

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

## Council debates rezoning

### Former Church of Christ property discussed

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The future of the building that used to house Willow Park Church of Christ at 721 Ranch House Rd. is soon to be decided by the Willow Park City Council. In fact, the matter was on the council's agenda for its Tuesday, Jan. 23 meeting before being tabled for a future date.

That didn't stop a group of citizens from voicing their grievances to the council during a public hearing.

The property, no longer used as a church, is listed for sale by owners Stacy Lynch and Jerry Stockon. They and their buyer, Aledo Legacy, LLC, have requested a zoning change from single-family residential to office district. Plans are to use the building for commercial office space.

Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes told the council, led on this evening by Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young in lieu of Mayor Doyle Moss being out of the country, that staff recommended tabling the vote until more can be discussed. He said an effort should be made to "try and find a more equitable solution for everyone."

Willow Park citizen David Lorenzo addressed the council, saying businesses at the location "would dramatically detract from the local neighborhood."

Like several others, Lorenzo's main concern was lighting on the property. In addition, he had a long list of suggested prohibitions, including overnight parking, outside functions, loudspeakers, and more.

Clifford Voorhees, likewise, expressed his concern about the lighting, saying, "We certainly don't want to see the lighting like we have at the Shell station (at the corner of Ranch House Road and I-20 frontage road)."

The lighting, by the way, was mentioned in the agenda item for the public to see on the city's website. Before bringing the item to council, the planning and zoning commission recommended approval by a 3-0 vote with the condition that the intensity of all overhead lighting be limited and shielded to not create a nuisance to surrounding residential dwellings.

Also, per city ordinance, a permanent screening fence of not less than 6 feet tall must be built prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy as the property is next to areas zoned residential.

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 3



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## History Lesson



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**TOP:** Students throughout Aledo ISD participated in studies and activities leading up to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Coder Elementary School students Hayden McCulloch, Abigail Dearman, Makenna Evans, and Jake Barnett colored and hung pictures of the civil rights leader in the hall. **BOTTOM:** Vandagriff Elementary School students Matthew Gallegos, Jonah Mullins, Knox Dennis and Emilee Nunn of Desiree Aars' second grade class made a timeline of King's accomplishments and watched a video on his life.

## 2023 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### JUNE 23

The Aledo School District Board of Trustees met in a nearly three-hour long session to tackle a wide array of topics. The board finalized business from the 2022-23 school year during a portion of the meeting before transitioning to planning for the future.

The first order of business as the meeting got underway was for the board to take some time to acknowledge the academic achievements of Aledo's student athletes. In total there were 27 varsity athletes who received all-state academic awards during the spring season. With the passage of the bond election, the board moved forward on several budgetary items in preparation for the years to come. The largest ticket item up for approval were the plans for the Lynn McKinney Elementary School project.

Weatherford College's Dawson Gleaves and Jace Helton both earned reserve national champion honors after finishing as runners-up in their events at the College National Finals Rodeo. Gleaves turned in an 80.5 ride,

Turn to page 2



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ebby Jones learns new skills at soccer camp, which was held in June.

## WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

### McKinley honored for 1,000th career win

#### School hoops coach since 1977

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

For a historical reference of how long Bob McKinley has been at Weatherford College, Jimmy Carter was sworn in as the 39th president of the United States, the original "Star Wars" movie was released in theaters and Radio Shack was at the height of its popularity.

That was 1977, when the fresh faced young coach from Bowie by way of Houston took over a Lady Coyotes program that had already made a name for itself under another legendary coach, Betty Jo Graber, the lady for whom the facility in which McKinley's team now plays in was named.

It wasn't long before folks at the college and around town began to realize they'd found another gem. He would later join Graber in the NJCAA Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, his induction coming in 2015.

And yes, he was still at Weatherford College at the time of

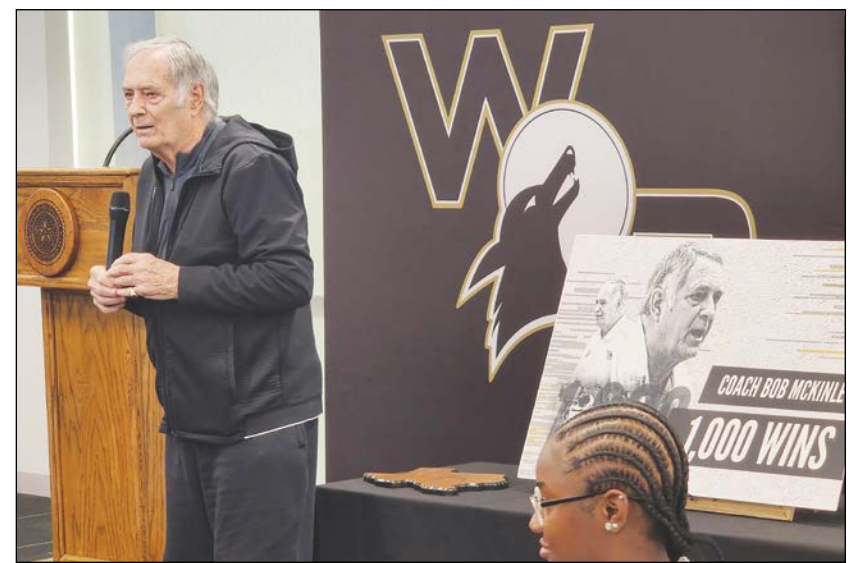
his induction - which is also where he is today. McKinley is in his 47th year at the school, where he has won 16 conference championships, been named conference coach of the year 12 times, and reached five NJCAA Tournaments with one Final Four appearance.

#### Celebrating 1,000 wins

McKinley has said many times that he has no intention of retiring and that he wanted to win at least 1,000 games. He accomplished that feat on Dec. 8 of 2023 with an 89-84 victory against Paris.

Weatherford College honored McKinley with a reception on Thursday, Jan. 18. Friends and faithful, including many players past and present, showed up to congratulate one the school's favorite sons on his monumental achievement.

"I can't imagine 1,000 wins at the same place. He's seen the city of Weatherford change and grow so much in his time here," said Chris Lewis, who is in his third successful year as coach of the Coyotes men's team. "And he's just a great guy. I'm just glad to say he's someone



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford College Lady Coyotes coach Bob McKinley addresses the crowd at a reception honoring him for his 1,000th career victory.

who has been there in my career, someone I can always come to and get advice."

WC Athletic Trainer Chris Nelson has worked with McKinley for almost a decade and a half. He said McKinley was keeping a promise when he reached the milestone.

"I came around for 750, saw him get 800 and 900," Nelson said.

"Around 800 it was kind of hard to fathom 200 more wins, but he said he'd do it and he did."

McKinley did it by consistently winning. His teams were regulars in the postseason as much as pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving. He is the winningest active NJCAA Division I coach in the nation.

Turn to **COACH**, page 9

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# Young Men's Service League Aledo lends "Refresh for Recovery" efforts to Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas

High school young men and their moms volunteer more than 3,000 hours of service to improve facility

**Special to The Community News**

As part of their annual Ultimate Gift Project, the Aledo Chapter of the Young Men's Service League (YMSL) volunteered more than 3,000 hours in the months of October, November, and December to the Azle Chapter of Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas (ATC), a faith-based addiction recovery center.

To assist ATC with recent significant remodeling efforts to their facilities, which included turning an existing storage building into a full-service kitchen and gathering space, YMSL Aledo volunteered on projects such as cleaning and painting the fence that surrounds the property, yard clean-up, updating insulation and ceiling tiles in the main building, power washing wood decks on each of the outbuildings, and disassembling the trailer used for holiday festivities.

"We were hoping to give a "refresh for recovery" by helping [ATC] have an enjoyable home and facility for their recovery efforts, but we feel the impact went deeper than the cosmetic changes we were able to make," said Alice Whitten, YMSL Aledo's Assistant VP of Philanthropy. "We believe our efforts helped our members — moms and young men alike — see first-hand what addiction looks like, how addicts can recover, and how the community can facilitate that recovery. We also believe our efforts helped these men be seen and supported by their larger community."

Following the months of service YMSL Aledo was able to provide, Azle Men's Director, Greg



Aledo high-school-age students and their moms volunteered more than 3,000 service hours to help upgrade the Adult & Teen Challenge facility in Azle.

Ambrosion, expressed gratitude and said that as part of their recovery, they go out into the community and help others who are less fortunate. He said they were honored and felt loved to have someone show up for them in the same way. ATC men frequently give back to their local community, and YMSL's efforts were a way for the community to show up in return.

Adult & Teen Challenge: ATC, which came to Texas in 1968, operates a dozen facilities throughout the state, including the men's program in Azle. They also run 200 centers nationwide and 1,200 worldwide. ATC's mission is to provide youth, adults and families with effective and comprehensive Christian faith-based solutions to life-controlling addictions in order to become productive members of society. For more information, visit [teenchallengetxt.org](http://teenchallengetxt.org).

Young Men's Service League: YMSL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit national volunteer organization comprised of young men in the 9th-12th grades and their mothers.

While YMSL members participate in a variety of service activities year-round, the YMSL Ultimate Gift is a focused, multi-day project dedicated to appreciably improving the lives of the communities they serve. The Ultimate Gift accomplishes a project the philanthropy partner(s) would not be able to complete without additional support. The YMSL Ultimate Gift project is inspired by the award-winning book The Ultimate Gift by Jim Stovall.

