

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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THANKSGIVING TROT

Event keeps growing and giving

Great weather welcomes runners

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

It was superb weather for participants of the 2024 Aledo Thanksgiving Trot. However, runners did not see pre-dawn complications such as high winds, runaway banners and frustratingly stubborn power generators. Before the 8 a.m. gun, everything was calm and all systems go.

The grassroots annual event, which has grown tremendously over the years, benefits one family or individual experiencing medical difficulties.

This year's recipient is Derek Vierling, Aledo High School educator and coach for more than two decades - and current boys head soccer coach and assistant football coach.

"I was not very receptive when they asked me about filling out the application," Vierling remembered. "I suggested that maybe

they share it with multiple families but they convinced me that the community wanted to support us. It is very humbling to say the least."

Vierling has been battling Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome and Lymphoblastic Leukemia for two years. Vierling's medical issues came after his wife, Kelley, was diagnosed with cancer, all incidents accumulating large medical expenses.

"As a person who has always served my family, my community and my country, it has been hard to accept something of this magnitude," the United States Marine Veteran said. "My family is so blessed to call this community home. I never in a million years thought that something like this would happen to us. Aledo is a very special town and I'm so blessed to have been working here going on 24 years now."

This year's event raised \$122,000 for the Vierling family.

Turn to TROT, page 2



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Megan Williamson and Thessalie Stuntz help Trot the Turkey (Molly Ancona Whitaker) cheer runners across the finish line. This year's event raised \$122,000 for the Vierling family.

Weatherford Tree Lighting



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TOP: Cameron Ross plays jazzy Christmas tunes beneath the 55-foot Weatherford Christmas Tree, which will remain lit through the end of December. The annual tree lighting festival featured a holiday-themed drone show, food, music, and fun photo settings. | BOTTOM: The Bennett family, Dave, Ariel and Jameson, pose at the lighting festival Nov. 25.



CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Weatherford history, heritage on display

41st event is Dec. 14

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Few things can match the joy that comes from a home filled with holiday cheer. Add a little history and heritage - well actually, a lot of all of the above - and you've got a season to remember.

This will all be in the spotlight on Saturday, Dec. 14 as the Parker County Heritage Society (PCHS) will present the 41st Candlelight Tour of Homes from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

The tour began in 1983 - skipping the COVID pandemic year of 2020.

The tour will feature six unique historic homes built between 1889 and 1930. Chandor Gardens, the Doss Center, Prince Memorial Church, and the Parker County Courthouse will also be open for tours, included with the ticket.

The order of the tour is:

1. Weatherford College Alumni House, 301 E. Park Ave.
2. Lowe-Wright House, 202 W. Oak St.
3. Woolfork-McCall House, 202 S. Waco St.
4. Warwick House, 315 Cleveland Ave.
5. Bateman House, 218 E. Simmons St.
6. Shadle House, 820 S. Waco St.
7. Prince Memorial Church, 410 W. Oak St.
8. Chandor Gardens, 711 W. Lee Ave.
9. Doss Heritage and Cultural Center, 1400 Texas Dr.
10. Parker County Courthouse on the Weatherford City square, 1 Courthouse Square.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKER COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Lowe-Wright House is one of a half dozen homes on display at this year's Candlelight Tour of Homes Dec. 14 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Also on the tour will be Prince Memorial Church, Chandor Gardens, Doss Heritage and Cultural Center and the Parker County Courthouse

Each stop is filled with its own unique bit of history that has impacted Parker County and its residents over the many years.

"I think our Candlelight Tour is so popular because of word of mouth throughout North Texas," said Jo-Alice Davis of the PCHS. "We have even had people from other states and Countries - usually they are visiting relatives in the area or stationed at the JRB in Ft. Worth."

"Many of those who enjoy our tour do it year after year."

How it all began

The PCHS originally had a Spring Tour for several years. However, Davis said it became

hard to find homes whose yards were "great" and the tour was hard on the owners because of that.

A night tour was also considered, she said. However, in the spirit of the holiday season, they learned something from some neighbors, such as those in Waxahachie and Cleburne, and incorporated it into their own - which has, like those, become one of the more popular tours in the North Texas area.

Turn to HOMES, page 5



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TROT

from page one

First finishers in the one mile for women were Audry Reaves, Emma Davis and Elena Dyson. First finishers in the one mile for the men were Aaryn Kagwal, Brooks Bohn and Clark Happ.

First finishers in the 5k for the women were Rebecca Lugo, Kaitlyn Greenwalt and Jessie Heath. First finishers in the 5k for the men were Jace Lay, Aaron Kagwal, who won the one mile event as a warmup, and Jared McNeil.

See if you can find yourself or your friends in more than four dozen photos at www.community-news.com.



Find more photos here



The Vierling family: Derek, Kellye, and son Reid were the recipients of the 2024 Thanksgiving Trot.



Thanksgiving Trot 5k winner Aaryn Kagwal.



Jim and Myla Gibson pose for a selfie in front of the Aledo Thanksgiving Trot starting line. The Gibsons say they have been participating in the benefit event for many years.



5k starting line



Justin McCarthy jogged from his Aledo home to Aledo High School as a warm-up.



The one mile run start.



One mile winner Audry Reaves.

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AVIATION

AISD flight program soars

Hunstable's gift honors Bearcat-loving son

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

The skies are clear, and with control yoke in hand the pilot uses the left rudder pedal to gently lean northwest toward Parker County. With wings now level, students in the classroom watch as the Aledo High School campus begins to appear on the horizon.

The common flight pattern is one of the favorites of students in Aledo ISD's Career and Technical Education flight training program. The class, taught by flight instructor Derek Foster, uses the simulator as one of the key elements of the program.

Aledo ISD communications director Mercedes Mayor said the simulator's gauges and controls replicate the flight experience, but without the inertia of plane motion.

"It's pretty cool, actually," Mayer described. "You feel like you are in the cockpit of an airplane and you can set it to fly and it will look like you are flying in that area. So, you can set it to fly from Meacham to Love Field and you will be flying over Arlington and Dallas."

Gift in memory

The Redbird TD2 system, which has a base price of about \$10,000 before accessories, was a gift from April and Brad Hunstable in memory of their son, Hayden. When looking for a way to honor their son with a gift to the Aledo Education Foundation, Hayden's good friend, Carter Page, came to mind.

Page was studying to be a pilot at the time, a passion instilled in



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Carter Page points out where Lake Weatherford is on the Aledo ISD flight simulator. Page used the system to train on, became a certified pilot, and is now a student-instructor in the program.

him through his pilot father and grandfather, and the Hunstables believed it would be fitting to make a gift that also benefited their son's best friend. Page now has his pilot's license and is a student-assistant in the aviation class.

