

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO ISD

## Board votes to join lawsuit against TEA

Joining more than 50 districts

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Aledo ISD's Board of Trustees gathered bright and early on Monday morning, Oct. 2, casting a unanimous vote to join more than 50 districts across the state of Texas in a lawsuit against the Texas Education Agency.

The crux of the suit is around the TEA's accountability grading system that gives each district a letter grade between A-F, depending on standardized test scores administered by the state. In accordance with state law, the TEA is supposed to advise districts of the grading standards for the upcoming school year prior to the start of the academic year in August.

As of Oct. 2, the standards for the 2023-24 school year still have not been presented to schools across the Lone Star State.

"Essentially, the Texas Education Agency is required to provide to school districts across the state the standards by which we will be measured in the accountability system during the year that's being measured," stated Aledo ISD Superintendent, Dr. Susan Bohn. "That did not happen. It did not happen for the 2022-2023 school year. In fact, there are some things we still don't understand about how we will be measured, and we've already started the 2023-24 year. That's one issue related to the violation of law."

Driving the wedge even deeper between school districts and the state's top education department is the TEA's intention to retroactively apply the current standards to previous graduating seniors dating back to the Class of 2022. Districts across the state are concerned the TEA has decided to raise standards without informing administrators what the target is they are to aim for, and retroactively holding them to the unknown standard, in a year when school choice and vouchers are significant points of discussion in Austin as Governor Greg Abbott prepares to call for a special session of the Texas Legislature.

Secondarily, the lawsuit also seeks to hold the TEA to new standards of transparency as it relates to how property tax dollars are dispersed.

"What continues to be challenging about this discussion for people is, just understanding school funding isn't like your city budget where as your city grows, your funding grows," stated Trustee David Lear. "Your state funding [for schools], is just a formula set by the state at a point in time. You get that number [of dollars] per student year after year after year, unless they change the basis of that formula. You continue to see what people pay for taxes. People know they're paying more into the system. They don't understand that doesn't flow to the schools unless they change the formula."

Turn to **LAWSUIT**, page A8

## National Night Out



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Willow Park Police Department held National Night Out on Oct. 3. The community came out for food, fun, games, and music. Horses were there from Layla Rose Ranch House Horse Rescue. Police cars and a firetruck were there and a youth tried out drunk driving glasses.

BAT SANCTUARY

## Chance meeting led to protecting bats

Sanctuary closing in on three decades

By John English  
The Community News

*Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series.*

Amanda Lollar still remembers the day in 1988 when she happened upon an injured bat.

The Parker County woman was well aware of the negative stereotypes associated with the furry little creatures, but when she looked at her, alone, afraid and suffering, all she felt was compassion and pity.

Scooping her up to begin the process of nursing her back to health, Lollar decided it was time to do a little research of her own.

"At the time, people believed some horrible things about bats, and my heart went out to them," Lollar said. "I did some research and got educated, and eventually opened up Bat World Sanctuary."

Bat World Sanctuary opened in 1994, and Lollar, 67, serves as president.

The sanctuary is a worldwide rescue, whose Facebook page has more than 300,000 followers, along with a strong Instagram presence. It also works with the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter and local residents when they have issues with bats.

"We rescue bats that have been confiscated from the cruel, exotic pet trade, as well as zoos and from research," Lollar said. "But we are also a rehabilitation facility, where we rescue bats from the wild - bats that have been injured or orphaned -- and then release them back into the wild. We have a permanent sanctuary as well, so that if an animal

Turn to **BATS**, page A8



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

An Egyptian fruit bat rescued from an exotic pet dealer

ICE HOUSE

## Willow Park restaurant bar closes

Target of noise complaints

Staff Report  
The Community News

The Parker County Ice House, located at 210 Willow Bend Cir. in Willow Park, has closed, a report in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram noted Tuesday.

The restaurant had been the subject of numerous noise complaints because of the several concerts it hosted throughout the year, particularly in the spring and summer. Owners and company officials met several times with Willow Park city leaders and came before citizens and the city council a few times to address the issue.

The complaints had died down greatly before its closure. Still, the controversy also led to the City of Willow Park adjusting its noise ordinance.

The restaurant, one of three owned by renowned Fort Worth Chef Stefon Rishel and his Trident Restaurant Group, opened in September of 2021. The report also stated that a sister Italian restaurant, Tre Mogli in Fort Worth's South Main Village, also announced its closing via social media Monday.



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# In & Around Parker County

## Pumpkin Palooza

The Crossing Church is hosting their 3rd annual Pumpkin Palooza on Saturday, October 21st from 4:00-7:30 PM. This event will be at The Crossing Church in downtown Aledo. The Pumpkin Palooza will have Hayrides, Hay Jumps, Hay Maze, Inflatable Obstacle Courses, Food Trucks, Classic Cars, Cotton Candy, Face Painting,

Pumpkin Painting, Corn Pits, lots of candy, and other fun things to do. Admission is free with the exception of Food Trucks. This is an event for the whole family and everyone is invited to attend.

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## Trinity Christian Academy Homecoming

Trinity Christian Academy celebrated homecoming on Friday, Sept. 22, honoring Seniors Wilson Winchester and Caroline Thompson as Mr. and Ms. TCA. The Homecoming Court consisted of six seniors, two juniors, two sophomores, and two freshmen.



Read this story online



Ben Camp, TCA graduate, and 2022 Mr. TCA is shown with Wilson Winchester, 2023 Mr. TCA.



Seniors Wilson Winchester and Caroline Thompson were named Mr. and Ms. TCA.



Ms. TCA 2023 Caroline Thompson is shown with TCA graduate and 2022 Ms. TCA Libby Tovar.



Senior Jackson Sykes is shown with his mother, Kelley Sykes.



Senior Gracee Whiteaker is shown with her father, Jesse Whiteaker.



Senior Wilson Winchester is shown with his mother, Tara Winchester.



Senior Caroline Thompson is shown with her father, Bert Thompson.



Senior Landry Crumpler is shown with his mother, Rachele Crumpler.



Senior McKenna Sims is shown with her father, Bill Sims.



Junior Will Saadeh is shown with his mother, Elizabeth Saadeh.



Junior Avery Tiwater is shown with her father, David Tiwater.



Sophomore Berlynn Kaznowski is shown with her father, Troy Kaznowski.



Sophomore Weston Windes is shown with his mother, Monica Windes.



Freshman Emma Saadeh is shown with her father, Rich Saadeh.



Freshman Pearson Kuykendal is shown with his mother, Courtney Kuykendal.



