

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

ALEDO

## Residents voice concerns over water bills

### House packed at council meeting

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

The house was packed at the Aledo Community Center during the regular city council meeting on Thursday, Oct. 26. Numerous residents like Susan Nicholl took the opportunity to voice their concerns directly to their city representatives, while others let their presence echo their support.

For several months as the city has been transitioning to a new AMI (advanced metering infrastructure) water-metering system, residents have voiced concerns related to everything from billing practices to disagreements related to the quantity of water used during billing cycles. Enough residents have brought their concerns before Mayor Nick Stanley, City Manager Noah Simon, and the rest of the council, that the city has sought out an independent company to do a

Turn to **WATER**, page 5

WEATHERFORD

## Council approves new hotel

### Boutique, not a chain

By Jim Zimmerman  
The Community News

At its meeting on Oct. 23 the Weatherford City Council approved a conditional use permit for a new hotel to be located at 117 College Ave.

The unique hotel, which will sit on about a half-acre tract of land, is a 16-room boutique hotel made of shipping containers. It will be similar to the Middleton Hotel in Graham, which was built by the same developers, Matt Hughes and Griffin Phillips.

"The City of Weatherford has been very welcoming," Hughes said. "Growing up, I spent a lot of time in Weatherford. I have two sisters that still live there and I have seen how the town has grown."

Highlights of the new hotel will include premium linens in each room, along with custom artwork throughout and an in-ground swimming pool onsite.

The site will also include an upscale restaurant and bar, featuring craft cocktails, beer, coffee, espresso, small plates and live music.

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## Havana Night



ALEDO BAND BOOSTERS FACEBOOK

The Bearcat Regiment made history on Oct. 28 winning their third straight area championship, winning first place against 24 other bands. The band will travel to San Antonio for the State Contest on Monday, Nov. 5. To see more photos of the band turn to pages 14 and 15.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

## Aledo Ex-Students Association establish new WC scholarship

By Crystal Woerly  
Weatherford College

The Aledo Ex-Students Association has established a new permanent scholarship fund for Weatherford College students. The fund

is earmarked for Aledo High School graduates and was given in memory of AHS alumni Jimmy Jackson and Don Homsley, who gave their lives in Vietnam, and Paul Kim, who died in Ukraine. The scholarship is part of the Bob Glenn Endowment Program in the WC Foundation.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pictured with WC President Tod Allen Farmer are Association President June Fraser King, and Vice President Bettie Sue Fraser Cook.

HUDSON OAKS

## Council reacts to new state rules

### Amends subdivision ordinance

By Melissa Winn  
The Community News

In response to legislation passed by the Texas Legislature in June, the Hudson Oaks City Council held a public hearing and subsequently amended certain sections of its subdivision ordinance at its meeting Oct. 26.

House Bill 3699 further clarifies previous "shot clock" regulations set in place to prevent cities from delaying or denying developers' plats until certain requirements have been met.

Rob Allibon, Hudson Oaks City Attorney, explained that the passing of the bill set into motion changes that need to be made in order for Hudson Oaks to be compliant, while giving a brief background of the initial HB3167 that passed in late 2019.

"Cities had to amend ordinances regarding timing for plat approval - referred to as the shot clock," he said.

The clock gave cities 30 days to accept, review and approve, approve with conditions or deny a plat. The timeline started from when an application was filed with a municipality. If no action is taken prior to the 30 days ending, a plat then becomes automatically approved.

Initially, the language in the bill was vague enough that it left many cities interpreting the meaning of what a "filed" application was. Some considered it to be when all of the required paperwork was submitted, meaning anything from surveys, traffic studies, etc. had to be turned in prior to it being accepted by a city and starting the clock. Others thought it was at the time the fee was paid and an application was rendered.

Hudson Oaks amended its processes and ordinances to reflect the changes, but some issues were still created with the timing of certain plats that needed to be brought before city council for approval since public notices are required. HB 3699 fixes that problem as it gives staff the ability to sign off on the plat without it needing to be approved by council.

"Essentially, plats cannot be denied unless there are technical requirements not being met, meaning it is more of a ministerial act and city council would only be rubber stamping the required approval," said Hayden Brodowsky, Hudson Oaks Director of Operations.

He added that zoning requests are not affected and will still be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Mayor Tom Fitzpatrick opened the public hearing, but no-one spoke and he then immediately closed the hearing. Council then approved the changes to the ordinance.

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 5

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# In & Around Parker County

Trust your countertops to the experts



DFW Countertop Repair is a small family-owned business owned by Marcus Zurobski and Linda Bannister, who have been married and worked together for nearly 25 years. Zurobski began his career as a woodworker and craftsman making specialty wood crafts for artisans in Deep Ellum. According to Bannister, "Marcus had a following among artists who appreciated the meticulousness in the way he did his work. He carried that same attention to detail over when he expanded his talents into carpentry and remodeling."

After moving to Weatherford, the pair decided to start their own business, Marz Remodeling, LLC, a BBB accredited business, doing business

as DFW Countertop Repair. "We started out doing full-scale remodeling, but decided to specialize," said Bannister. "While there are many excellent fabricators out there, few companies focus exclusively on restoration or repair of existing countertops. If you've invested thousands of dollars in your home, you want to protect that investment. Our services are designed specifically with that goal in mind."

Zurobski was trained by leading experts in countertop repair. Continuing education is an important part of the work. "Every day I spend some time learning something new about this work. I love spending time in my shop experimenting with

## DFW Countertop Repair

new techniques, tools, or chemicals honing my skills." Zurobski said, "It's an exciting time in the industry as new materials and manufacturing techniques are expanding the types of materials that can be used for

countertops. You have to understand the unique properties of each one to know how to properly work with it. It's extremely important to keep up with the changes. It's exciting and I love the challenge."

DFW Countertop Repair works on most surface materials, including granite, quartz, marble, natural and engineered stone, and solid surface. Besides repair and restorations, they also specialize in modifying countertop to fit new appliances and installing sinks. They service both residential and commercial customers across the DFW area.

"Our focus is our customers. We don't cut corners or try to rush through jobs," Bannister said. "We take the time to do the work the way it should be done to achieve the best results possible."

For more info on DFW Countertop Repair, visit [DFWCountertopRepair.com](http://DFWCountertopRepair.com), or call 817-565-3110.

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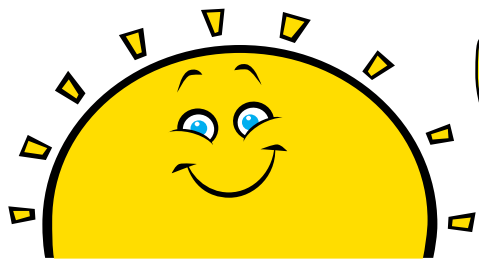
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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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## World Kindness Day!

November 13 is World Kindness Day! Join people around the world on this day and commit random acts of kindness!

### The Lion and the Mouse

This famous Aesop fable tells of the importance of kindness.

**Late one night in the jungle...**

Gotcha!

Please don't eat me, sir!

And why not?

If you'll be so kind as to set me free, I'll pay you back by helping you some day!

**LATER**

YOU? Help ME? HA! HA! HA! Haaaa-ha HAAha!

HELP! HELP! Someone PLEASE help me!

It's you! Oh my gosh! Hunters tied me up! They'll be back any minute!

Thanks, little buddy!

Don't you worry! I'll chew through those ropes in no time!

**Discuss these questions:**

1. What unexpected acts of kindness did the lion and the mouse each do?
2. How did acts of kindness change both their lives?

**Standards Link:** Civics: Know character traits that contribute to the health of American democracy.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Missing Vowels

The vowels are missing from this famous quote about kindness. Can you replace them all?

A = ☺ E = ☆ I = 🌸 O = ❤ U = 🌙

"H\_m\_n k\_ndn\_ss h\_s n\_v\_r w\_k\_n\_d  
 th\_st\_m\_n\_r s\_ft\_n\_d th\_f\_b\_r\_f  
 fr\_p\_pl. A n\_t\_n d\_s n th\_v  
 t\_b\_cr\_l t\_b\_t\_gh."  
 —Franklin D. Roosevelt  
 32nd President of the United States

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Celebrate World Kindness Day!

There are many simple ways to celebrate World Kindness Day. Read the list below. Choose one thing you could do. Draw a picture or write a sentence about the action you pick.

- Be generous with your smile!
- Give 10 hugs in one day!
- Start a conversation with a new student or someone who looks lonely.
- Smile at people who look sad.
- Write a nice note to someone having a bad day.

**Standards Link:** Social Studies: Students understand the importance of individual action and character.

### Kindness Acrostic

Find a word or phrase in the newspaper that begins with each letter in the word **KINDNESS**. Use these to create an acrostic poem.

**K** \_\_\_\_\_

**I** \_\_\_\_\_

**N** \_\_\_\_\_

**D** \_\_\_\_\_

**N** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**Standards Link:** Writing applications: Write in a variety of genres.

### Double Double Word Search

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

KINDNESS  
 COMMIT  
 RANDOM  
 PLANET  
 LONELY  
 AESOP  
 ACROSTIC  
 QUOTE  
 ROPES  
 STUDENT  
 JUNGLE  
 POEM  
 HUGS  
 ACTS  
 WORD

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

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

### Random Rocks of Kindness

Read the news story below. Fill in the missing words on each blank line using the words in the word box.

