

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

Council gets first look at potential logo

Donation box overpopulation addressed

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Countless municipalities across the country have undergone rebranding initiatives in recent years. The City of Aledo is no exception.

After months of working with a graphic designer, Communications and Engagement Manager for the City of Aledo Whitney Walters had her first opportunity to present Aledo's potential next logo to the city council on Thursday, Oct. 24.

With the official logo still being decided, it is not available to the general public yet.

"As part of the City of Aledo's ongoing efforts to enhance public spaces, improve

Turn to ALEDO, page 2

A true nailbiter



KRISTIN MORALES

The cheerleaders as well as the crowd couldn't take their eyes off the Bearcat football game between Aledo and Richland. The Bearcats won 49-42 in overtime on Friday, Oct. 25. For more turn to page 7.

ELECTION 2024



Election Day - Nov. 5
polls open all day

WILLOW PARK

For city's residents, voting means leaving

Left off commissioners' list for early voting sites

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Early voting is surging across the United States. However, for folks in Willow Park, it also means leaving their city to cast their ballot early.

While there will be a polling place in the city on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, at Cross Timbers Church, there is no site for early voting. This has some folks in the second-largest city in Parker County upset and taking to social media to complain.

Willow Park Communications Director Rose Hoffman said she understands their frustration, but that it is pointed in the wrong direction. The cities have no decision on whether they are assigned an early voting site, she said. That comes from the county leaders.

"This is not the first election in which we haven't had an early voting location in Willow Park. This has been the case for several years now," Hoffman said.

Hoffman noted the last time Willow Park had an early voting location was in 2020 at the old city hall on Ranch House Road. They moved

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WILLOW PARK

Dozier resigning as city secretary

Taking similar post at Westworth Village

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

After serving the City of Willow Park for three years, Crystal Dozier has announced her resignation as city secretary. The decision was approved, albeit with some sadness, by the city council at their meeting on Oct. 22.

"She's the best city secretary I've ever worked with. Period," City Manager Bryan Grimes said, looking at Dozier and adding, "I can't imagine anybody better at this job than you. Staff and I are gonna miss you. We're gonna miss your laugh."

Dozier is leaving to become the city secretary and deputy

city administrator at Westworth Village. She came to Willow Park in September of 2021.

"It was a difficult decision. I sat on the decision for a whole week," Dozier said. "The community has been amazing. Y'all graciously opened your arms and accepted me three years ago."

Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young said, "You have been a wonderful face for our citizens to communicate with. I cannot thank you enough."

The search is underway for Dozier's replacement. Toni Fisher, who is also the assistant city manager in charge of parks and development, will serve as interim city secretary until a new one is hired.

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RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

After three years of serving the City of Willow Park, Crystal Dozier is leaving to become city secretary/assistant city administrator for Westworth Village.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford Chamber of Commerce Business Engagement Coordinator Debra Gass, Parker County Peach Festival president Tammy Gazzola, and Chamber of Commerce Director of Communications & Development Amme O'Grady in the City of Weatherford Chambers. Both groups had reasons to celebrate with announcements made at the recent meeting.

WEATHERFORD

City Council honors Peach Festival

Event sweeps international awards

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

A standing ovation from the Weatherford City Council and all present at the recent public meeting was well-deserved to honor the Parker County Peach Festival organization. The group received a national award recognizing their efforts producing the largest event in Parker County.

Parker County Peach Festival president Tammy Gazzola attended the meeting as it was announced the International Festivals and Events Association honored the Peach Festival the Grand Pinnacle Award.

IFEA, based in Pittsburgh, is under the IFEA Global Roundtable Council, which provides guidance and resources to large festivals world-wide.

Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschall expressed the greatness of the award as attendees stood to applaud.

"This is big. This is an international award, ladies and gentlemen," he declared.

Gazzola said the Peach Festival organization also won Best Emergency Management Plan, Best Video Promotion and Best Event Hat from IFEA.

"It was a long, multi-layered application process," Gazzola said.

"The video we submitted, which ultimately won us the best video award as well, was produced by the Weatherford Police Department. It's wonderful. It is a beautiful video."

Chamber of Commerce expansion

Director of Development and Neighborhood Services Kaleb Kentner presented a plat for final

Turn to COUNCIL, page 5



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ALEDO

from page one

accessibility to city services, and invest in our community, we are excited to announce an initiative to update Aledo's branding, including a new city logo," Mayor Nick Stanley said in a statement. "This rebranding project aims to capture the essence of Aledo's heritage while embracing the city's progress and future ambitions."

In total, Walters presented seven different logo options to the council in both monochrome and colorized versions. She also showed members of the council photos of each variation of the logo superimposed on photos of Aledo's water tower, city vehicles, and a rendering of the council chamber in the new City Hall.

Each member of the council gave their opinion of the logos, stating what they liked or didn't like. Walters made note of the critiques to take back to the graphic design artist as they continue to refine the vision for the future logo of the growing city.

"With recent developments such as the construction of a new city hall, a new public safety department, merger with library, and work underway on a new city website, now is the perfect time to align our brand with the energy and growth we see every day in our city," Stanley said. "This logo update will honor Aledo's history while showcasing the vibrancy, resilience, and unique qualities that make it a great place to live, work, and play."

Several drafts of the logo paid homage to Aledo's history as a stop for cowboys driving their herds to the Fort Worth Stockyards, incorporating longhorns and cattle skulls into the design. Other options presented to the council displayed Aledo's iconic Heritage Tree that will remain in front of the new city hall once the project is complete.

"Our goal is to create a symbol that every resident can take pride in - a logo that

represents Aledo's spirit and reflects its values and vision," Stanley continued. "We

believe this refreshed brand will support economic development, attracting new

businesses and opportunities that benefit all Aledo residents. We look forward to

unveiling a new visual identity that celebrates where we've come from and where we're going."

Curbing donation box overpopulation

During the September meeting, the council asked City Manager Noah Simon

to research a policy that would combat the overpopulation of donation boxes popping up all over Aledo. Both inside and outside the city limits, donation boxes have popped up in droves over the last few years.

Many of these boxes are being placed on private property with the permission of the property owner and taking valuable parking space from patrons of local businesses.

When a box appeared in the parking lot of 601 FM 1187, councilman and owner of the Aledo Athletic Club, Shane Davis, verified the property owner did not grant permission for the box to be placed in the parking lot. When Davis' suspicions were confirmed that the owner of the box did not have permission to place the box on the property, he called the company to come remove it.

The company replied they had gotten permission from the city to put the box on the premises. Davis informed them of his current position on the city council, as well as his knowledge that the city presently has no policy that grants organizations permission to place boxes on private property.

On Thursday, the council amended and approved a new policy effective as of Jan. 1, 2025 that will charge organizations a registration fee of \$500 to place a box within Aledo city limits. The box will also be required to meet size restrictions and goods will not be permitted to overflow onto the property.

Also, the property owner must grant permission for the box to be placed on private property. If the owner of the box violates the ordinance, the box will be impounded, and the owner of the box will be issued a \$750 fine.

TCA no phone policy yields results

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

It might seem obvious that playing games on a phone, watching videos and checking social media during class is a distraction, but researchers are finding using cell phones immediately before classes can result in several minutes of non-focused thinking when it is time to learn.

A Pew Research Center poll determined 82% of kindergarten through grade 12 teachers in the U.S. said their school or district has a cell phone policy of either no phones in class or no phones during school.

With focus on doing everything possible in keeping the campus a productive learning environment, Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy Head of School Craig Smith announced the school's new no phone in classroom policy is having results.

"It started this year," Smith explained. "Kids bring their phones on campus and they actually put them in a secure place until the end of the day. If there is a situation where a parent has to get in contact with the student we would make that happen, of course."



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A phone call to the campus by a parent can reunite a student with their phone quickly in the case of an emergency.

"This is the initiative of our high school principal," Smith said of principal Jesse Whiteaker. "The idea is to eliminate as many distractions as possible."

Smith said in the first nine weeks since implementing the policy there has been improvement in academic performance and a decrease in demerits, and he

believes the no phone policy has been a factor in that achievement.

"There has been tremendously positive feedback from the parents, and you can imagine how excited the kids are to be separated from their phones every day," Smith said light-heartedly. "But the idea has grown on them. However, if you ask a kid if they would rather be with their phone or without their phone, you are going to get 89 percent with. But they have adjusted well."

DOZIER

from page one

Road work

The council also approved an agreement with Infrastructure Management Services (IMS), an engineering firm that conducts automated pavement condition assessments. They provide the data and analysis to develop long term, cost optimized street rehabilitation plans.

The 2024 Pavement Condition Assessment project will include driving all concrete and asphalt streets in the City (approximately 80 miles) with a van that is outfitted with instrumentation to record on a continuous basis the surface condition, rutting, roughness, and the location by global positioning

system (GPS) coordinates. Upon conclusion of the mobile field data collection, IMS will provide a final report with all the street segments listed with their pavement condition index (PCI). This pavement assessment will provide the city with an updated and in-depth understanding of its current road infrastructure. The data will assist in the city's future maintenance and resurfacing plans.

The cost of the work to the city will be \$31,320.

Department report highlights

The evening included reports from several city departments. Highlights included:

*Planning and development - New certificates of occupancy to

Western Charms Boutique, 337 Shops Blvd., Suite 103; and Com'on Play Kids, 225 Shops Blvd., Suite 107. Total projects and permits in the 2023-24 fiscal year were 399.

*Police department - Total theft, fraud, property damage, burglary, DWI and assaults was down from 65 in the third quarter to 45 in the fourth. Citations were also down from 982-811, as were arrests from 73 to 61. Breaking down further, thefts dropped 19-15, property damage 8-0 and DWI 17-8, while assaults went up 11-16, sexual assaults stayed the same at 1-1 and fraud stayed at 5-5.

