

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## More trophies for the case!



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Beacats won the District 3-5A Division I football championship trophy.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Ladycats celebrate with the Class 5A Region 1 trophy.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

## Board approves land sale

### New degree also added

By Crystal Woerly  
Weatherford College

The Weatherford College Board of Trustees approved the sale of 5.063 acres on the northwest corner of BB Fielder Road and South Main Street for \$2.25 million at their November meeting.

The board previously approved listing a total of 45.682 acres of the Carter property located north of BB Fielder to recoup expenses for the purchase of property on Martin Drive and East Park Avenue.

Three options were listed in the college's request for proposals: the purchase of the entire tract of land, the purchase of 40.619 acres, or the purchase of 5.063 acres.

Four proposals were submitted, with three being rejected at this time. The college will continue to seek proposals for the remaining 40.619 acres.

### New degree

The board also approved a new Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technology. The new degree is a step up from the phlebotomy technology program and the next level within a medical lab at a hospital or physician's office setting.

This new degree will fill a gap in the local healthcare workforce. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates 29,140 jobs in Texas with an average wage of \$57,080 per year. Data for WC's five-county service area shows 2,510 jobs currently with this title and a 5.1 percent growth rate from 2024 to 2026. With 224 annual job openings and only 10 graduates within the last year at a local higher education institution, this program will provide highly sought-after skills and career opportunities for WC students.

### In other business the board:

- Approved the minutes from the Oct. 10 meeting.
- Approved the financial reports ending Oct. 31.
- Approved the annual review of the local policy on appropriations and revenue sources.
- Approved a clarification of the new student center fee.
- Approved a buyboard co-op contract proposal from Professional Turf Products on the lease of equipment for Canyon West Golf Course.
- Approved MOUs and agreements with state entities.
- Approved a quote from Carahsoft Technology for Arctic Wolf managed detection and response information security services.

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ALEDO

## City achieves bond rating upgrade

### Officials cite economic growth, population expansion ahead

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The City of Aledo announced that, as of Nov. 18, Standard & Poor's (S&P) has elevated its bond credit rating from AA to AA+, with a stable outlook. This upgrade represents a substantial

achievement for the city, enabling reduced interest costs on future debt obligations.

"I was delighted to receive the news of the bond rating upgrade from S&P," Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley said. "This acknowledgment underscores Aledo's strong governance and our commitment to effective financial management in recent years."

The upgrade is a result of S&P's evaluation of Aledo's growing local economy, which exhibits

encouraging prospects for both tax base enhancement and population growth. The city's solid financial performance, highlighted by reserves exceeding 100% of revenues, is anticipated to continue, city officials note.

S&P acknowledged that Aledo's financial strategy includes a stable ad valorem (property) tax base and ongoing residential and commercial construction, driving double-digit increases in taxable assessed valuation. The

city management utilizes historical data to inform revenue and expenditure projections.

City leaders cited that Aledo has established formal policies for investments and reserves while developing strategies to effectively navigate future financial landscapes alongside expected economic advancements.

A detailed analysis and comprehensive report on this upgrade is available online at [aledotx.gov/BondRatings](http://aledotx.gov/BondRatings).

ENTERTAINMENT

## Aledo resident shows acting talent

### 'God's Here' was debut role

By John English  
The Community News

When the movie "God's Here" began filming in Granbury last year, it spawned the potential beginning of a new acting career for one Aledo resident.

Lola Gianna plays the role of Krissy in the Billy McAdams, Jr. film that revolves around a personal tragedy endured by a family during the Christmas season.

Gianna, 21, has not taken a single acting class and has no formal training, but shined in her role as the rebellious teen whose poor and fateful decision altered the course of her life forever.

"Most aspiring actors and actresses find their way with some kind of formal training and benefit significantly from the structured learning environment of an acting school," McAdams said. "Lola, however, relied on natural talent, real-world experience, and sheer determination to carve out an incredible performance in God's Here."

### Help from above

For Gianna, it was divine intervention.

"I landed the role for Krissy in the film 'God's Here' by God's hand alone," Gianna said.

Gianna had been volunteering at the Branch to Hope Community Center for about six months when the film began production and developed a strong friendship with one of the organization's founders, Mary Jean Bentley.

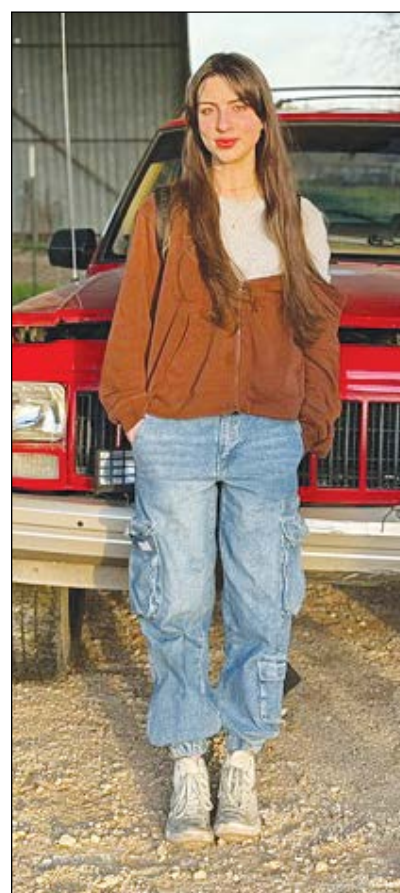
"She had reached out to me in September of 2023 to read the part of Krissy for the table read of 'God's Here,' originally titled 'A Christmas Heart,'" Gianna said. "She thought I'd be great to read the part for Krissy for the rough read. Bill was a little unsure about it, given I had no acting experience, but after all, it was just for the table read."

Following the read, Executive Producer Sharon K. Campbell, who also plays a court judge in the film, approached Gianna and said she would like to train her for the role if McAdams decided to cast her.

### Worth the wait

McAdams did not offer Gianna the role immediately but did allow for the training.

For the next two months, Campbell met with Gianna weekly and worked with her on things like set etiquette, how to read a script, how to embody a character using



Lola Gianna of Aledo made her film acting debut in 'God's Here,' the newest release from Billy McAdams, Jr.

emotional recall, and most of all how to slow down when she was delivering her lines.

"It was a wonderful experience working with her," Gianna said. "She taught me so well. Before officially landing the role, I met with Bill to go over the script one more time. I honestly had no idea he was



COURTESY PHOTOS

gonna hand it to me, I thought he just wanted my perspective on the script and character.

"After running some lines with him, he said, 'Okay we'll start filming in November.' I was like, 'What? You don't need me to audition?'. Bill says to me, 'That

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WEATHERFORD ISD

# Board honors veterans

## Staff and students for also recognized

By Jim Zimmermann  
The Community News

It only seemed fitting that at the Weatherford School Board meeting, which was on Nov. 11 - also Veteran's Day - that the board recognized the veterans who are part of the Weatherford ISD family.

"Tonight, we'd are honored to recognize and honors the veterans who work for Weatherford ISD. Each of these employees is being presented a Challenge Coin that serves as a symbol of membership, community, belonging, and camaraderie, forging a strong bond among those who possess them," said Charlotte Lagrone, Executive Director of Communications for the WISD.

