

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

This panoramic photo shows the scene at Aledo High School's 2021 graduation at Bearcat Stadium on Saturday, May 29, where more than 440 diplomas were handed out. The graduation was postponed one day due to weather. The Community News will have full graduation coverage in our special Salute to Seniors in next week's (June 11) issue.

**ALEDO**  
**Sheriff's investigators seek car burglary suspects**  
Two people caught on surveillance camera

**Parker County Sheriff's Dept.**  
Special to The Community News

The Parker County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's assistance in identifying and locating two suspects in connection with a several vehicle burglaries.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said sheriff's deputies responded to Terry Drive, in Aledo, May 2, regarding multiple reports of vehicle burglaries.

Several victims reported their vehicles had been broken into between 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. May 1-2.

One victim reported his wallet containing multiple credit and debit cards had been taken from his vehicle. The victim additionally reported his cards were used to make purchases at Walmart in Hudson Oaks on May 2.

Investigators with the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division were able to secure video footage from Walmart of the individuals using the stolen debit and credit cards.

The suspects are described as a white female between 5-feet-5 and 5-feet-7-inches tall, having long, dark hair, wearing a black hoodie with a blue logo, black sweatpants

Turn to **CRIME**, page 3

## State Bound!



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ladycats cheer "we're going to state" after defeating Northwest 8-1 in the regional final in a two-day playoff game that started May 28 and ended May 29. For more on the 'Cats, see page 8.

**ALEDO**

## Dean Ranch agreement almost complete

**By Brandi Addison**  
The Community News

The possibility of a portion of Dean Ranch becoming a part of Aledo's extraterritorial

jurisdiction took another step forward when the city council unanimously approved its part of the joint ordinance and boundary agreement during the May 27 council meeting — less than a month after signing the initial proposal with Fort Worth.

Turn to **ALEDO**, page 3

## PARKER COUNTY Manufacturing plant coming to county

Wagners CFT to locate in Cresson

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

Wagners Composite Fiber Technologies (CFT), an Australian company that manufactures materials for use in civil engineering construction, will locate its first U.S. plant here in Parker County, according to a release from Gov. Greg Abbott's office.

According to the company's website, Wagners CFT pioneered the use of a unique process that allows fiberglass to be used in the manufacturing of beams for use in bridges, boardwalks, and marine infrastructure. A Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) grant of \$1,799,984 has been extended to Wagners CFT, LLC.

"We are thrilled that Wagners has chosen to build their first U.S. manufacturing plant in Parker County, providing further proof that the 'Made In Texas' brand is more powerful than ever before," Abbott said. "Wagners' investment in Texas will spur job creation and capital investment in North Texas, and their presence in Parker County will help us continue to write the Lone Star State's economic success story."

"Wagners CFT is excited to break ground on our new manufacturing plant in Cresson, Texas, with commercial operations to begin in October 2021," said Michael Kemp, Executive General Manager. "This facility will generate over 300 full-time jobs focused on supplying cutting edge Composite Fiber Infrastructure for bridges, boardwalks, light poles, and marine projects."

"The growth happening across North Texas is showcased by Wagners expanding their operations into Parker County and bringing hundreds of jobs

Turn to **WAGNERS**, page 3



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Volume 31, Number 23  
Published Weekly

### Mortarboards in sync?

Randy Keck ponders the question of how better to coordinate the tossing of mortarboards after graduation.  
**PAGE 4**

### Bearcats to Midland

One step away from state, 'Cats playing three-game series in Midland.  
**PAGE 7**



### Spring rain

Concern that heavy spring rains will lead to summer fires.  
**PAGE 2**

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PARKER COUNTY

# Heavy spring rains could spell trouble in the summer

Big fire season tends to come after heavy rains

By Makenzie Plusnick  
The Community News

Though Parker County Emergency Services has not had a major increase in emergency calls due to the recent heavy rains, the wet spring could bring more danger later in the summer.

According to Emergency Services District No. 1 Chief Steve Watson, most of the calls they received because of the rainfall were not for dangerous situations.

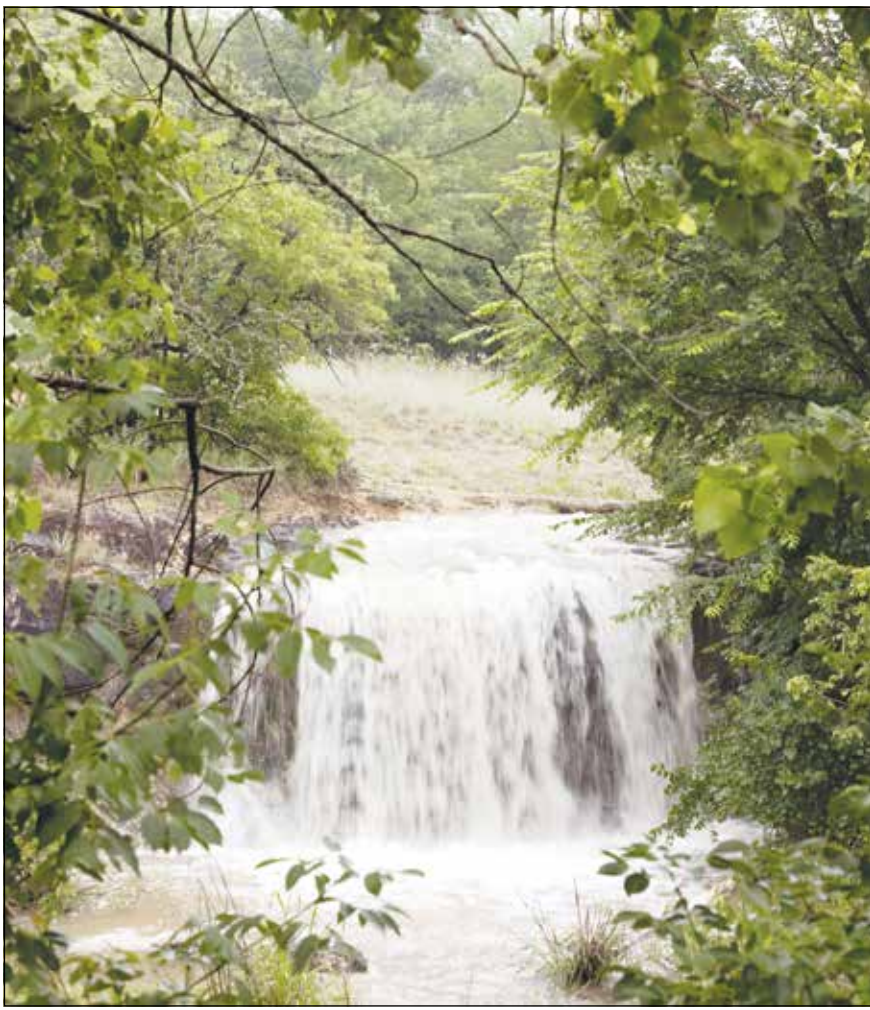
“We’ve had a little bit of higher call volume but nothing really dramatic,” he said. “Vehicles... have become stranded, [but] there wasn’t really a danger of them washing down a creek or something like that. There’s definitely been places that could have happened, but everybody was pretty smart.”

