

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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POLITICS

O'Rourke visits county

Focuses on jobs, education, and Medicaid

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Beto O'Rourke visited Parker County on Friday, March 18, speaking to a crowd of about 200 people at Chandor Gardens in Weatherford. He opened his remarks with an acknowledgment that he is a Democrat visiting a very red county that will likely support Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

"It literally warms our heart to be with so many good people, and to feel so much love and support from those in a county that is far too often overlooked by Democrats and taken for granted by Republicans, leaving people functionally unrepresented in their governments," O'Rourke said. "Everyone's important, no one can be written off. And no one can be taken for granted."

Referencing a group of Republicans who staged a counter-event with Trump flags outside the venue, O'Rourke said "Those those are our fellow Americans. Those are fellow Texans. They live in this community, their kids go to the same schools that your kids go to, they worship in the same churches or temples, or choose not to worship at all, whatever that is. But we're together, right?"

He said the state and the country is badly divided, and



Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Beto O'Rourke makes a point during a visit to Parker County on Friday, March 18.

spoke of how he would govern if elected, knowing he would face a Republican majority legislature.

"We've got to find that common ground, we've got to look for consensus. And look, I know this is a four letter word for many people in politics today. But we also have to be open to compromise," he said. With that,

he laid out a three-point agenda that he said both Republicans and Democrats can support.

"Issue number one is jobs," he said. "We want to make sure that the best jobs in America are created right here in the state of Texas, and anyone working full time doesn't work a second or a third job, or is dependent upon

public assistance, isn't sleeping in a shelter or on the side of the road, as we know is the case with far too many of our fellow Texans, including those veterans who served this country."

He suggested a course of investing in higher education for any young person and those

Turn to VISIT, page 8

PARKER COUNTY

Williams reacts to Zelensky's speech

Supports weapons to Ukraine

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke to the United States Congress on Wednesday, March 16, receiving a standing ovation at the end of his address asking for more assistance from the U.S.



Williams

Zelensky was thankful for the U.S. support up to now, but continued to press his request for a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

Congressman Roger Williams (R), whose seat will include a portion of Parker County following redistricting, spoke to *The Community News* about his reaction to the speech.

"I thought he did a great job in showing leadership. He's stepped up to defend his country. We've also seen that the Ukrainians are heck of a fighters, and they're willing to fight for their country, fight for freedom, and fight for liberty. I was impressed," Williams said. "He talked about Pearl Harbor, he talked about 911. He talked about Mount Rushmore and tying it all into their history. He talked about being 45-years old, and wishing that little children of Ukraine would have the chance to live at least the length he has lived, which was pretty emotional. They showed a film and it was horrifying. And it brought me frankly to my knees."

Williams said there were a lot of international politics involved in attempting to get Ukraine the MIG fighter jets they want. Short of that, the U.S. has supplied Ukraine with some powerful weapons.

"What we are doing and what I support is the furnishing of these weapons. We've furnished a tremendous amount of weapons, from missiles to guns to rifles so they can fight this war, which we which we have done, and unfortunately, we should have been doing months ago," Williams said. "The problem is the Biden administration and President Biden knew this was happening. He was told it was happening back in November. And we did nothing."

Williams said he does not support any U.S. military "boots on the ground" in Ukraine.

"That would be a last resort," Williams said. "But I will say this to your readers. And I said it publicly. We're as close to World War III than we've ever been in our lives. This is not the Cuban Missile Crisis. I mean, Kennedy turned Khrushchev around before they could install those missiles. This is not Vietnam. This is not Grenada. This is not

Turn to WILLIAMS, page 3

Local youngsters opened a lemonade stand to raise money for the East Parker County Library. On Monday, they donated more than \$200 for use in the library's Summer Reading Program. Shown are (front row from left) Hannah Welsh, Dylan Eatinger, Cameron Eatinger, Connor Welsh, and Reagan Welsh and (back row) Librarian Tracy Lambert Jack, Jack Eatinger, and Jack Brummer.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



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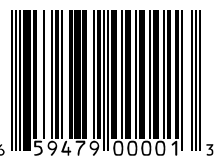
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In & Around Parker County

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"We work hard to take good care of our customers and we are committed to building our business with sound principles and ethics in mind," said Tim Green, one of the owners. "We strive to be a helpful and positive influence in the community, to be fair and honest in our business practices and to always make our decisions based on what is in the best interest of our customers, our employees and the community while maintaining a healthy company."

