

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

PCSO expanding criminal investigation division

By Danie Huffman
Parker County Sheriff's Office

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier has announced the expansion of the Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) with the creation of a financial crimes investigator position. Former deputy Christian Townsend has been promoted to this new position.



Christian Townsend

Authier said the continual rise in financial crimes necessitated the

need to add an investigator's position whose primary focus is centered in the field.

"Financial crimes and related scams are among some of the fastest growing crimes in Texas," Authier said.

The Federal Trade Commission reported receiving 2.8 million fraud reports nationwide from consumers in 2021, equaling more than \$5.8 billion in losses. That number has surged by over 70 percent within the last four years.

In 2023 alone, the amount nearly doubled at \$10 billion in financial crime loss reported across the United States.

Turn to PCSO, page A5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KERRI SMITH

The Parker County Committee on Aging sponsored a successful "Jingle all the Way" fun run/walk on Dec. 14 at Holland Lake Park. Turn to page A3 for more photos.

WEATHERFORD PD

Arnold stepping down as chief

Taking job in Oklahoma

Courtesy Weatherford Police Department

After serving at the helm of the Weatherford Police Department since 2017, Lance Arnold is stepping down as its chief, effective Dec. 20. He is leaving to become the police chief in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Arnold has a distinguished 28-year career in law enforcement.

Arnold was appointed chief of police in Weatherford following 20 years with the Norman, Oklahoma Police Department. He advanced to director of public safety in 2020 and assistant city manager in 2022.

During his time in Weatherford, the department experienced significant growth, expanding from 58 officers to 69 officers, with a total of 95 employees. Under his leadership, the department achieved significant reductions in crime while fostering extensive community partnerships.

One of his key contributions was serving as the project manager for the design and construction of the state-of-the-art public safety building, which was completed in October of 2022. The department was also re-accredited for the third time under the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Accreditation Program and received recognition from the International Association of Chiefs of Police for its comprehensive member wellness program.

"I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to serve this remarkable community, and it has been an honor to work alongside our talented and dedicated members," Arnold said. "This community will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will deeply cherish the relationships formed."

Arnold was also deeply involved in community leadership, serving on several boards and committees. These included the Medical City Weatherford Board of Trustees, the Tarrant Area Food Bank West Advisory Committee,

the NCTCOG Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee, the NCT 911 Strategic Advisory Committee, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association Recruitment and Retention Committee.

"We are deeply grateful for Chief Arnold's outstanding service and unwavering dedication to our community over the past seven years," City Manager James Hotopp. "Under his leadership, our police department has achieved significant milestones, and his commitment to fostering trust and safety within our city will have a lasting impact. While we are sad to see him go, we wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

Assistant Chief Jason Hayes, a Weatherford native, will serve as interim chief while the search for a permanent replacement is underway. Hayes has 24 years of experience in law enforcement, all with Weatherford Police Department.

"Chief Hayes has consistently demonstrated exemplary



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF WEATHERFORD

After serving the city since 2017, Lance Arnold is stepping down as Weatherford's police chief to accept the same position in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

service and leadership within our department, and I have every confidence in his ability to guide us through this interim period with professionalism, integrity, and commitment," Hotopp said.

WEATHERFORD ISD

Board recognizes Baker, Lady Roos VB

By Jim Zimmerman
The Community News

At the recent meeting of the Weatherford School Board, Superintendent Beau Rees recognized Elizabeth Baker, music teacher at Martin Elementary. Baker recently received the Athena Award from the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

The Athena Leadership Award is given to a woman who demonstrates professional excellence, community service, and empowerment of women.

The award is named after the strong, enlightened goddess Athena. The Athena Awards Program is

Turn to BOARD, page A3

TOYS FOR TOTS

Annetta event a success

Staff Reports
The Community News

The small town of Annetta has once again demonstrated its big heart. The annual Toys for Tots drive, which concluded on Dec. 13, was called a resounding success by city officials, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of its residents.

The drive, organized by Councilman Rico Remigio, saw a significant outpouring of support. By the end of the campaign, the community had filled two boxes and donated two bicycles. The two boxes were so full, it could've actually filled a third box almost half way.

Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts expressed her gratitude for the town's generosity, stating, "So thankful for Rico Remigio and family for coordinating the Toys for Tots event every year for the Town of Annetta. I am always impressed with the giving spirit of our citizens every year. I hope that everyone has a happy and safe holiday."

The donated toys will be distributed to children in need within the local community through partnerships with social service agencies benefiting children in Parker, Hood, Somervell and Erath counties.



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF ANNETTA

Once again the annual Toys for Tots drive in Annetta was a success.

CORRECTION:

In the Willow Park City Council story published in last week's (Dec. 13) edition, it was stated that a petition seeking the creation of the Beall-Dean Ranch Public Improvement District within the jurisdiction of Willow Park will also be on the January docket. It is actually a public hearing on the petition that will be held in January.



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Christmas in Bethlehem

Maximum capacity crowds attended this year's presentation of Christmas in Bethlehem at Willow Park Baptist Church.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLOW PARK BAPTIST CHURCH



Candlelight Tour of Homes

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Jingle all the Way

The Parker County Committee on Aging sponsored a successful "Jingle all the Way" fun run/walk on Dec. 14 at Holland Lake Park. The path for the evening event went through Holland Lake trails lit with Christmas lights. After the walk, participants enjoyed a live band performance featuring Red Iron Push, s'mores, and a visit from Santa at the Senior Center parking lot.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARKER COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY



BOARD

from page A1

part of Athena International, a non-profit organization that supports, develops, and honors women leaders.

The Athena Award is a prestigious award that, since its inception in 1982, has been presented to more than 8,000 recipients in over 500-plus regions representing 48 states and 11 countries. The Ladies of the Chamber Board select this award and it is sponsored by the Jerry Durant Auto Group each year.

Baker is in her 19th year of public school music education and in her 14th year at Martin Elementary, where 11 years ago she founded Martin Musicals. She is also the chair of the Cultural Arts Committee for Downtown Weatherford and was recently named the Community Theatre Instructor of the Year by the Parker County Theatre Company.

VB recognized

Also, the district's public information director Charlotte LaGrone recognized the Weatherford High School Volleyball team for earning post-season awards and accolades. Among their success, the entire team earned academic all-district.

