Football Bearcats face Tascosa, page 9

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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Gomez the turkey receives last minute pardon

Toys for Tots underway

By Jim Zimmermann The Community News

With just a few days left until Thanksgiving, Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts announced a pardon for Gomez the turkey during the most recent town council meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21.

Gomez, as much as a turkey can, was showing signs of relief and thankfulness that he was not going to end up as a delicious dinner for a family. Now, it appears he has the pleasure of a long and happy future.

This was the first time that Roberts has had the opportunity to participate in such an event, which was made official through a proclamation. After the reading of the proclamation, Gomez, the mayor and the entire council had a photo together.

Gomez did not seem excited either way with all of the gala, but being a turkey, who could really tell? However, he was certainly not backing away from all of the attention.

Turn to TURKEY, page 3



JIM ZIMMERMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts with Gomez, the turkey she officially pardoned at the recent town council meeting.

wetherford Mail scam

Recent solicitation letters meant to deceive By Christpher Amos

The Community News

A letter with the headline, "Weatherford City Council members need to hear from you!" visible through the envelope window could get any citizen's attention. However, according to various sources, the money solicited from the National Police Association does not go where you may think. The letters mention how well maintained your neighborhoods are and asks for you to vote "yes" on a so-called Quality of Life Policing Petition that will be presented to the Weatherford City Council. It then asks for you to donate so the association can continue its "Quality of Life" policing. It sounds well meaning, but on the back of the letter, beneath 40 lines of literally zero-spaced illegible jargon is a small disclaimer stating the National Police Association is not affiliated with any law enforcement agency. The letter ends with bold face font, "Won't you please send just \$5 now to help restore sensible law enforcement in our nation!" Charity Navigator, an online non-profit service designed to track and publish the performances of charity organizations, gives the National Police Association a zerostar "very poor" rating.

WEATHERFORD Dickey honored for 35 years of service

Police department received high accreditation



ALEDO ISD Board prepares legislative pitch

Seeking more funding

By Ryan Wade

The Community News

As 2024 winds to a close, the bi-annual state legislative session in Austin will get underway shortly after the new year. With public school districts across Texas still feeling the squeeze after the legislature failed to allocate \$5 billion earmarked for public education during the 2023 legislative session, the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees is ready to make their legislative pitch.

During the monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 18, Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn and Trustee David Lear advised the rest of the board of the two key asks the district will present to legislators in January.

First and foremost is increase to funding. The last time the Texas Legislature passed an increase to school funding was back in 2019. With rampant inflation plaguing the global economy since 2020, districts across the Lone Star State – Aledo included – have been forced to make some excruciating decisions to deal with budgetary shortfalls.

Turn to BOARD, page 7

ALEDO Reduce Winter Water Use for Year-Round Benefits

Turn to MAIL, page 3



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Troy Dickey, Weatherford Solid Waste & Recycling manager, is congratulated for 35 years of service to the city by Eric Shumar, Asst. Director of Solid Waste and Recycling.

By Christopher Amos The Community News

Limiting meetings to once a month during November and December because of the holidays made for a slightly larger agenda and a much larger crowd for the Weatherford City Council on Nov. 19. That made the full house standing ovation more electrifying when Troy Dickey was honored for 35 years of service to the city.

Dickey started at an entry level with the Weatherford Solid Waste and Recycling Department in 1989, and through a series of promotions rose to manager of the department and overseeing a 19 member crew.

Eric Shumar, director of the Solid Waste and Recycling *Turn to* **HONOR**, page 3



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford Police Chief Lance Arnold and the Weatherford Police Department were honored by Chief Steve Stanford, Bridgeport Texas Police Department, who is also the Accreditation Committee Chairman of the Police Chiefs Association Foundation. Average consumption December-February will determine sewer charges for following year

The of City of Aledo

The City of Aledo reminds residents that winter is the perfect time to save water and lower utility bills. With the implementation of the Winter Averaging method, sewer charges for residential customers are based on average water usage during December, January, and February. These readings determine monthly sewer charges for the following year, making water conservation during this period especially important.

By reducing outdoor water use and conserving indoors during these months, residents can lower their sewer bills for the next 12 months. Since outdoor water usage does not enter the sewer system, limiting its use ensures that calculations are based mainly on indoor

Turn to WATER, page 3



Around Parker County

Clear Fork Veterinary Clinic is committed to compassionate, quality care











and I can say without any ques-

water use, which is collected and treated by the sewer system.

Turn Down the Flow, Turn Up the Savings!

Here are some practical tips to help Aledo residents conserve water this winter:

- Indoor Water-Saving Tips
- 1. Fix Leaks Fast: Even small drips waste gallons of water daily. Check and repair leaks in faucets, toilets, and pipes promptly.
- 2. Use Water-Efficient Fixtures: Install low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and WaterSense-certified toilets.
- 3. Shorten Showers: Keep showers to 5–7 minutes to conserve water.
- 4. Run Full Loads: Use dishwashers and washing machines only when fully loaded to maximize efficiency.
- 5. Turn Off the Tap: Don't let water run while brushing teeth, shaving, or washing dishes.
- 6. Test Toilets: Add a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank; if the color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Replacing the flapper often resolves this issue.

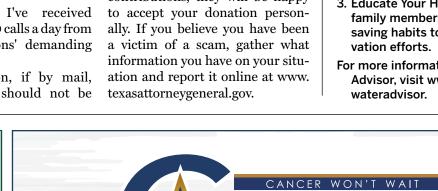
Outdoor Water-Saving Tips

- 1. Adjust Irrigation: Scale back or turn off irrigation systems in winter, as grass goes dormant and plants need less water.
- 2. Insulate Pipes: Protect outdoor pipes from freezing and bursting to prevent water waste and expensive repairs.

General Water-Saving Tips

- 1. Track Water Usage: Sign up for My Water Advisor to monitor water use, detect leaks, and identify conservation opportunities. It's easy and free!
- 2. Avoid Leaks While Away: When traveling, you can activate vacation alerts to be notified of potential leaks.
- 3. Educate Your Household: Involve family members in adopting watersaving habits to maximize conservation efforts.
- For more information about My Water Advisor, visit www.aledotx.gov/ wateradvisor.

WATER from page one



Other council items

The council approved the adop-

More time was spent discussing

"This is not a typical truck stop,

"Correct," Director of Development Kaleb Kentner said. ing at the site."

The ordinance passes 5-0.

New playground equipment was also approved for Cherry Park, 300 S. Alamo St. Child's Play Inc. will begin installation in January and finish in February.

The slides, swings and climbing

tion you have one of the best police departments in the state of Texas," Stanford said. "Agencies must meet or exceed 173 professional standards. The standards are based on Texas law, Texas court decisions, and professional best practices identified by Texas police chiefs."

tion of an ordinance for Brakes Plus to continue with plans to open a new location on just under two acres of the westbound access road of I20, west of Main Street.

the approval of an ordinance for Quick Trip to build a new location on the southwest corner of Ric Williamson Highway and North Main Street. Right of way and traffic flow was discussed as truck traffic at the location.

right?" councilman Matt Ticzkus asked.

"There will be no overnight park-

equipment will include an Americans with Disability Act approved merrygo-round and the entire area will have cushioned artificial turf.

JIM ZIMMERMANN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

(From left) Annetta council members Jim Causey, Shane Mudge, Mayor Sandy Roberts, Kent Stacey, Brandon Thompson, Toys for Tots representative Rico Remigio and council member Danny Coffman

TURKEY

from page one

"I believe that Gomez will be able to enjoy this Thanksgiving as well as many to come with this official pardon," Roberts said. "He will be able to rest in his days knowing that he will be safe from winding up as a holiday meal."

Toys for Tots

In keeping with the holiday theme, local Toys for Tots representative Rico Remigio stopped by to thank the council for collecting toys in the box located at city hall.

and drop off the unwrapped toys here at the office and

several locations all around Parker County." said Remigio. The event will conclude Dec. 13.

Communications policy

In other action on the evening's short agenda, the council amended the town's electronic communications policy to include a prohibited technology policy. This is in connection with Senate Bill 1893, which prohibits the use of certain social media applications and services on devices owned or leased by governmental entities.

Next meeting

The Town of Annetta's final "Everyone is welcome to come meeting of the year is scheduled for Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at Annetta Town Hall, 450 Thunderhead Ln.

MAIL from page one

Lynn Baber, a regular attendee of Weatherford City Council meetings, brought the subject up at November's meeting, and the council agreed the letter was cleverly deceiving.

thought it was from the city council and would have sent money in a heartbeat,"

Furthermore, your information may be sold to other soliciting organizations. Jane Ridley, a reporter for "Business Insider," related an incident in 2023 when she donated \$25 via credit card to a phone "If my mother was still with solicitor claiming to represent

She is normally skeptical of such acted upon immediately but the things, but had a positive experience at her police precinct earlier that day and thought the call to be related.

HONOR

to his team members.

Police honors

The

department, said Dickey is a men-

tor, a leader, and a true inspiration

the past 35 years have been nothing

short of extraordinary," Shumar said

in front of the council and crowd. "

Your commitment, leadership, and

the legacy you've built are deeply

appreciated. Congratulations on this

incredible milestone, and we look for-

ward to the continued positive impact

of your leadership for years to come."

Weatherford

Department was also honored for

again achieving accreditation from

the Texas Law Enforcement Best

Practices Recognition Program

from the Police Chiefs Association

Foundation. The recognition, which

is voluntarily undertaken and certi-

fied every four years, comes from

examination of a department's

accountability record, use of force

accounts, continued education, public

transparency, civil liberties, and even

Bridgeport Police Department, who

is the Accreditation Committee

Chairman of the Police Chiefs

Association Foundation, pre-

sented the award to Weatherford

Police Chief Lance Arnold and the

from the Panhandle to the coastline

and I do many accreditations onsite,

"I get to travel all over the state

Weatherford department.

Chief Steve Stanford of the

facility and equipment evaluation.

Police

"Troy, your contributions over

from page one

"Since then, I've received between five and 10 calls a day from vague 'organizations' demanding money," she wrote.

Any solicitation, if by mail, us, Baber added, "she would have her New York police department. email or phone, should not be

assumed benefiting organization should be contacted directly first. If the organization is accepting contributions, they will be happy







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National Newspaper Association and Foundation



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Weatherford Chamber of Commerce

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Capital Highlights **Abbott issues orders targeting China**



Gary Borders

executive orders last week targeting the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party, The Dallas Morning News reported

intended to protect Texans of Chinese descent from "harassment and intimidation" by the Chinese Communist Party and government, and to fight threats to state security.

"Texas will not tolerate the harassment or coercion of the more than 250,000 individuals of Chinese descent who legally call Texas home by the Chinese Communist Party or its heinous proxies," Abbott said. The orders:

Instruct the Department of Public Safety

to establish a hotline for victims and to "target and arrest" operatives in the state working with the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese government.

Texas

Direct all state agencies, colleges and universities to "harden" their systems against foreign governments. That includes stronger background checks on employees with access to critical infrastructure and banning state agencies from doing business with companies owned wholly or partially by foreign adversary countries.

Direct the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Public Utility Commission to create a task force to study cyberattacks and run simulations of possible responses.

its plan to improve broadband internet access for the estimated 7 million Texas residents who don't have access, The Texas *Tribune* reported.

The approval came from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which means the state now has access to about \$3.3 billion in federal funding included in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The state has already awarded more than \$1 billion in state and federal funding for broadband investments. Last week, applicants in 15 counties were awarded \$580 million to connect 80,000 locations, according to the Texas Broadband Development Office. Federal maps that show where internet connections are needed are being questioned as to their accuracy, The Tribune reported.

"We want to make sure the data being provided to us by the federal government is accurate and up to date," Greg Conte, director of the TBDO, said.

More buoy barriers added in Rio Grande

Despite a dramatic decrease in border crossings in recent months, Abbott has ordered expansion of the 1,000 feet of orange buoys in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"We're not letting up at all; we're continuing our efforts," Abbott said.

The barriers have prompted lawsuits from the federal government, which are tied up in an appeals court.

Monthly border crossings have dropped steadily since March. U.S. Customs and Border Protection data for October indicate that 27,000 migrants were encountered that month in the five Texas sectors of the border with Mexico – fewer than vulnerabilities to potential the 44,000 monthly migrants encountered in the final months of the first Trump presidency.

