

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

Council sets tax rate, approves budget

Considers winter averaging on sewer rates

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo City Council unanimously approved a property tax rate of \$0.390082 per \$100 of property value for the 2024-2025 budget year at its Sept. 5 meeting.

The median household value in Aledo is about \$600,000, which would result in a tax bill of \$2,340 for a home of that value.

About 33% of that amount will go toward servicing Aledo's debt service.

The council also approved the overall 2024-2025 budget, which anticipates revenues of \$4,135,430 and expenses of \$4,027,386.

The budget takes initial steps toward a city police department, allocating \$770,279 for a full-time public safety director, professional services, supplies, and vehicle maintenance.

The budget also reflects the city's absorption of the East

Parker County Library, allocating \$181,265 for that purpose.

Winter averaging

The council also heard from Chris Ekrut, chief financial officer of Newton Strategies, who provided information toward the idea of changing sewer rates based on winter averaging.

Winter averaging would set sewer rates based on water usage during December, January, and February, with the idea that much of the water used during the summer does not enter the sewer system.

Ekrut pointed out that winter averaging would provide residents with the ability to lower their year-round sewer rates by conserving water during the winter months.

The council took no action on winter averaging. The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26.

A celebration will be held an hour before the Sept. 26 meeting to honor retiring city secretary Deana McMullen.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Scouts Max and Jack Howe led the Pledge of Allegiance for the June 5 Aledo City Council.



COMMUNITY LIFE

Robinsons spend special week in Florida

Reaching out to teach special needs

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The summer of 2024 was indeed special for Aledo sophomore Jaxon Robinson and his father, Jason.

A member of the Aledo swim team, Jaxon traveled with his dad to Florida with the Adapt-Able Foundation, using his swimming abilities to assist with diving certification and other aquatic activities for those with special needs.

The motto of the foundation is "Bringing adaptive and able-bodied communities together to experience the magic of scuba."

Making the experience even more memorable for Jaxon was the participation of Jaxon's cousin and Jason's nephew, Jacob Kiser, a special needs student in Aledo.

"It's pretty special. I always have been the one to more interact with Jacob, and being able to watch him do that was amazing," Jaxon said.

The recent event was over the course of a week in Panama City, Florida. Jaxon was a "Dive Buddy," and a Dive Master Candidate.

"I helped move people, things, set up gear etc. I just did helpful work," Jaxon said humbly.



JASON ROBINSON

Aledo swimmer Jaxon Robinson (left) is shown with his cousin Jacob Kiser. Jaxon and his dad, Jason, spent a week in Orlando this summer helping special needs swimmers and divers with certification, which included his cousin (right).

Getting involved

Jaxon learned about the program through a good friend, Dive Master Kyle Davie of Lone Star Scuba in Fort Worth.

"We were talking about getting Jacob certified when he told me and my father about the program," Jaxon recalled. "It's just a great skill to have. The earth is 75%

water it's a good idea to be able to move in that percentage."

A few years ago Jaxon and his dad decided to get scuba

Turn to **FLORIDA**, page 3

WILLOW PARK

Council passes budget

Taxes raised slightly to help police department

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

At its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10, the Willow Park City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget with a general fund of over \$5.6 million. It will go into effect, along with a new property tax rate, on Oct. 1 and run through Sept. 30, 2025.

The budget includes a property tax of 43 cents per \$100. While it is an increase from 40 cents in the current fiscal year, it comes after a reduction of 14 cents last year following the annexation of the Willow Park Fire Department into Parker County Emergency Services District 1.

City officials said the new budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$199,171 for a total of around \$1.8 million.

City Manager Bryan Grimes cited as a primary reason for the property tax rate increase being raises and equipment purchases for the police department. Sales tax receipts, which have primarily gone to fund this, are down roughly seven percent.

"With the lion's share going to support the police department, this community is going to back the blue. We take it seriously," Grimes said.

The budget also includes some capital improvements, which council can approve throughout the coming fiscal year.

Breakdown

The general fund total revenue of \$5,699,910 minus the total expenses of \$5,425,611 leaves an anticipated profit of \$274,299. Along with the police department, some other cost increases include insurance and employee salaries.

The water fund has an anticipated net profit of just under \$21,000. City officials say it is

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 5

WEATHERFORD ISD

Board approves class size waiver

Three classes exceed 22-student limit

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees approved submitting a class size exception waiver at its regular meeting on Sept. 9.

The meeting featured Austin Elementary School and its

principal, Kendall Berry, and it was that campus that spurred the waiver request in fourth-grade classrooms.

"We are over the 22-to-1 requirement in three of those five classrooms, and so we're asking to approve, allowing us to apply for a class size exemption waiver," Superintendent Dr. Beau Rees told the board. "Talking to Kendall, and you may speak to this at this point, that grade level campus would prefer to not add an additional teacher, but perhaps an aide to help."

Rees pointed out that the state requires an application for a waiver if class sizes exceed the 22-student limit. Despite the waiver application, he said the district could still have the option of adding a teacher if it was deemed necessary.

Board member Jeff Ford was reticent to approve the waiver request.

"I'm 100% against exceeding the class size," Ford said. "I'm married to a fourth-grade teacher. Yes, that's hard, especially when you have one or two or three students in your classroom who absorb 90 to 95% of your resources and all

the ability that you have to give that day. In my opinion, it would be better to spread that out over six classrooms."

Berry indicated that the teaching staff at her school supports the waiver request.

"We're very family oriented," she said. "We build strong relationships. We sat down as a team, and we looked into finding a teacher, but they know that the pressure is on in fourth grade. You have to get the growth and they don't want to give up any of their kids. We were

Turn to **BOARD**, page 5



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In & Around Parker County

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Ring Leaders Kennel has served Parker County and its surrounding cities for 42 years, making it one of Aledo's oldest businesses.

Alaina Tenseth and her late husband, John founded the grooming and boarding business together in the mid-1970s.

When they decided to move west, the small-town business relocated from its original Fort Worth facility in October 1981 — and has stayed in Aledo ever since.

Its local facility offers 30 inside-outside runs that are climate-controlled and eight luxury suites, which are 8-foot-by-10-foot rooms with a patio area. Additionally, all animals have access to play areas.

When boarded, Tenseth, who shares property with the facility, said there's always someone physically present to watch the dogs and cats. There are also surveillance cameras.

"We never leave the animals unattended," Tenseth said.

Ring Leaders Kennel offers overnight boarding to all breeds and sizes of cats and dogs. It also offers full-grooming services to dogs and can provide specialized grooming for cats on an as-needed basis, though it is



not a common service offered by the kennel.

Tenseth she has been grooming and boarding animals for more than 45 years. It's a career she receives joy from and doesn't plan on changing.

Her longest-lasting clients have been with her for nearly 40 years — since 1975 — through the move from Fort Worth to Aledo.

Many have used Tenseth's services through a long lineage of pets.

"We've gone through several generations of pets and several generations of people," Tenseth said. "And we've never taken any of them for granted."

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ALEDO ISD

Robotics celebrates new season

Kick-off event reveals robotics teams' goals

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

The Aledo High School Robotics team hosted a 14-school kick-off event, giving organizational tips, model building pointers, and coding demonstrations to other north Texas public and private schools. The event culminated with a world-wide live reveal of what this season's robotics challenge will be for all schools with competitive robotics clubs.

Evan Christensen huddled with 20325 Maximum Resistance teammates to look over computer codes they plan to explain to other teams.

"The coding allows a robot to make specific moves and tells it where to be on the field," Christensen said, pointing to a screen filled with hundreds of letters, symbols and numbers. "In competition, the robot has to go

to specific locations and complete the required tasks."

Other Aledo teams giving demonstrations included 13811 High Voltage, 5655 Circuit Breakers, 9161 Overload, and 20325 Maximum Resistance. The numbers with robotics team names indicate the group's longevity.

Teams plan their own strategy, design their own robots, choose the positions and function of members, and solve analytical problems during the building and competition of their robots. Faculty supervision provides minimal restrictions, giving the students opportunities not only to use their programming and building knowledge, but freedom to learn leadership, accountability and teamwork.

Randy Bruton is one of the school's faculty coaches.

"The new robotics challenge will drop at 11 o'clock on Youtube for a world-wide reveal of what this season's challenge will be," Bruton said. "This is exciting. This is the start of the season."