The Lady Roos finished with a 23-19 record, including 7-5 in District 3-6A for a tie for third place. They advanced to the bidistrict playoffs.

iWork grant

The presentation cited the district's career and technical education (CTE) program was awarded an iWork Grant through Workforce Solutions of North Texas, for this past summer.

"This grant allowed our teachers to participate in externships," Hernandez noted, describing that teachers were matched with professionals in their field or a field they wanted to explore.

She added that teachers who participated in the Summer 2024 iWork: Teacher Externship initiative "Walked in the shoes" of an industry professional.

Hernandez acknowledged that through several days of job shadowing experience, they gained valuable information on current workplace practices, requirements, tools, trends, skills, and opportunities.

"This experience will enhance teaching practices by incorporating industry relevance to better prepare students for their future," she declared.



PHOTO COURTESY WEATHERFORD ISD

The Weatherford Lady Kangaroos volleyball team was recognized at the recent Weatherford School Board meeting for their success both on the court and in the classroom.

Teachers who participated were Uriel Quijas, Emily Bramhill, Jessica Pugh, Russell Fletcher, Tim Duggin, Dunia Dake, Ashley Madonna, Sarah Johnston and Holley Thornton.

ROOTed in Excellence

Marie Hernandez, Assistant Superintendent of Academics,

presented a comprehensive presentation on the ROOTed in Excellence Series.

This month's focus was Tison Middle School. It details the overview of how the professional learning community, curriculum walks, and collaborative meetings give teachers the opportunities to look at lessons and dissect student data to achieve academic excellence.

In other business

Lori Boswell, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, presented a report that showed the financial progress of the district and if any adjustments needed to be adjusted in the spending plan.

The board also approved a land purchase agreement with Meritage Homes.

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Holiday Mixer

First Bank Texas in Willow Park hosted and sponsored the annual Parker County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Mixer. Local business people had an opportunity to network and enjoy holiday treats in a festive atmosphere.



Weatherford Market



PHOTOS BY LOYDALE SCHMID/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



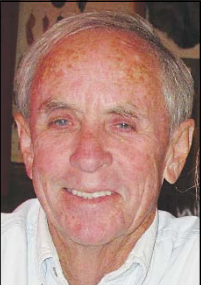
Obituaries

Roger Yates

Roger Yates, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and cherished member of the Aledo community, passed away peacefully on December 6, 2024, surrounded by his loving family at home.

Roger was born on December 15, 1934, in Stamford, Texas, the second of four sons to Rollie and Grace Yates.

After graduating from high school, Roger joined the Army National Guard and began his college journey at Howard Payne University before transferring to North Texas University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. His early career as an industrial engineer reflected his sharp mind and strong work ethic, but Roger's entrepreneurial drive soon led him into the real estate industry, where he found his true calling. Starting as a loan officer, he later became a commercial loan broker and, in 1974, established Yates Mortgage Services, which became the cornerstone of his professional legacy.



Roger Yates

In 1968, Roger purchased land in Aledo, then a small town of just 235 residents. There, he built the Aledo Mobile Home Park, helping to lay the foundation for the community's growth and development—a contribution that remains part of his enduring legacy.

A man of diverse talents and passions, Roger's competitive spirit emerged early in life when he became a skilled boxer, participating in Golden Gloves competitions. His lifelong love of water sports was another defining trait. An avid boater, skier, and scuba diver in his younger years, Roger continued to embrace athletic pursuits throughout his life. He was a competitive swimmer who participated in the Senior Olympics and Masters Swimming. Known for his playful nature, he also enjoyed ping pong, always ready for a lively match with family or friends.

Roger's greatest pride and joy was his family. His 65-year marriage to Margie Yates was a testament to their unwavering love and partnership. Together, they built a beautiful life full of love, laughter, and cherished memories.

Roger is survived by his devoted wife, Margie Yates; his sons, Curtis Yates and wife Kimberlee of Aledo, and Stan Yates and wife Jay of Aledo; and his treasured grandchildren, Parker Yates, Shelton Yates, Ryland Yates, and Riley Yates and wife Billee Phillips and Goddaughter Ashleigh Grissom.

Roger's life was a testament to perseverance, kindness, and a deep commitment to his family, community, and passions. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know and love him. He will be profoundly missed and fondly remembered.

A Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday, December 17 at Los Vaqueros West.

The Community News
December 20, 2024

Christmas at the Castle - Pythian House

PHOTOS BY RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



PCSO

from page A1

Parker County also saw an uptick in the number of financial crimes reported, where in 2020, the Parker County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) CID received 209 financial crimes cases. By 2023, the number of financial crimes cases received increased by 58 percent to 331 cases involving wire fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, identity theft, ATM fraud/credit card and debit card abuse cases.

Previously, PCSO financial crimes cases received were assigned on a rotating basis to property crimes investigators within the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division. The intricate nature of many financial crimes cases demands a

specialized skill set and training as they are often some of the most challenging cases to solve.

"Following the unanimous approval by the Commissioner's Court, we conducted assessments to identify the most suitable candidate for the financial crimes investigator role," Authier remarked. "Deputy Christian Townsend achieved the highest score and was promoted into this new position."

Townsend came to the PCSO in January 2023. His experience includes seven years of experience with New Mexico law enforcement and working major crimes investigations.

Townsend has advanced training as a peace officer and holds an undergraduate and graduate degrees in fields of study relating to law enforcement

and public safety. He also has experience investigating numerous types of cases ranging from minor property crimes to homicides as well as investigating interstate federal offenses.

"The complexity of many financial crimes requires not only the application of specialized investigative techniques but also the promptness in intercepting transfers and the expertise to electronically trace these transactions," Authier noted. "Funds can swiftly circulate through various channels, and with the emerging trend of digital currency, there is an urgent need for effective and timely resolutions."

In just a few short months, Townsend has frozen or recovered more than \$60,000 in funds and assets stolen from victims in fraudulent scams and transactions since taking the

financial crimes investigator position. In October, Townsend made several arrests stemming from existing case investigations and obtained additional arrest warrants in connection with new financial crimes cases received.

He also seized over \$17,000 from an account used to collect and distribute funds stolen during a financial scheme. Townsend also obtained a seizure warrant on an account totaling more than \$43,000, which is believed to have been used in a separate fraud case.

