

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO ISD

## Ansley named new Daniel Ninth Grade Campus principal

Carolyn Ansley, assistant principal at Aledo High School, has been named as the new principal at the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.



Ansley

Ansley served at AHS for nine years. She was recently honored as Aledo ISD's Assistant Principal of the Year for the 2019-2020 school year.

"I am so happy that Mrs. Ansley has agreed to take on this new leadership role," Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "She is already an incredible asset to our Bearcat Leadership Team, and I am anxious to see the positive impact that she will have at the Daniel Ninth Grade Campus."

Ansley has 12 years of leadership experience and served as an assistant principal in the Burleson, Crowley, and Denton school districts. She was a classroom teacher in three districts (Midway, Crowley, and White Settlement) and also served as an assessment specialist in Crowley.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the students and staff of Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus," Ansley said. "First, I would like to say how very much I appreciate all of the support and encouragement that I have received from my colleagues at Aledo High School. My nine years

as Aledo High School assistant principal have made an indelible mark upon me and my family, and have prepared me for the leadership opportunity I have accepted at Daniel Ninth. Second, I am both humbled and excited for the new adventures that lie ahead as we welcome our freshman to the start of a great high school journey."

Ansley has a Master of Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington and an undergraduate degree from Baylor. She replaces Angi Tims, who was named Aledo High School Principal last month. Both Ansley and Tims will finish the school year in their current roles.

## All For The Kids



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo High School principal Dan Peterson directed rehearsal with students before the 2019 graduation.

### AHS' popular principal Dan Peterson ending career after 12 years at Aledo ISD

By Tony Eierdam  
The Community News

Aledo High School 10-year principal Dan Peterson announced early this spring that he was retiring after spending 35 years in education, which sent shock waves throughout the district.

Peterson came to Aledo ISD in 2008 as the new middle school principal. Two years later, he was promoted to the high school principal position and spent the next decade at the secondary school.

"I was very upset when he called and told me he was retiring; very upset," vice-principal Tessa Maurer said. "His shoes will be huge to fill."

Peterson is a "hands on" administrator whose door is always open and his presence always felt. There was hardly ever a home athletics contest he missed and he is a big booster of all the AHS extracurricular activities.

In the last 10 years, Peterson was present at nearly every home event and was often traveling to watch teams in district play or the playoffs.

"I don't think it took him very long to win everybody over at the high school," Maurer said. "His personality and his work ethic, how he handles the staff and the kids, has always been what is best for Aledo ISD."

"Dan is driven in all his decisions by his high ethical standards. He always gives his very best and is a hard worker that demonstrates his dedication to serving others each day."

Aledo ISD Assistant Superintendent Lynn McKinney

In this time of his life, Peterson feels it is time to move on. His youngest daughter, Holly, a former Ladycats soccer player, will graduate from the University of Oklahoma in May. His son, Tarren, graduated from Georgetown University.

Dan and his wife Leslie have been married 30 years, meeting when Dan taught shop at Marcus High School in the 1985-86 school year.

That was Peterson's first job after graduating with a B.S. in Education from the University of

Nebraska. Peterson completed his Master in Education at Tarleton State University.

When asked what he will miss the most when leaving AHS, it was not a shock when he said "the kids."

"I don't know that there is any one highlight for me when I look back over the past 10, 12 years," Peterson said. "But I would say it's the incremental learning process you see in a kid. Everybody talks about the light bulb going on — it's when they hit their stride and they start to realize things are clicking for them now."

"But now that I think about it I do have a personal highlight — having my daughter (Holly) walk across the stage at graduation. That's a huge moment. To be able to give her a hug coming across the middle of the stage — you know, that was...awesome."

Peterson said he knew as early as his junior year in high school that he wanted to become an educator. After being in teaching for 11 years, he got into administration as an assistant principal at Crowley Middle School.

#### Influences

Peterson said the big influence on his life and why he chose teaching came at Omaha Bryan High School, where he graduated in 1980.

"My sophomore year in high school I had two teachers in my vocational classes that really had an impact on me," he said. "I could tell I hit my niche. I'd

Turn to **PETERSON**, page 3



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo Colorguard performs at the 2019 state football championship at AT&T Stadium.

## Aledo Colorguard recruiting for '20-'21

The Aledo High School Colorguard is looking for members to join next year's team. Colorguard members have the opportunity to learn how to dance, spin a flag, and perform at football games and with the band at halftime.

No experience is required to sign up for Aledo's award-winning program.

For a video presentation, visit <https://bit.ly/aledo-colorguard-video>.

For a signup form, visit <https://bit.ly/colorguard-signup-aledo>.



Volume 30, Number 22  
Published Weekly

#### Time Flies

Publisher Randy Keck looks back at the last 25 years of The Community News.

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#### Staying in Shape

UIL allows conditioning workouts to begin.

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#### Cut Short

Tony Eierdam analyzes the abbreviated soccer season.

PAGE 12

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## Milestones

### Rawley Receives \$2,000 Scholarship

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Aledo High School senior Emma Rawley. The co-op awarded eight \$4,000 scholarships and eight \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are active co-op member-owners.



Rawley

Tri-County Electric Cooperative created the scholarship in 2019. The money that funds the co-op's scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits that are returned by the State of Texas each year.

"This is the second year the co-op has provided \$48,000 in scholarships to students in our community," said Darryl Schriver, Tri-County Electric Co-op general manager. "We are proud to help these students achieve their educational goals."

Rawley, the daughter of Paul and Kristi Rawley, will attend Texas A&M University in the fall and major in Ecological Restoration.

patriotism demonstrated in their homes, schools and communities. Each student was selected by their high school to receive this honor. This year's recipients were:

- Reagan Peterson — Aledo High School
- Kathryn Hall — Brock High School
- Stephanie Shaw — Millsap High School
- Emily Hand — Peaster High School
- Megan Brock — Poolville High School
- Curtis Terry — Springtown High School
- Sydney Wolfenberger — Weatherford High School

The Weatherford DAR Chapter has been providing a scholarship for deserving students since 1924. Their scholarship committee chose three students from the applications received from the seven Parker County high schools.

These students will be able to use the scholarship at Weatherford College to further their educational goals. The recipients were:

- Breanna Parks — Aledo High School
- MacKynlee McBride — Millsap High School
- Abriela Bailey — Peaster High School



Parks

DAR is a women's service organization with chapters in every state of the union and in many foreign countries. For membership, any woman 18 years of age or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership. If you are interested in learning more about DAR go online to [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) or contact the local Weatherford Chapter through a message on their Facebook page.

### Zonta Club announces scholarships

The Zonta Club of Parker County has awarded scholarships to eight young women in Parker County who

will pursue higher education studies in the Fall 2020 semester.

Scholarship recipients include Elizabeth Mederos from Weatherford College, who will attend the University of Texas at Arlington; Cara Speicher will continue her studies at the University of Texas at Arlington; Hannah Landenberger from Poolville High School, who will attend Western Texas College; Elaine Scott from Weatherford High School, who will attend Brigham Young University; Emily Hand from Peaster High School, who will attend Abilene Christian University; Maci Wisdom from Quail Springs Academy, who will attend Texas Tech University; Tatum Wright from Weatherford High School, who will attend Oklahoma State University; and Veronica Levrie, attending Weatherford Adult Education who will attend Weatherford College.

Zonta is an international organization of professionals whose mission is to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy. The local Zonta Club is involved in many service projects throughout Parker County.

An annual Status of Women Luncheon is normally sponsored by Zonta Club of Parker County at which scholarship recipients are honored. That luncheon was canceled due to COVID-19 this year. Despite the pandemic, fund-raising activities held earlier in the year and generous donations to the scholarship fund enabled the club to award money to help very deserving women achieve their higher education goals. Donors included PlainsCapital Banks of Weatherford and Willow Park, Whites Funeral Home of Weatherford, and Weatherford College. Zonta club members who donated to the local scholarship fund were Amy Mercer, Dr. Arleen Atkins, Anita White, Tanya Hodges, and Christine Langston.