Many of us are cutting back, and being careful about what we spend in this economy. We want to save money on household necessities, but when it comes to services around our home, we don't want to sacrifice our peace of mind to save a few dollars. We want our service providers to be honest and dependable, worthy of our trust.

Billy Green is that kind of man, and he raised his son, Tim, to treat others with respect. He encouraged and developed Tim's heart of service. Watching his father, Tim had an example of great moral character and strong work ethic. Together they are a glowing example of honesty, reliability and self-sacrifice. When you have the opportunity to visit with them, you instantly feel at ease. Their positive attitudes are contagious, and you will leave with a smile.

Together, Billy and Tim started Atex Trash Service as a way for them to serve their community - their neighbors. Being able to make a living serving others is a dream come true for Tim. Atex Trash Service has been helping area residents save money on their residential trash pick-up since July 2010. Tim and Billy Green are the dynamic duo of father and son teams, proving that you can provide Superior Quality Service at the Lowest Price.

Atex provides weekly trash pick-up for a flat rate of \$35 a month for their standard service. "We realize however, not every family's needs are the same," said Tim, "We are able to customize plans for smaller and for larger families." They serve Parker, Tarrant, and Wise County areas

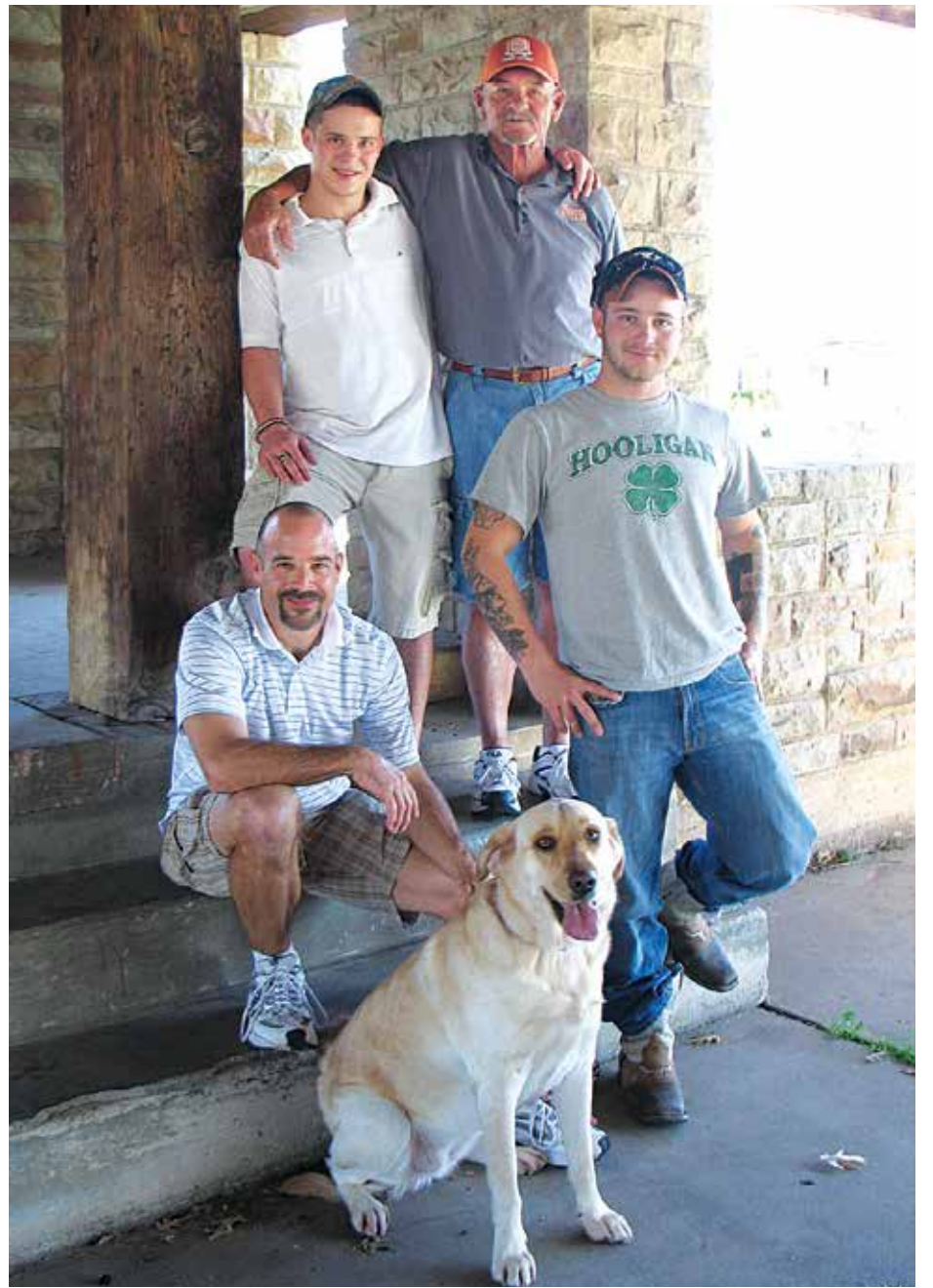
outside of Azle, Springtown, Weatherford, Poolville and Aledo, and the area continues to grow! Just call and see if they can help you. Since they are a local, family-owned company, you know who will answer the phone when you call. Tim and Billy are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and later if you need them. Just call 817-344-8464.