Aledo High School will travel to numerous robotics competitions



Aslyn Byers, Chris McClay, Evan Christensen and Zoey Sullivan examine computer codes 20325 Maximum Resistance will present to other schools. Aledo High School hosted an educational event for the robotics clubs of multi-schools Saturday, Sept. 8.

and will host three competitions this year, with the first on Oct. 26.

Although robots may bring to mind Star Wars characters or TV robot smash-up shows, the units students build and operate will perform complicated, detailed tasks. A common slogan you may see on shirts at robotics competitions is, "This is not Battlebots."

Many schools produce one robotics team, while Aledo has several. The first Aledo robotics team, 6566 Circuit Breakers, began in 2012. As popularity grew, 9161 Overload, and 13811 High Voltage were added in 2017, and the newest, 20325 Maximum Resistance, was formed in 2021.

Obituaries

Stacy Clark

Stacy Lynn Clark, born on September 9, 1961, in Fort Worth, passed away on September 4, 2024.



Stacy Clark

Stacy proudly served the Fort Worth community as a captain in the Fort Worth Fire Department, retiring after 32 years of dedicated service. Known for his determination and passion, Stacy had a wide array of hobbies that he pursued with vigor and skill. He was an accomplished guitarist and singer, an avid hunter and fisherman, a talented baseball player, a dedicated gardener, and even raised bunnies. Yet, of all his pursuits, spending time with his grandchildren brought him the greatest joy and fulfillment.

Stacy had a steadfast nature and a deep commitment to his beliefs. He approached life with a strong sense of determination and purpose, qualities that shaped his relationships and the way he pursued his passions. His strength of character, combined with his caring and generous spirit, made him someone people could always count on for support, guidance, and a thoughtful conversation. He believed in living authentically, always true to himself and those he loved.

A strong Christian, Stacy served his church with deep faith, first as an elder and later as a welcoming greeter, always ready with a warm smile and a kind word.

Stacy will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his legacy of love, service, and the devotion he had for his family—especially his grandchildren—will continue to inspire those he leaves behind.

He is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart, Linda Clark; daughters Briana Higgs and Cara McJilton, and sons-in-law Greg and Rush. Stacy was a devoted and proud grandfather to Tristan, Isabelle, Easton, Lochlan, and Rory, who were the true joy of his life. Also surviving him are his mother, Donna Clark; brother Brett Clark; aunt Diana; cousins Brian, Troy, and Kerri; and nieces and nephews Blake, Jack, Hannah, Mattie, Josh, Jordan, Mallorie, and Racheal.

The funeral service will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 9, at Biggers Funeral Home, 6100 Azle Avenue in Lake Worth.

The Community News
September 13, 2024

Ex-Students' Association Banquet

The Aledo ISD Ex-Students Association will hold their banquet honoring the class of 1974 on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Parker County Cowboy Church, 5050 FM 5 in Aledo. Visitation will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the meal will be served at 6 p.m.

All ex-students of Aledo ISD are encouraged to attend. The cost will be \$25, which covers the meal, expenses, and \$5 for dues. Reservations must be made by Sept. 13.

To reserve a spot or for more information, send a note to Aledo Ex-Students' Assn., P. O. Box 737, Aledo, Texas 76008 or email June King at junefraserking@sbcglobal.net.

FLORIDA

from page one

certified to have an activity to do together. They both received their open water, advanced open water, rescue diver certificate, and Professional Association of Diving Instructors Adaptive Support Diver certificates. They are also both in the process of finishing up their dive master certification.

Jacob was accepted to do a discovery dive. Jaxon and Jason immediately volunteered to help and be there with him, Jason said.

"Jacob loved the experience and we devised a plan to be able to get Jacob open water certified," Jason said.

Then it was onto the Adaptable camp in Florida.

The camp

"We spent a week with an amazing group of kids and adults alike. I thought going into this adventure we would be the ones helping and teaching all the people at the camp, but in return

we had just as much to learn as they did," Jason said.

"Walk a mile in his shoes" just resonates through me and Jaxon. We got to experience what these kids and adults with disabilities go through on the daily basis, and what they're able to achieve through the Adaptable Foundation is remarkable itself.

"As far as Jaxon goes, I had to take a step back and realize that he was still at 15-year-old kid at times because he was in the mix working to do whatever needed to be done, from grabbing tanks, putting together dive gear, to getting people in and out of the water. I was so proud of him in the fact that he wanted to be there at that camp to help these kids, interact and become friends with all of them."

Jason said it was one of the top "dad and uncle moments of my life."

Swim team success

As a freshman last season, Jaxon narrowly missed qualifying

for the state meet. He was part of the boys 200-yard freestyle relay that set an Aledo High School record of 1:33.64 at regionals to finish third, joined by the now graduated Porter Lane, sophomore Kale Roberson, and senior Tyler Jackson.

Aledo swim coach Meghan Roberson praised Jaxon for using his skills to help others.

"It's great to see our athletes using their abilities to help others in the community find a common joy in their sport. Jaxon displayed such patience and compassion with the participants, and was an excellent example both in character and of what our swimmers accomplish outside of the competition pool," she said.

While this is the first such activity Jaxon has done, he said he wouldn't hesitate to say yes if asked again.

"I think scuba diving and swimming are some of the best things you can get into," he said.

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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

New Texas laws now in effect



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

It took some time, but a set of new laws and rules passed by the Texas Legislature in 2023 went into effect on Sept. 1, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. Prominent among these are the SCOPE Act, or Securing Children Online Through Parental Empowerment Act, which tightens restrictions for online users younger than 18.

Under the SCOPE Act, users must register their age on social media and other websites. Minors are prohibited from making purchases from those sites, which are also required to filter and block certain material. Examples include content that promotes suicide or bullying, as well as trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

Violators could be fined up to \$10,000 per incident.

One of the bill's co-authors defended its intent.

"Testimony from parents and children in committee gave graphic examples underscoring how desperately we need to better protect kids online," state Rep. Shelby Slawson, R-Granbury, wrote. "The SCOPE Act will do just that."

Others don't agree. The non-profit Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression sued the state on Aug. 16, challenging the government restrictions.

"While these efforts to protect young people are well-intentioned, they lack perspective," the lawsuit states.

Another measure that took effect Sept. 1 updates qualifications for family violence shelters that provide lodging and care for domestic abuse victims in order to receive state funding. Criteria now includes providing direct services, establishing a referral service for victims, and having been in operation at least a year.

Eliminating property taxes would require massive funding

Eliminating the state's property taxes is high on the wish list of some Republican lawmakers. They received a reality check last week when state budget officials said doing so would require the state to produce \$81 billion each year to cover the costs of public schools, as well as the revenue now received by cities, counties and special taxing districts through property taxes.

The *Texas Tribune* reported that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick directed the Legislative Budget Board to tally the costs of replacing property tax revenue, which funds teacher salaries, law enforcement and many other government functions. Eliminating the tax likely would require a massive increase in sales tax rates - something that appears highly unlikely.

State Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, is Patrick's chief lieutenant on property taxes. He noted \$81.5 billion is "a huge amount of money to be able to replicate."

Lawmakers have worked to lower property tax bills the past few sessions by raising the homestead exemption and limiting how much school districts and local governments can collect. But without a state income tax,

lawmakers are limited in how to completely replace property taxes with another form of revenue.

Perry joins Phelan's team as adviser

Former Gov. Rick Perry has joined House Speaker Dade Phelan's office as a senior adviser, the *Texas Standard* reported. The embattled speaker, who survived a tough runoff race, now faces at least three Republican challengers to his speakership.

"[Gov. Perry] understands every facet of the legislative process, and that will be a tremendous asset as we work to strengthen our state's economy, improve education and ensure every member's voice is heard in the Texas House this session," Phelan said in a statement.

Phelan has been under fire for backing an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to impeach Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and for being perceived as not conservative enough by some of his Republican colleagues.

Perry will serve as a volunteer adviser until the 89th Legislature begins in January.

Schools hiring more uncertified teachers

Critical teaching shortages in Texas are compelling school districts to hire more teachers who have not received formal classroom training, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

The number of uncertified teachers in the state's public schools has risen dramatically since the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted many longtime educators to leave the profession for various reasons - health concerns, lack of resources, and feeling burned out. As a result, uncertified teachers, many of whom work in rural school districts, accounted for about 38% of newly hired instructors last year.

Since 2015, school districts under the District of Innovation law have been able to hire people with different professional experience who then would work on getting certified through alternative certification programs. The last legislative session ended with no significant base funding increases, leaving many school districts with budget shortfalls, and making it even harder to fill teacher vacancies.

