

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

Council meeting

City to use HOT funds for billboard advertising

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The billboard near Willow Park City Hall is now a HOT topic.

At its meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28, the Willow Park City Council approved the use of hotel occupancy taxes (HOT) to pay for advertising on the billboard situated to the southeast corner of City Hall, which is at 120 El Chico Tr.

Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young had proposed to the council and city staff that they find ways in which the city's HOT could practically and legally be put to good use.

So, city staff contacted Lamar Billboards to inquire about rental of the sign. They learned that the cost to rent it is \$31,680 per side on an annual basis, billed in four 13-week installments, including the initial cost of \$480 for artwork. Thereafter, each time the city requests a change in artwork, it would cost an additional \$480.

"I think the only way to justify the expense (of the billboard) is to use the HOT tax," Young said, urging council and staff to come up with ideas on what should be promoted on the billboard.

Place 3 Council Member Greg Runnebaum added, "I can see this being used for golf tournaments, football games, a lot of things."

The lease on the westbound sign is set to expire on Feb. 11, with a priority for renewal. The eastbound sign was originally believed to be available on Nov. 11, but it appears that contract has been extended and city officials believe the westbound sign serves the city better.

So council approved funds for the westbound sign when it does become available and the contract with Lamar would begin on that date.

"I'd like for us to consider doing this for 12 months. We've got to get in line," Mayor Doyle Moss told the council before the official vote.

City Attorney Pat Chesser reminded the council if HOT is used for the billboard it has to be to promote tourism.

"In other words, you've got to put heads in beds," he said.

City Manager Bryan Grimes noted that the HOT fund is currently almost \$500,000 and is growing at a rate of \$21,000 per month from the city's two hotels. He added that another hotel or two is likely coming in the future.

"This fund is just going to keep getting bigger and bigger," he said.

City staff has also looked into buying the sign, though Lamar

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 5

COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving Trot raises \$126k



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

This year's Thanksgiving Trot raised another record - \$126,000 to help the Chasteen family with expenses related to Jared's cancer treatment. Shown are Jared, Adeana, Andrew, and Noah Chasteen.

New records set in registrations and funds

Staff Reports
The Community News

This year's 12th annual Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot broke new ground.

It was the first time the event was managed by co-chairs Niki Thompson and Whitney Harris. And, once again, a record amount of money was raised.

This year's event raised \$126,000 to benefit the family of Jared Chasteen, who has undergone multiple surgeries and chemotherapy to fight cancer.

More than 1,800 runners registered for the combined 1-mile and 5-k race that started and ended in front of Tim Buchanan Stadium at Aledo High School. There were so many runners and walkers it took more than four minutes to clear the starting line once the race began.

The Trot is a unique event in that all expenses are covered by sponsors, all work is done by volunteers, and all proceeds from registrations go to the recipient.

Once the runners completed the race, it was announced that Aledo High School junior Jack Fink won the men's division with a time of 15:29. Women's 5K

winner Rebecca Lugo clocked her time at 20:26.

Before the check presentation, Thompson announced a new initiative honoring The Community News.

"The Community News has been with us from day one," Thompson said. "They care about all causes within our community, but they are especially close to our hearts with the Trot."

The new initiative creates an annual scholarship to an Aledo High School journalism student named the "Spirit of the Trot - Keck and Schmid" award in honor of Randy Keck and Loydale Schmid.

Turn to **TROT**, page 3



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Throng of participants prepare for the race.

WILLOW PARK TREE LIGHTING POSTPONED

Due to forecasted weather, Willow Park is postponing its tree lighting to 6 pm Tuesday, Dec. 5.

PARKER COUNTY

EMS crew honored at Texas Conference

Actions save life of crash victim

By Blake Rexroat
Special to The Community News

Four Parker County Hospital District (PCHD) paramedics have been recognized with the prestigious "Texas Department of State Health Services EMS Person of the Year" award at this year's Texas EMS Conference.

The award honors an EMS-certified person who has demonstrated uncommon leadership and courage in providing emergency medical service to the citizens of Texas. This year the Texas Department of State Health Services elected to give the award to PCHD EMS Paramedics Jordan Tolliver, Zachary Richmond, Zach Harmon, and Melinda Lane for their critical role in saving the life of a patient involved in a severe traffic accident.

The patient was a driver of a tractor-trailer rig who collided with another semi at a high rate of speed in the east bound lane on Interstate 20 in west Parker County on February 14, 2023.

Paramedics Zach Harmon and Zach Richmond from the PCHD Brock Unit were the first to arrive at the scene. There was severe damage to the truck of the rear tractor-trailer which was crushed on impact. The driver was pinned inside the heavily damaged cab. The patient was unconscious, pale, and sweating heavily. His left leg had been amputated in the crash and he was losing a large amount of blood.

The two paramedics reached through a hole in the wreckage and were able to open the patient's airway. In addition, they were able to place an iGel, an emergency airway device, into the patient's airway. Due to the severity of the patient's injuries and large amount of blood loss, the patient needed to be quickly removed from the vehicle.

First responders from the Brock-Dennis and Greenwood Fire Departments were on site and helped oversee the difficult extrication of the patient. The

Turn to **EMS**, page 5



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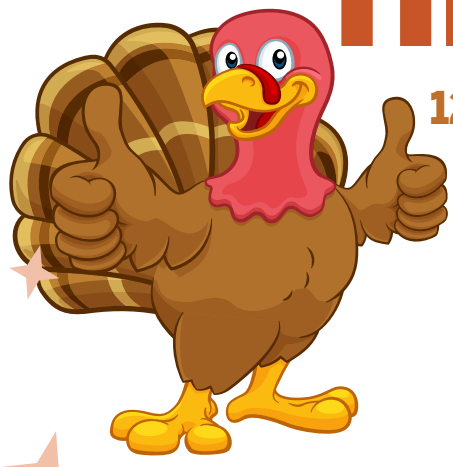
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Thanksgiving Trot

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



LEFT: Thanksgiving Trot beneficiaries Adeana and Jared Chasteen visit with runners at the starting line before boarding the lead race vehicle. | MIDDLE: The Thanksgiving Trot is pet friendly. Just ask Corbin, or his owners Ruby and Jeff King. | RIGHT: The Chasteen family on stage is shown with the Thanksgiving Trot Board of Directors.



LEFT: Aaron Fields helps with a pre-race group photo for the Vida family, Adrian, Luke, and Amy. | MIDDLE: Niki Thompson announces the Thanksgiving Trot's new scholarship honoring The Community News with publisher Randy Keck. | RIGHT: Every time Jerry McQuade tries to stretch before the race, daughter Georgia gives him a playful shove from behind.



LEFT: Men's 5K winner Jack Fink, a junior at Aledo High School, clocked his time at 15.29. | MIDDLE: Past recipient Emma Vidal volunteered at this year's race. | RIGHT: Women's 5K winner Rebecca Lugo clocked her time at 20.26.

TROT

from page one

Thompson then thanked the board, including her mother, race-founder Rhonda Torres.

"She pulled us all together for the first year, which many of you were there, and it just bloomed into the most beautiful annual event," Thompson said. "Thank you so much to this committee."

The main event was the presentation of the check facsimile to Jared Chasteen, who was honored by the outpouring of support from the community.

"This is by far the most humbling and unique experiences anybody could ever have," Chasteen said. "My family and me, we certainly didn't expect this or ask for it. So thank everybody that came all the people who didn't come. Thanks to all these parents who are showing their kids that it's good to donate

your time and help other people. Because everybody needs help at some point in their life. So thanks, everybody, for helping other people."

Chasteen then pointed out the motivation he received from Emma Vidal, 2019 recipient of the Trot as a 10-year-old with leukemia.

"It was really cool to see somebody who had been here and been a past recipient. So Emma gave me a lot of inspiration. Thank you, Emma," Chasteen said. "And so to all these wonderful people who volunteer their time. It's a humbling deal that to look out and see this many people that care about you and also the most humbling is that there's more people here that I don't know that I do know, and that shows something good about the way people are. Don't get caught up in

watching the news and hearing how bad everything is all the time because this is proof how good people are and how good the world is."



