

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

ELECTION

## County bond unofficially passes

Majority of amendments on way to approval

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

While there were no national or statewide individual races on the ballot this year, folks across the state, including Parker County, had plenty of items on which to cast votes this year.

Topping the list for local folks was a \$130 million transportation bond put forth by Parker County commissioners. As of press time, while results were still unofficial, the bond seemed to be comfortably on its way to passing with 59% of the vote for compared to 41% against.

"It was critical that the Parker County Transportation Bond pass. It's a big step in the right direction in helping alleviate the infrastructure challenges we face as one of the top 10 fastest growing counties in the country," Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley said. "We have been working for months with county officials to ensure they fully understand the needs of our growing community and how this funding can support transportation projects in the City of Aledo."

County-wide road work in the bond will include a total of 35 projects:

- Safety improvements, 12 projects.
- New road extensions, 11 projects.
- Road capacity widening, 8 projects.
- Frontage roads/ramps, 4 projects.

The financial breakdown of the bond includes:

- Precinct projects, \$90 million.
- Partnership projects, \$25 million.
- Discretionary, \$15 million.

Statistics presented to support the bond package included:

- Parker County grew by 34.1% between 2010-22.
- Parker County is ranked No. 6 in the U.S. in fastest growth.
- Parker county is currently growing at a rate of 4.8% per year.
- An estimated 22 people move into the county every day.

In promoting the bond, Parker County Judge Pat Deen and other officials noted local transportation funding will support growth; state and federal partnerships will create more leverage for transportation improvement opportunities; regional partnerships will bring together the North Central Texas Council of Governments, municipalities and school districts; and it would expedite the safety projects in support of #EndTheStreakTX, a project designed to end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

Turn to **BOND**, page 9



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## Field of Flags



PHOTOS COURTESY JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

Aledo Middle School celebrated Veterans Day (coming up Saturday, Nov. 11) with a Field of Flags.

BASEBALL

## On top of the world!



THE RANGERS

Pitcher Cody Bradford kisses the World Series championship trophy after the Texas Rangers won the World Series against that Arizona Diamondbacks.

### Aledo's Cody Bradford recounts season of dreams

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

What do you do when all your dreams come true?

If you're from Aledo like Cody Bradford is, you go right back to work.

After the Texas Rangers won the first World Series in franchise history on Wednesday, Nov. 1, the team

hopped on a plane to fly home from Phoenix. Friday morning, they took part in the parade in Arlington to celebrate winning their first championship with hundreds of thousands of faithful Rangers fans.

But by the time the sun sat on Friday evening, Bradford and his wife Madi were back in the air.

"The parade was Friday morning," Bradford stated. "Friday night my wife and I actually flew to Charlotte, North Carolina. I went to a

facility out there. It's a company called Tread Athletics. They specialize in pitcher biomechanics and pitch design. I went and threw a bullpen Saturday morning.

"So, Friday morning, parade. Friday night, flew to Charlotte. Saturday morning, I woke up and went to this facility to throw a bullpen in the motion capture bullpen where they can track all the movements of my body, slow-mo it, put a stick figure over me to

Turn to **BRADFORD**, page 7

ART

## Artist has many stories to tell

Former resident reflects on migration and more

By John English  
The Community News

Listening to Don Collins describe his experience with migrants moving westward in the 1930s is like reading a passage from *The Grapes of Wrath*.

This should not be surprising since Collins, 94, was 9 years old when the John Steinbeck classic was first published.

The former Aledo resident remembers hitchhikers headed to California and watching Greyhound buses filled with passengers driving West.

"I saw things like four, old 1920s and '30s cars chained together," Collins said. "I asked my mother what was going on, and she told me they were very poor people who were going to California to try to get a better life. When one car overheats, another car pulls for a while, and they save on gasoline that way."

Collins learned to read at a young age and had a particular fascination with the Spanish Civil War, which began when he was 7 years of age.

Collins' family lived six miles south of Aledo, a town of 300 people at the time, and he said he had a good childhood.

"Of course, I had no transportation and there were not many sports in Aledo at the time," Collins said. "There was only basketball. They didn't introduce football until the year that I graduated in 1947."

Collins' cousin was the first quarterback of the Aledo High School football team.

### Irish ancestry

Descended from Irish immigrants, including a grandfather who fought in the American Civil War, Collins harbors a deep affection for his hometown and was blessed with an extraordinary memory — two qualities that came in handy on a recent project.

The Arlington man, whose mother presented him with a jar of Higgins ink and a couple of sharp pens at the age of 6, is a painter whose works are featured in a book called *Traces of Forgotten Places: An Artist's Thirty-Year Exploration and Celebration of Texas as It Was*, and he recently completed a painting of Aledo as it was in the 1930s.

Collins finished the painting about two months ago.

It is 2' X 4' feet, depicts a quaint and rustic tableau of Depression-era Aledo, and while technically precise, Collins said it was not completely to his standards.

Turn to **ARTIST**, page 3

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## COMPOSTING IS AWESOME

# Do the Rot Thing!

Composting turns food scraps into good dirt that is healthy for plants.

Food scraps and other compostable trash make up the largest category of waste in our landfills. When you stop sending food scraps to the landfill, it helps to slow down the filling of the landfill. The compost facility turns it into soil that's healthy for plants.

### What goes in a compost bin?

Anything organic can go in the compost bin.

**Organic:** Things that were once alive. For example, paper made from trees is organic because trees were alive.

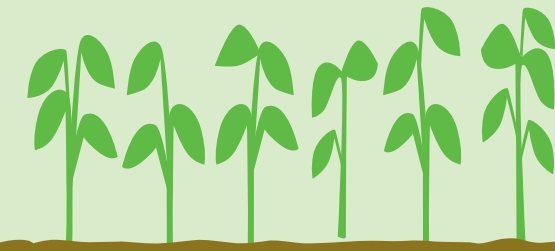
**Inorganic:** Things that are made of things that are not from animals or plants, living or dead. For example, diamonds, table salt, and silver are inorganic.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Understand that matter can be organic or inorganic.

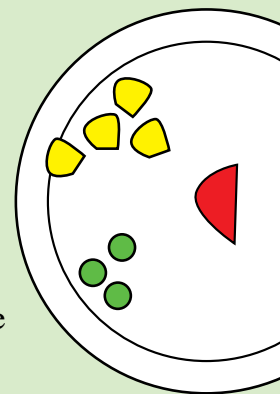


Use a green crayon to circle all the things that belong in the compost bin.

## Composting: An Action That Helps the Planet



1. Composting starts with food that is left uneaten, or "food scraps."
2. Put the food scraps into the compost or "green" bin to be sure it goes to a composting facility.
3. At the composting facility, your organic waste is mixed with things like woodchips, branches and shredded newspaper. This slowly rots and turns into healthy soil.



### Composting Is Good for Us!

When healthy compost from composting facilities is mixed with soil, it makes plants grow better and improves the nutrition of our food. And it keeps food waste out of the landfill where it would have created methane gas.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Understand the health and environmental benefits of composting.

## Don't forget to compost these things!

Do the math to see what else can go in the compost bin. The items that add up to even numbers can go in the compost bin. Odd-numbered items can be recycled.

6 + 6 =

8 + 2 =

2 + 2 =

9 + 6 =

8 + 8 =

10 + 8 =

4 + 2 =

6 + 4 =

3 + 4 =

3 + 17 =

5 + 11 =

### Why is methane gas a problem?

Food scraps and other compostable waste create methane gas when they rot in a landfill.

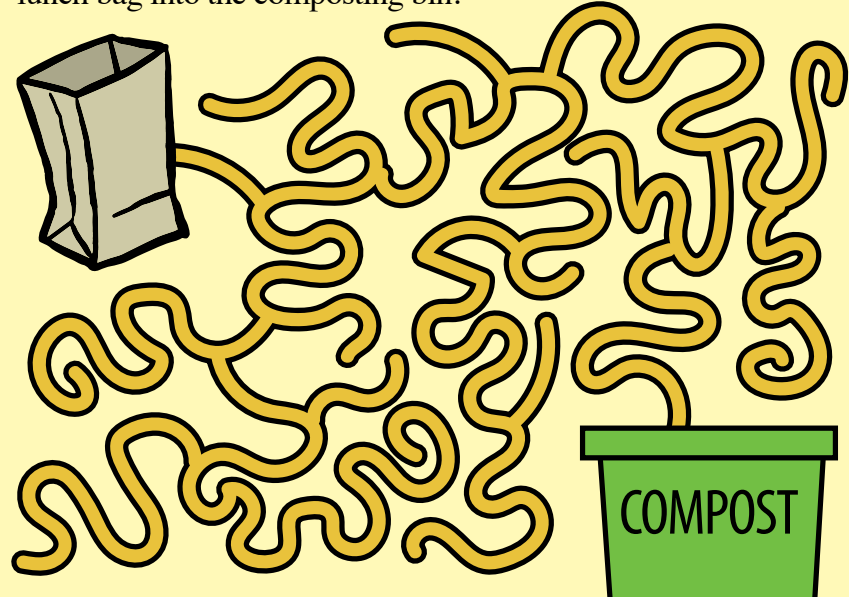
Methane gas molecules are released from the landfill into the atmosphere. They absorb heat and make more heat by heating up molecules around them. This can cause the earth's temperatures to rise.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Understand the environmental benefits of recycling and composting waste.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

### Avoid the Landfill

Putting less waste in the landfill helps our planet. Get this paper lunch bag into the composting bin.



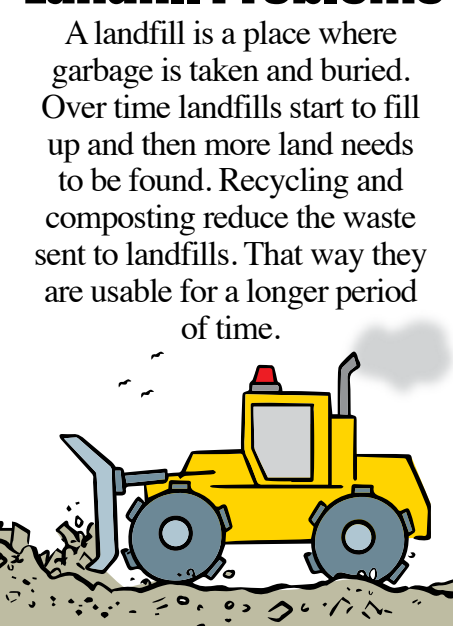
## Double Double Word Search

- ABSORB
- BIN
- COMPOST
- FOOD
- GAS
- GREEN
- GROW
- HEAT
- LANDFILL
- METHANE
- PAPER
- PLANTS
- SALT
- SOIL
- WASTE

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

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

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



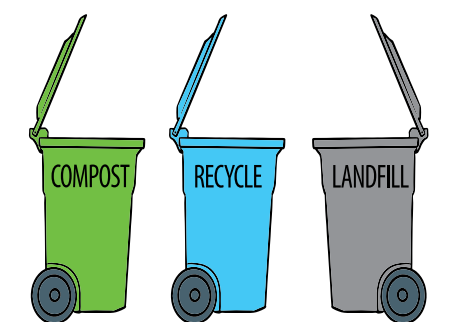
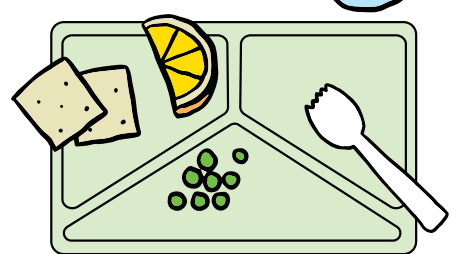
## Send Less to the Landfill

What is the number one thing that people throw away that ends up in a landfill?