Washington Post. Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham sent a letter to Trump on Nov. 14 extending the offer.

Tom Homan, former director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and Trump's pick to be "border czar," said the incoming administration would "absolutely" use the 1,400-acre parcel of land.

"We absolutely will. When we find somebody - it's a targeted enforcement operation. When they get arrested, they'll be detained," Homan said.

"We feel like this is actually very well-located. The land is very flat there. It's adjacent to major airports. It's also adjacent to a bridge over the river," Buckingham said. "So, if it's helpful, then I would love to partner up with the federal government. And if it's not, then we'll continue to look to ways to be helpful to them."

Texas still leads nation in job growth

The Lone Star State has again led the nation in job creation over the past 12 months - October 2023 to October 2024 -- adding nearly 275,000 nonfarm jobs during that time period.

"With the best business climate in the nation and a skilled and growing workforce, Texas is where innovative entrepreneurs and businesses find the freedom and tools needed to succeed," Abbott said.

Coming in second in job creation during that same time frame was California, which added 212,000 jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, followed by New York, which added 133,600 jobs.

The state's unemployment rate has changed little in the past year, reported at 4.1% last month, up just two-tenths of a percentage point from October 2023.

.awmaker seek funds to plug wells, cut emissions

Your Views LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



RE: Postmaster's Report - Recommended Holiday Shipping and Mailing Dates

POSTAL SERVICE ®

As the Postmaster for the City of Aledo, I want to assure you that the U.S. Postal Service is primed and ready to deliver exceptional service during the 2024 holiday rush. Thanks to the substantial progress USPS has made under the Delivering for America plan - a \$40 billion investment aimed at revitalizing the national postal network our operational, transportation and delivery processes have never been more finely tuned.

My dedicated team and I are fully prepared to once again handle the peak holiday season surge.

As you and your family prepare for the holidays, it's always a good idea to Ship It Early! We encourage everyone to send their holiday mail and packages well in advance to ensure they reach their destinations on time, but we understand that sometimes cards or packages are sent last minute.

This year, our recommended send-by dates for expected holiday delivery within the continental U.S. before Dec. 25 are:

- Dec. 18: USH'S Ground Advantage service; First Class Mail service
- Dec. 19: Priority Mail service
- Dec. 21: Priority Mail Express service

For a complete list of recommended holiday mailing and shipping dates, please visit usps. com/hoidayshippingdates. And remember: the earlier you send, the better - Ship it Early!

We are honored and grateful for your trust in the U.S. Postal

gborders@texaspress.com

Gov. Greg Abbott issued three

Abbott said the orders were

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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.

"China has made it clear that they can - and will - target and attack America's critical infrastructure," Abbott said.

State plan for \$3 billion to expand broadband approved

The state has won federal approval to move forward with Donald Trump, according to The

Newly purchased ranch could be deportee staging area

A Starr County ranch purchased last month by the state has been offered as a staging area for potential mass deportations promised by President-elect

A West Texas legislator has introduced bills that would provide millions of dollars to the state to seal abandoned oil and gas wells.

To continue reading visit http:// www.community-news.com/stories/abbott-issues-orders-targeting-china,100097?

Service. Your postal team at the Aledo Post Office is proud to be the most affordable, reliable way to send cheer this holiday season, and we're ready to deliver exceptional service during the holidays and beyond.

> Warmest regards, Elizabeth King Aledo Post Office Aledo, TX

Idle American When 'tangs' get 'tongueled'

Many similar "goofs" are found throughout the world of sports, certainly not limited to baseball.

They continue today; a couple are worthy of revisiting, even though one may have been intentional, but probably ill-advised.

Only days separated laughs by NFL TV analysts in Dallas and Philadelphia. Perhaps weary of watching the Dallas Cowboys' meek surrender to the Philadelphia Eagles, veteran sportscaster Jim Nantz said that "the Keystone Cops had taken over." (Sometimes too much truth is spoken. Remarks like this not only irk fans of the Cowboys, but could ignite team owner Jerry Jones. He might order Nantz to find the nearest exit and take it, or the next train, and be under it.)

A few nights later in Philadelphia, another veteran announcer, Al Michaels, mentioned the crack in the "Liberty Bowl." Millions of viewers wondered if they heard him correctly, then said it again.

There was no mistaking the gaffe.

To his credit, a few minutes later he asked, "Did I say 'Liberty Bowl'? I meant 'Liberty Bell'." Apology accepted.

Some professional athletes are remembered more for what they say than how they perform in games.

One baseballer said he could bat from either side of the plate. "I can bat left-handed and I can bat right-handed," he bragged. "Thank God I'm amphibious."

Another claimed that he has "overcome a lot of diversity."

Many "goofs," of course, never make national headlines, but still are enjoyed greatly by locals.

Years ago, a young lady from the news department of an Abilene TV station "filled in" for the sports guy. When she tried to report the baseball scores, fans of the game quickly realized that she wasn't.

She said something like, "New York beat Cleveland, four points to three points, Chicago topped Houston, six points to three points, and Philadelphia won over Atlanta, one point to no points."

I dare not leave out my late friend, Gene Hendryx, longtime owner of Radio Station KVLF in Alpine, TX.

One day during a stock market report, he cited prices for ewes.

Trouble was, he called 'em "e-wees."

During my growing-up years in Brownwood, twins Jimmy and Eddy Farren, best known for "pickin' and singin" around the area, owned Radio Station KEAN.

Remote broadcasting--then called "telephonic reporting" -- had just begun when Jimmy "covered" the dedication of a colorful spraying water fountain at the old traffic circle. His voice sparkled with excitement as he described the first gushes from the fountain.

"Folks, if you can possibly do so, come on down here," he invited. "I've just never seen such colorful spewers spewing, and some of the spewers are spewing higher than the other spewers are spewing." (Okay, so maybe he was a better fiddle player than he was a radio guy.)

I don't intend to exempt myself from classic blunders. I had a daily sports show on the other radio station KBWD, during college.

At the close of each broadcast, I said, "Don Newbury, reminding everyone that if you can't play a sport, you can be one, and a good one."

One New Year's eve, I added to the usual closure: "And a happy NEWBURY to one and all."

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is one of the nation's longest-running syndicated humor columns. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.



Dr. Don Newbury newbury@speakerdoc.com

Errors committed when speaking sometimes, sadly, result in word entanglements that are simply beyond repair.

None of us is immune. And, getting out of verbal messes can be as difficult as sticking quills back into the goose.

Some folks of national renown are known for their misspoken words, particularly when they open their mouths only to change feet.

Two great examples were prominent in professional baseball.

I reference the late Casey Stengel and Yogi Berra, remembered for countless entangled remarks. They are endless, real morsels to research if you enjoy hearing hilarious verbal foul-ups.

One of Berra's best lines was about a popular restaurant. "Nobody goes there anymore; it's too crowded."

5

Community Life

Master Gardeners 25 years and growing

Local organization celebrates quarter century

By: Christopher Amos The Community News

When they started, they called themselves The Dirty Dozen.

Tarrant County Master Gardener Neil Collins spoke with then Parker County Extension Coordinator Jon Green, and the two began spreading the word among fellow TC Master Gardeners who lived in Parker County about the possibility of starting a local group.

Eleven others were recruited, and because they would be digging in the dirt a lot, in 2000 they called themselves the Dirty Dozen.

They were Neil Collins, Ann Anderson, Marlene Deaton, Jackie Hoover, Gay Larson, Debra Limbocker, Bill Newart, Alyce Preble, Jo Ann Glenn, Esther Proctor, Jim Saunders and LaDanna Stockstill. Of the original Dirty Dozen, a few have passed away and others have retired from the group after years of planting, but Glenn and Larson are still digging and teaching.

Glenn and Larson joined dozens of Parker County Master Gardeners last month to celebrate 25 years of growth. Glenn estimates there are about 80 Parker County Gardeners, and with 24 current interns in-training, the membership will soon be more than 100.

"My sister, Ester Proctor, and I got certified in Tarrant County in 1998. Those of us in Parker were certified with Tarrant County until we got our certification and we became Parker County Master Gardeners," Glenn said. "The party was really nice. It was a good celebration. A lot of us were there and the members that put it on did a really nice job."

Parker County Master Gardener public garden projects include Azle Central Park, The National Vietnam War Museum Gardens near Mineral Wells, Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, Town Hall of Annetta, Aledo Community Center, Weatherford Public Library, Parker County Extensions garden in Weatherford, and Willow Park Gardens. The public gardens are also used as hands-on education for Master Gardeners in-training.

Larson was crowned Mother Nature in August 2023 during a laughter-filled pompous coronation ceremony. Her husband, Rolf, was made an honorary PCMG member for his ceaseless labor helping Gay and the Master Gardeners.

The group is part of the Texas Master Gardeners, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and have won several state-wide awards over the years.

State Coordinator Jayla Fry extended her congratulations to the Parker group in a letter.

"With over 25 years of dedication to the program, the Parker County Master Gardeners have left a profound mark on the community," Fry said. "By freely sharing their expertise, time, and resources, they have fostered a culture of environmental respect and responsibility."



Jo Ann Glenn and Gay Larson

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAY LARSON

MASTER GARDENERS GRANTS

Spread flowers, knowledge, money

Funds raised help community projects

By Christopher Amos The Community News

Buying flowers from Parker County Master Gardeners annual plant and flower sale does more than beautify your home. Proceeds from your purchases are spread across the county to beautify public gardens, educate the public, and help fund agriculture projects for clubs, schools and churches.

Spring plant sales are in April at the Weatherford Heritage Park maintenance facility, directly south of the First Monday Flea Market grounds on Sante Fe Drive. Funds for current Master Gardener public gardens are used throughout the year and grants are awarded in October.

Joy Bailey said Parker County groups can fill out an application to help finance an agriculture project. Bailey has been a Master Gardener for five years.

"Two years ago we gave a grant to Peaster High School for a bee hive colony and this year we are giving them another grant because they want to add an additional bee hive." Bailey said. "Applicants describe in detail what their project is and how they intend to complete it."

Bailey is an Aledo resident and former Weatherford Middle School principal. Now retired, she has found gardening and assisting others through the Master Gardeners a satisfying passion.

"A few years ago we began to have a surplus of funds beyond what we needed to keep up our training gardens and we thought helping fund other projects in the county through grants would be a good idea," Bailey added.

Current Parker County Master Gardener public gardens include Azle Central Park, The National Vietnam War Museum Gardens near Mineral Wells, Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, Town Hall of Annetta, Aledo Community Center, Weatherford Public Library, Parker County Extensions Garden in Weatherford, and Willow Park Gardens. The public gardens are also used as hands-on education for Master Gardeners in-training.

The 2024 Parker County Master Gardener grant winners are the Tarrant Area Food Bank West serving Parker County, Weatherford High School, Grace First Presbyterian Church Weatherford, Peaster FFA, Sanctified Hope Women's Transitional Home, Saint Stephens Catholic Church Weatherford, Parker County Extension Office, Love Weatherford beautification projects, and Saint Francis Anglican Church, which maintains a public co-op vegetable garden in Willow Park.

The grant to Weatherford High School is supporting an ongoing project coordinated by educator Tiel Jenkins to teach students how to grow and cultivate fruits and vegetables. Dave's Stove Shop also donated large livestock water troughs as raised garden beds for the Weatherford project.

LeeAnn Nave, who oversees the grant program, said applications are available after the group's April plant sale and due by September and projects must be horticulturally beneficial for the county.

For gardening tips, information about how to become a Master Gardener, or to request a grant form after April, visit www. pcmg-texas.org, visit the Parker AgriLife Extension Office at 604 N. Main St. in Weatherford or call 817-598-6168.



Clearfork Creek Farm



Love Weatherford



St. Francis Anglican Church



Peaster FFA Alumni



Weatherford High School Food Service

St. Stephen Catholic Church



Tarrant Area Food Bank West



Grace First Presbyterian Church



Sanctified Hope Home



Events

6

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



DECEMBER 3

Willow Park Christmas Tree Lighting

Join the City of Willow Park at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3rd for the City of Willow Park Christmas Tree Lighting! Food, music, twinkling lights, and of course an appearance by the big guy in the red suit!