*Fire department - Since April the department has conducted 66 fire inspections and addressed 15 code enforcement cases.

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ROBOTICS

Aledo teams host sparring meet

13 schools compete

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

Aledo High School hosted a 13-school robotics meet on Oct. 26 as area competition passes into the second half of the season. The event had all the planning, strategy and pressure other meets minus one element, judges.

Team mentor Susan Schoolfield explained the competition has all the implementations of a regular contest but without judges grading the process, documents and presentation like what would normally be done.

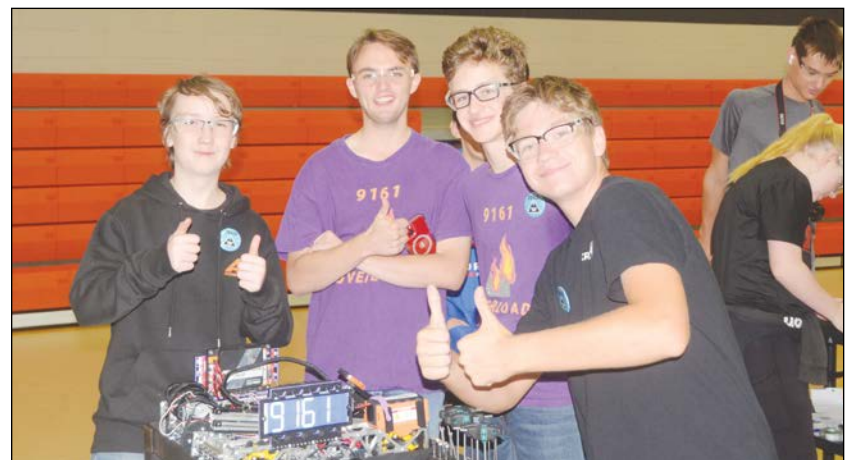
"There are referees here, but no judges," Schoolfield explained. "It's just pure competition. The crew

members have their jobs to do but today this is all about the game."

Finley Van Dyke, a member of 20325 Maximum Resistance, broadcasted live podcast reports from the gym during the competition. The podcast is an ongoing project of Maximum Resistance.

Aledo teams are 6566 Circuit Breaker, 20325 Maximum Resistance, 9161 Overload and 13811 High Voltage. Robotics instructor Julia Reynolds explained the numbers with the team names indicate to the robotics governing body who they are and how long the team has been in existence, with the lower numbers the older teams.

The next event will be larger, with 35 schools expected to participate.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of Team 9161 Overload relax after competing.



RICK MAUGH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

These ladies are ready for some big-time bingo at the Burgers and Bingo event on Oct. 17 benefiting the Parker County Senior Center. Pictured are (clockwise) Loretta Stewart, Mary Ann Herrell, Misty Herrell and Bernie Leiteit. For more photos visit www.community-news.com/stories/burgers-and-bingo-brings-in-big-bucks.97210

TRIATHLONS

Deen going distance - literally

Parker County judge an endurance competitor

By John English
The Community News

Judge Pat Deen is known throughout Parker County as a man who cares deeply about road conditions and comfortable travel accommodations for local residents.

Deen helped craft and oversee a transportation bond package through to its passage that turned out to be the largest transportation package in county history.

But for Deen, roads serve a secondary purpose.

Over the past year, the Parker County judge has been training for and participating in triathlons and Iron Man competitions.

"A year ago, my son-in-law started getting involved in Iron Mans," Deen said. "I went to the one he went to in Waco, and that was the qualifier for the world championship he did in France, which he did this year.

"I was thinking the whole time, 'Has he lost his mind?' because the amount of miles and what you have to cover is just almost impossible."

Not only did his son-in-law qualify for the world championship, but finished with two minutes to spare and medaled.

"That really inspired me," Deen said. "You always strive to be better. It's about trying to improve yourself and be a better person, so when he did that I started thinking about it. My wife thought I was nuts...but I completed my third one on Sunday (Oct. 6) in Waco."

More than stamina

Completing these endurance events requires more than just great stamina and willpower for Deen — it takes conquering the lingering vestiges of an early childhood trauma.

"The biggest obstacle I had to overcome was swimming because I almost drowned as a kid," Deen said. "But I actually made the cut and passed the water event and was 50 miles into a 56-mile bike ride and something happened and all of a sudden my leg started cramping

up and it was to a point I couldn't even move. So they took me out of the race, and my strength is running. I run about 30 miles a week, but I didn't get to that point."

The Hudson Oaks man was actually taken away in an ambulance at one competition, but impressively, took the incident in stride.

"It was a problem with preparation from a nutrition and hydration standpoint," Deen said. "It was some of the very fundamental and elementary things you do for that type of training and event, so I've become very disciplined about triathlons. To learn three modalities or three disciplines of exercise and try to master those is almost impossible.

"So I took it as a challenge to do that. I've trained now for a year, and I've come a long way, but still have a little ways to go to get past some of the challenges."

Defeating former self

For Deen, 64, the only competitor he really wants to beat at these events is his former self.

"It's not about winning," Deen said. "The thing that I love about it is that it's you against yourself. It's not about winning the whole thing, it's about finishing. When I did a Playtri in Fort Worth back in July, I finished that one without a problem, and that was almost the equivalent of an Iron Man.

"But the heat becomes a factor when you're getting up into the 90s. You have to take into consideration your body and make sure you have the fuel and the hydration so that you don't have any problems."

Deen trains five days a week and said he has definitely noticed the benefits.

"I have a watch that tracks your heart rate and tracks everything about you," Deen said. "When I first started, I think my heart rate was up around 140 after my runs and now it is around 80 to 85, so it has strengthened that. It gives you more energy. You want to eat right and take care of yourself better.

"It just has so many benefits to it. I remember campaigning for county judge this last time. I was going door to door and I was panting going



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT DEEN

Parker County Judge Pat Deen, inspired by his son, is now a long-distance competitor.

from door to door. And now I don't. It takes a lot to get me winded."

Advice

The Parker County man does have some advice for anyone interested in competing in an endurance event like triathlons.

"Make sure first and foremost that you're healthy by going to the doctor and getting checked out," Deen said. "There are issues that can manifest themselves in those extreme conditions. Take your workouts slow and don't feel like you've got to be in shape overnight. Set goals for yourself and build on your progress.

"Talk to people who have done it and take the necessary precautions to make sure that you don't jump into something too quickly that you're not ready for."

Deen said he plans to continue to participate until he is physically unable.

"I am passionate about it," Deen said. "It honestly brings a new level of confidence in knowing that you can do whatever you want to do. It's all about training and self-improvement."

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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

Early voting ends on Friday



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Texans who wish to vote early in the Nov. 5 general election have until closing time Friday, Nov. 1 to do so. Secretary of State Jane Nelson is encouraging voters to double-check their precinct numbers and candidate selections before casting their ballots.

"Texas has more than 18 million registered voters, and we want to make sure every eligible voter has an opportunity to review their selections before casting their ballot," Nelson said. "I encourage Texas voters to use this built-in opportunity to double-check the selections."

Voters can go to votetexas.gov to ensure they are registered, though the deadline to do so for the general election has passed. The site also lists polling places and what is on the ballot, depending on where you live.

Voting officials have taken steps to ensure ballots remain secret. Earlier this year, a conservative news site published what it claimed was a copy of then-GOP chair Matt Rinaldi's ballot, using public records released by election administrators.

The Houston Chronicle reported that Nelson and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton subsequently issued emergency guidelines to election officials to exercise caution about what type of information they release to the public. Voting records are public records, though who someone specifically voted for is not. Officials have noted identifying a voter's choices was only possible in very limited circumstances, such as a precinct with very few voters.

Lawmakers, Paxton spar over inmate execution

A bipartisan group of 84 Texas legislators earlier this month subpoenaed a man on Death Row in an effort to stop his execution for the death of



FRAME STOCK FOOTAGE

Early voting for the 2024 general election ends Nov. 1.

his 2-year-old daughter. Atty. Gen. Ken Paxton took issue with the move, claiming that the lawmakers ignored glaring evidence of Robert Roberson's guilt, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

The unique attempt came among increasing concern that Roberson was convicted of "shaken baby syndrome," which is now widely discredited by science experts.

The case is now being reviewed by the Texas Supreme Court, which is considering the question of whether a legislative subpoena outweighs the executive branch's authority to conduct an execution.

Lawmakers heard from a number of experts, as well as the lead investigator and a juror.

Paxton "issued a stunningly misleading statement designed to quash a bipartisan group of lawmakers in their truth-seeking mission, which has riveted the world," Roberson's attorney, Gretchen Sween, said in a statement.

The House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee has held two hearings on Roberson's case. Roberson, who has been diagnosed with autism, did not testify after the attorney general's office said he could only do so by teleconference.

Operation Lone Star costs reach \$11 billion

In a little more than three-and-a-half years, Gov. Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star has spent \$11 billion to make border crossings more difficult and to apprehend suspected undocumented migrants, *The News* reported. The effort began in March 2021 with National

Guard soldiers and state troopers assigned to the border with Mexico. Since then, more than 100 miles of razor wire have been strung and 45 miles of state-built border wall is up, as well as a 1,000-foot buoy barrier on the Rio Grande. More than a half million migrants have been apprehended as of Oct. 3 under Operation Lone Star, resulting in 47,640 arrests – about one-fourth for trespassing.

Abbott is seeking another \$2.9 billion during the upcoming legislative session for Operation Lone Star.

"Texas will not back down in our fight to secure the border from illegal immigration, dangerous criminals, and deadly drugs," he wrote in a September social media post.

