

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

Key issues addressed in special meeting

Property tax collections, wastewater, new city hall discussed

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The Aledo City Council met in a special session on Thursday, Nov. 3, to address several issues the city will be faced in deciding in the future.

The three-hour epic addressed topics ranging from delinquent property taxes to updated proposals to the new municipal complex.

Jake Battenfield, the Capital Partner at Lineberger Attorneys at Law, started off the evening by providing an update on the city's standing with regard to delinquent property tax bills. Battenfield told the council the dollar value of delinquent taxes fell from about \$18,000 for 2021 to \$13,000 for 2022. Of the accounts that ended up in litigation from 2021, seven have been closed with a total of \$9,500 awarded to the city in those cases.

Battenfield also noted during the presentation that property taxes for the upcoming year are due in January. If taxes are not paid during the first half of the year, the delinquent list will be sent to his office by the city in July.

New municipal complex to address growing needs

Preston Scott of Randall Scott Architects was second to the podium on the night. He spent several minutes updating the council on alterations made to the plan for the new municipal complex. The project will include space for a new police department, city council chambers, city offices, the parks department, a city court, and a city human resources office to all be housed under the same roof once the project is complete.

With prices of materials and labor on the rise, Scott said his team was able to cut \$3 million off the project by trimming 1,500 square feet from the plans without losing any functionality within the space. He also said based on recent projects the firm has completed for other local municipalities within the metro area, the cost target for the project he would aim for is around \$680 per square foot of construction.

Now it is up to the council to decide on whether to accept the plans as is, or to request adjustments be made to the plans. Scott also referenced a single-story option that would significantly reduce the size and scope of the project, but cautioned that option would likely put the city in a position to seek expansion of the complex within a decade as Aledo continues to grow.

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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo High School cheerleaders are geared up for both the football playoffs and the holiday season. Shown are (front row, from left) Taylor Prestage, Ella Stuart, Rachel Taylor, and Alexa Saenz and (back row) Ava Schmitz, McKenna Weatherley, Avery Mulkey, Ruthie Pulliam, Taylor Parsons, Chloe Wilson, Daniella Tregellas, and Lilly Wilson.

WILLOW PARK

Voters approve ESD1 annexing fire department

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Voters in Willow Park, by an almost 2-1 margin Tuesday, approved the Parker County Emergency Services District 1 annexation of the city's fire department.

The unofficial vote, as it has yet to be certified, was 1,048 for (62.05%) and 641 against (37.95%).

Voters outside Willow Park but inside ESD1 also approved the measure, with about 80% voting yes.

The vote was a hot topic of debate in Willow Park for months as those in favor of the annexation were touting the monetary benefits of such a move, while those opposed expressed concern of the city losing its fire department. Likewise, over that span, ESD1 officials and Willow Park leaders reassured citizens that would not be the case.

Willow Park's budget is stretched about as thin as possible. The \$1.9 million expected to be brought in from property taxes in the 2023 fiscal year city budget is expected to entirely go to fund the police department. Meanwhile, the fire department will take up \$1.4 million of the expected \$1.7 million income from sales tax.

Now, however, moving forward in future budgets, the money that would in the past have gone to fund the fire department can be used for streets, parks and other projects. Also, city officials have said without having to fund the fire department, a tax decrease is likely.

"The election results for the ESD1 demonstrates the voters' appreciation for the fire service we have in Willow Park and the voters' commitment to providing resources for the firefighters and their families," Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes said. "For the City of Willow Park the work now begins on ensuring a seamless transition. I look forward to working with ESD1 Chief Stephen Watson and ESD1 President Mark Jack and congratulate them on the election."

The decision could also pave the way for a much-needed new city hall in Willow Park.

In numerous public discussions leading up to the vote, Watson expressed improved benefits for fire department employees, along with the possibility of increasing the staff.

"I'm excited the citizens of Willow Park stepped up and saw the value of this for our firefighters. I'm happy for them and their families and the opportunity they'll have with ESD1. It's a big win for the first responders in our city," said Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss.

In a recent meeting, citizens were given a list of assurances of what will happen now that the annexation has been approved.

1. ESD1 guarantees employment of current Willow Park Fire Department personnel.

Turn to **VOTERS**, page B2

Aledo Navy aviator announces retirement

Robert Gustavson and family land in Aledo

Special to The Community News

CDR Robert Gustavson has announced his retirement from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service.

Gustavson was commissioned in May 2002 after graduating from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He received orders to flight school and was winged a Naval Aviator in 2004 at the Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas.

In Kingsville Robert met, fell in love, and married his wife,

Holly, a native of Rosenberg, Texas. Holly was in graduate school at the University of Texas in Austin.

The couple moved to California, by way of Virginia, where Robbie flew E-2C "Hawkeyes" off the USS Ronald Reagan for three deployments

Turn to **NAVY**, page A3



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

CDR Robert Gustavson is shown after his last flight with family members (from left) Adeline, Wyatt, Liam, and wife Holly.



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Marshall receives chamber's first honorary membership

Staff Reports
The Community News

The East Parker County Chamber of Commerce recently announced that former Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall has become the chamber's first Honorary Member.

According to a release from the chamber, "Honorary membership is extended to an individual who has performed acts or deeds so exceptional on behalf of the betterment of the Chamber's ideals and purposes as to be recognized by the voting membership so long as the individual lives."

Marshall is a charter member of the chamber, joining in 1996. She served two terms on the board of directors, and has served on the Economic Development Committee, Governmental Affairs Committee, Spelldown committee for three years, and Awards Banquet committee for two-three years.

Marshall was instrumental in two projects once done by the chamber, but now assumed by local cities: Christmas Tyme in Aledo and Hudson Oaks Boomin' Fourth.

Outside the chamber, Marshall served on the Aledo City Council for 20 years.

The chamber board unanimously approved the honor in August.

"I don't like to be the first in line but I sure do like being the first to accomplish something or to achieve something," Marshall said. "I was blown away and and continue to be honored will always be honored to have received the first ever honorary membership for a five star chamber."



Read this story online

Marshall particularly has fond memories of the Spelldown, a community-participation spelling bee hosted by the chamber several years ago. Various community organizations would choose a book and dress as its characters while participating in a spelling bee.

"I brought the Spelldown event to the chamber; I actually got that from Springtown. Because it was such a collaboration with the school district and community at large."

Marshall currently serves as Parker County's Community Liaison for Emergency Preparedness.



East Parker County Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Flowers (right) presents the chamber's first honorary membership to Kit Marshall.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

POLITICS

Parker County remains firmly red in mid-term voting

Abbott wins county handily

By Randy Keck
The Community News

While Greg Abbott comfortably carried Texas against Democrat Beto O'Rourke by about 11 percentage points, Parker County gave him a much bigger boost, awarding Abbott almost 83 percent of its votes, 67 percentage points above O'Rourke in Tuesday's mid-term election results.

U.S. Rep. Kay Granger, whose new district includes the northern portions of the county, had an even bigger margin against Democrat Trey Hunt, pulling 85.7% of the vote among voters who live in her district, a whopping 70 percentage point difference.

U.S. Rep. Roger Williams, whose new district will cover the southern portion of the district, ran unopposed.

The only other local race was for Parker County Sheriff, where Sheriff Russ Authier outpolled his Libertarian opponent Russell Hess, 50,423 to 8,967.

Reporting delays attributed to early, write-in ballots

Residents who are accustomed to seeing early votes reported promptly at 7 p.m. had an unaccustomed wait to see results on Tuesday.

Elections Administrator Crickett Miller said the delays in reporting were attributed to the large number of write-in ballots and the process of certifying early votes.

"There are numerous processes that have to occur in order to tally all of the votes," Miller told *The Community News*. "Mail in ballots have to be processed and verified by the early voting ballot board, then processed into the central computer, and then to the count computer."

"Once Central Count Station begins, all early voting scanners must be checked through the chain of custody and tapes ran on each early voting scanner and verified, and then processed into count. Once everything from ballot by mail and early voting has been loaded into count, the write-in candidates must be processed to the candidate that is the certified write-in, which is a tedious process and takes a long period of time."

