang with a rested Lady Cavaliers squad. Fennell saved a half dozen shots on goal throughout the contest, including a clean sheet in the second half.

In the second round, Aledo faced off against the Midlothian Lady Panthers on Friday, Jan. 12. The Lady Panthers ended the Ladycats' 2023 playoff run during their area matchup last March. Seeking a measure of revenge after being shut out by Midlothian in that match, Aledo managed to score this time, but still lost the contest 8-1.

In the final match of the tourney on Saturday, Jan. 13, the Ladycats nearly got one over on Mansfield Legacy. Senior Georgia Zirbser connected with promising freshman Allyson Weimer as Weimer found the net to put the Ladycats up 1-0.

Aledo held onto the narrow lead throughout the first half, but Legacy found a way to spoil it as Abigail McCaslin snuck a shot by Fennell off a corner kick after the Ladycat keeper had fought off the initial attempt on goal.

McCaslin's goal produced the final as the match ended in a 1-1 tie.

Next up, the Ladycats will play host to Argyle on Friday, Jan. 19 with the match slated to get underway at 5:30 p.m.



SWIMMING

## Senior Night

### Aledo teams split dual meets

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

Competing on Senior Night at the Wilkerson-Greines Activities Center on Jan. 11, the Aledo boys and girls swim teams split their dual matches. The girls defeated Fort Worth Paschal and Burleson, falling to Joshua. The boys defeated Joshua, but fell to Paschal and Burleson.

Here are the top five finishers in their respective events for Aledo (distances in yards):

**Girls**

- 200 Medley Relay: 1. Avery Faulkner, Haley Roberson, Corah Satterfield, Victoria Crews, 2:03.36.
- 200 freestyle: 1. Julia Gordy, 2:20.36.
- 50 freestyle: 1. Crews, 26.02; 2. Roberson, 26.46; 4. Molly Garrison, 29.63.
- 100 butterfly: 2. Satterfield, 1:13.98.
- 100 freestyle: 1. Roberson, 57.53; 3. Gordy, 1:02.85; 5. Av. Faulkner, 1:08.01.
- 500 freestyle: 1. Crews, 6:06.53; 2. Garrison, 6:09.29.
- 200 freestyle relay: 2. Gordy, Alexa Doshi, Addie Speed, Satterfield, 2:01.21.
- 100 backstroke: 3. Satterfield, 1:14.09; 4. Av. Faulkner, 1:14.45.
- 100 breaststroke: 2. Speed, 1:29.35.
- 400 freestyle relay: 1. Crews, Garrison, Gordy, Roberson, 4:10.45; 3. Doshi, Speed, Alli Faulkner, Avery Faulkner, 5:05.06.

**Boys**

- 200 medley relay: 3. Cade Catlin, Porter Lane, Evan Bradley, Tyler Jackson, 1:49.54; 4. Kale Roberson, Ian Perez, Brayden DeBoer, Jaxon Robinson, 1:57.87.
- 200 freestyle: 4. DeBoer, 2:06.34.
- 200 individual medley: 3. Perez, 2:26.58; 4. Roberson, 2:29.24.
- 50 freestyle: 1. Lane, 22.79.
- 100 freestyle: 5. Perez, 58.54.
- 200 freestyle relay: 1. Roberson, Robinson, Catlin, Lane, 1:40.62; 5. Gregory Hunter, Bradyn Baughman, Perez, Matthew Petersen, 1:57.78.
- 100 backstroke: 3. Catlin, 1:04.86; 5. Robinson, 1:10.06.
- 100 breaststroke: 1. Lane, 1:03.46; 5. Bradley, 1:20.51.

The Aledo teams will next compete in the District 5-5A Meet at Northwest ISD Natatorium on Friday, Jan. 26.





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# FOOTBALL

from page one

Nation, for all your support and forever 'Roll Tide!'

McClellan had the option to return to the Crimson Tide as a graduate student or he could have chosen to transfer to another program.

