

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Early primary voting 2024

Republican and Democratic primary elections begins Tuesday, Feb. 20, and runs through Friday, March 1. Election day is May 5. The main early voting site is the Parker County Courthouse Annex kitchen at 1112 Santa Fe Drive in Weatherford.

Early voting hours are as follows:

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20
 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21
 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22
 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23
 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25
 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26
 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27
 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28
 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29
 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Friday, March 1

Branch early voting sites include:

Springtown Senior Center

Community Room
 1070 N Main St.
 Springtown, 76082

Peaster ISD Rock Gym

Back Room of Gym
 8512 FM RD 920
 Peaster, 76088

Hudson Oaks Public Safety Building

Training Room
 150 N Oakridge Drive
 Hudson Oaks, 76087

Aledo ISD Admin Building

Louden Room
 1008 Bailey Ranch Road
 Aledo, 76008

Azle City Hall

Community Room
 505 W Main St.
 Azle, 76020

PCT 3 County Barn

Break Room
 1111 FM RD 1189
 Brock, 76087

Unity & Honor



CHRIS AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Players and coaches from both the Trinity Christian and Pantego Christian schools join with members of the community for both programs in prayer to honor the memory of Pantego basketball player Hannah McDaniel and her mother Brandi, who died in an automobile accident the weekend before their game in Willow Park on Feb. 6. TCA donated proceeds from the game to a scholarship in Hannah's name and TCA students and fans wore Pantego T-shirts.

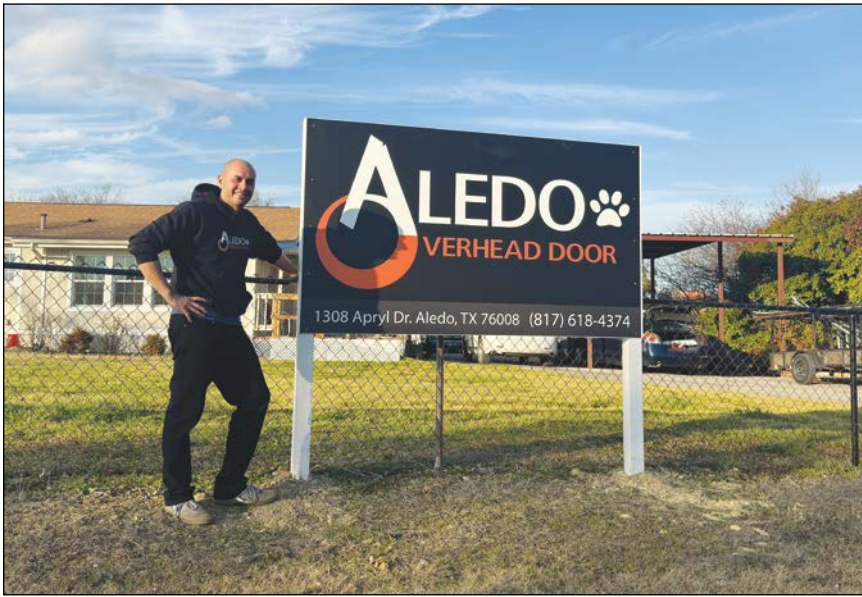


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT RUSHING

Robert Rushing had to send in a picture of a sign, along with a utility bill from his business to get it listed again on Google after fraudulent listings from other companies endangered his legitimate business.

BUSINESS

The invisible company

Established business overcame fraudulent rivals

By John English
 The Community News

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series about a local man who discovered fraudulent businesses in his own field and in the process of uncovering them, ran the risk of losing his family's own business.

After losing his company's Google business listing in May of 2023, Robert Rushing knew he had to act.

But the manager of Aledo Overhead Door, a family-owned and operated business, found himself in a difficult spot.

He had to prove that his five-year old company existed, while another "company" called Aledo Garage Doors and Gate, whose listed address turned out to be an empty field in Aledo, was allowed to advertise fraudulently and with seeming impunity.

The problem was, Rushing did not know exactly what to do.

"I had to kind of guess and see what the problem was, and in the process of trying to figure

everything out, I ended up talking to a couple of companies," Rushing said. "In October, I had already spent the previous five months trying to get our listing reinstated, and wasn't getting anywhere, so I called a company out of New York that was supposed to help us get our listing reinstated.

"After explaining everything to them about what happened, and why we couldn't get our listing back, they went about reinstating the listing, but did it in the wrong manner."

Not giving up

Though frustrated, Rushing was determined not to give up.

"From there, essentially, it led me to talk with a lot of other people from other companies," Rushing said. "I ended up talking to the president of Steady Demand (Ben Fisher), which is the largest company that helps small businesses get their listings reinstated. I was told that if I had a sign made and take a picture of it, and then send it in along with a utility bill in the business' name, then that

Turn to **BUSINESS**, page 6

ALEDO ISD

Student podcast highlights broad subjects

By Christopher Amos
 The Community News

A small group gathers in the conference room of the Aledo ISD office. After introductions and school talk, they take seats at a long table and a student announces it is time to start, raises a finger to silence the room, and presses a record button.

"Hello everyone, and welcome to the 20325 Maximum Resistance podcast. I'm your host Finley Van Dyke with co-host Omar Cervantes, and today's special guest is Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn."

The podcasts are an extension of the Aledo High School robotics team, 20325 Maximum Resistance, coached by Julie Reynolds. School robotics teams are encouraged to include a form of media as part of their curriculum to publicize their achievements, and Team Maximum Resistance chose podcasting.

"We chose the guests as a team and then I call the offices and make arrangements for the interviews," said Finley, who helped start the podcasts in January 2023. "Each podcast I chose a teammate as a co-host that I believe will fit well with the guest we have."

During the interview, Bohn pointed out how the robotics program mirrors the school's STEM education goals of science,



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn answers questions from students Omar Cervantes and Finley Van Dyke during a podcast production. The interviews are a project of the Aledo 20325 Maximum Resistance robotics team.

technology, engineering and mathematics, while encouraging critical thinking and communicating.

Podcasts include subjects of tech interests, such as interviews with members of the robotics team, other robotics teams, and science professionals. The podcasts have expanded to broader interests, including Bohn, State Representative Dr. Glenn Rogers and State Senator Phil King.

The podcast can be found by searching 20325 Maximum Resistance podcast on Spotify, Facebook, or the robotic team's website.



First
Bank ★ Texas

go2fbt.com



Hi, I'm Don.
 Your personal banker.

Helping Texans bank *locally* since 1880

Don Rice
 President & CEO

100 Willow Bend Dr.
 Willow Park



NMLS #415770

Obituaries

Janet Louise Hoefer

Janet Louise Hoefer, 88, passed from this life on Friday, February 9, 2024.

She was born October 10, 1935, in Lamar, Colorado, to Lester Dunham and Dorothy (Light) Dunham.

Janet was an LVN for 25 years, working in multiple health care facilities. She was an active member of Annetta United Methodist Church, served as Secretary/Treasurer of Annetta Cemetery Association, and was an avid quilter and master gardener. Janet's cakes and baking were world famous, and she loved watching football. She was widely known as being the world's greatest grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Lee and Bill Dunham; sister, Donna Alexander; and her grandson, Junior Hoefer.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her devoted husband of 68 years, Mickey Ray Hoefer;



Janet Hoefer

children, Michael Hoefer, and wife, Susie; Nancy Rowe, and husband, Tom; Debra Moore, and husband, Mike; Troy Hoefer, and wife, Gayla; granddaughters, Jamie Tierce and husband, Tomm; Lindsay Garrison and husband, Jim; Randi Edwards, Carley Rowe, Ledi Edwards, Hannah Hoefer, and Murphy Hoefer; great grandsons,

Tyler Tierce and wife, Tana, Cole Tierce, and Graham Garrison.

A visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at Galbreath Pickard Hilltop Chapel, 4941 I-20 Service Road, Willow Park, Texas

A graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at Annetta Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Annetta Cemetery, PO Box 183 Aledo, Texas 76008.

The Community News
February 16, 2024

Jo Ann Muir

Jo Ann Muir passed away Feb. 3, 2024, at home in Aledo.

Jo Ann was born November 10, 1929, in Lubbock, to H.O. Parnell and Lena Montandon Parnell.

She graduated from the Weatherford Business College. She was married to Robert J. Muir in 1952 who preceded her in death. They were happily married for 38 years as best friends and soul mates.