Miller said each write-in has to be assigned to the certified candidate name.

"There were four races (one local) that had write-in candidates," Miller said. "Every step must be checked and verified prior to going to the next step. We want to make sure that everything is processed and cured correctly. If you watched the live stream last night you could see that the early voting ballot board and central count were busy from early morning to late last night."



Read this story online

VOTERS

from page A1

2. ESD1 will lease the current fire station, which is attached to the Willow Park Public Safety Building (PSB,) and will purchase the existing city hall property for construction of a future fire station.

3. The city will lease the current fire station and the ESD1 will lease the current city hall to the other respective entity at an agreed upon fair market rate. The lease for both entities will be for a two-to-three-year period, or until the city can construct a city hall at a site to be determined.

4. The sale of real property will be an agreed upon amount based on appraisals and supporting documentation.

5. ESD1 will acquire all assets as needed for the operation of the fire service. With respect to the current Willow Park Fire Department fleet, each entity will secure an appraisal on each vehicle, and then agree upon an amount for each vehicle based on the two appraisals.

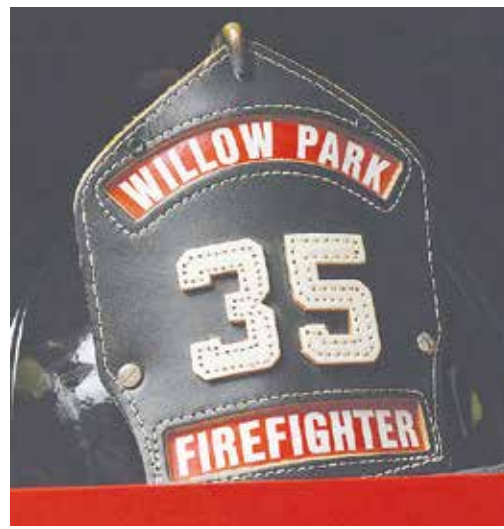
6. ESD1 will be required to have a ladder truck stationed in Willow Park.

7. The purchase of Station 2, located near the City of Willow Park Public Works Building, will be determined by ESD1 to see if it is required for operations. If not purchased, the city of Willow Park has a need for the building and will utilize it. However, city officials said fire service operations are the priority with this facility.

8. Upon the transition of personnel from the city to ESD1, the city will pay the ESD1 for fire services. It is anticipated it will be for quarters three and four of the current fiscal year.

9. The interlocal agreement will be completed by April 1, 2023. This is also the transition date for fire personnel to go from the City of Willow Park to ESD 1. All talking points and action items will be concluded on or before Sept. 30, 2023 — the end of the fiscal year for both entities.

As for how ESD1 benefits, Watson has said repeatedly it is a strategic move to streamline services throughout the county with everyone working for the same agency. ESD1 covers 311 square miles and 70,000 residents, including Aledo, the Annettas, Springtown, Peaster,



Poolville, Morningstar, Silver Creek and Lajunta.

The ESDs are funded by a 1.5% sales tax in unincorporated areas and an ad-valorem (property) tax of up to 10 cents per \$100 in incorporated areas such as Willow Park.

Further discussion about going forward now that the annexation has been approved is expected to take place at a council meeting in December.



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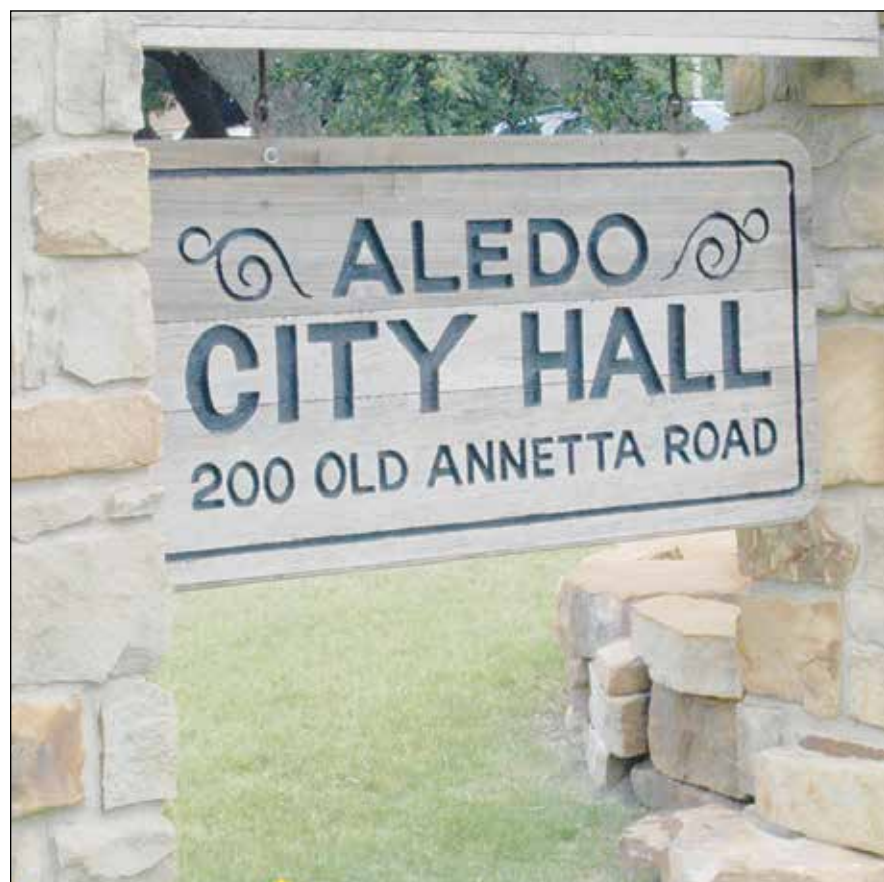
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COUNCIL

from page A1

Ironing out a unified development code

Place Strategies, INC spent a few minutes during the meeting discussing how the city could benefit from a unified development code. Ivan Gonzalez pitched the point by having streamlined code for what is, as well as what is not, accepted in new developments both residential and commercial within Aledo, the city could save time approving permits allowing development to keep pace with population growth.

Updates to the wastewater treatment plant

The final three presentations of the evening all pertained to the wastewater treatment plant. Gretchen Vasquez and Shawn Granado of the City of Aledo presented first. The duo discussed several needed repairs and improvements at the wastewater treatment facility along with estimates they've received on the cost to make those repairs.

A trio of presenters from Freese and Nichols closed out the evening presenting their recommendations to the council regarding the future of the wastewater treatment plant. Gennady Boksiner

and Allison Hage discussed their preliminary engineering design plans for the expansion to the plant. During the discussion they briefly fielded questions from the council regarding potential funding options for the project. While they expressed concerns about the city's prospects of receiving funding from the Texas Water Development Board, they did provide recommendations they believe could increase the possibility of Aledo gaining that approval for funding.

Jessica Brown, also of Freese and Nichols, closed out the presentations by speaking to the council about the current water and sewer capacities for Aledo. As the city continues to grow, especially in light of the Dean Ranch development slated to begin soon, Brown said the current capacities for the city water and sewer infrastructure could come

under stress if the expansion proposed by Boksiner and Hage is not implemented at the right time. Brown elaborated on when the right time would be, stating when the current infrastructure reaches 90% of its capacity, the expansion project needs to be underway.



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Tri County offers chance for students to win a free trip and scholarship

Applications now open

Special to The Community News

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the 2023 Texas Youth Tour for six lucky high school sophomores and juniors to experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

That opportunity is to travel to Washington, D.C., tour historical sites, learn about our nation's capital, and lead among fellow U.S. Representatives.

"This all-expenses paid, 10-day trip is a unique opportunity for our young members to learn about our nation's capital, experience the rich history regarding the founding

of our country, and learn about the electric cooperative industry – all while gaining leadership experience," Tri County's Director of Communications Annie Watson said.

