

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving Aledo · the Annettas · Hudson Oaks · Willow Park, Texas

WILLOW PARK

Council approves trail plan amendment

Work could begin soon

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The next step toward a connecting trail system that will include Willow Park was taken Tuesday, Oct. 10, when the city council approved an amendment to the city's 2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan.

In January the council approved a proposal by the firm of Baird, Hampton & Brown (BHB) to draft an amendment to the plan to include a final design of the Willow Park Trail System. The amendment approved Tuesday includes a current, realistic, and implementable trail plan and map, officially validating the trail project, officials noted.

BHB Senior Design Engineer Larry Colvin made the presentation. He is also president of the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club, a 501c(3) nonprofit, which helped produce the plan.

"I'm really excited for this night to happen," Colvin told the council. "They can actually plan a development around this trails plan."

The goals of the amendment are to:

- Identify areas on public and private lands that are suitable for trail development within the city limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction of Willow Park.
 - Establish a framework of cooperation between the City of Willow Park, trail steward nonprofits, private property owners, and land developers to create singletrack trails and bikeways.
 - Provide land developers with a concept trail plan for public/private trail development partnerships.
 - Identify bikeways within the city that connect singletrack trail networks.
 - Create a forum to educate the public on the stewardship responsibilities of singletrack trail sustainability.
 - Partner with municipalities adjacent to Willow Park and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to create a cohesive trail network in East Parker County.
- Other trails in Parker County that can be compared to the Willow Park system include:
- Quannah Hill - A 7.1-mile single-track trail on approximately 108 acres located on the west side of Lake Weatherford.
 - Parks of Aledo (POA) Trails - A stacked loop trail system of eight connected trails inside a 436-acre residential development of over 1,000 homes in the City of Aledo.

Proposed bikeways in the Willow Park system will focus on connecting six East Parker County communities.

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 3



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A Sweet Time



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kenzie Madewell spins delicious cotton candy at Aledo United Methodist Church's annual Lord's Acre on Oct. 7. See more photos on page 6.

Faith, friends, family

Chasteens face cancer with attitude of thanks

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Note: There are some graphic descriptions of surgical procedures in this story.

Life has been anything but a bed of roses for Jared Chasteen and his family lately, from an unexpected cancer diagnosis to major surgery. But with support from faith, friends, and family they are facing adversity with courage and an attitude of thanks.

Jared has a business repairing computers and networks — he likened it to going "several places a day and try to put out fires."

Jared's wife Adeana worked for a medical supply company for years where Jared was the IT consultant. That company went out of business, so about 12 years ago they started the computer repair business together. Adeana did the marketing and all the books.

But in 2014 Adeana's father had a heart attack and passed away suddenly. Jared was busy with his work and didn't need Adeana's help as much, so she responded to an invitation from Jayne Dawson to teach preschool at Aledo United Methodist Church.

A few years later the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"We had a small business and we didn't have any money coming in," Adeana said. "And we had kids about to go to college."

The family had a discussion, and decided Adeana needed to get a job for a while. Although she never saw herself as a teacher, she went back to school and got her teaching certificate.

"I was the oldest student teacher and then that next year they hired me at Annetta [Elementary School] when we first opened," Adeana said.

The other members of the family are Andrew, a recent Aledo High School graduate who is a freshman at Ole Miss, and Noah, a 14-year-old who is a ninth-grader at Aledo High School.

The family moved to the Aledo area in about 2010, but it's the last three months that have turned their world upside-down.

Doctors, waiting rooms, and surgeries

About June 20 Jared started experiencing pain, thinking it was in the area of his kidneys.

"I thought maybe I had a kidney stone or actually thought the couch was uncomfortable — you know, when you get older you feel pain sometimes," Jared said.

Using a search engine to look at his symptoms, Jared thought he might have appendicitis. He went to the doctor, but they couldn't figure out the problem.



Adeana, Jared, Andrew, and Noah were able to attend the Ole Miss vs. LSU game at the beginning of October.

At one point they thought the pain might be prostate-related, but tests showed nothing was wrong.

The doctor sent Jared to get a scan of his belly, and after the

scan the doctor called and told him that his appendix had ruptured, and that it looked strange on the scan. He was directed to go to an emergency room.

Turn to **CHASTEEN**, page 8


Hi, We're Your Mortgage Team.



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VP - Mortgage Loan Originator
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You'll Rune Everything!

Practice writing in runes. Rewrite each of the following words with runes. Then spell each of your spelling words in runes!

Viking

Secret

England

Berserk

France

Newspaper

School

Teacher

Helmet

Give yourself a point for each word you translate into runes.

SCORE:
Write 5-10 Words:
JUNIOR VIKING

11-15 Words:
WORD WARRIOR

16-25 Words:
TOTALLY BERSERK!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Answer questions based on information in text.

Meet the BERSERKERS!

The most ferocious Viking warriors were called Berserkers. (That's where the phrase "going berserk" comes from.)

Standards Link: Language Arts: Vocabulary: Understand the origins and meaning of words in English.

Who were the Viking warriors?

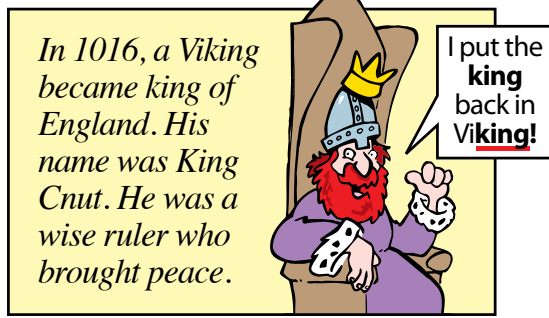
Long ago, a people called Vikings lived in what is now Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Rocks and thin soil

made it difficult for Vikings to grow crops or raise animals for food. The people were often hungry.

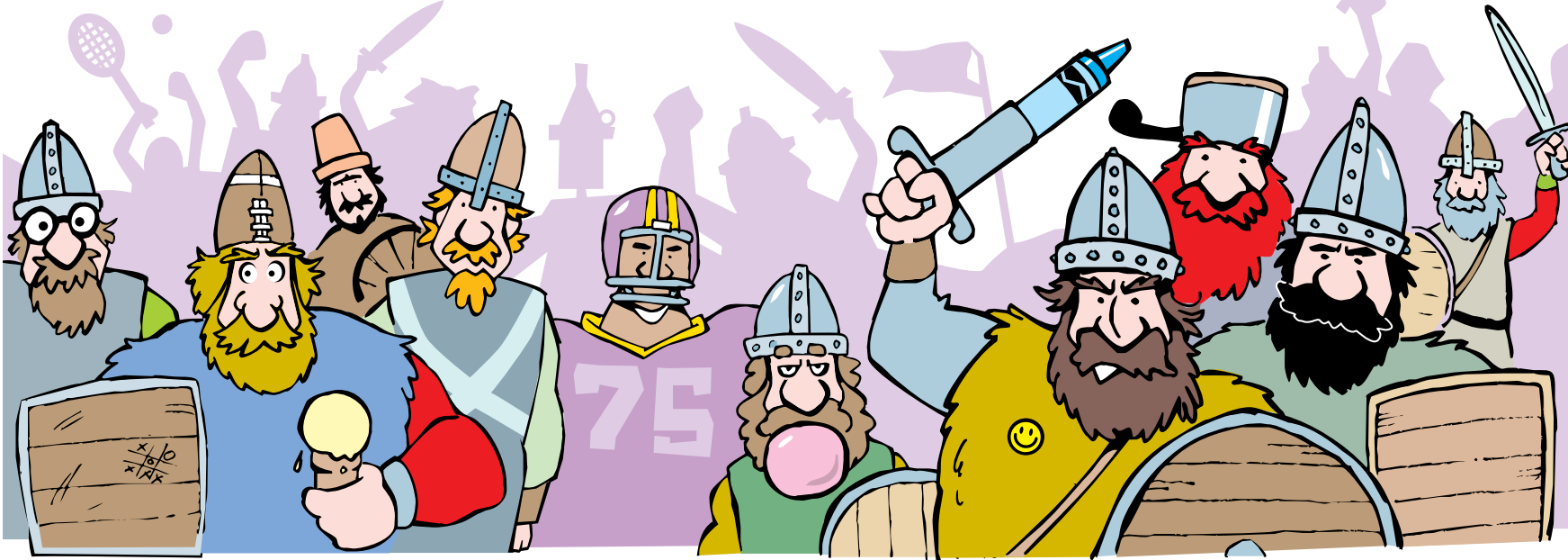
Some Vikings even tried to live in America. In 1002 (more than 400 years before Columbus), a Viking called Leif (pronounced "leaf") Ericson landed with a group of people and set up a village in North America.

They stayed about two years. Difficult conditions forced them to leave.

Standards Link: History: Explain the aims, obstacles and accomplishments of the explorers.



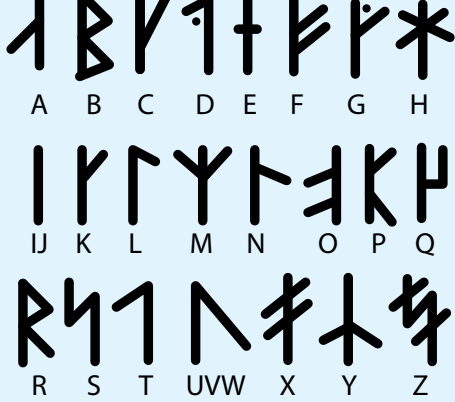
Viking men built ships and sailed to England and France. There they attacked towns, robbed them of food and took prisoners. Sometimes they stayed and took over the towns. At one time, the Vikings ruled most of what is now England and the Normandy area of France.



How many silly things can you find in this bunch of Berserkers?

Rune Code

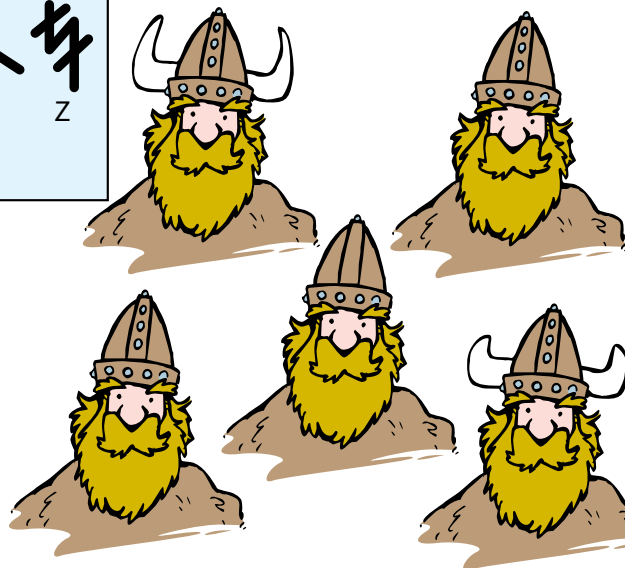
The letters in the Viking alphabet are called **runes**. The word rune means *secret* in their language. Use the runes to find out why the letters were called secret.



Viking Helmets

You have probably seen comic strips or movies that show Viking helmets with horns. But most Viking experts doubt that Viking helmets actually had horns.

Can you find the two Vikings that are identical?



Extra! Extra!

Explore the Newspaper

Search through the newspaper to find:

- Something a Viking might have had.
- Something ferocious.
- Something that means the opposite of ferocious.

Standards Link: Language Arts/Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

FREE DOWNLOAD:
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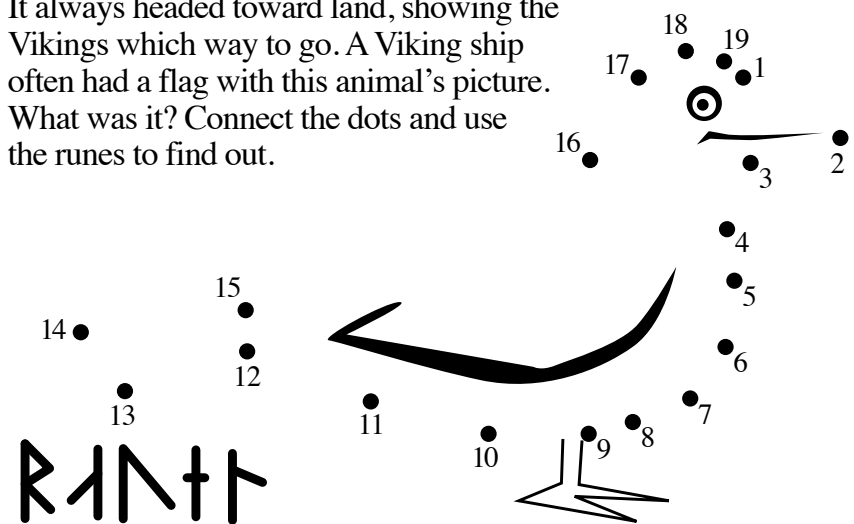
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Kid Scoop Puzzler

Good Luck Symbol

This animal was brought along on many Viking sea journeys. If the captain of the ship lost his way, he would let this animal go. It always headed toward land, showing the Vikings which way to go. A Viking ship often had a flag with this animal's picture. What was it? Connect the dots and use the runes to find out.