In 2018, Tiffany Lester of Regina, Saskatchewan in Canada wanted to do something kind for \_\_\_\_\_ in her community. She and some friends started painting rocks and \_\_\_\_\_ them around the community.

People in the community \_\_\_\_\_ going outdoors to \_\_\_\_\_ for the rocks. Some started painting more rocks and hiding those. When people find a rock, they are asked to post the \_\_\_\_\_ on social media.

What do they do with the rocks? Most of them \_\_\_\_\_ them again, to keep the fun going.

Children are \_\_\_\_\_ off their digital devices and spending more time \_\_\_\_\_ trying to find the rocks.

Gather some friends and paint and hide kindness rocks. That would be an act of kindness for your community!

**OUTDOORS HUNT**  
**PEOPLE ENJOYED**  
**HID TURNING**  
**LOCATION HIDE**

You can visit the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation at [randomactsofkindness.org](http://randomactsofkindness.org)

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**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

**This week's word: KINDNESS**

The noun **kindness** means helping someone or giving them encouragement.

Kim showed **kindness** by helping Ian pick up the papers he had dropped.

Try to use the word **kindness** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

### Kind News

Look through the newspaper for examples of people being kind to people, animals or the planet. Select one example and write a summary about it.

**Standards Link:** Writing Applications: Write summaries; Research: Use the newspaper to locate information; Civics: Recognize character traits.

**What's the longest word in the English language?**

**ANSWER:** Smiles—because there's a "mile" between the first and last letters.

**Write On!**

### World Kindness Day

List three ways you will celebrate World Kindness Day.

## The Community News



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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](mailto: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

# Abbott, House deadlocked over school choice, teacher pay



Gary Borders  
gborders@texaspress.com

Gov. Gregg Abbott and the Texas House are at loggerheads over which will come first — vouchers for parents to pay for private school tuition, or funneling more money to public schools, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

The House wants money for teacher bonuses and a revamp of public-school accountability passed at the same time as Abbott's proposed education savings accounts, often referred to as ESAs. The governor insists the House first pass a voucher program. A version of his voucher program has already passed the Senate. The Legislature can't consider increased school funding or teacher bonuses unless Abbott adds it to the special session agenda.

This third special session ends by Nov. 7, though Abbott has indicated he would call another one if this one ends without a decision on vouchers.

"I think there is still significant opposition to any school finance bill that includes an ESA," Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, told the *Texas Tribune*. "I'm comfortable we have enough like-minded rural Republicans, and urban Republicans, to stand against that in numbers sufficient to defeat it."

Abbott has dismissed the House's compromise proposal, House Bill 1, which would create a limited voucher program while increasing spending on public education, calling it "insufficient."

### House passes three border security bills

The House passed a trio of bills that increase border wall

funding, increase the penalty for smuggling migrants, and allow state and local police to arrest migrants living illegally in the state, *The News* reported. The votes came last week after a lengthy heated discussion among Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

The anti-smuggling bill has already passed the Senate and now heads to Abbott's desk, while the other two bills are going to the Senate.

Rep. Victoria Neave Criado, D-Dallas, who chairs the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, said the plan would undercut the U.S. Constitution so that the state could "flex its muscle with the power that it does not have," according to *The News*.

Democrats unsuccessfully tried to change the bill by filing nearly four dozen amendments. Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, filed a successful motion to limit amendments, which led to a confrontation between him and Rep. Armando Walle, D-Houston.

"This is an emotional issue," Walle said in a statement late Wednesday evening. "This affects my family and puts so many families like mine at risk."

### Paxton sues over razor wire being cut

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing the Biden administration, claiming Border Patrol agents are illegally destroying state property by cutting through concertina wire placed by the state on the banks of the Rio Grande to deter illegal immigration.



The state has spent \$11 million in the past three years placing 70,000 rolls of the wire along the Texas-Mexico border, according to the *Texas Tribune*.

"By cutting Texas's concertina wire, the federal government has not only illegally destroyed property owned by the State of Texas; it has also disrupted the State's

border deterrence efforts, leaving gaps in Texas's border barriers and damaging Texas's ability to effectively deter illegal entry into Texas," the attorney general's office said in a statement.

The Department of Homeland Security, under which the Border Patrol operates, said it doesn't respond to pending litigation.

In Eagle Pass earlier this year, a state trooper claimed the concertina wire has injured people, including a woman who had a miscarriage while entangled in the wire, the *Tribune* reported.

### High court to hear case of judge's refusal to marry gay couples

The Texas Supreme Court last week heard oral arguments in a case to decide whether a Waco justice of the peace can legally refuse to perform same-sex wedding ceremonies, *kut.org* reported. McLennan County Justice of the Peace Dianne Hensley has refused to perform those ceremonies, saying it violates her Christian beliefs and is protected under the state's religious freedom laws.

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct in 2019 issued a warning to Hensley for her refusal. Lower courts have dismissed her claims against the commission.

Initially, Hensley declined to officiate any wedding ceremonies after the landmark U.S. Supreme Court in 2015. She began performing weddings again the following year, but only for straight couples.

### New area code for Houston area approved

The greater Houston area has another area code after the Public Utility Commission of Texas approved a proposal to add 621 to the four existing area codes — 281, 346, 713 and 832. The area was expected to run out of new phone

numbers using the existing area codes by 2025.

The new code is expected to meet demand for new numbers for another nine years. Houston's first area code, 713, was created in 1947 as one of the original four codes assigned to Texas.

### Record \$345 million approved for pedestrian, bike projects

The Texas Transportation Commission has approved more than \$345 million for new sidewalks, bikeways and other types of mobility infrastructure for 83 projects across the states.

"This is a major investment in communities across the state that will help make it safer and easier to get around on foot or a bike," Texas Transportation Commissioner Robert "Robbie" Vaughn said.

The state has seen pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities rise nearly 30% over the past five years. Two dozen of the projects will go in areas with a high pedestrian crash record.

### Early voting ends Friday; election Tuesday

Early voting for the Nov. 7 general election ends on Friday. Voters will decide the fate of 14 proposed state constitutional amendments, including items dealing with property tax cuts and increasing pay for retired teachers. In addition, municipal and school board races are being held across the state, as well as school, city, and county bond elections.

Contact your county's election office to see what is on the ballot where you are registered.

*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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).*

## Idle American

# 'Waisting' Away

If a true confession truly is good for the soul, then mine is ship shape.

It's an absolute fact that I spent a full decade, from ages 15-25, trying to expand my waistline from 30 to 32 inches. I ate whatever I liked; taking seconds from the dessert tray was likely. (Okay, I'd sometimes grab a third dessert, but out of politeness, usually left a bite or two on the saucer.)

My, how things have changed. I've been challenged for three decades to rein in my belt length to 42 inches, sometimes feeling tummy-numbing pressure even after belt-loosening to the very last notch.

Fitness thoughts invaded my World Series preoccupation in the first inning of the first game. Traipsing across the TV screen was a guy dressed as Santa Claus. He was nimble and quick, this old St. Nick, sprightly dancing for Capital One credit cards.

The bearded geezer was well into rug-cutting, swinging and swaying to the beat of "Staying Alive."

I leaned forward in my chair, realizing that under that beard, cap and Christmas gear was John Travolta, the guy who made the song famous a full FOUR DECADES AGO! I know what

you're thinking. He may have a gut usually associated with a guy approaching 70 years of age, but he was moving like someone half as old. (Side note: With credit card interest at an all-time high, I'll not get excited about Capital One or any other credit card, I'm absolutely committed to paying monthly balances in full to avoid paying any interest.)

In 1974, the great Elvis Presley came to Fort Worth, appearing before a full house at the convention center.

Since my wife would have underwritten a fan club to cop a closer seat, I decided it was worth it to secure stage-side seats. She swears that she caught several drops of "Elvis sweat."

That explains why she didn't bathe for a week.

Anyway, his writhing, contorting, twisting and turning at age 39 seemed to be every bit as crisply executed as when he exploded on stages worldwide almost two decades earlier.

Sure as shootin', though, he was developing a definite waistline bulge that defines many men approaching age 40. It took more than careful wardrobing to hide it. I'm guessing Travolta has

worked harder at remaining trim than Elvis did.

My old daddy never cared much for Presley. He said that when his hound dogs commenced wiggling like Elvis did, he'd give 'em worm medicine.

In baseball, one of the most heralded rookies in history is Texas Rangers' phenom Evan Carter. A major leaguer since August, the 21-year-old is setting records right and left, and his stats probably indicate a waistline under 30 inches.

Proving that Christian faith and athletic success can go hand in hand, he boldly wears "Jesus Won" t-shirts during warm-ups, and several thousand have been sold. Word has it that his proceeds are going to his favorite organization: The Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

This young man seemingly has it all together, worthy of all the adulation piling up at his feet. Youth is not wasted on this young 'un they call "the whippet," an apt nickname for a trim athlete on the front end of greatness.

*A longtime university president, Dr. Newbury continues to speak regularly and write weekly. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com).*



Dr. Don Newbury  
newbury@speakerdoc.com

# WATER

from page one

complete audit of the metering and billing practices within Aledo.

