

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Number 10

### Thanksgiving Trot continues growing and giving

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

The story of the Thanksgiving Trot is more than the story of a race; it's the story about how a community comes together, forgets its differences, and unites to show support for people who, through no fault of their own, are experiencing extremely difficult circumstances.

No one ever thought "The Trot" would become what it became back in 2011 when Rhonda Torres and her son, Josh, hatched the idea. Certainly no one would have dreamed that, ten years later, they would have distributed about \$450,000 directly to families who needed the help.

It was never particularly fancy. In fact, the first few years the race started and ended at the Torres' home on South Point Court. The tradition of the husbands pitching in to direct traffic started then and has continued when the race moved to Bearcat Stadium.

Sponsors cover all expenses, allowing all proceeds to go to the recipients.

"It's still just Mom and Pop all the way up," Torres said. "We don't have any fancy timers. I think if we ever figure out what we're doing, and we tried to do it right like you're supposed to, it wouldn't be the same."

It started simply as friends wanting to help one of their own who had received a lung transplant — and the staggering medical bills that came along with it.



Marcia Walters graciously accepted that help in 2011, and she had nine good years following to lend her own support to the cause.

Walters is gone but not forgotten, as the Thanksgiving Trot is now the Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot (see *The Community News*, October 15, 2021).

In celebration of the 10th race coming up on Nov. 25, *The Community News* is looking back at the history and meaning of the event for the community.

It was Marcia Walters who was the cause for the first race and the impetus for the second. Young three-year-old Aiden Maloy had a Wilms' Tumor on his kidney and had experienced multiple major surgeries.

Aiden's mom worked with Marcia at Stuard Elementary School, and when the idea came

to raise funds to help the family, Marcia took the idea to the original members of the Thanksgiving Trot organizing committee.



"Marcia is the one that got us involved in that race with Aiden," Torres said. "And that was the catalyst for us to continue this. We all came together for Marcia because we loved her. She was our dear friend. We didn't know the Maloy family. But we experienced the joy of just helping people for the goodness of helping people, and I think one thing about the race is it reflects everything that's right in this world."

Since that second race, when more than \$35,000 was raised for the Maloy family, Torres said the Maloys have been there every year since.

#### Cooperation

The third Thanksgiving Trot was different.



Aledo Middle School student Dylan Hancock was being mentored by local resident Rob Helms when doctors determined Hancock needed a heart transplant. Helms took on the role of father, accompanying Hawkins to Houston for the transplant.

Back at home, the family was in no position to pay the medical bills, and the living conditions were not adequate to support recovery for a heart transplant patient.

The Thanksgiving Trot committee that year (2013) joined hands with the Aledo Children's Advocate and the Business Development Group of Aledo to build a new home for the Hancock family.

"That was the first year we reached out and partnered with other people in the community," Torres said. "That was a different experience because we reached out across several organizations and worked together. It was exciting, and it turned out great."

With most materials for the house donated, funds could help pay labor on the construction of the house.

The following year, another AMS student came to the attention of the Thanksgiving Trot committee.



Zeb Montgomery was fighting Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

Zeb, like Dylan, did not end up surviving his health crisis, but it has not stopped the Montgomery family from also coming back, year after year, to support the race.



Another change in focus came in 2015 with the selection of Lauren Barnhart Reed as the recipient of the proceeds from the race.

A young mother, Reed was battling cancer.

"What a sweet, sweet mother and daughter," Torres said. "That was the first time that we had had a mother that was the recipient. She had so many ups and downs, peaks and valleys. What a faith she had! That's what sticks out for Lauren to me most — that Lauren had a strong, strong faith in God."

#### Multiple Challenges

In 2016, Amber Weeks became the first special needs child to the race honoree. Amber had cancer in her colon, and went through surgeries that eventually removed much of her colon.



"We've known Amber and Pam forever," Torres said. "Children with special needs—those are ongoing expenses. I mean, never-ending expenses."

Torres said very young people capture a special place in your heart. In 2017 Brady Anderson, pre-K student in Aledo ISD, had been diagnosed with a brain tumor and the resulting Christmas-Eve surgery in 2016.



*The Community News* reported that "The surgery damaged some of Brady's nerves and spinal cord, and he was given an External Ventricular Drain to help with the spinal fluid drainage.

"Doctors ended up having to perform a tracheostomy and install a gastric button on the toddler."

Brady recovered, and the Thanksgiving Trot provided more than \$45,000 toward the bills.

Another tumor patient, Wilson Adams had a brain tumor in 2018 that eventually cost him his eyesight.



At 10, Wilson was being mentored by a familiar name, Rob Helms, when the tumor was discovered. Wilson had lost his father, and the father's illness had cost the family all of its resources. Wilson lived with his mother, brother, and sister.

"That's a special young man, a special family that we reached out to," Torres said.

Wilson and his family have participated in the trot since, and Wilson will be at this year's Trot, along with Elizabeth Cheatham, the sister of Dylan Hancock.

The Trot raised money to help the family, and Helms separately raised the donations of money and materials to build a new home for the family.

The most recent race (2019) benefitted Emma Vidal, also a 10-year-old, who had leukemia. Emma is the granddaughter of one of the Trot committee members, June King, and participated in her first Thanksgiving Trot in a stroller pushed by her mother.

Emma actually ran in the Trot in 2018.