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## RIGHT

from page A3

Remarkably, he was able to keep everybody happy on all matters.

“Burkett would have made it to state a few more times except for the star player over at Avoca,” DeBusk remembers. The nemesis was Max Williams—later a basketball star at Southern Methodist University. He wound up his basketball association as general manager of the Dallas Chaparrals. The Chaps, members of the old American Basketball Association, moved to San Antonio, later to become the San Antonio Spurs of the National Basketball Association.

An aside: Details of Williams’ fascinating life in sports and oil exploration are included in a wonderful new book, *The Last Shot*, the final biography by the late and inimitable author, Caleb Pirtle III.

Small world observation: Mr. Chambers and Max Williams were cousins!

The late Fred Sanner, Abilene Reporter-News sports editor, called Chambers “the dean of Texas High School Basketball Coaches.” High praise from a sportswriter who “called ‘em the way he saw ‘em.”

By all accounts, Chambers deserved every accolade. DeBusk summed it up well. “Players learned the game from Coach Chambers, who taught life, honor and dignity first. To all who knew him, it was the ‘gospel according to Chambers.”

A stroke claimed the beloved educator in 1975 at age 80.....

*Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues his regimen of writing and speaking. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com . Facebook: Don Newbury*

## SPECIAL

from page A3

SNAP benefits delayed, the Texas Tribune reported. The state has been rechecking the eligibility of every person in the program, and the logjam has resulted in hundreds of thousands losing their healthcare coverage, largely due to procedural errors.

Those most affected are children, women who recently gave birth, and disabled adults.

“Every parent worries about their child getting hurt or seriously ill,” Michelle Castillo, deputy director for the nonprofit Children’s Defense Fund, said at a news conference. “That fear is magnified when your child’s Medicaid case is in limbo.”

Eligibility for SNAP benefits have also been slowed, with the waiting period now 100 days in Texas. The federal standard is 30 days.

### Texas leads nation in oil-industry deaths

Texas is well known as the nation’s largest oil producer. It also leads the nation in deaths related to oil and gas extraction, according to a report in the Texas Standard. Between 2014 through 2019, there were 460 deaths in the industry nationwide, and 219 of the fatalities occurred in Texas — nearly half. That’s according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Our goal is to have zero safety incidents, and we work toward that every day, but work in our industry is challenging and can be dangerous if proper safety protocols are not followed,” said Stephen Robertson of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

*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, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.*



Dear Aleo ISD Community,

The Aleo ISD Board of Trustees took the second of two important actions in the last two weeks on Monday regarding the Texas legislature and fighting for Texas public schools. We believe this is very important for our community to know and to follow along with as the Texas Legislature will be meeting in a special session beginning October 9 that will likely be focused on public schools and could have a significant impact on Aleo ISD.

During a special called meeting on Monday, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to join a lawsuit with more than 100 districts statewide over TEA ratings, and on September 19, we unanimously passed a resolution against taxpayer-funded private school vouchers.

The lawsuit, filed initially by Kingsville ISD, is in response to the TEA substantially changing the accountability rating system, making the 2023 ratings based on a different set of rules than the 2022 ratings. The measures and methods used to rate school districts has yet to be finalized and therefore wasn’t - and still hasn’t been - provided to school districts before the 2022-2023 school year, which is a violation of state law. In addition, state law requires the Texas Commissioner of



## GuestColumn

Education to release state accountability ratings for districts and schools by August 15 of each year, which did not occur.

The TEA was set to release the 2023 ratings on September 28 but announced on September 12 that they would delay their release “to conduct further analyses of the growth data” and make adjustments as necessary. Aleo ISD and districts across the state may see their ratings significantly change this year despite seeing growth in student results.

“In my eyes, what the TEA is doing is misrepresenting the performance of our students and the work of our teachers,” Board President Forrest Collins said. “While this is a specific lawsuit targeting [accountability], for me it’s about so much more [including] the loss of control we have over our independent school district because the state is taking that control. To me, it’s enough is enough. We have had enough.”

We made it clear on Monday that our district and staff as well as the Aleo ISD community hold very high standards for how Aleo schools serve children. That’s what we call Growing Greatness.

Jennifer Taylor said at the meeting, “We don’t shy away from high standards and we’re not scared to raise the bar on our students and how they perform,” she said. “That is how we’re growing greatness here in this district. What we don’t do is expect our children to perform to an invisible standard, one that doesn’t exist yet, and we don’t want to do that to our teachers either.”

During the September 19 regular board meeting, Trustees passed a resolution against taxpayer-funded private school vouchers. In the resolution, we point out as reasons we are against vouchers:

- Private schools are not required to meet the same academic standards as public schools, and they do not report test results, graduation rates and other performance measures to the public.
- Education savings accounts and other voucher schemes eliminate public accountability of schools and tax dollars.
- Texas parents who accept a voucher would lose out on a long list of important parental rights outlined in the Texas Education Code and in federal law, especially protections for students receiving special education services.

Diverting funds away from an already-underfunded Texas public school system into a voucher system will have a ripple effect on our Aleo schools in many ways. We urge you to stay aware as the work of lawmakers in this special session unfolds.

We have been and will continue to advocate for our school children and staff in Aleo ISD. We hope you will join us in making sure that we all have the ability to continue growing greatness in this community.

All in,  
*Forrest Collins, Board President*  
*Jessica Brown, Board Vice President*  
*David Lear, Board Secretary*  
*Jennifer Loftin, Trustee*  
*Jennifer Taylor, Trustee*  
*Zach Tarrant, Trustee*  
*Hoyt Harris, Trustee*

### LETTERS POLICY

The Community News welcomes letters from readers on topics of local interest. Letters should be signed and should be limited to approximately 300 words. Please include a telephone number or other contact information so the identity of the letter writer can be verified. Send letters to The Community News, P.O. Box 1031, Aleo, TX 76008 or e-mail to news@community-news.com.

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# Funny Flyers

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a squirrel???

## Do they really fly? \*

How do some squirrels fly? They don't have wings like birds.

The flying squirrel has a flap of skin that stretches from its front legs to its hind legs. When it stretches out its legs, these skin flaps form "wings." The squirrel uses these to glide from tree to tree.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Animals have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places.



## Squirrel Flight Plan

Flying squirrels use their tails to change direction and even move up and down. They turn and dive like stunt pilots and even turn somersaults! Using their tails as brakes, they land feet first and sink their sharp claws into the bark of a tree.

