

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## 'tis the holiday season



CHRISTOPHER AMOS & RANDY CUTSHALL/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

RIGHT: Aledo High School seniors Virginia Henckell and Kate Roddie take a spin on the ice at the skating rink in the Aledo Commons Park. | MIDDLE: Bright lights filled the sky at the Hudson Oaks' Christmas celebration. | LEFT: The Hamilton family enjoy the Christmas tree on the north side of the highway in Willow Park.

### ALEDO

## Council addresses full agenda

### Holidays loom

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

With what would typically be the second meeting of the month scheduled to fall the day after Christmas, the Aledo City Council packed an entire 31 days worth of business into their only meeting of the month on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Bursting at the seams, the agenda covered a wide array of issues ranging from updates to signage ordinances to the passage of a hotel occupancy tax.

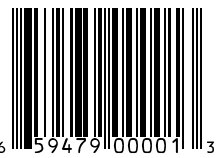
Amending Article 4 of the Unified Development Code set the business of the meeting in motion. The intent of the amendments was to create consistency in the code, while upholding the desired esthetic the city is shooting for as Aledo continues to grow.

Specific changes to Article 4 are things like not permitting signs to be painted on buildings, ground-based signs having at least a five-foot buffer from property lines, and ensuring wiring for electrical signs meeting safety codes.

### Landscaping

Ordinance 2024-222 will fill in the gaps in the current Unified Development Code related to maintenance standards and responsibilities for landscaping, buffering, and screening on properties across

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### DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## RV thief's conviction affirmed

### Sentence of 65 years

Courtesy Parker County District Attorney's office

The convictions and sentences totaling 65 years a would-be Willow Park RV thief was given by a Parker County jury last January were affirmed in an appellate ruling last week.

In the trial, Lori Beth Wiles, 53, of Newark, was convicted of attempted theft in an amount of \$150,000 or more but less than \$300,000 and fraudulent use or

possession of identifying information from an elderly person. In 2022, she tried to steal an RV from a Willow Park business using a woman's bank account. Jurors sentenced to prison terms of 65 and 40 years on the cases. Under Texas law, those sentences run concurrently.

Wiles was a habitual offender with prior convictions and sentences for forgery, identity theft, six felony drug charges, two thefts,

two assaults, and failure to identify that total over 130 years in prison.

"This defendant was a long-time con woman who got caught trying to make a big score," said District Attorney Jeff Swain. "If it wasn't for one victim checking her bank account and a local business promptly reporting and then working with the Willow Park Police Department to catch her, Ms. Wiles could have driven away

in an RV worth almost a quarter million dollars.

"Especially in the Christmas season, it is very important that Parker County residents be watchful of their credit cards and bank accounts. If you have the ability, regularly check your account transactions and balances online and report any questionable activity immediately.

"Also, be wary of great deals from people you don't know,"

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### WILLOW PARK

## Jock honored for 25 years of service

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

No one at the Willow Park City Council meeting could be happier than Candice Scott Jock, and it showed in the way she laughed loudly in the cluster of people visiting her before the meeting.

Jock was at the council meeting to receive accolades for her retirement from the city after 25 years of service. But there was also a certain glow that showed in her smile as she and her husband Wayne Jock chatted about plans since their recent wedding.

"We are going to get a nice motor home and go see the U.S.," Candice said. "We are going to have fun and see the world!"

After beginning her career as administrative assistant, communication director Rose Huffman said Jock began filling many other positions in the city.

"With 25 years of service, there is a lot of history that is leaving with Candi," Huffman said of her former co-worker. "She has done

pretty much everything in this city except police chief. We are going to miss her, but we're happy for her."

The council meeting opened with Mayor Doyle reading recognitions and honors to which Jock prefixed with, "OK, I'm going to try to keep from crying."

In city business, two items were directed to the January 14 meeting. City Manager Bryan Grimes presented the motion that the article concerning a professional services agreement with Jacob Martin, LLC, be moved to next month to allow further consideration for street improvements for Squaw Creek Estate West. A petition seeking the creation of the Beall-Dean Ranch Public Improvement District within the jurisdiction of Willow Park will also be on the January docket.

A contract for Jacob & Martin was approved for water and sewer services in the Beall-Dean Ranch property.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Candice Jock listens as Mayor Doyle Moss reads honors and commendations recognizing her 25 years of her service to the city.

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# In & Around Parker County

## Aledo Athletic Club - Your Bridge to Health and Fitness

Americans struggle, year after year, around getting fit, eating better, and losing weight.

Those goals often seem elusive in our busy world, but Aledo Athletic Club can help you get there.

Owner Shane Davis wasn't always as fit as he is today. In fact, he once weighed about 400 pounds. Following college he put on weight, and struggled with yo-yo dieting.

"I needed to figure out how to get healthy and enter the gym," Davis said. "I got under 300 pounds, but never really stayed there."

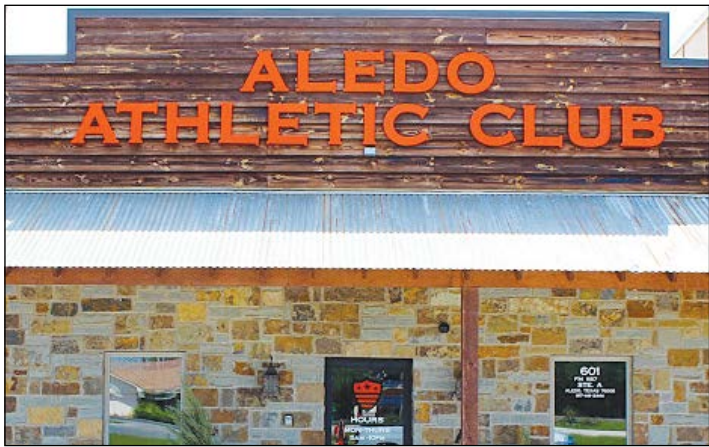
That changed in 2006 or 2007 when he came to Aledo and started working out with a trainer. He weighed 296 in January and competed at 178 pounds in December.

"It took discipline — there were a lot of things that that I had to dispel from my mind of what constitutes a healthy meal," Davis said. The issue wasn't just losing the weight, it was keeping it off.

"I think that's where most diets today fail," Davis said. "They, can get you where you want to go, but they can't keep you there."

Shane has taken what he learned and now provides the coaching and support to help others reach their goals as well.

"I was the king of the late night drive thru — whatever is quickest, because my schedule was hectic. I made every excuse in the world," Davis said. You have to plan, you have to have a goal, and then you have to have a plan B for when that when that goal doesn't work out — you're sitting in a restaurant



that you didn't plan on being in and what do I do now?"

"And that's, that's where I can help you. My phone's on 24/7. If I'm awake, I'm answering, if you know ahead of time, hey, I'm gonna go to this restaurant, we look at the menu together, I help you pick out the best meal for you. And I don't think you're gonna get that a lot of other places."

Aledo Athletic Club is celebrating its 10 year in business, and can accommodate beginners up to fitness enthusiasts.

"What we are probably best at is being supportive of your goals, whether you're a beginner, or whether you're an experienced

lifter, you can come into our gym, and you're gonna be welcomed with open arms. And if you need help, we're going to be here to help you; if you know what you're doing, you're welcome to go on your own."

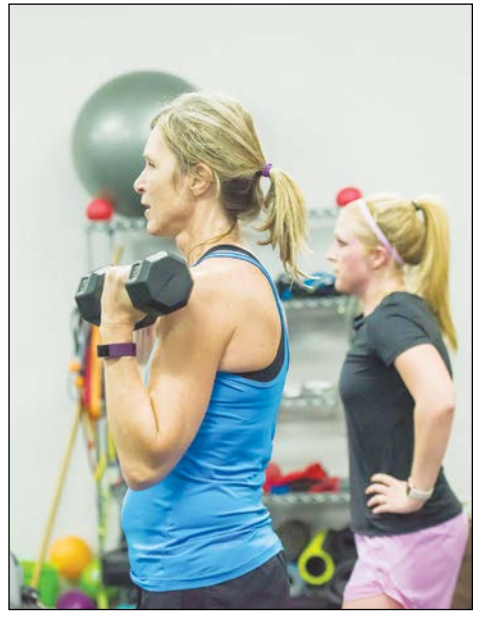
Shane knows the struggles many people deal with in getting healthy because he has been there.

Aledo Athletic Club has both machines and free weights, cardio equipment, and personal training. You can go all the way from basic calisthenics to CrossFit all under one 4,000 square-foot roof.

Whatever your goals, Shane and Aledo Athletic Club can help you get there.

"I understand the motivation," Davis said. "And I also understand that sense of desperation when you feel like you're trying everything, and yet the scale isn't moving or it's barely moving. You've got to find some reasons to continue on, whether that be for your own health or someone else's health, but you've got to keep going. As with anything in life, if you keep fighting, and you keep pushing, and you keep your head down, you will see success."

Aledo Athletic Club is located at 601 South FM 1187 in Aledo. Find out more by visiting <https://aledofitness.com/> or call 817-441-2444.



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**WILLOW PARK**

The McCall Elementary choir entertains the crowd in front of Willow Park City Hall. Employees of McKnight Title, whose office is next to Willow Park City Hall, added to the festivities of the Willow Park Christmas tree lighting festival on Dec. 3.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY MOSS INSURANCE GROUP

The Moss Insurance Group is collecting letters to Santa once again this season at their offices in Aledo at 705 FM 1187. Letters can be received through Dec. 23 to make sure Santa gets them in time for Christmas.