THE THANKSGIVING TROT COMMITTEE

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- Sally Bond
- Blair Cantrell
- Cheryl Choban
- Carey Durham
- Kathy Flowers
- Lauren Grant
- Whitney Harris
- Randy Keck
- June King
- Sabrina King
- Jessica Pipkin
- Drew Poe
- Sharlyn Poe
- Kate Ray
- Rhonda Ray
- Loydale Schmid
- Niki Thompson
- Rhonda Torres

LEFT: Thanksgiving Trot beneficiary Lauren Barnhart Reed was honored by parents Joe and Sharon Barnhart and daughter Leighton Reed before the race. Lauren was the beneficiary of the 2015 race and passed away in 2018. RIGHT: "Princess" Kristen Hoffpauir and "Uncle Sam" Tyler Briggs wait at the starting line.



LOYDALE SCHMID/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Thanksgiving Trot founder Rhonda Torres was greeted by former Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall of Aledo at the 2023 race.

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Content Submission Policy

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

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper.

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

The Community News does not charge for timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee.

Capital Highlights

Abbott: Battle continues over vouchers



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

As time runs out next week on the fourth special session, Gov. Greg Abbott said he will continue to fight for school choice, despite the Texas House once again decisively rejecting it when 21 Republicans largely from rural districts joined Democrats in stripping it from a \$7.6 billion education bill. The *Austin American-Statesman* reported it is unclear what Abbott's next move will be.

"I will continue advancing school choice in the Texas Legislature and at the ballot box and will maintain the fight for parent empowerment until all parents can choose the best education path for their child," Abbott said. "I am in it to win it."

However, Abbott has not said whether he will call a fifth special session. He has previously said that he would back primary opponents to those who rejected the voucher plan.

"I don't know whether the Governor will call us back for a 5th special session or not," state Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, said in a Facebook post Sunday. "Either way, I look forward to the next time I have the opportunity to provide much needed teacher pay raises, increased funding for our local schools, and parents with the opportunity to choose the system of education they believe is best for their child."

The filing period for the March primary is underway and ends Dec. 11.

Widespread power outages possible this winter

The agency in charge of the state's power grid is warning that Texas could face widespread power outages this winter if temperatures plunge below freezing for several days in a row, as occurred last year. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas raised the alarm after canceling a plan to ask power plant operators to reactivate some closed natural gas and coal plants. It received few offers to do so, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

ERCOT is predicting a 14.4% chance of rolling blackouts if the state experiences a severe cold snap such as occurred just before last Christmas. Those chances grow to 16.8% in January, according to the report.

"The resource mix that's changing on the grid isn't really helping to pick up the growing peaks in the winter," ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas said in a recent interview. "That's why there's this growing risk profile that we need to deal with."

Population and business growth are the main drivers of energy shortages on the ERCOT grid, *The News* reported.

After the February 2021 winter storm, the Legislature put in place weatherization standards for power plants and is conducting widespread inspections of power plants to make sure they are complying.

Texas State to host first presidential debate

The first presidential debate for the 2024 general election will be held at Texas State University in San Marcos, the *Statesman* reported. The Sept. 16 debate will be the first of four to take place next year.

Kelly Dampousse, president of Texas State since July 2022, said he believes the university, with nearly 39,000 students, was chosen because of its legacy with former President Lyndon Johnson, who graduated from there, and its facilities.

"Texas State looks a lot like the state of Texas demographically. We are almost all Texas students here, more than 95%," he told the *Statesman*. "And so I think in many ways we look like a great opportunity for them. Not just our facilities, not just our campus, but just the entire story must have looked attractive to them."

The debate will be held in the school's event center, the Strand Arena. Hundreds of media outlets and attendees are expected, and Texas State has set aside \$5 million to prepare for and run the debate.

More than 800,000 Texas children lose health care

Of the 1.4 million Texans who have lost health coverage through either Medicaid of the Children's Health Insurance Program, 58% — or 812,000 — are children, *The News* reported. This follows the end of pandemic-era continuous Medicaid renewals.

"We knew we were going to have problems, to be candid. I'm sorry we're seeing the kind of numbers that we're seeing," said Steve Love, president and CEO of the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council. "This is going to really exacerbate the problems we already have with the uninsured in Texas."

Nearly 70% of people who lost Medicaid coverage in Texas were booted off for procedural reasons, such as failing to return renewal packet requests. The state has the highest rate of uninsured people in the country.

Texas leads nation in annual job growth again

The state again reached a record high nationally with 14.536 million Texans at work, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state's seasonally adjusted jobless rate held steady at 4.1%.

"The Texas economy continues to grow, and there are nearly 480,000 job listings for individuals with the right skills, which TWC can help provide," TWC chairman Bryan Daniel said.

The latest report marks the 10th consecutive monthly increase in jobs, with the addition of 21,000 more Texans on payroll, TWC reported.

We're number one! In feral hogs.

It likely comes as no surprise to rural residents, but even city dwellers are having their yards and gardens ravaged by feral hogs, which have been reported in 99.6% of Texas counties. The only exception thus far is El Paso County, according to new data from the University of Georgia.

Rounding out the top five in sightings of the invasive species are Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Oklahoma. Feral hogs have a high fertility rate and can eat nearly anything.

Texas A&M researchers have found a warfarin-based toxicant that is effective in reducing the feral pig population, but it is not yet being widely used. Hunting and trapping remain the most highly used methods of eradication, but so far the hogs are winning the battle.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

Idle American

Where Did We Go Wrong?



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

Irony's definition has been stretched to the breaking point for me. Verily, Humpty-Dumpty's nursery rhyme about his "wall fall" pales greatly when compared to the fall-out of a deposed football coach who had a "falling out" with his employer. The shocker, though, is that deposed Coach Jimbo Fisher will be paid some \$76 million to leave. Why, that's nearly as much as Garth Brooks' divorce.

Words from Texas A&M University principals have been measured and vague, mostly insisting that state money isn't involved in the pay-off. They maintain that all will be well and that a new coach will be on board within days.

One of the world's all-time great sportswriters, Dr. Blackie Sherrod, might have applied one of his famous quotes to describe the Texas A&M mess: "As pure as driven slush." The "win-at-all-cost" approach is rampant throughout our culture. However, the scales of justice were heavily weighted toward Fisher in his employment contract.

Texas A&M has its own law school, for crying out loud. Maybe

consultation would have helped to avoid the embarrassment and record-smashing expense of this madness. After all, A&M bought an up-and-running law school from Texas Wesleyan University a few years ago at a cost of \$75 million, about the same as Fisher's pay-off.

Though A&M wears the dunce cap for now, the Aggies didn't invent our current culture. There are a couple of dozen schools nationally where football wags the dog and where TV money is at the root of all substantive decisions. Money no longer talks; it screams. The current emphasis is light years away from what collegiate sports were intended to be. Until the current century, TV didn't make major decisions. Regents and trustees did. Now, some "go along," perhaps believing the NCAA's barrage of ads that their teams are composed of "student athletes." This is no doubt true in most instances, but in some, such claims are "oxymoronish" at best (no pun intended). Some athletes wouldn't know a classroom from a broom closet. Maybe it's time for a handful of big-time college football teams to be set adrift from their institutions, allowing sports to return to intended roles of being only parts—albeit important ones—of higher education institutions.

Here's another irony involving Aggies, this time the ones at New Mexico State University. In 1963, as a woeful season wound down with only three wins, NMSU invited the Lobos of Sul



Ross State University to visit Las Cruces for a Thanksgiving Day game.

The Lobos, led by dazzling quarterback Luz Pedraza, proved equal to the challenge. The Alpine institution, its enrollment less than 10% of NMSU's, could use NMSU's \$25,000 check that would greatly exceed expenses.

You guessed it: The little NAIA school upended NMSU, 42-15, with enough money left for a new transmission in the team bus, but that's a whole 'nuther story.

Fast-forward 60 years. Recently, the NMSU Aggies played the mighty Auburn Tigers of the vaunted Southeastern Conference. A "David/Goliath" slaughter loomed. The Tigers were off-the-charts favorites to smite the Aggies. NMSU would return to Las Cruces with \$1.85 million for enduring the drubbing.

The Aggies, however, didn't get the memo. They pounded the Tigers, 31-10, ending Auburn's home win streak of 49 home wins against non-power

conference teams. It was NMSU's first win over an SEC team in 25 tries. Coach Jerry Kill's incentive bonuses exceeded \$100,000. (Kill, BTW, has epilepsy and a shoulder tattoo he had promised last year if his charges won the Quick Lane Bowl game.)

A dream would be to savor one more Thanksgiving with the Texas Aggies battling the Texas Longhorns, a "telly-following-turkey" observance during most of my life. This, of course,

is not to be. Now, both teams are members of the SEC. Who knows how they'll fare? They're both likely to come up with the money--tainted, hush or blood--in their quest for national championships. We can but dream of simpler days, when playing fields were more level, in-state rivalries promoted and sports kept generally in context.