There have also been more roads and areas flooded because of new construction, he added.

“All the drains and grade work hasn’t been done yet or finished out and so now... your partly-built house is running [water] into someone else’s yard and flooding their house,” Watson said. “Try to work with the local builder to help with some runoff control to prevent that from happening.”

The full impact of the heavy rainfall may not be seen until later in the year, Watson said.

“The running joke around the firehouse is spring rains bring summer fires,” Watson said. “It really bolsters the vegetation growth, so if we end up with a dry late summer or a dry winter, we have a more



KCSTUDIOS KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI

Waterfalls are not typically seen in East Parker County, but heavy rains resulted in this scene at Covered Bridge Canyon.

substantial than usual fire wildfire problem just because there’s such abundant fuel load.”

This summer has the possibility of mirroring the wet spring in 2017 and the increase in wildfires the following fall and winter, Watson said. To combat this, he recommends keeping foliage at least 30 feet away from homes and mowing yards regularly.

Watson also recommends making a plan for times when heavy rain is in the forecast. This could help avoid potentially dangerous situations, he said.

“I think that’s when people make the bad decision to drive into floodwater that they can’t get through because they feel pressured to be somewhere,” he said. “So, try to plan ahead and plan alternate routes.”

PARKER COUNTY

# Mayor of Brock announces run for County Judge

Staff Reports  
The Community News

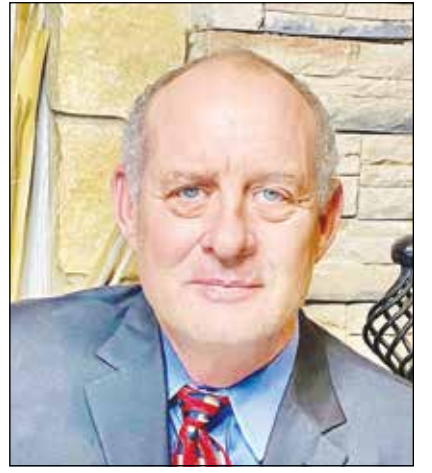
Mayor Jay Hamilton of Brock has announced his intention to run for Parker County Judge in the 2022 Republican primary.

A native of Brock, Hamilton graduated from Brock High School in 1978. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1980, following a family tradition of military service. During his time with the United States Marine Corps and Air Force, he was active in combat operations during the United States invasion of Grenada (Operation Urgent Fury), the United States participation in the Multinational Force operations in Beirut, Lebanon, and the US-led coalition in Operation Desert Storm in the Middle East (Iraq and Kuwait).

Hamilton returned to Parker County in 2000 and started Presage Solutions, a premier Managed Service Provided (MSP), and became active in civic life, including his leadership role in the organization of the City of Brock.

Hamilton’s said the theme for his campaign is “This is What Leadership Looks Like.”

“I have been fortunate to have traveled all over the world with the United States Marine Corps, the United States Air Force, and with my company Presage Solutions; this has resulted in a lot of real-life experiences that have led me to this point,” Hamilton said. “As the mayor of Brock, Texas, I want to step up and serve all of the citizens of Parker County where I have generational family roots. I want to make sure that the County where I was born, where I grew



up and went to high school, and where I am raising my children, is the community that gives all people the opportunity to dream big, the proper infrastructure and governmental support for the development and operation of successful businesses, where the different governmental entities truly work together again, where all people are heard and respected, and where families can grow and gather safely for generations to come. I will listen, respond and be accountable – our county deserves that.”

Among the issues Hamilton addresses on his website are the future of Parker County, a strategy for planning and infrastructure, collaboration and transparency, and “technology is the solution.”

Hamilton, 60, is an active father of four and husband of Colleen, an honors finance graduate of Notre Dame and an MBA graduate of the University of Miami. Their children attend Brock schools and their family attends Christ Chapel.

For more information, visit [www.JayforParkerCounty.com](http://www.JayforParkerCounty.com).

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**126 RANCH HOUSE ROAD**





SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**A Walmart surveillance camera caught two suspects in an Aledo car burglary. The Parker County Sheriff's Dept. is seeking information as to their identities.**

**CRIME**

from page one

and black flip-flop shoes with socks. The male suspect is described as being between 5-feet-6 and 5-feet-9-inches tall, having short, dark blond hair, wearing a navy, long-sleeved T-shirt, black jogging pants and white tennis shoes. Both suspects are believed to be in their early-to-mid-20s.

Sheriff Authier said anyone with information about the identification or location of the suspects is urged to call the Parker County

Sheriff's Office at 817-594-8845, or call Parker County Crime Stoppers at 817-599-5555. You may remain anonymous when contacting Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the suspects involved.

Citizens can submit anonymous tips to tip411 by downloading the free smart phone App for iPhone and Android.

Citizens can also sign up for alerts and access tip411 by logging onto parkercountysheriff.net



FROM WAGNERS CFT BROCHURE

**An example of a bridge constructed using composite fiber technology manufactured by Wagners CFT, which expects to be operating in Parker County by November.**

**WAGNERS**

from page one

to Senate District 30," said Senator Drew Springer. "Wagners is a prime example of the strong business climate the Lone Star State is known for and will help meet Texas' infrastructure needs."

"This opportunity grew out of a business development trip by Parker County leaders to Australia. It is a great story of a great company now coming to Parker County and

to Texas," said Representative Phil King.

"The Wagners project is a big step forward in growing our local employment base and diversifying the Parker County economy," said Parker County Judge Pat Deen. "I would like to thank all the local officials and the Governor's office for their assistance with the recruitment."

"The Parker County Economic Development Council (PCEDC) is excited to welcome Wagners to our community," said Patrick Lawler,

PCEDC Executive Director. "The foundation built and lessons learned during this recruitment will pay dividends for future projects, and our members will continue to work hard to build a vibrant economic future for Parker County."

Wagners CFT exports products from Australia to the United States, Malaysia, The United Arab Emirates, and others.

For more information about Wagners CFT, visit [www.wagnerscft.com](http://www.wagnerscft.com).

**CRIME**

from page one

Currently part of the larger neighboring city, the portion of the Dean Ranch is a 243-acre property located along the east side of Farm-to-Market Road 1187, which Mayor Kit Marshall described this as a "monumental moment" for Aledo.

The Fort Worth City Council will consider the measure at its meeting

on June 15. Assuming passage there, it will be official.

Marshall told city council during the April 23 meeting the property area has been on her radar for years.

When the land became available for purchase in January of last year, city council and staff began discussions on the property with the large neighboring city.

