

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ANNETTA

Deer Creek IX development put on hold

Drainage concerns to be addressed

By Jim Zimmermann
The Community News

The biggest item on the agenda at the Jan. 16 meeting of the Annetta Town Council was the potential of replatting lots, drainage, and access to Deer Creek Phase IX. Kenmark Homes is a Dallas/Fort Worth builder that has aspirations of purchasing the development and building new homes there.

Deer Creek Phase IX was platted several years ago and was actually up for vote back in January, 2020, on the Town of Annetta South's planning and zoning meeting for the same consideration.

The presentation on this night had several issues that need to be

Turn to DEER, page 3



PARKER COUNTY

Deadline approaching to avoid property tax penalties

Jan. 31 looms over late payers

Staff Reports
The Community News

The deadline to pay property taxes in Texas, thus avoiding additional property tax penalties and interest, is Jan. 31. Payments must be received or postmarked by that day.

Visit www.parkercad.org to pay using eCheck (free), debit card (\$2.95 processing fee), or credit card (2.15% processing fee).

Processing fees are charged by the payment processing company and not by the Parker County Appraisal District.

Mail or in-person payments can be made at the Parker County Appraisal District office, 1108 Santa Fe Dr. in Weatherford.

Drive-through and after-hours drop boxes are also available. Tax statements and payment receipts can also be accessed online at www.parkercad.org.



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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A multi-million dollar improvement project on the I-20 access road at Aledo is still in its infancy, but traffic should run smoother and safer when finished. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, three new interchanges on I-20 and one new interchange on I-30 will eliminate dangerous lane crossing when west-bound traffic continues on I-30 or exits at I-20 while Aledo traffic enters the highway at the same location.

WILLOW PARK

Mayor's office contested in May election

Gilliland files for re-election

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Doyle Moss has filed for reelection as the mayor of Willow Park, a position he has held for eight years. He will also have some competition for the job as Teresa Palmer has also filed to run for the position.

"Today I filed paperwork to officially run for reelection for Mayor of our great city, Willow Park," Moss posted on his Facebook page. "Along with a great city council and staff, we have worked to make Willow Park better for our citizens."



Doyle Moss



Teresa Palmer

Palmer, a 30-year-resident of the city, likewise made her announcement Thursday via Facebook, posting "Good Morning, Willow Park! Today begins with a special announcement for the community!"

Moss was first elected in 2017, his first time to hold elected office.

The last time he faced a challenger was 2019.

Also filing for re-election this past week was Chawn Gilliland to retain his seat in Place 2 on the council. Gilliland joined the council in June of 2022 to finish the term of Tyler VanSant, who was called into active Air Force Duty, and won his own election to the office unopposed in 2023.

Place 1, held by Eric Contreras, is also on the ballot in the May 3 election. As of press time, Contreras had not filed for re-election.

Contreras was appointed to the council in 2018, winning reelection unopposed in 2019, 2021 and 2023.

WEATHERFORD

Council honors McLeod

Façade Improvement Grant needs more discussion

By Jim Zimmermann
The Community News

The Weatherford City Council recognized one of the city's own during its Tuesday, Jan. 14 meeting.

Dr. Stacy McLeod, who serves as the City of Weatherford Animal Services Veterinarian, was recently appointed to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners by Governor Greg Abbott.

There are only seven members on this board for the State of Texas. This prestigious honor comes with a six-year appointment. During this time to she will help ensure that Texas veterinarians promote and ensure that their high professional standards are meeting those set forth.

Also, she recently earned a master's degree in Shelter Medicine from the University of Florida.

Façade Improvement Grant

One of the biggest issues many towns in America face is what



JIM ZIMMERMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

(From left) Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschall, Mayor Pro Tem Heidi Wilder, City Manager James Hotopp, Animal Services Veterinarian Dr. Stacy McLeod, Councilman Matt Ticzkus and Councilman Luke Williams are shown at the Jan. 14 meeting of the Weatherford City Council. McLeod was honored at the meeting after being appointed to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

do to keep the town growing. As older towns begin to look for ways to entice local businesses to stay and for new opportunities to consider establishing their business, towns need to be creative.

One way Weatherford is looking toward the future is the Façade

Improvement Grant Policy. The guidelines of this policy include that property owners submit an application, and upon approval they are entered onto waiting list to seek approval for a grant that

Turn to COUNCIL, page 3

WEATHERFORD

Paschall files for re-election

Seeks third term as Weatherford mayor

Special to The Community News

Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschall filed for re-election on Wednesday morning, Jan. 15, the first day of filing for the May 3 election.

"It is my honor to serve with our city council and city staff to continue Weatherford's incredible momentum," Paschall said. "We have made so much progress as a community, but the best is yet to come."

Paschall, 54, said his goals for the next three years are to continue to lower taxes, strengthen public safety, address transportation needs, and to increase the quality of life Weatherford citizens enjoy.

"We will protect our values and community identity as we experience rapid growth," he said. "There are so many good things in store for Weatherford, and I'm excited about our future."

Paschall received the prestigious James H. Doss Award from the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce in the fall of 2024. He is also past recipient of their Outstanding Citizen Award.

He was elected mayor of Weatherford in 2019 and was re-elected in 2022. He previously served on the Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2015, including two years as board president.

Paschall serves on the Parker County Mayors Council, the North Central Texas 9-1-1 Board of Managers, Tarrant Area Food Bank West Board of Directors, and the Tarleton State University Foundation Board.

He was selected for and completed the United States Marine Corps Leadership Workshop in San Diego, spending a week simulating progression through boot camp, experiencing physical and mental challenges throughout the week. Community leaders from across the U.S. participated.

Paschall earned a bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management and a Master of Business Administration degree, both from Tarleton State University. He has spent more than two decades in the commercial and personal insurance marketplace. Paschall Insurance Group was named Small Business of the Year by the Weatherford Chamber in 2006.

Paul and his wife, Courtney, have been married for 28 years. They have two adult children and attend North Side Baptist Church.



Paul Paschall

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BRENDAN O'HARA

Congressman Roger Williams (left) is shown in the ceremonial swearing in with House Speaker Mike Johnson on Jan 3. Williams represents the 25th District in Texas, which includes portions of Parker County.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Honors program continues growth

Now has 42 students

By Crystal Woerley
Weatherford College

Dr. Christi Cook, coordinator of Weatherford College's Honors Program, was excited to share the continued success of her students with the Board of Trustees at their meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16.

The Honors Program is in addition to honor and leadership societies on campus and boasts a diverse student population including veterans, international students, and athletes.

"We're experiencing massive transformational growth right now," Cook said. "We added 19 new students this spring, practically doubling our numbers, and we're hoping to have that same amount of growth moving forward."

When the program began in the 2021-22 academic year, 28 students participated; now there are 42.

Students in the Honors Program have 20 courses to choose from to increase the academic rigor of their degree including psychology, speech, English, math, government, fine arts, and more.

Students must meet GPA and TSI (Texas Success Initiative) requirements to enter the program. To graduate with honors, they must complete 12 or more hours of honors coursework, complete at least

five hours of community service each semester, and complete an honors capstone project. Students who double their number of honors courses and community service hours graduate with distinguished honors.

To date, 22 WC students have graduated from the Honors Program, two of those with distinguished honors. Four students went on to transfer into the honors college at their chosen university.

"Each of them has expressed the tiniest bit of remorse and regret that they're not with us anymore," Cook said. "That although they're succeeding and excelling, they miss the support and comfort they had in our program. That makes us feel like we're doing the right thing, and we want to continue doing that and providing that level of individual attention even as we grow."

Other business

- The board also:
- Approved the minutes of the Dec. 19 board meeting.
 - Approved the financial reports ending Dec. 31.
 - Approved listing Canyon West Golf Course's fees along with the traditional tuition and fees schedule.
 - Received written reports from WC Wise County, academics and a student services update.

- Approved the purchase of 2.5 acres on the corner of East Park Street and Sloan Street west of the Alumni House for \$780,000.

President's report

In his report, Dr. Tod Allen Farmer:

Recognized Dr. Shannon Ydoyaga and the faculty and staff who planned and executed a successful Connections Week.

Drew attention to the college's new 56-passenger MCI bus, parked in the Alkek Fine Arts Center parking lot. The bus will provide transportation for various activities while supporting recruitment efforts.

Recognized WC's five student-athletes named All-American in 2024, the most in a calendar year for the college.

Announced the resignations of Warren Egerton, law enforcement academy director; Dr. Sarah Lock, associate dean of dual credit and e-learning; Merryl Carson, director of workforce education; and Karen Cerda, assistant director of human resources.

Provided a spring semester enrollment update. As of Tuesday, Jan. 14, there are 5,927 students registered for the Spring 2025 semester compared to 5,135 that day last year, a 15.5 percent increase.



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Two Worlds, One Sound concert upcoming

Jan. 27 event features two accomplished pianists

By Crystal Woerley
Weatherford College

Weatherford College's Heyyoung Song and Russian pianist Eleonora Karpukhova will perform "Two Worlds, One Sound," at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, in the Alkek Fine Arts Center. Admission is free.

This unique concert will showcase the musical talents of these accomplished pianists as they perform in tandem on two Steinway grand pianos. The program will feature a blend of American and Russian compositions, including works by Amy Beach, Samuel Barber, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

"I am pleased to collaborate with Eleonora on this piano duo program," Song said. "Music transcends time, space, and all the barriers that divide humankind. It is the most powerful tool for human interaction, shared emotion, and a deeper connection to humanity."

