

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PARKER COUNTY

Lane named Emergency Management Coordinator

Special to The Community News

Parker County has announced that Jason Lane is the county's new emergency management coordinator.



Jason Lane

Lane previously served as the deputy emergency management coordinator for the City of Frisco. He was responsible for the city's emergency management program, he managed homeland security grants, and handled deployment reimbursement for Hurricane Harvey, California wildfires, and other disasters.

Lane also managed Frisco's emergency operation center during ice storms, severe weather, COVID-19, the Senior PGA Championship, NCAA championship football games, Major League Soccer games, Jimmy Buffet concerts, and the Academy of Country Music Awards

Prior to his work in Frisco, Lane served as the assistant emergency management coordinator for Collin County. His duties included maintaining the county's emergency management plan and coordinating the county's response to disasters and emergencies. In addition, he supervised the courthouse security staff at county facilities, and was responsible for increasing emergency management, critical infrastructure, and public health participation and data-sharing in North Texas through the North Central Texas Fusion Center.

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IT'S TIME TO LOOK BACK ON ALL THAT HAPPENED IN 2024

JANUARY 5, 2024

Parker County Sheriff's Special Crimes Unit (SCU) investigators arrested a woman Dec. 21, 2023, in connection with providing potentially lethal narcotics to another person. The investigation began when a man called emergency services saying an adult female was found unresponsive in the back yard of a residence in northern Parker County. The victim was revived after a family member administered four doses of Narcan to her when they suspected she had overdosed on illegal narcotics. Paramedics treated the female on scene, and she was later transported to a local hospital for further medical care.

Four \$1,000 National FFA SAE grants were awarded to Emmi Garrison, Garrett Hoff, Alexa Rohe, and Preston Ross by Farm Credit, Invenergy,



From left: Preston Ross, Garrett Hoff, Alexa Rohe, Emmi Garrison each received a \$1,000 FFA SAE grant. The four Aledo High School students are among only seven grants offered statewide.

Domino's, and Boot Barn. SAE grants are designed to help FFA members create or expand Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects, a requirement that all FFA members must complete. An SAE requires FFA members to create and operate an agriculture related business, work at an agriculture-related business, or conduct an agricultural research experience. Upon completion, FFA members must submit a comprehensive report regarding their career development experience.

JANUARY 12, 2024

The Willow Park City Council approved a 380 economic development agreement with Wilks Development that allowed for the relocation of the headquarters of Profrac Holdings to Willow Park. The action was taken at the council's meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 9. Profrac already had offices in the Shops at Willow Park, but this agreement will bring their entire headquarters to the city in the same area as their current offices. City Manager Bryan Grimes announced the company planned to build a 60,000 square-foot building and bring around 200 new jobs to the community.



Aledo ISD closed on a land purchase and partial land swap totaling 100-plus acres north of Old Weatherford Road for a future high school site. AISD purchased about 50 acres and swapped about 50 acres with the Walsh Ranch Development to add up to about 100 acres just north of McNally Middle School and just northeast of Lynn McKinney Elementary School.

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POLITICS

Deen announces re-election bid

Seeks third term as county judge

Staff Reports

Parker County Judge Pat Deen on Jan. 2 announced his candidacy for re-election, seeking a third term.



Pat Deen

In his announcement, Deen highlighted his accomplishments over the past seven years and reaffirmed his commitment to addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

"With the strong support of my family, friends, local business leaders, community advocates, and elected officials, I am honored to announce that I am seeking a third term as your County Judge," Deen said. "Serving the people of Parker County has been one of the greatest privileges of my life, and I am eager to continue the work we've started to ensure the County remains a wonderful place to live and work."

Deen noted that Parker County, one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation, faces unique challenges. However, he expressed confidence in the county's ability to meet these challenges with thoughtful leadership, strategic planning, and continued collaboration.

Deen pointed to progress in several key areas over the past seven years:

- the allocation of more than \$9 million of the \$27 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to address urgent water infrastructure needs in the county's western quadrant;
- the establishment of a more efficient, performance-based culture within county operations, resulting in improved services and taxpayer savings;
- the hiring of a full-time fire marshal and emergency operations manager to enhance public safety;
- the creation of a mayors council, which unites local city leaders and empowers the community to be more engaged in county decision-making; and
- the development of both short- and long-term plans to manage the rapid growth of the county.

Deen emphasized the importance of maintaining fiscal responsibility while supporting the county's needs. He said that under his leadership, Parker County has kept taxes low and remains committed to continuing this conservative approach while ensuring the county's financial health.

As a member of the Regional Transportation Council, Deen has played a role in addressing

Turn to DEEN, page 3

EDUCATION

TCA announces Preview Day Jan. 24

Trinity Christian Academy in Willow Park has announced that it will host a preview day for families who are interested in the elementary and secondary programs the school offers.

"This event provides an excellent opportunity for families to explore the school's mission, vision, and values while touring its state-of-the-art facilities," according to a release from TCA.

Families who attend Preview Day will tour TCA's Elementary Campus and/or Secondary Campus with an administrator, observe classes in action and explore the school's facilities, and meet with principals and other members of the administrative team for one-on-one discussions.

The school's mission and vision statement says "TCA is dedicated to providing a comprehensive education that nurtures students academically,



spiritually, emotionally, and physically. The school partners with families and local churches to help students fulfill God's purpose for their lives. Through this joint effort, TCA aims to prepare students for success in all aspects of life."

To attend Preview Day, interested families are encouraged to complete an online inquiry form at <https://bit.ly/previewtca>. TCA serves

approximately 550 students from PK3 through 12th grade, supported by a dedicated staff of 90-100 professionals. The school operates independently with its own board and administration, offering a Christ-centered curriculum designed to prepare students for college and beyond.

Trinity Christian Academy is located at 4954 East I-20 Service Road South in Willow Park. The Elementary Campus entrance faces I-20. The Secondary Campus is accessible via the driveway east of the elementary building.

For more information, visit www.tcaeagles.org or call 817-441-5897.



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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Joaquin Pacheco drives the lane during recent District 5-5A action against Saginaw. Pacheco scored 16 points in the Bearcats win over Azle on Tuesday, Jan. 9.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Natalie Anderson lays up a shot on a fastbreak during recent District 5-5A action against Saginaw. Anderson dropped a season-high 15 points to lead the Ladycats over Azle on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

JANUARY 12, 2024 (CONTINUED)

The land purchase was for \$1,959,580; the district will have responsibility for developing infrastructure on the site as required by the city of Fort Worth.

In their first competition of 2024, the Aledo Bearcats had six wrestlers finish in the top five of their respective divisions at the Azle Hornets Nest Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 6. Leading the Aledo contingent was Samuel Belyeu in the 165-pound division. He finished second. In the 113-pound division, Brice Bohn placed third to improve to 17-7 on the season. Brady Powell (3-2) was fourth at 190, as was Bryce Vonasek (18-8) at 215. Ian McCormick (10-7) and Kyle Scharlow (9-5) each placed fifth at 138 and 150 pounds, respectively.

Aledo's varsity hoops squad picked up their first district win of the season on Tuesday, Jan. 9, with a dominant 56-31 win over Azle. The Bearcats (12-9 overall, 1-2 in District

5-5A) bounced back against the Hornets following a 50-31 defeat to Brewer on Friday, Jan. 5. After suffering their lone defeat since entering district play to Brewer's Lady Bears on Friday, Jan. 5, the Ladycats trounced Azle on Tuesday, Jan. 9, to solidify their hold on second place in the District 5-5A standings.

JANUARY 19

Former Aledo Bearcat Jase McClellan declared for the NFL Draft after playing four years at Alabama. McClellan made a mark on the Crimson Tide under now-retired coach Nick Saban. Participating ever since he was a true freshman, McClellan helped Alabama win a national championship in 2020, finish as runner-up in 2021 and reach the College Football Playoff again this season.

Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn advised the Aledo ISD board that, due to the lack of school funding being passed by the Texas State Legislature during the four special sessions called by Governor Greg Abbott before the end of 2023, discussions related to the 2024-25 school budget were about to begin. The district planned to hold monthly budget workshops through the spring as they work to figure out ways to deal with the budgetary shortfalls for the coming year. Bohn said preliminary findings suggested the district would need to cut just under \$4 million in order to avoid adopting a deficit budget for 2024-25.

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

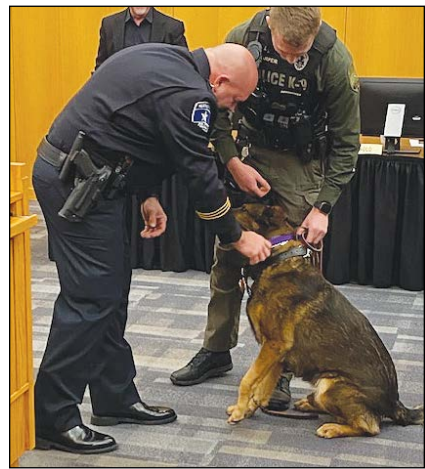


PHOTO BY JIM ZIMMERMAN

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

Aledo resident Jacob Razo brought life back to the historic Burton Coder Barber Shop, returning the oft-repurposed building back to Aledo Barbershop.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GERI FINK

Josh Fink Aledo youth Josh Fink used his holiday break to create a new board game, "Dragon Dungeon."

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

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

Aledo's Bearcats soccer team was off to quite the hot start to their 2024 campaign despite the cold temperatures. The Bearcats kicked off the Moritz Kia Tournament on Thursday, Jan. 11, by taking down Chisholm Trail 3-1. They tied Walnut Grove 1-1 on Friday, then closed out the tournament by shutting out Everman as the cold front overtook Bearcat Stadium.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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



ANN GRACE

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

JANUARY 26

Weatherford College Lady Coyotes coach Bob McKinley was honored after his 1,000th career victory.