There are still several details to discuss with developers before the

property can be annexed — and it is contingent on developer D.R. Horton closing the property purchase.

"This is one of those genuine miracles," Marshall said during last month's council meeting. "There are a number of things that had to fall, just right in line, and at any moment, could have fallen apart and not come to fruition."

There are still several details to discuss with developers before the property can be annexed — and it is contingent on developer D.R. Horton closing the property purchase.

"Personally, I'm excited for the opportunity for us, and the city of Aledo, to gain control of our gateway — not only on the west side but also the east side," Marshall said.

**CORRECTION**

Last week's issue of *The Community News* referred to Aledo's new city administrator Sharon Hayes as a former assistant city manager at Weatherford. Hayes went on to become city manager in Weatherford before coming to Aledo.

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## Capital Highlights

### Budget headed to governor's desk



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Legislature sent a \$248 billion two-year state budget to Gov. Greg Abbott after the House approved the measure last Thursday.

The 140-day legislative session ended at midnight May 31. Senate Bill 1 is \$13.5 billion less than the previous biennial budget, with the difference to be made up from COVID-19 relief funds from the federal government. As previously reported, Abbott plans to allow legislators to decide how to allocate those funds during a special session this fall.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has suggested a special session for this summer to address some of his pet bills, such as limiting the participation of transgender athletes in school sports, banning lobbyists paid with public funds, and putting limits on social media's power to restrict users. The Austin American-Statesman reported that Abbott called Patrick's proposal "pretty goofy," however. Only the governor can call a special session and dictate the topics to be addressed.

#### Expanded health coverage OK'd for Medicaid moms

The Texas Legislature on Friday approved a bill that provides mothers receiving Medicaid assistance at least six months of health coverage after birth. The measure expands postpartum coverage from the current two months provided under Medicaid.

The bill, sponsored by state Rep. Toni Rose, D-Dallas, is intended to reduce the maternal mortality rate in Texas and provide added assistance to mothers dealing with postpartum depression.

Medicaid covers almost half of the births in the United States, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. A provision in the American Rescue Plan of 2021 gave states the option of expanding Medicaid postpartum coverage.

#### Number of missing children reported

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services has issued its annual report on children and youth missing from that agency's conservatorship or who are considered victims of human trafficking.

During fiscal year 2020, which ended Aug. 31 of last year, a total of 2,229 children and youth were missing at some point. On Aug. 31, 255 were still missing. During last year, a total of 47,913 were in DFPS conservatorship, meaning 4.6% went missing at some point.

Of the 1,972 children recovered during that time frame, 136 of them — 7% — reported being victimized while missing. Sixty-eight children — 3.4% — reported being a victim of sex trafficking

#### More than a third of Texans vaccinated

With shots opened up to anyone 12 and older, more than a third of all Texans — more than 10.2 million — are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. That is 35% of the state's population.

Abbott and the Texas Department of Emergency Management announced last week the expansion of the State Mobile Vaccine Program to include groups of five or more eligible Texans who voluntarily choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19. In addition, homebound residents can request a unit come to their home. Previously, a minimum of 10 people were required before requesting a mobile vaccination unit.

Anyone interested can call 844-90-TEXAS and select Option 13 to schedule a mobile vaccine clinic for groups of friends, families, employees and others. The call center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday.

#### Cases down slightly, hospitalizations down

The number of COVID-19 cases in the past week dropped slightly, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. As of last Friday, 282 deaths were reported. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients continues to drop, with 1,828 hospitalized as of Sunday, according to DSHS.

#### Texas Film Commission celebrates 50 years

The Texas Film Commission, created in 1971 to expand the film industry in Texas, turned a half-century old this year. The commission has attracted \$1.66 billion in local spending and created more than 157,000 production jobs in Texas from 2007 to 2020. More than 150 Texas communities are now officially designated as "Texas Film Friendly."

"Texas has developed into such a vibrant destination for production across all media that the promise and potential recognized 50 years ago has been more than realized," Abbott said.

#### Hurricane season began on June 1

The 2021 hurricane season kicked off June 1, and it's expected to be another busy one.

Last year's Atlantic hurricane season included a record-breaking 30 storms, including a dozen that made landfall in the United States.

Three storms — Hurricanes Hanna and Laura and Tropical Storm Marco — resulted in disaster declarations for several Texas counties, according to the Texas Association of Counties.

Hurricane researchers at Colorado State University warn that warmer Atlantic surface temperatures and the absence of El Niño conditions in the Pacific could result in a busy 2021 hurricane season.

*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.*



## Slings&Arrows

### Getting mortarboards in sync



**Randy Keck**  
rkeck@community-news.com

I will admit to feeling a bit nostalgic and to having sore feet after covering the Aledo High School graduation ceremony last Saturday at Bearcat Stadium.

Sore feet because I do a lot of walking when I'm covering graduations, and nostalgic because the very first event I covered when I became owner of this newspaper was the Aledo High School graduation; it stirs memories.

Dangling participles aside, that first graduation was held inside the MPC at what is now Aledo Middle School. Obviously the student body has grown a bit — I think there were about 160 or so graduates in that class, compared to the 447 or so I counted Saturday night, with even bigger classes on the way.

While I haven't personally covered every graduation since then, I have covered the vast majority in venues ranging from the MPC to Daniel Meyer Coliseum to the Mansfield Fine Arts Center to Bearcat Stadium.

The weather finally cooperated Saturday night; there was a slight breeze, perfect temperature, a tad humid. All told, I enjoyed the experience.

After covering last year's ceremony, I was especially happy that it was no longer necessary for the students to mask due to the dropping number of COVID-19 cases.

Last year it was a bit surreal with the masked students, and it was good to see the smiles of those seniors making it to that stage.

But getting back to the walking (and the nostalgia), I walk a lot when I cover graduation. Oh, I already said that. Here's why:

That first year of *The Community News* we won first place in the Texas Press Association news photography division. It is an interesting story that I'll tell another time, but just to say that when the judge's comments on the photo came back, they consisted of two words: "nice angle."

Christopher Amos and I have joked about that for years, but it is true that the most interesting photos you see are because they have an interesting angle.

The best photographers I've had here would climb down in holes to look up with a photo, climb up on precarious perches to get a shot looking down, and I even had one who had someone drive his pickup camper while he tied a rope around his waist and leaned out the back to get a phenomenal shot of a bicycle racing team from the front.

Had I known what he was going to do I would never have condoned it, but I can't argue with the results.

After 26 years it's difficult to come up with new ideas for covering graduation ceremonies, thus all the walking. I'm looking for a "good angle."

The Holy Grail in graduation pictures for me is the mortarboard toss after the graduates turn their tassels. It kind of hit me over the head when I saw a wonderful mortarboard toss photo on the

front page of the *Canadian Record* this week taken by my friend Laurie Brown. I texted her to tell her what a good photo it was, and how I've never seemed to get a good one.