He also posted, "To Coach Saban, thank you for allowing me to live out my dreams at this amazing place. Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to play at Alabama, for always believing in me during my time here and, most importantly, for helping to make me the man that I am today."

Saban announced his retirement from coaching after leaving Alabama to six national championships in his 17 seasons at the helm. He also won a national championship at LSU in 2003.

The website Sportskeeda.com projects McClellan to be a sixth- or seventh-round draft pick should he decide to enter the NFL Draft.

He was an honorable mention All-SEC selection in 2023.

## Senior starter

McClellan solidified his starting position as a senior at Alabama this season. He led the team in rushing with 180 carries for 890 yards and eight touchdowns. His longest run of the season was his Rose Bowl TD.

He also caught 15 passes for 137 yards with a long reception of 42 yards.

McClellan played in 13 of the Tide's 14 games this season. He missed the 27-24 victory against Georgia that sealed the Southeastern Conference championship for Alabama with a re-aggravated foot injury.

McClellan's best game of the season was 27 carries for 115 yards and a touchdown in a 34-20 home victory against Tennessee. He also rushed for 105 yards and a TD on 17 carries in a come-from-behind 24-10 home win over Ole Miss that started the Crimson Tide's turnaround on the season.

## A solid career

McClellan was a solid contributor to the Alabama legacy. In his four seasons the Crimson Tide went 49-6, which included a 13-0 record and national championship in 2020.

Also, the only two losses for Georgia (4-2) in the past three seasons have come at the hands of Alabama, in the 2021 SEC title game and again this season in the SEC final to end a 29-game winning streak.



MARK J. TERRILL / AP PHOTO

Alabama running back Jase McClellan (2) runs for a touchdown during the first half in the Rose Bowl CFP NCAA semifinal college football game against Michigan, Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, in Pasadena, Calif.

McClellan's career has included 44 games played, 355 carries, 1,981 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns. Of those, 1,545 yards and 15 TD have come on 292 carries over the past two seasons.

McClellan has two runs of 80 yards or more. He had an 80-yard touchdown late in the game against Arkansas as a freshman and an 81-yard TD against Texas as a junior.

He also caught 40 passes for 409 yards and six touchdowns, including a long reception of 65 yards.

As a sophomore, he recorded three touchdowns in three different ways against Mercer, the first Bama player to do so since 2013. On special teams, he picked up a blocked punt and returned it 33 yards for a touchdown, rushed for a TD and caught a TD pass.

That same season, in his first career start for the Tide he rushed 12 times for 97 yards and caught a 9-yard touchdown. His season was cut short after five games due to an injury.

He returned as a sophomore to rush for 655 yards and a team-high seven touchdowns.

## Alumni report

Along with McClellan, the area was well-represented by football players whose teams advanced to the NCAA Division I level.

Texas Tech: Baylor Cupp, Brock, tight end, senior, 11 catches, 114 yards, 2 TD. Defeated Cal 34-14 in the Independence Bowl to finish 7-6. Honorable mention All-Big 12. In two season he has 23 catches, 246

yards and four touchdowns after transferring from Texas A&M. Also on roster, Jurrien Lofton, Aledo, offensive lineman, freshman; Luke Dillingham, Brock, defensive back, sophomore.

Utah: Money Parks, Aledo, wide receiver, junior, 31 catches, 293 yards, two TD. Second on the team in catches and yards. Lost Las Vegas Bowl to Northwestern, 17-14 to finish 8-5. In his career he has 58 catches for 719 yards and five TD. He has caught at least one pass in 23 straight games.

Minnesota: Nathan Jones, Brock, tight end, freshman, played one game. Defeated Bowling Green 30-24 in the Quick Lane Bowl for a 6-7 season. Academic All-Big 10.

Oklahoma State: Jalen Pope, Aledo, wide receiver, freshman, played in one game. Defeated Texas A&M 31-23 in the Tax Act Texas Bowl for a 10-4 season.