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

EMS

from page one

combined crews acted swiftly and pulled the cab apart by using a tow rope tied to the bumper of an ambulance.

Once in the ambulance, the patient was intubated by the crew. Tourniquets were placed on the severed extremity to stop the bleeding, and the patient was administered TXA, which is a medication used to slow down the breakdown of blood clots. Paramedics Jordan Tolliver and Melinda Lane soon arrived on the scene in two specially equipped EMS SUVs. They used their advanced skills to give blood which is carried on these special units.

When they noticed that the patient's respiratory drive was failing due to severe chest wall injury, they attempted to decompress the patient's chest with needles to relieve the built-up pressure that results from collapsed lungs. This did not provide the desired effect, so they called the Medical Control Physician, Dr. Skipper Bertrand, who authorized the paramedics to perform bilateral finger thoracostomies. This procedure is normally reserved for patients who are in cardiac arrest that results from a traumatic injury. The pressure was successfully relieved, and the patient's condition began to improve.

The patient was transported to Harris Fort Worth where he was treated for his injuries and spent several months in rehabilitation. He is now home, living a normal life.

This was made possible by the dedicated medical professionals who work for PCHD EMS and the advanced training that Dr. Justin Northeim and Dr. Skipper Bertrand of BEST EMS have brought to the PCHD organization. The award that these four individuals received



Parker County Hospital District paramedics shown receiving the Texas Department of State Health Services EMS Person of the Year are (from left) Melinda Lane, Jordan Tolliver (at podium), Zachary Richmond, and Zach Harmon.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



signifies that they are among the best of the best EMS personnel in the state of Texas.

"Thanks to several swift, proactive decisions made by our paramedics, this patient was able to receive the critical care he needed in the field — which ultimately saved his life," said PCHD Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Randy Bacus.

"This recognition at the Texas EMS Conference is well-deserved," EMS Director Jim Backus said.

"These four remarkable individuals set a textbook example of how to deliver critical care in the field. We are grateful for their exceptional service to our community."

The "Texas Department of State Health Services EMS Person of the Year" award from the Texas EMS Conference serves as a testament to the invaluable contributions of these dedicated paramedics from the Parker County Hospital District EMS.

COUNCIL

from page one

rarely sells their billboards. However, the city was approached with a proposal to replace the current sign with a digital one.

Doing so would require a 25-year lease to allow the conversion. It would also come with some perks for the city, such as discounted advertising costs, negotiable advertising revenue (tentatively, 10% in perpetuity for the 25-year term), and "branding of the pole," an opportunity for a city monument without the digital display cost which staff research showed could cost over \$300,000.

Next step for Country Hollow

The next step in the development of the Country Hollow residential subdivision is taking place after the council voted to approve a community facilities/developers agreement.

The subdivision will be serviced by Willow Park's public water and sewer, and contains public infrastructure and improvements, which will be maintained by the City of Willow Park.

This agreement provides terms for construction of public improvements and utility services, as well as other requirements.

EDA Extension

The council voted to extend its economic development agreement with UNCO RE Holdings, LLC and BPO Real Estate, LLC. This is concerning construction of the Standard Service Restaurant on the south side of Interstate 20 to the west of Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy.

The original agreement was entered on Dec. 10, 2021. One subsection of that agreement has now been extended from the original 24 months to 40 months, with a second subsection extended from 30 to 46 months.



Obituaries

Jorden Wood

Jorden Andrew Wood departed from this life on Friday, November 24, 2023, at age 72.

Jorden was born August 31, 1951, in Abilene, Texas, to the late Johnnie Wood and Carol (Moss) Wood.

Jorden got his start in life as a home builder and developer. Later in life, he became the Director of Tri-County Coop, as well as a Board Chairman for many years. He was a talented political fundraiser and planner for local and state political figures. Jorden will be remembered for his drive and passion to get the job done well, but especially for his love of family and friends.

Jorden is survived by his wife of 30 years, Jennifer (Tyler) Wood; two sons, Justin Wood, and Andrew

Wood and wife, Venessa; four grandchildren, Justin, Jr., Rhiyann, Andi, and Brooks Wood; siblings, Grace Keith and husband, Doug, Sylvia Teague, and Nathan Wood and wife, Sherrie. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, John and Chris Wood.



Jorden Wood

A funeral ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 2, 2023, with visitation beginning one hour prior to the service at 10:00 a.m., at the North Side Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center - Fort Worth, 2901 NE 28th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76114.

The Community News
December 1, 2023

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GOLF Aledo teams wrap up fall schedule

Ladycats win district preview

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo boys and girls golf teams finished their fall schedule in strong fashion.

The Ladycats and Bearcats both won the District 5-5A preview played at Sugar Tree Golf Club and Bearcats tied for first place at the Mansfield Lake Ridge Tournament at Tangle Ridge Golf Club.

Kyla Morales shot 83 to win the girls individual medalist title at the District Preview.

“Over the last two tournaments Kyla has been playing well and I am happy to see her end the fall season on a strong note,” Aledo coach Brian Mourning said.

Braden Stokes won the individual medalist title at Tangle Ridge with rounds of 73 and 70. Helton Mosseillo shot 77 and 77 over the two-day tournament.

“I’m proud of these guys and the way they played. Braden and Helton are a few of our top kids and they played like it during this tournament,” Mourning said.

Ethan Elmore shot 76 and Mossiello shot 78 to lead the Bearcats Black team to the District Preview title.

“Ethan played well and I was glad to see him finish the fall season on a high note,” Mourning said.



FOOTBALL

Bearcats offense dominates Red Oak

Move one step closer to another title game

By Jim Zimmermann
The Community News

In a matchup between the state's No. 1 team in Class 5A Division I, Aledo Bearcats (12-0) and No. 5 Red Oak Hawks, (12-0), the Bearcats defeated the Hawks 59-35 in the Region I semifinal game Friday night at Choctaw Stadium in Arlington.

Aledo fans packed the house and saw the Bearcats jump out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter and never look back.

The Bearcats, who won for a 27th straight game, will face the Abilene Eagles (11-2) in the regional final (state quarterfinals) on Friday, Dec. 1, at Tarleton State University's Memorial Stadium in Stephenville. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

Aledo took its first possession and moved down the field with a mix of mid-range passes to several receivers. Bearcats running back Ray Guillory scored the first of his four touchdowns on a 29-yard run with 4:58 left in the 1st quarter.

Guillory finished with 189 yards rushing on just 14 carries.

After Red Oak was forced to punt and pinned Aledo at its own 16, Bearcats TCU-bound quarterback Hauss Hejny, behind great protection, hit Kaydon Finley with an 84-yard touchdown pass that gave Aledo a 14-0 lead heading into the second quarter.

Finley caught seven passes for 161 yards and a pair of



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Running Back Ray Guillory outruns defenders.

touchdowns. Hejny accounted for 283 total yards. He was 13-for-18 passing for 245 yards and two TD, along with rushing 10 times for 37 yards.

Red Oak was able to cut the score in half when they were faced with a fourth-and-10 from the Aledo 19. Hawks quarterback Chris Martinez connected with Brayden Robinson at the 6-yard line and, after a broken tackle, he was able to take the pass in for the Red Oak TD to make the score 14-7, as close the Hawks would be all night.

Aledo took the kickoff, and on the second play from the 30 Guillory took the handoff from Hejny and went 70 yards for the Bearcats touchdown. He scored less than 25 seconds after the Red Oak touchdown and took any momentum away they may have had.

The Bearcats defense forced the Hawk offense to punt again. Aledo continued to move the ball as Hejny was able to run the ball when his receivers were covered and picked up needed yardage.

The Bearcats had the ball on the Red Oak 20-yard line when Guillory took the handoff and scored his third touchdown of the first half, giving Aledo a 28-7 lead late in the second quarter.

Red Oak came into the game with a very fast offense and the ability to score on any play, and in the last two minutes of the second quarter, they proved that. The Hawks scored a touchdown as Martinez threw a 24-yard touchdown to Taz Williams, cutting

Turn to **FOOTBALL**, page 7

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FOOTBALL

from page 6

Aledo's lead to 28-14 with 1:40 left in the half.

The Bearcats answered less than a minute later when, on a third-and-9 from the Hawks 12, Hejny found Finley in the end zone, giving Aledo a 35-14 lead with 46 seconds left in the half.