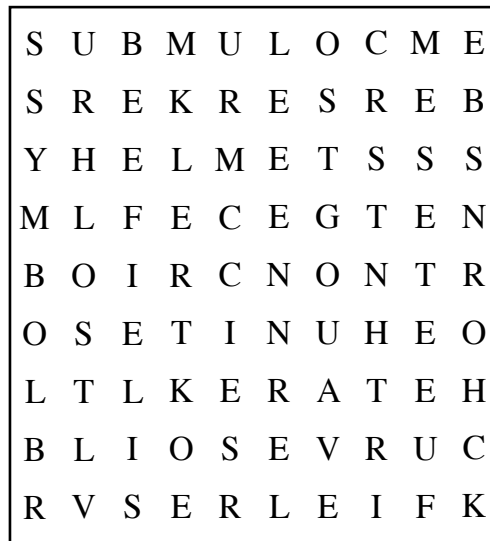


Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- BERSERKERS
- VIKING
- CNUT
- RUNES
- SECRET
- HORNS
- FRANCE
- SYMBOL
- HELMETS
- STONE
- COLUMBUS
- CURVES
- LOST
- LEIF
- SOIL

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



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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
BERSERK

The adjective **berserk** means to go wild or act out of control.

Jason went **berserk** opening his birthday presents, ripping the paper to shreds.

Use the word **berserk** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Newspaper Time Travel

Select three pages from the newspaper. Be sure each page is from a different section. Recreate each page as if it was written in Viking times.

Standards Link: History: Detect different historical points of view.

Where did the teacher send the Viking when he got sick in class?

ANSWER:



Write On! Explorer Report

Explorer Report

Pretend you are a news reporter on a trip with a group of explorers. Write a news report about what you are exploring. Be sure to tell *who, what, when, where, why* and *how*.

WILLOW PARK

First Bank Texas wins statewide “Best of Community Banking” award

State group recognizes bank’s community service program

The Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) recently honored First Bank Texas of Willow Park with a Best of Community Banking (BOCB) Award. It received a Gold Eagle award for its “Community Partners Program” community service entry.

“First Bank Texas’ Community Partners Program is more than just a charitable mission; it is a way of life for the bank’s leadership and employees,” said a release from IBAT. “Zan Prince, Chairman of the Board at First Bank Texas in Willow Park, instills the values of generosity and servitude not only in her actions, but also empowers her employees to do the same.”

The bank’s leadership actively participates in numerous charitable organizations, committees, and Chambers of Commerce across Texas. The Community Partners Program focuses on giving back to causes and neighbors within the community because the bank believes a need identified is a need met. First Bank Texas supported more than 50 different organizations in 2022, with a fundamental principle of offering a hand up, not a handout—resulting in more than \$1.1 million donated.

2023 marks the 32nd year that IBAT — the largest state community banking association in the nation — has celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of Texas



RC_WILSON

Shown at the Independent Bankers Association of Texas presentation of the Best of Community Banking award to First Bank Texas are (front row, from left) Jeff Fahler (Chief Operating Officer), Tracy Howle (Abilene Area President), Zan Prince (Chairman), Jacqueline Gaber (Vice President), and Christopher Williston VI (President and CEO at IBAT) and (back row) Greg Edwards (Parker County Area President), Jeff Cunningham (Chief Credit Officer), Don Proctor (Area President), Mike Prince (Executive Vice President), Don Rice (Chief Executive Officer), Robert Campbell (Chief Lending Officer), Rad Eicke (Area President), and Blake Scott (Chief Financial Officer).

community banks with the BOCB Awards. Community banks, such as First Bank Texas, play a critical role in their local communities. The Best of Community Banking competition is designed to honor local banks for their commitment to helping their customers, neighbors, employees and community.

First Bank Texas is a full-service financial institution, serving customers with locations in Abilene, Baird, Bedford, Clyde, Grapevine, Haskell, Hudson Oaks, Munday, Stamford, Weatherford, and Willow Park.

Formed in 1974, the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) represents Texas community banks. The Austin-based group is the largest state community banking organization in the nation with membership

comprised of almost 5,000 banks and branches in more than 700 Texas communities. Providing safe and responsible financial services to all Texans, IBAT member bank assets range in size from \$28 million to \$51 billion with combined assets statewide of \$296 billion. IBAT member banks are committed to supporting and investing in their local communities.

All BOCB gold, silver and bronze submissions can be viewed at www.ibat.org. For more information about First Bank Texas’ submission, call Vice President of Marketing Jacqueline Gaber at 817-550-8962. First Bank’s video submission can be found at <https://vimeo.com/832331793/a0bf4cfd27>.

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 second in a two-part series.

The Bat World Sanctuary’s Facebook page has stories of different bats, and people can see the inside of the sanctuary.

“We have tours of what we call our geriatric ward for our bats that don’t fly anymore,” Lollar said. “They just recline in little hammocks. We’ll do live streams at night, sometimes, that are un-monitored. People can watch the bats fly around. We also have five livestream bat cams that run 24-7 on our website where people can watch them eat meal worms and play.”

There is also a chat feature that is family friendly.

“We have a lot of people watching from different countries that comment periodically,” Lollar said. “So it’s kind of cool to see someone from Germany comment and see what they are thinking. They’re in a different time zone so they are watching at a different time of day than we do.”

Lollar received the Carol Noon Award for Sanctuary Excellence in 2016 as she was “singled out for her leadership in supporting the welfare of bats as a caregiver, educator, and advocate,” according to www.sanctuaryfederation.org.

It all started with a chance encounter 35 years ago the Parker County woman had on her way to the bank.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pallid bat, mainly in west Texas (they eat centipedes and scorpions)

“I found a little bat on a sidewalk and just fell in love with her, especially when I found out that just about everything I knew about bats wasn’t true,” Lollar said. “Then, just taking her home and trying to heal her broken wing and set her free. She couldn’t go free, and I just fell in love with her in the process of caring for her. I decided to dedicate my life to helping bats.”

The sanctuary itself is 7,200 square feet and most of that is for flight area for bats that cannot be released to the wild.

It has six full-time and part-time employees, and about 50 volunteers.

The Bat Sanctuary is not open to the public, and with good reason.

“A lot of the bats we have here came from horrible conditions,” Lollar said. “Tours are really stressful, so we just offer them a life of peace and happiness.”

To reach Bat World Sanctuary, call (940) 325-3404.

To make a donation, visit www.batworld.org.

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12TH ANNUAL

MARCIA WALTERS MEMORIAL

THANKSGIVING TROT

BENEFITTING **Jared Chasteen**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

ALEDO HIGH SCHOOL

1 MILE & 5K

8:30AM

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WEBSITE: WWW.ALEDOTHANKSGIVINGTROT.COM

The 5K and 1 miles will both start at 8:30am
Start and finish lines will be in front of Tim Buchanan Stadium at Aledo High School

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\$25 Adult \$35 Adult Long Sleeve

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Content Submission Policy

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 or email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information.

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 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.

Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph.

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.

Capital Highlights

Texas employment at historic high, but jobless rate is up



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

For the 30th consecutive month Texas showed job growth, reaching just under 14 million jobs and outpacing the nation in its annual rate of employment growth, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

"Our world-class Texas workforce has grown by more than 400,000 jobs over the last year, thanks largely to the energizing job creation by our private-sector employers," said TWC commissioner Aaron Demerson. "This continued growth highlights TWC's unwavering commitment to fostering collaboration and building partnerships with Texas employers across the state."

At the same time, the state's unemployment rate is tied for fifth-worst in the country at 4.1%, which is below the national average of 3.8%, the Texas Tribune reported. The jobless rate still has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

The higher jobless rate reflects a growing labor force due to increased population growth and fewer workers leaving the state, according to economic experts.

"Very tight labor markets, like what we've seen at the national level, are actually detrimental to matching workers to jobs because it's so hard for employers to hire," said Pia Orrenius, with the Dallas Federal Reserve office.

Hegar: Texas economy chugging along

Comptroller Glenn Hegar says lawmakers are likely to have billions of dollars more than anticipated to spend as they go into another special session, The Dallas Morning News reported. However, though he has increased his revenue projection for the state by nearly \$5 billion over earlier projections, he warns that there are "dangers to the economic outlook."

Hegar said his economic outlook does not assume a recession is imminent, but that possibility is "very real." His current forecast indicates the state will finish the two-year budget cycle with

\$18.5 billion in unspent discretionary funds.

Lawmakers entered their third special session on Monday to consider Gov. Greg Abbott's proposal for school choice, widely known as vouchers, and increased border security. Other topics may be added later.

ERCOT seeking to regulate new industrial consumers

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas is seeking to require large electric consumers to get its approval before connecting to its grid, The News reported. Opponents of the proposal say it is unprecedented and could damage the state's ability to attract large new businesses to the state.

Under ERCOT's proposal, any new facility that consumes an average peak of 75 megawatts would need its OK before getting power from the grid. That is enough electricity to power 15,000 homes, according to The News.

The proposed regulation, which is months away from final approval, comes due to the influx of large data centers, including cryptocurrency mining facilities that gobble up electricity from a grid that has become increasingly strained during both winter storms such as Uri in 2021 and last summer's intense heat wave.

Cryptominers and data centers differ from traditional power users in that they can turn power on and off almost immediately to take advantage of fluctuations in power prices. Some crypto centers made millions of dollars over the summer by voluntarily cutting usage when the grid is approaching peak levels.

"Many large loads that have connected to the system within the past two years are capable of going from full consumption to no consumption (or the reverse) in five minutes or less," ERCOT spokeswoman Trudi Webster said in an email to The News.

Historic funding for Texas seaports

The Texas Transportation Commission has approved \$200 million for Texas seaports, the first funding of its kind in the state. The funding comes from a bill passed in the last full legislative session and is intended for port development and infrastructure projects.

The funding goes toward 31 projects recommended by the Port

Authority Advisory Committee, a nine-member body that represents the Texas port industry.

"Texas ports are a crucial link in the supply chain," said Texas Transportation Commissioner Steven Alvis. "With the expansion of the Panama Canal, and under the governor's direction, improving these port facilities along the Texas Gulf Coast helps support this key economic driver for our state and the nation."

The state has two of the three largest ports in the country based on tonnage and drive \$450 billion in economic activity annually, according to TxDOT.

DSHS recommends getting flu vaccines

All eligible Texans are urged by the Texas Department of State Health Services to get a flu shot as soon as possible. It takes about two weeks for the vaccination to be effective, experts say.

"Seasonal influenza presents a real public health threat to Texans, and immunization remains our best defense against serious flu illness," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford.

It is also both possible and safe to get a flu vaccine and an updated COVID-19 vaccine at the same time if one is due for both.

Approximately 36,000 Americans die each year from flu-related illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Two solar eclipses on the horizon for Texans

There are two solar eclipses coming up over Texas skies in the next six months, the Texas Standard reported, the first in less than a week. The "ring of fire" solar eclipse arrives on Oct. 14 when a halo of light will be visible around the moon but should be viewed through solar eclipse glasses.

Depending on cloud conditions, the annular — Latin for ring — eclipse will be visible in Texas about noon, primarily in the Hill Country and around San Antonio. The total eclipse will occur on April 8 of next year starting at 1:30 p.m., along a line in Texas from Del Rio to Texarkana.

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.

Idle American

Words Well Chosen



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

Sometimes, newspaper headlines are clever to the max, like the one in the Dallas Morning News when the Texas Rangers mauled the Tampa Bay Rays in the first two games of the American League wild card playoff.

There was but a sprinkling of Texas fans in the half-filled stadium, none of whom carried brooms. This shouldn't be surprising, since getting brooms through airport security might be problematic.

