

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

Council set to accept bid on Bailey Ranch Road

Improvement project expected to begin in February

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

Driving down Bailey Ranch Road isn't a pleasant experience. That's not going to get better any time soon with construction slated to begin in February to overhaul one of the most heavily traveled streets in Aledo.

Once the project is complete, however, the Bailey Ranch Road driving experience should be a vast improvement over what it is today.

When the Aledo City Council reconvenes on Dec. 1, one of the key issues on the agenda before the council will be accepting a bid for the construction project. The initial construction of Bailey Ranch Road 20 years ago was done incorrectly, leading to significant pavement failures that have made driving the stretch of road more akin to participating in the Baja 1,000 than a leisurely drive in town. Making the necessary repairs and improvements to the pavement is expected to take place in four phases that will last about 10 months.

The first phase of the project will last only a few days as utility work on the area west of Creekview Terrace is completed. During this time both lanes of traffic will be completely closed. However, this is the only phase of the project in which that will be the case. The city is looking at possibly completing the work over a weekend to mitigate travel disruptions.

Phase 2 is anticipated to last six months. During this time west-bound traffic will be shut down to allow for eastbound traffic to continue as not to inhibit the response times of the fire department and EMS. Construction crews will fix the north side of the street with enough concrete to facilitate both east and west travel during the final two phases of the project.

The final two phases are expected to last two months each. Phase 3 will see east and west travel return on the north side of Bailey Ranch Road while the pavement on the south side of the street is repaired. The final phase will bring improvements to Champions Drive as the project wraps up.

Once completed, improvements to the road surface, as well as the addition of turn lanes, should make for a more pleasant experience for pedestrians and drivers alike for decades to come.



Read this story online

'Tis the Season



ROSE HOFFMAN/CITY OF WILLOW PARK

Santa and the Grinch took part in good-natured interaction as Mayor Doyle Moss watched when the City of Willow Park kicked off the local Christmas season by bringing back the Community Christmas Tree Lighting on Tuesday, Nov. 22. Residents visited with Santa and the Grinch, and enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies provided by the city.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Willow Park's new Christmas tree | RIGHT: Cecilia and Lucas Carnell pose with Santa.

ALEDO ISD

AHS has record number of recognized students

College Board National Recognition Program names 127 students

Staff reports
The Community News

The number of Aledo High School students recognized as National Recognition Program Scholars by the College Board increased 226.6% in the past year. AHS had 127 students earn 136 total honors this year, up from 39 students earning 57 honors last year.

"This amazing increase in recognition by the College Board is a direct reflection of the hard work of our students, teachers, and counselors as well as our increased emphasis on advanced academics over the last couple of years," Aledo High School Principal Angi Tims said. "We are so proud of these students and can't wait to follow their continued success."

College Board's four recognition programs—National African American Recognition Program, National Hispanic Recognition Program, National Indigenous Recognition Program, and National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program—award academic honors to underrepresented students.

Students must meet GPA and PSAT/NMSQT score requirements, among other things, to be considered for these honors. Students must also identify as African American/Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Indigenous, or attend high school in a rural area or small town.

National African American Recognition Program Scholar

Devan Dave
Kendal Kordis

National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar

Savannah Bowers
Celeste Cadena

Turn to **SCHOLAR**, page A2



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

National Indigenous Recognition Program Scholars

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Executive Vice President

JOE RUELAS
Senior Vice President

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SCHOLAR
from page A1

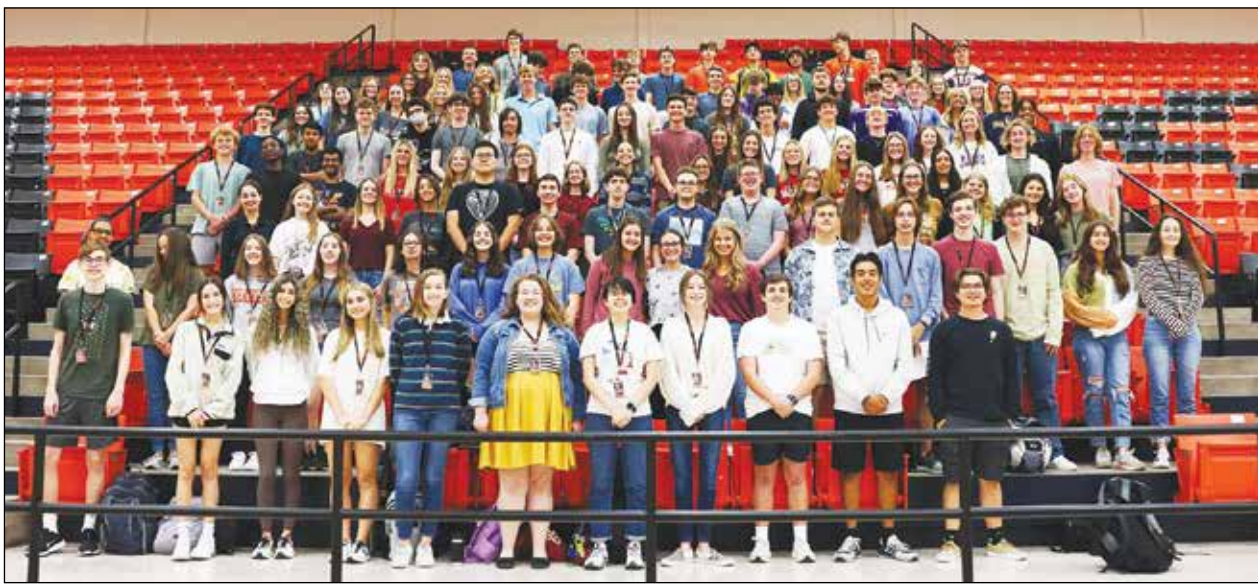
Joshua Dobles
Austin Martinez
Ashley Medina
Marco Nava
Haley Smith
David Stewart
Kylie Valdez

National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program Scholar

Aidan Adams
Jackson Adams
Christoff Aguila
Jane Anderson
Marshall Anderson
Nate Ashabraner
Maverick Baranger
Austin Beal
Presley Bergen
Kate Bettencourt
Henry Blake
Anna Bone
Emma Boyd
Caden Breito
Reichen Brewer
Alexa Brinkman
Meredith Brown
Nathan Buck
Halli Bussmeir
Carter Campbell
Kathleen Campbell
James Cloke
Cassidy Cole
Harrison Cornwell
Davey Culler
Isaac Cupp
Anna D'Avino

Emma Davenport
Logan DeFranzo
Samantha Elston
Brandon Ferguson
Ethan Fernihough
Noah Fernihough
Olivia Fowler
Morgan Furlow
Alina Garwacki
McKenzie Grau
Elizabeth Green
Jackson Grimm
Kate Gueldenzoph
Kaylee Halfmann
Nathan Hall
Jourdan Hart
Rex Hawkins
Robert Heimke
John Hillman
Taylor Hindman
Trinity Hindman
Dylan Hinton
Nathaniel Houchen
Jeremy Howard II
Ayden Jantzen
Katherine Johnson
Kamryn Kupper
Madison Lear
Grace Lefferts
Meagan Loftin
Kathryn Manus
Kennis Marx
Jack McCarty
Madison McDonald
Toby McDonald
Catherine Messer
Avery Mooney
Bennett Moorman
Corbin Moses
Niklas Nawrocki
Fyn Neeley
Samuel Ogden
Rakesh Pachigolla

Nathan Patridge
Ahren Peters
Caden Petty
Hogan Posey
Abigail Powell
Tianqin Puyang
Emory Rapp
Mason Rauschuber
Jackson Rudnick
Kaley Schabel
Jackson Schneider
Morgan Sehnem
Taylor Sehnem
Alexandra Steffe
Charles Stinchcomb
Sawyer Storck
Gracie Streetman
Zachary Taylor
Lorica Thomas
Landrie Thurman
Taylor Tiberg
Sarah Tillotson
Nathalie Touchet
Luke Turner
Hailey Vandiver
Lane Voskamp
Maryn Ward
Marin Washburn
Zoe Whitcomb
Carson White
Trevor White
Grant Wiggins
Molly Williams
Riley Williams
McKinley Wilson
Henry Zedler
Georgia Zirbser



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program Scholar and National African American Recognition Program Scholar

Liana Abu Tobeh
Dayhon Keys
Paul Emmanuel
Mulenga

National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program Scholar and National Indigenous Recognition Program Scholar

Leah Bechert
Lily Revard



National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program Scholar and National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar

Emma Brandenburg
Luke DeLeon
Edyn Esquivel
Noah Wagner

TOP: All Commended Scholars.

MIDDLE: National African American Recognition Program Scholars.

BOTTOM: National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars.



Obituaries

Robert S. Jones, Jr.

Robert S. Jones, Jr. passed away November 2, 2022 in Dallas.

