

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

## Gilliland appointed to succeed VanSant

No applicants for May election

By Brandi Addison  
The Community News

Willow Park City Council on Tuesday accepted a resignation from councilman Tyler VanSant, who has served in Place 2 since 2020.

The council member was recalled to active duty in the United States Air Force for three years, and in compliance with the Air Force code, could no longer "hold or exercise the functions of civil office."

During a brief proclamation, Mayor Doyle Moss described VanSant as a "valued member of council" and gave him an award of appreciation.

"For your service to the city of Willow Park and commitment to our country, we thank you," Moss said as the crowd stood up and applauded him.

VanSant, who has served on the council for about a year half, said he's proud to have served the council for the last couple years.

"I think we're really squared away with where we are today versus where we were when I started 18

Turn to **GILLILAND**, page 3



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Walsh Elementary School student John Estes tries on a helmet as classmates Hudson Downs and Michael Kowalski watch. Travis Satterfield's race car was one of the attractions at Walsh's career day on March 4. More photos can be found on page 4.

## It's time to go fishing

Bearcat Big Bass Fishing Tournament planned for April 2 to benefit Project Celebration 2024

The Aledo High School Class of 2024 Project Celebration Committee invites the public to attend the inaugural Bearcat Big Bass Fishing Tournament to be held Saturday, April 2, at Rough Creek Park at Lake Granbury.

Two-person fishing teams can register online to compete for prizes—cash payouts for the top three stringers, and prizes for Big Bass, and Trash Fish. Team check-in will begin at 6 a.m. with boat launch at safe light.

The public is invited to join in the fun from 12-3 p.m. to visit sponsor booths and enjoy entertainment from various Aledo groups and other local entertainers. Weigh-in will begin at 2 p.m. Tickets for a number of prizes, including a weekend getaway on the Brazos River, are being sold. The drawing will take place at the tournament.

The AHS Project Celebration 2024 Committee is partnering with Stumpy's Lakeside Grill to provide food and beverages to guest attendees at the restaurant.

"Our main goal for hosting this fishing tournament is to raise money for Project Celebration for the class of 2024," said Becky Soto, AHS Project Celebration 2024 Committee Co-President. "In addition, we thought this would be a fun event to involve community members and local businesses that would be interested in supporting the events of our students."

Project Celebration is a nationwide program that provides a drug-free and alcohol-free event after prom. "Project Celebration is a great way for students to spend time together with their fellow classmates one more time before they graduate high school," Soto said.

For more information about registering a team for the fishing tournament or becoming a sponsor, visit [www.aledopc2024.com](http://www.aledopc2024.com).

### About Project Celebration

Aledo High School Project Celebration, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation organized under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act for the sole purpose of providing safe, alcohol-free and drug-free celebrations to students. The AHS Class of 2024 Project Celebration Committee is fully supported by sponsorships and fundraising by parents and is in no way associated with or funded by Aledo ISD or any of its student-led organizations.

## Americans with Ukrainian families looking for ways to help

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

The news coming from Ukraine is disturbing enough for Americans who see what is happening with the ongoing Russian invasion. It hits closer to home for a Fort Worth resident who works in Willow Park.

Yana Begma is a teller at First Bank Texas. The 20-year-old young woman moved with her parents to the United States before she turned four, so she doesn't have many first-hand memories of the country.

But she still has a lot of family in Ukraine — uncles, aunts, grandmothers — and close friends there as well.

"I was supposed to go back and visit and COVID happened," she said. Her parents ended up being able to go while Yana stayed home to work.

"It was really sad. I wanted to see everybody. Hopefully I'll get

to go when things settle down," she said.

When asked how she felt about what was happening there, Yana said "it was really scary at first. It was like at night. My sister was blowing up my phone and she was saying that they got bombed and it was like 12 in the morning for us. They were expecting it — at the same time they were preparing that something bad was gonna happen. They just didn't know when."

Yana said her family here called the family in Ukraine when they heard what happened.

"They told us they were scared — I mean, in that situation, you just don't know what to do — feel like frozen," Yana said. "A lot of our family lives in the countryside, so it's far from the capital, maybe an eight-hour drive. So they're not in as much danger. But we do have some friends and family that live in cities. And that's the ones we were really concerned about — not



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Yana Begma, a teller at First Bank Texas in Willow Park, has family in Ukraine.

that anybody in the country was completely safe, but a little bit safer"

Yana understood the stakes in the conflict when asked how she thought the situation would end.

"I have no idea," she replied. "I don't think Putin is going to stop because he was once a really big leader in the USSR. And I feel like

Turn to **UKRAINE**, page 3



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# In & Around Parker County

## Look to Pulliam for stability, longevity

A swimming pool is a big investment in a lifestyle that promotes fitness, family togetherness and creating fun memories. It is important to use a company that has longevity and a proven history of taking care of customers.

Pulliam Pools is the oldest pool company in America and pioneered many of the techniques in use today. The company passed down through three generations and was bought by Debra Smith and a partner in 2009. Smith bought that partner out in 2020 and became the sole owner.

“Pulliam has a long life. We are celebrating 106 years in business this month”, said President Debra Smith. “We have many long-term employees who have been here 20-30 years, including myself, so we feel we have the history, longevity and experience to make things work well. Many of our customers are referrals



from other customers, and our referral base keeps us going a lot.”

Smith’s vision for the future of the company was heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic which created a

huge demand for pool construction, but was complicated during the severe freeze in February 2021 that wrecked havoc on the pool industry at a time when equipment was already on backorder.

When approached by Adam Lucas, VP of Concentric Equity Partners, a private equity company, in the fourth quarter of 2021, Smith felt the timing was right to increase long-term stability

for the Pulliam workforce and its customers. The acquisition by Concentric through RBS Holdings LLC has set the company up for success well into the future, while opening new opportunities for

expansion and growth beyond what they could do on its own.

Pulliam Pools looks forward to building many more pools in the Parker County and surrounding areas. It is continuing with the same management, employees, vendors and subcontractors, with the same quality service. As before and with the influx of new capital, customers can rest assured they will have their project completed.

The important thing is to get your pool on the drawing board now to swim this year and have your own staycation destination in your backyard.

Pulliam Pools has been ranked by Industry Magazine Pool & Spa News as one of the Top 50 Pool Builders in the United States for nineteen consecutive years. For more information, call 817-613-1910.

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CITY OF WILLOW PARK

**Willow Park City Secretary Crystal Dozier (right) swears in new council member Chawn Gilliland, who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Tyler VanSant.**

## GILLILAND

from page one

months ago," VanSant said. "As you can see, the growth, it's challenging to keep up with, but this city has really done a great job at that."

During Tuesday's meeting, the council unanimously voted to appoint Chawn Gilliland to fill the vacancy, where he immediately stepped in for VanSant.

The city council additionally voted to approve several agreements and contracts for various projects around the city, including:

An agreement with Jacob & Martin to provide professional services to analyze and study water and waste water impact fees

A contract for mowing and lawn maintenance services for 2022-24

The city also canceled the May general election after council members place 3, 4, and 5 for all uncontested.

## UKRAINE

from page one

his ultimate goal is to gain all that back. And he wants to be the most powerful man that there is and I don't think he's going to stop."

At the same time, she recognized the difficult position the United States and the rest of the world faces. When we asked her if the thought the United States and the rest of the world were doing enough, she provided a thoughtful answer.

"Do I feel like should they get involved?" she said. "In a way, yes, but not to the point where you're putting the American people in danger too, because it's not our fight. You know, it's nice to help people,

but the last thing we need is this huge world war. We don't need that."

Yana said her family has tried to send money to the family in Ukraine, but the Ukrainian banks are taking 20% off the top.