Oil patch traffic deaths spotlighted by TxDOT

Traffic deaths in the state's five main energy sections accounted for nearly 25% of the state's total traffic fatalities last year, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. More than 80,000 traffic crashes in the Permian Basin, Eagle Ford Shale, Barnett Shale, Anadarko Basin, and the Haynesville/Bossier Shale resulted in 1,081 fatalities and 3,578 serious injuries.

"Our state's energy sector is vital to many communities throughout the state and the Texas economy, but oil and gas production activity can also bring challenges to our transportation system," the news release said. "These include an increase in traffic and the effects on our roads caused by large trucks and machinery sharing the road with passenger vehicles."

ELECTION 2024

Election Day - Nov. 5 - polls open all day

Early voting Ends Nov. 1

Early voting and election day voting locations and hours:

<https://www.parkercountytx.com/530/Early-Vote-and-Election-Day-Locations>

Sample Ballots:

<https://www.parkercountytx.com/477/Sample-Ballots>

Drivers in those regions are urged to give large trucks plenty of space, drive at a safe speed, and avoid trucks' blind spots.

TxDOT continues to push to end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. The last deathless day on state roads was Nov. 7, 2000.

Texans urged not to move firewood to prevent spread of diseases, pests

It isn't exactly fireplace weather just yet, but with November knocking on the door, Texans looking to stock up their firewood supply are urged to be cautious when collecting, transporting and buying firewood, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

"Many devastating, tree-killing pests present in Texas forests live and breed inside firewood," said Demian Gomez of the forest service. "The spread of wood borers, such as the invasive emerald ash borer, have been on the rise this year. These invasive insects have caused devastating impacts, practically wiping out entire tree species from some regions of the country."

Gomez said the best rule of thumb is to burn firewood near where it is bought or picked up. Moving it can easily introduce insects and diseases, since the pests do not travel extreme distances naturally. More information is available at dontmovefirewood.org.

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

Out on a limb



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

The deeper dive one takes into life's hourglass of time, the more likely it is to ponder nuggets of health news that might affect longevity.

One jumped out at me the other day when a physician's findings gave me an additional reason to keep as close an eye on my cane as I do my cell phone.

At first glance, I thought his findings might involve physical exercising. (Asked the other day if I jog, I responded, "No, I get my exercise serving as pallbearer for my friends who jogged.)

But no! His study centered on standing, so I made a mental "sign up," figuring I'd finally encountered an exam I could ace. Again, I'd jumped to conclusions, and I know, such a decision doesn't count as exercise.

I've done quite a bit of standing in my life, clinging to the belief that anyone who doesn't stand for something is likely to fall for anything.

Perhaps I smirked a bit upon learning that my ongoing commitment to remain vertical and ventilating could hinge--of all things--on my ability to stand.

All I was asked to do was to stand on one leg for five seconds. Piece of cake, I thought. Why, I could do that with one arm tethered posteriorly, and maybe even with eyes closed.

Wayda minute! This was not an easy assignment! Three seconds seemed to be my limit.

Looking for loopholes, I read further into the study, learning that my chances of making it for five seconds would be enhanced if I tried using my "nondominant leg." Now that's a real puzzlement; I immediately wondered if bull riders--just trying to stay lodged on the snorting animal for eight seconds--are given any kind of instructions involving leg dominance.

Truth to tell, I didn't--and don't--have a clue as to which of my legs is dominant. The study suggested that this could be determined merely by remembering

which gym exercises seem most difficult on which leg.

Beats me.

The only leg exercises I get at gyms involve simply twitching or making multiple trips to the concession stands.

Respect for the doctor's findings seems important, however. He cited a sobering stat that senior adults who are not able to stand on one leg for five seconds are much more likely to experience falls in the coming year.

AND, he emphasized that some 30% of us will do so.

Whether we have a leg to stand on or not.

'Course doctors ain't always right. It's hard for me to take seriously their admonitions to get my belt size down to a size 38 when theirs is a 48.

The Internet claims there's a long-time physician in Austin who is quick to brag about how he has maintained his exercise regimen delivering babies throughout Texas. He claims to be "slap happy" about his thousands of deliveries. "Slap happy?"

Yeah, I guess that fits. He further admits that in his early years in delivery rooms, he was absent-minded, often holding newborns up by their hands and spanking

their faces. Maybe admissions are in order by some of our leading governmental officials--in both Washington, DC and in Austin--who came into the world in this unorthodox manner. Trouble is, they are supported by deep-pocketed people who may have been delivered by the same physician. This would explain much.

I recall an old doctor who served a rural community faithfully for many years. On his day off--en route to his favorite fishing spot--he dropped off some prescription orders at the drug store.

While inside, several young people gathered around, poking fun at his ancient farm vehicle.

Hearing their giggles, the physician expounded, "Kids, this truck is paid for." Then, finger pointed at several of them, he added, "But, you're not, and you're not, and you're not."

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.

ASTRONOMY

The sky's the limit at star parties

Area astronomist enjoys interactive teaching

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

When it comes to fun, socializing and hands-on learning, the sky's the limit.

For Bruce Campbell, astronomy is more than a hobby. It is a life-long calling. The Willow Park resident has been seeking, exploring and educating others about the cosmos since childhood and is now the president of the Fort Worth Astronomy Association.

With his wife, Cindy, the couple has traveled near and far to watch celestial events across the south-west, and this month returned from a trip in Alaska for an up-close experience with the aurora borealis. Campbell not only has professional equipment to view the skies, but comprehensive photography equipment to track and capture objects in

the heavenlies and advanced software to enhance it.

Regular gatherings

Campbell enjoys gathering regularly with other North Texas astronomers, using their hobbies as a learning experience for the public at the Tandy Hills Nature Area, a 105 acre preserve at 3400 View St. in near south-east Fort Worth. The last event of the year will be Saturday, Nov. 9.

Friendly star-gazers will be setting up their equipment before sunset, but come an hour earlier and view the surface of the sun through specialized solar scopes. Participants are eager to give you hands-on demonstrations, answer questions, or tips and pointers if you bring your own equipment.

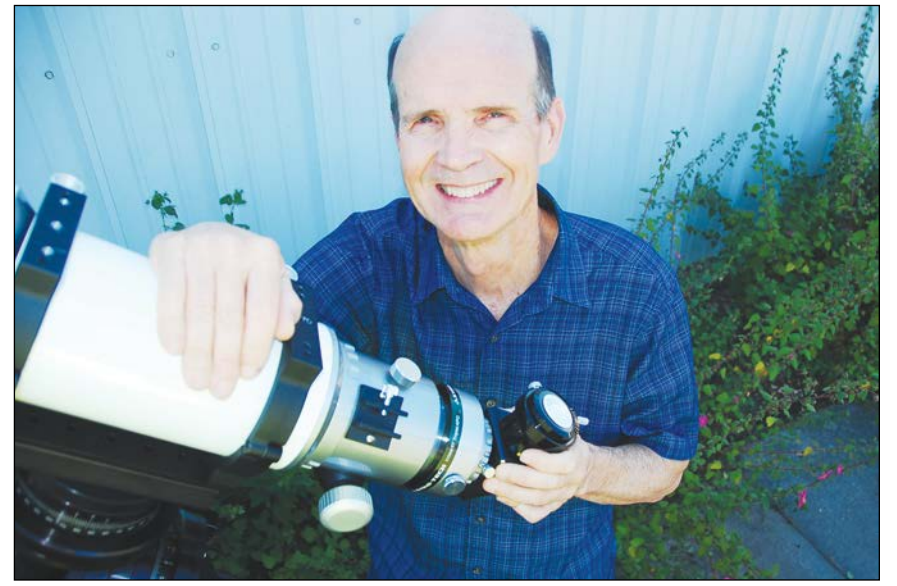
"We like to engage people and answer questions," Campbell said. "I like to show them a map of the moon and a particular crater and then let people find that crater on their own with the telescope."

After parking, stay on the path because the acreage is also a wild-flower preserve. From there you will see the group with equipment, so walk right up and join the fun. Quality star gazing is dependent on cloud cooperation, but overcast skies sometimes clear up after the sun goes down.

Campbell wrote an article in September that was published for the City of Fort Worth library system. Select Fort Worth libraries have simple telescopes to check out and Campbell's article was used to spur interest in the project.

Getting started

His interest in the skies began when he was five after his parents took him to a bank to start a student savings account. He handed over five dollars of his hard earned money and received a receipt and a poster with the solar system on one side and fun facts about the planets on the other. The poster went on his bedroom wall and Campbell



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Astronomy enthusiasts like Bruce Campbell of Willow Park host star parties in Fort Worth for people to get hands-on experience with star gazing.

began spending evenings searching for meters and identifying constellations.

"I was hooked," he recalls. "I watched the skies outside at night until I would fall asleep and

someone would come get me and carry me to bed."

Start your own journey in astronomy by visiting the Fort Worth Astronomy Association at www.fortworthastro.com.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF HEARING

Kelly Ranch Estates, LLC
SOAH Docket No. 582-25-01926
TCEQ Docket No. 2024-1385-MWD
TPDES Permit No. WQ0016370001

APPLICATION.

Kelly Ranch Estates, LLC, 1800 Lone Oak Road, Suite 8, Weatherford, Texas 76086, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for new Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0016370001, to authorize the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at an annual average flow not to exceed 2,250,000 gallons per day.