For more information, visit [zontaparkercounty.org](http://zontaparkercounty.org).

## WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

# Students receiving CARES Act grants

Weatherford College is assisting students in accessing CARES Act funding from the federal government in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The college has received \$2.56 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to provide emergency grants to college students whose lives and educations have been disrupted by the virus outbreak and to further assist the college in this challenging climate.

"Our Financial Aid Office is now actively distributing CARES Act grants in consultation with the U.S. Department of Education," said Adam Finley, executive dean of student services. "Multiple offices have worked collaboratively to make this aid available, and our students are now seeing the benefit of these funds."

Students who were enrolled in face-to-face courses as of March 13 are eligible to receive funding. Now that the Spring 2020 term is completed, students must also be enrolled in either Summer I or Summer II to receive CARES Act grants. Eligible applicants must also be U.S. citizens and high school graduates.

Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to WC students who qualify and are usually sent via direct deposit to the student's bank account. The funds are grants, not loans, and students are not expected to pay them back.

Eligible students were sent an email with instructions to their WC email accounts. For more information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit [www.wc.edu/CARES](http://www.wc.edu/CARES).



## WILLOW PARK

# Drive-through testing available at Texas Health

COVID-19 drive-through testing is available in Willow Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Wednesday at Texas Health, 101 Crown Pointe Blvd. in Willow Park.

A lab order from a physician is

required for testing. Once you have a lab order, call 817-599-7661 to schedule an appointment for a test. If you do not have a physician, call the same number to schedule a screening appointment.

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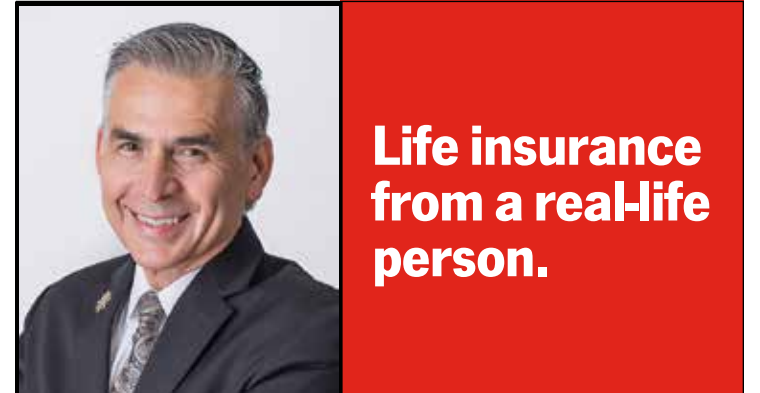
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# PETERSON

from page one

always enjoyed working with wood and doing something with my hands and fixing stuff.

“My junior year, I had a teacher whose name was Bill Hornbacher; he took an interest in me and had a big impact on me because he just kind of let me really hit my stride. We made some huge projects and worked on bigger things to build — like roll-top desks and stuff we could sell for a fundraiser for the program.

“He asked me if I had ever thought about becoming a teacher; he felt I worked well with others. I had thought about becoming an educator, but wasn’t sure what I wanted to do before that conversation, and when he said that I made my mind up to teach.

“Mr. Hornbacher was all about ‘I love to teach. I’m all about kids. I want to help people get better and have some influence on them’ and that had a big influence on me.”

Peterson came to Texas to teach simply because that is where he was first offered a job. He said he wanted to find an opening in a big metropolitan area like Dallas/Fort Worth. He came to Texas and filled out applications and had some interviews, including Lewisville ISD. He said he had sent applications to Georgia, Florida, Kansas, Missouri, and California.

“I literally applied all over the country,” he said. “But when it got to July I hadn’t heard anything yet, and I was thinking I was not going to get a job. I had applied in College Station, Bryan, Dallas, Lewisville, and Fort Worth and put in applications and had some interviews.

“And I finally got a call in July from Lewisville (ISD); they had an opening at Marcus High School and said they remembered that they



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**LEFT: Aledo High School principal Dan Peterson is shown with his daughter, Holly, at Homecoming ceremonies. | RIGHT: At Aledo High School’s last athletic event before the coronavirus shutdown, principal Dan Peterson, left, is chatting with Ladycats head track coach Mike Pinkerton during the Bearcat Relays. In his 10 years as AHS principal, Peterson has been a fixture at most every AHS extracurricular activity.**

interviewed me. They offered me the job on the spot and said, ‘We’d love to have you come down’ so I literally accepted the position over the phone.”

From there, Peterson’s work history before Aledo ISD included six years at Lewisville ISD followed by 18 years at Crowley ISD where he was a middle school assistant principal, a ninth grade center principal at both Crowley High School and North Crowley High School, and a middle school principal before working two years in Crowley ISD Central Administration.

After teaching industrial arts and general plastics at Marcus High School for two years, Peterson was

switched to Dekay Middle School in the district to teach. He said at that time he was not looking at a promotion to administration.

“When I was a teacher I absolutely loved to work with middle school kids,” Peterson recalled. “So that was a great transition for me because I was a little bit older than them and it helped me with the classroom management as I’m learning my trade a little bit better and working on relationships and communication with parents and all those things that make you an excellent teacher, and I was learning more about lesson plans and all that kind of stuff.”

### Communicating Confidence

Peterson recalled there was a moment early in his career that gave him confidence he could not only flourish in his job, but possibly take it to a higher level. It was Peterson’s communication skills that impressed a school counselor when Peterson was dealing with one of his students.

“There was a situation going on with a young man and was he was struggling a little bit,” Peterson said. “He was a sophomore and he was not making good choices a lot of the time. And he had done something in my class, but I hadn’t written him up, but she (the counselor) had

come by to talk to him and pulled him out in the hall.

“We had a conversation, and later on she caught me and said, ‘You really did well in that dialogue...you worked well with that young man in that situation; I really appreciate the way you had that dialogue with him.

“She saw something in me that I had a connection with kids, and her compliment meant a lot.”

It was in that environment where Peterson’s skills as a communicator began to flourish. Aledo ISD Deputy Superintendent Lynn McKinney feels that is one of his better qualities.

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Aledo High School principal Dan Peterson speaks during the 2019 graduation. Peterson is retiring after 12 years of administrative service at Aledo ISD, including the last 10 years as high school principal.**



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Aledo High School principal Dan Peterson takes a family photo on the AT&T Stadium field. Shown with Dan (from left) are daughter Holly, son Tarren, and wife Leslie.**



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Christopher Aguilar gets a hug and a handshake at the 2019 graduation.**

## PETERSON

from page three

“Dan works to get to know his students,” McKinney said. “He truly cares about them and wants what is best for each individual student. It is obvious when you see Dan with the students that he has a true respect and love for his kids; he enjoys spending time with them and attending all the high school events.”

“Dan is driven in all his decisions by his high ethical standards. He always gives his very best and is a hard worker that demonstrates his dedication to serving others each day.”

Aledo High School Learning Center principal Cheryl Jones calls Peterson a “servant leader.”

“Everything that he does on a daily basis is done for the student body and staff at AHS,” Jones said. “He knows his kids by name. He goes to their events and makes himself available to students, staff, and parents. Some qualities that come to mind are: kind, caring, fair, resourceful, patient, loyal, and fun!”

“I believe one of the reasons that AHS has been so successful in academics and extra-curricular activities is because of Mr. Peterson. He makes sure teachers and students have what they need to be successful. He follows through with his commitments to the students...he has shaved the ‘A’ into the back of his head and colored it. If that doesn’t scream school spirit and student support...I don’t know what does.”

“You don’t get a nickname like ‘Dan the Man’ without being a super-involved principal. He really *knows* his staff and his students. He works for them. If you walk into AHS, you will see him out and about interacting with students and building relationships.”