"When you have a state where their coffers are full and local school districts where their coffers are empty, or in the process of being empty, you're going to have to have some state help to make sure that we're funding these types of programs," said Mark Henry, who served as Cy-Fair ISD's superintendent for more than a decade.

According to the Texas Education Agency, the attrition rate among Texas teachers has increased since the start of the pandemic from 9% to 12%. Texas ranks 30th in the nation for average teacher pay - \$8,828 less than the national average, according to the National Education Association.

Paxton suing Bexar County over mail voter plan

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing Bexar County over its plan to mail voter registration forms to unregistered residents en masse, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. The Bexar County Commissioners Court approved the voter registration plan last week, defying Paxton's warning that he would take them to court.

Paxton's suit argues that mail applications could entice felons and other ineligible people to register to vote. Commissioner Justin Rodriguez defended the plan.

"From our perspective, this was never a Democrat or Republican endeavor," Rodriguez told the *Statesman*. "It was making sure we used the resources within the elections office to be innovative, to be proactive when it came to registering voters, and we felt pretty strongly that we're doing everything (as it is) allowed by the Elections Code."

Paxton has warned repeatedly of potential voter fraud in November's general election. However, he has not provided evidence of widespread voter fraud in Texas, the *Statesman* reported.

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.



TRACY LE BLANC/PEXELS

Idle American

Someone call security



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

Stephen Cox is not an imposing figure. Still, he has the countenance and features to be a Clark Kent look-alike, even if considerably smaller in stature.

You remember Clark, right? He's the guy who morphed quickly from his role as a reporter for a large metropolitan newspaper into Superman, the movie and comic book figure who flew around Gotham City beating the daylight out of the bad guys.

Cox, now thirty-something, even has eyewear like Kent's. The distinguished San Antonio music educator appears to be much younger than his actual age, but he--like Kent--remains super cool in all circumstances, though never donning a cape, leaping over buildings in a single bound or putting the hurt on anybody.

He's so genteel, always careful to give others the benefit of doubts.

Cox has long been known as the kind of mentor whom students remember fondly for the rest of their lives. Beloved by his wife, children and a host of others, he has been a "hit" wherever he has struck up the band. If Mr. Holland had not preceded him, there easily could have been a "Mr. Cox's Opus."

By all measures, he is simply the best.

Such respect is heaped on him by acclamation; no vote is needed. He's "Mr. Wonderful"--one of the last guys on the planet one would expect to run afoul of airport TSA personnel.

Obviously never having laid eyes on this simple musical instrument, the agent didn't initially believe Cox's explanation about the kazoo in his pocket detected by x-ray. To him, it looked lethal. To Cox, it was a joke, since everyone can play kazoos easily if they have breath and "sing" such syllables as doo, too, who or vrrr into the kazoo.

Unflappable, Cox told the agent about the music convention he'd attended, then details about the simple instrument. He remained calm and wasn't asked

to play his kazoo. Isn't there a poem admonishing us to keep our heads about us, when others are losing theirs? Soon, he was allowed to board, his kazoo in hand.

My, how things have changed, particularly airport security. I recall boarding a plane in Dallas, long before 9-11.

En route to Amarillo for a speaking engagement, I was unaware that pheasant hunting season began with the next sunrise. Dozens of boarders placed their shotguns in overhead bins, counting the hours until dawn.

"Those guns aren't loaded, are they?" flight attendants joked.

I had a Stephen Cox experience shortly after 9-11. My wife and I were returning from a trip to Alaska, where she purchased ulu knives to gift our sons-in-law come Christmas. They were miniature versions of ulu knives that are used largely in Alaska.

One might guess them to be "pizza-slicers" if seen on kitchen counters in the USofA.

As we prepared to leave, suitcases filled quickly, so she stuffed the knives into her carry-on bag.

At security check, a meek-spirited woman who looked capable of playing tackle on an NFL team lectured us sternly

about dimensions, weights and what could NOT be included in our carry-ons. I yawned, thinking that no such items were in my pouch.

Wrong! My wife--weary as her carry-on bag became "too heavy"--innocently extracted the ulu knives and stuck them into my bag, unbeknownst to me. To this day, she swears she considered them to be Christmas gifts, not dangerous weapons.

"What do we have here?" the agent sneered. "They're going to stay with me." I tried to explain that Brenda thought they'd be nice Christmas gifts. I also failed to feign Cox's innocence, hopeful that the tears streaming down my cheeks would help. The agent, however, wasn't buying it. I could only hope the confiscated knives wound up under Christmas trees of young Eskimos who dreamed that Santa would somehow avoid security checks as his sleigh flew throughout the world on Christmas Eve.

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is one of the nation's longest-running syndicated humor columns. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

BOARD

from page one

trying to pick which kids would we possibly go to another classroom.

“Well, they were really having a difficult time with that. And we, y’all know, like our families are really invested in us, and they know those fourth-grade teachers, and they trust them. They’re highly motivated. You can tell they’re very passionate, and so they really want to stick with the course.”

Ford called fourth-grade teachers “rock stars,” and Board President Mike Guest referred to that comment at the end of the discussion: “They are a rock star team, but they’re also our loudest team to give us feedback, so if they reach their limit, I’m sure they’ll let us know — that’s a good thing.”

Ford was the lone dissenting vote in the waiver request vote.

The board also approved general fund and child nutrition fund budget amendments, approved the campus and district improvement plan, and approved nominations for the School Health Advisory Committee.

- In other action, the board:
- Heard a report from Austin Elementary School;
 - Heard a report from Assistant Superintendent Marie Hernandez on the ROOTed in Excellence Series;
 - Heard a report on the district’s technology program;
 - Received the extracurricular booster club financial report;
 - Received financial reports for the month of July; and
 - Received the Parker County Appraisal District audit for 2023.

The board’s next meeting will be at 6 p.m on Monday, October. 21.

COUNCIL

from page one

worth noting that the water fund has been transferring revenues to the wastewater fund to help subsidize that fund. However, while there is a transfer in the budget, it is not expected to be used and is there as a safeguard.

The wastewater has a budgeted net profit of nearly \$11,000, a vast increase from the deficit of more than \$22,000 the previous 12 months. Plans are, with the agreement with Hudson Oaks, this fund will have a partnership to help offset costs, and, in turn, will help the wastewater fund to be self-sustaining.

The drainage fund has a forecasted decrease in expected profit from the current year by \$250. With more than three years of revenues collected, and the passage of the certificates of obligation to address drainage projects throughout the city last year, this fund will provide the proceeds to service the debt. Some drainage projects have been completed, and Phase 2 will be completed in the coming months.

The newly created tourism fund of \$2,093,322 is expected to bring a profit of almost \$30,000. Last year the tourism fund ran a deficit of more than \$2 million.

“I think staff and council worked hard. I’m excited to see the progress the city made and I’m looking forward to the next 12 months being a banner year for the city,” Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss said.

Sign permit

Council approved a special use permit for Canvas at Willow Park to have a temporary free-standing, off-premise sign on the corner of Kings Gate and Interstate 20 North Service Road on property owned by Larry Lawley.

The single-sided 5x10 wooden sign, which will advertise homes for rent at Canvas at Willow Park, was approved for 24 months, unless there is a change in the owner of the property. Also, the sign will have to be moved slightly to avoid encroachment on the right-of-way necessary for the replacement of Kings Gate Bridge, a project expected for construction beginning in the fall of 2025.

“I think staff and council worked hard. I’m excited to see the progress the city made and I’m looking forward to the next 12 months.”

-Mayor Doyle Moss

ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. David Mason named Osteopathic Educator of the Year

Aledo resident serves at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

By **Steven Bartolotta**
UNT Health Science Center

Dr. David C. Mason of Aledo, one of the most respected and impactful practitioners at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine at The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth has been selected as the 2024 Educator of the Year by the American Osteopathic Foundation.



Dr. David Mason

Mason will receive the award at the AOF’s 2024 Honors Gala in San Antonio in conjunction with the American Osteopathic Association’s OMED conference on Sept. 20.

Established in 1997, the AOF’s Educator of the Year award recognizes the role educators play in the development of osteopathic medical students, residents and the profession.

The designation Educator of the Year is awarded to an individual who not only emulates the osteopathic profession’s highest standards of excellence in teaching but who is passionate about osteopathic medicine, has made a significant impact on the academic advancement of osteopathic students, and has made long-standing contributions to the profession in the academic arena.