After landing in a tree, they climb up higher in the tree and look around for the next landing.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Adaptations in physical structure improve an animal's chance for survival.

**Climb & Spell**  
Use the letters on the acorns to make new words as you climb the trees.

_ I G	C _ NE	_ A M E
D _ G	C A _ E	_ A M E
_ O G	_ A G E	T A _ E
L O G	P A G E	T A K E
P	D	C
I	N	O
G	M	S

## High-Flying Facts

Use the code to learn some amazing facts about the flying squirrel.

Flying squirrels can glide as far as  $\blacktriangleright$  feet (  $\blacksquare$  meters).

Flying squirrels live in the forests of Asia, Europe and North America. Most of them grow to be  $\blacktriangledown$  to  $\blacktriangleleft$  inches long ( $\blacktriangleleft$  -  $\blacktriangleright$  centimeters).

Some Asian flying squirrels grow to be more than  $\oplus$  feet long ( $\blacktriangledown$  meter)!

### SECRET CODE:

$\blacktriangleright$	$\blacktriangleleft$	$\oplus$	$\blacktriangledown$	$\blacktriangle$	$\times$	$\blacktriangleleft$	$\blacktriangle$
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 8 9

**Standards Link:** Word Analysis/Phonemic Awareness: Distinguish sounds in words.

How many leaves can you count on this page?

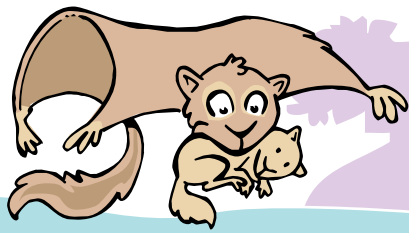
## Mom Saves the Day! \*

One day, when a \_\_\_\_\_ squirrel came back to the cozy hole in the oak tree where her little babies were \_\_\_\_\_, she saw a frightening sight. A lumberjack was in the tree, \_\_\_\_\_ a limb off. In horror, she watched him pull

her four hairless babies from the nest. She knew she would have to act fast!

Not \_\_\_\_\_ a moment, she climbed the tree, then up the man's pant leg and grasped one of her babies in her mouth.

She then \_\_\_\_\_ higher and sailed with her baby 86 feet across the river. She \_\_\_\_\_ the baby up to a hole in another tree. She did this again and again until all of her babies were safe.



sawing    carried    wasting    mother  
climbed    sleeping

Find where each word belongs in this story.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Describe similarities and differences in the behavior of animals.

## Extra! Extra! Long Leaps!

Use the columns in the newspaper as guides to cut out long strips of paper. Measure your newspaper strips and line them up to show the number of feet (or meters) a flying squirrel can glide.

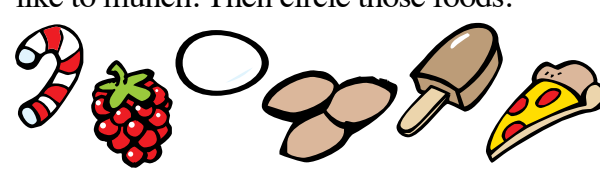
**Standards Link:** Measurement: Use standard and non-standard units to measure.

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## Kid Scoop Puzzler

B	S	E	I	R	N	R	S
G	<b>Flying Squirrel Feast</b>						I
I	The flying squirrels are having a feast, but which foods will they eat? Start with the letter in the square and read every other letter in the border to find out what foods flying squirrels like to munch. Then circle those foods.						E
G							E
G	<b>Standards Link:</b> Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.						C
E							S
N	S	U	T	F	U	S	N

## Double Double Word Search

FLYING TREE EAT AMAZING GRASPED SAILED CLIMB DIVE CLAWS HORROR SINK RIVER COUNT SKIN ACT

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

R	O	R	R	O	H	S	K	I	N
S	U	D	E	P	S	A	R	G	S
R	E	V	I	R	G	M	S	N	A
E	Y	Z	H	N	J	T	W	I	I
E	A	T	I	G	B	C	A	Z	L
R	K	Y	V	M	D	A	L	A	E
T	L	W	I	P	S	I	C	M	D
F	Z	L	K	N	I	S	V	A	R
B	C	O	U	N	T	D	R	E	A

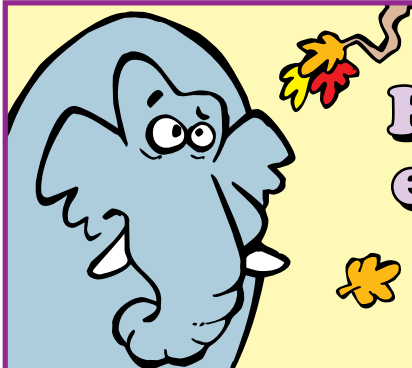
**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Talking Pictures

Cut out pictures from the newspaper and paste them on paper. Write words for the people, animals or objects in the pictures to say. Draw "talking bubbles" around the words to create comics.

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Answer questions about information found in the text.



How can you get an elephant to the top of an oak tree?

ANSWER: Have him stand on an acorn and wait 50 years.

## Write On!

### Up in the Air

Up in the air, it's a bird, it's a plane, no it's ...  
Finish this story about something flying through the air.

# LAWSUIT

from page A1

With the 2023-24 academic year underway, funding has been a significant issue of concern for districts across the state, including here in Aledo. While the state has billions of dollars earmarked for school funding, the Legislature failed to pass laws appropriating those dollars back in the spring congressional session. That failure has left public schools across the state in the unfamiliar position of having to adopt deficit budgets for the foreseeable future until such a time as the Legislature passes laws to fund schools.

For the current school year, Aledo ISD is able to fund all programs and personnel in spite of the budgetary shortfalls by making a 10-percent cut across all departments. However, unless the legislature passes appropriations bills to ensure schools are properly funded in short order, Bohn has already declared programs and personnel will have to be cut before the start of the 2024-25 school year.

"When schools talk about we're not being funded properly, and we're not keeping up with inflation, it's just because that number was set back in 2019, or before that," Lear commented. "That number may be good for that point in time, but as inflation grows and costs increase, everybody's paying more into the system, but the money isn't flowing to schools. Where is it going? I don't know. But it's not going to your schools. People are going to be frustrated, because they're going to sense they're paying more for schools, but we're going to be talking about cutting programs. How does that make any sense? The reason is because, at the state level they are not changing the basic formula for school funding. That's the impossible thing to explain to people. You're paying more. The state pays less. We get the same thing."

Dallas and Frisco ISD's were already involved in the lawsuit. Along with Aledo, Prosper and Red Oak ISD's joined the lawsuit on Monday.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mexican free-tail bat.