"Even if we send money they're not getting all the money that we send, and it's pointless. You don't know if they're giving them all that we've sent — they could be taking more than 20% and pocketing it," Yana said. "Right now we're trying to put a thing together — they have a food bank there. So my mom's going to put together a donation flyer — that's the only way you can really help them is through that food bank so that they at least have food."

Yana said her aunt in one of the cities is trying to help other families who don't have a place to go.

## WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

# Farmer named to board promoting community college bachelor's degrees

### Master's Degree agreements signed with two universities

By Crystal Woerly  
Weatherford College

Weatherford College President Tod Allen Farmer is now a member of the national board of directors for the Community College Baccalaureate Association.

Founded in 1999, the CCBA has supported more than 23 states in their efforts to allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate programs.

Farmer was installed to the board at the CCBA National Conference held in February in Tucson, Arizona.

"I am both humbled and honored to have been elected to the board of directors of the Community College Baccalaureate Association," Farmer said. "Affordable bachelor's degrees are accelerators of opportunity and engines of economic development. I plan to strongly support the expansion of affordable bachelor's degrees both locally and nationally."

The CCBA promotes affordable access to community college bachelor's degrees as a means of closing the nation's racial, ethnic and economic gaps.

WC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program began in 2020 and the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Organizational Leadership program opened last August. A medical and health services management degree will become WC's third baccalaureate program when it opens in the fall, and the college is eyeing a bachelor's in robotics and automation engineering as well as an elementary teaching degree with English as a second language certification in the near future.



### WC, TAMUC enter master's degree agreement

Weatherford College officially signed its first master's degree articulation agreement on Feb. 21 with Texas A&M University - Commerce at TAMUC's Dallas campus to provide a pathway for WC graduates of the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Organizational Leadership to transition to the Master of Science in Management at TAMUC.

Qualified students will receive guaranteed admission to A&M-Commerce through their TransferPride program. The agreement ensures WC students can easily transfer credits, and A&M-Commerce students may transfer coursework back to WC to complete requirements for an associate degree.

There are also scholarship opportunities available up to \$500 per semester for four semesters for qualified WC students.

The BAAS in Organizational Leadership is WC's second bachelor's degree program.

"This agreement with our partners at TAMUC creates a seamless pathway for our current and future BAAS-Organizational Leadership students, providing an exciting opportunity to build on their accomplishments at Weatherford College, earn a master's degree from a high-quality graduate program and ultimately broaden their career horizon," said Dr. Philip Mathew, director of WC's BAAS in Organization Leadership program.

The master's degree provided by TAMUC is available to students fully online or through face-to-face courses.

### WC signs master's degree agreement with Tarleton

Weatherford College now has a second master's degree articulation agreement with a Texas university.

WC and Tarleton State University signed an agreement Tuesday, March 8, to expand educational access and opportunities for Weatherford College students starting in the Fall 2022 semester.

This agreement offers WC's graduates from the Bachelor

Turn to WC, page 7



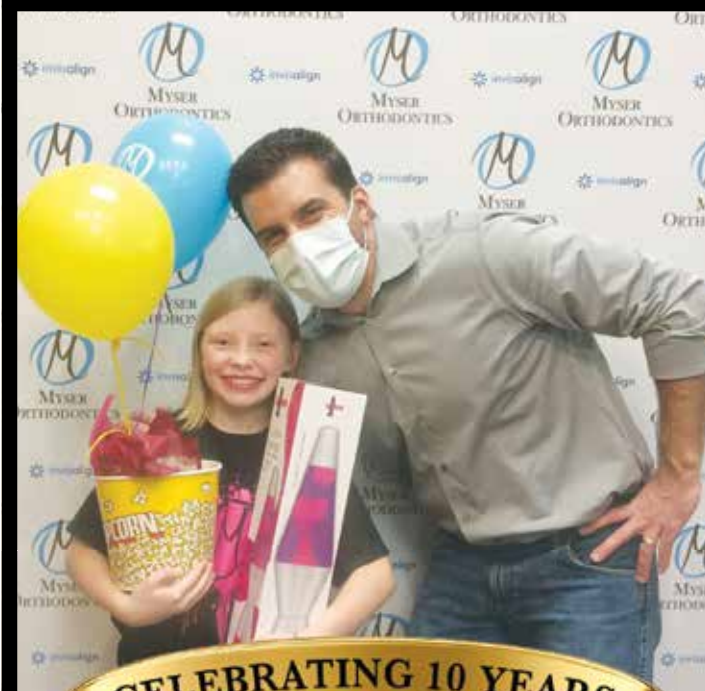
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# Career Day at Walsh

Walsh Elementary School had Career Day on March 4. Photos by Randy Keck



Fire trucks are always appealing, and these youngsters examined a Fort Worth Fire Department engine.



Katy Reddy told the students about bee keeping.



Travis Satterfield's race car was a big attraction.



State troopers J. Simpson and Ricky Hunter told the students about their work.



Gordon Jones from the Fort Worth Police Dept. took questions from students.



Beau Reeder and associates from ProFrac showed students one of the company's rigs.

# Band Auction

The Aledo band program held its annual auction and performance on Feb. 27 at Aledo High School. Photos by Christopher Amos.



Diana and John Stodola bid on silent auction items.



Drummer Adrian Webber of the Aledo Middle School symphonic winds orchestra.



Trombone players Lukas Green, Caleb Arst and Gavin Swanson of the Aledo Middle School symphonic winds orchestra.



Trumpet players Adrianna Lambert and Rebecca Hernandez.



Tuba player Luke Meacham.

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

## MARCH 11

### Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club

The Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Friday of every month at First United Methodist Family Life Center, 301 S. Main in Weatherford. The social hour, including Club Shop, begins at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting, including program, is at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is \$11. Please make lunch reservations by calling Shirley at 817-757-7379. For more information on the organization, visit [pcwnc.org](http://pcwnc.org).

### Last Gas

Theatre Off The Square will present "Last Gas" on weekends March 11-27 at 114 North Denton Street in Weatherford.

Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. Sunday shows are at 2 p.m.

ASL interpreters will be at the 8 p.m. performance on Saturday, March 19. Services are provided through a partnership with the American Sign Language Interpreting Program of Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus.

All seats are reserved; tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors (60-plus)/students/children under school age. Matinee tickets are \$15 for all ages and no other discounts apply. Purchase tickets in the box office prior to each show or visit [https://buy.ticketstohecity.com/venue.php?org\\_id=88](https://buy.ticketstohecity.com/venue.php?org_id=88)

2022 Flex packages are

on sale for \$100. The Flex Package comes with seven "flex credits" (tickets) that can be redeemed for admission to any mainstage show in the 2022 season. For more information, call 817-341-8687 or visit [www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org).

## MARCH 21

### Rotary Club of Aledo

The Rotary Club of Aledo meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Sunny Street Cafe, 229 Shops Blvd. Suite 103 in Willow Park. For more information, visit [aledorotary.org](http://aledorotary.org).

## MARCH 22

### Aledo Community Lions Club

The Aledo Community Lions Club meets from 5-6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Aledo Community Center. The public is invited. For more information call Bob Carlson at 817-718-4902.

## MARCH 26

### Clay Shoot

The Annual Trinity Christian Athletic Booster Clay Shoot will be Saturday, March 26 at Defenders Outdoor Clay Sports Ranch, 8270 Aledo Road in Benbrook.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m.. There will be a safety briefing at 9:30 a.m. and shooting will begin at 9:45 a.m.

Lunch will be provided, and there will be a chance to purchase tickets to win a

\$3,100-value fishing trip.

Cost is \$500 for a team of four shooters or \$125 for individuals. Ammo is not provided but will be for sale at the site. Shooters younger than 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, or to register, visit [http://www.tcaegles.org/athletics/booster\\_club.cfm](http://www.tcaegles.org/athletics/booster_club.cfm).