Authier expressed his gratitude to the Parker County Commissioner's Court for their unwavering support of the sheriff's office and for approving funding for the financial crimes investigator position.



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

DECEMBER 6 - JANUARY 5

Christmas Tyme in Aledo on Ice

The ice rink will be open for 30 days, from Friday, December 6th to Sunday, January 5th. This marks the start of a tradition that the City of Aledo plans to continue annually in the heart of Downtown Aledo. Throughout the skating season, there will be special events, including the Annual Christmas Tyme in Aledo event, featuring the city's tree lighting ceremony, specialty vendors, guests from the North Pole, live music, food trucks, and more. This event brings families and friends together and kicks off the holiday season in beautiful Downtown Aledo. Monday - Thursday 4:00PM-9:00PM Friday 4:00PM-10:00PM Saturday & Sunday 12:00PM-10:00PM Additionally, there will be a dedicated Kid Zone, local vendors, refreshments, sweets, treats, and more available on-site throughout the season, providing something for everyone! Be sure to visit our website

DECEMBER 20 & 21

A Twisted Christmas Carol

Theater off the Square presents A Twisted Christmas Carol. It is a Texas spoof of Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol. It's Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town, and cantankerous barbecue joint owner Buford Johnson gets in an argument with his wife Darla, tells her he's skipping Christmas, storms out of the restaurant, goes four-wheeling in his pickup, gets hit by a twister, rolls his truck, and goes into a coma. He comes back in his dream where he's visited by ex-business partner, Hank Walker, who plays the ghost of Christmas past, present, and future. Hank takes Buford on a journey similar to Scrooge's in A Christmas Carol, only Texas-style. Showtimes Fri, Dec 20, 2024, 8 pm-10 pm Additional Dates Sat, Dec 21, 8 pm-10 pm Sun, Dec 22, 2 pm-4 pm Theatre Off the Square 114 North Denton St. Weatherford, TX

817-341-8687

There will be an interpreted performance on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024.

JANUARY 9

Alzheimer's Group
The East Parker County Alzheimer's Group meets from 1-3 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan. Drive. For more information, call 817-441-8329.

JANUARY 14

Dementia Support Group
Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. Even more so, we value the efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents. This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

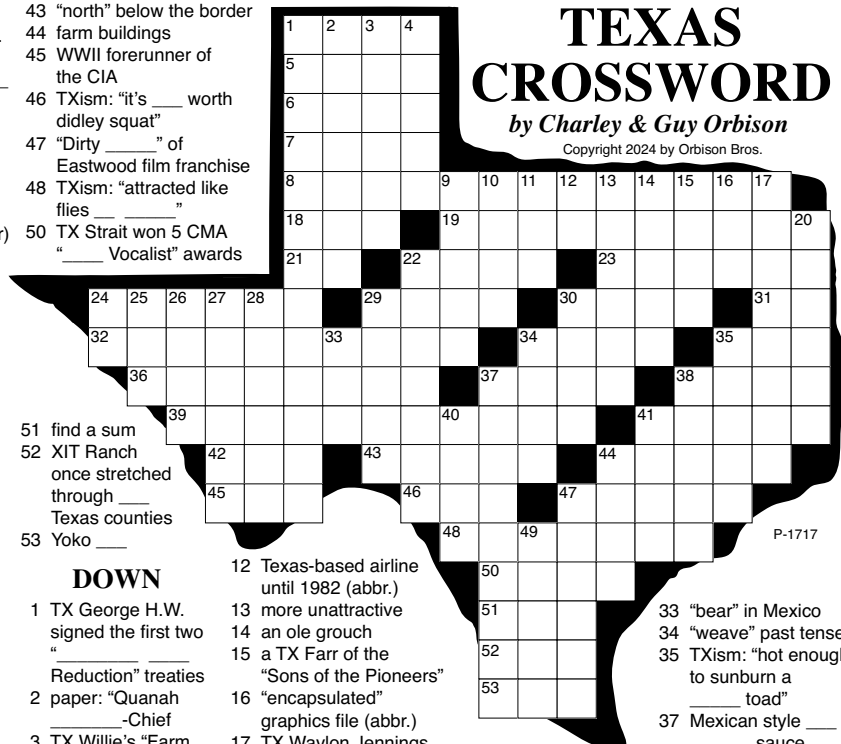
Send event submissions to events@community-news.com.

ACROSS

1 sports number abbr.
5 ZZ Top, e.g.
6 TXism: "he can all day and dance all night" (stamina)
7 Johnny Cash's "Named Sue"
8 TXism: "can't carry a _____" (bad singer)
18 dir. from Uvalde to New Braunfels
19 prints produced by silkscreens
21 Rice won "Collegiate Bowl" in 1966
22 TXism: "he's too lazy to _____"
23 actor Keith of 1953 "Son of Belle Starr"
24 TX Charley Pride's "Then _____"
29 Lone _____ State
30 Eagle Pass FM
31 TX George Strait sang "What _____ You Say to That" (1999)
32 TXism: "if it ain't true, there _____ Texas"
34 seven day period
35 epic film "Ben _____"
36 TXism: "_____ old range cow"
37 one who hoes
38 this Richard was the 15th governor of Texas
39 TXism: "she could talk the legs off _____"
41 be concerned
42 school of dolphins

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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43 "north" below the border
44 farm buildings
45 WWII forerunner of the CIA
46 TXism: "it's _____ worth didley squat"
47 "Dirty _____" of Eastwood film franchise
48 TXism: "attracted like flies _____"
50 TX Strait won 5 CMA "Vocalist" awards

DOWN

1 TX George H.W. signed the first two "_____ Reduction" treaties
2 paper: "Quanah _____" Chief
3 TX Willie's "Farm _____" was in 1985 in Illinois
4 TXism "seein' eye noise _____" (agreeing)
9 TXism meaning "I declare" (2 wds.)
10 "so _____ and yet so far"
11 this Howe managed the Astros
12 Texas-based airline until 1982 (abbr.)
13 more unattractive
14 an ole grouch
15 a TX Farr of the "Sons of the Pioneers"
16 "encapsulated" graphics file (abbr.)
17 TX Waylon Jennings was narrator of "_____ of Hazard"
20 made a sleeping noise
22 "_____ Municipal Airport," San Antonio reliever airport
24 Cowboy Hankins went to Seahawks of this state in 2024 (abbr.)
25 TX Vikki Carr hit: "It Must Be _____"
26 Baird's six-man class (2 wds.)
27 dance (2 wds.)
28 obsessions
29 this Lynn was great
30 former Nacogdoches AM or FM
33 "bear" in Mexico
34 "weave" past tense
35 TXism: "hot enough to sunburn a _____ toad"
37 Mexican style _____
38 Emmitt Smith could _____ the ball
40 horse gait
41 "couldn't _____ less"
44 "the _____ of my existence"
47 TXism: "that bucket won't _____ milk"
49 TX empresario, Edwards

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CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE BEALL-DEAN RANCH PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Pursuant to Section 372.009(c) and (d) of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended (the "Act"), notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas ("City"), will hold a public hearing to accept public comments and discuss the petition (the "Petition") filed by the person identified in the Petition (the "Petitioner"), requesting that the City create a public improvement district within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City to be referred to as the Beall-Dean Ranch Public Improvement District (the "District").