Robert was born July 5, 1953 to Robert and Janet Jones.

Robert was proceeded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Perla Jones; sisters, Kay Jones and Kathy Garvey; brother Tom Jones; eldest daughter, Jessica



Robert S. Jones, Jr.

Jones; sons, Chris Jones, John Jones, and Vincent Jones; youngest daughter, Stephanie Jones; 25 Grandchildren and three Great-Grandchildren.

He will be desperately missed by all those left behind.

A service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, November 19, 2022 in Biggers Funeral Chapel.

The Community News
November 25, 2022

SERVICE FOR BILL MCLEROY

The funeral service for former Aledo City Council member Bill McLeRoy will be at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at Greenwood Funeral Home in Fort Worth. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 28, at the same location. An obituary was not available at press time.



TRACY LAMBERT JACK: OUTREACH AND PROGRAMMING LIBRARIAN

The Missions Committee at Aledo United Methodist Church recently made a donation of \$5,000 to the East Parker County Library. Shown are (front row) Dylan and Cameron Eatinger and (back row) Sandy Greenough, Lauren Eatinger, and EPC Library Director Cathy Mason.

Matt Morris

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Events

November 25, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
www.community-news.com

More events can be found at www.community-news.com/calendar

ONGOING

CoHoHo
The CoHoHo Christmas Corridor is a free holiday light display at Gene Voyles Park in Hudson Oaks. Bring the family and enjoy a different themed light show each week with more than 75,000 lights starting at 6 p.m. every night from Dec. 3 to New Years. Also, there will be a scavenger hunt available as you stroll the Corridor. QR codes are available to scan in the park. Just three easy steps: 1. Take a picture, 2. Tag them on social media #HEBCOHOHO. 3. Pick up your prize at City Hall. Other special Hudson Oaks events include carriage rides and food trucks from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 9-10 and Dec. 16-17. For more information, visit <https://events.hudsonoaks.com/cohoho>.



Pathway of Lights
The City of Weatherford will host a walkthrough show called Pathway of Lights throughout December at Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Drive.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26
Celebration of Lights

The eighth annual Celebration of Lights in Weatherford will run from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26, at the corner of York and Dallas Streets in 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/>.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Weatherford Christmas Tree Lighting
The City of Weatherford will host its tree lighting from 6-9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Drive. There will be a 50-foot live tree, a holiday drone show, and additional activities.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Hudson Oaks Christmas Tree Lighting
Hudson Oaks will host its Christmas Tree Lighting from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 at Gene Voyles Park (210 Hudson Oaks Drive). The evening will include activities in Santa's Workshop, where you can snap a picture with Santa himself. Take a ride on the COHO Express and watch Disney's The Santa Clause on the big screen. For more information, visit <https://events.hudsonoaks.com/cohoho>.

Aledo High School Jazz Band Concert
The Aledo High School



Jazz I band will play at Gene Voyles Park. Concert may be moved to Dec. 3 depending on Aledo High School football playoff schedule. Time TBA.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Christmas on the Square
The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Christmas on the Square from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, on the Weatherford downtown square. The annual event features food, entertainment, vendors, and holiday-related activities for children and adults. In addition, all boutiques and stores will be open for gift shopping. For more information, visit <https://www.weatherford-chamber.com/chamber-events/christmas-on-the-square.html>.

Aledo 45th annual Craft Fair
The 45th annual Aledo Craft Fair will run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 in the gymnasium of The Church at the Crossing, 128 Elm St. in Aledo. About 40 vendors will be there with unique gift ideas. Concessions will also be available.

Christmas Time in Aledo
The City of Aledo's annual Christmas Time in Aledo activities will run from 5-9

ACROSS

- 1 in Hays County on I-35
- 5 Christmas carol
- 6 most Astro innings have 6 of these
- 7 Decatur is the seat of this county
- 8 TXism: "bright eyed bushy tailed"
- 9 TX-born Smith who won pole vault gold in 1948 (init.)
- 12 TX Willie's "On the Road"
- 17 TXism: "put ___ back burner"
- 19 high dollar areas at Cowboy games in AT&T Stadium
- 21 a direct flight, e.g.
- 22 TX-based "Chili's Grill"
- 23 when nearby Frost got the railroad, this Navarro County town faded away
- 28 where some Texans ski in New Mexico
- 29 a soothsayer
- 30 part of a barn where hay is stored
- 31 he was "Texas John Slaughter" on television (2 wds.)
- 35 Al del ___ was an Oiler/Titan kicker
- 36 TX Barry Cobin was this deputy in "Lonesome Dove" (2 wds.)
- 42 TXism: "fast ___ _ rafter"
- 44 TXism: "bowl ___ _" (chili)

- 46 TXism: "she has to stand ___ place twice to cast a shadow" (thin)
- 48 beneficial things
- 49 she swore in LBJ on Air Force One (3 wds.)
- 50 "menu mama" thank yous
- 51 former Eastland AM
- 52 Cowboys' confer.
- 53 "It Romantic"
- 54 TX Trini sang "If ___ a Hammer"

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "what she don't ___ learning" (knowledgeable)
- 2 TXism: "he'll kick ___ a funeral home" (mean horse)
- 3 proper response to question, "Should we move from Texas?" (2 wds.)
- 4 "anything ___ you need?"
- 9 this Preminger directed TX Prentiss in "In Harm's Way"
- 10 some believe the Marfa lights are these (2 wds.)
- 11 Labor Day mo.
- 12 TXism: "fit ___ fiddle" (healthy)
- 13 Axl Rose group who played at old Texas Stadium (3 wds.)
- 14 senator's assistant
- 15 TXism: "let ___ (leave it alone)"
- 16 TXism: "within ear shot"
- 18 nat'l eavesdropper last yr. in h.s.
- 20 Houston Rocket star, Elvin (init.)
- 24 "Texas Monthly," e.g. (abbr.)
- 25 this McDaniel was first black Texas Secretary of State

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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p.m. throughout the central portion of the city. The event includes vendors, a treasure maze, an outdoor movie, and of course a visit from Santa.

Local businesses will remain open downtown, and many will offer free refreshments and activities. For more information, see The Community News' Christmas Guide at www.community-news.com/stories/christmas-2022.1180.

Weatherford Lights the Night Parade
The Weatherford Chamber



of Commerce will present the third annual Weatherford Lights the Night Parade from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. The parade will begin at the Weatherford ISD Ninth Grade Center (1007 South Main) and proceed around the courthouse and then west on Palo Pinto to Waco Street.

The parade features lighted floats, horses, the Weatherford High School marching band, and plenty of fun. For more information, visit <https://www.weatherford-chamber.com/chamber-events/christmas-on-the-square.html>.



Read calendar events online

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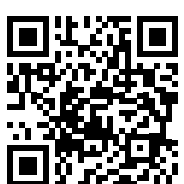
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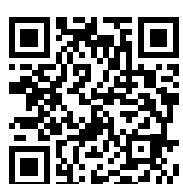
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PARKER COUNTY

Home tour puts local history on display

Candlelight Tour of Homes is Dec. 10

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Parker County Heritage Society will present the 39th Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes which showcases Weatherford's rich history and heritage from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec 10.

The Parker County Heritage Society is dedicated to the preservation of local historical treasures. The 2022 tour will highlight five historical homes built between 1889 and 1947, featuring a wide variety of homes including a Victorian style home built in 1893 and an 1892 Queen Anne Victorian Home which was designed for George S. and Helen Belle White by the famous Victorian architect George F. Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee.

There will also be a Victorian style farmhouse-built between 1889 - 1900 and a farmhouse-style home built after World War II. and lastly a lovely Tuscan style home.

In addition, the society has added the historical Parker County Courthouse and All Saints' Anglican Church, which came into existence in July 1875.

"These homes are more than just a place to live; they are a living history that you can be a part of," said Laura Roberts, Parker County Heritage Vice President and co-chair of this event. "They have legacy, quirkiness, past and present owners, unique architectural features, and secrets."

Adding to the tour, the Doss Heritage and Culture Center will have on display "Hand Crocheted Doilies" which, according to the Texas Crochet Heritage, tells stories



CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES

Dec. 10, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 per adult
\$12 children

Purchase: www.parkercounty-heritagesociety.com

of the women who created them. There will be activities for the children, Pioneer Cabin Park will be open, and Santa will be at the cabins from 2-4 p.m. The Chandor Gardens grounds only will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The house will not be on the tour.

Tickets for the tour are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at

"These homes are more than just a place to live; they are a living history that you can be a part of."

Laura Roberts, Event Co-Chair

two Weatherford locations: the Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400 Texas Drive, or the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, 410 Fort Worth Hwy. Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com>.