## BATS

from page A1

can't go back into the wild for some reason, we offer lifetime sanctuary."

### Bats are useful

Lollar said that, aside from being extremely intelligent creatures, bats serve a number of important purposes.

"The bats in Texas alone will eat tons and tons of insects every summer," Lollar said. "They include flying termites, flying ants, moths, mosquitoes, beetles, and all different types of crawling pests. In fact, the most common type of bat in Texas is called the Mexican free tailed bat, and their primary diet is the corn borer moths.

"If we lost these bats, we would end up paying nine dollars for an ear of corn at the market place. They do a tremendous amount of work for us in terms of keeping crop damage down."

Another important contribution is how much bats save on pesticides.

"We'd spend an extra billion dollars poisoning our environment if it wasn't for these bats helping with insect control," Lollar said.

### Misconceptions

The Bat Sanctuary president said that there are also a number

of misconceptions about bats that contribute to their poor reputation.

"A lot of people think they are blind," Lollar said. "They are not. They can see just about as well as we can. They can actually see better in some ways because they have eyes equipped for night vision, kind of like a cat.

They are not related to mice or rats.

"They are of their own order, which is Chiroptera, which means hand-wing, because they fly with their hands. They have elongated fingers, essentially, just like humans," she said.

They are not all vampires.

"Seventy percent of the world's bats eat insects. There are only three species out of 1,400 that do drink the blood of other animals and they are called vampire bats. They are very tiny, about the size of a package of M&M's and they are afraid of people, Lollar said.

They don't attack people at all.

"So that is another Hollywood, movie misconception that instills fear in people. They don't all carry rabies, either," she said. "Less than one half of one percent of all bats will contract rabies. As a matter of fact, a lot of bats have developed an immunity to rabies. So if you find them on the ground, it is far more likely that they have a broken wing, or have been orphaned or



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

An zoo-rescue Indian flying fox

injured from a storm or cold front than it is to have rabies."

### Still be careful

Now that does not mean that people who find a stray bat should not exercise prudence.

"We do caution people to never ever pick up a bat with your bare hand, because it will be afraid and it might bite and then of course you will have to be tested for rabies, regardless," Lollar said. "So we always ask people, if they find a bat to please contact us.

"If a bat is found somewhere where you can see it, it means that something is probably wrong. So the best thing to do is use a cloth or a glove, not your bare hand and scoop the bat into a box.

"If you're out in the park or something, you can grab a paper cup and scoop him into that without using your bare hands always, and then just give us a call, and we can assess what the bat needs. We have rescuers across the U.S. We will be able to get some help for that animal pretty quickly."

### Put to the test

In March, the Bat Sanctuary was really put to the test, receiving its largest rescue in its history, taking in more than 325 short tailed fruit bats that were in pretty bad shape.

Sanctuary workers rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

"These bats are small, about the size of hummingbirds, and were living in horrific conditions," Lollar said. "So a lot of them were in critical condition. We worked around the clock, triaging these guys and getting them stable. That has been one of our most grueling rescues to date."

Lollar said that most people do not realize just how important fruit bats are to the ecosystem.

"Fruit bats help us with over 400 commercial products, and 80 different medicines are given to us by fruit bats through pollination and seed dispersal," Lollar said. "Even bananas - we can raise bananas on our own, but they have to be mixed with wild stock, otherwise they won't be sweet. Wild stock is pollinated by fruit bats. If you go to the grocery store and look at 90 percent of your fruits and vegetables, either an insect bat has protected that crop or a fruit bat has enabled it to be to be grown through seed dispersal and pollination.

"On top of that, 98 percent of all rainforest tree growth comes from seeds that have been spread by fruit bats. So they are an enormous help to us in as far as our foods, stencil for rope, ingredients in cosmetics, toothpaste, ink, paper, all kinds of things come from fruit bats - from the plants they help to propagate."

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TENNIS

## Racquet Cats end district perfect

Win streak reaches 10

By Cathy Mason  
The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team finished undefeated in District 5-5A play with their 18-1 win against the Northwest Texans on Sept. 26, followed by a 15-4 victory against Wichita Falls Rider on Oct. 3.

Aledo (14-1 overall, 6-0 in district), won for a 10th consecutive match.

Against Northwest, the Racquet Cats won all the doubles matches to take a definitive lead.

Boys doubles: Line 1 Craig Mason/Scott Mason won 6-4, 6-1; Line 2 Jacob Heckathorn and Francois Britz won 6-1, 6-3; and Line 3 Will Beyer and Tom Ruminsky won 6-1, 6-2.

Girls doubles: Line 1 Kenley Germany/Bryanna Orr won 6-2, 6-3; Line 2 Elli Kate Bussmeir/Patrice Loftin won 6-0, 6-0; and Line 3 Natalie Nawrocki/Eleanor Jack won 6-0, 6-0.

Mixed doubles: Benjamin Farmer/Lila Satterfield won 6-2, 7-5.

In singles, Aledo won all but one match.

Boys: Line 2 Farmer won 6-1, 7-6 (7-5); Line 3 S. Mason won 6-3, 6-1; Line 4 Beyer won 6-0, 6-0; Line 5 Heckathorn won 8-2 and Line 6 Britz won 8-4.

Girls: Line 1 Orr won 6-1, 6-0; Line 2 Germany won 6-1, 6-0; Line 3 Bussmeir won 6-0, 6-0; Line 4 Satterfield won 6-1, 6-0; Line 5 Gracie Heydman won 6-2, 6-1 and Line 6 Sydney Byrd won 8-1.

The only loss of the day was the boys Line 1 singles. Craig Mason battled for two hours but was defeated by four points in two tie-breaks, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 10-12.

Additional doubles matches were won by Paxton Psencik/Brennan Holbrook (8-1), and Ibrahim Choudhry/Sydney Byrd (8-1). Additional singles matches were won by Tom Ruminsky (8-2), Ben Kurth (8-0), Casen Freeland (6-0) and Nate Ashabraner (6-1).

In the rout of Rider, results were: Boys doubles: Mason/Mason lost 1-6, 4-6; Heckathorn and Britz won 6-4, 6-4; and Beyer/Ruminsky won a thriller, 6-4, 4-6, 10-5.

Girls doubles: Germany/Orr won 6-1, 6-2; Bussmeir and Lofton won 6-0, 6-2; and Nawrocki and Jack won 6-1, 6-0.