The facility will be located approximately 1,000 feet west of the intersection of Kelly Road and U.S. Route 377, in Parker County, Texas 76035. The treated effluent will be discharged to Bear Creek, thence to Benbrook Lake in Segment No. 0830 of the Trinity River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is high aquatic life use for Bear Creek. The designated uses for Segment No. 0830 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. In accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code § 307.5 and the TCEQ's Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (June 2010), an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. A Tier 2 review has preliminarily determined that no significant degradation of water quality is expected in Bear Creek, which has been identified as having high aquatic life use. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.574722,32.598888&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at East Parker County Library, 201 Farm-to-Market Road 1187 North, Aledo, Texas.

DIRECT REFERRAL.

The Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision was published on March 16, 2024. On August 21, 2024, the Applicant filed a request for direct referral to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). Therefore, the chief clerk has referred this application directly to SOAH for a hearing on whether the application complies with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

CONTESTED CASE HEARING.

The State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) will conduct a preliminary hearing via Zoom videoconferencing. A Zoom meeting is a secure, free meeting held over the internet that allows video, audio, or audio/video conferencing.

10:00 a.m. – December 3, 2024

To join the Zoom meeting via computer:
<https://soah-texas.zoomgov.com/>
Meeting ID: 160 044 7361
Password: TCQ926

or

To join the Zoom meeting via telephone:
(669) 254-5252 or (646) 828-7666
Meeting ID: 160 044 7361
Password: 920935

Visit the SOAH website for registration at: <http://www.soah.texas.gov/> or call SOAH at (512) 475-4993.

The purpose of a preliminary hearing is to establish jurisdiction, name the parties, establish a procedural schedule for the remainder of the proceeding, and to address other matters as determined by the judge. The evidentiary hearing phase of the proceeding, which will occur at a later date, will be similar to a civil trial in state district court. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 2001, Texas Government Code; Chapter 26, Texas Water Code; TCEQ rules including 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 305; and the procedural rules of the TCEQ and SOAH, including 30 TAC Chapter 80 and 1 TAC Chapter 155. The hearing will be held unless all hearing requests have been withdrawn or denied.

To request to be a party, you must attend the hearing and show you would be adversely affected by the application in a way not common to members of the general public. Any person may attend the hearing and request to be a party. Only persons named as parties may participate at the hearing.

In accordance with 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 155.401(a), Notice of Hearing, "Parties that are not represented by an attorney may obtain information regarding contested case hearings on the public website of the State Office of Administrative Hearings at www.soah.texas.gov, or in printed format upon request to SOAH."

INFORMATION.

If you need more information about the hearing process for this application, please call the Public Education Program, toll free, at (800) 687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.texas.gov.

Further information may also be obtained from Kelly Ranch Estates, LLC, at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jeff Goebel, Goebel Environmental, LLC, at (713) 724-9321.

Persons with disabilities who need special accommodations at the hearing should call the SOAH Docketing Department at (512) 475-4993, at least one week prior to the hearing.

Issued: October 18, 2024

Laurie Gharis

Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



COURTESY OF JAN CHAMBERLAIN

Wendee McGee, Jan Chamberlain, Carey Durham, and Polly Koch at Carey's Clan Parkinson's fundraiser October 19.

Durham's Parkinson's charity among top in nation

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

Ever since Carey Durham was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, she has had two objectives - fighting the illness within her brain and helping others to do the same.

In seven years of Carey's Clan fundraisers, the Durham's have been among the top individual efforts in the nation raising money for Parkinson's research. Husband David Durham said the group's name is indicative of the circle of family, friends and supporters that join Carey in raising money for the Parkinson's Foundation.

"There's a lot of us that make this happen. We have a big team and this is a group effort," he said.

The fundraisers started simple, first gathering at Railhead Barbecue. During Covid shutdown, the Durham's invented Drive By Fish Fry with fishers and friends cooking and passing out meals at the Durham's curb. Karen Shelley has been the group's organizer for three years, moving

the event to Crossroads event center on Bankhead Highway two years ago.

"It started out small and it just grew and grew," Shelley recalls.

Food, live music and silent auctions coupled with savvy promotion are the key elements of Carey's Clan

Carey Durham is stalwart about fighting Parkinson's and optimistic about her condition, giving encouragement for others that may be dealing with the disease.

"I am doing much better now after having DBS surgery," she said while greeting guests at the event. "You have to evaluate yourself, do the very best of your ability and communicate with your doctor."

DBS, deep brain stimulation, is a surgery that implants devices in the brain which stimulates specific areas to control the symptoms of Parkinson's.

All donations go directly to the Parkinson's Foundation to advance research of the disease. If you would like to donate to the fight in Carey Durham's name, visit www3.parkinson.org/goto/careyclan.

VOTING

from page one

into a new city hall at 120 El Chico Tr. almost two years ago.

Hoffman noted that it is posted on the City of Willow Park website, along with social media and even posted in signage on the doors to city hall that it is not an early voting location. The website includes a link for early voting locations in Parker County, which includes one in Aledo and another in Hudson Oaks for Willow Park residents.

"This situation highlights the importance of voters doing their homework and research well before the election so they can provide their feedback to the commissioners," Hoffman said. "I want to make it very clear that the City of Willow Park is not discouraging people from voting. We encourage it very much."

Efforts to contact Parker County Elections Administrator Crickett Miller and Precinct 4 Commissioner Mike Hale were unsuccessful.

COUNCIL

from page one

approval to the Council for a proposed new Weatherford Chamber of Commerce addition. Weatherford Commerce of Commerce Business Engagement Coordinator Debra Gass and Chamber Director of Communications & Development Amme O'Grady attended the meeting. The article passed 5-0, which also drew applause from those in attendance.

The building will be on vacant land on the west side of Highland Lake Drive between Sante Fe Drive and Interstate 20.

"Oh, gosh. Right now we are bursting at the seams here," O'Grady said of the situation at their current location.

O'Grady explained the intentions for the building are to have an event center, a welcome center, more storage and rooms to

coach, instruct and encourage new entrepreneurs and existing businesses.

Other council actions

*An item was approved 5-0 for the voluntary annexation of eight-plus acres abutting the Dean Street right of way in east Weatherford, which is owned by multiple individuals and groups.

*Purchases of fire and police department uniforms and protection equipment from Galls, LLC, was approved, as was approval of vehicle repair services from Siddons-Martin, a Texas-based company specializing in emergency equipment.

*Approval was also made for purchases of computer hardware infrastructure and phone system network not to exceed \$200,000.

*Lions Gate Logistics, Flow Boy Trucking, and Bear Down Logistics were each approved for trucking and logistics services.

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

2024 Voting Calendar

MAKE YOUR VOTING PLAN NOW:

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 September	30 September	1 OCTOBER	2	3	4	5
6	7 Last Day to Register to Vote in Texas	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Holiday Indigenous Peoples' Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Early Voting Begins	22	23	24	25 Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	26 EARLY WEEKEND VOTING
27 EARLY WEEKEND VOTING	28	29	30	31	NOV. 1st Early Voting Ends	NOV. 2nd NO Voting
NOV. 3rd NO Voting	NOV. 4th NO Voting	NOV. 5th Election Day 7am-7pm				



DECEMBER 2

2nd Annual "It's A Becarcat Christmas"
Come join us for a night of celebrating two of our favorite things, Christmas and our Becarcats from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, December 5 at Aledo High School/Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.

Come see Santa himself and get a professional family photo during a scheduled time frame.
Tickets: <https://aledoef.networkforgood.com/events/77502-it-s-a-merry-becarcat-christmas>
It sold out last year so don't wait. 100% of proceeds go to Aledo Education



DECEMBER 3

Willow Park Christmas Tree Lighting
Join the City of Willow

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- TXism: "he's ___ to walk the river with" (reliable)
- a pocket bread
- our treat (2 wds.)
- Travis ___ pleads for more men at the Alamo
- TXism: "___ the mark" (follow rules)
- a gorilla, e.g.
- Texas-born Aaron Yoo 2009 comedy film: "Labor ___"
- assumed names the founding name of the city Uvalde
- male geese
- TXism: "hot as ___ stove"
- "he ___ holding the bag"
- TX JoBeth 1983 film about kidnapping/murder of a child
- annoying person
- "___ him wrapped around her little finger"
- church table
- camping shelter
- Aikman shout in 1993: "I'm going to ___"
- in Nueces County on highway 44 (2 wds.)
- milk ___ quickly if left out of fridge
- West Asians who settled in Waller County in 1880s
- Texas actress Sissy
- Friday high school event: "___ rally"
- Monte ___, Texas
- TXism: "if ___ rooster, he'll crow" (inevitable)
- clairvoyance (abbr.)
- "Houston Museum of Fine ___"
- TXism: "mobile mouse ___" (cat)
- TXism: "busy as ___ armed paper hanger"
- TXism: "sticks like ___"
- Amtrak stop in Wood County
- TXism: "he can't carry ___ bucket"
- noted 19th century political cartoonist, Thomas
- sailing in the Gulf
- lasting performance platform? (2 wds.)
- suffix denoting the female gender
- a former Ranger in "Lonesome Dove": "___ Eye Parker"
- "Star Trek's" Spock line: "Live long ___"
- it predated 7-11's Sturpee
- puppy bites
- TXism: "___ slinging mad"
- "it don't ___ up" (doubt it's true)
- Austin: "Asleep ___ the Wheel" band
- Levi's inventor (init.)
- Texas-born actor Hawke (init.)
- Greek cheese
- mall clothing store (2 wds.)
- cow dung
- TXism: "___ down" (reduce)
- beef
- A.F. ___ organized the drilling of Spindletop
- A&M's original 12th Man: ___ King Gill
- fleur-___ is once flew over Texas
- 48-across played his "Carrie" (init.)
- most Texans are ___ of their state
- "___, shucks ma'am"
- horse color
- pelvic bones
- picnic pests

2024 TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Gift Market!

NOV 2

FREE ENTRY

4954 EAST I-20 SERVICE ROAD SOUTH WILLOW PARK, TX 76087

with Santa from 2-4pm. Admission is FREE!