DECEMBER 5

2nd Annual "It's A **Bearcat Christmas**"

Come join us for a night of celebrating two of our favorite things, Christmas and our Bearcats from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, December 5 at Aledo High School/Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.

Come see Santa himself and get a professional family photo during a scheduled time frame.

Tickets: https://aledoef. networkforgood.com/ events/77502-it-s-a-merrybearcat-christmas 100% of proceeds go to Aledo Education

FRIDAY. DECEMBER 6

COHO Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us for the lighting of the COHO tree and an eve-

ning of FREE holiday fun Friday, December 6 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Enjoy activities in Santa's Workshop and snap a picture with Santa himself. Take a ride on the COHO Express, enjoy activities at community booths, watch local stage performances and more.



DECEMBER 7

Christmas on the Square Join us in celebrating the holiday season at Christmas on the Square, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Weatherford Lights the Night Parade 2024 begins at 6:30 pm (Long route) **Historic Downtown** Weatherford, TX It is a cherished tradition that brings the community together for a day filled with festive cheer, local vendors, live entertainment, children's activities and more! The festivities will conclude with the award winning, "Weatherford Lights the Night Parade", lighting up the evening with holiday magic.

Christmas Tyme in Aledo It's the Most Wonderful

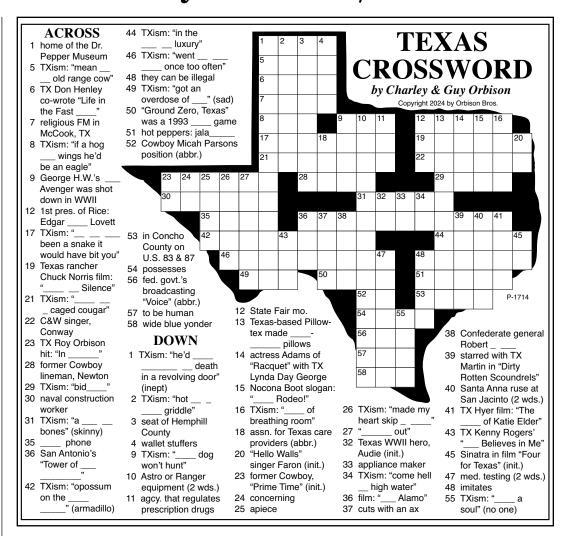


Time of the Year and Christmas Tyme in Aledo is the perfect way to start your holiday season! Enjoy the day with good music, great food, endless shopping and special visitors from the North Pole, on Saturday, December 7. 2024 Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Church at the Crossing Gymnasium @ 128 Elm Street Aledo, TX 76008 & Festival -Downtown Aledo at 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, TX FFestival - 5 to 9 p.m. Admission is FREE!

DECEMBER 14

Christmas at the Castle

Chrismas at the Castle 2024 is from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 14 at the Texas Pythian Home, Inc. 1825 E Bankhead Dr. Weatherford, TX, United States, Texas 76086 Come and tour our beautiful castle while it is decorated with Christmas Spirit. This event is free and great for the whole family. Donations are always welcome! This is a FREE



Candle Light Tour of Homes

This year we are featuring six historical homes which will be on the Parker **County Heritage Society** 41st Candlelight Tour of Homes. The tour is December 14th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The tour also includes admission to Chandor Garden, the Court

House on the Square, the Doss Heritage and **Cultural Center and Prince** Memorial Church. Tickets for the tour are \$20.00 for adults and \$12.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased at Doss Cultural Center, the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce (cash only)

or on the PCHS website https://parkercountvheritagesociety.com

Jingle All The Way

There will be a Fun Run/ Walk benefiting Meals on Wheels & Senior Center on Saturday, December 14, 1225 Holland Lake Dr. Weatherford, TX 76086.

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Weatherford High School and TCA Signing Day



Bryce Smith – Ranger College, baseball



Caiden Hubbard – South East Oklahoma, baseball



Kayleigh Cassels – East Texas Baptist University, softball



Maris Boop – Penn State Harrisburg, volleyball





Aubrey Madrid - Hardin Simmons University, softball



Colton McClure – Amarillo College, baseball



Kennedy Kelly – North West Oklahoma State, softball



Remi Meador – North East Texas Community College, volleyball





Ava Garrett – Auburn University, soccer



Harrison Ray – North East Texas Community College, softball



Kinley Kemp – Weatherford College, softball



Rhys Vindiola – Grayson College, baseball



Nancy Taylor – Lubbock Christian, soccer

Macayla Kopacz – Dallas Baptist University, cross country

TCA – Olivia Quinn – Texas A&M University, equestrian

BOARD from page one

In Aledo's case, staffing has been cut by way of attrition. As personnel have either retired or left the district, many of those positions have gone without a replacement. Another less than savory mechanism the district has employed is taking on debt to cover remaining shortfalls.

In 2023 the legislature tethered the school choice question to school funding in an attempt to force the law to Governor Greg Abbott's desk. Lear stated the district intends to ask the legislature to pass a funding increase for 2025 that would at least put schools across the state in a similar financial position to 2019, accounting for inflation.

What schools across the state cannot handle is for the legislature to hold funding as a political hostage yet again, keeping those dollars locked up in Austin while districts are forced to take the proverbial chainsaw to their budgets to continue operating on funding from a bygone era.

The second ask, while seemingly not as dire, is equally as important. The board will be asking for more local control. With over 1,200 different districts across Texas, a one-size-fits-all methodology coming from elected legislators and unelected bureaucrats in Austin is not conducive to the varying educational needs of each district being met. Lear argued local trustee boards have their fingers on the pulse of the educational needs of students within their respective districts more so than politicians and bureaucrats at the state capitol.

Giving season

Trustees Jennifer Taylor and Jeremy Pruett took an opportunity during the meeting to provide updates on some recent charitable endeavors around the district. Taylor announced the Aledo PTO recently completed the Big Kahuna Fundraiser – the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year.

With the success of the fundraiser, the PTO is currently in the process of distributing funds to each campus across the district.

Taylor also mentioned the AdvoCats are working on their annual Angel Project. Through the Angel Project, AdvoCats will serve 636 students across the district by not only ensuring they have presents under the tree on Christmas morning, but also by providing a holiday meal to the families of those students.

AdvoCats is still in need of volunteers to shop for gifts and for people willing to donate funds. To find out how you can help, go to aledoadvocats.com and find Angel Project under the Outreach tab.

Pruett's update from the Aledo Education Foundation's sixth annual Bearcat Blast Clay Shoot at Defender Outdoors was positive. The AEF had a record turnout and raised the most funds in the six year history of the event.



Sports

WRESTLING

Aledo opens season with new coach

Ben Shaw at helm **By Rick Mauch**

The Community News

Ben Shaw's career as head wrestling coach at Aledo High School is underway.

The season began recently with the Ladycats and Bearcats wrestling in the Talon Tournament hosted by Haslet Eaton High School.

Shaw came to Aledo after being the head coach at Hurst L.D. Bell High School. In two years he coached 17 regional qualifiers and one state qualifier.

With Aledo, Shaw's program returns seven varsity wrestlers, four girls and three boys. They are, with their respective weight classes and last season's highlights:

Boys: Junior Brice Bohn, 126pound division, second in district, regional qualifier; sophomore Oliver Tatro, fifth in district, regional alternate; sophomore Noah Chasteen, 120-pound division, sixth in district.

Girls: Senior Avery Kernan, 107pound division, fourth in district, regional qualifier; senior Arianne Mathias, 145-pound division, sixth in district; junior Lillian Carruthers, 100-pound division, sixth in district; sophomore Margaret Schabel, 138-pound division, sixth in district.

Shaw said he was drawn to Aledo because there is middle school wrestling program, which not all school districts have.

"There is a tradition of athletic success and I wanted to be a part of that, and I wanted to help grow and continue a tradition of excellence in the sport of wrestling," he said.

"From what I can tell the JV was a vital part of the success of the athletes on varsity. They wrestled hard and competed well in the JV tournaments and matches that they were entered in. Several athletes



Kaydon Finley catches a pass in the second round of the playoffs against the Abilene Eagles.

FOOTBALL

Bearcats ground Eagles

Tascosa awaits in third round

By Rick Mauch The Community News

MANSFIELD - Thanksgiving is a time of reflection and being grateful. However, in Aledo it also means something else in most years, including this one.

The Bearcats are practicing for another football game in the third round of the postseason. And that is the case once again after they disposed of the Abilene Eagles 59-14 in the second round of the 5A Division I playoffs at Vernon Newsom Stadium on Friday, Nov. 22.

"It's tradition, something you want to make sure you're doing,

BOYS BASKETBALL

practicing on Thanksgiving," Bearcats head coach Robby Jones said.

The day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 29, the Bearcats (11-1) will be making an early trek to Snyder. There, they will face Amarillo Tascosa (7-5). The Rebels, who were 3-5 on Oct. 25, have won four straight, including a 35-13 victory against Saginaw (11-1) in the area (second) round.

Game time is 1 p.m.

The victory against Abilene (8-4) was the 11th straight for the Bearcats, who are No. 1 in the state in 5A Division and seeking a third three-peat state championship. They accomplished this in 2009-11 and 2018-20, part of 11 state titles since 2009 and a

state-record 12 in all (they won their first in 1998).

Visit with some old friends

For Aledo running back Raycine Guillory, Friday's game was a homecoming of sorts. He attended junior high in Mansfield and was even given a sign from some old friends at Daniel Jones Middle School, which he held up with pride after the victory.

He gave those who came to see him a show as he carried 13 times for 148 yards. This included touchdowns of 36 and 76 yards, giving him 26 touchdowns on the season (24 rushing, 2 receiving)

Turn to FOOTBALL, page 9

SPORTS BRIEFS

Staff Reports The Community News

GIRLS BASKETBALL AMS bests Hughes

Aledo Middle School began its basketball season by taking four of six games from Burleson Hughes.

Seventh grade: A Team won 49-5, B Team won 41-10, C Team won 42-14.

Eighth grade: A Team lost 40-27, B Team won 27-9, C Team won 28-26.

FISHING

Anglers seventh in tournament

The Aledo Anglers high school fishing team placed in a tournament at Possum Kingdom recently. They are fourth in the league standings, only two points out of first.

Leading Aledo individually at Possum Kingdom were Dominic Rigoli/Declan Lickerman, 16th (also had big bass); Peyton Hills/ Tyler Page, 22nd; Garrett Hoff/ Maxton Ferreira, 26th.

VOLLEYBALL

WC dominates all-conference

Weatherford College dominated this year's volleyball allconference team as voted on by the coaches of the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference.

Kailee May was named Co-Coach of the Year, sharing the award with Jaylan Thomas of Vernon College. This is May's third consecutive conference coach of the year award, having led WC to its third straight conference title, a No. 5 national ranking, an overall record of 27-5 and a perfect 14-0 NTJCAC record.

Weronika Urbanska won the Player of the Year Award. The freshman from Warsaw, Poland averaged 4.3 points per set (6th in the nation), 66 service aces (11th) and 395 kills (12th).

Kiana Souza won the Defensive Player of the Year Award. Also a freshman, the San Antonio Harlan product registered 358 digs or 3.28 per set.

November 29, 2024 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

www.community-news.com

who were on JV last year are now wrestling on the varsity.

Shaw noted the toughness of District 4-5A and Region I, which includes a host of traditionally tough programs. He believes his program can be included when that group is mentioned going forward.

"We are working hard and getting better every day so we will be in a place to compete right away," he said. "If things go as planned, we are on track to be near the top of the district at the end of the season."

The Aledo schedule has a full slate of tournaments, including a mix of 5A and 6A programs which Shaw said will prepare his team for the postseason.

"We have a few duals scheduled for this year and are looking at adding more in the coming years," he said.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to coach these athletes and to

Turn to **WRESTLING,** *page 12*

Weatherford, TCA earn wins on hardwood

Aledo gearing up for home doubleheader

By Geoff Heppes The Community News

The Weatherford Kangaroos and Trinity Christian Academy Eagles basketball teams took the floor for Friday night games on Nov, 22, while Aledo (3-0) was idle ahead of back-to-back home games Monday and Tuesday at press time against Midlothian Heritage and Eagle Mountain, respectively.