### Veterans honored are:

- Kayla Guzman - Seguin Elementary.
- James Dennis - Hall Middle School.
- Bob Bridges - Director Custodial Services.
- Emily Ratterree - Seguin Elementary.
- Lehi Benton - WHS head wrestling coach.
- Wendy Diaz - Tison Middle School.
- Dr. Jason R. Dunkelberger - Director of Transportation.
- David M Benavides - Ikard Elementary.
- Henry Basiliere - Mary Martin Elementary.
- Mari Borrero - Seguin Elementary.
- Harold Peckenpaugh - Curtis Elementary.
- Stephanie Spirko - Human resources.

"Thank you all for your service to our great nation," Lagrone added.



JIM ZIMMERMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Veterans working in the Weatherford School District were honored at the Nov. 11 school board meeting.

### Weatherford Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter

"The Weatherford chapter has the 10th largest FFA program in the state and recently our students shined at the 97th Annual National FFA Convention and Expo," Lagrone said. "We are so very proud of our current and past FFA members and all they have accomplished this week."

- The group includes:
- Kaleb Heiermann - Silver Ranked National Extemporaneous Public Speaking.
  - Avery Pearson and Lincoln Ramirez - Third in the nation in Animal Systems Division 2 Agri-Science Fair.
  - Landon Penny and Hayden Morrison - fourth in the nation in Power, Structural and Technical Systems Division 2 Agri-Science Fair.
  - Kashleigh Kilker and Maddox Tedford received the Three-Star Golf Ranked National Chapter Award.
  - Amya Hodges - American Degree recipient. This is the highest award the national FFA can award to an FFA member, with less than 2% of FFA members ever receiving it.

### Varsity tennis players who earned postseason awards:

- Brynli Ruthesell, first-team All-District 3-6A girls doubles and honorable mention girls singles, Texas High School Coaches Association second-team academic all-state.
- Dayla Dromgoole, first-team all-district girls doubles; THSCA second-team academic all-state.
- Landrey Hebbe, first-team all-district girls doubles.
- Lydia Nader, first-team all-district girls doubles and honorable mention girls singles.
- Maiah Gal, honorable mention girls singles, THSCA second-team academic all-state.
- Mylee Herron, first-team all-district girls doubles, THSCA second-team academic all-state.
- Toni Canada, first-team all-district girls doubles and second-team all-district girls singles, THSCA second-team academic all-state.
- Isabella Graham, THSCA first-team academic all-state.
- Tanner Galloway, THSCA second-team academic all-state.
- Owen Hendricks, honorable mention academic all-state.



JIM ZIMMERMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of the Weatherford High cross country team were recognized at the board meeting.



JIM ZIMMERMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford High Chapter FFA members received accolades at the meeting on Nov. 11.

- The team is coached by Wesley Kidd.

### Cross country accolades

The Lady Roos Cross Country team finished as District 3-6A champions. At regionals, they placed 11th in a tight pack, with Remington Boone advancing to state.

At the regional competition Boone finished 14th place, followed by a 24th-place finish at state out

of 148 runners in Class 6A. Her time of 18 minutes, 36 seconds was the third best all-time for the Lady Roos.

Others who excelled this season included: Macayla Kopacz, Paige Blake, Nayelli Ordonez, Ivy Scott, Sofia White, Madison Pulis, Gianna Buchfink, Cayleigh Jo Madrid.

These students are coached by Ty Comstock, who recently received the Roger's Roo Pride Award for this school year.

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# LAND

from page one

- Approved a buyboard co-op contract quote from Henry Schein Medical for the associate degree nursing and vocational nursing programs.
- Approved a quote from Flair Data Systems for core network equipment.
- Approved the equal distribution of votes to the slate of candidates vying for a seat on the Parker County Appraisal District.
- Received written reports from WC Wise County, the academic office, student services and the annual equities in athletics update.
- Listed to a presentation by the WC Student Ambassadors.

## In his President's Report, Dr. Tod Allen Farmer:

Congratulated board chair Dan Carney on his Outstanding Citizen of the Year award at the recent

Weatherford Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Mentioned the recent delegation from the University of Texas at Arlington that visited the WC campus to build upon existing transfer agreements.

Mentioned the college's most recent transfer agreement with Sam Houston State University signed earlier this month.

Congratulated the WC volleyball team on its bid in the NJCAA Division I National Volleyball Tournament. The tournament is being held in Clarksville, Tennessee this week.

Announced the resignations of Seth Cooke, assistant rodeo coach; Michelle Tuggle, instructor in the substance abuse/human service provider program; Michael Pagan, campus police officer; and Laurie Curtin, workforce education coordinator.

Announced the retirements of Jeanie Hobbs, director of purchasing, and Deborah Terrell, senior buyer.

# TALENT

from page one

was your audition. You killed it! And that was the beginning of my journey through 'God's Here.'"

Gianna was born in Illinois, has lived in Alaska, California, Arkansas and Virginia and landed in Aledo eight years ago.

## Initial interest

Her interest in acting was piqued by the popular Netflix show "Stranger Things."

"My 13-year-old self became so obsessed with the series," Gianna said. "I was surfing the internet for casting calls. I even found the part for Max, but quickly gave up after reading the main requirement for the character was being able to ride a skateboard. Other than that, I never had much of an interest in acting. The most experience I had was from a required drama class I took in middle school,

which did not require any acting, but I thought it was cool."

She was excited about the role of Krissy, because there were a number of areas where she felt she could relate to her.

"Her attitude, sense of humor and rebellion really made me feel like I was playing a 16-year-old Lola at times," Gianna said. "I was a tough kid for my parents. We moved states six times while I was growing up, so in a way I was able to relate to Krissy's deep sense of loss."

Gianna said that being chosen to play Krissy reaffirmed her faith in God, especially given the underlying message behind the film.

"Getting a lead role in a film meant a lot to me in the way that God was here with me and walked me right to the doorstep of all the events that have unfolded in my life during and since this experience," Gianna said. "That He chose me to be a vessel to be a part of this story

and help spread the message of forgiveness."

## Contemplating future

Gianna has worked in the restaurant industry for the past few years and said when it comes to pursuing an acting career full-time, she has not yet decided.

"At first, I definitely approached the experience as a one-off sort of thing," Gianna said. "But after going through it and seeing the results, I would love to do another movie, maybe even a TV series. It would be super cool to get a phone call from Dallas Jenkins (creator of 'The Chosen') one day. For now, I'm focusing on getting started in school, and possibly ministry."

"I recently started co-leading a girl's high school ministry group with Mary Jean. As far as acting, my producer Don Wontz took me to get my headshots taken, and we've currently got some things in the works."

# FOOTBALL

from page 12

The Eagles have a big return weapon as well in Bradford, as Jones noted.

"Amarillo Tascosa took a safety thinking they were going to win the game. Then, they kicked off and Bradford returned it for a touch-down and Abilene won (31-29)," he said.

The Eagles do have one of the most accurate kickers around, though. Naim Segura is a perfect 57-for-57 on extra points and 4-of-4 on field goals, with a long of 30 yards.

The Bearcats' Cole Crawford is no slouch, either. He's 43-of-44 kicking extra points and 4-of-5 on field goals with a career long of 46 yards against Lancaster.

Crawford missed a little time with an injury, but his backup, Payton Shaffer is 33-of-34 on PAT kicks.

## Turnovers/takeaways

The Eagles have the advantage here statistically. Abilene has only turned the ball over five times (4 interceptions, 1 fumble) and has taken the ball away 17 times (7 interceptions, 10 fumbles).

The Bearcats have 11 turnovers (5 interceptions, 6 fumbles) and have

taken the ball away 18 times (13 interceptions, 5 fumbles).