### School Spirit

School spirit and caring for the students is his top quality, according to Aledo ISD Athletic

Director Steve Wood, who has spent more than two decades teaching, coaching, and as an administrator in Aledo.

“Dan is a genuine guy who truly cares about our kids,” Wood said. “He is such a great supporter of all of our kids. He is visible — he is in the hallways, the cafeteria, he’s at all of the contests — and all the kids know him.”

“He is the biggest advocate of our children that I have ever worked under. He is as good as there is. I would hate to have to hire his replacement, and I would hate to have to try and follow him. He is a unique guy. He is the best principal I have ever worked under.”

Bearcats head football coach Tim Buchanan has worked for several principals before Peterson. He said he knew right away that Peterson was a special guy. Buchanan shared a story that made him feel that way.

“On his first day as the high school principal,” Buchanan recalled, “we were at lunch and one of the trash cans overflowed — like it always gets on the first day of school — and the custodians were running behind.”

“Mr. Peterson saw the trash can, and he goes over to the trash can and takes the overflowing trash out of the trash can, ties up the bag and then puts a new bag in the trash can. We hadn’t seen anything like that from a principal in a long time.”

“In other words, he showed us he was not afraid to get his hands dirty. Every decision he made and makes as a principal was kids first. He did what was best for kids. Mr. Peterson knows every kid in the high school, and if they had a problem, he knew how to help them solve their problem.”

“You couldn’t go to an event whether it be athletics, band, choir, one-act play, ag; it didn’t matter where it was, it seemed Mr. Peterson was there. We are going to miss him, dearly.”

Maurer echoed Buchanan’s thoughts.

“Dan was a principal when I was a teacher before I became an administrator,” Maurer said. “His leadership, his enthusiasm, and his overall care for the kids and what is best for the kids is his No. 1 priority; what’s best for the kids.”

“When Dan was named high school principal I was not worried at all because he was an administrator down at the middle school, and my son was at the middle school when Dan was the principal there and he was wonderful.”

“Being in the Air Force I had a lot of great commanders, but nobody could compare to Dan Peterson.”

McKinney said Peterson’s ability helped the teachers learn and grow on the job.

“Dan is truly a life-long learner, modeling for all of us that each new day brings the opportunity to grow and learn and get better at your job,” she said. “He has incredible patience and is calm, no matter the situation.”

“Most of all he has such an incredible heart, the love he shares with others through his many acts of kindness models for all of us the way we should behave every day.”

### Traits of a Teacher

Peterson feels being a good teacher is more than just having superior knowledge of the material.

“There are so many things that teachers have to do to have an impact with kids,” he said. “They need to be great at their curriculum. There’s no doubt about that. I mean, subject matter is important, but it’s all about connections with kids, it’s building a rapport with them.”

“It’s having them know that you’re there. For instance, that may mean that a student is in trouble with me because that student hasn’t turned in assignments and I’m calling home to talk to the student’s parents.”

“(And I tell the student) ‘you need to get your act together because you’ve missed three days and you’re not worried about your makeup work,’ or, ‘you’re slipping where I know you have more potential than that.’”

“But it’s that connection, and then knowing that you’re there for them. Not that you’re their best friend, not that you’re their buddy, that kind of stuff, but that you genuinely care about them.”

“You’re interested in them outside of school: Where do they work? What are they doing with their free time? What teams do they love? What sports are they into and what activities do they like? Are they in to motorcycles? Are they into rodeo? You want them to know that you genuinely care about them.”

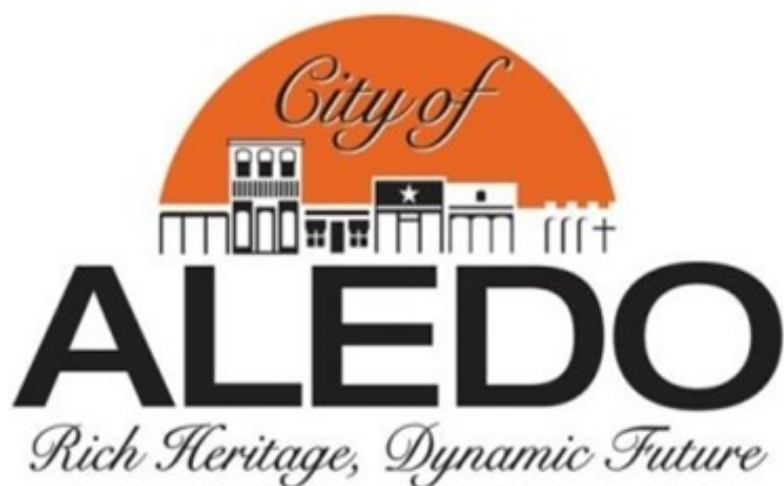
As Peterson looks back at his years in education, he said he had several people he calls mentors that helped him along his career path. One of those was Dan Manning, a former Aledo ISD superintendent, who he met while both were working at H.F. Stevens Middle School in Crowley ISD.

“Dan Manning talked me into going back to an administration position,” Peterson said. “He was a great mentor to me, and I had a few more. David Walker was another one and (the late) Don Daniel, those were the three people that had a huge influence on me.”

“There were others that had a big influence on me, Mrs. Lee Ann Pyeatt at Crowley, was another, and Lynn McKinney, here. Those are five people that had a huge influence on me. But when I was a new administrator, those are the three guys (Manning, Walker, Daniel) who really kind of took me under their wing.”

Perhaps McKinney said it best when asked for a final thought concerning Peterson.

“Dan,” she said, “will be greatly missed; by his students, the Bearcat school family, and this community. He has touched many, many lives in such a positive way.”



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## ALEDO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020



*We're so proud of you!*

**Mayor Kit Marshall, Aledo City Council, and Staff**

## Capital Highlights

# State of Texas enters second phase of reopening plan



**Ed Sterling**  
edsterling@texaspress.com

Gov. Greg Abbott on May 18 allowed restaurants to increase occupancy to 50 percent and relaxed his earlier executive orders that limited certain other public activities over the last two months to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Reopenings, Abbott said, must adhere to restricted occupancy levels and minimum standard health protocols laid out by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Notably, public schools have the option to provide in-person summer school so long as they follow social distancing practices and health protocols laid out by the state health department. Classes may begin as soon as June 1.

"I ask all Texans to continue heeding the guidance of our state and federal medical experts and do their part to protect public health. If we all unite in our resolve, we will overcome this challenge," Abbott said.

The full list of guidelines, openings and relevant dates is available at [gov.texas.gov/opentexas](http://gov.texas.gov/opentexas).

Certain counties where there are surges in COVID-19 cases will have their beginning date of Phase II delayed until May 29. Those Amarillo-area and other counties where a spike in cases has been confirmed include El Paso, Randall, Potter, Moore and Deaf Smith. Governor's Surge Response Teams are at work in those Panhandle counties to increase testing, maintain hospital capacity and ensure that COVID-19 is contained and mitigated.

Cumulative figures posted on May 21 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 52,268 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,440 deaths resulting from the virus pandemic had been confirmed.

### Budget cuts ordered

Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen on May 20 sent a letter to state agencies and institutions of higher education directing each of them to submit a plan identifying savings to reduce general revenue-related appropriations by 5 percent for the 2020-2021 two-year budget cycle.

The three highest-ranking state officials urge agencies and

institutions of higher education to pursue cost-saving strategies that will not affect the state's response to COVID-19, such as forgoing capital expenditures that can be deferred, avoidable travel expenditures and administrative expenses that are not mission critical, and keeping unfilled any open positions that are not essential to Texas' COVID-19 response.

According to the letter, certain agencies and activities are exempted from the directive "given the importance of the state's response to COVID-19 and the continuity of critical government functions."

### TSTA: It's too early

The Texas State Teachers Association, in a May 20 news release, said June 1 is too early to reopen school buildings for summer school classes and demanded that the state and local school districts agree to enforce a detailed list of safety requirements for school campuses before reopening buildings to students and school employees.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to rage across Texas, the health and safety of students, educators and our communities need to remain our first priority," said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. "The pandemic has struck in the vast majority of Texas' 254 counties and more than 1,200 new cases were reported yesterday. Fourteen people died of COVID-19 in Dallas County alone, a daily high for Dallas."