### AdvoCats Glow Run

The Aledo AdvoCats Will host their 16th annual Run Walk or Crawl at 7:45 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, at Bearcat Stadium.

In recent years the event has been a nighttime glow run, characterized as a nighttime fun run in the heart of Aledo that raises money for a great cause.

Participants can enter the 1K, 5K, or both, beginning and ending at the Aledo High School track.

Since its inception in 2006, the Run, Walk or Crawl has become the flagship annual fundraising event for AdvoCats. Choosing to support Aledo Children's AdvoCats means your money stays right here in our community and provides vital services that directly benefit children and families in the communities of Aledo ISD.

Gates open at 7 p.m. The opening ceremony will be at 7:45 p.m. The 1K begins at 8 p.m. and the 5K is at 8:30 p.m.

The fee to enter the 1K is \$25 and the fee for the 5K is \$30. Virtual runners can enter for \$20.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/34yrhVp>

## ACROSS

- famed A&M coach \_\_\_\_\_ X. Bible
- TX film "Giant," e.g. events affecting TX weather: "El Nino" and "La \_\_\_\_\_"
- early TX Orbison band: "\_\_\_\_\_ Kings"
- birth month for TX Jaclyn Smith & TX Dan Rather (abbr.)
- "\_\_\_\_\_ dawn" (get an early start)
- TXism: "I \_\_\_\_\_ that like a chicken coop needs a fox"
- TX Chenault was adviser to China's \_\_\_\_\_-shek
- TXism: "let '\_\_\_\_ rip"
- Santa \_\_\_\_\_, TX
- TXism: "a horse of a different color"
- Fort Hood greeting
- when Marty Robbins found himself in Rosa's Cantina
- 37-across was "\_\_\_\_\_ Chicago Cub"
- TXism: "two peas \_\_\_\_\_" (alike)
- retriever dogs
- TX infielder, Banks
- TXism: "big fish \_\_\_\_\_"
- TX "First Lady" Bush (1995-2000)
- TXism: "if it was any better, the sheriff wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_"
- boot width

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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13 TXism: "would melt the \_\_\_\_\_ off your molars" (hot chili)

14 Ken Paxton title in Texas govt.

15 boxing victory (abbr.)

17 Friday night kickin' group (2 wds.)

19 TX Chester Nimitz final naval rank

20 TX Hagman TV series: "\_\_\_\_\_" of Jeannie"

24 "yes" in Mexico

25 Bentsen State Park groove-billed bird

26 actress Turner of "Peyton Place"

27 "\_\_\_\_\_ night" (sleepless)

28 TXism: "attracted like a pig \_\_\_\_\_"

29 actor O'Brien of TX-based 1953 film "Cow Country"

31 Buffalo \_\_\_\_\_, TX

32 cable movie chan.

33 blackboard cleaners

38 "\_\_\_\_\_ and void"

40 root beer letters

41 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as a dish rag"

42 TXism: "you're buying oats for a \_\_\_\_\_" (wasted effort)

49 horse breed

51 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ a bull give milk?" (no)

52 "\_\_\_\_\_ Jones Industrial Average"

57 TXism: "gone \_\_\_\_\_ dogs"

58 TX Sam Bass was a \_\_\_\_\_ robber

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## APRIL 2

### Bearcat Big Bass Fishing Tournament

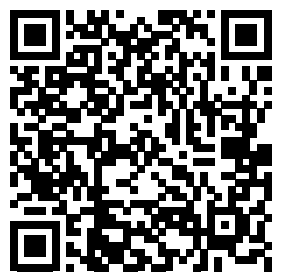
The Aledo High School Class of 2024 Project Celebration will hold the Bearcat Big Bass Fishing Tournament on Saturday, April 2, in Rough Creek Park at the Lake Granbury Marina. Launch will be at

safe light and weigh-in will be at 2 p.m.

Payouts will go to the top three stringers. In addition to the tournament, there will be a raffle, games, entertainment, and kids' casting from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Entry fee is \$100 per two-person team. In addition, sponsorships are available from \$100 to \$5,000.

To register a team or to become a sponsor, visit [www.aledopc2024.com](http://www.aledopc2024.com).



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, May 7, 2022

#### Proposition Number 1 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of property taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled in order to reflect any statutory reduction in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the person's homestead from the preceding tax year.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead."

#### Proposition Number 2 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from property taxes for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000."

Published by The Office of the Texas Secretary of State, [www.sos.texas.gov](http://www.sos.texas.gov), 1/800-252-VOTE (8683).

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# Classifieds

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## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF WILLOW PARK BANKHEAD SEWER EXTENSION

Separate sealed bids for the construction of **BANKHEAD SEWER EXTENSION** will be received by the **City of Willow Park, Texas, until 3:00 PM, on Wednesday, April 6, 2022**, at City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of furnishing and installation of approximately 1,850 linear feet of 6-inch SDR 26 PVC force main, 435 linear feet of 14-inch bore and encasement, and 95 linear feet of encased sewer line, lift station, and associated appurtenances.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at: Jacob & Martin, LLC -- 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents must be ordered online at [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Orders for Bid/Contract Documents may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the Bid/Contract Documents will be \$100.00 for 11x17 Half Size Plans or \$0.00 for Digital Download. Contractors must purchase a set of Bid/Contract Documents to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Willow Park or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

City of Willow Park

Doyle Moss, Mayor

March 11, 2022

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the American Rescue Plan Act and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts and subcontracts.

SAM.gov registration is required to Bid. All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project. This will be verified upon receipt of bid and prior to the award. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, and Women Business Enterprises, and Historically Underutilized Business firms are encouraged to submit bids.

The City of Willow Park reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Willow Park for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The lobbying certification must be submitted with the bid packet to be considered complete and responsive.

The City of Willow Park is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## THE COMMUNITY NEWS

### How many of our boxes can you check?

We are expanding our staff and accepting applicants for the following job functions. Check what you are interested in and check back with us!

#### News Reporter — full or part time to cover any or all of the following:

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- City of Willow Park government
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- Aledo ISD school board
- Parker County government
- General Assignments
- Education - Aledo ISD and Trinity Christian Academy
- Features
- Business

#### Designer: Page design and ad layout - part time

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#### Editorial Assistant - part time

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#### B2B Account Representative - full or part time

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# 'Last Gas' begins at TOTS this weekend

Theatre Off The Square will present "Last Gas" on weekends March 11-27 at 114 North Denton Street in Weatherford.

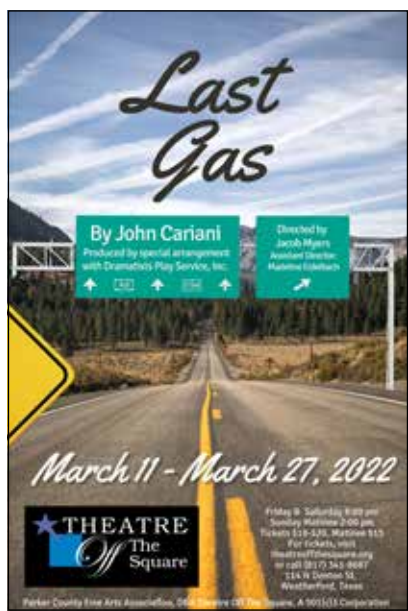
Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. Sunday shows are at 2 p.m.

ASL interpreters will be at the 8 p.m. performance on Saturday, March 19. Services are provided through a partnership with the American Sign Language Interpreting Program of Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus.

Nat Paradis is a Red Sox-loving part-time dad who manages Paradis' Last Convenient Store, the last convenient place to get gas—or anything—before the Canadian border to the north and the North Maine Woods to the west. When an old flame returns to town, Nat gets a chance to rekindle a romance he gave up on years ago. But sparks fly as he's forced to choose between new love and old. LAST GAS takes a hilarious and heartbreakingly hard look at love lost and found, and at what it means to "get back to happy."