“I am thrilled to be recognized for doing what I am passionate about,” Mason said. “Mentoring physicians in training to embody the distinctive features of osteopathic practice and incorporate

them into their chosen specialty has been the primary focus of my career.”

Mason has been with TCOM since 2010 and is the assistant dean of osteopathic clinical education and a professor in the Department of Family and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. He just completed a year-long term as the Texas Chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians’ president.

A champion in the classroom for medical students and residents alike, in 2004 Mason was honored as an AOA Mentor Hall of Fame member and in 2005 he received the Family Medicine Resident Award for Clinical Teaching. He was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society in 2005 and in 2008 received the distinction of Fellow from the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Mason has a vast array of teaching expertise, that includes a visiting professorship with the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. At TCOM, he led growth and development of OMM integration into medical practice and systems courses for Year 1 and Year 2 students as well as the four week clerkship rotation in OMM and content expert for OMM integration into all rotations for Year 3-4 clerkships.

Mason is the medical director for HSC’s Institute for Translational Research and was the program director for the Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine Residency and the Integrated Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and Family Medicine Residency at Medical City Fort Worth.

He is an international and nationally renowned lecturer, having given 120 presentations and lectures since 2001 from China to Puerto Rico and all across the United States.

“Osteopathic medicine is different, but only if our graduates

practice differently,” Mason said. “The two essential tools we employ to train physicians how to practice are our focus on our patients and the use of our hands.”

He has been a board member on national committees of the American Academy of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, chairing the Educational Council of Osteopathic Principles, the American Osteopathic Family Physicians, and The American Academy of Osteopathy as a board member. He serves as a board member for the Texas Medical Foundation-Health Quality Institute and the American College of Graduate Medical Education Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine Residency Review Committee.

Mason is board-certified in both Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Family Medicine. Mason has been named a Top Doctor by Fort Worth Magazine for Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine four times and received the WOW (What Others Want) award for clinical service from HSC Health.

Before arriving at TCOM, Mason spent nine years at the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine from 2001 to 2010. He earned his Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from the school in 1996 and completed his residency training in Family Medicine at the university in 1999. Mason earned a Healthcare Management Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2014.

The Educator of the Year Award, one of the AOF’s highest annual awards, recognizes one physician who over the last 12-24 months has shown they consistently uphold and raise the standards of Osteopathic medical education.

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National Night Out 2024
Free block party with the Willow Park Police Department from 5 - 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at Kingsgate Park, Willow Park, TX 76087.

Join us to meet the men and women who protect our community and have some fun while you're here! Bounce houses, kids games, DJ John Henry, food trucks and more!

OCTOBER 4 - 31

Clark Gardens Pumpkin Patch
Clark Gardens Pumpkin Patch will be open daily Monday - Saturday from 8 - 5 p.m. and Sunday 10-5 p.m.
Our Pumpkin Patch is the perfect place for a cozy, family-fun filled, fall experience. Choose from pumpkins of



all shapes and sizes to purchase and take home. Enjoy pumpkin ring toss, pumpkin bowling, and other festive games. Model Trains: View Model Trains at the Clarks Station Garden Walks: Stroll through our gardens and enjoy Fall in full bloom. Purchase snacks and refreshing beverages in our admissions booth. Make Clark Gardens a stop on your Fall bucket list! Admission: \$10 adults, \$8 Senior, \$5 children, 3 and under FREE. *additional fees apply for pumpkin purchases



OCTOBER 8

Dementia Support Group
Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. Even more so, we value the efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents.

This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

OCTOBER 10

Alzheimer's Group
The East Parker County Alzheimer's Group meets from 1-3 p.m. on the second

Thursday of each month at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan. Drive. For more information, call 817-441-8329.



OCTOBER 12

Aledo UMC Lord's Acre Fall Festival
Gather the family for a fall bucket list event y'all won't want to miss from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 12th. AUMC will host its annual community fall fest with kid's activities, food, vendors, silent and live auctions, live music performances, and community fun. The money raised helps support AUMC's mission efforts in Aledo, surrounding areas, state-wide and around the world. Forward this event to all your friends and follow us on our page to stay in the loop on all the fun things we have planned!



OCTOBER 17

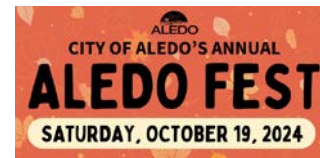
Burgers & Bingo
Parker County Committee on Aging - Meals on Wheels and The Senior Center is having Burgers & Bingo benefitting Meals on Wheels and the Senior Center from 5:30-8 p.m., on Thursday, October 17. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. which

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS
1 national gemstone of Australia
5 TXism: "busy as ___" -armed fry cook"
6 children
7 TX Matson who won gold in shot put in 1968 Olympics (init.)
8 last name of Dallas City Hall designer
9 TXism: "changes his ___ often as he does socks"
15 "Foard County ___" (newspaper)
16 TX Michael Johnson won gold here in 1992 (4 x 100 relay)
19 James Bond's code number
21 bye in Mexico
22 TXism: "couldn't hit the side ___" (poor shot)
27 depend on
28 in Lubbock County on U.S. 62 & 82
29 most mature fruit
30 performers
32 first two initials of 8-across designer
33 27th governor, familiarly (2 wds.)
36 irritate or annoy
37 this Jeff of Houston Oilers committed suicide in 1993
38 delighted
39 state north of the Red River
41 TXism for "your"
42 48-across is a ___ city
45 decline, decrease
46 star Paul of Texas-based 1963 film "Hud" (init.)
47 members-only warehouse store: "___ Club"
48 Yemen port city
49 TXism: "___ fiddle string"
52 sharpened
53 also called "off-the-rack" or OTR
54 Dallas Stars leag.
55 a fancy Brooklyn coffee

DOWN
1 White ___, Texas
2 Hawaiian taro dish
3 county that is north of Ector and south of Gaines
4 French-based musical (2 wds.)
8 unskilled laborer
9 TXism: "got too ___ fire" (spread too thin)
10 first two letters of U.S. tax agcy.
11 she was wife of Gov. Connally (init.)
12 TXism: "was around when the ___ only sick" (old)
13 Alan of "The Aviator" about TX Hughes dirt
14 dirt
15 Perryton is a city in ___ Texas
16 cowboys wear big ___ buckles
17 TXism: "if it ain't true, there ain't ___ in Texas"
18 highest academic honors go to ___ cum laude graduate
20 extremely
22 TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ a holler"
23 small lie
24 TXism: "useless as perfume on ___"
25 "beer ___" (big stomach)
26 Austin band: "___ at the Wheel"
28 TXism: "___ take a faith healer to fix it" (poor condition)
31 J.V. "___" Sikes was an A&M star in the 1920s
34 TXism: "mighty fond ___"
35 "___ low, sell high"
37 TXism: "busy as ___ -armed paper hanger"
40 TX Trini's "if I ___ Hammer"
43 arithmetic
44 "Hook '___ ___!"
50 TXism: "fresh married" (___ wed)
51 "in the year of our Lord" abbr.

includes a hamburger dinner (burger, chips, drink, and dessert). Following dinner, we will play Bingo for your chance to win locally donated prizes. Tickets are limited to 200 guests. Additional Bingo cards will be available for purchase at \$5 a piece, while supplies last (limit 1).



OCTOBER 19

2024 Aledo Fest
Aledo fest will be from 10 .m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 19 in downtown

Aledo. It will feature live music and activities for kids of all ages. Meet your local businesses at vendor booths, do some gift shopping, and get a little something for yourself! Come hungry for a variety of food trucks on-site for good eats & autumn treats! Vendor and sponsorship applications are available now - please visit our website. <https://www.aledotx.gov/AledoFest>

OCTOBER 26

Fall Fest Willow Park North
Join Willow Park North and The Shops at Willow Park for the second annual Fall Fest. This family-friendly



event is free to the public.

NOVEMBER 12

Dementia Support Group
Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. Even more so, we value the efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents.

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The Aledo Independent School District (the District) is requesting competitive sealed proposals for RFP 2509-01 (Coder Elementary Serving Line and Kitchen Equipment Replacement, Phase 2). Specifications for this project may be obtained on the District's electronic procurement system at <https://aledoisd.ionwave.net/>. Proposals will be received until 3 PM CT on September 23, 2024. Proposals will be electronically unsealed and opened shortly after the specified time of closing. Late bids will be rejected as non-responsive. Accommodations and modifications for people with disabilities are available upon request. Submit requests to Kim Whitley at kwhitley@aledoisd.org. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal(s) that provide(s) the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

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FOOTBALL

Bearcats open district play on road

Look to continue dominance against Brewer, league

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats haven't lost to the Brewer Bears since the last millennium, 1999, to be exact.