You can also contact Atex through their website 24 hours a day at www.atextrash.com. It's an easy-to-navigate website where you can contact Tim, sign up for new service, and even securely pay your bill online. You can also see what others have to say on their Testimonial Page or look them up on Facebook.

Operating this business means the whole family can work together! Tim's sons Laken and Gaige have grown up, and they're now the third generation with Atex helping to take care of the community.

"I'm happiest when I am doing for others," said Tim, "and to be able to build something positive with my family, well, I simply couldn't ask for anything more."

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Obituaries

Pierce Grey Martin, 14

Pierce Gray Martin, 14, passed away on March 12, 2022.

Pierce was born on December 20, 2007, to Jaysen and Devona Martin.

The natural world was God's personal love letter to Pierce who loved, appreciated, and cared for every creature, plant, and rock he encountered.

He lived in wonder of creation. He could always be found scavenging for treasures, tending to plants or creatures, or educating anyone who would listen. His tender heart cared for even the humblest beetle or cactus.

Pierce was an Aledo Bearcat, starting at Stuard Elementary School, followed by McAnally Intermediate School, and then Aledo Middle School. He found a passion in band, where he excelled playing the bassoon in AMS Honor Winds.

During his time in school, Pierce earned academic and musical achievements such as AMS Spelling Bee champion, Woodwind Outstanding Performer, National Junior Honor Society, All-Region Band Wind Symphony, and first place for UIL Science.

Though his family was extremely proud of his accomplishments, he cared more for his people, creatures, and inventions. Pierce loved to learn and was blessed to have tremendous teachers and friends in Aledo ISD and at the Aledo Church of Christ.

Pierce always created. He saw value in everything: discarded school supplies, old vacuum cleaner parts, wood scraps, and scavenged bolts were priceless treasures to Pierce. He envisioned uses for things that others were unable to see, but he unfailingly used them to make something beautiful and wonderful.

Pierce loved his family wholeheartedly. He gave the best bear hugs, the biggest laughs, the sweetest snuggles, and the deepest loyalty.

He absolutely adored his little sisters. He played dolls with Stella and

taught her how to build elaborate structures with Legos. Pierce traded silly jokes and shared his love of music and reading with Adelyn. He held Mom's hand in public and was Dad's right-hand man.

Some of his favorite times were movie nights with Uncle Jacob and family trips to the beach with "Big L" and Granny Pooh. Grammy and Granddaddy always allowed Pierce to dig through their garage where finding antique tools needing restoration brought joy to his heart.