Turn to TROT, page 5



We wish all of our readers and advertisers a Happy Thanksgiving. The Community News' office will be closed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday next week.

We will be working and monitoring emails and phone messages on Wednesday and Friday.

#### POLITICS

## Let the Games Begin

Filing opens for political positions

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Filing opened for a variety of state and county offices last week. The Community News has received several announcements in addition to the State Representative and State Senate races we reported on in the Oct. 22 issue.

Below are profiles of candidates who have provided announcements of their candidacies:

#### County Court at Law 1

Aledo attorney Zach Pettigrew has announced that he will run for judge of County Court at Law 1 to succeed Jerry Buckner, who is retiring.

Pettigrew will run in the Republican Primary, scheduled for March 1, 2022.

Buckner said his term will expire at the end of next year, at which time he will be 80 years old.

"I decided instead of having someone appointed, which rarely works out well, there should be a free and fair election to determine my successor."

Pettigrew said knowledge of the law, conservative values, and the Constitution would be his guides in the court, which handles civil, criminal, and family law.

"Folks live in and move to Parker County because it is a safe place to live, work, and

Turn to POLITICS, page 3



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# In & Around Parker County

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Atkins says the bank offers expertise in various niche loans, including commercial, oil and gas, agriculture, and real estate, in addition to construction and term financing for developers and investors.

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Senior Vice President Kevin Wright and Assistant Vice President Nolan Atkins

customers and contribute to the economic strength of the communities we serve,” Atkins says. “Through our associates at each location, we are committed to providing a high level of personal and professional customer service in a community bank setting while maintaining our commitment to personal integrity, customer service and community involvement.”

The company also offers a wide range of treasury management services. Services like business online banking, merchant services, payroll debit cards and remote deposit capture streamline the banking process to save time and increase efficiency for clients.

Though InterBank currently has assets of more than \$3.5 billion, Aledo InterBank still operates as a small-town bank, providing quality communication services and builds interpersonal relationships with clients.

Atkins, who has worked at the bank since mid-summer, is a tenured banker, committed to going the extra mile. He joined InterBank because of its exceptional customer service.

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# POLITICS

from page one

raise a family,” Pettigrew said. “It’s the responsibility of our judges to protect us by strictly following the law and Constitution, dispensing justice fairly, and operating an efficient court. This is the kind of judge I will be.”

Pettigrew is a partner in M&P Law Offices of Aledo and previously practiced law with Mayo Mendiola & Vice, L.L.P. His law practice focuses primarily on general civil litigation, family and custody disputes, and criminal cases all requiring extensive courtroom litigation experience.

In addition to being active in conservative and Republican politics, Pettigrew is a member of the Federalist Society.

After graduating from Aledo High School in 2001, Pettigrew attended and earned his undergraduate degree in finance from Henderson State University. At Henderson, Pettigrew lettered all four years with the Reddie football team. After returning home, he earned his law degree from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (Now Texas A&M University School of Law).

His community service includes serving as a volunteer board member for the Aledo Education Foundation and the Hurt and Fallen Foundation and a member of the Business Development Group of Aledo. He is also a member of the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, East Parker County Chamber of Commerce, and Springtown Chamber of Commerce.

Pettigrew is married to Tricia Pettigrew, a pre-school teacher, and they have a son and a daughter. He is an avid husband, father, and outdoorsman. They attend New River Fellowship Church and live in Willow Park.



Pettigrew



Watson

## Parker County Republican Chair

Rachael M. Watson of Weatherford has submitted her application to run for the office for Parker County Republican Chair. Watson is an active member of the Parker County community through business and volunteering.

“I am proud and excited to announce my candidacy for Parker County Republican Chair,” Watson said. “Keeping Parker County Red and having strong leadership is crucial in these difficult economic times. I will represent the people of Parker County with the same efficiency and spirit that characterizes my work and volunteerism.”

Watson said she has the ability to be an arbitrator between various factions while also exerting leadership to resolve conflicts.

“The Chair’s mission should be to get out the vote and grow the party,” she said. “This next election is the most important election of our time. I have experience in leadership through business and volunteerism. I know first-hand how to lead a team of independent-minded thinkers, and take a stand for our Republican values. I am excited about the opportunity to work as a team with the Republican Party of Parker County as we keep Parker County red.”

The current incumbent chair is Scott Utley.

## ALEDO

# Nick Stanley announces for mayor

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Aledo City Council member Nick Stanley announced his candidacy for mayor of Aledo on Nov. 17. Aledo’s current Mayor, Kit Marshall, has announced her candidacy for State House District 60, making way for a Mayoral election in May of 2022.

“I am passionate about serving my community and making a positive impact on the future of Aledo. Serving as mayor will allow for even greater opportunity to do just that,” Stanley said.

“The City of Aledo is a vibrant and fast-growing community that will

continue to see rapid growth in the coming years. I will work proactively with the council and city management to promote and attract positive investment and development to our community. My intention and the intention of hundreds of my neighbors is to focus on smart and intentional growth that fits the desires of the people of Aledo.”

Stanley said if elected he would have an “open door” policy.

“It is a fundamental responsibility of all who hold public office to



Stanley

listen and communicate regularly and with transparency to keep their constituency well-informed. As your next mayor, I pledge to do just that.” Stanley said.

