

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Fighting Back

Vierlings work to surmount roadblocks; named Thanksgiving Trot recipients

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Anyone in and around the athletic scene at Aledo High School most likely knows the name Derek Vierling. Vierling literally built the AHS soccer program from scratch, coming in to coach the team's first season 24 years ago.

Vierling and his wife, Kellye, both attended Trinity High School in Eules — Derek graduated in 1988 and Kellye graduated in 1989.

"We actually met in College Station," Derek said. "We were friends in high school — kind of in the same running group, but we met in College Station."

When Derek got out of high school, college was just a possibility.

"My dad said, 'I didn't save very well. For college, you get two choices. You can do some college loans — I'll sign for you, or join the Corps.'"

Derek joined the Marine Corps, and was activated for



Derek celebrates with son Reed following the 2016 Aledo football state championship.

COURTESY OF THE VIERLING FAMILY

Operation Desert Storm. He said there were 17 or 18 Aggies who were activated.

His service in the Marine Corps helped him pay for school.

At A&M, his experience as a business major was a cause for contemplation after Desert Storm.

"So, I sat around with my roommates in college, and they started going through the course catalog, and it really looked like a phone book — we were just going through, and we got down to one that was called kinesiology," Derek said. "One of my roommates went, 'man, that'd be awesome, Coach V!' And so, I started thinking about it, and it was a good choice."

Early in the marriage Kellye worked as a certified nail technician while Derek began his coaching adventure in Crowley. After six years, the couple decided on a life change, and moved to Colorado. Derek went into sales, but he felt the call to coach again, and he told Kellye he was going to try to get certified to coach in Colorado.

"If I'm gonna be a coach's widow, can we please move back to Fort Worth?" was Kellye's response.

At that time Kellye stayed at home to raise their son Reed, who was then two-and-a-half. The family moved to Mansfield while Derek attempted to find a coaching job.

Mike Leach, who was vice principal at Aledo Middle School, had been Derek's boss at Crowley. Leach told Derek that "Don Daniel, the superintendent at this little school, Aledo ISD, was starting a soccer program."

Neither Derek nor Kellye knew much if anything about Aledo, but after interviewing with then athletic director Tim Buchanan, Vierling was hired to start Aledo's soccer program. He was thinking he might be in Aledo for a year, get the program started, and perhaps parlay that into another coaching job.

"We went 19-5 that first year, third round of the playoffs, and it was pretty exciting," Derek said.

We thought he might do one more year — he loved the kids

and he loved the parents," Kellye said.

During Derek's 24 years as soccer coach, Kellye worked at Aledo High School for eight years as a counselor secretary.

"For the longest time, I coached both the boys and the girls, and I've always felt like it's a soccer program, you know, the boys and the girls. And now my old assistant is the girls coach, Bryan Johnson — he assists the boys, and I assist the girls. And so, we still try to treat it like a program, one entity," Derek said.

Health issues hit hard

On Jan. 19, 2021, Kellye found out she had anal cancer. The radiation and chemotherapy treatments required were, Derek said, brutal. "They took a toll on her body and she still has effects from it."

Exactly two years later, on Jan. 19, 2023, Kellye was diagnosed with breast cancer. (They say now they will not schedule any medical appointments on Jan 19.)

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WILLOW PARK

Council announces changes in city staff

Jock, Funderburk announce retirement

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

At the latest meeting of the Willow Park City Council on Tuesday, Oct. 8, City Manager Bryan Grimes announced several staff transitions and appointments, along with the retirement of two city employees.

Chief Financial Officer/Director of Human Resources Candy Jock (nee Scott) is retiring at the end of the year after a quarter century of working for the city.

"That's the longest time ever serving the city by a big margin," Grimes said.

Also, Assistant City Manager Bill Funderburk is retiring at the end of January. He has been with the city since 2021 and was formerly the city manager in Aledo.

"He's been my best friend in the building," Grimes said.

Staff promotions and appointments include:

Toni Fisher is the new assistant city manager in charge of development and parks. She was formerly development director.

Michelle Guelker is now assistant city manager over public works, operations and finance and communications. She was formerly public works director and is one of only 63 people in the state with a Class A water/wastewater operator license.

Chase McBride, is the new public works director after having been an assistant in the department.

Amanda Saylor is the new finance director.

Mandy McCarley has been hired as the city's new director of parks and recreation. She had been the athletic secretary for the Aledo School District for years.

Chelsea Kirkland is the new public works administrative assistant.

"I think we have a lot of great people worthy of promotions. I called one of them at 8:15 last night and he answered his phone," Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss said.

Place 2 Council Member Chawn Gilliland noted, "Congratulations to all the new positions. I think we did well."

All of the changes became effective Oct. 1.

Paper of Record

The council named "The Community News" as its Paper of Record. This continues a long-standing agreement between the newspaper and the city.

The agreement means the city will publish its legal notices in the

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 2



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COURTESY OF THE VIERLING FAMILY

Through mutual love and support, Derek and Kellye Vierling have walked through health issues.

WEATHERFORD

Marbut promoted to assistant city manager

Move effective immediately

Staff Reports
The Community News

Chad Marbut has been promoted to assistant city manager for the City of Weatherford, effective immediately.

Marbut has served the city since 2015, first as a capital projects engineer and most recently as director of public works since 2022. His previous



Chad Marbut

experience also includes an extensive background in infrastructure design and construction, public/private partnership coordination, and departmental coordination on capital improvements.

Marbut holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering and a master of public Administration. He is also a major in the United States Air Force Reserve, where he serves in the Installation and Mission Support Center for Pacific Air Forces Command.

He is a registered professional engineer and a member of the Texas City Manager Association and the International City/County Management Association. His community service includes

the Weatherford Noon Lions Club, the Millsap Education Foundation, and he is active with the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

"We are excited to announce the promotion of Chad Marbut to assistant city manager. His dedication and expertise have been key to many of the City of Weatherford's successes in recent years," said City Manager James Hotopp. "Since joining our team in 2015 his contributions have enhanced our organization and community, and we are confident that his leadership will continue to serve us well for the future."

Under Marbut's leadership, Weatherford has achieved several

noteworthy awards, including the American Public Works Association Project of the Year, and he represents Weatherford on various North Central Texas Council of Governments boards and committees. As assistant city manager, Marbut will manage efforts for capital infrastructure and development, and strategic planning initiatives for future growth and the needs associated with it.

"I am grateful and excited to continue serving the City of Weatherford in this role. The future for our city is bright, and I am deeply honored for the opportunity to contribute to that," said Marbut.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

New Faith dedicates new sanctuary

Fills up in first service

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

Youth Pastor Johathan Fahl opened Sunday service with a hardy, "Welcome to New Faith Baptist Church," resulting in applause and cheers from friends, visitors and members there to celebrate the grand opening of a new sanctuary Oct. 6.

Three-year member Gary Montgomery said the new addition is a welcome improvement.

"The difference is night and day," Montgomery said as he greeted guests at the front door. "There were times we almost couldn't fit everybody in the old sanctuary. This is a great little country church to be in."

The building at 3303 W. FM 5 in Aledo was purchased from another congregation in the 1990s and broke ground for the addition in August of last year. The sanctuary can now easily seat 200-plus in addition to an audio-video deck, an interactive stage, storage, and a 60 x 20 multi-purpose room, which can be used as a classroom or preparation room for services and weddings.



Pastor Brandon Carter welcomes Judy Bird of Aledo to the grand opening of the New Faith Baptist Church new sanctuary.

The old sanctuary is used for Sunday school, children's church, and lunch every third Sunday.

"We more than doubled our size," said Pastor Brandon Carter, who came to New Faith with his wife, Kim, and children Kiera and

Kesley, in 2019. "We were growing fast and we really needed the room."