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Apple

CRUMBLE PIE

NUTRITION per slice

Calories: 276

Fat: 13g

Protein: 3g

Carbohydrates: 38g

By Amber Marie Arevalos

During the holidays, most of us tend to overdue it on the sweet treats and over-consume holiday classics. From turkeys to tamales, we all have a holiday classic dish that reminds us of home, but there is one holiday favorite everyone can agree is a staple during the holidays. That is the famous apple pie! Store-bought is fine, but to test your skills and create a personalized pie, here is a basic recipe that's almost foolproof. Not only can you modify the recipe to fit those in your family who have allergies, but you can also determine how sweet and how soft you want your apples.

- INGREDIENTS**
- 1 of your favorite pie crust recipes or a pre-made crust
 - 5 large Granny Smith apples
 - Zest of 1 lemon, about 1–2 teaspoons
 - Juice of half a lemon, about 2 teaspoons
 - 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 - 1/4 cup coconut sugar
 - 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 1–1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
 - 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

- FOR THE CRUMBLE**
- 1 cup rolled oats
 - 1/2 cup coconut sugar
 - 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 1 stick cold butter cut into small pieces
- INSTRUCTIONS**
- 1 Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
 - 2 In a medium sized mixing bowl, make the crumble by combining all the dry crumble ingredients. Toss the ingredients together to evenly combine. Combine the cold butter into the dry ingredients by squeezing and breaking it up

- with your fingers until crumbs form. Cover with Saran wrap and put in the freezer.
- 3 Peel and core the Granny Smith apples. Slice the apples into slices that are 1/8" thick and 1" long. In a large mixing bowl, toss the apple slices with the lemon zest and lemon juice. Then, add in the 1/2 cup granulated sugar, 1/4 coconut sugar, 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, cinnamon and nutmeg. Toss to evenly combine.
 - 4 Take the pie crust and pour in the apple mixture. The apples should be about 1/4"–1/2" taller than the edge of the pie pan.
 - 5 Take the crumb topping out of the freezer. Take a knife and break up into large pieces. Then, use your fingers to break into smaller crumb pieces, using medium pressure to press into an even layer to the pie.
 - 6 Place the pie plate on a parchment-lined baking sheet to protect your oven if it bubbles over. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes, then lower the oven to 350 degrees and bake for another 35-40 minutes, or until the crumb topping is golden and the pie is bubbling.
 - 7 Allow it to cool at room temperature uncovered. Serve at room temperature. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.



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Palacios Downtown Christmas – Fri., Dec. 2, 4-8 p.m., The Palacios, Texas Downtowners are hosting A Downtown Christmas. Cookie crawl, Christmas pageant, lighted bike parade, turkey giveaway, door prizes, shopping, food and much more. Chamber's free seaside holiday event on Dec. 3.

Christmas in Comfort – Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Live music, food, gifts, Santa Land, lighted night parade, fireworks. 830-995-3131, www.comfort-texas.com.

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MEMBER 2022

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Paving, Grading, Drainage, Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvements to serve Rio Vista Phase I, Parker County, Texas will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

12:00 Noon, Friday December 9th, 2022

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

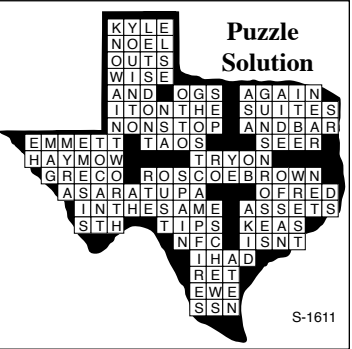
The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of the Paving, Grading, Drainage, Water & Sanitary Sewer Improvements, for Rio Vista Phase 1.

A performance bond, payment bond, and maintenance bond in the amount of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract and upon payment of all persons supplying labor or furnishing materials **WILL** be required by the Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2.

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

Barron-Stark Engineers, LP

Puzzle Solution



S-1611

MEMBER 2022



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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 6, 2023 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 City of Annetta South 2023 Budget.

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

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

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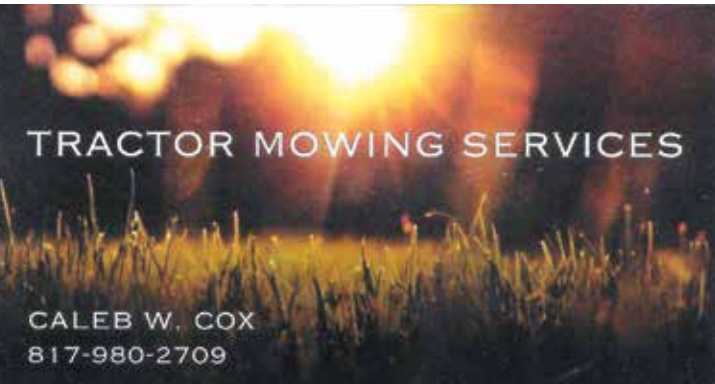
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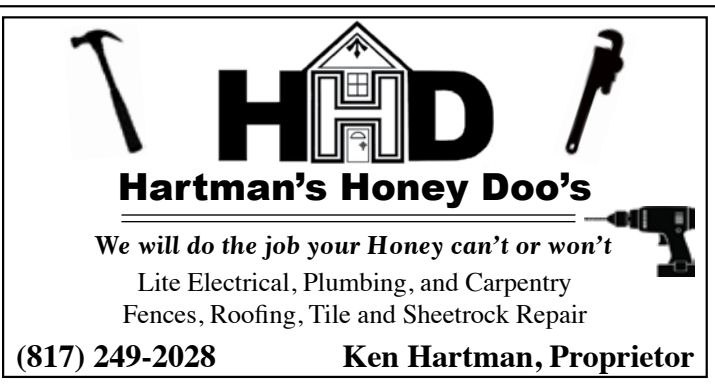


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Capital Highlights

Legislators begin filing bills ahead of session



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Texas legislators are off to the races, filing more than 850 bills on Monday, the first day of filing season for the 88th session, which begins Jan. 10.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the potential laws, constitutional amendments and propositions address everything from property taxes to border security, access to guns, abortion, education, and health care.

Thousands more bills will be filed prior to the March 10 deadline. Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, and House Speaker Dade Phelan have not yet announced their legislative priorities.

Property tax relief is likely to be a top item, given past remarks from the state's leaders. With a hefty state surplus of \$27 billion predicted, two bills would carve into that surplus to reduce property taxes.

Other topics drawing proposed legislation:

- Democrats have filed a bevy of bills to increase gun safety and limit access to certain firearms.
- Eight Democratic state senators filed a bill that would create exceptions to the state's abortion ban in the case of rape or incest, as well as additional medical exceptions.
- Legalizing gambling will again be before the Legislature, as it has the past several sessions.
- Another Democratic measure would expand Medicaid benefits for women both before and after birth.

DACA recipients urge quick congressional action

A number of recipients of the Obama-era program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are urging Congress to act during the lame duck session to give them permanent protection against deportation.

The Texas Standard reported Austin accountant Edilsa Lopez was one of several recipients who met with Congressional leaders to tell their stories and urge them to adopt such legislation.

Nearly 600,000 children who were brought here by parents who are not U.S. citizens are protected under DACA, while another 400,000 are eligible but have been stymied from enrolling by legal challenges.

"This is my third time in D.C. flying to meet with congressmen from both sides of the aisle and they just keep on talking and talking," said Diego Corzo, 32, of Austin. "I think it's time that they finally put an importance to find a solution — a long-term solution — for the DACA recipients, for the Dreamers, so that we stop living in limbo."

RRC inspectors sent to Reeves County after quake

The Texas Railroad Commission sent inspectors to Reeves County in West Texas Thursday after the area was rocked with a 5.4 magnitude earthquake near its border with Culberson County. The agents are examining disposal activity at injection wells in the area.

Tremors from the earthquake were felt in both San Antonio and Austin.

State now busing migrants to Philadelphia

The City of Brotherly love is the latest recipient of migrants being bused from Texas border communities, the Texas Tribune reported. The first bus arrived in Philadelphia last Wednesday.

"Since April, Texas' busing strategy has successfully provided much-needed relief to our border communities overwhelmed by the historic influx of migrants caused by President Biden's reckless open border policies," Abbott said.

Texas has been sending busloads of migrants to Washington, D.C., Chicago, and New York in an attempt to pressure Biden to stiffen his immigration policies.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said the city welcomed the migrants and has been preparing for their possible arrival since summer.

"As a proud welcoming city, we will greet our newly arrived neighbors with dignity and respect," said Kenney.

Safe driving urged during holiday season

The Texas Department of Public Transportation is urging holiday season motorists to exert caution and to especially not drink and drive.

The state saw 48,641 traffic crashes during the holiday season from Dec.1, 2021, to Jan. 1, 2022, with 433 fatalities and 1,695 serious injuries. Nearly a quarter of those deaths — 23% — were related to drunk drivers, according to TxDOT.