Remember that quick strike potential from Red Oak?

On the Cole Crawford kickoff, Robinson took it back 88 yards for the Hawks touchdown to make the score 35-21.

But, the Bearcats offense and its own quick strike ability, still had time left on the clock.

Moving down the field at Mach 1 speed, Aledo was able to put Crawford in position to attempt a 39-yard field goal, which he converted with no time left on the clock for a 38-21 halftime lead.

When the dust cleared in the second quarter, the teams combined for 45 points in the period.

The Bearcats defense did not allow any points in the third quarter, but the Aledo offense did not slow down. Guillory and Hawk Patrick-Daniels both had rushing touchdowns and Aledo took a 52-21 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Martinez completed a 42-yard touchdown pass to receiver Charles Tapin to begin the fourth quarter. Then, Aledo's last score was a 2-yard run from RJ Blake, giving the Bearcats a 59-28 lead with 6:43 left in the game.

With most of the starters on the sidelines, Aledo was still moving the ball down the field when Cameron Winston was able to pick up an Aledo fumble and return it 83 yards for the final Red Oak score.

Aledo coach Robby Jones commented about his team getting stronger as the season gets deeper.

"First of all, since we came back to school last January, they have been working to get back to the playoffs," Jones said. "All the weights they lifted, all the 400's they ran, are paying off for them right now."

Hejny praised the Bearcats coaching staff following the win.

"Our coaches do a great job of drawing up the right plays, with the right formations, that give us the opportunity to be successful," he said.

BEARCATS 59, HAWKS 35

Aledo 14 24 14 7 - 59
Red Oak 0 21 0 14 - 35

Team statistics

First downs: Aledo 29, Red Oak 20.
Rushes-yards: Aledo 47-348, Red Oak 26-77.
Passing yards: Aledo 245, Red Oak 248.
Caught-thrown-intercepted: Aledo 13-18-0, Red Oak 18-29-1.
Fumbles-lost: Aledo 2-1, Red Oak 1-0.
Punts-avg.: Aledo 1-38.0, Red Oak 4-35.0.
Penalties-yards: Aledo 4-53, Red Oak 9-70.

Aledo individual leaders

Rushing: Ray Guillory 14 carries, 189 yards, 2 TD; Kaden Winkfield 7-56; Hawk Patrick-Daniels 5-50, TD; Hauss Hejny 10-38; Brady Powell 3-23; RJ Blake 2-5, TD.
Passing: Hejny 13-of-18, 245 yards, 2 TD, 0 interceptions.
Receiving: Kaydon Finley 7-161, 2 TD; Colton McCoy 2-37; Trace Clarkson 1-25; Blake Burdine 1-17; Patrick-Daniels 2-5.
Tackles: Davhon Keys 7.5, Ben McElree 4-5, Ky Howington 2.5, Caden Atwood 2.5.
Tackles for loss: Cooper Cyphers 2, Carson Dempsey 1.
Sacks: Dempsey 1, Cyphers 1.
Interception: Jaden Allen.



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aven Lawrence comes up with a tackle against a Red Oak carrier.

VOLLEYBALL

All-district

Three Ladycats honored

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The 2023 season was a raving success by virtually every possible metric for a young Ladycat volleyball team.

Despite most of the starting lineup being underclassmen with varying amounts of varsity experience, the determined squad worked relentlessly to improve their performance on the court all year. They posted a 34-9 overall record while staking their claim to the District 5-5A championship with a 9-1 stretch to close out the regular season.

After securing the top seed heading into the playoffs, the Ladycats worked their way through the bidistrict and area rounds of the bracket, defeating Fort Worth North Side and Birdville in the process. The season came to a close in the regional quarterfinals when they matched up against the defending 5A Texas state champions from Colleyville Heritage.

While their playoff run may have ended earlier than they hoped, 11 of Aledo's players gained recognition for their exemplary play and contributions to the successful season.

Though she battled injuries early in the season, senior outside hitter and University of Missouri commit Vivian Parker was named District 5-5A's Most Valuable Player and was an All-American honorable mention during her final season with the Ladycats.

Junior setter Ava Reding was named All-District Server of the Year as she scored 414 points from the service line, including 54 aces. Fellow junior, Kinley Elms earned the title of All-District Blocker of the Year from her outside hitter position, where she accounted for 54 blocked shots at the net.

Haley Lowe, Kenrie Pruitt, and Alyssa Todd were all named first team all-district.

Logyn Denbow joined the Ella's, Isbell and Meador, in being placed on the second team all-district list. Morgan Estevez and Kaylee Berkley were named as all-district honorable mentions as well.

Of the Ladycats named to all-district honors, only Parker will not return next season.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ava Reding listens to Coach Claire Gay during a pre-match huddle before the bidistrict match against North Side. Reding earned All-District honors this season as Server of the Year.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kenrie Pruitt celebrates a point during a match earlier this season. Pruitt earned all-district first team honors for the Ladycats as a junior this year.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Alyssa Todd celebrates a Ladycat point during a tightly contested match earlier this season. Todd earned all-district first team honors.

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Football Advance

Bearcats, Eagles to clash for first time ever

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Abilene Eagles have been playing football for a long time, with the first of their seven state championships coming in 1923. Their most recent was 2009, which was also the year in which Aledo began its journey to become the most dominant high school football team in the history of Texas.

“Has there ever been a game between two teams with 18 state titles between?” asked Aledo coach Robby Jones.

It doesn't take much research to find that this is very likely the first time that has ever happened in the Lone Star State.

Ironically, the two programs have never faced each other on the football field. Of course, while they could have played in the regular season, they are more than two hours apart. And, of course, a postseason matchup was not possible until the Eagles came down from 6A to 5A in the 2022 University Interscholastic League realignment.

That will change Friday night in Stephenville when the Bearcats (13-0) face the Eagles (11-2) in the Class 5A Division I Region I final at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Tarleton State University in Stephenville. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

New tradition vs. old tradition

The Eagles have one of the oldest football programs in the state. However, the majority of their state championships came in their earlier days.

Along with the 1923 and 2009 titles, the Eagles claimed titles in 1928, 1931 and 1954-56.

The Bearcats, on the other hand, have won all of their championships in the past quarter century, starting in 1998. Since 2009 they have titles

in 2009-11, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018-20 and 2022.

Milestone

Despite missing three games with injuries this season, Aledo running back Ray Guillory surpassed the 1,000-yard rushing mark after his recent 189-yard performance against Red Oak. He has gained 1,142 yards on just 140 carries to lead the Bearcats.

In addition, Guillory leads Aledo in touchdowns scored with 21 (17 rushing, 4 receiving).

Along with his rushing yards, he has caught 10 passes for 175 yards.

After missing the first playoff game, a 27-6 win over Killeen Shoemaker, Guillory has been virtually unstoppable in two post-seasons against Lubbock Cooper (48-31) and Red Oak (59-35). He has 369 yards on 26 carries with six touchdowns.

“His vision never left, and his first few steps are so explosive,” Jones said. “That’s (the playoffs) is normally where some of the Aledo running backs have shined in the past.”

Healthy again

After dealing with injuries and illness for several weeks, wide receiver Colton McCoy caught a pair of passes for 37 yards in the win over Red Oak. That gives him 14 catches for 303 yards and a touchdown this season.

Jones said the return of key players such as Guillory and McCoy couldn't have come at a better time.

“We've got all of our weapons back on the field. We look like the offense we had at the start of the season,” he said.

Explosive offenses

The Bearcats have scored 647 points, an average of 49.8 points. They have topped the 50-point



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kaydon Finley pulls in a spectacular catch against Red Oak.

barrier seven times, including last week's 59-35 win over a previously 12-0 Red Oak squad. Twice they have scored 70 or more points.

On the other side, the Eagles have scored 527 points, an average of 40.6. They have topped the 50-point barrier four times, which includes an 84-14 bidistrict win over El Paso Hanks.

“The defenses are about equal as well,” Jones noted. “It's two really good defenses and two explosive offenses.”

“You get to the playoffs this deep, teams do tend to mirror each other.”

Aledo is surrendering an average of 17 points per game and the Eagles are giving up 18 per contest.

Postseason scoring

Neither team has had problems scoring in the playoffs. Aledo has outscored its three opponents by a 134-72 margin, an average of 44.7-24.

Meanwhile, after averaging 38.5 points in the regular season, the Eagles are scoring at a 47.3 clip in

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 9

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BEARCATS

from page 8

the postseason. They are giving up an average of 17.