Selected participants will spend June 11 – 19 with more than 150 other students statewide, meeting deep in the heart of Texas before embarking on their trip to Washington, D.C. Additionally, they will each receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

To apply, visit www.tcectexas.com/youth-tour. The application deadline is January 13, 2023.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative provides electricity to more than 130,300 meters on 9,840 miles of distribution lines. Tri-County Electric Co-op strives to enhance the quality of life in our diverse communities by providing safe, reliable, and competitive electric and customer service to its member-owners as good stewards of the environment. The co-op, established in 1939, is a distribution electric cooperative that serves more than 103,000 members in 16 counties in the north Texas region.



Read this story online

NAVY

from page A1

before taking orders to NAS Meridian, Mississippi as a flight instructor.

He continued in flight assignments and eventually was able to return with his wife to Texas when the Navy brought the Gustavson family to Aledo in 2016.

In all, he accumulated more than 3,600 flight hours and 213 arrested landings aboard aircraft carriers.

He retired as a Commander on Nov. 1 out of the Fleet Logistics Support Wing at NAS JRB Fort Worth, flying the C-40A "Clipper."

"We've been blessed to be a part of many great communities during our time in the Navy, but Aledo is a special place and we have truly found a home here," Gustavson said. "From the incredible teachers to the welcoming and supportive people we could not have found a better place to plant a flag."

Holly works as a Speech-Language Pathologist at Annetta Elementary School and Beyond Faith Home Health.

Daughter Adeline is a member of the National Junior Honor Society at Aledo Middle School, and participates in cheer and dance.

Son Liam plays three sports and is learning the clarinet in the sixth-grade band at



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SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
CDR Robert Gustavson is shown with family members (from left) Adeline, Wyatt, wife Holly, and Liam.

AMS.

Son Wyatt goes to school at Grace Learning Tree.



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TCA Gift Market

Trinity Christian Academy held its annual TCA Gift Market on Nov. 5. The annual event provides a venue for small businesses and raises funds for the school.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP ROW: Lakeisha Simon (left) did some purse shopping at Aledo Handmade, owned by Jeanenne Forstner (right). | The Barber Gymnasium hosted numerous vendors, as did other parts of the TCA Secondary School. | Casey Piles had a booth for her business, C and P Enterprises. **BOTTOM ROW:** Rachelle Thomas is seen at the Thomas Opal booth. | Fine woodworking was displayed by Cookie and Bill Pozun. | Kathleen Campbell and Joelene Slocum (left) looked over items at the Pampered Chef booth, owned by DeAnne and Bryan Cartwright.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP ROW: Shoppers found lots of ideas for holiday decorating. | Dalton Macleod found an interesting book on robots. | Angelyn Horrell displayed jewelry from Park Lane. | Laurel Taylor displayed merchandise from Alabaster Purl. **BOTTOM ROW:** Sanctified Hope had locally-made crafts available to benefit their program. Shown are (from left) Kim Brewer, Kelly McKee, Renee Cleveland, and Elizabeth Mederos. | The Rose Garden Cottage was represented by (from left) Janet Davis, Beth Cassidy, and Lee Ann Gillespie. | Alison Sosa had several unique items at the Color Street booth.

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Annual Thanksgiving Trot to benefit LeBaron family

Local race set for Nov. 24

By **Randy Keck**
The Community News

It was March 3 and the LeBaron family was preparing to move to Aledo from Springtown.

The family — parents John and Ashley, and children Braylon (12), Makayla (9), Colton (2), and Liam (1) — had just gone out to celebrate the 13th birthday of the oldest sibling, Carter.

The following week, as the family was in the process of the move, Carter had trouble staying awake.

“If he sat still, for just even just a couple of minutes, he was falling asleep,” Ashley said. “He was falling asleep sitting up.”

In addition, Carter was not eating, something unusual for any 13-year-old boy. The concerned parents made plans for a doctor visit in the midst of their move.

Carter went to stay overnight at his grandmother’s house (Ashley’s mom), who called Ashley to say she felt a swollen lymph node on the back of Carter’s neck.

“Something just said ‘we’ve got to take him now — don’t wait,’” Ashley said. “I told my mom, ‘have him ready to go, I’m going to come get him.’”

Ashley took Carter to Cook Children’s Urgent Care at Walsh Ranch, but was told they don’t do blood work

there, so she took him to Texas Health in Willow Park.

“I explained everything that was going on, and asked them to test his blood,” Ashley said. “When the results came back, that’s when the doctor came in and told us that he had cancer and we were transferred to Cook (Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth) later that night.”

Carter was diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and his immediate admission was a result of his blood test.

“His white blood cell count and his potassium levels were so high, his oncologist was shocked that he did not have a stroke,” Ashley said.

Having moved to Aledo just a week before the diagnosis, Carter never even got enrolled in school, so he never had the chance to meet any of his new classmates. Ashley got the other siblings enrolled in Aledo ISD while Carter was in the hospital. Carter is receiving homebound education and has a teacher who goes to the house four days a week.

In addition to the emotion the family was experiencing, it took a big financial hit on two fronts: the cost of the hospital — Carter was admitted for two-and-a-half weeks the first time, and more than a month shortly after — and loss of income, as one parent had to stay at the hospital with Carter while the other had to care for the four siblings at home.

John was only recently able to go back to work for a glass company in Weatherford, but Carter has another hospital admission scheduled in two months. Right now he is receiving chemo once a week, but in two months he will have to go in five days a week. Ashley said John was lucky to have found an understanding employer who is willing to work with him on the schedule.

Finances and scheduling aside, the emotion was a big hit to the family as well.

Carter had a difficult time at first coping with his situation, and the situation was hard on the siblings as well, missing Carter and only seeing their mom for a few hours every couple of days.

Anyone going through a situation like the LeBarons needs emotional support. Ashley said her mom provides some of that, and she is part of a social media group for cancer families. Still, living in a new community has its challenges in that department.

“I’m learning to reach out when I need to,” Ashley said. “I don’t always.”

When the Thanksgiving Trot reached out to the family, Ashley said, being new to the community, she was not aware of the organization.

It almost didn’t happen, as the Thanksgiving Trot application mailed to the LeBaron home never arrived.

“And so at first I was just kind of like, ‘okay, well, no, nevermind, I guess we’re just not gonna worry about it,’” Ashley said. “But then we asked about it later.”

The Thanksgiving Trot sent a new application, and chose the LeBaron family for its 2022 recipient.

“I can honestly say we never expected it, so we were completely shocked,” Ashley said. “I just want people to know how thankful we are and that, it’s truly a blessing. We just want everybody to notice that we’re super grateful.”

Funds from the annual Thanksgiving Trot, set to begin at 8 a.m. on Thanksgiving, will help the family deal with the loss of income and medical expenses. But the biggest benefit of “The Trot” through the years is the realization of the recipients that there is large, caring community that is willing to reach out and show its support.

For more information, visit <https://www.aledothanksgivingtrot.com/>.



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Events

November 11, 2022
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EVENTS



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Ladycats Charity Golf Tournament
 The Aledo Softball Boosters will host the second annual Aledo Ladycats Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, Nov. 11, at Squaw Creek Golf Club. Proceeds will go to the Aledo softball program to cover expenses the school district may not provide for. The largest portion of the funds will go to the Senior Class Scholarship Fund. Sponsorships are available as well as registrations to play (\$500/foursome or \$150 per individual player.) For more information, email Matt Byars or Dewayne Cox at 2023Ladycatssoftball@gmail.com.