Circle every other letter below to find out.

**F** C O L O B D A

Draw a line from each item on the lunch tray to the correct bin.



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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ROT**

The verb **rot** means to decompose or break down into smaller parts.

The apple in the bowl started to **rot**, and we put it in the compost bin.

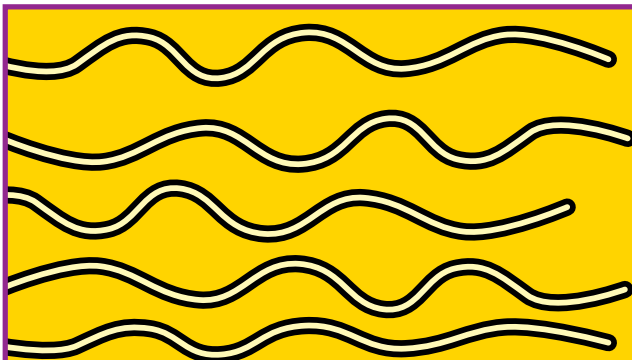
Try to use the word **rot** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Have a Good Day!

Look through the newspaper and cut out pictures and words that make your life "good." Make a collage with your selections and share it with your family members. Do they appreciate the same things as you?

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.



What do you call a fake noodle?

ANSWER: An Impasta!

## Write On!

### Take Action!

What is one action you can take to stop wasting food at school or at home?



# ARTIST

from page one

“In my opinion, it is not a good painting in terms of art,” Collins said. “There are things I would do differently. But it’s primarily a historical and biographical record.”

Collins has been painting steadily for nearly the last 50 years and said it feels like something he needs to do.

“It’s a passion, but it’s also a routine,” Collins said. “I’ve got images in my head that I have to get rid of, and painting allows me to do that. I do it virtually every day.”

## A different route

Although Collins worked in graphic design for 56 years, he took a circuitous route to becoming a painter and illustrator

Collins went two-and-a-half years at the University of Texas at Arlington and then transferred to Texas Tech, where he went about another half of a year before the Korean War broke out.

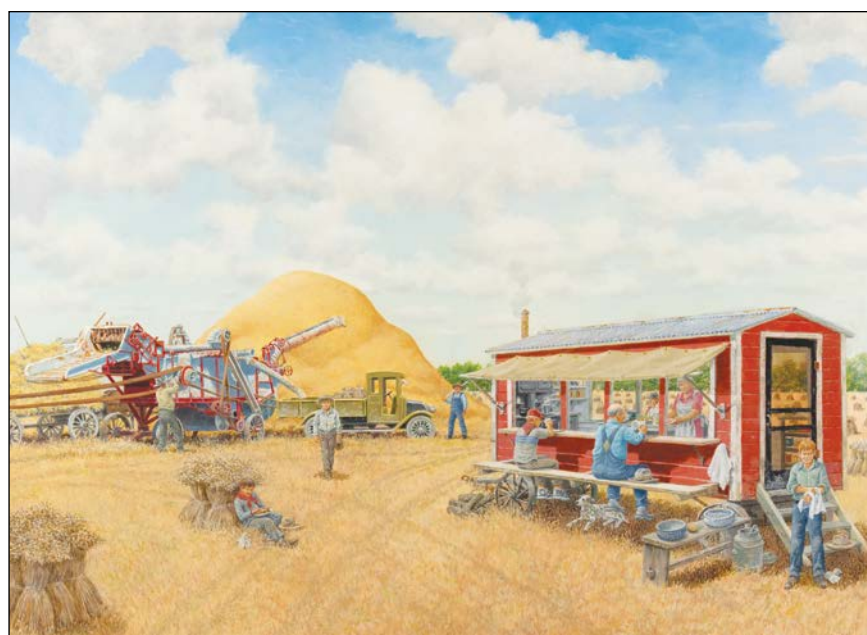
“There was a sudden rush of patriotism,” Collins said. “About six or seven hundred guys quit school up there and joined the service. I was one of them. I passed the pilot’s exam, but they said there were too many of them and we had to go home and wait. So I went home and went to work on Dean Ranch.”

Collins said that he and two other guys spent six months rebuilding a fence that had burned in a Prairie fire before he went back for a second and third pilot’s exam and was informed he had a heart murmur.

“I went to the family doctor 30 minutes later,” Collins said. “He put me on a machine and told me I had nothing wrong with my heart. He said they had too many people



LEFT: Don Collins in his painting studio where he has created many masterpieces. | RIGHT: “Harvey Starks, Austin TX”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUSAN STARKS

and they were flunking everybody. So now my draft number has come up, and I’d heard that if you had an RA, a regular army number, you may have some small advantage over the guys who had a U.S. number, which was a draftee. So I volunteered for and joined the U.S. Army.”

Collins had taken three years of ROTC and thought he would do well.

“They sent me to quartermaster school,” Collins said. “And of course, the quartermasters don’t fight.

After I went to school, I qualified as a small arms mechanic... and then they sent me to Fort Reno Oklahoma. They were buying horses all over the southwest, quarantining them, and every six weeks, 20 GIs and 800 horses would go down to New Orleans and get on this old rust bucket and go to Turkey.”

Collins made two separate trips to Turkey, one to Istanbul and one to a city called Iskenderun

## Getting married and diploma

He got married shortly thereafter and went to work for a box factory for a year or two and then finished up college with a degree in fine arts and commercial art.

Interestingly enough, Collins never received his degree.

“I was on the GI Bill at the time,” Collins said. “I was married, had a new house and was dead broke, and they came around the last day of school and said they needed 10 bucks for the diploma. I said I would defer and join the summer graduation. This was at the end of the winter semester.

“I had gone to work with my partner two or three weeks prior to this moment. So I decided I didn’t need the diploma because I was working. Somehow, I never went back. But I didn’t need the diploma, because it had nothing to do with what I was doing.”

Collins went to work as a graphic designer and illustrator, which he did for nearly six decades.

“I did well with that,” Collins said. “I worked with the Texas Medical Association, Texas Dental Association, the state highway department and great big outfits of one kind or another doing primarily illustrations. I worked for Texas Monthly magazine and several other magazines.

“I didn’t start painting regularly until I was well into my 40s. I started painting wildlife and succeeded at that for several years. Going to art shows I painted hundreds of wildlife paintings. That kind of fizzled out because there were too many people doing it.”

## Retirement

Collins retired in 2008 and moved to Arlington.

He has three daughters, eight grandchildren and four

great-grandchildren, and said good genes and taking care of himself have played a big part in his longevity.

But the former Aledo resident said perhaps even more important is his approach to life.

“I gave up heavy drinking by the age of 30,” Collins said. “I never enjoyed it. I also quit smoking at the age of 30, but it was not with the thought of extending my life. It was expensive.

“I finally got a case of the Flu where I couldn’t smoke, and after about two weeks of that, it occurred to me, ‘Hey this is my chance.’ I never smoked after that.

“But more than that, it has to do with attitude, and discovering that you’re not in full control of everything in the world. Things you can control, you do. Things you can’t control, you don’t really worry about them. I do understand well what is in my control and what is not, and I think that plays a major part in it.”



12TH ANNUAL

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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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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

### Special session likely to end with no voucher deal



Gary Borders  
gborders@texaspress.com

As the clock ran down on the Legislature's third special session, Texas House and Senate leaders exchanged barbs over Gov. Greg Abbott's school choice bill and border security proposals, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

In a social media post, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said House Speaker Dade Phelan "wasted another special session" as that chamber failed to even consider Abbott's measure to use public money for private tuition, commonly known as vouchers.

The Senate early in the session passed a school choice measure that has gone nowhere in the House, where a combination of Democrats and rural Republican lawmakers have stood firm in opposition to vouchers since the regular session began in January.

Caught in the rift between the two chambers' leaders is a House border security bill that originally allowed law enforcement officers to expel anyone who illegally crosses the border. Patrick led efforts in the Senate to change the bill to require officers to hand over illegal migrants to federal authorities.

"The Speaker is desperate to improve his border credentials with conservatives and sent the House version of HB4 over to the Senate," Patrick said. "The bill's author claimed it's the toughest border bill ever, but it is simply a Texas-sized catch-and-release bill."

Phelan called the Senate's revamped version "a long-term, state-funded hospitality program for illegal immigrants" and said the House would not accept the Senate's version, the *Statesman* reported.

Abbott is considered likely soon to call a fourth special session.

### Paxton's securities fraud trial set for April 15

More than eight years after being charged with securities fraud, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton will go to trial in Houston on April 15, according to the *Texas Tribune*. State District Judge Andrea Beall scheduled the trial during a hearing last week. Paxton is accused of trying to solicit investors in a McKinney technology company without disclosing the company was paying him to promote its stock, a charge he has denied.

Paxton was acquitted in September in an impeachment trial in the Senate.

Beall also ruled last week that Collin County must pay special prosecutors \$300 an hour for their work in the case. The county had attempted to limit their pay to \$2,000 total, according to

*The Dallas Morning News*. The judge called that amount "wholly unreasonable" and "arbitrary and capricious." The legal fees have been estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Paxton could face up to 99 in years in prison if convicted of the most serious charges.

### Texas is world's Bitcoin mining capital

For better or worse, Texas is now the Bitcoin mining capital of the world, which could have an impact on the ERCOT-run power grid, according to *The News*.

Bitcoin mining requires vast amounts of electricity. Companies are also earning millions of dollars in energy credits by voluntarily shutting down when the grid is reaching capacity. For example, a large-scale Bitcoin operation in Rockdale received \$31.7 million in energy credits for powering down - nearly four times what it made actually mining Bitcoin that month, according to *Texas Monthly*.

Bitcoin mining companies in Texas now account for about half of all Bitcoin mining in the United States, which also makes it the world leader. Bitcoin mining accounts for up to 3% of industrial power usage in Texas, according to *The News*.

### Texas job growth falls below national rate

For the first time since last November, Texas job growth fell

below the national rate in August, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. However, from last December through August 2023, the state's job growth outpaced the U.S.

The state comptroller's office has pulled back from a January prediction of a mild recession for Texas.

"We anticipated slower growth in our revenue estimate, but we also know that Texas' economy is better positioned than other state economies and the national economy to absorb slower growth rates," Comptroller Glenn Hegar said.

His office credits a diverse economy and relatively low taxes and regulation for the state's economic successes. Migration also plays a crucial role, according to Pia Orrenius with the Fed.

"Really, the secret sauce in Texas is the economic growth that is sustained by both firms and people moving to the state," she said.

### State funding doesn't cover school security mandates

New laws that require school districts to enact a number of safety measures in the wake of the Uvalde school shooting are costing school districts far more than the \$1.4 billion that was allocated, superintendents across the state told the *Texas Tribune*.