Takeaway/Turnovers

Aledo enters the game having taken the ball away from opponents 15 times (9 interceptions, 6 fumbles) while giving the ball up 16 times (5 interceptions, 11 fumbles).

Abilene has a knack for getting the ball either on the ground (19 fumble recoveries) and through the air (19 interceptions). The Eagles have turned the ball over 10 times (5 interceptions, 5 fumbles).

"They're extremely dangerous. They create a lot of turnovers. We've got to take care of the ball, definitely," Jones said. "They've got eight takeaways in their last two games."

Common foes

Aledo and Abilene have three opponents in common this season:

Lubbock Cooper - The Eagles won 38-35 on a late play at home to secure a district title. The Bearcats defeated the Pirates 48-31 in the second round of the playoffs.

Denton Ryan - The Bearcats saw a 17-0 lead slip away into a late 19-17 deficit before Hauss Hejny TD run in the final moments gave Aledo a 25-19 victory at home. Abilene defeated the Raiders 31-21 in the second round of the postseason.

Justin Northwest - The Bearcats won 38-13 at home to open district play. The Eagles won 27-16 in the third round of the playoffs.

Districts in postseason

Both the Bearcats and Eagles played in districts that enjoyed playoff success. The playoff teams in District 3-5A Division I (Aledo) and 2-5A Division I (Abilene) have posted 6-3 records in the postseason, with one of those league obviously moving on after this week.

Along with the Bearcats' 3-0 playoff mark, Northwest reached the third round, Denton Ryan advanced to the



Kaden Winkfield picks up yardage against Red Oak.

BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

"They're extremely dangerous. They create a lot of turnovers. We've got to take care of the ball."

Coach Robby Jones

second and Burleson Centennial lost in bidistrict.

Along with the Eagles' 3-0 record, Cooper, Amarillo and Amarillo Tascosa all reached the second round. Amarillo (6-6 overall record) and Tascosa (5-7) each entered the playoffs with a non-winning record.

It could be argued that the bidistrict foes for the teams from District 2-5A Division I were from the El Paso area, not known for football success, as evidenced by Abilene's 70-point bidistrict win. However, Jones noted of Abilene, "After that, they knocked off two of our district opponents - and both of those are really good teams."

Winning streaks

The Bearcats bring a 27-game winning streak into Friday's contest. They last lost to Denton Guyer 44-14 at home in the second game of the 2022 season.

The Eagles have won nine consecutive games since dropping back-to-back contests at home to Midland Legacy (48-17) and at Wolfforth Frenship (17-12). In the win streak, the Eagles have outscored their opponents 423-144.

Three-peats

Abilene's three-peat program in the mid-1950s made the Eagles one of the first Texas teams to accomplish that. However, more recently,

the Bearcats have done it twice, making them the only team in the state to do so.

The Bearcats' first three-peat was from 2009-11. They did it again in 2018-20.

Fourth-round success

This will be the 22nd time Aledo has reached the fourth round of the playoffs since 1996. While they struggled in this round for a while, going 3-6 in their first nine appearances, they are 12-0 in fourth-round appearances since 2009.

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (13-0) vs. Abilene Eagles (11-2).

What: Class 5A Division I Region I final.

When/where: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, Memorial Stadium, Tarleton Stadium University, Stephenville.

Returning starters: Aledo 7 offense/5 defense, Abilene 8 offense/4 defense.

Last week: Aledo defeated Red Oak 59-35, Abilene defeated Justin Northwest 27-16.

Last season: Aledo, 14-2, 5A Division I state champions. Abilene 6-7, Region I semi-finals.

Aledo offensive players to watch: RB Ray Guillory (140 carries, 1,142 yards, 17 TD rushing; 10 catches, 175 yards, 4 TD receiving; back-to-back games of almost 200 yards in playoffs), kick returner Aven Lawrence (34.5 average per return, 1 TD of 88 yards), WR Kaydon Finley (32 catches, 463 yards, 5 TD, 13 catches, 232 yards with three TD in post-season).

Abilene offensive players to watch: QB Dylan Slack (69% completion, 1,922 yards, 19 TD, 4 interceptions), WR Ryland Bradford (50 catches, 765 yards, 8 TD, 969 all-purpose yards), RB/QB Brayden Henry (99 carries, 680 yards, 9 TD rushing; 14 catches, 149 yards, 2 TD receiving; 27-of-51, 269 yards, 2 TD, 1 interception passing).

Aledo defensive players to watch: S Jake Gillespie (48 of 52.5 tackles have been solo), DE Carson Dempsey (7.5 tackles for loss, 4 sacks), DE Cooper Kohan (7.5 tackles for loss, 16 quarterback hurries).

Abilene defensive players to watch: LB Bryce Neves (127 tackles, 9 for loss, 5 interceptions, 4 fumble recoveries), S Beckham Paul (82 tackles, 7 for loss, 4 interceptions), CB Tre Sharp (53 tackles, 6 interceptions).



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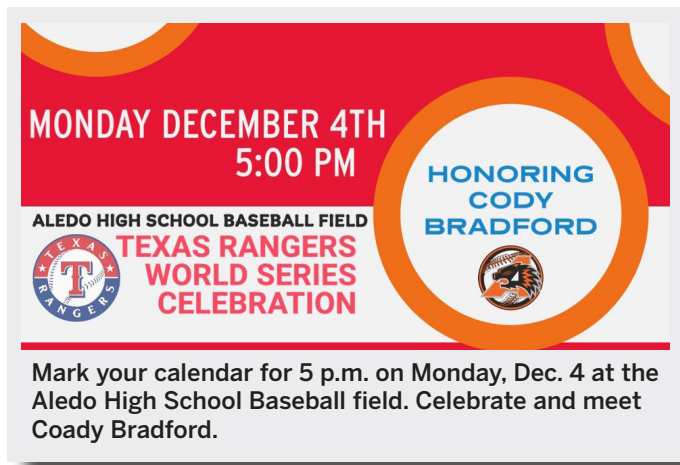


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and treats for people of all ages, including live carolers, an entertainment stage and lots of free family activities. Kids, be on the lookout for the red mailbox and have your letters mailed to Santa.

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!



MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
"MESSIAH" Performed at Weatherford College
Beginning at 7 p.m., the Weatherford College Fine Arts Department will present G.F. Handel's "Messiah" in the Alkek Fine Arts Department.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES

For more than 40 years, the Candlelight Tour of Homes has provided the opportunity for guests to explore some of Weatherford's most unique private residences on this historical tour that goes from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Each home is interesting for a variety of reasons, including age, size, location, or distinctive architecture.



Breakfast with Santa
What's Christmas like without a visit with Santa? CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is enhancing it with Breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. at Central Christian Church, 1602 South Main St. The event is open to the public and the cost is \$5 per person otherwise. The event will include letters to Santa, pictures with Santa, Santa's elves, balloons, crafts and glitter tattoos. Contact 817-599-6224 or visit <https://casha-forechildren.org/> for more information.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 Oldham County seat
- 5 TXism: "easy as falling off ___"
- 6 TXism: "a day ___ and a dollar short"
- 7 at Six Flags Fiesta: "Lone Star ___ Amphitheater"
- 8 dir. to La Grange from New Braunfels
- 9 TXism: "hard pill to ___"
- 16 TX Norah Jones had the "Song of the ___" in 2003
- 18 TX Larry Henley co-wrote "Wind ___ Wings"
- 21 today, a disfavored group: ___ Klux Klan
- 22 ___ beans (in pod)
- 23 "si" in Mexico
- 24 TXism for "gadget": "thing ___"
- 30 El Paso tribe: "___ Sur Pueblo"
- 34 Astros leag.
- 35 space program before Apollo
- 36 "wear to a frazzle"
- 37 this Greene was TX Dan Blocker's dad on "Bonanza"
- 39 "Big Bend ___" in West Texas
- 43 what golfers do in the Texas heat
- 44 El Paso has a staute of conquistador Juan ___
- 45 Nolte of film "North Dallas Forty" (init.)
- 46 in Hidalgo County on highway 107
- 47 military marksmen
- 49 kids cereal, e.g.
- 52 state where William Travis was born (abbr.)
- 53 "yes" in Mexico
- 54 holder for Texas Blue Bell ice cream
- 55 sitcom for Texas-born Jay Thomas: "___ Mindy"