YMSL represents nearly 11,500 moms and more than 12,500 young men in 130 chapters in 18 states. YMSL provides opportunities for moms and sons to volunteer together and impact their community while making lasting memories. In addition to fostering a heart for service, YMSL teaches leadership and life skills as part of its four-year comprehensive program to develop young men into capable and confident leaders of tomorrow.

## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

his best of the week, on a bull named "Sticky." WC's Jace Helton (heeler) and Quade Hiatt (header) of West Texas A&M University finished second in team roping. The combined points from Gleaves and Helton gave WC a sixth-place men's team finish.



with a proclamation honoring her service. Also, Daniel Franklin was officially sworn in as the city's new full-time police chief.

Aledo ISD announced the hiring of an associate principal and an assistant principal at Aledo High School, and the addition of assistant principals at McAnally Middle School and Stuard Elementary School. Dr. Jeffrey Bradley was named as a high school associate principal, coming over after having been an assistant principal at Weatherford High School in Weatherford ISD since 2020.

Stacy Donalson was named a high school assistant principal after having been an assistant principal at McAnally Middle School for a year. Dr. Megan Snyder was named as an assistant principal at McAnally Middle School, having previously worked as a freshman success coach and biology teacher at Western Hills High School in Fort Worth ISD. Brandy Emmitte was named the assistant principal at Stuard Elementary School and was a special education instructional facilitator in Aledo ISD for three years.

Eight members of the Aledo Ladycats softball were named Class 5A Academic All-State by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Honored were seniors Claire Byars, Chloe Cox, Reagan Davis, Morgan Fontenot, Presley Hull, Madison Jarvis, Allison Mallard and Nathalie Touchet.

Aledo Ladycat senior-to-be Lauren St. Peters won a pair of bronze medals in the shot put and discus in the prestigious Nike Outdoor Nationals in Eugene, Oregon. She threw the discus 151 feet, 4.5 inches and came back the next day with a personal-best throw of 47-6.25 in the shot put.

**JUNE 30**

The Willow Park City Council celebrated the retirement of an individual who played an important role in the city's growth, along with the beginning of a new chapter in leadership and protector. Betty Chew retired after seven years in the planning and development department. Mayor Doyle Moss presented her

Garrett Hilton joined Trinity Christian Academy as the new varsity girls basketball coach. Hilton has 21 years of basketball coaching experience in public schools, with the last 11 being a head girls basketball coach. He has

Turn to page 3

**Class of 2023** Graduation 2023

Celebrating the Aledo High School and Trinity Christian Academy Class of 2023

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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

# DOJ

from page 4

Insurance Program (CHIP) postpartum coverage from two months to 12 months, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced last week.

As a result, anyone enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP who is pregnant or becomes pregnant is automatically enrolled for 12 months of postpartum coverage.

"I thank Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature for standing by our families," said HHS Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young. "Twelve months of postpartum coverage will help mothers across this state gain access to high-quality healthcare."

The state projects that about 137,000 women will benefit from the extended coverage in fiscal year 2025.

# State has transported more than 100,000 migrants to other cities

Since April 2022, the state of Texas has sent more than 100,000 migrants to major cities in other states, the governor's office announced recently.

The largest number - 37,100 - have been sent to New York City, followed closely by 30,800 sent to Chicago. Other cities receiving migrants include Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; Denver; and Los Angeles.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams has sued the bus companies paid by Texas to shuttle the migrants to his city.

*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.*

# AIR

from page 4

Maybelline shook his head about his masters--unashamedly "dog people"--befriending felines in all kinds of weather.

Coming out of the 90-hour freeze unscathed, Rex recalled an old sign that used to hang in one of the Tacketts' radio stations. Faded and dim, it spoke volumes: "God Save Us From Dead Air."



Actually, not much happens in radio that Tackett hasn't seen before. He has reaped numerous honors, including induction into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in 2012. This Cross Plains native has logged 55 years in sales, general management and ownership of radio stations formatted for all types of programming.

He has managed leading radio stations in four major cities while employed by national broadcasting networks before owning and operating Wicks Radio, the Tacketts' group of 19 radio stations in five states.

He and Mariann have lived the good life in Brownwood, her place of birth, since 2001. All-round community servants, they continue their support of noble projects great and small. If you run into either of them, ask about their cats and dog. Then, press Rex for a hand-on-Bible answer: Does he really have cases of both cat food and hair dryers in his storage shed?

*Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to write weekly and speak publicly. Contact: 817-447-3872, newbury@speakerdoc.com.*

# Accomplishments



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

The Weatherford chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Valerie Gittinger, a Weatherford College student in the Emergency Medical Services/Paramedic Program. Pictured NARFE Chapter 509 President Joe Brinkley, Gittinger and WC Emergency Management Systems Program Coordinator Samantha Grimsley.

# Fiorenzi LeTourneau University Announces Fall 2023 Dean's List

Taylor Fiorenzi a Mechanical Engineering major was named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at LeTourneau University. The Dean's List recognizes students who have achieved a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.99 for the semester.

LeTourneau University President Dr. Steven D. Mason said being named to the Dean's List is a significant academic achievement and honor.

"As the comprehensive Christian polytechnic institution in the country, LeTourneau University attracts students who are among our nation's best," Mason said. "I'm especially impressed with these honor roll students, and I expect them to have a significant impact on our future."

# Carlson Named to Fall 2023 Chancellor's List at UA Little Rock

Jaelle Carlson, of Weatherford, TX, has been named to the Fall 2023

Chancellor's List at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

UA Little Rock recognizes superior academic performance at the end of each semester. To be named to the UA Little Rock Chancellor's List, a student must have completed at least nine credit hours with a 3.9 GPA or higher.

More than 630 UA Little Rock students were named to the Chancellor's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

With about 9,000 students and 100 programs, UA Little Rock offers learning, research, service, social and career opportunities that can only be found at a metropolitan university located in Arkansas's capital city.

# McKamey Named to Fall 2023 Dean's List

Isabel McKamey of Weatherford, TX, was named to the fall 2023 dean's list at the University of Dallas for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. McKamey is a Junior Business major.

# Birthdays



ANN GRACE

Lula Johnson Kirk celebrated her 90th birthday, hosted by her children and their spouses (Ann and Mike Grace, Margaret and Vaughan Morris, Calvin and Linda Kirk, Carol and Tom Ray) at Center Point Baptist Church on Saturday, Jan. 13, along with grandchildren and great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and lifelong friends who came to wish her Happy Birthday!

Undergraduate students at the University of Dallas must complete two years of fundamental coursework in the humanities, sciences, politics, mathematics and fine arts. Students must also complete coursework in Ancient Greek, French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish.

The University of Dallas is the premier Catholic liberal arts university in the country, known for its rigorous undergraduate Core Curriculum and robust graduate and professional programs in business, ministry, education and the humanities. With campuses in Texas and Italy, UD stands apart as a thriving community of lifelong learners committed to an education that forms students intellectually, socially and spiritually for a life well-lived.

# COUNCIL

from page one

Grimes told The Community News the location includes no plans for a restaurant or retail with no late hours and primarily daytime activity only.

But the voiced concerns went beyond lighting. Terri Holcombe cited a concern for the safety of children in the area and asked the council, "Can anyone ensure that any of the people renting these spaces aren't there for nefarious reasons?"

She then added that she believes an influx of strangers and signage would challenge the neighborhood feel, following up with the question, "Are there going to be cameras pointed toward my house?"

Mary Diedrich expressed a concern about more traffic on the road, saying, "I'm always afraid I'm going to find someone ejected through the windshield in my front yard."

Robert Heil, pastor at Willow Park Church of Christ, also addressed the council, while also

telling the protesting citizens not to be concerned.

"We wouldn't have made this move if I'd not had confidence in the people buying and what they're going to do with it," he said, though he did also ask council to make certain the lighting portion of the agreement is upheld.

Grimes thanked the speakers for voicing their concerns, assuring them more discussion is forthcoming, hopefully to include residents and the property owners.

"This is democracy in action. They're doing it right now in New Hampshire in a different way," he said, adding they are more than welcome to contact city hall. "We're about as transparent as you can get. We're an open book here."

Young, who has lived in the area near the church for three decades, told the citizens, "I am your neighbor. I drive by that location all the time. Sometimes you don't know what people care about until you put something out there. Thank you for participating in our government."

Willow Park Communications and Marketing Director Rose

Hoffman encouraged citizens to be careful about where they get information, asking them to come to the city with any questions or concerns.

"It is discouraging to me that through this process I have visited with so many of our residents who are relying on unreliable sources for their city news. The city has worked very hard over the last five years to establish official communication channels for our residents and businesses," she said.

"I encourage anyone to reach out directly to me if they are unable to find these channels."

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P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008

### Physical:

1015 Champions Drive, Aledo, TX

### Phone:

817-441-7661

### Web:

www.community-news.com

### PUBLISHER/EDITOR

**Randy Keck**

rkeck@community-news.com

Direct Line: 817-386-1469

### DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

**Loydale Schmid**

lschmid@community-news.com

Direct Line: 817-386-1467

### CIRCULATION

**Reagan Tomlin**

business@community-news.com

### PAGE AND AD DESIGN

**Laura Finer**

production@community-news.com

### AISD INTERN

**Tate Shepherd**

### EDITORIAL STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

**Chris Amos** - Features/Photography

**Kathy Chruscielski** - Photography

**John English** - Features

**Richard Henderson** - Commentary

**Rick Mauch** - News and Sports

**Breigh Mayer** - Photography

**Kristin Morales** - Photography

**Ryan Wade** - News and Sports

**Melissa Winn** - News and Sports

### CONTACT POINTS

#### Billing

billing@community-news.com

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#### Ad Design Materials

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#### Announcements, News, Obituaries

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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

### DOJ report on response to Uvalde shooting scathing



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The U.S. Justice Department issued a scathing report late last week on the May 4, 2022, mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said at a news conference in Uvalde that officials' response that day and afterward "was a failure that should not have happened."