Karpukhova, professor of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, has served as a panel judge for the WC International Piano Competition twice, but has never met Song in person.

"After spending several evenings chatting with her online, I feel like we've known each other for a long time," she said. "Her incredible energy, warmth, charm and ease in conversation make me want to be good friends. And thanks to Dr. Song, I'll be experiencing Texas for the first time."

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

The Weatherford School District Board of Trustees approved a new tax rate and budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year at a special meeting on Thursday, Aug. 29.

DeeAnna Krier, 63, was to make history on Sept. 7 when she became the oldest model ever to walk the runway of a Marc Defang fashion show at the Hard Rock Hotel in New York City at Times Square.

Denton Guyer ended the Aledo Bearcats' 30-game win streak, defeating Aledo 35-30 in the season opener in Denton.

Competing in one of the state's most prestigious cross country meets, the Aledo Ladycats placed fifth at the Coach T Invitational at North Lakes Park in Denton Saturday, Aug. 31.

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team won the Arlington Classic. Junior outside hitter Alyssa Todd

was named tournament MVP and senior middle Haley Lowe was named to the all-tournament team.

All local sports teams were profiled in the annual Fall Sports special section.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

The Aledo City Council unanimously approved a property tax rate of \$0.390082 per \$100 of property value for the 2024-205 budget year at its Sept. 5 meeting.

Aledo swim team member Jaxon Robinson traveled with his dad to Florida with the Adapt-Able Foundation, using his swimming abilities to assist with diving certification and other aquatic activities for those with special needs.

At its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10, the Willow Park City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget with a general fund of over \$5.6 million.

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SCOUTING

Eagle Scout project improves Dawson-Hackett Cemetery

Crosses placed at gravesites, overlook seating installed

By Bill Warren

Special to The Community News

Hudson Oaks, TX – Early on a recent Saturday morning, more than two dozen members of Scout Troop 75, under the direction of Evie Banis, gathered at Dawson-Hackett Cemetery. Banis, a student at Aledo High School, had chosen a project at this cemetery to earn her Eagle Scout badge. It was a multi-faceted project that included heavy brush and tree trimming, digging out and discarding large amounts of yucca and cactus, placing crosses at gravesites, erecting a kiosk, and installing a stepped seating area halfway up a bluff overlooking the cemetery.

All this took planning. Banis visited the site several times to determine the scope of the project, assembled a list of materials (including lunch), tools and personnel, obtained funding, and then submitted the plan to a review board. Once the board approved the plan, she began implementing it by first visiting Lowes, which kindly

arranged for some preferential pricing of the materials.

Banis provided leadership throughout the day, assigning tasks as workload requirements shifted. By mid-afternoon, the project was completed much to the satisfaction of all.

The Abandoned Cemetery Association of Parker County issued a statement that it “greatly appreciates Ms. Banis choosing this project to preserve and enhance this historic Black cemetery. The ACA has no doubt she will obtain her Eagle Scout badge for her meticulous planning and commitment. She will be the third young lady in Parker County to earn this distinction.”

George Dawson (1842-1913) set aside the land for this cemetery in 1906. His wife, Lucy (1847-1905), had died the year before and had been buried there. Other burials probably pre-date 1906. So far as is known, there are at least 21 burials. The Dawson’s farmed a couple hundred acres in this area, raising their 13 children here. It was at the behest of two of their descendants who suggested a seating area for rest and contemplation of the significant challenges their forebears surmounted.

A previous Eagle Scout project built a fence around the cemetery.



KRISTIEN BANIS

Scout Troop 75 members are shown seated on the completed steps and bench at Dawson-Hackett Cemetery.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

School looking for distinguished alumni

Nominations open through Feb. 3

Weatherford College

Special to The Community News

Continuing a tradition of recognizing exceptional former students, Weatherford College is accepting nominations for its annual alumni awards.

Nominations for the Alumnus of the Year and Distinguished Alumni awards are open through Monday, Feb. 3. A set of award

guidelines, a nomination form, and a list of past honorees are posted on the college’s website at wc.edu/alumni-awards.

Awardees will be recognized at the annual Alumni Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 28.

The Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award is given annually to an individual whose life and career are a positive reflection upon their alma mater. Ideal characteristics may include but are not limited to sustained community service, excellence in their

field, leadership in their community and loyalty to Weatherford College.

Distinguished Alumni Award honorees are individuals who have achieved excellence in their professions and/or in service to their communities over a sustained period of time.

With any alumni award nominee, WC must have been a significant part of the nominee’s educational experience.

For more information, email Susan Sodek at ssodek@wc.edu.

DEER

from page one

addressed before any consideration could be given to moving forward on the re-platting, the council determined. Councilman Jim Causey had several questions.

“After looking at this plat and listening to the presentation, I have some major concerns with the proposed drainage,” Causey said. “There are two designated run-off lots that are extremely close to established homes and could become a future problem.”

The plat has 47 home sites at a minimum of two acres each. Also, another concern was the amount of heavy-duty traffic from construction and the future installation of 47 water wells that would need to be tapped into the current water supply for the city.

Councilman Shane Mudge expressed his concern about the addition of the water wells.

“We have worked very hard as a city to supply our citizens water at reasonable rates,” he began. “I have five acres and I assure you that not all of it is green, especially in August.”

Further discussion was tabled until Kenmark can provide some information in regard to the drainage and traffic issues.

Annual audit report is in good standing

A representative from George, Morgan, and Sneed, P.C. gave an informative report on the town’s financial well-being. It was revealed that even with some unexpected expenditures, the town is in “exceptional” financial shape.

COUNCIL

from page one

is offered through the City of Weatherford.

This grant policy encourages property owners within the central business district (CBD) to improve the aesthetics, functionality, and overall appeal of their storefronts/facades. The goal is to promote commercial revitalization and economic development as part of the city’s commitment to honoring its heritage.

Councilman Zack Smith brought up a perspective that addresses one aspect of the grant.

“Downtown Weatherford is indisputably an incredible place to make a real estate investment, as proven by data pulled from the Parker County Appraisal

District,” Smith said. “Our downtown is vibrant and growing in popularity though the efforts of the city shareholders, the landowners, and the tenants alike.

“It is also a place where taxpayers have made an unparalleled investment in the utilities, fixtures, roads, and sidewalks, furthermore making it a thriving area to explore our community and shows their commitment to the local businesses downtown.

“That said, I believe as a property owner, it is our responsibility to update, maintain, and manage our own properties and not the taxpayers’ financial burden to cost share these facade improvements.”

Mayor Pro-Tem Heidi Wilder had another perspective that she shared.

“Back in 2011, the thought of the council was how do we make Weatherford the best place to be? I’m going to say as a city, we have accomplished that detail,” she said. “We have encouraged people in downtown to invest in themselves through an incentive of this façade grant program.

“I don’t think that ending the program with several applicants still in the queue is fair since we encouraged them to make improvements and then take that away from them.

“If you want to say ‘let’s suspend the program for the rest of the year after these applicants are out of the queue,’ that’s a different subject we can look at a later date.”

The item is expected to be discussed further.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Angelo State University’s chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi (PKP) national honor society recently inducted Carly Delaney of Weatherford into its fall 2024 class. Delaney is majoring in Professional School Counseling at Angelo State.

Olivia Contreras of Aledo was awarded the Trenton Lee Faith II Endowed Scholarship this fall from the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

Jenna Thomas of Weatherford made the fall 2024 Dean’s List at the University of North Georgia (UNG) for achieving at least a 3.5 grade-point average, carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester and having no grade lower than B. Thomas graduated Magna Cum Laude on Dec. 7 with a Bachelor of Arts in East Asian Studies with a Concentration in Korean Studies.

Hudson Blake of Aledo was among the students who qualified for Belmont University’s fall 2024 Dean’s List.

Five area students were named to the Dean’s List at Angelo State University for the 2024 fall semester:

- Madison Guinzy of Aledo - Psychology
- Peyton Stellato of Aledo - Psychology
- Emily Cienega of Weatherford - Psychology
- Emma Skaggs of Weatherford - Management
- Gracie Stephens of Weatherford - Health Science Professions

Nicholas Carter of Aledo graduated with an AAS in Computer Information Systems and CIS Certificate - Networking Administration from South Plains College in Fall 2024.

Emma Wolfenberger of Weatherford was named to the University of Evansville Dean’s List for the Fall 2024 semester.

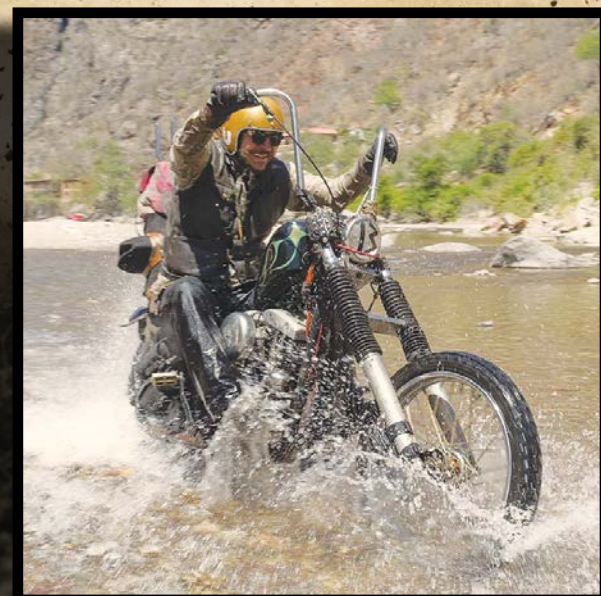
Two Aledo students graduated from Northwest Mississippi Community College at the end of the Fall 2024 semester: Alec Schmidt and Lauren Schmidt.