For information about other ministries of the church and to view services on live stream, visit www.newfaithbaptistchurch.net.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Obituaries

Patsy June Hale

Patsy June (Witt) Hale, 84, passed away Friday, September 27, 2024 at her home in Aledo.

Patsy was born December 18, 1939 in Duncan, Oklahoma, the daughter of Benjamin Ray Witt and Charlot Estelle (Reese) Witt.

She was an avid lover of books, and loved to spend time reading. Patsy loved to garden, and over the years, she and her husband Ben, enjoyed traveling all over the country in their R.V.

Patsy will be remembered as a strong woman of faith with a deep love for her family. She was a long-time member of Aledo Church of Christ.



Patsy Hale

She is survived by her loving husband, Ben Hale; children, LaVaughn Stroud, Kim Linder, John Corr, David Hale (Kate), and Eddie Hale (Patty); grandchildren, Garrett Hale, Madison Hale, Courney Palmer (Masten), Jacob Hale, Callie Strickland, Blake Stroud, and Haley Stroud; and a host of extended family members and friends.

The funeral service was Friday, October 4, 2024 in White's Chapel of Memories in Weatherford. Interment was in Aledo Brown Cemetery in Aledo.

The Community News
October 11, 2024

COUNCIL

from page one

paper for the next fiscal year, which began on Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30, 2025, when FY 26 will begin and another vote will be held.

"Our residents and interested parties will know where to find our publications," Grimes said.

The "Community News" is published each Friday and can be found online daily at www.community-news.com.

concerned citizens who are working together to aid in the effort to end domestic violence in the community.

Moss urged all citizens to actively participate in the scheduled activities and

programs to work toward eradicating domestic violence, improving victim safety, and holding perpetrators of domestic abuse accountable for their actions against individual victims, and society as a whole.

Holiday schedule

Council also approved the following holiday schedule for fiscal year 2024-25:

- Monday, Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day.
- Thursday, Nov. 29 - Thanksgiving.
- Friday, Nov. 30 - day after Thanksgiving.
- Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve.
- Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Christmas.
- Tuesday, Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve.
- Wednesday, Jan. 1 - New Year's Day.
- Monday, Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Monday, Feb. 17 - President's Day.
- Friday, April 18 - Good Friday.
- Monday, May 2 - Memorial Day.
- Thursday, June 19 - Juneteenth.
- Friday, July 4 - Independence Day.
- Monday, Sept. 1 - Labor Day.

Freedom House recognized

With October being National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the council recognized Freedom House and the work the organization does to help victims of abuse.

The proclamation, read by Moss, states "The problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people, but cut across all economic, racial, and societal barriers."

It also notes that in Parker County since 1995, Freedom House, their staff, volunteers, and board members directly confront this local crisis with help from all law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, the clergy, and other



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The new main entrance was the old fellowship hall.



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THE DISTRICT

AT WILLOW PARK



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VIERLING

from page one

Kellye had a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery, and is grateful that the surgeons removed all the cancer, so no chemotherapy or radiation was required.

Just as Kellye was recovering and given the green light to drive again, Derek's symptoms began to appear.

After a checkup in August of 2022, Derek was told his blood platelet count was a bit low. In February of 2023 he had more blood work done, and his platelet count was even lower than his previous labs.

He was referred to a hematologist, who ordered a bone marrow biopsy, but the biopsy did not show any problems. Derek's platelets were at 50,000 when normal range is between 150,000 to 400,000. However, he was told he was not critical and was sent home.

On July 13, Derek began to develop red spots on his legs. On that day he had been to his primary care physician, to an eye doctor because a blood blister had popped in his eye, and had worked out. By the time he got home, he was covered in red dots, which he said looked like measles.

He and Kellye sent a photo to a cardiologist friend, who told them Derek needed to go to the emergency room. In fact, the doctor called the emergency room to let them know Derek was coming.

At the emergency room they told him he needed to get to a hospital immediately.

"I didn't feel bad," Derek said. "I worked out that day. I did our summer workouts at school." Friends and associates kept asking him if he was tired or stressed.

"Well, yeah, I was stressed. I mean, she's had two bouts of cancer the last two years. Am I tired? Well, soccer season is over again. I'm always kind of tired at the end of soccer season."

The hospital told him he had to be admitted immediately. Platelets are the mechanisms through which blood forms clots. Without platelets, even cutting himself shaving could cause a catastrophic loss of blood.

The hospital had no answers. They installed a port in his neck through which he could receive



LEFT: The Vierling family: Kellye, Derek, and son Reed. | RIGHT: Derek Vierling is shown receiving treatment.



COURTESY OF THE VIERLING FAMILY

plasmapheresis, a process whereby blood is removed from the body, separated into plasma and cells, and then the cells are infused back into the body.

Derek was in the hospital for two weeks until his platelets were brought up to a manageable level. After being home for two weeks, he began to experience severe back pain, and there was blood in his urine.

Back at the hospital, in August of 2023, he found out his kidneys were failing. Doctors thought his spleen was attacking his platelets, so they performed a spleen embolization, which involves blocking the artery that supplies blood to the spleen.

The next day he was put on dialysis through a port that was installed in his chest. Perhaps luckily, Derek does not recall much of this time.

The medical staff still could not pinpoint the problem. They wanted to perform a kidney biopsy, but Derek's platelets were so low there was a danger of him bleeding out. After roughly three weeks in the hospital, once his platelets were high enough, he was sent home.

Derek was having to do outpatient dialysis three days a week. About this time, he and Kellye began to seek out additional medical resources, and got a referral to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UT Southwestern). A hematologist there told Derek, "I want to find out what's wrong with you, but I have to admit you in the hospital."

The experience at UT southwestern, Derek said, was "night

and day" different from his previous hospital stays.

He was there another two weeks, but they were able to get him to the point where a kidney biopsy could be performed. The result of the biopsy was that he has a very rare blood disorder called Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (AHUS).

"AHUS is not curable, but it's treatable — it's manageable," Kellye said. "And so, they start him on this infusion, and his numbers go up, and we're praying and hoping for kidney recovery."

During this time Derek missed the entire fall 2023 semester of his job at Aledo High School.

"I lost 60 pounds over the course of the hospital stays, and I was just emaciated and weak," Derek said. "I was using a walker and a cane, and I was just so drugged up with all the different drugs I was taking, I just slept, and then I couldn't sleep. So I would sleep and be awake and sleep, and I just zoned out watching TV."

Family encouragement

As the spring semester and soccer season approached, Derek began to gain some encouragement. He could not coach, but he could watch.

"It was around December and and Kellye said, 'what if I just took you up to practice, to watch practice.'"

Derek didn't want to go.

"I looked bad. I mean, I was just sickly. And I couldn't stand up. I had to sit down," Derek said. "and Kellye said 'I'll just take you up there. We'll sit in the car, and you

could just watch.' And finally, she convinced me to do it.

"I went out there, and I literally sat on a bench, and I just watched practice. And then I tried to coach a little bit, but I couldn't. I didn't have a voice. Coach (Efren) Martinez and coach Johnson were doing a fantastic job. I mean, they really just stepped up. And, and coach Martinez's wife, she is also a soccer coach."

When Kellye got Derek home, she said, "Well, what do you think?" "I said, 'Man, I miss it. Can we go back tomorrow?'"

Kellye said yes, and day-to-day Derek began to get back into the realm of coaching.

Derek was still physically weak, but he also received encouragement from his father. His dad wanted him to go for a walk, but Derek, walking with a cane, didn't want to go.

"He said, 'come on, we'll go for a walk together. We'll just go to the stop sign and back.' And it's like, three houses, and we'd do it. And I was just exhausted. And then the next day, he goes, let's go four houses and back. And pretty soon we were doing a block, going around the block, and then it was a couple times around the block, and I just slowly started getting a little bit stronger."

