

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

## Decorated Army colonel to speak

Veterans Day event at Flag Plaza

By Crystal Woerly  
Weatherford College

Weatherford College will host its annual Veterans Day Observance at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 11, at the Ed Kramer Veterans Flag Plaza. The community is invited to attend this event honoring those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.



Lisa Winegar

This year's ceremony features guest speaker Lisa Winegar, a highly decorated US Army Colonel and current WC social science instructor. Winegar had a distinguished military career, including commanding military intelligence brigades and battalions in South Korea, Italy and Germany as well as three tours at the Pentagon and two combat deployments to the Middle East.

Throughout her service, Winegar earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal and many more.

"We are honored to have Colonel Winegar as our guest speaker for this year's Veterans Day Ceremony," said Tammy Peters, event organizer. "Her

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## State Finalist



KRISTIN MORALES/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Bearcat Regiment marched into the Alamodome in San Antonio for the State 5A Marching Contest on Nov. 5. They finished fifth in prelims, the highest placement ever in program history. At finals the regiment finished fifth overall.

WILLOW PARK

## Suspect arrested in shooting

No injuries reported

By Rose Hoffman  
City of Willow Park

Willow Park Police responded to a call reporting gunshots heard in the Mesa Springs Road area on Oct. 27. This was at least the 10th call received in October regarding gunshots.

Responding officers quickly arrived at the scene and

conducted a thorough search of the area. Fortunately, there were no reported injuries resulting from the incident.

Officers conducted an immediate investigation and identified a suspect linked to the gunfire. As a result, a warrant for the suspect's arrest was issued.

On Oct. 31, the WPPD successfully apprehended the suspect, 34-year-old Ryan Lecompte, during a traffic

stop. He has been arrested and is facing charges that include deadly conduct, a third-degree felony.

City officials stressed the WPPD is committed to ensuring the safety of the community and will continue to work diligently to investigate this matter fully.

Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement.

WILLOW PARK

## Residents voice ideas

City looking at park expansion

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

A Willow Park Parks and Recreation meeting Oct. 29 drew 30 participants adding suggestions to upcoming public park improvements and expansions. Being more of a town hall gathering than an official board meeting, the night had the feeling of an upbeat class participation project.

Led by park board member and Willow Park Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young, residents discussed Cross Timbers Park and Demonstration Garden at 631 Ranch House Rd., Veterans Memorial Park east of Cross Timbers Park, and Kings Gate Park and Trails along Clear Fork Trinity River off Kings Gate Road.

"We think it will be a good idea to get your input and feedback for our survey, so we wanted you all to come tell us what you

think and what are your ideas," Young told the group.

Parks board members and city employees Rose Hoffman (communications director) and Mandy McCarley (parks and rec director) logged suggestions as participants spoke of restrooms, sidewalk lighting, parking, improvements to Memorial Park, playground equipment, and the placement of a possible disc golf course at Kings Gate Park.

The ideas will be assimilated into an online survey. Visit [flashvote.com/willowparktx](http://flashvote.com/willowparktx) to register and decide how you would like to receive your survey.

**Parks board meeting**

The City of Willow Park Parks and Recreation Board met before the public input meeting to cover official business and welcome Mandy McCarley to a new Parks Director position. She will be taking over duties for all city parks including upcoming programming and improvements.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Residents discuss suggested park maps and improvement before a Willow Park meeting.

McCarley was Aledo High School Athletics Secretary for 10 years before working for the City of Willow Park starting in July 2023.

The Willow Park Parks Board meets quarterly, with the

next meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 4. The Willow Park City Council meets 6 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. All meetings are at Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Tr.



POLITICS

## Parker County amplifies national trend

Trump takes almost 83 percent of county votes

Randy Keck  
The Community News

As Republican Donald Trump coasted to a major electoral count victory with eked out victories in "swing states" on Tuesday, Nov. 5, Parker County left no doubt at the local level.

With all precincts counted, the unofficial total of county votes in the county gave Trump 75,091 (82.76%) votes to Kamala Harris' 14,840 (16.36%). The cumulative total votes for nine additional candidates was less than 1%.

The race statewide was closer, but not close. Statewide, with 99% of precincts reported, Trump garnered 6,366,002 (56.26%) votes to Harris' 4,792,854 (42.35%).

Democrat Colin Allred took advantage of some split tickets in his quest against incumbent Ted Cruz, slightly outperforming Harris.

In Parker County, Cruz took 72,400 (79.9%) to Allred's 16,318 (18.01%).

Statewide, Cruz received 5,964,650 (53.15%) and Allred received 4,988,677 (44.46%).

In terms of congressional representation, portions of two districts lie in Parker County. In U.S. Representative District 12, the race to succeed retiring Republican Kay Granger was won by Republican Craig Goldman, who received 215,112 (63.5%) votes to Democrat Trey Hunt's 123,666 (36.5%).

In Parker County, Goldman led with 56,925 (84.97%) votes to Hunt's 10,210 (15.21%).

Incumbent Republican Roger Williams ran away with the U.S. Representative District 12 race, receiving 262,087 (99.41%) votes to Chad Hagg's 1,564 (.59%). Hagg did not have a party affiliation.

In Parker County, Williams inched a little closer to 100%, receiving 20,017 (99.81%) votes to Hagg's 38 (.19%).

**Closer to home**

Parker County also hosts two Texas State Senate districts.

In State Senate District 10, incumbent Republican Phil King easily defeated Democrat Andy Morris in Parker County 31,793 (86.84%) to 4,820 (13.16%).

District-wide, King received 227,021 (61.74%) to Morris' 140,679 (38.26%).

In State Senate District 30, Republican Brent Hagenbuch took

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# TCA Christmas Gift Market



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Allie and Stephanie Stucky speak with Kat Camp of Happy Camper Honey. Stephanie and husband Jonathan were part of the second graduation class at Trinity Christian Academy. See more photos from the Trinity Christian's annual Christmas Gift Market at [www.community-news.com](http://www.community-news.com)



Santa and Mrs. Clause do a little browsing at the Trinity Christian Academy's annual Christmas bazaar.



Trinity Christian Academy's annual Christmas bazaar.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

# Groundbreaking Ceremony for major project

## PC Chamber president/CEO joins local leaders

Courtesy Parker County Chamber of Commerce

Parker County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Lisa Flowers was among the distinguished guests at a groundbreaking ceremony for a significant infrastructure project in the region recently.

Held with Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker, Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley, County Commissioner Mike Hale, and Texas Department of Transportation dignitaries, as well as members of the I-20 Coalition Committee, the event marked a major milestone for the North Texas region. A total of \$541 million is committed to enhance transportation and infrastructure.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKER COUNTY CHAMBER

The Texas Clear Lane Project has allocated a 50% increase in funding for the region in response to unprecedented growth, reflecting Texas's status as both the world's eighth largest economy and its fastest-growing state. The North Texas region itself is poised

to become the third-largest in the nation, with population projections soon to surpass that of Chicago.

For more information about the project and its impact on local infrastructure, please visit [www.ParkerCountyChamber.com](http://www.ParkerCountyChamber.com)

## ANNETTA

# Toys for Tots underway

## Benefit runs through Dec. 13

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The holiday season is just around the corner, and the Town of Annetta has announced the kick-off of the 2024 Toys for Tots Campaign.

This year, the aim is to bring even more joy to underprivileged children in Parker County. From now until December 13, 2024, we're collecting new, unwrapped toys for children ages 0-14.

Especially needed are toys for pre-teens and teenagers. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Sporting equipment, bags, and balls
- Books and backpacks
- Cosmetics, purses, and watch/wallet gift sets
- Bath gift sets
- Board games
- Radio-controlled cars and trucks
- Handheld electronics
- Skateboards and helmets
- Curling irons, hair straighteners, and hair dryers

Please note, they cannot accept used toys, realistic-looking weapons, toys with candy or food, or toys with chemicals (experimental labs, acid, crystal projects, etc.).

Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. Last year, Annetta residents donated two boxes of toys and a bicycle.

How to Donate:

Drop off your new, unwrapped toys at Annetta Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Ln., Annetta, Texas 76008

For more info, contact Rico Remigio at [rico.remigio@gmail.com](mailto:rico.remigio@gmail.com).

## ELECTION

from page one

43,083 (83.05%) votes to Democrat Dale Frey's 8,795 (16.95%).

District-Wide, Hagenbuch received 289,128 (65.1%) votes to Frey's 154,986 (34.9%).

The race for the District 11 State Board of Education member was won by Republican Brandon Hall, who received 73,620 (83.2%) Parker County votes to Democrat Rayna Glasser's 13,345 (15.08%). District-wide, Hall received 518,066 (61.55%) to Glasser's 301,967 (35.88%).

### Clean slate

There were no contested races for Parker County offices. All

Republican candidates were elected without opposition. Those include:

- District Judge, 43rd Judicial District - Craig Townsen
- District Judge, 415th Judicial District - Graham Quisenberry
- District Attorney, 43rd Judicial District - Jeff Swain
- Judge, County Court-at-Law No. 2 - Lynn Marie Johnson
- County Attorney - John Forrest, Jr.
- Sheriff - Russ Authier
- County Tax Assessor-Collector - Jenny Gentry
- County Commissioner, Precinct 1 - George Conley
- County Commissioner, Precinct 3 - Larry Walden
- Constable, Precinct 1 - Ray Wright

- Constable, Precinct 2 - Joe Harris, Jr.
- Constable, Precinct 3 - Glen D. Praytor
- Constable, Precinct 4 - Scott Jones

### Hospital District

In races for Board of Directors for the Parker County Hospital District, Chad Lee (Precinct 1) and Debbie Barnett (Precinct 2) ran unopposed.

In Precinct 3, Sharon Hayes outpolled Larry Milhollon 12,650 to 3,430.

Justin Lisle took the Precinct 4 position over Gloria Gilbert Barron, 10,351 to 6,489.

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Megan Hendricks  
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PHOTO COURTESY FIRST BANK TEXAS

The Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) — the largest state community banking association in the nation — recently honored First Bank Texas in Willow Park with two Best of Community Banking (BOCB) Awards. It received a Gold Eagle Award for its “That’s My Bank!” marketing entry and a Silver Eagle Award for its “Serving Through PPP” community service entry. The Best of Community Banking competition is designed to honor local banks for their commitment to helping their customers, neighbors, employees, and community.

## Obituaries



**Bobby France**

Bobby Ray France was born Dad was a loyal husband and father. Mom lost sight in her other eye in 1985 so dad retired at age 51 to take care of her. Mom and Dad traveled the world extensively and dad picked up languages easily. He earned his private pilot’s license and loved to ride motorcycles. Dad was a very humble man, never wanting to inconvenience anyone. He was

the epitome of honesty and truth in all of his life’s dealings. He was a great story teller and had an awesome sense of humor.

Over the last couple of years, dad’s greatest joy seemed to come when his granddaughters and great-granddaughters were in town. He liked nothing better than holding his great-granddaughters.

Bobby Ray France was a husband of 63 years to his beloved Zelda France, who preceded him in death in 2020, a father to Robert Ray France Jr (deceased 1983), Scott and Dennis and their wives Kittie and Silvia. Mom and dad were grandparents to Katelyn, Jennifer and Colton and great grandparents of Palmer, Teagan and Jane.

On behalf of the France Family, we would like to thank Robert Ybarra and the team at AmeriCare for providing companion care. We would like to thank the team at Harvest of Aledo for taking care of him when his condition worsened. We would like to thank April and Rho from Saint Gabriel’s Hospice for providing Hospice care his last couple of months of life. And most of all we praise God in all of his mercy, for not allowing dad to suffer. Kittie and I would also like to thank Monsignor Publius who accompanied us during this most difficult of times.

The Community News  
November 8, 2024



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/COMMUNITY NEWS

Mural artist Ric Montgomery finishes a National Cutting Horse Association logo on what will become a giant art installment north-east of the Parker County Courthouse on the east side of City Pharmacy. The finished mural will have five mounted cutting horse legends, four men and a woman, thundering towards the viewer.

## VETERAN

from page one

impressive military career and dedication to service exemplify the values we celebrate on this important day.”

The ceremony will be emceed by Dr. Lauren Tidwell, WC’s dean of humanities and science and US Army veteran, with remarks given by Scott Butler, WC alumnus and US Marine veteran. Current WC student veterans will present the US military flags.

The Kramer Veterans Flag Plaza is located on the Weatherford College campus at 225 College Park Drive.

The plaza is on the south side of the Academic Building, east of the Doss Student Center. The event is free and open to the public. Visitor parking is available in the North Lot off East Park Avenue.

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### Mail:

P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008

### Physical:

1015 Champions Drive, Aledo, TX

### Phone:

817-441-7661

### Web:

www.community-news.com

### PUBLISHER/EDITOR

#### Randy Keck

rkeck@community-news.com

Direct Line: 817-386-1469

### DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

#### Loydale Schmid

lschmid@community-news.com

Direct Line: 817-386-1467

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

#### Tate Shepard

business@community-news.com

### STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Amos - Features/Photography

Kathy Chruscielski - Photography

John English - Features

Laura Finer - Page and Ad Design

Richard Henderson - Commentary

Rick Mauch - News and Sports

Breleigh Mayer - Photography

Kristin Morales - Photography

Ryan Wade - News and Sports

Jim Zimmermann - News and Sports

### CONTACT POINTS

#### Billing

billing@community-news.com

Pay bills at [community-news.com/billpay/](http://community-news.com/billpay/)

#### Ad Design Materials

production@community-news.com

#### Purchase Advertising

sales@community-news.com

#### Legal Notices

legal@community-news.com

#### Subscription Questions

business@community-news.com

[community-news.com/subscribe/](http://community-news.com/subscribe/)

#### Announcements, News, Obituaries

news@community-news.com

[www.community-news.com/submissions/](http://www.community-news.com/submissions/)

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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

# Insurance hikes make affordable housing tougher



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

A growing number of Texas homeowners are forgoing buying homeowners insurance as premiums skyrocket, according to a recent report from the Texas comptroller.

Recent natural disasters – hurricanes, severe storms and wildfires – have prompted some insurers to limit or even eliminate coverage in Texas. Daniel Oney, research director of the Texas Real Estate Research Center at Texas A&M University, says premium increases in Texas have outpaced the rest of the country.

“At the end of 2023, Texas had the biggest percentage point increase of any state in the last five years,” he said. “You file claims, the insurance companies pay that, then they have to get that covered by the reinsurers. So, some of the price increases we’re seeing now are from storms that happened a couple of years ago.”

Oney said a “surprisingly large number of people” are choosing not to have insurance once their home is paid for. Mortgage lenders require homeowner insurance, but there is no requirement to do so once a home is paid for.

The high cost of insurance is just one factor affecting the state’s housing shortage, which is driving up home prices and rental costs. *The Texas Tribune* reported that in 2022 the state needed about 320,000 more homes than existed, according to an estimate by Up For Growth, a housing policy organization.

“While Texas has been building a lot of housing overall, in many places, it just has not been enough to keep up with demand in the state and people moving in from out of state,” said David Garcia, Up For Growth’s policy director.

### Northeast Texas officials attack reservoir study

A recent study by the Texas Water Development Board on the long-proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir is under attack by northeast Texas officials, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. The proposed 66,000-acre lake would be built in Franklin, Red River and Titus counties to pump water more than 100 miles to the Dallas-Fort Worth area at an estimated cost of \$7 billion. It has been on the state’s planning books since 1968, drawing staunch opposition from landowners and officials in the affected counties.

The Region D water planning group, which represents those counties, said the draft report is biased and misleading. Opponents of the reservoir say it would destroy homes, farms, churches and cemeteries while not providing any benefit for people living in that area. Proponents say the reservoir is a solution to Dallas-Fort Worth’s growing water needs as its population continues to boom.