"All the controls are right. The instruments are right. It's all here," Page said while sitting at the flight console. "The system gives you the feel and what the view would be while learning the instruments and controls. Right there is Lake Weatherford."

The program is available not only for students who have a passion for flight, like Page, but also students wanting to simply check out the idea of flying to see if it would be something they may want to pursue. Foster said he has advanced students who are now doing live flight training at Parker County Airport.

Remembering Hayden

Hayden unexpectedly took his own life during the Covid 19 shutdown. The National Library of Medicine reported 5,568 youth suicides in 2020 during the pandemic.

The Hunstable family helped produce a documentary about Hayden's life titled "Almost Thirteen," available on YouTube. The emotional film, which won Best Documentary of the Year in 2021 by Fort Worth Studios, provides insight and awareness of what the Center for Disease Control reports is the second-leading cause of death for teens and young adults ages 10-34.

"He loved Aledo. He loved being a Bearcat," Brad Hunstable said. "We can't explain it. He showed none of the tell-tale signs. That is why we made this video. We want to tell Hayden's story and encourage every parent to be further involved



MERCEDES MAYOR/ALEDO ISD

Brad Hunstable takes the controls with guidance from flight student Carter Page during the original installation of the flight simulator Hunstable donated to the school district in honor of his son, Hayden.

in their kid's lives. It gives us comfort. It is healing."

A viewer on Youtube, @richardzheng2805, recently commented, "I was also born in 2007, only two months younger than Hayden. I had similar thoughts during Covid and acted upon some of them. I'm 16 now...I'm lucky to

have found a passion that pulled me out. I go back to this video every so often. It reminds me of the hard times that I had...RIP Hayden."

If you are in a crisis or know someone who may be at risk, the Suicide Hotline is available 24/7/365 at 800-273-8255 or text HOME to 741741 to connect with a crisis counselor.

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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

Deportation vow alarms construction industry



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

The state's construction industry is voicing concern that President-elect Trump's vow to deport millions of undocumented immigrants would cause major labor shortfalls, according to the *Texas Standard*.

"It would devastate our industry, we wouldn't finish our highways, we wouldn't finish our schools," said Stan Marek, CEO of Marek, a Houston-based commercial and residential construction giant. "Housing would disappear. I think they'd lose half their labor."

Many of the state's cities are on lists of the country's fastest growing communities, and companies rely on undocumented labor. A 2022 report by the American Immigration Council and Texans for Economic Growth indicated more than a half million immigrants were working in the construction industry and nearly 60% of that workforce was undocumented.

Economist Ray Perryman notes that the Texas workforce isn't large enough to keep pace with growth.

"There are more undocumented people working in Texas right now than there are unemployed people in Texas," Perryman said.

Proposed tariffs raise concerns along border region

Trump's intention to levy a 25% tariff on goods imported from Mexico and Canada is raising concerns, particularly along the southern border.

"The biggest impacts are going to be felt by manufacturing companies, transportation

companies and warehousing companies," said Tom Fullerton, an economics professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. "We could end up with a repeat of the 1930s with the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act," which created a trade war and contributed to the Great Depression.

Most goods traded across the three countries are considered intermediary goods, *The Texas Tribune* reported. An example is an American carmaker importing Chinese electrical parts, sending the vehicle to Mexico for a circuit board, then the vehicle being sent back across the border for finishing in an assembly line in Texas. Fullerton said an individual product could pass between the U.S. and Mexico four to eight times.

Some Texas elected officials have expressed support for Trump's tariffs, however. Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said tariffs can be an effective negotiating tool to encourage Mexico to shut down the border and said any potential economic impacts would be short-lived.

"We are trying to shut down the flood of illegal immigration," Miller said. "That factor alone offsets any temporary price increase."

Patrick calls for Alzheimer's research funding

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wants lawmakers in the upcoming session next month to approve a dementia research fund modeled after the state's \$6 billion Cancer Prevention and Research Institute, called CPRIT, *The Tribune* reported.

Since it began in 2007, CPRIT has become the country's second-largest funder of cancer research, only exceeded by the federal government. If funded by the Legislature, the dementia counterpart could have a global impact on research into Alzheimer's and dementia.

"Like CPRIT, this investment will draw leading researchers and companies to Texas and require them to be based in Texas, leading to their further investment in our state," Patrick said last week.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reports that 459,000 Texans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia. That is about 12% of the state's over-65 population.

Crypto mining facilities must register with PUC

Cryptocurrency mining facilities connected to the state's primary electric grid must register with the Public Utility Commission under a rule passed late last month. The rule was mandated by a bill passed in 2023 requiring crypto mining facilities using more than 75 megawatts of power to do so.

Crypto mining consumes huge amounts of power. According to the Texas Blockchain Council, there are at least 27 mining operations in Texas and more are planned. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas predicts the growth in crypto mining facilities and data centers could nearly double electric use within six years.

"To ensure the ERCOT grid is reliable and meets the electricity needs of all Texans, the PUCT and ERCOT need to know the location and power needs of virtual currency miners," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said.

Virtual currency mining facilities are "flexible loads," meaning they can quickly adjust their power consumption in response to certain factors, like changes in the wholesale price of electricity. Facilities that fail to register could be fined \$25,000 a day.

Feds can't destroy razor wire, appeals court rules

A federal appeals court has stopped the federal government

from destroying razor-wire fencing installed by Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border near Eagle Pass, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported. The state placed more than 29 miles of wire in the Eagle Pass area in the past year or so. The Border Patrol has cut some of the wire in a long-running dispute between the federal government and the state over who controls the border.

Last week, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a 2-1 opinion reversing a lower court's ruling that the federal government could destroy the wire.

"It was shocking to me that the federal government would go out of their way to cut razor wire to allow illegals to cross when we're just trying to protect our own land," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said.

TxDOT projects save commuters \$915 million

A historic number of projects underway by the Texas Department of Transportation are easing commute times, according to a new report from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

Despite the number of miles traveled on state roads increasing by 7% in the past five years, traffic delays are down 7% in that same time period, according to TTI. The study also found commuters are saving an estimated \$915 million in time and fuel costs.

"As our population and economy continue to grow, there's a considerable need for more projects, and this report helps guide our work to areas that need it most," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

Idle American

A couple of good 'uns



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

They are a lovable couple--Dr. Chris Liebrum and his wife, Cindy--known for quickly-triggered smiles, positive attitudes, deep faith and commitment to close-knit families.