DOWN

- 1 newspaper published in Quitoque: "___ Tribune"
- 2 Texas wife of John Steinbeck
- 3 TXism: "he's ___ morals" (unethical)
- 4 91 for TX Willie and 54 for TX McConaughey
- 9 Texas outlaw, Bass (init.)
- 10 cowboy movies
- 11 Santa: ___ Texas
- 12 TXism: "get the ___ out" (hurry up)
- 13 where you stick pins on suit jackets
- 14 extended play for the Cowboys (abbr.)
- 15 TX Kristofferson's "___ Me (Lord)"
- 17 cattle thieves
- 19 TXism: "___ a caged cougar"
- 20 Mission ___ is the oldest in Texas
- 24 Paxton's job (abbr.)
- 25 novel by writer in 2-down: "Of Mice and ___"
- 26 rodeo clowns have to stay away from ___ bull
- 27 mosquito ___
- 28 pungent bulbs
- 29 TX Ted Cassidy was "Bigfoot" on "___ Woman"
- 31 TXism: "hobble your ___" (quiet!)
- 32 historic period
- 33 reduced taxes depend on
- 40 "siesta" in Mexico
- 41 TXism: "___ some gravel" (fell)
- 42 "___ down" (applying oneself)
- 48 this NY Knicks player Jericho was a UT Longhorn
- 50 Dallas Stars score
- 51 Gov. Richards
- 56 Texas atheist Madalyn Murray ___
- 57 Texas singer, English

come in at any time and drive around and take pictures.

If you plan to shop or take a picture with Santa, you will need money. It does not cost anything to come and take a tour though.

Photos with Santa are \$10 (\$5 for the Pythian Home and \$5 for the Photographer)



THURSDAY, DEC 14

Help for the Holidays

The Alzheimer's Association offers a monthly support group gathering on the 2nd Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be from 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Aledo United Methodist Church.

Volunteers offer activities for care receivers (with Alzheimer's/dementia) while caregivers attend meetings. For details, contact Sally Bond at ssbrn75@gmail.com.



SATURDAY, DEC. 16

Winter Wonderland

Celebrate the holiday season at The Shops at Willow Park from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 210 Shops Boulevard Willow Park, TX 76087. Join Willow Park North and The Shops at Willow Park for our inaugural Winter Wonderland. This event is free for everyone and perfect for the whole family. Featuring vendors, food trucks, holiday beverages, winter photo ops, a balloon dome, face painting, and more.

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

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

Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Weatherford Tournament

Ladycats JV places second

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats junior varsity team placed second in the Weatherford Tournament recently. Aledo defeated Stephenville 39-34 and Weatherford 43-29 before falling 50-41 to Bursleson Centennial in the championship game.

Aledo 10 14 8 7 - 39
Stephenville 11 12 5 6 - 34

Aledo scoring: Karsyn Evans 11, Kennedy Cardenas 9, Mesoma Emeka-Okoye 8, Jaylee Owens 4, Breleigh Mayer 3, Kaelee Berkley 2, Lily Heckathorn 2.

Aledo 13 10 12 8 - 43
Weatherford 7 9 6 7 - 29

Aledo scoring: Owens 14, Natalie Browning 7, Emeka-Okoye 6, Jenna Haeussler 6, Berkley 5, Evans 4, Savannah Salas 1.

Aledo 10 8 7 16 - 41
Centennial 13 13 14 10 - 50

Aledo scoring: Berkley 15, Evans 6, Emeka-Okoye 6, Cardenas 6, Owens 5, Heckathorn 2, Browning 1.

Ladycats overwhelm Stephenville

Eight players score

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo junior varsity Ladycats had little trouble with Stephenville, defeating the Honeybees 30-19 recently.

Aledo led 8-2 after the first quarter, 15-4 at the half and 28-11 after three quarters.

Scoring for Aledo were Kaelee Berkley 9 points; Karsyn Evans 7; Kennedy Cardenas 4; and Jaylee Owens, Mesoma Emeka-Okoye, Jenna Haeussler, Savannah Salas and Breleigh Mayer with 2 each.

Honeybees edge freshmen Ladycats

Fourth-quarter rally comes up short

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats freshmen team put up a strong fourth-quarter rally but came up short in a 33-29 loss to Stephenville recently.

The Honeybees led 6-2 after the first quarter, 10-6 at the half and 23-10 entering the final quarter. The Ladycats went on a 19-10 run in the fourth.

Scoring for Aledo were Sarah Edwards, 10 points, along with Nealee Parsons with 9, Autumn Gudel scored 6 and Ruby Tarrant added 4.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bearcats lose seesaw battle

Midlothian Heritage stages rally

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

With Thanksgiving break in the rearview mirror, Aledo's Bearcats hit the road on Tuesday, Nov. 28, hoping to move their win streak to three games early in the season. Unfortunately, Midlothian Heritage had other ideas, as they came from behind to defend their home court in a seesaw battle, 64-58.

Aledo (3-2) was riding high coming into the game on Tuesday night. The Bearcats rallied late to steal a win from Weatherford on the Roos' home court on Nov. 17. Still on Cloud 9 after that performance, they went to Fort Worth on Nov. 21, where they decimated South Hills, 92-38.

The hosting Jaguars got out to a hot start in the first quarter of play on Tuesday. Aledo held their own offensively, but at the home end of the floor, the Bearcat defense struggled to keep Heritage off the scoreboard. The Jags jumped out to a 21-17 lead at the end of the first eight minutes of action.

That lead wasn't safe. Nor did it last long.

The Bearcats kept their pace on the offensive end of the floor, as they put up 17 points again in the second quarter. However, it was Aledo's defense that found its way in frame number two. The Jags managed to tally just 13 points in the frame as the two teams went into the half in gridlock, 34-34.

In the third quarter, Aledo managed to take control. The Bearcats ended the period leading Heritage for the first time in the contest, with the score at 49-46.

The three-point advantage wasn't much,



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Joaquin Pacheco goes up for a layup while being pursued by a Weatherford defender during the Bearcats' win on Nov. 17. On Tuesday, Nov. 28, Pacheco led Aledo in scoring as the Bearcats fell to Midlothian Heritage, 64-58.

and the Jags erased it quickly once the final stanza got underway. Heritage doubled up the Bearcats' offensive output in the final eight minutes of play, 18-9, as the home team won by a comfortable six-point margin.

Aledo will head west on Thursday where they will begin the first round of the three-day Abilene

Tournament with a game against Parish Episcopal. That game is slated to tip-off at 3 p.m.

Bearcats vs. Midlothian Heritage - Nov. 28

Aledo 17 17 15 9 - 58
Heritage 21 13 12 18 - 64

Aledo scoring: Joaquin Pacheco 19, Owen Peterson 13, Jackson Todd 10, Jack Sawyer 8, Brett Barclay 4, Kaden LoBaugh 4.



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THE NUTCRACKER

It started as a story called "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." A little more than 100 years ago, this beloved tale was made into a ballet called "The Nutcracker." It has become one of the most popular ballets.

ACT 1

In a small village, guests are arriving for a Christmas Eve party at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum and their children, Clara and Fritz.

Clara's godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, brings toys for all the children.

Help Clara find these toys.



A Special Gift for Clara

Herr Drosselmeyer brings a special gift for Clara—a nutcracker in the shape of a soldier. Her brother, Fritz, wants the nutcracker, grabs it and breaks it.

Help Herr Drosselmeyer fix the nutcracker. Draw the nutcracker's missing arm and leg, then color them.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand story elements: plot, conflict, resolution and structure.

The Midnight Battle

That night, an excited Clara cannot sleep. She sneaks downstairs to be with her new nutcracker doll. As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen ...

The Christmas tree grows to an enormous size and a great battle begins between the Mouse King and the Nutcracker, who comes to life to lead an army of toy soldiers.

Clara uses her to kill the Mouse King and save the Nutcracker's life.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow the sequence of events in a story.



Find at least 10 differences between the two pictures.

Standards Link: Recognize similarities and differences; visual discrimination.

CODE: A= E= H= O= S=

Extra! Extra!

Holiday Hunt

- Look through the newspaper for:
- 5 holiday pictures
 - 5 holiday words
 - 3 five-digit numbers
 - something sweet
 - 1 gift for a special person

Standards Link: Classify objects according to common attributes.

Ballet Moves

Can you match each kid to their ballet position? Can you stand in these poses, too?

First Position



Second Position



Third Position



Fourth Position



Fifth Position



Standards Links: Physical Education: Demonstrate a sense of balance and endurance.