It was, however, an upset of the defending state champions for the Bears as Aledo was coming off the first state title season in its history. They have, of course, added 11 more championships since and Brewer has come about as close to defeating Aledo as Paris Hilton has a chance to win an acting Oscar.

Aledo enters the game Friday night in White Settlement having an 18-2 advantage in the overall series. The Bearcats have won the past 16 straight in the series, including 59-13 last season.

The Bearcats bounced back soundly last week, defeating Lancaster 37-27 at home after losing their home opener 35-30 at Denton Guyer. The Bears, meanwhile, are off to a 0-2 start with losses to Saginaw, 26-13 at home, and 27-14 at Lake Dallas, both of who have started the season 2-0.

Brewer was picked to be a play-off team in the preseason by Dave Campbell's Texas Football, considered to be the authority on high school football in the state. Aledo, of course, was picked to once again win district.

"We tell them (players) to respect our opponents no matter what their record is," Aledo coach Robby Jones said. "We're not going into this game working on somebody else. We're working on Brewer."

That district streak

It's impossible to mention a new district season for the Bearcats and not mention their league winning streak - a national record - of 119 games. The last time they lost a district game was 2007.

In fact, that team dropped a pair of games to start league play 0-2, falling 31-28 to Stephenville and 35-28 to Everman. They went on to finish 11-3 and reach the state semifinals.

By the way, that season began with a 54-0 win over Brewer, the biggest win by either team in the series.

Bears looking for return to postseason

It hasn't been that long since Brewer was in the playoffs. The Bears finished 8-3 in 2021, reaching the postseason for a second straight year under head coach Todd Peterman, who won back-to-back state championships as offensive coordinator with Duncanville in 2022 and 2023 and is now the head coach at Lake Worth.

From 2015-21, Brewer was in the postseason six times, though they did not advance past bidistrict in any season.

Bouncing back

The Bearcats simply don't lost that often, but when they do they rarely lose back-to-back, even when it extends from one season to the next. Since 1994, Aledo is 41-10-2 in games following a loss.

"This shows the pride the kids have. These kids don't like to lose, coaches don't like to lose," Jones said.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kaden Winkfield (21) carried the ball 14 times and scored a touchdown against Lancaster.

Quarterback situation

Gavin Beard remains day-to-day with his injury, Jones said. In the meantime, sophomore Nash McElree continues to practice as the starter.

McElree was 6-of-14 for 39 yards with two interceptions - one of which was the result of a tipped ball - last week in the 37-27 win over Lancaster. He also had a couple of key runs.

"Nash is looking good this week. He's going to feel a little more confident," Jones said. "We'll have no hesitation throwing the football."

Guillory's getting going

Ray Guillory is "hungry," he self-proclaimed after the 37-27 win in which he decimated the Lancaster defense. Following knee surgery, he had no contact for nine months.

Given that he's averaging more than seven yards per carry, including

more than 10 against Lancaster, it could be argued that he's having little contact now. In two games he's gained 261 yards and scored four touchdowns on 37 carries, including 15 carries for 172 yards and three TD against Lancaster - one of the fastest teams the Bearcats will face this season.

"I was depressed for a little bit, but God got me through my battles," Guillory said of his inability to play for so long. "I couldn't do 7-on-7 in the summer. It was frustrating, and I am excited to be playing again."

"I'm working my way back. I feel I've got another gear, but I'm getting there."

Special again

The Bearcats special teams were, well, special in the win over Lancaster. Putting the season-opening performance behind them, they

Turn to **DISTRICT**, page 9

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (1-1, 0-0 in District 3-5A Division I) at Brewer Bears (0-2, 0-0 in District 3-5A Division I)

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13 at Bear Stadium, White Settlement

Last week: Aledo defeated Lancaster 37-27 at home, Brewer lost 27-14 at Lake Dallas.

Last season: Aledo went 16-0 and won Class 5A Division I state championship, Brewer was 3-7. Aledo won 59-13 at Brewer.

All-time series: Aledo leads 18-2 and has won 16 straight.

Returning starters: Aledo 3 offensive, 4 defensive, Brewer 6 offensive, 5 defensive.

Aledo offensive players to watch: WR Kaydon Finley, 12 catches, 171 yards, 2 TD; RB Ray Guillory, 37 carries, 261 yards, 4 TD.

Brewer offensive players to watch: WR Jaiden Carrigan, 7 catches, 94 yards, TD in 2023; WR Cameron Carr, 15 catches, 228 yards, 4 TD in 2023.

Aledo defensive players to watch: CB Adrian Fuller, 2 interceptions; LB Chase Wilburn, 15 tackles, 14 solo, 4 tackles for loss.

Brewer defensive players to watch: DB Kaiden Foster, 36 tackles, 2 interceptions in 2023; DB Elijah Mandé, 43 tackles, interception in 2023.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Molly Garrison

CROSS COUNTRY

Ladycats fourth in elite meet

Three runners in top 20

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Continuing their success in a season of prestigious and tough meets, the Aledo Ladycats placed fourth in the Southlake Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 7. It's the third top-five finish of the season in three meets, including a first-place finish in Waxahachie.

The Ladycats competed in the Elite Varsity Girls Division. The Bearcats, running in the Elite Varsity Boys Division, were 18th.

"What an amazing day to run," said Aledo coach Mike Pinkerton. "Although it was wet, the cooler temps were a welcome surprise as the Bearcats and Ladycats continue to work hard and improve."

"All athletes ran extremely well, with most improving their

times yet again. The Varsity Ladycats are hot on the heels of Lovejoy (reigning state champions), coming up just 13 points shy of overtaking them."

The Ladycats finished second in the state last season. Varsity results Southlake over the 5K course were:

- 8. Molly Garrison, 18:19.9.
- 14. Micah Neal, 18:33.0
- 16. Mykel Murry, 18:35.3.
- 37. Sophia Brandenburg, 19:02.8.
- 69. Madison Larsen, 19:37.0.
- 95. Hadleigh Walton, 19:55.5.
- 111. Mayden Mitchell, 20:08.4.

Boys results (5K) were:

- 30. Jack Fink, 15:49.3.
- 39. Tyler Connelly, 15:55.7.
- 121. Ian Robbins, 16:43.9.
- 144. Dominick Barrera, 16:56.6.
- 167. Luke Schabel, 17:12.0.
- 170. Thatcher Pettit, 17:12.8.
- 205. Reed Murray, 17:57.1.

Junior varsity girls (running Open Varsity Girls 5K division)

Team finished 16th. Individual places were:

- 33. Kjersten Loy, 20:30.8.
- 78. Carley Couch, 21:30.3.
- 97. Sadie Williams, 21:55.9.
- 135. Ashlynn Durnil, 23:04.4.
- 171. Maggie McQuatters, 25:15.0.

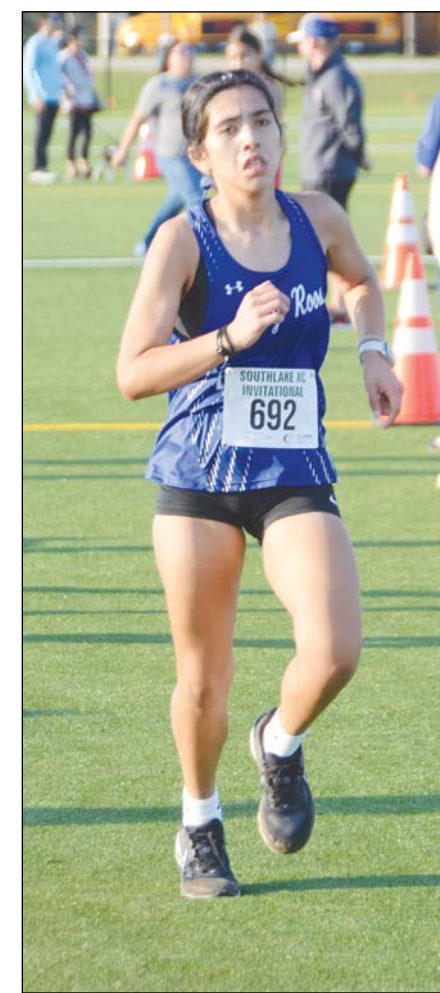
JV boys (running in Open Varsity Boys 5K Division)

- 126. Andrew Walsh, 18:34.5.
- 152. Ethan Matthews, 19:01.8.
- 172. Dylan Hoover, 19:48.1.
- 186. Nicholas Hale, 24:19.8.