Boys singles: C. Mason lost 1-6, 4-6; Farmer won 6-1, retired; S. Mason won 6-3, 6-5, retired; Beyer won 7-5, 10-8; Heckathorn won 6-3, 7-5; and Britz fell (score not available).

Girls singles: Orr won 6-4, 7-5; Germany won 6-4, 6-2; Bussmeir won 6-0, 6-0; Satterfield won 6-1, 6-0; Heydman fell 4-6, 4-6; and Byrd won 6-4, 6-1.

The mixed doubles duo of Farmer and Satterfield won 7-5, 6-4.

Aledo now waits to see who their bidistrict opponent is next week. They will face the No. 4 seed from District 6-5A.



FOOTBALL

## Does anybody really know what time it is?

Scoreboard malfunction doesn't slow down Bearcats

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Time stood still at Tommy Briggs Stadium in The Colony on Friday, Sept. 29.

Well, on the scoreboard, at least. As far as The Colony Cougars were concerned, time probably couldn't move fast enough as they were humbled 60-14 by the Aledo Bearcats in their District 3-5A Division I contest.

The scoreboard clock malfunctioned early in the first quarter and never recovered - with the exception of somehow working during the halftime performances. Officials on the field had to keep game time and keep both sidelines informed throughout the contest.

"The difficult part was time management," Aledo wide receiver Trace Clarkson said of the strange scenario.

But not that difficult, clearly, as the Bearcats (6-0, 4-0 in district) overcame some early glitches to run away with their 115th consecutive district victory dating to 2007. They also scored in their 289th straight game, as documented by local statistical expert Deacon Barnes of Hank 92 FM in the press box.

With touchdowns on four first-half possessions, combined with Aven Lawrence's 88-yard kickoff return for a TD, Aledo



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Blake Burdine (14) picks up yardage in Friday's win at The Colony.

had a 32-7 halftime lead. It was more than enough to make sure the Cougars (2-4, 2-2) didn't pull off another upset like they did the previous week in Denton.

Remember, this is a team that went into Denton a week earlier and upset Ryan 27-20.

"That kickoff return was great. Aven is one of the fastest kids in the school," Aledo coach Robby Jones said.

Lawrence was on both the 800 and 1600-meter relays that advanced to state for Aledo in the spring. The 800 finished fourth.

Of course, the Bearcats were far from being finished scoring on the night.

### Big night for quarterbacks

Quarterback Hauss Hejny had another standout night for the Bearcats. The TCU commit was 7-of-12 for 168 yards passing with an 85-yard score to Clarkson to make the score 19-7. It was his 12th passing TD of the season with no interceptions.

Hejny also ran seven times for 81 yards with touchdowns of 11, 22 and 20 yards on three straight drives to build the advantage to 39-7. It was his most productive rushing game of the season as he came in with 222 yards and a pair of touchdowns through the first five contests.

In all, the Bearcats rushed for an unofficial 267 yards, including 77 on 10 carries from their leading rusher, Ray Guillory, who also scored

a 10-yard touchdown to put Aledo up 6-0 after their first possession. Guillory now has 14 touchdowns (11 rushing, 3 receiving) and almost 750 total yards (612 rushing, 137 receiving).

Backup quarterback Gavin Beard was certainly not bothered by not having a scoreboard clock. He was a perfect 5-for-5 for 62 yards.

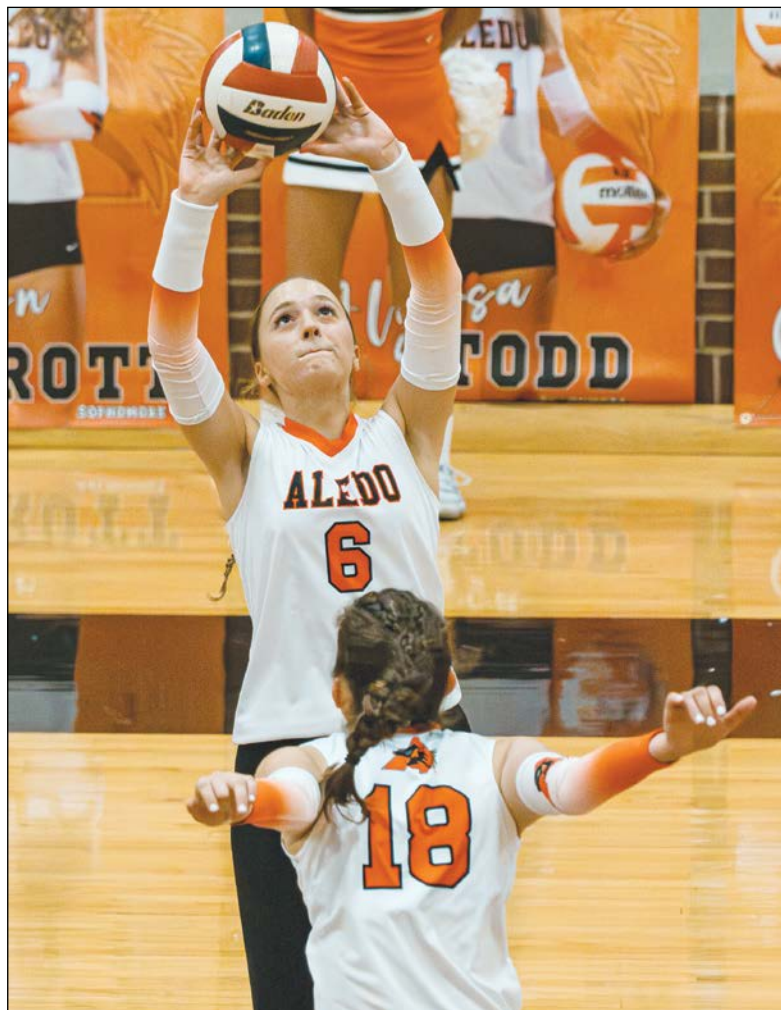
"We were just playing 'til the whistle. It (the clock) wasn't a problem. I just love getting reps and getting out there with my guys," Beard said.

"When Gavin comes in we want him to operate the offense, and that's more than just handing the ball off," Jones said. "We want him to get those reps."

Turn to BEARCATS, page B3

VOLLEYBALL

## Ladycats defeat Northwest



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ava Reding sets the ball for Ella Isbell during the Ladycats' home match against Brewer on Tuesday, Sept. 26. Reding compiled 42 assists on Tuesday, Oct. 3 as Aledo defeated the Northwest Lady Texans to secure their spot atop the District 5-5A standings.