In analyzing why this might be, I have a theory that there are at least a couple of reasons I can't get that shot.

One is that my photography skills, while ok, are not exceptional. But the other, and I'm going to ask any recently-graduated Aledo High School students to let me know I'm right about this, is a lack of coordination.

Everything about Aledo High School graduations is immaculately planned and scripted. The powers that be know who is going to speak, they know what they're going to say, and they do an amazing job year after year.

But what I noticed Saturday night was that there was a hesitancy about when to toss the mortarboard, so different graduates tossed their mortarboards at different times.

So I'm going to make a request. Could there be perhaps a signal devised so that the members of the Class of 2022 know when to toss their mortarboards in the air?

If they are all in the air at the same time, I might be able to get a better picture. They don't stay up there very long.

So maybe a "1-2-3-toss!"

And then, if I still can't get that great mortarboard toss picture, I'll know for sure where the problem is.

Until then, let me say a sincere "congratulations" to the graduating class of 2021!

*Randy Keck has been the owner of The Community News since 1995.*

## The Community News

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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.



# Church project spiffs up Aledo neighborhood

by Randy Keck  
The Community News

A special street can be found in Aledo. The houses have been there for a long time. Over the years, people have come and gone, yet many of the families have lived there for decades.

Trinity Bible Church in Willow Park chose this street for a special service project. "The Trinity Bible Church youth group needed a service project; they chose our neighborhood," resident Pam Chase said. "When they found out there were nine single women on the block at this time, and like three married couples, they decided we were the perfect neighborhood to come in and help."

Maybe it was trees that had dead limbs. Maybe it was someone's discards or a fence that was barely standing.

"Particularly after the freeze we all had a lot of dead stuff," Chase said.

There were trees that needed to be trimmed and stuff that needed to be hauled off. Chase said the task was a bit much for the residents.

"We weren't getting it done, you know, couldn't afford a lot of it and just didn't know who to call," Chase said.

Trinity Bible Church heard the call and responded with more than 100 youth and adults to work in the neighborhood.

At about 6:15 on Wednesday, May 12, they took 100 kids and adults to the neighborhood.

"By eight o'clock, they had covered the whole neighborhood," Chase said.

They took down an old fence, they took dead brush — even old tires. She lost count of how many loads of refuse were taken from the neighborhood.

"I couldn't believe it," Chase said. "And everybody had such a good time; the kids were weeding yards and moving stuff around for us. And it was just a blast for the kids. What a good time they had, and they said they would come again next year."

Chase added that she didn't think the neighborhood would be in the same predicament next year.

"It was just perfect timing. Everybody was amazed to face this group of kids coming to do this for us. It was just really touching and affirming. And you know, they did what God told them to do. And I just had a blast."



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# How Can You Keep Kids Connected to Reading This Summer?

Even though 2021 will mean another summer of uncertainties, one thing is sure: Parents will be working hard to keep their kids reading – both for pleasure and to stay engaged in learning and education.

**By Reading Fun**  
Special to The Community News

Fortunately, parents have many reading resources at their disposal. Newspapers represent a great starting point, because they offer great stories and notices of interesting events and activities. Kids' magazines are bright and cheerful, and have short articles on timely fads, fashions, food and other fun. Children also are highly motivated to read instructions, directions and rules as they build things, try experiments, make crafts, play board games or explore new sports. And, of course, there's a cornucopia of reading material on computers: news, sports scores, comics, recipes, crafts, DIY projects and stories.

Our favorite reading material is still a good book. If your child loves a certain topic, there's probably a book about it, in a genre that he or she likes to read: fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, mysteries, thrillers, action, adventure,

graphic novels, science fiction and so on. Here are prime places to find, borrow, or buy quality books and related resources that your kids will enjoy this summer:

### Your Local Library

Although in-library programs might still be limited this summer, there are many online and digital services you can explore. Such offerings are usually free, but may require a library card number to join programs or access digital book offerings. We've seen libraries offer such things as:

- Free access to a range of downloadable e-books
- Digital book club meetings or online reading challenges
- Livestreamed story hours and poetry readings
- Virtual puppet shows and storytelling
- Webcasts on topics such as national parks, art contests, and finger painting

Contact the East Parker County Library in Aledo for information about summer activities.

### Digital Books and Related Videos

While not always free, there are many sources of electronic books to download for kids to read on their computers or other devices. Some of these services offer trial periods for subscriptions. Check out:

Epic – Aimed at kids 12 and under, this e-book web site features 40,000 books, a 30-day free trial (then \$9.99 per month) with ways to sort books by age, reading level and interests.

This article and another fun page will appear next week. **PARENTS:** Let's know if you would like to see this kind of kids' material to continue. Email [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com)

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 Livingston's county

5 Texas has been \_\_\_\_\_ state in elections since 1980

6 a dog's kennel

7 most TX families are close-\_\_\_\_\_

8 TXism: "he could strut sitting down" (big \_\_\_\_\_)

9 TXism: "rare \_\_\_\_\_ bears in Texas"

16 famous gambler in early Texas, Lottie you can bet on \_\_\_\_\_ at Lone Star Park

21 TX Buddy Holly 1958 hit: "Rave \_\_\_\_\_"

22 cookie sandwich

23 Lennon's wife

24 "as \_\_\_\_\_ velvet"

30 TXism: "he's a \_\_\_\_\_ shy of a load" (crazy)

34 TX Jim Reeves 1959 hit: "He'll Have to \_\_\_\_\_"

35 TX Betty Buckley TV show: "Eight Is \_\_\_\_\_" (1977-81)

36 TX Jennifer Love Hewitt 1998 film: "Can't Hardly \_\_\_\_\_"

37 Henry Hager is a \_\_\_\_\_ -law of TX George W.

39 "Gulf \_\_\_\_\_ Waterway" film of Baylor grad Clu Gulager: "A Force \_\_\_\_\_"

44 TXism: "got \_\_\_\_\_ irons in the fire"

45 TX Tanya and TX Kenny have recorded "You Are \_\_\_\_\_ Beautiful"

46 a cake layer

47 U.S. 66 was a \_\_\_\_\_ the west coast

49 TXism: "scarce \_\_\_\_\_ around a hog trough" (abbr. for phone texting)

53 TXism: "dab it \_\_\_\_\_"

54 TXism: "wipe the slate clean"

55 "Heart of Dixie" state

58 exploding stars

59 TX Sissy Spacek has \_\_\_\_\_ an Oscar

60 \_\_\_\_\_ Grande

61 Cowboy rushing units (abbr.)

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ to the ratters" (full)

2 easternmost city in Texas

3 Gov. Connally won the "\_\_\_\_\_ Merit" in WWII

4 Center AM

9 TXism: "chompin' \_\_\_\_\_ the bit"

10 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ deadbeat's memory"

11 this TX Gilpin was "Roz" on "Frasier"

12 org. of oil countries

13 TX George Strait's "You \_\_\_\_\_ Good in Love" (1983)

14 TXism: "frisky as \_\_\_\_\_ unsaddled horse"

15 Del \_\_\_\_\_ TX

17 TXism: "there's more than \_\_\_\_\_ skin a cat"

19 train locomotives

20 an OU player

24 dir. to Port Lavaca from New Braunfels

25 intelligence agcy. of the U.S. Navy

26 typeface

27 private teachers

28 TXism: "nervous as \_\_\_\_\_ at a shotgun wedding"

29 private eye

31 TX Mark Chesnutt tune: "She \_\_\_\_\_"

32 "two-\_\_\_\_\_ nag"

33 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ baby's bottom"

38 clamor

40 TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse \_\_\_\_\_"

41 TX Willie recorded "Some \_\_\_\_\_ to Watch Over Me" (1978)

42 site of Texas-Mexico ferry (2 wds.)