To advance that process forward, Simon made a recommendation to the council during Thursday's meeting for the city to contract Brio Consulting to run the audit. Upon the Council's unanimous approval, Simon moved forward with the agreement for Brio Consulting to complete a full audit of the metering practices. The project is expected to last 120 days and begin promptly once the agreement with the City is in place.

"The main thing I'm looking for in the audit with Brio coming in is to really go through the utility billing process, go through our systems, evaluate the meters that are in the ground currently that are the old meters, and evaluate the new AMI meters that are already in the ground," stated Stanley. "What I'm looking for, and what I'm hopeful for in directing the city manager and city staff to hire Brio and implement this audit, is to bring a level of transparency. We look for every area that we can improve on."

In terms of transparency, Stanley announced a plan to have a committee of citizen volunteers to work alongside Brio to review their findings on a regular basis throughout the entirety of the audit process. Nicholl, a resident of the Parks of Aledo and a community member who has already been involved in bringing concerns before the mayor, has agreed to head up the volunteer committee.



Aledo Mayor, Nick Stanley, and city manager Noah Simon, listen to presentations during a recent city council meeting.

"[The citizen committee] will allow the members of that committee to walk through the audit process with Brio," Stanley said. "This will allow citizens to be part of it, so they can hear from the auditor directly as they go through the audit process. They'll understand what they're looking at, the scope of work, and the findings in the audit so that there is a level of transparency for the citizenry."

On top of working with Brio Consulting for the audit, the council is contracting an independent communications firm that specializes in messaging related to water consumption and usage so that the larger body of Aledo residents are informed as the process goes along.

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

For the second year in a row, Stanley presented a certificate from Aledo's City Council to Freedom House for the work they continue to do in Parker County in helping victims of domestic violence. Along with the presentation, Stanley made an official proclamation naming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month within the city of Aledo.

### AWARENESS MONTH

Communities across Parker County have official proclamations naming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



East Parker County Library Director Beck Gorman, provides the Aledo City Council with an update during a recent city council meeting.



Susan Nickell speaks to the city council regarding concerns around the metering and billing practices for water in Aledo.

# COUNCIL

from page one

Also at the meeting, Corporal Dustin Kennedy answered questions regarding the monthly police report. Of note was that accidents were up about 25 percent year-over-year, which he attributed to increased traffic in the area and the amount of cars now entering the Highway 180 corridor.

Fitzpatrick commented that he didn't see that changing anytime soon, a point that was highlighted by City Administrator Sterling Naron in the ensuing financial report while naming Chuy's, Jersey Mike's, and Jack in the Box as some of the restaurants coming to Hudson Oaks soon.



Hudson Oaks Mayor Tom Fitzpatrick, third from left, is surrounded by representatives of Freedom House, as he reads a proclamation honoring the organization during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

## CORRECTION



We apologize that we did not include a photo of Grace House's Executive Director Charley Rickey on their Gala's photo page in the Oct. 20 edition. Congratulations to Grace House Ministries in celebration of 30 years!

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## Little Shop of Horrors

Aledo High School Theatre presented *Little Shop of Horrors*. The shows were performed Friday, Oct. 27, Saturday, Oct. 28 and Monday, Oct. 30, in the Aledo High School/Daniel Ninth Grade Campus Auditorium.

The performance was based off book and lyrics by Howard Ashman and music by Alan Menken



PHOTOS BY KRIS RUDZINSKI



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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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FOOTBALL

# On the field or on the page

## Keys has poetic style

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

If you see Davhon Keys lost in thought, he might be contemplating the best way to get around an opponent's offensive line.

Or the Aledo Bearcats senior linebacker could be thinking about which line will work best in a poem he is writing.

Yes, one of the most fierce defensive high school football players in America loves poetry. He's written over 100 since he started at age 12.

"I write purely for fun and if I'm bored," Keys said. "It's just something I started doing and realized I like, so I've just been doing it ever since. It's very relaxing."

As for what kind of poetry he writes, Keys said, "It all just depends on the day. I like to explore. And if I'm not feeling it, I'll look up a poem and mimic a certain style."

While it might seem a contradiction for a guy who excels at tackling opposing players to have such a sensitive side, it also ironically makes sense. After all, watching Keys utilize his skills on a football field is, in its own way, sort of poetic.

## Finding football

Keys started playing football at age 7. He connected with the sport after trying out a variety, saying, "Football really stuck. I liked the teamwork, competitiveness, and once I realized I was really good at it I loved playing as much as I could."

Once his coaches found out he was good, they also wanted him to play as much as possible. It's a decision that has paid off for the program and for Keys, who has his sights on helping lead the Bearcats to back-to-back state

championships and the program's 12th in its history.

In fact, it would be a third for Keys as he moved up to the varsity and played on special teams in the 2020 postseason.

Keys hasn't always played linebacker. In fact, his first year of peewee football he was on the offensive line. Then, at age 8 he was moved to running back, where he played through his time at Aledo Middle School.

## Moving to linebacker

It wasn't until his sophomore year of high school that Keys was moved to linebacker, a position that was completely new to him.

"It was odd. I didn't know all the details, but I knew I was an athlete," he said. "After our spring scrimmage (leading into his sophomore year) I realized I could play the position and play it well."

"It was just natural to me, all the small details I was able to pick up on quickly."

Aledo defensive coordinator Brad McCone called Keys "one of the most outstanding young men I have coached in 31 years."

"We needed a weak side linebacker his sophomore year and the decision was based on his physicality and speed," McCone explained the move.

"His knowledge of our defense is incredible. He is like having a coach on the field."

Keys said his time playing running back helped him make the transition from

someone running the ball to someone trying to stop the guy with the ball.

"Knowing the tendencies of a running back helped me to be a step ahead," he said. "Knowing the design of running plays was a big help."

Keys, an all-state selection at linebacker, still plays running back from time to time. In fact, he scored two crucial touchdowns in a 25-19 victory against Denton Ryan on Oct. 20 to clinch the program's 16th straight district championship.

He's also no stranger to finding the end zone on defense, having scored a touchdown in each of his three varsity seasons. Earlier this season he returned an interception for a touchdown in a 50-35 win over Dallas Parish Episcopal - a game in which he had two interceptions.

He's even scored on special teams, returning a blocked extra point attempt for two points in a 48-45 victory against Denton Guyer in the season's second game.

## College/graduating early

Keys' next journey will take him to the Southeast Conference as he has received a scholarship offer to play for LSU. In fact, he plans to graduate early from Aledo and start attending classes in Baton Rouge come January.

"Ever since my freshman year my goal was to graduate early. I was ahead on all my classes," he said.

Keys has a 4.0 grade point average and began receiving college credits as early as eighth grade. He plans to major in computer engineering.

"I've always been interested in computers. I love the math part of engineering," he said.

Keys chose LSU after many offers, including last season's national runner-up TCU, perennial powerhouse Alabama - and recently Stanford.

"Stanford is not going to just reach out to anyone," Aledo head coach Robby Jones said. "That shows you how academically strong he is."

## Leadership/college potential

About Key's leadership, Jones said, "You want them to do what Davhon is doing because he does it all so well and is a great player to learn from."



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Davhon Kyys prepares to tackle a Denton Ryan runner. Keys also had five rushes for 23 yards and two touchdowns on offense.



PHOTO BY MERCEDES MAYER

Aledo senior linebacker Davhon Keys is much more than a great football player. He also writes poetry and is a 4.0 student in the classroom.

Jones believes Keys has the potential to make an immediate impact in the SEC, long renowned as the toughest conference in college football.

"He'll have to go in and compete, but that's nothing new for him," Jones said. "He's fit in. He's not going to be a fish out of water. And showing up in the spring is going to be huge."

Keys' intelligence also allows him to absorb many details about his position and the game in general. That, McCone said, enhances his opportunity to succeed in college.

"His potential at the next level is bright due to his work ethic and knowledge of the game," he said. "I can't say enough good things about this young man. I enjoy every minute I get to coach him."

## Nearing the end

However his senior season with the Bearcats ends, Keys will soon be leaving Aledo for the next chapter in his life. He said he's given that some thought and is taking some great memories with him.

"I'll definitely miss my friends and coaches. We've gone through a lot together," he said. "We've gotten up at the crack of dawn together for practice, worked hard together and had great success together."

"I have made some great friends and memories."

And if he leaves with another state championship, well, there's some poetic justice to that - and it would definitely be something to write about.



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More events can be found at [www.community-news.com/calendar](http://www.community-news.com/calendar)

**NOVEMBER 4**

**TCA Gift Market**  
Mark your calendars to come do some shopping and get in the festive spirit at our 12th annual TCA Gift Market on Saturday, November 4, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Over 10,000 sq. feet of shopping space with 60+ wonderful vendors, festive photo opportunities, fun door prizes, and food trucks for hungry shoppers. Admission is free. Shop with local vendors from Parker and Tarrant County. Trinity Christian Academy 4954 E. I-20 Service Road S. Willow Park, TX 76087 Denise Hobbs [www.tca-eagles.org](http://www.tca-eagles.org) 817-441-5897 [hobbs@tcaeagles.org](mailto:hobbs@tcaeagles.org)



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**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2023**

**NOVEMBER 9**

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Please join the Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, November 9th from 12-6 p.m. at Church at the Crossing. You can show up, but making an appointment would be helpful. Contact: Laura Place, [laura@crossingale-do.com](mailto:laura@crossingale-do.com), 817-441-8885.