Though Pierce read voraciously and lived heartily, all his "life in this world and all [his] adventure has only been the cover and title page: now at last [he is] beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one else has read: which goes on forever and in which every chapter is better than the one before."

Pierce is preceded in death by his great grandparents.

He is survived by his parents, Jaysen and Devona Martin; sisters, Adelyn and Stella Martin; grandparents, Bob and Jenny Martin, and Lindell and Pamela Mitchell; aunts and uncles, Jacob Mitchell, Josh and Claire Mitchell, Drew and Cebia Johnson; cousins, Kaden Mitchell, and Rhett and Tucker Johnson; along with a host of extended family and friends.

Pierce's family said "Pierce was a sweet and pure soul. We know that he leapt into Jesus' arms where he is taking in the splendor of heaven with even greater amazement, asking a lot of questions, and eagerly awaiting us. We now pray all the more earnestly: Come quickly, Lord Jesus."

A funeral service was held Saturday, March 19, at Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth. Interment is in Annetta Cemetery.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

The Community News
March 25, 2022



Pierce Martin



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

East Parker County Library director Tracy Lambert Jack clears books as a worker disassembles sections of shelving. The library received new shelves that will expand some capacity this week, after ordering them almost a year ago.

WILLIAMS

from page one

Desert Storm. This is a nuclear issue we're addressing with a nuclear power."

Williams said the Russian invasion has shown that Russia is not as powerful as was thought. United States intelligence officials estimate that Russia has already lost more soldiers in four weeks of fighting than the United States did in all of Iraq and Afghanistan over the past 20 years.

But Williams said the invasion could have been avoided.

"None of this would have happened if this president hadn't come in and destroyed the XL pipeline," Williams said. "And, it sent a wrong message in the way we pulled out of Afghanistan — it showed weakness. And that's why these foreign leaders are moving on American because they see weakness in Biden. They wouldn't have done it with President Trump."

Can the United States do more?

"We are the most powerful nation in the world," Williams said. "And we are supplying them with

"We're as close to World War III than we've ever been in our lives."

- Roger Williams

the most powerful equipment in the world. In fact, we're getting reports that a lot of the ground to air missiles that we're supplying really destroyed the Russian Air Force. And we also get reports these Russian soldiers were told they were on practice missions, they weren't told they were going to get into war; they're running out of food, they're running out of fuel. We also know that the Russian weapons are only operating about 60% capacity; the rest are failing."

Many civilians in Ukraine have joined the fight, and the U.S. is also supplying rifles and shotguns.

"For those people, it's easier to fire a shotgun than a rifle if you haven't done this before, so it's really amazing how they're fighting

back," Williams said. "But short of a nuclear war we just need to supply them with training, we need to supply them with the things we talked about from rifles to land and air missiles, and hope that this guy gets some sense about him and stops this invasion, to where the two parties can talk to build that country back."

Although very few if any political leaders support the idea of direct confrontation with Russia, the images emerging from Ukraine have horrified much of the world. Williams said there could come a point when a decision would be compelling.

"America is a compassionate nation. There's a point that, I have to ask myself, how long do we go with seeing innocent men, women, children killed?" Williams asked. And you also have to understand if we did a no fly zone, that's the hardest thing to protect, more than likely that would cause World War III. One of the things Zelensky said is that we have to not only protect our countries, but we have to protect the future of the world. And we're close to that. It just takes one mistake."

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Bearcats of Character

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees recognized the January and February Bearcats of Character during the February 28, 2022, regular board meeting. The district recognized 22 students for kindness (January) and perseverance (February), two character traits that were part of the focus of the district's character education program Positivity Project - or P2 - during these months.

own. She is always encouraging and helpful when someone is in need. FYI=she graduated 12/13/2021"



Thomas



Varela

Kindness

The students honored for kindness (January) are:



Ray



Jones

Aledo High School: Texas Ray, 11th grade

"Texas helped make all of the brand new AHS students feel welcome, making sure they had a lunch buddy, and know where the bathrooms and library were. It can be terrifying to be a new student in the middle of the year and she made their transition so much easier."