Jo Ann is survived by: two children, Patricia Muir Bullard and son-in-law Glen Bullard, and Robert "Bob" Muir and Daughter-in-law Jennifer Muir; grandchildren Sam Muir and wife Emily, Bill Muir, Becky Muir and



Jo Ann Muir

partner John; great-granddaughter Penelope Muir; bonus grandchildren Tyler Bullard, Megan Grant, and Steven Travis.

Jo Ann received care from Rebecca and Ronnie Burns, owners of Promises Kept, for the past seven years the home she loved, and that her husband built in the 1970s.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to Dementia Society, www.dementiasociety.org, or the American Heart Association.

A memorial service celebrating Jo Ann's life will be held at the Parker County Cowboy Church, 5050 FM 5, at 1:30 p.m. on February 24, 2024 with Louis Sneed officiating.

The Community News
February 16, 2024

GuestColumn

Behind The Music

Aledo band program

By Jack Hunt
Special to The Community News

As we sit in the crowd, tapping our feet to the mesmerizing rhythm of the marching band or swaying along to the beautiful melodies of the concert or jazz bands, we are often unaware of the countless hours of hard work and dedication that goes on behind the scenes. The Aledo Bands have been an integral part of our community for 50 years, shaping the lives of young musicians and enriching our community with their performances.

But what many people don't know is the incredible amount of effort and support that goes into making this possible. Let me take you behind the curtain and reveal the inner workings of the Aledo Bands. Not only will you gain a new appreciation for this talented group, but you will also see how your support and involvement can make a difference.

Legacy Directors

The Aledo Bands have been a source of pride for our community for half a century. An award-winning program that Aledo enjoys and celebrates happens by design—not by default. This program and legacy would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the band directors. These dedicated individuals have not only shared their love and knowledge of music with their students, but they have also instilled important life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. The impact of these band directors on the lives of their students is immeasurable and extends far beyond the stage.

Tirelessly (and Tired) Dedicated Parents

Behind every successful band student and director is a team of supportive parents. The Aledo Bands have a strong network of volunteer



BID THE SOUND 2024

The Aledo Band Boosters will host our annual Bid the Sound Auction and Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Aledo High School. Last year, with the help of our generous community and band supporters, the boosters raised more than \$34,000 for the Aledo band program, and we are aiming to make this year's the biggest and most successful event in history. This coincides with celebrating the 50-year anniversary of growing greatness in the Aledo band program. Over the coming year, we will have many special events to celebrate the alumni, the impact the program has had in our community, and the many accomplishments over the years.

This year's Bid The Sound will utilize an online auction bidding program, which will allow the silent auction to open a week prior to the event, encouraging additional bidding on items by both local attendees as well as family and friends near and far. The auction items will be included as a part of our marketing plan for the event which will utilize our Aledo Band's social media outlets. This is a great way to support the Aledo Band as well as to get your business's name out in the community!

Are you willing to donate either a gift certificate or merchandise from your business to support our Aledo Band? Let us know at aledobandpresident@gmail.com

To learn more about Aledo bands, visit www.aledobands.com or aledobandboosters.org

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HISTORIC \$18 BILLION PROPERTY TAX CUT

Glenn Rogers passed the largest property tax cut in U.S. & Texas History

RogersForTexas.com

Re-Elect **Dr. Glenn ROGERS** REPUBLICAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Early Voting: February 20-March 1 • Election Day: Tuesday, March 5, 2024

PD. POL. ADV. BY GLENN ROGERS CAMPAIGN



The Community News



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Chamber of
Commerce

Mail:
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

AISS 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
Pay bills at community-news.com/billpay/

Ad Design Materials
production@community-news.com

Purchase Advertising
sales@community-news.com

Legal Notices
legal@community-news.com

Subscription Questions
business@community-news.com
community-news.com/subscribe/

Announcements, News, Obituaries
news@community-news.com
www.community-news.com/submissions/

Content Submission Policy

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 or email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information.

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

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

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

Capital Highlights

Pitch made for new power plants



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Lt. Gov Dan Patrick joined with the world's largest investment firm to pitch investors on building natural gas power plants in Texas at a summit held last week in Houston.

Patrick and BlackRock CEO Larry Fink shared the stage as they attempted to persuade investors to take advantage of \$10 billion in incentives and bonuses provided by the state after voters approved a constitutional amendment last November, kut.org reported.

"We estimate in this room there's \$2.2 trillion," Fink told the crowd. "We only have to put \$10 billion to work, so can we get it done? Can we start raising hands?"

While Patrick remained optimistic the plan would attract investors interested in building new power plants, others aren't so sure.

Ed Hirs, an energy economist at the University of Houston, told kut.org that the way the Texas power market is structured won't necessarily provide a steady return to power plant operators.

"If you've got \$2 trillion worth of investors and they're looking for a deal ... they wouldn't have had this summit; there would already be power plants being built," he said. "All of these guys are sharks. They're not going to miss an opportunity to make a profit."

New law increases sentences for human smugglers

A state law that increases the minimum sentence from two years to 10 years for

people convicted of smuggling immigrants or harboring them illegally went into effect last week.

The Texas Tribune reported SB4 was one of three immigration-related bills signed into law late last year. Other measures provide state money for construction of barriers along the Texas-Mexico border and make it a state crime to illegally cross the border from Mexico.

The latter measure is being challenged in court by the U.S. Department of Justice, El Paso County and immigrant rights groups.

"This increase in policing and increased criminalization is going to further exacerbate the overcrowding of our jails," said David Stout, an El Paso County commissioner.

Ten counties exceed tougher soot standards

Tougher rules aimed at reducing particulate matter in the air went into effect last week, reducing the amount of what is commonly called soot permitted in the air from 12 to 9 micrograms per cubic meter annually.

It is the first change in the limits since 2012. The soot can cause lung and throat irritation, aggravate asthma and cause other ailments, the Tribune reported.

According to data from the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 Texas counties have particulate matter levels that exceed the new standard - Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, Travis, El Paso, Webb, Hidalgo, Cameron, Kleberg and Bowie.

The EPA will take about two years to officially declare which regions meet the new standards and which don't. States will then have at least three years to create a plan to come into compliance.

"This final air quality standard will save lives and make all people healthier, especially within America's most vulnerable and overburdened communities," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a press release. Industry groups and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have criticized the new rule.

Paxton attorneys seek dismissal of securities fraud charges

Ahead of a pretrial hearing this week, attorneys for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton are seeking to have state securities charges dismissed, saying nine years of delay have denied his constitutional right to a speedy trial, the Texas Standard reported.

Paxton was indicted in July 2015 with a trial in Houston now set for April 15. Factors delaying that trial include repeated changes of venue and judges, disputes over pay for special prosecutors and the COVID-19 pandemic, among other factors.

One of the special prosecutors downplayed the motion.

"I don't think there's much to it," Kent Schaffer said. "Many of the delays were caused by things that they did, whether it was appeals, working in conjunction with Collin County to cut off funding, which necessitated numerous court hearings, motions, and appeals. So, they kind of brought it on themselves."

Meanwhile, the state is on the hook for more than \$700,000 in legal bills in Paxton's whistleblower case. He is being sued by four former top aides for wrongful termination. Paxton has denied all wrongdoing in that case.

To continue reading visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/pitch-made-for-new-power-plants,72207> or scan the QR code.



Idle American

Price is No Object



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

In our mind's eye, most of us old-timers recall taking on life in slow motion when contrasted with today's starts, stops and swerves now endured by the masses by day and by night. If identified with a fable, we were the turtles, and jet-setters of today are the hares.

Or so it seems. In bygone days, it was common to hear the same question posed repeatedly: "Have you heard the one about?"... Then, jokes of the day were exchanged; hearty laughter followed. Now, with the Super Bowl in our rearview mirror, the question most often heard is likely to be, "Did you see the commercial about?"... After all, 30-second pitches going for \$7 million for a single Super Bowl TV spot is way north of "chump change." For those keeping score, this is 55% more than Super Bowl ads just five years ago.

Blame it on inflation; everyone else does. About 75 years

ago, for example, newfangled vending machines were geared to accept nickels. (Mentioning a nickel to youngsters now may draw quizzical looks. These are the same kids who understandably question what we mean by "hanging up" telephones.)

Anyways, we could buy candy bars, sodas, gum, jaw-breakers and other confectionery items for one nickel. (Aside: The big boys at the pool hall said five cents would also buy one game on a pinball machine, with the promise of free games for players who could run up high scores without "tilting" the machine.)