Turn to **SESSION**, page 5

## Look at it This Way

### Long time coming, but worth the wait



Rick Mauch  
sports@community-news.com

In the words of pop singer Lizzo, "It's about damn time!"

A lot of folks waited a long, long time for the celebration that took place in the Metroplex on Wednesday night, Nov. 1. The Texas Rangers are finally champions of the professional baseball world.

Much like the ugly duckling or a certain reindeer that was never invited to play with the rest, the Rangers stood out among our local pro sports franchises as the loveable team yet to claim the ultimate prize. We hoped a championship would find its way here some day, but until now the closest was the painful memory of getting oh so close in 2011, only to have it yanked away like Lucy with Charlie Brown's football.

This time, however, it is the Diamondbacks - and John Smoltz, of course - who are saying "Good grief," while the Rangers celebrate finally getting off the kick. In fact, they kicked in the proverbial door, winning the whole dang thing in the process.

### Validating memories

Like so many, my memories of the Rangers run deep, to the very year they moved to Arlington. I was living in East Texas at the time and was a wee lad just entering my teenage years. One of the things I remember most about their relocation, oddly enough, is their final game in Washington, which was a 9-0 forfeit to the Yankees when fans stormed the field before the game was actually over.

Admittedly, there wasn't much reason to do any field storming those first couple of seasons in Arlington, with just 111 wins total. Then, legendary manager Billy Martin raised hopes with an 84-76 record in 1974.

There were other times throughout their history that stand out in my memory that brought hope, such as going 95-67 in 1977, and of course, the 1996, 1998 and 1999 playoff appearances under manager Johnny Oates. Damn those Yankees!

In 2010 it was so sweet when Alex Rodriguez, with the Yankees by then and celebrating a world championship from the season before, struck out for the final out as the Rangers reached the brink of the summit before falling in five games to the Giants and manager Bruce Bochy. Yes, the same Bochy who in one season became the greatest manager in Rangers history.

By the way, Bochy is the only manager ever to win a World Series with a team he defeated in an earlier World Series.

A year later in 2011, though all indications were the Rangers were the best team in baseball, again they fell short, dropping the final two games to the Cardinals. I will never forget jumping for joy alongside so many others at a watch party - including my now wife, the lovely Mrs. Junell, when Josh Hamilton's home run in the 10th gave the Rangers a two-run lead.

Now, after a dozen years, the name Nelson Cruz will no longer be considered curse words in our household and a lot of others. Looking back, it would have been an impressive catch. Funny how a championship can bring some clarity - and forgiveness.

### Aledo connections

Of course, local eyes were on former Bearcat Cody Bradford, who had several bright spots in



the postseason after getting called up from the minors in September. He won a game against Baltimore in the second round and pitched two perfect innings in the World Series.

Another local connection for whom I am very happy is Randy Galloway. Before becoming a legendary sports columnist he was a beat writer for the Rangers with the *Dallas Morning News*.

Now, after all these years, he can raise a beer - or several - to toast Bradford, Bochy and the rest of the Rangers. This one's for you Randy, the beer and the championship.

### Special moments

I've certainly had some special moments with other championships in the Metroplex. I covered the last Super Bowl the Cowboys were in - and won. At the time, I was young and new to the area and thought to myself, "This is cool. The Cowboys go to the Super Bowl as often as I go to the kitchen."

Well, as my wife and physique will attest, I am still going to the kitchen a lot. Meanwhile, the Cowboys' championship cupboard has gotten pretty bare since then.

Junell and I were in attendance - thanks to a good friend who couldn't use his tickets - in 2011 when the Rangers clinched the American League pennant at The Ballpark. That still ranks right up there as one of my all-time favorite sports - and romantic - moments.

There were many games to which I took my son Justin as he was growing up. I remember we sat through a 15-inning contest at the old Arlington Stadium, which the Rangers won.

In the late 1970s, a high school friend and myself made the trek from Tyler to see the Rangers overcome a 7-0 deficit against the Cleveland Indians to win 8-7 on a Richie Zisk home run in the ninth. That same season we saw them rally from a 6-1 deficit to defeat the Yankees 11-7.

I was also fortunate enough to cover their first ever playoff season in 1996. That included winning their first playoff game ever - followed by nine straight losses to those damn Yankees.

Did I say how sweet it was to beat A-Rod and the Yankees to get to that first World Series?

### Most special of all

My best friend Mark and I were at the watch party at Globe

Turn to **WORTH**, page 5



Idle American

# The Moon and Back...



**Dr. Don Newbury**  
newbury@speakerdoc.com

The comparison isn't nearly as far-fetched as it may seem at first blush. In many ways, though, the Texas Rangers' unlikely mastery of the 2023 baseball World Series resembles the Apollo 11 Space Mission.

Huh? We who are long of tooth, gray of hair or bald of head remember the late 1960s. Many Americans viewed our nation's plan for astronauts to reach the moon and tromp around its scraggy landscape to be sheer balderdash. About the same time, residents of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex thought chances of ever securing a bona fide major league baseball team were roughly the same as reaching the moon.

Think about it. Arlington's 26-year Mayor Tom Vandergriff spent many years trying to get a major league baseball team to the Metroplex. He was unrelenting. Some were critical with prolonged laughter; thankfully, a few believed.

After all, Houston Judge Roy Hofheinz, a political juggernaut himself, convinced Major League Baseball moguls that only one major league team was needed in the Southwest, specifically Houston. His stance was beyond cocky after his "Colt 45s" were invited in 1962.

Judge Hofheinz was doggedly determined to thwart Vandergriff—who also would later serve as county judge. But Vandergriff kept

pushing, finally working his magic to move the Washington Senators to Arlington in 1972. Granted, it was a rag-tag outfit, barely meeting major league standards, but that's another story.

Now, back to the space angle. In 1969, then President Lyndon B. Johnson championed our young space program that would send astronauts for a moon walk.

Many doubted that the mission would succeed. I don't remember the odds projected for the program's success, but it was rife with naysayers.

Odds for success surely were better than the Rangers' probability of winning the 2023 World Series. Before the season's first pitch, Las Vegas oddsmakers said odds were 50-1 against the Rangers.

Let us hearken back to a 1969 summer news conference, held in the Davis Mountains in far southwest Texas. The astronauts, seated around a big table, were completing final "mock-ups" for the big space shot.

All the "biggies" from TV networks, newspapers, radio stations and other media gathered to fire questions. One who wasn't a "biggie" nationally was big in Brewster County.

Representing the weekly Alpine Avalanche was the irrepressible Hallie Stillwell, a legendary ranch woman who was boot-leather tough and tack-sharp. She also was a Justice of the Peace, and not to be trifled with. Readers looked forward to her weekly no-nonsense columns in the Avalanche.

After the national media reps had posed questions on the minds of millions of Americans, Hallie waved her hand, eager to be heard.

With her Big Chief tablet and a well-sharpened #2 pencil at the ready, she blurted something like this: "You fellers don't really think you are going to walk on the moon, do you?"

Okay, maybe not her exact words, but mighty close. And she was serious.

I'm sure Vandergriff faced similar questions.

Thankfully, he never gave up. Fifty-two years after their arrival here, the old Senators—now the beloved Texas Rangers—didn't know they couldn't, so they did.

Surely Bruce Bochy, the renowned manager who now has won four World Series crowns, has the same vision and confidence as Vandergriff. Sure, team owners ponied up money to sign major talent, but make no mistake about it: Bochy was the difference.

It's a magical time in the Metroplex. We are giddily connected in a fractured world. For moments that may be too brief and shining that will soon disappear, Metroplex togetherness abounds. When a parade commemorating the championship attracts more than a half-million folks, memories are nailed down.

Fans believe their Texas Rangers to be interplanetary and love them "to the moon and back."

If heaven has a glass bottom, Tom Vandergriff can't wipe the smile from his face. Even Hallie would agree that Texas' "boys of summer" will stoke warm memories for the snows of many winters.

*Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.*



TEXAS

## Hit a home run with the new Texas Rangers Plate!



Austin, TX – Hey batter, batter, batter! It's time to take me out to the ballgame with the brand-new official Texas Rangers license plate now available for all fans. My Plates, the one-stop shop for all specialty license plates in Texas, is thrilled to announce the release of this exciting new addition to their collection.

With the new Texas Rangers license plate proudly displayed on your car, you can bring the spirit of the ballgame with you wherever you go. Tailgates, road trips, and daily commutes will all become opportunities to showcase your unwavering support for the Rangers. Designed to capture the essence of the team, this license

plate is a fan favorite that will surely turn heads.

Starting at just \$50 a year, fans can join the big leagues and become part of an exclusive group of Rangers enthusiasts sporting their team colors on the road.

"Real Rangers fans have Rangers plates," says Steve Farrar, CEO at My Plates. "This license plate lets you put on a show for the team you support 24/7. It's time to step up to the plate and show the world who you root for."

So, batter up! It's time to shine with the new Texas Rangers license plate. Don't miss out on this chance to hit it out of the park and support your beloved team. Visit My Plates today and let your team spirit take the wheel.



## SESSION

from page 4

A measure that would have allocated an additional \$4.5 billion died because of squabbling over voucher programs, and the same appears to be likely in the latest special session.

Hearne ISD superintendent Adrain Johnson said his rural district has been forced to spend its own money on new safety measures.

"It's disappointing that we didn't get the funding to do it at a level that doesn't hurt the district and allows us to keep most of our funding dedicated to the education of children," he said.

### Texas still top state for domestic migration

Texas in 2022 continued to be the leading destination for people moving to another state in the U.S., according to the Texas Demographic Center.

"Texas has consistently been one of the fastest-growing states in the country, and the flow of individuals and families moving to the Lone Star State has played a pivotal role in this growth," according to the TDC.

Most of the people moving to Texas came from California, Florida, Oklahoma and Colorado, the report said.

*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.*

## WORTH

from page 4

Life Field with about 20,000 others when the Rangers clinched their first World Series championship on Nov. 1. And yes, it was every bit as special as it would have been had we actually been at the game - and with the \$1,000 or so bucks we saved on tickets we were able to get some great championship gear.

Being there, alongside other long-suffering fans (and some young suffering, but the more the merrier) made it all the more special. One elderly lady in the row in front of us - she was 85 if she was a day - said she can now move on to the next life a happy person.

Next to us was a young man with his girlfriend. They were probably not even in kindergarten in 2011, but they held their own celebrating alongside us old-timers.

When the final strike was called, Mark said he actually fainted for a moment. I was too busy celebrating to notice, if I am honest, but he bounced right back up without missing a beat or any high-fives.

Of course, he'd had both a COVID booster and flu shot earlier that day - but we both prefer to believe it was because the moment was so emotionally overwhelming.

Honestly, I might have fainted as well, but I was too busy pinching myself.

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## Trinity Christian Academy Gift Fair 2023

Trinity Christian Academy held their annual Gift Fair on Saturday, Nov. 4. The event drew hundreds of shoppers to 55 vendor booths.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS



Grey Quinlan sizes up fuzzy holiday socks on display. Quinlan is a first-grader at Stuard Elementary.



Taylor and Cameron Trapp select scented gifts from the Blessings Candle Store.