48 TXism: "fits like ugly \_\_\_\_\_ ape"

50 Mardi \_\_\_\_\_

51 Dodge truck

56 TX Alan who drew up the 2000 "Music City Miracle" play

57 TXism: "plow around the stump"

What kind of book do you like best?

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Another may have stories and poetry, information or mystery.

Every \_\_\_\_\_ has got a \_\_\_\_\_

Take 1 into your reading nook.

Getting the \_\_\_\_\_ is simple \_\_\_\_\_, just \_\_\_\_\_ it out from your library (even digitally)!

**Read the clues to see what libraries have to offer:**

- place to borrow books, movies, music and even computers
- \_\_\_\_\_ and illustrators work together to produce exciting books
- explore and dream in the stacks filled from top to bottom with \_\_\_\_\_
- buy books, DVDs at low prices: set up your own home library
- person who can help you find books, answer questions
- stories that are true; informative books about real events in our world
- \_\_\_\_\_ programs: often offer rewards for enjoying lots of books
- a \_\_\_\_\_ desk is where the librarians are waiting to help
- book, art or historical \_\_\_\_\_: often have items to bring the work to life
- \_\_\_\_\_ and craft time
- story that is made up: knights, spaceships, dragons, magic or cities that never existed!
- special cards in cabinet; computer where you find items by using a "keyword" search
- borrow these discs to watch favorite movies at home
- \_\_\_\_\_ for almost any interest: boats, dinosaurs, movies, fashion
- give internet access for research; let you type a paper; entertain

My school library lent us all of this great stuff for the whole summer. 2

OOOoh...quick, what happens next?

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library 1 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

sales reference

8 \_\_\_\_\_

authors

10 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_

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## SOFTBALL

## Ladycats advance to state tournament

**Blow out Northwest 8-1**
**By Nolan Ruth**  
 The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats softball team has rolled through the playoffs thus far. However, coming into the past weekend, there was one obstacle the Ladycats had not faced; a one-game playoff. Aledo has avoided elimination multiple times throughout the season, but never in just one game. Game ones had been the Achilles heel of the Ladycats going into their playoff game with the Northwest Lady Texans.

The single-game playoff was an unusual event, as it took 26 hours to complete. The game started at 2 p.m. on Friday (May 28) and ended just before 4 p.m. on Saturday (May 29). Aledo went down in order to start the game as dark clouds started to roll in over Boswell High School. After that, starting pitcher Kayleigh Smith only threw three pitches before a lightning delay came into effect.

After much deliberation, both coaching staffs agreed to postpone the game for 24 hours. At 2 p.m. the next day the game resumed. Almost immediately, Northwest took the lead after the leadoff batter reached base and ended up scoring on a passed ball. It would be the only run the Lady Texans would score as Smith went on to pitch a complete game, only giving up four hits and shutting down the Northwest offense.

"It was just another elimination game to me," Smith said after the game. "I'm going to pitch the same no matter how many games are in the series. We're trying to win all of them so it was just the same to me."

The scoring started for the Ladycats in the third inning when Marissa Powell doubled up the middle to bring home Audrey Pearce and Macy Graf. Two innings later, Graf beat out a ground ball to short and the throw ended up going wide. Graf reached second on the throw and Pearce was able to round third and score, giving Aledo a 3-1 lead. Madysen Boutwell followed

up with a single to right that brought home Graf.

The next inning, Claire Byars got in on the action when she ripped a long fly ball to left field. Unfortunately, she missed a home run by just inches when the ball bounced off the top of the wall and back into play, but Hannah Pack was able to score from first, extending the lead.

When the game went into the seventh and final inning, Aledo had the game well in hand but the Ladycats weren't satisfied. Powell continued her big day with an inside-the-park home run, scoring Reagan Davis in the process.

"I've been praying a lot for peace and confidence at the plate," Powell said of the play. "Every at-bat is a new at-bat. I can only do as much as I can and contribute for my team. I just have a calm mindset even if I'm down in the count like I was."

Presley Hull added one more for good measure when she knocked in Boutwell with a sacrifice fly to give Aledo an 8-1 advantage.

Graf was able to record five of the last six outs at shortstop, and Boutwell took care of the last one to send the Ladycats to the state tournament.

"I'm a little shell shocked," head coach Heather Myers said just before getting the water bucket dumped on her. "I've been praying for this all year that we would just compete and do the best that we could and make it to state. And now here we are. I'm happy, I don't know how else to say it."

The Ladycats advance to the state tournament in Austin for the first time since 2015 and are facing the Georgetown Lady Eagles on Friday for the right to play for the state title on Saturday. The game will be at 1 p.m. at Red & Charline McCombs Field on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. If Aledo wins, the state title game will be played at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the same location against the winner of Barbers Hill vs. Hallsville.



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Marissa Powell, Morgan Brown, Madysen Boutwell, and Kayleigh Smith celebrate their win against Northwest which advances the Ladycats to the State Tournament.