Young Men's Service League Aledo lends "Refresh for Recovery" efforts to Adult & Teen Challenge of Texas. Aledo high-school-age students and their moms volunteered more than 300 service hours to help upgrade the Adult & Teen Challenge facility in Azle.

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

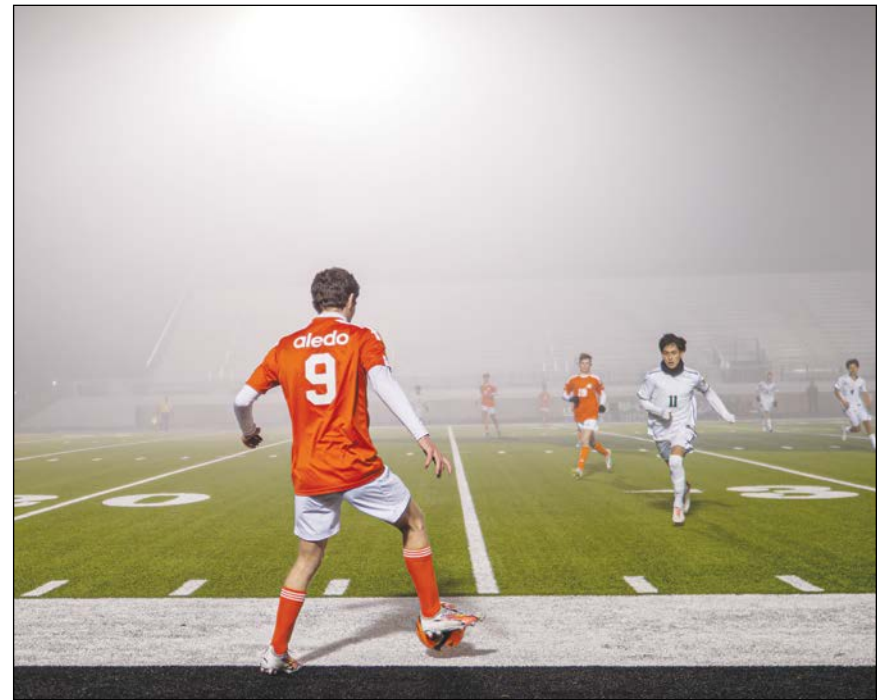


their offensive pressure. Aledo scored four goals while goalkeeper Deagan Dietz earned his fifth clean sheet of the season as the Bearcats improved their overall record to 9-0-2 on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

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

A late defensive stand lifted the Aledo Bearcats basketball team to their third straight victory over district leaders, defeating Northwest 43-42 on Jan. 19. With the regular season winding to a close, the Aledo Ladycats continued to dominate their opponents. Aledo defeated Northwest 47-28 on Friday, Jan. 19, before subjecting Saginaw to a 32-point drumming on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

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RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

High winds created a banquet for goats in Annetta on the property of Joel and Christine Gruber when a large limb fell for the cute critters to feast on.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

DEEN

from page one

transportation challenges in the region. This includes the passage of a \$130 million transportation bond, which will leverage more than \$800 million in federal matching funds to complete 32 transportation projects. These projects will enhance road safety and increase capacity on critical routes like I-20, reducing

congestion and improving overall transportation infrastructure.

"There is still much work to be done, and I remain committed to managing Parker County with a focus on fiscal conservatism and sustainable growth," Deen said. "I will continue to prioritize public safety, water resources, lower taxes, transportation, and economic development to ensure Parker County remains a great place to raise families and build a future."

LANE

from page one

Lane also served as the Collin County bioterrorism coordinator and was an environmental investigator for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

In his new role for Parker County, Lane provides supervisory management of the Parker County Emergency Management/Homeland Security Programs. He is responsible for the development, implementation, coordination, and maintenance of the emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation plans and activities and the overall emergency management program

for the Parker County Office of Emergency Management.

Lane holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Bioenvironmental Science from Texas A&M University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Administration and Planning from the University of North Texas, and a Master of Science degree from the University of Texas at Dallas in Justice Administration and Leadership. He has completed training in hazardous materials safety, environmental remediation, critical infrastructure protection, biological and chemical warfare and terrorism, sports and special event management, and radiological emergency preparedness.

Obituaries

Denton Merrill Garner

Denton Merrill Garner, age 90, of Fort Worth, passed away peacefully December 17, 2024.

Denton was born June 17, 1934, the son of Dorris and Olive Garner in Ellenboro, West Virginia. They moved to Pennsboro, West Virginia where he played football for Pennsboro High School. While in high school, he met the love of his life, Sharon Allmaker and they were married June 17, 1955 and had a loving marriage for more than 69 years. After graduating as Valedictorian of his high school class, he attended West Virginia University where he received his B.S. Degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

After college, Denton began serving his country as an U.S. Air Force Officer, which took him all over the United States, Japan, and Vietnam.

While in the Air Force, he received numerous medals including the Distinguished Flying Cross. Denton retired from his service in the Air Force after 24 years as a Lieutenant. Colonel while he was stationed in the panhandle of Florida. He enjoyed and was proud of his time in the Air Force.



Denton Garner

Denton then relocated to a four-acre property outside Fort Worth and began a second career with General Dynamics. After nine years he fully retired from working life. He enjoyed woodworking and spend many years building craft items for his wife to paint, and sold them at craft shows. He also enjoyed coin collecting and taking meticulous care of his four acres.

Denton is survived by his loving wife, Sharon, and three children: Mark and his wife Kati, of Alvin, Texas; Rita and her husband Ron, of Sanger, Texas; and Tina

and her husband Carl of Temple, Texas; grandchildren: Tina Marie and Nathan; step grandchildren: Aubrey, Virginia, and Elizabeth; great-grandchildren: Logan and Remy; and step-grandchildren Helen, Lucy, and Beatrice.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral Services for Denton will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, January 6, at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Drive, Aledo with a fellowship after the service. Viewing will be available 30 minutes prior to the service. Following the fellowship, the Military Committal Service will be held at 2:15 p.m. at the Dallas - Fort Worth National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to either the Disabled America Veterans (<https://www.dav.org/>) or Wounded Warrior Project (<https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>).

The Community News
January 3, 2024

Don Garvey

Donald "Don" Eugene Garvey, age 79, passed peacefully from this life on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

Don was born on March 27, 1945, in Marshalltown, Iowa, to Cecil and Dorothy Thorn Garvey.

A proud patriot, he served his country in the National Guard. In August of 1967, Don married the love of his life, Barbara Turiello, and together they built a life full of cherished memories while raising their daughter, Tanya.



Don Garvey

Professionally, he worked as a manager at AT&T until his well-earned retirement.

Don's faith was the cornerstone of his life. He became an ordained deacon on November 3, 1974. Don was also a devoted member of North Side Baptist Church.

Don was an avid sports enthusiast, with a deep passion for football. With enthusiasm, he supported the Aledo Bearcats, Dallas Cowboys, and the University of Texas Longhorns.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Larry Garvey.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 57 years, Barbara Garvey of Aledo, Texas; his cherished daughter, Tanya Garvey; granddaughter, Katy Cox; and grandson, Jackson Cox. Don is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Ray and Delores Garvey, and his dear sisters, Judy Hembree and Nancy Hench.

Don's legacy of love, faith, and unwavering devotion to family and community will be remembered and cherished by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

The Community News
January 3, 2024

Harley Randolph Mohr

Harley Randolph Mohr, 73, of Fort Worth, passed away at home on Monday, December 16.

Harley was born in Rochester, Minnesota on September 11, 1951 to the late Elaine Booth and Harold Mohr.

Harley graduated from Winona High School (after a 1 Year "sabbatical" in California) He then went on to complete the Carpentry program at Winona Vo-Tech.

He worked in that field for others and was in business for himself in various construction roles. Harley had great talent and craftsmanship



Harley Mohr

when it came to woodworking.

Harley moved to Texas around 1980 to be closer to his family. He continued his work in the construction field until he joined the Ringleaders Kennel staff full time about 25 years ago, working directly with his sister Alaina and brother-in-law John.

Harley soon became the kind, friendly face customers and friends that the local community grew to recognize when dropping off or picking up their dogs and cats from boarding or grooming. His help with the all things the kennel needed for taking care of their clients pets was invaluable. Harley was a kind, friendly soul after getting his morning coffee.

Harley leaves behind his sister Alaina Tenseth; nephew, Sol (Molly) Kanthack and their children, Clara, Lyla and Julia; nieces Amy (Matthew) Hayden and their children Colton and Hunter, and Beth (Tony) Firulli and their children Nina and Emma; many loving cousins from Wisconsin, and the Ringleaders staff and many friends from this community and his west Fort Worth neighborhood where he had lived for a long time.

There will be a celebration of Harley's life from 2-6 p.m. on Sunday, January 19 at "1893 on Lee-A Gathering Place," 109 East Lee Avenue in Weatherford.

The Community News
January 3, 2024

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

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

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

Capital Highlights

Vehicle inspections no longer required



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Drivers will no longer be required to get annual safety inspections beginning Jan. 1, the *Texas Standard* reported. However, drivers in the state's 17 most populous counties will still be required to get an emissions test in order to register their vehicles.

While mandatory vehicle inspections are going the way of the pay phone and video cassette recorders, drivers will still end up paying a \$7.50 "inspection replacement fee" when registering their vehicle and getting a new windshield sticker.

The emissions test required in urban counties consists of an engine and exhaust test to ensure a vehicle isn't exceeding the state's legal limits on emitting pollutants.