Stanley said his core issues would be “good stewardship of taxpayer dollars and access to basic municipal services, such as law enforcement, well-maintained roads, and other necessary infrastructure will be of utmost importance as we see continued growth.”

## PARKER COUNTY

# SWAT team recognized for call-out

The Parker County Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) was commended on Nov. 5 in a ceremony held by Jacksboro Police Department in recognition for a call-out in their jurisdiction.

“Jacksboro Police called for our assistance Oct. 16 during a barricaded suspect incident following a felony assault event,” Sheriff Russ Authier said.

Jacksboro Police reported the suspect had beaten a female with a pipe wrench then barricaded himself inside the home.

Parker County Regional SWAT Commander Ben Overholt said his team responded in a collaborative effort with Jacksboro Police.

“We attempted negotiations with the barricaded suspect after surrounding the home,” said Overholt. “We made entry when we received no response from the suspect and cleared the residence. During our sweep of the home, we discovered the suspect was deceased from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.”

Overholt said no call-out is considered routine given the heightened circumstances surrounding each incident. The Parker County Regional SWAT team trains extensively on a regular basis with the latest gear and techniques.

“We set minimum standards in our training which exceeds the minimum requirements mandated by the state for our collateral duty team, negotiations, firearms, vehicle maneuvers, law updates and room entries,” he said. “Each team member maintains multiple functioning roles. We train and operate as a team, and not just as individual deputies.”

Authier said being a member of the Parker County Regional SWAT team is a highly-sought-after position by most deputies who join the ranks of the Parker County Sheriff’s Office.

“We respond in joint cooperation with other agencies knowing that a collaborative effort is the foundation of a successful law enforcement response,” Authier said. “The SWAT team has assisted a variety of agencies throughout north central Texas over



PARKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Parker County's SWAT vehicle

the years. The minimum standards for each SWAT member is meeting an exemplary status. We are certainly proud of our SWAT team and we thank them for volunteering their time and expertise.”

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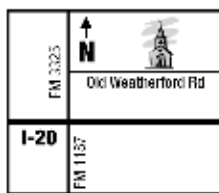
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## Slings&Arrows

# Pardon my turkey – it's Thanksgiving



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

Much has been said lately about Thanksgiving not getting the attention it deserves.

The tradition of Thanksgiving Day goes back to 1621, when, according to history.com, "the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies."

President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday in the midst of the Civil War. If he could find a way to stop and say "thank you" in the midst of those bloody battles, we should be able to do the same.

I'm not sure why Thursday in particular was picked, other than the original feast was on a Thursday: Nov. 25, 1621.

I did some research to find out why turkeys have become so associated with Thanksgiving. Back in 1621, wild turkeys were plentiful and North American natives. In fact, at certain times of year, wild turkeys are plentiful in this area.

In addition, according to an article by Ethan Flex, editorial director at Mental Floss, "the birds are large enough that they can feed a table full of hungry family members, and unlike chickens or cows, they don't serve an additional purpose like laying eggs or making milk."

An additional modern tradition is that of the President of the United States pardoning a turkey each year.

This is less dramatic than pardoning people for sure, but a significant event all the same.

Like many other facets of history, the true record of when the tradition of pardoning a turkey began is somewhat cloudy.

Some sources claim that the tradition began with President Harry S. Truman. Truman was the first president to receive a Thanksgiving turkey in a promotion effort by the poultry industry. However, Truman's remark in 1948 that the two turkeys he received would come in handy for Christmas dinner tends to rebut the idea that he ever thought about pardoning the birds.

The web site [whitehousehistory.org](http://whitehousehistory.org) indicates that president John F. Kennedy may have been the first to pardon a Thanksgiving turkey, but not necessarily as an official presidential pardon. Kennedy had the turkey he received sent to a farm, and was recorded to have said "let's keep him going." An article in the *Washington Post* in 1963 used the term "pardon."



President George H. W. Bush was the first president to formally pardon a turkey, which he did in 1989, and the tradition continues.

President Obama pardoned two turkeys, the first time more than one turkey has been officially pardoned by the president.

President Trump continued the tradition, and this year President Biden is expected to pardon at least one turkey from Indiana.

While I haven't been able to find a particular reason why turkeys get presidential pardons, it may have been the nearby protests of animal rights activists the first time President Bush issued one in 1989.

Whatever the reasons or history of pardoning turkeys on Thanksgiving, I would like to see the practice expanded and continued on a more personal level in the future.

The word "pardon" is associated with preventing an execution in the instance of Thanksgiving turkeys, but its dictionary meaning is "the act of forgiving."

In that sense, wouldn't it be nice if every Thanksgiving we all as individuals decided to pardon one turkey. I'll volunteer to be first in line – looking for a pardon!

*Randy Keck is owner and publisher of The Community News.*

## Capital Highlights

# Filing period for 2022 primary opens



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The filing period for the 2022 Texas primary elections opened on Nov. 13, allowing candidates to file with their respective party chairs for spots on the March 1, 2022, primary ballot. For primary elections, candidates must file their applications with their state party chairs. If a district is solely contained within a single county, a candidate would file with the county chair.

The filing period for county, district, and statewide offices ends at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13. Early voting for the March 1 primary begins on Feb. 14. Among the statewide offices on the ballot are governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, agriculture commissioner, land commissioner, railroad commissioner, and seven states on the state board of education.