**A BEARCAT CHRISTMAS**

Bearcat Santa (Hudson Hackfield) gives suggestions to kids at a craft table. Lisa White of Doddles Art Studio helps Vandagriff Elementary student Cullen Tewmey make a Christmas ornament at A Bearcat Christmas on Dec. 5. Hot chocolate, cookie decorating and craft tables were popular as participants visited with Santa.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**CHRISTMAS**

**Town of Annetta holding annual contest**

**Entries being accepted now**

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

The Town of Annetta is currently holding its Fourth Annual Christmas Contest. The categories are:

- 1. Best Indoor Christmas Tree.
- 2. Best House Christmas Decorations.

Submit one photo per category to [info@annetatx.gov](mailto:info@annetatx.gov) no later than Jan. 6 at noon.

By submitting photos, you are authorizing the Town of Annetta to publish your photos.

Voting will be open to Annetta citizens beginning on Jan. 6 and close on Jan. 13 at noon. Instructions and link will be posted on that day. Voting will be for anyone 18 years old and above, and one vote per Annetta address.

Winners will be announced at the Jan. 16 city council meeting.



**CHRISTMAS TYME IN ALEDO**

Mayor Nick Stanley gave Christmas greetings as Aledo council members and Santa await the lighting of the Christmas tree in the Central Park of Aledo. Free hot chocolate and popcorn from Summit Church Aledo helped make spirits bright as festival goes approached Christmas Tyme in Aledo Dec. 7.



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YOUTH LEADERSHIP

# Tri-County Electric accepting applications for elite program

## Government in Action Tour in 2025

Courtesy Tri-County Electric

Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) is now accepting applications for the 2025 Government-in-Action Youth Tour Program in Washington, D.C.

From June 15-23, 2025, four students selected from across TCEC's 16-county service territory will join over 150 other Texas high school students to gain leadership experience, meet U.S. congressional representatives, learn about the electric cooperative industry, and tour historic sites.

"The Youth Tour is more than just a sightseeing trip — it's an invaluable experience that provides these students with the opportunity to grow as leaders, engage in discussions with their congressional representatives and other students from across Texas and the country, and learn more about the role of electric cooperatives," said Scott Spence, President and CEO of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will provide the hard-working students selected for this opportunity a unique view of our government in action."

Since 2019, TCEC has sponsored 34 high school students on an all-expenses paid trip to our nation's capital, as part of our commitment to cooperative principle number seven: Concern for Community. This principle reflects our dedication to supporting the growth and development of young people in our local area.

High school sophomores and juniors who reside with parents or legal guardians who are TCEC members are eligible to apply. Youth Tour applications will be evaluated by an independent third party not affiliated with TCEC, and winners will be announced in the spring.

For more information about the TCEC Youth Tour Program and to apply, go to [www.tcectexas.com/2025-youthtour](http://www.tcectexas.com/2025-youthtour).



BAND

# Parents play key role

## Work is nonstop, but rewarding

By John English  
The Community News

With the football playoffs having just concluded and basketball season in full swing, the parents of student-athletes and cheerleaders are often nearly as busy as the athletes themselves.

And, of course, the band is, pardon the pun, instrumental in many activities as well.

But sometimes lost in this mix are the band parents — the men and women whose students get the fans fired up, demonstrate unparalleled devotion to their schools' teams and significantly contribute to the symphonic ambience that comprises a high school sporting event in the state of Texas.

Two such parents are Tommy and Brea Darnell whose son Luke is a member of the Trinity Christian Academy drum line, where he plays the snare drum.

Brea Darnell said that while most of the school year is pretty hectic for her and Tommy, the fall can be especially active.

"Football season is the busiest, as it shares the same time as a few volleyball game performances and the big state competition," Brea said.

### Prep work

Events require a lot of prep work for band parents, and on

the day of a drum line performance, Brea said her day is pretty full.

"We know exactly where we will be that night — there on the sidelines at the game or watching the drum line competition from the crowd," Brea said. "We make sure he remembers his binder with his music and that he has the wardrobe for the performance. Oftentimes the different home games have fun themes like neon or camouflage."

"At home games, we rotate meal duties among the parents, so we get to eat before the game with the drum line, and coach (Chris) Dorrell (director of percussion, assistant volleyball coach) in their drum dojo. It's an awesome group of students and friends that welcome us in and show gratitude for the support the parents give them."

But even when things are planned out to the last detail, the Darnells and other drum line parents will sometimes have to call audibles to something unexpected.

Brea said that she and Tommy try to take this in stride.

"There are sometimes late changes, where there is an opportunity to perform somewhere like a volleyball game or another school function," Brea said. "This time in life is fleeting, and as parents, we recognize it far more than our kids. So any opportunity to see him play is a real blessing, not an inconvenience."

### Special experience

Tommy Darnell agrees and said the experience itself and what it means to Luke is what makes it special for him and Brea.

"There is a lot of pride, like anything you see your son or daughter take on with commitment and passion," Tommy said. "I am always proud of the dedication to practice time he puts in and how hard he tries to deliver each performance perfectly. I don't know how to play an instrument myself, so maybe I'm easily impressed, but I think he and the drum line might each be as good as Keith Moon or Neil Peart."

That being said, Tommy agrees with his wife that there are some unique challenges at times.

"It can be a challenge when a road game is really far away, as we have a younger daughter," Tommy said. "So it usually means only one of us may get to go or will need to get him home really late from the school."

On the flip side of that is a great sense of camaraderie that exists among the parents of drum line students who work arduously to ensure that performances go off without a hitch.

"The drum line is relatively small, with a lot of carryover from one year to the next," Tommy said. "So you get to spend a good bit of time with the other parents at pre-game meals or near one another at the games. We are really fortunate



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BREA AND TOMMY DARNELL  
Brea and Tommy Darnell, with their son Luke, who is in the drum line in the band at Trinity Christian Academy. The Darnells are the perfect examples of band parents.

to share the drum line with an incredible group of parents, all cheering for the kids."

Tommy said that the time he and Brea put into being drum line parents is worth it because of all that their son is gaining from the experience, something they both hope he cherishes forever.

"I hope more than anything that he takes away the memories of the friendships and accomplishments as a group," Tommy said. "He tackled something he knew nothing about and with hard work and the help of his team and coach Dorrell, he has excelled at it."

# COUNCIL

from page one

Aledo. The ordinance will help to prevent potential neglect and degradation of landscaping over time.

The ordinance passed unanimously.

### H.O.T.

The other noteworthy piece of business for the night was establishing the means for administering and collecting a hotel occupancy tax within the city limits of Aledo. While no hotels are coming to Aledo at this time, there are listings for short-term rentals on websites like Airbnb that are subject to hotel occupancy taxes in most municipalities.

The Council agreed a seven percent tax would benefit the city while placing no extra burden on residents. Following a motion to approve the ordinance that was quickly seconded, the ordinance passed.

# THEFT

from page one

Swain added. "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is."

Wiles' case began in August, 2022 when a Willow Park woman noticed multiple fraudulent charges on her bank account. One of the charges, a \$229,559 draft from a Willow Park RV business, caused her account to overdraft. She called the business and found out that Wiles used her account information to pay for an RV purchase.

Upon hearing from the victim, the business called WPPD and it was decided to set up a sting operation the following day when Wiles came to do her final sale paperwork. She arrived, signed the paperwork, and was arrested.

According to testimony from the salesman and one of Wiles'

friends, she said she had recently received a large inheritance. She showed them a banking app on her phone that showed she had a net worth of over \$45 million.

Officers testified that they later found that, in addition to your regular account balances, the app would allow users to input additional properties or accounts and provide a stated value for each. In this way, someone could be made to look quite wealthy even if they only had a small balance in their account. Testimony at trial showed that Wiles actually only had around \$6 in cash and investments, not millions.

"Ms. Wiles had no problem with lying to her friends, to sales and finance staff at the RV business, or to police officers to accomplish her theft or try to get away with it," said Assistant District Attorney

Al Charanza, who tried the case for the prosecution with Assistant District Attorney Abby Placke.

On appeal, Wiles contended that evidence from her cell phone should not have been admitted, claiming it should not have been searched and that also she should have been given a copy of its contents.

Assistant District Attorney Brian Wolfskill, who handled the appeal for the prosecution, argued that the search was lawful because Wiles gave officers consent to search the phone. He added that, while screenshots were taken from the phone, which were provided to the defense, law enforcement did not have a complete download of the phone and when trial prosecutors offered to download it for Wiles' lawyer, the defense declined.

The Second Court of Appeals in Fort Worth found that 415th District Judge Graham Quisenberry, who presided over the trial, "did not abuse [his] discretion by denying" Wiles' motion. The appeals court also rejected a claim that prosecutors should have been disqualified.

Wiles can still appeal to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the highest criminal appeals court in Texas, Swain said.

Wiles will be eligible for parole when her time served plus good time credit equals a quarter of her sentence, Swain said. "At that time, it will be in the discretion of the Board of Pardons and Paroles if they want to keep her in prison or put her back on the street."

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## Capital Highlights

# Phelan drops bid for speaker; no clear winner yet



Gary Borders  
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House Speaker Dade Phelan withdrew last week from seeking another term leading that chamber. After three rounds of voting on Saturday, state Rep. David Cook, R-Mansfield emerged as the preference of most House Republicans. However, his opponent, state Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, claims to have enough support from both Republicans and Democrats to clear the 76-vote threshold.

The Dallas Morning News reported that Cook acknowledged the race for speaker wasn't yet over. "I'll continue working between now and Jan. 14 to earn [the vote] of every member of the Texas Republican caucus — as well as any Democrat," Cook said.