Married for 52 years, they have reached highest peaks and navigated life's storms--shortening them when possible--confident of a safe arrival on the other side. They're the kind of folks whose company is treasured.

Cindy has earned "life of the party" status, laughing--even cackling--all the way, sometimes way out on limbs. Comparatively, Chris is content in the shade of trees, maybe planting something to bloom later. In short, they personify the expression heard during long ago cattle drives: "They'll do to ride the river with."

They're proud of their sons, Cory and Clay, their daughters-in-law and their four grandchildren. Chris and Cindy, who met as students at Howard Payne University, carve out "family time" admirably. This was difficult to accomplish during Chris's schedule-packed professional years of denominational leadership.

Even with their mid-70s now at hand, they press on, barely slowed in "semi-retirement."

Chris works part-time for his alma mater, and still preaches often on Sundays throughout Texas.

They are beloved by everyone, even friends with other religious beliefs or political leanings. I deeply value their friendship, these thoughtful, caring Christians. He is studied, his words carefully chosen when serious topics are broached. Cindy can be serious, too, but most friends can't remember the last time she was. She's always "at the ready" to snap pictures. Fact is, the camera strap marks formerly marking the back of her neck are slowly disappearing. Now, she values her smartphone, handy not only for "yakking" but also for photography. Grandchildren are favorite targets, as are much else that moves, or--for that matter--stands still.

I joke with them endlessly, sometimes even jabbing a bit, and they jab back, particularly Cindy. She's a joyful soul, but probably would be a lousy poker player.

Chris, with quiet reserve and contemplation, can steer around most workaday challenges, two of which will be addressed in this column. To most people, they'll fit in the "minutia box," probably even at the very bottom.

Neither is mentioned critically, and typically broached jokingly. He can't pronounce "New Braunsfels," and he's colorblind. (I don't intend to joke about his visual condition, but he does.)

First things first. Like television newsmen who never knew they'd need to pronounce



"Uvalde" often until the shootings there, Chris never thought he'd need to pronounce--or try to pronounce--"New Braunsfels" on a regular basis.

Not so fast! HPU has a branch campus there, so he's often involved in discussions that include the community's name. In the past, he's been able to "mumble through it," or simply go ahead and pronounce it "New Braunsfel" or "New Braunsfels," like many others do. I have tried endlessly to help him conquer this slight pronunciation flaw, but so far have been unsuccessful. It's his "blind spot," so to speak, similar to my failure to understand the difference in "imply" and "infer."

Trying to do so makes my hair hurt.

Now, let's jump into his world which often isn't "black and white," but various other shades and hues, most of which he has learned to live with.

He and Cindy are theatergoers, treasuring attendance at

live productions like "Wicked," a Broadway hit that opened in 2003. They've seen it at least a half-dozen times on various stages, most recently at Dallas Summer Musicals. At intermission, he heard a lady seated behind him mention the green-colored witch, Elphaba. Puzzled, he turned to Cindy, expressing that he'd never realized the witch's greenish hue.

Chris is doubly careful at traffic lights, too. "I try to go with the flow," he says, "And I've learned that the shortest measurement of time is that brief moment between the light turning green and the horn honking behind me."

Remember, I told you their faults are few.

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



PHOTO COURTESY ALEDO MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO

The Baker Firm Hudson Oaks donated snacks for Aledo Reads at Aledo Middle School. This is a three-day event, dedicated to fun reading activities, which takes place annually in November. It promotes and encourages the love of reading. Snacks were also donated by H-E-B Hudson Oaks. Pictured are Matt Tilley and Erin Gillean. Not pictured, Shayna Yancey.

HOMES

from page one

Now, Christmas time in Parker County is highlighted by this annual event. It also is key in preserving historic buildings and landmarks, the community's identities and roots.

Younger generations greatly benefit from the history and develop a greater appreciation for all that came before them.

Choosing the houses

Davis said homeowners who were on the tour the previous year are reached out to if they showed an interest in repeating.

"We re-contact those first to see if this is really 'next year. Then, various people suggest homes or know owners of homes who might be interested in being on the tour," she said.

Letters are sent out in the summer to prospective homeowners asking if they would be interested. Those are followed up with personal contacts, whether they responded to the letter or not.

"Somehow it all works out by September or October," Davis said with a smile.

Benefiting

The funds raised from the tour go to the Parker County Heritage Society, but benefit historic preservation endeavors throughout the county. Davis said the Heritage Society doesn't really have other expenses and is a 501c(3) non-profit.

Funds netted from last year's tour - around \$20,000 - have been used on the Millsap Post Office restoration and to support the purchase of a Steinway

Chippendale piano for Chandor Gardens.

"That piano is very similar to the one Ina Chandor played while Douglas Chandor was doing his famous portraits," Davis said.

Some of the funds this year have gone to the Daughters of the American Revolution for a Plaque to be placed on a monument at Soldier Springs Park in Weatherford.

Davis said this coming year the PCHS will be supporting the rehabilitation/preservation of the huge French stable Comte Paul de Bresson Stable, off South Main Street/Highway 51 behind the Chick Fil A on property owned by Weatherford College and under the purview of the Parker County Historical Commission,

Tickets

Tickets/wristbands are required for the tour and will not be available at the homes. They may be ordered online at parkercountyheritagesociety.com, then picked up or purchased at the Doss Heritage Center, 1400 Texas Dr. in Weatherford.

Tickets are also available at the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce for cash or check only. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and under.

No food, drinks, vaping, or smoking allowed inside the tour locations.

Also...

The other event hosted by the PCHS is the Talking Tombstone Tour, which takes place on the first Saturday in May at the Old City Greenwood Cemetery. It features costumed docents who portray historical figures, sharing each figure's personal stories and insights at their respective grave sites.

ART

Weatherford Art Association awards 2024 winners

By Alison Anderson
Weatherford Art Association

The Weatherford Art Association presented its "Spirit of the West" Art Show, which concludes Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Doss Heritage and Cultural Center in Weatherford.

The annual event was a huge success, with 42 talented western artists presenting 90 entries of art with a variety of different mediums.

This year's show was judged by the Associate Executive Director for the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, Diana Vela.