The cast includes Nat Paradis (Garrett Tucker); Troy Paradis-Pulcifer (Matthew Foster); Guy Gagnon (Thomas Vigil); Dwight Paradis (Lisle Justice); Cherry-Tracy Pulcifer (Michelle Newman); Lurene Legassey Soloway (Dana Powers); and Voiceovers - Dirk Green, Amanda Johnson, and Dan Parris.

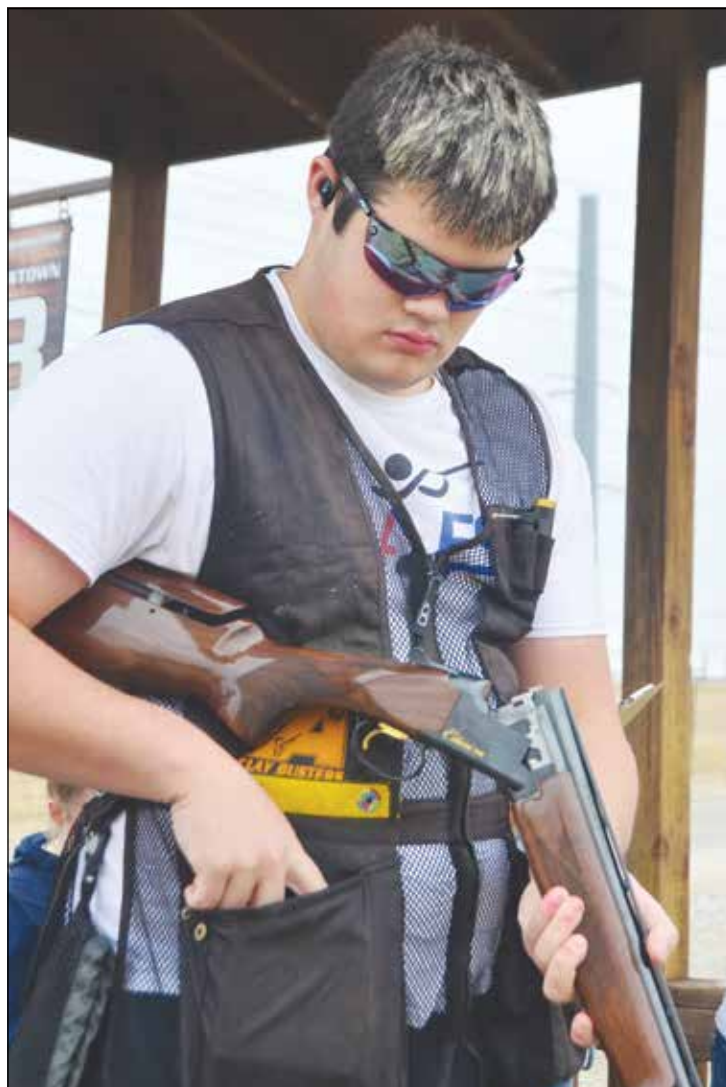
"Last Gas" is Theatre Off The Square's second show of its 23rd season. It is written by



John Cariani, produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. This production is directed by Jacob Myers, with Madeline Eidelbach as the assistant director, and Mark Gillies serving as stage manager.

All seats are reserved; tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors (60-plus)/students/children under school age. Matinee tickets are \$15 for all ages and no other discounts apply. Purchase tickets in the box office prior to each show or visit [https://buy.tickettothecity.com/venue.php?org\\_id=88](https://buy.tickettothecity.com/venue.php?org_id=88)

2022 Flex packages are on sale for \$100. The Flex Package comes with seven "flex credits" (tickets) that can be redeemed for admission to any mainstage show in the 2022 season. For more information, call 817-341-8687 or visit [www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org).



# BDGA Clay Shoot

The annual Business Development Group of Aledo Clay Shoot was held Saturday, March 5, at Defender Outdoors Clay Sports Ranch.

All six shooting stations of the event were staffed by Aledo FFA students for the morning events. Other schools volunteered at the event throughout the day.

"The BDGA donates money to FFA and other Aledo organizations, so we are glad to have our students here to volunteer," Aledo High School agriculture instructor Wacey Horton said.

The BDGA also donates funds to organizations including Future Business Leaders of America, Camp Fire, Center of Hope, and Project Celebration.

LEFT: Aledo Claybuster Luke Shelton loads for his next station.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



## STREETSIDE CLEANUP DAY

with Mayor Doyle Moss

Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss will host a clean-up day beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 26. Volunteers will meet at the Willow Park City Hall parking lot (516 Ranch House Road) for supplies and instructions, and return to city hall at noon to dispose of their trash bags. For more information, email [info@willowpark.org](mailto:info@willowpark.org).



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

### Representatives of Tarleton State University and Weatherford College signed an articulation agreement on March 8.

## WC

from page three

of Applied Arts and Science in Organizational Leadership program who wish to earn advanced degrees a pathway into master's degree programs at Tarleton.

"For us to send some of our best and brightest to Tarleton bodes extremely well for our region," said WC President Tod Allen Farmer. "Many of the industry titans in our

area are both WC and Tarleton graduates."

Eligible graduates will qualify for fast-tracked admission in the Master of Science in Management, Master of Business Administration and the Master of Human Resource Management.

These students will also have their application fee waived and have access to financial aid incentives up to \$1,500 per academic year.

"Weatherford College matters to us," said TSU President James Hurley. "Helping students in our own backyard is the right thing to do."

The Tarleton master's programs included in this agreement are offered either completely online or in a hybrid format and take 12 to 18 months to complete. Students on the Stephenville campus will also have access to potential graduate assistantships.

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### City of Willow Park Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Willow Park City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission will hold public hearings on the matters listed below:

1. PUBLIC HEARING to consider a request to rezone 8.768 acres from PD/TP (Treatment Plant), 13.747 acres from PD/EC (Event Center), and 5.539 acres from Green Belt to PD Single Family, and the PD Development Standards to amend the maximum number of single family detached homes to 189, part of Lot 2R, Block 11, The Reserves at Trinity, City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas, located adjacent to Meadows Place Drive.
2. PUBLIC HEARING to consider a request for rezoning from R-1 to PD R-5 Planned Development District to allow for development of single-family dwellings on individual lots, for 19.16 acres John H. Phelps Survey, Abstract No. 1046, City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas, located adjacent to Bay Hill Drive.
3. PUBLIC HEARING to consider amendments to the City of Willow Park Zoning Ordinance Chapter 14; Article 14.12 "Off-Street Parking And Loading Requirements".

Planning & Zoning Commission: Tuesday, March 29, 2022  
Time: 6:00 PM

City Council: Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Willow Park 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 [tfisher@willowpark.org](mailto:tfisher@willowpark.org) with any questions.

The above notice was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex at the City of Willow Park City Hall, Willow Park, Texas on/before March 7, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.

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### EVENT

South Texas Home and Garden Show, Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 15th annual. Free Admission - Plants - Concessions - Kids Activities. Floreville Event Center, 600 Hwy 97 W, Floreville.

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## Capital Highlights

### Several races headed to runoffs



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

A number of statewide races are headed for a May 24 runoff after the votes were tallied in the March 1 primary.

Topping the ballot in the Republican races is the contest for attorney general, where incumbent Ken Paxton led the field with 42.7% of votes cast, followed by George P. Bush, current land commissioner, who garnered 22.8%. The remainder of GOP ballots went to former Supreme Court justice Eva Guzman at 17.5% and U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert with 17%.