**NOVEMBER 19**

**41st annual GM Financial Fort Worth Parade of Lights**  
The GM Financial Parade

of Lights will deliver the magic of the holiday season to Downtown Fort Worth on Sunday, November 19, from 6-10p.m. Attendees are encouraged to purchase reserved "Street Seats," which start at \$15 for children and \$17.50 for adults. Street Seats are available for sale now online, here: <https://fortworthparadeoflights.org/parade-information/street-seats/> Contact: Claire Bloxom Armstrong, [cba@pavlov-agency.com](mailto:cba@pavlov-agency.com)

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**  
1 TX Janis died of a heroin over  
5 Quannah's code is 254  
6 it can be removed with brush or roller  
7 gazillions  
8 this MacGraw starred with TX Kris Kristofferson in 1978 film "Convoy"  
9 TXism: "you're dancing \_\_\_\_\_ field" (in danger)  
16 \_\_\_\_\_ an email  
18 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ couldn't stir 'em with a stick"  
21 hosp. trauma area "\_\_\_\_\_" of (kinda)  
23 first commissioned rank of TX Chester W. Nimitz (abbr.)  
24 to be sure  
30 in Hardin County on U.S. 69, 96 & 287  
34 TXism: "old \_\_\_\_\_ dirt"  
35 TXism: "he's a man \_\_\_\_\_ the river with" (reliable)  
36 Texas "horny \_\_\_\_\_"  
37 red, swollen marks caused by fights  
39 TXism: "you got the tail \_\_\_\_\_" (backwards)  
43 this gymnast Comaneci now lives in Oklahoma  
44 "it's \_\_\_\_\_-fire way to do it"  
45 TX Clint Black's "\_\_\_\_\_ Tell Ourselves"

**DOWN**  
1 "Big D"  
2 the Altamira \_\_\_\_\_ is seen in the Valley  
3 Nacogdoches newspaper: "The Daily \_\_\_\_\_"  
4 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ high on the hog" (rich)  
9 TX Kenny sang "All I Ever Need \_\_\_\_\_ You"  
10 "Cadillac Ranch" has 10 cars buried this way (2 wds.)  
11 TX Vikki Carr album: "Cosas del \_\_\_\_\_"  
12 in McLennan County on highway 164  
13 TX Henley co-wrote "New Kid \_\_\_\_\_"  
14 Yankees city (abbr.)  
15 TXism: "red \_\_\_\_\_" (liquor)  
17 TXism: "if I had my \_\_\_\_\_" (choice)  
19 TXism: "dancing like a bobber \_\_\_\_\_"  
20 WWII aircraft carrier: "\_\_\_\_\_ Jacinto"  
24 TX George Strait hit: "I've Come to Expect \_\_\_\_\_ from You"  
25 TXism: "every \_\_\_\_\_ and again" (seldom)  
26 mild expression of anger  
27 triple bogey on a par 5  
28 TX Bill Paxton 2014 film: "\_\_\_\_\_ Tomorrow"  
29 believers in God  
31 \_\_\_\_\_, Larry & Curly  
32 TX Jimmy Dean hit: "Big \_\_\_\_\_ John"  
33 "\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ pin"  
38 "fender bender" result (2 wds.)  
40 a Texas pecan, e.g.  
41 pecan is the state \_\_\_\_\_ of Texas  
42 one who finds oil  
48 TXism: "take a \_\_\_\_\_ at it" (try)  
50 Hamiltons  
51 martial arts weapon  
56 nickname for TX Rayburn, longest Speaker of the House (2 wds.)  
57 TXism: "can't \_\_\_\_\_ silk purse out of a sow's ear"

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# HOTEL

from page one

The container concept is new to the United States but has been very popular overseas. To get an idea of what one looks like, browse the Middleton Hotel website.

Hughes and Phillips do their homework when looking for potential sites. They update and use available surrounding properties that could enhance their guests' experience.

The concept is also extremely affordable. The containers are about 85%-95% ready when they arrive at the site and this eliminates excess construction traffic and other challenges.

The new hotel is slated to begin construction next July and could be ready for patrons around December of 2024.

Other agenda highlights approved included:

- Purchase of fire department and police department personnel uniforms and protective equipment from Galls, LLC for a combined amount of \$75,000 through the North Texas Share Master Service Agreement.
- Purchase of portable/mobile two-way radios, in-car video systems, body-worn cameras, maintenance services and accessories from Motorola Solutions for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. Both items were planned purchases for the FY24 budget. Council authorization is required for purchases over \$50,000 per state law, so both were included on the agenda, even though already included in the current year budget.
- Renewal of a three-year agreement between the City of Weatherford and the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club. The club built and maintains a

nearly 13-mile mountain biking trail located on city property.

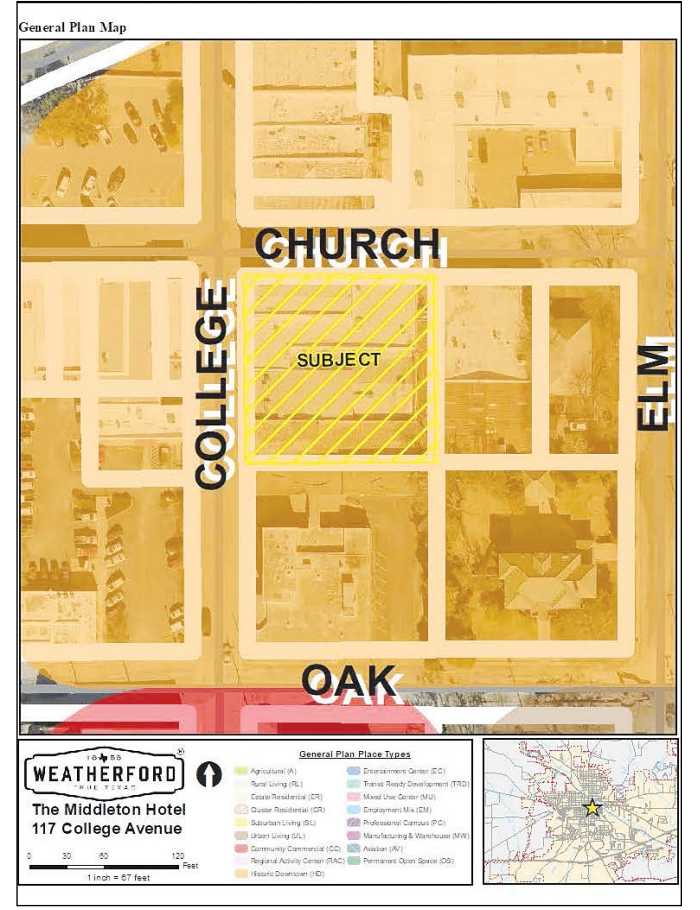
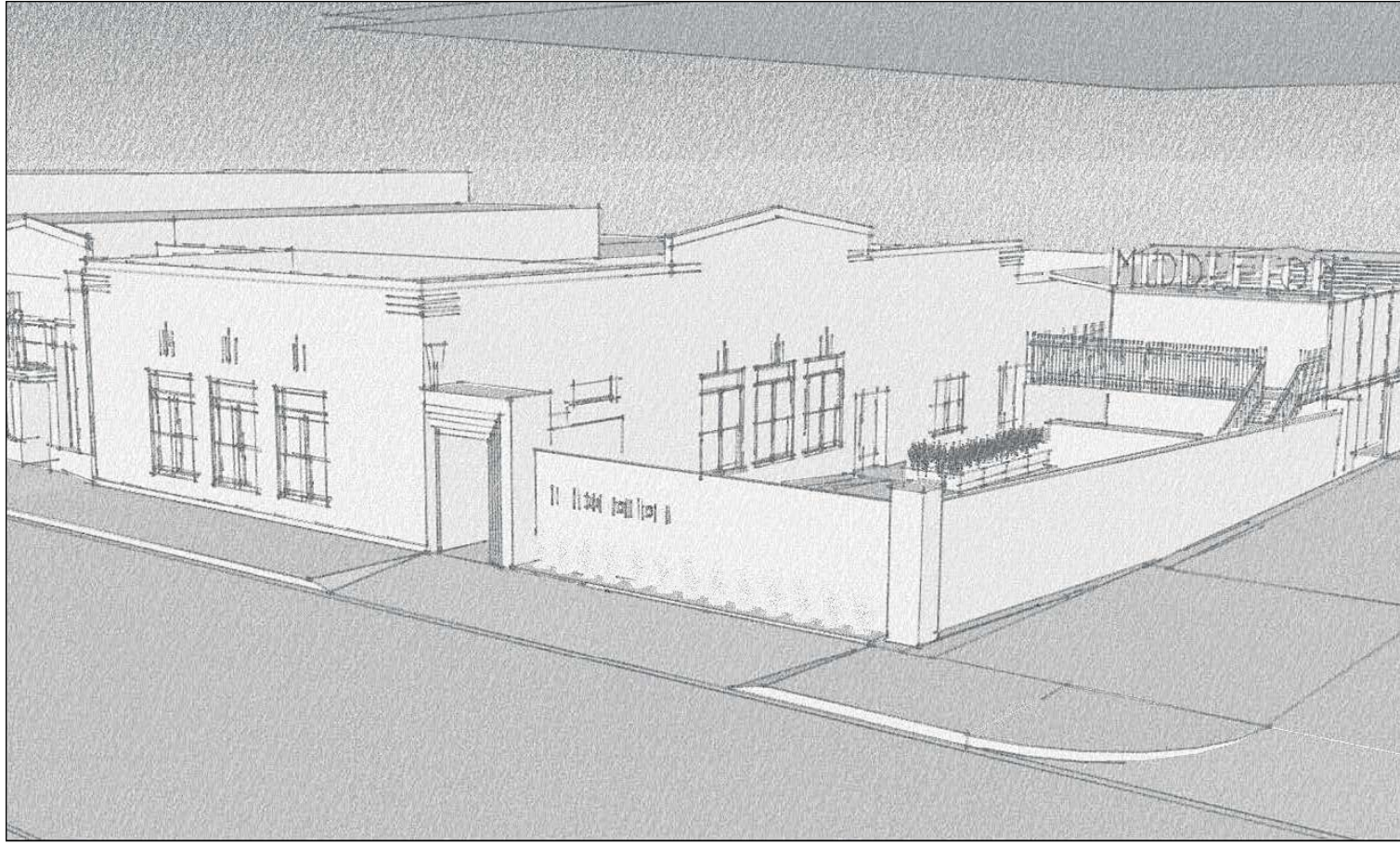
- Petition for release from the City of Weatherford's extraterritorial jurisdiction from Lake of Weatherford and from Bear Creek 4011 Partners. Once the application is approved the applicants will no longer be subject to the city's platting requirements. They will, however, remain subject to any platting requirements of Parker County.