Best of Show - \$500 prize

- Audrey Caylor - "Abissel" oil on canvas

Award of Merit - \$250 prizes

- Karyn Thurman - "West Texas Jack" acrylic on canvas
- Kimberly Bengel - "Thathanjka" Photography
- Diane Bolinger - "Canyon of the Rainbow Goblins" Oil on Canvas
- Linda Roman - "Crow Dancer"-oil on canvas
- Joshua Bradley - "Canary Wood Vase" wooden vase

Honorable Mention - \$25 prizes

- Morgan Vickery - "Pop of Red"



PHOTOS BY ALISON ANDERSON

The Weatherford Art Association's Art Show winners at the Doss Heritage and Cultural Center.

- Craig Nadziejka - "Light Touch" photography
- Dale Smith - "Adonis" Oil on canvas
- Christy Bryant - "Still Waters" oil on canvas
- Ellen Leonard - "Out of Shadows" photography
- Debra Schaumberg - "Getting Late" oil
- Joshua Bradley - "Old Ways" Jewelry
- Alison Anderson - "The Wait" acrylic on canvas
- Alison Anderson - "Caliente" oil on canvas

BEARCATS

from page 7

"We gave up a bunch of three's in the first half, and I thought our guys adjusted really well in the second half not allowing any (three's)," Bearcats first-year head coach Brian Blackburn said. "Defensively, running them (Midlothian Heritage) off the three-point line was our main point of emphasis during halftime, and they didn't get any comfortable looks. It really helped us build a lead there in the fourth."

Aledo senior Brett Barclay scored the first six points of the game that helped the Bearcats build an early 14-7 lead. However, the Jaguars stormed back to take a 16-14 lead on a 9-0 scoring run until junior guard Kaiden Clayborn knocked down a 3-pointer with 57 seconds left in the opening frame that gave Aledo a 17-16 edge heading into the second quarter.

In that period, playmaking from star senior guard Joaquin Pacheco on the break allowed Aledo to build on its lead. He found sophomore guard Caden Cunningham in transition for an easy two on a nice no-look feed and then scored it himself with 6:21 left to make it a 21-16 game. After Midlothian Heritage scored on its next possession, junior

guard Enrique Pacheco, younger brother of Joaquin, hit a shot in the lane to stretch the lead back to five points at 23-18 with 5:28 remaining.

Then, Midlothian Heritage tipped the seasaw back in its favor with an 8-0 burst - capped by a long 3-pointer - that put the visitors in front 28-25 with 3:48 left before halftime.

Despite losing the lead, Aledo did not waver and neither did Midlothian Heritage. The two teams tied or traded the lead six times in the final four minutes of action. Trailing by six inside the final minute, Joaquin Pacheco drilled a long ball with 45 ticks remaining and sophomore guard Josiah Jenkins splashed in a 3-pointer of his own with 27 seconds left to level the score at 38-38 at halftime.

After the intermission, Aledo emerged with a new energy.

"I think Josiah Jenkins was really good for us in the third and fourth quarters, and he really gave us a spark defensively," Blackburn said. "Townes, who was hurt most of last season, I think did a really good job of manning the paint for us in the second half. Enrique Pacheco also did a good job of handling the ball for us and he made a big free throw at the end."

Joaquin Pacheco opened the third quarter by scoring Aledo's first six points to match early buckets from the Jaguars. Later in the frame, he put back a missed 3-pointer with 1:42 left and Cunningham hit a breakaway layup less than 30 seconds later to give Aledo the advantage for good at 53-52. Enrique Pacheco added a fastbreak score with 56.7 seconds left and Jenkins beat the buzzer with a midrange jumper that gave the Bearcats a 57-52 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Aledo continued to use its principles of defense and transition to build a lead that grew to double figures in the final frame and fended off the Jaguars down the stretch in spite of a late 8-0 run from the visitors.

"We need to play with the same defensive intensity earlier in games as we did in the second half of this game," Blackburn said. "We haven't played in a week, and it kind of looked like it, so I'm excited to get back into a routine of playing on Tuesdays and Fridays."

Joaquin Pacheco led all scorers with 29 points while Enrique Pacheco finished with 12. Cunningham and Jenkins netted nine points apiece while Barclay scored all six of his points in the first quarter.

WRESTLING

from page 7

Other top individual finishes were:

- Varsity boys
- 106: 4. Cameron Robbins.
 - 132: 5. Oliver Tatro.
 - 144: 6. Benjamin Hungerford.
 - 175: 8. Presten Blackwell.

- Varsity girls
- 100: 6. Lillian Carruthers.
 - 107: 5. Avery Kernan.
 - 126: 6. Joy Stephens.
 - 145: 4. Maggie Schabel, 8. Miley Turdo.
- JV boys
- 126: 4. Gabe Opsahl.
 - 138: 3. Blaze Beasley.
- JV girls
- 114: 4. Angelica Colon Ortiz.

185: 4. Kinley McDonald.

The Bearcats and Ladycats were competing in a tri-match against Hurst Bell and Lewisville Hebron at press time in Hurst. They are in the McCready Memorial tournament in Colleyville this weekend and will compete in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD Tournament Dec. 13-14 in Fort Worth.

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



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. to 4 p.m. - Church at the Crossing Gymnasium @ 128 Elm Street Aledo, TX 76008 & Festival - Downtown Aledo at 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, TX Festival - 5 to 9 p.m. Admission is FREE!



Christmas on the Tracks
Cowboy Santa is coming to town from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Dec. 7, at Peacocks Feed Real live llamas dressed in Christmas attire. Peacock's Train Rides, Bounce House & Slide, Face Painting/Balloon Art, Vendors for the BIG kids, and more fun exciting activities. Pictures with Cowboy Santa \$10 to benefit our local Freedom House.

DECEMBER 10
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

DECEMBER 12
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 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

Candle Light Tour of Homes
This year we are featuring six historical homes which will be on the Parker County Heritage Society 41st Candlelight Tour of Homes. The tour is December 14th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The tour also includes admission to Chandor Garden, the Court House on the Square, the Doss Heritage and

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 in Lubbock: Texas ___ University
- 5 "March Madness" is a ___ tournament
- 6 TX Jim Reeves hit: "Welcome ___ World" (1964)
- 7 Harris of 2008 film "Appaloosa" with TX Renee Zellweger
- 8 ___ City, Texas
- 9 what hurricanes produce on the Texas coast
- 15 "it weighs ___" (heavy)
- 16 most fleecy
- 19 in Wood County on U.S. 69
- 21 Cowboys fly their ___ away games
- 22 Nicaraguan rebels (1979-90)
- 27 worst cattle drive position
- 28 Bellville's county
- 29 noisy sleeper
- 30 TX Jodey Arrington House committee: "___ Means"
- 32 gym class abbr.
- 33 excitable
- 36 TX Zellweger has been dressed by ___ Cassini
- 37 miles ___ hour
- 38 every state except Alaska is ___ than Texas by area
- 39 those who served in the military
- 41 heap of something
- 42 titled women in the UK
- 45 rip apart
- 46 Texas creek: "Yo ___ Digo"
- 47 TX JoBeth Williams 1980 film: "___ Crazy"
- 48 horse morsel
- 49 "humble" is this regarding Texans
- 52 high maintenance person
- 53 tree chopper
- 54 Texas singer Stuckey who sang "Sweet Thang"