## BASEBALL

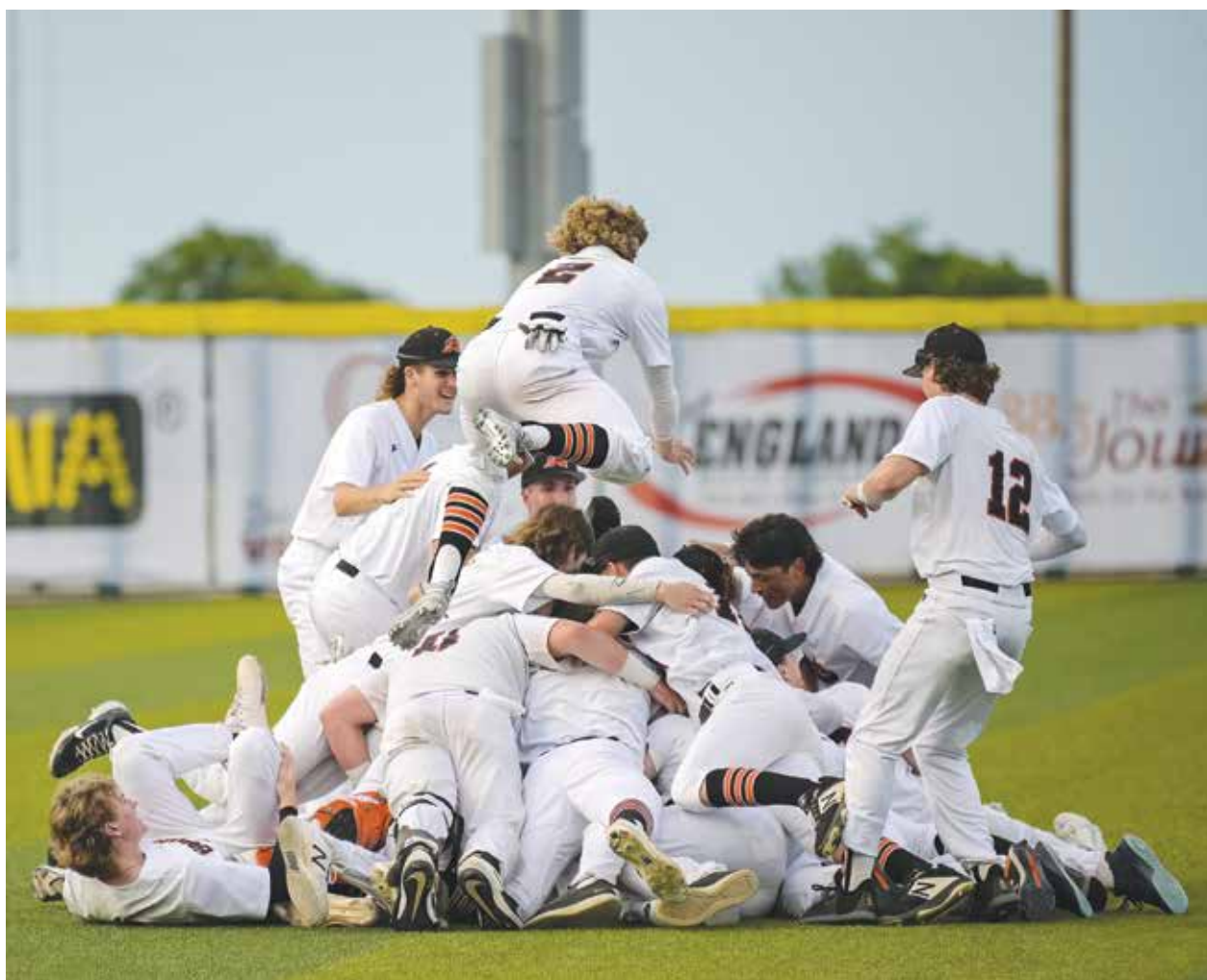
## Bearcats sweep Bulldogs in regional semifinal final series

**One more step to state tournament**
**By Nolan Ruth**  
 The Community News

It has been a magical season for the Aledo Bearcats baseball team. Despite being a state underdog throughout the season, the Bearcats have managed their way through the district season and the playoffs with just three losses and now find themselves in the regional championship round after sweeping the Abilene Wylie Bulldogs.

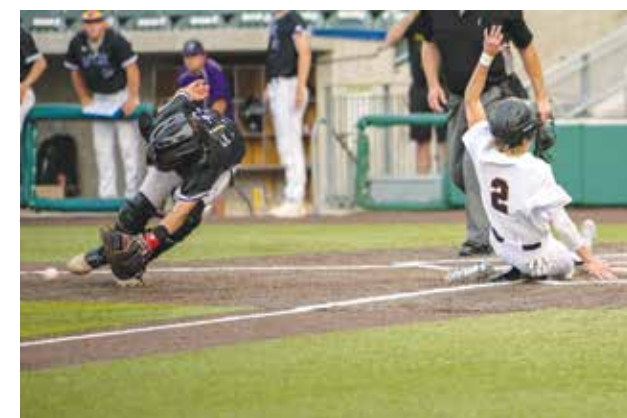
The best-of-three series began Thursday night (May 27) at The Depot in Cleburne. Despite the bigger stage the Bearcats did not seem fazed. Hunter Rudel got off to a great start on the mound, retiring the first seven Wylie batters in order.

Zach Harrison started the scoring in the first inning with a two-run



KIRSTEN GALLON

#2 Aledo's Parker Stegall gets some air as he joins the dog pile in left field after scoring the game winning run off a Zach Harrison hit.



KIRSTEN GALLON

Aledo designated hitter Parker Stegall slides into home to score the winning run just in front of the throw to the catcher for Abilene Wylie.

ter field, scoring Parker Stegall as well. The Bearcats had a 5-0 lead going into the fourth inning.

The Bulldogs then went on to tie the game in the fourth inning, scoring five runs after a series of miscues by the Aledo defense. The game stalled from there, as Rudel was pulled to give way to Ethan Jaques for the remainder of the game.

worked to our advantage for the most part. Credit to them, those guys are phenomenal."

Jaques started in the seventh inning at a 5-5 tie, and only allowed one hit in his entire outing. Unfortunately, Aledo was unable to cash in on multiple opportunities to win the game. In the ninth inning (second extra inning), the Bearcats had Stegall at

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 8



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# BASEBALL

from page seven

first with two outs. Harrison came up to the plate and on one pitch hit a blooper right on the right field line that was unable to be caught. Stegall rounded third and the throw from right field was late and off line, winning the game for the Bearcats 6-5.

"I saw the first two guys go down and I knew I was looking for a fast-ball," Harrison said after his walk-off hit. "Sure enough I saw it on the first pitch, and luckily it dropped."

The next day, Aledo traveled two hours west to Abilene Christian University to play the Bulldogs in their own backyard. Carter Shands got the start and held Wylie to just one run through five innings, setting up Willems to come in to close the final two innings.

The game was neck-and-neck-until the Bearcats took the lead in the third inning when Garcia singled on a ground ball to bring in Belyeu. Then, after three straight walks to open the fifth inning, Harrison hit a deep fly ball to center and was credited with a sacrifice fly when Stegall came in to score.