- Proclamations declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the city, along with naming Nov. 11, 2023, as Veterans Day in the city. The Veterans of Foreign Wars were present and accepted the proclamation. Also, they stated that there would be a parade, weather permitting.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF WEATHERFORD

The new boutique hotel coming to Weatherford is patterned after the Middleton Hotel in Graham, which is made from shipping containers.



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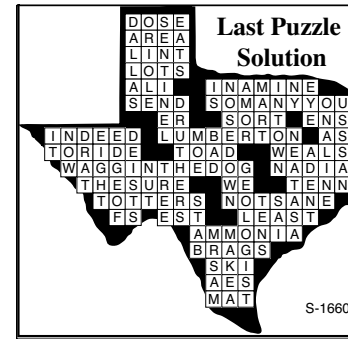
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CITY OF WILLOW PARK

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CROSS COUNTRY

## Aledo seeking dual state success

### Boys and girls competing together for first time

By Rick Mauch  
 The Community News

When it comes to athletics at Aledo High School, it's hard to find an accomplishment that hasn't happened.

However, coach Mike Pinkerton and his cross country program appear to have done just that. When his Ladycats and Bearcats take to the course at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock on Friday, Nov. 3, it is believed to be the first time ever that both the boys and girls have advanced complete teams to the elite event.

"That has been our goal all season - to get both teams to state. The way these kids have been working, I am not surprised," Pinkerton said. "They have achieved their goals up to this point, and are working hard for a strong finish to the season."

The Ladycats won the Class 5A Region I Meet at Mae Simmons Park in Lubbock while the boys finished fourth to earn their berth. This came on the heels of both teams once again winning district.

#### Ladycats

The Ladycats' team victory at regionals was also the first time the girls won a regional championship. They were led by freshman Micah Neal, who ran the 5-kilometer course in a time of 18 minutes, 11 seconds.

"It's really exciting that we're all going," Neal said of the girls and boys competing at state. "We've really bonded over the course of the season."

As for herself, Neal improved by 53 seconds from her district championship time. She said her success in her first varsity season is credited to "a lot of pushing my body to the limit."

Neal is one of three Ladycats who comes into the state meet ranked in the top 40 runners in the state in Class 5A. She is 29th with her time of 18:02.5 at the Southlake Carroll Invitational, while sophomore Madison Larsen's time of 17:33.1 in that same meet has her ranked 22nd and sophomore Molly Garrison's clocking of 18:21.8 in the Chile Pepper Festival at the

Turn to STATE, page 13

VOLLEYBALL

## Ladycats win bidistrict title

### Sweep North Side

By Ryan Wade  
 The Community News

WESTWORTH VILLAGE - Following a tune-up win over Boswell on Friday, Oct. 27, Aledo's Ladycats headed to Castleberry High School for the first round of the UIL 5A volleyball playoffs against the North Side Lady Steers. While the site may have been neutral, the play on the court was one-sided as Aledo decimated North Side to secure the bidistrict title.

Coming off a spectacular regular season where the Ladycats went 33-8 overall and 11-1 in District 5-5A play for the league title, Aledo secured the No. 1 seed heading into the playoffs. Facing the No. 3 seed Lady Steers from District 6-5A, the reigning district champs quickly dismissed North Side by scores of 25-2, 25-9, and 25-10.

The Ladycats once again advanced to the area round of the playoffs and were playing Birdville (28-13), the third-place team from 7-5A.

The end was never in doubt throughout the match against

North Side, as Aledo jumped out to large leads in each of the sets to put North Side in a dire position they were unable to recover from. While it was a rough night for the Lady Steers, for Aledo it was an opportunity to get some of the less experienced players on the varsity squad some much-needed play-off reps.

"Everybody stepped up in their own role tonight," Ladycats head coach Claire Gay said following the match. "Everybody got some reps in the match and got that playoff experience. I'm proud of them for getting through this evening and staying focused enough to persevere."

The Lady Steers struggled to deal with Aledo's offensive firepower. Kinley Elms led the Ladycat offensive onslaught with a dozen kills on the night behind a sharpshooter-like performance that had her finding holes in the defense all match.

"[Elms] has transitioned to an offensive player," Gay said of the 6-foot tall junior. "She's

Turn to TITLE, page 16



Ladycats celebrate with their bidistrict trophy following a sweep over North Side's Lady Steers on Monday, Oct. 30.

FOOTBALL ADVANCE

## Bearcats seek perfection again

### Playoffs begin next week

By Rick Mauch  
 The Community News

Finishing a regular season 10-0 is nothing new for the Aledo Bearcats football team. It would, however, be a nice way to cap off Robby Jones' first regular season as their head coach.

That's the goal Friday night, Nov. 3 as the Bearcats (9-0 overall, 7-0 in District 3-5A Division I) travel to White Settlement Brewer (3-6, 3-4).

While the Bearcats will move on to face Killeen Shoemaker (6-3) in bidistrict at Tim Buchanan Stadium on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m., this

will mark the end of the season for the Bears. Jones advises folks not to take Brewer lightly, noting they are better than their record indicates.

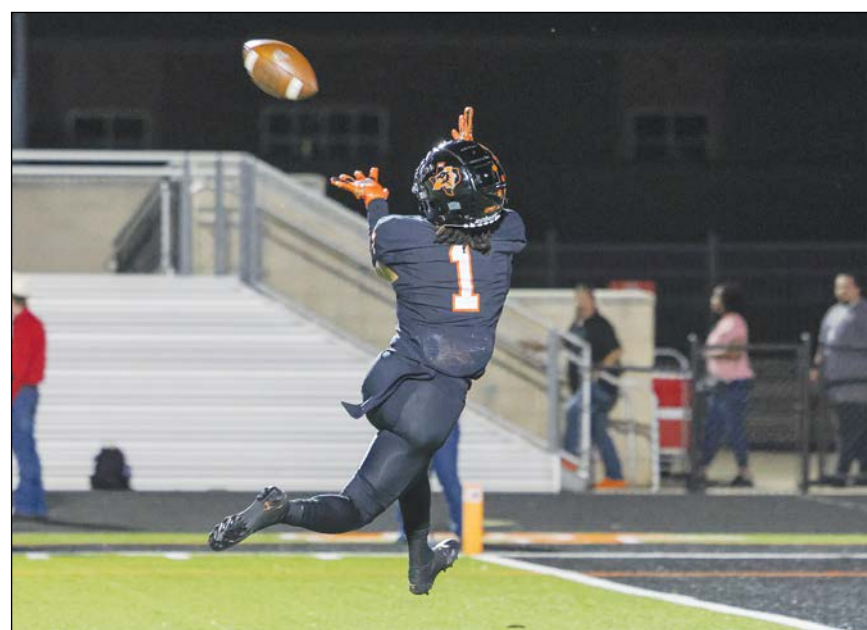
"They've got some really talented football players. They've got the makings of a really good football team," Jones said. "In a lot of districts they'd be getting ready for the playoffs."

Jones' comments are supported by the Bears having only been outscored by 26 points this season (263-237).


#### Head-to-head vs. Brewer

The Bearcats have dominated the series against the Bears

Turn to BEAERCATS, page 12



Hawk Patrick-Daniels prepares to snare a pass from quarterback Hauss Hejny.