Aledo Learning Center: Brittney Yellow-Eyes Jones, 12th grade

"Brittney shows her kindness through her interactions with her teachers and peers. When she sees that a person is feeling sad, she works to make them smile. She starts this smile with a smile of her

Daniel Ninth Grade: Aiden Thomas, 9th grade

"Aiden shows kindness to his teachers and peers in subtle ways that make a huge impact on our campus. Most days you can find Aiden holding the main doors open for students on their way to 4th period. He does not mind being late for lunch to make this small gesture of kindness to others. There are days Aiden does not get to the door quick enough to hold it open for others. On such days, it is because he has stayed behind in the band hall to stack chairs and put away music stands. These gestures of kindness stand out to others and set Aiden apart as one who intentionally seeks ways to make a positive impact on others."

Aledo Middle School: Itzel Varela, 7th grade

"Itzel's gentle disposition makes people feel instantly at ease. She always shows empathy for others and cares deeply for her peers."



Smith



Harbuck

McAnally Intermediate School: Keaton Smith, 6th grade

"McAnally has chosen Keaton Smith as our Bearcat character for exemplifying KINDNESS on a daily basis! Keaton has a smile on his face every day and is always willing to help other students, teachers, and staff. Keaton has a servant's heart and it shows in his daily acts of kindness with our students that have special needs. He helps each morning by greeting students as they get off of their busses and helping them to their classroom. He is always friendly and engages in social conversation by showing interest in any stories that are shared with him. During lunch, Keaton sits at a table to assist a student who is blind. Each day, he helps guide the student to the lunchroom, finds their seat and then assists her through the lunch line to get her food. He makes sure she has appropriate eating utensils and can open any drink items with which she needs assistance. Keaton also helps our students with special needs at the end of the school day to ensure they get to the appropriate transportation location and bus number. Keaton has tirelessly and selflessly given of himself to assist others!"

Annetta Elementary School: Harper Harbuck, 5th grade

"Harper is friendly, generous and considerate every day. When others need help, Harper eagerly jumps in to help those in need. She never hesitates to provide a hug and a word of encouragement to others when they need it most. We are all fortunate to have her at Annetta."



Hekele



Dorn

Coder Elementary School: Jacob Hekele, 5th grade

"Jacob is such a great student. He is kind and caring to all and is a great helper. He is concerned about others and strives to make them feel welcome. He works well with others in class and always gives 100 percent. Jacob's amazing character stands out and is noticed by teachers and staff throughout the school."

McCall Elementary School: Draven Dorn, 2nd grade

"Draven shows kindness every day by making sure all students are included. If a classmate does not have a partner for an activity, he is the first one to ask that student to join him. Draven encourages classmates to be on their best behavior. His kindness spreads throughout the room and the building."

Adults comment frequently about how he initiates conversations and says "Good Morning!" every day." Mrs. Porras, the McCall Music teacher also said "He always takes the initiative to personally say hello to me in the hallway without fail." **Another awesome bit of information about Draven is that he has a brother and sister who also attend McCall. We asked each homeroom class to recognize students for the monthly character trait and ALL THREE DORN students were recognized in their classrooms for their kindness! What a proud parent moment as hearing other people tell you all your children go above and beyond to show kindness is awesome!"



Ramos



Petrazio

Stuard Elementary School: Honor Ramos, 5th grade

"Honor was new to Stuard this year. He came in from day one with a positive attitude, smile on his face, and a heart for learning. His kindness shows each day as he is always willing to help others, makes sure everyone is included, and always cheering others on."

Vandagriff Elementary School: Ashley Petrazio, 5th grade

"Ashley always comes to class with a smile and a greeting. Her kindness is a gift to all who are around her. Ashley is very aware and considerate of other's feelings. She has a servant's heart and seeks to make a positive difference in this crazy world we live in. Her smile is infectious and she has an amazing wit and sense of humor. Ashley is a treasured member of Vandagriff Elementary."