Phelan, R-Beaumont, narrowly won re-election to his seat in the May primary, needing to prevail in a runoff to return to Austin. He was opposed by fellow Republicans who blamed him for the failure of several priorities in the last session, including the push to institute school vouchers.

Among Phelan's opponents were Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was impeached by the House but survived a conviction trial in the Senate. Paxton blasted Burrows, who voted to impeach him, as "Dade 2.0"

"Supporting Burrows is a betrayal of the conservative movement," Paxton said Friday. "Voters will remember."

### Voucher push spurs call for accountability

Education savings accounts, popularly known as school vouchers, are again a top priority for Gov. Greg Abbott in the upcoming session after a similar push failed in 2023. This time, however, the primary loss of several voucher opponents last March has even

those opposing vouchers conceding passage of a measure is likely.

That means lawmakers will pass a bill to send public tax dollars to private schools, according to the Texas Standard.

At a recent visit to the private religious school Kingdom Life Academy in Tyler, Abbott said, "We are assuring that students who may have fallen through the cracks in their public school, they're going to have a new chance, a new opportunity to be able to, to learn, to achieve, to succeed."

Dallas school board member Dan Micciche recently said that since vouchers are a likely possibility, it is vital that private and home schools that receive taxpayer money be held to the same accountability standards as public schools, including STAAR testing.

"Any school or educational entity that receives public funds should be held to the same accountability standards for student outcomes, fiscal performance, open records and meetings act, and student services," he said.

Public school administrators are also pushing for teacher pay raises, something that fell by the wayside in the last session when a voucher bill failed to pass.

### Lawmakers mull social media ban for teens

Texas lawmakers could consider banning social media for minors in the upcoming session, The Texas Tribune reported. A bill filed by state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, would prohibit minors from creating accounts on social media sites and add age verification for new users.

Other online measures would attack use of artificial intelligence to make pornographic images using people's likenesses and would boost funding for internet crime units in law enforcement agencies.

"Social media is the most dangerous thing our kids have legal access to in Texas," Patterson said.

A number of national organizations, including the American Federation of Teachers and the American Psychological Association, have criticized social

media companies for being a "root cause" of the nationwide youth mental health crisis. Studies indicate 95% of youth ages 13 to 17 use social media, with more than a third saying they use it "almost constantly."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued TikTok in October, saying the company allows its algorithms to affect minors. That suit is set to go to court in coming months.

### Higher risk of another deep freeze in Texas

The top meteorologist for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas said the coming winter could bring a higher risk of extreme cold temperature than experienced during the February 2021 storm.

Chris Coleman with ERCOT said a bevy of weather variables such as ocean currents, atmospheric patterns and soil moisture appear very similar to the 2021 conditions that spawned Winter Storm URI, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"The more I look at this winter, the more cold potential I see," Coleman said. "This is like a tornado watch. Doesn't mean a tornado is going to happen. It means conditions are there."

ERCOT is emphasizing that any potential rotating outages because of winter storms would be only hours long rather than multiple days because of improvements to the Texas grid, such as weatherproofing of power plants and more backup power sources.

"I always point to the weatherization program as probably being one of the most statistically significant changes that have been made, that has markedly changed the risk profile of the ERCOT grid, in particular during the winter seasons," ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas told the board Tuesday.

### TEA investigating 100 teachers in cheating scheme

More than 100 Texas teachers are being investigated by the Texas Education Agency in connection with a teaching certification cheating scheme. The

vast majority of teachers on a list released last week by TEA are employed by North Texas or Houston-area school districts.

Five people have been charged with felonies in connection with the scheme, allegedly organized by a Houston-area basketball coach, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

School districts have had a difficult time filling teacher vacancies since the pandemic, and the number of uncertified teachers hired has risen considerably. Statewide, 34.6% of teachers hired during the 2023-24 school year didn't have a teaching certificate, nearly three times the rate in 2019-20.

### Patrick vows to go after THC products sold by dispensaries

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said banning THC products will be a top priority next session, threatening the livelihood of dozens of stores across the state selling products with higher levels of the main compound in cannabis, the Chronicle reported.

Hemp was legalized in Texas in 2019. That has led to a proliferation of products containing higher levels of THC, which produces a high similar to cannabis, which is still illegal in Texas.

"Retailers exploited the agriculture law to sell life-threatening, unregulated forms of THC to the public and made them easily accessible," Patrick said.

Hemp producers are regulated by the Texas Department of State Health Services, and industry groups say there are far too few producers for the booming market.

"Such a ban would hand this multi-billion-dollar industry over to the illicit market, abandoning all opportunity to properly regulate the industry," said Heather Fazio, co-founder of Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy.

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

# Routes old and new



Dr. Don Newbury  
newbury@speakerdoc.com

The song has been a staple in Christian hymnals for more than a century, underscoring deeply held beliefs. "The Way of the Cross Leads Home"—written in 1906—might be in the running for Christians' national anthem if it ever came to a vote.

Until here lately, the "way" to Branson, MO, has not been quite so clear. Though highway routes to this Christian entertainment mecca are many—some of them picturesque—they can easily eat up the better part of a day for Texans driving there.

Eureka! Southern Airways Express now offers twice-daily flights from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport to Harrison, AR, just a half-hour from Branson. Round-trip airfare is around \$150, parking is free and the two-hour flight a few thousand feet aloft provides welcome "look-sees" at the colorful foliage below. (The aircraft has eight seats, with some safety requirements that may be unfamiliar, such as use of scales to determine weight of both passengers and

luggage. Rent a car, use an Uber app or lean on a friend for pick-up in Harrison and the short final "leg" to Branson. Remember to pack light and arrive early for check-in.)

En route to this one-of-a-kind entertainment center that emphasizes God and country, one sees an exit for College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, MO. It's a stop worth taking, a scant half-dozen miles from Branson, this college of some 1,500 students. The Lord is honored and patriotism is the hallmark of the appropriately nicknamed "Hard Work University."

Students earn their way to four-year degrees by working at numerous campus sites. They graduate free of debt, unlike many college graduates who face heavy pay-back commitments for several years.

Named C of O president in 2022, Dr. Brad Johnson envisioned an additional symbol to enhance the institution's spiritual and patriotic values. It already had The Missouri Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Now, the giant cross erected last year reminds students and visitors of Christ upon entering or leaving the campus. Artist/designer Max Greiner, Jr., was commissioned for the project—The Empty Cross™—made of steel—is 40 feet tall and weighs 28,000 pounds.

I have written about Branson many times, but somehow was

never previously present for the much-heralded "Christmas in Branson." Though "late to the party," I recently was "wowed" by a community emblazoned by lights and Christmas décor, and a bevy of shows "glitized up" with festive costumes, Christmas music and creative dancers. (The season starts in November and runs through the first week of January.)

During a whirlwind 46-hour visit, I attended seven shows, including the Sight and Sound Theater's "Miracle of Christmas." This is Branson's "crown jewel" where all 2,200 seats often are taken for productions that dazzle with Broadway quality and are always Christ-centered. "David" opens March 8, 2025.

Other shows included The Duttons, The Hughes Brothers, Pierce Arrow (featuring a world-class baritone and a Guinness Book of Records holder for the lowest bass voice), Doug Gabriel, A Tribute to ABBA and "Hot Rods and High Heels." They, too, sparkled.

Branson is a "family place" on both sides of the flood lights. Central to its "warp and woof" are shows dominated by multiple family members, including three generations of Duttons and their across-the-street neighbors, the Hughes Brothers. They even "borrow" each other's grandbabies for manger scenes. This year, the Hughes Brothers family has



two of their four infants "on loan" to the Duttons! The Clay Coopers have to be proud of son Colton, star of the "Hot Rods" show, a high energy production featuring 1950s music.

Doug Gabriel has been "at it" for decades, playing a stringed instrument his dad made from a car muffler. He calls it a "muff-tar."

This account barely touches the garment's hem of Branson. Experiencing it—coupled with a visit to C of O—never grows old, at Christmas and throughout the year.

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.

More events can be found at [www.community-news.com/calendar](http://www.community-news.com/calendar)



**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 Cultural Center and Prince Memorial Church. Tickets for the tour are \$20.00 for adults and \$12.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased at Doss Cultural Center, 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://tinyurl.com/mr3bfp8>.

**DECEMBER 19**

**Christmas Movie Night**  
Join the City of Hudson Oaks for a movie in the park brought to you by Film Alley from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19 - Bring your family, friends, blankets, chairs, coolers (no glass please) and watch a Christmas movie on the big screen. Movie will be announced as we get closer to the event time.

**EVENT SUBMISSIONS**

Send event submissions to [events@community-news.com](mailto:events@community-news.com).

Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.