Oklahoma: Jason Llewellyn, Aledo, tight end, sophomore, played in three games, mostly on special teams. Gunnar Allen, Aledo, offensive lineman, freshman, played one game. Lost Alamo Bowl to Arizona, 38-24, to finish 10-3.

Georgia: Cash Jones, Brock, running back, sophomore, played in all 14 games for the 13-1 Bulldogs. He rushed 22 times for 161 yards and a touchdown, with a long run of 57 yards. He also caught 11 passes for 92 yards and a TD. In the past two seasons he has played in 25 of 29 games.

Texas: BJ Allen, Aledo, defensive back, freshman, played in two games for the 12-2 Longhorns, who reached the College Football Playoff semifinals.

## SUBVARSITY ROUNDUP

# Aledo vs Azle

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Aledo scoring: Evans 17, Berkeley 9, Lily Heckathorn 8, Owens 5, Cardenas 4, Coral Slouth 3, Edington 3, Mayer 2, Browning 2.

## Girls basketball

### Aledo JV 55, Azle JV 24

Aledo	20	13	9	13-55
Azle	9	5	8	2-24

Aledo scoring: Kaelee Berkley 11, Breleigh Mayer 9, Karsyn Evans 8, Savannah Salas 8, Kennedy Cardenas 6, Jordyn Edington 4, Mesoma Emeka-Okoye 3, Jaylee Owens 2, Mia Valencia 2, Natalie Browning 2.

## Aledo Middle School sweeps McAnally

Seventh grade: A team won 22-4, B team won 21-7, C team won 19-14.

## Aledo JV 53, Granbury JV 19

Aledo	18	10	169	-53
Granbury	9	0	46	-19

Eighth grade: A team won 33-16, B team won 31-6, C team won 19-9.

## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo ISD Police Dept. Lt. James Rhodes approaches a classroom with trainer Phillip McKenzie during a threat training exercise held at Aledo High School on June 2.

## JUNE 9

Aledo ISD hosted threat training for members of its own police department and members of neighboring first-responder organizations to prepare for potential threats. Utilizing the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program through Texas State University, first responders from several agencies participated in realistic scenarios involving threats that could arise in a school situation.

Weatherford College wrapped up the greatest baseball season in school history with a third-place finish at the NJCAA Division I World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado.

In their fifth game of the series, WC lost to the No. 1 seed, the College of Central Florida, 14-13 in one of the wildest games the tournament has ever seen. Central Florida beat Wabash Valley College (Illinois) the following night for the Patriots' first national championship.

WC's Robin Villeneuve, Jack

Arthur, Kanon Sundgren and Ryne Rodriguez earned All-Tournament Team honors.

The annual Parker County Sheriff's Posse Frontier Days Rodeo wrapped up another success week-long run, which included annual parade down South Main Street and a dance, along with plenty of professional rodeo competition.

A dozen Aledo Ladycats were named All-District 5-5A, with pitcher Brenlee Gonzales garnering MVP honors. Nathalie Touchet was named Co-Pitcher of the Year, shortstop Reagan Davis was Offensive Player of the Year, and second baseman Delaney Rosser was named Newcomer of the Year. Receiving first-team all-district honors were Presley Hull, Ana Flores, and Addie Perry. A trio of Aledo players also made the second-team: Texas Ray, Claire Byars, and Maddy Jarvis. Taylor McKeane and Allison Mallard received honorable mention recognition.

Turn to page 12

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## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for La Dorada Phase 1 Subdivision Improvements, to include excavation, paving storm drain, water, and sanitary sewer will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

12:00 Noon, Friday February 9, 2024

And publicly opened. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the place of opening prior to the time stated above. Any bidder desiring an electronic copy of the proposal form and bid documents should email their request to [mariaf@barronstark.com](mailto:mariaf@barronstark.com).

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of the La Dorada Phase 1 Subdivision Improvements.

