

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Quick Notes

### Road Closure and Construction Update

The Texas Department of Transportation has announced two area road or lane closures in the coming week:

FM 5 will be closed from Annetta Center Point Road to Airport Road Saturday through Wednesday, April 24 - 28 for culvert replacement by Aledo ISD. Drivers should follow the signed detour from FM 5 to Annetta Center Point Road to Duncan Road to Airport Road.

The two right-hand lanes of westbound I-20 will be closed at Mikus Road for shoulder work from 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24, to 7 a.m. Sunday, April 25.

## ALEDO

# Mayor announces 1187 land deal

### Potential agreement would expand gateway

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall announced at the April 22 city council meeting that a potential agreement is in negotiation that would bring property on the east side of 1187 into the city's ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction).

The transaction would not immediately put the land in Aledo's city limits, but it would make it

available for Aledo to annex in the future.

Any agreement would be subject to approval by the Fort Worth City Council.

Marshall told *The Community News* that the owners of the Dean Ranch had given her a heads up last year that they were putting the ranch on the market.

"They wanted me to know first that they were selling the Dean Ranch," she said.

Marshall said she asked the ranch, in its discussions with

developers, to consider suggesting they work with Fort Worth to bring FM 1187 frontage back into Aledo's ETJ.

At least three parcels of the ranch are now under contract, including about 323 acres on the west side of FM 1187 north of Bankhead, about 187 acres on the northwest corner of FM 1187 and I-20, and about 1,500 acres on the east side of FM 1187. All of those tracts are in Fort Worth's ETJ.

The portion that could be transferred to Aledo is a part of

the 1,500 acres that stretches from Sonic on the southwest corner to near the I-20/I-30 split on the northeast. Aledo's part would run northward from Sonic, along FM 1187 up to about Bankhead.

"There's a lot of layers that go into this because it's not just a one-and-done deal," Marshall said. "Since I became mayor, I have met with every Fort Worth mayor since Mike Moncrief to discuss our gateway."

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SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The most distinctive feature of the learning center's exterior is the Ben Hogan Swing Panels on the east end of the building. The images are from the original 1957 photos and drawings of Hogan's swing by golf artist Anthony Ravielli.

## WILLOW PARK

# Ben Hogan Learning Center for First Tee opens

Ceremony set May 1

Staff Reports  
The Community News

First Tee - Fort Worth announced on April 12 the opening of its second Ben Hogan Learning Center at Squaw Creek Golf Course in Willow Park. Opening ceremonies for the facility are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 1.

Scheduled to speak at the ceremony are Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss, David Rapisand, president of Squaw Creek/CERA, Ben Hogan Foundation President Lisa Scott, Jennifer Weiler, senior vice president of First Tee, First Tee participant Erica Fisher, and Kevin Long, executive director of First Tee - Fort Worth.

Teenage participants of First Tee - Fort Worth will introduce each of the speakers. Family fun and celebration golf activities will follow the ceremony from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

The facility was made possible with funding from the Ben Hogan Foundation, Rainwater Foundation, and other individuals and organizations, and through a partnership with Squaw Creek/CERA and First Tee - Fort Worth.

In 2016, First Tee - Fort Worth began programming at Squaw Creek with 300 participants. Within a year participation had grown to more than 1,000 participants and is now at capacity. The U.S. Census Bureau reports

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## ALEDO ISD

# Community members speak out against racism

Call for action from the district

By Makenzie Plusnick  
The Community News

More than 20 people spoke out about racism and called upon the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees to act at its April 19 board meeting.

One of the people who spoke was Christopher Johnson, a student at the Daniel Ninth Grade Campus, who says he was targeted by other students when they sent each other messages about how much they would pay for black students in a pretend slave auction. Johnson, who's comment was followed by a round of applause from those who attended the meeting, critiqued the district's response to the incident.

"The superintendent or board has not even admitted or apologized to us or Aledo that they handled it wrong at first, so how can we trust y'all will do what's right in the future?" Johnson said. "My parents talk to me about a lot of things; racism, voting, and elections are a few, so I know the importance of voting people into areas to make changes. That is why my parents voted for y'all to have this job. They feel like you are the people to do right by the children."

Johnson's mother, Mioshi Johnson, spoke at the board's

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Calvin Eells, 3, explored musical bars during the opening of the new Cross Timbers Park in Willow Park at its community grand opening on Tuesday, April 20. See more on page 2.

## ANNETTA

# Council approves solid waste contract

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

The Annetta City Council approved a five-year extension to its solid waste contract at its regular meeting on April 15.

Hudson Oaks City Administrator Sterling Naron addressed the council, explaining to the public that Annetta

is one of five cities that have joined forces to negotiate for solid waste disposal: Annetta, Annetta North, Annetta South, Hudson Oaks, and Willow Park.

"What that does is it allows us to basically pool our economies of scale so that we can negotiate a better price

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Volume 31, Number 17  
Published Weekly

### Invading Lubbock

Aledo Tennis, Golf, Track teams head to the south plains for regional competitions.

SPORTS

### Mask mandate ends

Aledo ISD ends mask mandate.

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### Community

Opinions on the community's racial issues.

OPINIONS

### Diamonds

Baseball, softball teams continue win streaks.

PAGE 8

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# HOGAN

from page one

that 25% of Parker County residents are under 18, so this facility is expected to help First Tee reach more young people in the western-most part of its four-county service area.

A capital campaign remains under way to pay off the facility.

The building, designed by Stephen Darrow of DMS Architects, includes staff offices, three classrooms that can be opened into one or two larger spaces, garage storage and storyboards honoring Ben Hogan; Mike Wright, longtime Director of Golf at Shady Oaks and mentee of Hogan; Lynn Vaughan, 40-year Director of Golf at Squaw Creek GC; and Kevin Long, the only Executive Director of First Tee - Fort Worth since its founding in 2004. The donor wall in the lobby, recognizing those who contributed to the capital campaign, is placed on flooring from the childhood home of Ben Hogan.

The most distinctive feature of the building's exterior is the Ben Hogan Swing Panels on the east end of the building. The images are from the original 1957 photos and drawings of Hogan's swing by golf artist Anthony Ravielli. The technique used to create the swing panel patterns

is a high-pressure water jet device that cuts through the steel plates. The light at different hours of the day creates remarkable shadows and views.

First Tee - Fort Worth will utilize the facility to provide children and teens living in this area access to its nationally-recognized Life Skills Curriculum that enables them to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a Life Skills curriculum, First Tee creates active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do.

Interpersonal, self-management, goal-setting, and resiliency skills provide youth the tools to manage better their situations at school, home, and in various other out-of-school activities.

*First Tee - Fort Worth is a youth development organization committed to teaching character education through the game of golf to young people ages 5-18. One of the top chapters in the First Tee Network, First Tee - Fort Worth is headquartered at the Ben Hogan Learning Center at Rockwood Golf Course with six programming sites in Tarrant and Parker counties.*

## Cross Timbers Park

The long-awaited playground at Cross Timbers Park has opened, and the City of Willow Park held a grand opening to the community, complete with treats, on Tuesday, April 20.

The original playground was torn down to make way for the new public safety building. Once opened, the old public safety building was demolished and the new playground is now complete on that site.

PHOTOS BY RANDY KECK/  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Ariel Hsu, 3, took a ride on the new swings.



Maverick Johnson, 2-1/2, got a ride on the merry-go-round.



Henry Taylor, 5, got a push on the swings from his mom.



Shanon Bursey enjoyed a grassy area with her children, Dani, Stevi, Andi, and Charli.



Gage Andress scampered out of one of the covered slides.

## The Center is proud to welcome, Talha Riaz, MD

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Dr. Riaz is excited to be in North Texas where he will be close to his family and looks forward to helping and providing its community members with exceptional care. Dr. Riaz and his wife Dr. Bismah Siddiqui are parents to one daughter and are thrilled to be starting their new chapter in life here. In his spare time, Dr. Riaz loves to travel with family and friends, enjoys music, and is also a huge soccer fan (Fan of Liverpool FC).



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# 1187

from page one

Most recently Marshall has met with Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price. Marshall and Aledo City Administrator Bill Funderburk have also met with Fort Worth staff.

"It goes back to a relationship that I have with one of the assistant city managers, whom I have known and worked with for years, and was instrumental in helping us bring ULI (Urban League Institute) out to Aledo in 2008 when we were

putting our strategic plan together," she said.

Marshall added that the developer has also had several meetings with Fort Worth.

"There's a lot of things that have to happen for everything to work," she said. "And even though we're still working out a lot of details, and we've got a few studies to run to ensure that this is workable for the city of Aledo, it has come to the point where we're now able to say it appears that we will, in fact, have about 248 acres coming into our

ETJ that will give us control over our front door."