“It’s a flawed project. It should not go forward,” Jim Thompson, chair of the Region D planning group, said. “It should be removed from the state water plan.”

Kevin Ward, the chair of Region C, which represents the metroplex area, said the concerns of northeast Texas residents have been heard.

“We’ve heard it, so you’ve got to believe that if we thought there was another way to do what we’re

trying to do right now ... we’d certainly latch onto it as fast as we could,” he said.

### Texas buys two ranches near the border

The state General Land Office announced last week that it has bought a massive ranch in the Big Bend Region and a smaller ranch in Starr County, *The Tribune* reported. The 353,785-acre Brewster Ranch that borders Big Bend National Park is a collection of 28 ranches put together by its previous owner over two decades. Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham said the ranch could be used for hunting, agriculture, and carbon sequestration.

“With such a beautiful and expansive property, the GLO has the opportunity to generate many forms of revenue for the schoolchildren of Texas,” she said in a statement.

Also purchased was a 1,400-acre ranch in Starr County, along the Texas-Mexico border. The state plans to build a border wall on the property to deter illegal migration.

### Battleship Texas still looking for a new home

The U.S.S. Texas has been undergoing repairs at a dry dock near Galveston after the Legislature approved \$25 million to keep the ship seaworthy, but wharves officials have rejected a proposal to dock it there permanently, according to the Texas Standard.

The battleship is the only one still in existence that served in both World Wars. For decades it was docked in the Houston Ship Channel near the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site and served as a museum. Over the years it developed leaks and was in danger of sinking before it was towed to a dry dock in

Galveston for renovation. The Texas is currently berthed next to the Elissa, the official tall ship of Texas.

However, there has been a backlash from business owners near the ship, who are concerned that if not moored correctly the ship could cause damage if a hurricane or tropical storm struck Galveston.

Repairs likely will take at least another year, during which the ship’s supporters hope to find a permanent location for the venerable vessel.

### RRC digitizes more than 83 million oil and gas records

The ongoing effort by the Texas Railroad Commission to digitize its oil and gas records continues, with 83.4 million now searchable online from any place with an internet connection. The records date back to the 1930s and include oil and gas production records, such as well depths and location of producing fields.

“Putting millions and millions of oil and gas records online is a win-win for the public and the agency,” said Danny Sorrells of the commission. “Not only does it give the public easy access to historical information dating back almost 100 years, but our staff can now devote the time they would have spent tracking those records for the public for other tasks at the agency.”

The link to the digitized records can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/msmtst86>.

*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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com)*

## Idle American

# Our Annual Popcorn Rush



Dr. Don Newbury

newbury@speakerdoc.com

Carl Sandburg--his poetry collections winning three Pulitzer Prizes--warmed the hearts of Americans with his beautiful description of how tides roll in, “on little cat feet.”

He would be hard-pressed to similarly describe crowd’s arrivals at our house each year on October 31. They’re in all shapes, sizes, ages and all manner of dress--but, unlike fog--they arrive as if on tidal waves, eager to gather their popcorn. Only a handful say “thank you.”

Before you think ill of today’s youth, let me quickly add that mere “thank yous” don’t seem to be enough; most add two words: “Thank you very much,” or something akin thereto.

This marked the 23rd annual popcorn giveaway at our home in Burleson and our 50th year to use popcorn as calling cards or welcome mats. We love these evenings of smiles in an atmosphere of goodwill, when ugly politics and an atmosphere of general negativity are tossed aside for a few hours.

Involved in it all are parents and grandparents, smiling as they watch their youngsters respond with gracious expressions of thanks, even though more treats beckon down the street. They seem highly organized-- perhaps utilizing GPS thingies, maps and records--of specific addresses where abundant “loot” is found



Premiere Poet Carl Sandburg

annually. These kids act as if they fear that Santa Claus might be hovering nearby, making a list of who was naughty and nice.

We don’t “keep score” on numbers of visitors. We’ll admit, though, that our inventory of small bags (we called them “nickel bags” in days of yore) was reduced by 600 and our stash of popcorn now is 75 pounds lighter. This event is invariably “good medicine” for us. Seeing families arrive with youngsters--their attention to courtesy in play--does a body good. This year, a half-dozen friends helped fill bags and marvel with us at the creativity. We’ll use the age-old description used long ago in small “personals” printed in newspapers across the land: “A good time was had by all.”

Some said they’ve dropped by for Halloween snacks since “day one;” others said they were attracted by the aroma wafting throughout the neighborhood. This counters my wife’s description used across the years; she insists on calling it an “odor.”

There were “oohs and ahhs” aplenty, particularly for toddlers

barely able to walk alone. Some said nothing, but knew to extend their bags for popcorn deposits. (One kid, perhaps a first-grader, asked if he could “borrow” a bigger bag. It was a request easily granted.)

Many costumes were lit by batteries; some were inflated. A heart-warmer was a four-year-old lad. He wasn’t costumed, but carried a sign made from cardboard, attached to a sawed-off yardstick. On it were these words, scrawled with a magic marker: “Will Work for Candy.”

Have we ever seen seasons so “rushed” by store holiday displays? One seen recently promoted Halloween, Thanksgiving AND Christmas. One pharmacy, however, was unadorned. Pictured, though, was a photo of a handsome dog, perhaps a pharmacy mascot. I asked if the dog had a name. “Rex” was the answer.

I should have known. It was clearly shown on his nametag. Spelling, though, was unexpected. “RX.”

I’ll close out this week remembering Sandburg, who was to poetry what Norman Rockwell was to artistry in his scenes of Americana on the covers of *The Saturday Evening Post* magazine.

Sandburg was never thought of as an academician. In fact, he lasted just two weeks at West Point, posting bad marks in both mathematics and grammar.

I suffered similarly in mathematics, but made acceptable grades in grammar. Before suggesting that Carl may have spent too much time in the fog, who is to say that he didn’t gain knowledge that isn’t reflected on college transcripts? Obviously, many people thought so. President Lyndon B. Johnson called him “America” when Sandburg died in 1967 at age 89

*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](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Website: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com).*



CROSS COUNTRY

## Aledo teams compete at state

### Ladycats finish third

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

For a second consecutive season the Aledo Ladycats and Bearcats completed at the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock on Saturday, Nov. 2.

The Ladycats placed third as a team, scoring 145 points. Comal Smithson Valley won the state championship with 54 points, followed by defending state champion Lucas Lovejoy with 97.

The race was expected to be a showdown between Lovejoy and 2023 runner-up Aledo, but Smithson Valley pulled off the surprise.

"We knew they were good. I figured they'd be top three," Aledo coach Mike Pinkerton said. "We ran against them earlier this year and they beat us, so I knew they were good."

The Bearcats placed 12th with 259 points. Lovejoy won the boys championship with 77 points and Boerne was second with 137.

The Ladycats were led by junior Molly Garrison. She placed sixth

individually with a time of 18 minutes, 16.6 seconds over the 5K course, earning all-state honors.

Sophomore Tyler Connally paced the Bearcats, placing 14th individually, clocking a 16:01.1.

"They did a great job. I am so proud of them," Pinkerton said of his team. "We actually had one girl who ran half the race with one shoe on. That's the kind of dedication these kids have."

Three Ladycats finished in the top 15, with sophomore Micah Neal placing 12th in 18:42.7 and junior Mykel Murry taking 15th in 18:54.5. Also, junior Sofia Brandenburg was 87th, 20:15.9; junior Madison Larson, 99th, 20:38.1; and sophomore Mayden Mitchell, 107th, 20:44.0. Sophomore Kjersten Loy also competed but did not finish the race.

For Garrison and Brandenburg, it was their third time to compete at state.

The only two seniors running for Aledo were both on the Bearcats. Jack Fink, in his fourth straight

Turn to **STATE**, page 7



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
The Aledo Ladycats and Bearcats competed at the Class 5A State Cross Country Meet Saturday, Nov. 2 at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. The Ladycats placed third, led by Molly Garrison's sixth-place individual finish, while the Bearcats placed 12th.