Cancino



Tobeh

Walsh Elementary School: Julian Cancino, 1st grade

"Julian is a terrific helper to the teachers and his classmates. He is frequently helping others when we transition learning stations make sure their activity is cleaned up. Julian without hesitation offers for others to borrow or use his supplies if someone's is misplaced. He comes in each morning and gets straight to work and I can always count on him to be on task when we are working. Julian is a great friend at recess who lets all students participate and he works well in any group that he is placed."

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Perseverance

The students honored for perseverance (February) are:

Aledo High School: Liana Abu Tobeh, 11th grade

“Liana has struggled a large part of her life with being blind in one eye. Her disability has made her the strong independent student she is today. In her early years even basic activities were hard, but now she is thriving both academically and socially. Overcoming the obstacles set before her has been a difficult journey, but has strengthened her immensely. Liana is thriving at Aledo High School, and she brightens our school with her confident attitude.”



Odom Roberson

Aledo Learning Center: Karis Odom, 10th grade

“Karis does a great job of coming to school and working on her classes. She works to understand the material and works to solve problems before asking for help.”

Daniel Ninth Grade: Haley Roberson, 9th grade

“Haley Roberson shows perseverance in all areas of her life. While excelling academically, becoming involved in campus activities and committees, engaging socially with her peers, and transitioning within the last year to Aledo from Colorado, Haley has also been a key player for the Aledo Swim Team. Haley is committed to her sport and practices both before school and after school most days of the week. She has already broken several swim records for Aledo in her first year as a member of the team. Not only that, she just recently became a State qualifier for swim for the 200M and two additional relays! Haley’s perseverance, hard-work, dedication, and commitment shines in all she does.”



Collier Vidal

Aledo Middle School: Amos Collier, 7th grade

“Teachers recognize that Amos consistently shows perseverance by always pushing through whatever challenge is before him. Whether it’s learning new material in band, or analyzing poetic structure in ELAR, Amos takes on challenges and never gives up. He is always working and striving to do better.”

McAnally Intermediate School: Emma Vidal, 6th grade

“Emma has been challenged with many different educational settings over the last few years. She was diagnosed with Leukemia in 3rd grade which caused her to lose her vision. She only knew her traditional elementary classroom and was then moved to home-bound instruction during her cancer treatment. As she finished her treatment, our district was forced to have virtual learning due to the Covid pandemic. She completed her 5th grade year with remote learning to help protect her immune system. Emma has transitioned back into the regular school setting at the beginning of her 6th grade year.

Emma has faced several challenges this year. She came to McAnally Intermediate, after being at Vandagriff Elementary since kindergarten. It was intimidating for her as there were many students that she did not know and they were not aware of her story. She has had to learn how to switch classes independently without her vision 7 times throughout the school day. Emma has had to help her teachers learn as she learns the best strategies for her in the classroom. Her language arts teacher stated “we are in a unit that involves charts and visual materials and Emma never quits on me. We are always working on ways to make the lesson more hands on for her or meet her needs better. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn’t, but she continues to show up and work with me to find that best options for her. It has not been easy for her and she continues to work every day to learn and grow as a student, friend and leader.”



Woolsey McLain

Annetta Elementary School: Jaxson Woolsey, 4th grade

“Jaxson is new to Aledo this year and has overcome so many obstacles - new city, new friends, new sports team, new teachers, so much new! He pushes through all of the challenges thrown at him and turns them into wins! Jaxson also sets the example of perseverance with his peers. When classmates are stuck or about to throw in the towel, he takes the initiative to give them a pat on the back and offer words of encouragement or help in any way he can.”

Coder Elementary School: Maddie McLain, 5th grade

“Maddie works hard in everything she does. She doesn’t let a struggle get her down- instead she tries her best, asks questions and continues to make progress. She shows perseverance daily

and is a great role model for her classmates.”



Caspersen Roark

McCall Elementary School: Kendall Caspersen, 1st grade

“Despite going through a lot in her 7 years on this Earth, Kendall is also so joyous and full of life. She continues to make each day count and never gives up even when obstacles are thrown her way. We are very proud of her dedication to make every day a happy day!!”