JV Boys 5K division

- 359. Marcus Rodriguez, 23:13.3.

The Aledo JV was running in Glen Rose on Squaw Valley Golf Course at press time. The varsity teams will be competing in the Texas A&M Invitational on Friday, Sept. 13 in College Station.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford's Makayla Alvarado

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FOOTBALL

Eagles tripped up in home opener

TCA falls 22-9 against Live Oak

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Trinity Christian Academy Eagles football team played in its first home game of the season Friday night following a season-opening loss on the road to Sacred Heart Muenster.

The Eagles showcased big-play ability on offense, a tenacious effort on defense and quality special teams work throughout the night, but ultimately came up short in their home opener against the Live Oak Classical Falcons, 22-9.

"We have an opportunity to learn from this and we are inching closer to getting over the hump," Eagles head coach Cody McKenzie said. "We stalled out on some drives, but the defense really stepped up after giving up over 300 rushing yards last week - we were flying around. We're young and inexperienced at a lot of crucial positions with the players we've lost to injuries, but we are going to go to the film room to learn and grow from this so we can put ourselves in a better position to succeed next Friday."

First half

The Eagles received the ball first and started the game out well with a successful scoring drive. Senior quarterback Canaan Kaznowski led his team down the field on a six-play, 30-yard drive that was highlighted by a 20-yard Kaznowski run and a 15-yard pass he threw to sophomore tight end Owen Coates. The end result for the Eagles was a 36-yard field goal drilled by senior

kicker Micah Harless that put TCA in front 3-0 with 9:32 left in the first quarter.

After each team exchanged three-and-outs, the Falcons put themselves in front 7-3 after scoring on a 30-yard touchdown pass with 4:12 to go in the opening quarter while facing 3rd-and-10. The score remained the same at halftime, although Kaznowski had a 72-yard rushing touchdown wiped off the board due to a holding call.

Two big sacks recorded by junior edge rusher Kadin James helped stall Live Oak momentum and keep points off the board. Both of Live Oak's possessions in the second quarter resulted in a turnover on downs, but the defense raised its game in the second half - setting the edge more effectively and disrupting the Falcons' backfield more regularly.

Second half

"The defense didn't play the second half like we did in the first half because of some of the adjustments we made," McKenzie said. "Our theme this year is to be tough and we came out and played some football while putting ourselves in a position to win in the second half. It's good to see those guys step up to the challenge, handle some adjustments and execute. We just need to find a way to finish."

The TCA defense took the field to open the second half and ushered Live Oak off the field in three plays, forcing a punt and a new opportunity for the Kaznowski-led offense. The Eagles offense got to work with a big play on second down.

Live Oak sent multiple defenders into the backfield to try to apply



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TCA quarterback Caanan Kaznowski mows down a defensive back during the second quarter of the home opener against Live Oak on Friday, Sept. 6.

pressure, but sophomore running back Pearson Kuykendall stood tall and strong next to his quarterback, picking up a crucial block that allowed Kaznowski to find Coates deep down the field for an electric 63-yard catch-and-run all the way down to the Falcons' 12 yard line. From there, the Eagles finished off the seven-play, 75-yard drive with a 27-yard field goal off the foot of Harless.

On the ensuing defensive possession, junior defensive back Dan Southworth broke up a critical Live Oak pass attempt on third down to give the ball back to the

Eagle offense, which took over at the Live Oak 48 with 3:02 left in the third quarter. Kuykendall converted on fourth-and-2 with a clutch 13-yard run that allowed TCA to gain some offensive rhythm on a drive that spanned into the fourth quarter.

Then, Harless booted a 24-yarder through the uprights for a 9-7 lead at the 9:44 mark in the fourth quarter, the Eagles' first lead since 3-0 in the first.

In spite of TCA's best efforts, Live Oak had the last laugh, scoring the last 15 points of the game.

DISTRICT

from page 8

had a partially blocked punt that set up a touchdown, a 53-yard punt to the Lancaster 1 yard line set up a safety, a recovery of a muffed punt return sealed the game, and a long punt return set up a career-long 46-yard field goal by Cole Crawford that made it a three-possession game.

"We've worked on special teams a lot in practice," Crawford said. "All praise to the coaches."

Secondary gaining quick experience

The Bearcats replaced their entire defensive backfield after last season and the group has had to "grow up" fast against two speedy opponents.

For example, cornerback Adrian Fuller has two interceptions in the first two games.

"I think all those guys are playing pretty good," Jones said. "Adrian, ever since he was a freshman we

thought he'd be a good corner because he can run.

"Kai Taylor as well. He doesn't have the interceptions, but there's not been a whole lot of completions on his side."

In fact, except for the interceptions, Fuller and Taylor's stats mirror each other, with 5.5 tackles each (5 solo each) and two pass breakups.

Third/fourth downs

A measure of success is how a team fares on third down and how the defense holds opponents on that same down. Through the first two games, the Bearcats are 9-of-24 on third down, a 38 percent conversion rate. Meanwhile, opponents are 6-23, a rate of 26 percent.

"Third downs are big. If you get a stop, you force a punt or field goal and can take away momentum," Jones said. "You game plan third-down plays.

"You watch video and see what the defense (on the other team) likes to do in those situations."

On fourth down the Bearcats are 4-of-7, a rate of 57%, while opponents are 1-of-3, 33%.

Subvarsity

Three of the four Bearcats subvarsity teams remained unbeaten through two games following wins by all four squads last week.

The freshmen Black, junior varsity Black and JV Orange all improved to 2-0, while freshmen Orange evened their record at 1-1.

Rankings

District 3-5A Division I once again has three teams in the state's top 10. Ryan is No. 1 for a second straight, Aledo - No. 1 at the season's beginning - is No. 3, and Richland rose one spot to sixth.

Nationally, Aledo is 85th in the Maxpreps rankings and Ryan is 92nd.

District 3-5A Division I

District	Overall	Points for-against
Azle	0-0 2-0	92-62
Richland	0-0 2-0	81-50

Denton Ryan	0-0 2-0	70-32
Aledo	0-0 1-1	67-62
Birdville	0-0 1-1	56-84
Denton	0-0 1-1	28-55
Granbury	0-0 1-1	17-34
Keller Fossil Ridge	0-0 0-2	42-73
Brewer	0-0 0-2	27-53

Last week's results

Carrollton Newman Smith 35,	Fossil Ridge 21
Ryan 28, Mansfield Timberview 0	Denton 28, Fort Worth Eastern Hills 6
Aledo 37, Lancaster 27	Waco University 34, Granbury 14
Birdville 42, Grapevine 34	Richland 43, Colleyville Heritage 33
Azle 51, Weatherford 28	Lake Dallas 27, Brewer 14

This week's games (all at 7 p.m.)

Thursday, Sept. 12

Ryan at Fossil Ridge

Granbury at Birdville

Friday, Sept. 13

Aledo at Brewer

Richland at Denton

Azle bye

TENNIS

Racquet Cats win at Granbury

Still unbeaten in district

By Kelly Dishman

Special to the Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team traveled to Granbury recently and brought back a 16-3 victory. The Racquet Cats improved to 2-0 in District 5-5A and 9-3 overall.

Boys doubles winning scores were: Line 1 Jacob Heckathorn/Francois Britz (6-1,7-5) and Line 3 Noah Nottingham/Tom Ruminsky (6-3, 7-6).

All girls doubles were wins with Line 1 Elli Kate Bussemeir/Bryanna Orr (6-3, 6-1), Line 2 McKinley Hayes/Lila Satterfield (6-1, 6-1) and Line 3 Eleanor Jack/Patrice Loftin (6-4, 6-0).

Eleven out of 12 single lines were wins with boys Line 1 Heckathorn (6-4, 7-6), Line 2 Ben Kurth (5-7, 6-2, 1-0), Line 4 Britz (6-1, 6-3), Line 5 Casen Freeland (6-0, 6-2) and Line 6 Paxton Pscencik (6-7, 6-2, 1-0).

Girls swept every line with Satterfield at Line 1 (6-1, 6-0), Orr at Line 2 (6-0, 6-0); Bussemeir at Line 3 (6-0, 6-0), Sydney Byrd at Line 4 (1-6, 6-0, 1-0), Hayes at Line 5 (6-2, 6-3) and Line 6 played by Gracie Heydman (6-2, 6-3).