Stuard Elementary fourth-grader Candence Weaver considers Christmas gifts at the Trinity Christian Academy Gift Fair. The event drew hundreds of shoppers to 55 vendor booths.



Shoppers had 55 different booth to browse a the TCA Gift Fair.



Julie Thomas enjoys rows of crafts and gifts at the TCA Gift Fair.



Gladys Spaulding is enchanted by sparkling lighted gift baskets and table settings.



Families enjoyed time together and found many items they wanted at the TCA Gift Fair.



Vendors had many things to offer including hand sewn ornaments.

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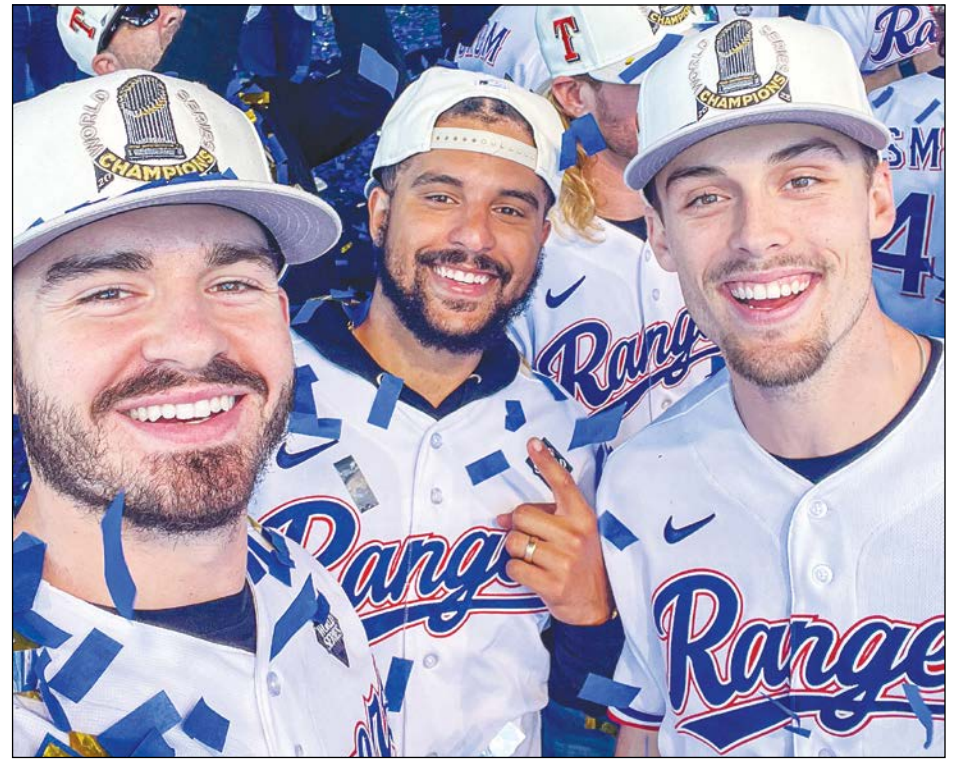




THE RANGERS



DANIEL SHIREY



CODY BRADFORD

Pitcher Cody Bradford and his wife Madi with the World Series Championship statue after the Texas Rangers won the World Series against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Cody Bradford of the Texas Rangers pitches in the seventh inning during Game 4 of the 2023 World Series on Oct. 31.

Cody Bradford poses for a selfie with his teammates during the World Series parade in Arlington on Friday, Nov. 3. The team celebrated their win with over 500,000 Texas Rangers fans at the parade.

## BRADFORD

from page one

force plate projections, and workout so I can get the best off-season program based on how my body works that I could possibly get."

Preparation for next season never stops for Big League ballplayers, not even in those rare instances where a young man from a small north Texas town realizes every dream he had growing up in the span of one season.

"It's been incredible," said the 25-year-old Aledo native. "Honestly, it's been overwhelming. I'll say that. It's been overwhelming, but incredible at the same time.

"I can't help but see God's hand at work. He's given me the opportunity to play at this level. God's done everything. He's helped me through injury in my career and poured out blessing after blessing.

"Looking up in the stands and seeing some of the young faces up there, I was the same way. When me and my dad would go to games, it was so cool to get to see Ian Kinsler, Josh Hamilton, Mark Teixeira, or Derek Holland pitching. It was nuts. And now that I'm here, it feels like a dream every day. Sometimes I go to the field and it doesn't feel like this is my job, it doesn't feel real. It feels like I'm just dreaming and I'm going to wake up one day. It's incredible!"

### Big dreams in a small town

Bradford's diamond dreams started at the age of nine. Playing little league right here in Aledo on a team where his dad doubled as his head coach, Bradford took to the bump for the first time. That experience put a dream – an extraordinary dream – in his heart that he's spent his life in pursuit of.

But big dreams are never realized overnight. They are a journey of millions of small steps consistently taken in the same direction.

For Bradford, his next step was being a Bearcat playing on the Aledo High School baseball team. The experience he gained coupled with the coaching and expectations that come along with being part of this community helped prepare him to take that eventual next step.

"All the coaches have the expectation for you to go out there and win," Bradford stated. "At the same time, they know how to develop the kids and how to get the best out of them. I was lucky to have some really good coaches along the way that were really encouraging and helped me out. The second thing I would credit my work ethic to would be my dad. He taught me from a young age to work hard at whatever it is. If it's academics, if it's athletics, if it's being a future husband - whatever it may be, just work really hard at it."

### Bear-ing down

Following the end of his high school career, Bradford went on to Baylor University to pitch for the Bears as a Division I athlete.

"Every time you move up a level or division, you kind of have a moment where you wonder, am I good enough to be here? Coming from high school to college, I was successful in high school, but I don't know how much that's going to play at the college level. Your first outing or two, it's kind of just trying to find your confidence."

Bradford did indeed find his confidence. In 2018, he pitched for the Chatham Anglers in the renowned Cape Cod League, was named to the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team, and was the Big 12 Conference Pitcher of the Year.

Then adversity struck. In back-to-back seasons Bradford was sidelined. In March of 2019 while at Baylor he underwent season-ending surgery. He ended up being drafted by his beloved Texas Rangers that year despite the surgery. But, before he could play in his first game as a professional,

the Minor League Baseball season was scrapped due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020.

### Getting the call

After spending just over two seasons in the Rangers minor league system, he was called into the manager's office while on the road with the Round Rock Express. He was advised he would not make his planned start on Sunday, May 14. When he asked why not, his manager told him it was because the Rangers wanted him to start on Monday in Arlington against the visiting Atlanta Braves.

During his Major League debut, Bradford threw five complete innings, surrendering six runs and striking out three batters in the spot start before returning to Triple-A. A couple weeks later, the Rangers came calling again, and again a few weeks after that.

"Any time I got called back up, against Baltimore a couple weeks later and then against L.A. a month or two later, every opportunity I got, it felt like the first time again," Bradford recalled. "It was surreal. It was really fun trying to get my nerves down, my emotions down, and just focus on the game. It was like multiple debuts, essentially. Every time I got that phone call again, it was exciting."

By the time the regular season came to a close, Bradford had a 9-3 record in Triple-A with a 3.63 ERA, which made him the Pacific Coast League's Pitcher of the Year in spite of only being in the minor leagues for part of the season.

At the Major League level, he threw 56 innings, made eight starts, had a 4-3 win-loss record, with a combined ERA of 5.30 for the Rangers as the team prepared for their playoff run.

"The more you learn, it's not about how hard you throw, or how

nasty your pitches are. It's really about how much conviction can you have behind every pitch that you throw? The more conviction you have, the better you're going to execute each pitch and hit your spots."

### Winning it all

As October wound to a close, Bradford went from just hoping to be on the roster for the American League Championship Series against the Houston Astros to providing the Rangers with two shutout innings of work coming out of the bullpen in relief during the World Series. Texas went on to close out the series, four games to one over the Arizona Diamondbacks to earn the first World Series championship in the franchise's 62-year history.

"I don't know if I have been able to process it yet," Bradford said transparently. "My feet haven't touched the ground. I've not been able to wrap my whole head around it. I appreciate the World Series, but I think I would understand just how rare it was had this not been my first season in pro ball. I feel like I had a cup of coffee in the big leagues this year and got lucky enough to be on the playoff roster and then win the World Series.

"I don't know if I understand how rare making it that deep in the playoffs really is yet. Having guys like Ian Kennedy on the team, who's been in the big leagues for parts of 17 years – he would come in every day during the playoffs and say, 'Cody, this doesn't happen. This never happens. We're doing it, Cody. We're doing it this year. This doesn't happen.'

"I would be like, what are you talking about? He would tell me, 'I've been in the playoffs twice my entire 17 years in the big leagues. I've never even come close to making it to the World Series. This is awesome!' Getting to see his reaction made me appreciate this moment and be grateful for this opportunity."

As the Rangers returned home to the Texas-sized fanfare, nearly a million people lined the streets of Arlington on Friday, Nov. 3, for the World Series parade. For Bradford, it was an opportunity to relish in a dream with the people who mean the most to him.

"The parade itself was pretty cool. They had Toyota trucks for each one of us and our families to ride in. My parents got to come and be part of it. My sister was there, along with my wife. It was really cool getting to have that experience and share it with them too."

### Here we go again...

With the 2023 season being everything he could have hoped and more, the only thing left to do is do it all over again - or, at least give it everything he's got.

Bradford enters his first major league offseason with a lot of work ahead of him. He's already got goals heading into next season. Attaining those goals starts now.

"As far as off-season goals go, it would be breaking ball development to try to get a swing-and-miss breaking ball pitch."

Bradford is uncertain what future plans the organization have in store for him looking ahead to the 2024 season. Once the parade ended on Friday morning, everyone went their own way, including Bradford, who jumped on a plane for Charlotte. While no official discussions have taken place, the southpaw knows exactly what he'd like to happen.

"I would hope there's an opportunity to break with the big league team next year. I don't know if that would be in a starter's role or not, just looking at the guys we have coming back," he said. "Even if it's in a long relief role coming out of the bullpen like my role was during the playoffs and the last month of the season, I would love that opportunity with the hopes of one day working my way back to being a starter."



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



**NOVEMBER 12**

**Shop the Trot**

The annual Shop for the Trot will run from 1-6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12, at Split Rail Golf Club & Links 2151 Old Annetta Road, Aledo. Free to public! Vendors at the event will donate back to the Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot. For more information, visit [www.aledothanksgiving-trot.com](http://www.aledothanksgiving-trot.com).



**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 from 6 - 10p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19. 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)

**NOVEMBER 21**

**Safe Sitter Course**

Texas AgriLife Extension will be conducting a Safe Sitter course from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, at the Parker County Extension Office, located at 604 North Main Street in Weatherford. Safe Sitter is a medically accurate program that teaches boys and girls ages 11 and up how to handle emergencies when caring for children. The class teaches safe and nutrition childcare techniques, behavior management skills and appropriate responses to medical emergencies. CPR basics will be covered but will not be a certification course. The cost of the program is \$50 that will cover materials, snacks and lunch. Any youth who would like to take the class can sign up by calling the Parker County Extension office at 817-598-6168.