## Pass defense

The Aledo pass defense, considered to be a question mark entering the season due to heavy graduation losses, has turned into a strong point. The Bearcats have picked off opposing quarterbacks 13 times this season, scattered among 10 players, led by two each by Owen Henderson, Adrian Fuller and Chase Wilburn.

"That's getting experience they lacked at the beginning of the season, and that's really good to see," Jones said.

In their past three games, the Bearcats have three pick sixes. This past week Alex Patton returned an interception 51 yards for a score, while Wilburn and Kai Taylor each returned one for a TD against Azle.

## Sacks/tackles for loss

On the other hand, the Bearcats' defensive line was considered the strongest part of the team entering the season and they have lived up to expectations. Leading the charge when it comes to pass rushing, with solid help from a strong linebacking corps, Aledo has 59 tackles for loss and 15 sacks this season.

Abilene has 37 tackles for loss and a dozen sacks.

## Second-round success

With their 63-7 bi-district victory against Saginaw Chisholm Trail, the Bearcats won first-round playoff game for a 29th consecutive season. In that same span they've enjoyed phenomenal second-round success as well, posting a 24-4 record in such games heading into this Friday.

Of course, that's what happens when you win state championships on a regular basis.

Aledo last lost in the second round in 2012 to Denton Guyer, 42-30. Guyer went on to win the 4A Division I state championship.

## Strong districts

Between their districts (3-5A Division I for Aledo, 2-5A Division I for Abilene), seven of the eight teams that qualified for the playoffs are still playing. That will change this week, however.

Along with the Bearcats and Eagles facing off, Lubbock Monterrey (7-4, 2-5A champion) is playing Denton Ryan (10-1, 3-5A runner-up) and Amarillo (6-4, third in 2-5A) tangles with Richland (9-2, third in 3-5A).

The fourth-place team from 2-5A, Amarillo Tascosa (6-5) is taking on 4-5A champion Saginaw (11-0), which rallied for a 41-39 victory against District 3-5A fourth-place Azle (7-4) in bi-district.



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bayne Martin (10) carries the ball in the game against Chisolm Trail.

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VOLLEYBALL

## State bound!

### Ladycats sweep Heritage to reach semis

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

HALTOM CITY - The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team punched their ticket to the Class 5A Division I volleyball state semifinals on Friday, Nov. 15, as they knocked off the No. 2 team in Texas in straight sets, 25-23, 25-17, and 26-24.

"Our entire team was something special," Ladycat head coach Claire Gay said after the match. "They just rallied for each other. At the end of the day, that family mentality is just another level."

Just days removed from toppling No. 1, Amarillo, the third-ranked Ladycats (35-7) made the voyage to Haltom City to square off with a Colleyville Heritage squad they know all too well. The Lady Panthers (36-7) have gotten the best of Aledo in recent years, leaving the Ladycats with a score to settle.

The victory was the 24th consecutive for Aledo, which has not lost since Aug. 27.

After a back-and-forth battle to start the night, Colleyville Heritage was the first to flinch, calling a timeout with Aledo leading 18-16. As play resumed, so did the Ladycat

rally, as they outpaced the odds-on favorite, 3-1. The Lady Panthers were forced to take their second timeout of the set after falling behind 21-17.

This time the momentum began to sway away from Aledo. Colleyville Heritage went on the offensive, leaning on their prized outside hitter and BYU commit, Suli Davis. Davis led the Lady Panthers back to within striking distance at 23-21, as Gay called her first timeout of the night.

The break in action worked to perfection as Aledo got back to work. The Ladycats prevailed in set number one, 25-23 to take an early advantage.

Aledo started off the second set right where they left off with Ella Isbell drawing first blood with a kill from the middle of the net to get the action underway. Isbell, who has progressed by leaps and bounds in her swan song season, became an impenetrable force in the middle for the Ladycat defense in the match, racking up blocks like an expert mason building a wall.

Having a top recruit in the nation is nice to have, but a great player will only take a team so far in a team sport. With Colleyville Heritage running a majority of their attack through Davis, the duo of Isbell and Kinley Elms up front



The Ladycat volleyball team embraces at the state semifinals match.

GEOFF HEEPES/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

began to match the timing on her shots across the net. Aledo's defense shut down the Lady Panthers to put the underdogs ahead two sets to none following a 25-17 second stanza with Isbell and Elms racking up seven blocks each in the match.

Isbell also led the Ladycats in blocks against Amarillo, giving her 13 total blocks in regionals.

Contrarily, the Ladycats mixed up their offense, keeping Colleyville Heritage guessing throughout. Setters Ava Reding and Sophia Frank were dealing all over the floor, putting the Ladycat hitters

in positions to find success. Their efforts were highly rewarded, as Reding ended the night with 22 assists while Frank collected a dozen for herself.

The fight had not left the Lady Panthers in spite of the deficit they

Turn to SEMIS, page 7

VOLLEYBALL

## Magical Ladycats run ends in state-semifinal thriller

### Season concludes in nailbiter against McKinney North

By Geoff Heppes  
The Community News

GARLAND - The Aledo Ladycats, ranked No. 5 in the state, entered the gymnasium inside of the Curtis Culwell Center for their Tuesday night matchup against the McKinney North Lady Bulldogs with plenty of confidence, riding a 24-game winning streak.

However, one of the greatest seasons in Aledo history came to an end with a heartbreaking 3-2 loss.

The Ladycats claimed the Region I crown after taking down the mighty Colleyville Heritage Lady Panthers in straight sets during their clash in the regional final, which secured Aledo's best post-season finish since 2017 when they last reached the state semifinals in



The No. 5 ranked Aledo Ladycats volleyball team cheer each other on at the state semifinals game.

GEOFF HEEPES/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

coach Claire Gay's first season at the helm.

In this match, the Ladycats (35-8) faced the Lady Bulldogs (28-11) - the Region II champions - with a spot in the Class 5A Division I state title on the line. Aledo and McKinney North battled in a high-quality match that

needed all five sets to decide the victor. Ultimately, McKinney North was able to squeak out the win in a tight fifth set, as Aledo's impressive season came to a close. The final score was 21-25, 25-19, 13-25, 26-24 and 15-13.

"This team - I just love them," Gay said. "It's hard to not get them

to where they wanted to be and to finish where they wanted to finish, but they worked really hard and are just an incredible group of women - they're going to do really big things in life. They loved each other the whole way through, and it's

Turn to STATE, page 7

GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Lady Eagles soar to season-opening win

### Pull away from Sacred Heart with late run

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The Willow Park Trinity Christian Lady Eagles basketball team began their season in thrilling fashion on Friday, Nov. 15, pulling away late for 60-46 victory over Sacred Heart of Muenster.

With fans on the edge of their seats, the Lady Eagles held a 38-37 lead as they entered the final quarter. But a dominant final stanza performance secured the win and a promising start to their season.

Turn to EAGLES, page 9

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**NOVEMBER 28**  
**Thanksgiving Trot**  
The 13th annual Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot will be from 8 - 10 a.m. with the start at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, Nov. 28 at Aledo High School. Both 5K and 1 mile will have the same 8:30am start time this year. Not a runner?? You can walk, crawl or just come hang out!! Going to be out of town??

**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 5**  
**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

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
**COHO Christmas Tree Lighting**  
Join us for the lighting of the COHO tree and an evening of FREE holiday fun Friday, December 6 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Enjoy activities in Santa's Workshop and snap a picture with Santa himself. Take a ride on the COHO Express, enjoy activities at community booths, watch local stage performances and more.