"Get together with family and friends and have a great time, but please find an alternative way home if you choose to drink," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said. "You have many options available."

Those options include a designated sober driver, calling a taxi or rideshare service, public transportation, or just staying put.

Fed funds sought after North Texas storms

Abbott has requested a disaster declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration for Northeast Texas counties that were hit by severe weather and tornadoes earlier this month.

An SBA disaster declaration would make federal funds available for residents and business owners in Lamar, Morris, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Marion, Red River, Titus, and Upshur counties.

The program, if approved by the SBA, would provide long-term, low-interest loans to qualifying persons who sustained damage and losses.

COVID-19 cases rise slightly

The number of new cases of COVID-19 during the past week in Texas rose to 13,104, with 57 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Cases of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state stayed steady at 993, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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.



Slings&Arrows

For starters, let's try setting better examples



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

On Nov. 4 the Aledo Ladycats' volleyball team traveled to Bridgeport for the area championship game against Argyle.

Aside from the match itself, there was one troubling incident that has been on my mind lately as we leave one set of elections and brace for another presidential election in two years.

The Bridgeport gym is set up much like Aledo's. The fan section is somewhat higher than the gym floor, and there is a railing at the front of the fan section overlooking the gym.

During that match, Aledo students were gathered at Aledo's end of the gym, cheering on and encouraging the Ladycats.

On the opposite side of the gym, students from Argyle were also gathered at Aledo's end of the gym, shouting insults and disparaging remarks, and in general attempting to disrupt the Ladycats' play.

At one point they became so loud and obnoxious that the officials stopped the match and made them move to their own end of the gym.

Now you may think this is a column to decry the behavior of the students from Argyle, and while it was negative and unacceptable behavior, I have a larger purpose.

I don't necessarily blame the kids for their behavior. Ultimately, of course, they are old enough to be responsible for their own behavior.

But in another sense, should we really be surprised?

The politics in our country has become so angry and divided, and the rhetoric so heated, that many in our country now see opponents as enemies and, by extension, opponents as evil.

Should it really surprise us that kids are acting out in much the same manner they see displayed over and over on TV, social media, and other forums?

When presidential campaigns and debates degenerate into fifth-grade-level taunting and name-calling, should we be shocked that kids at one school (the "good guys") might behave the same way toward students at another school (the "bad guys")?

In an era when political candidates completely throw their principles out the window, and say and do things they know to be wrong simply for the sake of winning, does it not make sense that, at the high school level, winning becomes more important than sportsmanship?

Politics has always had bad actors, but social media now has the power to magnify negativity millions of times over.

When once Democrats and Republicans could hang up their differences and meet socially after fiercely debating issues in Congress or the Senate, it is now unacceptable for a Democrat to be seen talking to a Republican, and vice-versa.

Somewhat Republican politicians have forgotten that Democrats are the opposition, not the enemy. And Democrats have forgotten that Republicans are the opposition, not the enemy.

Now it's personal. Now each side sees the other not just as the enemy, but as evil, and in the end our country swings back and forth as voters get disgusted with one and then the other in a seemingly never-ending cycle.

Somewhere the *reasons* we become Republicans and Democrats got lost, replaced with a more tribal identity.

And it's not good for the country. And it's not a good example for our kids.

Looking back at my childhood, "hey, batter-batter-batter" seems so tame in comparison to the jeers and catcalls I heard in Bridgeport.

It is imperative for our system of government that we learn to get along, and it is imperative for the development of our youth that we set a better example and at least attempt to understand each other.

Perhaps if you are a Fox News watcher, you should try a week of MSNBC, and vice-versa.

Or better yet, don't watch either. We don't all have to agree, but we do need to understand that those with whom we disagree are not evil. They just have another opinion.



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Affiliations:

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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

At Brookshire's the people make the difference

If you ask store manager Mark Laudeneimer what makes Brookshire's in Willow Park special, he will say it's the people.

"It's our people that really make us glow," Laudeneimer said. "Everybody has a good attitude, and nowadays that's hard to find.

The store has a mix of experienced, friendly staff, but Brookshire's also provides many employment opportunities for local students, providing them with income and valuable experience.

Laudeneimer said it makes a difference that Brookshire's is a Texas company.

"We've tried to give our clientele what they want," he said, "and staying on the cutting edge in the grocery business and bringing things that most other grocery stores don't have."

Brookshire's has enhanced the grocery shopping experience locally with recent major upgrades to the store, including a new bar with big-screen televisions.

"It's a bar patio, we have beer and wine you're able to have a glass of wine while you shop, or you can sit up at the bar or on the patio and have a drink and do your shopping, or take a break from your shopping or just come up and grab appetizers," Laudeneimer said.

Recently the store had a crawfish boil on the patio, and future events will have additional activities.

Another recent addition to the store is aged beef.

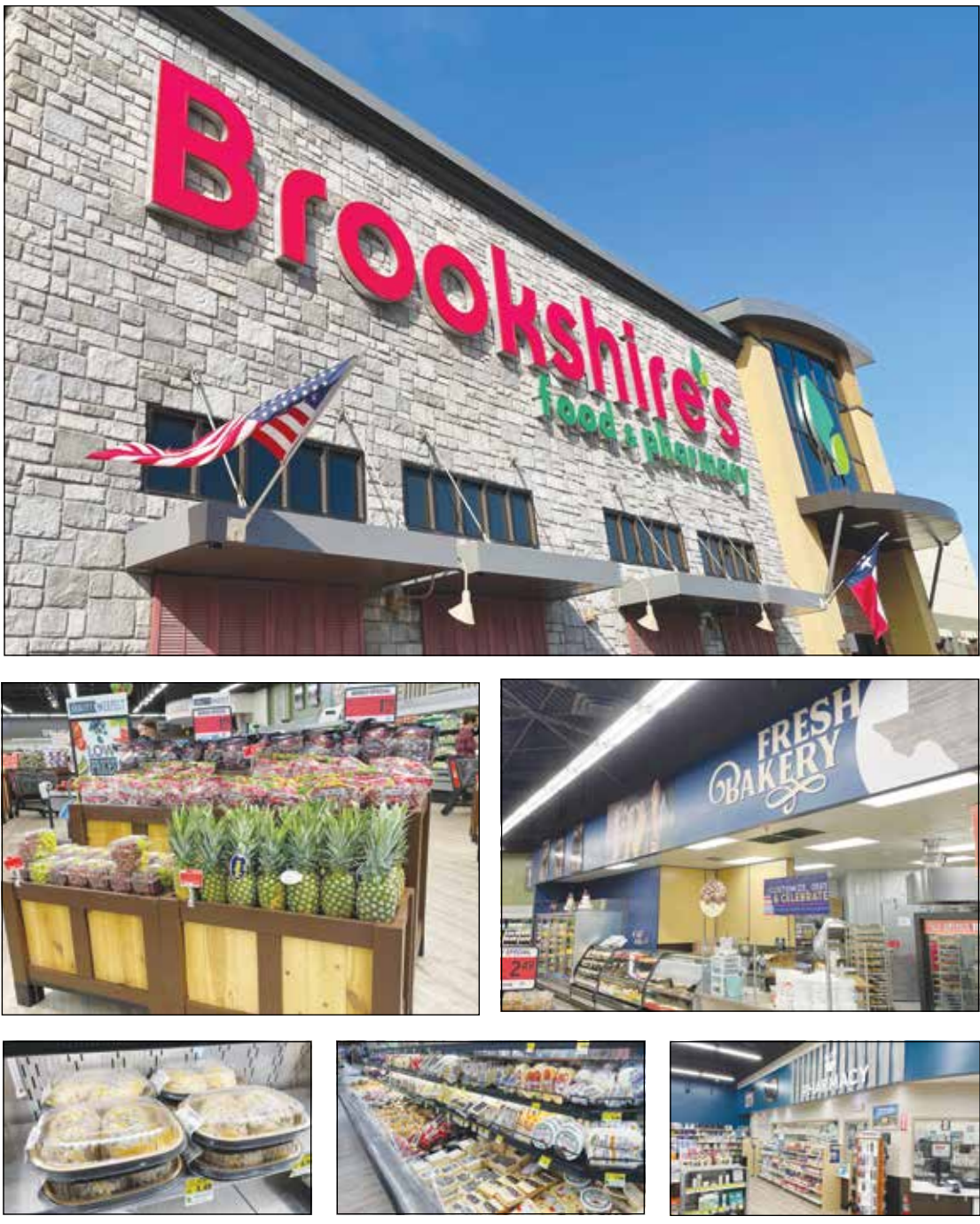
"I think there's only a few places around where you can get aged beef," Laudeneimer said. "We'll cut whatever you want. If you want the whole thing or just want a steak, tell them what size you want and they'll take it out, cut it, and clean it up."

The deli department has also seen new additions like dinner and salad kits.