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

NOVEMBER 14

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.

NOVEMBER 2

13th annual TCA Gift Market
The Market will be from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2 at Trinity Christian Academy - Willow Park 4954 East I-20 Service Road South, 76087. Over 10,000 sq. feet of shopping space with 60+ wonderful vendors, festive photo opportunities, fun door prizes, and food trucks for hungry shoppers. Don't miss a special photo opportunity

Park at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3rd for the City of Willow Park Christmas Tree Lighting! Food, music, twinkling lights, and of course an appearance by the big guy in the red suit!

DECEMBER 14

Christmas at the Castle 2024
Christmas at the Castle 2024 is from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday,

December 14 at the Texas Pythian Home, Inc. 1825 E Bankhead Dr. Weatherford, TX, United States, Texas 76086

Come and tour our beautiful castle while it is decorated with Christmas Spirit. This event is free and great for the whole family. Donations are always welcome! This is a FREE event so no tickets are sold.

Jingle All The Way

There will be a Fun Run/Walk benefiting Meals on Wheels & Senior Center on Saturday, December 14, 1225 Holland Lake Dr. Weatherford, TX 76086. Live music, s'mores, Santa and more following the event. It is \$25 per person or a team of 5 for \$100. For more information or to register, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/mr3bfp8>.

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For more information contact the Parish Office at 817-441-3500

GOLF

Bearcats, Ladycats second in district preview

Get early glimpse of league foes

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats got an early look at their fellow teams in District 5-5A when they competed in the Buzzy Open, hosted by the Azle Hornets and Lady Hornets at Cross Timbers Golf Course in Azle on Oct. 22.

Both the Bearcats and Ladycats Black teams placed second, while the Orange teams were third.

Emily Crick of the Ladycats Black squad won the individual girls championship, shooting a 3-over-par 75. Her teammate Reagan Gilliland shot a 90 to place fifth as the Black team posted a score of 351.

Braden Stokes led the Bearcats Black, finishing fifth individually among the boys with a 5-over-par 77. The team shot 329.

The Bearcats Orange posted a 333, while the Ladycats Orange registered a 392.

Granbury won both the boys and girls divisions.

"The boys got off to a slow start but battled back," Aledo coach Brian Mourning said. "Some guys are still struggling and not as consistent as we would like to be."

"It's still in the fall and that's a good thing. We need to be peaking in late spring. The guys are working on consistency every day."

"Same could be said with the girls team. Just need to be more consistent. It's a tough spot and we have to be able to bounce back as well."

Also for the boys Black, Ethan Elmore, 82; Tyler Anderson, 84; Maddox Jessup, 86; and Logan Lund, 86. Orange featured Brian Yarbrough, 78; Grayson Freeman, 84; William Kirkman, 85; Evan Boukadoun, 86; Pierce Russom, 94.

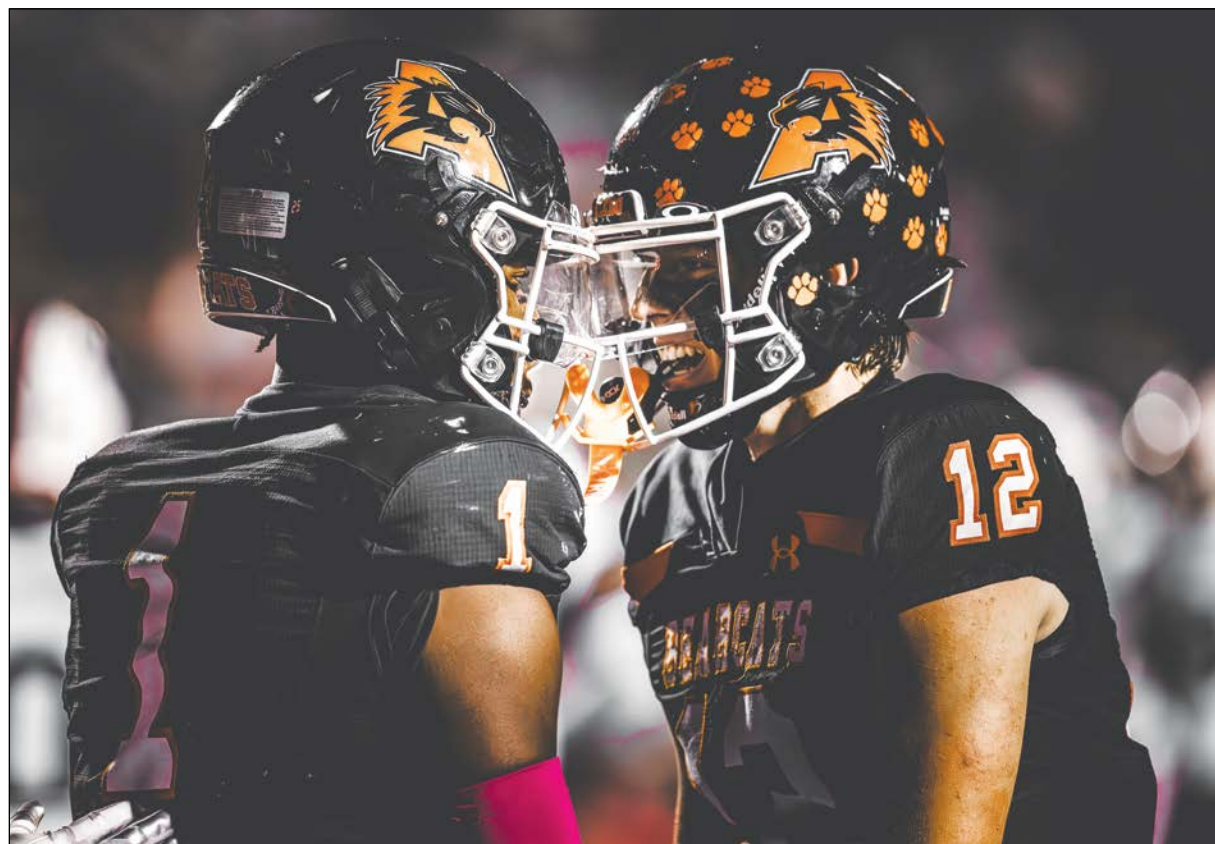
Also for the girls Black, Kylie Kirkland, 92; Harper Price, 94; and Addison Russ, 104. Orange scores were Layna Satterfield, 92; Sydney Purdon, 94; Abby Gray, 96; McKenzie Holman, 110; and Kennedy Bailey, 116.

The four lowest individual scores in each round comprise the team score.

The Ladycats varsity Orange will compete at Burleson's Hidden Creek Golf Course on Nov. 6. The Ladycats Black, along with the Bearcats Black and Orange, will compete in the Mansfield Lake Ridge Two Step at Grand Prairie's Tangle Ridge Golf Course on Nov. 8 to wrap up the fall schedule.

FOOTBALL

Bearcats survive scare



KRISTIN MORALES

Raycine Guillory and Lincoln Tubbs celebrate after one of Guillory's five rushing touchdowns in the game against Richland on Friday, Oct. 25.

Escape upset-minded Richland in overtime

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The greatest performance of Raycine Guillory's football life was on the verge of being spoiled before he touched the football one last time on Friday night.

It was an 8-yard touchdown run in overtime, his sixth score of the night, that lifted the Aledo Bearcats to a 49-42 victory against the upset-minded Richland Royals at Tim Buchanan Stadium.

"I knew I had to score," the junior running back said. "It was time to end it."

Guillory ended the thrilling evening with 244 yards and five rushing touchdowns on 34

carries. He also caught two passes for 35 yards, one of which was a 30-yard TD.

The victory extended Aledo's national-record district winning streak to 125 games. They haven't lost a league game since starting 0-2 in the 2007 season with losses to Stephenville and Everman.

To continue reading visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/bearcats-survive-scare,97759>

CROSS COUNTRY

Aledo teams headed back to state

Second straight year to double up

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

It's become as common as cowboys (and cowgirls) wearing boots. If it's the first week of November, the Aledo Ladycats and Bearcats must be competing in the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

For a seventh time since 2019 Aledo will be well-represented at the state meet. For a second straight season both the Ladycats and Bearcats will be competing as complete teams in the elite meet.

The Bearcats have sent their complete team in 2019, 2021,

2023 and now 2024. The Ladycats are competing as a team for a third consecutive season, having finished second last year to another perennial power, Lucas Lovejoy.

The Ladycats qualified this year by winning a second straight Region I championship. The Bearcats finished third, marking the first time in school history both teams made it onto the medal stand (the boys were fourth at regionals in 2023).

In other words, the program has become one of the more renowned in the state under coach Mike Pinkerton.

Part of the secret is the schedule Pinkerton puts together each season. His teams compete in

some of the most elite meets to be found in the country, including the Texas A&M Invitational, the Hoka McNeil Invitational (on the same course as state) and the Chili Pepper Festival hosted by the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

"We do this because you get better by running against the best," Pinkerton said. "You can see it's paying off."

Senior Jack Fink will be making his fourth consecutive trip to state. He has qualified with the team three times and individually in 2022.

Fellow senior Luke Schabel is competing at state for a third

Turn to STATE, page 9

SPORTS BRIEFS

Staff Reports
The Community News

BASEBALL

WC alum pitches in World Series

Weatherford College alumnus Ryan Brasier pitched in the World Series at Yankee Stadium in New York in Game 3. The Dodger reliever allowed no hits and no runs while striking out two in his inning out of the bullpen, helping Los Angeles take a 3-0 lead in games.