Stuard Elementary School: Grant Roark, 4th grade

“This student is always showing perseverance when things get difficult, he continues to push through and always ends up doing excellent! For example, during testing, Grant said it was too hard and too much work, but he kept showing perseverance and completed the test. He ended up meeting his winter goal he set for himself, and actually exceeded by a few points. Grant has shown perseverance in the gym. There were activities that in years past may have made him frustrated or want to give up, but this year he tries every activity, and pushes through moments of frustration. He has grown so much in the last few years.”



Skinner Barrera

Vandagriff Elementary School: Easton Skinner, 5th grade

“Easton is consistently an all around solid young man. He is always respectful, not only of teachers, but of his classmates as well. He maintains constant effort regardless of the task at hand. He makes conscious choices to do what is right. Easton’s perseverance makes him a true leader.”

Walsh Elementary School: Jenive Barrera, 5th grade

Jeniver perseveres and shows grit daily in her school work. She preserves through many academic and learning challenges. She not only embodies perseverance on the academic side, but also on the social emotional. She has shown extreme perseverance when handling and working through difficult situations. I have never met a child that attacks and embodies perseverance like she does. Jenive inspires me (as her teacher) to stay determined, never give up and persevere through all the obstacles that life may throw at me.”



STEVE WATSON/ESD 1

Firefighters from Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1 were able to save Kokomo Baptist Church in Eastland.

PARKER COUNTY

Local entities respond to fires

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Large fires raged to the west and southwest of east Parker County last week.

The Eastland fire burned more than 50,000 acres along with several structures.

Aid from the local area came in the form of personnel from Emergency Services District No. 1 and supplies and money collected by the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce.

ESD 1 Fire Chief Steve Watson said the Eastland fire was the worst he had ever seen. ESD 1 firefighters were able to save a church fire there Thursday night through Friday morning.

As quoted in the March 18 issue of *The Community News*, Watson referred to the La Niña weather pattern as a culprit for the conditions that have allowed the fires to spread so rapidly, but not the culprit for the cause.

Because of where the Eastland fire started, Watson speculated that a cigarette thrown from a car window may have started the blaze that virtually destroyed the small town of Carbon and killed one deputy who was going house-to-house to evacuate residents in the path of the fire. More than 90 homes were lost.

Then on Sunday, the “Big L” fire started in the Bluff Dale and Tolar area. The smoke plume could be seen

from as far as Fort Worth. That fire consumed nearly 11,000 acres and forced the evacuation of the town of Lipan.

Rain that began Monday helped bring some much-needed moisture to the area, but Watson was cautious. “I don’t think we’re out of the woods yet,” he said, disagreeing with the Parker County Commissioners Court’s decision this week to lift the burn ban that was in place.

In response to the fire, the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce Foundation donated \$3,000 for livestock feed and at press time was planning an additional \$5,000 for fuel for fire trucks.

**EXHIBIT A
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS,
CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION**

TAKE NOTICE the City Council of the City of Aledo, Texas, shall convene at 6:00 o'clock P.M. on the 11th day of May, 2022, at the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation in a principal amount not to exceed \$20,000,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) the construction of public works, to wit: constructing, acquiring, purchasing, renovating, improving and equipping a new City Hall which includes a new police station, the demolition of an existing municipal building in connection therewith, and the acquisition of land and rights-of-way therefor, and (ii) professional services rendered in connection therewith, and such certificates shall be payable from ad valorem taxes and a limited pledge of the net revenues of the City’s combined Waterworks and Sewer System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City’s outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$1,948,358.34; (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City’s outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$2,226,409.09; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$43,105,651; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is August 15, 2057. The above information excludes \$12,791,641.66 in principal amount of outstanding debt obligations the City has designated as self-supporting which the City reasonably expects to pay from revenue sources other than ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that in the event such self-supporting revenue sources are insufficient to pay debt service, the City is obligated to levy ad valorem taxes to pay such debt obligations. The certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter C of Chapter 271.