**DECEMBER 7**  
**Christmas on the Square**  
Join us in celebrating the holiday season at Christmas on the Square, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Weatherford Lights the Night Parade 2024 begins at 6:30 pm (Long route) Historic Downtown Weatherford, TX It is a cherished tradition that brings the community together for a day filled with festive cheer, local vendors, live entertainment, children's activities and more! The festivities will conclude with the award winning, "Weatherford Lights the Night Parade", lighting up the evening with holiday magic

**Christmas Tyme in Aledo**  
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year and Christmas Tyme in Aledo is the perfect way to start your holiday season! Enjoy the day with good music, great food, endless shopping and special visitors from the North Pole, on Saturday, December 7, 2024 Craft Fair from 10 a.m.

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

- sore muscle pain
- TXism: "beer \_\_\_\_" (bar)
- what Texans put up with in the summer
- Houston has an \_\_\_\_ space industry
- TXism: "pay \_\_\_\_" (disregard)
- overtuned in 2022: \_\_\_\_ v. Wade
- garage sale items that don't sell
- he directed Texas-based "JFK" (init.)
- exotic goat seen at a Texas zoo
- historic "\_\_\_\_ Solms Inn" in New Braunfels (2 wds.)
- "The \_\_\_\_ and the Sea"
- TXism for "against" the earth in Greek mythology
- TXism: "raised \_\_\_\_ concrete" (city boy)
- soaking meat before cooking
- "days of \_\_\_\_" (ago)
- Amarillo "\_\_\_\_-State Fair & Rodeo"
- you can see one at Monahans Sandhills State Park (2 wds.)
- ribs that are barbecued in Texas
- once the preferred jet for rich Texans
- Ranger Al Oliver last played for the \_\_\_\_ Jays
- Palo \_\_\_\_ County
- Texans have to renew it on auto each year (abbr.)
- carbamide
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_ enough for government work"
- San Antonio shoe co.
- "\_\_\_\_ Rim State Park"
- title of 2021 film with TX Marc Menchaca
- TXism: "high \_\_\_\_ back" (expensive)
- Rangers can't have a rain \_\_\_\_ at Globe Life Field
- comfy room
- TXism: "it don't \_\_\_\_ up"
- \_\_\_\_ beans are grown in Texas
- TXism: "thick \_\_\_\_ back" (a lot of)
- cheese snacks made by Texas based Frito-Lay
- in Robertson County on U.S.79
- noted Cowboy DE: \_\_\_\_ Tall" Jones
- "it ain't \_\_\_\_ deal" (not important)
- "all \_\_\_\_" (a tied score)
- annoy or frustrate
- TXism: "let '\_\_\_\_ rip!"
- where you can get a site for your motor-home (2 wds.)
- this Osmond was "a little bit country"
- pelvic bones
- TX Debbie Reynolds 1966 film: "The Singing \_\_\_\_"
- spruce up a space
- Robert of 2015 film "Heist" with TX Tyson Sullivan
- lava rock
- 17th governor of Texas: \_\_\_\_ Roberts
- Metroplex community: \_\_\_\_ Colinas
- horse color
- TXism: "I'll slap \_\_\_\_ new hat size!"
- edgy or anxious
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_ punch"
- Brock Marion played for the Boys and Detroit \_\_\_\_
- corn
- movie story line
- Henrietta's county
- TXism: "happy as a kid in \_\_\_\_ store"
- in Parker County on FM 1187

to 4 p.m. - Church at the Crossing Gymnasium @ 128 Elm Street Aledo,

TX 76008 & Festival - Downtown Aledo at 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, TX

76008 FFestival - 5 to 9 p.m. Admission is FREE!

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**CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE BEALL-DEAN RANCH PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**  
Pursuant to Section 372.009(c) and (d) of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended (the "Act"), notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas ("City"), will hold a public hearing to accept public comments and discuss the petition (the "Petition") filed by the person identified in the Petition (the "Petitioner"), requesting that the City create a public improvement district within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City to be referred to as the Beall-Dean Ranch Public Improvement District (the "District").  
**Date, Time, and Place of the Hearing.** The public hearing will start at or after 6:00 p.m., December 10, 2024, at Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087.  
**General Nature of the Proposed Authorized Improvements.** The general nature of the proposed public improvements to be provided by the District that are necessary for the development of the Property within the District and which shall promote the interests of the City and confer a special benefit upon the Property, may include: (i) acquisition, construction, and improvement of street, roadway and sidewalk improvements, including related drainage, utility relocation, signalization, landscaping, lighting, signage, off-street parking and right-of-way; (ii) acquisition, construction, and improvement of water, wastewater, and drainage improvements and facilities; (iii) establishment and improvement of parks, trails and recreational facilities improvements; (iv) projects similar to those listed above authorized by the Act, including similar off-site projects that provide a benefit to the Property within the District; (v) acquisition of real property or interests in real property in connection with each Authorized Improvement; (vi) payment of costs, including, without limitation, design, engineering, permitting, legal, required payment, performance and maintenance bonds, bidding, support, construction, construction management, administrative and inspection costs, associated with developing and financing the public improvements listed in (i) through (v) above; (vii) payment of costs associated with special supplemental services for improvement and promotion of the District as approved by the City including services related to advertising, promotion, health and sanitation, water and wastewater, public safety, security, business recruitment, development, recreation, and cultural enhancement related to the public improvements listed in (i) through (v) above; (viii) payment of costs of establishing, administering, and operating the District, as well as the interest, costs of issuance, reserve funds, or credit enhancement of bonds issued for the purposes described in (i) through (viii) above (collectively, the "Authorized Improvements"). The Authorized Improvements shall promote the interest of the City and confer a special benefit upon the property within the District.  
**Estimated Cost of the Authorized Improvements.** The current estimated total cost of the proposed Authorized Improvements is \$75,000,000.  
**Proposed District Boundaries.** The District is proposed to include property owned by the Petitioner consisting of approximately 317.732 acres of property generally located south of Interstate Highway I-12, west of F.M. 1187, and north of E. Bankhead Highway, and within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City, as more particularly described by a metes and bounds description available at the Willow Park City Hall and available for public inspection.  
**Proposed Method of Assessment.** The City shall levy assessments on each parcel within the District in a manner that results in imposing equal shares of the costs on property similarly benefited. Each assessment may be paid in part or in full at any time (including interest), and certain assessments may be paid in annual installments (including interest). If the City allows an assessment to be paid in installments, then the installments must be paid in amounts necessary to meet annual costs for those Authorized Improvements financed by the assessment and must continue for a period necessary to retire the indebtedness on those Authorized Improvements (including interest).  
**Proposed Apportionment of Cost between the District and the City.** The City will not be obligated to provide any funding to finance the Authorized Improvements, other than from assessments levied in the District. No City property in the District shall be assessed. The Petitioner may fund certain improvements from other funds available to the Petitioner.  
**Objections** During the public hearing, any interested person may speak for or against the establishment of the District and the advisability of the improvements to be made for the benefit of the property within the District. Written and oral objections will be considered at the hearing.

# SEMIS

from page 5

faced heading into set number three. Once again, the Ladycats got on the board first thanks to some trickery by Elms, who caught the Lady Panthers on their heels with a quick hit into the middle of their defense. It appeared as though the Ladycats were going to run away with the final set early on as they went up 7-3 before Colleyville Heritage called a timeout.

However, the Lady Panthers came out of the break invigorated. Slugging their way back into the set, the two squads ended up in a tie at 13-all when Gay used her first timeout of the third frame.