Date, Time, and Place of the Hearing. The public hearing will start at or after 6:00 p.m., January 14, 2025, at Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087.

General Nature of the Proposed Authorized Improvements. The general nature of the proposed public improvements to be provided by the District that are necessary for the development of the Property within the District and which shall promote the interests of the City and confer a special benefit upon the Property, may include: (i) acquisition, construction, and improvement of street, roadway and sidewalk improvements, including related drainage, utility relocation, signalization, landscaping, lighting, signage, off-street parking and right-of-way; (ii) acquisition, construction, and improvement of water, wastewater, and drainage improvements and facilities; (iii) establishment and improvement of parks, trails and recreational facilities improvements; (iv) projects similar to those listed above authorized by the Act, including similar off-site projects that provide a benefit to the Property within the District; (v) acquisition of real property or interests in real property in connection with each Authorized Improvement; (vi) payment of costs, including, without limitation, design, engineering, permitting, legal, required payment, performance and maintenance bonds, bidding, support, construction, construction management, administrative and inspection costs, associated with developing and financing the public improvements listed in (i) through (v) above; (vii) payment of costs associated with special supplemental services for improvement and promotion of the District as approved by the City including services related to advertising, promotion, health and sanitation, water and wastewater, public safety, security, business recruitment, development, recreation, and cultural enhancement related to the public improvements listed in (i) through (v) above; (viii) payment of costs of establishing, administering, and operating the District, as well as the interest, costs of issuance, reserve funds, or credit enhancement of bonds issued for the purposes described in (i) through (viii) above (collectively, the "Authorized Improvements"). The Authorized Improvements shall promote the interest of the City and confer a special benefit upon the property within the District.

Estimated Cost of the Authorized Improvements. The current estimated total cost of the proposed Authorized Improvements is \$75,000,000.

Proposed District Boundaries. The District is proposed to include property owned by the Petitioner consisting of approximately 317.732 acres of property generally located south of Interstate Highway I-20, west of F.M. 1187, and north of E. Bankhead Highway, and within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City, as more particularly described by a metes and bounds description available at the Willow Park City Hall and available for public inspection.

Proposed Method of Assessment. The City shall levy assessments on each parcel within the District in a manner that results in imposing equal shares of the costs on property similarly benefited. Each assessment may be paid in part or in full at any time (including interest), and certain assessments may be paid in annual installments (including interest). If the City allows an assessment to be paid in installments, then the installments must be paid in amounts necessary to meet annual costs for those Authorized Improvements financed by the assessment and must continue for a period necessary to retire the indebtedness on those Authorized Improvements (including interest).

Proposed Apportionment of Cost between the District and the City. The City will not be obligated to provide any funding to finance the Authorized Improvements, other than from assessments levied in the District. No City property in the District shall be assessed. The Petitioner may fund certain improvements from other funds available to the Petitioner.

Objections During the public hearing, any interested person may speak for or against the establishment of the District and the advisability of the improvements to be made for the benefit of the property within the District. Written and oral objections will be considered at the hearing.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bearcats, Roos excel in Weatherford Tournament

Trinity Christian shines in Mesquite Pit Classic Tourney

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

Over the weekend, both the Aledo Bearcats and Weatherford Kangaroos boys basketball teams competed in the Weatherford Tournament from Thursday through Saturday, featuring competition against the likes of Fort Worth Nolan Catholic, Odessa High, Granbury, Fort Worth Southwest, North Central Texas Academy, Keller Fossil Ridge and Lubbock Cooper, among others.

Impressively, both schools finished their tournament runs with undefeated 4-0 records. The Bearcats finished with victories over Southwest (72-67), Odessa (74-67), Abilene Cooper (77-36) and NCTA (66-62).

Across four games, standout senior guard Joaquin Pacheco totaled 91 points, 23 rebounds, 15 assists, nine steals and three blocks to garner all-tournament honors. Meanwhile, sophomore guard Caden Cunningham delivered with 33 points and nine 3-pointers while Townes VanHuysen produced down low with 55 points and 34 rebounds.

Up next, the Bearcats (14-1), who are off to one of the best starts in program history, will host Wichita Falls Memorial for another pre-district showdown at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Roos also near perfect

Meanwhile, the Weatherford Kangaroos (16-1) are also off to one of their best starts ever after a perfect run through the tournament. In their four games, the Roos defeated All Saints (86-48), Nolan Catholic (53-48), Fossil Ridge (73-50) and Granbury (69-58). The Roos traveled to Dallas to take on the Wilmer-Hutchins Eagles at press time before hosting Crowley to begin district play at 8 p.m. Friday.

TCA wins a handful

Also in action were the Trinity Christian Eagles, who shared the same level of success in their respective tournament. The Eagles

Turn to BEARCAT, page A10

New school record



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEDO ISD ATHLETICS

AHS swimmers set a new school record at the North Zone Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association meet in Lewisville on Nov. 23. Victoria Crews, Julia Gordy, Mackenzie Oligschlaeger and Haley Roberson swam in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3.45.06.

WRESTLING

Aledo grapplers shine at tourney

Bohn finishes second in division

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Brice Bohn of the Aledo Bearcats led all competitors as both the boys and girls had standout performances in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD Tournament this past weekend.

Bohn posted a 4-1 record to take second place in the boys 126-pound division. He was an alternate for the Class 5A State Tournament in 2023.