In the Democratic race for lieutenant governor, Houston businessman Mike Collier took 41.5%, with Carrollton state Rep. Michelle Beckley getting 30.2%. They will face each other in the runoff to determine who will face incumbent Dan Patrick in November. Patrick handily won the GOP primary with 76.6% of the vote.

In the race to succeed Bush as land commissioner, there will be runoffs in both parties, with State Sen. Dawn Buckingham, R-Lakeway, taking 41.8% and Tim Westley, the historian for the Texas Republican party, trailing with 14.8%. On the Democratic ballot, Sandrgrace Martinez, a San Antonio licensed professional counselor, took 32% while Jay Kleberg, a conservationist whose family owns the storied King Ranch, trailed with 25.8%.

Two Democrats are vying to face incumbent Glenn Hegar in the race for state comptroller. Janet T. Dudding, who retired from Texas A&M to run, led the field with 46.2%. She will face Angel Luis Vega, a business strategist, who received 34.7% of the vote.

GOP incumbent Wayne Christian, chair of the Texas Railroad Commission, fell short of gathering a majority in the primary with 47.2% of the vote. Sarah Stogner, a Midland attorney who gained attention by posting a semi-nude video of herself on top of an oil pumpjack, finished second with 15.1%.

Voters may cast ballots in a party's runoff races if they originally voted in that party's primary or didn't vote at all. Voters who cast ballots in the Republican primary can't cross over and vote in the Democratic runoff, and vice versa. Early voting runs from May 16-20.

#### Emergency SNAP benefits again extended

The U.S. Department of Agriculture again has extended emergency food benefits for eligible Texas families, with more than \$310 million going to more than 1.5 million Texas households for the month of March. The allotments are distributed through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and administered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

"Putting food on the table is critical for the health and well-being of families, and we're proud to continue helping with these most basic needs," said Texas HHS Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter.

Since April 2020, more than \$6.13 billion in emergency food benefits have been provided through SNAP. All SNAP households will receive at least \$95 in emergency allotments by March 31.

#### Operation Lone Star marks one year

Gov. Greg Abbott, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the Texas National Guard last week marked the one-year anniversary of Operation Lone Star, the state's effort to "secure the border." Since its launch, more than 208,000 migrants have been apprehended, with 11,800 criminal charges filed.

In the last legislative session, lawmakers approved an additional \$1.8 billion in state funding, bringing the total of funding for border security to \$3 billion.

#### New website highlights early childhood services

A streamlined resource for Texas parents to get information about early childhood services is now up and running. The new website, [earlychildhood.texas.gov](http://earlychildhood.texas.gov), serves as a one-stop-shop to connect Texas parents with access to a variety of free or low-cost services and resources.

The website offers information and resources for health and development, parenting, child care and education.

#### Federal COVID-19 funding tops \$75.6 billion

The Legislative Budget Board reports that the state received an estimated \$75.6 billion in COVID-19 federal funding, not counting funds awarded directly to individuals and local entities. The funding came from a half dozen pandemic response packages passed by Congress since March 2020.

The funding provided assistance to Texas public schools, higher education, local governments, and health care providers. More detailed information can be found at the budget board's website: [lbb.texas.gov/Covid-19](http://lbb.texas.gov/Covid-19).

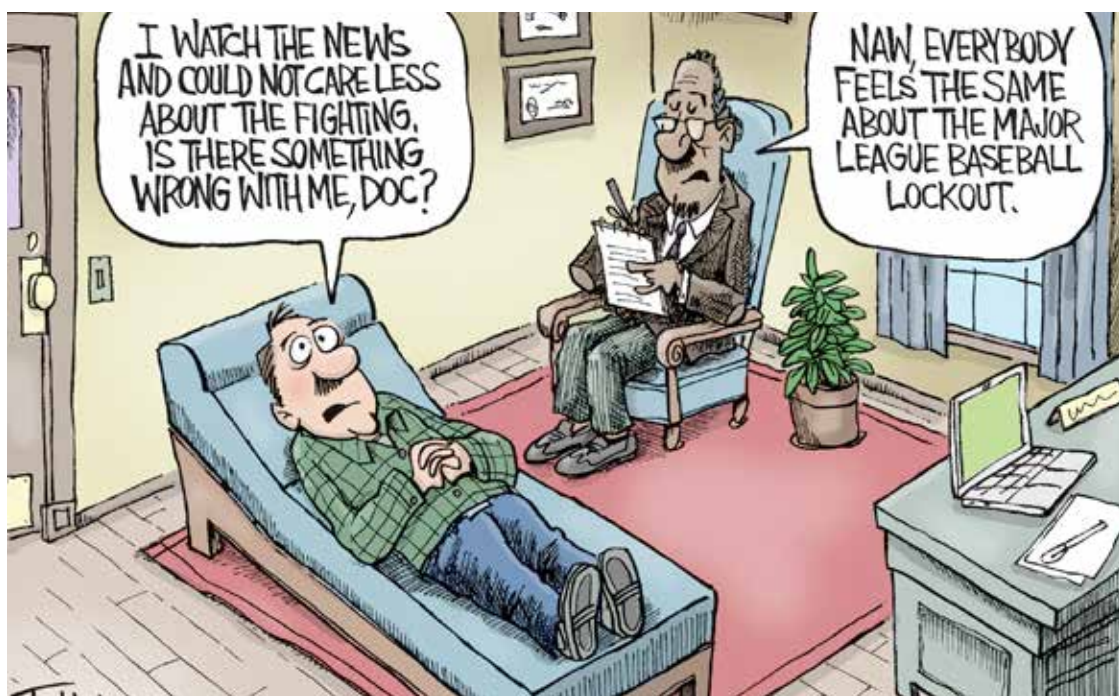
Meanwhile, the state's Division of Workers Compensation reported more than 78,000 workers' compensation claims with 422 fatalities. More than half of the fatalities involved first responders and correctional officers.

#### COVID-19 cases continue to drop

The number of COVID-19 cases continues to drop across the state, with 26,520 reported in the past week by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, along with 936 deaths. The omicron variant continues to wane, with lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations dropping to 2,838 statewide, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated now stands at 17,282 million, according to DSHS, with 6.322 million getting a booster dose as well. As of Sunday, 59.2% of Texans are fully vaccinated.

*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).*



## Thistles & Roses

### Running for office is no easy task



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

Now that the March 2, 2022 primary election has passed, most of the thousands of political signs have been taken down and no longer are a blight on our county. Our mailboxes are temporarily no longer choked with political mailers. The broadcast political ads, mostly negative attack ads against opponents, have ceased.

For sure, a few candidates will return for runoffs in April and, we will be inundated again in the general election in November.

I ran for judge many years ago. I made a runoff but lost. It mattered little as the November opponent beat my

runoff opponent easily. I have to say the experience cured me of the desire to run again.

I came away convinced that local elections for judge, sheriff, district attorney etc. should be non-partisan, like city and school board elections. It should not matter what party these officials belong to. Judges should not be elected at all, but that is a topic for another column.

Running for elective office is analogous to the magic ring of power in the Lord of the Rings. The ring affects even the best of people.

There are many elected officials that I admire and respect and who do not seem to be affected, but many are.

As a judicial candidate, I suddenly had a lot of new lawyer friends writing me checks. I like to think that I and my fellow colleagues who become judges will apply the law fairly. I believe that happens. But there is something not quite right about a system where it is legal for a lawyer to write

checks to the judges. I was not comfortable with it.

Virtually all judges I know are good people who hate having to ask lawyers for money. And I have contributed many dollars to what I deemed the best candidates. It seems to be a system no one in the profession likes, but for the foreseeable future we are stuck with it.

The negative ads seem to be unavoidable. I would rather have candidates tell me why they are the best, not why their opponent is the worst person ever born and are not fit for office.

I do admire people who stick their necks out to run. It is not easy to lay yourself bare before the public. The worst thing that could happen is to have no candidates.