Aside from the cooperation developed with the City of Fort Worth, one of the factors that made this development possible was the annexation legislation passed in the 2017 Texas Legislature making it more difficult for cities to annex property.

Assuming Aledo ends up with the ETJ, Marshall said she pictures a process akin that the one the city has utilized with James Harris Partners and the Parks of Aledo, where through developers agreements the

city will annex as development gets defined and implemented.

"When you have a developer's agreement, then that's [annexation] not an issue because you're automatically going to — they will automatically annex into your city as the city is providing infrastructure."

The announcement also validates the decision at the time FM 1187 was expanded to extend median landscaping north of the city limits.

"We paid additional dollars so that they could do something a little

bit different and carry the landscaping further north because it is the entryway to Aledo," Marshall said. "All of this takes very careful planning, strategizing, working with the city of Fort Worth, working with the developer, to ensure that it's what we would like for it to be for our future."

We're looking at infrastructure, what that looks like on both sides because this has to be a win-win for everybody. And Fort Worth still has a huge piece of this because they haven't actually carved it out. It's not in our ETJ yet."

# RACISM

from page one

special called meeting April 15 with Tamara Lawrence, who said her son was also targeted in the messages. Mioshi Johnson sent Lawrence a screenshot of the messages March 25, Lawrence said.

"It took my mind a moment to comprehend what I was seeing," she said. "It was a post from a Snapchat titled 'N\*\*\*\* Auction.'"

The parents reported that racial slurs were being used around their students and that Christopher Johnson had received threatening messages to the district, they said. While at a meeting with the Aledo ISD Chief of Police, Lawrence said that he asked if "that n\*\*\*\* was spelled with an 'er' or was that n\*\*\*\* with an 'a.'" This was the second time Mioshi Johnson had been asked that question by the district while reporting the threatening messages, Lawrence said.

The school sent out an email about the 'slave-trade auction' incident, but it does not directly address the issue, Johnson said.

"...But the email, wrapped in a nice, Aledo tiny bow said cyberbullying and harassment," she said.

Local NAACP chapter president Eddie Burnett addressed the school board at its special called meeting April 15. Disciplinary action against the students who sent the message was "a little bit like closing the barn door after the horse has gotten out," he said.

"This has already happened. You have already taken whatever disciplinary actions you are going to take," Burnett said. "So, the question becomes, what do we do going forward? How do we fix the problem?"

Others spoke about their experiences with racism within the city and the district at the April 19 meeting. Real Estate Agent Rosanne Hauck said that out of the areas she serves, she has witnessed the most racism in Aledo. Though some clients try to hide their intentions when moving to Aledo, others are more upfront, she said.

"Then there are those who don't work to conceal their intent at all," Hauck said. "We want to be in an area where there aren't too many black people," they say, or "this neighborhood is too dark for us," and they

are not talking about the lack of street lighting."

Courtney Huggins, a mother of Black AISD students, told the board a list of requests that she hopes would lead to a more inclusive future in Aledo. The list included firm disciplinary actions for students guilty of racists words and actions, cultural programming in schools, racial-themed workshops for parents, diversity training for staff, a more diverse workforce in the district, a cultural diversity committee to give recommendations to the board, a commitment from Superintendent Susan Bohn and the trustees to create a more diverse and inclusive community.

"We are out of time as a district and a community as made evident by the recent slave-trade scandal," she said. "I have faith in this board... this district cannot drive out racism alone, so for the people standing in this room tonight... I have faith in all of us to get this right as we are responsible for raising and releasing good humans into a colorful and diverse world."

Resident and parent Joseph Settles emphasized that the actions

by the students who sent the messages were learned behaviors and they, along with their parents, should be held accountable for their actions.

"I get offended when I don't know what happened to these students, who are supposed to be kids. We protect them for doing dumb stuff, but this isn't dumb stuff," Settles said. "This is a man's crime."

Superintendent Bohn defended the district's response to the incident at the board's April 15 meeting, saying it was called harassment and bullying because of the definitions in the district's policies.

"We also said that we don't tolerate racially-charged language, and that was stated in that letter [sent to families from the ninth-grade campus]," Bohn said. "And so the assertion that we were hiding this is not accurate."

Bohn said the consequences to the students who were involved with sending the messages were "swift and severe and are ongoing." Additionally, the district began conversations with the parents of the victims and will continue to address the impact of these actions on the

community, she added.

"I just want to make clear that this incident was absolutely in violation of our policies and absolutely unacceptable and we took swift action in response to it," she said.

The district will continue to speak with students and staff about race, Bohn continued.

"It is a community-wide effort. It is also an effort by the Aledo ISD. It is not something that happens in a day, it has to be worked on together so that the expectations of our community are born out in it as we guide our kids and our staff and each other through that work," she concluded.

The district's next steps will be an action plan and timeline, according to Board President Hoyt Harris on April 19.

### RWC POSTPONED

The Aledo Children's AdvoCats have announced that the annual Run, Walk, or Crawl, original scheduled on April 24, has been postponed. A new date has not been set.

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# ANNETTA

from page one

to get the price down for our end customer — our residents,” Naron said.

There are two separate contracts the cities use to have solid waste removed: a contract for collection with Republic, the company that goes to houses to collect the garbage, and the contract the council discussed with Waste Management.

“This is really where your solid waste, your trash, ends up at the end of the day,” Naron said.

The original contract was implemented in 2016.

The new extension incorporates a slight rise in fees due to increased costs on the part of Waste Management.

“That’s an increase of \$1.95 a ton,” Naron said. “Now keep in mind that is not an increase to the end user of \$1.90. That’s a ton. So that’s a truckload that actually goes to the landfill. At the end of the day, it’s a very minimal increase over what is currently in place.”

“I think it’s worth noting that when this was originally done the first time, the five cities actually won an award because we had not had an experience where cities worked together like that collaboratively and bargained for a benefit to the citizens and all the community,” Mayor Bruce Pinckard said.



Parker County Judge Pat Deen presented a Certificate of Recognition to Annetta Mayor Bruce Pinckard, who conducted his last meeting as mayor on April 15.

The council also approved a proclamation designating May, 2021 as Water Safety Month.

“As we warm up, the pools get active again —kids get out swimming, and unfortunately we read in the newspaper or we hear from Cook Children’s that drowning deaths can occur. It only takes a minute,” Pinckard said.

In other action, the council:

- voted to authorize Mayor Bruce Pinckard to make an offer to the council’s preferred candidate for the public works and planning director; and
- selected Oct. 16 as the date for the next Crime Control and Prevention Block Party and Talk of the Town Business Fair.

## ALEDO ISD

# Masks no longer required

Accommodations made for teachers

By Makenzie Plusnick  
The Community News

Aledo ISD students are no longer required to wear face coverings while at school.

The Board of Trustees amended the district’s face covering policy at a special called meeting April 15. Students will now be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks during school and at school events.

The trustees decided to wait until teachers had vaccines available to them to make any changes, according to Board President Hoyt Harris. As of the meeting, 229 staff members had completed their vaccination series through the district. Additionally, AISD looked at other districts who have an optional mask policy and waited until after spring break to make the decision.

The district has options to keep teachers comfortable in their classrooms, Superintendent

Susan Bohn said. Plexiglass shields, a designated space that only the teacher is allowed in, and N95 masks will be offered to teachers, she added.

The board debated making specific mask requirements for classes such as choir, music, and band, but ultimately deciding that would complicate the policy. Trustee Jennifer Taylor expressed her concerns for staff when changing the policy.

“My opinion is to keep [the policy] simple, but also my opinion is we are going to put some staff members in some really tough situations, no matter how we word it,” she said.

Though the mask requirement has been lifted, other guidelines are still in place.

“Social distancing still applies, the quarantine still applies,” Trustee Forrest Collins said. “The only thing we are addressing is the face covering on students.”

Six trustees voted for the amendment, with Taylor opposing the motion.

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## Capital Highlights

### Early voting underway



**Gary Borders**

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Early voting began Monday for May 1 elections in county, city and school district elections.

Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughes encourages all eligible voters to take advantage of the early voting period, which runs through Tuesday, April 27. Texas voters can contact their respective county elections office to view a sample ballot, locate their appropriate polling place, and plan their trip to the polls. Additional information is available at [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov).

#### New PUC commissioner confirmed

Will McAdams, nominated by Gov. Greg Abbott to a slot on the Public Utilities Commission, was unanimously confirmed by the Texas Senate last week.

McAdams formerly served as president of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas and worked for legislators for more than a decade in various senior staff positions.