### Hold onto top spot in district rankings

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

It's been a long time coming, but it finally happened on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

After being swept by Northwest last season and suffering their lone district defeat of the year to the Lady Texans last month, Aledo's varsity Ladycats (25-8 overall, 6-1 in district) upended their toughest district foe three sets to one as they secured their place atop the District 5-5A rankings.

The match was a battle of state-ranked teams. Northwest came in ranked 20th in Class 5A by the Texas Girls Coaches Association and Aledo is 25th.

While the Lady Texans were a solid volleyball club the last two seasons, Aledo has been a salty bunch in their own right. In spite of how the two teams should've matched up competitively, there has been something about Northwest that Aledo has struggled to overcome in prior meetings between the two.

That ended on Tuesday when the Ladycats came away with a hard-fought victory with scores of 25-20, 22-25, 25-22, and 25-17 to take the match.

Since returning from injury, Vivian Parker has been electric. In

the match against Northwest, Parker amassed 23 kills, 20 digs, and a block for the Ladycats.

Ava Reding picked up 42 assists on Tuesday to bring her season total to 732. The junior setter is flirting with 1,000 assists on the season with six matches remaining on the regular season schedule, along with the post-season. She also had four digs, two aces, and a block against the Lady Texans.

Along with Parker, Kinley Elms and Alyssa Todd finished the match with double-digit kills. Elms notched 13, while Todd picked up 11.

Morgan Estevez collected three aces to lead the Ladycats at the service line. Logyn Denbow and Ella Meador also picked up an ace apiece.

Haley Lowe continued her dominance at the net with four more blocks in the match, bringing her season total to 86.

Looking at digs, Meador, Kenrie Pruitt, and Estevez all made a double-digit contribution to go along with Parker's 20. Meador scooped up 18 in the match. Pruitt and Estevez added 13 and 10, respectively.

Next up on the schedule for the Ladycats is a trip to Granbury on Friday, Oct. 6. Aledo will look to plunder the second-place Lady Pirates on their home court. Aledo won their previous outing back on Sept. 12, three sets to one. Friday's matchup is slated to get underway at 6 p.m.

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FOOTBALL

# Seals starts, has solid outing for Vandy

## Former Roo's status up in air for Saturday

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Former Weatherford Kangaroos quarterback Ken Seals returned to the starting lineup this past Saturday for Vanderbilt as the Commodores fell to No. 21 visiting Missouri 38-21.

Despite the loss, Seals had a solid outing. He completed 20 of 30 passes for 259 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. He also ran for a 6-yard touchdown.

Seals, a senior, was named the starter after regular starter AJ Swann to injury. Coach Clark Lea said Swann should be available to play Saturday but Lea is waiting until closer to the weekend to decide if he or Seals will open behind center at Florida Saturday at 3 p.m. on the SEC Network.

For the season Seals is 27-of-42 for 355 yards with four TD and one interception. In his career, Seals has played in 21 games and is 340-of-554 for 3,464 yards with 21 TD and 19 interceptions.

Seals played in and started nine games as a freshman, followed by starting the first six games of his sophomore season before getting injured. He did not see game action as a junior.

Seals became only the third true freshman quarterback to start a season opener in the Southeastern Conference since 1972. He also set a Vanderbilt freshman record with 1,928 passing yards and is only the third true freshman to throw for over 1,000 yards in a season for Vanderbilt.

Seals also made news when he signed a name/image/likeness deal with the cryptocurrency company FTX. The company has also signed several high profile professional athletes to their brand, including NFL quarterback Trevor Lawrence and former NFL QB legend Tom Brady.

VOLLEYBALL

# AMS clashes with MMS

## Crosstown rivalry

Staff Report

The Community News

Aledo Middle School defeated visiting rival McNally Middle School in five of their six volleyball matches on Monday, Oct. 2.

### Seventh-grade results were

AMS A defeated MMS A 25-18, 25-10.

AMS B defeated MMS B 25-14, 25-13.

MMS C defeated AMS C 15-25, 25-23, 25-19.

Eighth-grade scores were:

AMS A defeated MMS A 25-7, 25-16.

AMS B defeated MMS B 25-16, 25-13.

AMS C defeated MMS C 25-14, 25-20.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo Middle School seventh (BOTTOM) and eighth-grade (TOP) A Teams won the Kennedale Tournament recently.



VOLLEYBALL

# WC volleyball win streak hits 11

The volleyball winning streak continued Saturday in a loud Betty Jo Graber Athletic Center at Weatherford College. The Coyotes won their 11th match in a row, sweeping Temple College 25-16, 25-12, 25-9.

The Coyotes improved to 21-2 overall and 6-0 in conference play, alone in first place in the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference.

Selanny Puente led the WC offense with

nine kills. Lorena Gomez had 21 assists. Abby Benitez continued her run with 15 digs. Brooke McHale had 10 digs.

Weatherford travels to Cisco College Wednesday, Oct. 4, North Central Texas College in Gainesville Oct. 7 and Southwestern Christian College in Terrell Oct. 11. The Coyotes' next home match will be Saturday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. against Vernon College.



VOLLEYBALL

# MMS sweeps Everman

Staff Report

The Community News

The McNally Middle School Ladycats swept Everman in volleyball on Sept. 28. Scores were:

Eighth grade: A Team, 25-4, 25-2; B Team, 25-3, 25-6; C Team 25-14, 25-12.

Seventh grade: A Team, 25-12, 25-14; B Team 25-14, 25-8; C Team, 25-15, 25-14.