The Kangaroos basketball team continued its hot start to the season, taking down O.D. Wyatt by a final score of 72-43 on the road Friday night. The win marked Weatherford's fifth straight victory to start its 2024 campaign under the direction of second-year head coach Neal Welch

Against Wyatt, the Roos saw three players - Brendan Ballard, Deshaun Lewis and Alex Rodden - reach double figures. Ballard, a senior post, registered 11 points and eight rebounds while Lewis, a senior guard, added 11 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Rodden scored a team-high 12 points to go with five rebounds and one assist.

Before their latest victory, the Roos (5-0) notched double-digit wins over Lakeview Centennial, Arlington, Midland Legacy and Memorial. Weatherford has won each of its first five games by an average margin of 17.2 points.

Weatherford was hosting an improved LD Bell (6-1) Monday, followed by a road contest at Midlothian (5-3), both at press time.

Eagles outlast Poolville

The Willow Park Trinity Christian Eagles earned a hard-fought win over Class 2A Poolville by a final score of 58-53. The Monarchs, who advanced four rounds in the postseason last year, struggled to maintain possession of the ball against a scrappy TCA defense that logged 14 steals as a team.

The Eagles were led by Sam Carson's 19-points, six-assist effort, while Cole Massey also reached double figures with 15 points to go with six rebounds. Carson and Massey combined for six of the Eagles' eight 3-pointers.

The Eagles (3-2) were hosting winless Fort Worth Carter-Riverside at press time Tuesday.

Urbanska and Souza were also named All-Region V.

In addition to Urbanska and Souza, Gabby Maldonado (1.97 kills per set, .293 hitting percentage) and Lorena Gomez (6.05 assists per set, 51 service aces, 2.27 digs per set) made first team all-conference.

Second team all-conference honorees included Presleigh Roest, Abby Morris and Abby Hellman.

Weatherford all-district

Seven members of the Weatherford Lady Roos were honored by the league coaches as members of the All-District 3-6A Team.

First-team accolades went to Claire Connor and Emma Thornton, with second-team honors going to Carly Cienega, Berkley Austin-Roark and Reagan Rees. Keegan Hull and Maris Boop are honorable mentions.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aledo to get Elms, Isbell back on floor

Ickert's hot night paces TCA

By Geoff Heppes The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats basketball team, under the direction of firstyear head coach Donnie Ott, had a 5-5 overall record through its first 10 games of the season with a crowded list of state-ranked opponents on the schedule. Furthermore, three of the five state-ranked foes hold top-five spots in their respective classifications.

Tiara Butler leads all scorers with 11.7 points per game while sophomore Brooklyn Dempsey has registered an 11.3-point-per-game average. Junior guard Elizabeth Griffin has a double-figure scoring average with 10.7 points per game. Butler is also averaging 7.8 rebounds,

Griffin has also posted averages of 3.8 rebounds and 3.6 assists, Dempsey has averaged 2.7 assists per game, Brenna Clock has pulled down 4.5 rebounds per game and Kate Jackson has notched 3.6 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game.

As a team, Aledo has averaged 45 points per game offensively and has allowed 42 points per contest defensively.

In their most recent outing, Aledo competed in the Hub City Tournament where it beat Lubbock High 51-36 but lost its other four contests against West Plains (47-31), Frenship (62-30), Abernathy (59-48) and Idalou (48-29).

The Ladycats returned to the hardwood Tuesday, Nov. 26 at press time at home against Abilene Wylie. Senior posts Kinley Elms and Ella Isbell, who finished a run to the state semifinals on the volleyball court, were expected to join the team.

Lady Eagles cruise to win

The Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy Lady Eagles were in action Friday night, Nov. 22 at home against Bethesda Christian and cruised to an easy victory. In the game, the Lady Eagles built a 44-16 halftime lead and never looked back in their 65-43 win

FOOTBALL **Bearcats to face upstart Tascosa**

Third round of playoffs By Rick Mauch

A few weeks ago this matchup seemed unlikely. In fact, one of the teams didn't even appear to be on the way to the postseason. However, the Aledo Bearcats (11-1) find themselves facing the surprising Amarillo Tascosa Rebels (7-5) in the third round of the Class 5A Division I playoffs Friday at 1 p.m. in Snyder.

For Aledo, being in this round is as common as, well, turkey being served at Thanksgiving. Tascosa, no stranger to thirdround appearances themselves over the years, looked to be anything but a deep playoff participant just a month ago.

On Oct. 25, Tascosa was 3-5 overall and 2-2 in District 2-5A Division I, coming off a heartbreaking 31-29 loss at Abilene. Since then, the Rebels have reeled off four straight wins, including last week's 35-13 humbling of previously unbeaten District 4-5A Division I champion Saginaw (11-1).

Meanwhile, the Bearcats won their 11th straight game since dropping a 35-30 contest at Denton Guyer, defeating Abilene (8-4) 59-14, moving a step closer to another state championship three-peat. They accomplished the feat twice before in 2009-11 and 2018-2020.

Facing the Flexbone

The Bearcats defense will face a Flexbone offense for the first time in 2024. The option-oriented offense is geared toward a lot of running, but Tascosa isn't shy about throwing the ball out of the formation.

"They're gonna run, but they throw more than most Flexbone teams," Aledo head coach Robby Jones said. "It's gonna be something different than what we've seen this season, but we saw it with Burleson Centennial the last couple of years.





'Our guys just have to know their assignments and make sure they contain them."

In fact, the Bearcats faced the Spartans and the Flexbone three times in that span, winning all three. In 2022 Aledo won 64-21 in Burleson in the regular season and 42-21 in the Region I final at The Star in Frisco. Last season the Bearcats won 42-0 in Aledo.

Still, Tascosa is averaging around 270 yards per game rushing compared to just over 80 through the air. The Aledo defense has been stingy against the run this season, surrendering less than 100 yards per game.

The Bearcats are the much more balanced of the two offenses, averaging around 240 on the ground and just under 225 passing. Scoring-wise, they are outsourcing their opponents by an average of 55-15, compared to 33-24 for Tascosa.

First impression

This will be the first ever meeting in the history of the Bearcats and Rebels. Throughout the history of the Aledo program, dating to 1946, when the Bearcats meet a team for the first time, it's usually a successful outcome.

Guillory played his freshman seadozen TD (9 rushing, 3 receiving)

In 60 first-time meetings, Aledo is 46-14. That's a win percentage of 77 percent.

Third-round success

This is the 12th consecutive season in which the Bearcats have advanced to at least the third round of the playoffs. They are 10-1 in the previous 11, the only loss being 33-28 to Dallas South Oak Cliff in 2021.

The Bears would go on to win the first of back-to-back 5A Division II state championships.

Since Aledo began its nearly three decades of dominance in 1996, this will be the 25th time they've reached this round. They are 22-2 in the previous 24.

Turnovers/takeaways

The Bearcats have a decided advantage in this statistical category. Aledo is plus 11 and Tascosa is minus two.

While the Bearcats have turned the ball over 11 times (5 interceptions, 6 fumbles), they have 22 takeaways (16 interceptions, 6 fumbles). Four of these have been pick-six interceptions in their past four games.

The Rebels don't turn the ball over much, with only six all season (2 interceptions, 4 fumbles), but they

The senior cornerback stepped son with Mansfield Lake Ridge before in front of a pass, intercepted it and ception, giving him four on the moving to Aledo. He led the Eagles returned it 49 yards for a touch- season. Junior teammate Kamron with almost 1,000 yards of offense, down that gave the Bearcats a 21-7 including 769 on the ground, and a advantage at the 3:47 mark of the the season and the 16th for the first quarter. It was the third Aledo touchdown in just over three minutes as dominance began to set in. It was also the fourth pick six in four games for the Bearcats. "I felt like I had to score," Fuller said with a chuckle. "Everybody else has been doing it. I had to get mine." Jones said of the pick and score, "He jumped on a hitch route. He read it well. You pick one of those off and that's often the result."

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (11-1) vs. Amarillo Tascosa (7-5).

- What: Class 5A Division I Region I semifinals (third round).
- When: 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, Grant Teaff Tiger Stadium, Snyder.
- Last week: Aledo defeated Abilene 59-14, Tascosa defeated Saginaw 25-13.
- Last season: Aledo went 16-0 and won Class 5A Division I state championship. Tascosa was 5-6 and advanced to the second round of the playoffs.
- All-time series: This is the first meeting.
- Returning starters: Aledo 3 offensive, 4 defensive. Tascosa 5 offensive, 10 defensive.
- Aledo offensive players to watch: **RB Raycine Guillory (1,297** yards, 24 TD rushing, 13 catches, 180 yards, 2 TD receiving) is approaching 1,500 yards of total offense, QB Gavin Beard (69% completions, 2,093 yards, 30 TD, 3 interceptions) has not thrown an interception in his past six games.
- Tascosa offensive players to watch: RB Coltyn Fulton (831 yards, 9 TD), RB Andrew Merrell (745 yards, 5 TD).
- Aledo defensive players to watch: CB Adrian Fuller (21.5 tackles, 4 interceptions, 1 returned for TD, 10 pass breakups), S Lamel Swanson (35 tackles, 2 fumble recoveries).
- Tascosa defensive players to watch: ATH Jay Adams (39 tackles), ATH Eli Norvell (39 tackles), S TJ Tillman (15 tackles, 3 interceptions).

also don't take it away much. They only have four takeaways, all interceptions.

District rematches looming

If the Bearcats get past Tascosa, they will be facing a district opponent anxious to get a second chance against them. Denton Ryan (11-1) and Richland (10-2) were both in position to end Aledo's national-record district winning streak, which now sets at 117.

Both teams had big leads in games played in Aledo. Ryan led 27-8 late in the first half before the Bearcats stormed back for a 42-27 victory. Richland had leads of 28-14 and 25-21, but ultimately fell 49-42 in overtime, a game in which Aledo's Raycine Guillory scored six touchdowns.

Fuller would get a second inter-Hall would also get his second of team after entering the season with the Bearcats' pass defense being the least experienced part of the squad.

TCA was fueled by an impressive 40-point outing from Emily Ickert, as the Lady Eagles star canned eight 3-pointers – nearly matching Bethesda Christian's point total by herself. Ella Cockrum also chipped in with eight points, Michaela DeVenuto added six, Alex Ickert had five, Raegan Smith finished with four and Addy Hilton scored two points.

The Lady Eagles were competing in the Alvord Tournament at press time.

and 1,477 yards of offense (1,297 rushing and 180 receiving).

His first touchdown tied the game at 7-7 after the Eagles recovered a Bearcats fumble at the Aledo 24. His second, which came a minute and 17 seconds later, gave them the lead for good at 14-7 just over the midpoint of the first quarter.

"It's a blessing to be able to play here one last time," Guillory said. "My friends were here to see me one last time in this stadium and it was great to see them and visit with them."

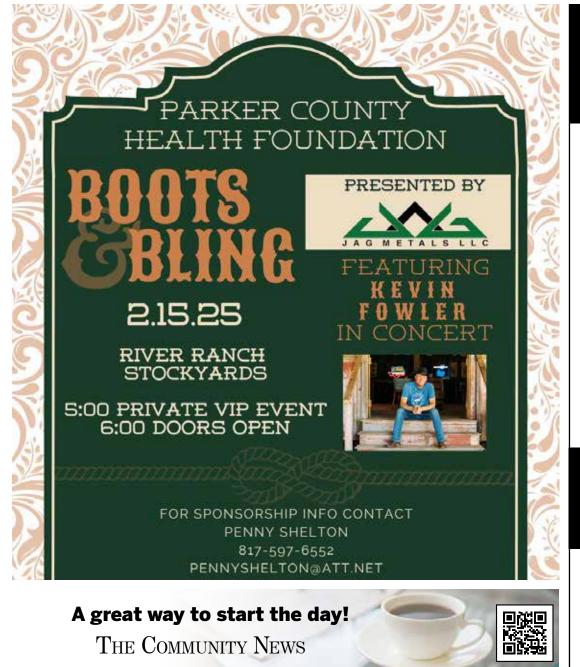
Guillory, a junior, announced earlier in the month that he plans to graduate early. He hasn't announced his college commitment yet.