Abbott has also nominated Peter Lake to be the new chair of the PUC, which regulates the state's power grid operations. Lake now serves as chair of the Texas Water Development Board.

All three previous PUC members resigned after February's winter storm led to massive power outages across the state.

#### House passes bill to allow handgun carry without a license

The Texas House voted 87-58 last week to allow handguns to be carried without a permit. Under current law, a permit is required to carry handguns either concealed or openly. If the bill becomes law, any Texas resident not already prohibited by state or federal law from owning a gun could legally carry a handgun.

According to the Texas Tribune, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Texas Senate, previously expressed qualms about easing handgun laws. Numerous law enforcement officials and concealed handgun license instructors opposed the measure, citing concerns over safety. A number of El Paso-area lawmakers opposed the measure, recalling the mass shooting that left 23 dead at a Walmart there in August 2019.

#### State halts distribution of J&J vaccines

Use of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines has been temporarily halted in Texas following a recommendation last week from the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration.

The Texas Department of State Health Services issued the notice following extremely isolated reports of blood clots in a half-dozen recipients

of the J&J vaccine — all in women between the ages of 18 and 48, according to the CDC.

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the United States. There is no word of when the vaccine might be used again.

#### Number of Texans vaccinated edging toward 50%; cases steady

Even with the halt in distribution of the J&J vaccine, the number of Texans who have received at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna two-shot vaccines hit 44.5% as of Sunday, according to DSHS.

A total of 6.37 million Texans are fully vaccinated — roughly 20% of the state's population. Texas is receiving more than 1.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine this week.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas last week dropped slightly from the previous week at 23,521, while deaths dropped to 374, a decrease of 27%, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients currently in Texas hospitals increased slightly to 2,929. That number is down nearly 80% from the high mark in mid-January, when more than 14,000 Texans were hospitalized with COVID-19.

#### Jobless rate unchanged at 6.9%

The state's unemployment in March remained steady at 6.9%, with the state adding 99,000 total nonagricultural jobs, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

"Positive job numbers for March continue to show Texas is on track for continued growth," TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said. "TWC will continue to provide flexible and innovative training programs to help provide all Texans with skills they can use for workforce success."

The 6.9% rate is more than double the state's record low of 3.4% in May 2019. Jobless claims have risen since the mid-February storm, and the state has lost more than 400,000 jobs since the pandemic began early last year, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### FEMA extends registration for storm damage claims

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has extended the registration period for individuals whose property was damaged in the winter storm until May 20 in the 126 qualifying Texas counties. The state's emergency management agency made the extension request.

Individuals can apply online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling 800-621-3362. The toll-free line is operated from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

*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 and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).*

## Slings&Arrows

### #RedefiningGreatness



**Randy Keck**

rkeck@community-news.com

The development that three ninth-graders engaged in a virtual "slave auction," along with the vile and disgusting language used to describe their classmates, became big news in the community last week and set social media sites ablaze with finger-pointing, blame-casting, name-calling, and bringing negative attention to the community at the Metroplex, state, and national level.

The incident horrified me as I know it did others, and has raised a lot of questions about our community.

I have seen residents rise up again and again to do what is right; to help those in need; to extend a loving hand when there is a crisis; and to donate their time, money, and talents to make the community better.

This incident, however, shows there is also a profane, ugly element that we must talk about and address.

A lot of arrows are pointed at the school district right now; we should probably check to make sure, first, that we have the right to shoot arrows and, second, that we are aiming at the right target.

The perpetrators of this nasty "game" did not learn their racist attitudes and language from the Aledo ISD curriculum. Those attitudes and language came from home, friends, or local culture.

Since the incident in question was carried out by AISD students who targeted other students, it was incumbent on the school district to respond regardless of where and how the act was perpetrated.

It is valid to question the school district's response, particularly in its messaging. Perhaps because of the constraints of policy, the district's description of the incident did not come across in a positive way to those who were targeted. It appears that the inclusiveness plan passed a few years ago needs to be more strongly implemented.

It is my hope, in the wake of this incident, that we can become a better community by not only embracing our victories, but in working to improve our moral standing.

Aledo is all about winning. Aledo expects high achievement. Aledo has a high bar.

But too often an attitude of elitism is expressed in the way Aledo compares itself to other communities.

Most people grew up being taught the importance of being a good loser. It is also important to be a good winner and to express at least a bit of humility in victory.

I have seen enough people who call the community "Elito" and see a community of privilege and entitlement.

Based on social media comments in the wake of this incident, there is a lot of work to be done to properly respect people outside and inside our community who are different in some way, whether by class, race, social status, religion, or other factors.

Comment after comment flowed through posts, saying, in effect, "I wouldn't recommend Aledo to someone who isn't white."

That should give us pause to recognize there is a major problem in our midst.

This problem *manifested* itself at school — the *root* is the community.

The response needs to come from the community at large, and I feel compelled to share why it is so important that we get this right.

For the most part, the people in this community identify with Christianity. There is a plethora of churches and schools. Both are important bedrocks of the community.

It is incumbent on churches to address this issue unequivocally, not only to their members but in witness to the community at large.

I commend Jack Hunt at The Well for his column last week and the messaging he is doing in his church. Likewise, I commend Aledo United Methodist Church for holding a prayer vigil on the issue, and actions other churches are taking. I am certain more are also addressing the issue.

To expound on Jack Hunt's column, Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.**"

In other words, we can't profess to love God without loving each other. And we can't do anything else until we accomplish those two things. *Everything else*, according to Jesus, depends on those two commandments.

There were no stipulations. He didn't say to love your neighbor only if your neighbor is white, or a Republican, or a Democrat, or, in the same socio-economic class, in the same town, or even of the same religion.

Our local churches speak out on all kinds of issues, but *all* those issues depend on those two great commandments.

You can't love your neighbors if you demean and disparage them, or stand silent when they are disparaged.

You can't love your neighbors if you treat them like property, or stand silent when others do.

You can't love your neighbors if you think you are superior to them.

You can't love your neighbors if you exclude them.

And you can't love God without loving your neighbors.

"Growing Greatness" is the slogan of the school district. It may not be intended, but there is a connotation of elitism in that slogan.

If we're going to use it, maybe we should re-examine what we mean by "greatness."

An article on [medium.com](http://medium.com) says, "True greatness is shown through one's works and actions, the way in which you impact the lives of others. Greatness does not make excuses or shy away from failure."

If "greatness" means we excel at athletic competition, or have high academic standards, or have a community of high-achieving professionals, then perhaps "Growing Greatness" defines Aledo.

But we need a broader definition.

Who are your heroes? Who do you look up to? What makes them great?

For my heroes it is an underlying moral strength, an unwillingness to tolerate injustice, and courage to stand up for what is right.

Greatness is not afraid of taking on long and difficult tasks.

We have a long road ahead of us. A lot of people in the community are already taking action. Going "back to normal" after the storm subsides is not an option. The wound is laid bare. We have to treat it.

Can we, as a community and a school district, join together with one voice to say that words and language designed to dehumanize people are not acceptable and that judging people based on anything other than their character will not be tolerated in school or at home?

Can we teach that to our kids at school, home, and church?

And can we expand our definition of greatness to include putting loving our neighbors and treating them with kindness into thought and practice?

Our measure as a community depends on the answer.

*Randy Keck is the owner and publisher of The Community News.*

## The Community News

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**SUBMIT STORIES, PHOTOS OR IDEAS**  
We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-441-7661, ext. 207 or email [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com). Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should

include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper. Send submissions to [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com).

Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph. For ease in submitting photographs electronically, visit our contact form at [community-news.com/contacts](http://community-news.com/contacts).

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. The deadline for submitting announcements is noon Friday for the following week's paper.



## Thistles & Roses

# Aledo, we have a problem.



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

The recent scandal involving some Aledo ISD ninth-graders who posted a “slave auction” on social media has made this part of East Parker County look bad. Local newspapers, national newspapers including the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, as well as the local major TV stations have picked up the story. *Star-Telegram* sports columnist Theodore “Mac” Engel wrote

a scathing column telling Aledo to look in the mirror. One report said that one of the families with a son who participated in the incident are trying to move out of here.

There are two questions. One, are we no worse than any other area? Two, are we worse than other areas?

To the first, I ask if being no worse than other areas excuses us? Should we be okay with being no worse in matters of race than other areas?

To the second, I say we just might be worse than other areas. The *Star-Telegram* and major TV news stations covered the April 19 school board meeting and according to their reports, the citizens who were part

of an overflow crowd made numerous statements about many other rampant racist incidents that have occurred here. My own sons who are in college told me that they saw a lot of racism when they were at Aledo schools. A realtor reportedly stated that she has clients who want to come here because there is no diversity.