The Bulldogs were able to cut the lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the inning, but the Bearcats would not be denied. Willems drove in two runs in the sixth on a ground ball to center that brought home

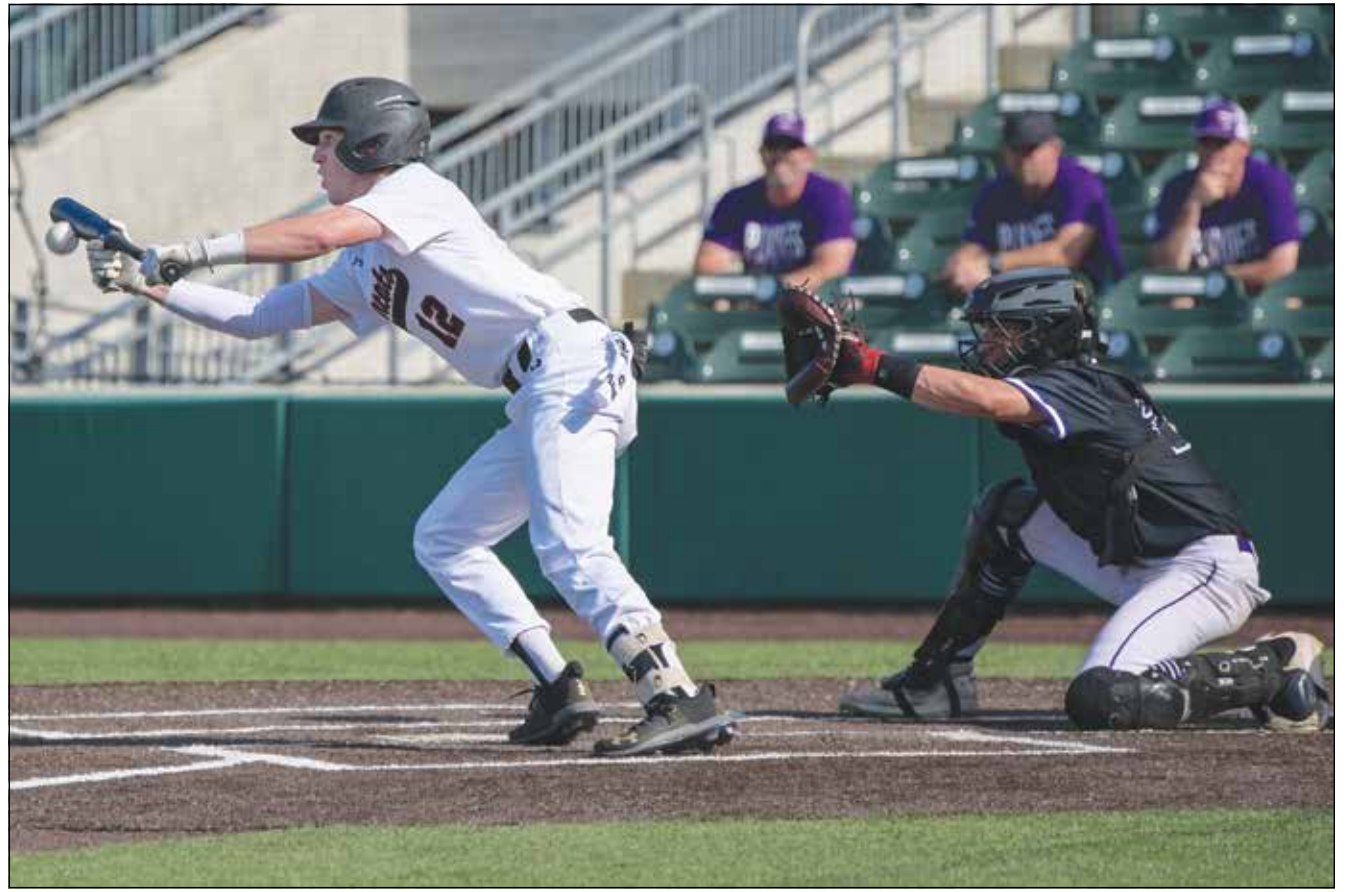


KIRSTEN GALLON

**Aledo starting pitcher #3 Hunter Rudel winds up to throw in the first inning.**

Belyeu and Stegall. Then in the seventh, Taylor drove in two more when he tripled to center field, scoring Harrison and Rudel. With a 6-1 lead, Willems struck out the side in the bottom of the inning to clinch the victory and move the Bearcats on to the regional finals.

"Our whole game plan was to keep them out of a big inning," Barry said. "We wanted to make them just



KIRSTEN GALLON

**Senior Bridger Wilson puts down a bunt in the Bearcats' first game against Abilene Wylie. Aledo swept Wylie in two games.**

scratch a run here and there and keep it a game that we would be more comfortable with. We didn't want a slugfest."

For the first time since 2015, the Bearcats are just one series

away from making another appearance in Round Rock for the State Tournament. It all comes down to the next series with the Amarillo Sandies.

The best of three will be played at Christenson Stadium in Midland. Game one was scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday. Game 2 will be at 2 p.m. Friday, and, if needed, game three will be Saturday at noon.

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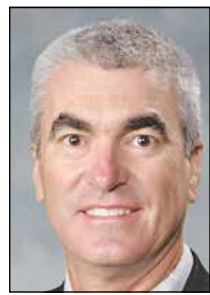
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# TENNIS McCoy named new head coach at Aledo High School

By Mercedes Mayer  
Aledo High School

Aledo ISD has named Joe McCoy as the new head tennis coach at Aledo High School.



McCoy

McCoy is in his second stint in the Aledo ISD, having first served in the district from 1993 to 1997 as a math teacher and football, boys basketball, and tennis coach. He was the Aledo High School head tennis coach during the 1996-1997 school year, and, after that, McCoy was the head tennis coach at Troup and White Oak high schools. McCoy returned to Aledo ISD in 2009 and most recently has been a special education teacher, an assistant girls basketball coach, and the assistant tennis coach.

“Coach McCoy has been a tremendous asset to our Bearcats and Ladycats coaching staff no matter where he’s coached,” Aledo ISD Athletics Director Steve Wood said. “I am excited to see our tennis players and program continue to grow under Coach McCoy.”

McCoy has a bachelor of science from Texas A&M University. McCoy, who will also continue teaching special education, just completed his 16th year with the Aledo ISD and 28th year overall in education.

# Throwing for Distance

Lauren St. Peters shatters records her freshman year

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

It’s often said that the biggest thing Aledo is known for is the athletes that come out of the high school. The athletic program here is full of stories, records, and bright futures. This past track and field season had all three wrapped up in one student athlete.

Lauren St. Peters, who just completed her freshman year at AHS, broke onto the scene and dominated the local coffee shop talk for weeks. If she were asked three years ago, she would say it was either because of basketball or volleyball. Since that time she has become a shot put and discus sensation.

In a meet early in the season, St. Peters shattered the school record for shot put, throwing 38-10.5, beating the old record by almost two feet. She repeated that success in discus with a 132-03. However she came just shy of qualifying for the state meet this year, though she never imagined she would end up in this position.

Five years ago, Lauren’s father Terry passed away in a car accident. Terry was well known in the community as being the first president of the Aledo Lion’s Club Youth volleyball and a board member for youth basketball.

Her father had coached her all her life. Her mother Jennifer Jarvis remembered the impact Terry had on Lauren.

“They both loved it,” Jennifer said, holding back tears. “He is a big part of what drives her and got her to this point and gets her further.”