The counties that require emissions test in order to register a vehicle are Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson.

Vehicle owners are urged to keep up with maintenance.

"We urge people to still take care of their vehicles, still check your tires, make sure your brakes are working, headlights, tail lights and mirrors are still safe before you drive," Sgt. Billy Ray with the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

Long-term care advocates say more funding needed

The state's lead ombudsman for residents in long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, is calling for lawmakers to fund more full-time and part-time positions and make other reforms to a long-term care system that ranks 42nd in the nation for safety and quality, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

Patty Ducayet, the state ombudsman, works

independently from the Texas Health and Human Services Department, which oversees these facilities. She and others are also urging more volunteers to advocate for residents as well as more state funding to hire additional ombudsman.

"We would be lost in the long-term care community without them (volunteers), but they definitely need more support across the board," said Andrea Earl, the associate state director of advocacy and research for the AARP.

In 2024, the state ombudsman had its highest turnover rate at 255. Ducayet said ideally the state would have one staff member for every 2,000 licensed care facility beds. Right now, the ratio is one person for every 2,514 beds, which would require hiring 22 more full-time employees as well as increasing the volunteer base.

Wastewater leaks from oil wells pose danger

The water that comes up as a byproduct of oil and gas fracking is becoming a bigger headache for the state's energy operators and those who regulate them, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. Most of the "produced" water is injected into disposal wells that carry it into geologic formations for containment.

The extremely salty water — nine times saltier than the ocean — also contains a number of carcinogenic chemicals, such as benzene. The practice of wastewater injection is believed to have caused earthquakes across the state and several environmentally damaging and costly blowouts.

One barrel of Permian crude can also produce as many as eight barrels of tainted water. The industry is working to create a new technology to desalinate the water so it doesn't have to be injected underground and possibly could be reused.

Postal service warns of texting scam

Christmas is over, but that doesn't mean scammers have taken a holiday. Officials with the U.S. Postal Service are warning about a scam being sent by text messages, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.



PHOTO BY ARTEM PODREZ/PEXELS

The scam consists of text messages being sent to cell phone owners that claims a USPS package can't be delivered because of missing information. A link is included in the message. Clicking on the link can expose the user's personal information.

"The criminals want to receive personally identifiable information such as: account usernames and passwords, Social Security Number, date of birth, credit and debit card numbers, personal identification numbers, or other sensitive information," the news release says.

Postal customers are urged to go to the official USPS page to determine the status of a package: usps.com/sms-tracking.

Texas now home to more than 31 million

The Lone Star State added nearly 563,000 residents in the last year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. *The Tribune* reported the state's growth has slowed, though the 1.8 percent growth rate is still the third highest in the country, behind Florida and the District of Columbia.

Roughly 40% of the state's new residents came from net international migration, with 319,569 new residents from abroad, the Census Bureau said. Texas still led the country in migration from other states, adding 85,267 people in the last year who moved here from another state.

The slowing of domestic migration means Texas will likely rely on international migration to meet the labor needs of a

booming state economy, according to Lloyd Potter, the state demographer.

"With a growing economy, we have a growing demand for labor," Potter said. "And if we're seeing a decline in domestic migration, well, that labor probably is going to need to come from immigrants."

Take a hike in state park to kick off new year

The state park system is once again hosting First Day hikes on New Year's Day, Texas Parks & Wildlife reported. Last year, Texas state parks hosted 177 events in which 8,729 people hiked, biked, swam and paddled a record 17,284 miles, according to TPWD.

"One of the many reasons that I love Texas is the nice weather that we can have even in the winter, and there is no better way to spend a beautiful winter day than walking with friends and family at a Texas State Park," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks.

The agency strongly encourages anyone planning to visit a Texas state park to reserve a day pass in advance, since some parks could reach capacity. You can do so at <https://texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com/> at 512-389-8900.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

Idle American

Spell check runs amok



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

"Spell Check" — first thought to be a handy computer feature to help us use the correct letters in the proper order for word formation—often goes haywire.

Like oft-discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI is the abbreviation, despite my thinking it to be short for "Alfred" in the early going), it can be dead wrong, red-ten faces and run far afield from what is intended.

This may be true when the name of our current hometown—Burlson, TX, where we have domiciled in semi-retirement since 2002—is typed.

Burlson had hardly gotten the "sleepy" rubbed from its eyes when we moved into our modest tract home on a cul-de-sac near Interstate Highway 35W. Longtime residents at the time bragged about the community's immense growth, its population

reaching 20,000 shortly before the turn of the century.

Old-timers rattled on about memories of one traffic light, a couple of eating places and it being the "crepe myrtle capital" of Texas. Many comments seemed trivial, usually trailing off to other topics like grandchildren and the weather. (Similarly, Brownwood, TX, where I grew up, once was known as "the feather duster capital of the world," to which millions of deceased turkeys might attest.)

Over the past two decades, though, there've been interesting—or at least, semi-interesting—facts surfacing long enough to pique interest about Burlson, now wide awake.

Interestingly (and most sentences beginning with this word aren't), our town is named for a university president, Dr. Rufus Columbus Burlson.

Not only was the late educator a president, he took on the task twice — 25 years apart — at Baylor University, which was chartered by the State of Texas in 1845. (BU almost moved to Dallas in 1929, but in that initial year of the Great Depression, most everything huddled in place.)

That a man would serve in this role for a decade (1851-1861)

and be asked to return in 1886 for 11 more years defies both probability and imagination.

I have digressed shamelessly. Research entices with "rabbit trails," many of which I traverse gleefully. Initially, I was addressing spell check. But wait. There is a connection. Often when I type the word "Burlson," spell check suggests that my intent might have been to type "burlesque." It even offers to make the correction for me with the click of a key. Burlson was a good ten miles from any known sin at the time of its founding in 1912.

Fact is, there were only a few hundred people to sin and/or walk the straight and narrow at the time. Humbly begun, Burlson was but a stop on the Interurban (tram-like electrical rail cars) that ran 10 times daily between Fort Worth and Cleburne.

Henry Renfro, a visionary who owned much land and cut a wide swath politically, wanted to honor the man who had been his teacher, then president, at Baylor. Thus Burlson was born, even if spell check doesn't cotton to the choice.

We'll never know for sure, of course, whether Dr. Burlson cared to have his name on a city limits sign. He might have wished

his middle name—Columbus—had been chosen. But, another community had chosen that historic name a half-century earlier. "Rufus" doesn't set well, either. Neither do "Rufusville," "Rufusburg" or perhaps "Crepe Myrtleville". We can only guess how spell check might have mangled these.

Burlson has grown threefold, now around 60,000, since our arrival, with no end in sight. (Proximity to FortWorth—now ahead of Austin as Texas' fourth-largest city—helps.)

Our family name identifies buildings at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX, where I graduated in 1961 and served as president, 1986-1997.

A couple of dozen students gathered for the naming of Newbury Place Apartments, claiming it to be an historic day. "Now they'll know where to deliver the pizza," one student bragged, seemingly relieved.

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.

BUSINESS

Have books, will travel

Aledo resident bringing reading to others

By John English
The Community News

For Aledo resident Savannah Lacefield, May Flowers Mobile Bookstore is a labor of love.

Lacefield, 25, opened the store about a year ago, and to this point has had a phenomenal reception.

"The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive," Lacefield said. "People were thrilled to have an in-person location to shop for books. It's also a unique concept, so people are interested to come into the trailer and see what it is and what's inside. Getting connected to the community is one of the best parts of the job."

The idea for the store came about during a late-night brainstorming session Lacefield had with her husband, Riley.

"I had a dream of opening a bookstore, but wasn't prepared for a brick and mortar," Lacefield said. "My husband mentioned that he had a cargo trailer he didn't use and the next day we started clearing it out to turn into a bookstore on wheels. It was the perfect solution to make my dream a reality."

Then they went to work on renovations.

On the road

Lacefield brings the store to various events around Parker County with the help of some fairly sophisticated engineering.

"My husband helps me haul it to and from events," Lacefield said. "The books are transported on the shelves and I use small tension rods on each shelf to keep

them from falling off during travel. Riley sets the trailer up and I unload the inside and make the shelves look like a bookstore."

The biggest difficulty for Lacefield is winter, when operations slow down quite a bit.

"The challenge with having an outside business is that you heavily rely on good weather and outdoor events and markets," Lacefield said. "Winters in Texas are not fun, so there are very few outdoor markets after the holiday season. Things tend to pick back up starting in March when it warms up, but Spring brings rain showers which are a challenge too. Weather is definitely May Flowers' biggest challenge."

While the mobile bookstore draws customers from all over, it is mainly people from Parker County who shop at May Flowers.

"This is largely because I prefer to stay plugged into the community and only do events in Parker County," Lacefield said. "I will get people from outside of Parker County when I set up at Weatherford First Monday Trade Days or Weatherford's Second Saturday Market."

Launching at home

The Aledo bookstore owner said one of her favorite memories was launching at Christmas Tyme in Aledo in 2023.

"I grew up in Aledo and grew up going to Christmas Tyme in Aledo, so it was special for me to get to launch my own small business in my hometown," Lacefield said. "It was also an 'I did it!' moment because the response and excitement were overwhelming. I felt like I had accomplished my dream and was beyond proud of the hard work that I and everyone who helped me put into it."



COURTESY OF SAVANNAH LACEFIELD

Aledo resident Savannah Lacefield is the owner and creator of May Flowers Mobile Bookstore, which is exactly what the name says. She brings the reading material to you.

What stands out to her the most, however, was an episode from a summer series Lacefield did called Popsicles In The Park.