**NOVEMBER 23**

**Thanksgiving Trot**

The 12th annual Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot will start at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, Nov. 23 at Aledo High School. Both 5K and 1 mile will have the same 8:30am start time this year. Not a runner?? You can walk, crawl or just come hang out!! Going to be out of town?? You can still register and get t-shirt or just donate to help the

Chasteen Family. We will have early t-shirt pick up the Monday & Tuesday before Thanksgiving. For more information visit <https://www.aledothanksgivingtrot.com>



**NOVEMBER 28**

**Home for the Holidays**

The Parker County Extension Education Association invites everyone to the 23rd Annual "Home for the Holidays," from 10a.m. - 2p.m on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at Central Christian Church Fellowship Hall, located at 1602 South Main Street in Weatherford.

The event will include interactive stations including Extension Education Club booths, over 20 area vendors, cookie decorating, informational presentations, cooking demonstrations, Christmas bingo and more. There will be entertainment, raffles, door prizes, a silent auction, and more. The cost to attend is \$5.00 per person. There will be lite lunches available for \$5.00 per person. Tickets are available at the doors, also from Extension Education club members and at the Parker County Extension Office. For more information contact the Parker County Extension Office at 817-598-6168.

**NOVEMBER 30**

**A Merry Bearcat Christmas**

It's A Merry Bearcat Christmas presented by BlueQuail Clothing Co. and benefitting Aledo Education Foundation from 5 - 8p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, at the Don R. Daniel Ninth Grade Campus in the Cafeteria.

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**

1 "the \_\_\_ of my existence"  
5 Texas has \_\_\_ on smoking in public buildings  
6 Pampa hosts the "\_\_\_" Texas Rodeo each July  
7 actor Martin of "Relative Strangers" with SMU-grad Kathy Bates  
8 TXism: "mad as \_\_\_"  
17 San Antonio hand-crafted shoe maker  
18 Texas infelder, "Mr. Cub" (2 wds.)  
21 Tom of "Concrete Cowboys" with TX Fairchild (init.)  
22 fancy party  
23 TX Janis Joplin album: "I \_\_\_"  
24 watch out  
29 Trump carried the 2020 \_\_\_ in Texas  
30 former Cowboy quarterback, Aikman  
31 TX Nolan Ryan threw 7 \_\_\_-hitters  
32 TXism: "risky \_\_\_ nest"  
34 \_\_\_ moss  
35 slang for "tattoo"  
36 informal for "news conferences"  
37 start of a football game: coin \_\_\_  
38 pecan is the Texas state \_\_\_

39 home of Stephen F. Austin State University  
41 TX Charles golfer who won 1971 Masters  
42 this Howard directed 1995 film "Apollo 13" with TX Bill Paxton  
43 TXism: "smoke ' \_\_\_'" (find someone)  
44 TX Willie sang "On the \_\_\_ Side of the Street"  
45 Jake Ferguson pos.  
46 make a mistake  
47 Canton's "First Monday" is on 400 \_\_\_  
48 TXism: "green \_\_\_"  
50 UT residence hall  
51 TX Willie was a soloist on "We the World" (1985)  
52 "si" in Mexico  
53 "\_\_\_ up shop"

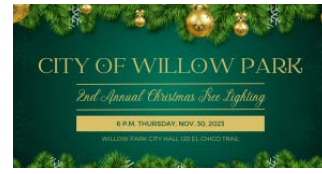
**DOWN**

1 this gunfighter fought at the Texas battle of Adobe Walls (2 wds.)  
2 TXism: "\_\_\_ clear as Red River mud" (unclear)  
3 in Morris County on U.S. 67  
4 WWII atom bomber "\_\_\_ Gay"  
9 chairs  
10 honorary Texas Ranger: \_\_\_ Stanley Gardner  
11 ID evidence in court  
12 "yes" in Mexico  
13 across the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass: Piedras  
14 worn on a cowboy's foot (2 wds.)  
15 city on the western edge of Houston  
16 TXism: "the tail \_\_\_" (last)  
19 "K" of JFK  
20 TX "Mean Joe Greene" was in "\_\_\_" and the "Bandit II" (1980)  
22 a response to "want some?" (2 wds.)  
24 undergrad deg.  
25 paranormal ability  
26 alert someone  
27 TXism: "got \_\_\_ as big as Texas"(kind)  
28 in Nolan County on I-20  
29 Val \_\_\_ County  
30 actress Harper of Texas-based "Tender Mercies"  
33 "no" (abbr.)  
34 "\_\_\_ Laureate of Texas"  
35 brandin' \_\_\_  
37 before Fridays sound qualities  
38 "Old \_\_\_": first courthouse of Comanche County  
41 mongrels  
44 dishonest scheme  
47 take into custody  
49 in Knox County on U.S. 277



Celebrate the season with Letters to Santa, cookie decorating, keepsake Christmas ornament craft more. Along with Santa himself, Mr. Bearcat will be there in the main event area, ready for family photos.

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**2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting**

Make plans to join us for our official Christmas kickoff at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30. This year's tree lighting will be held on November at the NEW City Hall location at 120 El Chico Trail! Featuring treats and hot beverages from DonutNV Aledo, Texas and Travelin' Tom's Coffee of Alliance Fort Worth. Holiday music from the students of Trinity Christian Academy - Willow Park. And of course, a special guest appearance by a big guy in a red suit.

**DECEMBER 2**

**Christmas Tyme in Aledo Arts & Crafts Fair**

The Arts & Crafts Fair is held from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Come by and shop for unique, one-of-a-kind gifts!

**Christmas Tyme in Aledo**

Christmas Tyme in Aledo from 5 - 9 p.m. There are many attractions scheduled all over the downtown Aledo area with holiday fun, food, and entertainment for all ages; and, many of the local storefront businesses stay open late, providing activities and refreshments for visitors! We also heard Santa will be stopping by again this year!  
Bring your friends and family to enjoy this joyous annual Christmas event!

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# BOND

from page one

Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes issued a thanks with gratitude from his city to Deen and the commissioners, particularly Mike Hale, whom Grimes praised for "tirelessly providing correct information to the public."

Grimes added, "The bond election is a home run for the City of Willow Park and we thank the public for their support."

## Amendments

Parker County residents approved 13 of the 14 state amendments on the ballot. The breakdown:

Amendment 1, protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management. 89% for, 11% against.

Amendment 2, authorizing a local option exemption from property taxes for child-care facilities. 61% for, 39% against.

Amendment 3, prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family. 84% for, 16% against.

Amendment 4, raise the homestead property tax exemption to \$100,000 for property owners under age 65; raise the homestead exemption to \$110,000 for those 65 or older; temporarily limit maximum value of property for purpose of property taxes in a tax year for commercial, mineral and non-homestead residential properties under \$5 million; compress school district maintenance and operation taxes an additional 10.7 cents per \$100; raise the amount of money a business can make before being subjected to a franchise tax; requires three new appraisal board members be elected in counties over 75,000 in population. 93% for, 7% against.

Amendment 5, relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions

of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy. 56% for, 44% against.

Amendment 6, creates the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in the state. 76% for, 24% against.

Amendment 7, providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities (grid reliability). 71% for 29% against.

Amendment 8, creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects. 61% for, 39% against.

Amendment 9, authorizes the state legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to retired teachers. 78% for, 22% against.

Amendment 10, authorizes the legislature to exempt from property taxes equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen the state's medical supply chain. 57% for, 43% against.

Amendment 11, authorizes the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. 57% for, 43% against.

Amendment 12, abolishing the office of county treasurer in Galveston County. 60% for, 40% against.

Amendment 13, increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges to 79 years old. 35% for, 65% against.

Amendment 14, provides for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks. 72% for, 28% against.

## Other local votes

Elsewhere around the county: All four Morningstar Ranch Municipal Utility District No. 2

propositions were approved by 100%.

James Synowsky won the Dennis mayoral race running unopposed.

Lawrence Castillo was elected town commissioner in Dennis with 49% of the vote, while Brad Jones received 26% and Mike "Zig" Ziegler 25%.

In the three school bond elections, only Azle passed with 51% of the vote for and 49% against. Springtown's bond was defeated by 57% to 43% margin, and Poolville narrowly lost 50.26% to 49.74%, or 285 votes against and 282 for.

## State results

Also unofficial, here are the statewide results concerning the amendments:

Amendment 1, 79% for, 21% against.

Amendment 2, 65% for, 35% against.

Amendment 3, 68% for, 32% against.

Amendment 4, 83% for, 17% against.

Amendment 5, 64% for, 36% against.

Amendment 6, 78% for 22% against.

Amendment 7, 65% for, 35% against.

Amendment 8, 69% for, 31% against.

Amendment 9, 84% for, 16% against.

Amendment 10, 55% for, 45% against.

Amendment 11, 63% for, 37% against.

Amendment 12, 53% for, 47% against.

Amendment 13, 37% for, 63% against.

Amendment 14, 77% for, 23% against.

In the race for the unexpired term for state representative in District 2 in Harris County, Republican Brent Money received the most votes, 32%. Republican Jill Dutton was next with 25% and Republican Heath Hyde collected 22%. Democrat Kristen Washington received 11% of the vote.

# State Band Competition

The Aledo High School Bearcat Regiment performed at the Bands of America Competition Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEDO ISD



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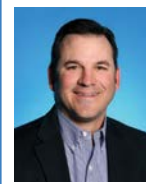
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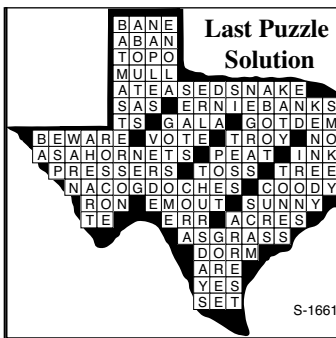
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**ORDINANCE 2023-195**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, MODIFYING CITY REGULATIONS RELATED TO GROUP E OCCUPANCIES STORM SHELTER REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**SECTION 3.**  
It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council of the City of Aledo that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance should be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or sections of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Aledo, Texas, this 26th day of October, 2023.

ATTEST:  
Deana McMullen, City Secretary

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**ORDINANCE 2023-196**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," OF THE ALEDO MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING DIVISION 3, "VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE," TO ARTICLE III, "BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS," TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHICH SHALL ADVISE THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE NEEDS OF VETERANS IN THE ALEDO COMMUNITY AND PLAN, ORGANIZE, AND PROMOTE VETERANS EVENTS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**  
**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Aledo, Texas, this 26th day of October, 2023.  
Nick Stanley, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
Deana McMullen, City Secretary

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CROSS COUNTRY

## Area runners shine in TAPPS State Meet

### Whiteaker captures bronze, Perkins wins gold

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Parker County was well represented at the recent Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools State Track Meet in Waco on Oct. 30 at the Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.



Gracee Whiteaker

Gracee Whiteaker of Willow Park Trinity Christian brought home a bronze medal with a third-place finish at the Class 4A Meet, an improvement over her fourth-place finish from last season. She clocked a time of 13 minutes, 0.72 seconds over the 2-mile course.

Meanwhile, in the Class 3A girls division, Landry Perkin of Weatherford Christian won a state championship with a time of 12:31.64 over 2 miles.

All of the girls ran 2 miles and the boys ran 5K.