A performance bond, payment bond, and maintenance bond in the amount of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract and upon payment of all persons supplying labor or furnishing materials WILL be required by the Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

Barron-Stark Engineers, LP

Publication: January 19, 2024  
January 26, 2024

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- soreness pain
- former name for Fort Cavazos near Killeen
- TXism: "split \_\_\_\_" (laughed hard)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_ tight he squeaks when he walks" (miser)
- O.J.'s judge
- chili flavorers
- fishng method: "\_\_\_\_ line"
- environment scientist
- Italian artist POW who painted mural in Castro County
- TXism: "risky as \_\_\_\_ a sailor"
- 1st US military flight took place at Fort Sam Houston by Lt. Benjamin \_\_\_\_
- Star State
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_ a hen, she'll cluck"
- TXism: "running around like a chicken with its head \_\_\_\_"
- Texas pink granite with interspersed sky blue quartz
- Pleasant, TX (abbr.)
- Texas state flower in Mexico (2 wds.)
- Texas Blue Bell ice cream holder Irving is the headquarters of this nat'l scouting org.

- in Victoria County on U.S. 87
- immensity
- stat. for Astro Verlander or Ranger Evoldal
- gets whiffs of
- LBJ took \_\_\_\_ of office on Air Force One
- \_\_\_\_ Rio, TX
- Jesus' saying on the cross (Aramaic)
- S-shaped curve

- derision
- TXism: "so many you couldn't \_\_\_\_ 'em with a stick"
- TXism: "burn the midnight \_\_\_\_" (work late)
- Texas case: "\_\_\_\_ v. Wade"
- TXism: "heavy as the front \_\_\_\_ of a John Deere"

- birth state of TX Goodnight (abbr.)
- Starbucks, e.g. (2 wds.)
- these are big on some Texans
- weary exhale
- triple strong eyewear
- Jackson County seat
- Buchanan Dam \_\_\_\_ the Colorado River
- "I told you \_\_\_\_ out of it!"
- colored eye part
- genre of TX Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek" (2 wds.)
- mail place (abbr.)

- shout of triumph
- gear tooth
- home of the NFL Texans
- this Cowboy was 6' 9" (4 wds.)
- colored eye part
- genre of TX Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek" (2 wds.)
- mail place (abbr.)

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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31 charged atoms  
34 dir. to Gonzales from Pleasanton (abbr.)  
35 TX Perot's old co.  
37 TXism: "wouldn't \_\_\_\_ a biscuit!" (harmless dog)  
40 sporty \_\_\_\_ wheels  
43 this Loetscher was South Padre Island "Turtle Lady"  
44 TXism: "a sight \_\_\_\_ eyes"  
50 TXism: "took sick"  
51 TX George H.W. to TX George W.



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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Rio Vista Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Trunk Line Improvements, will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

**12:00 Noon, Friday February 9, 2024**

And publicly opened. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the place of opening prior to the time stated above. Any bidder desiring an electronic copy of the proposal form and bid documents should email their request to mariaf@barronstark.com.

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of Rio Vista Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Trunk Line Improvements.

A performance bond, payment bond, and maintenance bond in the amount of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract and upon payment of all persons supplying labor or furnishing materials **WILL** be required by the Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

Barron-Stark Engineers, LP  
Publication: January 19, 2024  
January 26, 2024

**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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Advertisement dates:  
January 5, 2024  
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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Kelly Ranch Phase 1 Sewer Lift Station Improvements, will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

**12:00 Noon, Friday February 9, 2024**

And publicly opened. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the place of opening prior to the time stated above. Any bidder desiring an electronic copy of the proposal form and bid documents should email their request to mariaf@barronstark.com.

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of the Kelly Ranch Phase 1 Lift Station Improvements.