Candelaria said TSTA is demanding adequate supplies of protective gear for everyone in every school workplace, steps that must be taken to enforce social distancing and sanitation practices and strong enforcement. "Half-hearted enforcement will endanger students and educators, and our members will not stand for it on their campuses," said Candelaria.

### Child care funding is cut

The Texas Workforce Commission on May 19 announced the phase-out of a \$200 million emergency program to subsidize child care for Texas' essential workers.

Subsidies were put in place to assist both essential workers and child care centers during limited enrollment. With Texas reopening, essential workers who are already on the subsidized plan will continue to receive child care for the three-month period they were initially approved for under the program.

Effective June 1, the Texas Workforce Commission will reinstate the requirement for parents receiving financial assistance to pay for a portion of their costs.

## Slings&Arrows

# Wow — it's been 25 years!



**Randy Keck**  
rkeck@community-news.com

As I write this it has been 25 years and two days since I became the owner of *The Community News*. That's roughly 1,300 weekly issues.

We had planned to have a celebration, and we will when it is safe. But it would be a conceit to say that the celebration would be for 25 years of my ownership. It's more than that.

If you notice at the lower left-hand corner of the front page, it will indicate that this is volume 30. About five years before I took the reins, Eldon Norris started this newspaper in Aledo. When Eldon sold the paper to a new owner, it was moved to Weatherford.

I was in no way flush when I made the purchase — my mom loaned me \$5,000 and I used \$3,500 to make the down payment, leaving \$1,500 in operating capital.

That aside, I felt the first order of business should be to design a new masthead, which I did, and it contained a tagline to the effect of "Covering Aledo, Willow Park, Hudson Oaks, the Annettas, and Weatherford."

I printed out the masthead and went to visit my attorney, Gary Jordan, at his office on the square in Weatherford. When I showed him the masthead design, he looked at me and said, "I would take Weatherford off of there. They already have a paper."

Gary's advice was that I should focus my effort and attention to the eastern portion of Parker County.

Gary has never given me bad advice, so I took it to heart, and before long *The Community News* had a new home in an office building, owned by Victor Lyons at the time, on FM 1187. What I had was basically a third of what is now the Bobby Rignes State Farm office, and the \$238 rent was (barely) affordable.

So when we have our 25th anniversary celebration, it will be a personal 25 years for me and, more importantly, a celebration of *The Community News* coming back home to east Parker County.

It has been an eventful 25 years. I was green as grass when I started, but quickly found Bob Buckel in Azle, who was as good a newspaper person as you could want to learn from, and he got plenty of phone calls from me.

Jerry Tidwell at the Hood County News was also a big help, as was Roy Eaton at the Wise County Messenger.

There is nothing like being in proximity to three of the best newspaper publishers you could imagine when you don't now what you are doing!

What I did now was that I wanted a newspaper like the one I had in high school in Iowa Park, Texas. Bob and Dolores Hamilton published the Iowa Park Leader, and Bob was everywhere. For some reason, if I had a good basketball game, it meant more than normal for me to hear Bob tell me "good game" when we went into the locker room.

A year or two after we got rolling in Aledo, a commercial structure came on the market that was priced right. It needed a LOT of work, but I felt that if I could swing getting the building, it would make a good home to the paper.

An individual financed the purchase of the building for me, and we went to work.

Christopher Amos taught me how to frame, and the two of us did the interior walls. My nephew, Scott, spent his summer helping us hang sheetrock. My cousin, Glenn Weeks, came and put down ceramic tile in the restroom. Freddy Detherage brought some kitchen countertops he had on hand, and we put them across filing cabinets to make desks.

If you are getting the idea that this was a low-budget operation, you would be right. The building had to be re-wired and re-plumbed. I remember writing a column at the time about the fact that the only thing in the building that worked the way it was supposed to when I got it was the toilet, and we had to replace it because it didn't meet ADA requirements.

On the outside of the building there were some trees that had been allowed to grow up adjacent to it on the outside. One day I took the saw, the shovel, and a hatchet and decided I would remove them. I wanted to get the roots out, too, so we could plant some shrubs.

The more I worked, the harder it became to dislodge those trees. They weren't that big, but they clung tenaciously to the soil adjacent to that building. I dug, I sawed, I chopped, seemingly for days before I had finally cleared the trees from the building.

From that location, and from three others that have followed, the paper has grown.

In the early years the paper grew exponentially. I knew that wouldn't last unless our goal was to take over the world, which it was not. Our mission was very simple: to produce the best quality newspaper possible for the residents of east Parker County.

Along the way we faced existential threats from time to time. I almost lost the business in the two years following 9-11. We had a lot of large advertisers, and a lot of them dropped out in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

Competition also caused some worries along the way. I don't mind saying now that there were times when it was clear that the objective of our competition was to put us out of business. Small business deals with predatory competition

from large corporate competitors all the time.

In our case they at first put on a full-court press, hiring more reporters than we could afford to cover all the same stuff we were covering. They did heavy, heavy telemarketing. (You may notice you have never received a telemarketing subscription call from us). Later, they attempted to poach our largest advertisers, offering them advertising way below cost if they would switch out of our newspaper.

When none of that worked, they started a free paper in the market.

I'm not sharing any of that to complain. I'm sharing it to say "thank you."

You see, the reason we have survived, and the reason we are still here, is because of you and your loyalty to this publication.

Our simple mission statement was our way of proclaiming our loyalty to this community, and we hope we have been true to that calling.

But your loyalty to us has been amazing.

I hear people all the time who tell me "you are the only publication I advertise in."

I hear people all the time tell me "you are the only newspaper I read."

That touches me deeply, not because we want or expect to be anyone's exclusive advertising venue or news source. It touches me because it says you believe in us.

Like those trees I talked about, our roots go deep in this community. They're not just our roots — they are yours, and it's going to take a lot more than a pandemic or predatory competitors to dig that up.

We realize that we have better weeks than others (who doesn't?). We've received a lot of recognition over the years, but we try to stick with Troy Aikman's observation that "they don't care if you won the Super Bowl last year, what do you have this week?"

All of this is to simply tell you that there is no adequate way to say a big enough "thank you." I'm not sure if I'll still be doing this in 25 years (that would make me 88) but I can't imagine not doing it.

And a special thank you to those people (you know who you are) who have gone so far above and beyond with your support to help us hang on when we couldn't have done so otherwise.

It has not always been easy. In fact, it hasn't *usually* been easy. But it has been immensely satisfying. Every week when we send those files to the printer, as I am about to do, there is a mini elation that "wow, we did it one more time."

So stay safe, stay well, and stay tuned. There's going to be a big party, and you are invited!

*Randy Keck is the owner and publisher of The Community News. He is a past president of the Texas Press Association and a board member of the National Newspaper Association.*

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  - Texas Press Association
  - North and East Texas Press Association
  - West Texas Press Association
  - East Parker County Chamber of Commerce
  - Weatherford Chamber of Commerce

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## SUBMIT STORIES, PHOTOS OR IDEAS

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-441-7661, ext. 207 or email [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com). Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

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 necessarily 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. Send submissions to [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com).

Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph. For ease in submitting photographs electronically, visit our contact form at [community-news.com/contacts](http://community-news.com/contacts).

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. The deadline for submitting announcements is noon Friday for the following week's paper.