"That department is always changing with demand," Laudeneimer said.

Laudeneimer has been with Brookshire's for more than 25 years. He came to the Willow Park store about a year ago. Before that he was at the Azle store for 12 years, and he had a history of community involvement, receiving Azle's "Citizen of the Year" award shortly before moving to the Willow Park Store.

That local involvement carries over to the Willow Park store, where Brookshire's has



worked with the Center of Hope, Tarrant Area Food Bank, and the Aledo ISD among others.

Of course, when grocery shopping, the main thing you want is groceries, and Brookshire's has a wide selection not only of staples, but at its meat and seafood counter, deli, and bakery.

You can drop off your prescription at the pharmacy and have it filled while you shop, and you can also drop off your dry cleaning and laundry, or order a specially decorated cake from Penny in the bakery.

Or, you can order online and pick up your groceries curbside.

And, in this age of high gas prices, your purchases add up for discounts on gas at Brookshire's at the fuel center on the west side of the store.

But at Brookshire's, the big difference is still the people and the service. They'll help you find what you're looking for, get you just the right cut of meat, and take your groceries out to your car when you're finished shopping.

Brookshire's is located at the corner of Interstate 20 and Ranch House Road in Willow Park. Call 817-441-5980 or visit <https://www.brookshires.com/stores/willow-park-97/6423>.



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FOOTBALL

Bearcats to face unbeaten old nemesis

Aledo, Midlothian square off on Friday

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Here we go again — the Aledo Bearcats are facing an opponent who is expected to give them a challenge as they continue the quest for an 11th state championship.

And now, Aledo (10-2) hits the road again to take on — you guessed it — their biggest task of the season when they meet the Midlothian Panthers (12-0) in a Class 5A Division I regional semifinal Friday at 6 p.m. at Midlothian ISD Stadium.

“We started off so poorly. We didn’t play good early. I understand why people think a 12-0 team could give us problems,” Aledo coach Tim Buchanan said. “And they are a very good team on both sides of the ball.”

Of course, folks in Midlothian are likely saying the same thing about the Bearcats, who, clearly, are not the same team that started the season with losses to Dallas Parish Episcopal (24-17 on the road) and Denton Guyer (44-14) at home. Episcopal is the top-ranked private school in the state and Guyer is one of the top contenders for the Class 6A Division II championship.

After that 0-2 start, the first in Buchanan’s history as a head coach, Aledo has been unstoppable. And while most might think a team with nine state championships and a runner-up finish since 2009 has nothing to prove, there was still a sense of doing so, nonetheless.

And that’s exactly what they’ve been doing time and again.

First was a road trip to Burleson Centennial with a 108-game district



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

LEFT: Junior running back Davhon Keys crosses the goal line for one of his two touchdowns. | RIGHT: Aledo quarterback Hauss Hejny ran for 192 yards and two touchdowns against the Pirates.

winning streak on the line for Aledo. The Bearcats returned home with a 64-21 victory, handing the Spartans their lone defeat in a dozen games.

Then came a visit to another perennial power, Denton Ryan, a game folks had circled on their calendars ever since the UIL put them in the same district in February. Aledo returned home with a 35-21 win that clinched the District 3-5A Division I championship.

Bi-district brought on Killeen Shoemaker, believed to be the Bearcats’ biggest first-round test in many years. The Wolves came in with an identical 8-2 record out of a tough 4-5A Division I. Apparently,

no one told the Bearcats the game was supposed to be close as they coasted to a 37-0 victory.

And last week’s game against Lubbock Cooper in Sweetwater matched Aledo with another team used to making deep playoff runs in recent seasons. Again, each team had the same record (9-2), but that proved to be pretty much the only similarity as the Bearcats controlled from the outset for a 45-21 win.

Looks familiar

The Bearcats will face an offense in Midlothian similar to the one they saw against Burleson Centennial. And while Aledo won that game

convincingly, Buchanan isn’t expecting similar results this time, though he does believe his team can win by following a simple game plan.

“Defensively, we’ll have to play fundamental football. It’s a simple plan, but it’s not easy to do,” he said. “Tackle when you’ve got to tackle. Sounds easy, but you still have to do it when you’re in that situation.

“Offensively, we have to be able to spread the ball around, utilize all of our weapons.”

Midlothian brings a stronger passing game than Centennial, though Buchanan noted the Spartans have improved in that category since their loss to the Bearcats.

Welcome back

Buchanan said cornerback Chris Johnson and guard Carter Campbell are expected to return to play this week. Like most any team still in the playoffs, the Bearcats are nursing a few lumps.

“If you’re not battered and bruised after 12 games, you ain’t playing,” Buchanan said.

Close series

While many of the games were long before Buchanan arrived on the scene, Midlothian leads the all-time series 6-4, one of only a few teams to

Turn to BEARCATS, page B3

Hejny finally living dream as Bearcats QB

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Hauss Hejny admits that even as he was playing football elsewhere, his dream was to be the starting quarterback for the Aledo Bearcats and lead them to a state championship.

While the latter has yet to be done, the Bearcats are among this season’s favorites to win the Class 5A Division I title — their 11th state championship in school history — and the junior signal caller has emerged as a leading reason why.

“Most of my buddies live here, a lot of my peewee football buddies live here,” Hejny said, explaining his decision to return to Aledo after spendings grades 2 through 9 at All Saints Episcopal School in Fort Worth.

“We made a decision to come back last year. I just felt inside this is where I wanted to be and

where I wanted to play, no disrespect to All Saints.”

Hejny found success at All Saints, working his way onto the varsity as a freshman. But all the while, since he still lived in Aledo, he saw his friends on the Bearcats continuing a tradition of adding large trophies to the school’s case.

Hejny has played quarterback since the second grade.

“There wasn’t a whole lot of throwing back then. I was faster than everybody, so I was a running quarterback,” he said.

Which he still is, as witness by his rushing for over 700 yards in the regular season this year. However, he’s developed into quite a passer as well, with more than 1,200 yards and 13 touchdowns opposite just three interceptions.

And while he has always had great respect for the receivers who catch his passes, it’s even

more so after he spent his first season back as a receiver in 2021. With senior Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi at quarterback, Hejny switched positions and bided his time until he got the chance to compete for the starting job.

In the meantime, he was the second-leading receiver on the Bearcats with 26 catches for 648 yards and seven touchdowns. His average of 58.9 yards per game was tops on the team.

“It wasn’t that hard an adjustment. I’d played around in the backyard catching passes,” Hejny said. “The only thing I had to get used to was catching the ball and running.

“I did a lot of running, especially in practice. Practice as a receiver is gruesome.”

The experience also left Hejny with a better understanding of what receivers are expecting from him. And he believes

Turn to HEJNY, page B2



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hauss Hejny (8) and teammates celebrate following a Bearcat victory.

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BEARCATS

from page B1

have a series advantage over the Bearcats. Since Buchanan's arrival, however, Aledo has won their only two meetings, 48-29 in 2018 and 34-28 in overtime in 2019, both district games.

Buchanan has only faced the Panthers once before as the 2018 victory was coached by Steve Wood.

Over the years the series has seen some very close games, including the 2019 contest that almost ended Aledo's now national-record 111-game district winning streak. Other close games in the series, all Midlothian wins, were 8-7 in 1947, 14-13 in 1948 and 3-0 in 1979.

In all, Aledo has outscored Midlothian 160-158 all-time and each team has posted two shutouts.

This will be the first meeting between the teams in the postseason.

Postseason (near) perfection

In their two postseason victories, the Bearcats have yet to turn the ball over. They've also committed just a pair of five-yard penalties, almost completing the win over Cooper without one before being flagged in the final minute.

Defensively, they've taken the ball away three times. They've also shut down the run against Shoemaker (minus 28 yards on 19 carries) and the pass against Cooper (12 yards on two completions).

Third/fourth-down success

Converting third and fourth downs are clutch to any team competing for a championship, and the Bearcats are doing what needs to be done on both sides of the ball.

Offensively, Aledo is 12-of-22 on third downs in the postseason. They are also 4-of-6 on fourth down.

On defense, the Bearcats have limited their two playoff opponents to 4-of-20 on third down and 3-of-7 on fourth.

"Honestly, this week we're going to have to be better than that," Buchanan said. "We cannot have negative plays."

Common opponents

The Bearcats and Panthers have a pair of common foes this season, Shoemaker and Justin Northwest. Each posted a pair of wins against them.

Aledo won 49-20 at Northwest to open district play. Midlothian defeated the Texans 51-34 at home to begin the postseason.

The Panthers defeated Shoemaker 32-27 in Killeen, coming from behind in the second half.

Aledo had little trouble with the Wolves, 37-0 at home, in their play-off opener.

Time to start another streak

Two weeks ago Aledo won its 27th consecutive bi-district game dating to 1996. Last week they extended to 10 a streak of area-round victories.