FOOTBALL

## Bearcats look for another perfect league run



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kaden Winkfield jumps over an Azle player into the endzone.

### Broncos come to town

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats clinched their 17th consecutive district championship last week with a 77-14 win at Azle. Now, as they prepare for their 29th straight postseason appearance, they have one more task in the regular season.

The Bearcats (8-1, 7-0 in District 3-5A Division I) host the Denton Broncos (2-7, 1-6) Friday night at 7 at Tim Buchanan Stadium. A win will give Aledo its 127th straight league victory dating to 2008, a national record.

In a game such as this, with all due respect to Denton, a complete mismatch, the greatest risk is avoiding injury. Also, Aledo coach Robby Jones doesn't want his team to get lethargic one week before facing Saginaw Chisholm Trail (7-2) at home in bidistrict on Nov. 15.

"It's our opponent this week. We have to prepare like we would for anyone else, but we're also preparing for beyond," Jones said.

The Broncos, meanwhile, are playing out a season that saw them take a step backward. After reaching the postseason a year ago, albeit with a 4-7 record, they have half as many victories this season with their lone league victory coming last week against last-place Granbury.

### Previous meetings

The previous two contests between the Bearcats and Broncos were anything but close. However, both were area (second round) playoff games.

Aledo won 49-17 in 2014 and 52-3 in 2015.

### Another high-scoring season

The Bearcats come into the game having outscored their opponents 474-155 this season, an average of 52.7 to 17.2. They have scored at least 30 points in every game and in 14 straight games dating to last season.

On the other hand, the Broncos have been outscored 378-159, an average of 42-17.7.

Turn to **FOOTBALL**, page 9

### Game at a glance

Denton (2-7, 1-6 in District 3-5A Division I) at Aledo (8-1, 7-0)

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8, Tim Buchanan Stadium.

Last week: Aledo defeated Azle 77-14, Denton defeated Granbury 37-21.

Last season: Aledo went 16-0 and won Class 5A Division I state championship. Denton was 4-7 and lost in bidistrict.

All-time series: Aledo leads 2-0.

Returning starters: Denton 8 offensive/6 defensive, Aledo 3 offensive, 4 defensive.

Denton offensive players to watch: RB Reggie White (350 yards, 2 TD), WR Cole Sanders (27 catches, 432 yards, 2 TD).

Aledo offensive players to watch: WR Bayne Martin (burst onto the scene with 2 catches for 74 yards and two TD in his first varsity action of season), QB Nash McElree (30-of-41 on the season with 5 TD, 2 interceptions. Has completed 24 of his last 27 passes).

Denton defensive players to watch: LB Brian Michaud (69 tackles, 6 TFL, 2 sacks, interception), LB Abhi Bhandari (53 tackles, 4 TFL, 2 sacks, fumble recovery).

Aledo defensive players to watch: CB Alex Patton (16.5 tackles, 1.5 for loss, fumble recovery), DT Tymon Meeks (20 tackles, 3 for loss, 0.5 sacks, 4 QB hurries).

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**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.

**DECEMBER 2**

**2nd Annual "It's A Bearcat Christmas"**  
Come join us for a night of celebrating two of our favorite things, Christmas and our Bearcats 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-bearcat-christmas> 100% of proceeds go to Aledo Education

**DECEMBER 3**

**Willow Park Christmas Tree Lighting**  
Join the City of Willow 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**  
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>.

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- Mustang Island, e.g.
- TXism: "she's \_\_\_\_\_ ringed" (engaged)
- TXism: "suits \_\_\_\_\_ a fare-thee-well"
- San Antonio private college (abbr.)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ rat" (toddler)
- Sinatra of 1963 film "4 for Texas"
- TXism: "sitting in high cotton"
- TX J. King Fisher is buried in Uvalde's Cemetery
- TX Clint Black's "\_\_\_\_\_ Man"
- Coleman paper: Chronicle & Democrat
- SMU's James Cronin won 1980 Nobel Prize in this
- TXism: "feeling his \_\_\_\_\_" (frisky)
- actor Jack of "JFK"
- historic B&B in New Braunfels: "\_\_\_\_\_ Mansion Inn"
- "Baby Boomers" are \_\_\_\_\_ babies of WWII
- Dallas actress Darnell (init.)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Blancas" (The White Islands)
- TXism: "skinny as a \_\_\_\_\_"
- Texas-based "Steak and \_\_\_\_\_" eateries
- square dance move

**DOWN**

- TX Audie Murphy film: "Ride \_\_\_\_\_ Trail"
- Yoko \_\_\_\_\_
- once housed at Carswell AFB: B-52 \_\_\_\_\_ fortress
- oil-producing org.
- ex-Ranger pitcher Robb
- TXism: "wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ a flea" (tame dog)
- once an FM in Taylor, TX
- WWII atomic bomb plane (2 wds.)
- conjecture
- state buildings: \_\_\_\_\_-smoking
- two singers
- Texas-sized phone company
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ gift horse in the mouth"
- Mesquite FM radio
- TX George Jones' "The \_\_\_\_\_"
- dogs or cats
- top edge of Palo Duro Canyon
- where some Texans ski in New Mexico
- amass sports cards
- TXism: "fizzled out"
- former U.S. Senator, Gram (init.)
- Astro or Ranger "four bagger" (abbr.)
- Brynnar of "The Magnificent Seven"
- Rio Grande's first name: Rio de \_\_\_\_\_ Palmas
- what frat guys tap at a party (2 wds.)
- Grand Ole \_\_\_\_\_
- TXism: "top \_\_\_\_\_ on the ladder" (best)
- TXism: "scarce as grass \_\_\_\_\_ hog trough"
- TXism: "likely \_\_\_\_\_" (probable)
- this TX Gale was "My Little Margie" (init.)

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**CROSS COUNTRY**

**Several from Aledo all-region/all-state**

The Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas bestowed awards to the following Aledo athletes:

All-state girls: Molly Garrison, Micah Neal, Mykel Murry.

All-state boys: Tyler Connelly.

All-region girls: Garrison, Neal, Murry, Sophia Brandenburg.

All-region boys: Connelly, Jack Fink.

**FOOTBALL**

**AMS wins two district titles**

Aledo Middle School seventh-grade won a pair of district championships this season. The A team finished 7-1 and the C team was 6-1.

Results against McAnally Middle School:

Seventh grade: A team won 16-14, B team lost 13-8, C team won 19-18.

Eighth grade: A team won 24-8, B team lost 33-0.

Results vs. Mansfield Jones:

Seventh grade: A won 46-0, B won 39-6, C won 34-6.

Eighth grade: A team lost 26-16, B team lost 22-0.

Seventh-grade B finished 7-1 and second in district. Eighth-grade A was 8-1 and second in district and B was 5-4 and fourth.

Overall, the program record was 33-8 for the season and outscored their opponents 679-203.

**Weatherford freshmen Blue**

Defeated Boswell 38-12. Players of the Game, Fresh Pope and Enrique Vega.

Freshman blue team is 9-0.

**Weatherford Hall**

The seventh-grade A team finished undefeated and won the Lone Star 8 championship. The eighth-grade A team placed third.

Hall eighth B 14, Bursleson Nichols 14. Player of the Game, Hunter Smith, two interceptions on defense, two touchdown passes on offense.

**GOLF**

**Aledo teams win at Azle**

The Aledo junior varsity girls and the JV boys Black teams won first place in the Buzzy Open at Cross Timbers Golf Course recently.

Individually, Sydney Russell placed second in the girls and Makenna Ellison was third. Alec Dolman placed third the boys.

**JV Roos win in Bursleson**

The Weatherford JV Kangaroos placed first at the Elk Invitational at Hidden Creek Golf Course in Bursleson recently. The JV Lady Roos finished fourth overall.