Three Weatherford students were named to the fall 2024 President’s List at Southern New Hampshire University: Maria Henderson, Kira Baker, and Brooke Davis.

Anthony Lopez-Osorio of Aledo was named to the Fall 2024 Dean’s List at Southern New Hampshire University.

Jaelle Carlson of Weatherford has been named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2024 semester and the Fall 2024 Chancellor’s List at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

DANGER DAN AND LIFE ON THE ROAD



Former Bearcat living life of adventure on bikes

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

In his own words, Dan Hardick hasn't gone far and he's gone to a lot of places.

The 2003 Aledo graduate now lives just a few miles down the road. However, his life has taken him to places all over the globe.

"When people ask me what I do, I ride motorcycles and I talk to people," Dan said.

Dan is more than a Harley Davidson enthusiast. He has some legendary stories to tell, and loves doing so on his Danger Dan's Talk Shop podcast.

Among the many motorcycles he owns, one of his five Harleys is on display in the Harley Davidson Museum in Milwaukee.

"There are so many beautiful places in this country. Mexico is one of my favorite places to go," Dan said. "The food's great, expenses are great, the people are incredibly nice — and it's right next door."

"I can leave my front door in Tin Top, Texas and be at the bottom of Copper Canyon in a little more than two days travel time."

Getting started

Dan credits his education in Aledo with getting it all started.

"What's really helped me out in my career is a video tech class I took at Aledo High School with Mrs. (Karen) Paul. Her husband (Joey Paul) was the band director," he said. "I still use all that stuff every day. I can't thank her enough — and Aledo for having a video tech class to take."

His family moved to Aledo in 1995 from Grand Prairie. Of course, he played football until his sophomore year. He also marched in the band and played in the drum line — a talent he still puts to regular use today.

And he stood out from the norm, so to speak.

"I rode skateboards, rebelled against everything. That's what I did," he said with a smile.

He also fell in love with motorcycles.

"I first started riding as soon as I moved out to Aledo and there was

enough area to ride them," he said. "I think somebody brought a PW 50 over, other friends' motorcycles."

"My dad was so against me riding. He had a couple friends die on motorcycles when he was young."

Now, his dad, Jim Hardick, is one of his son's biggest fans, though he admits holding his breath still when it comes to some of Dan's rides.

"Some of the stuff he does as he rides, I can't watch it," Jim said. "The Himalayas, the tip of Mexico. Some of the places he rides are not for the faint of heart."

First dirt bike

"I just progressed. I got bigger, my friends got bigger and so did our dirt bikes," Dan recalled.

Dan got his first dirt bike from a friend of the family while he was growing up in Aledo.

"My friend's mom knew I needed a vehicle and she hooked me up with her deceased husband's Suzuki Savage 450," he recalled. "I rode that around for few years with no license, registration, or insurance for a few years."

"Then I went down a different path and traded it for a bag of drugs and a gun."

Straightening out

For a while Dan actually had no bike — and his life had some challenging questions. Then he met his wife Katie and they began plans for a family.

Dan decided to make some major changes in his life. He took a job working on a drilling rig in Wyoming to save money for having their baby.

"I decided to get my [act] together," he said.

But he couldn't stay away from motorcycles, the other big love in his life. Plus, he wanted his son to see his true image.

"I had a bunch of money socked up and before he was born, I decided I didn't want to look like a [wuss] in front of my son and not have a motorcycle, so I went and bought my first Harley," he said. "I've been riding them ever since."

Autry is now 12 years old. The Hardicks also have a second son, 9-year-old Brack.

Katie and their sons will sometimes join Dan on his adventures.

"They travel with me when they can, but they've got lives of their own," he said. "I try not to be gone more than two weeks a month."

Podcast

The Danger Dan's Talk Shop podcast began from his biking adventures. Along the way he would meet folks in motorcycle shops, making friends and hearing some interesting stories.

Editor's note: The podcast contains explicit language.

"For a long time I just had a 1959 Harley Davidson Chopper. I rode that all over the country," he said. "Riding a bike that's 60 years old, you have to constantly be working on it, and I would constantly be finding shops all over the country."

"They were just great people. This is what I came up with to give back to those guys. You've got to have these independent shops to keep these bikes on the road. There's so many Harley Davidsons out there."

Dan also highlights shops through his business MC Shop T's. He distributes them to subscribers, along with giving boxes to the shops themselves.

"It's like a T-shirt of the month club, but I feature a different motorcycle shop every month," he described. "Every couple of years I throw in a Danger Dan's Talk Shop T-shirt. I don't really sell any Danger Dan merchandise."

Favorite podcasts

"Some of my favorite ones I call 'The Road Shows,'" Dan said. "When I used to travel with that 1959 Chopper, I would just pull my phone out as things would happen on the road and record stuff. I would mix music in."

Well, for a while he mixed music.

"I was almost like a DJ, really, picking my favorite songs, whatever was going through my head during that trip," he said. "They were

a lot of fun to do and people really enjoyed them."

"Then, I started getting some 'cease and desist' letters. I think the first came from Bob Dylan's attorney, or somebody related to whatever entity owns the Bob Dylan songs."

"I realized I can't just put people's music on the podcast."

Of course, the podcasts have continued, as have his interactions with what Dan calls some amazing people. His list of conversations/interviews range from the CEO of Harley Davidson to "some guy I met on the side of the road who was peddling his bike across the country to meet a girl."

Then, there was a unique connection in a foreign country with another motorcycle lover of a different kind.

"I met a Mexican when I was down in Peru whose family was a motorcycle circus stunt team," Dan said. "He had these incredible photographs."

Harley Davidson Museum

Dan has a motorcycle in the Harley Davidson Museum. He and his family recently took a trip there during the holidays to see it on display.

"It was a surprise to find out it was there. I said, 'Let's go, let's take the grandkids,'" Jim said. "Dan's on video talking about it."

"I never thought I'd have a kid with a bike in the Harley Museum. There's so much history connected to Harley there, the first one ever made, an Evil Knivel exhibit. It was just so cool seeing it all and knowing Dan's bike was among it all."

As to how the bike ended up there, Dan said it began a few years ago when he was in Milwaukee working with the annual Mama Tried Motorcycle Show.

"It was put on by a guy named Warren and another guy named Scott who have become good friends of mine. They work directly with Harley Davidson, as do I, and when the museum reached out to Scott and Warren about creating a Mama Tried exhibit and bringing in some

custom motorcycles, my name got thrown in the mix," he said.

But it wasn't a done deal at first. The museum asked Dan if they could display his Chopper.

"I said there's no way I'm going to let you have my Chopper. I can't go without it," he said, still with emphasis.

But a deal was worked out.

"He liked the look of this 1994 Sportster I built to race in the Mint 400 (a motorcycle race near Las Vegas)," he said. "I was going to ride it in South America, then 2020 happened (the Covid 19 pandemic)."

Musical doppelganger

If you look up Dan Hardick on the internet, you might also come across Dan Hardick and a popular band out of Oklahoma. They are not the same Dan, but they are related.

"My dad's brother is Dan Hardick and has a band called Finger Pistols," he said.

However, Dan does still play drums in his own band, Outbound Train. They play motorcycle shops, skate parks, and as Danger Dan said some of the crowds are "freaking huge."

"We don't do it for a living, so we try to curate the funnest places to play," he said.

In fact, last year Dan said Outbound Train even went on tour.

"We played a penitentiary in Boise, Idaho, then we toured back to Texas on the Choppers, riding our motorcycles to a different show every night," he recalled. "I just mapped out the coolest route, the most scenic route, from Boise to Dallas, and then I found bars in motorcycle shops along the way."

Turn to ROAD, page 7

PHOTOS BY BRYAN HELM

LEFT: Dan Hardick, aka Danger Dan, lives his life experiencing the world on his motorcycles and loves to share his experiences.

CENTER: Dan Hardick is shown with his wife, Katie, and their two sons, Autry (left) and Brack.

RIGHT: Dan Hardick takes his chopper anywhere and everywhere on his two-wheel adventures.

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Community News Spirit Pages began again in the Sept. 13 issue.



SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 (CONTINUED)

The Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees approved submitting a class size exception waiver at its regular meeting on Sept. 9

The Aledo High School Robotics team hosted a 14-school kick-off event, giving organizational tips, model building pointers, and coding demonstrations to other north Texas public and private schools.

Dr. David C. Mason of Aledo, one of the most respected and impactful practitioners at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine at The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, was selected as the 2024 Educator of the Year by the American Osteopathic Foundation.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Second grade twins Maverick and Piper Johnson show what happens when you do the mud ball roll as part of Stuard Elementary School's Mud-Venture.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mia Mateo reacts to being named the 2024 Homecoming Queen for Aledo High School on Sept. 20 at Tim Buchanan Stadium.

board with their intent to donate Runaway Bay Golf Club and Resort to the college.