The dialysis was still exhausting and time-consuming.

"You sit in a chair, and they literally take your blood out and they clean it and put it back in. And it was a it was a four-hour deal, and I had to do that three days a week."

Despite that schedule, Derek returned to work for the spring

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semester 2024, but was missing Tuesdays and Thursdays to get his dialysis.

"It would make me so exhausted, and I was cramping up. I was on a fluid restriction because my kidneys weren't functioning very well. And so I would finish up the dialysis, and my back would cramp, and my legs were cramping, and it would almost bring me to tears.

"Back in March, we finally discovered that he can do peritoneal dialysis at home," Kellye said.

That involved another procedure to put a port in Derek's stomach, and more frequent dialysis.

"It was six hours every day, but I could do it at night while I was sleeping," although sleeping was somewhat difficult.

"I had to lay on my back, and if I laid the wrong way the machine would start beeping, but at least I was at home, and physically, I was feeling better because I wasn't so exhausted from the hemodialysis and then soccer season's kicking in."

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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

Lawmakers to tackle soaring home insurance rates



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

Top state lawmakers plan to address soaring homeowners insurance premiums when they return to Austin in January for the next legislative session, according to the Houston Chronicle.

The state's insurance commissioner, Cassie Brown, told a Senate committee that home insurance rates increased last year by more than 21% statewide, twice the average increase in 2022.

More severe and frequent disasters are blamed for the spike in rates. In addition to more severe and more frequent storms, higher home values and higher costs for construction and labor are also factors. The median home price in Texas has risen 40% in the past five years.

"All this new value needs coverage, which results in bigger bills for consumers," Brown said.

Lawmakers reportedly will consider changes to the state's file-and-use system, which allows insurance companies to raise rates and then seek regulatory approval. Brown said the Texas Department of Insurance reviews all rate filings but "rarely" disapproves any of them.

"If we tighten up the criteria that you have to look at in order to approve their rates — I would expect that if it's harder to get a rate increase approval, that would help Texans with their premiums on their insurance," state Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, said.

Alarm sounded over languishing farm bill

Texas farmers, ranchers and lawmakers are voicing concerns that an economic catastrophe is

in the works if Congress doesn't approve a new farm bill by the end of the year. The 2018 version — good for five years — has finally expired, The Texas Tribune reported, after being extended until Sept. 30.

In a letter to the House Republican leadership signed by 140 members of Congress, the signers warned that waiting until next year to pass a bill will have a nationwide effect.

"The negative impacts of failing to act will not just stop at the farm gate," the letter said, "but will (affect) Main Street businesses, rural communities, and the national economy."

The Farm, Food, and National Security act is considered a "must-pass" piece of federal legislation. The bill supports more than 230,000 farmers and ranchers in Texas, and the state's food and agriculture sectors reportedly contribute more than \$860.8 billion in economic activity while employing more than 4.5 million people.

The farm bill also funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides more than 3.4 million low-income Texans with food benefits.

"We need our members of Congress and leadership in Congress to recognize there's no room for delay anymore," said Laramie Adams of the Texas Farm Bureau, said. "It's time to actually work together to get something done."

Texas has more than 18 million registered voters

Texas has hit a high-water mark with more than 18 million registered voters. The voter registration rolls are growing at a faster pace than the population's growth, indicating increased interest in signing up to vote. The Chronicle reported the state has added nearly 2.6 million voters since 2018.

Most of the growth has come in Harris County and along the

I-35 corridor, areas that tend to vote more Democratic. While Republicans have not lost a statewide race in 30 years, results are getting tighter.

"We are in a competitive state and we are not going to win just sitting on our laurels," said Dave Carney, a veteran Republican strategist who has been a key political adviser to Gov. Greg Abbott and former Gov. Rick Perry.

Judge ends probe into alleged vote harvesting

A federal judge has stopped the state's ability to investigate alleged cases of vote harvesting, such as the probe into the League of United Latin American Citizens by Attorney General Ken Paxton, The Tribune reported.

The probe was being conducted under a provision of a law passed in 2021 that targeted voter outreach groups suspected of offering vote-harvesting services. Voter outreach groups have complained of overreach by Paxton's office and widespread confusion over the law's implications.

Paxton last week vowed to appeal.

"A ruling — weeks prior to an election — preventing my office from investigating potential election violations is deeply troubling and risks undermining public trust in our political process," he said.

Voter outreach groups hailed the ruling, saying the restrictions violated the U.S. Constitution by being vague and restricting free speech.

Texas leads nation in road rage shootings

A newsroom dedicated to reporting on gun violence reports Texas is leading the country in road rage shootings, according to data from 2014 through 2023.

The Austin American-Statesman reported on the findings by The Trace, which concluded the number of people shot in road rage incidents

surged over 400% during that time period, with 456 shooting incidents reported last year.

Two Texas cities topped the list of road rage shootings during that 10-year period. Houston reported 215 total incidents with 192 shootings and 207 victims shot, while San Antonio reported 107 total incidents with 83 shootings and 94 victims shot.

During that 10-year period in Texas, 146 people were shot and killed in road rage incidents, while 435 were wounded. In addition, 26 suspects were killed and 14 wounded.

Shorter days bring higher risks for pedestrians

The change in seasons brings fewer daylight hours and higher risks for pedestrian safety, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. Last October was the deadliest month for pedestrians, with 80 dying in Texas traffic crashes.

"As the fall and winter months usher in shorter days and less light, pedestrians are at increased risk on our roads," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Drivers may struggle to see pedestrians in lower-light conditions and must stay alert to avoid preventable collisions."

Motorists are urged to stop and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks; yield while turning to pedestrians; put phones away; and observe the posted speed limit. Pedestrians are reminded to cross streets only at intersections and crosswalks; make eye contact with drivers before crossing; wear reflective material at night; and also put away all electronic devices.

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

Away from it all



Dr. Don Newbury

newbury@speakerdoc.com

If we weren't totally "away from it all," we were on the outskirts, kind of like the characters in the delightful 1953 Broadway musical "Brigadoon."

Only the long of tooth remember the tale of two New York guys stumbling across a delightful village in the highlands of Scotland that came alive for only one day each century and very much alive it was with love, music and goodwill.

That was the atmosphere our church group of 40 senior adults found in Branson, MO, where we enjoyed four blissful days, opting to let the rest of the world deal with its many problems.

Oh, the outing--called "Meet You in Branson"--didn't start out well. Our soon-separated "convoy" may well have traversed four states at various times on the 465-mile trek.

Smiles and good cheer abounded, though, and we were Lord-favored by perfect weather, grand entertainment, delightful hosts at the smallish Carriage House Inn and even hints of approaching fall. Crisp mornings seemed tailor-made for strolls, even if short ones.

There were scant signs of leaves abandoning green for flaming colors of red, orange and yellow. Even without the breath-taking foliage soon to envelope the Ozarks, there still were enough "trip highlights" to illuminate an airport runway.

For Randy Brooks, it was nothing short of a homecoming. Now living in the Metroplex-- the man who played the original role of Jesus in "The Promise," a long-running pageant in Glen Rose, TX--thrilled us in song.

During our Sunday visit to the College of the Ozarks, he warmed many hearts with a hymn-sing in the beautiful Williams Chapel that was built by students over a 12-year period in the 1940s-1950s. (Following Glen Rose, Randy played the Jesus role in Branson for several years, winding up with another long run in New York City before COVID spelled the end of the pageant in Europe. He felt it was time to end the 30-year run, but still sings for various groups. He does so without solicitation, and at age 71, is ever popular.)

We dined at COFO's Keeter Center, where culinary students are trained to prepare sumptuous meals. It was a stunning buffet, with the dozens of student servers pausing to sing "The Doxology" for our mealtime prayer.