"Every Wednesday over the summer, I set up at Gene Voyles Park in Hudson Oaks and hosted a free story time," Lacefield said. "We would read a few books, sing and dance a few songs, and then at the end everyone got a Popsicle. These events weren't about profit or having somewhere to set up the trailer — sometimes I didn't even bring it. They were about engaging with kids in the community and getting them excited about reading. It was also an opportunity for parents to get their kids out of the house for an hour. I loved interacting with each kid and having them come back each week so excited and ready for a story and a Popsicle."

Worth Country Day her junior and senior years.

She also graduated from TCU with a degree in Psychology.

The Lacefields have two children, River and Winslow, and two dogs, Honey and Preacher.

Her family has lived in Aledo for four generations.

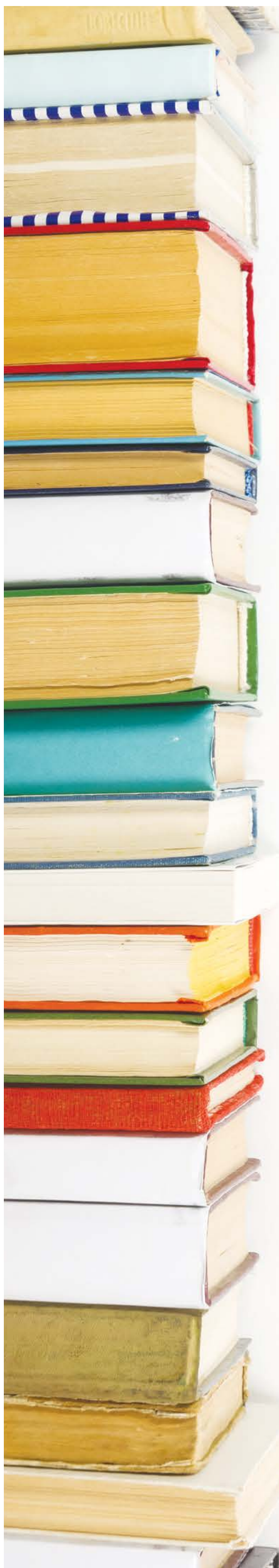
Lacefield enjoys camping, fishing, and reading, and said her ultimate goal for May Flowers is to give more people access to buying books in person...eventually.

"My favorite days always include a trip to a bookstore," Lacefield said. "So having the opportunity to be a part of someone's favorite day is a blessing. I honestly don't know where I see May Flowers going in the future."

"I would love to have a brick-and-mortar store one day, but I'm in a season of life where I get to be home with my little ones and it is my greatest joy. Being a stay-at-home mom to River and Winslow is my ultimate dream job and being able to do May Flowers on the side when I can is a cherry on top."

Family first

Lacefield attended Aledo High School during her first freshman and sophomore years and Fort



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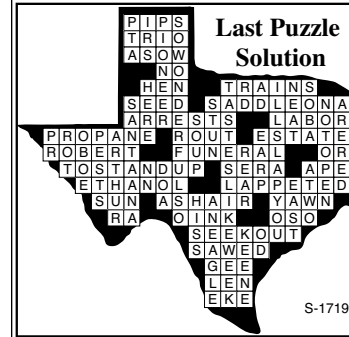
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Notice of Public Sale
To satisfy landlord's Lien. Sale to be held at Annetta Storage at 2393 W FM 5, Annetta, TX 76008 on January 20th at 8:00 a.m. Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest cash bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant – Josiah Nanson: 2023 Kodiak.



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TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, TEXAS, PROVIDING REGULATIONS FOR THE PHYSICAL USE, OCCUPANCY AND MAINTENANCE OF TOWN RIGHTS-OF-WAY BY WIRELESS NETWORK PROVIDERS; ADOPTING AND REQUIRING COMPLIANCE WITH THE "TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY DESIGN MANUAL" FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NETWORK NODES AND NODE SUPPORT POLES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 284 OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE; REQUIRING A LICENSE AGREEMENT GOVERNING A NETWORK PROVIDER'S USE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR ANY PURPOSE AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 284 OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE; REQUIRING A PERMIT AND NON DISCRIMINATORY PERMIT FEE AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 284 OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 9 PENALTY CLAUSE

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for all violations of this Ordinance. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.
// Robert Schmidt, Mayor
to exist shall constitute a separate offense.
// Robert Schmidt, Mayor

TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, TEXAS REGULATING THE INSTALLATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF UTILITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, TEXAS; REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT; PROVIDING FOR REVOCATION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES; PROVIDING CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE FILING OF RECORD DRAWINGS; PROVIDING FOR RESTORATION OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 24. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY.

- (A) A Person commits an offense if, in connection with the performance of Construction in the Right-of-Way, the Person:
 - (1) performs, authorizes, directs, or supervises Construction without a valid Construction Permit;
 - (2) violates any other provision of this Ordinance;
 - (3) fails to comply with restrictions or requirements of a Construction Permit issued under this Ordinance;
 - (4) fails to comply with an order or regulation of the Town issued pursuant to this Ordinance;
 - (5) damages the public Right-of-Way beyond what is incidental or necessary to the performance of the Construction;
 - (6) damages public or private Facilities within the public Right-of-Way; or
 - (7) fails to clear debris associated with the Construction from a public Right-of-Way after Construction is completed.
- (B) It is a defense to prosecution under subsection (A)(6) if the Person complied with all of the requirements of this chapter and state law and caused the damage because the Facilities in question:
 - (1) were not shown or indicated in a plan document, plan of record, record construction drawing, or field survey, staking, or marking; and
 - (2) could not otherwise be discovered in the public Right-of-Way through the use of due diligence.
- (C) A culpable mental state is not required to prove an offense under this chapter. A Person who violates a provision of this chapter is guilty of a separate offense for each day or portion of a day during which the violation is committed, continued, authorized, directed, or permitted. An offense under subsection (A)(7) is punishable by a fine of not less than Five Hundred (\$500.00) or more than Two Thousand (\$2,000.00). Any other offense under this ordinance is punishable by a fine of Five Hundred (\$500.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.
// Robert Schmidt, Mayor

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Michael Thompson puts finishing touches on Garrett Pace of Tesajo Properties, Aledo. Bearded Beast is an uber-casual barber shop across from Bryant Grain in Aledo.

FEBRUARY 2

The Aledo City Council granted a license for a local business to sell guns at its location.

The Hudson Oaks City Council approved changes to the city's commercial sewer rate calculation at its Jan. 24 meeting. In addition, Also at the meeting, Oncor Area Manager Michael Dimas provided members with an update on a new energy substation - called Bell Mountain - that is expected to be online by May. Once it's switched on, it will alleviate the load on current substations and provide 85 percent of the energy needed to area residents.

The Weatherford City Council approved a Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement with Costco. Such agreements enable cities to provide incentives encouraging developers to build in their jurisdictions and typically take the form of property tax abatements, loans or grants, commitments for infrastructure, or payments of portions of the sales tax generated by the project. The new Costco will be 160,000 square feet in size and construction began later in the year.

Two leaders from Parker County were among the honorees at HerStory 2024, an event sponsored by the Outlook Positive Express Network, an affiliate of the American Business Women's Association, on Feb. 3 in Dallas. Kit

Marshall and Zan Prince of Parker County were among five honorees at the event, where the keynote speaker was Fort Worth native and community/ civil rights activist Opal Lee, a lifetime achievement award recipient.

For the first time since 2016, Weatherford ISD conducted a Comprehensive Financial Audit with the help of Snow Garrett Williams and were presented with the results at its Jan. 22 meeting. Kathy Williams, Certified Public Accountant and partner at SGW, provided a synopsis of the findings and gave trustees the overall "seal of approval.

Bearcat football players, fans, families, and the community celebrated the team's 12th state championship at Aledo High School.

A "laid back man-magnet" barber shop called the Bearded Beast opened in Aledo.

In girls basketball, Brewer defeated the Aledo Ladycats to stay atop district. Brewer also defeated the Bearcats. Both soccer teams lost to Justin with district now under way.

Led by gold medal performances from Haley Roberson and Porter Lane, Aledo fielded a solid contingent at the district swim meet to represent the program in the upcoming Class 5A Region II Meet in Mansfield Feb. 9-10.



JON SHELDON

Aledo Bearcats head coach Robby Jones speaks to everyone who came to celebrate the state championship.

FEBRUARY 9

Robert Rushing discovered fraudulent businesses in his own field and in the process of uncovering them, ran the risk of losing his family's own business (two-part story).

Aledo found itself looking at some new district rivals after UIL redistricting.

State Senator Drew Springer (R-Muenster) has written a letter to Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and his fellow senators seeking a way to reopen the impeachment proceedings against Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Randy Keck, publisher of The Community News, was scheduled to be one of three morning panelists at a symposium held at the University of Texas in Austin entitled "Courage, Tenacity, Integrity, and Innovation in Rural Journalism," on Feb. 29.

The Aledo Ladycats basketball team capped off senior night with a win against Granbury to finish second in district. The Bearcats also clinched a postseason berth when Joaquin Pacheco sunk a clutch game-winning shot against the Pirates.

The Aledo wrestling program qualified eight wrestlers for the regional tournament.

Freshman Allyson Weimer earned her first varsity hat trick of her career in the 3-0 soccer shutout of Saginaw.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 16

An Aledo High School robotics team began podcasting in 2023, interviewing a wide variety of educators and political leaders.

A guest column by Jack Hunt pulls back the curtain on the monumental amount of effort and support that goes into the Aledo band program.

The Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees conducted a remembrance for Toby Taylor, a board member who passed away on Feb. 3.