**ACROSS**

- Maureen O' started in 1950 film "Rio Grande"
- Arab ruler
- Waco once hosted "The Great Texas Race"
- NW Tarrant County on highway 199
- Texas actor Tommy Jones
- TX Harvey who wrote the music for "The Fantasticks"
- TX Steve Forrest film "The Longest Day" was about this
- TXism: "he \_\_\_ his mouth" (talks without thinking)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ hill for a stepper"
- TXism: "feel like \_\_\_ chewed up and spit out" (sore)
- Farrow of 1978 film "A Wedding" with TX-born Burnett
- check your blind \_\_\_ you drive
- dough balls
- trucker radio
- Dawson County seat
- Texas critic, Rex
- Spanish explorer in El Paso area: Juan de \_\_\_
- Lone Star team that won the 2023 World Series
- TXism: "hot as road \_\_\_ July"
- 1960s TV western
- 8th governor, Clark (init.)
- El Paso PBS station
- most tidy
- invisible (2 wds.)
- in Taylor County on highway 84
- TXism: "dot the i's and cross the \_\_\_" (finalize)
- 2nd governor: George \_\_\_
- TXism: "paint red" (celebrate)
- not credit
- "tennis elbow" abbr.
- buddy
- TX Shelley Duvall was Olive \_\_\_ in "Popeye"
- TX Hilary Duff TV show: "\_\_\_ Met Your Father"
- sound made by Texas' "Enchanted Rock"
- \_\_\_ potential"
- TX Patrick Swayze's younger brother (init.)
- Cowboys first coach, Landry
- TXism: "get \_\_\_ built" (be still)
- what TX McMurtry writes mostly
- border town in El Paso County
- actress Long of film "Caveman" with TX Dennis Quaid (init.)
- TX youth entry in football: \_\_\_ wee
- TXism: "agile as a \_\_\_ a hot road"
- sparked
- \_\_\_ of passage"
- lemon or lime suffix
- this Texan recruited lots of Texans for OU (2 wds.)
- tech college with 11 Texas campuses
- "dos" in Mexico
- pig mama
- square dance move
- Ryan of film D.O.A. with TX Quaid
- singer Boone who attended UNT
- biblical dry measure person who resides in Lone Star state
- TXism: "mad \_\_\_ \_\_\_ hen"

**DOWN**

- "Jackson County \_\_\_-Tribune"
- astonished
- in Longview: "East Texas \_\_\_ Pistol Club"
- actor Johnson of "Laugh In" with Texas-born Teresa Graves
- Pena's pos. with Houston Astros
- TX J. Frank Dobie book: "Coronado's \_\_\_" (1930)

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WRESTLING

## Aledo teams compete at Colleyville

### Second tourney of young season

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats competed in their second tournament of the young wrestling season this past weekend. They participated in the Mike McCready Memorial Tournament in Colleyville.

Each Aledo team had two top-six finishers. For the Bearcats, Cameron Robbins placed fifth in the 106-pound division and Preston Blackwell was sixth in the 175 category.

The Ladycats were led by Lillian Carruthers, who was fifth in the 100 division and Avery Kernan took sixth at 107.

The Bearcats placed 21st out of 31 teams and the Ladycats were 17th out of 24.

The teams are back in action this weekend in the Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD Tournament.



PHOTO COURTESY ALEDO ISD

Running back Raycine Guillory Jr. of the Aledo Bearcats has signed a letter-of-intent to play for the Utah Utes of the Big 12 Conference next season.

FOOTBALL

## Guillory headed to Utah

### Bearcats standout graduating early

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Raycine Guillory Jr. provided a lot of excitement during his two seasons as an Aledo Bearcat, rushing for many yards and scoring a plethora of touchdowns.

And now, he has his sights set on doing the same thing for fans in Salt Lake City. The junior running back signed a letter-of-intent this past week to play for the Utah Utes in the coming season.

"Great win Utah. I'm on the way," Guillory posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Guillory, a four-star recruit, received offers from almost 40 schools. There was some speculation he might be headed to Ole Miss after a photo appeared on social

Turn to **GUILLORY**, page 9

FOOTBALL

## Ryan rally ends Bearcats' season

### Raiders get payback in regional final

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

CROWLEY - In a reversal of their regular-season encounter, the Denton Ryan Raiders defeated the Aledo Bearcats 31-21 in their Class 5A Division I Region I final at Crowley ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium on Saturday, Dec. 7.

This time it was Ryan (13-1) who rallied from a double-digit deficit in the second half to advance to the state semifinals against Dallas Highland Park (13-1) next weekend. The Scots defeated Frisco Lone Star (12-2) 41-28 in the Region 2 final the night before.

During the regular season, the Bearcats (12-2) overcame a 27-8 deficit to defeat Ryan 42-27 in Aledo on Oct. 4 en route to Aledo's 17th consecutive district championship. However, this time it was the Raiders who provided the late heroics for their fans by outscoring Aledo 21-0 in the final 15:12 to overcome a 21-10 deficit in a game that featured a constant downpour of rain throughout.

Aledo, which was seeking a third consecutive state championship and 13th overall, had won 14 consecutive regional finals dating to the 2006 season. Ironically, this is the third time the Raiders have defeated them in the regional final dating to 2002.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ben McElree and Talan Forman join in on a tackle against Denton Ryan in the Class 5A Division I Region I final.

In fact, the teams are 3-3 against each other all time, with Aledo holding a 3-0 advantage in the regular season and Ryan having won all three playoff meetings.

"We're very disappointed. We didn't play like we know we can play," Aledo head coach Robby Jones said. "Hats off to them. They're a great team and they have a chance to win another state championship. They're going to have a tough time with Highland Park, but they've got the talent to win it all."

Following their two previous playoff meetings in 2002 and 2003, Ryan went on to win state. In 2022 and 2023 Aledo won regular-season meetings and went on to win state.

The Raiders won their most recent state title in 2020 with Seth Henigan at quarterback. He's now playing at Memphis, but his younger brother Quin is carrying the mantle.

### The comeback

The younger Henigan threw two touchdown passes in the rally.

The first went for 80 yards as he threaded the needle to Tre'Vaughn Reynolds to pull the Raiders to within 21-17 with 3:12 remaining in the third quarter.

Ryan took the lead for good on Nemo Warmate's second touchdown run of the game, this one from 27 yards out just seven seconds into the fourth quarter. His first TD, a 30-yard run gave the Raiders an early 7-0 lead.

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 11

GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Ickert eclipses milestone as Lady Eagles soar

### Scores 1,500th career point

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

The home crowd inside Barber Gym had two reasons to cheer as the Trinity Christian Academy Lady Eagles decimated Harvest Christian, 51-9, on Friday, Dec. 6.

The first and most obvious reason was the huge win made possible by a stalwart defensive performance by TCA. The other was being on hand to witness Emily Ickert eclipse 1,500 points in her prep career with a layup midway through the third quarter.

"I've been coaching - I believe this is my 23rd year - and I've coached some pretty good players, but [Ickert] is probably the best pure shooter I've ever coached," praised Lady Eagles head coach Garrett Hilton. "One thing she started doing this year is not just being a shooter, but she's getting to the basket as well. That makes her a tough player. She's really good!"

Ickert, only a junior at TCA, entered the game as the Lady Eagles all-time scoring leader, and 26 points shy of the 1,500-point milestone. The Lady Eagle defense started fast, creating multiple turnovers on their end of the floor, leading to quick conversions at the basket.

Ickert ended up on the scoring end of those conversions, scoring the first eight points of the game

for TCA as she edged towards the milestone.

By the end of the first quarter, TCA had the game well in hand. Led by their defensive effort, the Lady Eagles outpaced Harvest Christian 23-3 in the first eight minutes, as Ickert put up 15.

The second quarter was more of the same as Harvest Christian continued to struggle against the defensive onslaught. Turnovers were commonplace, and the points were plentiful as TCA's lead swelled from 20 points at the end of the first quarter to 32 points at the break.

"We're trying to play fast," Hilton said of his team's philosophy. "We're trying to force a few turnovers on defense, but really we're trying to force up bad shots, get rebounds, and then get down the floor fast. We've got a long way to go, but we definitely did some good things."

With the game all but over as the second half got underway, the Lady Eagles put on the cruise control. After posting a 39-point first half, the offense slowed, adding just 10 points in the third quarter.

Even with the offensive output slowing the home crowd waited with bated breath every trip down the court to see Ickert hit her mark. Midway through the third quarter, it finally happened. Following another forced turnover by the Lady Eagles defense, she raced down the court on a fast break, playing a right-handed layup off



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Charlie Soule wrestles for the ball with a Harvest Christian player en route to a decisive 51-9 victory for the TCA Lady Eagles on Friday, Dec. 6.

the glass for point 1,501 of her illustrious career.

Hilton immediately took a timeout as the TCA faithful erupted with applause. Mobbed with hugs and high-fives from teammates, Ickert waved to the crowd for a brief moment before putting her game face back on.

Through three quarters of play, the Lady Eagles led Harvest

Christian 49-7. Both teams added a lone bucket in the fourth quarter to produce the final.

### Lady Eagles vs. Harvest Christian - Dec. 6

HC	3	4	0	2	-9
TCA	23	16	10	2	-51

TCA scoring - Emily Ickert 29, Alex Ickert 6, Raegan Smith 6, Addy Hilton 4, Ella Cockrum 4, Charlie Soule 2.

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**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
**AMS takes five of six from Mansfield Jobe**

Seventh grade: A Team won 66-7, B Team won 25-2, C Team won 27-15.  
Eighth grade: A Team lost 41-19, B Team won 26-3, C Team won 24-19.

**Hall teams win Extravaganza**

The Weatherford Hall Lady Roos eighth-grade A team won the Lady Roo Basketball Extravaganza with a perfect 3-0 record. They defeated Weatherford Tison 34-13, Granbury Middle School 35-16 and Joshua Loflin 32-20.

Tournament MVP is Charlene Erdelt. Players of the Game are Izzy Hixson, Gracie Clift and Laine Tomlinson.

The Hall seventh-grade girls also won the event, going 3-0. They defeated Tison 39-23, GMS 42-9 and Loflin 49-30.

Tournament MVPs are Daylyn Drake and Bailee Sullins. Players of the Game are Vivian Scarbro and Izzy Cook.

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Urbanska, Maldonado named All-Americans for WC**

Weatherford College's Weronika Urbanska and Gabriella Maldonado were named on the Division I All-America Volleyball team list by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Both freshmen, Urbanska made the second team, and Maldonado was named to the third team, as well as being selected for the All-Tournament Team at the NJCAA Division I National Tournament.