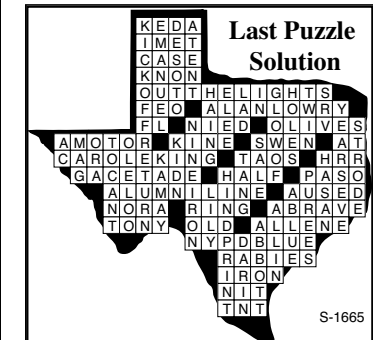
A performance bond, payment bond, and maintenance bond in the amount of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract and upon payment of all persons supplying labor or furnishing materials **WILL** be required by the Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

Barron-Stark Engineers, LP  
Publication: January 19, 2024  
January 26, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by **PRESS CAFÉ - ALEDO LLC dba PRESS CAFÉ - ALEDO**, to be located at 109 S FRONT ST, ALEDO, PARKER COUNTY, Texas. Owner of said corporation is **FELIPE ARMENTA**.



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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 40, No. 8

## Kid Scoop Together

### Kindness Quiz

Answer these questions after you've read this Kid Scoop page. Have a family member check to see if you answered them all correctly.

- A study at Ohio State University found out that doing acts of kindness made people feel**
  - lonely
  - hungry
  - silly
  - better
- When you do a kind act, it often causes other people to do acts of kindness, too.**
  - TRUE
  - FALSE
- A student at Ohio State University put these all around the campus:**
  - flowers
  - apples
  - sticky notes with kind words
  - jokes
- Opening a door for someone is an act of kindness.**
  - TRUE
  - FALSE
- To feel happier and less worried, it helps to help others. You can:**
  - smile at someone new
  - carry someone's groceries
  - give someone a cookie
  - walk a neighbor's dog
  - shovel a snowy sidewalk for a neighbor
  - give compliments
  - volunteer to help someone
  - open doors for others
  - let someone cut in front of you in line
  - all of the above!
- Kindness is catching.**
  - TRUE
  - FALSE

Standards Link: Write descriptively.

## Kindness Is Healthy!

Most people agree that doing kind things for others makes them feel good.

Scientists now believe doing kind things for others is also good for you!

## Five Weeks of Kindness Experiment

Two scientists at Ohio State University asked students who were feeling worried or sad to do three small acts of kindness twice a week for five weeks. The students did things like:



Open doors for others.

Smile at people they haven't met.

Volunteer to help someone.

Shovel a snowy sidewalk.

Carry someone's groceries.

Give compliments.

Let someone cut in line in front of them.

Give someone a cookie.

Walk a neighbor's dog.

At the end of the five weeks, students reported feeling less worried and much happier. **Being kind makes people feel good!**

Standards Link: Language Arts: Read informational text.

## Kindness is Catching!

When you do something kind for another person, it is catching. The person you are kind to will likely go out and do something kind for someone else.

Please help me deliver these donations to the food drive!



## Notes of Kindness

One student at Ohio State spread kindness around the entire campus. She wrote positive and kind words on sticky notes and stuck them to doors, signs, mirrors, and walls around campus.

Fill in the missing vowels to discover some kind words to share.

Y\_U ARE  
\_W\_ \_S\_ \_ME!

H\_ \_V\_ \_A  
F\_ \_NT\_ \_ST\_ \_C  
D\_ \_Y!

D\_ \_NT\_ D\_ \_ \_BT  
TH\_ \_P\_ \_W\_ \_R  
OF K\_ \_NDN\_ \_SS

TH\_ \_NK\_ Y\_ \_ \_  
F\_ \_R\_ B\_ \_ \_NG  
Y\_ \_ \_!

I'M PR\_ \_D  
T\_ \_BE\_ Y\_ \_ \_R  
FR\_ \_ND!

Y\_ \_ \_ARE  
S\_ \_P\_ \_R  
SM\_ \_RT  
\_ \_ND  
S\_ \_P\_ \_R  
F\_ \_NNY,  
T\_ \_ \_!