The Justice Department's nearly 500-page report noted that it took 77 minutes before the shooter was killed, and that officials made the mistake of attempting to negotiate with the killer in the classroom where victims were trapped.

"This was the most significant failure," Garland said. "That failure meant that law enforcement officials prioritized a protracted evacuation of students and teachers in other classrooms, instead of immediately rescuing the victims trapped with the active shooter."

The Uvalde victims' families were first provided copies of the report ahead of its official release.

### Medical board petitioned to issue abortion guidelines

Two Austin attorneys are asking the Texas Medical Board to issue guidelines on abortion laws to clarify the medical exceptions allowed under the state's near total ban, the *Statesman* reported. Steve and Amy Bresnen, who are married, asked the board to devise rules to "ensure critical care to pregnant females and implement medical emergency exceptions to laws that

otherwise punish those who perform abortions."

The medical board has 60 days to either initiate a rule making process or deny the request.

The Texas Supreme Court made a similar request in December after rejecting the bid of a Dallas mother with a fatal fetal diagnosis to have an abortion in Texas. Kate Cox ultimately traveled to New Mexico to have the pregnancy terminated.

### 5th circuit throws out recently passed book ban

Citing free speech grounds, the conservative 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has halted a Texas law that bans school library books deemed "sexually explicit," *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Two Texas bookstores and national trade groups representing booksellers, authors and publishers had filed the suit to challenge a law passed in the last legislative session.

The law was to take effect Jan. 1, but a lower court blocked its implementation. It was unclear whether the state would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Texas leads the nation in book bans, according to *The News*. Approximately 800 books were removed from Texas school libraries from July 2021 to June 2022. The ruling let stand a portion of the new law that requires the State Board of Education to approve standards for Texas school libraries to follow, which it has done. However, without the ratings required by the new law, the statute will not operate as originally intended.

### Paxton: Agency won't fight whistleblower suit

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced last

week his agency will no longer fight a whistleblower suit filed by four former top attorneys who were fired in 2020 after accusing their boss of corruption, *The News* reported. Previously the Texas Supreme Court ruled that Paxton and his aides must testify under oath about what led to the firings. Paxton announced he will accept a trial court judge's final ruling on the lawsuit.

Paxton again criticized the whistleblowers, whom he previously referred to as "rogue employees."

"I will not allow my office to be distracted by these disgruntled former employees and their self-serving sideshow," he said.

The four former employees and their legal team are evaluating their next steps in the case. A settlement was reached last year for \$3.3 million but the Legislature refused to fund it, sparking the embattled attorney general's impeachment in the House and acquittal in the Senate. Joe Knight, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs, said Paxton's argument against the validity of the case has already been rejected by four previous courts.

Meanwhile, Paxton paid the attorneys who successfully defended him in the Senate impeachment trial \$2.3 million, the *Texas Tribune* reported.

The money came out of his campaign funds, which is legal under state law.

The trial centered on allegations from the whistleblowers that Paxton abused his office to help a major donor, Nate Paul, who has since been indicted on loan fraud charges.

### CHIP postpartum coverage extended to 12 months

A law that takes effect March 1 extends Medicaid and the Children's Health

Turn to DOJ, page 3

## Idle American

### Hot Air or Dead Air?



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

My friend Rex Tackett, as community-minded as anyone I've ever known, is admired for always taking the high road, and--when necessary--the high wire as well.

He takes life on with cheer, always confident of sunrise tomorrow, no matter how many clouds--dark as they may be--fluff up the sky today. He and his wife, Mariann, are stalwarts in their hometown(s) of Brownwood and Coleman, where they own and operate radio stations.

Easy-going and armed with funny stories for all occasions, he is collared to speak at various functions in both communities, sometimes venturing into adjoining counties. He's an easy mark for civic meetings, particularly if it involves Kiwanis International, where he has been a kingpin for years. Rarely would casual observance suggest that he's a no-nonsense kind of guy, but frigid weather--rare as it is in central/west Texas--can peel back several layers of concern.

The weather challenged a few days ago when thermometers flirted with negative figures. At the Tackett household, priorities changed quickly to red alert.

He rushed through Brownwood stores hours before temperatures tumbled, eager to stock up on critical provisions. At the top of his list was cat food, since he and Mariann are--without intent--cat "harborers," often with a dozen or so meowing at their door. They are compassionate people, far more generous to neighborhood cats than their dog--a red healer named Maybelline--thinks is necessary.

Before exiting one store, he checked to see if money could be saved when hair dryers are purchased by the case. Huh?

This drew smiles from store personnel who asked why he'd ever need so many hair dryers.

He patiently explained that a transmitting tower for one of the Tacketts' radio stations rises from the peak of Santa Anna Mountain.

Some 460 feet tall, it reaches skyward above one of the highest points in the area. Emitting therefrom--he carefully explained are signals that fly through the air into home receivers, replacing radio silence with radio sound. (This is helpful information for the likes of us who barely know how to turn a radio on.) Such high-flying technology works, however, when towers don't freeze over. When they do, Tackett added, one might think that friends could be called on. But, he hasn't even tried, despite toying with the idea of running extension cords to the mountain top for hair dryers to plug in. In a perfect world, friends might rally there, pointing hair dryers skyward, thus keeping radio signals moving right along. (There he was, dreaming again.)

Well, the situation ended well. The tower continued to do what towers do, and they didn't miss a lick at the radio stations located a few miles to the east and west.

The public continued to be served, a nameless cat population remained well fed and

Turn to AIR, page 3

## Thistles&Roses

### These ones are only, like, words



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

"Only" "Like" "Anyways" "These ones" "Awesome" "What's a good number for you?"

This column is meant to be an observation of how our language is used and evolves. The above words and phrases are just a few examples of how words have morphed over periods of time.

Language is supposed to be a means of communicating. But I find the changes that occur are very curious. And maybe some evolutions of expression are not creating better communication.

"Only" is a word that has been used and misused over time. The late columnist, James Kilpatrick, wrote an annual column about "only" and its misplacement among phrases.

A current example is the phrase in Liberty Mutual

Commercials that "You only pay for what you need."

It would be more accurate to say "You pay for only what you need."

To paraphrase one of Kilpatrick's examples, he cited the following phrases, showing that the placement of "only" can change the meaning;

"Jim only ate chocolate." "Jim ate only chocolate."

In the first phrase, Jim could eat, melt, dislike, or do anything that he wanted with chocolate but he only ate chocolate.

In the second phrase, Jim may want to eat a variety of foods, but he ate only chocolate.

"Like" has become a meaningless connecting word. It seems to have overtaken "you know," you know.

Some people use "like" multiple times in the same sentence. Just stop and listen to others and yourself when you hear "like" too much. It will, like, drive you, like, crazy! It is like, insane like!

"Anyways" and "These ones" are really strange evolutions of speech. One can say that something would have happened anyway. Now often people say it would have happened anyways. We really don't need to add the "s" to anyway, anyways.

"These ones" is pretty easy to simplify. Just say "these." Nothing is added by "ones."

"Awesome." When I think of something awesome, I think of when I saw my wife coming down the church aisle to marry me. I think of being present when my two sons were born. Those were awesome events for me.

When a waiter asks me what I want to order and I ask for a hamburger and fries, and he replies "awesome!" I think it's good or okay to order a hamburger, but I don't find it awesome. It's just a hamburger and no matter how good it is, it is never going to be awesome.

I think "awesome" is a mandatory term for teachers, especially elementary school teachers.

But I give all teachers a pass on their use of awesome. Teachers, those who enter that most noble and underpaid and often under appreciated of professions, are truly awesome at the highest level of the meaning of awesome -- full of awe! Teachers can say awesome as much as they want.

Now, "What's a good number for you?" should be obvious. -- Why would I give you a bad one?

## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

had head girls coaching positions at Brazoswood High School, Clear Brook High School, Kennedale High School, and most recently at Peaster High School, where he led the Lady Greyhounds to three consecutive undefeated seasons in district play and regional semifinal appearances in 2021 and 2022.

### JULY 7

At an Aledo City Council meeting, Tom Bryson, Vice President and Public Sector Practice Leader for Cooksey Communications, explained the city's strategic communications plan to the council. A significant component to that plan put to the council was the suggestion to add a full-time communications person.



Read this issue online

The 2023 edition of Dave Campbell's Texas Football hit newsstands. Aledo would enter the season ranked No. 1 in Class 5A Division I. Of course, they'd go on to win a record 12th state championship.

Most local golfers are familiar with Canyon West Golf Club, but many may not have given much thought to who owns the facility. Weatherford College became the owner after Richard and Nancy Stuart donated the course to the school. Construction began on Canyon West in 1996. According to the course's website, a thick slab of limestone was found about four feet deep during construction, and the limestone was used to create the course's signature waterfall and other features. The Stuarts purchased the award-winning golf course in 2012.