Nate Cupp of Weatherford Christian also captured a bronze medal, posting a time of 17:43.22.

Victory Baptist had five top-10 finishers among the boys and girls, while the boys captured the team title in Class 1A. The girls were second as a team.

Among the boys, Noah Burns was fifth with an 18:31.56 timing, while Bailey Hughes (18:33.05) and Brock Hestand (18:50.79) was 10th. For the girls, Sophie Cantu (15:16.34) placed ninth and Emily Haynes (15:22.13) was 10th.

Also in the top 20 for the Patriots were Matthew Haynes, 11th, 18:56.12; Kyle Collinsworth, 17th, 19:42.34; and Hudson Bushman, 19th, 19:47.41.

Nevaeh Tidwell was 17th for the Lady Patriots with a time of 16:22.87.

Wilson Winchester led the Trinity boys, finishing 11th, an improvement over his 26th-place finish a year ago. He clocked an 18:07.55. While he was the lone Eagle to crack the top 50, the Lady Eagles, who finished fourth as a team, had five top-50 finishers.

Along with Whiteaker were Emma Saadeh, 13th, 13:33.57; Madison Clark, 32nd, 14:43.22; Brooklyn Mathieson, 43rd, 14:56.78; and Meagan King, 47th, 15:06.26.



FOOTBALL

## 10 and counting - again

### Bearcats end another perfect regular season

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Once again the Aledo Bearcats have gone 10-0 in the regular season. They accomplished that feat with a 59-13 victory at White Settlement Brewer on Friday, Nov. 3.

The Bearcats also ended District 3-5A Division I play with an 8-0 record, winning their 16th straight league championship dating to 2008. They ran their national-record district winning streak to 119 consecutive dating to 2007.

Their attention now turns to bidistrict and a home matchup against Killeen Shoemaker (7-3), the fourth-place team District 4-5A Division I. The game is set for Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at Tim Buchanan Stadium.

The Bearcats will bring a 24-game winning streak into the contest, which started after they began the 2022 season 0-2.

In defeating Brewer (3-7, 3-5 in district), the Bearcats were without senior starting quarterback Hauss Hejny and sophomore starting running back Ray Guillory. Hejny was nursing a small leg injury he experienced during practice earlier in the week and Guillory has a knee sprain.



BRELEIGH MAYER

Davhon Keys (3) had his final regular-season game on Friday, Nov. 3 against Brewer. Keys had a sack at linebacker and touchdown runs of 2 and 10 yards

While Hejny might have been able to play, but with the district championship already wrapped up, head coach Robby Jones said, "It's best for Hauss to rest."

As for Guillory, he remains questionable as the Bearcats begin their quest for a second straight state championship and 12th in

team history. It would also be the first for Jones as a head coach as he took over for the retired Tim Buchanan this season.

### Beard steps up

Backup quarterback Gavin Beard gave a standout performance in his first varsity start. He

completed 19 of 23 passes for 223 yards, one of those completions going for a 46-yard touchdown to senior receiver Hawk Patrick Daniels.

"There were a lot of nerves, but after the first round I got settled in and counted on my teammates and

Turn to FOOTBALL, page 13

CROSS COUNTRY

## Ladycats second at state, Bearcats 10th



LEFT: The Aledo Ladycats cross country team finished second at the State Meet in Round Rock. It is believed to be the highest finish ever by an Aledo cross country team at state. | RIGHT: The Aledo Bearcats finished 10th at the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE PINKERTON

### Neal, Garrison lead best finish ever

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Molly Garrison had a flashback during the Class 5A Cross Country Meet Friday at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

"As I ran past the spot where I passed out last year I said to myself, 'Hey, I'm still on my feet!'" the sophomore Aledo Ladycat said.

And, unlike last year, which ended in disappointment just a few hundred feet from the finish line, she jetted to a 12th-place individual finish. It was part of an unforgettable day for the Ladycats as a whole as they finished second in the team standings with 81 points, second only to another powerhouse, Lucas Lovejoy with 40.

It is believed to be the best finish for an Aledo cross country team at state.

Garrison clocked a time of 18 minutes, 24.9 seconds over the 5-kilometer course.

Freshman Micah Neal had the best overall finish for Aledo. She placed seventh individually with a time of 18:14.4.

"You want to stay out of the comfort zone," Neal said of pushing herself throughout the race. "I'm really proud of us. We ran really close, and this was a great way to end the season."

Coach Mike Pinkerton said he felt entering state the Ladycats had the potential to make history.

"Going in I thought we were a top-three team. That's just how well the kids have been running all year long," Pinkerton said. "Micah is amazing. All these girls are amazing."

"And Molly, my gosh I am just so happy for her, especially after what happened last year."

Turn to STATE, page 12

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GOLF

# Ladycats compete at state preview

## Get glimpse of what may lie ahead

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Aledo Ladycat golfers are no strangers when it comes to competing on the course hosting the state golf tournament.

In a preview of what may be coming up in the spring, the Ladycats varsity Black Team competed in the State Preview at White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown. The course was the site of the 2023

Class 5A State Tournament this past May, in which the Ladycats participated.

And while the 2024 tournament is moving to Legacy Hills Golf Club, also in Georgetown, the environment remains the same - competing against some of the best teams the state of Texas has to offer.

The Ladycats posted a team score of 707 over the two-day tournament to place 13th in the field of 18. However, unlike other teams in the tourney, they were forced to play with only four players because

Karlee Shaw had to withdraw due to an injury.

Typically, a team has five players in each round. Out of those, the four lowest scores comprise the team score. The Ladycats were not afforded the luxury of being able to discard the highest score as the other teams were.

"The others played well," praised Aledo coach Brian Mourning. "Pretty loaded field."

Aledo was led by Kyla Morales, who posted a two-day total of 162 (79-83). Emily Crick bounced

back from an opening round of 90 to shoot 82 for a 172 total.

Also, Reagan Gilliland finished with a 178 and Kennedy Parker came in with a 195.

"We have a lot to work on, and after the tournament we talked about areas we need to focus on," Mourning said. "Looking forward to getting back to work before next tournament."

The Ladycats and Bearcats will wrap up the fall portion of the schedule on Wednesday, Nov. 15 when they compete in the District Preview at Sugar Tree Golf Club.

VOLLEYBALL

# MMS sweeps Everman to end season

## No games lost in match

Staff Report  
The Community News

The McNally Middle School Ladycats finished the volleyball season with a sweep of Everman on Oct. 30.

Scores were:  
Eighth grade - A 25-8, 25-6; B 25-11, 25-10.  
Seventh grade - A 25-7, 25-19; B 25-15, 25-3; C 25-11, 25-13.

CROSS COUNTRY

# Castillo competes at state

## Wraps up career as Lady Roo

Staff Report  
The Community News

Rayla Castillo finished 47th at the Class 6A State Cross Country Meet Saturday, Nov. 4 at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. The senior clocked a time of 18 minutes, 43.80 seconds over the 5-kilometer course.



Rayla Castillo

It was her first time to compete at state. She did so after finishing second at the District 3-6A Meet and ninth at the Region I Meet in Lubbock.

Her time of 18:35.8 at regionals was a career best.



# STATE

from page 11

## Bearcats

The Bearcats finished 10th among the boys division, which was also won by Lovejoy. Jack Fink had the highest individual finish, placing 20th with a time of 15:55.1.

It was Fink's third consecutive season to reach state. He competed with the entire boys team in 2021 and individually last season, with this being his best finish.

"This was my fourth time running this course and I PR'd (personal record). I am excited about how this season turned out," he said. "I pushed all the way through and I broke 16 on this course."

Fink overcame his own hardship to reach the stage he is on now. As a freshman he was hit by a deer during a practice run with his teammates and was hospitalized. He recovered in time to compete at state, but said he is much more cautious about nature.

"We still run that course in practice and when we come up over that hill I still look out for them," he said with a smile.

"The kid's come a long way," Pinkerton said of Fink. "You talk about a kid with a lot of heart."

## Rounding out

Rounding out the Ladycats' scoring were sophomores Madison Larsen, 22nd, 18:46.4; Sofia Brandenburg, 48th, 19:25.3; and Mykel Murry, 49th, 19:25.8. Also running, but not scoring, were sophomore Elizabeth Griffin, 67th, 19:46.2; and freshman Mayden Mitchell, 124th, 20:45.8.

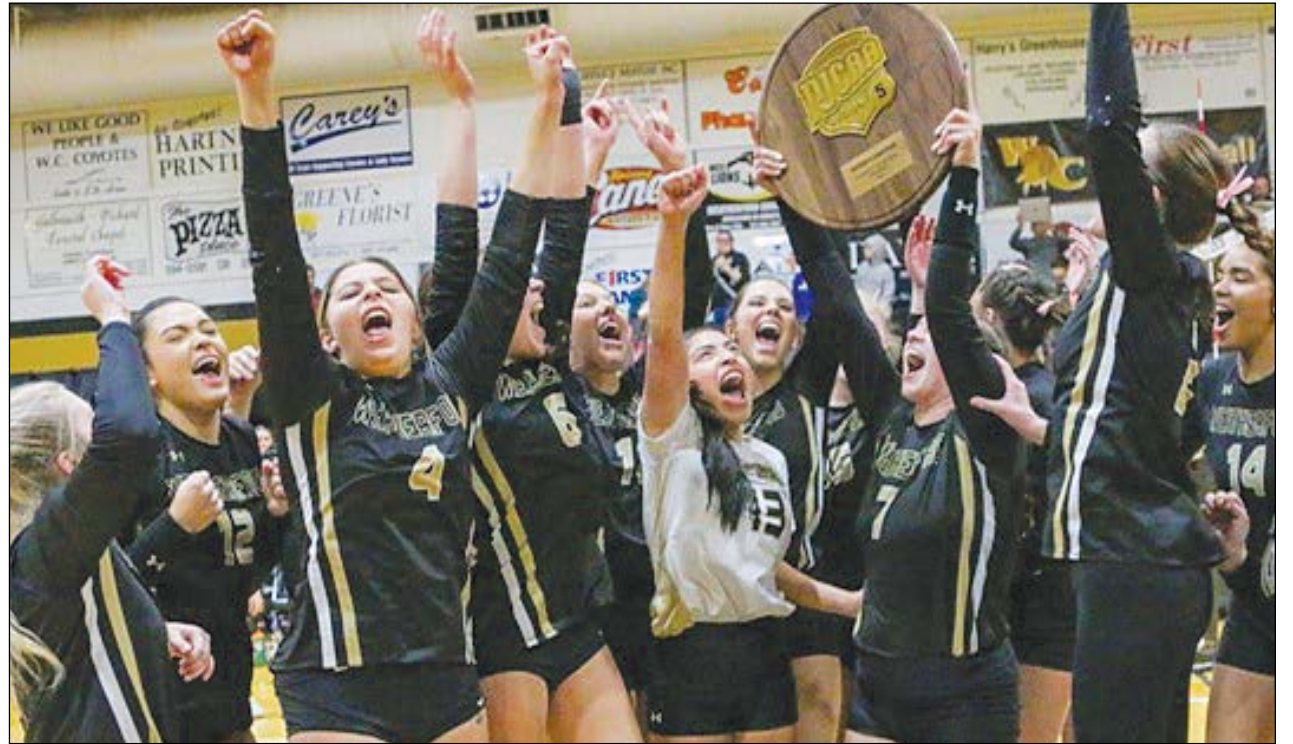
Also scoring for the Bearcats were junior Layton Ybarra, 44th, 16:22.1; sophomores Dominick Barrera and Anderson Smith, 107th and 17:11.2 and 110th and 17:13.3, respectively; and junior Luke Schabel, 112th, 17:20.6. In addition, but not scoring, freshman Tyler Connelly, 117th, 17:22.9; and sophomore Bo Merrill, 120th, 17:24.4, ran for the Bearcats.