In the mid-1940s, my late uncle Jimmie Newbury returned from World War II naval service to enroll in college. He visited one day, bragging about winning a dozen free pinball games with a single nickel. My dad, keenly remembering Great Depression deprivation, answered, "Congratulations, Jimmie, but when it was all said and done, who had the nickel?"

When soda pop went up to six cents a bottle, vending machines had it tough. They became evil machines, even pounded upon.

There was national unrest - revolts alleged in some regions - at the thought of a 20% increase. Some merchants tried to soften the blow of the price hike with clever signage. One

read: "Our cold drinks are all sick scents."

This furor seems unbelievably quaint, right?

Clever ad and PR people now find ways to have their cake and munch away on it, too.

A decade ago, WestJet, a Canadian airline, unveiled a masterful promotion that gained millions of inches of newspaper coverage throughout the free world. Additionally, radio/TV and social media exploded with accounts of the airline's "Christmas surprise."

At a Canadian airport, passengers stopped at a Christmas display to respond to what they thought was a Santa Claus mannequin. They were asked to show boarding passes and what they wanted for Christmas.

There were soup-to-nuts requests for socks, diamond rings, big screen TVs, and numerous other items. (There'd have been requests for all things Taylor Swift, but she wasn't famous at the time.)

What passengers didn't know was that their requests were being heard by WestJet employees at the arrival airport. The employees had three hours to purchase, wrap and write names on gifts that were given to deplaning passengers!

Turn to OBJECT, page 6

CLARIFICATION

In an editor's note in last week's issue, I stated that there are no teachers' unions in Texas. That was incorrect.

There is at least one teachers' union in the state. However, teachers and other public-sector employees are barred from collective bargaining or striking, two hallmarks of union membership.

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Easy choice in constable election

The upcoming Precinct 4 Constable election has 3-term Constable Scott Jones (VoteForScottJones.com) running for re-election against newcomer Jerry Stockon (JerryStockon.com). Let's look at the candidates.

Scott Jones was first elected Constable in 2012. Scott has nearly four decades of law enforcement experience. This includes a concurrent 26-year military career in law enforcement. Scott retired from the U.S. Navy as Master Chief Petty Officer. Scott and all of his deputies hold the Master Level Certification for law enforcement, certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE).

Scott has stated that whether it be the constable position or his deputies it is not a position for the inexperienced. I suggest you do an internet search on Scott Jones Constable and read the Aug 1, 2023 article in The Community News outlining Scott Jones and the job of constable.

Jerry Stockon is a well-known home builder and realtor in the local area. Jerry is a newcomer to elected office. Jerry's website states that he is an experienced law enforcement officer. I believe his experience in law enforcement consists of Law Enforcement Training at Weather College and less than six months on the job with the Parker County Sheriffs Office. He does not hold even the Basic Level TCOLE certification. Should Jerry be elected he would be by-far the most inexperienced officer in the constable's office.

The constable election is simply a case of the experienced verse the inexperienced. Re-elect Scott Jones.

- Col Bill Kindred, USAF (ret)
Willow Park

Supporting Mike Olcott

I have known Mike Olcott for years and am proud to call him my friend. I am dismayed at the mud being slung on this good man. Governor Abbott is supporting Mike because Glen Rogers has been part of the group of weak Republicans that speaker Dave Phelan uses to split the power with the Democrats and allow them to block the priorities of the majority of the elected representatives.

Let's get over the need for costly special sessions. The public schools in our area are strongly supported by Mike, myself, and all of my neighbors. Glenn Rogers is using this as a false campaign issue to keep our eye off his weak voting record where he seems to claim his support is what got all the good things passed.

I see in the Star Telegram that some Fort Worth schools are being considered for closing for lack of students. The students are there, they are just fleeing the failing system to other options and these are the people that need financial support. The better approach to a problem is not to paper it over with money but to counter it with a choice, and with competition. It is cruel for us to sit back while our less fortunate neighbor struggles.

It is time for us to elect Mike Olcott who will make all of us proud to be Texans.

- Daniel and Mary Lou Lee
Aledo

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Olcott

My wife, Susan, and I recently moved from Texarkana to Weatherford to be near some of our children and grandchildren. Since my retirement from the Navy in 2011 we both have been very involved in local and state politics with the Republican Party of Texas.

During my Navy career, twenty-five years of which were in the Washington, D.C. area, I had to interact with the different branches of our federal government, primarily legislative, because of different assignments from the Navy. My experience in Washington very quickly exposed me to how our federal government does not act for its constituents.

Upon moving to Texas, our experience locally along with my brief tenure as State Republican Executive Committeeman from state Senate District 1 demonstrated the same issues in our state government as I noted in our Federal government.

Our country, the most free and Christian nation on earth, is in rapid destruction. After moving to Weatherford and meeting Mike Olcott, Susan and I both feel that Mike shares our concerns about our country's demise. Correcting this demise starts locally, especially at the state level, with state actions pushing movement at the Federal level. After spending time speaking with Mike and listening to him discuss his stance regarding issues of importance to the people of State Representative District 60, we believe he is the man we need now to get our government back on track for the people.

We strongly believe Mike will listen to the constituents of District 60 and will fight for them in our state government. Mike is a Christian and is a believer in the Judeo-Christian principles upon which our Federal and state governments were founded. Principles do not change; however, people's morals do change. Mike will undoubtedly support those Judeo-Christian principles as he fights for the people of his district.

Vote for Mike Olcott.

- Charles and Susan Blankenship
Weatherford

Ditch your phone, do your homework

Are you planning to vote in person in the March 5 primary? Or in any election this year? If so, I know you want to keep the process simple and the line as short as possible. So as a poll worker for several years — and remember, we are all volunteers — I'd like to offer a couple of key reminders.

First, put away those cell phones! You may not think of them as recording devices, among other functions, but they are. As such they are ILLEGAL under state law inside the polling place. Do you as a voter want someone recording or photographing you casting your ballot? I didn't think so. When poll workers insist you stow the phone away, they are protecting you and every other voter, and seeing that you follow the law.

Wait, you say, my notes on how to vote are on my phone. Sorry, we say, no exceptions. But remember, voting is like an open-book test — all the answers are available in the form of sample ballots, and you can take them into the polls.

So where can I see my sample ballot, you ask. They are all on the Parker County Elections Administrator's website, Democratic and Republican versions. (<https://www.parkercountytx.com/118/Elections>) The site tells you how to figure out what precinct you live in and thus what's on your particular ballot. Or you can drop by the elections office and get your sample ballot in person.

Finally, yes, you can bring your paper notes into the poll site — a sample ballot printout, personal notes, postcards from candidates, anything on paper to help your memory. And if you get to your poll site and forget your notes, we'll have sample ballots on hand right there that you can review before you vote. Just no cell phones!

For more help: The Elections Office is in the sub-courthouse on Santa Fe Drive, just across from the Weatherford post office. The staff there is very helpful.

Thanks, and see you at the polls.

- Libby Afflerbach
Parker County

WEATHERFORD ISD

Board remembers fallen colleague

Toby Taylor was active member

By Melissa Winn
The Community News

A somber start to the Weatherford ISD board meeting Monday (Feb. 12) left members and attendees in tears as a short remembrance took place for Toby Taylor.

Taylor, 53, passed away Feb. 3 following complications from the flu.

"He will be missed," said board president Mike Guest.

Taylor joined the WISD board in November 2020 and was re-elected in 2023. He served as a Watch Dog Dad at Curtis Elementary, the campus he was assigned to as a trustee, and also served on the CTE Advisory Council.

During an emotional invocation, board member Jeff Ford asked for continued prayers and thoughts for Taylor's wife and children.

After taking a moment to gather themselves, trustees then heard a campus report from Ikard Elementary by J.P. Kechnie, Executive Director of Facilities, on how the Facilities Program is progressing.

Kechnie highlighted the 25 employees who work with him and who specialize in many trades. He

also laid out plans for the completion of a master plan by the end of the year and other initiatives.

Ford asked whether there was an existing master plan in place.

"[We are being] mostly reactionary," Kechnie said.

Superintendent Dr. Beau Rees said that without board direction, getting a master plan is a little more difficult to do since facilities encompasses a myriad of factors.

Guest agreed and reiterated that the board needs to figure out how to get the dollars to spend to the department so it can be less reactionary and more proactive.

The board is set to have a work session on the state of facilities — mostly regarding HVAC equipment — at 6 p.m. on March 4 and will use the information received in Kechnie's report.