Speaking of food, all was super-good. We particularly enjoyed Pickin' Porch Grill and Danna's BBQ....

Pickin' Porch is tucked away at the back of the Branson Craft

Mall, a place known for its gigantic rocking chair in front. We cast our vote with locals who claim its hamburgers to be THE BEST. Coupled with uniquely-flavored French fries, the combo is incomparable.

"Queen Esther" was worth the trip. We saw the 670th performance of its nine-month, 679-show run. More than 6,000 attended sold-out performances for five shows during the final full weekend.

"David," called master poet, fearless warrior and anointed king, opens March 8, 2025, running through January 3, 2026. The Sight and Sound Theater continues to set the standard for bible-based productions, having done so since opening in Branson in 2008.

Our bunch loved SIX, a half-dozen brothers whose "production" of instrument-like sounds is as impressive as their grand voices. They also raved about Pierce Arrow's Decades Show, Nashville Roadhouse and acrobats of China.

Motel management turned over the lobby to us for Brooks' mini-concert on our final night.

We crowded chairs into the small lobby to enjoy Randy's songs. This tied a ribbon on our trip. When the songs ended, the motel staff served ice cream and cake to our group!

There were no accidents, reports of sickness or disharmony of any kind. Friendships were strengthened and new ones made. I didn't hear the word



DON NEWBURY

Randy Brooks back in Branson after hanging from the cross in role of Jesus in "The Promise." He starred for 30 years in Glen Rose, Branson and New York and Europe.

"politics" one time. One guy did lose his comb, though. He didn't need it, anyway, but maybe he liked to carry it as a reminder of that long-ago time when he had a good stand of hair.

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.

Look at it This Way

They just keep winning



Rick Mauch
sports@community-news.com

A lot has happened since last league loss

Logic dictates that the Aledo Bearcats football team will lose another district game at some time.

Whether it will be in our lifetime is the question.

The Bearcats ran their national-record district winning streak to 123 with a come-from-behind 42-27 victory against Denton Ryan at Tim Buchanan Stadium, or what has been branded as "The Buc" by some players.

Let that soak in. One hundred and twenty three straight victories. That's a lot of wins by a lot of players over a lot of years.

Some of us have trouble doing the same thing for 123 minutes.

Not since Oct. 5, 2007, the birthday of one of our Community News photographers, Breleigh Mayer, have the Bearcats lost a league contest. Her mother and my good friend, Mercedes Mayer, was, in fact, supposed to cover the game for another newspaper that night Everman beat Aledo 35-28, but for obvious reasons she did not make that deadline.

The way things are going, Mercedes might be a great - or even a great-great - grandmother before the Bearcats lose again to a district foe.

"That was right after I was born. That's crazy," said Aledo defensive tackle Jaxon Richter, who was born in November of 2006. "We don't really talk about it, but everybody likes to bring it up, especially with games like this. We just want to win games."

Richter had a blocked pass on the next play after teammate and defensive end Carson Dempsey did the

Turn to **WINNING**, page 7



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kaden Winkfield (21) secured the first down to seal Aledo's victory over Denton Ryan.

FOOTBALL

Bearcats seek to avoid Granbury trap

Pirates sandwiched between state-ranked matchups

By **Rick Mauch**
The Community News

Robby Jones had a simple message for his Aledo Bearcats football team on Monday.

Don't be Alabama. "Actually, what I said was, 'Don't let Granbury be Vanderbilt,'" he said with a smile.

Coaches, of course, are always leery of what is known as a "trap game." It's a contest against a team they are supposed to beat and against whom almost everyone believes it would take the ultimate disaster to lose.

However, as Vanderbilt reminded folks this past weekend with its 40-35 shocking upset of No. 1 Alabama in Nashville, such stunners do happen.

And you can bet Jones was watching. His Bearcats (5-1, 4-0 in District 3-5A Division I) are traveling to Granbury Friday, Oct. 11 to take on the Pirates (1-4, 0-3) at 7 p.m.

Two teams could not be going in opposite directions any more than the Bearcats and Pirates. In Week 1 Aledo fell 35-30 at

Denton Guyer and has since won five straight. Granbury won its season opener 3-0 against Waco and is now on a four-game losing streak.

"I told them (the team), 'Look at Alabama last week. They got the big win over Georgia, go to Vanderbilt and look what happened,'" Jones said. "We're in that same situation and we don't want that to happen to us."

New head coach

The Pirates are under the guidance of Bobby Allison, who came to Granbury after spending the past 10 seasons at Justin Northwest, where he was defensive coordinator, assistant head coach, and recruiting coordinator. In only one season, he was instrumental in turning the Texans around from 1-9 in 2015 to 10-2 in 2016.

At Sharpstown, where he was co-defensive coordinator, he helped the Bobcats win 10 games for the first time in 20 seasons and advance to the playoffs. At San Angelo Central, he helped end a 29-game losing streak with a 6-4 record in his first season.

"He's a good coach and I think he can do some good there,"

Jones said in praise of Allison. "He's proven he knows how to turn programs around."

Jones, in his second season at the helm of Aledo, is 21-1 with a state championship. He was offensive coordinator for 10 state championships since 2009 since taking over for the retired Tim Buchanan last season.

Taking on top teams

For a second straight game the Pirates will be facing the No. 1 team in the state. Before having a bye last week they lost 63-20 at Denton Ryan, which held the top spot before losing to the Bearcats 42-27 last week in Aledo.

Fuller to the house

For the second time in as many games, senior Adrian Fuller returned a kickoff for a touchdown for the Bearcats. His return for 100 yards turned the game around in last week's 42-27 win over Denton Ryan, a game the Bearcats trailed 27-8 at the time.

The previous week he returned a kickoff 82 yards for a score in a 63-3 win over Fossil Ridge.

Turn to **FOOTBALL**, page 7

SPORTS BRIEFS

Staff Reports
The Community News

BASEBALL

Miller makes college commitment

Aledo Bearcat Devin Miller has committed to play baseball at Cal State Fullerton University next season. Miller, a senior, is a right-handed pitcher/first baseman who helped the Bearcats advance to the third round of the playoffs and was named to the All-District 5-5A Team.

FOOTBALL

Aledo Middle School vs. McKinzey

Seventh grade: A team won 30-0, B team won 31-0.

Eighth grade: A team won 38-6, B team won 14-6.

McAnally Middle School vs McKinzey

A team Orange won 14-6

B team Black won 40-0

C team White won 27-6

Weatherford freshmen A vs. Mansfield Legacy

The Kangaroos won 42-0. Players of the game, Lincoln Ramirez, Justin Fiddler, Henry Westvang.

Weatherford freshmen Blue vs. Legacy

The Kangaroos won 36-14. Players of the game were Gage Kizer, Fresh Pope and Justin Williams.

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Coyotes sweep Cisco

The Weatherford College volleyball team swept Cisco College on the road Saturday, winning 25-13, 25-9, 25-13.

It was the Coyotes' tenth sweep of the year and their eighth straight win.

Abby Morris continued her successful run through conference play with 11 kills and six digs. Weronika Urbanksa had 10 kills and 11 digs.

Lorena Gomez tallied 23 assists, while Victoria Sanchez added 12.

The No. 6 Coyotes improved to 19-5 overall and 6-0 in conference play.

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

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, statewide 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 includes a ham-

burger 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 18

Movies in the Park
"They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky, they're all together ooky"... and they're coming to the Heritage Park Amphitheater, 503 Santa Fe Dr, Weatherford, TX 76086, at 7 p.m. on October 18th for a FREE screening of the original Addams Family movie (1991). Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and get cozy under the moon as we relive the strange and delightful antics of The Addams Family!