The two words emphasized the Rangers' dominance. They also were timely, causing Halloween witches to take notice, not to mention eliciting smiles from Cinderella lovers. I wish I could gift-wrap this observation with a drumroll. Alas, I can't, so without further delay, I extend kudos to the person employing the two bold-faced words splashed across the top of the sports page. They were big enough to signal the Second Coming: "SWEEPING BEAUTY." The writer coining this gem deserves a day off.

While on media topics, is anyone else tired of TV ads that were initially considered pleasant and clever for the first few dozen viewings, but, with multiple runs daily for several months, now seem annoying?

There are several such ads coming to mind, but I cast my vote for AT&T's well-worn ad about adult children chastising their mother for smuggling up to a much younger shirtless guy they believe to be taking advantage of her faster Internet delivery.

He says, "I am Yorgo." Seems to me it's time for Yorgo to find his shirt, button it up, take his leave and head on down the road.

Switching gears.... The assignment may be as difficult as convincing raging lions to use mouthwash, but if someone isn't successful in helping Dallas Mavericks' basketball star Luka Doncic to minimize protests of officials' calls, his best years may already be in the books.

Some sportswriters and authorities may have attempted to charge his frequent outrage.

Turn to **WORDS**, page 5

Thistles&Roses

Thinking about Hispanic Heritage Month



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

Another Hispanic Heritage Month is here. It is that observance that takes half of September and half of October. I don't think that this month gets the attention it deserves.

Although I was born and raised in the Metroplex, I was always interested in learning Spanish and Hispanic culture. I began learning when I was 12,

really almost too late, but there were no Spanish classes in the local public schools until seventh grade in what was called junior high. Eventually I earned a Spanish degree from Texas Christian University. After I became an attorney, I discovered that there were many opportunities for Spanish speaking lawyers. For many years, I had a contract with the Mexican government defending Mexican nationals facing the death penalty. I have many Hispanic friends and relatives, so I understand and embrace the culture.

I recently discovered a new to me fact that makes me think that everyone should start paying attention to Mexico.

Why? It is a matter of dollars and sense. No, that is not a misprint. Mexico this year, 2023, became the United States' number one trading partner, passing China and Canada. The Mexican currency is one of the strongest in the world. This is according to an Aug. 20, 2023 report by Luis Torres, a senior analyst with the U.S. Federal Reserve in Dallas. A Sept. 11, 2023 Bloomberg report confirms the data. Billions of dollars are exchanged between the U.S. and Mexico. It makes sense to treat our neighbor to the south with respect.

In previous columns, I chronicled reports by many studies just how many billions of dollars that illegal migrants contribute to the Texas economy. They contribute

millions more than they receive in education and social services. Texas would face a serious recession if all of them were deported.

According to Sonia Nazario, in her documentary book, Enrique's Journey, Mexico detains many aliens that cross their southern border and Mexico deports them back to its southern border, before they can cross Mexico to the U.S. border. Mexico has as many problems as the U.S. dealing with the flow of humanity looking for a better life. Nazario spoke at the Aledo United Methodist Church about her book that won numerous awards and was made into a documentary movie.

Many migrants get through. Many are Venezuelans and Central

Turn to **MONTH**, page 5

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks from Ex-Students

The Aledo Ex-Students Association board members would like to say THANKS for helping us have a great year. We had about 78 ex-students and guests attend the banquet. Monetary donations and our silent auction will enable us to present scholarships to three graduates of the Aledo High School, Class of 2024. These scholarships are given in memory of Jimmy Jackson and Don Homsley, who gave their lives in Vietnam, and Paul Kim, another graduate who died in Ukraine.

Any ex-student not receiving information on the banquet and would like to do so, please send your name and address to P. O. Box 737, Aledo, Texas 76008.

If we have inadvertently left your name off the following list, please accept our apologies.

THANKS again, especially to the following generous supporters: ACE Hardware, Aledo Athletic Club, Aledo High School, Big Burger, Blue Jasmine (Hudson Oaks), Boo Rays of Hudson Oaks, Clear Fork Materials, Dehnisch Construction Group, Inc., Dillard Feed (Weatherford), Doss Heritage Center, Fire Oak Grill, Hofbrau Steak & Grill House, Home Depot (Weatherford), Lavendar Nails, Lazy J Ranch Wear, Logans Roadhouse, Mesquite Pit (Weatherford), Moss Insurance Group (Aledo), Mr. Jim's Pizza (Aledo), Nykaza's Auto Repair (Steve Green), Parker County

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MONTH

from page 4

Americans and Colombians as well as Mexicans fleeing the chaos of their counties. If we could find the moral will to address the basic issues of poverty, oppression, hopelessness, that these migrants are suffering, we could change that. Most of them just want a job and a chance for a better life, just like our ancestors did.

Many migrants are and have been deported immediately by the

presidents of both parties. This should not be a partisan issue.

Another real issue that is rarely addressed — we make it nearly impossible for them legally to enter. When faced with the prospects of feeding their families, they come in illegally out of desperation.

What would we do for our families if faced with such a dire situation? If it meant feeding my family, no border created by men and governments could stop me. I think virtually every one of us would do the same.

How many of us could walk from Texas to Venezuela or Colombia, Guatemala, or Honduras carrying our children with only the shirts on our backs?

So maybe we should contemplate Hispanic Heritage Month in a new way. If we really want to, by the grace of God, we can find humane ways to secure our border with Mexico that benefits both countries.

It makes moral and economic sense.



WORDS

from page 4

They probably finally give in, charging his youth to be at the root of his outbursts.

He seems to be getting older without getting wiser. By now, he should realize that his childish conduct not only hurts himself and his team. Officials tire of his antics, and so do fans.

Years ago, a church bulletin with asterisks indicated points in the service when "ushers may seat persons arriving late."

This "welcome" seemed a bit frigid to worshipers who may be running a few minutes late, even if with good reason. I'm sure such attention to the tardy arrivals didn't sit well.

Sure enough, at the same church a few weeks later, the same message was conveyed in a subtle

manner. "Ushers may seat those who are waiting."

Concerning arrivals, it was amusing recently to read of a guy pleading for admission to a Philadelphia Phillies' baseball game with his "emotional support" creature in tow.

It was harnessed, and the owner seemed flummoxed that he'd have to leave his emotional support at the gate.

Definition of what constitutes an acceptable "emotional support animal"—okay, in this case, reptile—taxes credulity to the limit. How'd you like to be seated next to an alligator, not even knowing which team he (or she) is rooting for?

Finally, here's a vivid memory of the fast-talking I once employed to get on a puddle-jumping airplane. I was jangled by fellow passengers who no doubt made the flight

often, joking about betting on the plane's arrival. "Time or odds?" one asked.

I was surprised that all passengers had to step on scales for "weigh-in." No problem, I figured, since I was carrying only a suit bag containing a tuxedo needed for the out-of-state speaking engagement.

"You can board, but your carry-on will need to be on a later flight," the guy said. I explained that the tux was needed for a speaking engagement a few hours later. A kind fellow passenger agreed to leave his carry-on, so the day was saved. I invited him to dinner, but he declined. Alas, my speaking reputation must have preceded me.

Dr. Newbury, long-time university president, continues to write weekly and maintain a speaking schedule. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.



COUNCIL

from page one

They are Aledo, Annetta, Annetta North, Willow Park, Hudson Oaks and Weatherford, ultimately creating a trail to connect downtown Aledo to Lake Weatherford.

The amendment priorities include:

- Construct the Kings Gate Park mountain bike trail and kids skills area by the end of 2023.
 - *Secure a trail connection across the Clear Fork of the Trinity River south of Interstate 20.
 - *Connect Kings Gate Park with the proposed Standard Service restaurant via a trail connection under the Interstate 20/Clear Fork Trinity River bridge.
 - Connect Kings Gate Road and Ranch House Road via the Squaw Creek Trail plan.
 - Connect Meadows Place Drive and Royal View Court with a bikeway.
 - Advocate for more bikeways to connect Interstate 20 business/commercial district with the Crown Road bikeway.
 - Establish a minimum setback limit of bikeways from the Clear Fork River.
 - Meet with Brazos Electric to discuss the trails plan.
 - Meet with the large private property owners to discuss the trails plan.
 - Secure a 150-acre or larger tract to construct a 10-plus mile singletrack trail.
 - Establish protocols for the transfer of property via Texas Parks & Wildlife Department conservation easements or public land trust.
 - Establish an East Parker County Trail (EPCoT) committee with representatives from each of the six communities.
 - Support the City of Weatherford's efforts to construct the Lake Weatherford Trail.
 - Install signage along EPCoT route directing bicyclists between Quanah Hill and the POA Trails.
 - Funding: Find trail champions within the citizen, business, and wellness community of East Parker County.
 - Create a nonprofit foundation to support trail development in East Parker County (think Streams and Valleys).
- In all, the trail system will be a 26-mile route, Colvin said. He noted that it can be traveled virtually now. "I can upload it into my phone and we can go virtually hike this trail tonight," he said.

Colvin also said hopes are to start work at the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024.

"Our goal is to build this trail with no city tax dollars," he said.

King's Gate Bridge

The council approved an advance funding agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to widen the King's Gate Road Bridge over Clear Fork Trinity River.

The bridge is included in the off-state system federal-aid Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program.

The State of Texas, acting through TxDOT and the City of Willow Park, executed an advance funding agreement on March 10, 2021, for work on the bridge. City officials said it has become necessary to amend the agreement to match the width added to King's Gate Road.

The usual fund participation ratio for projects on such a program is 80% federal, 10% state and 10% local government. The local match is \$184,412.

However, the Texas Administrative Code provides conditions that the local match can be waived with an agreement by the local government to perform or make sure work is done in an equivalent dollar amount of structural improvement work on other deficient bridges or deficient main lane cross-drainage structures within its jurisdiction. This is known as an "equivalent-match project."

To fulfill this equivalency match for the waiver, the city is spending approximately \$273,000 on work on Ranch House Road.

All other provisions of the original agreement are unchanged and remain in full force and effect.

The City of Willow Park had to adopt this resolution of amendment to proceed with the bridge project and obtain the federal and state funding shares.

Holidays

The council approved the following holiday schedule for the city at Tuesday's meeting:

- Friday, Nov. 10, Veteran's Day.
- Nov. 23-24, Thanksgiving.
- Dec. 22-25, Christmas.
- Dec. 29-Jan. 1, New Year's.
- Jan. 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Feb. 19, President's Day.
- March 29, Good Friday.
- May 27, Memorial Day.
- June 19, Juneteenth.
- July 4, Independence Day.
- Sept. 2, Labor Day.



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Lord's Acre

Aledo United Methodist Church was abuzz with families and activities on Saturday, Oct. 7, when it held its annual Lord's Acre. Proceeds raised benefit youth mission activities throughout the year.

Photos by Christopher Amos/The Community News



Read this story online



Walsh Elementary School student Alexandra Landoli paints a heart on the back of her "I Love You" pumpkin.



Vandagriff Elementary School student Ellie Kerr receives face art from volunteer Madie Madewell.



Steve and Sally Bond carry a custom coffee table which was donated to the live auction.



Craig Rogers and "Fireman Steve" Green, a former fire chief of Station 37 in Annetta, serve hamburgers and pulled pork sandwiches.



Lorelai Guglielmo delicately examines a doll display in the silent auction.



Robert Anderson auctions an Apple computer while Terry Reynolds holds a photo of the item during the live auction.

Let's Talk About School Choice

Join us for a conversation on the unsaid truths about vouchers, school finance, and the loss of local control.

Tuesday, October 17th
6:30-8:30 PM
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Speakers

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Pat Hardy

Retired Superintendents
Dr. Derek City & Mike Kelley

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

16th Annual Parker County Mayors' Food Drive
October 1 - 31, 2023

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MOSS INSURANCE GROUP
705 FM 1187 | Aledo, TX
Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-5pm | Friday: 8:30am-4pm

OCTOBER 1-31
Parker County Mayors' Food Drive
It's time for the 16th Annual Parker County Mayors' Food Drive! There are bags that need to be filled with canned meat, canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, ramen noodles and salty crackers. This drive is for the benefit of Parker County Center of Hope. If you are able to drop off anything needed, please bring to Annetta Town Hall (450 Thunder Head Lane) or pick up a bag for filling and bring back prior to October 31.