DOWN

- 1 explosive material
- 2 ___-friendly (not harmful to the environment)
- 3 Milam County seat
- 4 this man led the "Fredonian Rebellion," first attempt by Texans at independence (2 wds.)
- 8 this Thorpe helped the Rockets win a NBA title in 1994
- 9 big amusement park: "Six ___"
- 10 Beaumont univer.
- 11 TXism: "out ___ killer" (broken)
- 12 1972 film about a Texas magistrate: "The Life and Times ___ Bean"
- 13 TXism: "gives up the ghost"
- 14 badger's den
- 15 TX George Strait 1982 hit: "___ by Morning"
- 16 peel the skin off
- 17 payment for a graduate teaching assistant, e.g.
- 18 cartridges with a black powder for printing
- 20 not written
- 22 actress in Texas-based "The Last Picture Show" (init.)
- 23 TXism: "___-horse town" (small town)
- 24 pen names: ___ de plume
- 25 walk heavily
- 26 not wholesale
- 28 Gulf shrimp catcher (2 wds.)
- 31 bitter beers
- 34 Grand ___ Opry
- 35 dir. from Mineola to Pittsburg, TX
- 37 breathe hard
- 40 500 sheets of paper
- 43 South Padre Island acquisition (2 wds.)
- 44 TX Dennis Quaid 2005 film: "Yours, ___ Ours"
- 50 TX-born Robby film "___ Billy Joe"
- 51 Yankee state (abbr.)

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the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce (cash only) or on the PCHS website <https://parkercountyheritagesociety.com>

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://>

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Aledo earns quality home win

Bearcats use second-half defense, fast-break prowess

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats basketball team continued its pre-district trek Tuesday, Nov. 26 with a home contest against the Midlothian Heritage Jaguars.

The Bearcats (5-0) and Jaguars competed to a 38-all tie at half-time, but the Bearcats juiced up their defensive effort in the second half and collected numerous easy scoring opportunities in transition as a result to produce a 73-67 win in front of the home crowd.

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 5

BASKETBALL

Aledo splits doubleheader at Brock

Bearcats win at buzzer, Ladycats stifled

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

BROCK – Both the Aledo boys and girls basketball teams took the court Tuesday night, Dec. 3 with a pre-district doubleheader at Brock High School.

Aledo's hoops programs had mixed results on the night against the Eagles and Lady Eagles, with the team splitting wins. The Ladycats fell 39-19 in a defensive struggle before the Bearcats held on at the buzzer for a 53-52 victory.

Boys

Aledo trailed by as many as 11 points before using its full-court press to get back into the game. Aledo continued to creep closer in the fourth quarter before finally overtaking Brock by one point with multiple defensive stops in the final seconds before the buzzer sounded.

"We really felt like we were having a tough time getting into the flow of the game in the first half, and our guys really want to play hard and show how tough and gritty they can play," Bearcats associate head coach Travis Jones said. "We came out in a full-court press in the second half and, with our guys being able to create offense from our defense, we felt like that was the best way for us to excel."

Star senior guard Joaquin Pacheco kept the Bearcats competitive by scoring 10 of his team's 18 first-half points that kept Aledo within 27-18 at intermission. Aledo trimmed the deficit to 18-17 with 4:00 left in the first, but Brock ended the half on a 9-1 run, as Brock junior guard Jacoby Boxell scored six of those points on two 3-pointers.

Then, Pacheco and his backcourt running mates started to sizzle on both ends of the court.

"It's been our biggest blessing this year," Jones said of the team's

Turn to **ALEDO**, page 9

FOOTBALL

Bearcats roll Rebels



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo Bearcat defensive line holds the Rebel's player back at the Class 5A Division I playoff game.

Advance to state quarterfinals

By Jim Zimmermann
The Community News

SNYDER – The Aledo Bearcats once again made short work of their opponent as they continued their March through the Class 5A Division I playoffs, disposing of Amarillo Tascosa 62-7 at Grant Teaff Tiger Stadium.

This is the 12th consecutive season in which the Bearcats (12-1) have advanced to at least the third round of the playoffs. They are 10-1 in the previous 11, the only loss being 33-28 to Dallas South Oak Cliff in 2021.

This victory ensured an all-District 3-5A Division I Region I final as Denton Ryan (12-1) defeated Richland (10-3) 48-35 in the other semifinal on Saturday. The Region I final will be played

Saturday at 2 p.m. at Crowley ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium.

Another mismatch

The Rebels, (7-6) overcame a sluggish start and got on a late season roll to reach the third round, disposing of previously unbeaten Saginaw in the second round. But from the outset they proved no match for the Bearcats.

The Bearcats came in averaging 55 points per game and Tascosa was averaging 33 points. The Rebels offense ran through dual threat junior quarterback Colton Fulton, who accounted for 157 of their 362 yards per game before he suffered a season-ending knee injury in their win over Saginaw.

The Bearcats average over 460 yards per game with an offense that is very balanced. Junior quarterback Gavin Beard is averaging over 210 yards in the air and his leading receiver is junior Kaydon Finley,

who came into the game with over 1,200 yards and 19 TD catches.

The duo connected twice for scores in this contest from 40 and 23 yards. Beard also threw for touchdowns of 31 and 15 yards to senior Blake Burdine, giving him 34 touchdown passes on the season.

Aledo's running game starts with junior running back Ray Guillory Jr. He came into the game averaging 118 yards per contest and having scored 26 touchdowns. However, he left the game against Tascosa in the first half with an ankle injury, according to Bearcats head coach Robby Jones, and his status going forward was still being determined entering the weekend.

Bearcats 62, Rebels 7 Class 5A Division I Region I semifinal at Grant Teaff Tiger Stadium, Snyder

Aledo	21	28	6	7	62
Tascosa	0	0	0	7	7

Aledo vs. Ryan, Round 2

Winner favored to capture state

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

There's an old saying in football. It's hard to beat a team twice in the same season.

The Aledo Bearcats (12-1) are about to put that theory to a test again Saturday when they face the Denton Ryan Raiders (12-1) in the Class 5A Division I Region I final at 2 p.m. at the Crowley ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium.