With these newest awards, WC now has five All-American athletes in 2024, the most in a calendar year in school history.

A 6-foot outside hitter from Warsaw, Poland, Urbanska had an impressive 2024 season, including being named Player of the Year in the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference. Playing in 39 matches, Urbanska came away with 594.5 points, ranking third in the nation. She also came in fourth in the nation with 489 kills and eleventh in the nation with 70 service aces.

Maldonado, a 6-foot right-side hitter from Joshua High School, also played at an outstanding level this season. She competed in a total of 38 matches, with 254 kills, averaging 2.13 kills per set, and 78 total blocks.

The Coyotes (32-8) won the conference title for the third year in a row and made the national tournament for the second straight year.

**WRESTLING**

**Weatherford teams shine in tourney**

The Weatherford Kangaroos finished second and the Lady Roos were third in the Brawl by the Lake in Belton recently. Leading the varsity girls were Mackenzie Williamson, Emersyn Burns and Alyssa Willis with individual championships, while Val Hernandez was second.

Leading the varsity boys were Eli Garrett and Johnny Lara with second-place finishes.

**BASEBALL**

**Bradford working toward the future**

**Wants to move on from 2024**

**By Ryan Wade**  
The Community News

Aledo native Cody Bradford's career in Major League Baseball has been quite the rollercoaster two seasons in.

After what he referred to as, "feeling like I had a cup of coffee in the Big Leagues," as a rookie in 2023, he was part of the first World Series championship team in Texas Rangers history.

With sights set on returning to October baseball in 2024, injuries plagued the boys in blue. Bradford himself succumbed to a freak rib injury that left him sidelined for months while the Rangers playoff hopes were dashed.

In his sophomore campaign, Bradford and the Rangers began the season on the mountain top, but ended the year in the valley.

"It started off really exciting," Bradford said. "I broke camp for the first time with the big league team, so that was definitely a milestone. The coaches and some of the older players congratulate guys for breaking camp with the big league team for the first time.

"There were a few things the older guys did for us. One of the things was, a couple of the guys split the cost and bought all of us two suits. They had a guy fly in from New York City to the stadium to custom fit us for two suits that we each got to pick out. That was really cool, because we got to go to the White House this year, so I got to wear one of them."

**Strong start**

The Rangers started off the season hot. They won 2-out-of-3 against the Cubs and Rays before splitting a four-game series at home against Houston.

Bradford had one of the best outings of his young career against the Astros on Friday, April 5, at GlobeLife Field. The lanky left-hander threw 7.2 innings, striking out four without issuing a walk. The only two hits he gave up were the bookends of the outing.

Offensively, the Rangers gave Bradford all the support he needed and then some. Adolis Garcia and

Marcus Semien each hit three-run homers as Texas cruised to a 10-2 win to start the series.

Then the wheels started to come off.

"Started off the year about as good as it could've gone," Bradford recalled. "I didn't really have expectations on myself. I just wanted to be on the big league team and contributing somewhere. It just happened that there was a spot [in the rotation] open with [Michael] Lorenzen still building up and [Max] Scherzer and [Jacob] DeGrom banged up.

"I got to get my feet wet early in the year with three good starts, and then had kind of a freak rib injury."

Just six days after the best outing of his career, Bradford suffered a stress fracture to his rib that sidelined him through most of July.

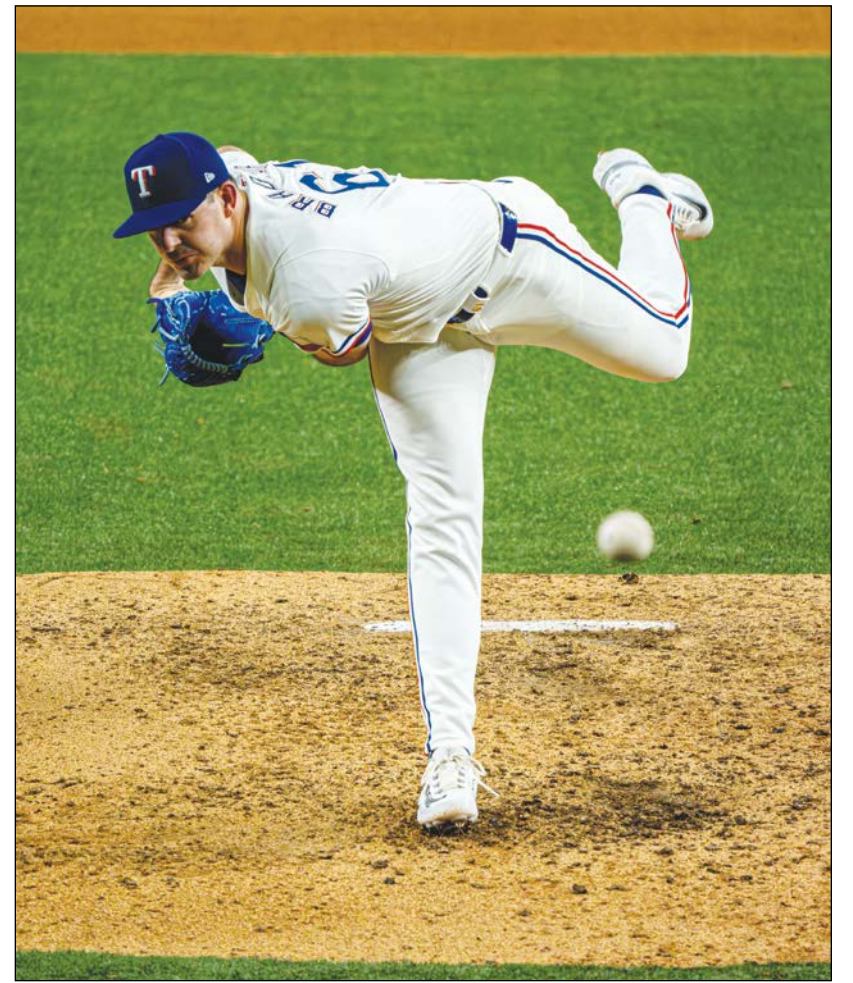
"There's not much you can do [with this type of injury] from a PT (physical therapy) side, except for sit back and wait for that bone to heal on its own. I think there was a big learning moment there, not only in baseball, but in life in general that some things are totally out of your hands," Bradford said.

"That was a really cool opportunity for Madi and I both to just step back and be patient during that and trust God was going to work through that - that his plan was going to be better than any way we would be able to handle it."

**Return to form**

Once the injury healed enough for Bradford to return to the Rangers, it took a few outings to return to the form he exhibited early in the season. In his return to the majors, he met up with the team in St. Louis, where he came out of the bullpen in a relief effort. Tommy Pham had just been reacquired by the Cardinals from the White Sox when he hammered a grand slam off Bradford and received a standing ovation from the Redbird faithful.

"I was like a dog going back to the dugout with his tail between his legs," Bradford remembered. "That was not how I envisioned my rejoining of the team going



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cody Bradford delivers a pitch against the Houston Astros in April 2024. Bradford threw 7.2 innings, giving up just two hits and striking out four during one of the best outings of his young career.

like, especially not after the early success I'd had earlier in the year."

However, the Rangers coaching staff didn't seem concerned over one tough outing. He was brought back into the rotation to finish out the season, proving yet again to be a reliable asset to the starting five.

For as tumultuous as it was for the Rangers as a whole, Bradford's 2024 season went remarkably well. In 13 starts he finished the year with a 6-3 record. He threw 76.1 innings, struck out 70 batters, issued just 13 free passes, and ended the year boasting a 3.54 ERA.

Yet, in spite of the success he enjoyed personally in 2024, Bradford's perspective hasn't shifted as he looks towards the 2025 season.

"I'm definitely not the type of guy that's going to say I've earned a spot," Bradford stated. "I'm much more in the mindset that there's a lot of guys who want

to play professional baseball. If you want to be a starter, there's five spots on a team, maybe six. Those are really important spots and everybody's vying for it.

"I'm under the impression that I've got to earn my job every single year, especially as a guy that doesn't have the velocity or the stuff that is the wow factor. I'm a softer-throwing, left-handed pitcher who needs to command his pitches. I think for the rest of my career it's going to be something where I've got to go out and earn my spot every year. And I'm okay with that."

**Seeking another title**

Following the end of the regular season, players took three weeks off. Bradford and his wife, Madi, toured Europe and he took a family hunting trip. Before the Los Angeles Dodgers were crowned the World Series champions, the Rangers were back to

Turn to **BRADFORD**, page 11

**GUILLORY**

from page 8

media of him wearing one of the team's jerseys with his No. 1 on it.

Also, Guillory made a verbal commitment to the University of Texas earlier this year only to rescind that decision shortly after in lieu of looking at all of his options.

Guillory announced the week before the high school playoffs began that he was decided to graduate early and forgo his senior season at Aledo. Ever since, much like LeBron James when he announced his decision to play

for the Miami Heat in 2010, folks speculated where he'd land up to the point of his announcement.

Guillory played his final game as a Bearcat this past Saturday as they were eliminated from the Class 5A Division I playoffs with a 31-21 loss to Denton Ryan in the Region I final. He ended the season with 1,322 rushing yards and 25 touchdowns, along with 180 receiving yards and two more TD.

In two seasons with Aledo, Guillory accumulated over 2,900 yards of offense and scored 48 touchdowns. He moved to Aledo following his freshman season at Mansfield Lake Ridge.