This year's event will feature live music from Texas High Road, and many activities for kids of all ages! Meet your local businesses at the many vendor booths, do some gift shopping and early holiday finds, and get a little something for yourself! Come hungry for a variety of food trucks on-site for good eats & autumn treats! For questions or more information, please contact Deana McMullen, City Secretary, at City Hall: 817-441-7016, or cell/text: 817-829-4024, email, or visit Aledo City Hall, <http://www.aledotx.gov>

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OCTOBER 14
Paper Shredding Event
Paper Shredding Event sponsored by the Aledo Community Lions Club on Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. It will be held in the Aledo First Financial Bank parking lot.

OCTOBER 21
ALEDO-FEST
will be on Saturday, October 21, from 1 - 5 p.m. at Aledo High School's south parking lots

PCCC Fall Festival
Parker County Cowboy Church will have their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 21 from 5 - 8 p.m. Come for family fun and

fellowship. Games, food, cake walk and trunk-or-treat. For more information go to pccowboychurch.org or follow on Facebook.

PUMPKIN PALOOZA
OCTOBER 21st 4PM - 7:30PM

Pumpkin Palooza
The Crossing is hosting the 4th Annual Pumpkin Palooza on Saturday, October 21, from 4 - 7:30 p.m. It is one of The Crossing's largest annual events for all the families in the community of Aledo and beyond. There will be a full lineup of inflatables, candy, a hay maze, a hay jump, a hay ride, face painting, pumpkin painting, a variety of food trucks, corn pits, cotton candy, and a bake sale. Admission to The Crossing Pumpkin Palooza is FREE. The only thing to bring money for is snacks, food trucks, and the bake sale.



OCTOBER 22
20th Annual Ladycat/Bearcat Golf Tournament
Aledo Athletic Booster Club-Golf will hold the 20th Annual Ladycat/Bearcat Golf Fundraiser on Sunday, October 22 at Split Rail Links & Golf Club. Lunch will be provided at 11:30 a.m. with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$600 per team with Hole in 1 prizes available and cash prizes for the top 3 teams. For details contact Dalia Smith 817-675-0404 or email daliasguard-aledo@yahoo.com.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS
1 TX Jimmy who wrote "Galveston"
5 TXism: "neon light ____" (inspiration)
6 ____ in the storm
7 Uvalde-born Evans these can't be used to buy TX lottery tickets (2 wds.)
16 commercials
17 Texas danger sign: a ____ an empty saddle
20 TXism: "fair ____ middlin"
21 TXism: "____ kisser" (politician)
22 TXism: "put on ____" (gain weight)
24 Tex-Mex appetizers
29 TX McMurry book: "Lonesome ____"
30 TX Jenkins' "You Gotta Play ____"
31 TX Orbison hit: "____ Pretty Woman"
32 TXism: "racked my ____" (thought)
33 "baling" or "barbed"
34 it's natural at Astros' Minute Maid Park
35 TX Jeannie C.'s "Harper Valley ____"
36 "C" in "CPA"
38 TX Debbie Reynolds book: "If I Knew ____"
39 Dallas-based film: "The ____ Blue Line"
40 Brewster County elevation (2 wds.)
42 TXism: "barking up the ____ tree"

DOWN
13 TX Gene Tierny film: "The ____ of Jesse James"
14 Fort Worth zoo was 2nd to hatch ____ crocodiles
15 sediment carried by the Rio Grande
18 coach Landry (init.)
19 TXism: "____ and hollering"
21 Red River is the TX-OK ____
23 TXism: "____ doodle" (gadget)
24 network of TX "Tarzan" Ron Ely
25 TXism: "his facts ____ elastic" (liar)

43 TX Miller or TX Richards crime ____ is high in Dallas and Houston
44 TXism: "if he bought a cemetery, people would stop ____" (unlucky)
46 George H.W.'s Persian Gulf War general (init.)
47 Texas ballplayer film: "____ Stratton Story"
49 Roy is the hero; Uvalde's Evans is the ____

34 "Polo on the Prairie" is held at "Lazy ____" near Albany
35 bogus
37 Rockport is "where the ____ never sets"
38 TXism: "nail his hide ____ door"
39 stale expression
41 school subject
42 this Keenan played Digger on "Dallas"
45 TXism: "it'll ____ a pinch"
48 Ruby inflicted ____ wound on Oswald

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 27
Trunk of Treat at Harvest of Aledo
Join us for Trunk or Treat at Harvest of Aledo on Friday, October 27th from 5 - 7:00 p.m. Food Trucks, outdoor games, photo booth, and more! Show off your favorite costume and be ready to trick or treat for lots of candy and prizes! The residents are excited to pass out candy to our community! We can't wait to see you there! Call 682-209-0643

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS!
OREGON TRAIL LIVE
LIVE THE DREAM, OR DIE OF DYSENTERY
Monday, Oct. 30 @ 6PM: East Parker County Library

OCTOBER 30
Teen Time
Teen Time at the East Parker County Library on Monday, October 30 at 5 p.m.. Middle and High schoolers are invited to Oregon Trail Live. Live the dream or die of dysentery. Snacks will be provided.

OCTOBER 31
Safe Halloween
Get ready to have a frightfully fun time! Safe Howloween is back on October 31 starting at 6 p.m. for general public. For

special needs children gates will open at 5 p.m. It will be in the North Parking Lot at 225 College Park Drive. It is a free and safe alternative to traditional trick-or-treating. Don't miss out! Please bring a canned food item for admission.



EVENT SUBMISSIONS
Send event submissions to events@community-news.com.

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SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Noah and Adeana visit Jared on Aug. 26.

CHASTEEN

from page one

He and Adeana went that night to the ER at Harris Southwest.

"We spent like 28 hours in the ER until a surgeon came or until they could fit me in," Jared said.

The surgery was supposed to take 45 minutes, and long after that point Adeana knew something had to be wrong as she waited for a report from the surgeon.

It was in the early morning hours on Saturday — they had been in the emergency room since Thursday — and Adeana was getting very worried.

"It was supposed to be a 45-minute appendectomy and he [the surgeon] was so confident that that 45 minutes it'll be fine," Adeana said. "And I'm the only one in the waiting room at Harris Southwest."

About 4:30 a.m. the doctor told Adeana he thought Jared had cancer. He printed out pictures and showed her the lesions. He closed up the surgery without taking further actions, and recommended a surgeon.

As Jared came out from under anesthesia, he was not aware of the cancer prognosis. They sent Adeana back to recovery to be with Jared.

"There's not supposed to be anybody there," Adeana said. "But he was freaking out and his heart rate was high."

Jared recalled that some of his best friends had gone to the hospital with them.

"When I woke up, they all looked like their dog had been killed," Jared said. "I was asking him 'what's wrong — what are you not telling me?' And they couldn't tell me anything because that's not their job."

"I was as vague as I could be, but I said, 'look, our boys are sitting at home. You've got to go home — we need to be with our children,'" Adeana said. "So I looked at Jared and I said, 'We're gonna get your heart rate down, you're gonna get your oxygen level down'" Adeana said. "The boys had been at home for a day and a half by themselves."

"And so we went home. We got home about 5:30 — the sun was

just starting to come up and we lay down for about an hour and then we came in and we woke him up and told him the news."

On Tuesday they received the lab results that it was stage four cancer, and that Jared needed to see a surgeon.

In the waiting room

Waiting rooms can be dreadful places — often crowded while at the same time sterile and institutional. People in waiting rooms are stressed, worried, and on edge.

Even without Jared's prolonged surgery, spending a couple of days in one would take a toll on anyone.

When asked what she felt when she received the news of Jared's condition that early morning, Adeana was reflective.

"I was thinking, 'No, no, we're not going to do this,'" Adeana said. "I thought, 'I've got to hold it together. And I've got to be there for everybody.'"

"So I just thought, 'Okay, we're gonna do this, we're gonna get this figured out.' I mean, he [the doctor] was very adamant. 'I think it's cancer.' And he told me that, but I couldn't tell Jared and I couldn't tell the boys and so I just felt a lot of 'You're gonna have to pull this together and just get through this because it's just the way life is.'"

Surgical plan

The type of cancer Jared has is signet ring adeno cell carcinoma, an epithelial cancer that grows on the surface of organs, rather than inside the organ.

The surgeon they visited had a plan.

"His plan was to open me up and cut out all of my organs that I didn't need," Jared said. "He was very confident. I mean, he's a good surgeon, I believe."

"He was very confident, like, 'Oh, I see this all the time. We can do this' and it was a little scary at first because we were like, 'What are you talking about? They just said the signet ring adeno cell carcinoma is this rare thing but you're saying you see it all the time?'" Adeana said.

Adeana and Jared decided they wanted a second opinion,



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jared had his chemo port installed on Oct. 4.

and reached out to MD Anderson Cancer Center, which opened up another series of frustrations.

"We were able to get what we thought was an appointment with MD Anderson," Jared said. "And MD Anderson screwed my appointment up four times."

"Three times we had administrative issues," Adeana said. "Like they first scheduled it with a surgical oncologist and then they called, 'Oh, whoops, sorry, we need an oncologist.'"

"So the next appointment is two weeks away and then another two weeks away," Jared said.

"So it was July 25. And it was August 3, then it was August 21," Adeana added.

"I was really pinning a lot of hopes. I'd heard how good they are and how many people they helped," Jared said. "Their reputation is stellar, right? And my experience wasn't stellar with them."

In the midst of this experience the family had a trip planned. Andrew had just graduated.

"We asked the doctor, 'Can we go on our trip?'" Adeana said. "And he said 'Yes, you should. Go enjoy yourself. We want you to spend time with your family. Do all the things you want to do.'"

"He said that it's been probably growing in you for four or five years. And going on the trip wouldn't in essence hurt anything. And then while we were on the trip, of course, MD Anderson canceled again."

The family returned on Aug. 5, although Jared was very uncomfortable on the flight back. One of Adeana's students had seen on social media what was happening, and that student's aunt reached out to see if she could help them get into MD Anderson.

She recommended the family drive down to Houston, and she would meet them at MD Anderson acute care.

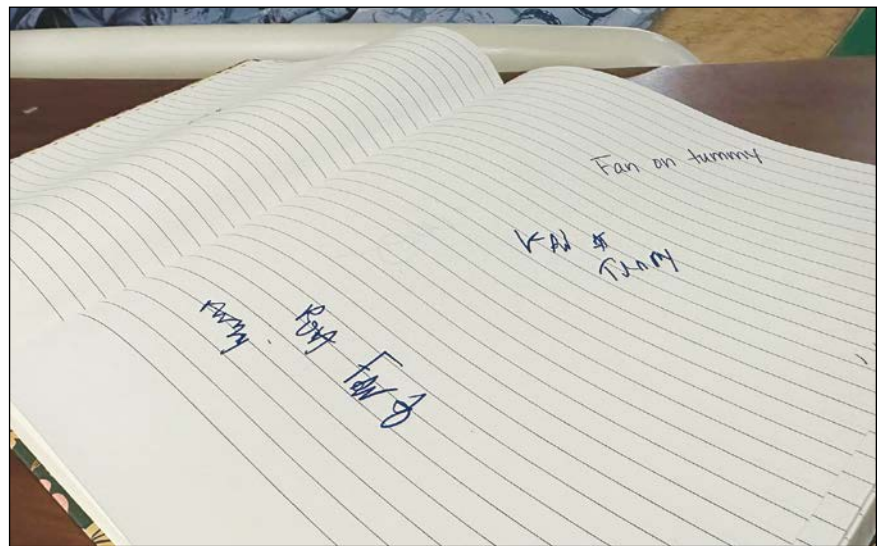
So on Sunday, Aug. 6, Adeana and Jared went to Houston.

Turn to **JARED**, page 9



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

On Sept. 16 the 45 staples holding Jared's abdomen together had not yet been removed. He is shown with son, Noah.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jared was awake when he was supposed to be anesthetized with a breathing tube. He would kick the end of the bed to get Adeana's attention and pantomime writing. She would hand him a pad to find out what he wanted.

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JARED

from page 8

"We didn't have anything other than that one surgeon and he wanted to do something soon, and we wanted a second opinion, and we were feeling so lost and we didn't have any pain medicine or any nausea medicine or any any medicine," Adeana said.

They met the aunt at MD Anderson's emergency room, where it was discovered that Jared had blood clots on his lungs.