Meanwhile, maybe we can sit down with our better selves and see if there is a way to improve the system.

And congratulations to all of the candidates, winners and losers. You all tried your best.

## The Community News

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TRACK AND FIELD

## AHS teams sweep Boswell Relays

The Aledo High School track teams swept the Boswell Pioneer Relays, which began March 3.

Aledo athletes set 51 personal records at the meet.

### Team Standings

#### Varsity Boys

1 Aledo	192
2 Keller	157
3 Chisholm Trail	101
4 Ft Worth Boswell	74
5 Ft Worth Paschal	45
6 Azle	23

#### JV Boys

1 Aledo	238.5
2 Keller	138.5
3 Azle	79
4 Chisholm Trail	73.5
5 Ft Worth Boswell	69.5
6 Ft Worth Paschal	16

#### Varsity Girls

1 Aledo	172
2 Ft Worth Boswell	146
3 Keller	126
4 Chisholm Trail	80
5 Azle	76
6 Ft Worth Paschal	7

#### JV Girls

1 Aledo	171
2 Keller	146.83
3 Chisholm Trail	106.33
4 Ft Worth Boswell	73.83
5 Azle	63
6 Ft Worth Paschal	39

KRISTIN MORALES

**RIGHT: Jalen Pope finished second in the 100 meters at the Boswell Relays.**



**ABOVE: Taylor McKenzie won the high jump, setting a school record of 5-0. | RIGHT: Maggie Kilburn placed second in pole vault with a height of 11-0, a personal record.**

KRISTIN MORALES

Find individual results from the Boswell Relays on page 10.



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# Aledo High School results - Boswell Relays

**Boys Varsity**

**100 Meters**  
Jalen Pope, 2, 11.1 PR  
Jaden Allen, 4, 11.4  
Keiran Patrick-Daniels, 8, 11.8

**200 Meters**  
Keiran Patrick-Daniels, 5, 23.3 PR  
Connor Smith, 6, 23.4  
Jaden Allen, 6, 23.4 PR

**400 Meters**  
Nathan Wood, 4, 51.9 PR  
Gabriel Sherrod, 10, 53.4 PR

**800 Meters**  
Samuel Haight, 1, 1:58.4 PR

**1600 Meters**  
Isaac Hernandez, 1, 4:36.0  
Samuel Haight, 7, 5:00.0 SR  
Bryceson Boss, 7, 5:00.0

**3200 Meters**  
Isaac Hernandez, 1, 9:51.4  
Vincent Luffey, 3, 10:22.2 PR

**110m Hurdles - 39"**  
Evan Thompson, 2, 16.2  
Caden Boukadoum, 4, 17.0 SR

**300m Hurdles - 36"**  
Evan Thompson, 4, 45.6  
Caden Boukadoum, 5, 45.9

**4x100 Relay**  
1, 42.0  
Hauss Hejny, Brian Fleming, Sammy Steffe, Keiran Patrick-Daniels

**4x200 Relay**  
1, 1:31.9  
Connor Smith, Brian Fleming, Sammy Steffe, Hauss Hejny

**4x400 Relay**  
2, 3:31.8  
Nathan Wood, Ryan Jones, Jalen Pope, Bryceson Boss

**Shot Put - 12lb**  
Bryon Moreno-Wheeler, 2, 43' 1 PR

Isaac Sohn, 3, 42' 10 PR  
Isaac Knott, 5, 41' 3 PR

**Discus - 1.6kg**  
Ansel Din-Mbuh, 1, 136' 8 PR  
Coleton Hope, 2, 132' 1 PR  
Isaac Knott, 4, 118' 2

**High Jump**  
Jack Mitchell, 3, 5' 10  
Alex Stadler, NH

**Pole Vault**  
Brad Campbell, 1, 12' 0  
Andrew Gamez, 2, 11' 0 SR  
Sean Gribble, NH

**Long Jump**  
Terry Lewis, ND  
Taylon Kessler, ND  
Ryan Cox, ND

**Triple Jump**  
Taylon Kessler, 5, 38' 4.5 SR

**Girls Varsity**

**100 Meters**  
Addison Smith, 1, 11.9 PR  
Maitlynn Mitchell, 11, 14.2  
Gigi Cabello, 13, 16.0

**200 Meters**  
Kaylee Halfmann, 8, 27.9 PR  
Presley Bergen, 12, 28.5 SR

**400 Meters**  
Sidney Tillotson, 2, 58.6 PR  
Delaney Deller, 4, 1:01.0 PR  
Emery Thompson, 5, 1:01.3 PR

**800 Meters**  
Sidney Tillotson, 3, 2:26.0 SR  
Durand Addison, 5, 2:33.6

**1600 Meters**  
Durand Addison, 6, 6:00.3 PR

**3200 Meters**  
Payton Weaver, 4, 13:16.8

**100m Hurdles - 33"**  
Sophie Isham, 2, 16.5 SR  
Natalie Anderson, 7, 22.0

**300m Hurdles - 30"**

Sarah Tillotson, 2, 49.0 SR  
Daniella Tregellas, 5, 52.3 SR  
Victoria Crews, 6, 52.7 PR