At Lake Ridge, Guillory led the team in total yardage and touchdowns. He rushed for 769 yards and nine TD, along with catching passes for 154 yards and three scores.

He immediately made an impression at Aledo as a sophomore, rushing for 1,236 yards and 17 touchdowns, while collecting 175 receiving yards and four TD. All this while missing several games - including the final two and a half playoff games with a knee injury.

Following offseason knee surgery, Guillory responded with his best season yet. Included in his

final season as a Bearcat was a six-touchdown performance in a 49-42 overtime win against Richland.

Guillory's decision to play for Utah continues the program having an Aledo player on their roster. Senior Money Parks has been a standout wide receiver for the Utes since graduating from Aledo.

Utah plays in the Big 12 Conference and has a game at Baylor in the coming season, date and time to be announced. TCU, Texas Tech and Houston are also in the conference.

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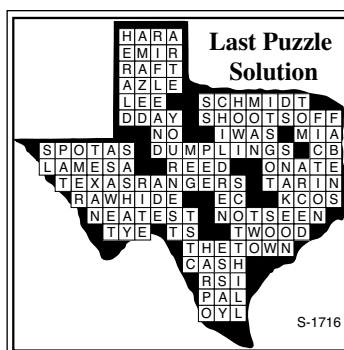
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### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

TAKE NOTICE the City Council of the City of Aledo, Texas, shall convene at 6:00 o'clock P.M. on the 6th day of February, 2025, at the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation in a principal amount not to exceed \$27,775,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) constructing, acquiring, enlarging, extending and improving the City's Sewer System, (ii) the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, land, and rights-of-way for authorized needs and purposes relating to the City's Sewer System, and (iii) the payment of professional services relating to the design, construction, project management, and financing of the aforementioned capital improvements; and such certificates shall be payable from ad valorem taxes and a pledge of the surplus net revenues of the City's combined Waterworks and Sewer System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$18,515,000; (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$36,616,026; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$39,622,745; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is August 15, 2055. The above information excludes \$13,760,000 in principal amount of outstanding debt obligations the City has designated as self-supporting which the City reasonably expects to pay from revenue sources other than ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that in the event such self-supporting revenue sources are insufficient to pay debt service, the City is obligated to levy ad valorem taxes to pay such debt obligations. The certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter C of Chapter 271.

Staci King, City Secretary  
City of Aledo, Texas

### PART A NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

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

**12:00 Noon, Tuesday, January 7th, 2025**

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

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction and permitting of the Cresson Estates Water Wells.

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

Cresson Ventures, LLC

Publication: December 13, 2024  
December 20, 2024  
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VOLLEYBALL

# TCA players honored

## Eight honored with accolades

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Kami James and Emily Ickert led a group of eight Willow Park Trinity Christian volleyball players who were named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools District 1-4A Team, while James was named TAPPS 4A All-State honorable mention.

Ickert and JulieAnne Hart also received academic all-state honors.

James and Ickert were named first-team all-district by the league's coaches. Second-team honors went to Hart, Paisley James and Alex Ickert.

Receiving honorable mention were Micah Breisch, Addison Shoppach and Berlynn Kaznowski.

The Lady Eagles finished third in district and advanced to the area (second) round of the playoffs. They defeated Colleyville Covenant in bi-district and lost to McKinney Christian in the area contest.

# BRADFORD

from page 10

work, getting started on their offseason lifting program.

"Guys who understand how to take advantage of the six to eight weeks in the offseason to build up their body, build strength, and to be able to stay healthy the next year is huge," Bradford said. "I know Marcus Semien has been one of the best guys in MLB at staying healthy and staying on the field the last three years. He's local. I see him every day when I go into the stadium to work out. He knows how to go about the game in the right way. I think guys like that set the example and the tone for the younger guys coming up, we can learn a lot from Marcus."

The Rangers aren't spending time licking their wounds this offseason. The players are well aware of Manager Bruce Bochy's cadence from his time in San Francisco where he led the Giants to World Series wins in 2010, 2012, and 2014 while missing the post-season in 2011 and 2013. According to Bradford, the expectation looking ahead to 2025 is to continue that cadence and hoist the World Series trophy once again next October.

"We all understand this offseason is going to be big," he explained. "[Chris Young] made it really, really clear to us as a team and to the organization, his expectation next year is to win a World Series. That's what we want to do. We tasted that last year. We know we can do it. We know what it takes to get there. Now we just got to go do it."

"This year we came up short. Injury ridden, player performance ridden, whatever you want to say, but next year we're going to hit the ground running again. That's our goal."



PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MORALES

Emotions were high after the Bearcat loss to Ryan. Lincoln Tubbs embraces his teammate.

# BEARCATS

from page 8

Then after a series of punts, two by Aledo and one by Ryan, Henigan connected with Braeden Mussett on a short pass that Mussett turned into a 65-yard touchdown. It was the final score of the night, with the Ryan defense stymieing any rally by the Bearcats with two interceptions.

Warmate (122) and Reynolds (101) each rushed for over 100 yards in the contest.

The Ryan defense also tightened in the second half with three sacks, all by defensive lineman Kha'Ron Freeman Wade. Still, three times in the fourth quarter the Bearcats reached the Ryan 45, their own 46 and their own 47 before punting twice and throwing an interception.

## Early control

After giving up the opening touchdown, the Bearcats appeared to take control of the contest. Junior quarterback Gavin Beard drove Aledo 69 yards in nine plays, capping the drive with a 1-yard run of his own for a 7-7 tie at the 4:38 mark of the first quarter.

The score was set up after Beard found Lincoln Tubbs for a pinpoint 32-yard pass to the Ryan 1.

Ryan regained the lead on a 27-yard field goal, but again the Bearcats responded with a touchdown. Following a short Ryan punt that gave Aledo the ball at the Ryan 42, Aledo used seven plays before junior running back Raycine Guillory scored from 2 yards out, carrying what seemed like half the Raiders defense into the end zone to put his team up 14-10 at the half.

At the 4:02 mark of the third quarter, Beard threw his 35th touchdown pass of the season. He found Blake Burdine for a 43-yard score and a 21-10 advantage.

Beard completed 16 of 28 passes for 205 yards. Of those, nine were to junior Kaydon Finley for an unofficial 95 yards.

Finley ended the season with 80 catches for 1,429 yards and 21 touchdowns.

Junior running Kaden Winkfield led Aledo in rushing with an unofficial 37 yards on 10 carries. He finished the season with 892 yards and 13 TD.

## Farewell outing

This was Guillory's final game as a Bearcat. He announced he is graduating early and has signed a letter-of-intent to play for the University of Utah next season.

Battling an ankle injury, Guillory saw limited action, gaining 19 yards on 13 carries. He ended the season with more than 1,500 yards of offense (1,322 rushing, 180 receiving) and 27 touchdowns (25 rushing, 2 receiving).

For his high school career, he accumulated 3,800 all-purpose yards (3,327 rushing, 509 receiving) and scored 60 touchdowns (51 rushing, 9 receiving).

Along with Guillory suiting up as a Bearcat for the final time were more than 40 seniors. Among highlights in their final performances were kicker Cole Crawford being a perfect 3-for-3 on extra points and cornerback Kai Taylor recovering a fumble.

## A fine season

Despite Saturday's loss, the Bearcats had what most teams would consider a very successful season. They won a dozen games, captured yet another district championship, while extending their national-record district winning streak to 127 games, and they held the No. 1 spot in the state rankings for much of the season.

"It's a successful season, but with Aledo standards it's not," Jones said. "These guys are all winners. We just didn't come out on the right end tonight."

## Denton Ryan Raiders 31, Aledo Bearcats 21

Class 5A Division I Region I final

at Crowley Multi-Purpose Stadium - Dec, 7

Aledo 7 7 7 0 - 21  
Ryan 10 0 7 14 - 31

## Scoring summary

R - Nemo Warmate 30-yard run (Daniel Rodriguez kick), 8:23 first quarter.  
A - Gavin Beard 1-yard run (Cole



Coach Robby Jones address the team and coaches after the game.



Ryan's Mun'terrius Ellis talks to Gavin Beard at midfield.



In the cold and wet weather Aledo fans and family cheered on the Beacats.

Crawford kick), 4:38 first quarter.  
R - Rodriguez 27-yard field goal, 0:24 first quarter.  
A - Raycine Guillory 2-yard run (Crawford kick), 4:09 second quarter.  
A - Blake Burdine 43-yard pass from Beard (Crawford kick), 4:02 third quarter.  
R - Tre'Vaughn Reynolds 80-yard pass from Quin Henigan (Rodriguez kick), 3:12 third quarter.  
R - Warmate 27-yard run (Rodriguez kick), 11:53 fourth quarter.  
R - Braeden Mussett 65-yard pass from Henigan (Rodriguez kick), 5:22 fourth quarter.

## Team statistics

First downs: Aledo 16, Ryan 15.  
Rushes-yards: Aledo 30-36, Ryan 40-273.  
Passing yards: Aledo 205, Ryan 151.  
Caught-thrown-intercepted: Aledo

16-28-2, Ryan 7-10-0.  
Punts-average: Aledo 5-29.4, Ryan 4-29.5.  
Fumbles-lost: Aledo 1-0, Ryan 3-1.  
Penalties-yards: Aledo 4-25, Ryan 3-33.