Sarah Miller, Eleanor Jack, and Madison Haynes represented Aledo High School by participating in Texas Girls State, an organization that lists among its goals to educate our youth in the duties, privileges, and responsibilities of American citizenship.

Typical playground activities were abandoned for Stuard Elementary School's Mudventure on Sept. 12, where students and young siblings frolicked, slid, and rolled in mud, sand, and sludge.

The Ladycats placed second, only four points out of the top spot, and the Bearcats placed 10th at the Texas A&M Invitational cross country meet.

Aledo varsity tennis was undefeated in District 5-5A play after traveling to Saginaw High School on Sept. 10 and winning all matches in a 19-0 victory.

The Ladycats volleyball team won in straight sets by a final score of 25-11, 25-13 and 25-16 in the district opener at Brewer.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

After negotiations to acquire the land around King's Gate Bridge have proved unsuccessful, the Willow Park City Council voted to move forward with eminent domain proceedings at its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

The Weatherford City Council went through a short but weighty agenda at its Sept. 10 meeting, approving a budget and tax rate for the coming year, and authorizing a major development agreement.

Grace First Presbyterian Church celebrated its 150th anniversary on Sept. 15.

The annual Parker County Sheriff's Posse Ranch Rodeo did not disappoint fans Sept. 13-14.

Bearcats quarterback Gavin Beard was on fire, throwing the ball with a 13-of-14 night for 196 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions as Aledo won 56-0 in its homecoming game against Birdville.

The Trinity Christian Academy Eagles football team made a stand at home and secured their first win



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pastor David Slyter teaches a mini-sermon to students and children on the steps of the altar during the 150th anniversary service at Grace First Presbyterian Church.



RYAN WADE PHOTOGRAPHY

Trinity Christian Academy celebrated with their first win of the season.

of the season with a 42-27 homecoming victory against Tyler Bishop Gorman.

The Aledo cross country teams competed on the state course at Old Settler's Park in Round Rock in hopes of returning later for the state meet.

Aledo High School senior Blake Burdine does double duty on the Bearcats football and baseball teams.

On Homecoming night, the Ladycats volleyball team showed out in their home gymnasium, dominating Saginaw in straight sets by a final score of 25-10, 25-9 and 25-5.

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats got the fall golf season going over the Sept. 13 weekend. The Bearcats played in the Bart Granger Memorial at Pecan Valley in Benbrook, while



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Linebacker Ben McElree (22) scooped up a fumble and returned it 32 yards for a touchdown.

the Ladycats were at the Granbury Lady Pirates Fall Classic at Harbor Lakes in Granbury.

OCTOBER 4, 2024

After 13 years of service to the City of Aledo, City Secretary Deana McMullen officially retired on Monday, Sept. 30.

Hudson Oaks City Administrator Sterling Naron presented the 2025-2025 budget to the city council, continuing the tradition of no property taxes in the city.

The Annetta Town Council approved the installation of two new propane tanks at its meeting on Sept. 19. They have been placed at the Lakes of Aledo and at Water Plant No. 4. The Aledo Bearcats prepared to host the No. 1 Denton Ryan Raiders.

Runners from Aledo and Weatherford squared off against some of the best the nation has to offer at the Chili Pepper Cross Country Festival hosted by the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

In a back-and-forth contest, the Trinity Christian Academy Eagles came up short, 26-24 at Tyler All Saints.

Aledo varsity tennis had another strong showing on their home courts, defeating Fossil Ridge High School 19-0.

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team continued to dominate the competition in District 5-5A with another convincing win Friday night, Sept. 27. In that contest, Aledo handled the Fossil Ridge Lady Panthers in straight sets, winning the match by a final score of 25-9, 25-11 and 25-19.

Turn to page 9



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Obituaries

Georgia Genevne Clark

Georgia Genevne Clark, 89, passed away on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

Genevne was born November 29, 1935 in Dallas, the daughter of Alleyne Rickard Hendricks and Eugene Hendricks. She lived in Dallas, California, and Arizona before returning to live in Aledo to take care of her mother.

Genevne worked at Motorola in Phoenix for many years where she met the love of her life, Al Clark, and together they had a daughter, Melinda Clark.

Genevne was a member of the Aledo United Methodist Church for many years, enjoying friendships with many people, and a special group of friends in their Sunday School class where there were many parties throughout the years.

Genevne fiercely loved her family, especially liked road trips



Georgia Clark

and family camping trips, whether it was in a tent or a tent trailer camping in the mud. She loved sitting by the campfire and being entertained by stories from anyone who wanted to tell one. She also enjoyed crossword puzzles, entertaining, and was an excellent cook. She was an incredible wife, mother, and grandmother to all.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Alvah Clark; children, Joe DeRohwer, II, James DeRohwer, and Melinda Clark.

Genevne is survived by her children, Jerevne Cronin, Tim DeRohwer (Pam), Matthew DeRohwer, Rainie DeRohwer, and Darien DeRohwer. Genevne was grandmother to 11; great-grandmother to 17; and great-great-grandmother to one. She is also survived by numerous cousins; a host of extended family members; and a lifetime of friends.

The Community News
January 24, 2025

Clayton Colby Thomas

Clayton Colby Thomas, 39, of Hico, Texas, left us suddenly on January 14, 2025. A loving husband, son, brother, and uncle, Colby will be remembered for his endless creativity, a talent for building anything he could imagine, and a contagious laugh and smile.

Born on August 11, 1985, in Fort Worth, Colby was the second son of Frank and Garla Thomas. Raised in Aledo, Colby was a gifted athlete and enjoyed all sports, but none more than football, excelling at quarterback for the Bearcats. Colby made strong friends there that he would stay connected with for the rest



Clayton Thomas

of his life. Following high school, Colby eventually followed his love for the outdoors to the family ranch in Hico.

On March 24, 2018, Colby married the love of his life, Cassidy. Her grandparents owned the neighboring ranch, sharing a fence line with Colby's family. They first met in 2013 and were able to spend eight years together. He was a devoted husband and their profound connection will be deeply missed.

Colby was kind, funny, and always knew how to make others laugh. When he wasn't designing or building his next project, he loved to hunt, fish, and spend time with family, friends, and his cherished

companion — his dog, Beaux. He had an artistic mind, an eye for detail, and a unique ability to bring his ideas to life.

Colby is survived by his wife, Cassidy Thomas; his parents, Frank and Garla Thomas; his younger brother, Brady Thomas; his older brother and his wife, Tyson and Karis Thomas and their children Parker, Jackson, Beckett, Lucy, and Lyla; his grandmother, Sandra Fox; and his uncle and his wife Chris and Jayne Griffin. Colby was preceded in death by grandparents Frank and Lucille Thomas and Garland Griffin.

A service to celebrate Colby's life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 24, at Stillwater Meadows (9842 E Bankhead Hwy, Aledo).

The Community News
January 25, 2025

Patricia Jung Williams

Patricia (Patty) Jung Williams of Willow Park passed away on January 18, 2025, after a courageous battle with glioblastoma. As the President of Roger Williams Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep & Ram in Weatherford, she was recognized throughout the Metroplex and State of Texas as a successful woman in a male-dominated business and as an avid supporter of her community.

The daughter of Hermann and Kitty Jung, Patty was born August 10, 1957, in Ottawa, Canada, after her family immigrated from Germany. Upon moving to Fort Worth, she and the Jung family became American citizens. She graduated from Arlington Heights High School, which named her a Distinguished Graduate. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Business with a Minor in Marketing from Austin College.

She was an active member of Willow Park Baptist Church. Throughout her two years of treatment, she wrote several inspirational songs and poems. Two have been recorded by Sonny & Jolie Burgess.



Patricia Williams

Prior to entering the automobile industry, she was in the hotel hospitality business working with her father at Green Oaks Inn in Fort Worth. After college she became sales manager for Hyatt Hotels/Fort Worth and director of sales for state associations for AMFAC Hotels/DFW Airport.

In 1995 Texas Governor George W. Bush appointed her to the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority, and then she was elected as the first female chairman. Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed her to serve as a Public Member/Director of the State Bar of Texas in 2002.

She has been a passionate community volunteer. Among the organizations that have benefited from her efforts are the Better Business Bureau of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, where she became the first female president of the board; Jewel Charity Ball; Tarrant Area Food Bank; Texas Women for the Arts; Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce; Steering Women for Business (affiliate of Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo); Fort Worth Council for Life; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; Austin College

President's Council; Weatherford Wags; and Saving Hope Animal Rescue.

She was recognized in 1997 as the Most Influential Business Woman of the Year by the Fort Worth Business Press, received the Paul Harris Fellow recognition from the Westside Rotary in 2001, and was named 2012 Mother of the Year by the Tarrant County March of Dimes.

She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Congressman Roger Williams; children, Jaclyn (J.J.) Williams Contreras and husband, Eric; Sabrina Williams Speirs and husband, Jesse; grandchildren, Clara Contreras and Emmy Mac Speirs, all of Willow Park; sister, Susan Davis and husband, Greg of Cedar Park and many devoted nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials go to the Patty and Roger Williams GBM Research Fund Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke, DUMC 3624, Durham, NC 27710.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 25, at Willow Park Baptist Church, 777 Crown Pointe Blvd., Willow Park, Texas.

The Community News
January 24, 2025

ROAD

from page 5

"We played a show every night. We ended at Brown's Cycle in Dallas - and it was insane."

Where to next?