# The Aledo High School Class of 2020

Weston Adams	D'Anjelah Allen	Rachael Allen	Victoria Allen	Atlee Anderson	Kevin Andringa	Matthew Antonakes	Jaden Ard	Jake Ashbraner
Kent Atonio	Meagan Avery	Alize Ayala	Megan Ayers	Dean Bagwell	Logan Bailey	Camryn Barnett	Jesus Barrientos	Destiny Barron
Carson Barry	Connor Beauford	Ethan Bechtel	Chase Becker	Dylan Becker	Walker Beddingfield	Kylie Belt	Garrison Berkley	Anna Berman
Brooklyn Bierle	Samuel Bierle	Eva Binger	Amber Birdwell	Jake Bishop	Ashley Bomhoff	Maggie Bone	Preston Bowlin	Thomas Breax
Melody Brewer	Larissa Britz	Hannah Brooks	Caela Brower	Callie Brown	Hadley Bruno	Colton Bryan	Emily Bundy	Gracie Burkhardt
Steven Burns	Merritt Bush	Tori Buzbee	Clayton Byrd	Jason Byrne	Ania Cadena	Chase Canales	Alivia Cannon	Natalie Casey
Ryan Cazares	Jordan Chapin	Bonnie Chappell	Nathan Claffy	Riley Clarke	Benjamin Clements	Savanna Coble	Matthew Coburn	Sadie Cohen
Carson Collins	Stephanie Conchas	Zachary Conley	Abigail Connelly	Blake Cook	Mollie Coomer	Hope Cooper	Clare Copeland	Eva Cordell
Preston Coughlin	Molly Covington	Mckenzie Cox	Rylie Cox	Clayton Crawford	Caether Cruetsinger	Abigale Cunningham	Emma Cutaia	Alayna D'Avino
Trevor Daniels	Emma Dansie	Matthew Davi	Baylor Davis	Holden Davis	Joseph Davis	Riley Davis	Matthew De Los Santos	Bryson Dean
Jacob Decasas	Dawsen Deller	Ben Denman	Austin Denney	Hanna Diaz	Reid Dietrich	Chloe Dodson	Hannah Dodson	Chloe Dotter
Delaney Ducote	Davis Duncan	Timothy Dupont	Madelynn Duran	Anthony Edwards	Landry Edwards	Daleigh Ellison	Laine Elston	Jordan Everts

# The Aledo High School Class of 2020



Faith Farmer



Hannah Farmer



Richard Farmer



Morgan Faulkner



Ainsley Fibiger



Nathen Fingar



Karli Fisher



Audrey Fox



Jaydyn Frank



Brett Frazier



Zachary Frazier



Ryan Freese



John Furlow



Alexander Gantt



Marissa Garcia



Alaina Gardner



Kylie Gargiulo



Trevor Garrison



Chloe Gatch



Madeline Gavin



Madelynn Gilbert



Hannah Glover



Allison Goff



Cooper Goggans



Amy Gonzalez



Kaya Gonzalez



Garrett Gooden



Ryan Goodenough



Alexis Gordon



Madeleine Gould



Bryson Graf



Stephen Grammer



Alexandra Grooms



Victoria Guess



Trey Guilbault



Lukas Haas



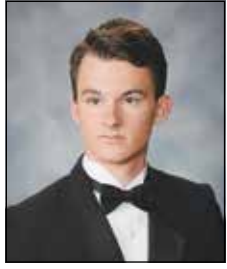
Brennan Hagood



Hannah Hamilton



Madalyn Hancock



John Harper



Reece Harr



Garret Harris



Makinzie Harris



Heidi Haw



Aidan Hayes



Garrett Heacock



Madison Head



Lilly Hefner



Sophie Hefner



Conner Henning



Haley Herrin



Logan Hewitt



Avery Hickey



Bailey Hill



Madison Hill



Mackenzie Hodges



Landon Hollandsworth



Cooper Howington



Cheney Huddleston



Julia Hudson



Morgan Huhtanen



Benjamin Humphreys



Lorene Humphries



Walker Hunt



Kurt Hutchison



Haley Jackamonis



Otis Jackson



Reese Jackson



Gunter Jarvis



Talalelei Jennings



Collin Johnson



Megan Johnson



Bailey Jones



Cade Jones



Harrison Jones



Ryan Jones



Christina Jordan



Jay Jorgensen



Lejla Karisik



London Kasper



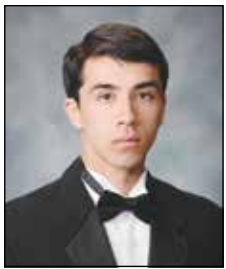
Grayson Keenum



Wyatt Keenum



Ashley Kehrt



Jason King



Reagan Knesek



Kenneth Knox



Francesca Koenig



Kennedy Krajca



Peyton Ledesma



Nicholas Leeper



Ryleigh Leifeste



Tanner Lemons



Austin Leonard



Taylor Lindley



Madison Link



Jackson Little



Micco Little



John Llewellyn



Benjamin Lopez



Allison Lorange



Noah Loth



Ciera Louwien



Emma Lowe



Jordan Lowry



Hunter Lucas



Max Lucas



Carter Mach



Dylan Mach



# The Aledo High School Class of 2020



Emma Mach



Connor Macy



Courtney Macy



Jacob Macy



Titus Mallory



Pierson Malone



Kimberly Markham



Madeline Marshall



Cade Martin



Hayden Martin



Jada Martinez



Luke Mask



Allison Mason



Carly Maxwell



Eugene May



Blaze Mayes



Creighton Maynard



Madeline Mazon



Jocelyn McBrayer



Jase McClellan



Alexander McCole



Isaac McConley



Maddison McFarland



Morgan McKee



Ian McLellan



Bryce McLeroy



Samuel McMinn



Michael McQuade



Ryan Mears



Winston Meintjes



Morgan Merrill



Kayla Metts



Logan Michael



Melia Miller



Hayden Mitchell



Jordan Montes



Macy Moody



Emma Moore



Jaxon Moore



Kade Moore



Gracie Morris



Graydon Morris



Aniston Murdock



Payton Neeley



Sy Neeley



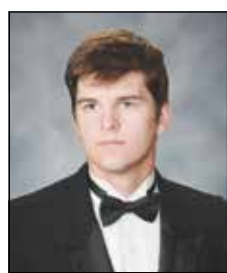
Emma Nelson



Skylar Nelson



Maxon Newell



Cole Nitsch



Kade Norton



Benjamin Oaks



Hector Olazaran



Carlie Ousley



Spencer Pangle



Jacé Parker



Breianna Parks



Monterren Parks



Rylee Paterson



Jack Paulsen



Jakob Paulsen



Elizabeth Pender



Cameron Perry



Brett Petersen



Madison Peterson



James Pierce



Blake Price



Marisol Puerta



Alexis Rangel



Michael Raulerson



Emma Rawley



Seth Reagan



Weston Reese



Luke Reilly



Emily Renforth



Alondra Resendez Alvarado



Nickolaus Rispoli



Pace Roberts



Hayden Robinson



Kade Robinson



Kirsten Robison



Arianna Rodriguez



Carlee Rogers



Justin Roquemore



Cameron Ross



Joseph Rousseau



Gianna Rowe



Radison Rowe



Riley Sale



Hunter Samaniego



Trinity San Juan



Riley Sanders



Ky Schlosberg



Heather Scoggins



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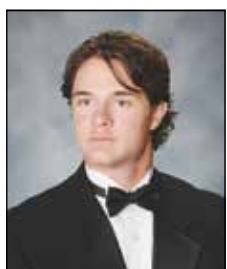
# The Aledo High School Class of 2020



Sage Soto



Isabella Stark



Jonathon Steffe



Austin Stephens



Jacob Stewart



Kylie Stovall



Caroline Suchocki



Emma Surin



Brenden Sutton



Madison Sutton



Cali Sylvis



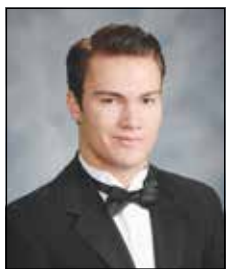
Matthew Tague



Austin Tart



Grace Taylor



Kyle Taylor



Michael Telfeyan



Garrett Templin



Hanah Terrell



Haley Thomas



Seth Thomas



Hadley Thompson



Lauren Thrasher



Logan Thurman



Marlee Thurman



Tory Thurman



Emma Tilley



Katherine Tillman



Tristan Tillman



Joshua Tipton



Evelyn Torres



Jacob Trawick



Emma Trigg



Adam Tupper



Jake Turner



Reid Van Ness



Ani Vartanian



Sean Venerable



Alease Vonasek



Quinn Walker



Emily Wallace



Jordan Wallace



Breanna Ward



Johnathan Warren



Annalise Wasson



Jordyn Wayneood



Max Wegner



Briana Welch



Carson Wersal



Miah Wheeler



Haley Whitcomb



Brittney White



Chase White



Lillian Williams



Phillip Willoughby



Jacob Windes



Caitlin Witte



Katherine Wood



Lillian Wood



Devin Woodliff



Andrew Wright



Hailey Wright



Brittney Yates



Taylor Yates



Gavin Yellow Eyes



Ryan Zarate



Caitlin Zimmermann



Edward Zschiesche



Watch for our  
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to Seniors in  
next week's  
issue!