The Bearcats have been in this scenario six times since 1996 and have won five of the encounters – the past five straight, to be exact. Of those, five have been in this same round and they are 4-1.

The only time the Bearcats did not pull off a sweep was in 1996. They defeated Ferris 40-13 in the regular season, but lost in the regional final 28-13. Other rematches over the years have included:

2009 vs. Stephenville: Won regular season 20-16, won in area round of playoffs 26-23.

2010 vs. Stephenville: Won 20-3 in regular season, won 18-10 in regional final.

2011 vs. Stephenville: Lost regular season 48-47, won regional 33-0.



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lincoln Tubbs

2016 vs. Saginaw Boswell: Won regular season 49-24, won regional final 42-14.

2017 vs. Mansfield Legacy: Won regular season 24-3, won state semifinals 28-21.

2022 vs. Bursleson Centennial: Won 64-21 in regular season, won regional final 42-21.

What it will take

"Denton Ryan is extremely talented. You don't have to be perfect, but near perfect to beat them,"

Aledo head coach Robby Jones said. "They thrive on mistakes other teams make."

Jones noted some instances in the Raiders' 48-35 third-round win over another District 3-5A opponent, Richland. A couple of first-half turnovers gave the Raiders the ball deep in Royals territory, and a botched Richland punt in the second half resulted in another easy score.

"It's a totally different game," Jones said of the rematch. "We

Turn to **STATE**, page 9

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ladycats take down Abilene Wylie

Aledo hands Lady Bulldogs first loss

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats hosted the Abilene Wylie Lady Bulldogs for a pre-district clash Tuesday, Nov. 26 with senior volleyball stars Ella Isbell and Kinley Elms back in the lineup. With new energy and plenty of playmaking on display, the Ladycats, ranked No. 18 in the state in Class 5A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, handed Wylie its first loss of the season, winning 37-33.

Junior guard Elizabeth Griffin excelled for Aledo, leading the way with a team-high 15 points while Tiara Butler and Brooklyn Dempsey added eight and seven points, respectively. Brenna Clock chipped in with six points and Isbell had one.

The Ladycats (6-5) were back on the court again in front of their home fans at press time against the Brock Lady Eagles of Class 4A, No. 6 in the state. They are competing in the Bursleson Tournament this weekend and travel to Brewer on Dec. 13.

Meanwhile, the Bearcats (5-0), who are coming off consecutive home victories over Midlothian Heritage (73-67) and Eagle Mountain (56-46) were putting their unbeaten record on the line at Brock, No. 19 in Class 4A, also at press time. They are in the Abilene Key City Classic this weekend, hit the road to Springtown on Tuesday, Dec. 12 and are in the Weatherford Tournament next weekend.

WRESTLING

Aledo competes in elite event

Brings home pair of varsity gold medals, one JV

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats got a glimpse of one of their main district opponents as they traveled to Azle to compete in the prestigious Nest Invitational recently.

Dylan Chandler and Brice Bohn led the Aledo varsity contingent, winning gold medals in the boys 120-pound and 126 categories, respectively. Mateo Douglas also captured gold in the boys junior varsity 120 division.

Aledo also had a runner-up finish from Cade Rangel in the 285 division of varsity boys. Noah Chasteen (JV boys 126) and Grace Beasley (JV girls, 107) also placed second.

The JV girls finished fifth as a team out of 20 entries. The varsity boys were eighth out of 19 and varsity girls were 13th out of 20.

Turn to **WRESTLE**, page 5

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The Aledo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, December 16, 2024 in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Aledo Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

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ALEDO

from page 7

guards. "We're not always the biggest or fastest team, but we play harder than anybody else in the state. These guys love to play basketball more than anything, and it's really hard to stop them once they get on a run. And our guys number 10 here (Caden Cunningham) is one of the most aggressive guys in the state. He's really come out of his shell this year and hit some big shots for us in really clutch moments."

Sophomore guard Caden Cunningham had the hot hand in the second half and made his first of five 3-pointers with 6:02 left in the third quarter, which trimmed the Eagles' lead to 29-23. Later in the frame, he drilled another long ball from the wing with 3:05 remaining in the third to cut Brock's advantage to 35-30. Pacheco made a pair of layups on the break to pull Aledo within three points late in the quarter, but Brock scored the final three points to enter the fourth with a 42-36 lead.

Aledo opened up the scoring in the fourth quarter with a pair of free throws by Cunningham to whittle Brock's lead down to four points. After that, Joaquin Pacheco scored inside off the feed from his younger brother Enrique Pacheco, and the elder Pacheco brother put back a missed shot moments later to pull within 44-42 at the 5:22 mark of the fourth quarter. Boxell and Pacheco traded layups before Cunningham swished a clutch 3-pointer with 3:37 that gave Aledo its first lead at 47-46. Following that triple, he drained another one from the corner with 2:52 to go to extend the Bearcats lead to 50-46.

"My teammates believed in me, gave me the ball and knew I could knock my shots down," Aledo sophomore guard Caden Cunningham said. "This whole team continues to cheer me on - they're great teammates. They're always encouraging me and telling me I can do whatever."

Boxell scored twice in the following minute for Brock to tie the action at 50-all heading into the final moments of regulation, but Pacheco split a pair of free throws with 48.6 seconds remaining to give Aledo a 51-50 edge. Boxell hit a baseline floater with 31 ticks left to give Brock its last lead at 52-51 before Pacheco put Aledo in front to stay at 53-52 with a crafty driving layup with less than 15 seconds left in regulation.

"Our bond together has been strong," Cunningham said. "We play great as a team, we all hustle

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VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats complete stellar volleyball season

Includes district title, state semifinals berth

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team recently completed arguably its best season in almost a decade and did so in dominant fashion.

The Ladycats (35-8) held a top-5 spot in the state rankings for most of the season, won District 5-5A Division I with an unblemished 12-0 record and accomplished this feat without dropping a single set in each of their league matches. From the opening serve, Aledo faced stiff

competition during a 18-7 pre-district slate of matches.

Aledo opened the 2024 season with a home win in straight sets over a talented Liberty Christian squad, who entered the year as defending state champions of TAPPS 6A District 1. Then, the Ladycats won 17 of their next 24 matches ahead of their district domination, which included a third-place finish in the Katy Tournament, a top-8 finish in the Northwest Tournament and an Arlington Classic Tournament championship.