Beginning in the sunlight with festivities and ending with fireworks at dark, the cities of Hudson Oaks and Weatherford each hosted their annual Fourth of July events, free to the public. Hudson Oaks' annual Boomin' 4th Independence Day event involved live entertainment with the band Party Machine. Weatherford's traditional Spark in the Park welcomed thousands of people with live music from singer-songwriter Chris



MADISON SCOTT/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Party Machine provided musical entertainment at Boomin' 4th in Hudson Oaks. Thousands of people turned out for fireworks shows and family activities on The United States' birthday.

Colston and three-time Grammy nominee Pat Green.

Aledo High School Alum Leah Vann, who beat cancer in her youth, was profiled after she became the LSU football and baseball beat writer for The Advocate in Baton Rouge.

The Tarrant Area Food Bank West hosted its second annual signature fundraiser, Peaches in the Warehouse, at the food bank, which is located at 112 Winners Circle in Weatherford. It is combining the celebration of Parker County peaches with fighting hunger and benefiting TAFB West.

### JULY 14

Once again the annual Parker County Peach Festival was a resounding success. The event drew fans from all over the United States and this, the 38th edition, was no different as thousands of folks flocked to downtown Weatherford to brave the summer heat for a taste of what many call the best peaches in the world.

Brutal heat across Texas had the state rivaling the hottest locations



Read this issue online



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford Chamber of Commerce volunteers Wendy Davis, Stacy Cliver, and Molly Michel display a Peach Festival t-shirt.



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Tim Buchanan is shown with his wife, Rebecca, daughter Mady, Allison Erinakes (Caleb's fiancé) and son Caleb, when he was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) 63rd Hall of Honor.

on the planet. A dome of high pressure with dangerous heat and high humidity across the state has led local officials to warn people to take precautions.

### JULY 21

The Aledo City Council announced that water customers in the city would soon be able to track their water usage in real time as the city embarked on a project to install automated water meters. The city conducted a pilot program with about 100 automated meters. Mayor Nick Stanley noted it takes the public works department about three days a month to perform meter readings throughout the city. He said the saved staff time would be used on other needed projects. One advantage of the new system is that it will allow water customers to become aware earlier if they have leaks or other problems.

Former Aledo football coach Tim Buchanan, known to all in town as Buc, was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

Weatherford ISD honored its Teachers of the Year. Winners were Amanda Murphy, Austin Elementary; Grace Burkett, Crockett Elementary; Tisha Hadley, Curtis Elementary; Disa Billings, Ikard Elementary; June Ahrens, Martin Elementary; Emily Ratterree, Seguin Elementary; Allyson Scown, Wright Elementary; Evelyn Hughes, Hall Middle; Kelly Nance, Tison Middle; Matthew Holder, Ninth-Grade Center; Morgan Wright, Weatherford High.

Eight members of the Mach 1 Track Club qualified to compete in Eugene, Oregon July 24-30 at the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics, while five qualified for the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa July 26-Aug. 5.

At a special meeting, the Willow Park City Council voted unanimously to file a lawsuit against Half Associates, the company that designed the water line from Fort Worth to Willow Park and Hudson Oaks. The lawsuit stemmed from an event in November of 2020, when it was discovered that the original estimated cost for the water line and associated equipment was going to be about \$6.5 million short.

*To be continued.*



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## Obituaries

### Larry Glenn Burrows

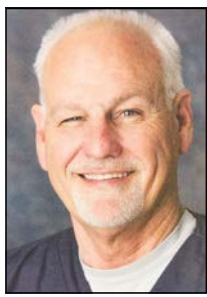
Dr. Larry Glenn Burrows, 77, passed away on January 11, 2024, in Aledo.

Larry was born June 27, 1946, in Atlanta, Texas, to Robert and Ada Marie Burrows. He graduated from Atlanta High School in 1964 and pursued his undergraduate degree in Biology at the University of North Texas. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, he continued his educational journey at UNT by attaining his Master's Degree in Aquatic Ecology.

After graduation, Dr. Burrows began teaching high school Biology at Richardson High School. He taught at Richardson High for one year and then began medical school at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth.

During his residency at the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital, he met the love of his life, Becky Vesta Burrows. In 1976, he graduated from Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine with a degree in Family Medicine. That same year, he and Becky were married.

Colleagues of Dr. Burrows refer to him as a pioneer and pillar of the Osteopathic community of North Texas. As the years passed, he prided himself on being a mentor for the generations of physicians and physician's assistants who came after.



Larry Burrows

Dr. Burrows opened his first family practice, the East Berry Medical Clinic, in 1978. In 1980, he opened his second practice in Aledo. In 1986, Larry and Becky moved to Aledo, where he remained until his passing.

Dr. Burrows was a well-respected pillar of the Aledo community. He was a beloved physician that was truly gifted in managing patients with complicated medical conditions. He was an active and beloved member of the Aledo United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Chancel Choir and made numerous friends that shared in his love of music. From those friendships, numerous bands were born throughout the years, which also lead to the birth of the Praise Band at Aledo United Methodist Church.

Dr. Burrows served as the team physician for the Aledo Bearcats football team for 20 years and was an active school board member for 10.

If you ever met Dr. Burrows, there is a good chance he shared a story or two about his pride in being a part of the Bearcat community. Even with such a busy schedule, Dr. Burrows always made sure he was there for his three children; whether it be coaching multiple youth football and basketball teams or being present at games as his

children grew older and excelled in various sports.

Dr. Burrows continued to split his time between the Aledo and East Berry Clinics until 2002, when he decided to focus his time solely on the East Berry Clinic. After 46 years of practicing medicine, Dr. Burrows retired in 2022.

Dr. Burrows was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Becky Vesta Burrows. He is survived by his wife, Linda Soto Burrows; children, Sally Burrows Bodron (husband Mike; children Michael, Adaline, Eleanor, and William), Dr. Katie Burrows Malone (husband JT; children Logan and Mason), and John Burrows (children Kelby and John). He is survived by his brother, Bob Burrows (wife Becky, son Brad), and numerous extended family and friends.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aledo.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 3, at Aledo United Methodist Church with a reception following in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, consider donating to the Dr. Larry Burrows Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded to graduating students of Aledo ISD who are pursuing a career in medicine. Donations can be made at [www.docburrows.com](http://www.docburrows.com).

The Community News  
January 26, 2024

### Larry Lee Colvin, Jr.

Larry Lee Colvin Jr., a resident of Aledo, passed away Tuesday, January 9, at Medical City Hospital in Weatherford, at the age of 88.

Larry was born on June 18, 1935, in Beeville, Texas. He developed an early interest in music during elementary and junior high school in Big Lake, Texas, under the Band Director Charles Vick. At thirteen, Larry moved to Anchorage, Alaska and continued with band. Later, he joined the army and became a member of the Ninth Army Band and developed an appreciation for jazz, classical, and country western music.

After the army, Larry moved back to Texas and enrolled in Abilene Christian College; he proceeded to explore his interest in music and graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor Degree in Music Education. His first teaching position was in San Angelo, Texas as an elementary strings teacher.

Larry married his wife, Charlsie Wooldridge, in 1961; they were married for 62 years.

In 1962, Larry began his career as band director in Archer City; he enjoyed building his music program. In 1964, he moved to Sunray, Texas as high school band director. In 1966, he was hired by the Irving Independent School District and became the band director at Travis Junior High School. Later was promoted to band director at MacArthur High School; where he worked with the marching band, concert band, and jazz band. This was an exciting time for him and the students.

The band received recognition for outstanding ratings for its performance at individual marching and concert contests. On New Years Day 1971, the three high school bands and drill teams from Irving I.S.D.: Irving, Nimitz, and MacArthur performed at the Cotton Bowl Pre-game Show under the direction of Larry Colvin. This was an honor for the band members and their parents, as well as for the city of Irving, Texas.

After retiring from the Irving Independent School District, Larry had time to enjoy traveling



Larry Colvin, Jr.

and hiking in many Texas state and national parks. He spent more time with his hobby of photography, especially landscapes and learning to develop his own film. He enjoyed cooking, especially baking French and Italian Bread. He loved basketball and became an avid fan of the Dallas Mavericks Basketball Team. He loved reading, especially about the history of Texas and the United States as well as baking books. He had macular degeneration and as his vision became more limited; he continued his reading interest with audio books.

He was preceded in death by his father, Larry L. Colvin Sr. and his mother, Edith Morgan Bauwens, and his brother, Clark Colvin.

He is survived by his wife, Charlsie Wooldridge Colvin; sister, Rora Shook Colvin, Junction, Texas; step-brothers, Bert Mahnken and his wife, Ann, Mason, Texas, and Bruce Mahnken, Rowlett; sister-in-law, Marlene Pennington, Houston; nieces and nephews: Nicole and Tony Gutierrez, North Hills, California; Heather and Bryan McDaniel, Houston; Carey Wooldridge, Nexia, Missouri; and Tina and Andy Fielder, Bartlesville, OK; great nieces and nephews: Ollie and Max Gutierrez; Sophia and Sidney McDaniel; and Abbey Fielder; two longtime friends who are former fellow travelers and band directors: Gary Zook, Floresville, Texas and Earl Haberkamp, Fort Worth.

This lovely man will be missed and his memory treasured by his family and close friends.