National Signing Day in February saw 11 AISD athletes commit to colleges and universities.

Five Aledo Swimcats qualified for the state meet: Haley Roberson, Victoria Crews, Porter Lane, Avery Faulkner, and Julia Gordy.

The opening round of the basketball playoffs went off without a hitch for the Ladycats as center Kinley Elms put up 23 points to lift Aledo to a 76-40 win in bi-district over the Wyatt Lady Chaparrals on Monday, Feb. 12 at Saginaw High School. After ending January falling short against Brewer, the Bearcats ran the table picking up wins in each of their final four games, capped off by a 50-44 win over Northwest in Justin on Tuesday, Feb. 13. The win bumped the Bearcats from the No.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sharon Breckeen and 20 Parker County Master Gardener interns raked, trimmed, and pulled weeds at Aledo Community Center in preparation for spring planting. "We'll be planting flowers and other plants of color because this garden is so visible to the road," garden student Gary Paradiso said.

4 seed in District 5-5A into a tie with Granbury for third place.

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

Turn to page 9

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ACROSS

- 1 dice dots
- 5 Texas band "ZZ Top," e.g.
- 6 TXism: "useless as earrings on ___"
- 7 TXism: "all vine, ___ watermelon" (fake)
- 8 female chicken
- 9 TX Sam Bass robbed these
- 15 "Watermelon Thump" in Luling has a ___-spitting contest
- 16 TXism: "useless as a ___ ___ sow"
- 19 police seizures
- 21 childbirth process
- 22 Texas is a major producer of this gas
- 27 when one team trounces another
- 28 TX Howard Hughes' was \$2.5 billion
- 29 this Duvall was "Gus" in Texas-based "Lonesome Dove"
- 30 TXism: "he'll kick you into a ___ home" (mean horse)
- 32 Travis: "I shall never surrender ___ retreat"
- 33 TXism: "she'd have ___ twice to cast a shadow" (skinny)
- 36 Italian "good evening": "buona ___"
- 37 TXism: "fits like ugly on an ___"
- 38 alcohol content
- 39 when a religious garment has a hanging flap

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

P-1719

41 1951 film about TX Ben Hogan: "Follow the ___"

42 TXism: "thick ___ on a dog's back"

45 sign of boredom

46 this Robert directed TX Shelley Duvall in 1980 film "Popeye" (init.)

47 pig sound

48 "bear" in Mexico

49 search for someone (2 wds.)

52 cut a board

53 TX Kris wrote "Me and Bobby Mc ___"

54 this Dawson was QB for the Dallas Texans and stayed on as a Chief

55 "___ out a living"

DOWN

1 TX Jeannie C.'s "Harper Valley ___"

2 TX Willie album: "The ___ Tapes"

3 a Texas settler

4 "Texas, our Texas!"

10 init. of actor in 29-across

11 money maker for the Pampa News

12 TXism: "___ a new hat size!" (threat)

13 tidy

14 Japanese noodles

15 "___ National Wildlife Refuge"

16 daze

17 a Texas restaurant after closing (2 wds.)

18 "roses ___ . . ."

20 hot Texas chili: "___ of the devil!"

22 TX Rashad who was Clair Huxtable (init.)

23 TXism: "___ gut" (liquor)

24 Dallas Symphony reed instrument

25 fire ants, e.g.

26 Port ___ TX

28 1994 film with TX Dennis Quaid: "Wyatt ___"

29 TXism: "weak as ___-day-old kitten" (liquor)

40 Tyler: in ___ Texas

43 snake sound

44 TXism: "if a hog had wings, he'd be ___"

50 in Johnson County on U.S. 67

51 TX Janis Joplin died of one (abbr.)

BASKETBALL

TCA Eagles play in Vanguard Holiday Tourney

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Trinity Christian Eagles boys basketball team, off to a red-hot start to the regular season, rode the bus to Waco to compete in the Bill Borg Holiday Classic hosted by Vanguard College Preparatory School from Thursday through Saturday. The Eagles were able to win their opener, but ultimately dropped the following three contests despite remaining competitive against the difficult field of teams.

The Eagles, still trying to manage without injured senior starting guards Reed Robbins and Sam Carson, earned a 12-point victory over Coram Deo Academy in Flower Mound. In that game, head coach Jeff Peterson praised his team's defensive effort in helping them secure the victory.

Then, TCA fell behind by 12 points in the first quarter against Veritas Academy in Austin. Despite only getting outscored by two in the remaining three quarters, the

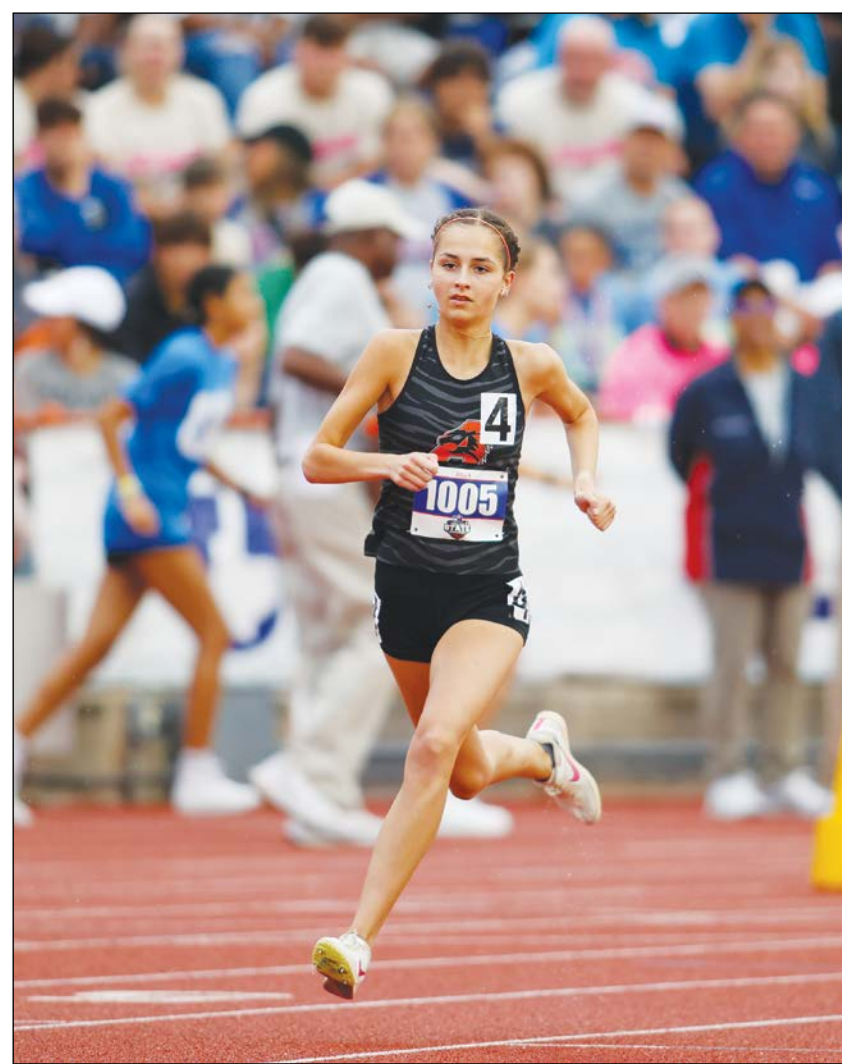
Eagles were not able to make up the difference in the second game.

After that, Trinity Christian lost games to Hillsboro High School and Vanguard by seven and two points, respectively. Senior forward Cole Massey was selected to the all-tournament team after averaging 14 points and seven rebounds across four games.

Next, the Eagles (17-5) will travel to take on Ovilla Christian School in Red Oak at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3.

CROSS COUNTRY

Six Ladycats named TGCA All-State



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Ladycat Sofia Brandenburg is shown competing in the 2024 state track meet. Brandenburg led the Ladycats at the state cross country meet, and was named with several teammates to the Class 5A All-State Team by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Six members of the Aledo Ladycats cross country team were named to the Class 5A All-State Team by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. All five are underclassmen from the team that finished third in the state.

Honored were juniors Sofia Brandenburg, Molly Garrison, Madison Larsen, and Mykel Murry, along with sophomores

Mayden Mitchell and Micah Neal.

The Ladycats were led at state by Garrison. She placed sixth individually with a time of 18 minutes, 16.6 seconds over the 5K course.

Three Ladycats finished in the top 15, with Neal placing 12th in 18:42.7 and Murry taking 15th in 18:54.5.

For Garrison and Brandenburg, it was their third time to compete at state.

BASKETBALL

Ladycats compete in Sandra Meadows Classic tourney

Lady Roos capture Kangaroo Christmas Classic title

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats (12-10) competed in a difficult field of teams taking part in the Sandra Meadows Classic Tournament in Duncanville from Thursday through Saturday. Ultimately, the Ladycats finished 1-2 during their campaign, but the victory – a 53-47 win over Prestonwood Christian Academy – avenged a 61-56 loss from the Bursleson Tournament finals.

The Ladycats tipped off against Pearland on Thursday, falling 46-24. Kate Jackson and Elizabeth Griffin led Aledo with eight and seven points, respectively. Aledo's next games took place Saturday, first against Mesquite Horn before their revenge win against PCA.

The Ladycats took the loss 55-43 against Mesquite Horn. Senior post Ella Isbell led her team in scoring with 11 while Tiara Butler also reached double figures with 10 points. Griffin led the Ladycats with a team-high 14 points in the win over PCA, followed by sophomore guard Brooklyn Dempsey's 13 points.