District opener

The Racquet Cats swept their league opener against Brewer by a score of 18-0 recently.

Winning boys doubles were Heckathorn/Britz, 6-3, 7-5; Kurth/Freeland, 6-1, 6-2; and Nottingham/Ruminsky, 6-3,6-0.

Girls doubles winners were Bussemeir/Orr, 6-0, 6-1; Hayes/Satterfield, 6-0, 6-0; and Jack/Loftin, 6-1, 6-2.

Mixed doubles partners Pscencik and Natalie Nawrocki swept their match at 6-0, 6-0.

The Racquet Cats continued their streak in singles play. For the boys, Heckathorn won 6-4, 6-2; Kurth won 6-2, 6-1; Ruminsky won 6-2, 6-0; Britz won 9-7; Freeland won 8-1, and Pscencik won 8-3.

Girls single lines gave up even fewer games with Satterfield (6-2, 6-1), Orr (6-2, 6-0), Bussemeir (6-0, 6-2), Byrd (8-2), Hayes (8-3) and Heydman (8-1) winning big.

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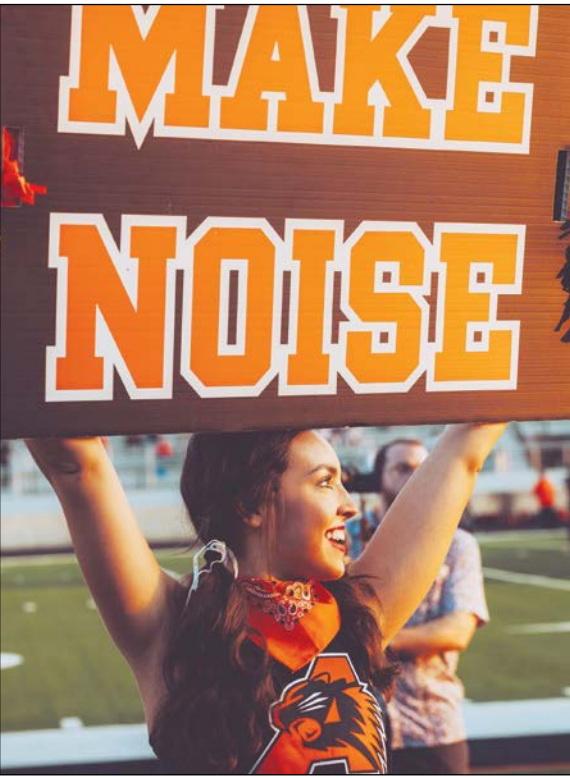
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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Kinley Elms
Volleyball

The senior posted 28 kills, 5 blocks, and 18 defensive digs as the Ladycats defeated Fort Worth Paschal 3-0 and Dallas Highland Park 3-1.

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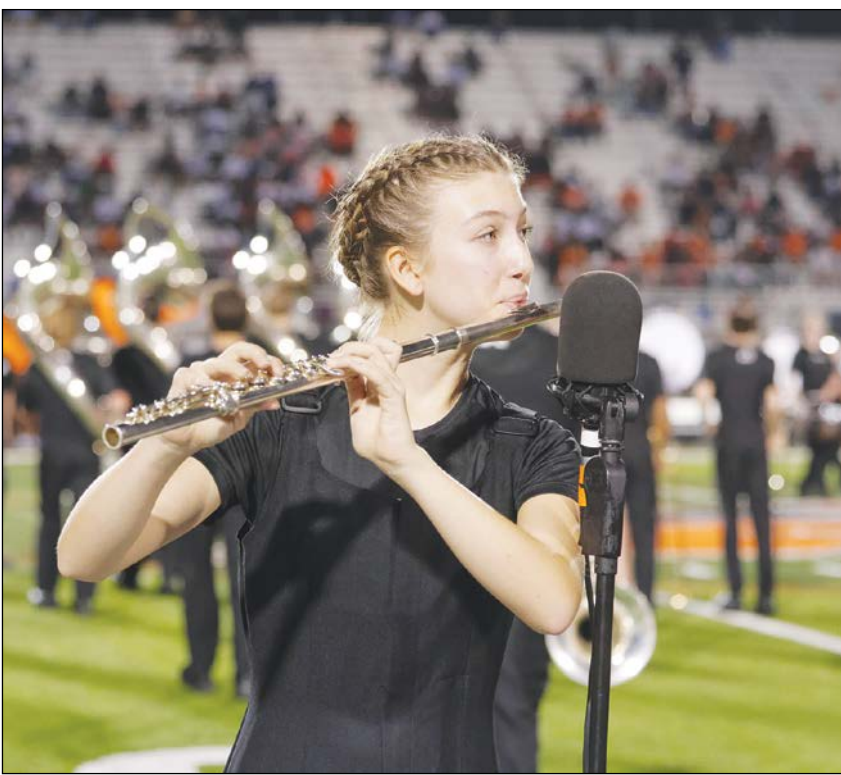
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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



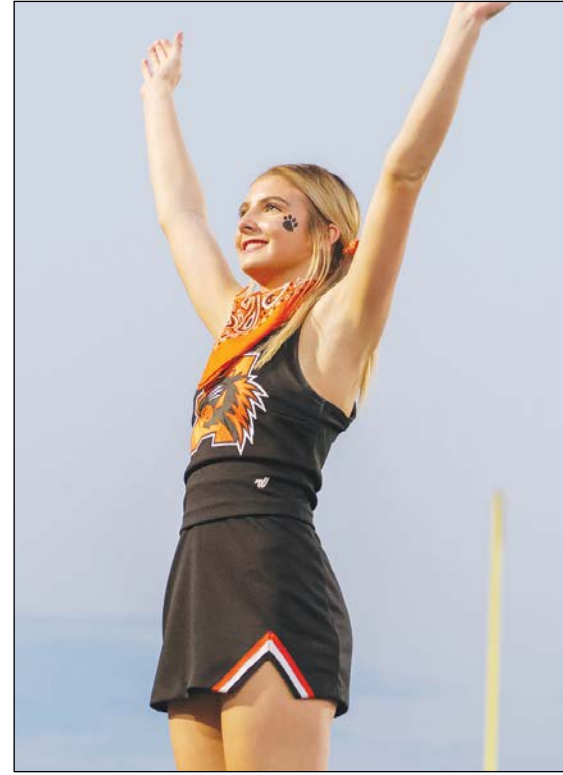
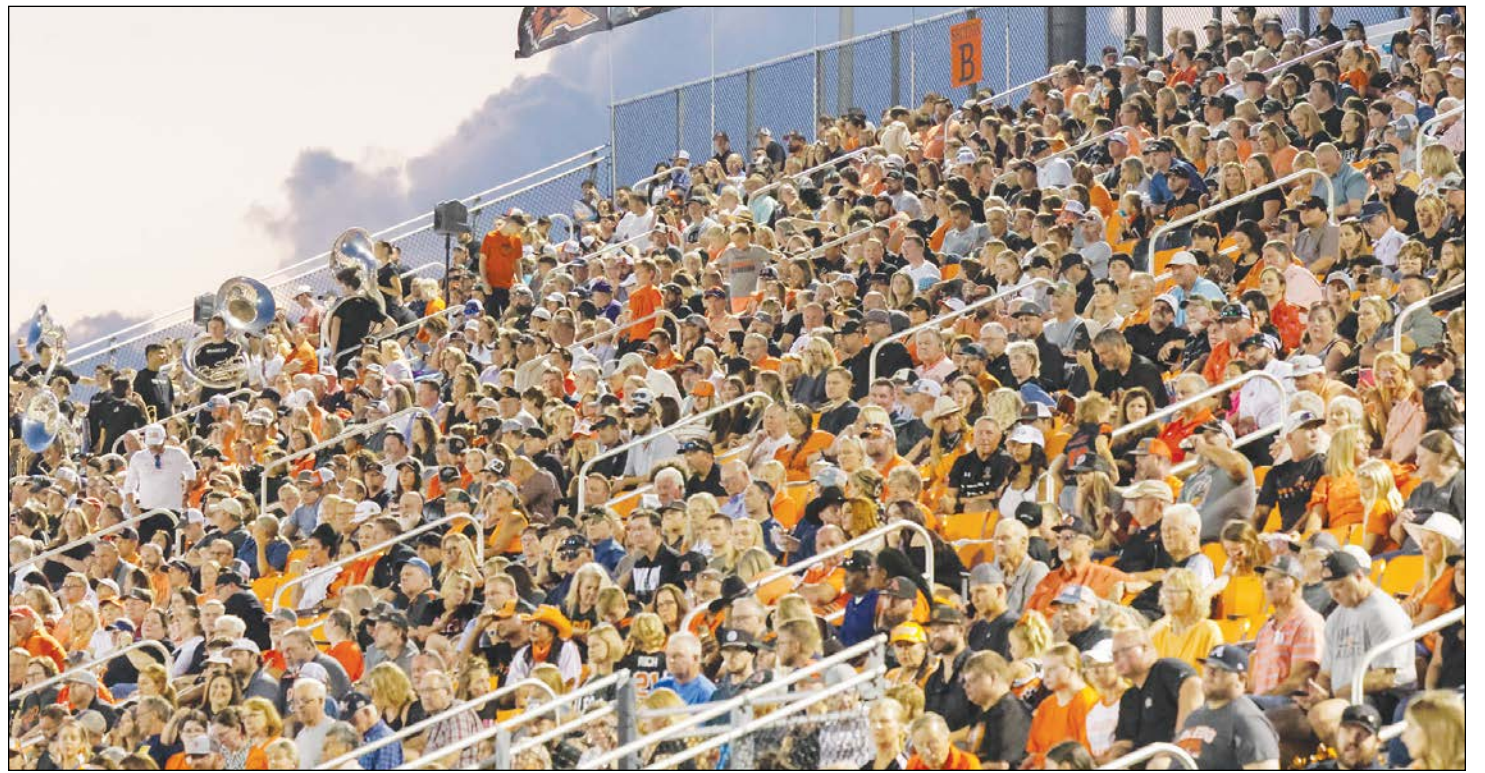
Cole Crawford
Football