"Brice Bohn had a fantastic tournament. He looked impressive in the early rounds and had a close match with a tough opponent in the finals," first-year Aledo coach Ben Shaw said.

Meanwhile, the Ladycats placed seventh out of 23 teams in the tough tournament on the strength of three third-place finishers. Lillian Carruthers won three of four matches in the 100-pound weight class, while Avery Kernan and Arianna Mathias

each went 4-1 in the 107 and 145 categories, respectively.

"The girls wrestled really well. Across both Varsity and JV levels, they were highly competitive and executed solid wrestling," Shaw said. "The boys faced some tough competition, but still held their own. We only dropped a few close matches that kept us out of the top-three placements."

"Overall, as a program we continued to grow and sharpen our wrestling techniques. It is great to see how they are progressing even from just last month."

The Bearcats finished 18th out of 28 teams.

At the junior varsity level, the Bearcats had a pair of first-place finishes. Noah Chasteen was 4-0 in winning at 126 pounds and Blaze Beasley went 4-0, defeating teammate Kaiden Jones (2-1) in the 138 final.

Aledo was hosting Benbrook and Fort Worth Paschal in a tri-meet at press time and is competing in the Santa and Ms. Claus Slam in Coppell Dec. 21. After the

holiday break, they will compete in the Lamar Invitational on Jan. 3-4.

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Wrestling Tournament

Aledo highlights (tourney record in parentheses)

Varsity Boys

126 pounds: 2. Brice Bohn (4-1).

Varsity Girls

100: 3. Lillian Carruthers (3-1).

107: 3. Avery Kernan (4-1).

145: 3. Arianna Mathias (4-1).

Junior Varsity Girls

165: 3. Madison Elliot (3-1).

138: 4. Olivia Restrepo (2-2).

126: 4. Leora Wiggins (2-2).

100: 4. Lily Rudnick (1-2).

JV Boys

126: 1. Noah Chasteen (4-0).

138: 1. Blaze Beasley (4-0),

2. Kaiden Jones (2-1)

190 - 3. James Beyer (4-1)

120: 3. Keydan Lemen (4-1)

132: 4. Mason Opsahl (2-1).

Also, while not in top four:

126: Gabe Opsahl (2-1).

150: Thomas Hopkins (3-1).

285: Cam Becera (4-1).

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ladycats come up short at Brewer

Aledo falls in district opener

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

WHITE SETTLEMENT - After a competitive tournament season, the Aledo Ladycats basketball team began the District 5-5A portion of its schedule against the Brewer Lady Bears, a perennial power in the area. Despite a strong challenge by the Ladycats, Aledo could not capture the victory on the road, falling by a final score of 46-39.

Junior guard Elizabeth Griffin was Aledo's leading scorer with 15 points while Tiara Butler chipped in with nine. Sophomore guard Brooklyn Dempsey scored five points while senior post Kinley

Turn to LADYCATS, page A10

VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats dominate all-district

Several players among state leaders

Staff Reports
The Community News

The state semifinalist Aledo Ladycats dominated the recent All-District 5-5A awards presented by the coaches in the district.

Aledo finished 35-8 overall, won district with a 12-0 record, and advanced to the Class 5A Division I state semifinals before falling in a thrilling five-set match (lost fifth set 3-2) to state runner-up McKinney North.

Senior middle hitter Kinley Elms, who has committed to Lamar University, and junior outside hitter and Abilene Christian University commit Alyssa Todd were named Co-MVPs of the district. Todd was ranked 11th in the state in 5A in kills with 557 and had a .316 hitting percentage and Elms was 11th in the

Turn to DISTRICT, page A10

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS TO CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF THE CREATION OF TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER TWO, CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS FOR TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PURPOSES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 311, TEXAS TAX CODE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas (the "City"), pursuant to Chapter 311.003 Texas Tax Code, as amended, (the "Act"), will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087 for the purpose of considering the creation of the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number Two, City of Willow Park, Texas, located within the extraterritorial limits of the City.

All persons are invited to attend the hearing and speak for or against the creation of Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number Two, City of Willow Park, Texas, the proposed boundaries, or the concept of tax increment financing. Written or oral statements will be considered. The proposed boundaries include approximately 293.45 acres located in the corporate limits of the City, located south of IH 20, west of FM 1187, and north of E Bankhead Highway. A more detailed legal description and boundary map of the proposed Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number Two, City of Willow Park, Texas, are on file and open for public inspection in the office of the City Secretary. Questions or requests for additional information may be directed to Bryan Grimes, City of Willow Park City Administrator.

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FOOTBALL

TD friends have been making connection for years

Beard-Finley long been winning combo

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Kaydon Finley explained the connection between himself and good friend Gavin Beard in simple fashion.

"Him being a quarterback, me a receiver, it was an instant connection," Finley said.

It all began in peewee football, when they both played and Beard's father was offensive coordinator. It wasn't long before it was realized that Beard has a knack for putting the ball in the right place at the right time with his passes and that Finley has an uncanny ability to catch the ball if it is anywhere in the same zip code.

"In middle school, if they needed a TD, Gavin was throwing to Kaydon," Bearcats head coach Robby Jones said.

That is often still the case for the two juniors. When the season came to an end recently with a 31-21 loss to rival Denton Ryan in the Class 5A Division I Region I final, Beard finished the season with 35

touchdowns thrown. Finley caught 21 scores.

Friends off the field

The friendship extends beyond the boundaries of the football field. They've gone to church camps together and have even taken trips with each other, such as a visit to Oklahoma for a small town fair.

"It's a little town called Hydro. Our buddy, Chase (Wilburn), his mom grew up there," Beard said.

They also go out to eat a lot. And, like many teenagers, they can often be found battling each other in a video game.

"Who's gonna win NCAA?" Jones pops in and asks with a laugh after overhearing.

"Me!" Finley said excitedly.

They also attended a passing academy together at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana in 2018, while still in junior high.

"The bond we have off the field transfers onto the field. I know I can trust Gavin at crunch time," Finley said.

Jones said such a connection is a great benefit to any program.

"When you grow up around somebody and know them so well, it helps the chemistry of the entire team," Jones said.

Other activities

While they share a passion for football, each has other activities once football season is over.

Beard loves playing golf and has been a member of the Bearcats golf team.