Chris Johnson, 14, one of the African American students who was the target of the slave auction, bravely spoke to the board about how he felt being the target of such conduct. Many others spoke of other incidents. Some were matter of fact. Some were angry. Some shed tears.

The problem runs deeper than many want to admit.

The very fact that there are people living here that are are bigoted is hard to accept. I suspect that many who have these racist feeling are unrepentant about it. Many have said that these kids doing these things learn it at home.

In the meantime, we need to recognize that we have some things we need to deal with in this community.

Sensitivity and diversity training are a good place to start. Before you roll your eyes and say we are just being politically correct to have such training, just what do you mean by “politically correct?” That means to me that politically correct is doing the right thing when you don’t really want to.

The Mirriam Websters online dictionary defines politically correct as “conforming to a belief that language and practices which could offend political sensibilities (as in matters of sex or race) should be eliminated.”

That is a great definition!

Such sensitivity and diversity training are proven methods of raising awareness and making change. It won’t solve the problem, but it is a place to start. And it is time to get started. And when you see or hear someone saying or doing the wrong thing, hard as it is, don’t ignore it.

Aledo, we have a problem. It is time we all became part of the solution.

## Support for Bruce Pinckard

During this pandemic, it can be hard to find many things for which to be grateful, but I have found one: Bruce Pinckard is running for City Council! As you probably know, Bruce has been our Mayor of Annetta for the past 10 years, and while he is stepping down from that position, we are so fortunate that he is running for City Council Place 3 to continue his support and leadership of the entire Annetta community.

As a resident of Annetta for over 20 years, I have seen many of the accomplishments that we all still enjoy today. Within the Annetta Comprehensive Plan, which Bruce helped create, developers are required to build with a 2-acre minimum. In addition, he brought the water system, which now supports over 800 homes, to a “Superior” rating, as well as improved our bond rating from “B” to “AA”.

With strong ties to our community, having raised his family here over the past 20+ years, he is determined to continue making a positive impact on our community and to bringing our community even closer together.

Lastly, Bruce is a fine person who I am standing behind and hope you will, too. Therefore, I would like to encourage you to vote for Bruce Pinckard for City Council Place 3.

- GAIL HEBERT  
ANNETTA

## Response to Racism

I have lived in and loved my community of Aledo for 12 years. I have served you as a school nurse and as a teacher in the Health Science program. I come to you today as mother of 4 Aledo graduates, as an inter-racial family, as a citizen, a local business owner, a teacher, a nurse, a friend, and a follower of Jesus. It is impossible for me to be one without being all.

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF WILLOW PARK

#### HUDSON OAKS AND WILLOW PARK WATER FACILITIES AND WHOLESALE METER

Separate sealed bids for the HUDSON OAKS AND WILLOW PARK WATER FACILITIES AND WHOLESALE METER project will be received by the CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS until **May 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM** at City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud.

The project generally includes the construction of approximately 455 feet of 14-inch to 20-inch water line, along El Chico Trail and Ranch Oak Drive, three motor operated valve vaults, two meter stations, pump station, 0.75 MG ground storage tank and appurtenances.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and Compliance Provisions may be examined at the following locations:

Half Associates, Inc.  
4000 Fossil Creek Blvd.  
Fort Worth, Texas 76137

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans and specifications from Half Associates, Inc. The cost for Contract Documents is \$50.00 per half size set. The cost of Contract Documents is not refunded. Submit check, cashier check or money order for payment. Cash will not be accepted.

A non-mandatory prebid meeting for the project will be held at the City of Willow Park, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087 at **10:00 AM, CST, Tuesday, May 4, 2021**.

Direct questions regarding distribution of Contract Documents, and the design of Approach Main to Hudson Oaks and Willow Park to Leah Hodge, P.E., Half Associates, Inc., at (817) 764-7459.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they consider most advantageous to the Owner. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Award of the contract will be made as a whole to one Bidder. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Small and minority firms are encouraged to submit bids for this project.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of **CITY OF WILLOW PARK**, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

This contract is to be funded through a loan obtained from the Texas Water Development Board as part of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). There are a number of special provisions for this funding that bidders, by submitting a bid, acknowledge understanding, including the following: Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for bid (IFB) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State of Texas, nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees, are or will be a party to this IFB, or any resulting contract.

Any contract(s) awarded under this Invitation for Bids is/are subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of federal law, including federal appropriation acts and Section 1452 (a)(4) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. §300j-12(a)(4)), as applicable.

This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, which includes EPA-approved fair share goals toward procurement of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) businesses. EPA rules require that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to M/WBEs through demonstration of the six affirmative steps. For more details on the DBE Program and the current, applicable fair share goals, please visit [www.twdb.texas.gov/dbe](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/dbe).

The party to whom the contract is awarded shall be required to furnish performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety.

Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Department of Labor regulations at 41 CFR Part 60-4, relating to Construction Contractors--Affirmative Action Requirements, which include the President’s Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 and Executive Order No. 13672, in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the Contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.

All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall be paid wages as described in the section, Mandatory Davis-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements apply to the construction, alteration or repair of treatment works carried out, in whole or in part, with assistance made available by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or a construction project financed, in whole or in part, from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Any contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration or repair (including painting and decorating) and funded under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs shall include the mandatory Davis-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Any contracts or subcontracts in excess of \$2000 must include the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Requirements found in TWDB Guidance No. DB-0156.

For prime contracts in excess of \$100,000, Contractors and Subcontractors must also, under the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, as amended, pay laborers and mechanics, including guards and watchmen, at least one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek. The Fair Labor Standards Act may also apply to Davis-Bacon covered contracts.

CITY OF WILLOW PARK

Dates: April 16 and 23, 2021

By: (s) Doyle Moss, Mayor

## Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Support for Bruce Pinckard

During this pandemic, it can be hard to find many things for which to be grateful, but I have found one: Bruce Pinckard is running for City Council! As you probably know, Bruce has been our Mayor of Annetta for the past 10 years, and while he is stepping down from that position, we are so fortunate that he is running for City Council Place 3 to continue his support and leadership of the entire Annetta community.

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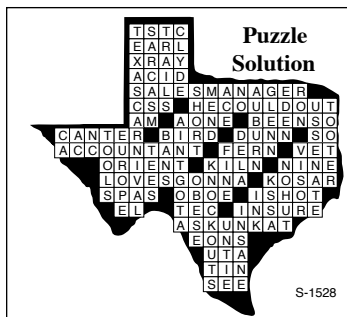
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### ESTATE SALE

**3 BEDROOM SETS**, fridge, washer/dryer, tools, accessories, Intex Spa, recliners, small kitchen appliances, boots, yard equipment. Friday-Sunday, April 23-25. Friday-Saturday 9-4, Sunday 12-4.

**Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a PACKAGE STORE PERMIT (WINE ONLY) by Small Byrd LLC dba BYRD MILL, to be located at 243 WILLOW BEND DRIVE, SUITE 105, WILLOW PARK, PARKER COUNTY, Texas. Officers of said corporation are SHANNON BYRD, OWNER.**



TexSCAN Week of  
April 18, 2021

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We have an enemy who seeks to kill, steal, and destroy and he has been hard at work in our ranks this week. I acknowledge that this week is not the only example of how our brothers and sisters of color have been wronged, but it is a horrific one. I pray that this will serve as the wake-up call that is required to take seriously the moral and ethical training of our children, our students, our athletes.

We simply cannot stand by and be passive in the shaping of the next generation. They will not learn to love unless we demonstrate love. They are learning from us how to treat others, how to forgive, how to listen, and how to have compassion. They watch how we manage (or don't manage) our own words and emotions, in this situation and routinely on social media. They are masters at knowing what we are willing to tolerate. They observe whether we serve others or simply serve ourselves.

There is much blame to go around, and we each must pick up our part of it and ask the LORD to make us new, to show us any wrong ways of thinking, speaking, or acting. Cleaning up a mess like this requires us all to go to the mirror first and examine our own hearts. The surest way to silence our enemy is to work together to bring about healing and change. Let's use our hands to extend friendship instead of pointing fingers.

To the black and brown community of Aledo I want to say you belong here, I love you, please stay. You make our lives richer; and you bring value to our community. You are welcome in my home or at the seat next to me at any event. If I don't know you yet, I would love to. I am broken and heart sick. When I heard of this I sat at my desk at school and cried and cried. I am so very sorry, forgive us.