# The Trinity Christian Academy Class of 2020



# Class of 2020

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## UIL

## UIL: Schools can begin summer conditioning June 8

By Tony Eierdam  
The Community News

Finally, some good news concerning high school athletics.

On May 22, the University Interscholastic League announced Texas schools can begin summer conditioning workouts with a press release on its website (uilitexas.org).

UIL schools may, but are not required to, begin UIL Summer Strength and Conditioning and Sport Specific Instruction beginning June 8, 2020 under the requirements described. UIL will continue to work with state officials and monitor CDC and other federal guidance to determine any potential modifications. Schools should take their local context into account when deciding whether to offer summer

strength and conditioning on campus by monitoring the situation on the Texas Department of State Health Services dashboard. Schools should follow all local and state requirements when considering strength and conditioning activities.

"We are excited to be able to work with the kids again," Aledo ISD Athletic Director Steve Wood said. "We are going to take care of social-distance measures, but there won't be any physical contact involved. For instance, in basketball instruction there will be no one-on-one, no defense, and the same will be practiced in the other sports."

"Right now we are focused on the strength and conditioning and sport-specific activities and how to be smart about it."



The UIL posted its requirements for summer conditioning:

- Attendance at workouts must be optional for students and in compliance with the rules for Summer Strength/Conditioning Programs & Sport Specific Skill Instruction noted below. In addition to on-campus workout

options, schools should consider providing students guidance for working out at home or remotely away from school. This can include virtual workouts, emailed or otherwise electronically delivered workout instructions, or any delivery model approved by the local school district.

- Attendance records shall be kept, however, students shall not be required or allowed to make up missed days or workouts.
- Fees, if any, shall be established by the superintendent and collected by the school. Any payment to coaches shall be from the school and from no other source.
- Students may not be given access to locker rooms or shower

facilities. Students should report to workouts in proper gear and immediately return home to shower at end of the workout.

- During workouts, schools must have at least one staff member per 20 students in attendance to ensure appropriate social distancing, hygiene, and safety measures are implemented.
- Schools must have hand sanitizer or hand-washing stations readily available in the workout area. Students and staff should be encouraged to use it frequently.
- All surfaces in workout areas must be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.

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## As I See It



Tony Eierdam  
sports@community-news.com

### Bearcat Nation's spirits will be lifted when youth summer camps begin at Aledo High School

A light, finally, at the end of the dark tunnel.

With the UIL's news that Texas public high schools can begin summer conditioning and sport-specific training on June 8, the first thought that came to my mind was it looks like when Aug. 3 rolls around that the Ladycats will be practicing on the volleyball courts and football teams will be preparing for the upcoming season at Bearcat Stadium.

It didn't look like this would happen when on April 17 — a day I call "Dark Friday" — Gov. Greg Abbott scratched his May 4 date of returning to school, and instead shut schools and accompanying extracurricular activities for the remainder of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But a month and a day later the Governor advanced Texas into "Phase 2" of the reopening, which stated youth camps can return as long as sessions are done with proper social-distancing measures. Phase 2 also allows youth sports practices to begin May 31 and games on June 15, meaning select league sports can begin usual summer dates.

Shortly after Abbott's announcement is when the UIL announced its guidelines for summer conditioning and sport-specific training at the high schools. This is GREAT news for the returning high school athletes, who had their sports shut down for almost the last three months of the spring.

I could go on and on about how this will benefit each sport at Aledo High School, particularly the Bearcats football team. This team really needed those 18 practices lost in the spring in part to advance the development of new quarterback Jo Jo Earle, who has been a standout wide receiver (and a recent LSU commit) but was switched to signal caller during the offseason.

Now Earle will get much-needed specific instruction by the coaches and have a chance to work with his receivers. Again, I could point out several other instances, but this one stands out the most.

While all of that is well and good, there is another element that will bring joy and rise the spirits of many in Bearcat Nation — AHS coaches' summer camps in soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball,

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## SOCCER

### Bearcats get in regular season but shutdown stops chance at long playoff run

By Tony Eierdam  
The Community News

*This is an ongoing series of season wrap-up articles concerning spring sports at Aledo High School cut off by school closure.*

An 18-7-1 overall record heading into the Class 5A playoffs and the return of a key senior player who missed the second half of district play gave the Aledo Bearcats hope for a strong, long playoff run in 2020.

However, hope turned into dismay as spring sports were cut off by government school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally, Gov. Greg Abbott had set a return date for schools to open back up on May 4 and the Bearcats looked forward to continuing their season. But on April 17, Abbott announced all schools would be closed for the remainder of the year, which also meant a stop to athletics and extracurricular activities.

Bearcats head coach Derek Vierling obviously was saddened by the news that the season would not be completed, and he was especially sad for his seniors Micco Little, Tommy Breaux, Brett Peterson, Ben Clements, Trey Guilbault, Colton Bryan, Alex Gantt, and Jacob DeCasas.

Little, a versatile, four-year letterman and all-district performer, suffered an injury and missed the second half of district play. Little worked hard on his rehabilitation and was ahead of schedule to return, meaning he was looking to the opening round of the playoffs to get back on the pitch.

After all of his hard work the season was shut down as well as his hopes for a comeback in 2020.

"I got the green light to start practicing again during spring break," Little said. "I worked hard to get back. The doctors told me it was questionable if I could get back before the season (playoffs) ended, so I just worked as hard as I could."

Little said he would report to the training room every morning before school to work on his rehab, then in the afternoon he continued rehabbing during sixth period — his off period — and would continue rehabbing during the soccer period, and during practice he did light running.

Then he got the news that the season would not continue.

"It hurt," Little said. "It hurt knowing that I put I so much hard work to get ready to play and get back with my teammates, then when I was ready the season was stopped and I could not get back with my team."

# Cut short



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Aledo senior Micco Little (10) missed the last half of district play due to a knee injury but rehabbed in time to be cleared to play in the playoffs before the government shut down school for the remainder of the year. Little was a four-year letterman.**

"But I was glad I had the motivation to push myself and get my knee back. That made my knee stronger and that is the most important part."

"I was completely disappointed when I heard the news that school was closed for the rest of the year," Vierling said. "I figured once school was canceled that meant the UIL would cancel sports. It is travesty that the soccer team and the seniors in particular were not able to finish the season."

"We had a very special team this season and I feel pretty confident that they would be successful in the playoffs, especially with Micco coming back."

### Senior Class

While feeling bad for all of his seniors, Vierling felt especially disappointed for Little, and took it personally.

"Micco is an amazing player who had an incredible career," Vierling said. "You make bonds with players, especially when they are four-year lettermen, but Micco is a little different. I have known him his whole life. He has been coming to soccer camp since he was four-years-old and standing on the sidelines with his dad (longtime Aledo High School head trainer Troy Little) forever."

"Micco started on the 2018 state tournament team as a sophomore. He finished his career with 20 goals and played defense for two years. He is just special."