Trot will run from 12-5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13, at Aledo Volleyball Club, 425 FM 1187 in Aledo. Vendors at the event will donate back to the Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot. For more information, visit www.aledothanksgivingtrot.com.

have a gift area to visit and shop. There will be a silent auction along with a raffle table. The cost is \$12 per person. Tickets can be purchased from the Parker County Extension Office, club members, or at the door. The event supports Parker County 4-H scholarships, as well as Extension Education Club community services. For more information, call 817-598-6168, or to buy tickets ahead, stop by the Parker County Extension office at 604 North Main in Weatherford.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Home for the Holidays
 The Parker County Extension Service will present its annual "Home for the Holidays" event from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Couts Memorial United Methodist Church, 802 North Elm in Weatherford. There will be special programs including putting pizzaz in decorating, gift ideas, tips and more. A delicious holiday lunch will be provided along with recipes, some fun games and more. Each club will

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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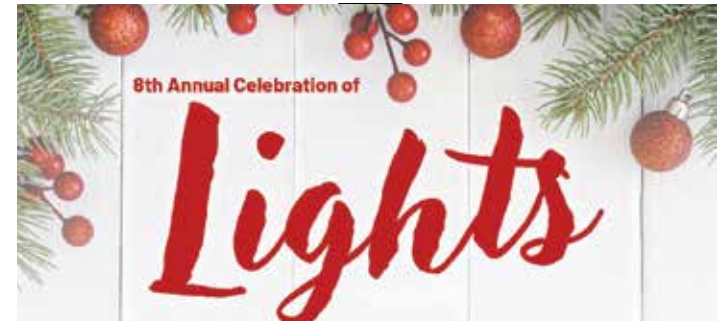
TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 to Houston: "One small step for ___ one giant leap..."
- 5 horse's daddy
- 6 tropical birds
- 7 Andrews County is in ___ Texas
- 8 only hit for TX band "Bubble Puppy":
- 16 Sasafrass" (1969)
- 17 Texas "Turtle Lady," Loetscher
- 17 TX George Jones hit: "Me (Without You)"
- 21 Ma & ___ Ferguson
- 22 TXism for "hand"
- 23 TXism: "speechifier"
- 24 vintage hat (2 wds.)
- 29 govt. agents
- 30 Houston has been the ___ site for three Super Bowls
- 31 TXism: "___ tight he squeaks when he walks" (miser)
- 32 those convicted of the least of the serious crimes in Texas: "state ___"
- 34 TXism: "wouldn't ___ a buscuit" (harmless dog)
- 35 Shriner hat
- 36 those who go 65 in a 55 zone
- 37 ___ enemy
- 38 "Powell's ___" is the longest in Texas
- 39 Sinton's county (2 wds.)
- 41 Oklahoma's 21st governor, David
- 42 Fort Worth univer.
- 43 TXism: "never laid eyes ___" (unseen)
- 44 description of a basket mo. the State Fair starts
- 46 TXism: "saddles his ___ horse" (independent)
- 47 "Lake O' the ___"
- 48 TX Lefty Frizzell hit: "Saginaw, ___"
- 50 Nabisco "Wheat ___"
- 51 sharpen
- 52 Beauty of "Big Bad John" with TX Jimmy Dean
- 53 TXism: "fit ___ fiddle" (healthy)
- 13 Hereford: "The Town Without ___ ache"
- 14 hospital caregiver
- 15 mild expression of anger or annoyance
- 18 actress in Texas epic "Giant" (init.)
- 19 James Bond digits (3 numbers)
- 20 TXism: "stiff as a ___ rope"
- 22 "cuarto de hombres" (2 wds.)
- 24 breakfast drink (abbr.)
- 25 early name for the Rio Grande: "Rio de ___ Palmas"
- 26 salsa and french onion
- 27 football shoes
- 28 TXism: "he'd argue with ___ post"
- 29 ___ Worth
- 30 in Hamilton County on U.S. 281
- 33 Margaret ___ Houston
- 34 England resident
- 35 Uber charges
- 37 TXism: "tight as ___ fat horse"
- 38 group of witches
- 40 TXism: "throw ___" (join)
- 41 ___ fide
- 44 "___ out" (outburst of emotion)
- 47 Alonso Alvarez de ___ named
- 25-down
- 49 this Ward is coach of San Antonio's XFL team

downtown Weatherford. In addition to the tree lighting at 6 p.m., activities include photos with Santa, carriage rides, hay rides, ice skating, train rides, and face painting. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/celebrationweatherford/>.



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Tiger Mart Exxon
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Willow Park City Hall
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Published by The Community News

For more information, call 817-441-7661 or visit www.community-news.com.

Capital Highlights

Panic buttons, locked doors for Texas schools



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Texas public schools would have to install panic buttons in classrooms and ensure all doors and windows are locked and monitored under new proposed safety standards released last week by the Texas Education Agency.

The proposal is the latest effort to strengthen school safety after 19 children and two teachers were killed at Robb Elementary in Uvalde last May in the state's deadliest school shooting.

The *Dallas Morning News* reported that school districts in coming weeks can apply for grants from TEA to cover spending on security-related items, including installment of silent panic buttons this year. Each district will receive at least \$200,000, with funds awarded on a per-student count.

Districts would also be required to undergo twice-annual maintenance checks to make sure that two-way radio equipment used by law enforcement and first responders works inside their school buildings. Previous reports indicate poor radio communication was one reason law enforcement didn't confront the gunman for more than an hour in Uvalde.

20% increase in traffic deaths in oil and gas regions

More than 79,000 traffic crashes were recorded in 2021 in the state's five main energy sectors — the Permian Basin, Eagle Ford Shale, Barnett Shale,

Anadarko Basin and the Haynesville/Bossier Shale — resulting in 1,119 fatalities. The Texas Department of Transportation launched its "Be Safe. Drive Smart" fall campaign to remind drivers to slow down, stay alert, and be extra cautious when driving in high-traffic oil- and gas-producing areas.

Drivers are urged to follow the posted speed limit and adjust driving to road conditions; don't text or talk when behind the wheel; give large trucks plenty of space; pass only when it's safe to do so; and always buckle up.

"Be Safe. Drive Smart" is a key part of #EndTheStreakTX, which is attempting to end the streak of daily traffic deaths in Texas. On Nov. 7, the state marked 22 years since the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

Wildfire safety urged during hunting season

Deer season is underway, and the Texas A&M Forest Service urges hunters to be careful with activities that may cause a wildfire this hunting season. From 2017 to 2021 the forest service responded to 3,682 wildfires that burned 1.4 million acres. During that period, 42% of wildfires occurred during the major hunting season months of September through January.

"Texas A&M Forest Service wants all hunters to be safe this upcoming season," said Karen Stafford of the forest service. "We all have a role to play in protecting our state from wildfires, so remember to do your part and don't let a wildfire start."

Hunters are urged to avoid driving over and parking on dry grass, which could spark a fire; to check for burn bans in effect; never leave a campfire unattended; and to always carry a fire extinguisher, shovel, and water to camp.

Emergency SNAP benefits again extended

Once again, emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits have been extended through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and distributed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. More than \$334.5 million in emergency benefits are going to about 1.6 million Texas households.

"As we head into the holiday season, we hope these additional allotments provide nourishing meals to Texans in need," said Texas HHS Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter.

All SNAP households will receive a minimum of \$95 in emergency benefits by Nov. 30. Since April 2020, more than \$8.7 billion in federal food benefits have been provided to eligible Texans.

Texas again leads nation in jobs added

The latest statistics from the Texas Workforce Commission and the Bureau of Labor Statistics show Texas led the nation in jobs added over the past 12 months and broke the state's record for total jobs for the 11th consecutive month.

The state economy has added 721,800 positions since September 2021. The state's unemployment rate was 4.0%

"More people in Texas are working today than ever before. In fact, more people in Texas are working than the entire population of the state of Pennsylvania," said TWC Commissioner Julian Alvarez. "TWC offers an array of free services to Texans to ensure

their success — everything from free online learning courses to occupational training and hiring events. We're here to help."

Biggest-ever Buc-ee's coming to Luling

Buc-ee's is planning to bring the title of largest of its travel centers back to Texas by building a 75,000-square-foot facility in Luling, about 50 miles south of Austin. The new facility will be 1,000 square feet larger than the current title holder in Tennessee, according to The Dallas Morning News.

The new building in Luling will have 120 fueling stations and is expected to open next year. Buc-ee's began 40 years ago in Lake Jackson and now operates more than 30 travel centers in Texas and nine in other states. The company plans to expand to Colorado and Missouri.

COVID-19 cases again remain steady

The number of new cases of COVID-19 cases reported in Texas by the Coronavirus Center at Johns Hopkins University stayed steady the past week at 11,535, with 62 deaths recorded. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state recorded by the Texas Department of State Health Services also stayed steady at 974 as of Sunday.

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.