- WENDY PETERSON

### Supporting Bruce Pinckard

Early voting has begun for the Annetta City Council. We have an opportunity to select a candidate with a proven track record of commitment to progress and protection to work with our new mayor (who is running unopposed) to keep our town on the right path. Bruce Pinckard is that choice. He has spent the past 16 years serving the town, as a member of the Council and as Mayor. We should keep his knowledge and expertise on the Council during this transition period.

Bruce led Annetta during a period of tremendous growth, through the acquisition of our water system, the voluntary annexation of hundreds of homes, and the development of our beautiful, debt free City Hall - all with no property taxes! And in the severe cold spell in February, Annetta water customers never lost water - thanks to a first-rate water system and excellent planning.

Bruce Pinckard has served our town well for many years. He's willing to help maintain the positive path that has been forged. Let's say "thank you" to Bruce for his service as Mayor and "yes, please" to his offer to continue serving on the Council to keep Annetta the wonderful town we all know and love. Vote for Bruce Pinckard, Place 3.

- KATHRYN B. THOMPSON

ANNETTA



Guest Column

# My mezuzah necklace



Leah Vann

I wear a mezuzah necklace.

It's something a lot of us Jewish people wear, but when I lived in Aledo, I was too embarrassed of my faith to put it on display.

Because if we're honest, a person who does not fit the white, protestant mold of this community has a hard time growing up here.

I'll start by saying that I cannot speak to the recent or past experiences of people of color at Aledo. I want their voices to be heard right now more than ever, but I also want them to know they aren't alone in their discomfort growing up in this community.

And it's time that I leave no stone left unturned.

Because if you're remotely different from the white, protestant mold, conforming is the best way to get by at Aledo.

First, the student newspaper at Aledo put out a satirical issue every year. One of the articles in it said, "Girl Complains to Diary," with a picture of Anne Frank. I read the article, which poked fun at one of the defining figures of a deeply traumatic piece of not only my faith's history, but the history of my own family and loved ones. My great grandfather escaped the Warsaw ghetto during the Holocaust to start a new life in the U.S., and one of my Hebrew tutors growing up was a

Holocaust survivor and had a number tattooed on her forearm.

I went to the teacher in charge and told her the article was inappropriate. She told me the student who wrote it was "half-Jewish," so it was fine. I reported it to the principal and the situation was never addressed. Not even a retraction. I never met the student who wrote it.

Another time, I was in the locker room and one of my friends asked why I don't "wear a dot," on my forehead and have "dark skin." This is wrong on many accounts, because not only was she confusing Judaism with both the Muslim and Hindu faiths, but she also asked in a joking tone, as if a sacred practice is funny.

Then there's the microaggressions, like the fact I was repeatedly asked why I didn't date my step-cousin at the time, who was also Jewish.

I was also asked to pick a penny off the ground because I'm a cheap Jew. I was told that I don't believe in forgiveness or that I'm going to hell.

As an athlete, I never felt comfortable in a pregame prayer, which always mentioned Jesus. (I sat out for this in middle school, then joined in high school.) I understand a group prayer, but if you want to unify your team, maybe you adapt to a more generalized version so we can all address our own higher power in unison.

One of the most egregious and obvious forms of antisemitism was when I took precalculus. I will preface this with the fact that this person has since apologized to me, and I thanked that person, but it's worth sharing.

When I walked into class every day during my junior year, this classmate repeatedly told me I smelled "burnt," like I "came out of the oven."

I laughed uncomfortably because I didn't know what to do, until I finally decided that I was done and that he needed to be corrected.

From an educational standpoint, I felt like Aledo found a reason for us to read the bible in English class and the way of getting around "teaching" it was to assign as summer reading.

So, as a Jew, I read portions of the New Testament for "literature reference" purposes as they call it. No one else I know in a public school setting had to do that. We had to read the Old Testament too, which I thought would educate some of my peers on the fact that both Christianity and Islamic faiths can trace their roots back to Judaism. No. It didn't. We had a lecture on the New Testament.

I'm sorry, but that would be like a Christian going to school and having to read the Torah or the Quran. As a Jew, I received my religious education at my synagogue, where I learned about other religions.

I suggest churches in the community do the same, off school grounds. I highly encourage visiting other places of worship and listening because you'll realize we share many of the same values, but have different traditions.

Let's go backwards a bit and talk about what it's like to be a GIRL in middle school.

In middle school I was sexually harassed by a classmate who stalked me. He not only stood outside and waited for my car to arrive every morning, but he also got a fake cell phone number, posed as my crush, and told me he was outside my window at TCU team volleyball camp in Fort Worth. He came up to me at lunch and forcibly kissed me on the mouth. From what I heard, I wasn't

his first victim, but he often targeted the new girls in school.

I told my teachers, and they all laughed, saying that he just "had a little crush," and that "boys pick on you when they like you." (I believe he moved away and was charged with sexual harassment in another town.)

I'll conclude this by saying I had teachers I loved and adored at Aledo. I built friendships, but not many, and retain few of them today. And during my cancer diagnosis, a large portion of people were there, cheering me on.

## I felt so ashamed to be different.

But I cannot neglect the fact that I was bullied to the point where I never wore my mezuzah necklace because I felt so ashamed to be different. I changed myself to get by at that school, but the bullying was so bad that I cried almost every day my senior year.

Going to the University of Texas was the best thing that ever happened me because I purposely sought friends who were of different races, cultural backgrounds or weren't even from the U.S. Let me tell you — I totally had my own biases coming from Aledo, and these people challenged me to change my perspective. But I also found a Jewish community where I was comfortable wearing my mezuzah necklace, and I still wear it constantly.

I've now lived in Iowa, Colorado, Illinois and am back in Iowa. All of towns I've lived in, even small ones,

pale in comparison to the ignorance I faced at Aledo.

People ask me if I miss Texas. I do. But I'll be damned if I move back to a town that made me change who I really was just to get by. To this day, when I go back, I feel uncomfortable. I sink back into the person I was: insecure, and conforming to others' behaviors and opinions just to fit in.

This all being said — I can't imagine what it's like growing up in Aledo as a person of color. A person who is visibly different from everyone else. I am white, so it was easy for me to mask my Judaism.

I think Aledo, the community and the school, could benefit from an overhaul in their educational practices because it's imperative people learn how to treat others with respect, no matter what race, religion, ethnicity or gender identity.

If I could do it all over again, I'd wear my mezuzah necklace every day.

And if someone asked what it was, I'd tell them it's a box with a prayer scroll wrapped inside.

A symbol we Jews wear to protect us from the ignorance and hate that persists in places like Aledo.

*Leah Vann is a 2013 graduate of Aledo High School who covers Hawkeye football for the Mason City Globe Gazette in Iowa.*

**Editor's note:** Over the years we have heard from a number of former students who experienced a lack of inclusiveness. We are reaching out to those who want to share their experiences. The purpose is not to denigrate the community or schools, but to illustrate that there are problems we need to address.

**TOWN OF ANNETTA  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Annetta will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008. At this meeting, a public hearing will be held to consider amending portions of Ordinance No. 192, the Town's Zoning Ordinance, as amended by Ordinance 192A, and more specifically: renumbering and reformatting the ordinance, adding four new residential districts; Section 5.2 R-AG "Agricultural Residential District," Section 5.3 R-E "Residential Estate Residential District," Section 5.5 R-20 "Single Family Residential District," Section 5.6 R-10 "Single Family Residential District;" amending Article 4 "Permitted Uses" to provide permitted use listings for the new residential districts, amending Section 8.2 to allow the combining of platted lots, amend Section 8.10.B to provide for accessory buildings in front of main buildings on lots at least two acres in size and an accessory building on adjacent lots; Section 9.2 "General Definitions;" by amending the definition of lot width; Section 9.3 "Definitions;" by amending or adding definitions related to the foregoing sections, and amending or adding definitions for Accessory Farming and Livestock; Agricultural, Farming and Forestry Activities; Animal Production, Ranching and Livestock; Credit Access Business; Home Occupation; Short Term Rental; amending and adding fencing standards in the residential districts and amending various sections to comply with new statutory requirements for zoning. The Town Council will consider the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and adoption of the proposed zoning text revisions, as amended, in a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on May 20, 2021 at Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008.

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TRACK

## Track teams head to Lubbock

### Regional Meet this week

After sweeping district competition, the Aledo High School track teams each placed first at the Area Meet last week held at Brewer High School.

In all, eight individual boys, nine individual girls, two boys' relay teams, and three girls' relay teas qualified for the regional meet being held in Lubbock this week en route to state.

On the boys side, Aledo compiled 104.5 points. Denton Ryan had 91, and Brewer had 65. Aledo girls slipped past Northwest, 90

point to 88. Third place team-wise went to Denton Ryan. Area results are below (\* indicates regional qualifier).