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

Mayor Roberts' Second Annual Seed Ball Event
Town of Annetta will host the Seed Ball Event from 9a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, at Annetta Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta. Join us in making milkweed seed balls to help "grow" the population of the Monarch Butterflies. Your seeds will grow next spring and help nourish the butterflies during their migration next year. Bring your family and meet your neighbors! Call (817)441-5770 or email info@annetatx.gov

ACROSS

1 Texas grid inventory: ___watts

5 TXism: "I'm all ___" (attentive)

6 9/11 perpetrators ___terrorists

7 TXism: "___ hill for a stepper"

8 in the past ___ Crazy Guy"

9 prohibit

15 TX Hunter's "Since ___ You Baby"

16 appropriate TX Dan Blocker tree farm?

19 TXism: "couldn't find hide ___ of it"

21 spinning toy: whir ___

22 TXism: "can't ___ old dog new tricks"

27 TXism: "hen fruit"

28 Castroville is "The Little ___ of Texas"

29 TXism: "eatin' hay is ___ good for" (poor horse)

30 in Henderson County on U.S. 175

32 TX George Foreman victory (abbr.)

33 easily ignited

36 TX Willie's "On the ___ Again"

37 TXism: "___ over but the shouting"

38 Texas prisoners

39 voided a marriage

41 vision or graph beginning

42 Juan de ___ named El Paso

DOWN

1 TXism: "gave ___ song and dance"

2 TXism: "bend your ___" (talk)

3 U.S. Rep. Kay from Fort Worth

4 TXism: "loud ___ bare floor"

8 Fort Worth's "___ Carter Museum"

9 TXism: "___ of the box" (beginning)

10 TXism: "cash ___ the barrel head"

11 TX Tarzan Ely (init.)

12 TXism: "my stomach is ___ a knot" (nervous)

45 TXism: "two ___ in a pod" (alike)

46 ID card, e.g. (abbr.)

47 character Dobbs in Texas-based "Lonesome Dove"

48 in Anderson: Fanthorp ___ Historical Site

49 Texas-born Steve Martin album: "___"

52 disease microbe

53 "have a ___ it" (try)

54 lower back: ___ bar

55 airport abbr.

13 Texas perennial

14 "with a nicknack pattywack, give the ___ bone"

15 TXism: "big fish ___ pond" (important person)

16 TXism: "when fly" (never)

17 weed whackers

18 of long standing (hyphenated word)

20 chills & fever

22 "___dah!" (fanfare)

23 Santa's helper

24 TX Collin Raye's "___ Can Be"

25 Mass music?

35 TXism: "let by-gones ___ by-gones"

37 Texas moonwalker, Bean

40 TXism: "___ a hand" (help)

43 ___ Braunfels, TX

44 TX "Big Bopper's" Chantilly Lace had "___ in her walk"

50 "Texas" is an outdoor ___ in Palo Duro Canyon

51 money dispenser (abbr.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1707

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FOOTBALL

No. 2 Aledo storms back in win over No. 1 Denton Ryan

Bearcats erase 13-point halftime deficit with dominant second half

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

In a Friday Night matchup of Texas High School football titans, the No. 1 Denton Ryan Raiders visited the No. 2 Aledo Bearcats in a pivotal District 5-5A Division I showdown at Tim Buchanan Stadium. Coming into the game, Aledo was eager to win its 123rd consecutive district game, but the Raiders were equally enthusiastic to spoil the longstanding streak.

The visitors stunned Aledo early by building a 27-14 halftime lead through explosive playmaking on offense and a fundamentally-sound defensive performance. However, the Bearcats regrouped masterfully during the intermission. Offensively, Aledo moved the ball at will in the final two quarters while the defense posted a suffocating second-half shutout. Ultimately, the combination proved too much for Denton Ryan to overcome as Aledo stormed back for a crucial 42-27 victory.

To continue reading and full stats visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/no-2-aledo-storms-back-in-win-over-no-1-denton-ryan,95501>



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ben McElree (22), Lamel Swanson (6), Owen Henderson (0), and Kamron Hall (23) swarm a Denton Ryan ball carrier.

Game at a glance

Aledo (5-1, 4-0 in District 3-5A Division I) at Granbury Pirates (1-4, 0-3).
When: 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, Pirate Stadium, Granbury.
Last week: Aledo won 42-27 at home over Denton Ryan. Granbury had a bye.
Last season: Aledo went 16-0 and won Class 5A Division I state championship, Granbury 3-7.
All-time series: Aledo leads 7-4.
Returning starters: Aledo 3 offensive, 4 defensive, Granbury 2 offensive/2 defensive.
Aledo offensive/special teams players to watch: Kick returner Adrian Fuller, returns of 82 and 100 yards for touchdowns; RB Ray Guillory 91 carries, 664 yards, 11 TD, 4 catches, 50 yards, TD.
Granbury offensive players to watch: QB Hayden Meyer 588 yards, 7 TD, 4 interceptions passing, 121 rushing yards; WR Jackson Arnett 16 catches, 226 yards, 2 TD.
Aledo defensive players to watch: LB Chase Wilburn 35 tackles, 7.5 for loss, 0.5 sacks; DE Carson Dempsey 8 tackles, 3 for loss, 0.5 sacks, 8 QB hurries.
Granbury defensive players to watch: DE Chase Cantrell 38 tackles, 6 for loss, 2 sacks; DB/LB Cooper Cumba 25 tackles, 2 for loss, sack, fumble recovery for TD.

FOOTBALL

from page 5

Also this season, junior Lincoln Tubbs brought back a kickoff 78 yards for a score.

All-time series

The Bearcats lead the series against the Pirates 7-4. Aledo has won the past seven after the Pirates jumped out with the first four wins, including 26-6 in 1950.

When the teams last met, Aledo won 68-0 in Granbury in 2015.

Subvarsity

The Aledo subvarsity teams once again swept their opponents, in this case Ryan. JV Orange won 21-7

and JV Black won 21-0. Freshmen Orange won 49-0, Black won 50-14 and C team won 12-0.

Rankings

To the surprise of pretty much no one, Aledo returned to the top of the Class 5A Division I rankings in Texas. Ryan, which was No. 1, slipped to No. 4.

Nationally, the Bearcats are No. 88 among all classifications by MaxPreps.

Another showdown, but first bye

Coming to town on Oct. 25 to face the Bearcats is Richland. The Royals are No. 5 in the state and are playing at Ryan on Friday, Oct. 11.

Meanwhile, the Bearcats have a bye on Oct. 18 to prepare for their second big showdown in less than a month.

"It'll be good to have a recharge. We'll still practice in the mornings," Jones said. "There'll be a little less than they're used to, but we're still going to practice."

"We've got some big games still to play, not just Richland, but we also have to take Azle into consideration"

Denton Ryan	2-1	4-1	216-97
Birdville	1-3	2-4	160-274
Fossil Ridge	1-3	1-5	93-265
Brewer	1-3	1-5	139-224
Denton	0-3	1-4	49-223
Granbury	0-3	1-4	77-155

Last week's results

Aledo 42, Ryan 27
Brewer 60, Denton 7
Richland 57, Fossil Ridge 14
Azle 48, Birdville 43
Granbury bye

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

Friday, Oct. 11
Aledo at Granbury
Denton at Birdville
Richland at Ryan
Azle at Fossil Ridge
Brewer bye

District 3-5A Division I District Overall Points for-against

Aledo	4-0	5-1	292-92
Richland	3-0	6-0	314-119
Azle	3-0	5-0	234-140

WINNING

from page 5

same. It came after the Bearcats had taken the second-half kickoff and drove downfield to cut their deficit to 27-21 - and it emphasized to Ryan that they still had a lot of work to do if they were going to make history.

A lot has happened since the last loss

Dempsey, who was born in May of 2007 and was only a few months old, was asked who was president the last time Aledo lost a district game. Without hesitation and with an answer that would make any civics teacher proud, he said "George W. Bush."