In lieu of flowers the family would ask that you consider a donation to one of these organizations that provide medical support to children; which was important to Larry:

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
P.O. Box 50  
Memphis, TN 38101-9929

Shriners Hospitals for Children  
P. O. Box 1576  
Ranson, WV 25438-9907

The Community News  
January 26, 2024

### Marsha Lynn Feely

Marsha Lynn Feely, 69, passed away peacefully, after suffering from Acute Myeloid Leukemia on December 12, 2023, in Fort Worth, Texas with her loving husband by her side.

Marsha was born on January 18, 1954 in Fort Worth, Texas to the late Harold Eugene Hendrix and Elizabeth Marie Allgood Hendrix.

Marsha was married to the love of her life and her soulmate, Dan for 41 years.

She loved to spend time with her husband and travel. One of her favorite things to do was to go spend time at their cabin in Colorado. She also loved fishing and making memories with her friends



Marsha Feely

and family. She loved driving her Jeep and Razor in the mountains.

Marsha was employed by Bailey Pontiac Mazda, Bill McDavid Pontiac, Charlie Hillard Ford/Lexus, and retired from Autonation as the Director of FTT Team. Her career expanded more than 50 years in the automotive industry.

Marsha is preceded in death by her loving son, Michael Feely; parents, Harold and Marie Hendrix; and Brother-in-laws, Jack Feely and Dick Feely.

Marsha is survived by her loving husband, Dan; Sister, Patricia Marie Hendrix; Brother, Bob Dale Hendrix; Sister -in-law, Marcia Feely; Niece, Anne Atkins; Nephews, Johnny Feely, Michael Feely, Shawn Feely, & Brandon



Bennet; and countless aunts, cousins, coworkers & friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Michael Feely Memorial Scholarship Fund in care of Dan Feely, P.O. Box 74, Argyle, Texas 76226.

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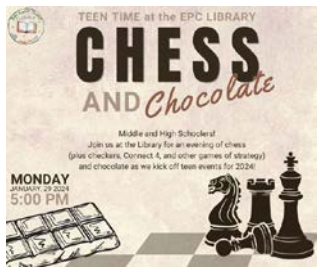
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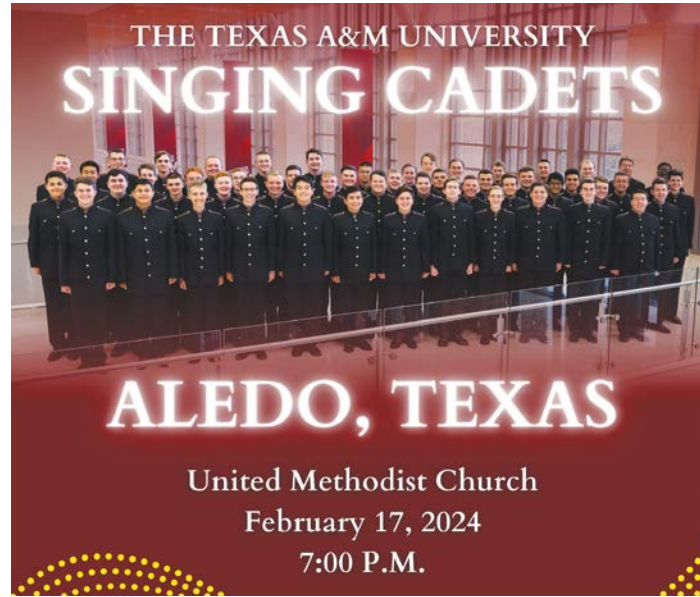


**JANUARY 29**

**Teen Time at the library**  
Middle and High Schoolers at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan 29 at that East Parker County Library come enjoy Chess and chocolate (plus checkers, connect four, etc.) as we Kick off Teen Time at the library for 2024!

**Project Celebration 2024 Parent Meeting**

Class of 2024 Parents and Guardians Please join PC2024 Committee for a Project Celebration 2024 Parent Meeting on at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29. All upcoming SENIOR EVENTS and ways to help will be discussed. Senior Breakfast, Promenade, After-Prom party and more! Meeting will be located in the Ninth Grade Center Lecture Hall. Enter the Ninth Grade Center through the doors across from the Auditorium and the Lecture Hall will be on the left. Also, PC2024 Committee are asking every family to pay a \$100 donation towards Project Celebration 2024. If you would like to pay your \$100 donation you can send through PayPal - ale-dopc2024@gmail.com, Venmo - @KariNeeley or bring a check to the meeting payable to Aledo PC2024.



**JANUARY 30**

**Severe Weather Education**

2024 Skywarn Class in Parker County from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30 at Weatherford College in the Mince Building. The program will be held in partnership with the Parker County Office of Emergency Services. There is no cost to attend this class, no pre-registration is required, and you do not have to be a resident of Parker County to attend. This class is for established storm spotters and/or anyone who is interested in learning more about severe weather threats in North and Central Texas and how to be prepared. The class will feature an in-depth review and study of the various threats posed by severe thunderstorms. The program will also explore thunderstorm characteristics and features associated with severe and non-severe storms. <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap>.

**FEBRUARY 7**

**Texas A&M Singing Cadets**

The Parker County Aggie Moms' Club will host the Texas A&M Singing Cadets at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Aledo United Methodist Church. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr Aledo TX, 76008. Internationally known as the "Voice of Aggieland", The Singing Cadets is Texas A&M University's premier men's chorus. This is a fun-filled patriotic concert appropriate for all ages. Please share the word and invite anyone that enjoys music or loves an Aggie. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Texas A&M Singing Cadets, the Parker County Aggie Moms Club Scholarship fund, and a contribution to Aledo United Methodist Church for use of their facilities. For more information contact Deralee Dawson Bowlin '86 817-675-9902 pcaggie-

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

- TX Ann Sheridan 1949 film: "I \_\_\_ Male War Bride"
- \_\_\_ gallon hat
- pleased
- TXism: "he \_\_\_ grip like a snappin' turtle"
- "Fanthorp \_\_\_ State Historic Site"
- doctors' assoc.
- a kid who's not the seeker
- TXism: "she has to \_\_\_ the same place twice to cast a shadow" (thin)
- TXism: "she could talk the legs off \_\_\_ stove"
- "Post \_\_\_ of East Texas"
- Jim De \_\_\_ was an Astro starting pitcher, 1985-91
- TX Bobby Fuller's "I Fought \_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_ up a little"
- Texas-based "La Quinta \_\_\_ & Suites"
- golf achievement: \_\_\_-one
- gets dirt on jeans
- Comanche Peak, a nuclear power \_\_\_
- assist or encourage a criminal (3 wds.)
- relating to the south polar region
- Texas town or Nebraska city
- whiners
- TXism: "more than one way \_\_\_ a cat"
- "good \_\_\_ boy"
- road around a Texas city
- high school student, e.g. (2 wds.)
- intelligence agcy. of the Dept. of Defense
- TXism: "\_\_\_ barbed wire for dental floss" (tough)
- "\_\_\_, crackle, pop"
- prong on a fork
- TXism: "quaking \_\_\_" (scared)
- Texas jewelry designer, Malouf
- a pen name of Texas romance novelist Sandra Brown: \_\_\_ St. Clair
- small Eurasian deer
- org. for the Spurs, Rockets & Mavs
- TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)
- former Ranger "closer," Henke (init.)
- jump
- TX \_\_\_ Mae sang "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- tilts, like a Pisa tower
- TXism: "if he was a dog he wouldn't \_\_\_" (lazy)
- in Cass County on highway 43
- serpent that doesn't go on land (2 wds.)
- TXism: "a day late \_\_\_ dollar short"
- lemon/lime endings
- TX Gary Morris tune "\_\_\_ Bedroom" (1991)
- stinging Texas pest: fire \_\_\_
- moon to Houston: "Eagle \_\_\_ landed"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ warm your gullet" (satisfy)
- "it's not a hill I'm willing to \_\_\_"
- TXism: "never let \_\_\_ you sweat" (resembles)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ dig" (a party or dance)
- motor home (abbr.)
- TXism: "bat \_\_\_ eyelash" (blink)
- cocker \_\_\_ (dog)
- gray with a tinge of brown
- "Amos 'n' \_\_\_"

mompresident@gmail.com  
<https://parkercomoms.aggienetwork.com/>

**FEBRUARY 13**

**Dementia Support Group**

Join us for our Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13 at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. We are honored and privileged to care for those affected by dementia. Even more so, we value the efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents. We are excited to be partnering with Kim

Waid, Certified Dementia Practitioner, and Account Executive at Elara Caring Hospice to create an engaging and nurturing environment that will help build a community of love and support as we walk through this journey together. This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

**FEBRUARY 20**

**Parkinson's Support**

Join our monthly local support group for those

living with Parkinson's Disease and families from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at Martin Crest Assisted Living and Memory Care, 1818 Martin Dr, Weatherford, TX 76086. We offer a safe environment for talking about your experiences, enhancing your ability to cope with the daily challenges of Parkinson's. You are invited to be part of a group that connects and shares with each other on how to live well with Parkinson's. Sponsored by: Freedom Hospice For more information contact Janet Standifer.

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THE COMMUNITY NEWS



BOYS SOCCER

## Bearcats earn clean sheet against Benbrook

### Finish pre-district undefeated

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

In their final match before starting district play on Friday at Wichita Falls Rider, the Aledo Bearcats varsity soccer team made sure the only thing thicker than the fog looming over Tim Buchanan Stadium was their offensive pressure.