However, last season's 33-28 loss to Dallas South Oak in the third round ended a streak of eight consecutive seasons in which the Bearcats reached at least the state semifinals. The streak included state championships in 2013-14, 2016 and 2018-20, with a state runner-up finish in 2017.

South Oak Cliff went on to win the state championship. In 12 of the past 13 seasons either the Bearcats or the team that eliminated them won state, the only exception being Mansfield Lake Ridge, who eliminated them in the state semifinals in 2015 and finished as state runner-up.

Midlothian, meanwhile, would match its deepest playoff run since Doug Wendel became head coach in 2015. The Panthers were 8-5 last season and reached the third round. Since 2017 they've advanced to at least the second round each season.

Possible Centennial rematch

Going into this weekend, Aledo and Burleson Centennial (11-1) are the only teams remaining in the postseason from 3-5A Division I. If they win this weekend, they will meet again next weekend.

Centennial is facing upstart Abilene (6-6), which entered the playoffs with a losing record but has pulled off back-to-back lopsided upsets against El Paso Del Valle (10-2) and Red Oak (9-3).

In postseason rematches the Bearcats are 5-0 since 2009, including 3-0 against Stephenville and 1-0 against both Saginaw Boswell and Mansfield Legacy.

Buchanan said whomever the Bearcats or Midlothian play in the next round, it has already been decided the game will be played at The Star in Frisco, the practice facility of the Dallas Cowboys.

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (10-2) vs. Midlothian Panthers (12-0)

When: Friday, 6 p.m., Midlothian ISD Stadium

What: Class 5A Division I third round

How they got here: Aledo is the champion of District 3-5A Division I and defeated Killeen Shoemaker 37-0 in bidistrict and Lubbock Cooper 45-21 in area. Midlothian is the champion of 4-5A Division I and defeated Justin Northwest 51-34 in

bidistrict and Amarillo 56-28 in area.

Midlothian offense: The Panthers are averaging 45 points per game and have topped the 50-point mark six times, including each of the past three games. Leaders include: QB Chad Ragle, 1,192 yards, 17 TD, 2 interceptions passing, 138 carries, 1,001 yards, 8 TD rushing; RB Deago Benson, 110 carries, 1,075 yards, 15 TD rushing, 12 catches, 207 yards, 4 TD receiving; Bryant Wesco, 58 catches, 1,160 yards, 14 TD.

Aledo offense: The Bearcats are averaging 46 points and have scored at least 35 points in each of their 10 straight wins, including 50 or more five times. Leaders include: QB Hauss Hejny 65-for-114, 1,300 yards, 14 TD, 3 interceptions passing, 73 carries, 902 yards, 11 TD rushing; RB Hawk Patrick-Daniels 153 carries, 1,111 yards, 17 TD rushing, 7 catches, 93 yards, 1 TD receiving; Caleb Pope 78 carries, 503 yards, 12 TD; RB Ryan Cox 89 carries, 435 yards, 3 TD; WR Jalen Pope 38 catches, 718 yards, 10 TD; WR Kaydon Finley 16-322 yards, 4 TD; TE Tyson Timms 22-289, 3 TD.

Midlothian defense: The Panthers are surrendering an average of 18 points and can be scored upon, as evidenced by five opponents scoring at least four touchdowns on them. However, they do have a pair of shutouts and have limited six foes to 14 points or less. Leaders are: DB Carsen Bates, 70 tackles, fumble recovery; LB Ny'tori Burnett, 69 tackles, 6 for loss, DT/DE Bryce Starlin, 6 tackles for loss, 4 sacks.

Aledo defense: The Bearcats' defense was impenetrable for the first six quarters of the postseason, surrendering no points before Cooper found the end zone three times in the second half. Overall, Aledo is giving up 16 points per game, has a pair of shutouts and has held five opponents to a touchdown or less. In the winning streak, the defense has been stingy, surrendering just 12.3 points per outing. Leaders are: LB Dahvon Keys 66.5 tackles, 4 for loss, 1 interception (returned 73 yards for TD), 1 fumble recovery; DB Jake Gillespie 56.5 tackles, 4.5 loss, 1 interception; DB Andrew Parkhurst 50 tackles, 9.5 for loss, 3.5 sacks; DB Boogie Owens 37 tackles, 1 for loss, 1 interception, 2 fumble recoveries; DT Ansel Din-Mbuh 23.5 tackles, 14 for loss, 3 sacks; DE Lawson Moore 20.5 tackles, 8 for loss; DB Jaden Allen 24.5 tackles, 3 interceptions.

Aledo average points per game: 46.3.

Midlothian average points per game: 45.1.

Aledo points surrendered per game: 15.9.

Midlothian points surrendered per game: 18.2.

Turnovers: Aledo 13, Midlothian 8.

Takeaways: Aledo 19, Midlothian 12.



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Senior defensive tackle Ansel Din-Mbuh gets a tackle.

FOOTBALL

Bearcats brave cold to put deep freeze on Cooper

On to regionals to face Midlothian

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

With a game time temperature of 34 degrees and a wind chill of 26, the Aledo Bearcats froze the Lubbock Cooper Pirates' hopes of an upset with a resounding 45-21 victory in their Class 5A Division I area (second) round matchup Friday night at the Mustang Bowl in Sweetwater.

Aledo (10-2) was in control from the outset en route to its 10th consecutive win. It's also the 10th straight season the Bearcats have won a second-round postseason game. Of course, that's going to happen when you've played in 10 of the past 13 state finals and won nine of them.

Cooper (9-3) saw its streak of advancing beyond the area round end at four. The Pirates also fell to 0-2 all-time against the Bearcats, with their previous meeting also meeting in the postseason, a 28-21 Aledo victory in the semifinals. The Bearcats won state a week later.

The Bearcats will next face Midlothian (12-0), a 56-28 winner against Amarillo. Game time will be 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, at Midlothian ISD Stadium.

The Bearcats and Panthers were in the same district not so long ago. In 2019, their last meeting, Aledo avoided an upset with a 34-28 overtime victory.

This will be the first time the teams will meet in the playoffs.

The game Friday featured a triumphant return by Aledo starting quarterback Hauss Hejny, who

missed the Bearcats' 37-0 bi-district victory against Killeen Shoemaker with an injury. There was no sign of injury against Cooper as Hejny rushed for 197 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries.

On the game's first play, Hejny broke free for a 57-yard run. On the next play, Hawk Patrick-Daniels finished the two-play drive with a 24-yard touchdown run and, just like that, the Bearcats led 7-0 and would never look back.

"I definitely realized I was back with that run," Hejny said. "It definitely gave us momentum. But I still had it (the injury) in the back of my mind."

However, there was no evidence of that for those looking on. Hejny would later add a 50-yard run for a touchdown — after he bobbled a snap and picked it up. Seven of his carries went for at least 10 yards.

"He's a quick healer," Buchanan said, smiling.

Hejny also connected with Patrick-Daniels for a 47-yard touchdown on a screen pass on Aledo's third possession late in the first quarter for a 14-0 lead. A pair of second-quarter touchdowns from Hejny made the score 28-0 at the half.

After its offense was shut down in the first half, held to 67 yards — all on the ground — Cooper found success in the second half. In a yeoman effort, running back Ethan Elks finished with 167 yards on 18 carries, most of which came in the second half, including touchdown runs of 40 and 45 yards.

"We knew they were going to score on us eventually," Buchanan

Turn to FOOTBALL, page B6

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TOWN OF ANNETTA LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Annetta is now calling for bids for construction of the **LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS** project. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked "SEALED BID - LAKES OF ALEDO GST FOUNDATION & GRADING IMPROVEMENTS" and returned to the Town of Annetta, 450 Thunder Head Lane, P.O. Box 1150, Annetta, TX 76008, prior to **10:00 AM, CST, Friday, December 16, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read. The Town of Annetta reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

The project includes the clearing and grubbing, excavation, and construction of a 60,000-gallon ground storage tank foundation (tank to be provided by others) at an existing pump station facility within the Town of Annetta. Contractor shall also provide general site services, which including the construction of a graded swale nearby the proposed tank foundation, including re-grassing. The proposed tank foundation shall include all site grubbing, staking, excavation, off-site hauling and disposal, select fill and compaction, and the placement of a foundation tank band, per manufacturers recommendations. Contractor shall provide all labor, materials, and equipment to provide a complete and in place installation of the work described above, and as indicated within the Contract Documents.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and Compliance Provisions may be downloaded from the Town of Annetta's website (www.annettatx.org) directly. Potential Bidders may examine the Contract Documents at the Engineers office, at the following address and location:

**Halff Associates, Inc.
4000 Fossil Creek Blvd.
Fort Worth, Texas 76137**

The cost for Contract Documents is \$50.00 per half size set. The cost of Contract Documents is not refunded. Submit check, cashier check or money order for payment. Cash will not be accepted.