Lady Roos win own tourney

The Weatherford Lady Kangaroos basketball team (15-7) competed on the hardwood over the holiday season as the squad hosted numerous teams in the Kangaroo Christmas Classic Tournament from Thursday through Saturday. In the end, the Lady Roos emerged unscathed, capturing their home tournament crown with an unblemished 4-0 mark.

Weatherford dominated Irving Nimitz 74-26 in the first game, led

by star senior guard Landrie Polk and freshman Maddie Baruch. Polk poured in a game-high 20 points while Baruch produced 16 points and eight rebounds. The Lady Roos followed that victory with a big win over Texas High, thanks to 13 points from Kelsey Henderson, nine from Baruch and eight from Polk. After that, Weatherford took down Richland in a tightly contested 39-35 semifinal. In that game, Polk scored 16 to pace the Lady Roos while Jada Martin and Charli Clark had 10 and nine points, respectively.

Finally, Weatherford captured the championship in another close game, a 39-36 victory over Leander Rouse. Polk netted 20 in the title game to secure Tournament MVP honors while Baruch and Kodi Martin each added six. Baruch and Clark both were selected to the all-tournament team for their efforts across the four wins.

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RODEO

Area athletes among NTHSRA leaders

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The North Texas High School Rodeo Association is on its mid-season break and several area athletes find themselves in the running for a berth in the NTHSRA Finals Rodeo in mid-May. The top 15 in each event will qualify for the finals.

Weatherford's Shane McCulloch sits in eighth place in the boys all-around standings. As a team, the Kangaroos are 12th in the standings.

McCulloch is third in the team roping-heeler standings with 322 points. The leader has 476 points. Also in that category, his teammate, Caleb Lewis, is 12th with 154 points.

McCulloch is also sixth in team roping-header with 301 points, with the leader having 427.

Aledo's top competitor at the midpoint is Annabelle McNeely, who is 10th in barrel racing with 259 points. The leader has 401 points.

Also from Aledo, Burton Caldwell is 14th in poles with 147 points. The leader has 672.

Lewis is ninth in calf roping with 161 points, with the leader having 644. He is sixth in ribbon roping with 280 and 728 leads.

Competition resumes Feb. 8 for those who qualified in the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo's High School Scholarship Rodeo. The entire NTHSRA resumes action on Feb. 14 in Saginaw.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Aledo, Weatherford garner THSCA accolades

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Athletes in Aledo and Weatherford garnered 40 academic all-state honors for fall sports from the Texas High School Coaches Association.

To be nominated for academic all-state, a student must be:

- An athlete, student trainer or manager in good standing with the team.
- Of good moral character.
- A senior.
- Have an overall grade point average of 92 or above (including courses from grades 9-11 and courses completed from grade 12). Weighted GPAs are accepted.

When reviewing the nominations, the THSCA considers each student's GPA, class rank, SAT and/or ACT score. The students receive points based on each criteria. The total number of points they receive determines which team they are placed on. The best team a player can make is the elite team, which requires a near perfect score in all categories. After elite, players are placed on first, second and honorable mention teams.

Three area athletes earned elite status: Aledo football player Cole Crawford, Weatherford football player, and Weatherford cross country runner Tate Nobis.

The program with the most honorees is Aledo football, which

had 14 players receive accolades. Weatherford team tennis had eight players awarded and Aledo volleyball had seven.

Academic All-State Football - Aledo Elite

Cole Crawford
First team

Tyler Huntington
Carson Bobbitt

Second team

Josh Johnson
Isaiah Anaya
Kaden Callaway
Thaddeus Keller
Cory Tilly
Joseph Hancin

Honorable mention

Anaston Hebel
Cady Hill
Leslee Sanders
Caleb Seastrunk
Lydon Olenjack

Football - Weatherford Elite

Asa Dowling

Honorable mention

Keegan Jackson
Micah Moore.

Volleyball - Aledo First team

Haley Lowe

Second team

Ella Meador
Ava Reding
Kenrie Pruitt

Honorable mention

Morgan Estevez
Kinley Elms
Logyn Denbow

Volleyball - Weatherford First team

Reagan Rees

Second team

Berkley Austin-Roark

Cross country - Aledo Second team

Luke Schabel

Cross Country - Weatherford Elite

Tate Nobis

First team

Madison Pulis

Second team

Erick Ibarra
Macayla Kopacz

Team tennis - Aledo First team

Patricia Loftin

Team Tennis - Weatherford First team

Isabella Graham

Second team

Brynli Ruthesell
Dayla Dromgoole
Maiah Gal
Mylee Herron
Tanner Galloway
Toni Canada

Honorable mention

Owen Hendricks

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Annetta families and area friends picked up 33 bags of trash Saturday, Feb. 24 along the roadsides of Annetta. Starting from Annetta City Hall and fanning out over the area, the group returned to enjoy a lunch together.

FEBRUARY 23

Heather Street was selected to be the principal at the new Lynn McKinney Elementary School.

After months of discussion and pleas to Aledo's state representatives in Austin for school funding, the reality of the monetary burden facing Aledo ISD and schools across the state loomed as a dark cloud over the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, Feb. 19.

The City of Willow Park approved a contract to lease both sides of a billboard located on city hall the property.

Diana Kotlinski was recognized for 10 years of outstanding service to the Town of Annetta at its Feb. 15 council meeting.

Nelson Rowls was profiled as Aledo's first black city council member.

The African-American burial ground at Willow Springs Cemetery is rich in history.

The Trinity Christian Academy Legacy Dinner exceeded expectations as the auction and music gala benefitted the school.

Six Bearcats were named to the Texas Sports Writers Association All-State team: Hauss Hejny, Davhon Keys, Hawk Patrick-Daniels, Jake Gillespie, Daj Williams, and Jaden Allen.

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats Orange teams competed in the Buzzy Open at Azle's Cross Timbers Golf Course on

Wednesday, Feb. 14. The Bearcats finished second among the boys and the Ladycats were third among the girls.

No. 1-ranked Mansfield Timberview defeated the Aledo Ladycats for the area basketball championship. The Aledo Bearcats claimed only their second bi-district win in the program's history against Arlington Heights.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Masha Kupchynsky came to the United States from Ukraine with her family.

MARCH 1

Masha Kupchynsky, a fifth-grader at Annetta Elementary School, came to the United States from Ukraine with her family. Masha speaks English, Ukrainian, and Russian.

The Aledo City Council heard an update from the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the now recently-completed sidewalk along Bailey Ranch Road.

Turn to page 10

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Cresson Estates to include two (2) Trinity Wells, one (1) Paluxy Well, and related appurtenances will be received at the office of Harold Sandel, CPM, 9843 Bankhead Highway, Aledo, Texas, 76008 until

12:00 Noon, Tuesday, January 21st, 2025

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

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction and permitting of the Cresson Estates Water Wells.

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

Cresson Ventures, LLC
Publication: January 03, 2025
January 10, 2025

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

TAKE NOTICE the City Council of the City of Aledo, Texas, shall convene at 6:00 o'clock P.M. on the 27th day of February, 2025, at the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation in a principal amount not to exceed \$27,775,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) constructing, acquiring, enlarging, extending and improving the City's Sewer System, (ii) the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, land, and rights-of-way for authorized needs and purposes relating to the City's Sewer System, and (iii) the payment of professional services relating to the design, construction, project management, and financing of the aforementioned capital improvements; and such certificates shall be payable from ad valorem taxes and a pledge of the surplus net revenues of the City's combined Waterworks and Sewer System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$18,515,000; (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$36,616,026; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$39,622,745; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is August 15, 2055. The above information excludes \$13,760,000 in principal amount of outstanding debt obligations the City has designated as self-supporting which the City reasonably expects to pay from revenue sources other than ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that in the event such self-supporting revenue sources are insufficient to pay debt service, the City is obligated to levy ad valorem taxes to pay such debt obligations. The certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter C of Chapter 271.

Staci King
City Secretary
City of Aledo, Texas

TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02, AS AMENDED, THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION ON APPROXIMATELY 85.0785 ACRES GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS TRACT 1 OF THE A. BURGESS SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO.177, TRACT 2 THE A. BURGESS SURVEY ABSTRACT NO.177 AND THE W. NATIONS SURVEY ABSTRACT NO. 1002 AND THE NORTHERN HALF OF TRACT 4 OF THE W. NATIONS SURVEY ABSTRACT NO. 1002, FROM ITS PRESENT CLASSIFICATION OF "R-6" SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT—6.0 ACRE LOTS, TO "R-2" SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT—2.0 ACRE LOTS, AND REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 6

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

// Robert Schmidt, Mayor

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Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas will conduct public hearings in the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas.

Public Hearings City Council

Location: Aledo Community Center
104 Robinson Court
Aledo, Texas 76008

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025

Time: 6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the hearings is to receive input regarding consideration of the following:

1) Public Hearing to consider and recommend amendment to Article 6, Definitions, of the City of Aledo, Unified Development Code (UDC) pertaining to signage

For further information or questions regarding these public hearings, please contact the City of Aledo at (817) 441-7016.

Published in *The Community News* and posted at Aledo City Hall on January 3, 2025.

Staci L. King, City Secretary

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Journey Sistrunk, Asher Childress, Paul Halse, Noah Nottingham, Joel Stoker, and Charlie Crites discuss their Team Overload performance at a recent robotics meet.

MARCH 1 (CONTINUED)

The Willow Park City Council approved a zoning change for the former Church of Christ building on Ranch House Road to "special use planned development." It was also announced a roller skating rink was coming to the city.

The Weatherford City Council received updates on the Northwest Downtown Weatherford Street Rehabilitation Project.

The Parker County Health Foundation annual Boots & Bling celebration was the largest yet, taking up the entire River Ranch Stockyards event facility.

Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss was honored by the Republican Party of Texas by being elected to the Republican Mayors Association (RMA) Advisory Board. Moss joins fellow Texas Republican Mayors Eric L. Johnson of Dallas and Javier Villalobos of McAllen in leading the national organization.

The Aledo varsity tennis team kicked off its spring season on Feb. 15 with a tournament hosted by Timber Creek High School, and participated in the Fifth Annual Cowtown Classic on Feb. 23-24.

One of the top three best seasons Aledo boys basketball had in the last 25 years, came to an unfortunate end on Friday, Feb. 23 at Mansfield Legacy High School where Colleyville Heritage dispatched the Bearcats from the playoff picture.

The Aledo Bearcats opened the 2024 baseball season by winning four of six games in their own Southwest Ford Classic Feb. 22-24.

The Aledo Ladycats (12-2) won all six games they played en route to the championship of the Mansfield Tournament over the previous weekend. The Ladycats outscored their opponents 59-12.

Porter Lane capped one of the best state performances ever for an Aledo swimmer. The senior placed third in the boys 100-yard butterfly finals at the Lee & Jo Jamail Texas Swim Center at the University of Texas in Austin.



AVERY FAULKNER

Porter Lane swam to a third-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly at state. He also placed 10th in the 100 breaststroke.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hailey Vandiver celebrates with teammate Katie Cox after Cox scored the go-ahead goal against Brewer on March 5 for the Ladycats.

Playing their two home courses, the Aledo Bearcats Black team captured the championship of their own Bearcat Brawl golf tournament on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23-24.

MARCH 8

Parker County paramedics revived a 19-month-old from cardiac arrest. Juleah Sessom could not hold back the tears as she thanked the group of paramedics who saved her young son Dax, who went into cardiac arrest after choking on a pecan.

State Rep. Glenn Rogers lost a bid for his third term in the Texas House of Representatives to challenger Michael Olcott in the March 5 Republican primary. In the Pct. 4 Constable race, incumbent Scott Jones cruised to victory with almost 68% of the vote.

World War II veteran Bill Kongable is still haunted by images he saw when his unit came upon a recently-vacated German concentration camp. "What they left behind was pretty grizzly evidence of the kind of cruelty that the German Nazis practiced on subjects," Kongable said.

With prom season kicking off in schools around North Texas, Aledo High School became a hub for a fashion show filled with dresses, tuxes, flowers, makeup, tanning and more at the inaugural Aledo Spring Fling. The event, held on Saturday, March 2, also housed vendors selling everything from dessert-themed candles to vibrating pillows that activate on touch to freeze-dried foods.

Aledo High School's Team Circuit Breakers prepared for UIL robotics competition that was set to begin March 21.

A program-record five members of the Aledo Ladycats powerlift-



JIM ZIMMERMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of the Aledo Ladycats soccer team show their support for Kade Pruitt, a fellow student who has been diagnosed with leukemia.

ing team qualified for the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association Class 5A State Meet. The program also set a record with 18 competitors at the regional meet. Aledo qualifiers were Hannah Clark, first in the 132 weight class; Ari Mathias, first in 148 division; Madison Widmayer, second in 132 division; Bryanna Orr, second in 123 division; and Adrianna Lambert, second in 220 division.

Aledo's Bearcat baseball team entered the month of March competing in the DFW Clash Tournament hosted by Flower Mound, Eaton, Denton Guyer, and Little Elm High Schools. The Bearcats (7-4-1 overall) ended the weekend with a 3-2-1 record, earning wins over Lubbock Cooper, Haslet Eaton and Frisco Wakeland.

The Aledo Ladycats made a second day charge to finish second at the Granbury Lady Pirates Invitational played at Harbor Lakes Golf Club in Granbury on Friday and Saturday, March 1-2. The Bearcats competed in the Dinosaur Classic at Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose March 1-2. They finished fourth with a two-day total of 593.

The Bearcats track team won its 17th straight meet at the Northwest Texan Invitational in Haslet on Friday, March 1.

MARCH 15

The varsity dance team competed in the Marching Auxiliaries of America (MA) Dance competition in late February at Birdville High School, where it took first place in Hip Hop, and second place in the Jazz, Contemporary and Pom categories.

The next step to Willow Park getting a roller skating rink was approved by the city council at its meeting on Tuesday, March 12. They voted to approve the plat for just over 31 acres in the Haney Complex Addition. Plans are to build a roller skating rink behind Fortified Fitness Gym, which is located at 9744 E. Bankhead Hwy.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Seelie Penny looks at photos and artwork displayed at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center by the Weatherford Art Association.

The Weatherford Police Department (WPD) swore in two new officers on Feb. 22. Officers Trace Camp and Antonio Camacho were sworn in to the WPD after transferring from the Weatherford Lateral Program.

A Weatherford ISD work session March 4 helped trustees narrow down the district's biggest needs regarding its facilities and strategize about the best ways to make those improvements happen with an unknown budget looming.

A former Aledo student has experienced the journey from loss and grief to acceptance and comfort, and shares her insight through the eyes of her pets in a new children's book. Chyanne Brake, a 2013 AHS graduate, explained that her first book, Lizzie and Axel, Forever Friends, is a story adults can use as a preparation and teaching tool for children.

The Aledo Bearcats won their own track meet and the Ladycats placed second on March 6. Lauren St. Peters set a school record in the shot put with a throw of 48 feet, 10 inches.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lauren St. Peters

Raymond Howard lifted 1,490 pounds to finish 10th in the 275-pound division at the Texas High School Powerlifting Association Class 5A Region I Championships in Abilene the previous weekend.

The Ladycats softball team ran their district winning streak to 33 straight with a 10-0 win at home over Saginaw on Monday, March 11.

MARCH 22

Members and friends at Trinity Bible Church in Willow Park gathered to break ground on a new worship center on Sunday, March 3.

Willow Park announced changes and upgrades planned for Kings Gate Park.

At precisely 1 p.m. Saturday, March 9, amateur radio operators throughout the U.S. and Canada filled radio frequencies in a 24-hour contact frenzy called a Field day, while radio enthusiasts from around the globe listened in.

Joe Daggs, new pastor at Parker County Cowboy Church, said there was no doubt God placed him where he needed to be.

Aledo cheerleaders had a successful season. Both varsity and JV squads participated in the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Nationals competition.

The Bearcats soccer team secured a spot in post-season playoffs, while Ladycats were in second place in their district.

Three pitchers combined for a four-hitter and 10 strikeouts and Brennon Evans hit a home run as the Aledo Bearcats began District 5-5A play with a 4-1 victory at Brewer on Tuesday, March 19.

Five members of the Aledo Ladycats competed at the Texas Women's High School Powerlifting Association Class 5A Division I Meet at the Comerica Center in Frisco this past Saturday, March 16. Leading the Ladycats with an 11th place finish in the 220-pound division was Adrianna Lambert. She lifted a total of 820 pounds in squat, bench press and dead lift.

The Aledo Ladycats made short work of their host Brewer in a District 5-5A softball game on Tuesday, March 19, winning 15-1 behind the one-hit pitching of Taylor McKean.

Molly Garrison of Aledo led all area runners in the Texas Distance Festival this past weekend in Southlake. She clocked a time of 18 minutes, 17.36 seconds to place eighth in the 5000-meter run.

MARCH 29

The multi-colored streaks of light in and around Tim Buchanan Stadium marked another successful Run, Walk, or Crawl Glow Run on Saturday, March 23. The annual event is the major fundraiser for the organization that provides numerous charitable services in the Aledo ISD.

Turn to page 12



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bill Kongable recalls scenes he encountered entering Camp Ohrdruf after the concentration camp was liberated.



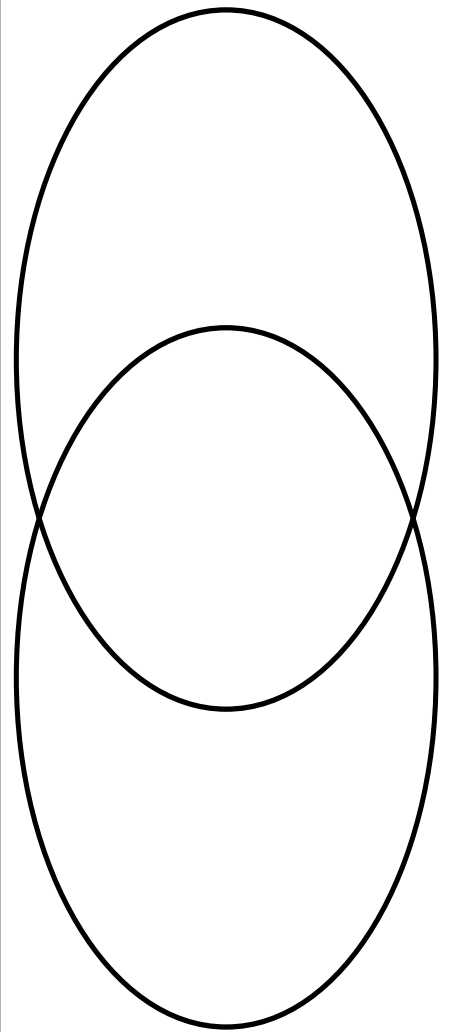
CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Seelie Penny looks at photos and artwork displayed at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center by the Weatherford Art Association.

Work with a partner at home to complete the following diagram.