Finley will join the



PHOTOS COURTESY GAVIN BEARD

Best friends and teammates Kaydon Finley (left) and Gavin Beard kneel in prayer before an Aledo Bearcats football game. The duo, both juniors, are prolific in the Bearcats' passing game, Finley as the team's top receiver and Beard as the starting quarterback.

Bearcats basketball team following football. He also runs track and fishes when his busy schedule allows time.

But football tops their respective lists. After all, each has a pedigree in the sport.

Finley's father is Jermichael Finley, who played for the University of Texas and was a tight end in the NFL for the Green Bay Packers from 2008-15.

Beard's father, Doug Beard, played quarterback at Texas Tech.

Together again

Finley and Beard haven't always been on the same team. In peewee they were on the same fifth-grade team that went undefeated. However, in sixth grade they were on different teams, with Finley's team winning the championship.

"That season was so much fun," Finley said of their fifth-grade season.

They also played together on the seventh grade team, but Beard

transferred to another school in Fort Worth in the eighth grade. After a year away, he immediately returned to play on the same team with his friend again - and to win a state championship.

Or, with this being the Aledo Bearcats, multiple titles.

"Even though we were on different teams, we worked out together a lot," Finley said. "I told him he had to come back. I said, 'Yo, I don't know what I'm gonna do without you to throw me passes.'"

However, it would still be another season before they were both on the varsity together for a complete season. As freshmen, Finley played on the varsity, while Beard was on the junior varsity.

"It was tough not playing with him, but I really appreciate him being given the spotlight," Beard said.

Now, not only are they both starting and standing out, they are also team captains.

"It's really an honor to lead this team with Kaydon and for us both to be captains," Beard said.

College

Barring a rare occurrence, Finley and Beard will likely go on to play at different colleges - and they both definitely plan to play at the next level, they said.

"I think about it, leaving here and doing what we do on national TV," Finley said.

Along with fathers who played football in college, their mothers were sports standouts as well. Finley's mother was a high school basketball success and Beard's mother played volleyball at Tarleton State.

As for what they will study, both want to study something that involves a career in football.

"Maybe a coach," Beard said.

"I'd love to be a receivers coach," Finley said, being a bit more explicit. "But my dream job would be a football commentator."



Aledo stars Kaydon Finley (left) and Gavin Beard became close friends during their days of playing peewee football together.

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VOLLEYBALL

Aledo's Elms honored by TGCA

Named to all-state tourney team

Staff Reports
The Community News

Senior opposite hitter Kinley Elms of the Aledo Ladycats has been named to the Class 5A Division I All-State Tournament Volleyball Team by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

Elms helped the Ladycats reach the state semifinals this

season. They finished 35-8, falling to McKinney North in a five-set thriller (25-21, 19-25, 25-13, 24-16, 15-13).

In that match, Elms had 22 kills,

In helping the Ladycats to a 35-8 season that included their first state semifinals appearance since 2017, Elms posted 418 kills, 98 blocks and 122 defensive digs.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kinley Elms comes up with a big block against Fossil Ridge, Oct. 22.

DISTRICT

from page A7

state in hitting percentage at .368, along with posting 418 kills and 98 blocks.

Meanwhile, back row specialists senior Kenrie Pruitt (575 digs, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi commit) and junior Ella Meador (521 digs, University of Texas-El Paso commit) shared Co-Defensive MVPs.

Senior setter Ava Reding (36 aces, 757 assists), an Iona University commit, was named as the district's Server of the Year, while senior middle Haley Lowe (seventh in 5A in kills with 557) earned the superlative of Blocker of the Year. Ladycats head coach Claire Gay was selected as the Coach of the Year.

Senior middle Ella Isbell (15th in 5A in blocks with 113), senior defensive specialist Logyn Denbow and junior setter Sophie Frank were named to the all-district first team. Meanwhile, senior Morgan Estevez and junior Ali LoBaugh earned second-team recognition.

Senior Caroline Pruett and junior Tatum Kosse were selected to the honorable mention list.

Academic all-district accolades went to Denbow, Elms, Estevez, Isbell, Lowe, Meador, Pruitt and Reding, along with juniors Frank, Kosse, LoBaugh, Sarah Schroeder, Karsyn Trott, Kailey Hamilton, Kenley Hamilton and Lily Lufkin.

LADYCATS

from page A7

Elms had four. Ella Isbell and August Carlone each recorded three points.

The loss made it two straight for Aledo, who had previously won four consecutive contests during pre-district competition.

The Ladycats (10-8, 0-1) will aim to bounce back at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20 at home against Saginaw Chisholm Trail.

Subvarsity

Despite the defeat on the varsity level, the Ladycat subvarsity teams were dominant in their respective wins over Brewer. The freshman squad posted a 36-5 win behind 16 points from Bailey Martin while the junior varsity squad won 47-18, led by eight points from Kennedy Cardenas.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TCA basketball head coach Jeff Peterson gives his squad instructions during a timeout in the second half of TCA's victory on Friday, Dec. 6.

HOOPS

from page A7

(13-3) shined by winning all five games for the Mesquite Pit Classic Tournament championship at Poolville High School.

First, the Eagles came back from a 13-point halftime deficit against Victory Christian (Decatur), No. 10 in the state among TAPPS Class 2A private schools, for a 47-37 opening victory. Then, TCA knocked off Wink 51-44 in overtime before

defeating Windhorst 52-46 in overtime. After that, the Eagles concluded with consecutive wins over Bellevue (64-41) and Millsap (62-43).

TCA senior Sam Carson was named the overall MVP of the tournament for his efforts. Carson and his teammate Cole Massey both ended the tournament with averages of 14 points, five rebounds and three assists per game.

The Eagles took the court again at press time at home against Poetry Community Christian.

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Tiara Butler
Basketball

Despite a 46-39 loss to White Settlement Brewer in the Ladycats' lone game last week, the junior continued her strong play carried over from the previous week. She scored nine points.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Joaquin Pacheco
Basketball

The senior led the Bearcats (14-1) to five victories during the week, including the championship of the Weatherford Tournament, where he was named to the all-tournament team. In the five wins he averaged 23.8 points, 6.4 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2 steals.