Direct questions regarding distribution of Contract Documents, and the design of the Lakes of Aledo GST Foundation & Grading Improvements Project to Jourdan Johnson, P.E., Halff Associates, Inc., at (817) 764-7442.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they consider most advantageous to the Owner. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Award of the contract will be made as a whole to one Bidder. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder. The City reserves the right to throw out any and all bids which are not complete.

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

The party to whom the contract is awarded shall be required to furnish performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety.

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Alyssa Gonzales - Volleyball
She was chosen as the Offensive Player of the Year in District 5-5A. She posted 370 kills with 67 blocks, along with serving 64 aces. She was also a standout on defense with 489 digs.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Davhon Keys - football

The linebacker/running back scored two rushing touchdowns. He also had a series of defensive plays in a short span that helped break open the 45-21 area round playoff win over Lubbock Cooper by stopping a run for a gain of only a yard, knocking down a pass and recovering a fumble that led to a touchdown to make the score 21-0.

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BASKETBALL

Ladycats stung by Stephenville

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

After stringing together back-to-back wins for the first time this season during the Brock Tournament, the Aledo Ladycats basketball squad's season record dropped to 3-6 after coming up just short on the road in Stephenville on Monday by a 37-35 tally.

Though the Ladycat hoopers trailed during much of the contest, Aledo rallied in the fourth quarter to put up 15 points in the final frame. Unfortunately, time expired on the visiting team's comeback efforts as the hosting Honeybees managed to hang on and escape with the win.

While Aledo's record doesn't reflect where the team would like to be at this juncture in the season, head coach Nikki Hyles feels good about the direction her team is ultimately heading.

"Playing tough teams now will make us better going into district," Hyles said. "Our district is highly competitive. Playing these tough teams now helps us see where our weaknesses are and what we need to work on heading into district play."

The Ladycats officially kick off district play on Dec. 13 when they travel to Wichita Falls to take on Rider's Lady Raiders. In the meantime, Hyles has already identified some key areas her team is working on to improve upon between now and then.

"We've got to get better at defense. We also need to get better at scoring around the basket," she said. "We keep working and those shots will start to fall for us."

Nov. 21

Ladycats Varsity vs. Stephenville

Aledo	6	6	8	15	35
S'ville	10	9	7	11	37

Claire Byars 15, Reagan Davis 11, Presley Hull 9

Ladycats JV vs. Stephenville

Aledo	14	5	7	8	34
S'ville	2	0	8	4	14

Elizabeth Griffin 12, Maddox Lucas 9, August Carlone 5, Brenna Clock 2, Peyton Flores 2, Zion Kennedy 2, Breleigh Mayer 2

Ladycats Freshman vs. Stephenville

Aledo	10	8	18	6	42
S'ville	2	1	0	0	3

Mesons Emeka Okoye 8, Jaylee Owens 8, Jordyn Edington 6, Alyssa Todd 6, Lily Heckathorn 4, Natalie Browning 4, Coral Slough 2, Kayna Atkinson 2, Mackenzie Bullard 2

Brock Tournament (varsity), Nov. 17-19

Ladycats vs. Whitehouse

Aledo	9	12	20	16	56
W'house	0	9	11	7	27

Claire Byars 14, Reagan Davis 13, Kinley Elms 10, Haley Farmer 7, Kenzie Grau 3, Kandle Boggus 2, Hanna Good 2, Taylor Paetzold 2, Presley Hull 2, Natalie Anderson 1

Ladycats vs. Ponder

Aledo	21	16	15	12	64
Ponder	10	8	7	4	29

Kandle Boggus 10, Presley Hull 10, Natalie Anderson 9, Kenzie Grau 9, Claire Byars 9, Kinley Elms 7, Ella Isbell 4, Reagan Davis 3, Taylor Paetzold 2, Hanna Good 1

Ladycats vs. New Home

Aledo	13	7	10	17	47
New Home	22	10	11	18	61

Claire Byars 13, Reagan Davis 12, Presley Hull 8, Kenzie Grau 3, Ella Isbell 2, Caroline Browning 2, Hanna Good 2, Taylor Paetzold 2, Haley Farmer 2, Kinley Elms 1

Ladycats vs. Nolan Catholic

Aledo	12	14	14	16	56
Nolan	19	16	12	22	69

Kandle Boggus 15, Reagan Davis 12, Claire Byars 11, Presley Hull 10, Kinley Elms 8

FOOTBALL

from page B3

said. "They're a good team. Good thing we built that big lead."

However, Cooper could not stop Aledo on defense. They also could not recover any of three onside kick attempts despite being in prime position to do so on all three.

After each recovery, the Bearcats scored twice on touchdown runs of 4 and 6 yards by Davhon Keys, along with a 26-yard field goal from Cole Crawford.

Keys also had a series of clutch defensive plays early in the second quarter when the score was still 14-0. He stopped a run for a gain of only a yard, then knocked down a pass and, after an Aledo punt, he recovered a fumble two plays later on the Cooper 48 that led to a Hejny 3-yard touchdown and a 21-0 advantage.

The final drive leading to Crawford's field goal consumed seven minutes and 13 seconds, taking the clock down to 27 seconds and squelching any prayer the

Pirates had for a miracle finish. It was a stark contrast to the first three periods when Cooper had the ball for more than 23 minutes compared to just over 12 for Aledo.

Aledo's first two scoring drives lasted two plays, while another later took just one play.

For a second straight game the Bearcats did not turn the ball over, along with having just one penalty for 5 yards.

"I definitely think we are playing very disciplined football. In the second half we started getting better and we've just kept it going in the playoffs," Hejny said. "Hats off to our offensive line and receivers."

Class 5A Division I Area Round Playoff

Aledo 45, Lubbock Cooper 21
Cooper 0 0 14 7 - 21
Aledo 14 14 7 10 - 45
A - Hawk Patrick-Daniels 24 run (Cole Crawford kick)
A - Patrick-Daniels 47 pass from Hauss Hejny (Crawford kick)
A - Hejny 3 run (Crawford kick)
A - Hejny 50 run (Crawford kick)
C - Jayden Kennard 18 run (Cub Patton kick)
A - Davhon Keys 4 run (Crawford kick)
C - Ethan Elkins 40 run (Patton kick)
A - Keys 6 run (Crawford kick)

C - Elkins 45 run (Patton kick)
A - Crawford 26 FG

Team statistics

First downs: Cooper 13, Aledo 18.
Rushes-yards: Cooper 42-299, Aledo 43-367.
Passing yards: Cooper 12, Aledo 53.
Caught-thrown-intercepted: Cooper 2-7-0, Aledo 3-9-0.
Punts-average: Cooper 4-28.5, Aledo 2-40.0.
Fumbles-lost: Cooper 2-1, Aledo 2-0.
Penalties-yards: Cooper 0-0, Aledo 1-5.
Third-down conversions: Cooper 2-9, Aledo 6-11.
Fourth-down conversions: Cooper 2-3, Aledo 3-3.
Time of possession: Cooper 25:56, Aledo 22:04.

Individual leaders

Rushing
Cooper: Elks 18-167, 2 TD; Kennard 3-71, TD; Tyler Spruiell 10-52.
Aledo: Hejny 12-197, 2 TD; Caleb Pope 7-74; Patrick-Daniels 11-41, TD; Keys 6-28, 2 TD; Ryan Cox 6-27.
Passing
Cooper: Spruiell 2-7-0, 12 yards.
Aledo: Hejny 3-9-0, 53 yards, TD.
Receiving
Cooper: Kennard 2-12.
Aledo: Patrick-Daniels 1-47, TD; Kaydon Finley 2-6.
Defensive fumble recovery
Aledo: Keys.



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Senior safety Andrew Parkhurst trips up a Cooper ball carrier.

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BASKETBALL

Bearcat hoopsters feast on visiting Roos

By **Ryan Wade**
Community News

What a difference a week makes.

Following the one-point loss to Crandall in the season opener, Aledo Bearcats head hoops coach, JD Robinson, stressed that his young squad would need to grow up in a hurry this season. Much to Robinson's delight, that's exactly what happened in the week between games 1 and 2 of the season as Aledo pulled out a 60-37 victory on Friday night.

"I thought we grew up some tonight. We've got to grow up in a hurry," Robinson said.

Notching the first mark in the win column evened the Bearcats' record at 1-1 early in the 2022-23 campaign.

"We needed that one," Robinson said after the game. "We needed to get a win under our belt. We needed to have some success. It was good. We moved the ball well offensively. Defensively, I felt like we were really locked in early on. I think that was the biggest difference for us tonight."