To find out who has filed to date, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/4s89j6be>

### Alligator snapping turtle going on endangered list

The alligator snapping turtle, which is North America's largest freshwater turtle species, is slated to be listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pending public comment due by Jan. 10. The turtle, a popular target of poachers in Texas and other states, can weigh more than 200 pounds.

In recent months, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other agencies and institutions teamed up to repatriate a couple dozen confiscated alligator snapping turtles to their native Texas rivers. While all states ban commercial harvest of the turtle, recreational harvest is allowed on a limited basis in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The Texas comptroller's office has contracted with the Environmental Institute at the University of Houston–Clear Lake to develop long-term monitoring procedures in an effort to develop more effective conservation measures.

### Task force on concert safety formed

Gov. Greg Abbott last week announced the formation of a task force on concert safety after at least

nine people were killed and hundreds injured at the Astroworld Festival in Houston on Nov. 5. Members include safety experts, law enforcement officials, firefighters and leaders from the Texas Music Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and a half-dozen other state entities.

The task force is led by Brendon Anthony, director of the Texas Music Office. "Live music is a source of joy, entertainment and community for so many Texans – and the last thing concertgoers should have to worry about is their safety and security," Abbott said.

Lawsuits have been filed on behalf of more than 200 victims. Defendants include rapper Travis Scott and concert promotion giant Live Nation, according to a report in the *Houston Chronicle*. The deaths and injuries occurred when a crowd rushed the stage as Scott performed.

### Drought conditions spread in October

Blame it on La Niña. Drought conditions throughout much of the state continued to expand in October, thanks in large part to the weather conditions

caused by the atmospheric phenomenon, which pushes warmer and drier conditions in the southern United States while causing cooler, wetter weather in Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Nelun Fernando of the Texas Water Development Board wrote recently that this winter is likely to be drier and warmer than average. The U.S. Drought Monitor released last week indicates 61.4% of the state is considered abnormally dry, while nearly 38% of the state is in moderate or severe drought.

Most of the drought areas are in East Texas, the Panhandle and Far West Texas.

### Vast majority of COVID-19 deaths among unvaccinated

A study by the Texas Department of State Health Services during the Delta variant outbreak of COVID-19 indicates unvaccinated Texans were 20 times more likely to die from the virus than those who had received one of the vaccines. From the report: All authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the United States are highly effective at protecting people from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19, including those infected with Delta and other known variants. Real world data from Texas clearly shows these benefits.

Meanwhile, the total number of new cases of COVID-19 in Texas in the past week rose slightly to 23,350, as did new deaths at 846, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Since the pandemic began, 4.28 million Texans have been diagnosed with the virus – 14.6% of the state's entire population. COVID-19 has taken the lives of 72,760 Texans, roughly equivalent to the entire population of Harlingen.

The good news is that at least for now, the number of hospitalized, lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients continues to drop, with 2,736 reported by DSHS as of Sunday. That is down 75% from mid-August levels.

DSHS also reports the number of Texans who are fully vaccinated continues to inch upward, with 15.67 million reported, a number that now includes children ages 5-11 who are now eligible for the vaccine.

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

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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).

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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.

# TROT

from page one



“We experienced the joy of just helping people for the goodness of helping people, and I think one thing about the race is it reflects everything that’s right in this world.”

Terms like “radiation,” “chemo,” and “surgery” are commonplace in the families of all the recipients. Numerous visits to medical facilities, medical bills, and anxiety affect not only the patients and their caregivers.

The Thanksgiving Trot has jumped in to help in more ways than you might think.

Helms, who has mentored two recipients, reflected on the lasting impact.

“In both cases, we were able to marshal tremendous resources to build homes for those families. The proceeds of the Thanksgiving Trot allowed us to pay for those things that we could not get donated, or labor from hard-working people that weren’t in a position to donate their labor at a complete discount, so it was critical,” Helms said.

“The community did a great deal more than just the Thanksgiving Trot in both cases, but the Thanksgiving Trot played a huge role in us completing both of those projects.”

Beyond the money, however, there has been an added benefit to these families.

“I know that both families felt tremendous love and support from the community through the Thanksgiving Trot,” Helms said. “And I think that these efforts are clearly a way for the community to come together in support of things that might not otherwise come to light. So I think the community benefits greatly.”

“I look at all of the children that participate in the Thanksgiving Trot every year. It’s heartwarming to know that many of those kids from

kindergarten age up understand the concept behind their community coming together to support some cause. They may not be closely acquainted with the cause, or familiar with what the effort is, but they know that they’re doing something for the good of their community. It’s one thing to preach to your children about how they should care about other people and their community, and it’s entirely another matter to actually show that.”

Another lasting impact has been the efforts of the families to both support the race each year, but also to expand the memories of their loved ones.

The Zebstrong Foundation, in memory of Zeb Montgomery, has taken his desire to donate soccer balls to youth around the world and continued in his honor ([www.zebstrong.com](http://www.zebstrong.com)).

The Lauren Barnhart Reed friends and family and Faith Presbyterian Church have established a scholarship through which youth with financial needs can be sent to camps and conferences; they support the Thanksgiving Trot as well. See <https://www.faihalledo.com/blog/recqQDMrczf1sTR6>.

Each recipient brought their own story to their races,” Torres concluded. “Their stories grabbed the attention and hearts of our community. In turn, this community responded with support, compassion, and love.”