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FOOTBALL

# Kangaroos fall at Trinity

## Playoff hopes dashed

**Staff Report**  
The Community News

The Weatherford Kangaroos suffered two losses on Friday, Oct. 27: a 38-7 defeat at Euless Trinity, and elimination from playoff contention due to Crowley losing to Boswell the same night.

If Crowley had beaten Boswell, Weatherford would have advanced to the 6A playoffs with a win over Fort Worth Paschal on Thursday, Nov. 2.

At Pennington Field, the Trojans overwhelmed

the Kangaroos, outgaining Weatherford 466 yards to 204.

Trojan Josh Bell got the scoring started with a 25-yard touchdown run with 7:13 in the first quarter. Bell scored two more times in the first half, finishing the game with 170 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries.

Keats Bohannon got the start at quarterback for the Roos. Normally a halfback/utility man, Bohannon was thrust into the signal caller role after injuries the previous week to C.J. Thornton and Cutter Kennedy.

Weatherford didn't score until 3:48 left in the game. Colton McClure caught

a Bohannon pass and took it 75 yards for a touchdown.

Trinity had 25 first downs; Weatherford had eight.

The Roos dropped to 4-5 overall and 2-4 in District 3-6A play. Trinity improved to 6-3 overall and 5-1 in district play. The Trojans will advance to the 6A playoffs.

Weatherford will close out the season Thursday.

Fumbles lost: Weatherford 0, Trinity 1.

Penalties-yards: Weatherford 6-25, Trinity 6-40.

## Weatherford individual leaders

**Offense**  
Passing: Keats Bohannon 7-13, 1 TD, 1 interception, 113 yards. Kaden Dowd 0-1.

Rushing: Bradley Simmons 19 carries, 74 yards, 1 TD.

Receiving: Colton McClure 3 catches, 94 yards, 1 TD.

**Defense**  
Tackles: Bruin Wright 6, Jaiden Parker 3. Sacks: Parker 1.

## Team statistics

Rushing yards: Weatherford 91, Trinity 294.

Passing yards: Weatherford 113, Trinity 172.

Caught-thrown-intercepted: Weatherford 7-14-1, Trinity 10-15-0.

VOLLEYBALL

# MMS tops Brewer

## Wins five of six matches

**Staff Report**  
The Community News

The McNally Middle School volleyball teams nearly swept visiting Brewer on Thursday, Oct. 26, winning five of the six matches played.

Scores were:  
Eighth grade: A won 25-11, 25-10; B won 25-10, 25-12; C won 25-19, 25-8.

Seventh grade: A won 27-25, 25-21; B won 25-20, 25-23; C lost 20-25, 25-10, 23-25.

# BEARCATS

from page 11

by a 17-2 margin. Aledo has won the past 15 meetings.

Brewer's last win in the series was 21-14 in 1999.

## Shoemaker again

For a second straight season the Bearcats will be hosting Shoemaker. The Grey Wolves are the fourth-place team from a tough District 4-5A Division I that includes powerhouses Red Oak (9-0), Midlothian (8-1) and Lake Belton (7-2).

The Grey Wolves might have an even better record had they not experienced some key injuries during the season, Jones noted.

"They're similar to last year, like us they had a lot of players back and they're a year older and better," Jones said. "Defensively, they're big up front, and they're one of the faster teams we'll have played all year. They're similar to Ryan."

Denton Ryan came into Buchanan Stadium and threw a scare into the Bearcats and their faithful before Aledo escaped with a 25-19 victory on the strength of a 57-yard touchdown run by quarterback Hauss Hejny with less than two minutes to play.

"They're a tough first-round matchup," Jones said of Shoemaker. "When they were playing Midlothian, Red Oak and Lake Belton they were hurt, but now that they're healthy their coach said we're getting the best version of Shoemaker."

"Hopefully we can give them the best version of the Aledo Bearcats."

## Head-to-head vs Shoemaker

Last season was the first meeting ever between the Bearcats and Grey Wolves. Aledo won at home 37-0.

That was the 27th consecutive season in which the Bearcats won

a playoff opener, a streak that dates to 1996.

## Rankings

The Bearcats are once again atop the Class 5A Division I state rankings in Dave Campbell's Texas Football. They remain the only team from their district to be ranked, though Ryan was in the state's top 10 earlier this season.

Nationally, the Bearcats moved up one spot to No. 38 this week in the Maxpreps rankings. They are the highest ranked Class 5A team from Texas.

The only Texas teams ahead of them are 6A powerhouses Houston North Shore (No. 6), DeSoto (No. 7), Duncanville (No. 16), Austin Westland (No. 29) and Humble Atascocita (No. 34).

## District 3-5A Division I update

### Last week's results

Denton Ryan 28, Brewer 6  
The Colony 42, Saginaw 10  
Azle 57, South Hills 20  
Northwest 38, Burseson Centennial 20  
Aledo bye

### This week's games

All at 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Nov. 2  
Ryan at Northwest  
Friday, Nov. 3  
Aledo at Brewer  
South Hills at Saginaw  
Centennial at Azle

### Standings (overall record in parentheses)

x-Aledo	7-0 (9-0)
y-Northwest	6-1 (8-1)
y-Ryan	5-2 (6-2)
The Colony	5-3 (5-5)
Centennial	4-3 (6-3)
Brewer	3-4 (3-6)
Azle	2-5 (3-6)
South Hills	0-7 (0-9)
Saginaw	0-7 (0-9)

Y = clinched playoff berth



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ray Guillory had 21 rushes for 106 yards against Ryan.



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trace Clarkson leaps for a catch against Ryan. Clarkson had three catches for 33 yards.

## Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (9-0, 7-0 in District 3-5A Division I) at Brewer Bears (3-6, 3-4).

Friday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.

Killeen Shoemaker Grey Wolves (6-3) at Aledo Bearcats

Class 5A Division I bidistrict

Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.

Aledo returning starters: 7 offense/5 defense.

Brewer returning starters: 7 offense/8 defense.

Shoemaker returning starters: 7 offense/4 defense.

Last week: Aledo had a bye, Brewer lost 28-6 to Denton Ryan, Shoemaker defeated Killeen 63-17.

Last season: Aledo, 14-2, 8-0 district, 5A Division I state champions. Brewer 2-8, 2-6 in district, lost 47-6 at Aledo. Shoemaker 8-3, lost 37-0 at Aledo in bidistrict.

Aledo offensive players to watch: QB Hauss Hejny (68% completions, 1,748 yards, 20 TD, 3 interceptions passing; 60 carries, 529 yards, 8 TD rushing), WR/RB Hawk Patrick-Daniels (46-264, 5 TD rushing; 19 catches, 256 yards, 2 TD receiving), WR Kadon Finley (12 catches, 158 yards, 2 TD).

Brewer offensive players to watch: QB Jordan Clark (61% completions, 852 yards, 7 TD, 12 interceptions passing; 117-744, 6 TD rushing), RB Jaden Garrett (145-770, 11 TD rushing).

Shoemaker offensive players to watch: QB Malachi Jerome (60% completions, 1,180 yards, 7 TD, 2 interceptions passing; 60-330, 3 TD rushing), RB/WR Jerrod Hicks-Maddox (85-961, 16 TD rushing; 17-288, 4 TD receiving), WR Maurice Starr (36-605, 3 TD).

Aledo defensive players to watch: LB Davhon Keys (66.5 tackles, 10.5 for loss, 1 sack, 3 interceptions, 2 fumble recoveries), S Jake Gillespie (34 tackles, 3 for loss, kick return threat), LB Ben McElree (26 tackles, 6 for loss, 1 sack).

Brewer defensive players to watch: LB Elijah Richardson (58 tackles, 3 for loss), DE/LB Cameron Clay (24 tackles, 5 for loss, 3 sacks).

Shoemaker defensive players to watch: LB Jasiah Riley (48 tackles, 2 for loss), S Torian Thomas (48 tackles, 2 interceptions).



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jake Gillespie (0) brings down a Ryan ball carrier. Also shown are Ky Howington (5), Davhon Keys (3), and Caden Atwood (95).

SWIMMING

# AHS athletes win big

## Halloween Sprint Invite

**Staff Report**  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats had an impressive showing at the Fort Worth Western Hills Halloween Sprint Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 28 at Wilkerson-Greines Activities Center.

Aledo swimmers posted 21 top-three finishes (12 girls, 9 boys). This included nine gold medals (6 girls, 3 boys), eight silver (4 girls, 4 boys) and four bronze (2 girls, 2 boys).

Individually, Porter Lane (boys) and Jacqueline Gruber (girls) each won two events. Gruber also swam on two relays that finished first.

### Western Hills Halloween Sprint Invitational at Wilkerson-Greines Activities Center

**Oct. 28**

#### Aledo results

##### Distances in yards

##### Girls

Medley Relay: 1. Avery Faulkner, Jacqueline Gruber, Corah Satterfield, Victoria Crews, 2:02.08.

100 Freestyle: 1. Satterfield, 1:06.39.

25 Freestyle: 1. Gruber, 12.51; 2. Alli Faulkner, 14.27.

50 Butterfly: 1. Crews, 28.79; 3. Av. Faulkner, 31.95.

50 Freestyle: 2. Al. Faulkner, 30.66.

200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Al. Faulkner, Crews, Av. Faulkner, Gruber, 1:50.66.