Dan said there are still so many places he'd love to ride his Harley. They include Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Brazil, Australia, and a couple of very special places, he said.

"Africa's really been calling my name lately. That's probably going to be the next big one I do," he said.

This includes the Death Acre. It's where dunes meet the sea on the coast of Angola.

"These giant waves crash into the beach, and when the tide recedes you can use that small bit of time to ride across the hard packed sand in between the waves

and giant sand dunes," he said with excitement.

Then, he added, "I'd also like to go to Kenya, the Congo, Morocco, Egypt. I've been to a lot of places, but there are still plenty of places to go and experience."

No place like home

Though his life is one big adventure, Dan said he's eternally grateful for his family and friends.

"Thanks to my family, my wife and kids for putting up with my crazy antics and my traveling ways. My dad for being the rock back home and supporting me. My mother as well for passing on this adventurous spirit," he said. "My two brothers and my sister who are all doing great in their own ways.

"And I do appreciate Aledo, the schooling, the community that I was fortunate enough to have growing up.

"One of my favorite things about going anywhere is turning around and coming home."

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 TX Buddy Holly tune: "___ On"
- 5 Jack of sitcom "The Texas Wheelers"
- 6 large birds raised on some Texas ranches
- 7 Edwards Aquifer is the ___ source of drinking water for San Antonio
- 8 TX Pride was 1971 CMA ___ of the Year
- 16 Dallas Morning News banned these from front page in 1907
- 17 TXism: "he's ___ (not alert) ___ (not alert)"
- 21 TX Barbara Mandrell sang "If Loving You ___ Wrong"
- 22 Olney hosts "One-Armed Dove ___"
- 23 TX rancher Chuck Norris was ___ weight karate champ
- 24 TXism: "couldn't fight his way out of bag"
- 29 TXism: "___ up on" (study)
- 30 TX Lefty Frizzell hit: "Always ___ With Your Kisses"
- 31 Grapeland High class
- 32 big oil producer: East ___
- 34 TX Buddy Holly hit: "Not ___ Away"
- 35 Nolan's full initials
- 36 The Capitol was ___ in 1995

DOWN

- 1 former ___ Base in Lubbock
- 2 they're in a "Joy" candy bar
- 3 where Texas banks keep the dinero
- 4 TXism: "never let ___ you sweat"
- 9 cattle ___-up
- 10 noted Texas choreographer, Tommy
- 11 Cowboys play in ___ Stadium
- 12 TX Vikki Carr hit: "___ Must Be Him"
- 13 West Texas plains tribes were these
- 14 cream of the crop
- 15 discourteous
- 18 this school beat A&M in 1993 and 1994
- 19 Texas outlaw Ringo sometimes rode with the ___ gang
- 20 TXism: "cold as a banker's ___"
- 22 TX Bonnie & Clyde pulled 'em (2 wds.)
- 24 Austin band: Asleep ___ The Wheel

- 37 this Meredith was in 1941 western "The Son of Davy Crockett"
- 38 TX Kite green stroke film "JFK" had this type of cast (2 wds.)
- 41 once a Bellview AM
- 42 and the rest (abbr.)
- 43 crime or shopping
- 44 TXism: "he's only got one ___ the water"
- 45 ___ Harvey Oswald
- 46 pronounced punishment
- 48 TX Patrick Mahomes, e.g.
- 49 actress Sorvino
- 50 camp bed
- 51 wonder
- 52 hallucinogenic drug (abbr.)
- 12 TX Vikki Carr hit: "___ Must Be Him"
- 13 West Texas plains tribes were these
- 14 cream of the crop
- 15 discourteous
- 18 this school beat A&M in 1993 and 1994
- 19 Texas outlaw Ringo sometimes rode with the ___ gang
- 20 TXism: "cold as a banker's ___"
- 22 TX Bonnie & Clyde pulled 'em (2 wds.)
- 24 Austin band: Asleep ___ The Wheel
- 25 Corpus Christi is 65 ___cent water
- 26 tree choppers
- 27 delicate hue
- 28 after football, Staubach worked in real ___
- 29 Texas garden crop
- 30 TXism: "___ up" (bed ridden)
- 33 Willie 1992 album: "The ___ Tapes"
- 34 penalty point tries by the Mavs or Rockets (2 wds.)
- 35 expressed clearly
- 37 TXism: "spittin' image of"
- 38 French pronunciation of Paris
- 40 TX Hagman show: "I ___ of Jeannie"
- 41 Andrews FM
- 44 Texas is number ___ in Fortune 500 companies
- 47 overjoyed

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BASKETBALL

Bearcats take down Brewer for league lead

Ladycats fall just short in close contest

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats basketball teams hosted respective teams from the mighty Brewer basketball program Jan. 14 in front of a packed crowd of fans. Both contests had major implications in the District 5-5A race.

The energy was palpable and the games did not disappoint as the Ladycats tipped off first followed by the boys. In the end, the Ladycats' late rally came up just short in a 50-46 defeat while the boys collected an impressive victory over the Bears by a final score of 64-56 to take sole possession of first place in district.

Bearcats

For the boys squad, the win over Brewer was momentous as it was Aledo's first victory over the Bears since the teams were placed in the same district in the 2020-21 season.

"It's big for these guys - it's not as deep-rooted for me individually - but I'm really happy for them," Bearcats head coach Brian Blackburn said. "These guys have been working really hard and I know these guys really wanted this win."

The long-coveted win has also provided a huge boost for Aledo

(22-4 overall), who earned a 6-0 record through the first half of district play.

"It feels amazing and we're just ready to move on to the next game and get that same momentum going against Chisholm Trail," star senior guard Joaquin Pacheco said. "We're undefeated through the first round of district - we're just ready for anything."

The teams competed through a first quarter that ended with Brewer and Aledo deadlocked at 16 points apiece. The Bearcats controlled the action through most of the second quarter - highlighted by strong play from junior post Townes Van Huysen down low, who had two key putback layups during the middle of the frame. Brewer ended the first half on a 4-0 spurt that gave the Bears a 31-30 advantage at intermission.

Then, Aledo used its playmaking and togetherness to turn things in its favor.

"I think it's awesome how each player has an individual role and they don't stray away from it," Pacheco said. "We were a really good team last year, but everyone really knows their assignments this year to the best of their abilities. Coach (Blackburn) is the best coach I've ever played for, and he's been making sure everyone knows their

Turn to **HOOPS**, page 9



Townes Vanhuysen looks toward the hoop as he prepares to go up for a basket. RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASEBALL

Bearcats ninth in preseason rankings
The Aledo Bearcats are No. 9 in the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association preseason rankings for the 2025 season.
Also from the area, Brock is No. 8 in Class 4A

BOYS BASKETBALL

Freshman Bearcats perfect at district midpoint
The Aledo freshmen boys reached the midpoint of the District 5-5A race with a perfect 6-0 record. They are 18-3 overall following their recent 58-40 win over Brewer.

Weatherford Tison third in tourney

The Tison eighth grade B team went 3-1 and took third place in the Cleburne B team tournament this past weekend. Scores were:

- Defeated Joshua Loflin 29-26.
 - Lost to Mansfield Jobe 25-21.
 - Defeated Joshua Nichols 26-18.
 - Defeated Weatherford Hall 33-27.
- The seventh grade B went 2-2 in the tournament. Scores were:
- Lost to Loflin 28-23.
 - Defeated Hall 32-17.
 - Defeated Godley 23-13.
 - Lost to Jobe 28-17.

Hall eighth grade A 39, Tison eighth grade A 37
Hall Player of the Game, Grady Kness 17 points.

BOYS SOCCER

Weatherford JV 1, Decatur JV 0
Players of the Game, Victor Vasquez and Sebastian Espinosa.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aledo Middle School sweeps Mansfield Worley
Seventh grade: A Team won 25-21, B Team won 29-8, C Team won 17-11.
Eighth grade: A Team won 27-20, B Team won 31-4, C Team won 31-12.

Weatherford Hall vs. Weatherford Tison

Eighth grade: A teams, Hall won 39-27, Hall Player of the Game Gracie Clifft, Tison POG Allie Suggs and Harbor Bradley; B teams, Hall won 20-8, Hall POG Braylin Dodson and Janna Tan, Tison POG Aivery Villegas.

Seventh grade: A teams, Tison won 36-17, Hall POG Emily White and Anna Wyatt, Tison POG Dayla Taylor; B teams, Hall won 22-18, Hall POG Kylee Ricker, Tison POG Ana Casey and Aviley Woolridge.

GIRLS POWERLIFTING

Lady Roos win at Graham
The Weatherford Lady Roos took first place at a meet in Graham recently. Individual winners were Zoe Todd, Lauren Schweiss, Jenna Foster, Bailey MacDougall, Reagan Hunt, Jaclynn Gomez, Kiara Carson. Runners-up were Maddie Seago, Jasmyn Barco, Ella Jester and Kylie Baruch.

SOCCER

No. 2 Lady Roos slip by Aledo

Teams prep for district

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

With district play set to begin the following week, the matchup between Weatherford's Lady Roos and the hosting Ladycats was set to serve as a litmus test for both squads when

they took to the pitch for varsity soccer action at Tim Buchanan Stadium on Friday, Jan. 17.

The scrappy Aledo squad entered the match sporting a 4-1 record as they faced off against the No. 2 ranked Class 6A club in the state. The match lived up to the billing as the two teams battled for 80 minutes with the Lady Roos edging out a 1-0 victory.