The two teams went blow-for-blow, as neither squad was willing to concede the advantage. Colleyville Heritage took their first lead of the set at 20-19. The lead was short lived, with the Ladycats answering right back to tie it up at 20-20.

Aledo called their second timeout as the Lady Panthers went up 21-20. Colleyville Heritage used their final timeout moments later with the score tied at 22.

“[Colleyville Heritage] isn’t going to give up,” commended Gay. “They’re going to find a way to score. They started tipping on us in the third set and it started working for them. Then it was just a dogfight to the end. I told our girls, if you drop set three, we’re going five, so you have to win this right now.”

With both clubs out of timeouts and the score tied, it was a sprint to the finish. Ultimately, it was the Ladycats who prevailed, 26-24, hoisting the regional championship trophy as they move on to the state semifinals for the first time since 2017, Gay’s first season as Ladycats coach.

“All respect goes to their program and their coaches. I feel like we were the underdog coming in. People anticipated they would knock us out again. Our girls weren’t having it. They were tired of it. I think that’s a huge compliment to our team,” Gay said. “They stepped up. They kept their composure. They played consistently as a team. They were respectful throughout. I think that was a huge moment for them.”

Elms did a remarkable job of mixing up her fastball and change-up, keeping the Lady Panthers off balance as she led the Ladycats in kills with 14. Alyssa Todd notched a dozen kills of her own with several coming from the middle of the floor.

Todd and Ella Meador led the Ladycats with 13 digs each while patrolling the back line. Kenrie Pruitt ended the night right in the mix with a dozen digs of her own.

While Isbell and Elms combined for 14 blocks in the match, Haley Lowe earned five of her own as the trio made it a tough night up front for Davis and the Lady Panthers.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Ladycats suffer first defeat of the season

## Decatur rallies in second half

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

In spite of being without the services of seniors Kinley Elms and Ella Isbell, who were with the Ladycats volleyball team in their quest for a state title, Aledo’s varsity girls hoops squad is off to a solid start under new head coach, Donny Ott.

The Ladycats, ranked No. 13 in Class 5A by the Texas Association



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
Tiara Butler fends off a pair of defenders as she scores two of her 10 points against Decatur.

of Basketball Coaches, entered their game against the No. 4 in 4A Decatur Lady Eagles with an unblemished 4-0 record. Decatur (6-2) handed the hosting Ladycats their first loss of the season, 41-38, in a highly physical matchup on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

But for Ott, there were a lot of positives he saw in his ballclub.

“Anybody in attendance just saw a phenomenal high school basketball game by both teams,” Ott gushed after the game. “I can’t in any way be disappointed at all with our effort. I thought we battled for four quarters. It was just an incredible high school basketball game. Unfortunately, we just didn’t make enough plays to finish it.”

As tightly contested as the game was on the scoreboard throughout, it was even more so on the floor. Aledo got out early on the Lady Eagles after Elizabeth Griffin and Brooklyn Dempsey splashed back-to-back three-pointers to put the Ladycats up 6-2 with just over six minutes left in the opening stanza.

Decatur opted to use their first timeout of the half following Dempsey’s long-range drop in order to keep the home team from running away with the game early.

As play resumed the pace up and down the floor was only matched by the level of physicality inflicted by both teams. An unwillingness by the

officiating crew to blow the whistle for fouls left players at both ends of the floor with little choice than to meet force with force.

In the midst of the frenetic pace and the battle royal taking place up and down the court, the Ladycats held their own in the first quarter. Griffin tickled the twine with her second three-pointer of the quarter with 1:40 left to play, increasing Aledo’s lead to 11-5 with the clock winding down.

The Lady Eagles answered back with a three of their own to cut the lead in half as the quarter came to a close with the Ladycats holding the advantage, 11-8.

As the second quarter got underway, the game only became more physical. The two teams went shot-for-shot on the scoreboard and push for push on the floor.

Yet, the Ladycats kept plugging away led by Griffin and Dempsey, as the home team took a 23-18 lead into the break.

As the second half got underway, Decatur began to find their stride. The Lady Eagles posted their best scoring quarter of the game with 15 points, as they regained the lead for the first time since the opening bucket less than a minute into the game.

Defensively, Decatur had an answer for everyone on the floor sporting an Aledo jersey except for

Tiara Butler. She refused to back down as she fought tooth and nail down in the paint. Her tenacity in the third quarter kept the Ladycats in the game as she accounted for all seven of Aledo’s points in the frame.

With Aledo trailing by three, 33-30, to start the fourth quarter, the officiating crew began to reign in the physicality. The teams battled down the stretch with Griffin knocking down a three-pointer with 17 seconds left in regulation.

However, Decatur was in the bonus and Aledo was forced to foul in order to preserve the clock. The Lady Eagles sank both free throws, increasing the lead back to three points and thus, producing the final.

“It was extremely physical,” Ott noted. “It was rough. It was both ways. But the thing I’m most proud about is our kids didn’t back down. They competed hard. They fought tooth and nail.

“I feel 125-percent like we got better tonight. All those kids in there, I know they’re gassed, but I’m just proud to be their coach right now knowing I have a team that fights that hard.”

### Ladycats vs. Decatur – Nov. 19

<b>Decatur</b>	8	10	15	8	<b>41</b>
<b>Aledo</b>	11	12	7	8	<b>38</b>

Aledo scoring: Elizabeth Griffin 13, Tiara Butler 10, Brooklyn Dempsey 7, Kate Jackson 6, Brenna Clock 2.

## STATE

from page 5

fun to coach a group of girls in it for the right reasons, not to be selfish. It was such a blessing this year because they added so much joy to my life.”

Aledo secured an early 6-2 edge fueled by kills from seniors Morgan Estevez and Kinley Elms – who gave McKinney North’s talented back line fits all night with a barrage of powerful attacks from the right side. A few points later, senior Haley Lowe hammered kills at 9-6 and 11-9 to keep the opposition at bay. After that, star junior Alyssa Todd tatted the back line for a kill to make it a 12-10 lead. Then, senior setter Ava Reding served an ace that extended the lead to 15-10 and forced McKinney North to call a timeout in the process.

The Lady Bulldogs pulled to within a point on a 7-2 run that forced Gay to call a timeout. The teams continued to exchange points, with Aledo’s last lead coming at 21-20 after a kill by Todd and an ace from senior libero Kenrie Pruitt. However, the Lady Bulldogs stole the first set after ending the opening frame on a 4-0 scoring run.

In the second set, Estevez and senior Ella Isbell got Aledo going in the early action. Later, Aledo took its first lead at 14-13 following an ace from Todd and a tip by Elms. Isbell, a defensive stalwart up front for Aledo, blocked a McKinney North attack for a 16-13 advantage that forced the Lady Bulldogs to call a timeout. After that, Elms put down a big kill for a 20-16 lead and Estevez followed with one of her own two points later for a 21-17 margin. From there, the Ladycats scored four of the final six points to even the match at one set apiece.

McKinney North roared back with a strong, 12-point win in the third set, and Gay got her troops ready to rally from there.

“They haven’t been battle tested like that in a while, and I just had to remind them that they (McKinney North) are a good team just like we’re a good team,” Gay said. “You just have to trust what got us here, buy into each other and you can’t worry about the errors and mistakes. You have to play for the next point, and their backs were against the wall and they fought hard.”