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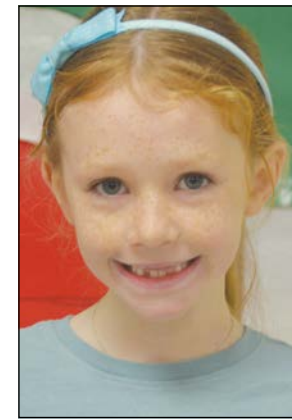
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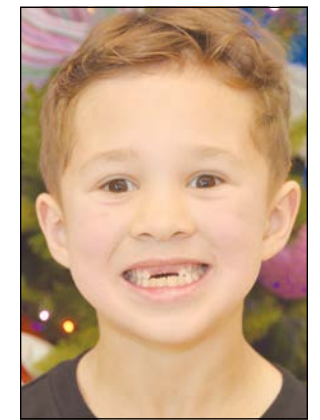
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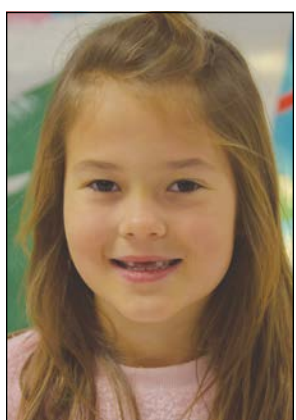
Nolan Taylor



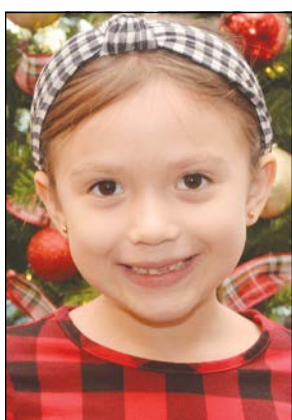
Nicole Rojas



Landon Trubenstein



Gracie Huckabee



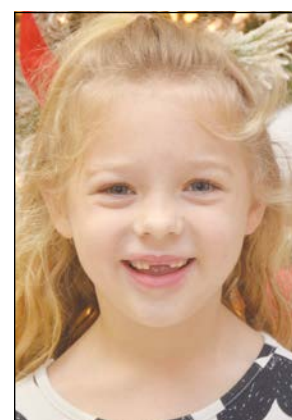
Anna Castillo



Savannah Mackey



Zayn Allen



Linley Marra



Mila Nisic



Leighton Myres



Eden Nickell



Patrick Gabaldon



Lilly LeBlanc



Clara Smith



Jett Quezada



Aubrey Chastain



Morgan Wiegman

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All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth



Jessie Nickell



Blaire Norton



Max Sims



Khyiell Lopez



Campbell Smith



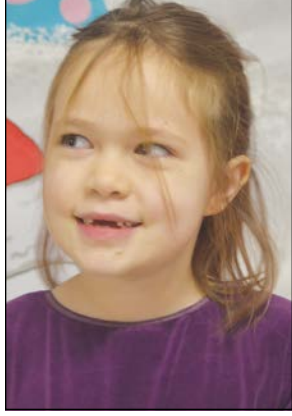
Savy Reed



Iris Tarnowiecky



Diego Rodriguez Lopez



Elanor Littrell



Finley Burroughs



Kate Hayes



Olivia Sleight



Connor Williams



Read Talley



Henry Davis



Carleigh Stevens



Camilla Razo



Cieden Perlingos



Holland Deboom



Emmy Judd



Hayes Phillips



Halston Williams



Titus Coker



Madeline Maldonado



Jacob Colapret



Elise Good



Jackson Tomlinson



Lucas Thommes



Edda Wilks



Abigail Jan



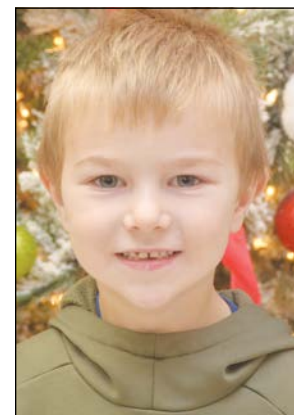
Archer Price



Kingston Bush



Maxwell Close



Maddox Benavides



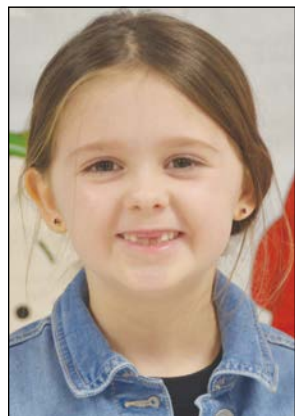
Nolan Redding



Elle Hightower



Jonari Ramos



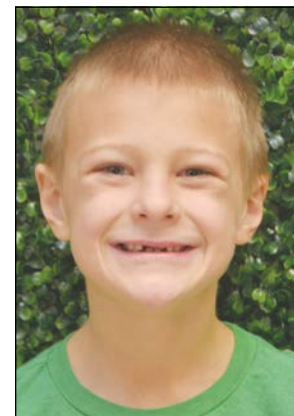
Kaydence Marriott



Case Morgan



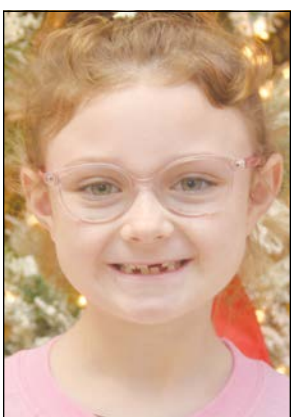
Hadley Minor



Tate McGuire



Wyatt Horton



Hadley Mullens



Austin Scherer



Eliza Avance



Hadley Garner



Hayes Selbee



Cash Crenshaw



Roman Ponticelli



Nathan Wincowski



Wren Smith



Ethan Sohns



Eltie Robertson



Aria Adams



Kira Kollonai



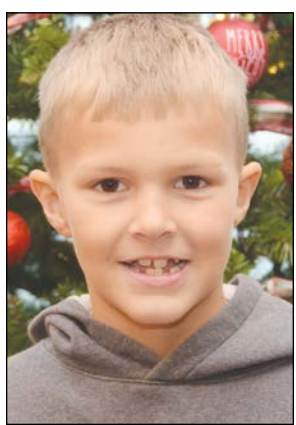
Mohamed Seoudi

Dear Santa,

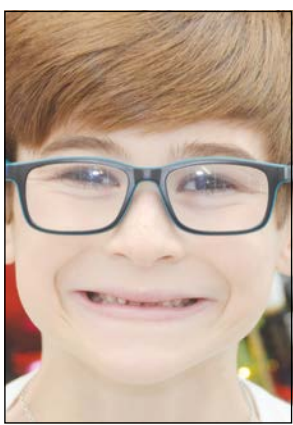
The Parker County Genealogy & Historical Society's Dear Santa letters from December 1911-1912