"I thought the girls battled," Ladycats head coach Bryan Johnson said after the match. "What I liked was the fight that they had tonight. That's something we hadn't seen in a while. They got after it. They got after [Weatherford] for the entire 80 minutes. It was a great game!"

Turn to **SOCCER**, page 11



Weatherford's Addy McElhane and Aledo's Katie Cox wrestle for the ball during varsity soccer at Tim Buchanan Stadium on Friday, Jan. 17. McElhane scored the lone goal in the contest as the Lady Roos won 1-0. RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

WRESTLING

Aledo has strong showing in tourney

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats competed in the Tussle at the Trail tournament this past weekend at Saginaw Chisholm Trail High School. Eight wrestlers (five boys, three girls) finished in the top four of their respective events.

Brady Powell of the Bearcats won the lone gold medal, capturing the top spot in the 175 weight class. Also for the boys, Cameron Robbins was second at 106, Dylan Chandler was third at 120, while Oliver Tatro at 132 and Gulian Lara at 215 each placed fourth.

Avery Kernan led the Ladycats, finishing second in the 107 division, while Lillian Caruthers and Ari Mathias were each third at 100 and 138, respectively.

The boys were eighth out 17 teams and the girls were seventh out of 14.

"Great tournament showing for both boys and girls varsity teams. I saw great things from every single wrestler," coach Ben Shaw said. "They showed great skill and grit as they competed throughout the entire tournament."

The District 4-5A junior varsity tournament is Saturday in Springtown. The girls varsity tournament is Thursday, Jan. 30 and the boys is Jan. 31, both in Azle.

From the varsity tournament, the top four finishers in each weight class qualify for the Region I Tournament in Lubbock Feb. 7-8.

LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Avery Kernan Wrestling

The senior, competing at the Tussle at the Trail tournament at Saginaw Chisholm Trail High School, had one of the best showings of her career. She placed second in the 107-pound division.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Austin Randrimahefa Soccer

The senior registered a pair of hat tricks in the Bearcats' two victories this past week. After scoring three goals in a 6-1 win over Burleson Centennial, he repeated the accomplishment in a 6-0 victory against Weatherford.

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HOOPS

from page 8

roles – I give him a lot of the credit with where we're at."

Sophomore guard Caden Cunningham got Aledo within 34-33 after drilling a 3-pointer with 6:42 left in the third. Moments later, Pacheco drained a triple of his own at the 5:02 mark to trim Brewer's lead to 39-36. Then, back-to-back buckets from Van Huysen and Enrique Pacheco pulled Aledo to within 41-40 with 2:27 to go.

After that, junior guard Kaiden Clayborn spearheaded a key sequence that Blackburn called "the deciding factor."

First, Clayburn splashed a 3-pointer with 1:44 left that gave Aledo the lead back at 43-41. Then, he drew a charge with a minute left before Joaquin Pacheco completed an acrobatic 3-point play through traffic to boost Aledo's lead to 46-41 entering the fourth quarter.

For good measure, Pacheco hit nothing but net from outside the arc just 17 seconds into the fourth

quarter that increased the lead to 49-41. Aledo led by as many as 10 points while Brewer could not get closer than five the rest of the way.

"I think it gives everyone confidence knowing that we've now beaten every team in our district," Pacheco said. "Getting our first district championship this place has ever seen would be something really amazing to contribute to."

While the start to the district portion of the season has been nothing short of impressive, the process and diligence from the players has been admirable in the eyes of the coaching staff, where players have taken on plenty of extra homework off the hardwood.

"We may give them a scouting report, but they have to read it. We may send them some video clips from Hudl, but they have to watch the film on their own – that's what champions do and I think that's what separates them right now," Blackburn said. "We'll go over stuff with the guys but it's really their team – we'll just facilitate a successful game plan, they just have to understand it. I told them I would treat them like a college team ... everything that we do is based off stuff I learned as a player at Texas A&M, and they are able to buy into this process based on the aspirations they have."

Pacheco led the charge with a game-high 30 points while Van Huysen added 14 points. Clayborn scored eight points for Aledo while Enrique Pacheco and Cunningham each finished with six points.

In addition to the varsity victory, the ninth grade squad won 58-40 while the junior varsity suffered a 71-61 defeat. No individual scorers were available.

The Bearcats were playing at Chisholm Trail at press time in a battle of the league's top two teams. They host Keller Fossil Ridge Friday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m.

Ladycats

Meanwhile, the Ladycats put on a show for their home fans as well in spite of the loss. The Ladycats battled closely with Brewer similar to the seven-point road loss, but the improvement on offense and defense was evident.

The loss left Aledo (16-11 overall) tied for second in district with

a 5-2 record, both losses coming to the Lady Bears.

"The first time we played them we lost by seven, had a ton of turnovers and didn't execute well while their two best players combined for 40 (points)," Ladycats head coach Donnie Ott said. "Today, we held them to 27 between the two of them and only lost by four. I love the way they responded to start the second half, too, in using that 8-0 run to take the lead back. It may not be a win on the scoreboard, but it's a win for us and this program. The crowd was packed and very energetic – it was a great and entertaining basketball game."

Even though it was five points short of a win, the game will not inhibit Aledo's ability to continue to contend in its district or make a strong playoff run.

"With the new format of UIL, this game doesn't have much bearing on our playoff standings – we're playing the long game," Ott said. "It has a bearing on the district championship, but it's definitely not the end of the world for us."

Aledo hung close with Brewer early and often as Aledo remained within 14-11 at the end of the first quarter. In the second quarter, senior post Kinley Elms hit a layup with 4:46 left that cut the deficit to 16-14 and scored again on the block with 3:29 to go to cut the visitors' lead to 20-16. After that, junior guard Elizabeth Griffin drove to the basket and scored with 1:39 and followed that layup with a long ball at the 1:02 mark that made it a 24-21 deficit. Brewer scored once more to enter halftime with a 26-21 advantage.

Then, Aledo owned the third quarter.

Aledo exploded out of the gates on an 8-0 run – a layup from Elms, a baseline floater by Griffin and transition scores from sophomore Brooklyn Dempsey and junior Tiara Butler had Aledo out in front 29-26 with 5:39 left. Later, Brewer continued to creep closer – eventually tying the score at 29-all – but a nice layup by Butler with 1:08 and a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from senior guard August Carlone gave the Ladycats a 34-33 edge entering the fourth.

Aledo held a 36-33 lead after Butler found Elms inside for a score



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

August Carlone attempts to dribble past an aggressive Brewer defender.

with 6:53 left, but Brewer responded with a 9-0 run to take a 42-36 lead that they would not relinquish. Aledo managed to get as close as 45-43 after Dempsey split a pair of free throws with 1:59 remaining but could not wrestle the lead back in the end.

"We've got to work on late game situations like trapping out of inbound sets and not fouling 3-point shooters," Ott said. "Offensively, they took Liz (Elizabeth Griffin) out late in the game to put the pressure on our other guards, so we will need to be more efficient there. There is a lot that we can learn and grow from and this game is going to be huge for making us better in the long term."

Griffin led the way with a team-high 18 points while Elms scored 10. Butler added nine while Carlone (6) and Dempsey (3) combined for nine more points.

Furthermore, the JV and ninth grade Ladycat teams scored big in the win column in their respective wins over Brewer. The JV team won 46-6 behind 10 points from Sarah Edwards while the freshman squad recorded a 53-8 victory behind 22 points from Bailey Martin and 12 from Sonsoles Rosado.

At press time, the Ladycats were playing at Chisholm Trail. Friday, Jan. 24, they host Keller Fossil Ridge at 6:15 p.m. in a game that could decide second place in district.

SPORTS BRIEFS

GIRLS SOCCER

Weatherford JV 3,
Crowley JV 0

Goals scored by freshmen Piper Mercier and Jayden Wright. Piper and Emely Castaneda each had a shut-out in goal.

Weatherford JV 2, Aledo JV 0

Goals scored by Camden Freas-Lewis and Jayden Wright. Shutout by Piper Mercier.

Weatherford JV 6, Decatur JV 0.

Weatherford Players of the Game, whole team.

Weatherford JV B 3,
Godley JV 0

Players of the Game, Morgan Banfield 2 goal, Piper Mercier goal, defense with the shut-out and goalkeeper Hope Wareham.