"They said that the cancer was not in the lungs but the cancer was still in the other spots, and there's really nothing they can do," Adeana said. So they were instructed to go home and return for their appointment Sept. 1.

Jared and Adeana arrived home about 2:30 a.m., and Adeana had to start school the next morning at 8 a.m.

"And I tried, from Aug. 8, until Aug. 19, to like, 'hey, I can maybe push through for a month.'" Jared said.

But he started getting sick. For a couple of weeks he couldn't eat or drink, and his stomach was becoming distended. He was throwing up, so they found a local oncologist.

"He [Jared] was vomiting non-stop," Adeana said. "And so I took him to that oncologist appointment, and he just looked at me and said 'You can't wait anymore.'"

The oncologist gave Jared infusions and an IV to help hydrate him. He called the surgeon the next morning. This was on a Thursday, and they scheduled a colonoscopy on the upcoming Monday.

That was the weekend they were supposed to take Andrew to college. Jared had to stay home, but her brother-in-law and Noah went to help get Andrew moved in. Adeana's mother and Jared's father stayed behind to help Jared.

While Adeana was moving Andrew into his dorm at Ole Miss, Jared's scheduled colonoscopy and endoscopy did not go well. The colonoscopy could not be completed because the cancer had completely obstructed his bowels. Jared received a CT scan instead.

Adeana came home Monday night and went to school on Tuesday to prepare for the first day of school on Wednesday. Surgery was scheduled the following Wednesday, Aug. 23.

"I was trying to just get through," Jared said. "I was only drinking protein shakes at the time because I couldn't eat."

Adeana called the surgeon on Sunday, Aug. 21, because Jared had thrown up all day Saturday. The surgeon told them to go to the emergency room.



Second Surgery

It was a Sunday morning, and Jared told Adeana he wanted to stop at the church on the way to the emergency room to see if they would pray with him.

Aledo United Methodist Church was in the midst of its Sunday morning service when Adeana and Jared arrived.

"We walked in, and Pastor Joel [Robbins] stopped the service," Adeana said. "And everybody came around us and prayed over us and then walked us to our car."

They went to Medical City in Fort Worth, where they determined he was impacted and attempted to clear out his stomach before they admitted him into the hospital.

"And then things just got crazy," Adeana said. He started getting more blood clots and started having troubles with heart rate. His heart rate was like 174 and blood pressure was very low.

With three days to scheduled surgery, it was unclear whether Jared would be able to have surgery.

In each of the three nights before the surgery, Jared was on a different floor of the hospital because they had to manage different problems.

"The last night he was on the cardiac floor because everything was so out of whack," Adeana said. "They had to get his heart rate from 174 down so that they could be able to do it, and we didn't know until nine o'clock that morning when they came in they said, 'Yeah, surgery's a go.'"

"But even then it was kind of nerve wracking because the surgeon said that I was so distended that he may have to leave me open for four days because he didn't think he could close my skin up," Jared said. "I didn't want to sit underneath medicine for four days and have an open gut, but the NG tube was not able to remove enough of the gastric juices and stuff to get it less distended."

The surgery performed on Jared is called 'debulking.'

"They take out everything that you can live without, and try to

leave as much as you can live to help you have a good life," Adeana said. "And then they cauterized all the little cancerous lesions because his cancer is on the exterior of the organs."

"They took out the appendix, they took out the gallbladder, they took out part of the small bowels and one part of the colon that they had to take out because of the impaction."

Adeana described part of the surgery they saw videos of afterward.

"They would squeeze and milk the intestines — they would bring it out and they would just pull out more or more. They squeezed off three liters, 20 pounds of fluid. And they got it all out. And then they put everything through this machine and scanned it to see if it had any cancer in it. And if it did, he would find the lesion and burn it off. They sucked out all the bad stuff, then they put in heated up chemo."

In that process the surgical team gave him a chemo bath

(Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy).

In that process, the chemicals are heated and pumped into the abdomen. The incision is temporarily closed and the chemicals are agitated throughout the abdomen for 60-90 minutes.

During the chemo bath, the surgeon told Adeana that he got 98 percent of the cancer, and was able to save enough of the small intestine to avoid short bowel syndrome, which develops when the small intestine is shortened or damaged and cannot absorb enough nutrients from the foods you eat to maintain health.

An additional piece of good news was that they were able to close the incision.

Between the pre-op, the surgery, and the post-surgery, Jared was in the hospital 18 days with Adeana by his side.

"She's spent about 18 days sleeping in a recliner — yeah, she's the most amazing woman in the world," Jared said.

During that time, extended family members stayed with Noah at home and took fresh clothes to Adeana at the hospital.

Praise for Nurses

Jared felt the nurses in the ICU at Medical City in Fort Worth saved his life.

"I truly believe that I probably wouldn't be sitting here if it weren't for a few of these nurses," Jared said.

Jared and Adeana shared that the nurses continually checked on him, often even after their shifts were over.

"We had nurses that literally followed us throughout the hospital and all our rooms on their times

off," Adeana said. "They stay above and beyond."

Adeana added that some of the nurses came in for extra shifts because the hospital was understaffed.

"And they were like, 'I'm just going to come in and check the chart' and the next thing you know, they're changing out our IVs. And I would say, 'Wait, you're off the clock' and the nurse would say 'Well, but the job's not done. I can't leave.'"

"They're very undervalued in the world. And they do a lot," Jared said.

Adeana recalled that Jared's blood pressure was very low and his heart rate was 160 the night out of surgery. Their nurse was named Hemra.

"Hemra didn't leave our side," Adeana said. "He had two people and he would run out, check on them real fast, and come back. And the next night when he was on, he just told me 'no girl you got this, you sleep. I got this,' and so he did. He took care of him so that I could get like three hours of sleep that night."

The first night out of surgery had other complications. Jared was supposed to be sedated with a ventilator in his mouth.

"I wasn't asleep — I was awake the whole time," Jared said.

He attempted to communicate with Adeana by scribbling in a notebook she handed him.

One of the things Jared wanted was to know when the breathing tube was going to come out.

He and Adeana knew, because Jared's stepfather had recently had a heart attack and had been on a breathing tube, that the volume on the breathing tube had to be turned down gradually.

"I feel like a lot of that kind of prepared us for that, that beginning of that fight," Adeana said.

"It's like breathing through a straw," Jared said. "You don't feel like you're getting enough and so you try to fight it, so I would try to calm myself down."

Back at home

After the surgery Adeana returned to work. Her mom stayed at the house in the mornings and Jared's family came in the afternoons. Adeana is close enough at work that she can get home quickly if needed.

Jared's appetite slowly returned.

"I actually do eat peaches for breakfast — they had cups of Dole peaches in the hospital. That was one of the first things I could eat. I guess it just took me back to being a kid," Jared said. "I've lost a lot of weight and really trying to get stronger for this next phase of chemotherapy and stuff."

The Chasteens learned that the origin of the cancer was not the colon — it was the appendix, and probably started five years ago.

"The community in essence is a family here."

Jared Chasteen



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jared was released from his 18-day hospital stay on Sept 8.

THANKSGIVING TROT

For all the family has been through, the ability to be thankful is remarkable. As the calendar turns to November and thoughts of Thanksgiving, the Chasteens will be the recipients of funds from this year's Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot in Aledo.

For information on how to participate or register, visit aledothanksgivingtrot.com.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Niece Paisley went to visit on Sept. 3.

"There's only like 200,000 people in this world that have it," Adeana said. "It's very rare — they don't know what caused it."

It's the type of cancer that usually can't be found unless the medical personnel are looking for it.

"There's no really tests to find it until it gets to an advanced stage," Adeana said.

A couple of weeks later, Jared had a port installed so chemotherapy could begin.

The first round has six treatments, once a week, and then Jared will be sent home with a pump for administration of chemotherapy at home.

"A doctor said at the beginning that the outside of organs are very hard to get. But it's better to be on the outside than the inside in essence, but it's still it's very hard to get medicine to hit the outside," Jared said. "Hopefully after that chemotherapy I'll rest and then he said we may need another dose. He also says I'll probably have to have surgery again, so that doesn't make me too excited after the last experience, but you know, whatever I have to do to try to maximize a good life here on this planet, whether it's six months or six years, I mean, it is what it is, we will make the best of it."

In addition to the physical and emotional trauma of a condition like Jared's, there are devastating financial costs as well — both in terms of medical bills and in terms of lost income due to inability to work.

"I spent my whole life trying to earn enough money to put my kids in college and take care of my wife and everything — it sucks not being able to do that. It really does," Jared said. "My whole life was trying to have enough money to help my family and to help others and have enough for my kids to go to college. And you know, it's a good purpose."

"We've talked about just how this sucks, it really sucks," Adeana said. "But cancer has given us this opportunity to appreciate each other, and to say the things that we wouldn't have."

It's kind of weird, but it's probably one of the best gifts I was ever given," Jared said. "I was a skeptical person — not so trusting of everybody. Just, I guess, because of my life, and trying to make things on my own. And cancer has given me the gift to see how many beautiful, wonderful people in the world there are. You know, for every one bad person, there's 50 or 100 that are great. The reaction and the outpouring of total strangers, it changes you. It gave me a gift that I could never have had otherwise."

"It's overwhelming," Adeana said. "We're the kind of people that want to be doing stuff. I'd much rather take food to somebody else or support something. But I don't like being the center of attention. It's hard to receive."

"The community in essence is a family here," Jared said.

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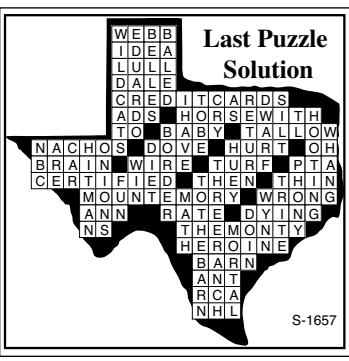
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Aledo will accept bids submitted only in writing until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 to establish a multi-year contract from a qualified person, firm, or corporation to provide mowing and lawn care maintenance services for the City of Aledo and surrounding areas as designated by the City of Aledo. The mowing and lawn care services to be performed under this Contract will include City parks, City property, along with medians and right-of-way.

Bid # PW-2024-001
CITY OF ALEDO - MOWING AND LAWN CARE MAINTENANCE

City Staff will begin reading the bids at 2:01 p.m.
Dial-in Number: 234.203.2766
Conference Code: 680-090-795

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.

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CROSS COUNTRY

TCA

warms up for state

Competes at SAGU event

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

In a warmup for the upcoming Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools postseason, the Willow Park Trinity Christian runners competed in the Southwestern Assemblies of God Private School State Warmup meet at the Buff in Fort Worth on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Gracee Whiteaker had the top finish for TCA, finishing fourth in the varsity girls division. She posted a time of 12 minutes, 18.25 seconds over the 3200-meter course.

Emma Saadeh finished 11th for the Lady Eagles, clocking a 12:42.21.

The leading runner for the Eagles was Wilson Winchester. He was 12th over the 5-kilometer course with a time of 17:37.57.

Whiteaker and Winchester both competed in the TAPPS Class 4A State Meet last season. She was fourth among the girls he was 26th among the boys as their teams finished 10th and 13, respectively.

They are the only returning runners who competed at state last season and both have improved greatly the clockings they posted at state in 2022. Whiteaker's time at state was 12:49.5 and Winchester came home with an 18:50.3.

Other Lady Eagles and their respective finishes this past Saturday were Brooklyn Mathieson, 27th; Madison Clark, 46th; and Ellery Wright, 73rd.

Also running for the Eagles in the SAGU Meet were Marshall Hughes, 90th; Michael Spillers, 95th; Brandon Spraight, 107th; and Samuel Snowden, 134th.

The men's race had 106 entries and the women had 102.

The TAPPS State Meet will be held Oct. 30 at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco.



FOOTBALL

Bearcats sting Scorpions

Play plenty in rout of South Hills

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

To put it simply, the Aledo Bearcats (7-0, 5-0 in District 3-5A Division I) and the Fort Worth South Hills Scorpions (0-6, 0-4) were about as mismatched as Reba McEntire and Def Leppard or Meryl Streep and Pauly Shore.

And, much like those aforementioned combinations would almost certainly result in disaster for someone, so it was with the Scorpions as the Bearcats left Clark Stadium with a 71-0 victory Thursday night.

Aledo ran its win streak to 21 while the Scorpions lost for a 15th straight game.