## Aledo individual leaders

Rushing: Kaden Winkfield 10 carries, 37 yards; Guillory 13 carries, 19 yards, TD.  
Passing: Beard 16-of-28, 205 yards, 1 TD, 2 interceptions.  
Receiving: Kaydon Finley 9 catches, 95 yards; Lincoln Tubbs 3 catches, 55 yards; Blake Burdine 2 catches, 51 yards, TD.  
Tackles: Lamel Swanson 9, Ben McElree 7, Owen Henderson 6, Chase Wilburn 5.5.  
Sack: Decker Sanders 1.  
Tackles for loss: Cooper Cyphers 1, Tymon Meeks 1, Wilburn 1, Sanders 1.  
Fumble recovery: Kai Taylor 1.

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# LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



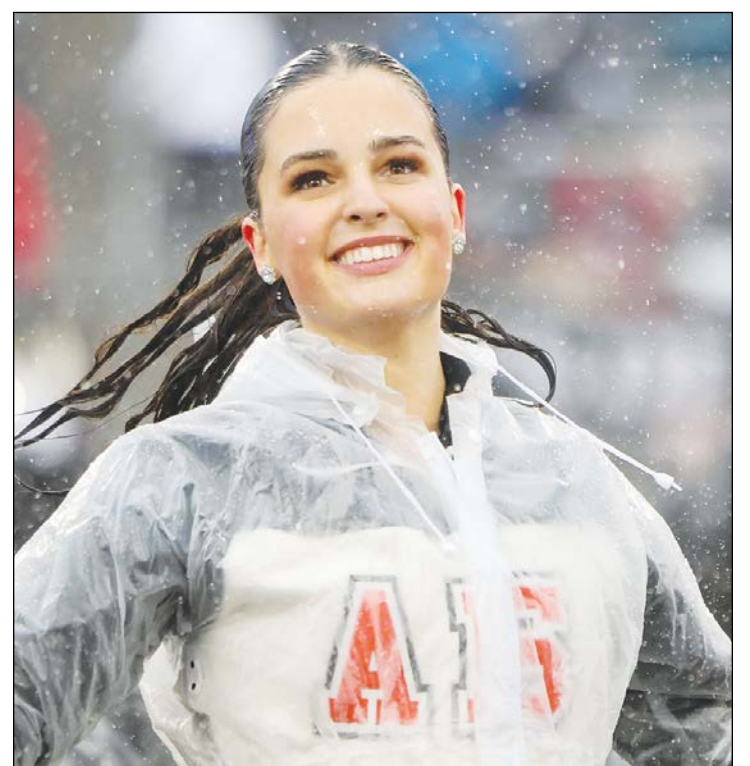
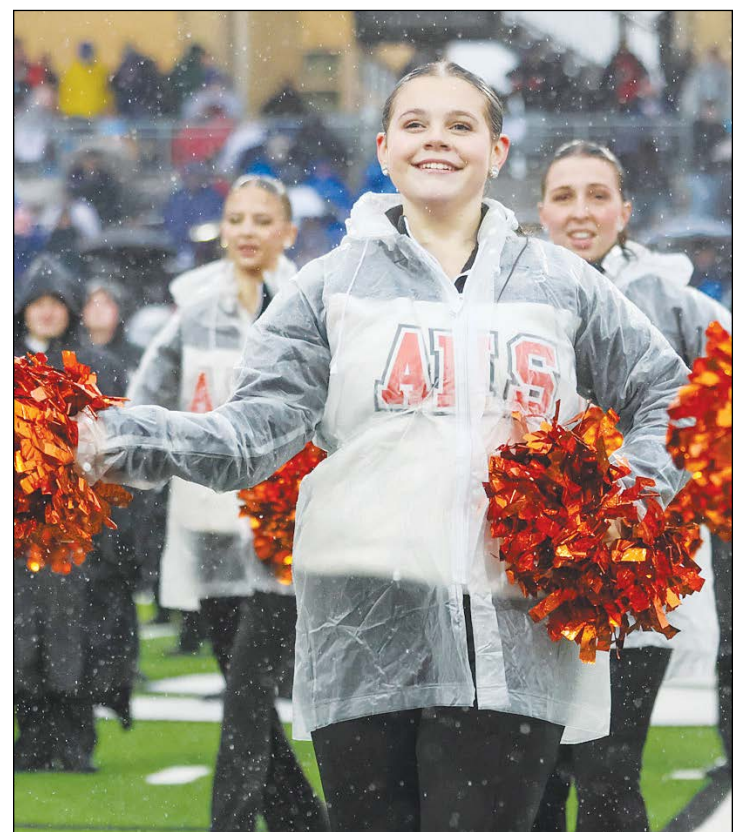
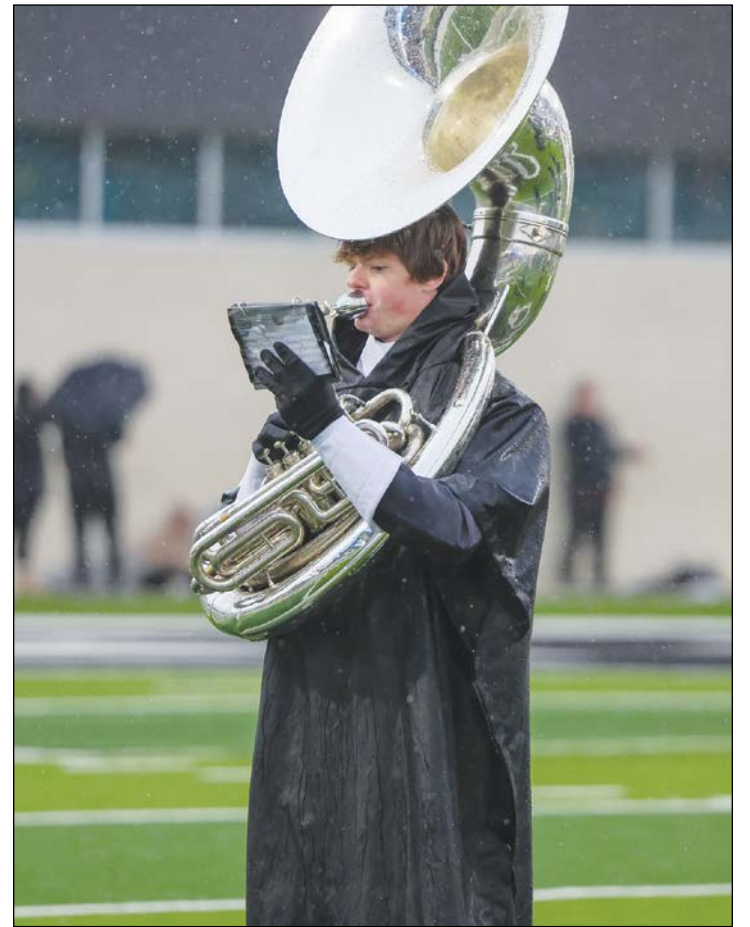
**Lillian Caruthers**  
**Wrestling**

The junior posted the best finish by a Ladycat wrestler in a tournament in this young season, placing fifth in the 100-pound division at the Mike McCready Memorial Tournament in Colleyville this past weekend.

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## Dec. 7


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# BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



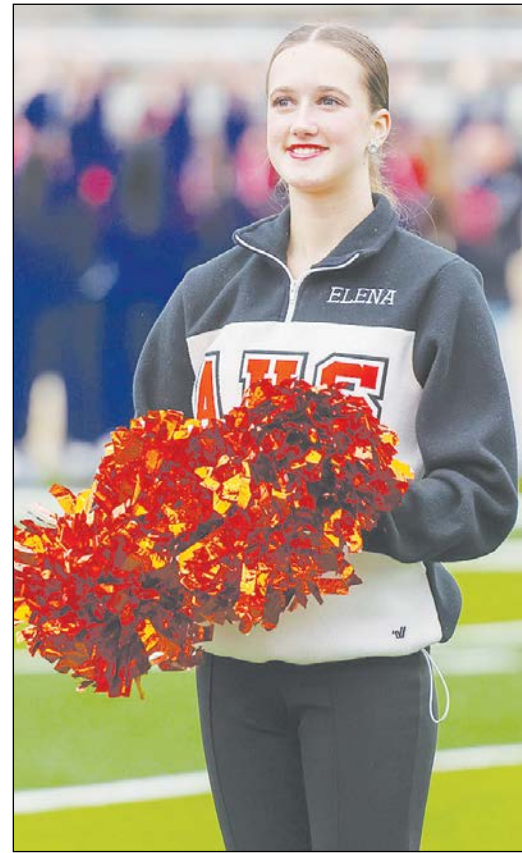
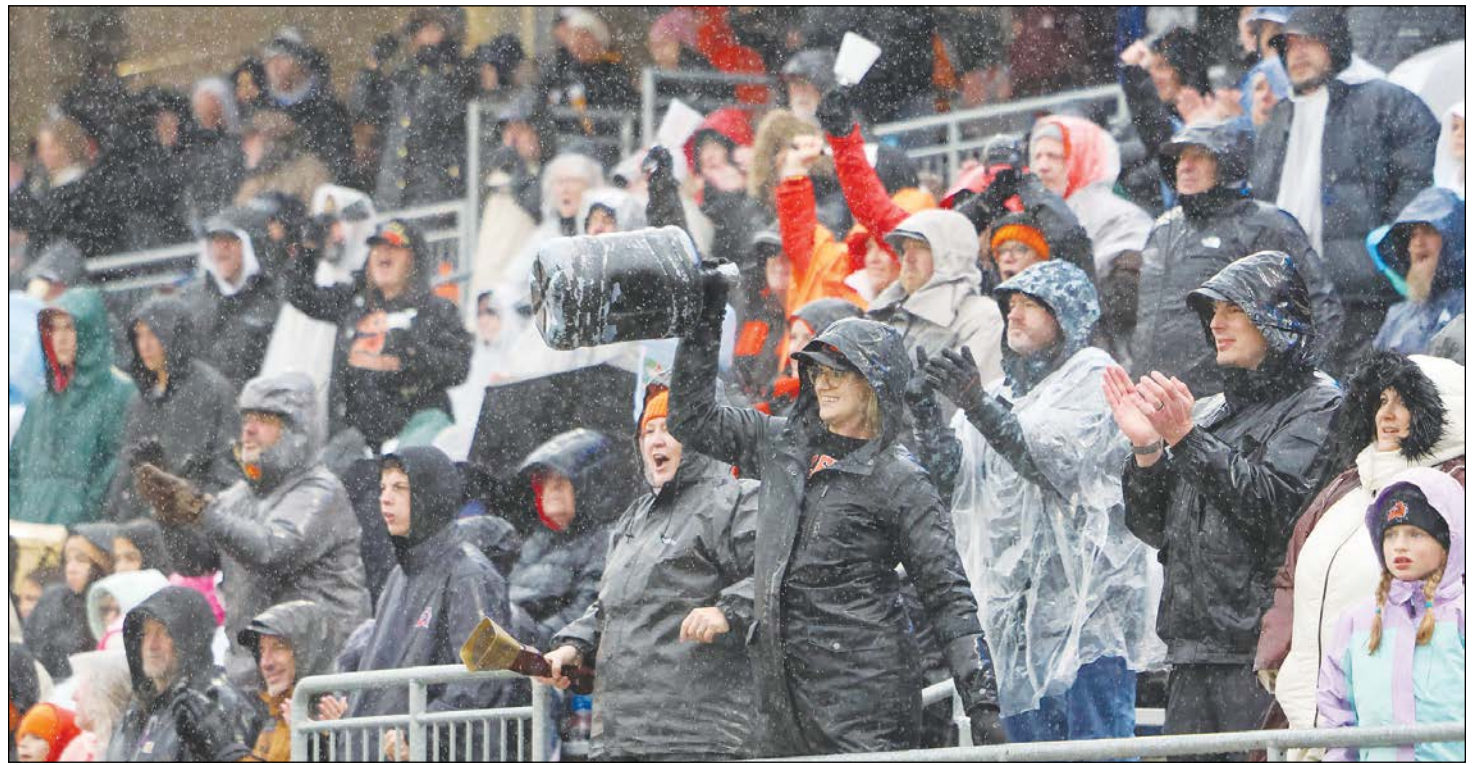
**Lamel Swanson**  
Football