Read this story online

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Come Together

Today our country feels as divided as I have ever seen it in my lifetime. This season of political ads, which each side attacking the other as "the enemy," just magnify the hatred and vitriol that we see.

I've always said it is better to be kind than to be right. Rather than focus on our differences, why don't we focus on what makes us similar, the things that unite us. We all want safe neighborhoods, good lives for our families, and the stability to work towards our goals. The only "enemies" out there are the ones who would seek to divide us against each other.

Now that the election is over, my hope would be that we can set aside our differences and remember that we are all in this together. Coming together at the table is more important now than ever, and in this upcoming season of thanks, I wish peace and happiness for our community and the country as a whole.

Doyle Moss
Willow Park

COLUMN SUBMISSION POLICY

The *Community News* is committed to freedom of expression and sharing of opinions. We are happy to provide a forum for our readers to express their views in an environment that provides for dialogue and respectful disagreements.

Guest columns are evaluated on the following three criteria: if they are reasonable, if they are respectful, and if they are factual.

We invite your submissions at news@community-news.com.



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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. 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.

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.

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.

In & Around Parker County

Clear Fork Veterinary Clinic is committed to compassionate, quality care

Since May 2018, Clear Fork Vet has committed to providing quality care to all animals that enter their doors.

Born and raised in Aledo, Dr. Darryl McEndree brings 22 years of veterinary expertise to his hometown, serving his entire career in Parker County. Dr. McEndree received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M University in College Station.

The Clear Fork Veterinary team has expanded over the last 18 months to include experienced veterinarians Dr. Kimberly Wise and Dr. Clare Williamson, who joined the clinic in 2021.

It also has a full staff of veterinary technicians, customer service representatives and a clinic manager to ensure customer satisfaction for all.

The clinic provides comprehensive full-life-stage care to dogs and cats, offering wellness exams, vaccinations, hospital care, end-of-life care, pain management, dental care, surgery, radiology and imaging, internal medicine, pharmacy service, emergency care, micro-chipping, heartworm and flea treatment products and prescription food products.

“We take the care of all pets very seriously,” Dr. McEndree said. “We always try to remain very understanding and compassionate. We try to stay on the front edge of their care, while also providing high-quality treatment and medicine.”

In addition to the pristine care it provides to its animal patients, Dr. McEndree said the practice maintains clear and open communication with their owners, and every visit will be one of compassion.

Dr. McEndree said they work to ensure all animals feel comfortable and safe when they are in their care.

“If anything is our niche, it’s the time we spend with the owner and the pet,” Dr. McEndree said. “We want to be able to make a difference in the lives of animals.”

Clear Fork Veterinary Clinic is located at 8400 E. I-20. Call 817-678-5190 or visit cfvetclinic.com.



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CROSS COUNTRY

Aledo runners end season with strong showing at state

Season ends for Cross Country at the State Meet

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Led by freshman Elizabeth Griffin, the Aledo Ladycats finished the season with a 10th-place finish at the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet this past Saturday at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

Griffin, one of four freshmen on the Ladycats, posted a career-best time of 19 minutes, 11.1 seconds over the 5K course, which featured some slick and muddy spots following a heavy rain the day before. She was one of three Ladycats to finish in the top 55.

Sophomore Jack Fink, the lone competitor for the Bearcats, greatly improved on his 2021 appearance at state. He clocked a time of 16:21.6 this year to place 32nd, improving from 94th as a freshman with a time of 17:01.2 when the entire Bearcats team qualified for state.

"It was a great day for the Aledo cross country team," coach Mike Pinkerton

said. "This also placed Liz in some very elite company, establishing herself as All-State for 2022!"

"For the boys, Jack Fink, our only qualifier, ran a tremendous race. It was a great wrap to our season, and I couldn't be more proud of all of our athletes and their accomplishments this season."

Griffin and Fink were also named All-Region I, along with freshmen Molly Garrison and Sofia Brandenburg.

Garrison (41st) and Brandenburg (53rd) had times of 19:38.7 and 19:51.8 at state, respectively. Also, freshman Sadie Williams was 143rd with a 22:21.0.

Junior Emily Lewis also posted a personal-record time of 22:31.9 to finish 144th.

Senior Sidney Tillotson, in her final race, clocked a 20:49.3 for 109th and junior Aubrey Connelly was 137th with a 21:59.2.

This is the third time in four years Aledo has sent an entire team to compete at state. The boys team qualified last year and in 2019.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Elizabeth Griffin posted a career-best time of 19 minutes, 11.1 at the state cross country meet, earning All-State honors as a freshman.

VOLLEYBALL

Killing me softly

Ladycats' season ends at Bridgeport

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats varsity volleyball team ended its season as bi-district champion after falling in four sets against Argyle in the area championship at Bridgeport on Friday, Nov. 4.

It would have been difficult for the two teams to have been more evenly matched in the first set. The teams were either tied or within one point of each other 27 times during the first set.

Aledo found itself behind on a couple of occasions, one at 2-5 early, and then at 6-10. Late in the set Aledo was down 17-20 before going on a four-point run behind a block by seniors Alyssa Gonzales and Maddie Frank, a hard hit by Mia Little, and a big kill by Vivian Parker.

Parker again sparked momentum with a kill to put the Ladycats up 23-21, and Aledo won the match on a bad Argyle serve, 25-23.

Aledo played catch-up the entire second set before tying at 15 when Parker tapped a soft kill over the net. After a time out, Argyle

came back to score five points to go up 15-20, and took the set 18-25.

Aledo trailed in the third set 2-8 when Parker slammed down a kill, and scored four more points on a kill by Haley Lowe and another by Gonzales, a block by Lowe and Gonzales, and a soft kill by Lowe.

That brought the Ladycats within one point before Argyle again scored. The Ladycats trailed 15-20 before putting together a three-point run to pull within two at 18-20. The Argyle coach called time out, and if the time out was intended to be a momentum killer, it worked as Argyle took it back and won the set 21-25.

Aledo found itself playing catch-up the entire third set, playing close until the latter part of the set when Argyle took charge the Ladycats lost the set and match 17-25.

Volleyball is a game of momentum, and that can shift when a team gets a hard kill, but often against Argyle Aledo lost points on soft kills — Argyle found open spots in the Aledo defense and simply tapped the ball to those spots.

Gonzales led the Ladycats in kills with 12, followed closely by Frank with 11. Parker

Turn to VOLLEYBALL, page B2



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: Alyssa Gonzales (12) sends down a hard kill in Aledo's area championship match against Argyle.

FOOTBALL

Bearcats look to extend another streak as playoffs begin



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Leukemia patient Lincoln Finley tossed the coin at the beginning of the Aledo-Brewer district finale.

Looking for #27 in bi-district streak

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

It's been a long time since the Aledo Bearcats last lost a first-round playoff football game?

How Long? In 1988 the Bearcats, coached by Chuck Curtis, fell 38-22 to Decatur in bi-district to finish 8-3. That was followed by a total of 11 wins over the next four seasons combined, which led to the hiring of a young Tim Buchanan in his first and only head coaching gig.

It took Buchanan four seasons before the Bearcats reached the playoffs under him, but once they did, they have been nothing short of dominant. This is the team's 27th consecutive playoff appearance and they are 26-0 in bi-district encounters heading in.

Buchanan is responsible for 21 of those wins and Steve Wood for the other five from 2014-18 when he took over as coach and Buchanan was athletic director. Wood won three state titles (2014, 2016, 2018) during that time and is now the AD while Buchanan resumed his role on the sidelines and ran his state championship total to seven with titles in 2019 and 2020.

"Honestly, that's the thing I'm more proud of than a lot of other things, like the 111 straight district wins," Buchanan said. "It's pretty neat, I know that."

Not only have the Bearcats won 26 straight in the first round of the postseason, they have advanced to at least the state quarterfinals in 21 of those seasons. This

includes 11 state finals appearances (10 championships) and five semifinals.

The Bearcats' bi-district dominance has been especially so the past couple of decades, when the closest anyone has come was a 31-14 victory against Lake Dallas in 2008. The last time a team got within two touchdowns of Aledo in bi-district was a 12-0 win over Fort Worth Dunbar in 2002.