Sophomore Mario Muniz placed first individually with a round of 83 and junior Tyler Harris was second with an 84.

Junior Hudson Boyd tied for third.

**FOOTBALL**

**Eagles dual-threat QB shining in final season**

**Kaznowski helping strengthen foundation of TCA football**

**By Geoff Heppes**  
The Community News

The road to rebuilding and improvement can be a long, winding road, whether it is in a competitive or a professional setting.

For the Trinity Christian Eagles football program, improvement has been noticeable in the midst of the 2024 football season. The Eagles have been largely led on the field and in the locker room by senior signal-caller Canaan Kaznowski, a dual-threat quarterback and transfer from Azle High School.

“The role of quarterback is nothing new to me – I have played quarterback my whole life,” Kaznowski said. “The thing that makes this year different, I would say, is that I’m more vocal compared to previous years. Also, I think a lot of that comes from being a senior and the experience I have. I know the team looks to me as their quarterback and I cannot fail to give them anything but my best effort.”

**More than on-field leader**

Through nine games this season, Kaznowski has produced 1,047 passing yards and seven aerial scores, along with 476 rushing yards on 84 carries (5.8 yards per carry) with seven scores on the ground. While the production of his arm and legs have come up big for the Eagles this season, his leadership in the locker room has been contagious with the rest of his team.

“I would say people are stepping up into leadership positions,” Kaznowski said. “Teammates are being more vocal in a good way. I think we all just got tired of losing

and getting thrown around. We changed our mindset to a ‘Let’s go out and win this game’ rather than just expecting another loss. We have the mindset to go out and win.”

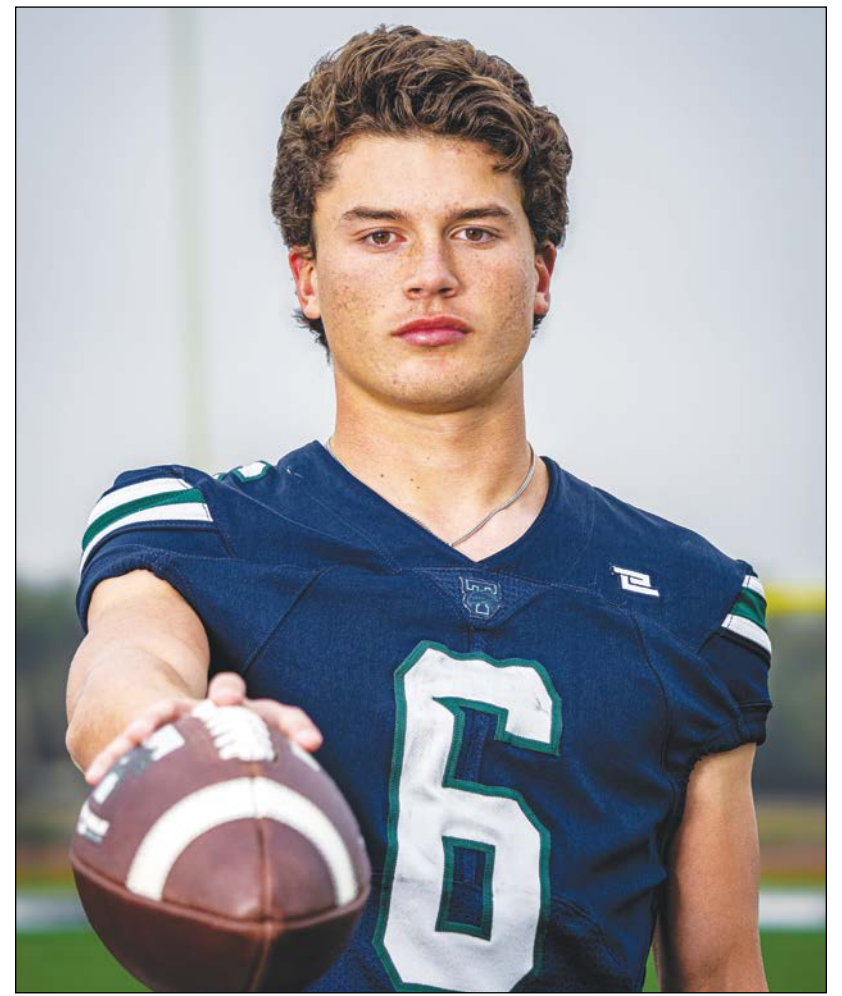
During their best stretch of the season, Kaznowski helped lead the Eagles to wins in two of three games. Trinity Christian scored a 42-27 victory at home over Bishop Gorman before losing a tight 26-24 contest to All Saints Episcopal. The Eagles followed that up with an impressive 56-36 romp over the Newman International Academy Warriors in front of their home fans.

Kaznowski discussed goals of putting up good statistics, being a reliable leader for his teammates on and off the field and winning as many games as possible as goals for the season. To his credit, the Eagles (2-7, 0-3) have as many wins as the previous two seasons combined and have scored more points through nine games (193) than that of the 2022 and 2023 seasons combined (181). In addition, the Eagles have two single-digit losses compared to zero from the past two seasons.

“I want to have fun and enjoy it since it’s my senior year,” Kaznowski said. “I want it to be my best year and to play each game with no regrets. As a team, we want to win as many games as possible, but we can’t get fully wrapped up in the win and loss columns. Football is a game that I feel exemplifies life more than any other game. There are times of joy, times of anger and times of regret. However, you have to power through and do your best no matter what. As a team, we want to be Godly men who can handle the struggles that both football and life will throw at us.”

**Creating memories**

Along with helping begin a potential turnaround process for the football program, Kaznowski said



RYAN WADE PHOTOGRAPHY

Dual-threat quarterback, Canaan Kaznowski has made a tremendous impact for the Eagles after transferring to Trinity Christian Academy for his senior year.

he will take many quality experiences and memories with him after this chapter of his life, citing the culture his coaches have created and the bonds he’s shared with his teammates coupled with the overall positive experience he’s had as an Eagles student-athlete. “Being a student athlete at TCA is certainly a difficult endeavor; however, it is not as bad as some may put it. Yes, there is a heavy workload, but it’s nothing you cannot handle. I would say what I have enjoyed the most about my experience thus far is the atmosphere TCA creates,” he said. “I feel like my coaches have played a huge role in that. All my coaches want us to have a genuine love for others and Jesus. They coach us in a way that

will not only set us up to win on the field, but also after football in life. In football, they tell us to play for the brother next to you.

“Each one of us relies on the man next to us to do their job so that the team will succeed as a whole. They also teach us that one day, our spouse and kids are going to rely on us, and it’s up to us in how we handle the situation.

“This emphasis on growing into not only good football players, but good, strong, confident and Godly young men is what I appreciate the most about my coaches,” he continued. “Yes, I am enjoying my time, especially my senior year. I am forever grateful to this coaching staff.”

**STATE**

from page 5

appearance at state, placed 27th with a time of 16:13.4. Also, Luke Schabel was 128th in 17:35.1, competing at state for a third time.

“We wouldn’t have gotten to state without them,” Pinkerton said of the seniors. “They have meant so much to this program.”

Also for the Bearcats, junior Ian Robbins, 115th, 17:21.1; junior

Dominick Barrera, 118th, 17:23.8; junior Landon Eaton, 120th, 17:25.8; and freshman Thatcher Pettit, 141st, 18:00.3.

“These kids are absolutely fantastic. They work so hard,” Pinkerton said. “They deserve every accolade they get. And again, I am so proud of them.”

Last season was the first for Aledo to get both the girls and boys complete teams to state. With the talent returning, the

chance for a third straight year seems plausible in 2025.

“That’s the plan,” Pinkerton said with a smile. “And to keep doing it for years.”

Then, he added, “Also, a big thanks to all of our parents, as well as our booster club for making this season run so smoothly. The teams will now get some well-deserved time off before we gear back up for track season.”