Another pick six

After Guillory's second touchdown, the Eagles were looking to regroup. Then, Adrian Fuller put an end to those thoughts.

Abilene sophomore quarterback Tristan Beal, who took over as the starter late in the season after junior Brayden Henry got injured, came into the game with 18 touchdown passes and no interceptions.

For full stats visit: http://www.community-news.com/stories/bearcatsground-eagles,100011



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43rd Annual Oklahoma Select Sale - Sat. Dec 7, 11 a.m., Atoka Livestock Auction. Selling 60 Limousin & LimFlex Bulls, 25 Lim-Flex Bred and open heifers. Bid online at LiveAuctions.TV, ronn@cj-auctions.com, 918-629-9382

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EVENTS

Pleasanton, TX - Merry on Main, Dec. 6 & 7. Light parade, fireworks, a variety of vendors, live music, carols, Little Miss Merry on Main, and the lighting of the Christmas tree that marks the start of the season.

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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Request for Bids

The Town of Annetta North, Texas is seeking qualified bids for the labor, materials, construction, and installation of one Upper Trinity Aquifer or other suitable aquifer public water supply well and related appurtenances. The well can be powered by AC power or by Solar power and should include a minimum of a 2,500-gallon storage tank, a method of distribution and a method of purification.

Bids will be received by the Town of Annetta North, Texas P. O. Box 1238 Aledo, Texas 76008, or by email at secretary@annettanorth. com until 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2024. Bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00pm.

The Town shall select the bidder who provides the best value to the Town, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids. In determining the best value, the Town may consider the following criteria:

- (1) the purchase price;
- (2) the reputation of the bidder and of the bidder's goods or services;
- (3) the quality of the goods or services;
- (4) the extent to which the goods or services meet the Town's needs:
- (5) the bidder's past relationship with the Town; and
- (6) the total long-term cost to the Town to acquire the goods or services.

For additional bid specifications or more information, please contact Sheila Elmore at secretary@annettanorth.com



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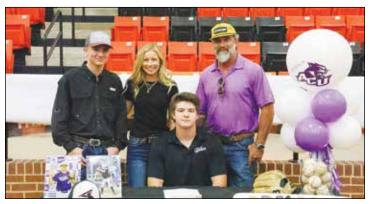
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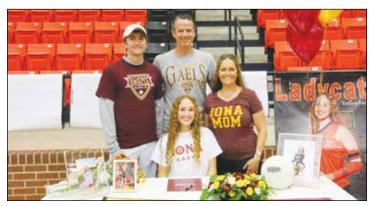
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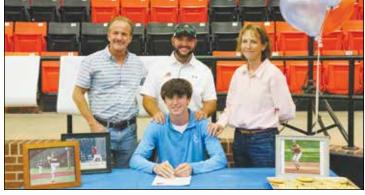
Aledo High School Signing Day



Grayson McKelvey – Abilene Christian University, Baseball Marc, Tiffany and Gavyn McKelvey



Ava Reding – Iona University, Volleyball John, Stacy and Nathan Reding



Nick Foster – Angelina College, Baseball Brian and Tammy Foster



Rhett Spiers – Northern Oklahoma College – Tonkawa, Baseball Krista, Lisa, Jerry, Ledger and Larry



Devin Miller - Cal State Fullerton, Baseball Dustin, Karleen and Kaylin Miller



Brennon Evans – Amarillo College, Baseball Brian, Linda and Brock Evans



Gracie Jones – Oklahoma Wesleyan Univeristy, Softball Rodney, Catherine, Zane and Rhett Jones



Marina Taveras - Colgate University, Softball Willy, Jennifer, Will, Tyson and Taylor Taveras

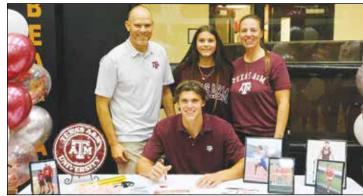




Addie Perry – University of North Texas, Softball Ed, Bri and Tempe Perry



Austyn Marriage – Texas A&M International University, Softball David and Casie Marriage





Taylor McKean – Tarleton State University, Softball Pat, Shelley and Grace McKean



Reagan Tomlin - University of Texas - Tyler, Soccer Justin, Jaclyn, Addison and Reed Tomlin



Haley Roberson - University of Idaho, Swimming Jeff, Meghan and Kale Roberson

Adam Averett – Texas A&M University, Track and field Joe. Sara and Anna Averett

Braylon Brown - Pitt State University, Track and field Craig, Hayley and Corbin Brown



Jack Fink – Harding University, Cross country Jeff, Geri, Josh and Jenna Fink



Kinley Elms – Lamar University, Volleyball Brandon, Tracy, Cooper and Kamdyn Elms



John Ruflin – Benedictine College, Baseball Scott, Tammy and Mary Ruflin



Ella Meador – University of Texas at El Paso, Volleyball Harry and April Meador



Kenrie Pruitt – Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Volleyball Tye, Kristine and Kade Pruitt

Congratulations to all the athletes on Signing Day



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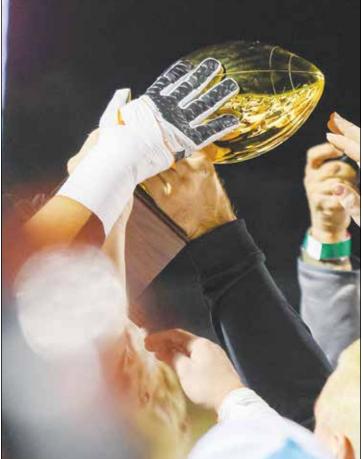




Volleyball The senior ended her Ladycats career with an all-around performance that featured seven kills, seven digs, a pair of blacks and 22 serves received in the

tured seven kills, seven digs, a pair of blocks and 22 serves received in the Class 5A Division I state semifinals against McKinney North..

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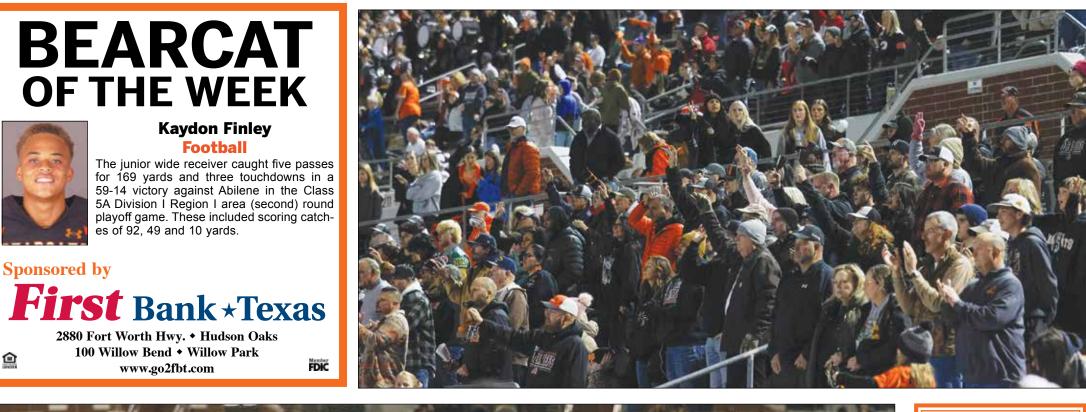




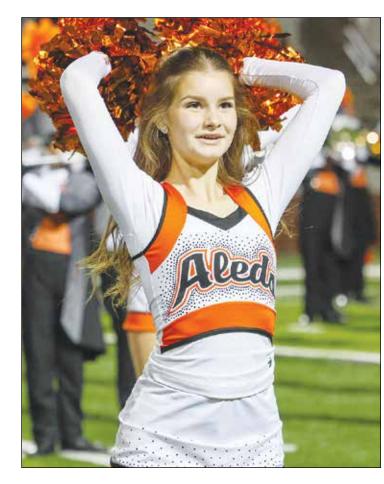




















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VOLLEYBALL

Lady Coyotes ninth in national tourney

Bv Rick Mauch The Community News

The Weatherford College Lady Coyotes, after dropping their opening match in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Vollevball Championships, rebounded with four straight victories.

In their final match of the season, on Saturday, Nov. 23, Weatherford College (32-8) defeated Odessa College in comefrom-behind fashion, 3-2. After dropping the first two sets 27-25 and 25-21, they won the next two 25-21 and 25-17, before winning the thrilling fifth set 15-13.

In the tournament opener on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tennessee, WC stumbled with a 3-1 loss to Utah State Eastern College. They followed with back-to-back three-set sweeps of Eastern Wyoming College on Nov. 21 and Trinity Valley Community College, from Athens, Texas on Nov. 22.

This is Weatherford's second consecutive season to advance to the NJCAA Division I Championships. WC has only had a volleyball program for three years.

The Lady Coyotes began the season 1-4 before reeling off wins in 28 of their next 29 matches. Their pre-conference slate included early season matches against New Mexico Military Institute (3-1 loss) and Odessa College (3-1 win), No. 15 Indian Hills Community College (3-2 loss), No. 2 Miami Dade College (3-1 loss), No. 14 Trinity Valley Community College twice (3-2 win each time), No. 20 Daytona State College (3-1 win), No. 13 Assists: Sanchez 24, Lorena Gomez 18.

Navarro College (3-0 win), No. 19 Salt Lake City Snow College (3-1 win) and No. 12 Salt Lake Community College (3-1 loss).

In all, WC finished 8-7 against nationally ranked teams this season.

The Lady Coyotes returned four players from last season's team that advanced to nationals and finished eighth. They are Emerson Reedy, Lorena Gomez, Abby Helman and Evelyn Benson.

"I think that makes this moment even more special and impressive," WC head coach Kailee May said. "Our four returners have really done an impressive job at leading this team of mostly freshmen to the biggest stage of the year.

"We're excited to compete and establish ourselves as a team that should make an annual appearance in the tournament. We want everyone to know who Weatherford College is."



WC 3, Utah State Eastern 1 Weatherford College 20 19 25 22 Utah State Eastern 25 25 17 25

WC leaders

Kills: Gabriella Maldonado 14, Abigail Morris 10, Abby Hellman 10. Blocks: Presleigh Roest 4, Hellman 3. Aces: Victoria Sanchez 2. Digs: Kiana Souza 21, Weronika Urbanska 9, Sanchez 8.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Members of the Weatherford Lady Coyotes celebrate during the NJCAA Division I Championships at Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Second round

WC 3. Eastern Wyoming 0 Weatherford College 25 28 25 Eastern Wyoming 23 26 18

Kills: Hellman 9, Roest 8, Morris 7. Blocks: Harmony Soles 7, Maldonado 5, Roest 4. Aces: Roest 2. Digs: Souza 16, Urbanska 11, Morris 10. Assists: Gomez 19, Sanchez 13.

Third round

WC 3, Trinity Valley 0 Trinity Valley CC 21 23 17 Weatherford College 25 25 25

Kills: Urbanska 16, Hellman 11, Assists: Sanchez 26, Gomez 23.

Maldonado 9. Blocks: Roest 3. Digs: Morris 14, Souza 13, Gomez 7. Assists: Gomez 25, Sanchez 15.

Ninth-place match

WC 3, Odessa College 2 Weatherford College 25 21 25 25 15 Odessa College 27 25 21 17 13

Kills: Maldonado 15, Roest 13, Urbanksa 9. Morris 8. Blocks: Roest 10, Maldonado 10, Soles 7, Amelie Shalfoon 4. Aces: Souza 3, Urbanska 2. Digs: Souza 40, Urbanska 16, Sanches 11.



guide them in growing as students and athletes and learning lessons that will support them as they move beyond high school and into adulthood," Shaw added.

Talon Tournament

Brice Bohn led the Aledo contingent in the Talon Tournament, finishing third in the boys 126pound division. The Ladycats were led by Joy Stephens, who was ninth in the 126 division.

"We wrestled well. The JV started their season strong with eight guys bringing home hardware. The varsity boys and girls were competitive in a tough tournament. We won several pools on Friday and then wrestled in close matches with some tough kids on Saturday," Shaw said. "I am excited for what is to come after seeing what our teams did at this first tournament."

The varsity boys were 12th out of 30 teams in the elite tournament and the varsity girls were 19th out of 29.