Brasier was drafted out of WC in 2007 and has played in the majors for the Los Angeles Angels, Boston Red Sox and now the Dodgers.

GOLF

Coyotes compete in NJCAA Preview

The Weatherford College men's golf team competed at the NJCAA National Preview in a field that included eight of the top 10 teams in the nation. The tournament was played at Sand Creek Station in Newton, Kansas, the site of this year's national tournament to be held in May.

After the first two rounds, the No. 9 Coyotes were sitting in fourth place out of 15 teams, shooting 14 over in the first round and 19 over in the second. But a third round of 25 over knocked WC down to a ninth-place finish.

Host team Hutchinson Community College (No. 3 in the nation) won the tournament, 20 strokes ahead of second place Western Texas College (No. 10).

WC's Ethan Armendarez climbed nine spots in the final round to finish tied for 13th individually. Armendarez shot 76-78-74 over the three rounds.

Aledo's Braylan Mahanay finished tied for 15th (74-74-81).

TENNIS

WHS all-district honors

Toni Canada of the Weatherford Lady Roos was named second-team All-District 3-6A for her play in singles. She was also honored, with teammate Landrey Hebbe as first-team picks in girls doubles.

Also, Lydia Nader and Mylee Herron were named first-team all-district in girls doubles, as were Brynli Ruthesell and Dayla Dromgoole. Ruthesell and Nader, along with Maiah Gal, were honorable mentions in girls singles.

For full Sports Briefs visit: <https://www.community-news.com/stories/sports-briefs-nov-1,97990>

Pediatric & Adolescent Dentistry

Robert Casey Stroud, D.D.S., P.C.
Michael Ball, D.D.S., P.L.L.C.

Diplomate of American Board of Pediatric Dentistry
Fellow of American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



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12:00 Noon, Tuesday, November 12th, 2024

and publicly opened. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the place of opening prior to the time stated above. Any bidder desiring an electronic copy of the proposal form and bid documents should email their request to sarayah@crvonline.com.

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the Construction and Installation of the Road ROW Landscaping.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

Kelly Ranch Estates, LLC

Publication: October 18, 2024
 October 25, 2024
 November 1, 2024

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Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Kelly Ranch to include one (1) Trinity Well, six (6) Paluxy Wells and related appurtenances will be received at the office of Harold Sandel, CPM, 9843 Bankhead Highway, Aledo, Texas, 76008 until

12:00 Noon, Tuesday, November 12th, 2024

and publicly opened. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the place of opening prior to the time stated above. Any bidder desiring an electronic copy of the proposal form and bid documents should email their request to sarayah@crvonline.com.

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The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

Kelly Ranch Estates, LLC

Publication: October 18, 2024
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VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats tame Panthers

Aledo cruises to another district sweep

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats, No. 6 in the state, played in another district match, which meant another occasion to get the brooms out. As they have done in each of their previous district matches, the Ladycats (29-7 overall, 11-0 in District 5-5A) used impressive collective play to sweep Keller Fossil Ridge once more Tuesday night, Oct. 22. Aledo secured the victory by a final score of 25-10, 25-9 and 25-12.

"This group of seniors has been together for a very long time and grew up playing together before they got here," Ladycats head coach Claire Gay said. "The majority of them have been on varsity since their sophomore year, so they've been down this road - they know what it takes to get to this point and they know what they're hungry for. They're a really fun and selfless

group of girls that really cares about each others' successes more than their own. I think that aspect really drives our success."

Aledo was able to build large early leads in each of the three sets. In the first set, the Ladycats raced ahead 9-3, forcing Fossil Ridge to call a timeout. However, Aledo continued to build on its lead. A tip shot from senior middle blocker Haley Lowe and a kill from star junior Alyssa Todd extended the lead to double digits at 19-9. After that, Todd ended a long rally with a kill and thumped another ball to the hardwood on the next possession to make it a 21-7 advantage. Aledo then scored its final three points with kills from the front row, two from Todd and the final kill from senior outside hitter Morgan Estevez.

The Ladycats came out of the gates strong in the second set, opening up an early 8-1 lead. Later in the set, Todd hammered back-to-back kills that pushed the lead to 14-5. Senior middle blocker Kinley Elms

helped close out the match with two powerful kills on points 23 and 24, and a final kill from Lowe put Aledo ahead 2-0 in sets.

"We go really hard in practice and we're always having fun bonding together as a team," Ladycats senior middle blocker Haley Lowe said. "We're always encouraging each other and I think it really helps that we're always positive towards each other."

Aledo went on to win the third set comfortably but, as it was with the first two sets, got a huge boost from the back row - headlined by seniors Kenrie Pruitt, Ella Meador and Logyn Denbow. The three back row specialists repeatedly dug up quality Fossil Ridge attacks and passed the ball accurately while on the move to setters Ava Reding and Sophie Frank. The combination of effort, hustle and accuracy from the back row players was pivotal in keeping Aledo's offense in system.

"We work on a lot of ball handling in practice where we do drills

that make them run back and forth and change direction," Gay said. "They also put in work in the weight room, too, which pays off huge for us. The game has kind of shifted to hustle plays, one-armed saves and reaching digs being really important. Our back row has kept us in a lot of matches offensively, so we are very grateful for them."

Todd and Elms led the offense with 14 kills apiece. Todd also registered two aces while Elms had a block. Lowe poured in eight kills and one block while Estevez added five kills. Reding was impressive with 24 assists, nine digs and two aces while Frank finished with 10 assists. Pruitt anchored the back row with a game-high 23 digs with one ace while Meador recorded 15 digs and an ace. Denbow also served an ace while Ella Isbell had a team-high four blocks. Ali LoBaugh ended the night with two stuffs while Sarah Schroeder and Tatum Kosse each had one block apiece.

The Ladycats won their 18th match in a row and have yet to drop a game in district play with one league match to go (at Chisholm Trail at press time) but the Ladycats are remaining focused on the task at hand and plan to make the most out of the remainder of the season.

"You can't take moments off, you can't take practice opportunities off and you can't take opportunities to get better off," Gay said. "Every ball you play has to be better than the one before, and it's challenging as it's been a long three and-a-half months, but ultimately there's only three and-a-half weeks left in the season - that's all. When you break that down, it's worth every hustle play and opportunity to get better. We're peaking at the right time and it's a huge goal for our team. We are just taking things one day at a time and taking advantage of the time we do have together because once it's done, it's done."

To continue reading visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/ladycats-tame-panthers,97989>

STATE

from page 7

time, having gone with the team two other times.

"It feels really special, following up the likes of Graydon Morris, Cooper Goggans and Isaac Hernandez," Schabel said.

Morris won three state championships and all three are now competing in college at TCU, Abilene Christian and Texas Tech, respectively.

"Continuing that tradition is definitely something great," Schabel continued. "And our girls team is incredible."

Then he added, "I think both teams are going to be great again next year and make another run at state. We have some amazing young talent."

Making their third consecutive trip to state for the Ladycats are juniors Molly Garrison and Sofia Brandenburg. Back for a second straight year are juniors Mykel Murry and Madison Larsen, along

with sophomores Micah Neal and Mayden Mitchell. Sophomore Kjersten Loy is a newcomer to the postseason.

"It's fantastic to be going back, but I definitely think there's a lot more pressure after having finished second last year," Garrison said. "But there's also a lot of excitement, knowing what we can do."

Joining Schabel and Fink as returners for the Bearcats are junior Dominick Barrera and sophomore Tyler Connelly for a second time. Junior Ian Robbins, along with freshmen Landon Eaton and Thatcher Pettit are first-time postseason competitors.

"We're such a close-knit team," Garrison said. "It's great to be there with Jack and Luke in their final time. Even these last couple of weeks, it wouldn't have been the same practicing without them."

The Ladycats will compete at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, with the boys race immediately following.

FOOTBALL

from page 12

Vowell is completing 65% of his throws for 1,822 yards with four interceptions.

Turnovers/takeaways

Through eight games the Hornets have forced 15 turnovers (4 interceptions, 11 fumbles), while giving the ball up seven times (4 interceptions, 3 fumbles).

The Bearcats have taken the ball away 10 times (5 interceptions, 5 fumbles) and given it up nine times (5 interceptions, 4 fumbles).

Bidistrict possibilities

While both the Bearcats and Hornets know they are headed for the playoffs, who they will meet in bidistrict is up in the air. Saginaw is in the driver's seat of District 4-5A Division I, with Arlington Heights and Paschal right behind with one loss and Chisholm Trail having two defeats.

Series

Aledo leads the all-time series by a 13-2 margin and has won the past nine meetings, including 50-7 last season. The last Hornets victory was 19-6 in 2001, 43 years after their first win of 19-7 in 1948.

The teams first met in 1946, a thrilling 7-6 Aledo victory.

Subvarsity

The Aledo subvarsity teams once again swept to victory four times, all against Richland. Freshmen A won 35-7 and B won 26-8. Junior varsity A won 42-17 and B won 35-0.

Rankings

The Bearcats remained the No. 1 team in the state in Class 5A Division I this week, while Ryan moved up to No. 3. The Raiders held the No. 1 spot before falling at Aledo.

Richland remained No. 10 despite their loss at Aledo last week.

Nationally, the Bearcats moved up one spot to No. 77.