After that, Aledo took its talents to the postseason, where it continued to roll. The Ladycats topped

Birdville in four sets in their bi-district match and went on to sweep its next three opponents (Burlson, Amarillo and Colleyville Heritage) in the area, regional semifinal and regional final rounds, respectively.

The victory over Colleyville Heritage, led by star senior Suliane Davis, was especially satisfying for Aledo after the Lady Panthers ended Aledo's 2023

campaign in a four-set regional match. Aledo got its revenge over Colleyville Heritage by a final score of 25-23, 25-17 and 26-24.

After Aledo claimed the Region I crown, it faced the McKinney North Lady Bulldogs in the Ladycats' first

state semifinal appearance since 2017. The Ladycats, who rode a 24-game winning streak into the match, nearly overcame a 2-1 deficit in the match. Aledo forced a winner-take-all fifth set, but the Ladycats came up just short to McKinney North by a final score of 21-25, 25-19, 13-25, 26-24 and 15-13. McKinney North went on to lose to Flour Bluff in five sets during the state championship match.

All-district/all-state

Once the season concluded, several Ladycat players were honored in the 2024 All-District

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STATE

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can't allow them to have a quick start. They like to get on teams early."

Likewise, the Bearcats have outscored their opponents 238-29 in the first quarter of games this season. However, the opposite was true in their earlier meeting with Ryan.

The Raiders jumped on top 6-5 after the first quarter and led 27-8 in the second quarter, taking a 27-14 halftime lead. In the third quarter, Aledo outscored Ryan 21-0, followed by 7-0 in the fourth.

Guillory's status

Running back Raycine Guillory has rushed for 1,303 yards and scored 26 touchdowns this season. However, he left the Bearcats' 62-7 regional semifinal victory against Amarillo Tascosa with an ankle injury after carrying the ball only twice for 6 yards.

"We think he's going to play," Jones said, noting his status early in the week was about 50-50.

Guillory was tackled and twisted his ankle on the second play of the game against Tascosa.

In his absence, Kaden Winkfield had a sensational game, picking up 142 yards on 11 carries with three touchdowns, including scores of 56 and 57 yards. He also caught a pair of passes for 25 yards.

"That's expected of Kaden. He's a very good running back as well," Jones said.

With 855 yards entering this game, Winkfield is looking to join Guillory in the 1,000-yard club this season.

Both runners were key factors in the first meeting against Ryan. Guillory carried 26 times for 161 yards and a pair of TD, along with catching three passes for 43 yards

and another score. Winkfield carries a dozen times for 86 yards.

Red hot Beard

The last time Aledo QB Gavin Beard threw an interception was against Ryan. Since then, Beard has completed 87 of 114 passes for 19 touchdowns and 0 interceptions.

Over the past five games, Beard is a near-perfect 56-of-65. In fact, he has twice had perfect completion games in that span, going 15-for-15 against Tascosa and 11-for-11 against Azle.

Overall for the season, despite missing two full games with an injury, Beard has thrown for 34 touchdowns opposite just three interceptions.

"He's having a fantastic season and he's going to have to have one of his better games this year, especially if Ray is limited," Jones said.

Lack of punting

The Bearcats have yet to punt in the postseason. In fact, they've only punted 16 times all season, with the last time coming in the regular-season final against Denton.

They also did not punt in the first meeting with Ryan, while the Raiders punted three times.

Special teams

Great teams are typically great in all aspects. This includes special teams, a key component that was big in kick-starting the Bearcats' comeback in the earlier matchup with Ryan.

Trailing 27-8 with time running out in the first half, Aledo's Adrian Fuller returned a kickoff 99 yards to make the score 27-14 at the half.

In all, the Bearcats have returned four kickoffs for touchdowns this season, two by Fuller

and two by Lincoln Tubbs. Ryan has also returned a pair of kickoffs for touchdowns.

Turnovers/takeaways

The Bearcats are a plus-8 in the turnover-takeaway department. Surprisingly, the Raiders are minus-2. The strength of each team in this department is their pass defense, with both squads having 14 interceptions.

When the teams met the first time, Aledo won the turnover battle 2-1, all interceptions. Owen Henderson and Kamron Hall each picked off a pass for the Bearcats.

All-time series

Aledo leads the all-time series 3-2, having won the past three after falling 34-27 in 2002 and 17-0 in 2003. Those first two meetings were in regional finals, and the latter score was the last time Aledo has been shut out.

The past three meetings have all been in the regular season and in district play, with the Raiders having hopes of ending Aledo's national-record district winning streak. The streak is still intact at 127 as Aledo won 35-21 in Denton in 2022 and 25-19 in Aledo in 2023 before this season's win.

The 2023 game saw Ryan rally from 17-0 down to take a late lead. However, Bearcats quarterback Hauss Hejny - now at TCU - broke free for a game-winning TD run of more than 50 yards on fourth down.

Following three of the four previous meetings the winner has gone on to win a state championship. Ryan took the crown in 2002, with Aledo winning in 2022 and 2023.

Though they did not play, both won a state title in 2020.

"It's starting to be a rivalry with Ryan since they are in our district now," Jones said.

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (12-1) vs. Denton Ryan Raiders (12-1)

What: Class 5A Division I Region I final.

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, Crowley ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium.

Last week: Aledo won 62-7 over Amarillo Tascosa, Ryan defeated Richland 48-35.

Last season: Aledo went 16-0 and won Class 5A Division I state championship, Ryan was 8-3 and reached the second round of the playoffs.

All-time series: Aledo leads 3-2.

Returning starters: Aledo 3 offensive, 4 defensive. Ryan 8 offensive/7 defensive.

Aledo offensive players to watch: RB Kaden Winkfield (855 yards, 13 TD rushing; 8 catches, 103 yards receiving), with RB Ray Guillory's status questionable, Winkfield could be the go-to-guy. He rushed for 86 yards on a dozen carries in the first meeting. QB Gavin Beard (136-of-191, 71%, 2,368 yards, 34 TD, 3 interceptions), since last throwing an interception against Ryan on Oct. 4, Beard is 73-of-98 with 19 TD and no picks.

Ryan offensive players to watch: QB Quin Henigan (70% completions, 2,282 yards, 29 TD, 7 interceptions), RB Nehemiah Warmate (1,083 yards, 17 TD).

Aledo defensive players to watch: LB Owen Henderson (52.5 tackles, 2 for loss, sack, 2 interceptions, 2 fumble recoveries), in first meeting he had one of his best games of the season with 75 tackles and an interception. CB Adrian Fuller (22.5 tackles, team-best 4 interceptions and pass breakups with 10), also a big threat on kick returns, as he proved in first meeting with a 99-yard kickoff return that turned the game around.