MICHAEL'S STUDIO

Weatherford ISD board member Toby Taylor was remembered as a beloved member of the community at the Feb. 12 WISD meeting. Taylor, 53, passed away Feb. 3.

Additionally, board members:

- Approved current board policy regarding volunteers in the district who are chaplains, as required by Senate Bill 763. The district allows chaplains in addition to staff counselors.
- Approved recommended curriculum by the School Health School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) regarding House Bill 3908, known as Tucker's Law, that requires appropriate grade

levels learn the dangers of opioids and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl. SHAC committee members created Roos Choose Guidance Lesson for grades 6-12 that will be covered in the fall.

- Approved the submission of expedited waivers to limit the number of foreign exchange students to five per high school for the years of 2024-27. Five is the current number the district has in effect and aligns with other schools the same size as WHS.

QUOTABLE

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

C.S. Lewis

Theatre Off the Square

TOTS extending Shakespeare auditions

Staff Reports
The Community News

Theatre Off The Square in Weatherford has extended auditions for its 2024 Shakespeare In The Park production of The Merry Wives of Windsor, set for the spring. The additional auditions will take place at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 19-20, in the green room at TOTS on 114 N. Denton in Weatherford.

Those auditioning must be prepared to read from a cold script.

The show is Shakespeare's merry comedy of marriage, wealth, jealousy, and lies. Sir John Falstaff plans to hustle his way to comfortable retirement by seducing the wives of two wealthy men. But it's the women of Windsor who pull the strings in this story.

The show will be directed by Hannah Bell. Performances are set for April 19 in the evening and April 20 with a matinee and evening performance. All will be at Chandor Gardens.

Roles available are:

- Sir John Falstaff: 40s-60s a charismatic drunk.

- Fenton: Young male presenting.
- Robert Shallow: any age male presenting.
- Slender: any age male presenting and unsuccessful suitor of Anne.
- Ford: middle age male presenting.
- Page: middle age male presenting.
- William Page: younger child.
- Sir Hugh: an older parson.
- Doctor Caius: any age doctor and unsuccessful suitor of Anne.
- Host of the Garter Inn: any age/gender.
- Bardolph: any age/gender.
- Pistol: any age/gender.
- Nym: any age/gender.
- Robin: a page, any age/gender.
- Simple: any age/gender.
- Rugby: any age/gender.
- Alice Ford: middle age, female presenting.
- Margaret Page: middle age, female presenting.
- Mistress Quickly: female presenting, older.

For more information, call TOTS at 817-341-8687, email info@theatreoffthesquare.org, visit their website at www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

MUSIC

from page 3

or stopping by the band booster concession stand—every contribution helps in shaping the future of these young musicians.

50 Years Of Immeasurable Influence And Value

The Aledo Bands not only focus on the current students but also have a long-term vision of promoting music education for

generations to come. By investing in the future of music education, the Aledo Band Boosters are ensuring that the community continues to benefit from the joy and enrichment that comes from music. As we can see, the success of the Aledo Bands is a result of the collaborative efforts of the band directors, supportive parents, and the community. Each one plays a crucial role in ensuring that these young musicians have the resources and support they need to thrive.

So, the next time you attend an Aledo Band performance, take a moment to appreciate the hard work and dedication that goes into making it possible. And remember, your support, whether through volunteering or donating, will play a significant role in shaping the lives of these students and promoting music education for generations to come. Let's continue to support and celebrate the legacy of these talented musicians.

"Band is fun." - JDP

Jack Hunt is a band parent and the president of the Aledo Band Boosters.



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February 2024

PHOTOS BY MERCEDES MAYER



Riley Haug - Ouachita Baptist baseball
 Aaron, Rebecca, Coen, and Sully Haug



Jett Moore - Weatherford College golf
 Jeff and Becca Moore



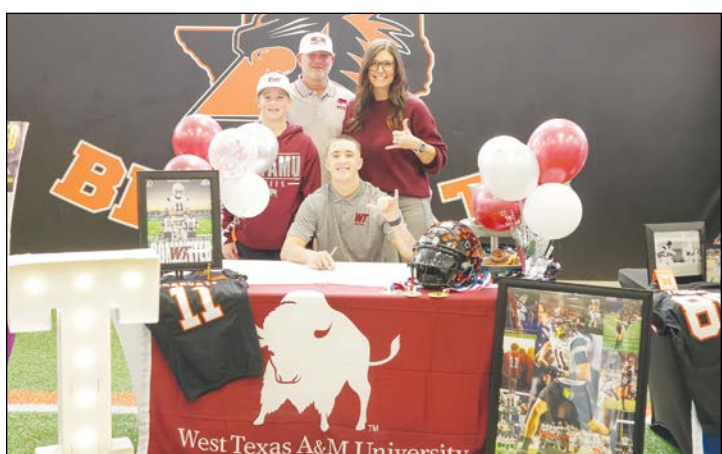
Tyson Timms - Colorado School of Mines football
 Brad, Jordan, Brooke, and Joshua Timms



Ethan Shelton - i2i International Soccer Academy soccer
 Chad, Vicki, and Aspen (not pictured) Shelton



Emilee Frank - Midwestern State softball
 Kenneth, Jamie, and Reagan Frank



Trace Clarkson - West Texas A&M football
 Ric, Calli, and Crue Clarkson



Carter Campbell - Tufts University football
 Katie, Luke, and Ryan Campbell



Boogie Owens - Fordham University football
 Misti, Shawn, and Jaylee Owens



Taylor Hindman - Colorado School of Mines pole vaulting
 Cody, Cinnamon, and Trinity Hindman



Aven Lawrence - University of Texas Permian Basin football
 Tamara, Kurt, and Lydia Lawrence



Alex Arana - Hardin Simmons University football
 Adam, Tonya, and Isaiah Arana

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BUSINESS

from page one

should be enough to get the listing reactivated."

It worked, and Rushing was informed that the timing of the loss of his listing also correlated with another significant event for Google.

"In May, when we lost our listing, he (Fisher) said it was no coincidence that took place, because in May Google outsourced all of their information for that department to India," Rushing said. "And in India, I don't think that have the same concept of how things work over here, especially when they saw my business didn't have a sign."

Seemed like forever

A total of seven months elapsed between the time that Aledo Overhead Door lost its Google listing to the time it was reinstated, which happened right at the end of 2023.

"After getting the sign back in December, we were just hoping to get it reinstated by Christmas," Rushing said. "Christmas Eve

came around, and we ended up getting our listing back."

It was a great relief for the Rushing family to have the listing reinstated, but Rushing said the incident took its toll on he and his family.

"It was terrible in that I was frantically trying to do everything that I could to make sure we still had the same amount of business coming in, but also at the same time trying to communicate with people that don't really know how to communicate back," Rushing said. "It was a really frustrating process that was highly-stressful, but I just kept pushing all the buttons I could to make it a better situation."

Effect undetermined

Rushing said it is difficult to determine how business was affected over the seven-month time frame, but said he does believe it had an impact.

"We were fortunate in that business stayed the same," Rushing said. "But I knew it should have been more, and that's the tough

part, because it is not quantifiable. Before the listing was removed, we had started to see an increase in calls because of the growth in the area, but it just ended up plateauing.

"I knew it should have been more, and since we've gotten our listing back, we've been busier than we've ever been."

Lingering personally

The matter is over from the standpoint of Aledo Overhead Door, but not quite for Rushing himself yet.

"It's closed in the respect that I don't have to worry about it anymore," Rushing said. "But I still am trying to figure out who actually did this. In the process, we were also able to get rid of the listing that was in the empty field...now we're the only thing that shows up in Aledo. That just happened two or three weeks ago."

Rushing said it bothers him that this could happen to a company like his and said he had some advice for other small companies to protect themselves.

"This seems to be more of a problem with businesses that are being run out of the home," Rushing said. "So if you have a storefront, the chances of having something like this happen are lower. If a business being run out of the home ends up getting flagged, the quickest, fastest solution is to print up a big sign, and get a utility bill in the business' name."

StopListingFraud.com

Rushing is happy to have this chapter of his life behind him, and hopes it serves a good cautionary tale for other small businesses.

But the Aledo man is certainly going to do his part to continue to help other small businesses by starting an organization called StopListingFraud.com.

"Our mission is to hold the people responsible for these fake listings accountable, create new laws that will hold Google and Apple accountable for allowing these fake listings to flourish and help small businesses across the country get this problem fixed for good," Rushing said.