#### Varsity Boys

##### 400 Meters

•Clay Murador - 2 - 50.51 PR

##### 800 Meters

Samuel Haught - 5 - 2:02.92 PR  
Maverick Savage - 7 - 2:07.49 PR

##### 1600 Meters

Henry Zedler - 5 - 4:45.07  
Samuel Haught - 8 - 4:56.68

##### 3200 Meters

Henry Zedler - 5 - 10:29.25  
Vincent Luffey - 6 - 10:35.94 PR

##### 110m Hurdles - 39"

•Dylan Martin - 3 - 15.12 PR  
Luke White - 5 - 15.56 PR

##### 300m Hurdles - 36"

•Luke White - 3 - 40.96SR  
Dylan Martin - 6 - 42.43 PR

##### 4x100 Relay

•Brian Fleming, Demarco Roberts, Sammy Steffe, Clay Murador - 1 - 41.81

##### 4x400 Relay

•Jacob Costello, Jalen Pope, Logan Flinta, Clay Murador - 2 - 3:30.17

##### Shot Put - 12lb

Jason Llewellyn - 5 - 46' 1"

##### Discus - 1.6kg

Jason Llewellyn - 6 - 137' 8"  
Isaac Knott - 8 - 125' 0"

##### High Jump

•Tristan Thurman - 2 - 6' 4"  
•Jack Mitchell - 4 - 6' 0"

##### Pole Vault

•Ford Maberry - 1 - 15' 0"  
•Matthew Hickerson - 3 - 13' 6"  
Sean Gribble - 5 - 12' 6"

##### Triple Jump

•Taylon Kessler - 3 - 42' 11 PR  
Layne Ducote - 6 - 40' 3.75

#### Varsity Girls

##### 100 Meters

Macy Graf - 6 - 13.08

##### 200 Meters

Macy Graf - 5 - 27.42

##### 400 Meters

•Sidney Tillotson - 4 - 1:02.44 PR

##### 800 Meters

•Sidney Tillotson - 4 - 2:21.17 PR  
Delaney Deller - 6 - 2:27.30

##### 1600 Meters

Caroline Browning - 7 - 5:59.97 PR

##### 100m Hurdles - 33"

•Natalie Anderson - 3 - 16.46  
•Sophie Isham - 4 - 16.66

##### 300m Hurdles - 30"

Sarah Tillotson - 5 - 49.07  
Daniella Tregellas - 6 - 50.65  
Olivia Tregellas - 8 - 54.42

##### 4x100 Relay

Kaylee Halfmann, Ashley Canady, Ansli Lopez, Macy Graf - 6 - 51.05

##### 4x200 Relay

•Kaylee Halfmann, Ashley Canady, Kaylee Mays, Delaney Deller - 2 - 1:46.97

##### 4x400 Relay

•Delaney Deller, Daniella Tregellas, Sarah Tillotson, Sidney Tillotson - 4 - 4:15.19

##### Shot Put - 4kg

•Lauren St Peters - 1 - 36' 9" PR  
•Madsen Boutwell - 3 - 35' 0"  
Carson Fronk - 8 - 30' 9"

##### Discus - 1kg

•Lauren St Peters - 2 - 108' 1"

##### High Jump

•Ashley Canady - 4 - 5' 2SR  
Taylor McKenzie - 6 - 5' 0"

##### Pole Vault

Taylor Hindman - 5 - 9' 6"  
Kaitlyn Walker - 7 - 9' 0"  
Ansli Lopez - 8 - 8' 6"

##### Long Jump

Kaylee Halfmann - 5 - 17' 2.5 PR

##### Triple Jump

•Madison Frank - 3 - 34' 3.75 PR

SOFTBALL

## Ladycats prep for playoffs

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

The softball district season is over, and the Aledo Ladycats emerged as district champions. However, there is still one more week before the playoffs start. Head coach Heather Myers wanted to find teams to play to keep the team fresh and ready.

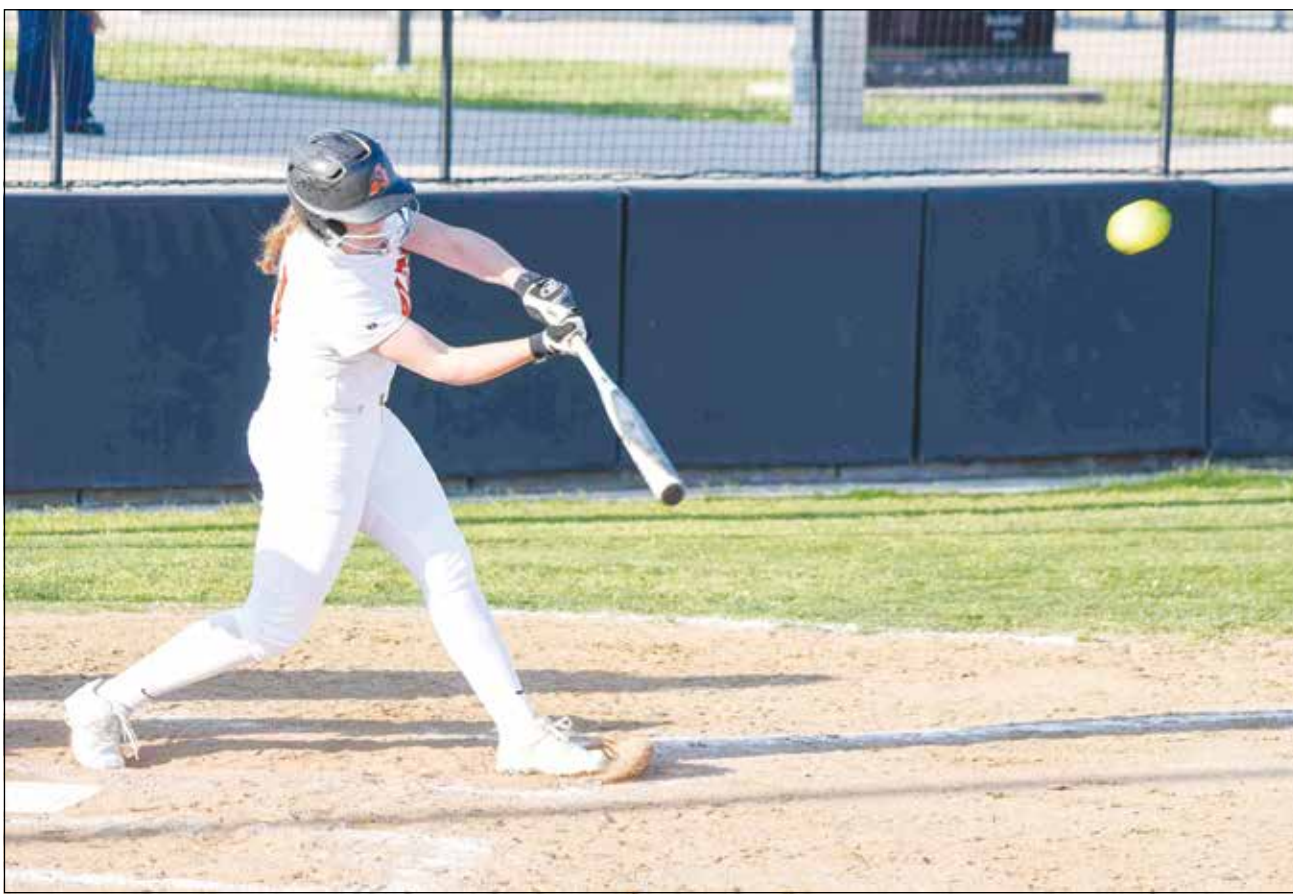
Last Friday, the team traveled to Wichita Falls to take on the hometown Lady Coyotes in the district finale. It took a couple of innings for the bats to get going, but with Kayleigh Smith pitching, Wichita Falls was only able to muster two hits all game.

Claire Byars got the scoring started in the third inning with an infield single that scored Audrey Pearce. Texas Ray followed with a triple to right field to score Byars. With Ray standing on third, Madsen Boutwell stepped into the box and started her big day with a home run to center field.

Reagan Davis kept things going in the inning. With two runners in scoring position, Davis laid down a bunt and made it safely, allowing Morgan Brown to cross the plate. She scored two plays later on a passed ball and the Ladycats held a comfortable 6-0 lead after three innings.

In the fourth, Boutwell repeated her home run from the third inning with another over the centerfield fence to score Byars for the only two runs of the inning to make it 8-0.

The fifth inning saw a two-out rally that ended the game by run rule. Marissa Powell started things off with a triple to center that scored Pearce from first base. Maddy Jarvis followed suit with a triple of her own to score Powell. Ray got on base with a dropped ball by the left fielder, and Jarvis scored.