The Bearcats displayed a vastly improved version of themselves as they dominated the visiting Weatherford Kangaroos in every aspect of the game. In the first half of the game Aledo committed just three fouls through 16 minutes of action while only turning the ball over three times during the same stretch. Both categories were issues for the Bearcats last week against Crandall.

Offensive rebounds were another key issue stemming from the loss to the Pirates that Aledo rectified against the Roos. After converting zero second-chance buckets in the season opener, the Bearcats crashed the offensive boards in game two resulting in four baskets coming from second or third scoring opportunities.

"Our margin of error is really slim," Robinson stated. "We have to play hard. We have to play smart. We have to play the right way every possession. It's going to matter for us down the stretch. We over-emphasize that in practice. The guys did a great job of coming in and responding."

Aledo never trailed during the contest. After failing to convert a basket in their first possession, the Bearcats got on the board just 4.9

seconds into the game when resident sharpshooter Drew Clock knocked down his first three-pointer of the night to put the home team on the board, 3-0. After the initial score the game got away from the Roos in a hurry as Clock knocked down two more deep threes to lead the Bearcats out to a 16-4 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

The Bearcats followed with a 17-point second quarter. Exavier Anderson put an exclamation point on the first half when he broke loose on a fast break following a turnover by the Roos. All alone on the home end of the hardwood, Anderson threw down a one-handed slam that brought the hometown crowd to its feet and put the home team up by 20 in the waning moments of the first half.

Defensively, Aledo put on a masterclass in the first half, holding Weatherford to single digit scoring as the Bearcats went into the break with a commanding 33-9 advantage.

As the second half got underway Aledo continued to impose their will at both ends of the floor. Brandon Fields initiated the scoring frenzy by knocking down his lone three-pointer of the game to increase the Bearcat lead to 27 with 5:37 left in the third quarter. With 2:04 left in the quarter Aledo extended its lead to 30 with the score at 43-13 after Clock tickled the twine from three-point land for the fourth time on the night. When the third stanza reached its conclusion, the Bearcats held a decisive 45-18 lead.

Anderson kicked off the fourth quarter on a mission with back-to-back buckets in the first 30 seconds of action. Starting off with the ball at the top of the key, he split the defense as he drove hard down the lane before finishing the possession with his second dunk of the contest. Moments later he gave the Bearcats their largest lead of the game as he knocked down a trey from the wing to make the score 50-18 with 7:30 remaining.

With the win securely in hand, Aledo took the opportunity to get several young players some in-game experience throughout the second half. In all, 11 different Bearcats managed to get



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Ulises Garcia scored six points against Weatherford.

on the board in the game. Getting his young players live minutes early in the season is of particular emphasis to the head Bearcat.

"I want to play even faster," Robinson stated. "We're trying to get some of these guys in to see if we can rely on them, see if we can count on them. We're just young. We've only got three guys who've played any significant minutes at this level. You take any of those guys off the floor, and we've got a lot of guys who haven't done this before. It was good that we could get those guys in here tonight. We're just trying to see if we can trust those guys and see if they can play through some adversity."

Free throws were another area of significant improvement for the Bearcats in the second game of the season. In the loss to Crandall last week, Aledo only converted on 50% of free throw attempts. Game 2 was a different story as the Bearcats ended the night going 11-of-15 from the charity stripe.

Clock led the way offensively for Aledo on Friday with 16 points to his credit. He finished with four three-pointers and a two-for-two performance at the line.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Exavier Anderson brought the hometown crowd to its feet with a dunk at the end of the first quarter against Weatherford on Nov. 18.

Anderson contributed a dozen points to the Bearcat effort, including a pair of dunks, two three-pointers late in the game, and a 2-for-2 night from the stripe.

Ulises Garcia scored six points in the game. Fields and Jack Sawyer each added five points. Brant Tubbs and Zayden Parker finished with four points each. Luke Slabbekoorn, Cohen Christie, Owen Peterson, and Jackson Todd contributed to the offensive effort, as well, with a pair of points each.

The Bearcats added to the win column on Nov. 21, defeating South Hills 87-29. Jack Sawyer led the 'Cats with 20 points. Owen Peterson and Brandon Fields each had 15, and Anderson was also in double-digits with 12.

Nov. 21						
Aledo vs South Hills						
Aledo	25	22	33	7	87	
S Hills	3	6	14	6	29	
<small>Jack Sawyer 20, Owen Peterson 15, Brandon Fields 15, Ex Anderson 12, Drew Clock 8, Jackson Todd 8, Brant Tubbs 5, Luke Slabbekoorn 3, Zayden Parker 1</small>						



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ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating

The Aledo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, December 12, 2022 in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Aledo Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

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CROSS COUNTRY

Aledo runners have sights set on more come 2023

By Rick Mauch
Community News

If you thought this year's cross country season was a big success for the Aledo program — and it definitely was — coach Mike Pinkerton and his athletes have a message for you.

You ain't seen nothin' yet.

The program is losing only two runners from the team that competed at state, and only one from a boys squad that narrowly missed joining them. Oh, and the lone boy who did qualify, Jack Fink, is only a sophomore.

This was the third time in four seasons an entire Aledo team has competed at state. The boys made it there in 2019 and 2021.

Next season the goal is to get both girls and boys running in Round Rock at the 5A State Meet. After all, that part of the state is nice this time of year, and Pinkerton should know as he's sent a plethora of runners there in the six seasons he's been at the Aledo helm (someone every season).

"I'm most certainly going to go into the season with that being the goal," he said, adding, "and to make some noise."

"The girls, getting there, seeing the course, that experience is only going to make them better. The boys missed by four points, so I don't think I'm going to have to remind them of that too much. They know how close they got."

The girls who competed at state included freshmen Molly Garrison, Sofia Brandenburg, Elizabeth Griffin and Sadie Williams; junior

"I knew it was my last race of the season and I was just running as fast as I could. It was so amazing to compete with friends at state."

Elizabeth Griffin

Aubrey Connally; and seniors Sidney Tillotson and Emily Lewis.

Griffin posted a career-best time of 19 minutes, 11.1 seconds to place 21st at state. Garrison led the contingent at regionals, clocking a time of 18:30.3 for second place, one of three Ladycats to break into the top 15 (Brandenburg 11th, Griffin 13th).

"I knew it was my last race of the season and I was just running as fast as I could," Griffin said of state. "It was so amazing to compete with friends at state."

Griffin placed third in district.

As for her performance at regionals, district champion Garrison said, "I went in and didn't expect to be top five. It took a lot of pressure off having my friends there."

"I didn't really know it (qualifying for state) was going to happen as a team, with our workouts our season just kept getting better and better. When our fifth runner, Aubrey, started PR'ing (personal record) a lot, I felt we were a solid team."

Garrison finished 41st at state.

Connally saw her times consistently drop throughout September en route to a 15th-place at district.

"It was really cool to see the girls come together as a team at the right time of the season," Connally said, adding of the impact of the four freshmen, "They already had running experience, but getting to show them the tradition of the program was great."

Connally believes the performance of the girls team this season bodes well for more girls joining the program in the future.

"I think it's talked about a lot more. Hopefully it takes off after this year," she said. "And I would not be surprised if we got back to state next year as a team. I could see us placing at state."

Brandenburg, who was second at district, said she could see something special coming together as the season progressed.

"Throughout the season we saw what we were doing, and when we had a pretty good showing at Granbury, I knew we had a chance for something special," she said.

She admitted, though, that competing on the highest stage at state, was "scary."

"There were so many older and faster people. In the beginning of the race I kinda forgot I was racing, kind of like fever dreamish. Then I woke up," she said.

Brandenburg placed 53rd at state.

Fink was 32nd at state and 13th at regionals and is already looking forward to another trip, but this time once again with his teammates — which was the case in 2021.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of the Aledo Bearcat Cross Country team starting a race.

"To get back as an individual was really exciting. I feel like I'm on the right track for college. It says I can do things on my own, but it would have been nice to have my teammates there, and that's the plan for next season," he said.

Fink has reason to be optimistic. The only senior on the boys team that won district (as did the girls) and advanced to regionals is Henry Zedler (fifth at district). Others expected to return and join Fink next season are freshmen Dominick Barrera (sixth at district) and Anderson Smith (seventh at district), sophomore Luke Schabel (12th at district), and juniors Sam Haight (13th at district) and Vincent Luffey (fourth at district).

The lone senior for the girls who ran at district, Tillotson, placed sixth.

Lewis joined the Ladycats at regionals and state.

Zedler leaves the program having made two trips to state with the team in 2019 and 2021.

"These seniors have done a tremendous job pulling people along. We're going to miss them," Pinkerton said. "Unfortunately, we can't keep a fifth-year senior. If we could, we sure would."

Should they accomplish the goal of both boys and girls getting to state next season, Brandenburg said, "Oh, that would be so much fun! We had so much fun competing together at regionals."

At which point, Fink chimed in, "I'll do my part!"



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