Aledo scored four goals while goalkeeper Deagan Dietz earned his fifth clean sheet of the season as the Bearcats improved their overall record to 9-0-2 on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The Bearcats take their undefeated record on the road to open up District 5-5A action against a Wichita Falls Rider squad currently riding a three-match win streak.

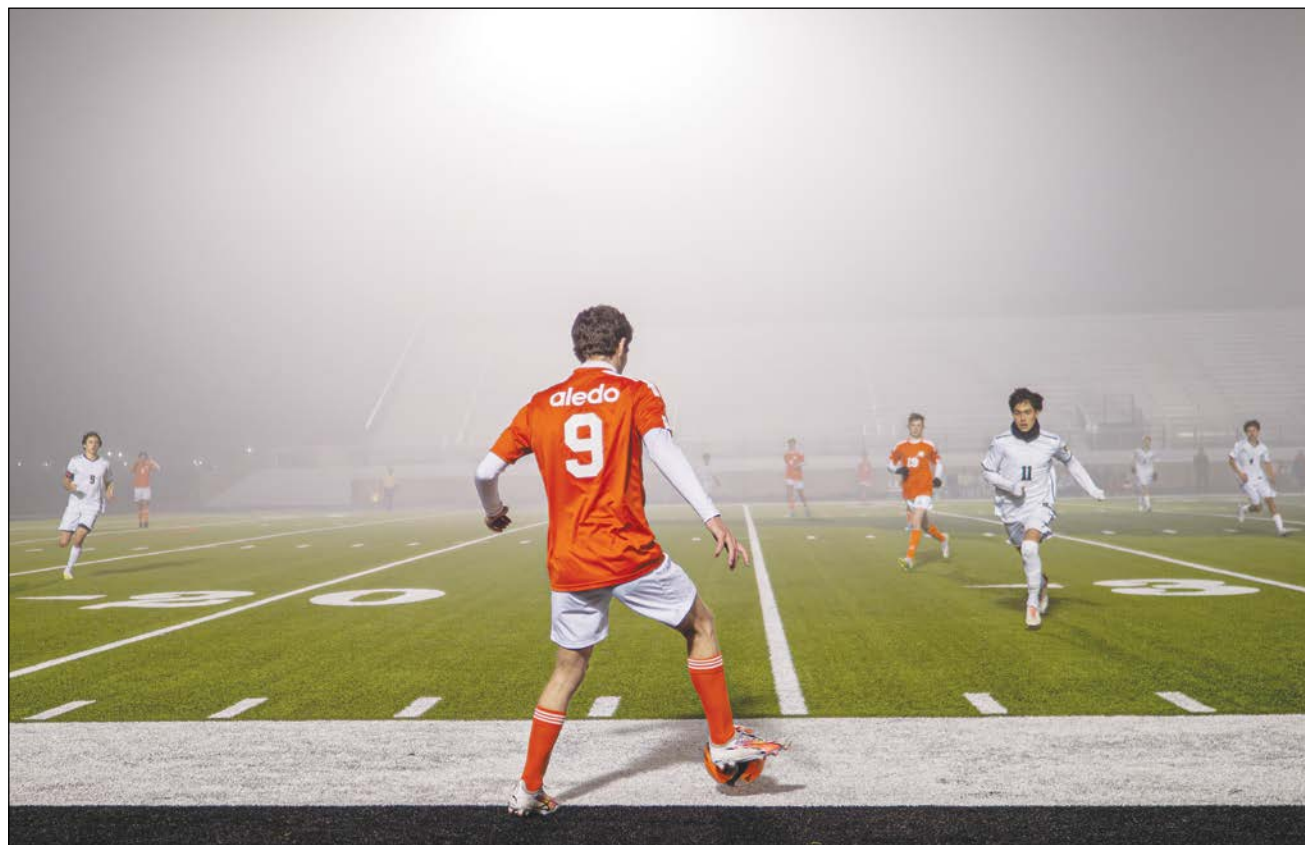
With a heavy mist covering the field and Benbrook arriving late to the match, Aledo got off to a rough start. The Bearcats struggled to maintain possession of the ball, as errand passes and sloppy defensive play allowed the Bobcats to make it a back-and-forth affair throughout much of the first half.

Aledo managed to put some space between themselves and the visiting Bobcats when Adam Arevett scored the opening goal of the night part way through the first half.

Up by a score and able to relax a little, the Bearcats began to find their rhythm late in the first half. They appeared to find the net for the second Aledo score of the night. However, an offside call negated the score.

Minutes later they again narrowly missed going up by a pair of goals. Despite a clean look at the goal from the far side about 20 yards out, a sweeping shot at the top shelf of the goal sailed just over the crossbar, keeping the home-team advantage to just a single goal as the end of the first half drew near.

"We had to tell them to calm down," Bearcats head coach Derek Vierling said after the match. "They were a little antsy at the start of the



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

With the fog bearing down, Harrison Hobbs dribbles the ball as a pair of Benbrook defenders close in.

game. [Benbrook] showed up at 6:20. We were supposed to start at 6. We started our warm-up. Then they called and said their bus wasn't coming, so we stopped our warmup. It's something [the Bearcats] need to learn from. But, it took us until the second half to calm down and figure it out."

And figure it out, they did.

The Bearcats dominated the second half of play tacking on three goals with the Bobcats offering very little resistance. Trapper Davis buried a goal with just under 26 minutes left in regulation to put Aledo up 2-0.

Minutes later the Bearcats again put pressure on the Bobcat keeper. With the ball still loose in front of the net, the Bearcats got off a follow-up attempt at the goal, but were denied once again as the ball ricocheted off the crossbar. The ball trickled just outside the penalty area where a rebound shot sailed just wide of the goal.

For all the drama, Benbrook managed to escape unscathed.

From there, it appeared as though the Bobcats had run out of lives. Austin Randriamahefa sprinted by the Benbrook centerbacks and made a perfectly placed shot on the bottom far side of the goal just beyond the outstretched hands of the keeper. Randriamahefa's goal put Aledo up 3-0 with 16:42 left to play.

The final score of the match for the Bearcats was arguably the best one of the night. Kaiden Hill worked the ball down the near touch line before firing a long shot into the box. Cole Crawford timed his release perfectly as not to be called offside, snuck past his defender, and fired a wide-open shot on goal off the end of the pass to produce the final score.

"It was good," Vierling said of his team's performance post-match. "We got to play a lot of players. We start districts on Friday up at Rider, so it was good to get to rest some of those guys in the second half."

In 2023, Rider finished district in second place behind Brewer while Aledo held onto the fourth place spot to earn a playoff berth.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Austin Randriamahefa sprints past Benbrook's defense. He went on to score a goal in the Bearcats 4-0 win on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

This season the Bearcats stand alone as the only unbeaten team in District 5-5A as the league season kicks off.

Friday's match at Rider is slated for a 7:30 p.m. start.

GIRLS SOCCER

## Ladycats pounce on Springtown

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

In their final pre-district match of the season, Aledo's girls varsity soccer team put forth their best offensive showing of the year. The Ladycats (3-4-1) pounced on the visiting Springtown Lady Porcupines, racking up a 9-1 win on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

Aledo outpaced the Porcupines from the beginning of the match. The Ladycat offense dominated the action, rarely allowing Springtown to sneak the ball back across midfield. In the first half, Aledo scored four goals to the one goal for Springtown.

Coming out for the second half with a staggering three-goal lead, the Ladycats refused to coast for the final 40 minutes of play. Instead, they exceeded their offensive output from the first half, tacking on five more goals.

After allowing one score in the first half, goalkeeper Kaitlyn Shiller locked down her goal with three saves to her credit throughout the match.

Emery Thompson, Faith Bartlett, and Georgia Zirbser all put in a pair of goals for the Ladycats to lead the offensive onslaught for Aledo.

Freshman Allyson Weimer scored a goal of her own while accounting for four assists on the night. Emaree Gibson scored a goal, as well, while also serving up three assists.

Lillie Gideon also scored a goal for the Ladycats to round out the scoring carousel for Aledo.

From here, the Ladycats enter District 5-5A play on Friday, Jan. 26, with a trip to Wichita Falls Rider. The Lady Raiders enter the match boasting a 7-2-3 record so far this season.

Kickoff for that match on Friday is slated for 5 p.m.



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DIANE BELYEU

The Aleo boys and girls wrestlers defeated Brewer as seniors led the way, Monday, Jan. 22. The girls won 36-24 and the boys won 48-30. Last week they split a pair of matches, defeating McKinney and falling to Weatherford. "Thankful for this group of seniors and excited to watch them compete at district next week in Vernon," said coach Austin Stockon. Pictured (front row, from left) are Jordan Clift, coach Stockon, Kyle Scharlow, Tony Madera, Ian Barrientos, Ian McCormick, Kamdin Trinkle, Randy Dixon, (back, from left) Bryce Vonasek and Beckett Unterwagner. Not pictured is Riley Blankenship.

## COACH

from page one

And when you do something that long, you naturally get a lot of admirers.

"There are a lot of coaches and educators who have positive impacts on students, but over 47 years Bob McKinley has had a transformational impact on a lot of students," said WC President Tod Allen Farmer.

Farmer told the crowd in attendance at the Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building Community Room, "It takes a while to get to 1,000 wins. Weatherford College is a better place because of Bob McKinley."

Farmer joked that when the members of the current Lady Coyotes were born, McKinley had already been at the school for well over two decades.