Aledo has scored in 18 of the 20 quarters it has played in district. South Hills has one touchdown in league play and has now been shut out in 14 consecutive quarters.

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 13



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Wide receiver Jayden Griswold (81) runs passed a South Hills Scorpion defender in the game on Oct. 5.

BASEBALL

Former Bearcat enjoying major success

Bradford picks up first postseason win, earns PCL honors

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The summer of 2023 has been one to remember for Aledo's Cody Bradford. The best part is, it's not over yet.

The lanky left-handed pitcher picked up the first playoff win of his career on Sunday, Oct 8, as the Rangers defeated the hosting Baltimore Orioles, 11-8, to take a 2-0 lead in the American League Divisional Series.

After starter Jake Montgomery gave up four runs in the first four innings, the O's added another to start off the fifth inning, cutting Texas'

lead to 10-5. That's when Rangers' Manager, Bruce Bochy signaled down to the bullpen to send out No. 61.

Bradford threw 3.2 innings of shutout baseball, surrendering just three hits while striking out four before turning to baseball over to reliever Josh Sborz in the eighth inning.

"Changup was good today," Bradford told MLBTv after the game. "When I located it down in the zone, I got some good swings. Then, the heater around the plate [worked], as well. Keeping hitters off the basepath is part of the game. It helps the flow go. It helps you stay in a rhythm. The momentum's huge. The flight's going to be good vibes all the way around. Hopefully we can keep it rolling."

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 12



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cody Bradford made his major league debut on May 15. He has since been added to the Rangers 40-man roster as a reliever in the bullpen.

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FOOTBALL ADVANCE

Bearcats back home for key league contest

Centennial coming off first loss

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

This was expected to be a battle of undefeated teams with the District 3-5A Division I championship on the line.

However, Denton Ryan (5-1, 4-1) had a little something to say about that as the Raiders spoiled the perfect run of Burleson Centennial (5-1, 3-1) with a 35-14 victory in Denton last Friday, Oct. 6.

Meanwhile, the Aledo Bearcats (7-0, 5-0) kept up their end of the bargain by winning 71-0 over Fort Worth South Hills at Clark Stadium on Oct. 5. It was the Bearcats' 21 straight victory dating to the third game of the 2022 season.

While the Centennial loss does make things more interesting across the district race, Aledo coach Robby Jones said it doesn't deter the Bearcats from their, which is to keep winning and capture a 16th straight district title.

Aledo has also won 116 consecutive games in league play, a national-record streak that goes back to 2007.

Still, he warns his team to be wary of the Spartans, who are still a good ballclub.

"It's not a game we can overlook. That's a really good program," Jones said. "Our kids have gone against them since middle school, so there's familiarity. Our kids realize this is a big opportunity for them."

A loss would almost certainly eliminate Centennial from any hope of a district championship. Sure, there are probably some wild scenarios where they could still wind up in a tie, but given Aledo's history, losing one - much less two in a row - seems a longshot at best.

Meanwhile, the victory over the Spartans keeps Ryan, which comes to Aledo on Oct. 20, in position for at least a share of the district championship should they pull off an upset that night.

Centennial defense

Much has been made of the Centennial triple-option offense, which has been successful, but Jones noted the Spartans 3-3-5 defense is equally as dangerous. It features three linemen, three linebackers and five defensive backs.

"It's different than the normal fronts you have rules for. That defense is one thing that's made them a better football team," Jones said. "The triple option is always going to be tough, but that defense

has helped make them a more dangerous team."

Centennial offense

The Spartans switched to the flexbone triple-option offense has been a challenge for many teams, including the Bearcats in the opening quarter of their 2022 matchup. On their first couple of possessions the Spartans had success going down the field to the tune of a 14-14 tie after the first quarter.

Then, the Bearcats made some adjustments and outscored them 50-7 the rest of the way.

In their state quarterfinals matchup, the Spartans overcame a 21-0 deficit to tie the game at 21. Again, Aledo adjusted on its way to a 42-21 victory.

Those two games, along with facing a similar offense against Midlothian in the third round of the playoffs (a 27-21 come-from-behind Aledo win) has Jones believing his players won't be surprised by what they face Friday.

"We saw it basically three times last year, which should be beneficial to us," Jones said. "It's all about assignment football when you're covering the triple option offense."

With the triple option, the quarterback has to be covered in case of a run, the trailing running back has to be covered in case of a pitch, and there's always the option of the quarterback throwing downfield.

"If you've got something different it causes problems," Jones said the triple option.

Head-to-head

The Bearcats are 6-0 against the Spartans since 2014. The average score has been 56-23.

A season ago the Spartans were 12-2, with both losses coming to Aledo. The Bearcats won 64-21 at Burleson in the regular season and 42-21 in the regional final on their way to the 11th state title in program history.

While it was the best season in Centennial history, no doubt the Spartans would love nothing more than some payback.

Another prolific offense

Aledo has had some of the best offenses in the history of high school in the United States, including the greatest of all time (see next category). This season they are having another prolific season.

Through seven games the Bearcats have outscored their opponents 387-114, an average of 55.3 to 16.3. The least they have scored in



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kaden Winkfield (37) had seven carries for 49 yards and an 8-yard TD in the game Oct. 5 against South Hills.

a game was a 38-13 victory against Northwest, while they are coming off their largest offensive output.

The Bearcats have scored in 24 of 28 quarters this season, including 18 of the 20 they've played in district.

Last week's victory was the 290th consecutive game in which Aledo has scored.

Dempsey back

Sophomore defensive end Carson Dempsey is expected to return to the lineup Friday night against Centennial. This will be his first action in district as he suffered appendicitis and had his appendix removed following the 48-45 win at Denton Guyer in the season's second week.

At the time he left Dempsey led the team in tackles for loss with four. He is still the Bearcats' sack leader with three.

"We're working him in. It'll take him a while conditioning-wise," Jones said. "But it'll be great to have him back."

Honoring historic teams

Also on Friday, two of the greatest teams in Aledo history will be honored. The 1998 and 2013 state championship teams will be recognized.

The 1998 Bearcats brought the program the first state championship in its history, winning the Class 3A title. They finished 13-1, dropping their second



BASEBALL

from page 11

And that's exactly what the Rangers have done, defeating the Orioles 7-1 Tuesday night at Globe Life Field, their first home playoff game in the stadium that opened in 2020.

Minor League success

Bradford started out the season pitching in Triple-A for the Round Rock Express before making his Major League debut back on May 15. Following the spot start, he was optioned between Round Rock and Arlington several times before landing a permanent spot in the Rangers bullpen.

While in Round Rock, Bradford made 14 starts this season. He ended up with a 9-2 record while throwing 74.1 innings in Triple-A. His 3.36 ERA, 65 strikeouts, and just 16 walks earned him dual honors as the PCL Pitcher of the Year and a PCL All-Star. Bradford joins Express right-handed pitcher, Robert Dugger and catcher, Sam Huff, as the first Round Rock players selected to the PCL Postseason All-Stars since 2019.

Since making his debut for the Rangers back in May, Bradford made 20 appearances on the bump for the hometown team. In those outings he made eight starts, tossed 56 innings, recorded 51 strikeouts with a 5.30 ERA while earning four wins in seven decisions.

"He is doing great things for his ball club," said Bearcat baseball head coach, Chad Barry, who helped Bradford hone his craft during his prep baseball career here in Aledo. "He's always been a hard-working guy. I think a lot of his success can be attributed to his mindset of working hard to get better every day. All the success he has had and the success he will have, has all been earned. He put the work in here growing up, and I imagine he is still putting in the work every day with the Rangers."

"I'm so happy for him! Couldn't happen to a better man," Barry added.

How it started

Bradford's love of baseball and dreams of being a big-league pitcher began while playing little league in Aledo when he was age 9. After making his first ever pitching appearance he walked off the field telling his dad, who was coaching the team, how much fun he had and that he thought he could make his living as a pitcher.

The dreams that began in the hot summer sun in a small north Texas town of pitching for his favorite team one day have come full circle as he and the rest of the Texas Rangers make their postseason run in hopes of making it back to the World Series for the first time since the team fell to the St. Louis Cardinals back in 2011.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cody Bradford made his major league debut on May 15.

"It's a blessing from God," Bradford said during an interview with Fox 4. "To be drafted from a hometown team, it's incredible to get to play for them. Especially in the postseason, on this stage. I have no words that can describe it. I'm just very grateful."

The Rangers will begin the American League Championship Series on the road Sunday, Oct. 15, against either their rival and defending world champion Houston Astros or the Minnesota Twins. Those teams were playing in their best-of-five series at press time in Minnesota with the Astros having a 2-1 edge.

FOOTBALL

Weatherford takes must-win victory over L.D. Bell

Staff Report
The Community News

In a game they had to win to keep their playoff hopes alive, Weatherford prevailed against L.D. Bell Friday night, Oct. 6, at Kangaroo Stadium, 26-21.

Senior quarterback C.J. Thornton, returning after a month out due to injury, threw the game-winning touchdown pass to Colton McClure, a 76-yarder with 5:10 remaining in the game. McClure finished with 128 yards receiving and two touchdowns.

JoJo Polk and the Kangaroo offensive line gashed the Blue Raider defense. Polk rushed for 122 yards on 29 carries.

The Blue Raiders had some rushing success of their own. Quarterback Maddox Olatunde rushed for 102 yards with one touchdown. But the Weatherford defense was stingy, holding Bell to 110 yards passing and 298 total yards.

Weatherford went into half-time with a 14-7 lead after two Will Jordan touchdowns, one rushing and one receiving.

Olatunde tied it up with a 54-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Bell took a 21-14 lead with a 20-yard score, an Olatunde pass to Ravin Takano.

Game at a glance

Burleson Centennial Spartans (5-1, 3-1 in District 3-5A Division I) at Aledo Bearcats (7-0, 5-0).

When/where: 7 p.m. Friday, Tim Buchanan Stadium.

Returning starters: Centennial 1 offense/4 defense, Aledo 7 offense/5 defense.

Last week: Aledo won 71-0 at South Hills, Centennial lost 35-14 at Denton Ryan.

Last season: Aledo, 14-2, 8-0 district, 5A Division I state champions. Centennial 12-2, 7-1, regional finals. Aledo won 64-21 at Burleson and 42-21 at the Star in Frisco in the regional final.

Aledo offensive players to watch: QB Hauss Hejny (71% completion, 1,469 yards, 17 TD, 0 interceptions passing; 34 carries, 303 yards, 5 TD rushing), RB Ray Guillory (81-612, 11 TD rushing; 8 catches, 137 yards, 3 TD), RB/WR Hawk Patrick-Daniels (42-245, 5 TD rushing; 13-172, 1 TD receiving).

Centennial offensive players to watch (no statistics available): QB Iverson Moore (moved over after playing defensive back last season), WR Damien Long, RB Keyshaun Tucker.

Aledo defensive players to watch: LB Davhon Keys (49 tackles, 7 for loss, 1 sack, 2 interceptions, 1 TD), S Jake Gillespie (28 tackles, 2 for loss, kick return threat); LB Ben McElree (19.5 tackles, 5 for loss, 1 sack).

Centennial defensive players to watch: Lineman Jack Long, LB/S Brandon Sexton, DB Aidan Hicks.

This week's games

Friday, Oct. 13
(All at 7 p.m.)
Centennial at Aledo
Northwest at The Colony
Azle at Saginaw
Brewer at South Hills
Ryan bye

Standings (overall record in parentheses)

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Aledo | 5-0 (7-0) |
| Ryan | 4-1 (5-1) |
| Centennial | 3-1 (5-1) |
| Northwest | 3-1 (5-1) |
| The Colony | 3-2 (3-4) |
| Brewer | 2-2 (2-4) |
| South Hills | 0-4 (0-6) |
| Azle | 0-4 (1-5) |
| Saginaw | 0-5 (0-7) |

TENNIS

Racquet Cats advance

Top North Side in bidistrict

By Cathy Mason
The Community News

On Tuesday Oct. 10, the Aledo Racquet Cats took on Fort Worth North Side in the first round of the Class 5A state team tennis playoffs. They earned the bidistrict championship with a victory of 15-0.

It was the 11th consecutive victory for the Racquet Cats (15-1), who won the District 5-5A championship with a 6-0 league mark. North Side was the fourth-place team from 6-5A.

Boys Doubles Line 1 Craig and Scott Mason and Line 3 Will Beyer and Tom Ruminsky both won their matches 6-0, 6-0. Line 2 Jacob Heckathorn and Francois Britz won 6-1, 6-0.