**4x100 Relay**  
Presley Bergen, Maitlynn Mitchell, Emery Thompson, Addison Smith, 50.6

**4x200 Relay**  
2, 1:51.1  
Kaylee Halfmann, Presley Bergen, Sarah Tillotson, Delaney Deller

**4x400 Relay**  
2, 4:06.9  
Delaney Deller, Emery Thompson, Addison Smith, Sidney Tillotson

**Shot Put - 4kg**  
Lauren St Peters, 1, 43' 2.75 PR  
Meredith Brown, 5, 29' 4 PR  
Taylor Paetzold, 6, 29' 1.25 PR

**Discus - 1kg**  
Lauren St Peters, 1, 132' 11 PR  
Taylor Paetzold, 6, 82' 2.5  
Meredith Brown, ND

**High Jump**  
Taylor McKenzie, 1, 5' 0 SR  
Sarah Tillotson, 4, 4' 6  
Ashley Canady, NH

**Pole Vault**  
Maggie Kilburn, 2, 11' 0 PR  
Taylor Hindman, 3, 10' 6  
Kaitlyn Walker, 5, 9' 6

**Long Jump**  
Kaylee Halfmann, 2, 16' 4 SR  
Presley Bergen, ND  
Taylor Hindman, ND

**Triple Jump**  
Victoria Crews, 3, 32' 9 PR  
Natalie Anderson, 5, 30' 11 SR

**JV Boys**

**100 Meters**  
Adrian Fuller, 1, 11.3 PR  
Davhon Keys, 4, 11.9 PR  
Jacob Gillespie, 6, 12.1 PR

**200 Meters**  
Blake Burdine, 1, 23.6 PR  
Gavin Olenjack, 3, 24.2 PR  
Talon Hollingsworth, 4, 24.3 SR

**400 Meters**  
Jackson Parker, 1, 54.2 PR  
Trace Clarkson, 7, 56.8 PR

**800 Meters**  
Luke Schabel, 4, 2:15.3

**1600 Meters**  
Jack Fink, 1, 4:56.4 PR  
Colton Snow, 4, 5:07.0 PR

**3200 Meters**  
Jack Fink, 1, 10:40.9  
Henry Zedler, 2, 11:07.5  
Colton Snow, 3, 11:16.8

**110m Hurdles - 39"**  
Tyson Timms, 2, 19.2 SR  
Jayden Escalera-Sanchez, 4, 20.0

**300m Hurdles - 36"**  
Kaden Callaway, 2, 45.6 PR  
Jayden Escalera-Sanchez, 4, 47.7  
Isaiah Anaya, 9, 52.2 PR

**4x100 Relay**  
1, 44.6  
Andrew Chasteen, Davhon Keys, Gavin Olenjack, Aven Lawrence

**4x200 Relay**  
1, 1:31.7  
Andrew Chasteen, Aven Lawrence, Adrian Fuller, Blake Burdine

**4x400 Relay**  
1, 3:42.9  
Jacob Gillespie, Talon Hollingsworth, Adrian Fuller, Blake Burdine

**Shot Put - 12lb**  
Alex Arana, 1, 40' 2.5 PR  
Devron Williams, 2, 39' 11 PR

**Discus - 1.6kg**

Cooper Bobbitt, 1, 108' 0 PR  
Alex Arana, 5, 93' 0  
Lawson Moore, 6, 91' 6 PR

**High Jump**  
Aven Lawrence, 1, 5' 10

**Pole Vault**  
Braylon Brown, 1, 11' 6 PR

**Long Jump**  
Talon Hollingsworth, 2, 18' 9.5 PR  
Blake Burdine, 5, 18' 7 PR

**Triple Jump**  
Brooks Burdine, 3, 37' 3 PR  
Davhon Keys, 5, 37' 1.5 PR

**4x400 Relay**

2, 4:44.6  
Taelynn Price, Sadie Giddens, Lexi Steffe, Jillian Moore

**Shot Put - 4kg**  
Addison Shoppach, 1, 29' 3.25 PR  
Haley Farmer, 5, 24' 3.5 PR

**Discus - 1kg**  
Addison Shoppach, 1, 75' 6  
Avery Gray, 3, 71' 10  
Jailyn Cherry, 4, 70' 8.5 PR

**High Jump**  
Lexi Steffe, 3, 4' 2

**Pole Vault**  
Tara Nagy, 1, 9' 0  
Saddie Smith, 3, 7' 6 SR  
Jamie Smith, 6, 6' 6 SR

**Long Jump**  
Trinity Hindman, 1, 13' 11.5 SR

**Triple Jump**  
Jillian Moore, 1, 31' 4.5 PR  
Tara Nagy, 3, 26' 8  
Sonia Sanders, 4, 26' 6

2 - Eden Anderson  
3 - McKenzie Spain  
4 - Emmaline Davis

**8th - 400M**  
1 - Elizabeth Griffin

**7th - 800M**  
1 - Micah Neal  
2 - Hayden Mitchell  
5 - Kate Jackson

**8th - 800M**  
1 - Madison Larsen  
2 - Mykel Murray  
5 - Sadie Williams

**7th 1 Mile**  
1 - Micah Neal  
2 - Hayden Mitchell

**8th 1 Mile**  
1 - Madison Larsen  
2 - Sofia Brandenburg  
6 - Sadie Williams

**7th 2400M**  
2 - Mia Thompson  
5 - Emma Reese Hamilton  
6 - Kjersten Loy

**8th 2400M**  
1 - Elizabeth Griffin  
3 - Sophia Frank  
4 - Maggie McQuarters

**7th 100M Hurdles**  
1 - Macie Laidley  
3 - Kellyann Pomaes  
6 - Ainsley Elmore

**8th 100M Hurdles**  
3 - Scarlet Wermuth  
5 - Alyssa Todd

**7th 300M Hurdles**  
1 - Eden Anderson  
6 - McKenzie Spain

**8th 300M Hurdles**  
4 - Mykel Murray

**7th 4x100 Relay**  
1 - Georgia Saunders, Savannah Hatcher, Sarah Edwards, Leighton Bratcher

**8th 4x100 Relay**  
4 - Kellyn Overturf, Heidi Peterson, Scarlet Wermuth, Brinley Mahanay

**AMS Girls track wins Stephenville meet**

The Ladycats started off the track season with great success, winning the Stephenville meet with 222.5 points.

**7th**  
100M - 1 - Leighton Bratcher  
3 - Sarah Edwards  
4 - Georgia Saunders

**8th**  
100M - 4 - Heidi Peterson

**7th**  
200 M - 2 - Macie Laidley  
5 - Sienna Hunter

**8th**  
200M - 3 - Sofia Brandenburg

**7th - 400M**



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**7th 4x200 Relay**

1 - Georgia Saunders, Savannah Hatcher, Macie Laidley, Leighton Bratcher

**8th 4x200 Relay**

4 - Kellyn Overturf, Heidi Peterson, Brinley Mahanay, Scarlet Wermuth

**7th 4x400 Relay**

2 - Micah Neal, McKenzie Spain, Emmaline Davis, Maiden Mitchell

**8th 4x400 Relay**

1 - Mykel Murray, Sofia Brandenburg, Madison Larsen, Elizabeth Griffin

**8th Shot - 4th Adrianna Lambert**

8th Discus  
2 - Adrianna Lambert  
3 - Breleigh Mayer  
5 - Delaney Rosser

**7th High Jump**

1 - Macie Laidley

**8th High Jump**

2 - Alyssa Todd

**7th Pole Vault**

2 - Baylee Velarde  
6 - Malory Hockaday

**8th Pole Vault**

2 - Austyn Johnson  
3 - Kara Overstreet  
5 - Claire Campbell

**7th Long Jump**

1 - Kaelee Berkley  
3 - Ainsley Elmore

**8th Long Jump**

4 - Elizabeth Griffin

**7th Triple Jump**

3 - Rebecca Hernandez  
6 - Peyton Mullens

**8th Triple Jump**

2 - Ali LoBaugh  
4 - Heidi Peterson  
6 - Addison Russ



ANDREA GARNETT

Katie Siddons and Georgia Posey

TENNIS

**RacquetCats Siddons and Posey return for Kowbell Classic**

By Andrea Garnett  
Special to The Community News

Girls A doubles team Katie Siddons and Georgia Posey, who both had been sidelined from injuries, returned to compete on Friday, March 4, for the Kowbell Classic in Mansfield. The team ended up with an impressive third place finish, only losing to Abilene Wylie in the semifinals.

Mixed A doubles duo Ian Leslie and Bryanna Orr placed third as well, and boys B singles Will Beyer won the consolation bracket. Boys A doubles Jax Joiner/Hogan Posey came in fourth and the other boys A doubles team of Craig Mason/Ben Farmer placed seventh. There were 16 teams in all brackets.

Aledo travels to Cleburn Friday, March 11, for its next tournament.

BASEBALL

**Bearcats battle in first tournament**

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

The tournament portion of the 2022 baseball season is in full swing. After the first tournament was canceled due to adverse weather conditions, the Aledo Bearcats traveled the metroplex for six games between Thursday, March 3, and Saturday, March 5.

The DFW Clash tournament started off in Southlake when the team had the first of three double headers against Lubbock Cooper and Southlake Carroll. Hunter Rudel took the mound in the first game and pitched six innings allowing just three hits and no runs as the Bearcats downed Cooper by a score of 10-0.

The first Aledo run came in the second inning when Bosten Dwinell singled to center field to score Estevan Flores. Adrian Guzman drove in another in the fifth to make it a 2-0 game. The Bearcat offense exploded in the sixth inning, scoring eight runs to end the game by run-rule. Many of the runs came by being walked in, but a double by Guzman and a sacrifice fly by Ethan Jaques solidified the game.

The second game of the day came against the 6A power Southlake Carroll Dragons. Again, the pitching and defense stood like a stone wall and prevented Carroll from scoring a single run, while the Aledo bats made the plays when necessary, scoring two runs in each the second, third, and seventh innings. Ethan Jaques and Andrew Cambre led the charge with two RBIs each, leading to a 6-0 Bearcat victory.

Day two of the tournament was not as friendly to Aledo as the Bearcats dropped both games in Rockwall to Northwest Eaton and Rockwall High. Despite three runs in the first inning of the game against Eaton, the Eagles countered with three runs of their own, and seven more in the third inning to take the big lead. Five more runs in the fourth inning caused the game to end by run-rule with Aledo falling 15-4.