**Boone represents Lady Roos at state**

Remington Boone of the Weatherford Lady Kangaroos made her debut at the Class 6A State Cross Country Meet at Old Settlers Park on Friday, Nov. 1. The sophomore finished 24th in a field of 148 runners.

Boone clocked a time of 18 minutes, 35.9 seconds over the 5K course.

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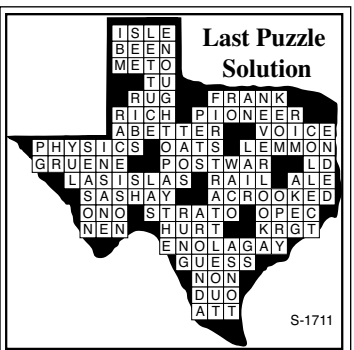
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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

The City of Aledo ("City") is pleased to issue this Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") to identify experienced and qualified firms to provide on-call professional services for future projects.

The City is requesting Statements of Qualifications ("SOQ") regarding professional services across various disciplines including General Engineering, Stormwater Drainage Design, Water/Sewer Utility Design, Right-of-way/Property Services, Landscaping Design, and Construction Materials Testing & Special Inspection as more fully defined in this RFQ.

Submittals will only be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024.

**Bid # PW-2024-007**

**CITY OF ALEDO – RFQ FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

RFQ documents may be obtained in person from Aledo City Hall, 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, Texas 76008, or downloaded at www.aledotx.gov. RFQ documents will be ready for pickup on and after November 8, 2024.

The City's website will be updated with addenda, additional reports, or other information relevant to the RFQ. It is the sole responsibility of all plan holders, whether they have received digital downloads or paper copies of the plans and specifications, to periodically check for addenda that may have been posted on the City's website.

There will be a non-mandatory, pre-submittal conference on November 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM. The pre-submittal conference will be held at the Aledo Community Center Conference Room, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas 76008.

Interested firms should submit all inquiries and/or questions concerning this RFQ to the person identified below by Monday, November 25, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. Questions that result in changes to the RFQ will be answered in writing and copies distributed to bidders of record in the form of an addendum.

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Aledo, Texas 76008  
817.441.7016  
lgatica@aledotx.gov

Advertisement dates:  
November 8, 2024  
November 15, 2024  
November 22, 2024

**Notice of Public Hearings**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment of the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas will conduct public hearings in the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas.

**Public Hearings**  
Location:

**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
Aledo Community Center  
104 Robinson Court  
Aledo, Texas 76008

Date:  
Time:

Thursday, November 14, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the hearings is to receive input regarding consideration of the following:

- 1) Public Hearing to consider and recommend amendment to Landscaping and Screening standards in the City of Aledo, Unified Development Code (UDC); and
- 2) Public Hearing to consider and recommend amendment to Article 4, Signage, standards in the City of Aledo, Unified Development Code (UDC)

**Public Hearing**  
Location:

**Board of Adjustment**  
Aledo Community Center  
104 Robinson Court  
Aledo, Texas 76008

Date:  
Time:

Thursday, November 21, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive input regarding consideration of the following:

- 1) Public Hearing to consider the variance request for the proposed project Vanguard Preparatory School located along Bailey Ranch Road, adjacent to the Parks of Aledo (POA) Point Vista single-family subdivision, John G. Wray Survey, Abstract 1639, and being identified by the Parker County Appraisal District as Parcel R59815. The request is seeking a variance from the screening requirement between a commercial use and a residential use.

For further information or questions regarding these public hearings, please contact the City of Aledo at (817)441-7016.

Published in *The Community News* and posted at Aledo City Hall on November 8, 2024.

Staci L. King, City Secretary

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MERCEDES MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ladycats celebrate their win in the bi-district championship game.

## LADYCATS

from page 12

blocks while Lowe ended the night with eight kills and three blocks.

Now, the resilient, senior-laden Ladycats look to keep their dreams of a long postseason run alive one match at a time after a difficult preseason, a dominant district run and plenty of hard work during practices.

"It's very important because the past two years have been

amazing with them," Todd said of the seniors. "And, we have the opportunity this year out of all years to go far in the playoffs. It'll be special with them."

The Ladycats marched onto the area round where they were facing off against the Burseson Lady Elks (24-15) at press time at the Arlington Athletics Center.

To continue reading visit: <https://www.community-news.com/stories/ladycats-claim-bi-district-championship,98619>

## CROSS COUNTRY

# TCA teams compete at TAPPS state

### Girls fifth, boys sixth

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Willow Park Trinity Christian cross country season came to an end at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 4A State Meet at Cottonwood Creek Golf Club in Waco on Oct. 28.

The Lady Eagles placed fifth and the Eagles were sixth.

The top individual runner for TCA was Boren Merrill of the Eagles. He was second with a time of 16 minutes, 53.28 seconds over the 5K course.

The Lady Eagles had two runners in the top 10. Emma Saadeh was seventh with a clocking of 13:33.37 over 2 miles, with Olivia Quinn eighth in 13:43.69.

Also for the Eagles, Henry Reynolds, 24th, 18:52.26; Jonah Brown, 30th, 19:09.02; Jonas O'Dell, 34th, 19:10.82; Tripp Morgan, 90th, 20:58.85; Harrison Brown, 92nd, 21:02.58; and Luke Harless, 118th, 21:42.23.

Also for the Lady Eagles, Ellery Wright, 50th, 15:16.73; Isabell

Hooper, 70th, 15:57.89; and Kara Whiteaker, 92nd, 16:33.26.

### Victory Baptist's Gieger ninth

In the Class 2A division, Weatherford Victory Baptist's Tianna Geiger placed ninth among the girls with a time of 14:02.51 over 2 miles.

Also competing for the Victory girls, Brooklyn Kennedy, 20th, 15:08.05; Landree Leake, 30th, 15:58.08; Meredith Earp, 79th, 20:55.72; and Avery Crawford, 89th, 23:12.61.

Jaylen Donald ran for the Victory boys, placing 38th over the 5K course with a time of 21:12.12.

### Weatherford Christian

The Lions and Lady Lions competed in the 3A division.

Running for the Lady Lions were Evelyn Woody, 44th, 19:23.82; and Brinley Burbidge, 45th, 19:27.70. The girls ran a 2-mile course.

The Lions were represented by Gavn Prickett, 62nd, 24:27.61; Owen Gray, 66th, 25:24.06; and Wyatt Liebrum, 78th, 31:22.10. The boys' course was 5K.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### VOLLEYBALL

#### AMS district finishes

Aledo Middle School seventh-grade B team won district. The eighth-grade A and B were each second, and the seventh A was third.

#### WC runs table in conference

The Weatherford College volleyball team completed an undefeated conference schedule Saturday, Nov. 2 in Hillsboro, sweeping Hill College to finish 14-0 in the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference and 27-5 overall in their final match of the regular season.

WC, ranked No. 5 in the country and NTJAC champions for the third year in a row, will be a top seed in the Region V Tournament held this weekend at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell. The top four teams in the NTJAC will fill a bracket along with the top four from the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

The Coyotes began the double-elimination tournament against Frank Phillips College, the fourth seed from the WJAC, at press time.

All Region V Tournament matches will be livestreamed on [tsbnsports.com](https://tsbnsports.com).

In Saturday's match against Hill, Weatherford won 25-20, 25-16, 25-13.

Weronika Urbanska was a force for the Coyotes, turning in 17 kills and adding eight digs. Lorena Gomez had 19 assists along with Victoria Sanchez's 18. Kiana Souza had 13 digs.

Weatherford finished the regular season with 16 straight wins and 17 total sweeps. This is only the third season of intercollegiate volleyball at WC.

#### Weatherford Hall teams win district

The Hall eighth-grade and seventh-grade A team each finished undefeated and won their district championships.

Eighth grade vs. Cleburne: A team won 25-22, 25-11; B team won 14-25, 25-23, 25-21. Players of the Match, the whole team for both.

Seventh grade vs. Acton: A team won 25-17, 25-15, Players of the Match, Emily White and Kinsley Lowrimore; B team won 24-26, 25-16, 15-8, Players of the Match, whole team.