Dear Santa, Would you please bring me a thimble and a coat for my doll. I wonder if you would being my little sister too. But for pity's sake don't make a mistake and bring a brother, for I have three already and that's enough for any girl.
Your friend, **Berta Keato - 1911**

Dear Santa Claus, please bring me a book and some firecrackers and candy. Bring me a bicycle with a good pump for it.
Louis Dunmain - 1912



Flint Snyder



Barrett Sustala



June Reeves



Tilly Cornelson



Clairra Solano



TJ Stewart

Dear Santa, I want a little doll safe and a little stove, and some walnuts pecans, chocolate candy with apples and oranges. Please give me some firecrackers too.
Susie Meador - 1912

Dear Santa, I want a cowboy suit, goat skin pants and a hat made of leather and turned up in front. I want all that cowboys have on the plains. I would like leather leggings that will go above my knees. I want some candy and nuts.
Good Bye, **Arlis - 1912**

Dear Santa Claus, I will write you a kind letter to let you know what I want for Christmas. Please bring me a nice doll, a storybook and a pair of gloves. I have lots of other money to spend for nuts, candy, and Christmas apples.
Good Bye Your Friend, **Hazel Terry - 1912**

Dear Santa, please bring me a clown you wind up that does tricks, a cowboy suit, some spurs for my boots, a dump wagon, an auto, a train, some books and a pop gun, also a picture maker and other toys a boy my size would like.
Your Little Boy, **Jack R. Hardness 1912**

Dear Santa, I wish you would bring me a doll and a storybook. Nuts, candies, and fruit and other things good to eat. I have tried to be a good girl.
Good Bye, **Thelma Lovelady - 1912**

Dear Santa, Please bring me a box of soldiers and a cannon. Good bye Santa Claus.
Your Friend, **Jasper Hoges - 1912**

Dear Santa, I am six years old. I thank you for the nice things you brought me last Christmas. Please bring me a little stove, a doll that can go to sleep, some nice warm gloves, and a little set of dishes, some nuts, candy and fruit. Bye-bye until next Christmas.
Your Little Friend, **Emma Lorine Darby - 1912**

Dear Santa, please bring me a strong jointed doll, 18 inches high with natural hair and eyelashes, a gold chain and locket. I also want a storybook "Alice in Wonderland." Please bring me a big box of paint, crayons, and pictures cards to color. I want a big box of nuts, fruit and candy, please.
Love, **Henry-Neil, William - 1912**

Dear Santa Claus, I want an elephant, rocking horse, choo-choo train, cowboy suit and tricycle.
M.B. Kouns, Jr. - 1912

Dear Santa Claus, I would like to give you my address which is 423 West Spring, don't forget the number and leave the following: drum, auto, rocking horse, horn, and a little red, white and blue ball, and some nuts and fruit of all kinds.
Yours for a Merry Christmas **Joe Bailey Cato - 1912**

Dear Santa Claus, I may be a little early, but I want to tell you what I want. I want some firecrackers and roman candles. A game, a drum, and a ball, some books to please bring them to me. I also want candy thank you Santa Claus.
Roy Johnson - 1911

Dear Santa, please bring me a clown you wind up that does tricks, a cowboy suit, some spurs for my boots, a dump wagon, an auto, a train, some books and a pop gun, also a picture maker and other toys, a boy my size would like.
Your Little Boy, **Jack R. Hardness - 1912**

Dear Old Santa, I want you to bring me a writing desk, an air rifle and five hundred shot. Candies, nuts and fruit.
Your Little Friend, **John Wythe Hudson - 1912**

P.S. And please don't forget my baby brother.

Dear Santa Claus, I was in Fort Worth and went to see you. I want an electric postcard machine, a pop gun, a book and any other things you think a boy my size ought to have. My sister wants a doll and any things a baby likes to have. Don't forget my mother and daddy.
Your Little Friend, **Fredrick Morris - 1912**

Dear Santa, I have tried to be a good boy this year. I do not want but one thing and that is an auto that you pedal with your feet, and please bring some fruit and nuts.
Good Bye Santa, **Oran Connolly 1912**

Dear Santa, Please bring me a real little farm wagon, fruit, nuts and fireworks.
Yours Truly, **Ward DeWess - 1912**

Dear Santa, are you going out on Christmas night? Would you please bring me a thousand shot air rifle and a pony with the saddle on its back. Bring me some sheep wool leather pants and a scabbard so I can hunt on my pony. I will play cowboy on the ranch.
Your Friend, **Roy Moore - 1912**

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All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth



Tesley Martin



Perri Whipple



Colton Campbell



Lucas Rychlik



Sam Wallace



Lincoln Kuebler



Willow Neal



Parks Cooper



Daisy Hall



Adalyn Arroyo



Elian Gonzalez



Augusta McBride



Esther Thompson



Camp Robbins



Avidity Limbu



Emma Heron



Kayden Thomas



Henry Macias



Lauren Shelton



Lana Causey



Jolee Davis



Jack Dean



Millie Diamond



Alex DeSaracho



James Reynolds



Barrett Martin



Leigha Phillips



Hazel Johnson



Parker Ellis



Ashtyn Chavez



John Flores



Lincoln Harris



Alexander Morales



Makila Youngs



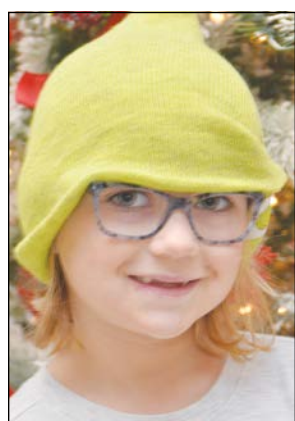
Wyatt Hibers



Everleigh Farns



Knox Johnson



Rose Booms



Hunter Harris-Rios



Sofia Khan




Rylee Simonetti



Kenzi Dassinger

Then I could wish you Merry Christmas



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY TWO FRONT TEETH!

Robert Casey Stroud, D.D.S., P.C.
Michael Ball, D.D.S., P.L.L.C.
Pediatric & Adolescent Dentistry

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