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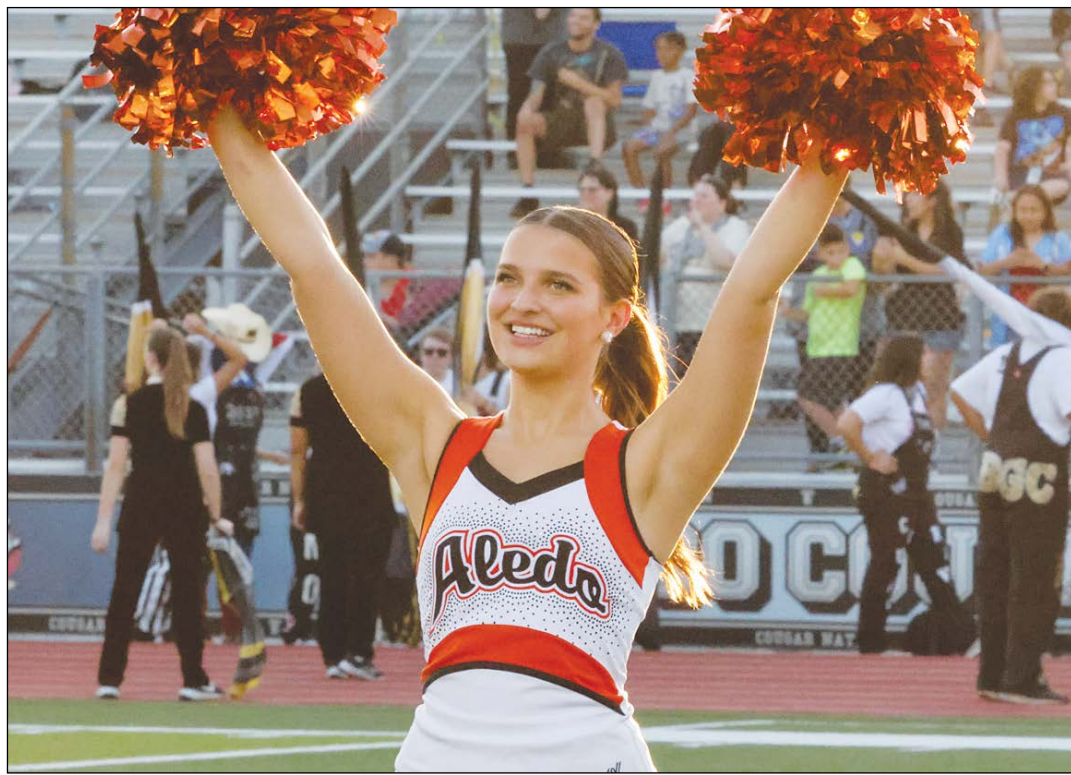
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PHOTOS BY BRELEIGH MAYER



# LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



**Morgan Estevez**  
**Volleyball**

The junior defensive specialist had 10 digs, but was also a standout on offense with three aces served, as the Ladycats defeated Justin Northwest 3-0 on Tuesday, Oct. 3 to take over first place in District 5-5A.

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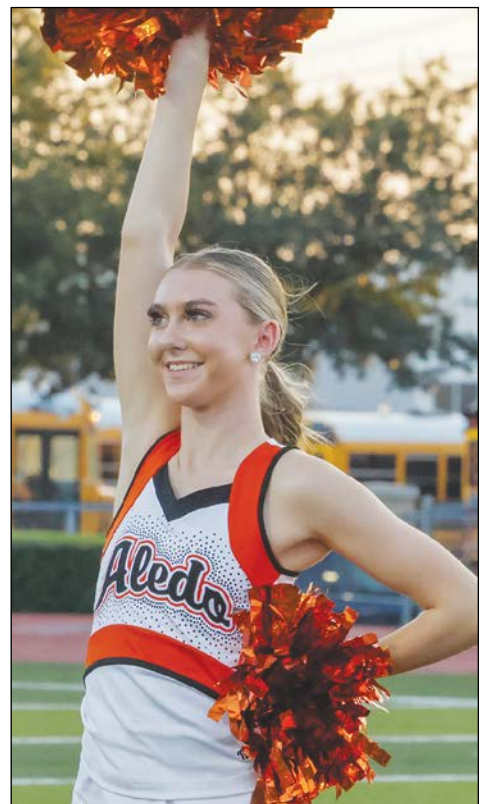
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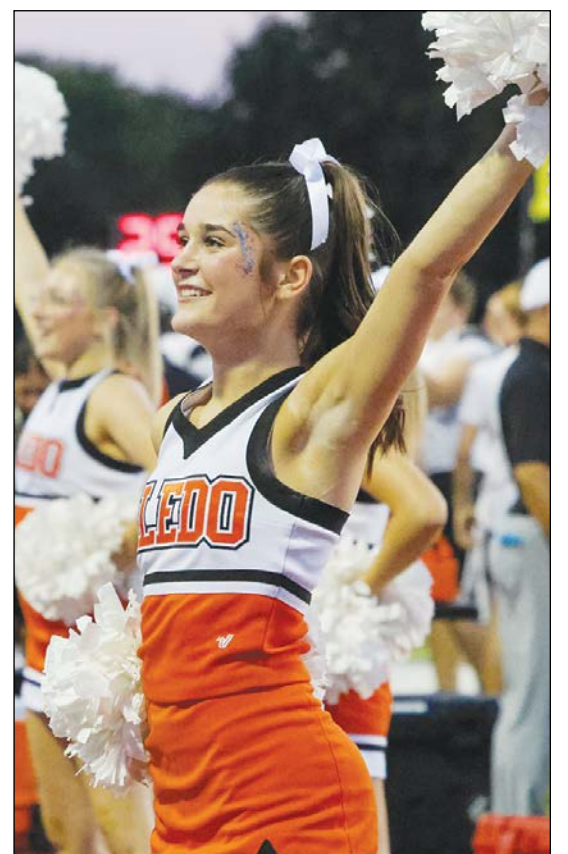


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# BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



**Aven Lawrence**  
**Football**

The senior provided a big highlight in Friday's 60-14 victory at The Colony. His 88-yard kickoff return gave the Bearcats a 12-7 lead they never relinquished.

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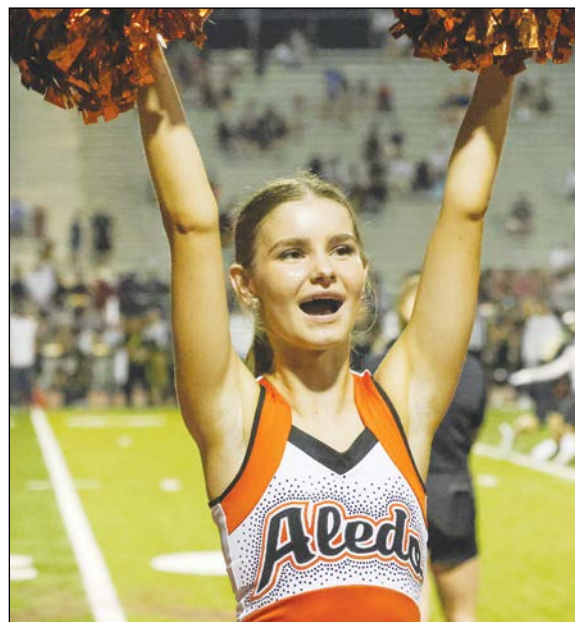
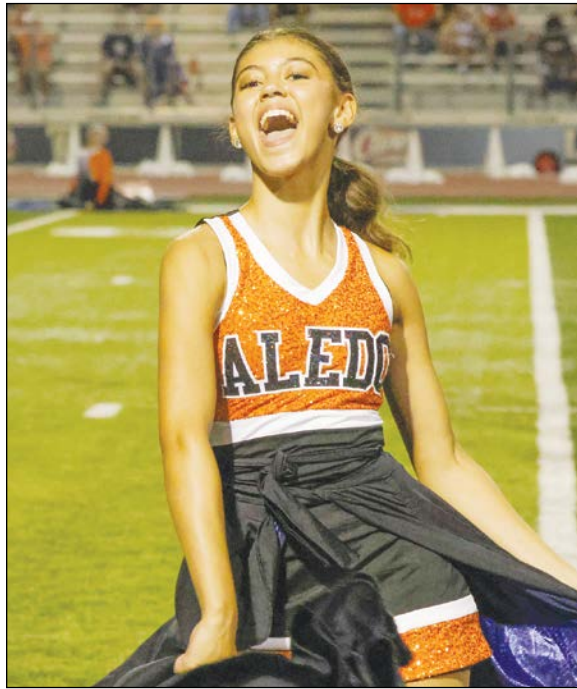
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**Bid # PW-2024-001**