The second game was not any better as the Bearcats were shut out 7-0 to the host team of Rockwall High. Just four hits by four different batters hindered Aledo's ability to stay in the game, and five Rockwall runs in the first two innings proved to be detrimental.

After a rough day two, and a 2-2 start to the tournament, the Bearcats got back to business in the first game of the final day. Facing El Paso Eastlake, Aledo rode the momentum of a five-run second inning and a six-run fourth inning to defeat the Falcons 12-2 in just five innings.

A three-run triple in the fourth inning by Caden Pulido was the main highlight of the fifth tournament game, as it put the Bearcats just one run from a run-rule. Cambre scored the finishing run in the fifth inning on a wild pitch to seal the deal.

Later that same day, in the final game, Aledo found itself behind Denton Guyer early. Despite a four-run first inning, by way of home runs from Guzman and Rudel, Guyer scored six runs in the second to take the lead. The Wildcats followed that up with another run in the third inning.

The Bearcats started the fight back when a single by Trace Mazon drove in Dwinell and Bryce McCain to make it 7-6. They took the lead back for good when Dwinell doubled in Ethan Nawrocki in the fifth inning. Texas-commit Max Belyeu drove in another with a double in the sixth inning, followed by Flores driving in Mazon. Later the same inning, Nawrocki was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to score Belyeu.

Two Guyer runs in the seventh proved to not be enough as Aledo held on to win 11-9.

The Bearcats now hold a record of 4-4 and will battle in the Drew Medford Classic the weekend of March 10-12, before playing Joshua for a non-district game, Tuesday, March 15.

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SOFTBALL

# Ladycats dominate final tourney

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

It's that time of the year, the softball season is in full swing, the final tournaments have been played and the district schedule is about to start. As expected, the Aledo Ladycats are red-hot to start the year where they expect nothing short of a state title.

For one final time before district starts, Aledo was put to the test against some of the great teams in greater Dallas/Fort Worth. Traveling the metroplex over the weekend of March 3 through March 5, the Ladycats went 5-1 in their final tournament, including a no-hitter from Brenlee Gonzales and a perfect game by Jenna Austin, who became the fourth Aledo pitcher to not allow a base hit in a game in the young season.

The tournament started off with a convincing win over Richardson High. The Ladycats had control from the start as several miscues for Richardson gave Aledo four runs in the first inning. Another error in the second inning gave the Ladycats a 5-0 lead. Even more defensive miscues led to Aledo eventually winning 10-3.

The second game was all about the sophomore pitcher Gonzales, who did not allow a hit in a four-inning game that ended with an 11-0 Ladycat victory over Fort

Worth North Side. Aledo led from the get go, with a seven run first inning, highlighted by a three-run double by Oklahoma Christian-commit Marissa Powell. Three more runs came in the fourth inning when the Ladycats capitalized on pitching and defensive mistakes by the Lady Steers, ultimately with time expiring with the final tally of 11-0.

Day two started off with a bang as Jenna Austin stepped into the circle for the first time and did not allow a single base runner for Birdville. Again in just four innings, Aledo dominated its competition with an eight run third inning, and three more in the fourth.

It was in the second game of day two that the Ladycats had met their match for the week. Facing the hometown Coppell Cowgirls, Aledo managed to out-hit Coppell 5-2 but lost 1-0 in a low-scoring affair. Despite incredible pitching from Nathalie Touchet, the lone two base hits by the Cowgirls allowed the only run of the game to cross the plate.

The Ladycats bounced back on day three though, when they took on state-ranked 4A power Argyle. It was a close game throughout, and Aledo was tested, but never trailed. Powell opened up the scoring in the first inning with a sacrifice fly that

scored Reagan Davis. Kaylee Lucas added another run in the second when she singled home Maddy Flora. The Lady Eagles tied the game in the bottom of the second inning, but Powell continued her big weekend with a home run to right field in the third inning. Later that same inning, Ana Flores singled in Flora for what would end up being the deciding run.

Argyle scored one more in the fourth inning, but it was not enough and the Ladycats won 4-3.

The final game of the weekend came against Flower Mound Marcus in a game that would prove to be a pitcher's duel. Touchet ended up being the heroine of the game, pitching five innings only giving up two hits and striking out nine. The big inning for Aledo was the fourth inning when Powell hit a triple off the center field wall, scoring Texas Ray. Madysen Boutwell followed up two pitches later with a home run to left center. Marcus did score one run but Touchet was too sharp and the Ladycats ended the weekend with a 3-1 victory over the Lady Marauders.

Aledo now stands at 11-2 going into district play against Brewer at Ladycat Park at 2 pm Saturday, March 12.

SOCCER

# Bearcats, Ladycats prepare for playoffs

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

Daylight Saving Time is here, which means the soccer regular season is coming to a close. With both the Bearcats and Ladycats in the playoff picture, every last match matters for seeding. While the girls are sitting pretty at second place in the district, the boys have had to fight their way into the picture this year as they sit at fourth place, but still in the playoffs.

Both teams got the job done on Friday, March 4, when they defeated Azle. The Ladycats played first and had no problems whatsoever as McKenna Vela scored four times and Ashlyn Laughly got a hat trick as well to lead Aledo to a 10-0 win. Star goalkeeper Emma Davis was not tested much, making only four saves and earning the shutout.

"Games like this tonight don't help us necessarily," girls head coach Bryan Johnson said after the game. "They don't hurt us for sure, but the big thing is the positivity. The girls were excited, we moved them around to different positions, we gave other people opportunities so it keeps us motivated."

At halftime of the Ladycats game, the Bearcat seniors were honored for their senior night. Seniors Taylon Kessler, Jace Sims, Diego De La Cerda, Jason Petro and Jimmy Spriggs all took part in a ceremony involving their families to celebrate their



KEITH HILL / KHILL SHOT PHOTOGRAPHY

Left to right- Jimmy Spriggs, Jason Petro, Diego De La Cerda, Jace Sims, Taylon Kessler, and Coach Derek Vierling are shown on Senior Night at Bearcat Stadium on March 4.

final home game for Bearcat soccer.

When the boys kicked off shortly after the girls match, it was clear from the start that Aledo was determined to walk away with the victory. Just six minutes in, Kessler got a deflection off of the Hornet goalkeeper and scored the first goal of the match. Exactly three minutes later, Aledo's top scorer Clay Murador laid an almost perfect shot into the lower right corner just out of the keeper's reach to make it 2-0 Bearcats.

Azle was quick to respond, though, as two goals within the next ten minutes of play tied the game midway through the first half. After that the Bearcats put the pedal to the metal and scored two more on a penalty kick by Harvey Keene, and a header by Kessler as time expired in

the half to take a 4-2 lead into the break.

"It really means a lot because it was senior night," Kessler said on his memorable day. "This was for the playoffs and had we lost we would struggle but things are coming together now."

Cole Crawford added one more for good measure in the second half, and the Bearcats stood victorious on senior night by a score of 5-2.

On Tuesday, March 8, both Bearcats and Ladycats took on Wichita Falls Rider who had proven to be a thorn in the side of both teams. While they both fought valiantly to the end, both teams came up one goal short. The Ladycats fell 1-0 in Wichita Falls, while the boys dropped their match 2-1. Both teams will take on Wichita Falls High on Friday, March 11, in the final game of the regular season.

# Congratulations BDGA



Aledo volunteers at shooting station two were Wacey Horton (ag science instructor), James Kehrt, Kevin Souza, Phoenix Lanford, and Jeff Hutchins.

Aledo FFA students McKenna Sweatt, Maria Merrill, Miller Andrew, Mia Flowers, and Kate Bettencourt volunteered at shooting station five.



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