"I am so proud of both the girls and the boys," Pinkerton said. "It was just a great season, a really fun season."



VOLLEYBALL

# WC wins regional title



COURTESY WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

The Weatherford College Lady Coyotes celebrate after winning the NJCAA Region V championship on their home court this past Friday. The Lady Coyotes (32-3), ranked 12th in the nation, are headed to their first NJCAA Tournament Nov. 15-18 in Hutchinson, Kansas.

## Lady Coyotes off to first national tourney

Courtesy Weatherford College

In just the second year of the program's existence, the Weatherford College volleyball team is heading to the NJCAA Tournament. WC defeated Odessa College three sets to one in the Region V Tournament championship match Friday night at the Betty Jo Graber Athletic Center on the WC campus.

"Super emotional," is how head coach Kailee May described the moment she realized the team was heading to nationals. "Once I knew it was happening and we were winning, I couldn't contain my emotions. I'm just so proud of

this team and the effort they've put in, literally building this program from scratch."

WC (32-3), ranked No. 12 in the country, faced stiff competition from ninth-ranked Odessa (29-7).

The first set was a marathon, with seven lead changes. Odessa took a 30-29 lead and was on the verge of winning the set, but Weatherford came back with three straight points to win 32-30.

Odessa won the second set, 25-18. It was WC's first lost set of the tournament, having swept both Western Texas College and New Mexico Junior College on Friday.

OC led most of the third set, building up to a 20-15 lead. The Wranglers had

another set point at 24-23, but WC rattled off three straight to win 26-24.

The Coyotes pulled away in the fourth game, never trailing after a 9-9 tie. WC took the victory, 25-17 to clinch the match and the regional championship.

"It was a good way to push us," May said of the hard-fought win. "We made some adjustments, and they worked. We decided to push deeper into the court, score some points deep. That worked and shifted the entire match in our favor."

WC will now prepare for the national tournament, held Nov. 15-18 in Hutchinson, Kansas. Seedings and match times will be released in the coming days.



FOOTBALL

# Kangaroos end season with win

## Finish with .500 record

Staff Report  
The Community News

The Weatherford Kangaroos finished the season on a positive note with a 28-7 win over Fort Worth Paschal Thursday, Nov. 2 at Kangaroo Stadium.

Weatherford jumped out to a 21-7 halftime lead and never looked back.

Quarterback Keats Bohannon connected with Xavier Holder for a 30-yard touchdown in the first quarter for the Roos' biggest play of the game.

The Roos finished with a 5-5 overall record and 3-4 in District 3-6A.



FOOTBALL

# AMS eighth wins district

## B squad goes undefeated

Staff Report  
The Community News

The Aledo Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade football teams ended the season on Tuesday,

Oct. 31 by winning three of their four games against Stephenville.

The eighth-grade A and B teams won their district championship. The eighth-grade B team finished a perfect 7-0.

All four teams posted a winning record.

The eighth A team won 40-0 to finish 5-3. The B team won 24-8.

The seventh-grade B captured a 24-20 win to wrap up a 4-3 campaign. The seventh A fell 31-18, but finished with a 5-2-1 record.

In all, the total program record was 28-8-1 and the Bearcats outscored their opponents by 378 points.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Bridgeport drops Ladycats in season opener



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Caroline Browning dribbles around a Graham defender during varsity hoops action last season. Browning led the Ladycat scoring in the season opener on Saturday, Nov. 4 with 15 points.

## Repeat of last season

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

For the second year in a row, Aledo's Ladycat hoops team has dropped the season opener to Bridgeport. The Ladycats got the basketball season underway on Saturday, Nov. 4, with a 45-32 loss to the Lady Bulls.

Aledo jumped out in front early to take a slim 10-9 lead in the first quarter of action. Competition stayed tight in the second quarter as the Ladycats outscored Bridgeport 9-8 to take a 19-17 advantage into the locker room at halftime.

Coming out of the break, the Lady Bulls were a different ball team. Aggressiveness at both ends of the floor made the difference

for the hosting team as they tallied 28 second-half points while holding Aledo to just 13 at the other end of the floor.

Senior shooting guard Caroline Browning led the Ladycats in scoring as she put up 15 points. Brooklyn Dempsey added nine points. Elizabeth Griffin tacked on seven of her own.

The Ladycats were playing Krum at home at press time. They will host Tenaha Tuesday, Nov. 14, JV at 5 p.m. and varsity at 6:30.



### Ladycats vs. Bridgeport - Nov. 4

<b>Aledo</b>	10	9	7	6	32
<b>Bridgeport</b>	9	8	13	15	45

Aledo scoring: Caroline Browning 15, Brooklyn Dempsey 9, Elizabeth Griffin 7, Jenna Haeussler 1.

WRESTLING

# Aledo teams open season

## Split with Weatherford, Chisholm Trail

Staff Report  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats began the season on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at Fort Worth Chisholm Trail in a tri-match that also included Weatherford.

The Bearcats defeated Chisholm Trail 45-35 and defeated Weatherford 43-42 on a tiebreaker. The Ladycats fell 42-18 to Chisholm Trail and 60-6 to Weatherford.



"Our girls had two hard fought matches but fell short in both of them," head coach Austin Stockon said. "Our boys team got off to a strong start."

The girls team was led by Avery Kernan (107 pound division), who pinned both her opponents. Boys standouts were Ian McCormick (138), Kyle Scharlow (150), Sam Belyeu (165) and Brice Vonasek (215). They pinned every one of their opponents.

The Bearcats and Ladycats are competing in the Arlington Invitational this weekend.

# FOOTBALL

from page 11

trusted in the game plan," Beard, a sophomore, said.

Of course, no first varsity start is complete without a touchdown pass, which Beard got when Patrick-Daniels took a short pass and broke free.

"I was completing a lot of short passes. I busted a sigh on that touchdown," Beard said with a smile.

"He's a capable quarterback. We knew that," Jones said. "We'll go into next year with him as the heir apparent to Hauss."

Jones noted that if Beard was indeed nervous, it wasn't noticeable. He completed six of his first seven passes to start the game.

"He's a pretty cool character under pressure," Jones said.

Beard spread his 19 completions among six receivers. He connected with Kaydon Finley, another sophomore, the most, seven times for 73 yards.



BELEIGH MAYER

Sophomore Lincoln Tubbs (88) came in at quarterback in the fourth quarter and scored a touchdown.

## Blocked punts

Each team scored a touchdown on a blocked punt. For the Bearcats, senior Ky Howington celebrated his final regular-season game by blocking a Bears punt that teammate Chase Wilburn - yet another sophomore - recovered in the end zone for a touchdown.

In a funny scenario for a moment it seemed both players were battling for the ball before Wilburn claimed it for the score.

"I did want the TD, I did!" exclaimed Howington with a chuckle. "I don't think I was even supposed to block that punt. I was supposed to cover the tackle, but I saw the upback wasn't really looking and I saw my chance."

"It felt great. I thought I'd dive and it would hit me in the stomach and hurt, but it got me on the arm."

Jones said Howington's alertness on the play is exactly what he and the coaching staff are looking for.

"We want people to make plays and that's exactly what he did," Jones said. "We were struggling offensively and the timing was right."

The touchdown on the blocked punt made the score 21-0 Aledo.

Ironically, shortly after, the Bears would also score on a blocked punt by Lucas Cantu. It's the first time they've had a punt blocked since 2013.



BELEIGH MAYER

Senior running back RJ Blake (25) pushes through Brewer's defensive line.

## Spreading the score around

Eight different Bearcats scored in some capacity against Brewer. Along with catching a TD pass, Patrick-Daniels got the scoring started with a 6-yard run for a 7-0 lead after the first quarter.

Davhon Keys, who also had a sack at linebacker, celebrated his final regular-season game with touchdown runs of 2 and 10 yards. Running backs Kaden Winkfield, sophomore, and senior RJ Blake each had a TD, as did sophomore Lincoln Tubbs, who came in at quarterback in the fourth quarter.

On special teams, along with Wilburn's TD, junior Cole Crawford kicked a 20-yard field goal and six extra points. Also, senior Logan DeFranzo had a pair of points after touchdown kicks.

## More strong defense

While the Bearcats did not force a turnover, they were stingy with yardage against the Bears. Brewer managed just 139 unofficial yards, including just 85 rushing on 30 carries and 55 passing.

In addition, they forced Bears quarterback Jordan Clark into

several hurried throws. He completed just two of 11 passes.

On 16 of the 30 rushes, Aledo held Brewer to 2 yards or less, including eight of zero or negative yards. Also, after getting four first downs in the opening quarter, the Bears did not get another one until their final drive of the game late in the fourth quarter.

## Next up

Now the Bearcats try to extend another streak against Shoemaker. Aledo has won 27 consecutive bidistrict playoff games since 1996, including last season's 37-0 victory at home over Shoemaker.

Jones knows the Grey Wolves, who returned a host of players from that team, have been thinking about that loss for a year. He said they are also the healthiest they've been since the start of the season.

"It's going to be a tough matchup. They're no slouch," he said.

After a slump that saw them fall to 3-3, the Grey Wolves bring a four-game winning streak into the contest. They have outscored their past four opponents 229-31.

## BEARCATS 59, BEARS 13

**Aledo 7 17 21 14 - 59**  
**Brewer 0 6 0 7 - 13**

- A - Hawk Patrick-Daniels 6 run (Cole Crawford kick)
- A - Davhon Keys 2 run (Crawford kick)
- A - Chase Wilburn blocked punt recovery (Crawford kick)
- B - Lucas Cantu blocked punt returned 25 yards (run fail)
- A - Crawford 20 FG
- A - Keys 10 run (Crawford kick)
- A - Patrick-Daniels 46 pass from Gavin

- Beard (Crawford kick)
- A - Kaden Winkfield 7 run (Crawford kick)
- A - RJ Blake 14 run (Logan DeFranzo kick)
- A - Lincoln Tubbs 22 run (DeFranzo kick)
- B - Jordan Clark 18 run (Jonathan Cortez kick)

## Statistics

- Team
- First downs: Aledo 27, Brewer 6.
- Rushes-yards: Aledo 37-225, Brewer 30-85.
- Passing yards: Aledo 223, Brewer 55.
- Caught-thrown-intercepted: Aledo 19-24-0, Brewer 2-11-0.
- Fumbles-lost: Aledo 0-0, Brewer 0-0.
- Punts-average: Aledo 2-20.5, Brewer 9-23.6.
- Penalties-yards: Aledo 7-55, Brewer 7-56.
- Third-down conversions: Aledo 5-9, Brewer 4-12.
- Fourth-down conversions: Aledo 2-2, Brewer 0-0.