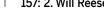
Also finishing in the top 10 for Aledo:

Varsity boys

106: 9. Cameron Robbins. 120: 7. Dylan Chandler. 132: 6. Oliver Tatro. 285: 10. Cade Rangel. Varsity girls 107: 10. Avery Kernan.

Junior varsity boys

- 120: 1. Mateo Douglas, 3. Keyden Lemen. 126: 1. Gabe Opsahl, 2. Noah Chasteen. 138: 2. Blaze Beasley. 144: 4. Lynden Walker. 150: 3. Thomas Hopkins.
- 157: 2. Will Reese.







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Weatherford College results **First round**



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A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

he Christmas season is a very special time of year. It is a season at times of contrasts: from bright lights, candy canes, and carols to quiet, candle-lit observances of the holiday.

It is also a season of service. Numerous community organizations, who lend their hands all year, make an even greater effort during this season to make sure all are provided for and remembered.

In this guide, you can read all about the bright lights and celebrations, and you will also find plenty of information about where you can "plug in" with opportunities to give in the spirit of the season. We hope your holiday season is filled with love, laughter, joy, fulfillment, and meaning.

- Randy Keck Publisher

This section is published by: The Community News 1015 Champions Dr.

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Editor: Randy Keck Director of Business Development: Loydale Schmid Page Design: Laura Finer Contributing Writers: Rick Mauch & Ryan Wade Christopher Amos & Jim Zimmerman



Hudson Oaks prepares for holiday activities

By Jim Zimmermann The Community News

Hudson Oaks is a place to be this holiday season - and there is plenty to enjoy.

It all starts on Friday, Dec. 6 with the tree lighting and an evening of special events from 5:30-8 p.m.

And it's free, brought to you by Texas Bank, Jerry's Cadillac, Home Zone and Texas Health Willow Park. Visitors can enjoy activities in Santa's Workshop and snap a picture with Santa himself, take a ride on the COHO Express, enjoy activities at community booths, watch local stage performances and more.

"This is a great time, not only for the citizens of Hudson Oaks but also for anyone wanting to come and experience all the wonderful things we have to offer all families," Hudson Oaks City Secretary Shelly Scazzero said.

The COHO (City of Hudson Oaks) tree lightning will take place at 6 p.m. Plan on staying the evening for a jolly good time that will include:

- Santa's Workshop
- Community Booths
- Train Rides
- Snow Hill & Obstacle Inflatables
- Pictures with Santa
- Stage Performances: Austin Elementary at 5:30, p.m.; Weatherford High School Blue Belles, 6 p.m.; The Rock Dance PAC, 6:30 p.m.; Mary Martin Elementary, 7 p.m.



HUDSON OAKS

FBC Weatherford will provide free hot chocolate. There will also be food trucks, including Snack Shack and DonutNV.

Santa's Workshop vendors include The Swim Lesson People, H-E-B, Sports Clips, CareNow, Divine Mercy, Home Zone, All This Hair, Chick-fil-A, Club Pilates, The Rock, NBT Bank, Change Lee's Taekwondo, Film Alley and First Baptist Church Weatherford.

Chairs, blankets and coolers are welcome. However, do not bring any glass objects.

Corridor of Lights

The fun continues beyond the big tree lighting day as the always popular Corridor of Lights will be available to walk through from Saturday, Dec. 7 through New Years Day, each day from 6-9 p.m.

The COHO Christmas Corridor is a free light display synced to music at Gene Voyles Park, brought to you by Texas Bank, Jerry's Cadillac, & Nextlink.

Visitors can stroll around the park under tunnels of lights and displays with over 75,000 lights. Children and adults alike will enjoy.

Wednesday nights at the Corridor will be Sensory Friendly Nights - the lights will be on but not flashing.

Christmas Movie Night

Bring lawn chairs, blankets and perhaps some hot chocolate as you bundle up to enjoy a holiday movie at Genr Voyles Coolers are welcome, but no glass is allowed. The event will be on Dec. 19 from 6-8 p.m. The movie, presented by Film Alley in Weatherford, will be "The Christmas Chronicles," starring Kurt Russell.

What's a movie without popcorn? The evening will include the tasty treat provided by Film Alley. For those wishing for something different, horse and carriage rides are available for \$7 per person, ages 2 and under free, cash only.

Lights from the Corridor will be on but not flashing during the movie.

For more information about all of the city's holiday events, check out the city's Facebook page.





RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: A giant walk-through snowman is one of the experiences on a walk through Gene Voyles Park during the Christmas season. | BOTTOM: Eric and Shelby Moore and their dog Luna pose for a photo with Santa.



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By Rick Mauch The Community News

On Dec. 3, Willow Park will usher in the Christmas season with a tree lighting and more.

Activities will start at 6 p.m. and go until roughly 7:30, Willow Park Communications Director Rose Hoffman said. In addition to lighting the tree, there will be food trucks with a variety of treats, a Christmas bounce house/inflatable area, and goodies for the kids.

"We are also excited to welcome the McCall Elementary School choir this year to perform!" Hoffman said excitedly.

"There's something magical about a tree lighting as an official welcome to the holiday season. Watching our local kiddos last year enjoy that moment was really special for me personally, and us as a city," she continued. "It's also a testament to how far we've come that we are able to have a tree our residents and businesses can be proud of – something they can point to and say, "that's MY home. That's MY city."

This is the third year for the city to have this event, and the second time at the city hall location at 120 El Chico Tr.

"It's difficult to predict turnout because of the event continuing to grow each season, but last year we had a couple hundred people," Hoffman said. "Given the amazing turnout at our National Night Out Event, I'm expecting the turnout to be quite a bit higher this year."

And yes, a special guest will be there. Hint, it's Santa Clause.

"He sure will!" Hoffman said. "We will have

a special area for photos with Santa and he's got some gifts for the children."

Willow Park is growing at a rapid rate. The population of just under 5,000 in 2020 is now more than 7,100 in 2024. With that growth comes more folks wanting more celebrating, and the city is more than happy to do all they can do to accommodate.

So, what's ahead?

"Hopefully more of the same good things," Hoffman said. "The tree will stay at the city hall location and we hope to welcome more and more of our local families each year to enjoy an evening together.

"Much like the contents of the naughty/ nice list, we are going to keep our ideas a secret for now. But we have some really fun things we are considering for the future."



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: The 2023 Willow Park Christmas tree. | RIGHT: Rhett Hill warily approaches Santa for a candy cane.

Make spirits bright with festivals and lights

By Christopher Amos The Community News

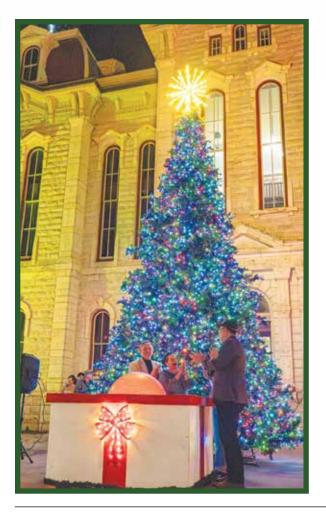
Weatherford has large projects on the horizon as the city moves through the Christmas holidays and the end of the year. The projects are reflective of the population growth the city has experienced.

In October, the Weatherford City Council approved the final land plat for a proposed new Chamber of Commerce facility on Highland Lake Drive south of Sante Fe Drive. Durant Hall, a new 116 resident dormitory on the northeast corner of the Weatherford College campus, opened its doors in August. Doss Heritage Center is planning a massive expansion in the future with the Murphey Western Institute, which will include a research library, learning center and theater.

Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschall said the city's preparedness for business and population growth is what makes Weatherford and Parker County such an attractive place to live and do business.

"What Weatherford is doing to prepare for this is expanding and strengthening our public safety and improving our infrastructure," the mayor said. "We're seeing residential growth, growth in our schools both public and private, we're seeing retail growth, and our downtown businesses are healthy and growing."

Weatherford hosts large events, like the Parker County Peach Festival, Parker County Sheriff's Posse Rodeos, and the Pioneer Heritage Festival, but Christmas time holds a special place in Paschall's heart.







RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Photos from the 2023 holiday parade and tree lighting.

WEATHERFORD

"One of the special things about Weatherford Texas is we still celebrate Christmas," Paschall said. "Christmas is a time of family, it is a time of faith, it's a time of hope and of renewed inspiration for the future because the end of the year is so close. What I am so excited about with this community is that it still values Christmas so strongly."

Celebrate dates

A giant live spruce has been chosen for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Heritage

Park, 503 Santa Fe Dr. from 6-9:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25. The festivities will culminate with a holiday themed drone show and the lighting of the Christmas tree. The tree, with the Pathway of Lights, will remain lit through December.

Weatherford Parks and Recreation Director Jaycob Kirkpatrick said the ocasion is always an impressive way to start the holiday.

"It is a sight to see. We will have the drone show and then it is time for the countdown and throw the switch to light the tree," Kirkpatrick said.

The Weatherford Lights the Night

Celebration and Parade, sponsored by Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, is Saturday, December 7. Festivities begin at 10 a.m. on the courthouse square with live music and food. The annual holiday parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. from the Ninth-Grade Center, 1007 S. Main, and travel north on South Main to the courthouse.

The Texas Pythian Home, 1825 E. Bankhead Hwy., will be decorated for the season and host Christmas at the Castle 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. The free open house will provide photo opportunities, tours of the castle, vendors, and photos with Santa (\$15).

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Story Time with Santa will be Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m.

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Christmas Tyme in Aledo gets icy

By Ryan Wade The Community News

The unseasonably warm temperatures have done a fantastic job of concealing the fact that the holidays are upon us. As we all begin to embrace our favorite traditions, the City of Aledo is set to embark upon one of the community's most cherished traditions, the 47th Annual Christmas Tyme in Aledo Festival.

This year the festivities will start a day early with Christmas Tyme in Aledo on Ice. On Friday, Dec. 6, residents from all over Aledo will have the opportunity to lace up a pair of ice skates and work their way around a real ice rink located at city hall. For just \$15 per person, folks will be able to reserve skates online at aledotx.gov/skate or rent a pair on a first-come, first-serve basis at the rink.

Christmas Tyme in Aledo on Ice will run daily through Jan. 5, except for Christmas Day when the rink will be closed. Patrons of the rink will have the opportunity to take in the festive atmosphere, while also indulging in a bevy of holiday happenings.

They can witness professional ice skaters showcasing their talents, partaking of festive offerings for adults and children alike courtesy of Vinoco, spot visitors from the North Pole throughout the month, and sample some tasty treats to help get them into the spirit of the holidays. Local businesses will have sponsorship opportunities related to the rink, and private parties are also available.

Deck the downtown

After scuffing up the ice on opening night, residents will want to return to downtown Aledo on Saturday, Dec. 7, to take in all the splendor of the Christmas Tyme in Aledo Festival.

The day will start early with the annual craft fair running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Church at the Crossing Gymnasium on 128 Elm St. Admission will be free to the public, but prices will

CHRISTMAS Tyme in Aledo

vary on the treasures found within the craft fair.

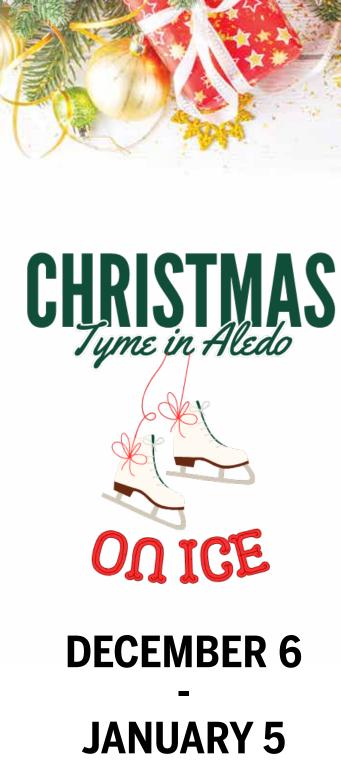
As the sun begins to set, the Festival will get underway at 5 p.m. Friends and families will be able to enjoy live music, delicious holiday fare, check out the vendor booths, and sample the wares at the local businesses along downtown Aledo.

Visitors from the North Pole will stop in to celebrate the Christmas season, take one last opportunity to confirm that pesky "naughty or nice" list, and take time for a quick photo op.