**Extra! Extra!**

### Thanking a Local Hero

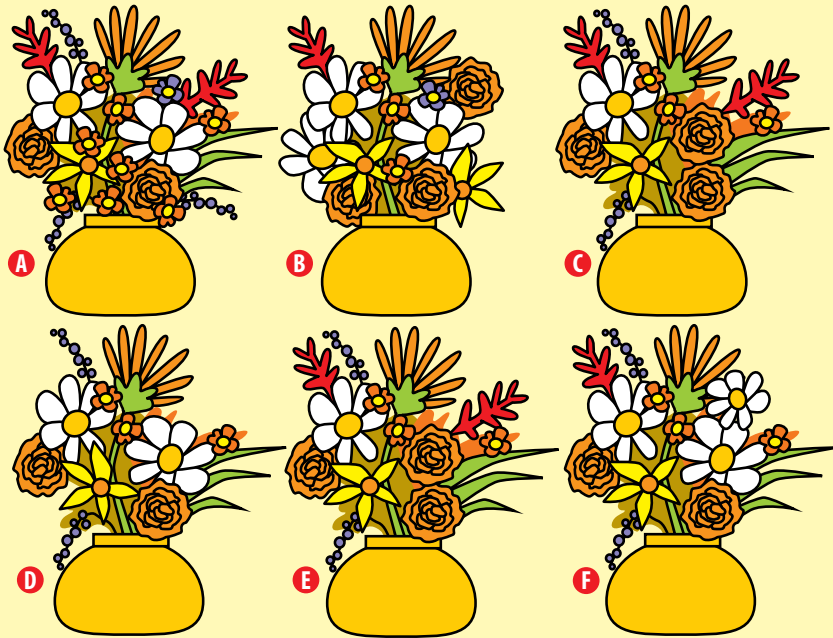
Look for a newspaper article about a person or a group who is helping others in your community. Write them a letter of appreciation and send it to the newspaper's editor for publication.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using letter format.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

How kind! Someone surprised the teachers at Main Street Elementary School with flowers. Can you find the two arrangements that are exactly the same?



## Double Double Word Search

- COOKIE
- DOG
- EDITOR
- FRIEND
- GOOD
- GROCERIES
- HAPPIER
- KINDNESS
- LESS
- NOTES
- OHIO
- PERSON
- SIGNS
- SMILE
- VOLUNTEER

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.

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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:  
**KIND**

The adjective **kind** means helpful, friendly, good.

Your **kind** note cheered me up when I was feeling sad.

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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Helping Others

Look through the newspaper for an article about someone in your community who is struggling. How could you do something kind for this person?

Standards Link: Understand civic responsibility.



Why did the owl invite all her friends over to her tree?

ANSWER: Because she didn't want to be owl alone.

## Write On!

### Kind Things to Say

Write down three kind things you can say to others.

Standards Link: Write descriptively.

BOYS SOCCER

# Moritz Kia Tournament

## Bearcats remain undefeated

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Aledo's Bearcats soccer team is off to quite the hot start to their 2024 campaign despite the cold temperatures.

The Bearcats kicked off the Moritz Kia Tournament on Thursday, Jan. 11, by taking down Chisholm Trail 3-1. They tied Walnut Grove 1-1 on Friday, then closed out the tournament by shutting out Everman as the cold front overtook Bearcat Stadium.

Thursday marked another significant event for Aledo's soccer program, as head coach Derek Vierling was medically cleared to return to the sideline.

Aledo (6-0-2) got out to a two-goal lead against Chisholm Trail in the first half. The Rangers cut the lead in half with a goal of their own in the 50th minute of play as the visiting squad tried to make a game of it.

With the match winding down, forward Trapper Davis cemented the game for Aledo as he worked his way into the box, slipping a shot past the Rangers goalkeeper for the third Bearcat score.

"That's a 6A team. It's impressive to put three goals on them,"

Vierling said after the opening match. "That third goal just sealed it. Everybody could breathe a sigh of



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Harrison Kear dribbles down the field during Aledo's 3-1 win over Chisholm Trail in the opening round of the Moritz Kia Tournament on Thursday, Jan. 11.

relief. It was kind of a nail in the coffin."