District 3-5A Division I

District	Overall	Points for	Points against
Y-Aledo	6-0	7-1	397-141
Azle	5-1	7-1	342-259
Denton Ryan	5-1	7-1	377-156
Richland	5-2	7-2	426-226
Brewer	3-3	3-5	269-259
Birdville	2-4	3-5	218-346
Fossil Ridge	2-5	2-7	185-376
Denton	0-6	1-7	122-357
Granbury	0-6	1-7	112-290

Y = Clinched playoff berth

Last week's results

Aledo 49, Richland 42 (OT)
Ryan 55, Denton 14
Brewer 17, Fossil Ridge 7
Azle 28, Granbury 14
Birdville bye

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

Friday, Nov. 1
Aledo at Azle
Fossil Ridge at Birdville
Granbury at Denton
Ryan at Brewer
Richland bye

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Emily Crick
Golf

The junior shot a 3-over-par 75 to win the individual championship at the Buzzy Open at Cross Timbers Golf Course in Azle. She led the Ladycats Black team to a runner-up finish in the tournament that was also a preview for teams in District 5-5A.

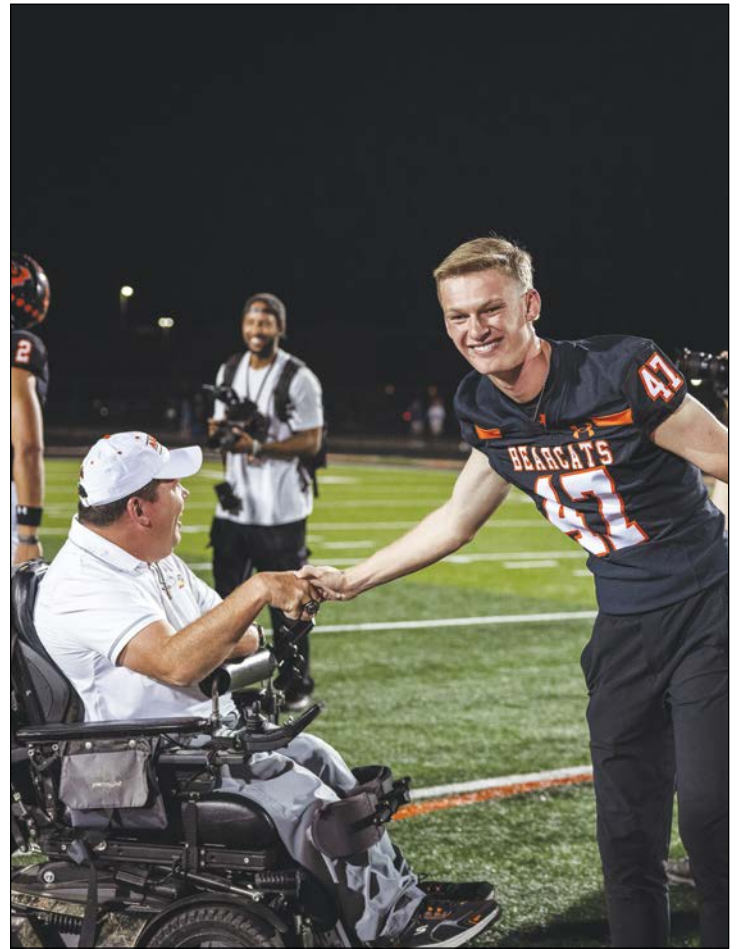
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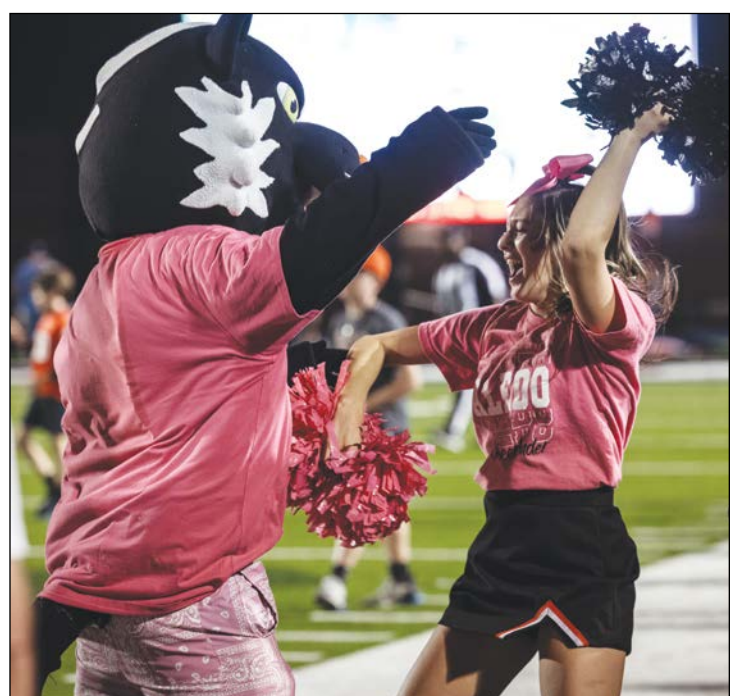
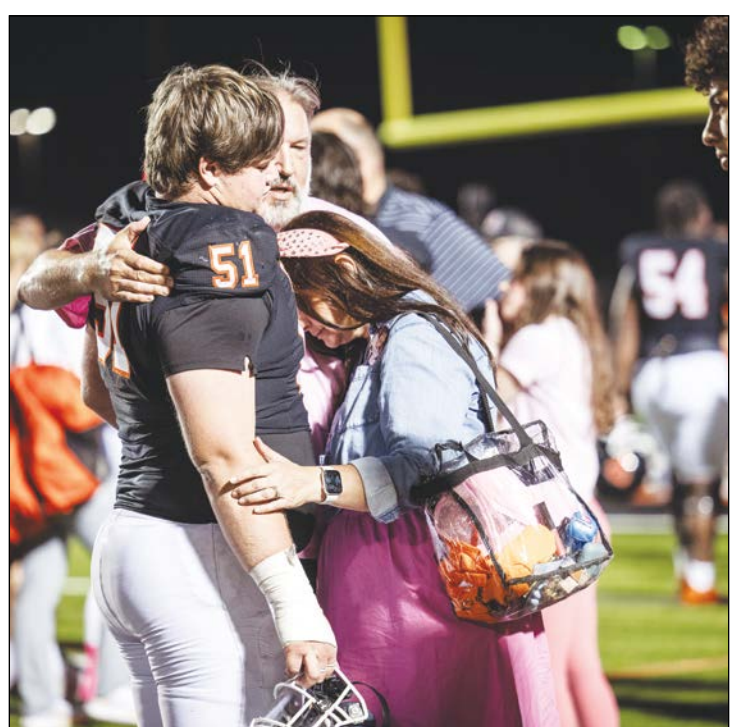
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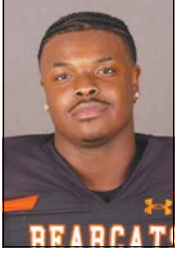
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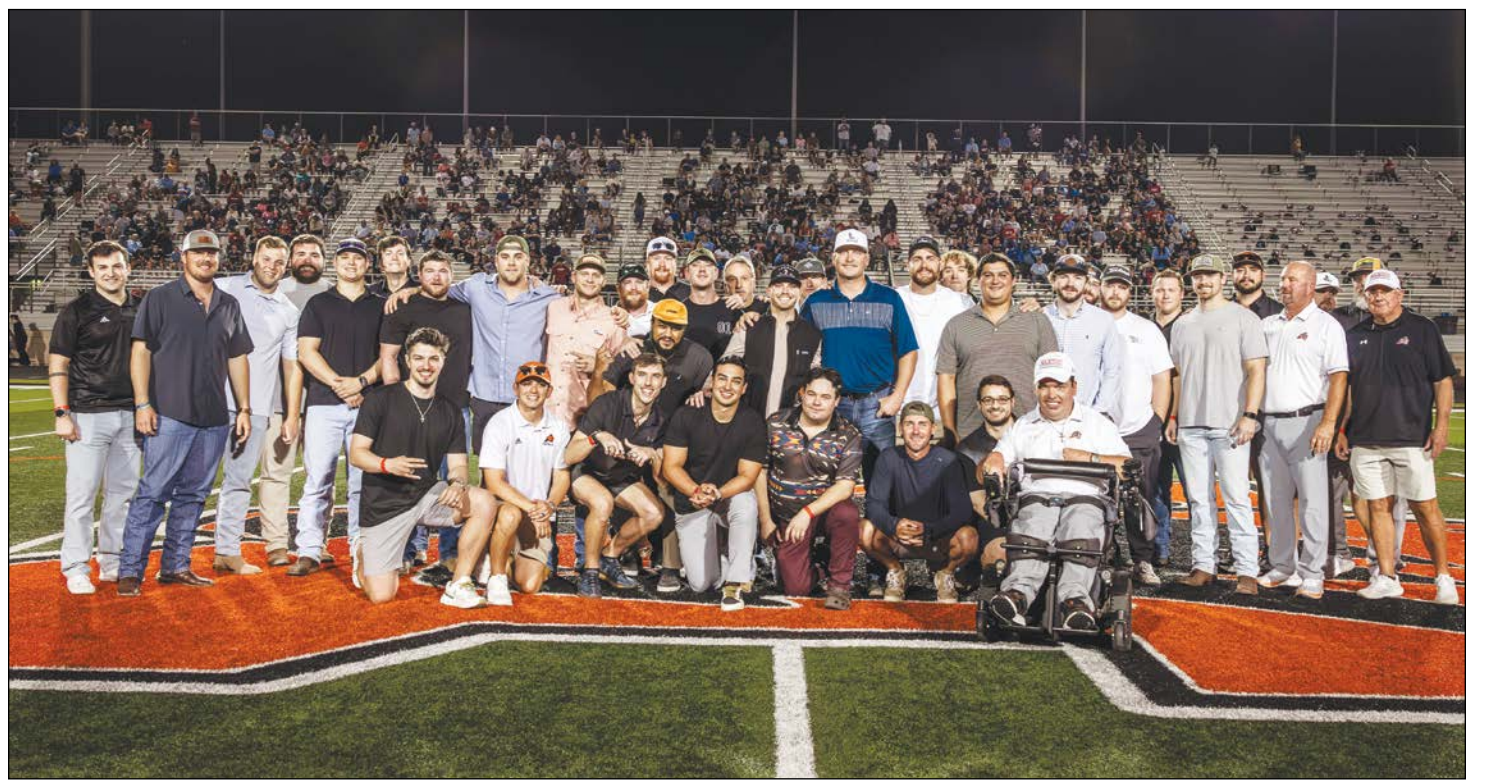
Raycine Guillory
Football

The junior running back had the game of his career. He rushed for 244 yards on 34 carries with five touchdowns, including the game-winning 8-yard run in overtime, in a 49-42 victory against Richland at Tim Buchanan Stadium. He also caught two passes for 35 yards, including a 30-yard TD.