With their backs firmly against the wall, the Ladycats answered the

bell and responded with a strong, gutsy effort in the fourth set. Aledo trailed the entire fourth set until the late stages, when a massive kill from Elms and a net violation by McKinney North tied the score at 19-all. Then, the first lead (20-19) came off a double contact penalty by the Lady Bulldogs. After McKinney North knotted the score at 20-20, Todd hammered home a kill for a 21-20 lead, but the Lady Bulldogs responded by scoring the next two to see-saw back in front, 22-21.

Then, the scales tipped back in Aledo’s favor with two Ladycat points – a Todd kill and a McKinney North error. The trend continued as McKinney North got a pair of points that put them within one point of a spot in the state championship game. Despite that, Todd – with nerves of steel – delivered a clutch kill that tied the match at 24-24. After that, Pruitt served another ace and McKinney North committed a hitting error that brought the semifinal bout to a sudden death fifth set.

Elms opened the fifth set with a loud kill for Aledo. Then, Estevez produced back-to-back kills for a 5-3 advantage, but the opposition stuck its nose out in front 8-6 after

a 5-1 scoring run. Trailing 11-9, Elms became the offensive focal point as she continued to deliver clutch, timely kills to keep Aledo within a point. Her last kill of the match trimmed McKinney North’s lead to 14-13, but the Lady Bulldogs got the deciding kill to edge the Ladycats, ending their tremendous season.

“No discredit to the other two teams playing tonight to get to the state championship, but I feel like that was a true match to see in the finals,” Gay said. “I mean, Region I and II, you’ve got a lot of talent here and we’ve battled each other all year long. Again, I’m not taking anything away from the teams down south because they have really good volleyball programs, but I just think this was a matchup of two really good, very similar volleyball teams, and they just made fewer errors than we did.”

Aledo won District 5-5A, achieved a top-five state ranking, defeated its 2023 playoff nemesis (Colleyville Heritage) in straight sets to claim Region I, collected 35 wins and completed a perfect sweep of its district competition without dropping a single set.

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The Town of Annetta North, Texas is seeking qualified bids for the labor, materials, construction, and installation of one Upper Trinity Aquifer or other suitable aquifer public water supply well and related appurtenances. The well can be powered by AC power or by Solar power and should include a minimum of a 2,500-gallon storage tank, a method of distribution and a method of purification.

Bids will be received by the Town of Annetta North, Texas P. O. Box 1238 Aledo, Texas 76008, or by email at [secretary@annettanorth.com](mailto:secretary@annettanorth.com) until 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2024. Bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00pm.

The Town shall select the bidder who provides the best value to the Town, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids. In determining the best value, the Town may consider the following criteria:

- (1) the purchase price;
- (2) the reputation of the bidder and of the bidder’s goods or services;
- (3) the quality of the goods or services;
- (4) the extent to which the goods or services meet the Town’s needs;
- (5) the bidder’s past relationship with the Town; and
- (6) the total long-term cost to the Town to acquire the goods or services.

For additional bid specifications or more information, please contact Sheila Elmore at [secretary@annettanorth.com](mailto:secretary@annettanorth.com)

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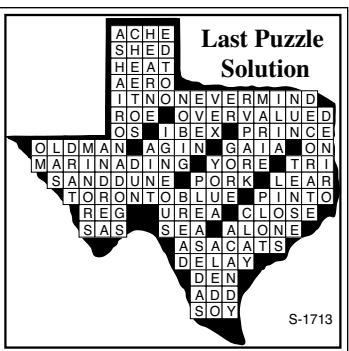
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## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

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

## Notice of Public Hearing

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

Public Hearing Location:	Planning and Zoning Commission Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008
Date:	Thursday, December 12, 2024
Time:	6:00 P.M.

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

- Public Hearing to consider and recommend amendment to Article 6, Definitions, of the City of Aledo, Unified Development Code (UDC) pertaining to signage

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 22, 2024.

Staci L. King, City Secretary

## community-news.com

## Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas, will conduct a public hearing in the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas, on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing Location:	Aledo City Council Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008
Date:	Thursday, December 5, 2024
Time:	6:00 P.M.

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

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

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 22, 2024.

Staci L. King, City Secretary

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## TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER 10, 2024 AT ANNETTA METHODIST CHURCH, 2836 FM 5, ANNETTA, TEXAS ADOPTING THE TOWN'S 2025 BUDGET

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BASKETBALL

# Boys hoops season tips off

## Local schools looking to build on previous success

By Geoff Heppes  
The Community News

Boys basketball teams have begun taking the court for the start of the 2024-25 hardwood season across the Lone Star State. Local schools, such as the Aledo Bearcats, the Weatherford Kangaroos and the Willow Park Trinity Christian Eagles have recently begun their respective regular seasons and each program has high expectations coming in.

### New Aledo coach out to establish strong culture

Similarly to the Ladycats, the Bearcats basketball program had a void to fill at the head coach position following the 2023-24 season after James Robinson's departure. With that, Aledo introduced first-year head coach Brian Blackburn to lead the boys basketball squad, and Blackburn is emphasizing the importance of establishing a strong culture.

"I would say that our culture is simple to describe, but hard to maintain," Blackburn said. "We expect excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community with our players. The characteristics we use to foster this culture is passion, servant leadership, thankfulness, togetherness and toughness. If we are striving for these things daily, then our team will have a successful season."

Character and success will go hand in hand for Aledo, who is returning key players and promoting new faces to lead the charge against the opposition. With their strengths lying in depth, experience and competitiveness, Blackburn expects his veterans to lead the charge.

"Joaquin Pacheco is a returning all-district player from last year who has started the season

off strong offensively," Blackburn said. "Townes VanHuysen is a forward who has been practicing great and that has carried over to games. We also have two sophomores in Caden Cunningham and Josiah Jenkins who we are excited about contributing on varsity this season."

Blackburn isn't focused on the district title, a certain number of wins or astronomical statistics. Instead, the focus will remain on the process and the diligence that comes with it.

"We really don't have a ton of 'goals' in the traditional term," Blackburn said. "Right now, all we are focusing on are things we feel like we must achieve like being great in practice, preparing like a champion, and staying connected as a team."

### Kangaroos want more history

The Weatherford Kangaroos are coming off a historic season that saw the program reach the postseason for the second time in nearly two decades under head coach Neal Welch, who led the Roos to the playoffs in his first year at the helm. Now, it's about establishing consistency to make the postseason again in another tough district.

"We preach process over results, so our main goal is to continually get better each day," Welch said. "We have a long way to go to be able to compete in our district. Last year was great for our program moving forward. Making the playoffs hadn't happened here much, but we are now focused on this season and trying to repeat and get into the postseason in a very tough district."

Despite losing key seniors such as Kane Chandler, Aidan Fry and Blaine Kapka, the Roos return a pair of key contributors from the 2023 season and will also feature new faces who Welch expects to contribute.

"Brendan Ballard and Deshaun Lewis are returning from last year's team, and both players have put in a lot of hard work to get to where they are today as key contributors on our team," Welch said. "Both guys can do it all on offense and defense, so we plug them into different positions to get the most out of our team. Alex Rodden, Aidan Pool, Thomas Loa, Land Morris, Brady Mills, and Micah Moore will all see playing time and help in different ways. Cristian Taylor and Trevor Poetsch will also see time this year."

Furthermore, Welch said his team's biggest overall strength is their diversity on both ends of the floor. He also touted his team's high basketball IQ, where his guys can diagnose and execute adjustments implemented into the game plan. Welch hopes these aspects pour over into the established culture he is trying to deepen this season.