At 6:30 p.m., the evening will hit a crescendo with Mayor Nick Stanley performing the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

The festivities will be fun for all ages, and continue until 9 p.m.

For more information surrounding all that Christmas Tyme in Aledo will have to offer, go to www.aledotx.gov/ChristmasTyme. For questions, email Whitney Walters at wwalters@aledotx.gov.

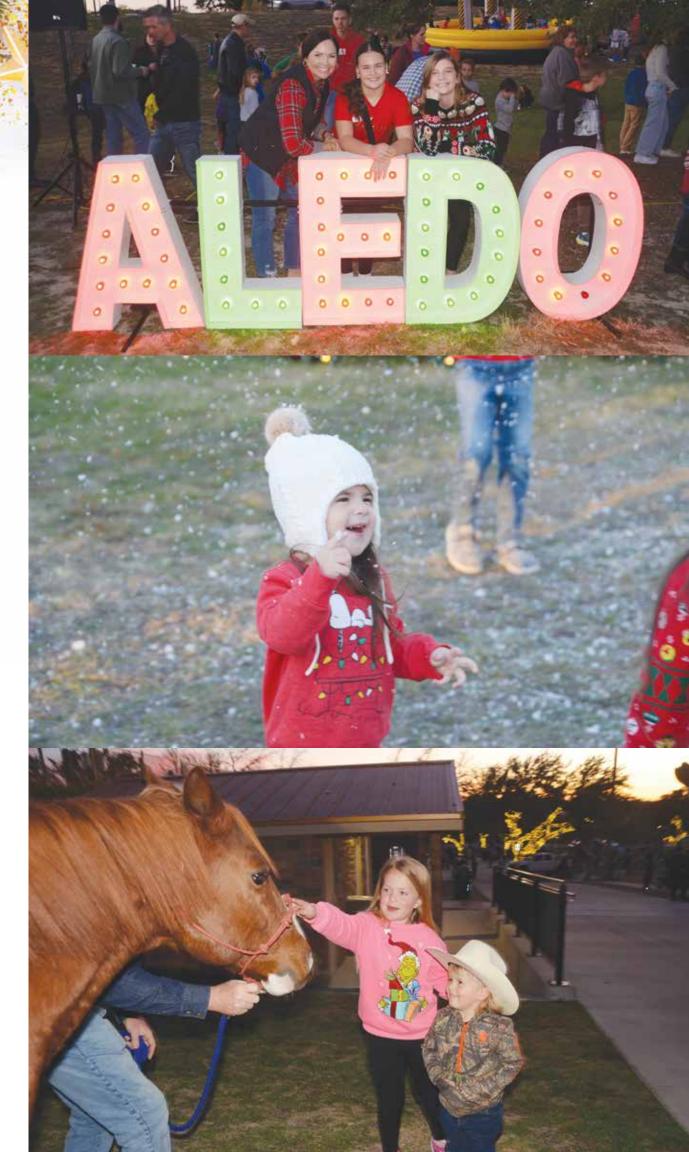


(CLOSED for Christmas Day)

\$15 per person

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: Christina Bailey, Elizabeth Bailey and Rugh Lindly pose for a group picture at the ALEDO display. | **MIDDLE:** Three-year-old Julieta Busby delights in a snowflake she caught on the end of her finger. | **BOTTOM:** Riley and Rusty Reese met a new friend at the Layla Horse Rescue tent.









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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/ THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Two Christmas villages, each with about 45 settings, plus a contemporary village Mercedes Mayer calls "Restaurant Row" join five lit trees to stimulate the spirit of the holidays at the Mayer home.

Christmas comes alive with miniature models

By Christopher Amos The Community News

Y ou can almost feel a chill and hear footsteps crunching in the snow in the Mayer household. Classic Christmas villages have been making spirits bright with a family holiday project spanning 20 years.

Children in snowball fights, shoppers carrying armfuls of presents, and churches, homes and shops brightly lit are part of the merriment in three detailed minuature villages in different parts of the house. Classic scenes from Christmas movies such as "It's a Wonderful Life," "A Christmas Story," "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and even weird Cousin Eddie from "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" are frozen in time in familiar famous poses.

Mercedes Mayer said the detail of each building is uncannily detailed.

"There is a lot going on here," Mayer said. "We really like dogs, so you will see a lot of dogs running around. Somewhere in there is a hidden bigfoot and sasquatch, but I haven't found them yet."

If you are an Aledo Bearcat fan you may already be familiar with two of the fami-

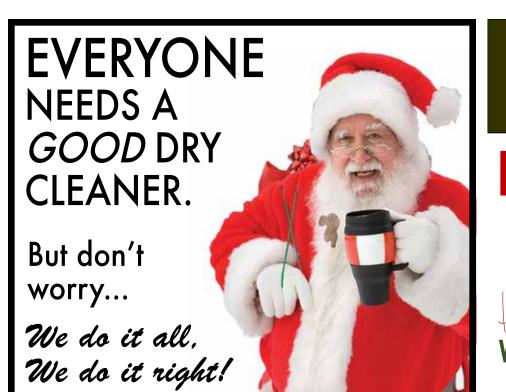
ly members. Aledo High School student Breleigh Mayer is a photographer for "The Community News" and provides photos for the spirit page each week, and mother Mercedes is the public Information director for Aledo ISD, and you can hear her as part of the radio broadcast team of Bearcat games.

So how do you turn on and off hundreds of lights in three Christmas villages plus a thousand lights on five Christmas trees? Mercedes shows how easy it is.

"Alexa. Turn off Christmas."







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EVENTS

NOVEMBER 30

MERRY WELLS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL & LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

Merry Wells season starts the Saturday after Thanksgiving with an all-day Christmas Festival on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 10am-5 pm. As you stroll downtown Mineral Wells, you'll find a food truck park, lots of artisan-made goods, activities for the kiddos and live performances from local music and dance troops.

At 6 p.m. the Merry Wells Lighted Christmas parade is a spectacular event that will delight even the scrooge-iest of on-lookers. Locals go all out to make this a parade you won't soon forget.



NOV. 25-DEC. 31

Take a magical journey through an enchanting pathway at the Heritage Park Amphitheater between 6-9:30 p.m. Immerse yourself in the festive spirit as you wander through the crisp night air, captivated by the majestic 46-foot live tree, a dazzling 20-foot animated tree, and an array of delightful holiday exhibits. There will also be food vendors.



DECEMBER 3

Willow Park Christmas Tree Lighting Join the City of Willow Park at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3rd for the City of Willow Park Christmas Tree Lighting! Food, music, twinkling lights, and of course an appearance by the big guy in the red suit!



DECEMBER 5

2nd Annual "It's A Bearcat Christmas"

Come join us for a night of celebrating two of our favorite things, Christmas and our Bearcats from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, December 5 at Aledo High School/Daniel Ninth Grade Campus. Come see Santa himself and get a professional family photo during a scheduled time frame.

Tickets: https://aledoef.networkforgood.com/events/77502-it-s-a-merrybearcat-christmas

DECEMBER 6

COHO Christmas Tree Lighting Join us for the lighting of the COHO tree and an evening of FREE holiday fun Friday, December 6 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Enjoy activities in Santa's Workshop and snap a picture with Santa himself. Take a ride on the COHO Express, enjoy activities at community booths, watch local stage performances and more.

Christmas Tyme in Aledo on Ice

Christmas Tyme in Aledo on Ice starts on Friday, Dec. 6 and runs through Jan. 5. Residents from all over Aledo will have the opportunity to lace up a pair of ice skates and work their way around a real ice rink located at city hall. For just \$15 per person, folks will be able to reserve skates online at aledotx.gov/skate or rent a pair on a firstcome, first-serve basis at the rink.



DECEMBER 7

Christmas on the Square

Join us in celebrating the holiday season at Christmas on the Square, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Weatherford Lights the Night Parade 2024 begins at 6:30 pm (Long route) Historic Downtown Weatherford, TX It is a cherished tradition that brings the community together for a day filled with festive cheer, local vendors, live entertainment, children's activities and more! The festivities will conclude with the award winning, "Weatherford Lights the Night Parade", lighting up the evening with holiday magic

The City of Aledo Presents



Christmas Tyme in Aledo

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year and Christmas Tyme in Aledo is the perfect way to start your holiday season! Enjoy the day with good music, great food, endless shopping and special visitors from the North Pole, on Saturday, December 7, 2024 Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -Church at the Crossing Gymnasium @ 128 Elm Street Aledo, TX 76008 & Festival - Downtown Aledo at 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, TX 76008 Festival - 5 to 9 p.m. Admission FREE!

DECEMBER 14

Candle Light Tour of Homes

This year we are featuring six historical homes which will be on the Parker County Heritage Society 41st Candlelight Tour of Homes. The tour is December 14th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The tour also includes admission to Chandor Garden, the Court House on the Square, the Doss Heritage and **Cultural Center and Prince Memorial** Church. Tickets for the tour are \$20.00 for adults and \$12.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased at Doss Cultural Center, the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce (cash only) or on the PCHS website https://parkercountyheritagesociety.com



Christmas at the Castle

Chrismas at the Castle 2024 is from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 14 at the Texas Pythian Home, Inc. 1825 E Bankhead Dr, Weatherford, TX, United States, Texas 76086 Come and tour our beautiful castle while it is decorated with Christmas Spirit. This event is free and great for the whole family. Donations are always welcome!

This is a FREE event - no tickets are sold.

Jingle All The Way

There will be a Fun Run/Walk benefiting Meals on Wheels & Senior Center on Saturday, December 14, 1225 Holland Lake Dr. Weatherford, TX 76086.

Live music, s'mores, Santa and more following the event. It is \$25 per person or a team of 5 for \$100. For more information or to register, please visit http://tinyurl.com/mr3bfpe8.



Discover the difference at **Trinity Christian Academy** Willow Park, TX.

Pre K - 12th **Christian College Preparatory**



Dav

Happy Holidays from all the gang at **Ring Leaders Pet Care Center**

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Don't miss a single giggle!

During this special season, it's more important than ever to be a part of every celebration and conversation. At Chappell Hearing Care Center, we want to make sure you hear every moment of the holidays.

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SEASON OF GIVING

The Christmas season is a season of giving. Parker County has numerous social service and charity organizations that are worthy of support.

Aledo Children's AdvoCats

Aledo Children's AdvoCats is an AISD partner organization, led by women volunteers committed to raising funds to help fulfill and aid unmet needs of children and their families in the Aledo ISD Communities. Its main outreaches include:

Children's Fund: working directly with the AISD, CF provides assistance to students in need. Each stud tens needs are evaluated on an individual basis and al information is confidential. Aide can include unmet needs like medical or dental assistance, living expenses, food, school supplies and school-related expenses or other crises interventions.

The Clothes Closet: a clothing resource operated by the Aledo Children's AdvoCats. The service is offered to families recommended by AISD counselors. Qualifying children receive clothes and shoes for school with each new grading cycle, free of charge.

Angel Project: a collaborative effort between AdvoCats, AISD, and the community. The school counselors identify students who may benefit from Christmas gifts and holiday meals. AdvoCats collects wish lists and assigns community volunteer shoppers to purchase gifts, and AdvoCats collects and distributes the gifts.

Visit aledoadvocats.com or on social media, search Aledo Children's AdvoCats.



Aledo Education Foundation

The Aledo ISD Education Foundation partners with the community to provide private resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize innovative opportunities for all students in the Aledo Independent School District.

How you can help: Monetary donations. For more information, visit aledoef.org.



Aledo Young Life

Young Life is an evangelical Christian organization which focuses on young people in middle school, high school, and college.

How you can help: Monetary donations. For more information, visit aledo.younglife.org.

Careity Foundation

The Careity Foundation is a 501(c)3 that exists to provide direct care that saves lives, gives hope, eases pain, and allows cancer patients and families to focus on healing.

All donations stay local.

How you can help: Monetary donations. For more information, visit careity.org or call 817-882-4100.

Careity Foundation P.O. Box 126038 Fort Worth, TX 76126



Branch to Hope is a multi-purpose ranch focusing on changing ONE life at a time building Christ-centered relationships to help each one find their purpose and restore HOPE!