The United States has had three more presidents since. Also:

- Nick Saban was still two seasons away from leading the Alabama

Crimson Tide to its first national championship with him as coach.

- Patrick Mahomes was only 12 years old.
- The Ice Bucket Challenge wouldn't happen for another seven years.
- Blackberry phones were still popular.

Now, the question is what will happen first, the Dallas Cowboys get back to the Super Bowl or the Bearcats lose a district game.

How did they do it?

In the words of running back Raycine Guillory, who wouldn't be born until Oct. 31 of 2007, the Bearcats "Had to be legendary" to rally and squelch the greatest threat to their - well, legendary - streak. They were indeed just that, starting with a 100-yard kickoff return

by Adrian Fuller in the closing moments of the first half to make the halftime score 27-14.

Then, in the second half, they simply dominated, outscoring the Raiders 28-0. Guillory played his part, scoring three touchdowns, including the clinching touchdown when quarterback Gavin Beard, who appeared to be taking off on a rare run - for him - flipped the ball to Guillory, who raced 29 yards to the end zone.

"After that kick return, we carried the excitement over into the locker room," Richter said. "Then, the offense did what it was supposed to do and the defense did its thing."

Running back Kaden Finley, born on Sept. 11 of 2007, said the team was told at halftime, "We need to be strong minded and not blame each other."

Then, he added, "I feel really excited to be a part of the streak."

Been down before

Aledo head coach Robby Jones has been involved in 11 of the Bearcats' state-record 12 state championships, including last season when they were 16-0 in his first year at the helm. He was offensive coordinator for the other 10 since 2009.

In that time he's seen the team experience some close calls. He knew then what could happen if they stayed calm and what could happen on this night.

For example, in 2019 they were taken to overtime at home by Midlothian before escaping 34-28. And last season they let a 17-0 lead slip away as Ryan took a late 19-17 lead before quarterback Hauss Hejny - now at TCU - scored from more than 50 yards out in the final moments for a 25-19 win, also at home.

"We've had some tough district games. When they put us in with Ryan, we knew it would be tough," Jones said, adding about this night, "We said okay, things aren't going our way, but we can't think we won't come back. We've done it before and we did it again. The kids just don't like losing."

As for that question about the Cowboys getting to the Super Bowl before the Bearcats lose another district game, Jones said with a grin, "The Cowboys getting back to the Super Bowl."

Then, he added with a chuckle, "Is Jerry (Jones) going to hire a real GM?"

Sure, when Hell freezes over. But then, it wouldn't be surprising if that also happens before Aledo's streak ends.

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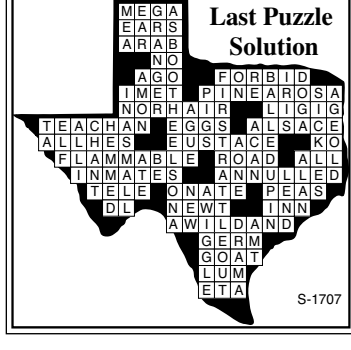
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SHERI KATHLEEN BARRON, Deceased, were issued on September 11, 2024, in Cause No. 24P307, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: STEPHEN DALE BARRON. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
STEPHEN DALE BARRON
c/o Carol A. Warren
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 738
Royse City, TX 75189
DATED the 11th day of September 2024.

By /s/ Carol A. Warren
Carol A. Warren
Attorney for STEPHEN DALE BARRON
Independent Executor of Estate of Sheri Kathleen Barron, Deceased
State Bar No.: 24028386
103 N. Houston St.
P. O. Box 738
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GATEMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Brooke Kemp, Anabella McNelly, Preston Ross, Finley Van Dyk, and Burton Caldwell will join Presleigh Busby as the Aledo High School Rodeo Team continues their journey to the North Texas High School Rodeo Association championship, which will be held in May 2025. The team will compete Oct. 25 in Mansfield, Nov. 1 in Boswell, and more than a dozen other rodeos to hopefully make the cut for the finals.

VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats continue district domination

Remain perfect in league play

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team concluded its dominant first half of District 5-5A play with another convincing victory Friday, Oct. 4.

In their latest district contest following a bye on Oct. 1, the Ladycats posted another sweep over the Chisholm Trail Lady Rangers. Aledo claimed the victory by a final score of 25-15, 25-14 and 25-17.

The Ladycats (24-7, 5-0) have not lost a set through their first five district matches.

Aledo also recorded wins on the sub-varsity level. The

ninth-grade B team won in three sets (24-26, 25-15 and 25-15) while the junior varsity squad registered a sweep (25-10 and 25-15).

In the varsity match, star junior Alyssa Todd recorded a team-high 18 kills to go with 11 digs and three blocks. Meanwhile, senior middles Haley Lowe (11) and Kinley Elms (10) tallied double-digit kill totals while Lowe added a pair of blocks. Setters Ava Reding and Sophie Frank combined for 39 assists and one ace apiece with the latter tallying 10 digs. Logyn Denbow totaled a team-high 18 digs while senior libero Kenrie Pruitt had 13 digs. Ella Meador finished with seven digs while Ella Isbell and Morgan Estevez combined for three blocks.

TENNIS

Racquet Cats wrap up district title

Down Chisholm Trail

By Kelly Dishman
Special to the Community News

Like almost every other district match during the fall season, the Aledo varsity tennis team ended their final match in District 5-5A play with a dominant win. Aledo, 13-3 overall and 6-0 in District, faced their toughest competition of the league season and prevailed against Chisholm Trail High School, winning 13-6.

This earned the team the No. 1 seed going into bi-district at press time at TCU against Birdville, the fourth-place team from 6-5A.

All but two doubles lines were victorious for Aledo.

Boys doubles: Line 1 Jacob Heckathorn/Francois Britz won 6-4, 6-4; Line 2 Ben Kurth, Casen Freeland won 5-7, 6-3, 1-0; and Line 3 Noah Nottingham/Tom Ruminsky lost 3-6, 5-6.

Girls' doubles: Line 1 Elli Kate Bussmeir/ Sydney Byrd won 6-3,

6-0; Line 2 McKinley Hayes/Lila Satterfield won 6-0, 6-1; and Line 3 Eleanor Jack/Patrice Loftin won 6-1, 6-1.

Mixed doubles Paxton Pscencik/Natalie Nawrocki played a tough match with a loss at 4-6, 6-7.

The team started their singles lines in the lead at 5-2. The boys' singles lines proved to be particularly competitive with Aledo walking off with two wins. Girls' singles players overpowered Chisholm Trail winning all lines.

Boys singles: Line 1 Heckathorn won 6-4, 6-4; Line 2 Kurth lost 0-6, 0-3; Line 3 Ruminsky lost 1-6, 4-6; Line 4 Britz won 6-3, 6-4; Line 5 Freeland lost 3-6, 6-4, 0-1; and Line 6 Pscencik lost 6-7, 5-7.

Girls' singles: Line 1 Satterfield won 6-0, 6-5; Line 2 Bussmeir won 6-3, 6-5; Line 3 Byrd won 6-3, 6-2; Line 4 Hayes won 2-6, 6-2, 1-0; Line 5 Gracie Heydman won 6-4, 7-6 ;and Line 6 Jack won 6-0, 6-0.

FOOTBALL

Weatherford's struggles continue at Mansfield Legacy

Kangaroos still looking for first win

Staff Reports
The Community News

Turnovers plagued the Weatherford High School football team again Friday night as the Kangaroos lost to Mansfield Legacy 55-14 at Vernon Newsom Stadium in Mansfield.

Two pick-sixes thrown by two different Kangaroo quarterbacks in the first half set the tone. The first was thrown by Brooks Kerbow on Weatherford's first offensive play of the game, returned 12 yards for a score by Jaden Manning.