#### Tison vs. Cleburne/Burseson Nichols

Seventh grade vs. Cleburne: A team lost 25-17, 25-19; B team lost 22-25, 25-19, 15-11, Players of the Match, whole team.

Eighth grade vs. Nichols: A Team lost 25-19, 25-23, Players of the Match, Mayiah Polk, Caroline Couch and Taylor Schumacher; B team won 25-18, 25-15, Players of the Match, Shelby Sutton and McKenna Adkins.

For full Sports Briefs visit: <https://www.community-news.com/stories/sports-briefs-nov-8,98649?>

## BEARCATS

from page 5

In defeating Granbury 37-21, they scored 30 points for the first time in 13 games.

Also, the Bearcats are coming off their highest scoring game since defeating Dallas Hillcrest 77-0 in a bidistrict game in 2021 - a week after they ended the regular season by defeating Cleburne 77-7.

"I think it was our kids being more focused," Jones said of the win at Azle, which was 7-1 coming into the game. "They took going to overtime against Richland (a 49-42 victory) to heart. They wanted to make sure when they stepped on the field the next time they were prepared. Also, the coaches amped up practice and that helped."

### Milestones within reach

Several milestones are within reach for the Bearcats in this game. Wide receiver Kaydon Finley needs 110 yards to reach 1,000. He has 54 catches for 890 yards with 13 touchdowns.

On defense, linebackers Owen Henderson (45.5) and Chase Wilburn (44) can reach 50 tackles with a big game.

Last week, running back Raycine Guillory surpassed 1,000 yards (1,039) and quarterback Gavin Beard's four touchdown passes surpassed 20 TD mark (21) despite missing two games with an injury.

### Bidistrict matchups

The Bearcats are set to host Chisholm Trail and fourth-place Azle (7-2) or Richland (7-2) will face District 4-5A Division I champion Saginaw (9-0). The Hornets and Royals are playing Friday night in Richland with the winner facing the winner between Fort Worth Arlington Heights (8-1) and Paschal (7-2).

Denton Ryan (8-1) will face the Heights-Paschal loser.

### Subvarsity

The Aledo junior varsity A and B combined to defeat Azle 40-6. The freshmen A won 41-14 over the Hornets, while the freshmen B defeated Granbury 49-0.

Both Aledo JV teams are undefeated at 9-0, as are the freshmen B. The freshmen A are 8-1 and have won eight straight since falling to Denton Guyer in the season opener.

### Rankings

Once again the Bearcats are the No. 1 team in Texas in Class 5A Division I. Ryan is No. 3 again this week and Richland remained No. 10.

Nationally, the Bearcats slipped two spots to No. 79.

### District 3-5A Division I

	District	Overall	PF/PA
X-Aledo	7-0	8-1	474-155
Y-Denton Ryan	6-1	8-1	408-163
Y-Richland	5-2	7-2	426-226
Y-Azle	5-2	7-2	356-336
Brewer	3-4	3-6	216-283



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Gavin Beard throws a pass in the game vs Azle.

Birdville	2-5	3-6	249-380
Fossil Ridge	3-5	3-7	229-407
Denton	1-6	2-7	159-378
Granbury	0-7	1-8	133-327

Ryan 31, Brewer 7  
Richland bye

### This week's games

(All at 7 p.m.)  
Friday, Nov. 8  
Denton at Aledo  
Birdville at Ryan  
Brewer at Granbury  
Azle at Richland  
Fossil Ridge season over

### Last week's results

Aledo 77, Azle 14  
Fossil Ridge 44, Birdville 31  
Denton 37, Granbury 21

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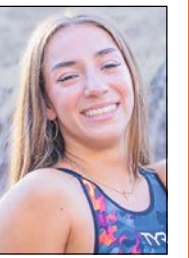




# LADYCATS OF THE WEEK



**Haley Roberson and Victoria Crews**  
**Swimming**



Each swimmer won four events in a meet in Granbury to lead the Ladycats to first place.

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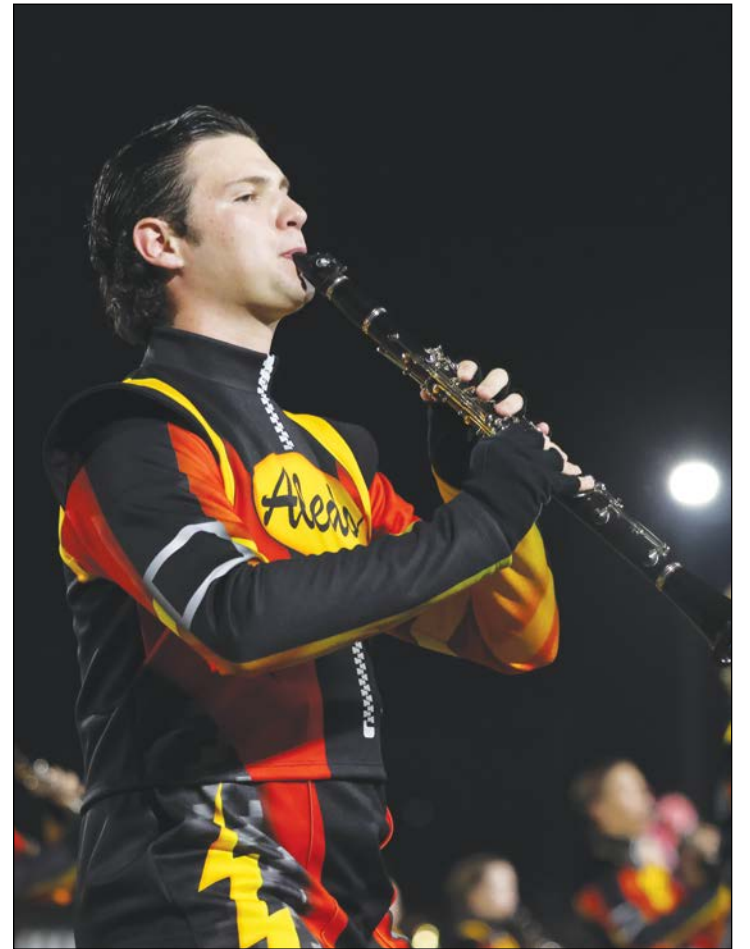
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# BEARCATS OF THE WEEK



**Kai Taylor and Chase Wilburn**  
**Football**

Taylor, a senior, and Wilburn, a junior, each returned an interception for a touchdown in the Bearcats' 77-14 win at Azle on Nov. 1 to clinch their 17th consecutive district championship.