OBJECT

from page 3

The airline sprung for cost of gifts, but this initiative avoided what would have cost millions of dollars if they'd purchased ads trumpeting "Merry Christmas." The good will generated was inestimable.

Social media are at center stage currently for what is being called "The Consumer Chex Index." Kylie Brakeman, a NYC comedian, loves the snack, usually buying 8.75-ounce bags. The price, it turns out, is all over the charts in airports, ranging from \$3.49 in New Orleans to \$13.29 in Las Vegas.

She is revolting, and the brouhaha--like the \$18 Big Mac combo at McDonald's--has gone viral.

Check it out online with search words like "Chex Mix furor." The snack's moguls may be scratching their heads, unsure if they should praise Kylie or refuse to laugh at her jokes.

Dr. Newbury is a longtime university president who writes weekly and speaks publicly throughout Texas. Contact: Email: newbury@speaker-doc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872.

Sample Ballot

Below are the names of all candidates that will appear on ballots in Parker County. Not every race will be on every ballot — it will depend on where you live. In addition, the term "precinct" has two meanings: there are four county precincts from which justices of the peace and constables are elected; and there are 44 voting precincts in the county. You can find your voting precinct number on your Voter ID card.

Races marked with "*" will only be on the ballots for the people who live in those voting areas.

Democrats

President
Dean Phillips
Joseph R. Biden Jr.
Cenk Uygur
Marianne Williamson
Star Locke
Armando "Mando" Perez-Serrato
Frankie Lozada
Gabriel A. Cornejo

United States Senator
Colin Allred
Carl Oscar Sherman
Roland Gutierrez
Meri Gomez
Steven J. Keough
Mark Gonzalez
Heli Rodriguez Prilliman
A. "Robert" Hassan
Thierry Tchenko

United States Representative, District 12
Sebastian K. Gehrig
Trey J. Hunt

Railroad Commissioner
Katherine Culbert
Bill Burch

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2
Randy Sarosdy
DaSean Jones

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4
Christine Vinh Weems

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6
Joe Pool
Bonnie Lee Goldstein

Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
Holly Taylor

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7
Nancy Mulder

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8
Chika Anyiam

Member, State Board of Education, District 11
Rayna Glasser

State Senator, District 10*
Andy Morris

State Senator, District 30*
Michael Braxton
Dale Frey
Matthew McGhee

County Chair
Kay Pierson Parr

Republicans

President
Donald J. Trump
Ron DeSantis
David Stuckenberg
Ryan L. Binkley
Chris Christie
Asa Hutchinson
Nikki Haley
Vivek Ramaswamy
Uncommitted

United States Senator
Holland "Redd" Gibson
R E (Rufus) Lopez
Ted Cruz

United States Representative, District 12
Clint Dorris
John C. O'Shea
Shellie Gardner
Anne Henley
Craig Goldman

Railroad Commissioner
Christi Craddock
Corey Howell
Christie Clark
Petra Reyes
James "Jim" Matlock

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Jimmy Blacklock

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4
John Devine
Brian Walker
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6
Jane Bland
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
David J. Schenck
Sharon Keller

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7
Gina Parker
Barbara Parker Hervey

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8
Lee Finley
Michelle Slaughter

Member, State Board of Education, District 11
Pat (Patricia) Hardy
Brandon Hall

State Senator, District 10*
Phil King

State Senator, District 30*
Carrie De Moor
Brent Hagenbuch
Cody Clark
Jace Yarbrough

State Representative, District 60
Glenn Rogers
Mike Olcott

"Chief Justice,
2nd Court of Appeals District"
Bonnie Sudderth

Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 4
Wade Birdwell

Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 5
Dabney Bassel

Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 6
Mike Wallach

"District Judge, 43rd Judicial
District"
S. Craig Towson

"District Judge, 415th Judicial
District"
Graham Quisenberry

District Attorney, 43rd Judicial District
Jeff Swain

Judge, County Court at Law No. 2
Lynn Marie Johnson

County Attorney
John Forrest Jr

Sheriff
Russ Authier

County Tax Assessor-Collector
Jennifer "Jenny" Gentry

County Commissioner, Precinct 1*
George Conley

County Commissioner, Precinct 3*
Larry Walden

Constable, Precinct 1*
Ray Wright
Jason Ingram

Constable, Precinct 2*
Joe Harris, Jr.

Constable, Precinct 3*
Glen D Praetor
Cruz Rivas III

Constable, Precinct 4*
Scott Jones
Jerry Stockon

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Precinct Chair, Precinct 100*
Leroy Hidalgo
Mindy White

Precinct Chair, Precinct 120*
Mike Kelley
Richelle Pruitt

Precinct Chair, Precinct 215*
Bret Watson
Laura Hester

Precinct Chair, Precinct 230*
Calvin Allen
Joe Wilkinson

Precinct Chair, Precinct 230*
Christina Cleghorn
Chris Michael Humphries

Precinct Chair, Precinct 245*
Larry Teaff
Greg Boggs

Precinct Chair, Precinct 260*
Lisa Catlin
Todd Kuenstner

Precinct Chair, Precinct 300*
Barbara L Chapman
Dianna Littlepage Meyer

Precinct Chair, Precinct 305*
Natasha Randolph
Garrett Steinberger

Precinct Chair, Precinct 315*
Bruce Melberg
Zan Prince

Precinct Chair, Precinct 325*
Larry Bartoli
Christian Carreon

Precinct Chair, Precinct 335*
Lori Traeger
Landon Meeker

Precinct Chair, Precinct 350*
Mary Mayo
Deborah (Debbie) Carney
Rob Looper

Precinct Chair, Precinct 420*
Joelene Slocum
Laura Heffelfinger

Precinct Chair, Precinct 430*
Jeff Streetman
Jim Forgey

Precinct Chair, Precinct 435*
John Korpall
Pryce R. Marshall

Precinct Chair, Precinct 440*
Amanda Garner
Lewis A. Hall

Precinct Chair, Precinct 445*
LP Ladouceur
John Schoolfield

Precinct Chair, Precinct 450*
Brad Manning
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The Community News will begin posting candidate information online soon. Visit www.community-news.com.

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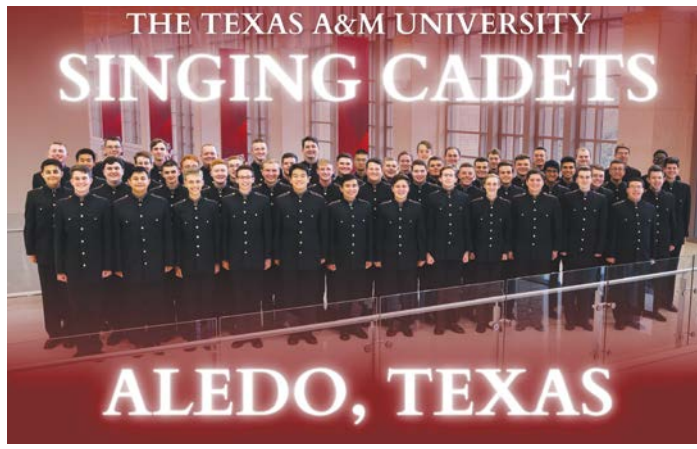
For current Mass Times visit our website at:
www.HolyRedeemerAledo.org
For more information contact the Parish Office at 817-441-3500

More events can be found at www.community-news.com/calendar

FEBRUARY 17

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. If you know of a veteran that would like to attend, but is financially challenged, please contact our club at 817-775-0224 to see if a complimentary ticket is available. 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 pcaggiemompresident@gmail.com <https://parkercomoms.aggienetwork.com/>

FEBRUARY 24

Annetta Clean-up Day
The Town of Annetta will hold its annual Clean-Up Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 24. Meet

at Town Hall, located at 450 Thunder Head Ln. in Annetta. Lunch will be provided to volunteers. For more information, call the city at 817-441-5770 or visit www.annetatx.org.