At Branch To Hope Community Center we will come along side you and lift you up, providing a place to slow down, unwind from a fast paced world, with jammed packed schedules, overuse of electronics and communicate on ever changing social media platforms and experience the beauty of caring attitudes and God's nature.

Visit bthccaledo.org or on social media, Branch to Hope.



CASA

When children enter the child welfare system due to allegations of abuse or neglect, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are appointed by a judge to advocate for the child. CASA volunteers are community members working collaboratively to support children and families involved in the foster care system.

How you can help: Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit https:// casahopeforchildren.org/.

Phone: 817-599-6224 305 South Rusk St. Weatherford, TX 76086



Children's Advocacy Center

The Mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County is to end the cycle of abuse by giving the children of Parker County a voice.

The CAC will coordinate the collaborative efforts between Child Protective Services, law enforcement, and prosecution, in the investigation of child abuse cases by providing specialized forensic interviews, therapeutic recovery services for the victim and their families, medical evaluations, and victim support and advocacy. They will also provide education for schools and communities on child abuse.

How you can help: Monetary donations. For more information, visit https://www. cacparkercounty.org/ or call 682-615-1992.

Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County 1224 Clear Lake Road Weatherford, TX 76086



East Parker County Library

The mission of the East Parker County Library is to encourage a love of reading, promote lifelong learning, and broaden informational, educational, recreational, and cultural enrichment opportunities for its patrons.

How you can help: Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit epclibrary.com or call 817-441-6545.

East Parker County Library 201 FM 1187 N Aledo, TX 76008

Freedom House

Freedom House is a domestic violence and sexual assault service provider in Parker County. They provide a wide variety of services including emergency shelter, counseling, therapy, legal counseling, and transportation.

How you can help: Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit

www.freedomhousepc.org or call 817-596-7543 or the Domestic Violence Hotline: 817-596-8922.

Freedom House 1149 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, TX 76086



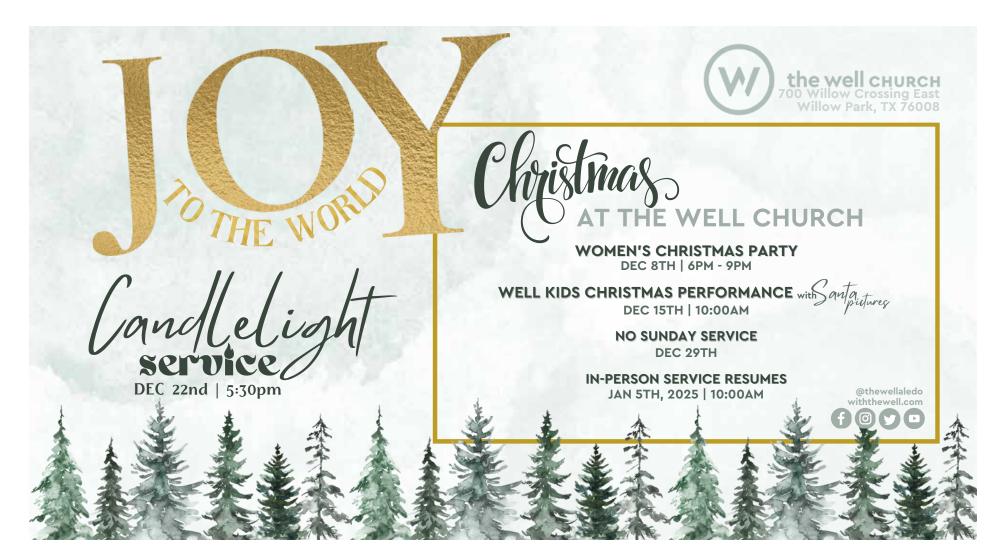
Gathering Hope

Gathering Hope is an organization that exists to passionately advocate for survivors of miscarriage and infant loss; allow for a safe place to grieve, share, and celebrate babies; use their pain as a delivery system to reach others who may not know Christ; and build safe and meaningful relationships.

How you can help: Monetary donations. For more information, visit gatheringhope.net.

Gathering Hope P.O. Box 1631 Aledo, TX 76008





Grace House

Grace House Ministries is a faith-based pregnancy resource center located in Weatherford. Founded in 1993, Grace House Ministries strives to promote hope, life, and knowledge in the community through Options Clinic, Grace House Pregnancy Center, and Pure Truth in-school training program.

Grace House 919 Eureka Weatherford, TX 76086



HALO for Freedom

The HALO for Freedom Warrior Foundation[®] is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Willow Park that is dedicated to our wounded warriors. Its mission is to provide support for wounded warriors as they face the many challenges encountered during their rehabilitation, reintegration and healing process.

How you can help: Monetary

donations and sponsorships. For more information, visit haloforfreedom.org.



Hayden's Corner

Hayden's Corner was created by Brad Hunstable n remeberance of his son Hayden Hunstable. It raises awareness about youth struggling with mental health issues and to advocate for legislative change to mandate resilience classes as part of the core curriculum for K-12 schools nationally. Hayden's Corner is also aimed at educating parents on responsible gaming and oversight from parents and the gaming industry.

For more information and to oin Hayden's Corner for updates on how we are making a change visit www. haydenscorner.org



Hemispherectomy Foundation

The Hemispherectomy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded to provide emotional, financial, and educational support to individuals and their families who have undergone, or will undergo, a hemispherectomy or similar brain surgery. They provide help which includes, but is not limited to: college scholarships, trade school scholarships, camp fees, life-aid equipment, travel expenses, and other aid as approved by the officers.

How you can help: Monetary donations, donations of coloring books, crayons, stuffed animals, board games, new toys, gas cards, gift cards, airline miles. For more information, visit http://hemifoundation.homestead.com/welcome.html-

Hemispherectomy Foundation P.O. Box 1239 Aledo, TX 76008



Manna Storehouse

Manna Storehouse is a non-profit organization operated completely by volunteers and supported by 11 churches and multiple businesses within Weatherford and Parker County. Its mission is to assist those in need to sustain a dignified life which hopefully leads to an improved life style, thereby improving confidence and independence.

How you can help: Donations of food, money, clothing, furniture, baby items, kitchen supplies, and other items. For more information, visit www.mannastorehouse. org or call 817-599-6569.

Manna Storehouse 129 E. Spring Street P.O. Box 9 Weatherford, TX 76086



Miracle League of Parker County

The mission at the Miracle League of Parker County is to provide a safe and fun environment where those with special needs can play baseball in a stadium of their own; where the rules are limited, the love unconditional, and the joy infectious.

How you can help: Monetary donations, sponsorships, and volunteers. For more information, visit www.miracleleaguepark-ercounty.com or call 817-614-6261.

Miracle League Field is located at 2308 Tin Top Road in Weatherford.



Parker County Center of Hope

Through more than 23 years of service, Center of Hope has learned that while addressing the material aspects of poverty is important, true rehabilitation and restoration are only achieved through longterm solutions. It focuses its work on an integrated service model that addresses the holistic needs of individuals and leads them to a path of economic independence and improved quality of life.

How you can help: Monetary donations, food donations, or donate items for the Hope Chest resale store. For more information, visit centerofhopetx.com/ or www.the-hopechestresale.com, or call 817-594-0266.

Parker County Center of Hope 1318 Clear Lake Road Weatherford, TX 76086



Parker County Committee on Aging

The mission of Parker County Committee on Aging, Inc., is to identify and assess the needs of homebound older adults in Parker County and to provide life-sustaining services which allow them to live in the comfort of their homes. A further mission of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit is the operation of Parker County's Senior Center that serves persons aged 60 and older with nutritional, educational, recreational, and social programs and the Meals on Wheels program in the county.

Parker County Committee on Aging

How you can help: Monetary donations, food donations, volunteers. For more information, visit www.pccoa.org, call 817-596-4640, or email info@pccoa.org.

Come to Jingle & Mingle from 6-9 on Dec. 2! You can also "Stuff the Stocking" with \$20 and a caring message to a local senior.

Parker County Committee on Aging 1225 Holland Lake Drive Weatherford, TX 76086



Parker County Health Foundation

The Parker County Health Foundation enhances health and well-being by providing services through partnerships for Parker County residents who otherwise could not seek treatments.

Boots & Bling featuring Josh Weathers will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, at River **Ranch Stockyards!**

How you can help: Monetary donations. For more information, visit www.parkercountyhealthfoundation.org.

Parker County Pets Alive

Parker County Pets Alive partners with the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter and Riverstone Companion Animal Clinic in Brock to provide life-saving treatment for heartworm-positive dogs adopted from the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter.

How you can help: Monetary donations (heartworm treatment is very expensive and without treatment, heart-

worm positive dogs will die a slow, painful death) and volunteers. For more information, visit https://parkercountypetsalive.org/donate/.



Pure Adventure

The mission of Pure Adventure is to help dads and sons connect, with Christ at the center of their relationship. It provides one-day events that are designed to bring dad and son together through activities, messages, and one-on-one time to create a bond that lasts a lifetime.

How you can help: Monetary donations, host an event. For more information, visit puread-

Pythian Home

venture.com.

Texas Pythian Home, Inc., is a Christianbased residential child care program with a rich history of more than 100 years of serving children from families in need.

Christmas at the Castle is from 10-6 on Dec. 14,2024

How you can help: Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit https://pythianhome.org/.



Sanctified Hope

Sanctified Hope empowers and guides formerly incarcerated women through a Christbased ministry to inspire lifelong changes and become successful citizens of the community.



Prile

Seeds of Life

Seeds of Life is a non-medical 501 (c)3 non-profit organization located in Parker County. Flourishing Tree of Life is a faithbased, life-affirming pregnancy and family center that provides resources, mentoring, and education for life skills.

How you can help: Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information. visit friendsofseedsoflife.org.



Tarrant Area Food Bank

The Tarrant Area Food Bank, including its new Parker County facility, distributes food and provides education for people in need of food assistance.TAFB serves 13 counties in north Texas: Tarrant, Bosque, Cooke, Denton, Erath, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, and Wise.

How you can help: Monetary donations and volunteers; start a food drive; become a sponsor. For more information, visit tab.org.



Thanksgiving Trot

The Thanksgiving Trot is an annual 5k and 1 mile run designed to assist a local family each year that has had to endure catastrophic medical expenses. The 2024 recipient is Derek Vierling.

How you can help: Monetary donations: visit www.aledothanksgivingtrot.com



Theatre Off the Square

Parker County Fine Arts Association DBA Theatre Off The Square is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation managed by a Board of Directors who donate their time, effort, and resources to benefit this theatre and this community.

How you can help: Monetary donations and volunteers. For more information, visit www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

Theatre Off the Square 114 N Denton Weatherford, Texas 76086 817-341-8687



United Way of Parker County

United Way brings residents, business leaders, and representatives from our local community together to identify and address shared community concerns. Its goal is to engage people to understand the issues most important to them and their families - including the ability to access a quality education, obtain good jobs, and to live healthy lives.

How you can help: Monetary donations

and volunteers. For more information visit https:// www.unitedwayparkercounty. org or call 817-596-5986.



Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter provides animal adoption services, spay and neuter for stray dogs and cats, and shelter for lost or stray animals.

How you can help: Adopt an animal from the shelter, provide foster care for a dog, or donate crates to house animals at the shelter.

For more information, visit www.weatherfordtx.gov/15/Animal-Services Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter 403 Hickory Lane Weatherford, Texas 76086.



Weatherford Wags

Weatherford Wags is a small, foster homebased dog rescue in Weatherford, dedicated to saving urgent dogs at animal shelters in and near Parker County. They also attempt to help strays and unwanted dogs to keep them out of shelters and get them into loving homes.

How you can help: Agree to provide a foster home to a dog, adopt a dog, provide monetary donations, or volunteer.

For more information visit www. weatherfordwags.org or email Weatherfordwags@gmail.com.

Weatherford Whiskers

Weatherford Whiskers is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit animal rescue. We rescue high risk cats and kittens from our local shelters. Once rescued, we place them in experienced foster homes where they receive love, are socialized for family life and given top notch vet care including vaccinations and are spayed/neutered, before being placed up for adoption in to a furever home. In addition, our highly trained volunteers can also assist you with Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return of feral cats to their colonies.

How you can help: Donate Today! Become

a foster, a monthly donor or help shop our Amazon Wishlist.



www.weatherfordwhiskers.org





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