Legacy's Trenton Hamann picked off Luke Gray at the beginning of the second quarter, taking it to the house from 48 yards out. It came after the

Roos had pulled within 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

The Broncos built a 35-7 lead by halftime and never looked back.

Weatherford dropped to 0-6 overall and 0-2 in District 3-6A. This was the first win of the season for Legacy (1-5, 1-1).

Weatherford also committed two fumbles, ending the night with four turnovers.

Legacy quarterback Nathan Wilson also threw three touchdown passes, going 5-of-7 for 78 yards.

Roo running back Xavier Craven was effective but his four-game streak of running for more than 100 yards was snapped, going for 82 yards on 17 carries with one touchdown.

In his first game back from injury, Gray finished 12-of-16 for 84 yards with one interception.

SPORTS BRIEFS

VOLLEYBALL Aledo Middle School vs. Mansfield Worley

Seventh grade: A team won 25-20, 25-15; B team won 25-15, 25-8; C team won 25-10, 25-14.

Eighth grade: A team lost 22-25, 25-22, 13-15; B team won 25-11, 25-7; C team won 25-8, 25-18.

Weatherford Hall MS second in tourney

The Hall Lady Kangaroos finished second in the Peaster A Tournament. They finished with a 5-1 record in the event.

Player of the tourney for Hall was the whole team.

Weatherford Tison vs. Burleson Nichols

Eighth grade: A team lost 26-24, 26-25, 24-26; B team won 25-5, 25-23.

Seventh grade: A team lost 13-25, 17-25; B team lost 15-25, 17-25. Players of the match: McKenna Adkins, Marissa Medina.

Weatherford freshmen A vs. Boswell

The Lady Kangaroos won 2-1. Player of the game, Ely Tompkins.

TROT

from page 3 More problems on the horizon

Derek was finding a "new normal" with nightly dialysis, coaching, and getting infusions every six weeks. Doctors felt something was still not right.

He had to have another bone marrow biopsy, which revealed that he has Chronic Lymphoblastic Leukemia (CLL). He is now on an oral chemo twice a day, and then he does another infusion as well.

Finally, his platelets have gotten in the hundred of thousands for three months now.

Five weeks ago, Derek's nephrologist said he could get off dialysis. His kidneys are functioning at 17%. As long as they maintain that level, he can stay off dialysis.

"So we're just day by day, and the infusions are keeping him alive," Kellye said.

Enter Thanksgiving Trot

Catastrophic illness takes tolls on families — emotional stress, financial stress (loss of work time

on the part of both patient and caregiver), and upheaval of life.

The committee of directors of the Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot have chosen Derek and his family as the recipients of this year's race proceeds.

But perhaps more important than the funds raised, the experience provides the community an opportunity to wrap its arms around one of its own who has gone through a traumatic experience.

"Coach Vierling was recommended to us by several community members as a possible recipient for this year's Trot," said race co-chair

Niki Thompson. "Every applicant is so worthy of this cause, and we have each of them fill out the same information. It is reviewed by our committee, and we have an anonymous voting system by which majority rules. Coach Vierling was selected as this year's recipient and we are so happy to be a part of his story!"

Thompson, incidentally, is one of Vierling's former soccer players.

For his part, Derek said he was humbled by the experience.

"Reed (the Vierlings' son) went through school here from first grade up, and he has lifelong

friends here, and we were blessed to be here as a family," Derek said. "He won two or three state championships in football as a kicker, and was all-state as a midfielder in soccer, and 15th in his class. I mean, I brag about the kid. It was a great experience for him.

"And when I have parents that that are moving into Aledo, and they say, 'Hey, we're moving from New Jersey.' I always tell them what a great place it is, and how thankful we were that our son went through school here. It's just a great school district and great community"

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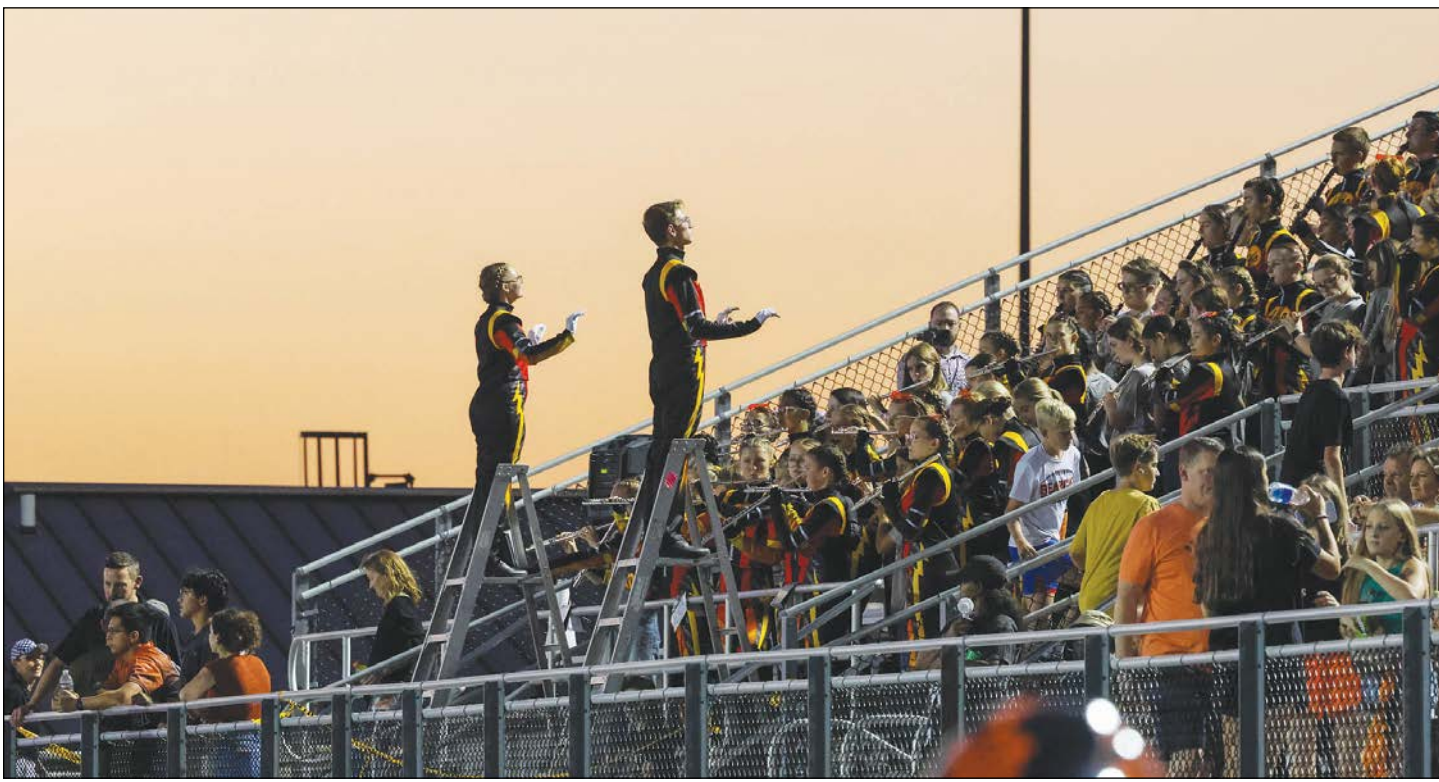
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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Eleanor Jack
Tennis

The senior was dominant in Aledo's 13-6 win over Keller Fossil Ridge to wrap up regular-season play as District 5-5A champions. She swept her singles match 6-0, 6-0, and teamed with Patrice Loftin in doubles to win 6-1, 6-1.