1. Look at the list of traits. In the upper part of the top oval, write all of your traits.
2. Write your partner's traits on the lower part of the bottom oval.
3. In the area where the two ovals connect, write the traits you BOTH have.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| DIMPLES | DARK HAIR |
| NO DIMPLES | LIGHT HAIR |
| CAN ROLL TONGUE | CURLY HAIR |
| CAN'T ROLL TONGUE | STRAIGHT HAIR |
| RIGHT HANDED | FRECKLES |
| LEFT HANDED | NO FRECKLES |



A2 The Spottville Bugle

Fortune Shines on Freckled Faces

SPOTTVILLE, USA – The Spottville school board passed a new rule last night giving Spottville children with freckles more privileges than children without freckles.



Student Myron Fleming feels the new rule is "long overdue."

Freckled children will always sit at the front of the classroom and be first in line. They will get to use new pencils and the finest white paper. Children without freckles will have to sit at the back of the room or on the floor. Grocery bags will be used as paper for their assignments.

Many non-freckled children find the Freckle Rule unfair. "This rule stinks!" cried Alison Smythe, age 11. "I can't help it that I don't have freckles. Why can't I eat in the same cafeteria as my friends with freckles?"

Many children with freckles also disagree with the new Freckle Rule. "I plan to fight against this dumb idea," said Dottie Darling, a student at Spottville Elementary School. "Dr. Martin Luther King's message is that discrimination is always wrong, and this new rule is discrimination."

"Disgruntled nonsense," said school board president Spotz McDotter. "The rule is fair to the people that really matter most – people with freckles."

Could this be true?

What if this news story were true? Are the schools in Spottville treating all children equally?

Dottie Darling Disagrees

Dottie and lots of kids from her school are speaking out against the Freckle Rule. Use the code to see what their signs say.

Spots or not, we all have a lot in common. Can you find at least 5 ways that each of my classmates and I are the same?

for

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL!

CODE

A	B	C	D	E	F	I	K	L
M	O	Q	R	S	T	U	Y	

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

This story may seem a bit silly. Sadly, there is some truth to it. For many years, groups of people in the United States were treated differently just because of the way they looked.

Dr. King's Dream of Equality

Dr. Martin Luther King knew what it was like to be discriminated against. He had been called names and told he could not do all of the things other people could do. It wasn't because of freckles that Dr. King had these problems. It was because his skin was black.

In the 1950s and 60s, many Americans, Black and white, spoke out and even fought against unfair laws that discriminated against Black people. Dr. King was one of the leaders of this struggle called the Civil Rights Movement.

Standards Link: History: Students understand the importance of individual action and character.

Did Dottie and her friends get rid of the Freckle Rule? To find out, color the spaces with two dots RED and the squares with one dot BLUE.

Standards Link: Follow simple directions.

Extra! Extra!

Spirit of Freedom

Look through the newspaper for pictures and stories that show the freedoms Americans enjoy. Cut these out and make a poster called: "The Spirit of Freedom – The Spirit of America!"

Standards Link: History: Students understand the rights of citizenship.

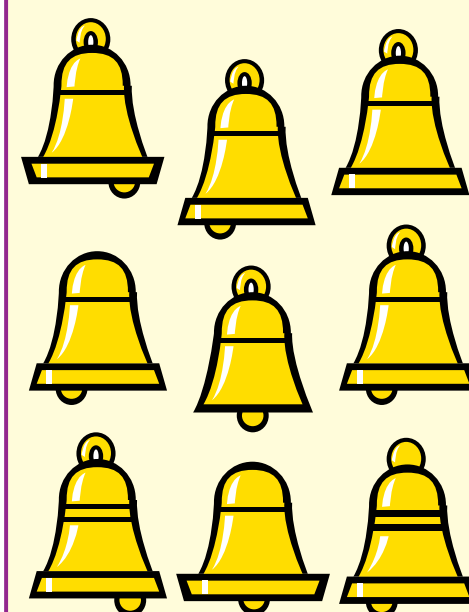
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Kid Scoop Puzzler



Let Freedom Ring

After years of struggle, the Civil Rights Act made discrimination against the law. However, Dr. King knew it would take more than a law to change people's hearts and minds. He continued to teach people that discrimination was unfair.

Each year on his birthday, Americans remember this man who believed the dream of equality and freedom should ring true for all.

Find the two bells that are exactly the same.

Standards Link: Visual discrimination: Follow written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- EQUALITY
- FORTUNE
- SIGNS
- FREEDOM
- MARTIN
- LUTHER
- KING
- DREAM
- TEACH
- STRUGGLE
- SPOTS
- SKIN
- RULE
- SAME
- LAW

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **VOLUNTEER**

The verb to volunteer means to work or help someone for no pay.

The fourth grade students volunteer to read to the kindergarten students.

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Is the dream alive?

Has Martin Luther King's dream come true? Look through the newspaper for examples that show the dream is alive. Do you see examples that show that his dream still isn't alive for all people?

Standards Link: History/Social Science: Students recognize the forms of diversity in their school and community and the benefits and challenges of a diverse population.

Why do cows wear bells?

ANSWER: Because their horns don't work.



Write On!

I Make a Difference

Tell about how you make a difference in someone's life in your family, at school or in your community.

FOOTBALL

Hejny transferring to Oklahoma State, reports say

Exiting TCU after one season

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Cowboys are getting a new quarterback, reports all over the internet are saying.

Not THOSE Cowboys.

The Oklahoma State Cowboys.

Former Aledo Bearcats all-state quarterback Hauss Hejny, who announced in mid-December that he was leaving TCU and entering the transfer portal, is apparently going to land at Oklahoma State. Hejny himself even reposted several posts on X (formerly Twitter) related to the subject, including one from OrangeVZN that said simply "Welcome to it @HaussHejny#GoPokes."

Efforts to reach Hejny himself were not returned.

Hejny saw limited action for the Horned Frogs (9-4) this season, playing in four games and redshirting. He didn't throw any passes, but rushed 15 times for 65 yards.

At TCU Hejny, a true freshman, was playing behind sophomore quarterback Josh Hoover, who set a Horned Frogs single season passing record in 2024 with 3,949 yards. Hoover also led the Horned Frogs to a 34-3 win over Louisiana in the New Mexico Bowl.

Hejny chose TCU out of high school to follow in the footsteps of his parents, who were both athletes at the school. His father played as a defensive lineman in the early 2000s and his mother played basketball.

Hejny's transfer to Oklahoma State comes alongside the Cowboys' hiring of Doug Meacham as offensive coordinator. Meacham was inside receivers coach at TCU last season.

Also, Hejny will be reunited with former Duke offensive coordinator Kevin Johns, who helped recruit the quarterback in high school — and where Hejny originally committed before changing to TCU. Johns will be the Cowboys' quarterback coach.

Hejny is expected to battle for the starting job in Stillwater against another redshirt freshman Zane Flores, redshirt sophomore Garrett Rangel from Frisco, and true freshman Maealiuaki Smith.

The Cowboys are coming off a 3-9 season in which they were 0-9 in the Big 12 Conference, which TCU also plays in. It ended a streak of 18 consecutive winning seasons under head coach Mike Gundy.

At Aledo, Hejny led the Bearcats to a 30-2 record in his two seasons as the starting quarterback, including a 30-game winning streak, the second longest in school history. He was also named the MVP of the 2022 Class 5A Division I state championship game.

Coming out of high school, Hejny was listed as one of the top 12 prep quarterbacks in the nation.

Hejny is a dual threat. For the Bearcats he passed for more than 5,000 yards and 50 touchdowns, along with rushing for almost 2,500 yards and 29 more TD. He even caught 26 passes for 648 yards and seven touchdowns as a sophomore before moving to quarterback as a junior.



Hauss Hejny



KCSTUDIOS KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI

Charlie is decked out in glow gear for the annual Aledo Advocats' Run, Walk, or Crawl Glow Run on March 23.

MARCH 29 (CONTINUED)

The City of Weatherford and the Weatherford financial department received an excellent rating from the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report 2023 audit conducted by Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P.

The City of Willow Park prepared activities for the total solar eclipse, which occurred on April 8.

Aledo ISD named Lori Cain as principal at Walsh Elementary beginning with the 2024-2025 school year after current Walsh principal Heather Street moves to the new Lynn McKinney Elementary Scholarship.

The owners of Split Rail just hired Troon Golf Club Management out of Scottsdale Arizona to take over management of the club. Troon is the largest golf club management organization in the world and will advise the investors on how to operate Split Rail more efficiently.

The second annual Senior Prom and Gala was filled with glamor and grandeur for guests at the

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Larry Evans speaks to the gala crowd about the benefits of the 60+ Club as senior center director Jennifer Bledsoe looks on.

lavishly decorated Springs Event Venue in south Parker County Friday, March 22.

The Weatherford ISD celebrated the opening of the Grizzard Regional Institute of Technology (GRIT) on March 23. The facility houses students looking to receive a high school diploma, an industry credential, and/or an associate degree at no cost in automotive technology, cosmetology, cybersecurity, and welding. It was named

for the late Roger Grizzard, a long-time supporter of the WISD.

Led by Braden Stokes' runner-up individual finish, the Aledo Bearcats Black Team placed second in the District 5-5A Boys Preview Tournament at Sugar Tree Golf Club on March 20.

The Aledo Bearcats soccer team won the bi-district title over Arlington Heights on March 26. The Ladycats won their bi-district title on the same day against Everman.

The Aledo Ladycats track team took first place in the Joshua Owls Relays on Wednesday, March 20 in Joshua.

The Aledo Ladycats softball team extended their win streak to 17 games.

Six members of the Trinity Christian Lady Eagles basketball team were honored by the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

The Aledo Bearcats baseball team remained undefeated with a pair of walk-offs.

To be continued.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Grizzard family members, school board members, WISD staff, instructors, and friends gather to cut the ribbon for the new GRIT Auto Learning Lab.

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