FEBRUARY 26

Teen Time at the library
Middle and High Schoolers are invited to Teen Time at the Library at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb 26 at that East Parker County Library. Come for around the world (with snacks) and make strawberry boba tea.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- TXism: "___ as a two-day-old kitten"
- TXism: "sounds like a dry ___" (bad singer)
- hot tubs
- meaning of Spanish word, "Brazos"
- Texas "High Fidelity" plays the music of "___ Speedwagon"
- Guadalupe is a spring-___ river
- TXism: "can't ___ silk purse out of a sow's ear"
- TX Matt who was a pro wrestler easternmost city in Texas
- national citizen (2 wds.)
- shaped clay
- Texas-based Mary Kay is present in this Chinese country
- "Bear" or "Berra was only sick" (old)
- TX Janis died of a drug over ___
- "Anytime" country singer, Eddy
- Texas film "Lone Wolf Mc. ___"
- some confuse ___ with a raven
- place with coin-operated washers and dryers (2 wds.)
- TXism: "plain ___ face"
- TX George Foreman was one
- attached wood slantwise
- mountie "Do-Right"
- opposite of 21-across (abbr.)
- space agcy. in Houston
- on the side of a ship sheltered from the wind
- "Deaf" Smith in the Texas Revolution
- "___ of society"
- fruit pastries
- Calhoun, who was the "Domino Kid"
- TXism: "critter corral"
- actress Madigan of 3-down
- female parent, informally
- TXism: "mean as ___"
- before KDEI, in Port Arthur
- TXism: "lie up the loose ___"
- this RB Tommie was on 2 Cowboy Super Bowl teams
- "for sale" abbr. often
- this Ames was "Mingo" when TX Fess was "Daniel"
- 16-down init.
- noted Notre Dame coach, Parseghian
- Peru native people
- "do your ___"
- TXism: "got ___ arrows in his quiver" (capable)
- int'l security org.
- commercial
- Pepper
- "Santa ___ National Wildlife Refuge"
- pork ___ (meat)
- TXism: "dull ___ week's news"
- TX Lois Chiles, before acting
- car's wheel shafts
- golf ball support
- Ranger announcer, Eric (init.)
- TX Yarbrough, a U.S. senator (init.)
- communal location in a nursing home
- Donald Duck's girlfriend
- Cowboy Hall-of-Famer, Aikman

DOWN

- TXism: "___ the Dead Sea was only sick" (old)
- newspaper in Pleasanton, Texas
- Texas-based 1985 drama film with Ed Harris (2 ws.)
- Fort Worth Spanish FM radio
- TXism: "big ___ in the pond" (VIP)
- noncombatant Alamo survivor, son of Gregorio and Ana (2 wds.)
- comfy room

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SWIMMING

Five swimcats qualify for state

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

If it's late February, it must mean that Haley Roberson and Victoria Crews are on their way to Austin.

For a third consecutive season, the juniors will be competing for Aledo at the University Interscholastic League Class 5A Swimming and Diving Meet at the University of Texas Feb. 23-24. They will be joined by senior Porter Lane, who is making his second straight appearance, and state newcomers junior Avery Faulkner and sophomore Julia Gordy.

The top two finishers in each event qualified for state.

Roberson qualified in three events, including two individually. She won the 200-yard individual medley with yet another school-record time of 2 minutes, 5.57 seconds, besting her own previous mark. She also took first in the 500 freestyle, clocking a finals time of 5:07.38.

In addition, Roberson joined Crews, Faulkner and Gordy as she swam the anchor leg of the girls 400 freestyle relay. The quartet won the event in another record time of 3:50.90.

Roberson improved her time in the 200 IM finals by more than five seconds over her preliminaries race and by more than 10 seconds in the 500 free finals. The relay had an improvement of almost 11 seconds from preliminaries to finals, vaulting from fourth place to first.

Lane won two individual events, posting a time of 50.14 in the 100 butterfly and a 59.32 in the 100 breaststroke. His time of 59.11 seconds in the 100 breaststroke prelims set a school record.

Though they did not qualify for state, the boys 200 freestyle relay set a school record of 1:33.64 to finish third. The foursome consisted of Lane, freshmen Jaxon Robinson and Kale Roberson and junior Tyler Jackson.

Crews also narrowly missed qualifying in a third event, taking third in the 100 butterfly.

Also, the boys 400 freestyle relay of Lane, Roberson, Brayden Deboer and Jackson advanced to the finals, but was disqualified on a technicality after finishing third in the preliminaries.

"I'm incredibly proud of our entire team and their swims this weekend. One hundred percent of our races came back for finals, I don't know that we've ever accomplished that before," coach Meghan Roberson said. "Nearly all of them dropped time between prelims and finals, which shows a fight and want to compete and improve. I couldn't have asked for better races from any of them."

"This sport takes an incredible amount of dedication and sacrifice from the student athletes and their families, 6 a.m. practices in Fort Worth four-plus days a week, working outside of high school swimming with their clubs, these athletes are something special."

Turn to **STATE**, page 9

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ladycats cruise by Wyatt



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kinley Elms goes up for a shot with a Sanger defender in her face during a game from December. Elms scored 23 points as the Ladycats decimated Wyatt in the bi-district round of the playoffs on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Elms' 23 points lifts Aledo to bi-district win

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The opening round of the playoffs went off without a hitch for the Ladycats as center Kinley Elms put up 23 points to lift Aledo to a 76-40 win in bi-district over the Wyatt Lady Chaparrals on Monday, Feb. 12 at Saginaw High School.

Coming into the game as the No. 2 seed out of District 5-5A, Aledo (28-9) asserted their dominance early in the contest over the No. 3 seed from 6-5A. Firing on all cylinders at both ends of the floor, the Ladycats racked up a 23-point lead before the end of the first quarter. The Lady Chaparrals (17-12) managed just three points in the first eight minutes of play, finding themselves on the business end of a 26-3 score heading into the second quarter.

In the second quarter Aledo continued to dominate the action. The Ladycats outpaced Wyatt 17-11 to take a 43-14 lead into the half.



With play resuming in the third quarter, the Lady Chaparrals had their best quarter of the game as Aledo coasted on the promise of their insurmountable lead. Wyatt managed to flip the production from the second quarter, so that they were on the plus side of a 17-11 deficit.

But the Ladycats slammed the door shut on Wyatt in the fourth quarter. Returning to their aggressive form, Aledo went on a 22-9 run in the final stanza to nearly double up the Lady Chaparrals' scoring total for the game. The 36-point blowout brought the season to a close for Wyatt while securing the Ladycats a rendezvous with Mansfield Timberview, the No. 1 team in the state in Class 5A, in the area round on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Cleburne.

Class 5A bi-district Ladycats vs. Fort Worth Wyatt - Jan. 23

Aledo	26	17	11	22-76
Wyatt	3	11	17	9-40

Aledo scoring: Kinley Elms 23, Brooklyn Dempsey 13, Elizabeth Griffin 11, Natalie Anderson 10, Caroline Browning 9, Rebekah Jarrell 4, Brenna Clock 4, August Carlone 2.

WRESTLING

Aledo season ends at regionals

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo boys and girls wrestling season came to an end this past weekend at the Class 5A Region I Tournament at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

Three Aledo wrestlers advanced to the final eight (quarterfinals) in their respective weight classes. For the Ladycats, that was Kyra Wright in the 126-pound division and Baillie Sessom in the 185 category. For the Bearcats, Bryce Vonasek reached the top eight in the 215 weight division.

Each of the three posted a pair of victories and had a pair of losses in the tournament.

"Sadly, our season came to an end this weekend, but I am so proud of how our kids competed and the improvements we have made since last season," coach Austin Stockon said.

Three other Bearcats posted victories before being eliminated. They were Brice Bohn (113), Kyle Scharlow (150) and Sam Belyeu (165). Cooper Cyphers also competed in the 285 division.

Also competing for the Ladycats were Avery Kernan in the 107 division and Riley Blankenship at 132.

Bohn was an alternate for state in 2023, while Wright, Kernan and Blankenship were also making their second straight trip to regionals.

Six of the nine regional competitors are underclassmen, with only Scharlow, Vonasek and Blankenship graduating this year. Bohn and Cyphers are sophomores, while Belyeu, Wright, Sessom and Kernan are juniors.



Baillie Sessom

DIANE BELYEU



Sam Belyeu

DIANE BELYEU

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bearcats wrangle Texans

Eye seeding rematch with Granbury

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The Bearcats entered the month of February in control of their own destiny. After ending January falling short against Brewer after leading most of the game, Aledo ran the table picking up wins in each of their final four games, capped off by a 50-44 win over Northwest in Justin on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

The win on Tuesday bumped the Bearcats (19-11 overall, 8-4 in district) from the No. 4 seed in District 5-5A into a tie with Granbury for third place. Final seeding for the playoffs will be determined with a one-game playoff against the Pirates on Friday, Feb. 16 at Weatherford High School. Tipoff is slated for 6 p.m.