Ryan defensive players to watch: DB Jaxon Dozier (93 tackles, 10 for loss, 2 sacks, interception), DB Xavier Hiler (22 tackles, 5 interceptions).

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Elizabeth Griffin
Basketball

The junior scored 15 points to lead the Ladycats to a 37-33 home victory against Abilene Wylie on Nov. 26 before the team took a break for Thanksgiving.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Kaden Winkfield
Football

The junior rushed for three touchdowns in the Bearcats' 62-7 regional semifinal victory against Amarillo Tascosa on Friday, Nov. 29. Two of these were for 57 and 56 yards as he ended the day with 142 yards on just 11 carries, along with catching two passes for 25 yards.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Eagles soar to victory over NCA

Hold off late rally

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

WILLOW PARK – The 2024-25 basketball campaign is off to a solid start for the Trinity Christian Academy varsity Eagles. They started off slow, but quickly found their way while hosting Nazarene Christian Academy on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Their defense forced turnovers that translated into fast-break opportunities throughout the contest, culminating in a 54-47 win in their home opener.

“They did a really good job in the first half and the third quarter of keeping up the defensive intensity,” Eagles head coach Jeff Peterson said after the game. “There was a quick start by the opponent, but we were able to shut them down and take away what they wanted and use some defense to create some offense.”

Nazarene Christian Academy leapt out to a 4-0 lead before the Eagles defense took over. TCA flocked to the ball all night, forcing countless mistakes by the Lions as they crumbled under pressure from the defense.

“That’s been one of our pillars of defense, is to be offensive,” Peterson stated. “That’s what we strive to do. We strive to make the offense uncomfortable, not let them run their stuff to the best of our ability while protecting the rim. The guys did a good job of that tonight.”

Fast-break scoring opportunities came in bunches for the Eagles, with guards Reed Robinson, Sam Carson and Scott Smith taking turns scoring easy buckets. The few times TCA ran their offense in the first quarter, Jonathan Overholt and Cole Massey muscled their way to high-percentage shots down in the paint as the Eagles took an 18-10 lead after the first quarter.

The second quarter was much the same, with the lone exception of TCA adding in the long ball as Massey and John Chrane both knocked down shots from beyond the arc. The Eagles extended their lead, as they outpaced NCA in the second stanza to take a 33-17 lead into the break.

Coming out for the second half, the Lions managed to find a groove late in the third as the

defensive pressure from the Eagles waned. A scoring flurry towards the end of the frame left the margin at 16 points with TCA holding a 47-31 advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

Scoring for both teams slowed in the first seven minutes of the fourth quarter with NCA outscoring the Eagles 8-7 down the stretch. The Lions managed to get hot from behind the 3-point line in the final minute with Aiden Adams hitting three of the four Nazarene 3-pointers in the last 60 seconds of the contest.

The last-ditch scoring blitz closed the gap, but wasn’t enough to overcome the Eagles’ lead as the final buzzer sounded.

TCA will be back in action on Friday when Christian Life Preparatory Academy comes to town. Tipoff for the matchup between the Eagles and Knights is slated for 7 p.m. at Barber Gym.

Eagles vs. Nazarene Christian – Dec. 3

NCA	10	7	14	16	47
TCA	18	15	14	7	54

Sam Carson 14, Cole Massey 13, Jonathan Overholt 8, John Chrane 7, Reed Robbins 6, Scott Smith 6.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sam Carson makes a layup off a fast-break in the TCA Eagles' 54-47 win over Nazarene Christian on Dec. 3.

VOLLEYBALL

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5-5A Division I Awards list. Senior middle Kinley Elms, committed to Lamar University, and junior outside hitter Alyssa Todd, an ACU commit, were named Co-MVPs of the district.

Elms also earned a spot on the all-state roster in Class 5A Division I. Meanwhile, senior back row specialists Kenrie Pruitt (Texas A&M-Corpus Christi commit) and Ella Meador (University of Texas El Paso commit) shared defensive honors as the Co-Defensive MVPs. Senior setter Ava Reding, an Iona University commit, was named as the district’s Server of the Year while senior middle Haley Lowe earned the superlative of Blocker of the Year. Ladycats head coach Claire Gay was selected as the Coach of the Year.

Senior setter Ava Reding, an Iona University commit, was named as the district’s Server of the Year, while senior middle Haley Lowe earned the superlative of Blocker of the Year. Ladycats head coach Claire Gay was selected as the Coach of the Year.

Senior middle Ella Isbell, senior defensive specialist Logyn Denbow and junior setter Sophie Frank were named to the all-district first team. Meanwhile, senior Morgan Estevez and junior Ali LoBaugh earned second-team recognition, and junior Tatum Kosse was selected to the honorable mention list.

Furthermore, eight seniors: Denbow, Elms, Estevez, Isbell, Lowe, Meador, Pruitt and Reding represented Aledo well in the classroom as academic all-district selections. In addition to the seniors, seven juniors – Frank, Kosse, LoBaugh, Sarah Schroeder, Karsyn Trott, Kailey Hamilton, Kenley Hamilton and Lily Lufkin received academic all-district recognition as well.

LADYCATS

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all over the court and the coaching has been great.”

Joaquin Pacheco finished with a game-high 25 points, Cunningham scored 19 points and Enrique Pacheco chipped in with seven. Boxell scored a team-high 23 points for the Eagles.

The Bearcats (6-0) remained unbeaten with the victory and will

be in action again in the Abilene Key City Classic Tournament from Thursday through Saturday.

Ladycats stymied against Lady Eagles

The Aledo Ladycats took the floor against the Brock Lady Eagles before the boys game, and the two teams battled it out through a defensive slugfest. Ultimately, the Ladycats couldn’t carve up Brock’s stingy defense, falling on the road by a final score of 39-19.

After the teams combined for just nine first-quarter points, Brock began to force the issue. Sophomore guard Jaycee Riddle drained a corner 3 with 7:12 left before halftime to extend the lead to 8-4. Later in the frame, she collected a steal, drew a foul and split a pair of free throws to make it 9-4 with 4:48 left.

After Aledo scored the next three points to cut Brock’s lead to 9-7, Lady Eagles star senior Keira Mathews and freshman Laney

Hudson hit layups on consecutive possessions to make it 13-7 with 1:48 left. Then, Ladycats sophomore guard Brooklyn Dempsey drew a foul and split a pair of free throws to pull Aledo within 13-8 19 seconds later, but Mathews scored the final three points of the frame to give Brock a 16-8 lead at intermission.

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