## Individual

- Rushing
- Aledo: Winkfield 9 carries, 52 yards, TD; Blake 3-37, TD; Patrick-Daniels 10-33, TD; Blake Burdine 1-29; Tubbs 3-28, TD; Cole Plumbley 1-25; Keys 3-16, 2 TD; Austin Keith 3-12; Beard 2-(-11).
- Brewer: Jaden Garrett 12-41; Clark 10-40, TD; Reggie Bryson 3-5; Zacary Garcia 1-2; Jovan Sparkman 4-(-3).
- Passing
- Aledo: Beard 19-23-0, 223 yards, TD; Stubbs 0-1-0.
- Brewer: Clark 2-11-0, 55 yards.
- Receiving
- Aledo: Patrick-Daniels 3 catches, 74 yards, TD; Kaydon Finley 7-73; Tyson Timms 4-33; Burdine 2-26; Trace Clarkson 2-13; Winkfield 1-4.
- Aledo sack: Keys.
- Aledo tackle leaders: Chris Johnson 5.5, Cooper Kohan 4.5, Ben McElree 3.5, Carson Dempsey 3.5.
- Aledo tackles for loss: Johnson 2, Keys 1, Kohan 1, Dempsey 1, Jacob McIntire 1.

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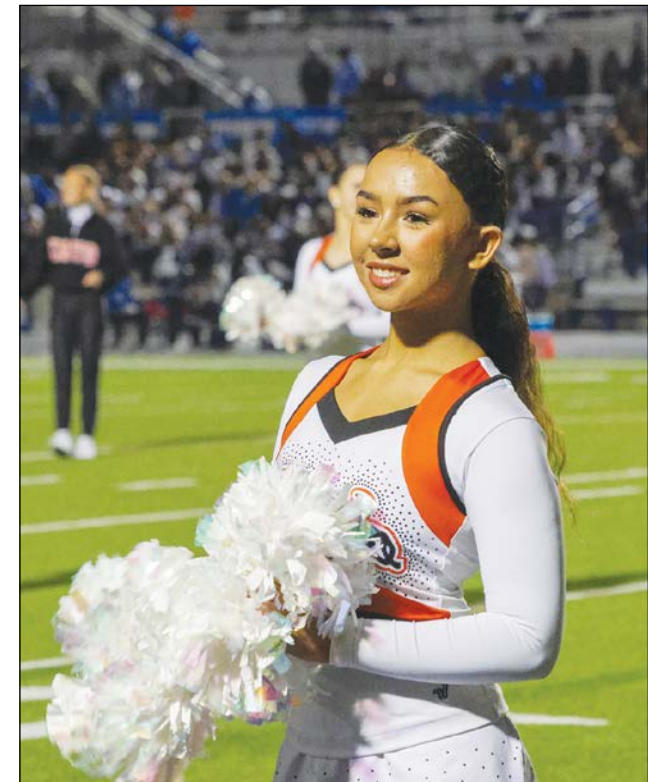
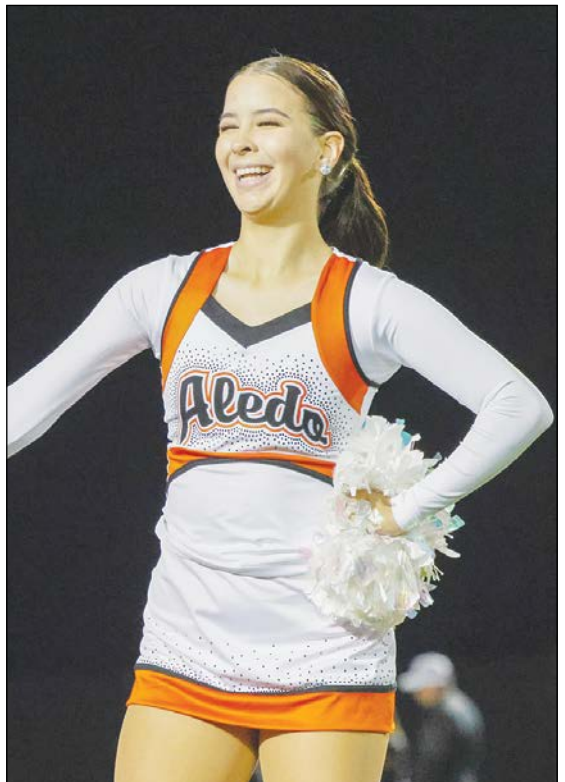


**Molly Garrison**  
**Cross Country**

One year after passing out late in the race, the sophomore runner not only bounced back to compete again, but finished 12th in the state with a time of 18 minutes, 24.9 seconds over the 5-kilometer course at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

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# BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



**Gavin Beard**  
**Football**

The sophomore quarterback, in his first varsity start, completed 19 of 23 passes for 223 yards and a touchdown as the Bearcats defeated Fort Worth Brewer 59-13 to wrap up a 10-0 regular season.

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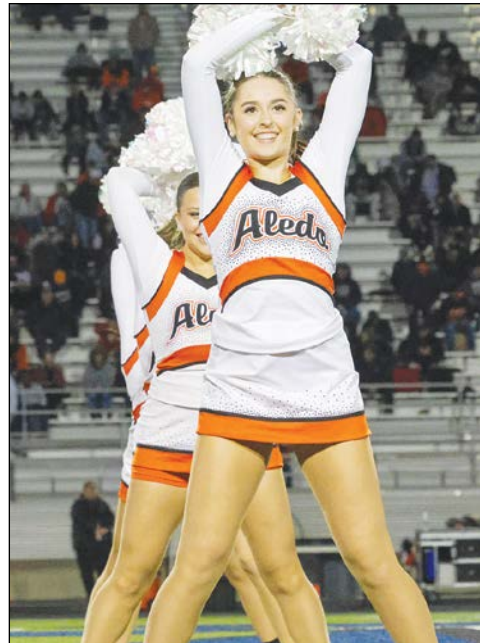
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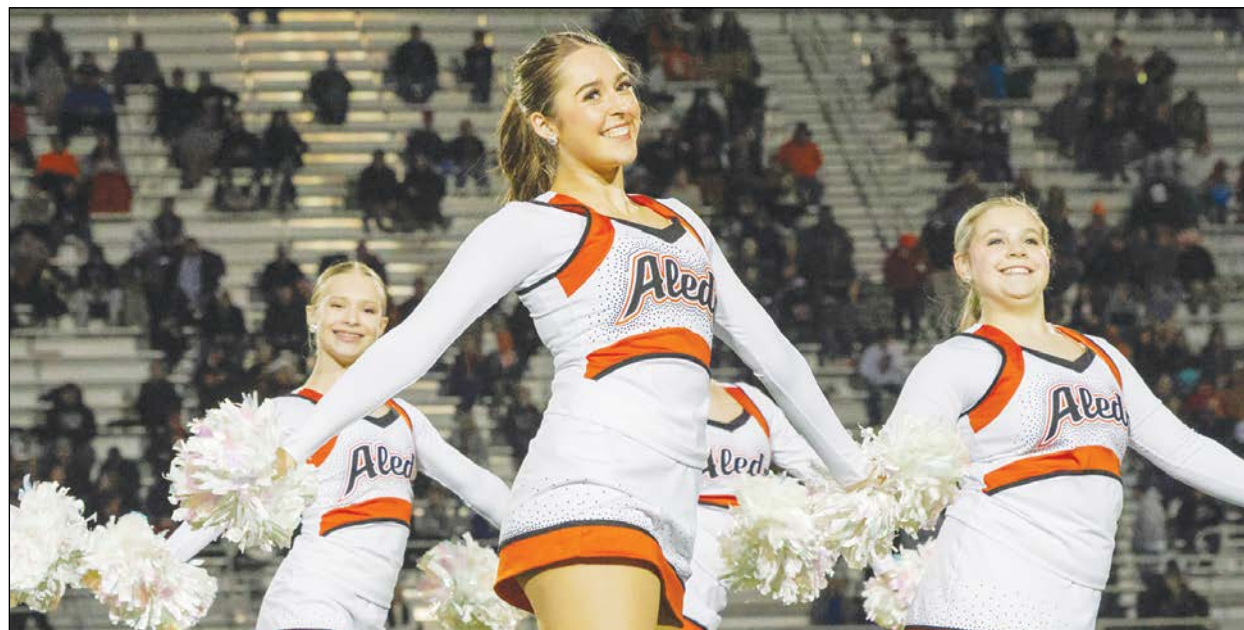
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VOLLEYBALL

# Tough defeat ends Ladycats season

## Advanced to third round

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

It's been another phenomenal season for the Aledo Ladycats volleyball team. They competed all season, dominated their District 5-5A foes, and secured the No. 1 seed heading into the playoffs.

They overcame their shortcomings, and most of all, they were teamwork personified.

But, like all good things do, the 2023 volleyball season came to an end on Tuesday, Nov. 7, for the Ladycats.

After defeating Fort Worth North Side and Birdville to start off the 5A playoffs, Aledo ran into the defending 5A Texas state champions from Colleyville Heritage in the regional quarterfinals. The Ladycats fought valiantly with a gritty determination befitting a team who earned their opportunity to square off against a championship-caliber team like Colleyville Heritage.

Unfortunately, that ended up being the end of the line for Aledo, as the Lady Panthers won the match in four sets by scores of 25-22, 19-25, 26-24, and 25-18.

"It wasn't the outcome we wanted, but we are so very proud of our girls," assistant coach Natalie Gonzales wrote



in an email to *The Community News*. "It was a great season."

The stat line for the match looks similar to how it has all season, which is a testament to the Ladycats rising to the occasion against a stalwart Colleyville Heritage club. Vivian Parker and Alyssa Todd ended the night with double-digit kills. Parker scored 14 points for the Ladycats at the net. Todd added a dozen of her own.

Ava Reding's assists had the Ladycat offense running like a well-oiled machine all season long. Tuesday night was no exception. The junior picked up 28 assists, bringing her total for the year to 1,020. Sophia Frank stepped up in a big way, as she added 15 assists after averaging around 10 per match throughout the season.

Kenrie Pruitt and Logyn Denbow kept the floor clean for the Ladycats, much like they have all season. Pruitt had 19 digs in the final match of the season. Denbow scooped up 15 more.

At the net, Haley Lowe was exactly what the Ladycats have come to rely on her to be. A defensive specialist, she ended the night with four blocks. Her growth as a scoring threat in the middle of the net was also on display, as she scored six kills to go along with her defensive contribution.

Tuesday ended up being the final match of their respective high school careers for five Ladycats. Three of the five have already committed to continue their volleyball careers at the collegiate level. Parker will head to Columbia, Mo., next season where she will play for the Lady Tigers at Mizzou. Skyler Lambert will cross the Red River to play for Henderson State University in Arkansas.

Natalie Anderson plans to attend the University of Oklahoma.

Faith Brooks' future plans are presently unknown.

**"It wasn't the outcome we wanted, but we are so very proud of our girls."**

**Assistant Coach  
Natalie Gonzales**



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kenrie Pruitt celebrates a point for the Ladycats' earlier in the season while the Aledo bench cheers on their teammates in the background.

# Congratulation

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