The junior safety led the Bearcats defense with nine tackles, including eight solo, and a forced fumble in Aledo's 31-21 loss to Denton Ryan in the 5A Division I Region I final on Saturday in Crowley.

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**Aledo VS Denton Ryan**

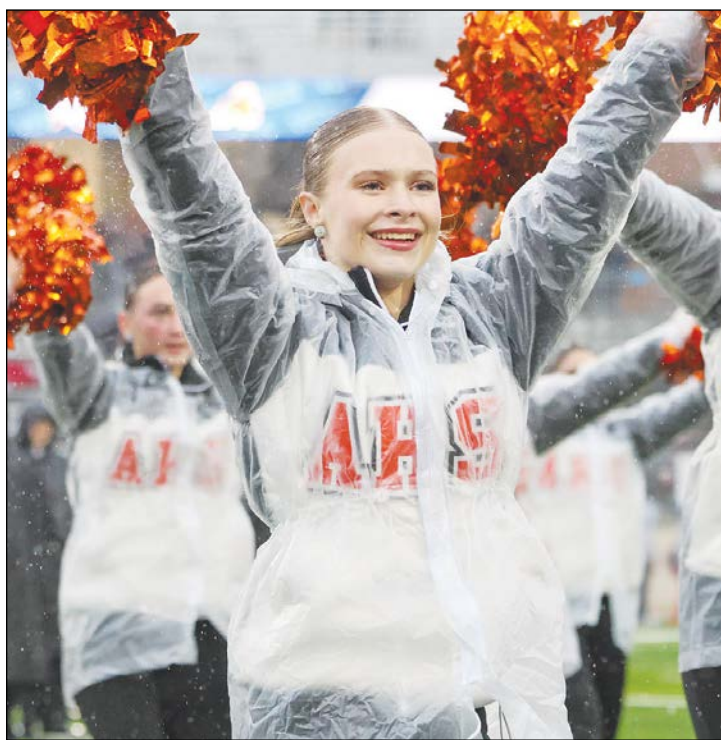
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BOYS BASKETBALL

# Team effort leads Eagles to victory

## TCA in midseason form

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Just 11 games into the 2024-25 hoops season, Trinity Christian Academy's varsity basketball team appears to be in midseason form. After handing Nazarene Christian Academy a loss earlier in the week that was not nearly as close as the final score would indicate, the Eagles ran roughshod over Christian Life Prep on Friday, Dec. 6, to pick up their eighth win of the season.

Trinity Christian (8-3) put together an excellent team performance at both ends of the court. Utilizing head coach Jeff Peterson's philosophy of using defense to create offense, the Eagles locked down the visiting Knights at one end of the floor while five TCA players finished the game with double-digit scoring in the 75-43 win.

"I'm really excited to see us come out and do what we set out to do," Peterson said after the game. "Our full-court attack was a lot better tonight than it has been. Still trying to get over the slow start [on offense], but we'll get there eventually. Overall, the guys played really well tonight."

Similar to the contest against NCA earlier in the week, several minutes passed in the opening quarter before the Eagles got on the board with their first score. However, once the scoring started, it didn't stop. Led by senior John Chrane, TCA's offense was relentless. Even in the instances when the first shot didn't fall, Trinity Christian continued to fight for rebounds, putting up second and

third attempts when necessary to make each offensive trip down the floor a successful one.

"We struggled at the rim," Peterson acknowledged. "We've been highlighting attacking the rim more and relying on the three-ball less. I'm going to consider it a little bit of a baby step in the right direction. We were a little inconsistent at the rim. It's certainly something to address in the coming weeks."

One of the things that made TCA so successful on Friday night was ball distribution. By ensuring all five players on the floor were a scoring threat, the Knights weren't able to key in on one specific player. In the first quarter four of the five starters made shots, as TCA took a 15-10 lead through the first eight minutes of play.

The second quarter was much the same as the Eagles outpaced their foe 19-13 to take a 34-23 lead into the break, with all five players tacking on points.

Coming out of the break Chrane went off, scoring 10 of his game-high 19 points in the third quarter. While Chrane did the bulk of the scoring for TCA in the third, he was by no means the only one finding the net. Once again, all five Eagles on the court scored, while TCA's defense shut down CLPS en route to a 23-3 run. Through three quarters, the Eagles held an insurmountable 57-26 lead.

TCA kept the hammer down in the fourth quarter despite the big lead. Shane Palmer, TCA's resident sharpshooter, knocked down two of his three long balls in the game during the final stanza. Chrane, Sam Carson, Cole



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

John Chrane puts in a layup for two of his game-high 19 points as the Eagles topple CLPS, 75-43, on Friday, Dec. 6.

Massey, and Scott Smith all put up points in the fourth quarter, as the Trinity Christian outscored the Knights, 18-17, to close out the game and produce the final.

"I felt like our offense performed pretty well," Peterson said after the game. "It was a lot more full-court attack than we usually see. We didn't have too many times when we got into half-court

sets. But when we had time to execute and had opportunities to execute, the guys did a good job doing that."

### Eagles vs. Christian Life Prep – Dec. 6

CLPS	10	13	3	17-43
TCA	15	19	23	18-75

TCA scoring - John Chrane 19, Sam Carson 16, Cole Massey 14, Scott Smith 14, Shane Palmer 10, Jonathan Overholt 2.

BASKETBALL

# Aledo basketball teams perform well in tournaments

## Bearcats and Ladycats earn second-place finishes

By Geoff Heppes  
The Community News

Both the Aledo Bearcat and Ladycat basketball teams competed in pre-district tournaments over the weekend with both squads earning a quality result. The Bearcats were the runners up of the Abilene Key City Classic Tournament while the Ladycats nabbed second place as well in the Burleson Tournament.

The boys fell to Lubbock Cooper 72-67 in the opener Thursday night, which was Aledo's first loss of the regular season. After that, the Bearcats regrouped for a pair of wins over El Paso Jefferson (73-27) and Midland Christian (42-31). On Saturday, Aledo defeated Midland Legacy for 62-58 for the consolation championship.

The Ladycats opened their tournament run with a pair of dominant wins Thursday over Parish Episcopal (61-4) and Lubbock Coronado (52-29) with junior guard Elizabeth Griffin leading the way with 17 and 23 points, respectively. On Friday, the Ladycats rolled past Waco University 47-23 and Snyder (41-20) to set up a championship match with Prestonwood Christian. In the tournament final, Kate Jackson, Griffin, Kinley Elms and Tiara Butler each reached double-digit point totals, but ultimately the Ladycats came up just short 61-56. For their efforts, Griffin and Butler were both named to the all-tournament team.

The Bearcats (10-1) then defeated Springtown 87-46 in non-district play Tuesday night while the Ladycats (10-7) were idle. Up next, the Aledo boys will compete in the Weatherford Tournament from Thursday through Saturday while the Ladycats will open district play at 7:30 p.m. at Brewer.

# Congratulations

## Emily Ickert eclipse 1,500 points

### IN HER PREP CAREER



"I've coached some pretty good players, but Ickert is probably the best pure shooter I've ever coached."

Garrett Hilton  
TCA Lady Eagles head coach



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