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lauren St. Peters has already made the record books at Aledo High School after her freshman year on the track team. She will continue to compete around the country this summer.

When she got to seventh grade, everything changed. When volleyball and basketball seasons were over, it was time for track and field to start.

“It was just something I heard about doing in middle school,” Lauren remembered how she started. “A lot of the girls I knew were trying out so I was just like ‘why not?’ I had never heard of it before, I remember going in not knowing what I was doing.”

Her first throw in discus was 33 feet and it was then she realized how naturally it came to her. She started working with coach Jayson Hayes of The Throwing Factory and developed her skills more.

On top of throwing for the school, Lauren has also appeared in the AAU Junior Olympics in Nevada after winning a regional championship at the University of Houston. She finished second place in the discus meet and third place in shot put.

“She’s been working all summer,” Jennifer said. “All year really, she kind of does the track and field on the side of basketball and volleyball. She just has this internal drive that she’s just very motivated individually.”

Despite how young she is compared to her competition, and a minor foot fracture, Lauren was able to surpass her goal of throwing 130.

“When I threw the 132, I was so excited,” Lauren recalled. “When I came in, I realistically expected a 125. So getting over 130, I was really proud of myself.”

Though she fell short of the state meet, Lauren has a bright future in the sport and hopes to compete in college. She will continue to throw on a competitive level outside of school during the off season while still playing volleyball and basketball at Aledo.

### City of Willow Park Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Willow Park City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on the matters listed below.

PUBLIC HEARING to receive input regarding text amendments to the City of Willow Park Zoning Ordinance.

- Public Storage and Climate – Controlled Public Storage remove as a permitted use in all zoning districts.
- Sec.14.04.001 Definitions

#### Commercial Amusement – Indoor:

An operation which is totally within an enclosed building, including bowling alleys, video arcades, dance hall or theater and auditoriums.

#### Commercial Amusement – Outdoor:

An operation including miniature golf courses, skateboard parks, water parks and associated facilities.

- Sec.14.06.14 – COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

- USE REGULATIONS
  - Commercial Amusement – Indoor
  - Commercial Amusement – Outdoor

#### Sec.14.06.015 – LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

- USE REGULATIONS Commercial Amusement – Indoor
- Commercial Amusement - Outdoor

Planning and Zoning: Tuesday, June 15, 2021  
Time: 6:00 PM  
City Council: Tuesday, July 13, 2021  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: City Hall, 516 Ranch House Rd  
Willow Park, TX 76087

Any member of the public has the right to appear at the Public Hearing. Please contact the Development Department at 817-441-7108 or bchew@willowpark.org with any questions.

Posted: June 1, 2021

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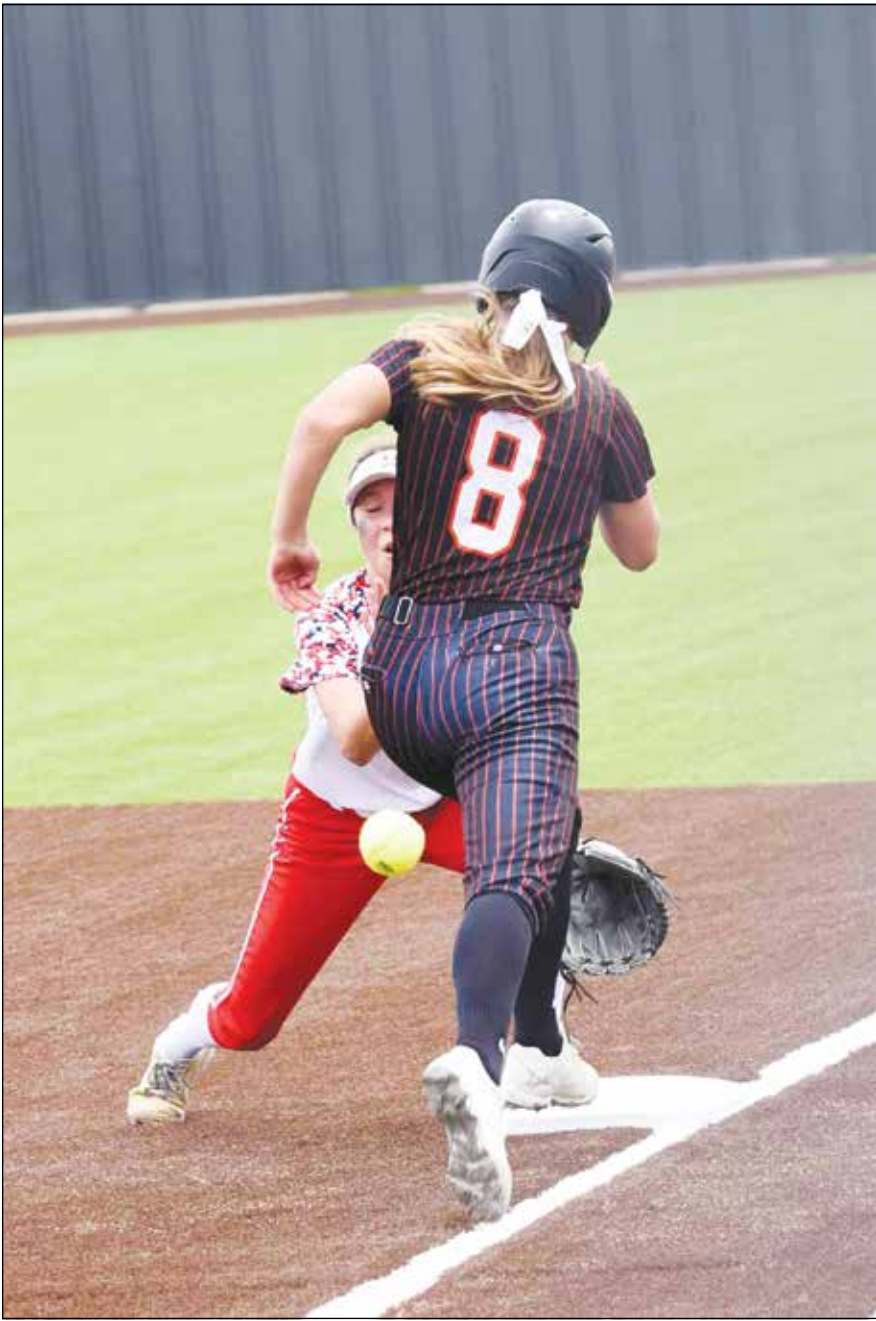
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Presley Hull beats the throw to arrive safe at first base.

PHOTOS BY JACKIE HAYSLIP



Ladycat girls with their regional championship trophy



Kaylee Lucas (12) runs with the Aledo in front of Aledo fans after the Ladycats defeated Northwest to advance to the state championship game. Also shown in pitcher Kayleigh Smith.



Senior Audrey Pearce rounds third base in the game against Northwest.

## Good Luck at State!

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