This year’s race is Nov. 25 at Bearcat Stadium. For more information, visit [aledothanksgivingtrot.com](http://aledothanksgivingtrot.com).

# Shop for the Trot

Several vendors turned out to support the Thanksgiving Trot at the annual “Shop for the Trot” event on Nov. 7.

PHOTOS BY LOYDALE SCHMID/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



The Allen family displayed 76008 Candle Co.



Lydia Rickard had hand-made items at her Qué CHula booth.

“That’s really the first time that one person on our committee was affected,” Torres said. “But they went through the same process as everybody else did.”

Emma had a support system at school as well, and the \$85,000-plus raised stands as the record for the Thanksgiving Trot.

Emma is now doing well.

“She’s a determined little lady,” Torres said. “I mean, just a ball of fire. She’s kind of expanded her horizon, showing horses now, and singing in a band. She does a lot of different things. She’s not letting any grass grow under her feet.”

## Impact

In any endeavor, you win some and you lose some. The Thanksgiving Trot has lost four alumni — Hancock, Montgomery, Reed, and Walters.



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THEATRE

# Who Dun Stole the Bride

TCA presents unique dinner theatre

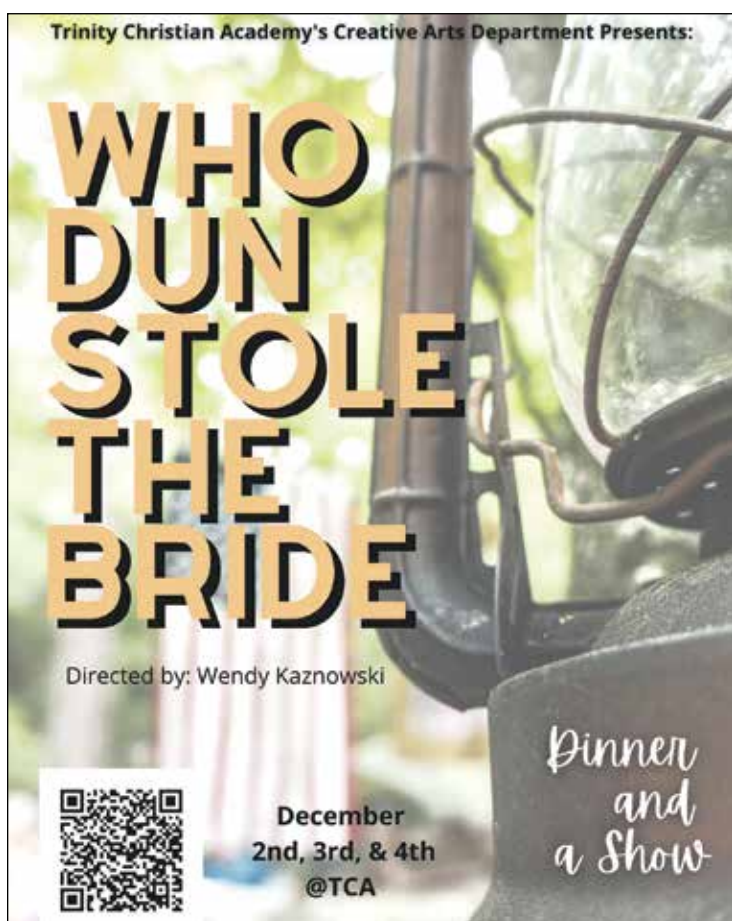
Come sit a spell and share some supper while the action unfolds. When country gal Katie Sue Eckley and classy Bill Madison get a hankerin' to tie the knot, not everyone jumps for joy at "the Yankees invadin' the South."

Katie's clan is suspicious of Bill's snobby family from over yonder, and Bill's parents think the Eckley family isn't of their same caliber. Just as they're fixin' to get hitched, Katie dun disappears!

Is she a run-away bride who got cold feet? If not, then whodunit? The audience guesses up a storm. Is it wild and crazy Bob, who's secretly swooning for Katie? How 'bout Bill's too-good family? Alibis abound. In the end, all is made known and a whoo-eee, rip-roarin' good time is had by all. Everyone is reminded that judgin' each other by how we live, look, or talk ain't God's way.

Performances will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 2-4, with an additional 12 p.m. performance on Saturday, Dec. 6.

General admission is \$20 and a table for 10 is \$175.



Tickets are only available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/who-dun-stole-the-bride-tea-dinner-theater-tickets-199348726407>.

Cost includes dinner and show. Guests will choose one dinner option for each person in their party:

- The Eckley:**  
 Chicken Fried Chicken with... Country Gravy,

Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Biscuit, Butter, Iced Tea and Apple Pie.

**The Madison:**

Lemon Basil Grilled Chicken and Brushetta, Steamed Vegetable Medley, Garlic and Herb Rosemary Potatoes, French Baguette, and Strawberry Cheesecake served with Iced Tea.