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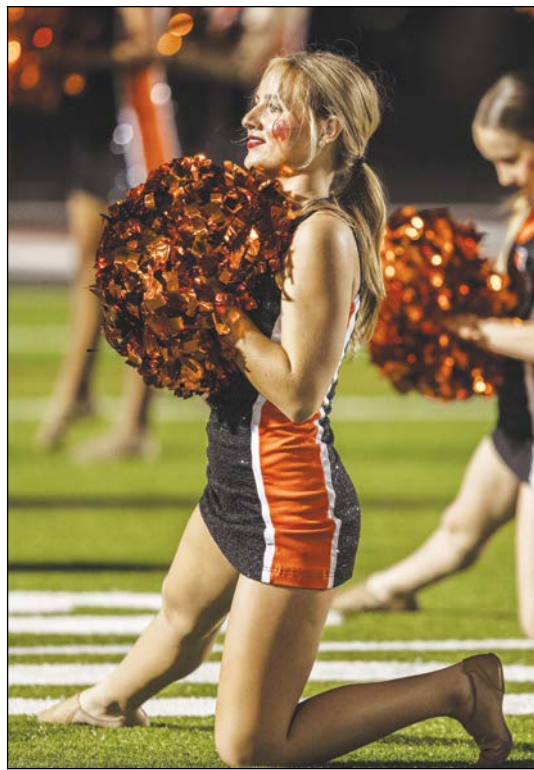
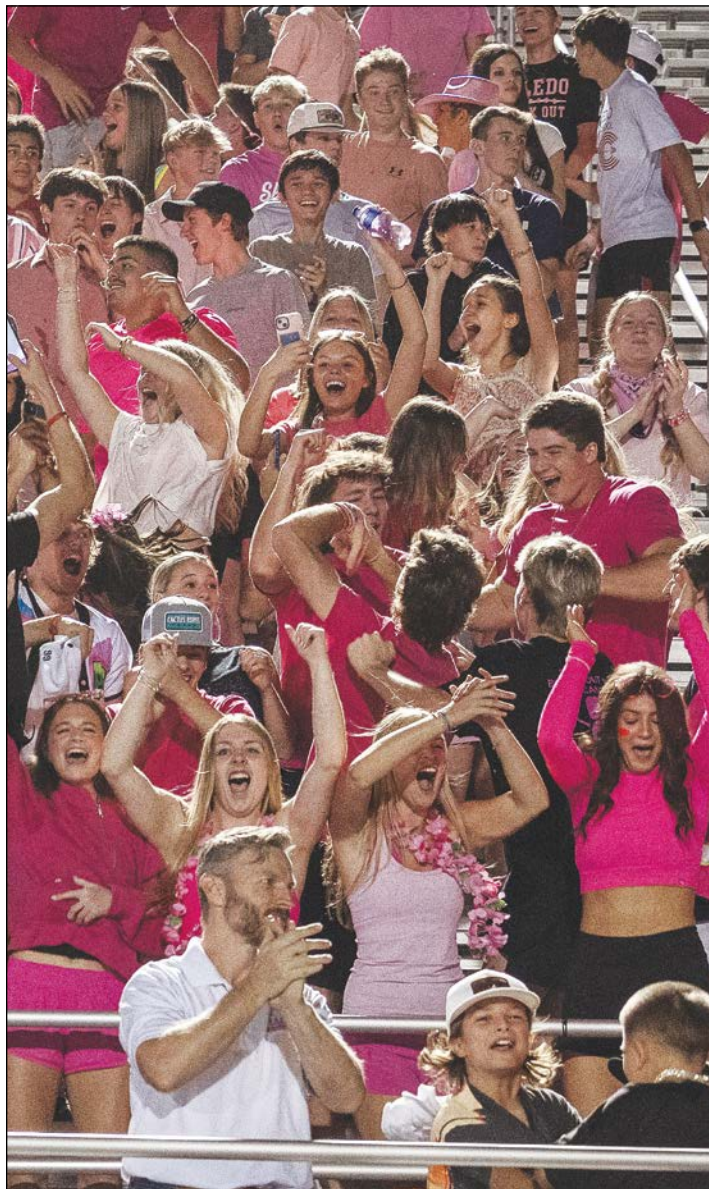


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FOOTBALL ADVANCE

Aledo at Azle

Perennial power vs. surprise entry

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

When the season began, to the surprise of no one the Aledo Bearcats were picked to challenge for the District 3-5A Division I championship and reach the post-season for a 29th straight season. One more win and they will lock up a 17th straight district championship dating to 2008.

That win would come on the road at Azle, an opponent many thought would be finishing out its season. The Hornets were picked eighth in the nine-team league, ahead of only Granbury.

However, Azle (7-1 overall) sits 5-1 in district and is just a game behind the Bearcats (7-1, 6-0). And while the Hornets are indeed big underdogs in the contest, they have proved critics wrong with their performance in 2024. They are off to their best start in many years and looking at their first playoff berth since 2021.

"They are a much improved football team from last year," Bearcats coach Robby Jones said. "Coach (Devon) Dorris and his staff do a great job of building back after a down season or two and they're doing it again."

The Hornets were 3-7 in each of the previous two seasons.

The Hornets returned 10 starters on offense and six on defense, prompting several to wonder why they were picked so low in the league.

"I didn't have them that low," Jones said. "I guess people were looking at their past couple of seasons, but that's a talented team that's well coached."

Bouncing back from a scare

The Bearcats survived upset-minded Richland 49-42 in overtime this past Friday at Tim Buchanan Stadium, extending their national-record district winning streak to 125 games. Jones had both a strong message and a congratulatory one for his team.

"We said we were lucky to come back. I told them great job for coming back and continuing to fight, great job for coming up with a way to win," Jones said. "But we're making sure this week we're ready to go play. Practice has picked up, practices have more intensity."

Richland twice had two-touchdown leads, along with scoring late to force overtime.

"It's kind of a wakeup call. You've got to be ready for every game, be ready for each and every week," Jones said.

Tiebreaking

District 3-5A's tiebreaking procedure works off of positive points, then head-to-head competition. If Aledo wins Friday it's a moot point as far as the Bearcats are concerned and they will have secured yet another league championship.

However, an Azle upset throws it all into a tizzy. Aledo, Azle and Denton Ryan would be tied with Richland a game behind. Aledo has defeated both Ryan (42-27) and Richland (49-42 in overtime) at home, Azle lost at home to Ryan 62-26 and will end the regular season at Richland on Nov. 8. Ryan also has a 44-19 home win over Richland.

Ryan has outscored opponents in this equation by plus 61 points, Aledo is plus 22 so far, while Azle and Richland are at zero. There are



KRISTIN MORALES

Quarterback Gavin Beard

no negative points in the tiebreaking procedure.

For a four-way tie to occur, Azle would have to defeat Aledo and lose to Richland, while Ryan would have to split its final two games with Brewer and Birdville, and Aledo would have to also lose at home to Denton.

Milestones within reach

Several players on both teams have milestones within reach in this game or by the end of the regular season.

For Aledo, junior running back Raycine Guillory needs just 21 rushing yards to reach 1,000 and junior

wide receiver Kaydon Finley will reach 1,000 yards with 134 more.

Azle junior quarterback Derrek Vowell needs 178 yards to reach 2,000 and senior running back Hagen Hughes is 151 yards short of 1,500.

Young QBs

Both teams feature first-year starting quarterbacks who have enjoyed great success.

Aledo junior Gavin Beard is completing 63% of his passes for 1,237 yards with 17 touchdowns and three interceptions in six games. He missed two games early in the season with an injury.

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Game at a glance

Aledo (7-1, 6-0 in District 3-5A Division I) at Azle Hornets (7-1, 5-1).

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, Hornet Stadium, Azle.

Last week: Aledo defeated Richland 49-42 in overtime. Azle defeated Granbury 28-14.

Last season: Aledo went 16-0 and won Class 5A Division I state championship. Azle was 3-7 and missed the playoffs.

All-time series: Aledo leads 13-2.

Returning starters: Aledo 3 offensive, 4 defensive. Azle 10 offensive/6 defensive.

Aledo offensive players to watch: WR Blake Burdine (21 catches, 354 yards, 5 TD), TE Waldron Byars (7 catches, 48 yards).

Azle offensive players to watch: QB Derrek Vowell (65% completions, 1,822 yards, 18 TD, 4 interceptions), RB Hagen Hughes (1,349 yards, 9.1 yards per carry, 18 TD, 6 catches, 106 yards).

Aledo defensive players to watch: S Kamron Hall (24 tackles, 1 for loss, 1 interception), DT Tymon Meeks (17 tackles, 3 for loss, 0.5 sacks).

Azle defensive players to watch: DB Riley Self (interception returned for TD), ATH Cayden Lawson (interception returned for TD).

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