Bi-district foe

Killeen Shoemaker (8-2) looks to be one of the more formidable first-round opponents the Bearcats have faced in some time. Though the Wolves are the No. 4 seed from District 4-5A Division I, that is a bit deceptive.

The Wolves actually finished in a three-way tie for second behind Midlothian (10-0, 8-0). Shoemaker, Red Oak (8-2 overall) and Lake Belton (8-2 overall) finished in a deadlock at 6-2 in league play.

The Wolves' two losses were 32-27 at home to Midlothian on Sept. 9 and 38-35 at Red Oak on Sept. 30. They had leads in both games.

In the four-game winning streak since the Red Oak loss, Shoemaker has outscored its opponents 187-32.

Like Aledo, the Wolves changed classifications this season. Only while the Bearcats were moving up, Shoemaker was coming down from Class 6A, something Buchanan said should help the Wolves' confidence in this matchup.

Turn to FOOTBALL, page B7

FOOTBALL

Bearcats wrap up another perfect district slate

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

It never gets old hoisting another district championship trophy for Tim Buchanan.

Of course, the head coach of the Aledo Bearcats has done it so often it's second nature, sort of like drinking a morning cup of coffee — and still even more enjoyable.

"It's always sweet," Buchanan said, referring to the trophy lifting, not the coffee. "You never get tired of it."

Buchanan held the Bearcats' District 3-5A Division I first-place trophy Thursday night as they not only secured sole possession of first place in their district for a 15th consecutive year, but once again did so unblemished. Their 47-6 home victory against Brewer on Senior Night was their national-record 111th straight district win dating back to 2007.

Now the Bearcats (8-2 overall, 8-0 in district) hope to extend another streak as they prepare to start the playoffs against the fourth-place team from 4-5A Division I. Who that will be was still undecided Thursday night with a variety of ways the final standings in that district could end up.

Whoever it is, they will be coming to Bearcat Stadium Thursday or

Friday, Nov. 10 or 11, where Aledo is seeking to win a first-round playoff game for a 26th consecutive season. In fact, Buchanan has never lost a bi-district contest in his head coaching career — all at Aledo.

Thursday's win completed a regular-season turnaround that saw the Bearcats start 0-2 for the first time under Buchanan's leadership, with losses of 24-17 at Dallas Parish Episcopal (No. 1 in the state among private schools) and at 44-14 at home to Denton Guyer (No. 6 in Class 6A). They rolled through district, outscoring their opponents by an average score of 55-13, including back-to-back road wins over then state-ranked Burleson Centennial (64-21) and Denton Ryan (35-21).

Now it is the Bearcats who are the highest ranked team in the state from the district, sitting at No. 3 behind only No. 1 Longview and No. 2 Mansfield Timberview, both of which ended the regular season 10-0.

And next comes the "fourth season" as Buchanan called it (off-season, pre-district, district, and playoffs). The most important season of all.

"This is what we try to get the kids ready for," Buchanan said.

In their final tuneup for what could be another lengthy playoff

run, the Bearcats made short work of Brewer (2-8, 2-6). They amassed 451 total yards, with 370 coming on the ground, along with six players scoring touchdowns.

"Brewer did a good job of taking away the pass, so we ran the ball a lot and we did a great job," Buchanan said.

Hawk Patrick-Daniels rushed for touchdowns of 2 and 1 yards while leading all rushers with an unofficial 115 yards on 16 carries. Starting quarterback Hauss Hejny got the onslaught started with a 67-yard TD run on the Bearcats' second play from scrimmage, his only carry of the game.

Ryan Cox's 4-yard run made the score 21-0 after the opening quarter. In the second quarter Brant Hayden relieved Hejny at quarterback and threw a 20-yard scoring pass to Kaydon Finley for a 27-0 halftime lead.

After Patrick-Daniels' second score, Caleb Pope found the end zone on a 1-yard run and Ryan Morton capped the night with his own 1-yard TD.

Clay Murador, who had not played this season while pursuing a soccer scholarship, returned to the team and kicked four extra points. He also



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ryan Morton. (33) carries the ball.

recently accepted a scholarship to play soccer at the University of Indiana next season.

Cole Crawford also added an extra-point kick.

In a yeoman effort, Brewer's Mehki Elmoro rushed for 86 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown, on

14 carries. However, the Bearcats defense held the Bears to 159 total yards of offense (89 rushing, 70 passing).

Each team turned the ball over twice, all on interceptions. For Aledo, Jayton "Boogie" Owens and Skyler Frank each picked off a pass.

Turn to **DISTRICT**, page B7



Read this story online

VOLLEYBALL

from page B1

added 9, Lauren Mack had 4, Payton Hillmerhad 2, and Lowe had 1.

Lowe led the team in blocks with 5. Gonzales had 4, Frank had 2, and Mack and Hillmer had one each.

Parker, Gonzales, and Mack led the team in digs with 24, 23, and 22 respectively. Mia Little added 18 and Rylee Metts had 10. Ava Reding had 6, Hilmer had 5, Frank had 4, and Lowe had 1.

Reding and Metts led the assist category with 22 and 20, respectively. Little and Gonzales each added 2.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT TO RIGHT: Maddie Frank (1) and Vivian Parker (3) play defense at the net. | Lauryn Mack (15) attempts to hit past Argyle defenders. | Payton Hillmer (18) and Haley Lowe (17) play defense at the net against Argyle.



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BASKETBALL

Ladycats split for the week

The Aledo Ladycats basketball team split the past week with a loss to Bridgeport and a win against Nolan Catholic.

Ladycats Varsity vs Bridgeport - Nov. 5

Aledo	13	33	43	55
Bridgeport	16	31	52	64

Claire Byars 16, Reagan Davis 13, Kandle Boguss 9, Presley Hull 6, Kenzie Grau 6, Lauren Hawk 3, Ella Isbell 2

Ladycats Varsity vs. Nolan Catholic - Nov. 8

Aledo	8	22	44	65
Nolan	15	30	44	58

Claire Byars 28, Kenzie Grau 10, Reagan Davis 8, Presley Hull 8, Kandle Boguss 3, Ella Isbell 2, Caroline Browning 2, Natalie Anderson 2, Kinley Elms 2

Ladycats JV vs. Nolan Catholic - Nov. 8

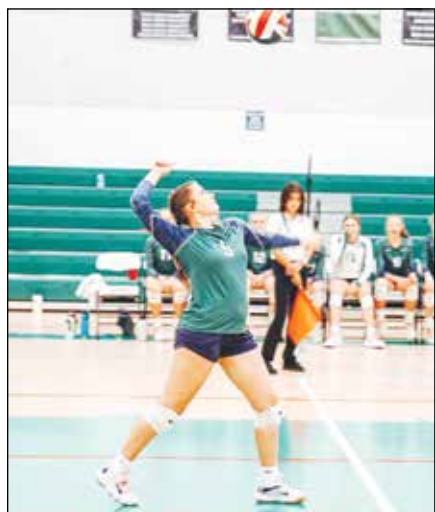
Aledo	20	39	45	60
Nolan	4	4	9	13

Elizabeth Griffin 15, Peyton Flores 10, Savannah Salas 10, Brenna Clock 7, Maddox Lucas 6, Rebekah Jarrell 6, Breleigh Mayer 5, Keslee Williams 1

Ladycats Freshmen vs. Nolan Catholic - Nov. 8

Aledo	9	19	36	42
Nolan	2	4	6	12

Lily Heckathorn 11, Jenna Haussler 9, Mesoma Emeke Okoye 8, Jaylee Owens 5, Mykel Murray 4, Coral Slough 2, Natalie Browning 2, Tori Culler 1



Trinity Christian Academy Senior Night

Trinity Christian Academy recently celebrated senior night for its volleyball team. There were eight seniors on the team.