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
 Copyright 2021 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**  
 1 Linden is the seat of this county  
 5 lumber for Texas Ranger Adolis Garcia (2 wds.)  
 6 this Cockrell was a 4-term mayor of San Antonio  
 7 move swiftly, dart  
 8 this agency puts Texas at 30 million people (2 wds.)  
 17 Moderna/Pfizer are m... vaccines  
 18 it's used for doors and windows (2 wds.)  
 21 \_\_\_ Olde Shoppe  
 22 drove too fast  
 23 a bank who must pay a check  
 24 big boat race in June: "Texas Water \_\_\_"  
 29 forcibly vomit  
 30 TXism: "active as a fox in \_\_\_ house"  
 31 Earl of the JFK Commission (init.)  
 32 "Stick \_\_\_ Country Song"  
 34 TX chili is cooked in one (2 wds.)  
 35 TXism: "adios"  
 36 TXism: "riding a high horse"  
 37 "One \_\_\_ one Ranger"  
 38 "Texas" is an out-drama  
 39 TX A.J. Foyt was often \_\_\_ pulling away  
 41 end-of-year gift  
 42 top co. manager  
 43 TXism: "it'll take a faith healer to \_\_\_" (badly broken)  
 44 this "Red Rooster" Doug played for Astros and managed Rangers  
 45 make a mistake  
 46 TXism: "\_\_\_ to a rattler" (mean)  
 47 ladder steps  
 48 \_\_\_-fiction  
 13 "\_\_\_ Chili Peppers" opened 2017 tour in Texas  
 14 a heron found on the Texas coast old actor, Ladd  
 15 a union at GM's plant in Arlington  
 19 TXism: "so dark you couldn't \_\_\_ hand in front of your face"  
 20 waste conduits  
 22 very first Russian orbiting satellite  
 24 \_\_\_ Edwards Univ.  
 25 TX Dale Evans' \_\_\_! San Antonio"

**DOWN**  
 1 TXism: "noisy as a mamma"  
 2 Taylor County seat  
 3 city in Kansas  
 4 numbers for Astros and Rangers, e.g.  
 9 TXism: "he couldn't lick his \_\_\_ lip" (weak)  
 10 TXism: "a whole \_\_\_" (a lot)  
 11 TX Jimmy Dean hit: "Big \_\_\_ John"  
 12 Longhorns univ.  
 19 1953 film "\_\_\_" Belle Starr  
 30 TXism: "two peas in \_\_\_" (alike)  
 33 easy-to-handle boat  
 34 TXism: "thinkin' \_\_\_ doing"  
 35 "sticks and stones can break my \_\_\_"  
 37 slickers  
 38 Viper (1992-2017) Texas Crossword  
 41 when all the judges on a court hear a case: "en \_\_\_"  
 44 "R" of "RBI" stat  
 47 TX Kenny Rogers' \_\_\_ James"  
 49 he designed Dallas City Hall (3 wds.)

**DECEMBER 5**

**Christmas Time in Aledo, Aledo**

Aledo celebrates its 10th annual Christmas on the Square event with food, music, entertainment, children's activities, and the official Christmas Tree lighting at 6 p.m. with Mayor Kit Marshall and Santa Claus at Aledo Community Center. Activities run from 5-9 p.m. For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/discoveraledo/>

**DECEMBER 5**

**Aledo Middle School Honor Winds Send-Off, Aledo**

The Aledo Middle School Band Honor Winds Send-off Concert (for the Midwest Clinic) at UNT Meyerson Symphony Center in Denton, will be held on Dec. 5 time TBD. Watch The Community News for updates.

**Concert Aledo**

The Aledo Middle School and McAnally Band Winter Concert (No Winds) will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, at the Aledo High School Auditorium.

**DECEMBER 7**

**AHS choir concert, Aledo**  
 The Aledo High School Choir Christmas Concert will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Aledo High School Auditorium.

**DECEMBER 6**

**Aledo Middle School and McAnally Band Winter**

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
**CITY OF ALEDO**  
**BAILEY RANCH ROAD RECONSTRUCTION SECTION 2**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Aledo is now calling for bids for construction of BAILEY RANCH ROAD RECONSTRUCTION SECTION 2. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked "SEALED BID - BAILEY RANCH ROAD RECONSTRUCTION SECTION 2" and returned to the City of Aledo, 200 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, Texas 76008, prior to 2:00 P.M., CDST, Monday, December 6, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. The City of Aledo reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

The Contract Documents, including plans, for this project will be available beginning Friday, November 19, 2021. The plans, contract documents and other information may be obtained digitally at no charge from the following website at <https://www.civcastusa.com/project/618c4074dda0dda95f85c6b7/> summary or visit [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com) and search for "Bailey Ranch Road Reconstruction Section 2". It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Bidders, is received.

No prebid meeting will be held for the project.

Any questions or requests for information regarding this project during the bid process should be directed through the civcast project page. Alternatively, questions may be sent to David Smith, PE at 817-764-7486 or [dsmith@halff.com](mailto:dsmith@halff.com) or Gretchen Vazquez at 817-441-7016 or [publicworksdirector@aledotx.gov](mailto:publicworksdirector@aledotx.gov). Engineer will distribute to prospective bidders of record such Addenda as Engineer considers necessary in response to discussions or inquiries arising during the bid process.

This project includes construction of approximately 1,100 square yards of concrete pavement replacement on Bailey Ranch Road.

Bidders must submit a cashier's check, certified check, or acceptable bidder's bond with their proposal as a guarantee that the Bidder will enter into a contract for the project with the Owner within fifteen (15) days of Notice of Award of the contract. The security must be payable to City of Aledo in the amount of five (5%) percent of the bid submitted. Contractor must execute the contract, bonds and certificates of insurance on the forms provided in the Contract Documents.