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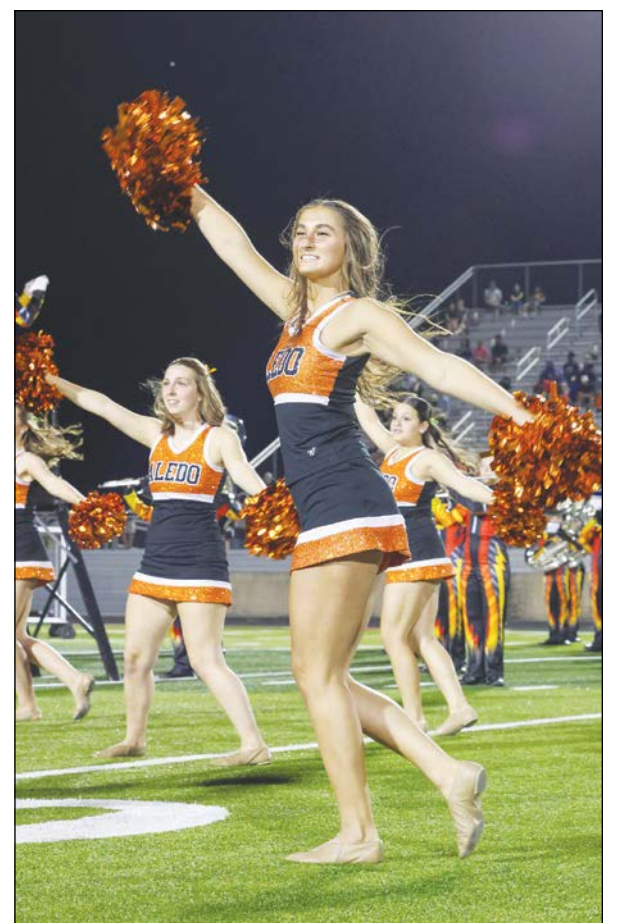
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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Adrian Fuller
Football

The senior returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown in the closing moments of the first half, sparking a Bearcats comeback en route to a 42-27 victory against visiting Denton Ryan. Aledo trailed 27-8 at the time. The victory extended the Bearcats' district winning streak to 123 games dating to 2007.

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FOOTBALL

Eagles topple Warriors by 20 at home

TCA posts second win of season

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

In their first three games, the Trinity Christian Eagles were outscored 112-39. However, the Eagles continued their midseason turnaround with their second big win in their last three games. The Eagles hosted the Arlington Newman International Academy Warriors in a final pre-district tune up Friday night, October 4, and walked away after posting an impressive result in front of their home fans. TCA won the game by a final score of 56-36.

"We've found our identity a few weeks back with the game before homecoming in terms of who we are and what we need to do offensively, and we've just been building on top of that," Eagles head coach Cody McKenzie said. "We've got some good guys up front that are moving bodies up there - we are a little more grown up on the line and we're maximizing that. We can hit people down the field with number six (Canaan Kaznowski) at quarterback - they're just finally putting it together."

The first half was a fast-paced seesaw battle between the two foes that featured five lead changes. The Eagles scored the game's first points on a 1-yard touchdown run by sophomore running back Pearson Kuykendall that gave Trinity Christian a 7-0 lead with 7:02 left in the first quarter. Then, NIA quarterback Brady Reynolds called his own number from 67 yards out to put six on the board, and the visitors converted on the two-point conversion attempt to take an 8-7 lead at the 6:26 mark.

After the Warriors scored again to make it 14-7, TCA tied the game on a 29-yard touchdown run with 1:39 to go in the first quarter by Eagles quarterback Kaznowski, which was set up by a long kick-off return by Kuykendall. After a defensive stop by TCA, sophomore Owen Coates capped off the next Eagles scoring drive with an 11-yard run. Coates' first rushing touchdown helped TCA reclaim a 20-14 advantage with 8:01 remaining before halftime.

After that, the Warriors used another big play to retake a 22-20 edge following a 68-yard touchdown pass with 6:26 left, but TCA responded once again with another strong offensive drive. The Eagles marched down the field and Coates capitalized with a 3-yard scoring run and a two-point conversion run by Kuykendall that gave TCA a 28-22 lead with 1:39 left in the first half.

While TCA's offense was rolling, McKenzie and his staff made adjustments to limit NIA's big plays on offense, and the defense responded accordingly.

"In the first half, we gave up the big plays, so we adjusted some things in coverage and our numbers in the box to get after those guys," McKenzie said. "The kids executed everything we asked of them. Our big struggle right now is giving up those big plays, but having our defensive backs step up in the box really helped us out."

With 10:59 left in the third quarter, Coates found paydirt for the third time, this time from 15 yards out that extended TCA's cushion to 35-22 after Micah Harless' successful point after attempt. Then, the Eagles ushered NIA off the field, forcing the



RYAN WADE PHOTOGRAPHY

TCA quarterback Canaan Kaznowski leaves a host of Warrior defenders behind as he rushes for one of the Eagles' eight touchdowns against Newman International on Friday, Oct. 4.

visitors to turn the ball over on downs near midfield, and the offense made the Warrior defense pay once more courtesy of a 40-yard pitch-and-catch score from Kaznowski to 6-foot-5 sophomore Hank Nash. Following Harless' successful PAT, TCA held an impressive 42-22 advantage with 7:40 remaining in the third quarter.

Next, the Trinity Christian defense flexed its muscles. With NIA driving the ball near its own 30 yard line, junior Kadin James forced a fumble that was recovered by junior Christian Valdez at the NIA 31 with just under seven minutes left. Kaznowski put the game out of reach with 5:11 to go in the third after hit scrambled outside the pocket and hit a wide open Braxton Lewis for a 10-yard touchdown.

The Warriors scored two touchdowns in garbage time during the fourth quarter while Kaznowski added a 27-yard rushing touchdown in the final quarter, which ultimately resulted in a 30-point win for the Eagles - the team's second win in their last three games.

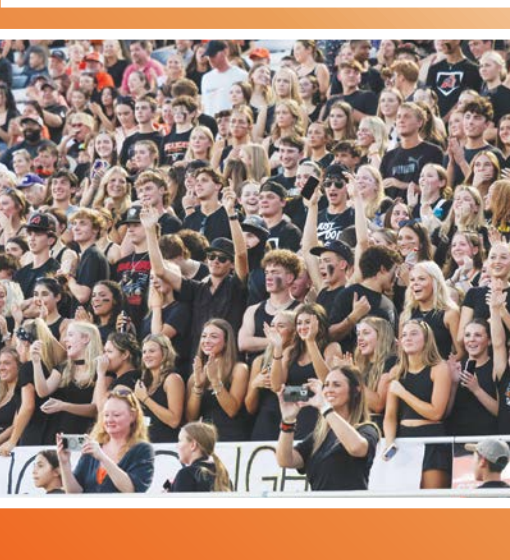
"When you put in a few years where you're winning one game a year, you know that's what's going to get you to where you want to be - and then it happens," McKenzie said. "You believe in yourself and each other, you practice a little bit better and you're stepping on the field playing football knowing they have a chance to compete."

TCA (2-4) will begin district play at 7 p.m. Friday at undefeated Pantego Christian (5-0).

Eagles 56, Warriors 36

- TCA - Pearson Kuykendall 1 run (PAT kick good)
- NIA - Brady Reynolds 67 run (2 point conversion good)
- NIA - 14-yard TD pass (PAT failed)
- TCA - Canaan Kaznowski 29 TD run (PAT kick good)
- TCA - Owen Coates 11 run (PAT failed)
- NIA - 68 TD pass (2-point conversion good)
- TCA - Coates 3 run (2-point conversion good)
- TCA - Coates 15 run (PAT kick good)
- TCA - Hank Nash 40 pass from Kaznowski (PAT kick good)
- TCA - Braxton Lewis 10 pass from Kaznowski (PAT kick good)
- TCA - Kaznowski 27 run (PAT kick good)
- NIA - 56 run (PAT failed)
- NIA - 4 run (2-point conversion good)

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