"We Play Harder is our motto, and we try to instill that daily in practice," Welch said. "We are continually building toughness through everything we do in practice and in non-district games to build up to our district season. Our guys are responding well to all of our coaches who coach our kids very hard. As the head coach, I can see the increase of the buy-in from our players throughout our entire program and it's a joy to coach all of these guys."

### TCA out to take one more step

On the private school circuit, the Trinity Christian Eagles enter the year with confidence after nearly making the postseason a year ago. With plenty to build off of, the Eagles - led by head coach Jeff Peterson - plan to approach the season with a positive mindset while maintaining a high level of work ethic.

"Our main goal is to take joy in our team, our competition and

our challenges," Peterson said. "With that being said, we are trying to build on our success last year. We won 16 games last season and made a strong push for playoff qualification but ultimately fell short by one game. This season we are competing in a new-look TAPPS 4A District 1. The district will be a challenge but we will challenge for a playoff berth."

Although TCA's opposition will be strong, the experienced Eagles will rely on their veteran leadership throughout the roster, along with a new big man to bolster the team's overall strength.

"We are blessed to have six seniors in our group this season," Blackburn said. "Sam Carson will lead the charge as a returning starter from last season. Along with Carson, we are expecting big things from Cole Massey, Reed Robbins, John Chrane, and Bo Blauser as they move into bigger roles this season. Our final senior, Scott Smith, is a transfer from a local school who will add to our length and firepower. Aside from our seniors, our coaching staff is looking forward to seeing 6-foot-6 junior Jonathan Overholt contribute in a big way as he steps into a varsity role."

Whatever result the season may bring, Peterson and the team's commitment to exuding joy remains steadfast and has translated over into the effectiveness of the preseason program. Now, they aim to infuse that energy into the regular season and hopefully beyond.

"As I said earlier, Joy is our main emphasis. We want to take joy in all things," Peterson said. "We have seen our players embrace this mantra in the strong way that we have attacked this preseason. Guys have been working hard in the weight room and on the court. We believe a joyful team leads to on court success, and we are certainly heading in the right direction."

GOLF

## Aledo teams wrap up fall season

### Ladycats win two tourneys, boys third

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The Aledo High School golf teams wrapped up the fall portion of their 2024-25 schedule recently. The Ladycats Black and Orange teams each won a tournament, and the Bearcats Black placed third.

The Ladycats Black won the Tangleridge Two Step hosted by Mansfield Lake Ridge at Tangle Ridge Golf Course in Grand Prairie. They had a team score of 710 to edge Mansfield by two strokes.

Emily Crick posted a two-day score of 151 to place second individually.

In that same tournament, the Bearcats Black placed third, recording a two-day total of 614, seven shots back. Braden Strokes shot 145 for two rounds to place third individually.

In the Burselson Tournament at Hidden Creek Golf Course, the Ladycats Orange also took the top spot with a 389. They won by a whopping 32 strokes.

Sydney Purdon led Aledo Orange with a 91 to finish third individually.

## EAGLES

from page 5

Leading the charge for TCA was junior Emily Ickert, who put on a scoring display, racking up 32 points. Her offensive explosion kept the Lady Eagles in the game, and her leadership was key as TCA pulled away in the closing minutes.

Support came from her teammates, as freshman Alex Ickert contributed 15 points, while senior Ella Cockrum added 7 points. Sophomore Raegan Smith scored 5 points, and freshman Michaela DeVenuto rounded out the scoring with 1 point.

The Lady Eagles weathered Sacred Heart's challenges in the early stages of the game, and ultimately demonstrated their depth and resilience in the second half.

TCA will be back in action on Friday, Nov. 22, at home against Bethesda Christian at 7 p.m.

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# LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



**Ella Isbell**  
**Volleyball**

The senior registered six blocks and three kills in a 3-0 regional semifinals win over Amarillo, followed by seven blocks and three kills in a 3-0 sweep of Colleyville Heritage in the regional semifinals.

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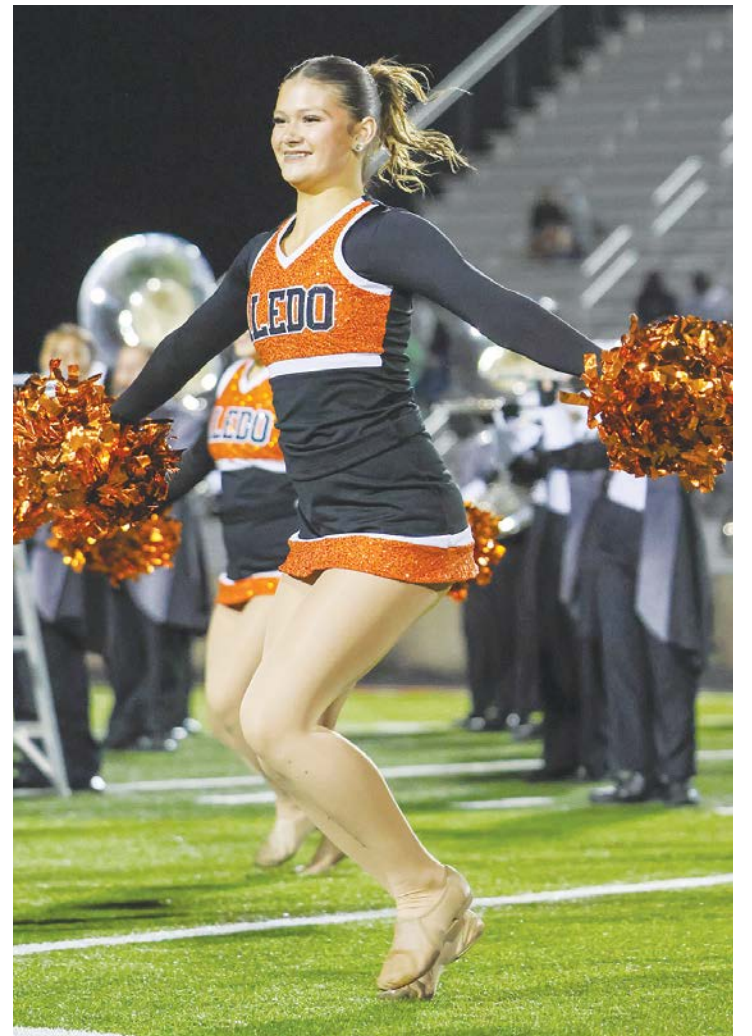
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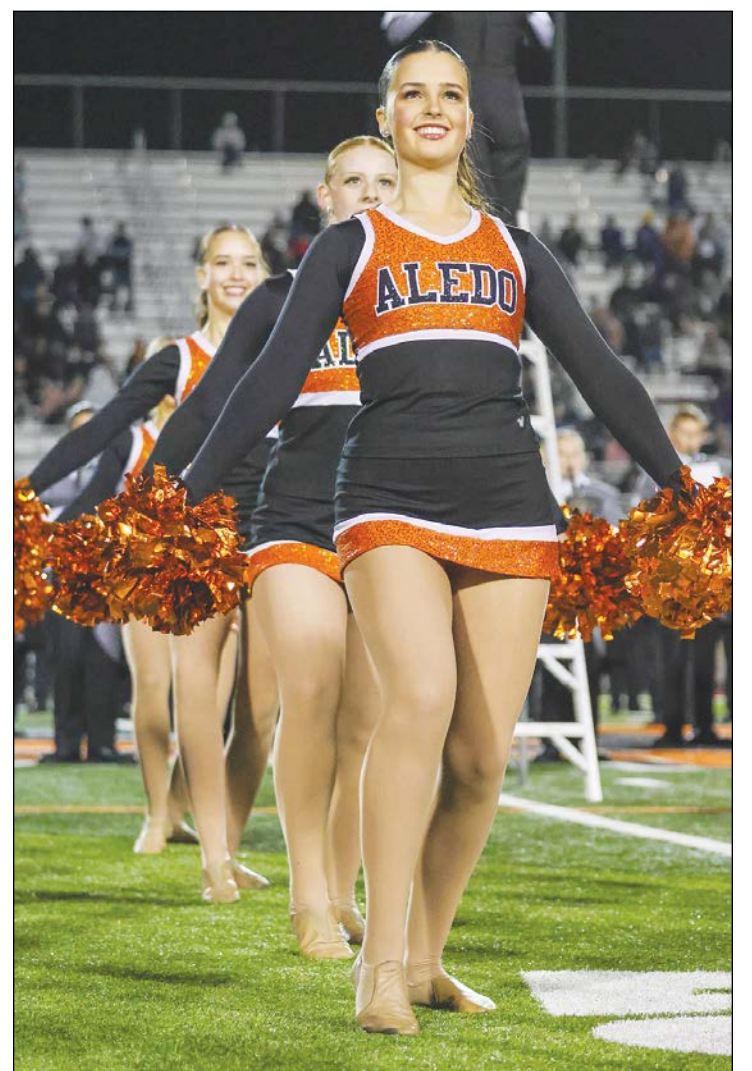
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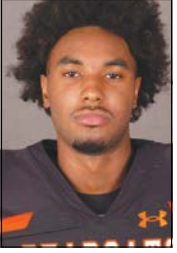
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# BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