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2024

Data Control Codes		60		98		
		10	50		Total	
		General Fund	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Other Funds	Governmental Funds
REVENUES						
5700	Local and intermediate sources	\$ 47,468,969	\$ 26,942,209	\$ 5,389,156	\$ 3,999,742	\$ 83,800,076
5800	State program revenues	32,928,151	3,082,640	-	1,689,706	37,700,497
5900	Federal program revenues	305,966	-	-	4,523,831	4,829,797
5020	Total revenues	80,703,086	30,024,849	5,389,156	10,213,279	126,330,370
EXPENDITURES						
Current:						
0011	Instruction	47,752,945	-	6,985,939	3,673,709	58,412,593
0012	Instructional resources and media services	832,882	-	-	78,658	911,540
0013	Curriculum and instructional staff development	709,749	-	-	140,832	850,581
0021	Instructional leadership	966,270	-	-	-	966,270
0023	School leadership	4,460,540	-	-	-	4,460,540
0031	Guidance, counseling, and evaluation services	2,703,040	-	-	1,045,580	3,748,620
0033	Health services	810,504	-	-	-	810,504
0034	Student (pupil) transportation	3,876,706	-	49,633	12,260	3,938,599
0035	Food service	133,840	-	15,671	3,919,528	4,069,039
0036	Extracurricular activities	3,472,751	-	206,112	23,900	3,702,763
0041	General administration	3,507,117	-	-	18,384	3,525,501
0051	Facilities maintenance and operations	9,196,710	-	2,844,261	-	12,040,971
0052	Security and monitoring services	980,574	-	3,330,440	994,247	5,305,261
0053	Data processing services	2,029,533	-	3,678,769	-	5,708,302
0061	Community services	61,609	-	-	6,512	68,121
Debt Service:						
0071	Principal on long-term debt	-	13,930,000	-	-	13,930,000
0072	Interest on long-term debt	-	14,986,567	-	-	14,986,567
0073	Bond issuance cost and fees	-	11,113	-	-	11,113
Capital Outlay:						
0081	Facilities acquisition and construction	44,056	-	55,558,315	-	55,602,371
Intergovernmental:						
0091	Contracted instructional services between schools	716,726	-	-	-	716,726
0099	Other intergovernmental	917,995	-	-	-	917,995
6030	Total expenditures	83,173,547	28,927,680	72,669,140	9,913,610	194,683,977
1100	EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(2,470,461)	1,097,169	(67,279,984)	299,669	(68,353,607)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
7912	Sale of capital assets	93,011	-	-	-	93,011
8911	Transfers out	(66,499)	-	-	-	(66,499)
7080	Total other financing sources (uses)	26,512	-	-	-	26,512
1200	NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(2,443,949)	1,097,169	(67,279,984)	299,669	(68,327,095)
0100	FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING	26,153,588	4,642,862	118,234,793	2,150,568	151,181,811
3000	FUND BALANCES, ENDING	\$ 23,709,639	\$ 5,740,031	\$ 50,954,809	\$ 2,450,237	\$ 82,854,716

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The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, and Specifications, may be examined at the following location:

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The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at www.jacobmartin.com. Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be **\$100.00** for 11x17 plans. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be **\$0.00**. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

Bid Bond: A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the **City of Willow Park**, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

City of Willow Park, Doyle Moss, Mayor January 24th and 31st, 2025

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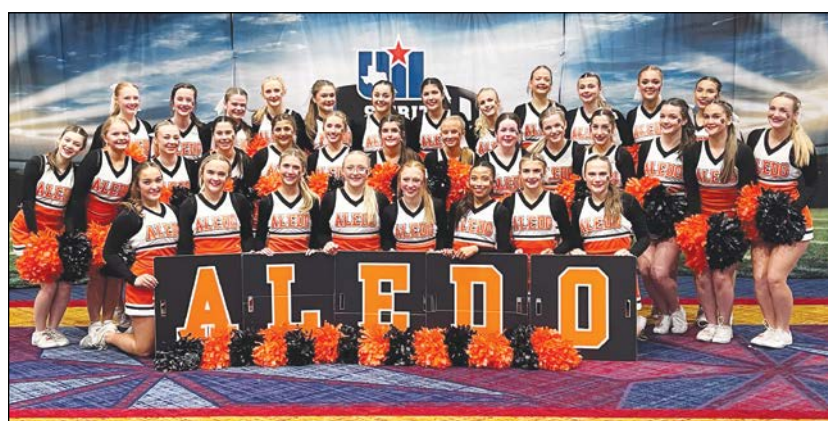
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ALEDO ISD

The Aledo High School spirit team placed eighth in the Class 5A Division I state championship Jan. 16-18 at the University Interscholastic League State Spirit Championships at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

CHEERLEADING

Area teams fare well at state championships

Aledo places eighth in division

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo High School spirit team placed eighth in the Class 5A Division I state championship Jan. 16-18 at the University Interscholastic League State Spirit Championships at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

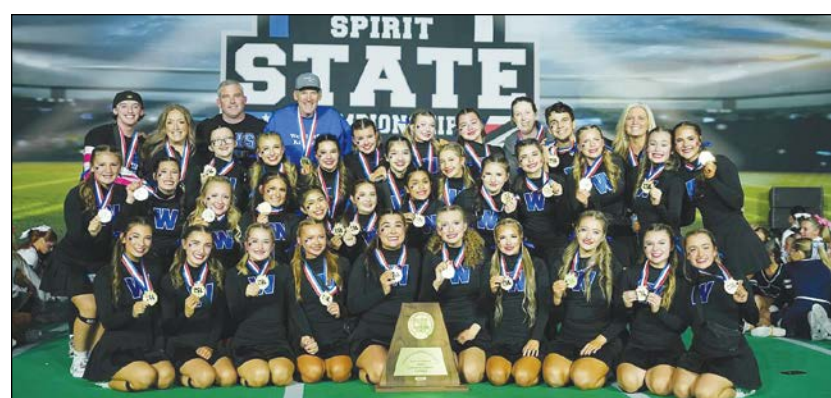
Aledo garnered 87.10 points, just 0.50 out of seventh. Fort

Worth Paschal won the title with 94.40.

The Weatherford spirit team won the Class 6A Division II state championship, scoring a total of 89.90 points. That was enough to edge runner-up McKinney Boyd with 87.93.

It's Weatherford's first state championship. They have placed in the top five for six consecutive years.

Also from Parker County, Brock was sixth in Class 4A Division II with 89.33 points. Hardin-Jefferson won with 93.27.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Weatherford High School team won the Class 6A Division II state championship in the UIL State Spirit Championships Jan. 16-18 at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

SOCCER

from page 8

From the opening kick through the final whistle the match was a seesaw battle throughout. The center backs for both clubs snuffed out numerous runs towards the goal by the opposing offense.

The first real scoring threat in the contest came with under 15 minutes left in the first half. Weatherford striker Addy McElhaney slipped by the Ladycats defense as she raced towards the Aledo goal.

Senior goalkeeper Ava Fennell charged forward to cut off the advance. McElhaney lost her footing briefly, then recovered as Fennell dove for the ball. McElhaney gathered her footing just in time to dribble around Fennell for a wide-open look at the goal, putting Weatherford up 1-0 with 14:20 left in the first half.

The two teams came out of the intermission with gritty determination. Freshman Audrey Obana got the opportunity to get some time in the goal in the second half for the Ladycats, picking up where Fennell left off in the first half.

Center backs Emery Thompson, Reagan Tomlin, and Lillie Gideon made sure no Lady Roos got a clean look at the goal,

while Obana picked up the scraps that made their way into the box.

With time ticking away and Aledo struggling to get a quality shot on goal, Allie Weimer got the Aledo faithful on their feet as she took the fight to Weatherford. Racing from midfield, she shook a trio of Lady Roos out of their cleats to set up a one-on-one opportunity with the keeper.

Weimer lined up her shot, striking a clean blow with her right foot. Seemingly coming out of nowhere, a Weatherford center back dove into the path of the ball, taking a shot to the torso, and knocking the trajectory of the ball beyond the endline.

The Lady Roos successfully defended the ensuing corner kick, leaving the Ladycats in a 1-0 deficit that remained as time expired.

"It bumped up some confidence that we didn't have," Johnson said when asked what this match did for his team's confidence. "We're not going to back down. We weren't afraid. Some elbows were thrown out there, and we didn't back down."

"We're a young team. Today we started four freshmen. We lost 5-0 to Centennial. We lost 1-0 to Weatherford. I think those are the two best teams we've seen, and in between we've won four games. That's enough for me."

TCA

from page 12

each game one or two of them are stepping up to help our team take care of business. Their commitment to our game plan on both ends has been a huge part of our success this season."

Peterson noted the significant impact of two of his seniors, Sam Carson and John Crane, in Friday night's contest as the two combined for 31 of the team's 63 points along with 11 rebounds and four steals for Chrane, along with four assists and a pair of steals for Carson.

Additionally, TCA outscored Midland Classical - who was 2-0 in district play entering this game - in all but one quarter as Midland Classical outscored TCA 16-15 in the third quarter.

In Friday's win, Carson scored a team-high 16 points while Chrane and Cole Massey scored 15 points apiece. Jonathan Overholt and Reed Robbins chipped in with eight and seven points, respectively.

On Saturday, the Eagles were in even more dominant form against a Midland Trinity school who was coming into the contest with an 0-2 mark in district play. The Eagles emerged with a 69-21 win - a 48-point victory that resulted in single-digit scoring outputs from



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ella Cockrum battles multiple defenders in the post during TCA's victory over Midland Trinity on Saturday, Jan. 18.

the opposition, which included zero in the third quarter.

Robbins led all scorers with 20 points while Scott Wesley-Smith had

13. The Eagles (22-2, 3-0) were playing at Lake Country Christian at press time. They travel to Lubbock Christian Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m.

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ben McElree (22), Lamel Swanson (6), Owen Henderson (0), and Kamron Hall (23) swarm a Denton Ryan ball carrier.

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Aledo soccer coach Derek Vierling and his family were named recipients of the 2024 Thanksgiving Trot

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team closed out the first half of district play with a perfect record, defeating Chisholm Trail.

The retirements of Willow Park Chief Financial Officer/Director of Human Resources Candy Jock (nee Scott) and Assistant City Manager Bill Funderburk were announced at the Oct. 8 city council meeting.