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**Aledo 77**  
**Azle 14**

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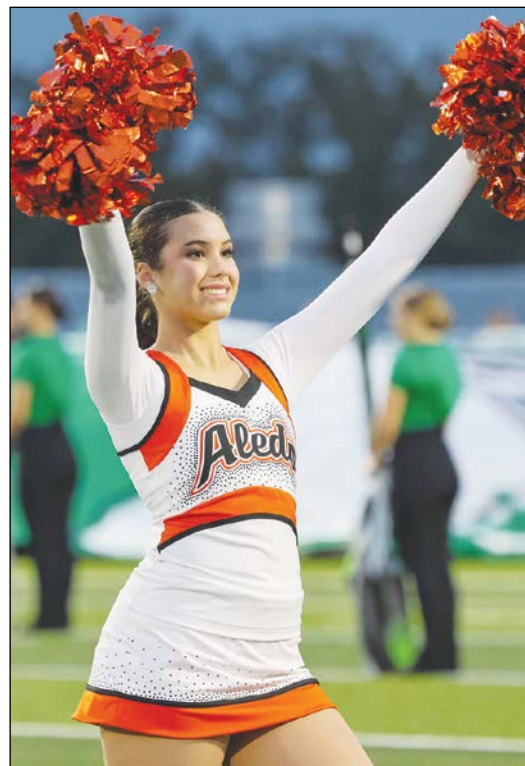
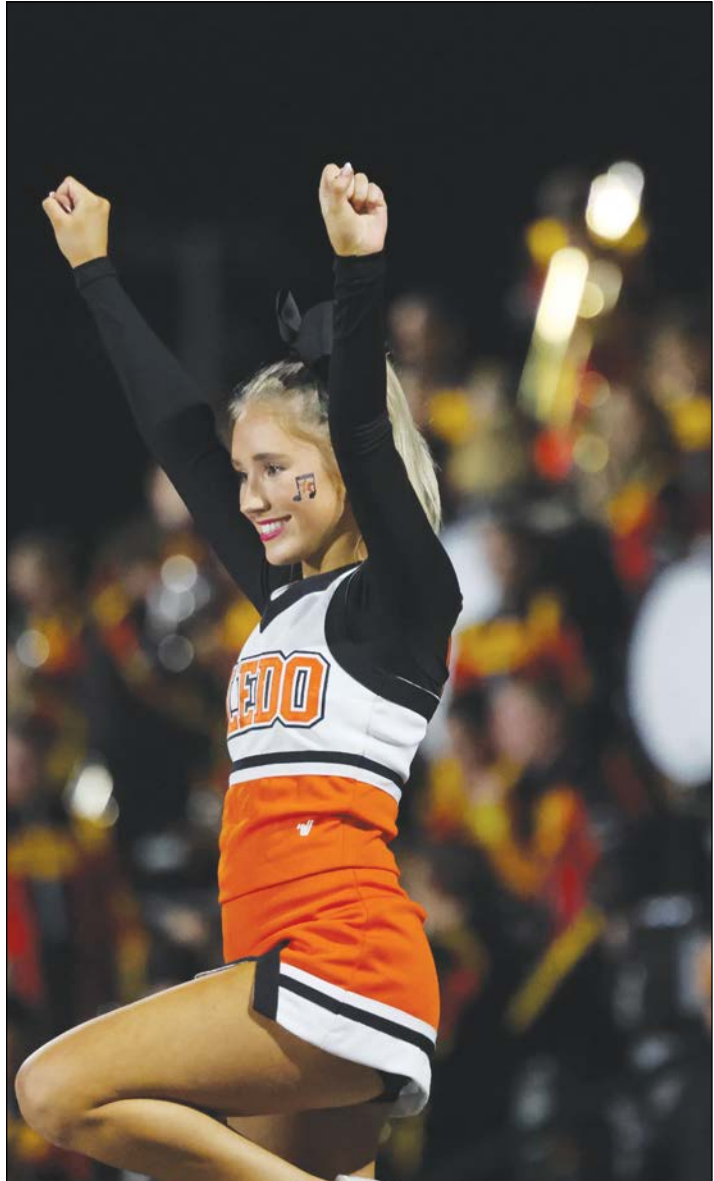


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VOLLEYBALL

# Ladycats claim bi-district championship

## Aledo beats Birdville as Burleson awaits in area

By Geoff Heppes  
The Community News

FORT WORTH – In a rematch from last year’s area round play-off bout, the No. 6 state-ranked Aledo Ladycats squared off against the Birdville Lady Hawks for an opportunity to claim the bi-district championship of Class 5A Region I Tuesday night at the Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center.

The Ladycats (32-7) were dominant in the opening two sets, but needed a little extra juice to get the job done in the end, as Birdville (25-9) handed Aledo its first defeat in a set since August. However, the Ladycats answered the bell emphatically with a resounding fourth-set victory, claiming the bi-district crown by a final score of 25-22, 25-16, 24-26 and 25-10.

“Going into this match, we knew we were going to have to swing big against them because of how good and scrappy they are,” Ladycats head coach Claire Gay said. “We tried to capitalize on our offense and we have some really good offensive threats, so we just tried to keep everybody involved.”

The Ladycats built an early first-set lead following that exact formula with different players contributing to the winning effort. Senior middle Haley Lowe connected on a huge kill following an overpass that gave Aledo a 13-7 advantage. Then, star junior outside hitter Alyssa Todd put down a kill that ended a 4-1 spurt from Birdville, giving the Ladycats a 15-11 cushion. After that, Todd put the ball away emphatically to end

one of many long rallies throughout the match on two occasions to keep Aledo’s lead at four points.

As Birdville continued to make its push, different players stepped up for Aledo. Senior middle Kinley Elms pounded the ball to the hardcourt from the right side and senior Morgan Estevez put away the deciding kill to give Aledo a 1-0 lead in sets.

Another upperclassman up front had her own block party at the net. Impactful senior middle Ella Isbell, who recorded a game-high 10 stuffs, got the crowd on its feet with a big block that gave Aledo a 3-0 lead to open the second set. After Birdville tightened the action later in the frame, Isbell blocked consecutive Birdville attacks for points that gave Aledo the lead back for good at 11-9.

“I thought our block stepped up huge tonight and was a big turning point for our game,” Gay said. “We were really efficient there and were able to slow the ball down or score points when we needed to.”

A few points later, a block from Elms and a service ace from senior setter Ava Reding extended the lead to 15-10 and, after Birdville scored the next point, Aledo closed out the set by scoring 10 of the next 16 points.

Each time the smaller Birdville team tried to make a run, Todd seemingly always had the answer at the net Aledo needed.

“I like it because I can just look to my teammates and know that they trust me to get the kills down,” Todd said. “If I don’t get it, then I know I can look to them again to get me the ball back and put it down.”

Then, Aledo looked as if they would win comfortably in straight

sets as the sixth-ranked Ladycats held a 20-12 lead, needing just five more points for their 15th consecutive straight-sets victory. Instead, the Lady Hawks rallied to take a 23-22 lead following a gutsy 11-2 run. Kills on consecutive possessions by Todd and Ali LoBaugh put Aledo ahead 24-23, but Birdville scored the final three points to make a match of it – trailing 2-1 in sets.

Although it was Aledo’s first defeat in a set since Aug. 30, the challenge was accepted and met with both optimism and resolve.

“We can look at it as something to help us come back to get the next set if we are in a situation like that going forward,” Todd said. “We know we can come back and grab a set after losing and not get down on ourselves.”

“We had a couple little lapses in the third set – we shouldn’t have had to go to four sets – but I thought we really took over in that fourth set,” Gay said. “We did what needed to be done in the fourth set even though it should have happened in the third set.”

From the opening serve of the fourth set, it was all Aledo. Todd produced two big blocks and Lowe followed with one of her own to help Aledo build a 9-5 lead. Later, Isbell put forth arguably the block of the night – an emphatic, solo, two-handed stuff – that completed a 9-1 Aledo run that put the score at 15-6. From there, Aledo continued to produce up front while the back line defenders, who were attentive and consistent the entire match – set up their offense for success to close the deal, playing as well as they did during the previous three sets. Whether it was a diving save by Ella Meador, an athletic dig from



MERCEDES MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Haley Lowe goes for a kill in the bi-district championship game.

Kenrie Pruitt or a watchful eye on the service line by Logyn Denbow, the back row provided a strong platform for the offense to succeed.

“They’ve done a phenomenal job all season long for us and really keep us in a lot of matches,” Gay said of her back row players. “They’re very efficient, they listen to instruction well and they adjust well against different types of hitters and offenses. A lot of the girls out there are three-year varsity starters who have a very high volleyball IQ, and they have been preparing for these moments. They can identify distance of serves, angles of attacks – that’s their experience taking over, for sure.”

Todd starred for Aledo with a game-high 23 kills, 21 digs and three blocks. Reding and junior setter Sophie Frank distributed the ball well to their hitters, combining for 41 assists. Pruitt, who tallied a team-high 22 digs, also did her part feeding the front line players with five out-of-system assists. The setters were also impactful defensively, as Reding recorded 10 digs and Frank finished with 13.

Meador and Denbow compiled 18 and eight digs, respectively, while LoBaugh and Estevez combined for 13 digs. Elms was strong once again off the right side with 13 kills and six

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