**Alex Patton**  
**Football**

The sophomore defensive back returned an interception 51 yards in the Bearcats' 63-7 victory against Saginaw Chisholm Trail at Tim Buchanan Stadium on Friday, Nov. 15..

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FOOTBALL

# Bearcats, Eagles meet for only second time

## First was last season

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Aledo and Abilene have been playing football for a long time, the Bearcats first taking the field in 1946 and Abilene going back well over a century, with their first state championship coming in 1923.

However, the teams have only played each other one time - last season, when the Bearcats won 56-21 in the regional final en route to their 12th state championship in program history. It was also their second straight.

The Eagles have seven state titles of their own, with most coming in their early years. Their most recent was in 2009, the same year Aledo began its dominant run of 11 titles since (the Bearcats also won one in 1998).

Part of the reason the teams have not met is because Abilene spent many years in a higher classification, dropping from 6A to 5A Division I in 2022.

"They're a good solid football team with a great history," Aledo head coach Robby Jones said. "They have four returning starters on the offensive line and any time you have that kind of experience on the line you're going to be able to do things offensively."

Like the Bearcats, the Eagles can run and throw the ball effectively.

The Bearcats reached this round by winning the District 3-5A Division I championship and defeating Saginaw Chisholm Trail 63-7 in bi-district. The Eagles finished as the No. 2 seed in District 2-5A Division I, sharing the title with Lubbock Monterrey, but losing the tiebreaker by virtue of a

31-17 loss in Lubbock, and defeating El Paso Parkland 84-0 in bi-district.

### Next man up

The Eagles lost their starting quarterback, senior Brayden Henry, to a knee injury late in the season. However, sophomore Tristan Beal has stepped in and looked impressive in the full-time role.

While not the runner Henry (792 yards, 11 TD) is, Beal is an accurate passer. He has completed 72% of his throws for 1,263 yards with 18 touchdowns and no interceptions.

"That's a big difference with the change in quarterback, a lot less quarterback running," Jones said. "That's why you see (wide receiver Ryland) Bradford in the backfield more."

Bradford is the Eagles' go-to player offensively. He's caught 49 passes for 1,034 yards and 13 touchdowns, along with rushing for 397 yards and eight more scores.

Running the Aledo offense in fluid style is junior Gavin Beard. He is completing 69% of his passes for 1,842 yards with 26 touchdowns and three interceptions - all despite missing two full games with an injury.

Beard's backup, sophomore Nash McElree, is completing 74% of his passes for 482 yards with seven TD and two interceptions.

"When you play deep into the playoffs, you're going to have injuries," Jones said. "Look at us last year with the offensive line in the state championship game."

The Bearcats had to switch two starters in that game with reserves coming in to play key roles in a 51-8 victory against Smithson Valley.



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ben McElree (22), Owen Kenderson (0), Kamron Hall (23) and Brody Adams (44) Aledo vs Chisholm Trail Nov. 15, 2024.

### Explosive offenses

As was the case last season, both teams bring explosive offenses into the contest. The Bearcats are outscoring their opponents by an average score of 54-15, while the Eagles are outscoring their foes 51-31.

The Bearcats have scored 30 or more points in all 11 games this season and 16 straight dating to 2023. Abilene has topped the 30-point mark in 10 games.

Abilene is coming off of an 84-0 bi-district victory against El Paso Parkland and has topped 60 points three other times, 50 points two other times and 40 points two more times.

The Bearcats' high score was in a 77-14 victory at Azle. They've topped 60 four other times, 50 twice more and 40 twice more.

A difference last season, however - and it could be again - is the Aledo defense. The Bearcats have

three shutouts, held another opponent to a field goal and another two to a single touchdown. The Eagles posted their first shutout of the season last week and their previous best defensive performance was holding two opponents to 14 points.

### Special teams

In big games special teams can often make a difference. The Bearcats would appear to have the nod here as well. They have returned four kickoffs for touchdowns - two each by Adrian Fuller and Lincoln Tubbs - and the team as a whole is averaging 30 yards per kickoff return.

"We don't like having our kickoff team out there. We only want it once a game," Jones said with a chuckle. "But we've got some explosive guys."

Turn to FOOTBALL, page 3

### Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (10-1) vs. Abilene Eagles (8-3).

What: Class 5A Division I Region I area (second) round game.

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, Newsom Stadium, Mansfield.

Last week: Aledo defeated Saginaw Chisholm Trail in bi-district. Abilene defeated El Paso Parkland 84-0 in bi-district.

Last season: Aledo went 16-0 and won Class 5A Division I state championship. Abilene finished 11-3 and reached 5A Division I, Region I final. Aledo won 56-21 when they met in the regional final.

All-time series: Aledo leads 1-0.

Returning starters: Aledo 3 offensive, 4 defensive. Abilene 7 offensive, 3 defensive.

Aledo offensive players to watch: WR Blake Burdine (26 catches, 486 yards, 7 TD) looks to surpass 500 yards, RB Kaden Winkfield (83 carries, 652 yards, 9 TD) is averaging 8 yards per carry and could surpass 1,000 yards this season with a good post-season.

Abilene offensive players to watch: QB Tristan Beal (72% completions, 1,263 yards, 18 TD, 0 interceptions), RB Ethan Joyner (878 yards, 9 TD), WR Ryland Bradford (49 catches, 1,034 yards, 13 TD).

Aledo defensive players to watch: DE Jacob McIntyre (while only 9 tackles, 8 are solo, along with 3.5 for a loss and 2 sacks), LB Owen Henderson (47 tackles, 2 for a loss, 2 interceptions, sack, fumble recovery).

Abilene defensive players to watch: FS Demotric Sanchez (57 tackles, 1 for loss), ATH Christopher Shaw (52 tackles, 8 for loss, 3 sacks, interception, 3 fumble recoveries, 9 QB hurries).

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