The Trinity Christian Academy Eagles defeated the Arlington Newman International Academy Warriors 56-36 at home.

OCTOBER 18, 2024

The Weatherford College Board of Trustees approved the purchase and sale of property in their October meeting that will eventually change the footprint of their Weatherford campus.

Chad Marbut was promoted to assistant city manager for the City of Weatherford.

Aledo's Rees Atkins creates healthy food using a major hydroponics operation.

New Faith Baptist Church dedicated its new sanctuary on Oct. 6.

Rick Mauch pondered the question: "logic dictates that the Aledo Bearcats football team will lose another district game at some time. Whether it will be in our lifetime is the question."

The Aledo AdvoCats held their annual Help & Hope Luncheon on Sept. 27 at Ridglea Country Club in Fort Worth.

The Aledo Bearcats came back from a 13-point deficit to defeat Denton Ryan at home.

Aledo cross country squads dominated the district meet. It's the sixth consecutive league championship



RYAN WADE PHOTOGRAPH

TCA quarterback Canaan Kaznowski leaves a host of Warrior defenders behind as he rushes for one of the Eagles' eight touchdowns against Newman International on Oct. 4.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Rowan Lapenna paints his self portrait on a pumpkin, one of the many activities at Aledo Methodist Church's Lord's Acre, Oct.12.

for the Bearcats and the fifth in six seasons for the Ladycats.

The Aledo Bearcats defeated Granbury 56-7 to keep an unblemished district football record.

Two sets of sisters were key to Trinity Christian Academy's volleyball program.

The Aledo Bearcats Varsity Orange team competed in the Briggs Berry Memorial tournament at Pecan Plantation in Granbury on Oct. 7.

Brothers Nash and Ben McElree enjoyed their one and only season together on the Aledo Bearcats varsity football team. Nash is a sophomore quarterback and Ben is a senior linebacker.

Aledo swept Granbury on volleyball senior night.

The Aledo tennis team claimed the bi-district title by defeating Birdville.

OCTOBER 25, 2024

Aledo filmmaker Bill McAdams found his wife while making the film God's Here.

Weatherford College President Tod Allen Farmer hosted University of Texas at Arlington President Jennifer Cowley and key leadership from both institutions on Friday, Oct. 18 to discuss expanding their partnership in light of UTA's planned expansion into Parker County with UTA West.

94 Aledo High School students earned College Board Scholar awards.

Both Aledo cross country teams qualified for the state meet following the regional contest in Lubbock.

The Aledo Ladycats won their 17th consecutive victory and clinched the top spot in district volleyball.

The Bearcat Regiment won straight Division I ratings at the 2024 UIL Region 30 contest.

The Aledo Racquet Cats' tennis season came to an end in the Class 5A Region I quarterfinals with an 11-1 loss to Argyle High School.

To be continued.

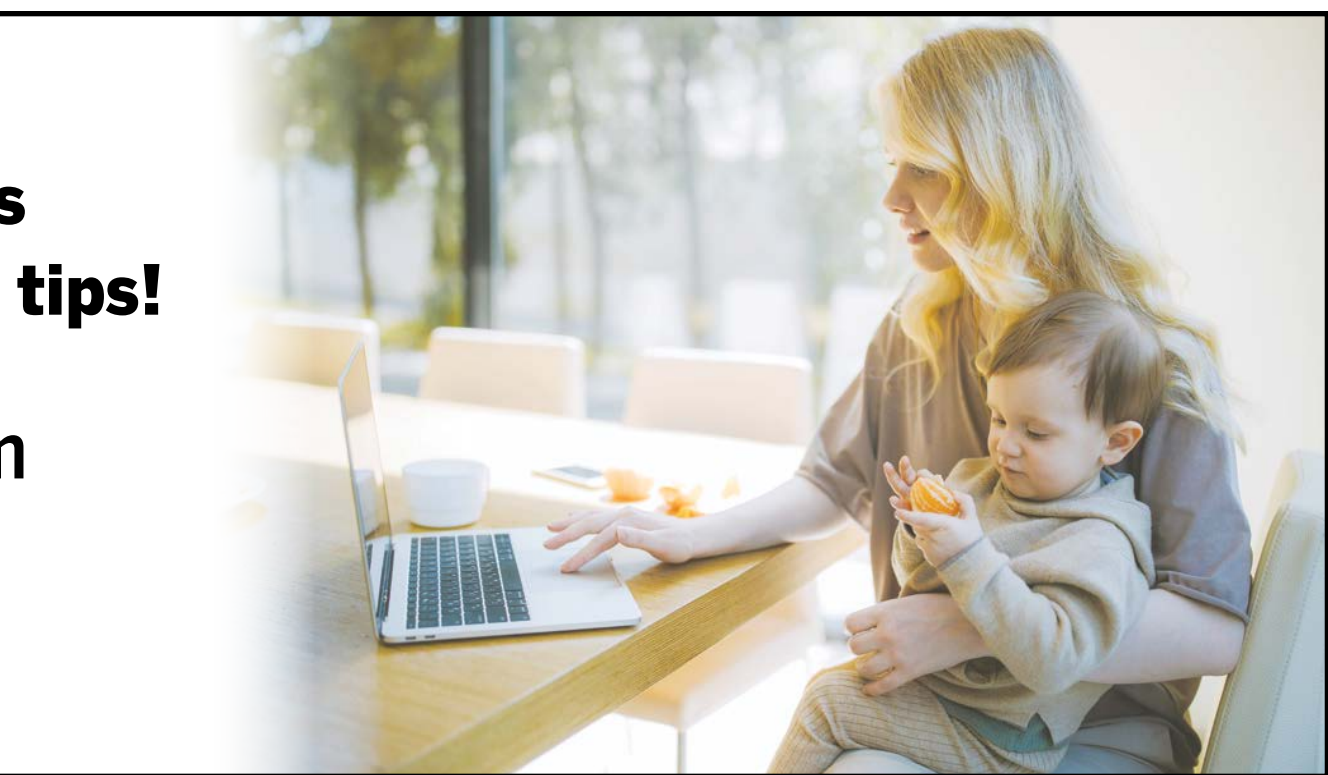
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SOCCER

Bearcats rout Weatherford

Look ahead to district

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

It was the kind of week every team hopes for as they prepare to transition into the meat and potatoes of their schedule. The varsity Aledo Bearcats soccer team (4-2) outscored Burleson Centennial and Weatherford by a combined 12 goals to one in spite of suffering several key injuries to their defense in weeks past.

"This team's clicking," Bearcat gaffer Derek Vierling said after the match with Weatherford. "We stayed healthy tonight. We're scoring goals and keeping them from scoring. That's a winning combination."

The match with Weatherford at Tim Buchanan Stadium on Friday, Jan. 17, was a lopsided affair in favor of the home team with senior striker Austin Randriamahefa posting his second hat trick in a row to close out the Bearcats' pre-season schedule.

Aledo took charge in the contest early on as the Bearcats pressed the action onto the Roos' side of the field. Kyle Storck put the Bearcats on the board with the opening goal in the 12th minute.

Storck worked his way behind the back line of Weatherford's defense creating a one-on-one opportunity between him and the keeper. As the keeper moved out of the net to cut off the advance, Storck slid to strike the ball towards the corner past the keeper for the early goal.

That when Randriamahefa took over.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Kyle Storck dribbles the ball as Weatherford's Kyler Horton looks on. Storck scored the opening goal for the Bearcats as they went on to win, 6-0, at Tim Buchanan Stadium on Friday, Jan. 17.

Randriamahefa scored his first goal of the match with just less than nine minutes remaining in the first half. Trapper Davis led the charge as he raced to the goal. As the keeper sped from the net and dove to cut off Davis, the Bearcat striker's feet got tangled up with the keeper. Davis stumbled as the ball trickled over to Randriamahefa, who was all alone. With a wide open goal, he directed the ball into the net to give Aledo the 2-0 advantage.

His second goal came just moments later as he had a clean look at the goal from 20 yards out before burying the shot with just over five minutes remaining in the opening half.

He concluded the hat trick in the 55th minute of play with a clean tapper into the goal making it a 4-0 game for Aledo.

"[Randriamahefa] put on a show tonight," Vierling said, praising his star offensive weapon. "He's very talented. He's got great ball skills. I'm blessed to be coaching him."

With the game well in hand, Vierling went to his bench. Adrian Solis scored a goal of his own midway through the second half on a second-chance opportunity after the Weatherford keeper was unable to secure the ball off a blocked shot.

With just 25 seconds left to the play the Bearcats added their final goal to close out the feature.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jonathan Overholt scores a bucket off the backboard with a defender in his face as the Eagles soared to victory on Saturday, Jan. 18.

BASKETBALL

TCA earns pair of dominant district wins

Eagles collect two double-digit victories

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Trinity Christian Eagles boys basketball team hosted Midland Classical and Trinity School of Midland on consecutive weekend days - Friday and Saturday, Jan. 17 and 18, respectively.

In the end, TCA remained unblemished within the early

portion of their TAPPS District 1-4A schedule, cruising to two double-digit victories. The Eagles took down Midland Classical 63-51 Friday night before trouncing Trinity School of Midland 69-21 on Saturday.

"This group of seniors has been the most focused team I've coached in my 16 years as a varsity head coach," Eagles head basketball coach Jeff Peterson said. "It seems like

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Photos courtesy of ALEDO High School Band

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