Contractors for this Project must pay no less than the prevailing wage rates for the area established by the Owner and included in the contract documents.

Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds are required.

The City of Aledo reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous interpretation of the bids submitted in the case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, to reject any or all bids, and/or waive formalities. Bids may not be withdrawn within ninety (90) days from date on which bids are opened.

PUBLICATION DATES: NOVEMBER 19 AND 26, 2021 - THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
 CITY OF ALEDO



MERRILL STANFIELD/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Landon Green carries the ball for TCA against Grace Prep.

## FOOTBALL

# Eagles fall in first round of playoffs

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

Three years ago, the current seniors at Trinity Christian Academy won a state title in football as freshmen. On Saturday, Nov 13, their high school careers came to an unfortunate end at the hands of the third-ranked Arlington Grace Prep Lions in a 50-0 playoff loss.

Though Grace Prep was a heavy favorite, the Eagles felt if they could get some plays go their way that they could have a shot.

"Before the game we felt like we would need some help," head coach Joe Hamstra said. "If we could match their play and match their physicality, we could stay in it. [Grace Prep] is just so efficient in what they do, and we just couldn't match it."

TCA struggled early, not picking up a first down until midway through the second quarter. The defense took some lumps as well but in all made the Lions fight for every yard. Despite the effort put up, Grace Prep found the end zone twice in the first quarter and forced a safety to take a 16-0 lead going into the second frame.

The Eagles started to show signs of life in the second quarter, on one drive finding their way to the Lions 24 yard line. However the Grace Prep defense held firm and kept TCA off the scoreboard.

The Lions added two more touchdowns but missed both extra points, keeping it a 28-0 score at the break.

Turn to **TCA**, page 9

## FOOTBALL

# Bearcats crush Hillcrest

Bi-District contest was no contest

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

For the 26th consecutive time, the Aledo Bearcats are Bi-District Champions and will play in the Area round. The team accomplished the feat at home by dismantling the Dallas Hillcrest Panthers 77-0.

"It's really cool to know that we get to play next week," quarterback Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi said about the win. "It's a really great opportunity and we're extremely blessed. Moving forward we just have to focus on the next team we play and go week by week."

Not only did Aledo get the win, but all the seniors got to play one extra game at Bearcat Stadium before graduation.

"I didn't really want to think about it," senior defensive end Jack Tregellas said about his final game at Bearcat Stadium. "It's just another game. I didn't want to think that it was all going to be the last time. It's bittersweet, but at the same time we won a playoff game."

The Bearcats got off to a fast start, as Nicolosi (9-11, 230 yards, 3 TDs) hit Jalen Pope (3 receptions, 74 yards, 1 TD) over the middle for a 56-yard score. Three plays into the first drive for Hillcrest, Davhon Keys (2 tackles, 1 INT, 1 TD) intercepted a pass at the Panther 13 yard line and strolled in for the score to make it 14-0 quickly.

After forcing a punt, Ryan Williams (5 carries, 61 yards, 2 TDs rushing, 1 reception, 40 yards, 1 TD receiving) got into the end zone

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 9



KRISTIN MORALES

Andrew Parkhurst (27) makes a tackle. Parkhurst returned an interception for a touchdown in the second quarter.



KRISTIN MORALES

Jalen Pope crosses the goal line for a touchdown in the first quarter against Dallas Hillcrest.

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## City of Willow Park Notice of Public Hearing on Reducing the Boundaries of Reinvestment Zone No.1

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON DECEMBER 14, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M. (OR LATER) IN THE WILLOW PARK CITY HALL LOCATED AT 516 RANCH HOUSE ROAD, WILLOW PARK, TEXAS ON THE EXCLUSION OF 47.42 ACRES FROM REINVESTMENT ZONE NO. 1 AND TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY OWNER OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE PROPOSED REINVESTMENT ZONE TO PROTEST THE EXCLUSION OF THEIR PROPERTY FROM WITHIN THE AMENDED REINVESTMENT ZONE. PROPOSED ZONE CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY ±183.492 ACRES GENERALLY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS IN PARKER COUNTY, IN AND AROUND WILLOW PARK'S CROWN POINT ADDITION AND GENERALLY LOCATED ALONG AND NORTH OF INTERSTATE 20 WEST OF KINGS GATE ROAD AND EAST OF CROWN LANE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY A METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS FROM THE CITY SECRETARY AT THE WILLOW PARK CITY HALL. AT THE PUBLIC HEARING, ANY INTERESTED PERSONS MAY SPEAK FOR OR AGAINST THE EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY FROM WITHIN THE ZONE. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING, CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS WILL CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE REDUCING THE REINVESTMENT ZONE BOUNDARIES BY 47.42 ACRES.

City Council: Tuesday, December 14, 2021  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Rd.  
Willow Park, TX 76087

Any member of the public has the right to appear at the Public Hearing. Please contact the Development Department at 817-441-7108 or tfisher@willowpark.org with any questions.

Posted: November 16, 2021

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE ANNETTA SOUTH PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD AND THE ANNETTA SOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Annetta South, Texas will hold a public hearing at a meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Annetta South, Texas will hold a public hearing at a meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

At such times and place, the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Council will hear and take action on A text amendment to the city of annetta south zoning ordinance amending section 12.3(k) to direct fees associated with zoning matters be included in the city's official fee schedule.