Marissa Powell blasts a home run during the Flower Mound Marcus game.

JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

It was then Boutwell who stepped up and finished her fantastic day with her third home run to bring the tally to 13-0.

Smith struck out the side in the bottom half of the inning to end the game and put a cap on the Ladycats' district schedule.

Boutwell finished 3-for-4, all home runs, and 6 RBIs.

#### Flower Mound Marcus

That was not it for Aledo though. With two weeks to go before the playoffs start, Myers found and scheduled a game with Flower Mound Marcus. The 6A program agreed to come to Aledo and play the Ladycats on Tuesday night.

The game provided much more drama than Aledo has seen recently. The Lady Marauders scored one in the first and in the second innings to take an early lead. In the bottom of the third, the Ladycats tied it up at two with back-to-back home runs by Powell and Boutwell.

The next 14 batters were unable to get on base and the game was at a standstill. It wasn't until the sixth inning that Marcus broke the stalemate with a solo home run of its own.

Aledo had its back against the wall in the bottom of the seventh, needing at least one run. Jarvis and Pearce were both able to get into scoring position for Macy Graf, and

the star shortstop did not disappoint. Facing a 1-2 count, Graf was able to thread a ball up the middle that came to rest just far enough in front of the center fielder that allowed both Jarvis and Pearce to score. Graf ended up at second and was credited with a walk-off double, and the Ladycats took the game by a score of 4-3.

Though there are not any more games on the schedule, the Ladycats are in talks with Denton Guyer to play another non-district game before they play Lake Dallas in the first round next weekend.

BASEBALL

## Bearcats continue to roll

Shut out Azle, defeat Rider

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

The week after Easter the Aledo baseball team had an entire week off. They got the same thing unexpectedly this past week. After defeating the Azle Hornets on the road last Tuesday, the Bearcats had to wait for the second matchup due to rain on Friday.

The game was rescheduled for Monday, and the Bearcats were out to show that the extra break did not affect them.

Carter Shands only allowed three hits through five and a third innings before Adrian Guzman shut them down the rest of the way.

The scoring started early for Aledo, as Max Belyeu and Parker Stegall both got on base to start the game. Creed Willems then drove in Belyeu with a line drive single to left field. Guzman later drove in Stegall to give the Bearcats an early 2-0 lead.

Later, in the fourth inning, Kevin Taylor singled and Sam Sisk doubled to move Taylor to third base. The next batter, Belyeu, drove both of them in with a triple to center-field to double the lead.

Willems did the same thing in the sixth with Sisk and Stegall on board to drive in two more runs, bringing the final tally to 6-0 and completing the sweep.

#### Wichita Falls Rider

After defeating Azle on Monday night, the Bearcats had to prepare

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 9

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# BASEBALL

from page eight

for their game with Wichita Falls Rider the next day.

Both teams went into the game with a 5-1 district record, meaning a sweep by either team would clinch the outright district title.

The Bearcats made the two hour drive up to Wichita Falls on the unforgiving turf of Hoskins Field and the bats were out in full force.

Belyeu opened up the scoring with a single to right field that drove in Zach Harrison to give Aledo a 1-0 lead. Bridger Wilson doubled the lead in the third inning with a line drive to left field that allowed Nolan Garcia to cross the plate.

Rider was able to push one across in the bottom of the third inning, but the Bearcats added two more in the top of the fourth to stay on top. First, Hunter Rudel walked with the bases loaded to score Belyeu, then Garcia hit a sacrifice fly to left that scored Stegall to make the score 4-1.

Willems made it 5-1 in the sixth inning by hitting a fly ball to right field. The ball was caught for the out, but Belyeu tagged up at third and crossed the plate, crediting Willems with a sacrifice fly.

Things got dramatic in the bottom of the seventh when Rider loaded the bases. Guzman again came in to close the game out and work out of the jam. He walked home one run to make it 5-2, but he retired the next two batters, striking out the last one to seal the victory.

The Bearcats will face Rider again on Friday for the outright district championship before playing a series with Wichita Falls High next week.