Vierling commented on each of his seniors, a class he felt especially close to. Breaux, an All-District 4-5A first-team selection who finished with seven goals and six assists this year, also played in the 2018 state championship match.

"Tommy was a really talented kid and well-rounded from academics

to band to athletics," Vierling said. "He was a great captain this year and showed how he would be when he played in the state finals as a sophomore when he came off the bench for an injured player and played great."

"He had a great senior year leading our team to 18 wins — I'm sure it would have been 20-plus had we been able to continue the season. He will be missed."

Peterson, who earned an all-district honorable mention, was a defender Vierling depended on this season to not only seal the back end, but also to start the attack.

"Brett was one of the most athletic players we had," Vierling said. "He was mentally and physically extremely tough. He was our lockdown defender and did a great job all year covering the opponents' top goal scoring threat."

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# UIL

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- No clothing or towels may be laundered on site or shared during workouts.
- There can be no shared water or food.
- Before the start of summer workouts, and at the start of every week of summer workouts, schools should consider pre-screening all students for COVID symptoms that they or others living in their house may experience. This can be completed by phone prior to the first day of workouts, in person or in writing. Students and staff must self-screen every day for COVID-19 symptoms for themselves and family members. Schools should consider taking the temperature of each student each day at the start of the conditioning sessions, if possible.
- Schools should plan for entry and exit procedures that reduce the number of students and parents congregating outside and/or mixing around the workout areas and parking areas. Consider staggering start and end times, assigning students to entries and exits to ensure even distribution of students entering/exiting at each entry point, providing guidance to students to enter one at a time and wait six feet apart outside the entrance.
- If the school is planning to offer transportation for summer activities, schools should follow all TEA guidance and local guidance related to such transportation.
- Schools should consider having students remain with a single group or cohort to minimize the number of students and staff that must isolate if a case is confirmed. See Positive Cases and Staff or Students Showing COVID Symptoms at the bottom of this document.

The UIL also sent out a policy for this summer concerning sport-specific workouts with the high school coaches.

## Outdoor sessions

Sessions for sport specific instruction may be conducted by school coaches for students in

grades 7-12 from that coach's attendance zone.

- Sessions may be conducted in addition to the strength and conditioning session(s), and a student shall attend no more than 90 minutes per day of sport specific skill instruction with no more than 60 minutes per day in a given sport, Monday through Friday.
- Sport specific skill sessions may include specific sports equipment, but contact equipment (restricted equipment) is not allowed. School shorts, shirts and shoes may be provided by the school (local school option) but may not be laundered on-site.
- No competitive drills involving one or more students on offensive against one or more students on defensive may be conducted.
- Examples (including but not limited to):
  - Basketball players may participate in drills, but cannot conduct drills / activities against a defender.
  - In football, offensive / defensive drills are allowed, but no 7 on 7, or offense vs defense drills are allowed, etc.

## Indoor sessions

- Students and staff must maintain at least six feet of distance from all sides when not actively exercising. When actively exercising, students and coaches must maintain at least 10 feet of distance from all sides when possible.
- Schools should limit the total number of participants based on available space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff.
- Indoor workout activities can be conducted up to a maximum of 25 percent capacity.
- Students may be placed in working groups no larger than 10 total students. Each working group should maintain appropriate distance from other working groups.
- Any equipment, such as sports balls, should be regularly disinfected during workout sessions. This equipment should not be shared between groups. After a group has used such equipment, that equipment must be



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

With the UIL's recent mandate allowing summer conditioning and sport-specific workouts, Aledo Bearcats coaches will finally be able to work with their athletes. There have been no sports at Texas high schools since March 12 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shown are Aledo ISD Athletic Director Steve Wood, left, and Bearcats head football coach Tim Buchanan.

thoroughly disinfected before being used by a different group. Bearcats head coach Tim Buchanan likes the UIL's plan and added that AHS will probably do more than is required to keep social distancing measures in place during conditioning and sport-specific workouts. "We are coming up with a social-distancing plan that meets

or exceeds the UIL guidelines," Buchanan said. "It will meet the needs of our kids, first, and our staff, second. After that, we will work on what we need to do to have summer camps." There was no guidance from the UIL pertaining to youth camps on campus annually put on by the Aledo High School coaches.

"We are holding off on camps for right now," Wood said. "Right now our focus is on strength and conditioning and sports-specific training." "When we have all of those protocols in place we will decide on our coaches' summer youth camps."

# TONY

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tennis and football are allowed to be put on as well.

This is all pending administration-level discussion on how and when these camps will proceed (hopefully, shortly after June 8), but no matter if there are restrictions — like more sessions but smaller

groups — it will be a big boost to the morale of the youth and their parents in our area.

The main focus is the kids. These kids have been cruelly shut in now for weeks, and a chance to not only learn the finer points of a sport and connect with the high school coaches but also having fun with their peers I think is paramount to trying

to get back to some sort of "normal" after the shutdown.

My heart goes out to these children. A story I heard during this shutdown really hit me like a ton of bricks.

A friend told me about her four-year-old son and the affect it has had on him. Poor thing has no idea what is going on. My friend said her son was sitting quietly but all of a

sudden burst out in tears, crying out, "Why don't my friends want to come over play with me anymore?" Doesn't that just break your heart?

Yes indeed, youth sports camps at AHS may be the most important events we can have on our road to recovery and a sense of normalcy.

And I am extremely confident administrators at Aledo ISD will do whatever it takes to make these

camps happen — and safely and efficiently. It is the Aledo way.

The Governor says it is OK, and I feel like this one element of what has been our normal routine each summer will unify Bearcat Nation once again and provide a spirit boost like nothing else can.

Tony Eierdam is the sports editor of The Community News.

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**ACROSS**

1 TX Vikki Carr hit: "Cosas del \_\_\_\_\_"

5 arsonist, for short

6 TXism: "at the drop of \_\_\_\_\_" (impulsive)

7 singer Horne who appeared in "Words and Music" with TX Cyd Charisse (1948)

8 it has big ornamental flowers (2 wds.)

17 NYSE symbol for parent company of TX Oncor

18 TXism: "give me the bacon sizzle" (be brief)

21 JFK's WWII boat

22 Houston beat Santa \_\_\_\_\_ at San Jacinto

23 TXism: "jumpy \_\_\_\_\_ on ice"

24 "it's \_\_\_\_\_ of love"

29 Gulf shrimp catcher (2 wds.)

30 chooses

31 this Henke was a Ranger closer (init.)

32 "headhunters" \_\_\_\_\_ corporations

34 tropical birds, e.g.

35 scouting org. based in Texas

36 TXism: "dead as a \_\_\_\_\_"

37 TXism: "small fish in \_\_\_\_\_ pond"

38 sign up with

39 how we reacted to a cute joke (3 wds.)

41 a nickname for ex-Ranger first base Adrian Gonzalez

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**DOWN**

1 rich Texans might vacation in \_\_\_\_\_, CA resort

2 TX Janis hit: "Piece of \_\_\_\_\_"

3 easternmost city in Texas

4 in Fisher County on highway 70

9 Jerry, to the Dallas Cowboys

10 belly button fuzz

11 TXism: "call \_\_\_\_\_ day" (quit)

12 "\_\_\_\_\_ Belo" owns "The Dallas Morning News"

13 TXism: "useless as panty hose \_\_\_\_\_"

14 oxidizes

15 arrival guesses at DFW and Love Fld. "and so on" (abbr.)

16 TXism: "he's a little shy in the \_\_\_\_\_" (dumb)

20 biofuel additive for gasoline

22 type of dog who can't learn new tricks (2 wds.)

24 Texarkana is in TX and this state (abbr.)

25 not an incandescent light (abbr.)

26 gear wheel tooth (2 wds.)

27 cooks with direct heat at a high temperature

28 "A Mighty Fortress Is \_\_\_\_\_" hymn

29 meadow (2 wds.)