LEFT: Meredith Miller, Faith Rodgers, Meghan Young, Bella Sigala, Margaret Cowley, Maddie Bayles, Rio Lipsky, and Gracie Barry. | RIGHT: Margaret Cowley and Bella Sigala

JENIFER STILL/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



LEFT: Rio Lipsky | MIDDLE: Bella Sigala, Rio Lipsky, Faith Rodgers, Maddie Bayles, Meghan Young and Gracie Barry | RIGHT: Maddie Bayles with a hit on senior night

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Elizabeth Griffin
 Cross Country - The freshman, competing in her first state cross country meet, posted a personal-best time of 19 minutes, 11.1 seconds to place 21st individually. It was more than 15 seconds faster than her previous best time of 19:26.9, which she ran at the 5A Region I Meet just 12 days earlier.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Jake Phillios

Golf - He captured the top spot individually for the Aledo Orange team at the Burselon Centennial tournament at Southern Oaks in Burselon, shooting a 77. His score led the Bearcats to a team total of 323 and a 27-stroke victory over runner-up Burselon.

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ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

2023 HVAC RENOVATION ALEDO ISD EARLY CHILDHOOD ACADEMY CSP 22-111122

The Aledo Independent School District (the District) will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals for the 2023 HVAC Renovation at Aledo ISD Early Childhood Academy until 2:00 PM CST on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. Although we are legally required to accept paper bids, we strongly request bidders submit electronically on our bidding website <https://aledoisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. Paper bids will be accepted in the Business Department at the Aledo Independent School District Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008. When filing this bid electronically, please do not send us a paper copy, as the electronic version will prevail. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at Aledo ISD Early Childhood Academy, 408 FM 1187 S., Aledo, Texas at 10:00 AM CST on November 18, 2022. It is highly recommended that companies that submit proposals attend. Proposal evaluation criteria are listed in the Proposal and Contract Requirements section of the proposal documents. The engineer for this project is EMA Engineering & Consulting. Plans and specifications will be released on Friday, November 11, 2022. Drawings and specifications may be examined at the following locations: TEXO/AGC/iSqFt Plan Room, Lawton Reprographic Centers (14305 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas 75244, Phone: 800-364-2059); DFW Minority Business Council (2710 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 900, North Stemmons Tower, Dallas, Texas 75207, Phone: 214-630-0747); and Virtual Builders (5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75240, Phone: 214-687-9000). The link to access plans and specifications may be found in the Event Details tab for this bid on our bidding site shown above and on the Business Department Bid Documents page of the District's website: <https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/4288>. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal that provides the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.



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DISTRICT

from page B2

The Bearcats also never punted in the contest.

Aledo 47, Brewer 6

Brewer	0	0	0	6	6
Aledo	21	6	13	7	47

Scoring

- A = Hauss Hejny 67 run (Clay Murador kick)
- A = Hawk Patrick Daniels 2 run (Murador kick)
- A = Ryan Cox 4 run (Murador kick)
- A = Kaydon Finley 20 pass from Brant Hayden (kick failed)
- A = Patrick-Daniels 1 run (kick failed)
- A = Caleb Pope 1 run (Cole Crawford kick)
- B = Mehki Elmore 25 run (kick failed)
- A = Ryan Morton 1 run (Murador kick)

Official team stats

- First down: Aledo 26, Brewer 11.
- Rushes-yards: Aledo 55-386, Brewer 20-89.
- Passing yards: Aledo 87, Brewer 70.
- Caught-thrown-intercepted: Aledo 6-18-2, Brewer 11-23-2.
- Fumbles-lost: Aledo 1-0, Brewer 0-0.
- Punts-average: Aledo 0-0, Brewer 8-31.8.
- Penalties-yards: Aledo 8-90, Brewer 9-115.
- Third-down conversions: Aledo 6-of-9, Brewer 3-of-10.
- Fourth-down conversions: Aledo 0-of-2, Brewer 0-of-0.

Official Aledo individual leaders

- Rushing: Patrick-Daniels 15 carries, 118 yards, 2 TD; Cox 15-87, TD; Hejny 1-67, TD; C. Pope 10-66, TD; Hayden 9-25; Morton 5-23, TD.
- Passing: Hayden 6-of-16, TD, 2 interceptions, 81 yards; Hejny 0-2.
- Receiving: Finley 3-59, TD; Tyson Timms 1-10; Jalen Pope 1-10; Walden Byers 1-8.
- Tackle leaders: Jaden Allen 3, Jake Gillespie 2.5, Aven Lawrence 2.5.
- Sacks: Ky Howington 1 (15 yards), Carson Dempsey 1 (9 yards).
- Tackles for loss leaders: Howington 2 (15.5 yards), Gillespie 1.5 (5.5 yards), Din-Mbuh 1.5 (1.5 yards).
- Interceptions: Jaden Allen, Skylar Frank (21-yard return).

FOOTBALL

from page B1

"They're not going to be afraid of us. Look at who they've been playing in the first round," Buchanan said.

In 2020, for example, the last time the Wolves were in the playoffs, they met another perennial power, DeSoto. In stark contrast to Aledo, Shoemaker has one playoff victory since 2004, in 2015, and they lost in the next round after that.

But, past history means nothing, of course, and Buchanan understands what the Wolves bring into this contest - including an upset on their mind.

"They're a big play team, both on offense and defense," he said. "On defense they'll get you behind the chains (negative yardage) and offense they can be explosive."

Then, true to his philosophy, he said, "We still can't control how good they are, all we can do is play to our abilities. If we do that we usually win."

First meeting

For the second time this season the Bearcats will face a team for the first time ever. Ironically, however, once again Buchanan has some ties.

Earlier, the Bearcats defeated The Colony, 52-7, at home. Buchanan was an assistant coach at The Colony in the mid-1980s.

Though he has never coached at Shoemaker, Buchanan graduated from Killeen High School and later was an assistant coach at Killeen Ellison. In fact, had Ellison defeated Lake Belton, the Bearcats would be facing them this week.

"I've gotten calls from a bunch of folks in Killeen," Buchanan said, noting several old friends, and adding with a smile, "I don't know who they're cheering for."

State rankings

The Bearcats remained No. 3 in Class 5A Division I in both the Dave Campbell's/AP state rankings and MaxPreps. Shoemaker isn't ranked by DC/AP and is No. 23 in MaxPreps.

Looking at other teams from their respective districts:



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: Quarterback Hauss Hejny (8) carries the ball flanked by running back Hawk Patrick-Daniels and offensive lineman Devron Williams (77). | **BOTTOM:** Offensive lineman Josh McCarley (68) picks up a rusher to block.

From 3-5A Division I, Burleson Centennial (9-1) is not ranked by DC/AP and is ninth in MaxPreps, Denton Ryan is unranked in DC/AP and 25th in MaxPreps.

From 4-5A Division I, Midlothian is No. 5 in DC/AP and sixth in MaxPreps, Lake Belton is unranked in DC/AP and No. 21 in MaxPreps and Red Oak is unranked in DC/AP and 24th in MaxPreps.

Game at a glance

Killeen Shoemaker Wolves (8-2) at Aledo Bearcats (8-2)

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Bearcat Stadium

What: Class 5A Division I bi-district

How they got here: Shoemaker is the fourth seed from District 4-5A Division I, Aledo is the champion of 3-5A Division I

Shoemaker offensive leaders:

Passing - Malachi Jerome 64% completions, 2,126 yards, 20 TD, 6 interceptions. Rushing - Jamarius Stewart 114 carries, 799 yards, 10 TD; Jerrod Hicks-Maddox 80 carries, 755 yards, 11 TD. Receiving - Hicks-Maddox 30 catches, 492 yards, 5 TD; Javonte Carson 25 catches, 455 yards, 2 TD.



Read this story online



Aledo offensive leaders: Passing - Hauss Hejny 61-for-104, 1,242 yards, 13 TD, 3 interceptions. Rushing - Hawk Patrick-Daniels 129 carries, 960 yards, 14 TD; Hejny 62 carries, 710 yards, 9 TD; Caleb Pope 57-365, 10 TD; Ryan Cox 71-355, 3 TD. Receiving - Jalen Pope 37 catches, 708 yards, 10 TD; Kaydon Finley 13-309, 4 TD; Tyson Timms 21-280, 3 TD.