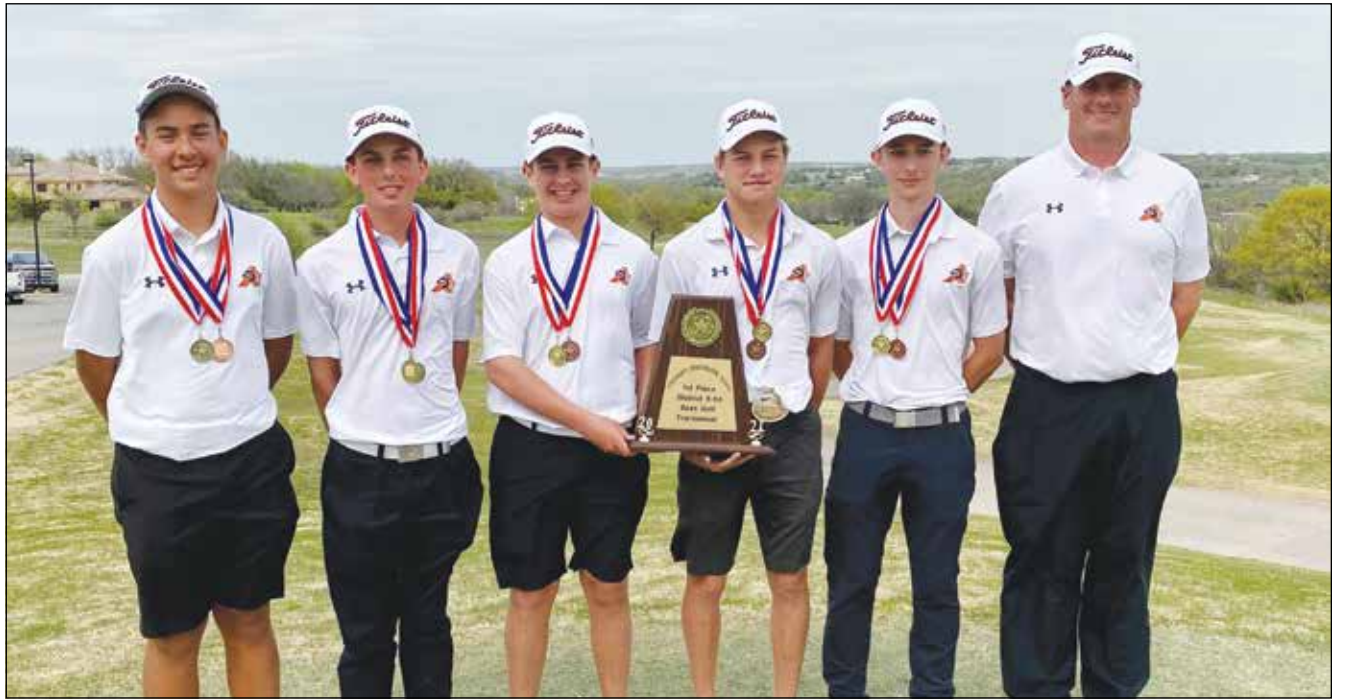
# GOLF

# Aledo teams at Region

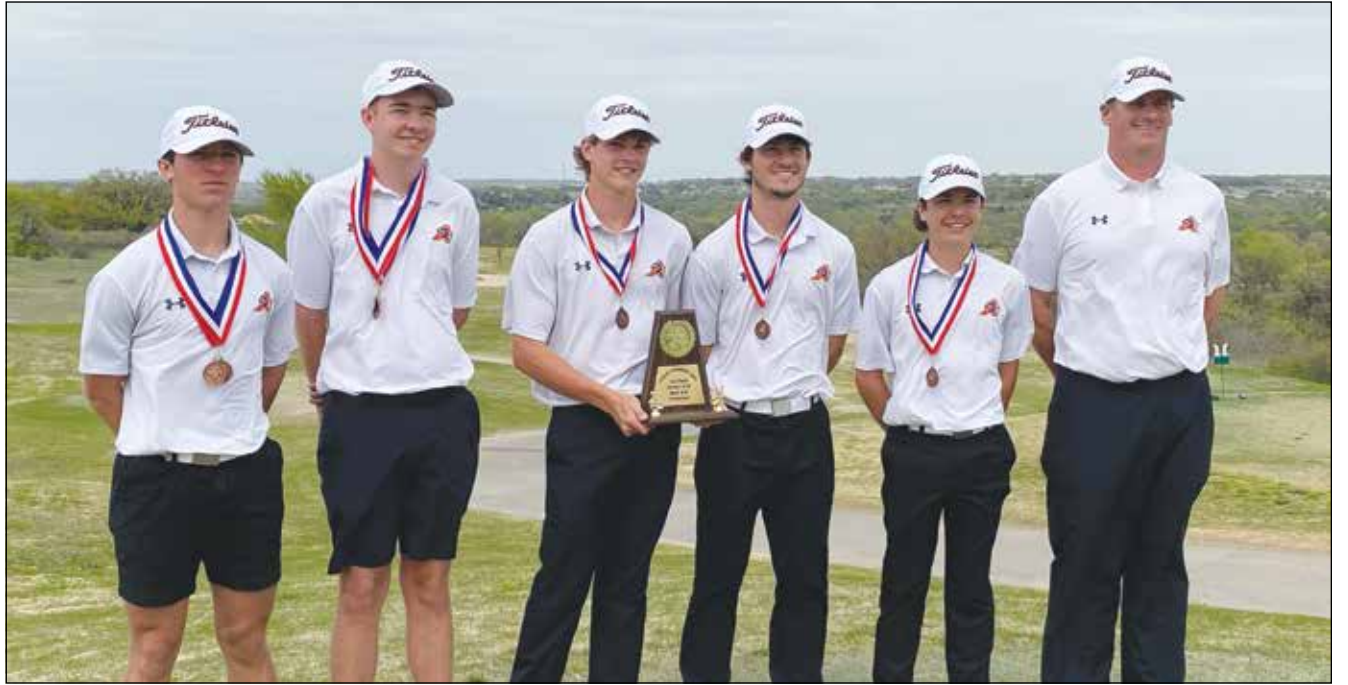
The Aledo Ladycats and Bearcats golf teams have been competing at the Regional Golf Tournament in Lubbock this week (results next week).

All district teams have been announced. For the Ladycats, All District Team members are Ella Fisher - Senior, Aly Saunders - Junior, Mallory Miller - Sophomore, Sanaa Lemen - Sophomore, Maddie Warner - Sophomore.

Bearcat All-District team members are Tanner Smith - Senior, Payne Boyd - Senior, Braylon Mahanay - Sophomore, Tyler Pearce - Sophomore, Bryce Wolf - Freshman, Jake Phillips - Freshman, and Jhett Moore - Freshman.



**TOP: District Champs — Varsity (1) Black — Regional Qualifiers Braylon Mahanay, Bryce Wolf, Jhett Moore, Jake Phillips, Tanner Smith and Coach Joe Roquemore**



**BOTTOM: District 3rd Place Team — Varsity (2) Orange Tyler Pearce, Payne Boyd, Wyatt Harvey, Brice McCullough, Boyd Thompson, and Coach Joe Roquemore**

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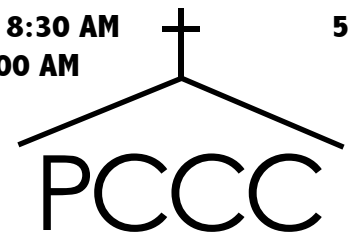
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# Seven RacquetCats qualify for Regionals

By Andrea Garnett  
Special to The Community News

Wichita Falls hosted the District 5-5A tennis tournament Tuesday and Wednesday, April 13 and 14. Aledo came out strong on day one, advancing several to the finals on day two.

The boys' doubles team of Jax Joiner/ Hogan Posey, who were seeded number two in this tournament, beat Brewer and then Wichita Falls Old High to move to the finals on Wednesday where they faced the number one seeded Old High team. Joiner and Posey took the first set 7-5 and the second set in an intense tiebreaker to win the championship 6-6(7-5).

Girl's doubles duo Maddie Farmer and Georgia Posey seeded number 2 easily beat their first two opponents from Azle and Old High advancing them to the finals in a showdown with the number 1 seed from Old High. Aledo was down a set 1-6 and made a comeback to win the second set in a tiebreaker(7-6)7-1, unfortunately the third set went to Old High (4-6) giving Farmer and Posey the 2nd place medal.

Ian Leslie and Katie Siddons, the number 2 seed in mixed doubles, advanced to the finals with ease beating Old High and Rider in the semifinals. The finals proved to be a bit more challenging

facing the number one duo from Old High that were both highly ranked in the Universal Tennis Rankings. The team came out with a respectable 2nd place falling to Old High (1-6)(2-6).

In girl's doubles Cambell Charrier, who was seeded number 2, beat her first two opponents from Rider and Azle to go into the finals the next day against Rider's very strong number 1 where she lost (6-0)(6-0). Aledo's number 3 seeded player Allie Farmer earned herself a play-back match with her own teammate Charrier to decide the second place position and the opportunity to advance to regionals. Farmer, who won her first match on Tuesday also had to face Rider's number 1 which resulted in a loss putting her in the match for third place where she defeated Azle. In the playback match the two teammates played a grueling match with a tiebreaker win for Farmer in the 1st set (7-6)8-6 and winning the 2nd set 6-2 moving Farmer to second place and advancing her to regionals while Charrier won the 3rd place medal and will attend regionals as the alternate.

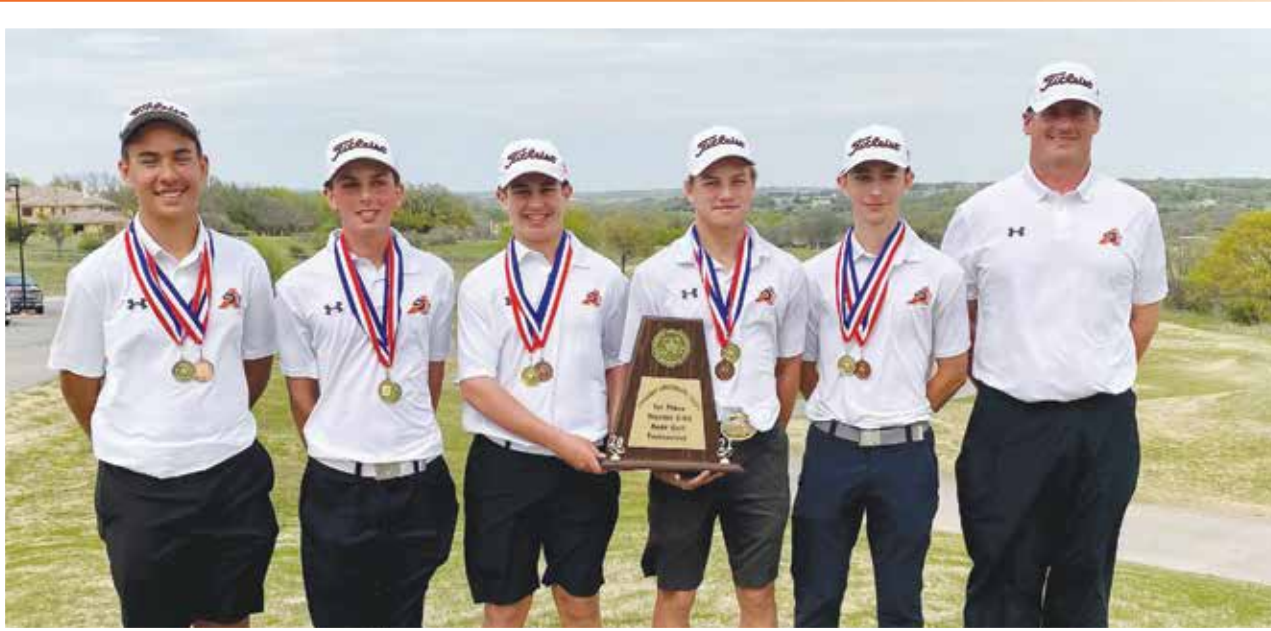
Aledo Tennis will have 7 athletes representing at the regionals tournament held in Lubbock on April 26-27.



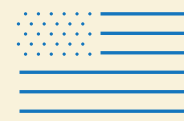
Back Row: Allie Farmer, Jax Joiner, Hogan Posey, Ian Leslie  
Front Row: Maddie Farmer, Georgia Posey, Katie Siddons, Cambell Charrier

ANDREA GARNETT/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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**City of Annetta South, Texas**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND THE CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Annetta South, Texas will hold a public hearing at a meeting that begins at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

Further notice is given that, a second public hearing is scheduled where the request and the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission will be considered by the City Council at a meeting that begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aledo, Texas 76008.

At such times and place, the Commission and the Council will hear and take action on a request of Bruce Casburn, represented by Ted Kitchens for a replat of Tax ID parcel R000045976 at 206 Koldin Drive within Parker County and in the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction the City of Annetta South, Parker County, Texas. Proposed is to replat the existing lot into two lots and to request a variance from Section 23 C of Ordinance 71-Subdivision Ordinance requiring that all lots abut a public street.

Citizens are invited to attend and participate in the public hearings.

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