The senior kicker had a career-long 46-yard field goal that basically put the game out of reach in a 37-27 victory at home against Lancaster. He also kicked a 28-yard field goal earlier in the game.

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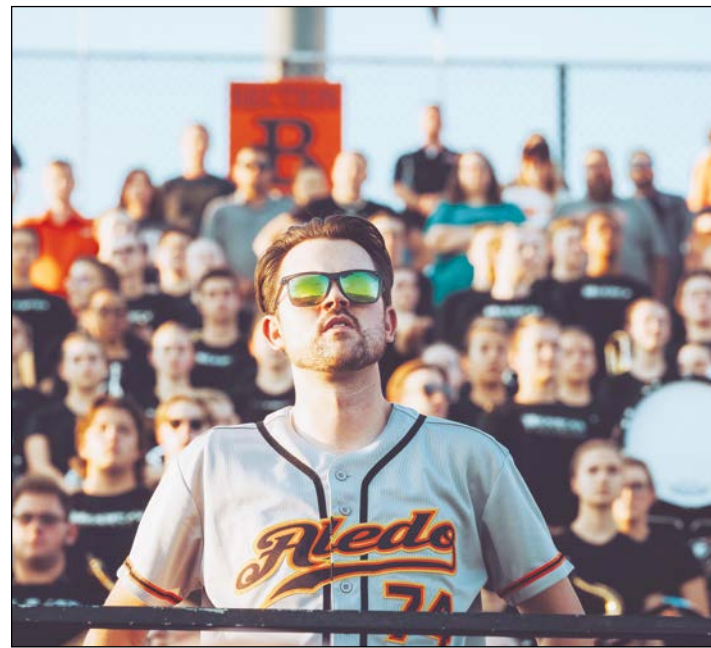

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FOOTBALL

Bearcats bounce back

Special teams clutch in victory over Lancaster

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Cole Crawford was smiling like he had just opened his favorite gift on Christmas morning.

And why not? He and his Aledo Bearcats teammates on the special teams were celebrating a turnaround that was key to a 37-27 victory in their home opener against Lancaster on Friday, Sept. 6 at Tim Buchanan Stadium.

In fact, it was his career-long 46-yard field goal with 6:51 to play that for all intents and purposes put the game out of reach, giving Aledo a three-score lead at 37-20.

“Oh man, it was a really good feeling,” Crawford said. “I’ve hit from there plenty of times in practice. I just told myself it was just another kick and to trust my offensive line.”

Crawford had earlier kicked a 28-yard field goal that put Aledo up 10-6 midway through the second quarter. It came after Kaden Winkfield had scored a 13-yard TD and Lancaster countered with a TD, followed by a penalty that forced a missed 35-yard extra-point attempt.

“We need him to have confidence and we need to have confidence in him to make those kicks,” Bearcats coach Robby Jones said. “We said let’s give this kid a chance to build his confidence back up. In a playoff situation we might need that field goal.”

Special night

Crawford’s kicks were only part of the special teams highlights a week after they were a factor in



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lincoln Tubbs (12) evades a defender. a 35-30 season-opening loss at Denton Guyer. Others included:

- Jacob McIntire partially blocked a punt that set Aledo up at the Lancaster 24, with Ray Guillory scoring a 15-yard touchdown, his first of three scores on the night, for a 17-6 lead with 4:15 left in the first half.
- Kutter Harrel pounced on a muffed punt with just more than a minute remaining the game, giving the Bearcats the ball back at their own 37, squelching any hopes of a last-minute miracle for the Tigers.
- Pierce Ling averaged more than 40 yards per punt, including a 53-yarder that pinned the Tigers at their own 1. On the next play, Aledo registered a tackle in the end zone for a safety and a 19-6 halftime lead.
- Lamel Swanson returned a punt 25 yards to the Lancaster 22 before Crawford’s career-best kick.

In addition, another kickoff return of 37 yards by Adrian Fuller was nullified by a penalty. Fuller would, however, later have his second interception of the season from his cornerback position.

“You wanna talk about a big-time change, special teams played about as well as we could ask them,” Jones said.

Big game for Guillory

While he said he’s still not 100 percent recovered from his knee surgery, the Lancaster defense is no doubt wondering what Guillory might have done to them if he were. He rushed an unofficial 15 times for 172 yards and three touchdowns.

Guillory’s second score gave the Bearcats a 26-6 lead early in the second half. It came on the first play after Lancaster lost 39 yards on a bad snap on a fourth down punt attempt.

To continue reading and for all stats visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/bearcats-bounce-back-to-defeat-lancaster-37-27,92316>

VOLLEYBALL

Aledo scores wins over Highland Park, Waco Midway

Ladycat win streak grows to six

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team continued its winning ways Friday afternoon, Sept. 6, against another strong opponent. This time, the Ladycats took down the Highland Park Lady Scots at home in four sets by a final score of 21-25, 25-15, 25-19 and 25-20.

After dropping the first set, the Ladycats were able to regroup behind strong front line play from seniors Kinley Elms, Haley Lowe, and junior Alyssa Todd to eventually run away with the second set. Aledo then carried that momentum into the final two sets as the back line, led by Ella Meador and Kenrie Pruitt, continued to make quality passes off Highland Park’s strong attacks.

Ultimately, the Ladycats walked away with the win in their second-to-last pre-district contest. Five of Aledo’s last six wins during the streak have come against teams with a winning record.

Elms led in the kills department for Aledo with 17 while also contributing 12 digs and two blocks. Todd recorded 16 kills and three blocks while Lowe added six kills and a team-high seven blocks.

Morgan Esteves and Ella Isbell recorded six kills and four blocks, respectively, while Esteves also had a pair of blocks. Senior setter Ava Reding produced 28 assists, 12 digs and two service aces while junior setter Sophie Frank finished with 15 assists. Meador had a team-high 16 digs along with two aces while Pruitt tallied 13



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Morgan Estavez celebrates as the Ladycats sweep Waco Midway in straight sets to earn their 18th win of the season.

digs. Logyn Denbow also had a strong showing with 13 digs.

Sweep of Paschal

The Ladycats made short of Fort Worth Paschal on Sept. 3, winning 25-12, 25-22 and 25-13. Before the win over Paschal, the Ladycats took down J.J. Pearce, Amarillo, Burleson and Martin, dropping only three total sets across the four matches to win the Arlington Classic.

Against Paschal, Elms led the charge offensively with 11 kills and three blocks while Tatum Kosse was also impactful on the front line with 10 kills and two blocks.

To continue reading visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/aledo-scores-wins-over-highland-parkwaco-midway,92761>

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