"He's been through a lot of the ups and downs here at Weatherford College," Farmer continued, adding as he spoke directly to McKinley that the coach did much more than teaching players how to win, but also how to be a team, be tough, overcome adversity and simply be great people in all facets of life.

"I want to thank you for 47 years and we want another 47 years out of you," Farmer said to a thunderous applause.

Weatherford College Vice President of Institutional Advancement Brent Baker chuckled and said, "I was 6 years old

when Weatherford College hired Bob McKinley," along with noting how proud he is to have the legendary coach at the school.

"Imagine how many student-athletes coach McKinley has impacted over four decades. It goes way beyond wins and losses. He has been a mentor to so many and that has an impact far beyond the basketball court."

Farmer's speech was followed by a presentation of proclamations from Judy Flanigan from state senator Phil King's office and Sabrina Williams, daughter of U.S. Congressman Roger Williams.

"You have made such an impact on our community," Flanigan told McKinley.

"The high school basketball careers my sister and I had are because of you," Williams said. "We spent many summers up here."

### Longtime friend, co-worker

Andra Cantrell, Weatherford College Chief Financial Officer, has been with the school 44 years, coming along shortly after McKinley. Over the years they have become good friends.

"I always knew he was a great coach," he said, noting that she encouraged many players to come and be coached by him. "Bob's not just about winning. He's about bringing good kids to Weatherford College. He took them into his family and made them



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Brent Baker, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, congratulates Lady Coyotes coach Bob McKinley on his 1,000th career win at a reception honoring the coach.**

part of it, and we have all stayed close together through the years."

Then, when asked who will retire first, Cantrell smiled and said in a non-committing way, "We kinda say we're sticking together."

### Players speak

Along with leading them to victories, McKinley has built lifelong relationships with most of his players. Ask him about most any one of them and he can tell you where they are living, what they are doing for a career, their family, and odds are it was only a short time ago he spoke with them or communicated with them via Facebook.

To continue reading visit: <https://www.community-news.com/stories/mckinley-honored-for-1000th-career-win,70539> or scan the QR code.



## SWIMMING

# District 5-5A Meet

## Bearcats/Ladycats look to make a splash

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Aledo swim coach Meghan Roberson has her sights set on extending a streak of sending swimmers to state. Doing so would be the program's ninth consecutive year.

That process begins with the District 5-5A Meet at the Northwest ISD Natatorium on Friday, Jan. 26. From there, the top six finishers in each event will move on to the Region II Meet Feb. 9-10 in Mansfield.

"Northwest will be our biggest team to beat at district. They have a lot of good swimmers, but so do we," Roberson said. "Once we're out of district, we continue to race Northwest, but add in Colleyville Heritage, Grapevine, and Granbury.

"Many of these races come down to the fraction of a second, and the outcome can go either way. Races are about technique, and the minute details of the start, turns, stroke, even breathing. We've worked hard this season on those details so that they all come together during championship season."

The Aledo girls 200 medley relay has qualified for state the past two years and Roberson said she's optimistic they can make it a three-peat this year. Last year they also sent the girls 200 freestyle relay that she believes should qualify this year as well. The boys 200 medley relay qualified last year, but graduated some impactful seniors and are in a growing season, she noted.

Junior captain Victoria Crews is looking to reach state for a second year in a row. She qualified on the relays the past two years and added her first individual event last year in the 100 butterfly. Roberson said she will try the butterfly and backstroke this season.

Junior captain Haley Roberson is attempting her own three-peat in both the 200 individual medley as well as the 500 free.

"She's been a state qualifier for her entire high school career so far, and she's working hard to continue the tradition," coach Roberson said.

"Senior captain Porter Lane has really put in the pool work since last year, making huge time drops in both the 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke, as well as 50 free," coach Roberson said. "We anticipate him making his state debut in both of his individual events this year. He was an

important part of the qualifying relay last year and has used that experience to lead our younger swimmers."

In assessing the season so far, coach Roberson noted that the girls team has dropped a few swimmers this season to other activities and injury, saying, "So our numbers haven't been as strong as in past years."

She added that the boys team has higher numbers, but is young and gaining racing experience.

"It's tricky because high school is typically the only swimming experience where you can have a 14-year-old boy racing against an 18-year-old man head-to-head," the coach said. "There are a lot of physical differences between the two.

"We have a strong group of freshmen boys, but they need a little more experience and power behind them. They're a group to watch over the coming seasons (Brayden DeBoer, Ian Perez, Kale Roberson and Jaxon Roberson)."

Aledo prepared for district and the postseason with some impressive swims against some strong 5A, 6A and teams from the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

"We've won a lot of races this season but lost the meet because other schools just have more swimmers competing and earning points," coach Roberson said. "Aledo has some of the fastest swimmers in the region, but lack the depth of a lot of teams. It's like winning the battles but losing the wars."

The Northwest 5A Invitational, Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association meet, and the Debbie Weems Invitational, all among the toughest meets around, were high points for Aledo, coach Roberson said.

"We had some fast swims at those events against some fast schools," she said. "Large meets like those are great indicators for us as we're usually racing at a quality pool in a championship format very similar to what we do for districts and regionals.

From the regional meet, the top two swimmers individually and relays automatically qualify for state. The next eight fastest in event across all regions will join them in Austin Feb. 16-17.

"So, a swimmer could come in third in their region, but if they're in the top eight fastest times (excluding those who make it from the 1-2 placing), they could still end up attending state," coach Roberson said. "It is not easy to make state in swimming."



**TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON REQUEST TO REZONE PROPERTY**

The Town Council of the Town of Annetta North will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday the 13th day of February, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., at Annetta Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 2836 FM 5, Annetta Texas, where all persons will have the right to appear and be heard on the proposed request to rezone an approximate 85.0785 acres of land, located at 1600 Old Annetta Rd., Annetta, Texas 76008 generally described as Tract 1 and Tract 2 of the A. Burgess Survey and the Northern half of Tract 4 of the W. Nations Survey from "R-6" Single Family Residential District - 6.0 acre lots to "R-2" Single Family Residential District - 2.0 acre lots. A map of the area proposed for rezoning is available at Town Hall.

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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

**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.

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

**community-news.com**

**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**

Authers Building Group, as Construction Manager at Risk, will receive bids for construction subcontracts for the Aledo ISD High School Additions and Renovations project until February 15, 2024, at 2:00 PM. All bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids shall be on a lump sum basis and include with them the appropriate bid packages and proposal forms. All bid packages, electronic drawings and specifications are available at Building Connected or Plan Hub. These contract documents will be available on these sites by February 1, 2024.

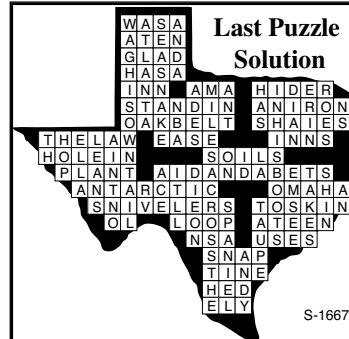
Aledo ISD High School Additions and Renovations project will consist of a renovation of the High School and two additions in Aledo, Tx. The scope will include a renovation of the High School to update finishes, which will include painting, flooring, Auditorium & Lecture Hall seating, and restrooms renovations. One addition will be a 20,000 sq. ft. structure at the Steve Wood Complex. The second addition will be a 5,000 sq. ft. structure to the Agricultural Barn.

Authers Building Group reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities, to advertise for new proposals, or proceed to do the work by other means, when in the best interests of Aledo ISD and Authers Building Group.

No bidder may withdraw its Proposal within ninety (90) calendar days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Bids will be received either by mail or hand delivery at 500 Industry Way, Suite 10 in Prosper, TX 75078, by email at estimating@authers-buildinggroup.com, or through Building Connected, until the date and time shown above. A completed bid package and bid proposal form is required with each bid and can be found in the Bid Packages folder.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Authers Building Group office at 496-965-9884. The Estimator on the project is James Brewer ( james@authersbuildinggroup.com ).



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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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**Kid Scoop Together**

## FEBRUARY 2 IS GROUNDHOG DAY

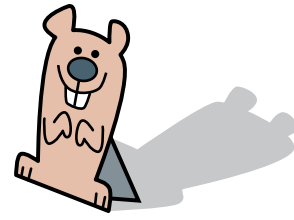
For hundreds of years, people have thought that the groundhog can predict the weather. It's believed that if the groundhog sees its shadow when it leaves its burrow on the second day of February, the winter will last another six weeks.

But, if the sun isn't shining, then there are no shadows to be seen. People say when this happens, spring will arrive soon.



### Make a Groundhog Weather Detector

Color and cut out this little groundhog. Glue it onto some heavier paper and cut out the groundhog again. Stand your little groundhog outside and see if it casts a shadow.



### The Most Famous Groundhog

In the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, there is a special groundhog called **Punxsutawney Phil**.

Each year on the morning of February 2nd, people in the town wait patiently for Punxsutawney Phil to come out of his burrow. News shows and newspapers around the country will tell everyone whether or not he sees his shadow.



### Do Not Disturb!

Each August the groundhog starts eating a lot. It eats and eats. A layer of fat forms under its skin.

As the weather gets colder in the fall, the fat groundhog goes to its little underground bedroom with its cushion of grass to curl up and sleep.



It falls into such a deep sleep that it appears dead. This is called hibernation.

### Is Phil correct?

Punxsutawney Phil is not right about the weather every year. Circle every other letter to see how often Phil is right about the end of winter weather.