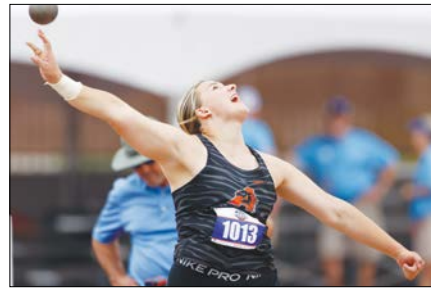
Aledo went toe-to-toe with Walnut Grove in the second round as the match ended in a 1-1 tie.

In their final match of the tourney, the Bearcats shut out Everman behind a pair of goals provided by the Aledo offense. Cole Crawford got the Bearcats on the board with a little help from Harrison Kear. Later in the first half, Brody Gill connected with

Austin Randriamahefa for another Bearcat goal.

Aledo will host Argyle on Friday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Then they wrap up the non-district portion of their schedule when Benbrook comes to town at 7 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 23. The Bearcats officially start district play on Friday, Jan. 26, with a trip to Wichita Falls Rider. That match is scheduled to kick off at 7:30 p.m.

## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Lauren St Peters of Aledo High School placed third in shot put at the state track and field meet in Austin.

Junior Lauren St. Peters of the Aledo Ladycats capped her comeback season by being named to the Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 5A/6A All-Star Team. St. Peters finished third at the Class 5A State Meet in the shot put with a throw of 46 feet, 4 inches. She had previously finished fourth in that event and the discus as a sophomore before injuring her knee and having surgery in January.

### JUNE 16

In a decision that surprised even Daniel Franklin, the Willow Park City Council came out of executive session Tuesday, June 13, and announced they were promoting Franklin to the position of police chief. He had held the job on an interim basis since Carrie Ellis retired and left the area in late March. Many considered Franklin the front runner and figured he'd end up getting the position - but not for a little while longer.

Franklin also previously had the title of interim chief in Jacksonville, where he was on the force for 20 years before coming to Willow Park in 2018 as assistant chief.



Read this issue online

Alex Gaspar of Boy Scout Troop 75 completed his

Eagle Scout project of constructing a fence around the Dawson-Hackett Cemetery located near Hudson Oaks for the Abandoned Cemetery Association. Gaspar and his fellow scouts, all from Aledo High School, spent two weekends on the project. Construction, however, was just the final chapter of a multi-step process. Gaspar first had to devise a plan which included a detailed materials list, labor and equipment requirements, and funding. He also had to consider feeding the troops and safety considerations. In other words, he created a comprehensive project plan.

May's Bearcats of Character were honored for the character trait of purpose: Daisy Hernandez, Aledo High School; Kadence Gavin, Aledo Learning Center; Aubrey Knowles, Daniel Ninth Grade Campus; Ella Dority, Aledo Middle School; Iker Limon, McAnally Middle School; Jackson Brooks, Annetta Elementary School; Rueger Davis, Coder Elementary School; Brooks Mehrhoff, McCall Elementary School; Zachary EATINGER, Stuard Elementary School; Campbell Freeland, Vandagriff Elementary School; and Ezra Martinez, Walsh Elementary School.

Former Aledo Bearcat Max Lucas helped Oral Roberts University reach their first College World Series since 1978.

Former Aledo Bearcat pole vaulter Zach Davis was named a second-team NCAA Division I All-American in track and field for the Texas A&M Aggies following his final college performance at the NCAA National Championships in Austin. Davis is no stranger to Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas, having won 5A state championships there in 2018 and 2019. This time he cleared 17 feet, 4.5 inches to place 15th.

To be continued.



# Way to Go

## Six Bearcats Wrestlers finish in top five!

Azle Nest Invitational



AUSTIN STOCKON

Pictured (from left) are Brady Powell, Bryce Vonasek, Randy Dixon, Brice Bohn, Sam Belyeu, Antonio Madera and Ian McCormick.

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