Girls Doubles Line 1 Kenley Germany and Bryanna Orr and Line 2 Elli Kate Bussmeir and Patrice Loftin also both won 6-0, 6-0. Line 3 Eleanor Jack and Natalie Nawrocki won 6-1, 6-0.

Mixed Doubles Benjamin Farmer and Lila Satterfield won 6-0, 6-0.

With a decisive lead, the Bearcats began singles play with the top four lines. All of the boys singles won 6-0, 6-0 (C. Mason, Farmer, S. Mason and Beyer). Orr won 6-0, 6-0; Germany won 6-0, 6-1; Bussmeir won 6-0, 6-0 and Satterfield won 6-0, 6-1. The match was finished without playing the remainder of the singles matches.

The team was playing Birdville in the area round at Brewer High School at press time.

VOLLEYBALL

Win streak now at eight for Ladycat netters

Alone atop district

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

In athletics there's a great deal of emphasis placed on a team getting hot at just the right time. Preferably, a team will begin to peak just as the regular season is drawing to a close with the playoffs lurking around the corner.

Aledo's Ladycat volleyball team appears to be nearing their peak right on schedule. With back-to-back wins over Granbury and Azle over the last week, Aledo (27-8 overall, 8-1 in District 5-5A) has won eight matches in a row as they continue to stake their claim atop the district standings.

The Ladycats traveled to Granbury on Friday, Oct. 6, to take on the second-place Lady Pirates in a match to determine who would be the top seed in District 5-5A. Aledo pounced on the opportunity as they took the match 3-1 by scores of 25-14, 22-25, 25-14, and 25-18.

Returning home for the first time in nearly two weeks, the Ladycats trounced Azle on Tuesday, Oct. 10, with a clean sweep in the match. Aledo bullied the Lady Hornets like an older sibling, taking all three sets by scores of 25-13, 25-19, and 25-20.

Vivian Parker continues to bludgeon opposing defenses at the net since returning from injury. Aledo's sniper racked up 33 kills in the wins over Granbury and Azle. Kinley Elms posted 26 kills of her own as the pair led the way for Aledo's offense.

At the service line, the Ladycats strung together arguably their best matches of the season. Parker tallied five aces. Morgan Estevez put up four of her own. Kenrie Pruitt tacked on a trio of aces. Logyn Denbow, Sophia Frank, and Ella Meador each scored a pair of aces, as well.

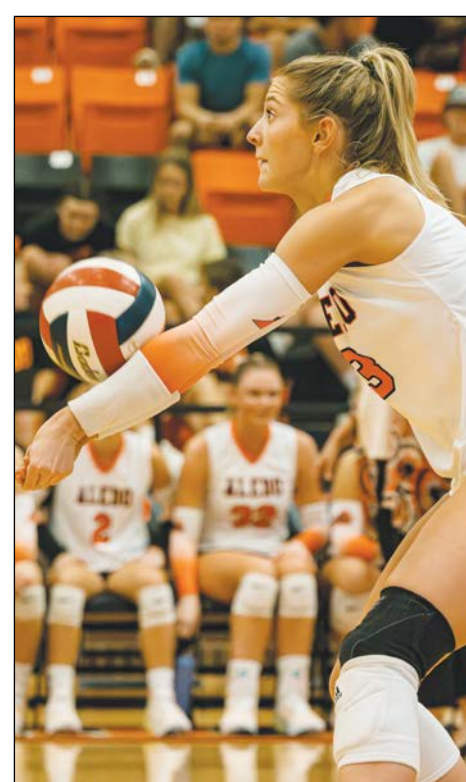
It's no surprise, but Haley Lowe picked up six more blocks at the net from her middle blocker position.

Inching ever closer to the century mark, she now has 92 blocks for the season. Elms earned four blocks of her own. Ella Isbell's defense was on point on Tuesday, as she earned three blocks in the one match.

Pruitt led the way for the Ladycats in digs as she picked up 32 in the last week. Parker added 29 of her own. Denbow and Meador rounded out the top performers in the digs department, as they collected 20 and 18 digs, respectively.

With four matches left in the regular season schedule, Ava Reding is sneaking up on 1,000 assists for the season. In the last week she added 76 to her season total of 810. At her current pace of 8.2 assists per set with four matches left on the schedule, she will end the year somewhere between 908-974.

As the season winds to a close, the Ladycats get back to work on Friday, Oct. 13, when they host Wichita Falls Rider (11-13 overall, 1-7 in districts). That match is slated to begin at 6 pm.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Vivian Parker receives the ball during a recent home match for the Ladycats. Parker collected 33 kills, 29 digs, and five aces during the last week as Aledo's win streak moved to eight matches.

FOOTBALL

Eagles fall to Lake Country

Drop district opener

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Lake Country Christian School kicked visiting Willow Park Trinity Christian out of the nest in the Eagle-versus-Eagle Showdown on Friday, Oct. 6.

Trinity Christian Academy's varsity football record for the 2023 season moved to 1-5 overall and 0-1 in Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division III District 1.

Trailing 16-0 midway through the second quarter, TCA mounted the first significant offensive drive of the game as quarterback Braxton Smith took the snap on a second-and-8 from their own 35. As he dropped back to pass, the internal clock ticking in his head signaled it was time to go as Smith escaped the pocket before finding space in the defensive coverage. He scampered for a gain of 42 yards before being brought down just outside of the

red zone, giving Trinity a fresh set of downs.

Four plays later, facing a fourth-and-13 situation from the LCCS 26, Smith threw a strike down the middle of the field to Jake Anderson, who found a seam and ran it in for the score on the 26-yard pitch and catch for TCA. Following the extra point, LCCS held just a 16-7 advantage.

With the game well in hand for the hosting LCCS Eagles, TCA did what TCA does - they continued to fight.

Down 50-7 with the third quarter drawing to a close, the offense once again showed signs of life. On the first play of the possession, Smith picked up 14 yards on a quarterback keeper before being tackled out of bounds at the 49-yard line.

Three plays later the Eagles faced a third-and-15 from their own 45. Smith connected with Matthew Sykes to pick up the necessary yardage for TCA to move the chains and keep the drive alive.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
TCA quarterback Braxton Smith runs the ball during the Eagles' homecoming game last month. Smith had two passing touchdowns in TCA's 50-17 loss to Lake Country Christian School on Friday, Oct. 6.

TCA capped off the drive with the old-fashioned Braxton-Braxton connection, as Smith found Lewis wide open in the end zone from 26 yards out for the Eagles second score of the game.

Riley McCracken managed to add a field goal for TCA before the

end of the game to produce the final score.

TCA will be on the road once again on Saturday, Oct. 14 as they take on the Lions of Grace Prep (2-4 overall, 0-0 in league) in Arlington. Kickoff for that game is slated for 1 p.m.

BEARCATS

from page 11

Aledo's defense posted its second shutout in three games and the Bearcats have outscored their district opponents 289-34. The Scorpions have been outscored 243-7 in district.

The game was, however, a chance for some Bearcat reserves and junior varsity call-ups to be in the spotlight. And they took advantage of the moment.

"It was good to be able to get everybody in the game. Chemistry means a lot and getting starters and backups together, you get some great chemistry going," said senior wide receiver Jayden Griswold.

Regular starting quarterback Hauss Hejny, however, did begin the game and played into the very early part of the second quarter. In that short span the senior TCU commit completed nine of 10 passes for 235 yards and five touchdowns, giving him 17 touchdowns with no interceptions on the season.

Hejny had a 47-yard touchdown pass to fellow senior Trace Clarkson to get things going. He then threw a 60-yard score to another senior, Tyson Timms - the first of two as they also connected on a 6-yarder.

Junior Blake Burdine also caught two TDs of 47 and 36 yards as the Bearcats were up 35-0 with the second quarter no older than a newborn baby.

It didn't help the Scorpions much when the Bearcats ran the ball as they picked up 193 yards on just 17 carries. Senior Cole Plumbley led all rushers with 84 yards on only three carries, including scoring scampers of 12 and 59 yards.

Several sophomores had stand-out nights as Brady Powell picked up 55 yards on two carries that included a 46-yard touchdown, and Kaden Winkfield had seven carries for 49 yards and an 8-yard TD.

And for a second straight week the Bearcats had a kick return for a touchdown. Sophomore Lamel Swanson fielded a punt and brought it back 45 yards to the end zone.

Meanwhile, the Aledo defense held the Scorpions to zero rushing yards and 77 yards total.

"Some kids got some varsity experience who'd been playing JV all year. They had fans and the band in the stands, playing on a little bit bigger stage," Aledo coach Robby Jones said. "Those guys will be competing for starting spots later."

The Bearcats return home on Friday, Oct. 13 to host Burleson Centennial in a game that will likely decide the district championship. Aledo has now won 116 consecutive league games dating to 2007.

Aledo 71, South Hills 0
Aledo 28 21 15 7 - 71
S. Hills 0 0 0 0 - 0

A - Trace Clarkson 47 pass from Hauss Hejny (Cole Crawford kick)
A - Tyson Timms 60 pass from Hejny (Crawford kick)
A - Blake Burdine 47 pass from Hejny (Crawford kick)
A - Timms 6 pass from Hejny (Crawford kick)
A - Burdine 36 pass from Hejny (Logan DeFranzo kick)

A - Kaden Winkfield 8 run (DeFranzo kick)
A - Lamel Swanson 45 punt return (DeFranzo kick)
A - Cole Plumbley 12 (DeFranzo kick)
A - Brady Powell 46 run (Kutter Harrell pass from Austin Keith)
A - Plumbley 59 run (Pierce Ling kick)

Unofficial statistics

Team
First downs: Aledo 18, South Hills 5.
Rushes-yards: Aledo 17-193, South Hills 21-0.
Passing yards: Aledo 282, South Hills 77.
Caught-thrown-intercepted: Aledo 14-15-0, South Hills 9-21-0.
Fumbles-lost: Aledo 0-0, South Hills 2-0.
Punts-average: Aledo 0-0, South Hills 9-31.7.
Penalties-yards: Aledo 4-30, South Hills 1-5.
Third-down conversions: Aledo 1-1, South Hills 4-14.
Fourth-down conversions: Aledo 0-0, South Hills 0-1.

Individual leaders

Rushing
Aledo: Plumbley 3-84, 2 TD; Powell 2-55, TD; Winkfield 7-49, TD; Ranger Godwin

1-10; Austin Keith 2-3.
South Hills: Trey Cook 14-13.
Passing
Aledo: Hejny 9-10-0, 235 yards, 5 TD; Gavin Beard 4-4-0, 44 yards; Keith 1-1-0, 3 yards.
South Hills: Fernand Campos 9-21-0, 77 yards.
Receiving
Aledo: Timms 4 catches, 91 yards, 2 TD; Burdine 2-83, 2 TD; Clarkson 3-61, TD; Keith 2-23; Zach Reilly 1-12; Jayden Griswold 1-9; Kutter Harrell 1-3.
South Hills: Anthony Ruiz 2-45; Erick Flores 3-14.
Tackles
Aledo: Davhon Keys 4, Owen Henderson 3.5, Omari Din-Mbuh 3, Kruger Summers 3.
Tackles for loss
Aledo: Decker Sanders 3, Jacob McIntire 1, Keys 1.
Sacks
Aledo: Sanders 1.
Punt returns: Jake Gillespie 2-55, Swanson 1-45.
Kickoff returns: Burdine 1-27.