Shoemaker defensive leaders:

Tackles - Valentino Greene 66, Zavion Tibbs 58. Tackles for loss - Tibbs 24.5, Jequarius McClendon 13.5, Greene 11. Sacks - Tibbs 11.5, McClendon 5.5, Too-Too Mugaotega 5.0. Interceptions - Malik Esquerra 4, Trey Ford 2. Fumble recoveries - Seven players with one each.

Aledo defensive leaders: Tackles - Dahvon Keys 54, Jake Gillespie

42, Andrew Parkhurst 40, Boogie Owens 35.5. Tackles for loss - Ansel Din-Mbuh 10.5, Parkhurst 8.5, Lawson Moore 6. Sacks - Din-Mbuh 3, Parkhurst 2.5, Christian Hillman 2, Carson Dempsey 2. Interceptions - Chris Johnson 2, Jaden Allen 2. Fumble recoveries - Owens 2, Skylar Frank 2.

Team rushing yards per game: Shoemaker 269.2, Aledo 274.4.

Team passing yards per game: Shoemaker 219.1, Aledo 178.3.

Team rushing yards surrendered per game: Shoemaker 135.9, Aledo 114.2.

Team passing yards surrendered per game: Shoemaker 108.9, Aledo 151.3.

Turnovers: Aledo 13, Shoemaker 9.

Takeaways: Aledo 16, Shoemaker 15.



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BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

RIGHT: Ryan Morton. (33) carries the ball. | MIDDLE: Ryan Cox (17) finds an opening. | LEFT: Hawk Patrick-Daniels (1) finds an opening in the game against Brewer on Thursday Nov. 3.

GOLF

Aledo teams sweep at Centennial

Staff Reports
The Community News

Aledo Orange boys and girls golf teams captured first place at the Burseson Centennial Tournament Nov. 2 at Southern Oaks Golf Club in Burseson.

Jake Phillips shot a 77 to take top medalist honors and lead the Bearcats to a team score of 323. They were 27 shots ahead of runner-up Burseson.

The Ladycats were led by Reagan Gilliland, who posted a 91 for third place individually. Their team score of 370 was 79 strokes better than second-place Legacy Christian.

Also for the Bearcats were Grayson Freeman, 79; Helton Mosiello, 82; and Braydon Stokes, 85.

Other Ladycat scores were Kennedy Parker, 92; Sara Michaelis, 92; and Karlee Shaw, 95.

The tournament wraps up the fall season for Aledo Orange girls.

The Bearcats junior varsity also concluded their fall season by winning a tournament hosted by Midlothian Heritage, shooting 361. Cade Moore's 76 was the low individual score in the tourney. He was followed by other Aledo scores that included Maddux Jessup, 89; Noah Graham, 95; and Johnnie Reed, 101.



Read this story online

FOOTBALL

Aledo Orange defeats Brewer 42-0

Season record ends 10-0

The Aledo JV Orange football team traveled to Brewer to take on the Bears in the last game of the year on Nov. 3.

The Bearcats took the opening drive and got on the scoreboard early. Gavin Beard found Cayden Hix for a 12-yard touchdown. Blake Burdine and Cayden Callaway had outstanding blocks to set up the score.

On the Bearcats' first defensive drive, they forced a three-and-out. The Bears tried to establish the run game early, but Aledo's defensive line, led by Decker Sanders, Thaddeus Keller, Porter Lane, and Jaxon

Richter proved too much for Brewer.

The Bearcats would score on the following five drives with a balanced offensive attack. Kayden McCown and Ethan Hodo each had rushing touchdowns.

Cayden Hix found the end zone twice, and Cayden Callaway added a score, all three on passes from Gavin Beard.

The Bearcats' defense dominated in the first half, not giving up a point and setting up the offense with excellent field position the entire half.

The Bearcats took a commanding 42-0 lead at the half and never look back.

The Bearcats JV Orange finished their season with an undefeated 10-0 record. Their last loss was in the 2015 season.

Key Offensive Players were Chris Gomez, Cody Cartwright, Gavin Beard, and Cayden Hix.

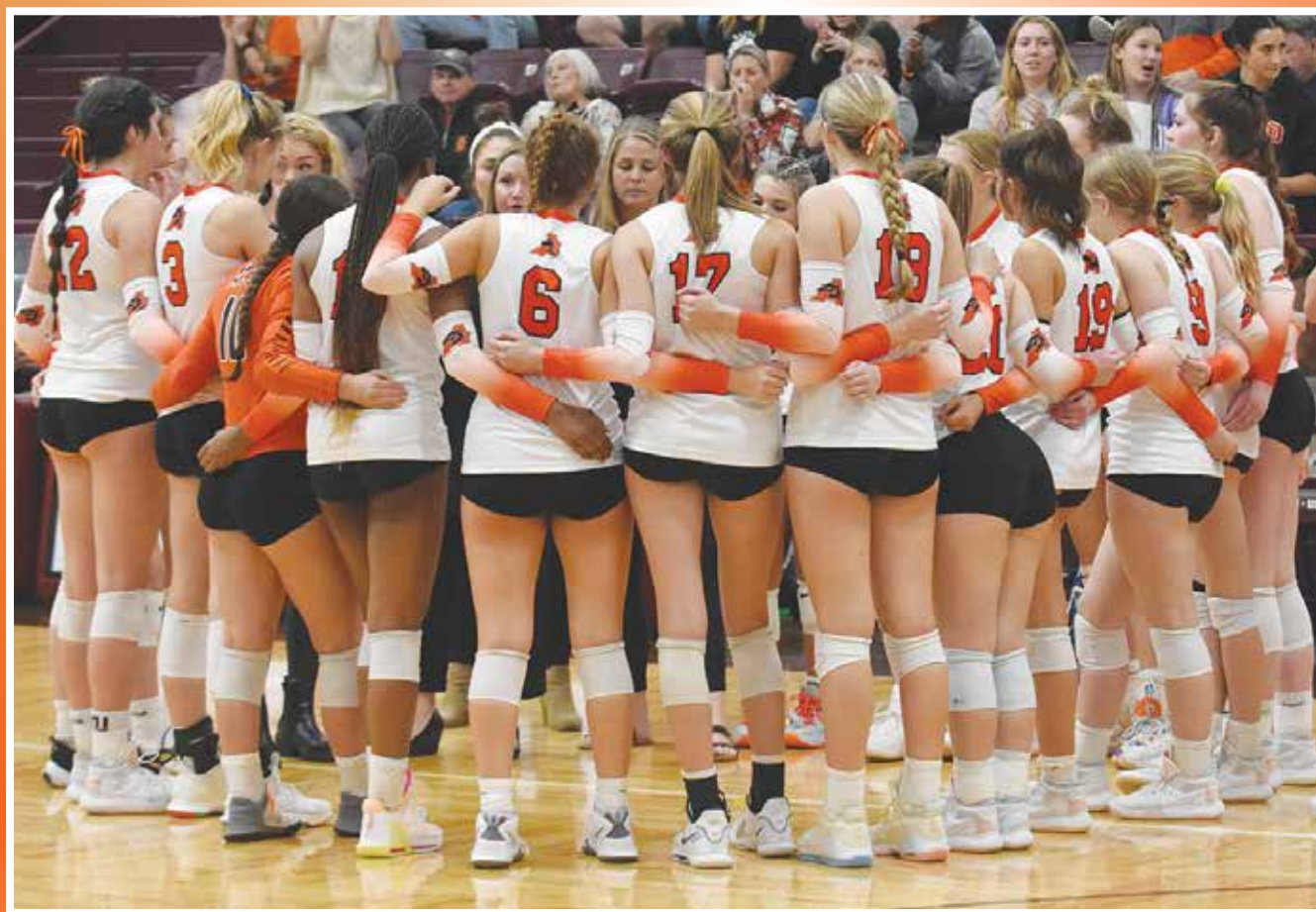
Key Defensive Players were Thaddeus Keller, Jaxon Richter, Decker Sanders, and Cory Tilley.

Coaches thanked the parents for their support during the season, and thanked the players for their hard work in making the season a success.



Read this story online

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Congratulation Ladycats on a great season!

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