Aledo and Granbury split their district games. The Pirates winning 70-63 at home on Jan. 12 and the Bearcats winning 46-44 at home on Feb. 6.

On Tuesday, with business left to tend to, the Bearcats got right to work. Jack Sawyer and Joaquin Pacheco teamed up to score 10 points in the first quarter while the Texans only managed to muster a half dozen.

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 9

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STATE

from page 8

This is Aledo's ninth consecutive season to have swimmers competing at state.

"I'm excited to see how we'll stack up at state. We have a short two weeks to continue to prepare, this season is long (September to February) and these kids are getting tired, but we're in the final stretch," coach Roberson continued. "If we execute on the details we have a chance at making a strong finals appearance."

As a team, the Bearcats and Ladycats each finished fifth at regionals.

UIL Class 5A Region II Swimming and Diving Meet

at Mansfield Natatorium

Feb. 9-10

Aledo results

Team finishes

Boys 5th, girls 5th
Top individual results
(Distances in yards, top two in each event qualified for state)

Girls

200 Medley Relay: 5. Avery Faulkner, Addie Speed, Corah Satterfield, Victoria Crews, 2:04.43 28.
200 Freestyle: 9. Julia Gordy, 2:10.43.
200 IM: 1. Haley Roberson, 2:05.57.
100 Butterfly: 3. Crews, 1:01.93; 13. Satterfield, 1:11.10.
500 Freestyle: 1. Roberson, 5:07.38.
200 Freestyle Relay: 7. Faulkner, Satterfield, Speed, Gordy, 1:54.53.
100 Backstroke: 5. Crews, 1:05.19; 10. Satterfield, 1:08.63.
100 Breaststroke: 14. Speed, 1:24.30.
400 Freestyle Relay: 1. Crews, Faulkner, Gordy, Roberson, 3:50.90.

Boys

200 Medley Relay: 8. Cade Catlin, Tyler Jackson, Evan Bradley, Kale Roberson, 1:52.26 22.
200 Freestyle: 14. Bradley, 2:09.28.
200 IM: 14. Brayden DeBoer, 2:16.89.
50 Freestyle: 14. Roberson, 24.71.
100 Butterfly: 1. Porter Lane, 50.14.
100 Freestyle: 11. Jackson, 53.52.
500 Freestyle: 6 DeBoer, 5:32.86.
200 Freestyle Relay: 3. Jackson, Jaxon Robinson, Roberson, Lane, 1:33.64.
100 Backstroke: 4. Catlin, 58.72.
100 Breaststroke: 1. Lane, 59.32; 12. Ian Perez, 1:12.24.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo Bearcat senior basketball players and coaching staff take a photo during the Senior Night ceremony prior to the final home game of the 2023-24 season on Friday, Feb. 9.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

In the final home game of his high school basketball career, Jack Sawyer scored 18 points to lead the Bearcats to a 54-44 win over Wichita Falls Rider on Friday, Feb. 9.

BEARCATS

from page 8

Action picked up at both ends of the floor in the second quarter with the home team outpacing the Bearcats ever so slightly, 16-15. With the first half in the books, Aledo held a slight 25-22 lead.

When play resumed in the third quarter, the two squads went shot-for-shot. Aledo scored 16 points with Jackson Todd contributing eight

of them for his first points of the game. With just a quarter left to play, Aledo continued to hold their three-point lead, 41-38.

In the final eight minutes off action, the Bearcats salted away the game, tacking on nine points to put space between themselves and the Texans on the scoreboard.

Bearcats vs. Northwest - Feb. 13

Aledo	10	15	16	9 - 50
Northwest	6	16	16	6 - 44

Aledo scoring: Jack Sawyer 20, Joaquin Pacheco 14, Jackson Todd 10, Cohen Christie 4, Owen Peterson 2.



SUBVARSITY

Girls basketball

Ladycats JV perfect in district

Granbury on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The Ladycats were 25-3 overall this season.

Staff Reports

The Community News

Aledo JV	16	20	19	3 - 58
Granbury JV	4	5	3	9 - 21

The Aledo Ladycats junior varsity finished a perfect 12-0 run en route to the District 5-5A championship with a 58-21 win over

Aledo scoring: Karsyn Evans 13, Kaelee Berkley 13, Breleigh Mayer 7, Jaylee Owens 6, Mesoma Emeka-Okoye 4, Lily Heckathorn 4, Jordyn Eddington 3, Kennedy Cardenas 2, Natalie Browning 2, Coral Slough 2, Savannah Salas 2.

SOCCER

from page 12

injuries coupled with just not putting their best performances on the pitch early in district play put a solid team in a difficult position.

On Tuesday night, the Bearcats returned to form against Azle.

"We talked about our backs being against a wall," head coach Derek Vierling said after the game. "This was a must-win game. The kids came out and performed. They did a nice job. I told the team, all around from goalkeeping to finishing, we were on par for everything."

The Bearcats were the perfect balance of aggressive, yet patient against Azle. They pressed the Hornets the entire match, controlling possession of the ball for the vast majority of the 80 minutes.

Even while putting relentless pressure on the Hornet defense, the Bearcats took their time with their attack. They moved the ball effectively, waiting for Azle to get out of position. When the opportunities arose, they attacked swiftly and accurately like a viper hunting its prey.

Cole Crawford started off the scoring for the Bearcats in the 12th minute to put the home team on the board, 1-0. Five minutes later Korbyn Gill scored a goal of his own, lifting Aledo to a 2-0 lead less than halfway through the first half.

With 11 minutes left in the first half Gill found Crawford in space as Crawford buried a shot in the back of the net for

his second goal of the contest, as Azle found themselves on the business end of a 3-0 score.

The scoring onslaught continued as Adrian Solis added yet another goal with just over four minutes left before the break.

As play resumed in the second half, so did the scoring for Aledo. In the 51st minute of play Austin Randriamahefa took a corner kick for a charging Bearcat offense. Elliot Smith managed to get on the other end of it, as the home team scored on the set piece to make it a 5-0 affair with just under 30 minutes left to play.

Randriamahefa scored the final goal of the night for the Bearcats with 21:34 left to play. With the ball along the near touch line, Randriamahefa put an exquisite shot on goal with his left foot. The ball curled in front of the goal out of reach of the keeper before clanging off the far goalpost for a gorgeous goal that capped off a spectacular performance by the Bearcats.

"We just want to keep possessing the ball," Vierling noted. "We had a lot of possession tonight. If we can control the ball, then they're not able to score. That's what we try to do. We did that really well tonight. And, we were finishing. It was really working tonight."

What's next?

Aledo's soccer clubs will be back in action at Tim Buchanan Stadium on Friday when Granbury comes to town. The Ladycats will take the pitch first at 5:30 p.m. with the Bearcats to follow.



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The Community News 1015 Champions Drive	Weatherford Chamber 401 Fort Worth Hwy.
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REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Aledo is pleased to issue this Request for Statements of Qualifications to identify a firm or joint venture for materials testing services to support construction of the City of Aledo Municipal Complex.

The City is requesting Statements of Qualification's (SOQ) regarding construction materials testing.

Submittals will only be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.

Bid # PW-2024-004 CITY OF ALEDO MUNICIPAL COMPLEX - CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING

Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFQ) 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. RFQ documents will be ready for pickup on and after February 16, 2024.

The City of Aledo website will be updated with addenda, additional reports or other information relevant to the RFQ. 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 February 27, 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, March 1, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. Questions that result in changes to the RFQ will be answered in writing and copies distributed to bidders of record in the form of an addendum.

Luis Gatica, P.E., CFM
104 Maverick Street
Aledo, Texas 76008
817.441.7016
lgatica@aledotx.gov

Advertisement dates:
February 16, 2024
February 23, 2024
March 1, 2024



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Aledo will accept bids submitted only in writing until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024 to contract with a qualified contractor or company to provide sewer lift station cleaning services for the City of Aledo.

Bid # PW-2024-005
CITY OF ALEDO – SEWER LIFT STATION CLEANING SERVICES

City Staff will begin reading the bids at 2:01 p.m.
Dial-in Number: 234.203.2766
Conference Code: 680-090-795

Bid documents may be obtained without charge at the City of Aledo City Hall, 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, Texas 76008. Bid documents will be ready for pickup on and after **February 16, 2024**. Request for Bid documents may also be downloaded at www.aledotx.gov.

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

There will be a non-mandatory pre-bid conference on February 27, 2024 at 11:00 AM. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Community Center Conference Room, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, TX 76008.