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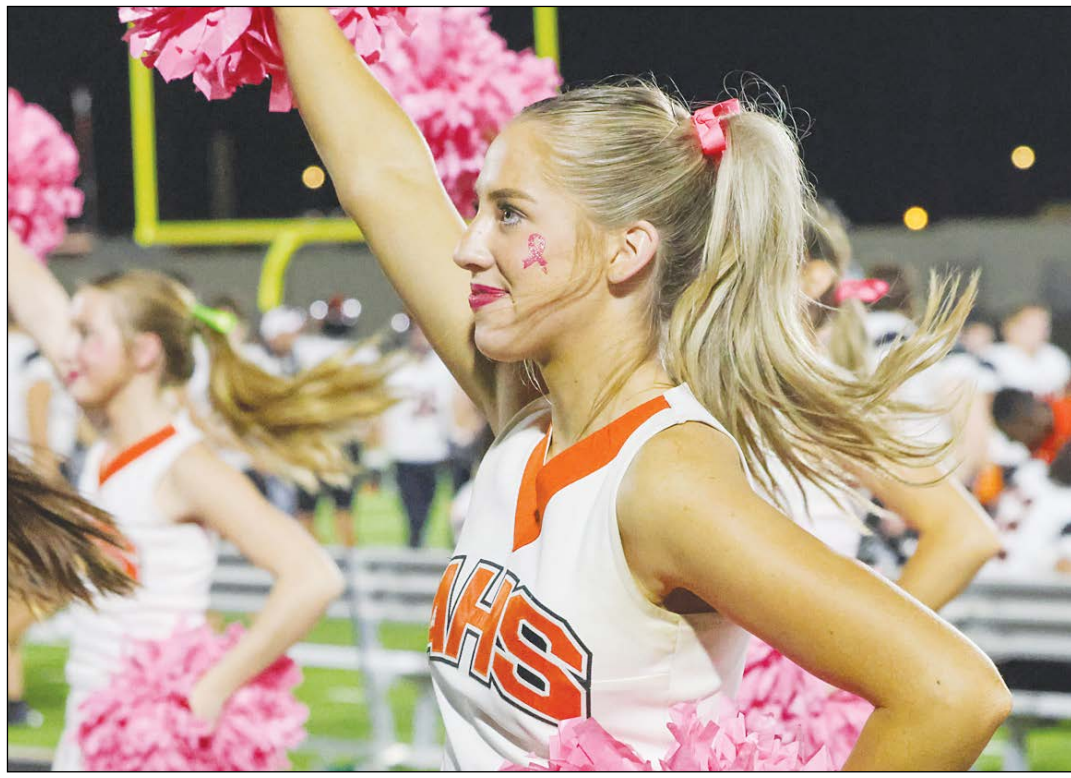
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PHOTOS BY
BRELEIGH MAYER



LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Kinley Elms
Volleyball


The junior had a combined 30 kills and four blocks as the Ladycats won two key road matches against fellow district title contenders Northwest and Granbury, winning each match 3-1.

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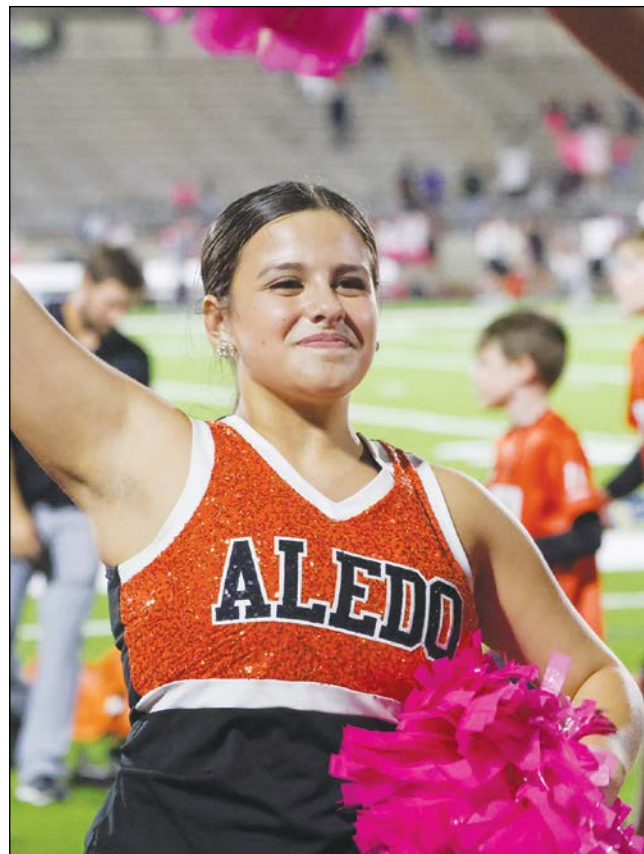
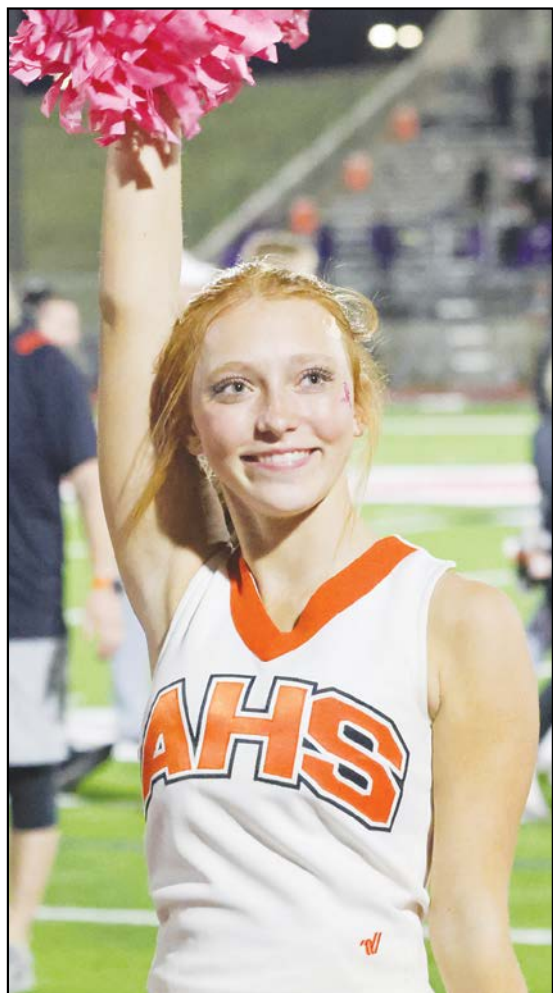
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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Decker Sanders
Football

The sophomore defensive tackle was in on three tackles, all for a loss, and he recorded a sack in his team's 71-0 victory at Fort Worth South Hills on Oct. 5.

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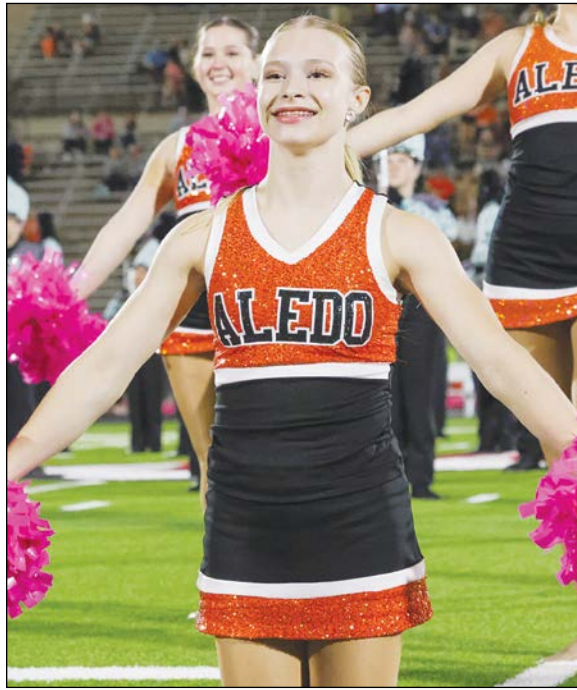
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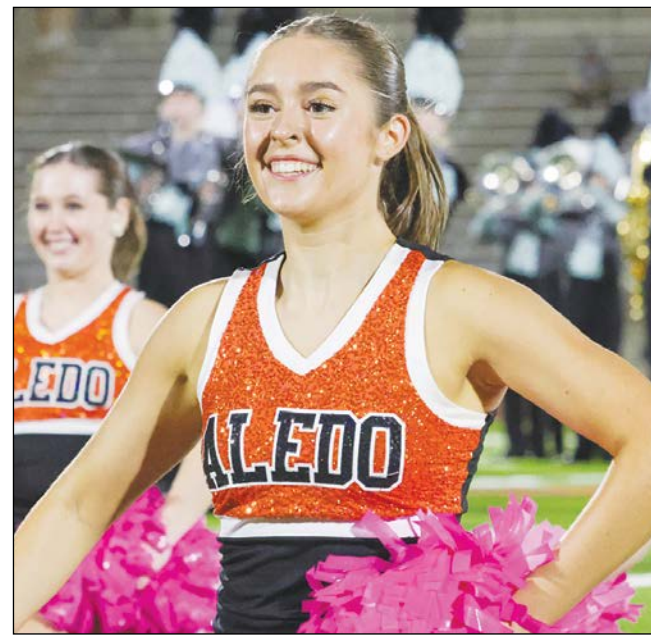
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RUNNING

Friends, All-Americans

Aledo duo enjoying special accomplishment together

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Not many things in a track athlete's life top winning a medal in arguably the most prestigious track stadium in the world.

Unless it's accomplishing that feat with a good friend - which is exactly what Aledo High School sophomores Anderson Smith and Thomas "Trey" Warner III did this past summer. They were half of the four legs that comprised the national runner-up 4x800-meter relay at the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics at the legendary Hayward Field at the University of Oregon.

The two were running in the 15-16 age group for AP (Athletic Performance) Ranch based out of Fort Worth. Their time, running with teammates Gianni Fragoso and Julius Salcido (not Aledo students) was eight minutes, 21.58 seconds, over 16 seconds faster than their time that won the Region 12 championships earlier in the summer.

"It's really cool to run with a close friend. It feels like a group accomplishment rather than doing it by myself, it gives me a feeling of teamwork," Warner said.

As a result of their performance, the quartet was named All-Americans.

"Getting All American with Trey was great and was a very cool

experience," said Smith, who also qualified individually in the 800-meter run.

For Smith, it was his second consecutive year to qualify for nationals. With different teammates his relay finished eighth in 2022.

"I felt great after winning a silver medal at my age, and I can't wait to go for gold next year," he said.

Their distance coach with AP Ranch, Ashleigh Price, called Smith and Warner a "Dynamic Duo."

"They put so much work into our summer track season and it paid off in a big, national level way. They were dedicated to the process," she said. "Trey was challenged this season with longer and harder workouts and never backed down. He stepped on the line and gave 100 percent every workout."

"Anderson actually went on a family vacation to Africa and even did workouts on his own while he was gone. They had an end goal in mind and did everything they needed to do to get there."

High School

Smith competes in cross country and track, while Warner focuses on track. Last track season Warner was first in district at the junior varsity level in the 800 and Smith was second. They each ran in one varsity

meet at Aledo, with Warner taking sixth and Smith eighth.

Smith also won JV district in the 1600 and 3200. He ran in one varsity meet in each of those events as well, taking eighth at Haltom and ninth at Northwest.

In the 2022 cross country season he was seventh at district and advanced to regionals for the Bearcats.

"It helps a lot with my high school career because all the training I put into getting All-American will be used during my high school season," Smith said of his Junior Olympics

"Running with my friend was a great experience."

Anderson Smith

performance.

Neither comes from a competitive running family. Smith's mother runs for fun and recreation, he said, and Warner's dad was a basketball player.

College thoughts

Smith said he would love to run competitively in college, while Warner is also open to the idea should he receive a running scholarship, something he said his trip to Oregon might help with.

"This gives me exposure to opportunities across the nation like potential scholarships," he said. "It's awesome to have the opportunity to compete and win at this level. I appreciate the coaches' help to get me there."

Price believes both could make an impact on a college team should



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMI WARNER

Aledo sophomores Anderson Smith (left) and Trey Warner are planning to use their silver medal relay performance from this past summer's USATF Junior Olympics for even more success in high school and beyond.

they go that route. In the meantime, they are confident they have great things ahead of them in high school.

Plus, she said they are great to have as teammates.

"They both have team-oriented mindsets and showed up for each other and the others on the track team," she said. "They have a lot of fun and can be a hilarious hand-

ful to coach. They both had huge growth in their races and I have

no doubt they will continue to get faster.

"Both these kids have unlimited potential and I'm honored to be a small part of helping develop that."



And both runners agree sharing this accomplishment was the experience of their athletic lives so far.

"Running with my friend was a great experience and I was glad I was able to run with him at Hayward stadium in Track Town USA," Smith said.

Marching Right Along

Bearcat Regiment excelling in competitions



The Aledo High School band program won a Division I rating and a trip to the University Interscholastic League area contest at Tuesday's Regional Marching Contest at Chisholm Trail High School.

The Regiment has advanced to area 14 times previously.

The regional success came on the heels of the band's entry in the Bands of America contest on Oct. 7 at Pennington Field, where they made the finals.

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