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

**A B** \_\_\_\_\_

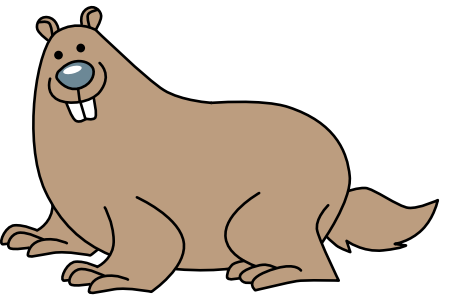
**USE THE SECRET CODE:**

**What is another name for a groundhog?**

C =  N =   
 D =  O =   
 H =  U =   
 K =  W =

## How to Draw a Groundhog

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



## How do animals know when to hibernate?

Scientists have found a special chemical in the blood of hibernating animals. The chemical is called **HIT** or **Hibernation Inducement Trigger**. Although scientists do not know what this chemical is, they do know that it appears when one of three things happen:

- The days become shorter and there is less light.
- There is a big drop in temperature.
- Food is scarce.

One summer day, blood with HIT taken from a hibernating groundhog was injected into a lively one. Result: **Hibernation!**

If you were the scientist—what would be your conclusion about this experiment?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Understand that humans and animals have structures that aid in survival.

**Extra! Extra!**

### Weather Words

Look outside. What is your weather like today? Look through the newspaper for five words that describe your weather. Circle each word.

**Standards Link:** Science: Identify different kinds of weather.

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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **HIBERNATE**

The verb **hibernate** means to sleep through the winter in a den or burrow to save energy.

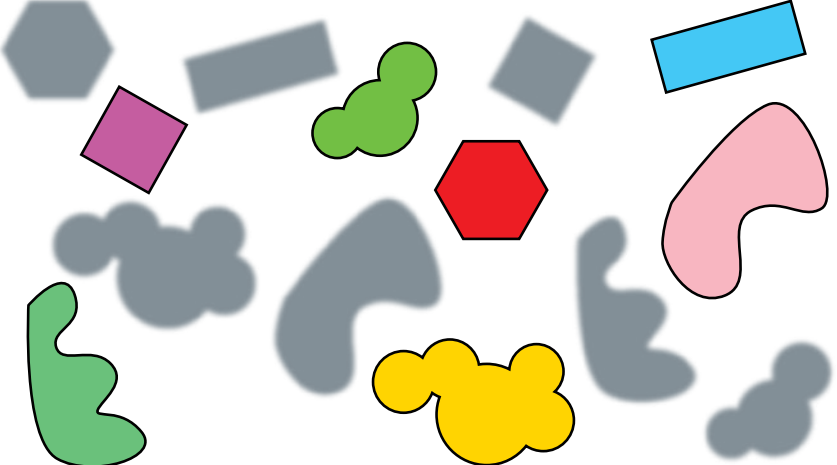
The groundhog **hibernates** about six months a year.

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

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Light travels in a straight line from its source. When light reaches an opaque (solid) object, the light is prevented from moving through the object, leaving an area of darkness on the other side (a shadow).

Find the shadow for each of these shapes.



**Standards Link:** Science: Understand physical properties of light.

## Double Double Word Search

- AUGUST
- BURROW
- CASTS
- CURL
- EATS
- END
- FOOD
- GROUNDHOG
- LIGHT
- PHIL
- SHADOW
- SLEEP
- SUN
- TOWN
- WINTER

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

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

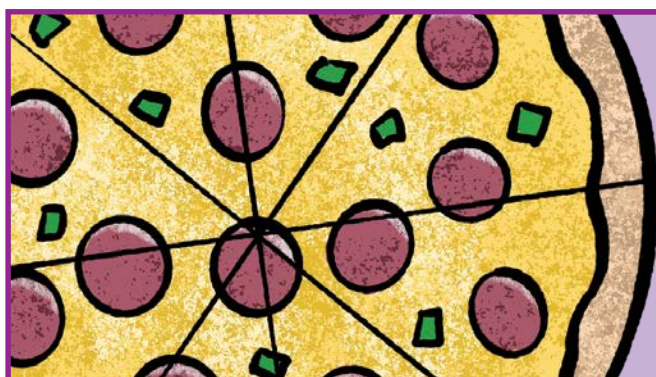
**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

### News Photo Pose

Find a newspaper photo with one or more people in it. Mimic the pose of a person. Can you hold it for 10 seconds? Find another photo and repeat.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Apply syllabication rules.



What's round, covered in cheese and tomato sauce, and is very sleepy?

ANSWER: A PIZZA

## Write On!

### Hello, Spring!

What does spring look like where you live? Write a description of some of the signs of spring in your area.

BOYS BASKETBALL

# Late defensive stand lifts Bearcats

Third straight victory comes against district leaders

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Before the start of the season, Aledo Bearcats head coach JD Robinson said being blue collar had to be the identity for this team. They had to work harder. They had to grind their way to victory. They had to leave their egos at the door and play as a team if they were going to have a shot at making a splash in the District 5-5A standings.

And that's exactly what they are doing. The Bearcats now find themselves in the thick of the playoff race in fourth place in the league standings.

The past two outings for the varsity Bearcats squad (15-10 overall, 4-3 in district) made it clear that message was received. As of late, Aledo has found ways to come up big when it matters most. With wins over Northwest and the District 5-5A leading Saginaw Rough Riders in the past week, this blue-collar squad finds themselves riding a three-game win streak.

Aledo is finding ways to win, but these wins are not for the faint of heart. On Friday, Jan. 19, a late trip to the free-throw line made the difference in a 43-42 win over Northwest. The following game on Tuesday, Jan. 23, it was a defensive stand in the fourth quarter that made the difference over Saginaw.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's varsity basketball team rushes the floor to celebrate the Bearcats' 43-42 win over Northwest on Friday, Jan. 19.

Aledo led the Rough Riders on their home floor for much of the first half as the Bearcats took a 14-11 advantage at the end of the first before owning a 25-21 lead heading into the locker room at halftime.

Coming out of the break, Aledo got a reminder as to why Saginaw stood alone atop the district standings. The Rough Riders outpaced the visiting Bearcats 16-11 in the third quarter, regaining the momentum and taking a 37-36 lead into the final stanza.

When the two teams met back in December in Aledo, Saginaw

narrowly escaped with a 58-57 win in overtime. Determined not to let this one slip away, the Bearcats defensive pressure wreaked havoc on the home team, as Aledo allowed just four points of offense out of Saginaw in the final eight minutes of action.

At the other end of the floor, Aledo did exactly what was necessary to close out the game. The Bearcats scored 11 points, including a 4-for-6 performance at the free-throw line, to hand the Rough Riders their first district loss of the season.

To continue reading visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/late-defensive-stand-lifts-bearcats,70547> or scan the QR code.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Ladycats stay dominant

Win streak at 5

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

With the regular season winding to a close, the Aledo Ladycats continued to dominate their opponents over the past week. Aledo defeated Northwest 47-28 on Friday, Jan. 19, before subjecting Saginaw to a 32-point drumming on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The 58-26 mauling over the Lady Rough Riders extended Aledo's (25-8 overall, 8-1 in districts) win streak to five games as they sit in second place in the District 5-5A standings.

Aledo's defense has been the difference maker in the last two victories. Pressure at the opposing end of the floor has led to mistakes - mistakes the Ladycats have become experts at capitalizing on.

On Tuesday, Aledo held the Lady Rough Riders to just 15 points through three quarters of play.

Meanwhile, the offense is running with the efficiency of a Swiss watch. The Ladycats are scoring on time, every time. Their versatility and effectiveness with the offense is giving them the means to convert the scoring opportunities afforded by the stout defensive play at the other end of the floor.

On Tuesday, Kinley Elms became the primary scoring option for the Ladycats down in the post. The 6-foot-1 junior scored 20 points to lead all scoring in the game.

Elizabeth Griffin was a picture of consistency as she racked up a dozen points of her own against both Northwest and Saginaw.

The Ladycats will take Friday off this week before hosting Brewer's Lady Bears on Tuesday, Jan. 30, in



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Rebekah Jarrell works around a pair of Lady Texans as she looks to make a pass during Aledo's 47-28 win on Friday, Jan. 19.

a game that could decide the league championship. Brewer is one game ahead of Aledo in the district standings and handed the Ladycats their only district loss, 59-46 in White Settlement on Jan. 5.

Tuesday's game will start at 6:15 p.m.

## Ladycats vs. Saginaw - Jan. 23

Aledo	18	11	18	11	- 58
Saginaw	6	7	2	11	- 26

Aledo scoring: Kinley Elms 20, Elizabeth Griffin 12, Ella Isbell 6, Natalie Anderson 5, Caroline Browning 5, Caroline Dempsey 4, August Carlone 4, Brenna Clock 1, Rebekah Jarrell 1.

## Ladycats vs. Northwest - Jan. 19

Aledo	14	13	17	3	- 47
Northwest	11	2	7	8	- 28

Aledo scoring: Elizabeth Griffin 12, Ella Isbell 10, Kinley Elms 10, Natalie Anderson 7, Caroline Browning 3, August Carlone 3, Brooklyn Dempsey 2.

# Great Work!

## Young Men's Service League Aledo



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo high-school-age students and their moms volunteered more than 3,000 service hours to help upgrade the Adult & Teen Challenge facility in Azle

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