50 Backstroke: 2. Av. Faulkner, 33.16; 3. Satterfield, 33.21.

50 Breaststroke: 1. Gruber, 32.55; 2. Crews, 35.47.

##### Boys

Medley Relay: 2. Brayden DeBoer, Porter Lane, Evan Bradley, Jaxon Robinson, 1:53.92.

100 Freestyle: 2. Robinson, 57.83.

100 Individual Medley: 1. Lane, 58.22.

25 Freestyle: 1. Ian Perez, 12.16.

50 Butterfly: 1. Lane, 25.27; 3. Bradley, 28.70.

50 Freestyle: 2. Robinson, 26.23; 3. Bradyn Baughman, 26.37.

200 Freestyle Relay: 2. Robinson, Kale Roberson, Perez, Lane, 1:41.29.

WRESTLING

# Aledo looking to expand success

## More girls joining varsity program

**By Rick Mauch**  
The Community News

After a successful first two seasons from his wrestling program, Aledo coach Austin Stockon is set for - you guessed it - even more.

In the debut season of 2021-22, the Bearcats wasted no time in getting a state qualifier as Anson Din-Mbuh got there. Last season Chad Thomas became the first Bearcat to win a match at state, and was joined by then freshman Brice Bohn, an alternate in the 106-pound division.

Bohn, who was fifth at regionals, is back and is expected to compete in the 113 weight class this season.

Also, in their inaugural season Aledo had eight competitors place at district. That number increased to a dozen this past season.

"I am excited with the growth we have had. I credit a lot of this to the hard work the kids are putting in as well as the help of our local club, Texas Elite," Stockon said. "This is an amazing facility, and

they are helping our kids develop so much more quickly than they would otherwise."

Other top returners for the Bearcats are senior Kyle Scharlow (150 weight class) and junior Sam Belyeau (165). Though neither placed at district, Stockon said he is excited about each for the coming season.

Also, sophomore Brady Powell (175) had an undefeated junior varsity season and "is going to make waves this year," Stockon said.

Newcomers for the boys who could make a quick impact include freshman Oliver Tatro (126) and senior Ethan Siklosi (175), a transfer from Weatherford.

Stockon said Tatro "is coming in with some wrestling experience and will make a great addition to the team." Of Siklosi, he noted, "He had a great season over there and I look forward to him ending his high school career with us."

### LADYCATS

Concerning the girls program, Stockon continued, "We have added a ton of girls to our program

due to our middle school program last year. A bunch of these girls participated there or are going from other athletic sports."

Leading returners for the Ladycats are senior Rilei Blankenship (145), along with juniors Avery Kernan (107) and Kyra Wright (126), all regional qualifiers. Other key returners are sophomore Serafina Ceron (120), who was seventh at district, with juniors Arianne Mathias (138) and Baillie Sessom (185), all whom Stockon said are "showing signs of a great season."

Also, Stockon said Jordan Clift Sr. (114) came out to wrestle this year. As a junior, she swam and ran cross country, plus she has a solid base in Jiu Jitsu.

"I look for her to help us out tremendously," he said.

### PREDISTRICT/DISTRICT

Stockon noted that once again his wrestlers will be competing in some tough tournaments, including Arlington, Eaton, Colleyville and Chisholm Trail.

"These are all great 6A program schools, and we will be able to see good opponents from both 5A and 6A schools," he said.

"Our district is always pretty competitive. Azle always puts out a good lineup, as well as the schools coming from Lubbock. Springtown has quite a bit of returners this year, so I look for them to be pretty strong as well."

And about the region? Aledo competes in one of, if not the hardest region in 5A. Six of the top 20 teams at the state tournament came from the region, including the first-place team (Amarillo) Tascosa.

"I am super excited about this group. We are young, but have a bunch of hungry wrestlers who are willing to put in the work to be great," Stockon said. "I am also super excited at the young wrestlers we have coming up sixth grade through eighth grade. We have some kids who are winning youth state and coming to us with a ton of experience."

Aledo opens the season on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at Chisholm Trail. Their first tournament is Nov. 10-11 at the Arlington Invitational.

# STATE

from page 11

University of Arkansas places her 40th.

"I'm proud of everyone on the team. We worked hard. We deserve it," Neal said.

Also competing at regionals for the Ladycats were sophomores Sofia Brandenburg (21st), Mykel Murry (22nd) and Elizabeth Griffin (39th) and freshman Mayden Mitchell (52nd).

Garrison, Brandenburg and Griffin competed on the Ladycats' team at state in 2022.

### Bearcats

The Bearcats are led by juniors Layton Ybarra and Jack Fink, who finished 11th and 12th at the Region I Meet, respectively. Ybarra posted a time of 16:10.4 and Fink was right behind at 16:10.5.

Fink is making his third consecutive appearance at state. He qualified individually last season and with the entire Bearcats team in 2021.

Fink enters the meet ranked 14th in the state on the strength of

his time of 15:18.5 at the Southlake Carroll Invitational.

Also running at regionals for the Bearcats were sophomores Dominick Barrera (30th), Anderson Smith (71st) and Bo Merrill (105th); junior Luke Schabel (43rd) and freshman Tyler Connelly (79th).

### Dynasty in the making

Having competitors at state is nothing new for Pinkerton, who has created something of a dynasty in Aledo. This is the seventh consecutive season in which he will have the program represented at state.

The greatest success in program history belongs to Graydon Morris, who won state three straight years from 2017-19. His sister, Gracie Morris, qualified for state in 2017 and 2019.

Both now run for TCU and Gracie reached the NCAA Championships individually last season.

Isaac Hernandez also qualified for state individually for the Bearcats in 2020.

Team-wise, the Bearcats have now reached state in 2019, 2021

and 2023, while the Ladycats have qualified in 2022 and 2023.

"It is all about the kids," Pinkerton said. "They have instilled an amazing work ethic in themselves, and push each other to get better."

The best team performance was a sixth-place finish by the Bearcats in 2019.

### Peaking at the right time

This season the Ladycats won meets at Birdville, the Cowtown Challenge, the Texas A&M Invitational before district and regional. The boys won the Cowtown Challenge, along with district.

Pinkerton believes the plan is once again working as his athletes are running their best when it counts most.

"Absolutely. We have geared our workouts to be at peak performance for the post-district meets," he said. "These kids are ready, and they all have the heart and desire to perform well."

And they are familiar with the course, having run on it at the McNeil Invitational in late September.

The Ladycats were fourth and the Bearcats 18th, also competing against the state's best on that day.

As for the course at Old Settlers Park, Neal said "The hills make it really challenging."

Pinkerton noted that while it is, without question, a difficult course, it is not the most difficult on which they've run this season.

"It has its challenges, but nothing that we can't handle," he said. "The kids know the course."

### Weatherford senior competing

Senior Rayla Castillo is ending her Weatherford career by competing at state for the first time. She qualified by finishing ninth at the Class 6A Region I Meet, also in Lubbock, on Oct. 24.

Castillo posted a career-best time of 18:35.1 at regionals. She finished second in the District 3-6A Meet earlier, her second consecutive year to be district runner-up.



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# Congratulations Bearcat Regiment



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## LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



**Hailey Lowe**  
**Volleyball**

The junior outside hitter posted six kills and four blocks to help the Ladycats defeat Fort Worth North Side 3-0 in their Class 5A bi-district matchup on Monday, Oct. 30. At press time the Ladycats were playing Birdville in the area round.

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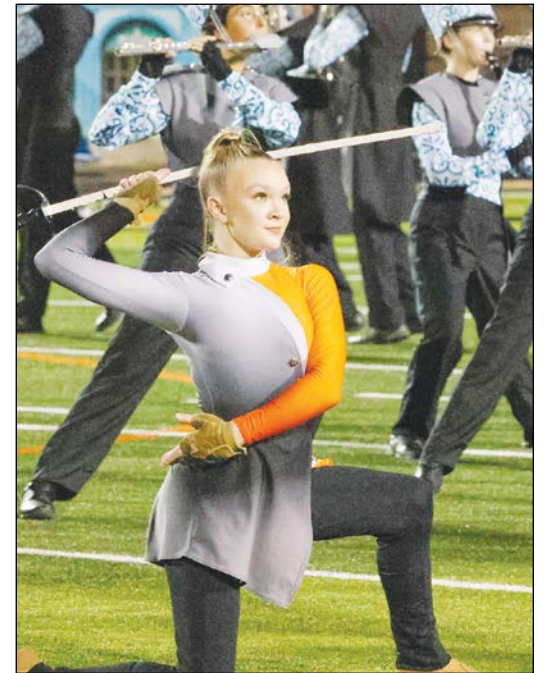
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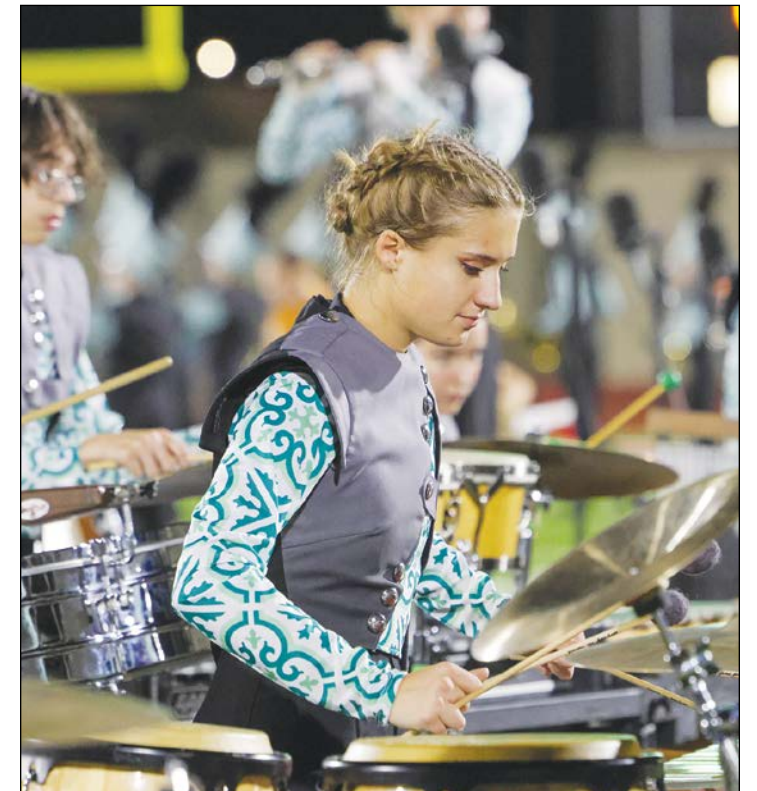