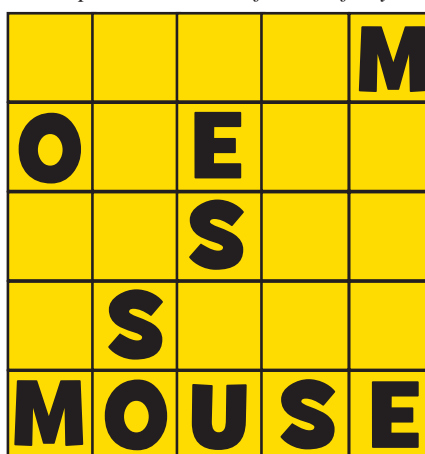
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Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word MOUSE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



ACT II

The Nutcracker takes Clara on a fantastic journey, which ends at the Sugar Plum Fairy's palace in the Land of Sweets.



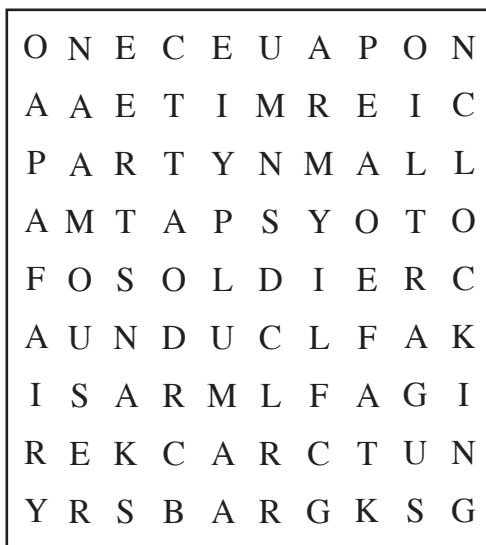
Can you find the sweets that match?

Standards Link: Visual discrimination.

Double Double Word Search

- NUTCRACKER
- MOUSE
- BALLET
- TOYS
- SOLDIER
- CLARA
- PLUM
- SUGAR
- FAIRY
- CLOCK
- TREE
- PARTY
- KING
- ARMY
- GRABS

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



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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Stories

Select pictures of two different people from the newspaper. Make up first and last names for each one. Create a way for the people to know each other. Describe their relationship. What are the best qualities of each character? Write a quotation for each one. Use this information to write a story.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Create brief narratives describing a fictional experience.

Where is a snowman's favorite place to dance?

ANSWER: At the snowball.



Write On!

Winter Words

Make a list of words that make you think of winter. Use these words to write a short poem or descriptive paragraph.



TexSCAN Week of Dec. 3-9, 2023

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ALMANAC

The gift that keeps you learning – the Texas Almanac 2024-2025 is the premier reference for everything Texas. The entire book is revised with the latest information, including the 254 county maps and population estimates for every Texas town. https://www.legacyoftexas.com/product/texas-almanac-2024-2025.

AUCTIONS

Ranch Dispersal Auction. Dec. 7, Mount Pleasant, TX. Full dispersal auction of McKellar Ranch: 430 acres w/2 homes in 11 parcels of 5 to 53+ acres each ideal for homesites or development; 75+ lots including tractors, trailers, implements, UTV's, gates, pens and more. 918-550-8118, CJ-AUCTIONS.COM.

BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS – August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNEXATION

To be held on:
December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Willow Park City Council Chambers
Willow Park City Hall
120 El Chico Trail, Ste. A, Willow Park, Texas

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THAT:

The City of Willow Park, Texas proposes to institute voluntary annexation proceedings pursuant to a landowner petition submitted by Dustin Kyle Haney and Jayme Lynne Haney, to enlarge and extend the boundary limits of said city to include an approximately 31.247 acre tract of land owned by them, a description of which is as follows:

BEING a tract of land situated in the Eliza Oxer Survey, Abstract Number 1031, Parker County, Texas, and being all of Tracts 1-3 as described by deed to Dustin Kyle Haney and Jayme Lynne Haney as recorded in Document Number 202200494, Deed Records, Parker County, Texas (DRPCT), containing approximately 31.247 acres of land. The survey and field notes of said approximately 31.247 tract is available in the City Secretary's office and on the City's website.

A public hearing will be held by and before the City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas, on the 12th of December, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Willow Park City Council Chambers, Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Ste. A, Willow Park, Texas for all persons interested in the above-proposed annexation. All such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard.

For questions, and a full metes and bounds legal description of the annexation area, please contact Crystal Dozier, City Secretary, City of Willow Park, Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Ste. A, Willow Park, Texas 76087; cdozier@willowpark.org or 817-441-7108.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ANNEXATION

To be held on:
Public Hearing No. 1 December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Public Hearing No. 2 December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Willow Park City Council Chambers
Willow Park City Hall
120 El Chico Trail, Ste. A, Willow Park, Texas

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THAT:

The City of Willow Park, Texas proposes to institute voluntary annexation proceedings pursuant to Section 43.1055, Subchapter C-1 of Chapter 43 of the Local Gov't Code, to enlarge and extend the boundary limits of said city to include an approximately 7,815 feet of East Bankhead Highway Right-of-Way, a description of which is as follows:

Being 7,815 feet more or less of East Bankhead Highway (a variable width right-of-way) out of the following Surveys and Abstracts in Parker County, Texas: I&G.N.R.R. Co. Survey, Abstract No. 1821, John Cole Survey, Abstract No. 218, James Oxer Survey, Abstract No. 1029, A.J. Hood Survey, Abstract No. 2587, and Eliza Oxer Survey, Abstract No. 1031, containing approximately 10.95 acres of land. The survey and field notes of said approximately 10.95 tract is available in the City Secretary's office and on the City's website.

Two public hearings will be held by and before the City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas, on the 12th of December, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Willow Park City Council Chambers, Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Ste. A, Willow Park, Texas for all persons interested in the above-proposed annexation. All such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard.

For questions, and a full metes and bounds legal description of the annexation area, please contact Crystal Dozier, City Secretary, City of Willow Park, Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Ste. A, Willow Park, Texas 76087; cdozier@willowpark.org or 817-441-7108.

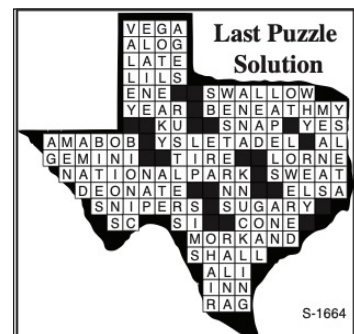
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating

The Aledo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, December 18, 2023 in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008.