Citizens are invited to attend and participate in the public hearing.

For more information, you may contact cityofannettasouth@gmail.com.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE ANNETTA SOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Annetta South, Texas will hold a public hearing at a meeting that begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

At such times and place, the Council will hear and take action on the 2022 Budget.

Citizens are invited to attend and participate in the public hearing.

For more information, you may contact cityofannetta-south@gmail.com.

## TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER 14, 2021 AT ANNETTA METHODIST CHURCH, 2836 FM 5, ANNETTA, TEXAS ADOPTING THE TOWN'S 2022 BUDGET

//SE

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Farm Retirement Auction - Bruceville, TX, Saturday Nov 20th, 10 a.m. Live and Online Bidding. Coleman & Patterson Auctioneers, 888-300-0005 or CAPAuctions.com, TX Lic13489.

EVENTS

Texas Renaissance Festival - Oct. 9 to Nov. 28, Saturdays, Sundays and Thanksgiving Friday. 47th annual festival. Kids get in free on Sundays. Discounted tickets available at TexRenFest.com.

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# BEARCATS

from page seven

from eight yards out, making it a three-score ballgame. Sammy Steffe (6 carries, 48 yards, 2 TDs) followed suit on the next drive with a 15-yard touchdown run, bringing the score to 28-0 at the end of the first quarter.

On the first play of the second quarter, Nicolosi dumped a pass off to Williams, who raced 52 yards untouched to paydirt. After forcing another three-and-out, Nicolosi got his third touchdown pass to BJ Fleming (4 receptions, 98 yards, 1 TD) for a one-play, 29-yard drive. The stout Bearcat defense once again stopped the Panthers in just three plays, getting the ball back. Steffe got another touchdown four plays later from two yards out, making it 49-0.

Hillcrest finally got a first down midway through the second quarter, but the drive stalled. Williams scored from 44 yards out on the third play of the ensuing drive, bringing it to 56-0. It appeared that would be it for the first half, but with 19 seconds left, Andrew Parkhurst (3 tackles, 1 INT, 1 TD) picked off a pass at the Panther 45 and took it into the end zone with little resistance.

The score after one half of football was 63-0.

The Aledo starters were all pulled in the second half. The team started rotating people in, including a few players off of the squad team roster. It appeared the Panthers were going to score in the first drive of the second half, but the drive stalled at the Aledo seven yard line. The offense immediately drove down the field and scored on a nine-yard pass from Brant Hayden (4-4, 76 yards, 1 TD) to Jason Llewellyn (2 catches, 27 yards, 1 TD), bringing the score to 70-0 at the end of three quarters of play.

The Bearcats got the ball back and at the start of the fourth quarter, the offense went on another long drive capped off by a ten yard scoring run by Ryan Cox (7 carries, 99 yards, 1 TD), bringing the final tally to 77-0 after stopping the Panthers one last time.

"Any time you get young kids in, it's pretty neat," head coach Tim Buchanan said about the experience gained. "We had 161 kids eligible to play, we got probably 90 of them in. It's good to get them in and let them play at this level."

The Bearcats are now 11-0 on the year and advance to the Area round of the playoffs where they were scheduled to play Frisco Liberty at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, at Apogee Stadium in Denton.



## WRESTLING

# Program begins at Midlothian

The Bearcat and Ladycat wrestling team headed to Midlothian Heritage for their first tournament of the season (and program) on Nov. 13. It was a great showing from the whole team for their first match. Both teams fell to two seasoned teams (Azle and Prosper Rock Hill).

The Bearcats overcame and won their dual against Midlothian Heritage. Leading off the win was Captain Cole Bohnen, who had a massive pin within the first 16 seconds of his match. This was followed more pins from Ty Hand, Britton Collins, and Jack Green.

The Ladycats had some standout moments as well, led by



Freshman Kyra Wright who went 2-0, both by pins, her first coming within the first 40 seconds of the match. This was followed up by her teammate Freshman Caroline Gartner, who went 2-1 for the day, winning one by pin and one by decision.

The JV boys were scheduled for a tournament Nov.

18 at Martin. The varsity boys were scheduled to be at Flower Mound Marcus on Nov. 19, and the varsity girls have a dual at The Colony High School on Nov. 20.

The two home matches will be on Dec. 15 and Senior Night on Jan. 26.

# TCA

from page seven

The second half was more of the same. Grace Prep scored on the opening drive of the half, picked off the Eagles, and scored again on the ensuing drive.

Once again TCA was putting together a good offensive drive, reaching the Lion 24 yard line once again, but that was the closest the Eagles got as the drive stalled with no time left in the third quarter.

Grace Prep mounted one last drive in the fourth quarter that ended in a touchdown, bringing the final to 50-0. On the final possession of the game, the Eagles were still fighting on every snap and never backing down.

"I've always felt like these kids play hard," Hamstra said about the tenacity of his team. "There have been many times where we were out manned like we were today, but they're a bunch of fighters and I've appreciated that about them all year long. They showed it again."

TCA's season comes to an end at a record of 2-8. The last of the state championship members from 2018 will graduate this summer and move on to life past high school. It is a class that Hamstra said he'll never forget.

"It's just a great group of kids. One thing I appreciate about them is the chemistry and the love as teammates. We never had any backbiting or divisiveness and it's a tribute to them."

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