30 TXism: "chew \_\_\_\_\_ awhile" (ponder)

33 this Smith was GM of the Astros

34 to a small extent (2 wds.)

35 glues

37 TXism: "as welcome as a skunk \_\_\_\_\_"

38 surname of 9-down

40 this Carter started the "Fort Worth Star-Telegram"

41 fancy party

44 annoy or irritate

47 President Trump

49 1961 hurricane that damaged Texas

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Town of Annetta

Zoning Notice

The Town of Annetta has received a request to zone land to a Planned Development District. The land is described as 20.891 acres of land situated in the B. Stephenson Survey, Abstract No. 1219, and being all of those certain tracts of land as conveyed to Aledo Independent School District (Aledo I.S.D.), according to the deed filed in County Clerk's (C.C.) #201817304 and #201817306, Deed Records of Parker County, Texas (D.R.P.C.T.). The property is generally located on FM 5 and adjacent to Annetta Community Storage. The Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council will be holding public hearings on the request as follows:

Planning and Zoning Commission	
Public Hearing date and time:	June 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Location:	Town Hall,  450 Thunder-Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008
City Council	
Public Hearing date and time:	June 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Location:	Town Hall,  450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008

# SOCCER

from page 12

Clements also earned an honorable mention on the all-district team as a defender.

“Ben was versatile. He could have played anywhere on the field and did play multiple positions,” Vierling said. “He was a consistent threat to score and could play outstanding defense as well.”

Guilbault earned all-district, second-team honors in 2020.

“Trey was a rock at holding the mid field,” Vierling said. “He

was constantly stopping or slowing down our opponents’ attack and successfully starting our attack. His height was a constant threat on all of our set pieces.

“For two years he held that spot and it will be tough to find a replacement.”

Vierling said Bryan led by example as one of the team’s hardest workers.

“Colton was the hardest worker we had,” he said. “His work rate and effort were contagious and he made all his teammates better every day. He scored a crucial goal to spark

our team to victory against Abilene Cooper.”

Gantt, who will play men’s volleyball next year in college, decided to play soccer in his senior year.

“Alex only played his senior year and I’m disappointed he didn’t come out (before this year),” Vierling said. “He is very athletic and he was extremely important to our team chemistry — one of the best teammates we had.”

DeCasas was listed as a forward on the roster but was called on to play other positions when needed.

“Jacob was a great role player who could play multiple roles for us,” Vierling said. “He filled several voids when players were hurt allowing us to remain consistent. I have known Jacob for a long time and he did a fantastic job this season.”

## Highlights and looking ahead

Vierling said he knew this could be a special season when the Bearcats won two tournaments before district play began, including their home tournament.

“Our non-district highlight had to be winning the first two tournaments,” he said. “Especially the Moritz Kia Tournament of Champions, our home tournament. It had been almost 10 years since we last won it.”

“In district play I feel the highlight would be our 3-0 win over Wichita Falls Rider.

“The boys all played so well and Clay (Murador) really stepped up with the hat trick.”

Murador — the Bearcats leading scorer with 14 goals including five

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In its last match before the school shut down, the Bearcats, led by injured captain Micco Little (standing) huddle before playing at home against Abilene Cooper.

TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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**Town of Annetta  
Notice of Hearing**

The Town Council of the Town of Annetta, Texas will conduct a public hearing on June 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annetta Town Hall located at 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008, where all interested persons will have the right to appear and be heard on the proposed annexation by the Town of a tract of land being described as: 20.891 acres of land situated in the B. Stephenson Survey, Abstract No. 1219, and being all of those certain tracts of land as conveyed to Aledo Independent School District (Aledo I.S.D.), according to the deed filed in County Clerk’s (C.C.) #201817304 and #201817306, Deed Records of Parker County, Texas (D.R.P.C.T.), less that area already within the Town’s corporate limits. The property is generally located east of and adjacent to Annetta Community Storage. A depiction of the area proposed for annexation is available at Town Hall and is posted on the Town’s website.

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# SOCCER

from page 14

game winners — will head the list of returning players for the 2021 season. The good news for the coach is that his star midfielder, who was named the district's Midfielder of the Year, was just a freshman this season.

"Clay had a fantastic season and I'm excited he is only a freshman and the next three years has the potential to be really special," Vierling said. "He had a fantastic season and the next three years has the potential to be really special. I'm looking forward to watching his career progress; the sky is the limit."

## Talent returning

Vierling feels he has a good talent base returning for next season, including all-district, second-team goalkeeper Ryland Yates, who will be a senior in 2021.

Vierling said his group of underclassmen gained valuable experience while contributing on the field.

Next season the Bearcats will also return a pair of all-district, first team players, junior forward Tyler Oetinger and junior midfielder Dylan Dobransky.

"When we lost Micco we basically were starting seven underclassmen so we have some really talented players coming back," he said. "Tyler has become a legitimate goal scorer with almost 20 career goals as a sophomore and junior.

"Dylan is a three-year letterman and will be a mainstay in the midfield. He can score just as easily as setting up his teammates. Logan Reiter started every game last year, scoring several goals, and I anticipate he will score many more next year.

"Taylon Kessler moved up from the JV and made an immediate impact and I think he will contribute a ton of goals the next two years.

"Plus, we have Yates back in the goal. It's not often you have a two-year starter returning in the goal. He just gets better every game. Rylan Shaffer will contribute in the midfield he had a really solid junior year after coming off of a horrific knee injury.

"Alex Meche," Vierling continued, "started a handful of games



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Aledo senior Brett Peterson (2) dribbles on the attack during a 2020 match.**

this year and will be a solid contributor next year in the midfield. Jacob Costello also started several games and should be an anchor on our back line.

"Plus, we get Parker Trice back, who started 10 plus games as a sophomore two years ago and had to miss this year due to injury.

"We also had a couple of sophomores in Jace Sims and Travis Gould that gained valuable experience this year and should be big contributors in the midfield and back line next year."

Vierling concluded by expressing more sorrow for his talented senior class.

"A really crazy ending to the 2020 year, for sure," he said. "It a travesty that we can't properly send off this senior class.

"They will always be my example of not taking anything or any game for granted, you just never know when it can end.

"And I personally will cherish each and every game even more going forward as I really missed the ending of the year.

"Luckily for me I have next year to do it again - unfortunately the seniors do not."

# Bearcats track All-State, All-Academic



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Four Aledo Bearcats track athletes earned a spot on the Texas High School Coaches Association's Academic All-State team including Steven Furlow (shown above at district cross country meet), Reece Harr, Max Newell, and Graydon Morris.**

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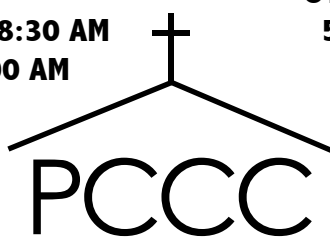
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# Ladycats, Bearcats on TASCOC All-State, All-Region soccer teams



CHRIS D'AVINO/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldo sophomore forward Ashlyn Laughley (9) was named Texas Association of Soccer Coaches all-state, first team, the second year she has reached all-state status. Laughley was also named to the United Soccer Coaches (national organization) all-state team for the second year in a row.



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldo freshman midfielder Clay Murador (11) was named to the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches all-state, second-team for the 2020 season. He also earned United Soccer Coaches all-state and all-region status.



CHRIS D'AVINO/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldo senior defender Reagan Knesek (5) earned TASCOC all-state status for the second year in a row. She earned an all-state, honorable mention for the 2020 season.



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldo senior defender Tommy Breaux (9) earned TASCOC all-region, first-team honors for 2020.



CHRIS D'AVINO/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aldo junior Grace Ornelas earned TASCOC all-region, first-team honors for 2020. It is the second time Ornelas has earned all-region status.

## Shout out to Softball Seniors!



**Ashley Kehrt**  
**Caroline Suchocki**  
**Emily Wallace**

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