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# BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



**Jack Fink**  
**Cross Country**

The junior will be competing in his third consecutive Class 5A State Cross Country Meet on Friday, Nov. 3 at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. Fink finished 12th at the Region I Meet in Lubbock on Oct. 23. Fink will be joined by the entire Bearcats team, just as in 2021. He qualified individually in 2022.

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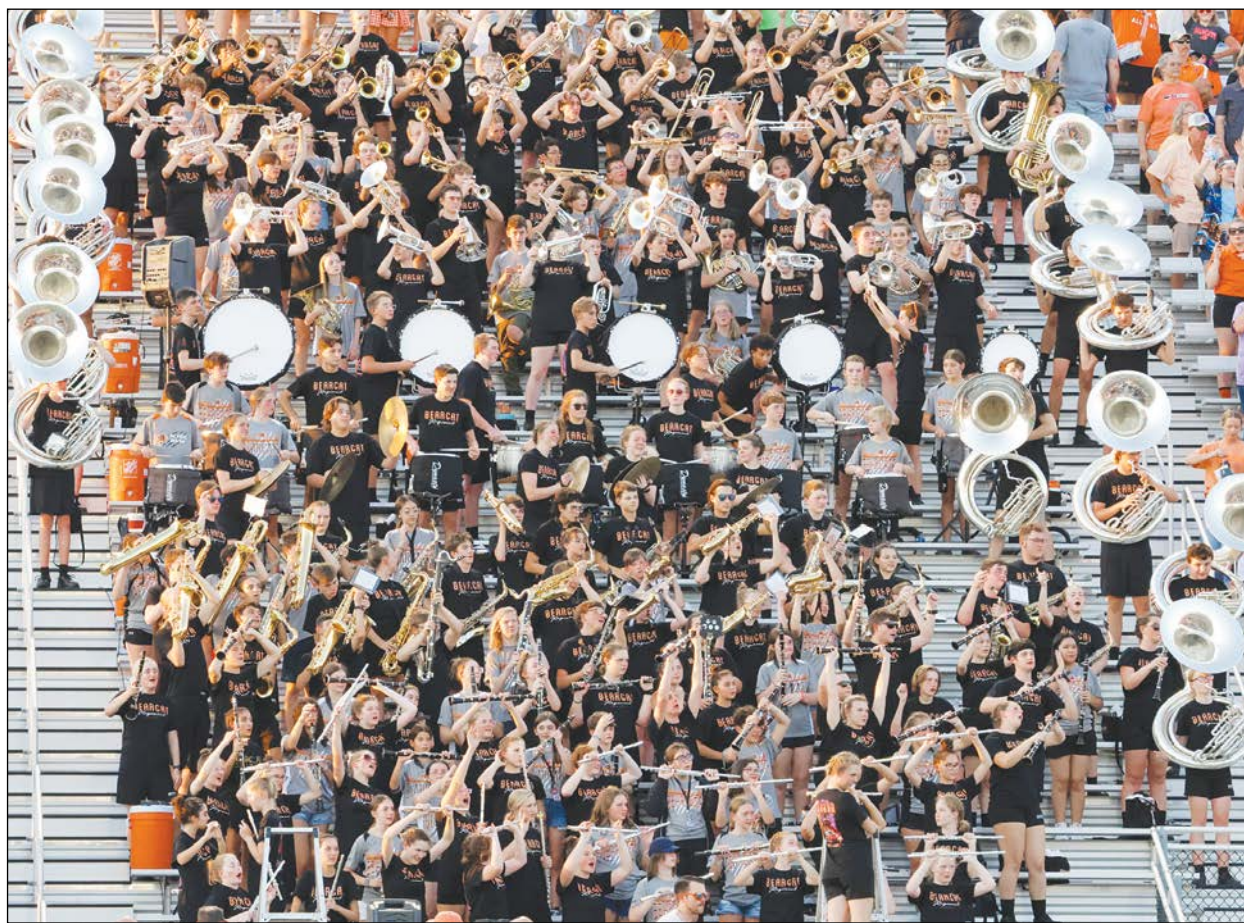
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# TITLE

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gotten a lot smarter at the net, as far as where to swing and when. She worked very hard in the offseason to get to this point. She's a great blocker on top of that. She's definitely a force to be reckoned with on the right side."

Haley Lowe, who usually anchors Aledo's defense in the middle of the floor and collected 100 blocks during the regular season, has made more contributions to the offense in recent matches. On top of collecting her typical four blocks on Monday night, Lowe earned six kills from her middle blocker position.

"She's so long," Gay stated. "She reads well. She's quick to react. She's playing very well. Offensively, she's stepping up big time. That's something we've worked on the last couple of weeks."

Then there's Vivian Parker, the competitive motor for the squad. The Mizzou commit ended the night with 10 digs, six kills, and five aces – a tribute to her growth as a great all-around player according to Gay.

"She's doing a wonderful job being a leader for this team," commended Gay. "She's got a lot of high-level experience. She's played on some wonderful teams. She always has questions, wants to learn, and wants to work harder to get better every single day. It's super admirable as a senior to still have that mentality, to work hard, and continue to grow through the game. I'm really proud of her for being a great leader, and stepping up on the floor, especially defensively. Her defense has gotten so much better just over the last couple of years that I've had her."

The Ladycats weren't just dominant at the net



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Vivian Parker slams the ball over the net during bidistrict action against North Side on Monday, Oct. 30.

on Monday. They dominated at the service line, as well. In total, Aledo scored 10 aces in the match. To go along with Parker's five aces, Ava Reding added three of her own. Madison Widmayer added a pair of aces as well.

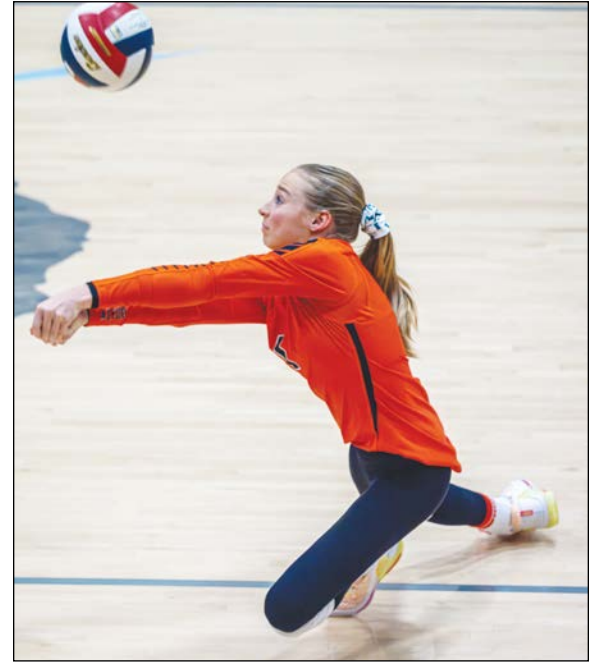
To go along with her three aces, Reding scored a pair of blocks – a rarity for her. But her greatest contribution once again, came in her ability to set her teammates up for their attack. Reding picked up 24 assists, as nearly one-third of Aledo's points in the match came off her passes.

Other notable statistics in the match, Kenrie Pruitt and Ella Meador ended the night with eight and seven digs, respectively. Skyler Lambert and Karsyn Trott both picked up a pair of blocks defensively for the Ladycats in the win.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ladycats pose with their bidistrict trophy following a sweep over North Side's Lady Steers on Monday, Oct. 30.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Ladycats cheering on their teammates. | RIGHT: Kenrie Pruitt makes a sliding play for the ball during bi-district action. The Ladycats defeated North Side to advance in the 5A Playoffs.

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