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

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



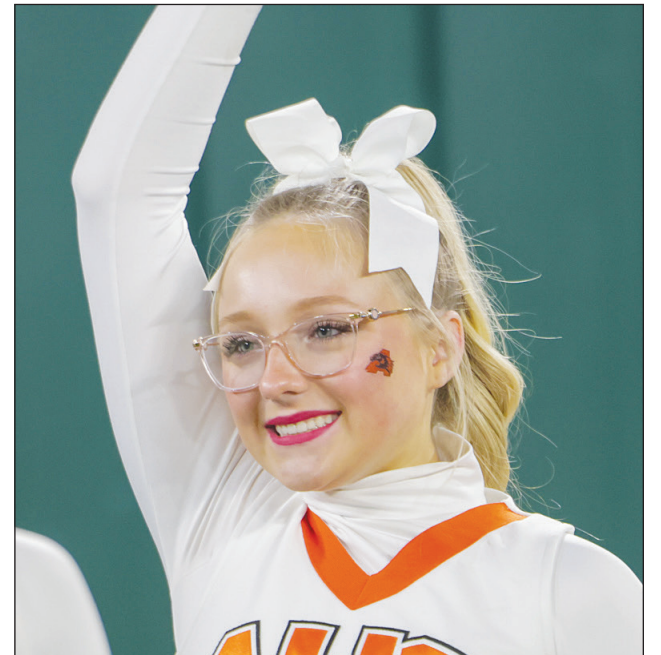
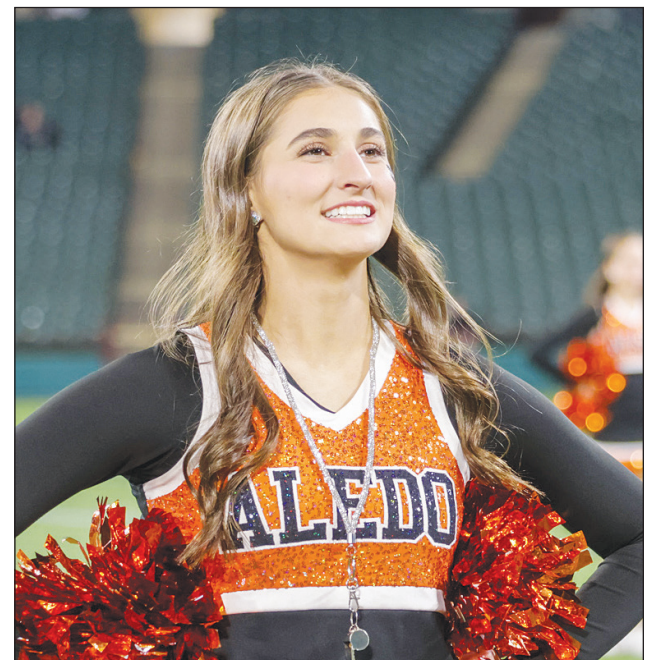
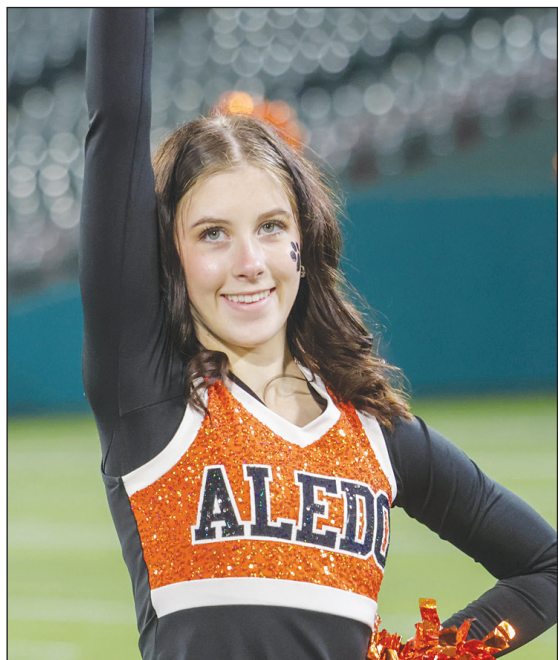
Kyla Morales
Golf

The senior wrapped up the fall golf season for herself and the Ladycats by leading the team to the championship of the District 5-5A Preview and winning the individual title herself with a round of 83 at Sugar Tree Golf Club.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Bradon Stokes
Golf

The sophomore shot rounds of 73 and 70 at Tangle Ridge Golf Club to win the individual title at the Mansfield Lake Ridge Tournament as the Bearcats tied for the team title but finished second in a playoff. He ended the fall season by being part of the squad that won the District 5-5A Preview.

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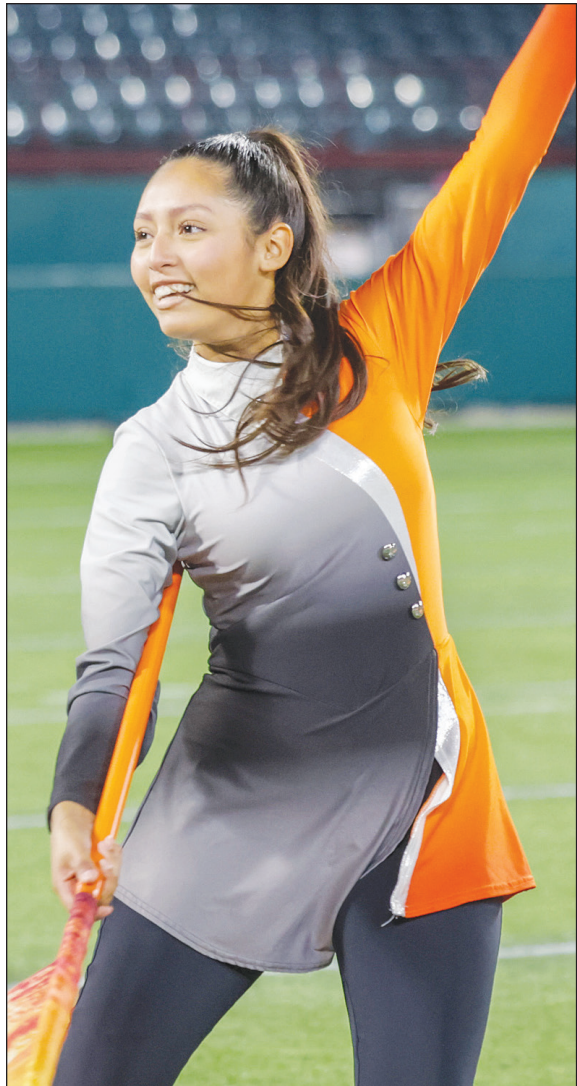
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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ladycats return to winning ways

Defeat Sanger

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

After dropping a pair of games to Stephenville and Abilene Wylie over the Thanksgiving break, the Aledo Ladycats varsity returned to their winning ways on Tuesday, Nov. 28, with a dominant 47-30 win over Sanger.

"I thought we did a much better job of getting into our offense," Ladycats head coach Nikki Hyles said after the game. "We took care of the ball well. Our decision making was good. We pushed the ball in transition better than we have. I'm really pleased with that."

Scoring started off slow for both squads in the first quarter. Caroline Browning got the Ladycats on the board with a close jumper on Aledo's opening possession. A minute later Ella Isbell picked the pocket of a Sanger player, drove down the floor on a fast break, and capped off the play with an easy layup to put the home team up 4-0 with 6:50 left in the first quarter.

The scoring well ran dry for both teams for several minutes until Brooklyn Dempsey knocked down the first three-pointer of the game for the Ladycats with 1:21 left in the opening quarter to increase Aledo's lead to 8-2.

Unwilling to let the home team get too far out in front, the Lady Indians went on a 7-1 run to close out the opening stanza as they walked the Ladycats down. Sanger's Hope Hughey drained a

three-pointer at the buzzer as the visiting team cinched the score at 9-9 to close out the opening frame.

In the second quarter, Aledo's point guard Elizabeth Griffin found her stride. The sophomore led an offensive onslaught, scoring seven of the Ladycats' 15 second-quarter points. Griffin started off the quarter with a mid-range jumper in the lane to put the home team up 11-9. Minutes later she knocked down her first three of the game to break another tie with the score at 14-11. She capped off her second-quarter performance with a gorgeous give-and-go, feeding Kinley Elms by the free-throw line, who immediately passed the ball back to Griffin, leaving her defender in the dust as she played an easy layup off the glass.

As the first half came to a close, the Ladycats held a comfortable 24-16 lead.

In the second half Griffin was dialed in from long range. Aledo worked the ball high and low around the perimeter, creating opportunities for their guards to get open looks at the basket. Griffin took full advantage of every open look she got from beyond the arch, draining four three-pointers in the second half as she led the scoring for both teams with 19 points in the game.

The Ladycats outpaced Sanger 14-7 in the third quarter to go up by 15, 38-23. From there, Aledo took the opportunity to get some actionable minutes for bench players before starting district play in December. The Ladycats outpaced Sanger once again in the fourth



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kinley Elms hands off to Elizabeth Griffin as they run a give-and-go to score in varsity action on Tuesday, Nov. 28. Griffin led all scoring in the game with 19 points.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brooklyn Dempsey elevates to shoot over a Sanger defender during the Ladycats' 47-30 win on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

quarter, 9-7, to put a 17-point win in the books.

"For as young as they are, they're making great decisions," Hyles said of her first-year varsity players. "Liz (Griffin) had a fantastic game. She was 5-of-7 from the three. We moved the ball well, and we found her. We had some great opportunities to go inside out, so she was out there with her feet set ready to shoot."

The one aspect of the game that didn't go as well as Aledo would've

liked was at the free-throw line. On the night, the Ladycats shot just 50-percent (7-for-14) from the stripe.

"We've been struggling from the free-throw line," Hyles admitted. "We've got to find some time to get more free throws in. We've got some thinkers on the team. I think if they will just relax, their mechanics are good. We've just got to get out of our heads."

The Ladycats will compete in the Burseson Tournament, starting

with a pair of games on Thursday. They'll play a pool play format on Thursday and Friday before getting into bracket play on Saturday.

Ladycats vs. Sanger – Nov. 28

Aledo	9 15 14 9 - 47
Sanger	9 7 7 7 - 30

Aledo scoring: Elizabeth Griffin 19, Brooklyn Dempsey 9, Kinley Elms 7, Caroline Browning 5, Brenna Clock 4, Ella Isbell 2, Natalie Anderson 1.



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