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City Staff will begin reading the bids at 2:01 p.m.  
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Bid documents may be obtained without charge at the City of Aledo City Hall, 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, Texas 76008. Bid documents will be ready for pickup on and after **October 6, 2023**. Request for Bid documents may also be downloaded at www.aledotx.gov.

The City of Aledo website will be updated with addenda, additional reports or other information relevant to bidding the services. It is the sole responsibility of all plan holders, whether they have received digital downloads or paper copies of the plans and specifications, to periodically check for Addenda which may have been posted on the City of Aledo website.

There will be a non-mandatory pre-bid conference on October 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Community Center Conference Room, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, TX 76008.

Bidders should submit all inquiries and/or questions concerning this project to the person identified below by Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. Questions that result in changes to the specifications will be answered in writing and copies distributed to bidders of record in the form of an addendum.

Luis Gatica, P.E., CFM  
104 Maverick Street  
Aledo, Texas 76008  
817.441.7016  
lgatica@aledotx.gov

Advertisement dates:  
October 6, 2023  
October 13, 2023  
October 20, 2023

### Last Puzzle Solution

### TOWN OF ANNETTA - DEER CREEK WATER SYSTEM

Effective immediately, Stage 2 water restrictions on the Deer Creek Water System have been rescinded. Please call the Town of Annetta office at (817) 441-5770 if you have any questions.

### ORDINANCE NO. 2023 -- 194

#### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, AMENDING ARTICLE V, "EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION," OF CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," TO INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS TO VERIFY AUTHORIZATION OF CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVES TO PETITION FOR RELEASE FROM THE CITY'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**SECTION 4.**

Any person, firm, or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 28th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

Nick Stanley, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Deana McMullen, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:  
City Attorney

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TENNIS

# Racquet Cats eye postseason run

## Following dominant regular season

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

The final match of Aledo's varsity tennis fall schedule ended the same way almost every match for the Racquet Cats has this season - in a dominant 15-4 victory over Wichita Falls Rider.

Aledo's victory on Tuesday, Oct. 3 cemented their No. 1 seed heading into bidistrict next week. Official matchups will not be released until early next week, but the District 5-5A champion Racquet Cats will meet the No. 4 team out of the Fort Worth District 6-5A.

"Our kids have responded all year," said head coach Joe McCoy. "They're working hard. They're playing really well. I think we're playing some of our best tennis at the right time."

The four matches Rider won on Tuesday was the closest any team on the district schedule has come to getting the best of Aledo all season. Prior to Tuesday's matchup against the Raiders, the Racquet Cats had lost just a single match all season, including their rigorous pre-district schedule - and none in league play.

"Overall, our UTR - which is our tennis rating - has gone up," McCoy stated. "We've been competitive. We had a tough non-district schedule on purpose, because I wanted them to play tough matches to be prepared for this time of the year. They responded well early in the season. They responded to being pushed. They're doing well and the season shows that."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHY MASON

The Aledo Racquet Cats captured the District 5-5A championship and now head to the bidistrict playoffs next week.

While Aledo has dominated on the court this season, it hasn't been easy. In fact, quite the opposite. The old saying that "Character is formed in adversity," goes hand-in-hand with character being revealed in adversity. In that respect, the Racquet Cats have faced plenty of adversity while displaying ample character through it all.

"It goes back to the culture," McCoy emphasized. "It goes back to the kids. It goes back to the expectations. Our parents are great. A lot of these kids can't get up here without parents bringing them up here. When we couldn't practice in the afternoons when it was so hot, they didn't bat an eye when we went to 5 or 5:30 a.m. practices."

"I think if you come out of Aledo, especially as an athlete, you are better prepared and well prepared for the next chapter in life. Our kids learn how to become disciplined.

They learn how to be on time. They learn how to work with a teammate. They learn how to work hard. They learn everything that goes along with that work ethic that Aledo instills in every program," he added.

With the fall season behind them, the Racquet Cats now wait to find out who they'll face in the opening round of the postseason. Craig and Scott Mason, Ben Farmer, Will Beyer, Jacob Heckathorn, Francois Britz, and Tom Ruminsky make up the boys division for Aledo. Meanwhile, Breanna Orr, Kenley Germany, Elli Kate Bussmeir, Lila Satterfield, Gracie Heydman, Sydney Byrd, Patrice Loftin, Natalie Nawrocki, and Eleanor Jack will represent the Racquet Cats for the girls as they prepare to make their postseason run.

Turn to TENNIS, page B7

FOOTBALL

# AMS splits with MMS

## Crosstown rivalry

Staff Report  
The Community News

the seventh and eighth-grade levels.

Aledo Middle School and McAnally Middle School split their crosstown rivalry matchup Tuesday night, with each team winning a pair of games at both

AMS won the seventh-grade A game 28-8 and the eighth-grade B contest 8-6. MMS took the eighth-grade A contest 14-8 and the seventh-grade B game 20-8.



JOHNNY LATHAM/COWTOWN PAPAARAZZI PHOTOGRAPHY

Eighth-grader Hudson Parks (21) kicks off for the McAnally Bearcats.



JOHNNY LATHAM/COWTOWN PAPAARAZZI PHOTOGRAPHY

Aledo Middle School and McAnally Middle School football teams kneel after the football game on Oct. 3. MMS A team defeated AMS A team 14-8.

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