Bidders should submit all inquiries and/or questions concerning this project to the person identified below by Friday, March 1, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. Questions that result in changes to the specifications will be answered in writing and copies distributed to bidders of record in the form of an addendum.

Luis Gatica, P.E., CFM
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Rio Vista Phase 3 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 March 1, 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: February 9th, 2024
February 16th, 2024

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Kid Scoop Together

Make a Timeline!

Look at the timeline dates below. Next to each one, write something you learned from today's **Kid Scoop** page on the lines next to each date.

1827 _____

1847 _____

1861 _____

1905 _____

1926 _____

1952 _____

1964 _____

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African American Newspapers

First African American Newspaper

Freedom's Journal was the first African American owned and operated newspaper. The newspaper editors said, "Too long have others spoken for us." They wanted to write about and for their fellow African Americans. Starting in 1827, *Freedom's Journal* helped lead the way for other Black-owned newspapers in the 1800s.



Standards Link: Read informational text about Black history and journalism.

1847

Frederick Douglass started a newspaper called *The North Star* in 1847. This was a newspaper where black people could write about their news, ideas and share opinions.

Use the code to find out what Frederick Douglass said about reading.

A = 16	E = 12	N = 8	U = 4
B = 15	F = 11	O = 7	V = 3
C = 14	I = 10	R = 6	W = 2
D = 13	L = 9	T = 5	Y = 1

7 8 14 12 1 7 4
 9 12 16 6 8 5 7
 6 12 16 13 1 7 4
 2 10 9 9 15 12
 11 7 6 12 3 12 6
 11 6 12 12

— FREDERICK DOUGLASS

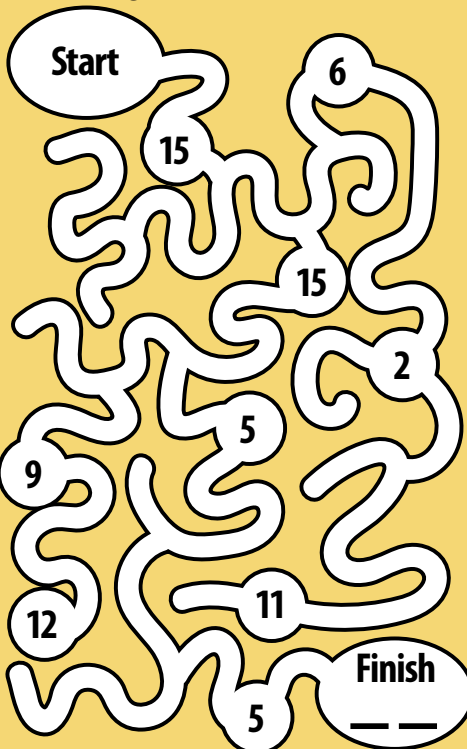
THE Chicago Defender

Cut out each piece and paste the paragraph in the correct order in the space below.

so popular that he became one of African American newspaper. Abbott started the newspaper about \$7.30 today. His paper was In 1905, Robert Abbott founded Chicago's first Black millionaires. with 25¢. That's the same as *The Chicago Defender*. It was an

How many papers?

Add up the numbers on the correct path of the maze to find out how many African American owned and operated newspapers circulated throughout the U.S. in 1861.



Standards Link: Read informational text about Black history and journalism.

SUNDAY CHICAGO BEE

Twenty-one years after Robert Abbott founded *The Chicago Defender*, Anthony Overton, an African American millionaire, started *The Chicago Bee* to compete with *The Chicago Defender*. It was a remarkable business as the staff was mostly women. That was very unusual in 1926. Olive M. Diggs was one of the newspaper's managing editors. Other female editors included Ida B. Wells. She helped start the civil rights organization known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

What year did Anthony Overton start *The Chicago Bee*?

Simeon Booker Jr.

In 1952, Simeon Booker Jr. became the first Black reporter for a well-known and well-read newspaper that still publishes today. Circle every other letter below to find out the name of this newspaper.

T R H K E U W B A L S V H W I J N
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 T H

Extra! Extra! Newspaper ABCs

On one page of the newspaper, find and circle every letter of the alphabet that you can. Then connect the letters to create a design. Color your design and share! Have fun!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow written instructions.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: NEWSPAPER
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A newspaper brings the world into your hands.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

1964

The Washington Informer is a weekly newspaper published in Washington, D.C. It is owned by a woman and reports on the African American community in the D.C. area.

The publisher is Denise Rolark Barnes. Her father, Calvin W. Rolark, founded the paper in 1964.

Fill in the missing vowels to find out something special about *The Washington Informer*.

THE WASH _NGT _N
 INF _RM _R P _BLISH _S
 K _D SC _ _P!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell words correctly.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Analyze the News

Work in teams to measure how many column inches your newspaper devotes to news from different groups of people in your community, such as children, seniors, men, women, people of color, etc. Graph your results.

Standards Link: Mathematics: Graph data.

"The time is always right to do what is right."

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Write On!

Leadership

What are three things good leaders do? Make a list and explain how each of these things makes a good leader.

SOCCKER

Aledo soccer clubs sting Hornets

Combine for 10 goals

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledo's four-game homestand couldn't have gotten off to a better start than it did on Tuesday, Feb. 13, when Azle came to town. In the opening match of the evening, the Ladycats dominated the visiting club, 4-1. The nightcap went even better for the Bearcats, who picked up their first district win of the season as they decimated the Hornets, 6-0.

The Ladycats came into the season with a great deal of uncertainty. With such a young group, head coach Bryan Johnson spent much of the preseason looking for the right mix of starters and hoping to find a primary scoring threat. Thirteen games into the season, the Ladycats (6-5-2 overall, 3-1-1 in District 5-5A) appear to be erasing several question marks.

"I've known what we needed to do and how we needed to do it, but it's just been a question of all of them buying in," Johnson stated after the match against Azle. "I think every girl is starting to prove themselves in the positions they're in with the way they're playing."

The question around who would step up to be the primary scoring threat has been answered emphatically by freshman Allyson Weimer. Since the start of district play, Weimer has scored nine goals giving her 13 on the season thus far.

"I can't say enough good things about Ally," Johnson said of his



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Allyson Weimer jockeying around a pair of Azle defenders during varsity soccer action on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Weimer scored two goals in the match to give her a team-leading 13 goals on the season.

leading goal scorer. "Her stepping up as a freshman has been amazing. I'm super proud of her and the effort she puts in."

Aledo held possession of the ball for most of the first half in the girls game. Despite having several scoring attempts early, the halfway point of the half came and went with the match remaining scoreless.

Weimer changed that with just under 15 minutes remaining in the opening half as she scored her first goal of the evening. In spite of their persistence, though, the Ladycats were not able to score any other goals in the first half, and went into the break leading by a slim, 1-0 margin.

"The thing we talked about at halftime was, in the first half it seemed like Azle was able to receive the ball, pass the ball, and we weren't really pressing," Johnson said about the adjustments his club made at intermission. "We weren't putting them under. We were being very passive. The second half obviously showed we were playing with a little more passion."

That passion translated into goals.

Just minutes into the second half Weimer did what she does best, as she found the back of the net once more. Putting a shot on goal from 15 yards out, she snuck the ball past Azle's keeper to provide



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Adrian Solis attempts to score with a header off a free kick during the Bearcats' match against Azle on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Solis was one of five Bearcats to score on the night as Aledo won 6-0.

the Ladycats with some breathing room.

Aledo kept the forward pressure on as time continued to tick off the clock. After several minutes elapsed, the Ladycats added another goal when Georgia Zirbser tapped one in from just a few feet out right in front of the keeper to make it 3-0 in favor of the home team.

The Ladycats weren't done. With just under nine minutes left to play, Abigail Shiller scored the first goal of her career, capping off a spectacular performance by the Ladycats.

Azle managed to keep from being shut out in the match, as the Lady Hornets were able to score

a single goal with less than three minutes left to play. It was too little, too late, however, as Aledo secured second place in District 5-5A with the win.

"They're all starting to buy into it," Johnson said after the match. "It's the little things. You can see things we're working on in practice are finally coming true in a game."

Bearcats get back in the fight

Since entering the district portion of the schedule, Aledo's Bearcats have been riding the struggle bus. Dealing with nagging

Turn to **SOCCKER**, page 9

Control the court!

Good Luck in the playoffs



Bearcats & Ladycats Basketball

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