Deana McMullen
City Secretary
City of Aledo, Texas



Railroad crossing at FM 5 to be closed Sunday

North and south-bound FM 5 will be closed at the Union Pacific Railroad crossing north of Annetta Centerpoint Road from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 27 for railroad maintenance work. Motorists will be directed through a marked detour.

Capital Highlights

Sheriff's deputy dies in wildfires



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

An Eastland County sheriff's deputy died Thursday as wildfires swept through several small Texas communities west of Dallas, destroying at least 50 homes and charring more than 54,000 acres as of Sunday.

Deputy Sgt. Barbara Fenley died while going door to door warning people to flee, according to the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Sgt. Fenley ran off a smoke-covered road and was engulfed in the fire, the sheriff said.

Several wildfires merged to form what is now known as the Eastland Complex fire. The blaze started last Thursday afternoon and in less than three hours destroyed 86 houses in Carbon, a town of just 272 residents in Eastland County, about 120 miles west of Dallas.

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 11 counties in response to the wildfires.

"I commend the hard work and selfless acts of thousands of first responders and firefighters who are risking their own lives to protect our communities," Abbott said. "I also ask Texans to join me in praying for those who have been affected by these wildfires, including Eastland County Deputy Barbara Fenley, who was tragically killed while trying to save lives."

Two dozen teachers added to task force

The Texas Education Agency has added two dozen teachers to its recently formed Teacher Vacancy Task Force. TEA faced criticism when the original 28-member panel only contained two teachers, with high-level administrators making up the rest.

The task force was formed at the behest of Abbott in response to a growing shortage of teachers across the state. Its goal is to "better understand the significant staffing challenges facing Texas public schools and to make comprehensive recommendations to address these issues," according to TEA.

Josue Torres of Forney, an elementary school math teacher from Dallas ISD, will serve as chair of the task force.

"The reason I got into education is because I believe that a student's zip code shouldn't determine his or her fate," Torres said. "This task force has the ability to recommend the needed changes and innovative solutions necessary to ensure all Texas students have access to the high-quality educators they deserve."

2021 second-deadliest year on Texas roads

Traffic fatalities in the state were up 15% last year, making 2021 the second-deadliest year on Texas roads

with 4,480 people killed — the highest total since 1981, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Laura Ryan pointed out that roadway safety is a shared responsibility between the public, engineers, and law enforcement.

In 2021, 1,522 people died because of speed-related causes, and 1,219 were killed because they were not wearing seat belts, Ryan said.

"Driver behavior is one of the causes but also one of the most important solutions," she said.

With increased focus on engineering, enforcement and on the critical role drivers play in road safety, Ryan and TxDOT leaders believe the state can end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX is a broad social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

The last deathless day on Texas roadways was more than 21 years ago — Nov. 7, 2000.

Nominations sought for Heroes for Children award

Thousands of Texans volunteer at the state's public schools, and the State Board of Education would like to recognize some of them with a Heroes for Children Award. Any Texas resident who contributes time, service or support to public schools and student can be nominated. School employees or elected officials are not eligible.

One recipient will be chosen for each of the 15 SBOE districts in the state. Award recipients will be recognized at the board's September meeting. The deadline for nominations is July 15. Additional information and access to the nomination form can be found at https://tea.texas.gov/Heroes_for_Children.aspx.

COVID-19 cases still dropping

The number of new COVID-19 cases dropped once again to 18,744 in the past week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 418 deaths recorded. Two months ago, largely as a result of the omicron variant, 440,341 cases were reported along with 2,311 deaths.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations also dropped to 1,605, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, down 20% from the previous week.

DSHS reports 17.373 million Texans are fully vaccinated, which is 59.6% of the total population. In addition, 6.429 million of the state's residents have received a booster dose.

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.



Thistles & Roses

There is room to tone down college rivalries



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

College sports rivalries have gotten out of hand. There needs to be more emphasis on "friendly" rivals than "enemies." Sports reporters thrive on them looking to find a story. These things have a way of getting very complicated, especially in families. Families have enough relationship problems without having another one created for us! Family tensions seem to increase around Thanksgiving when there are a lot of rivalry games on TV.

Many fans need to mature, which is another term for "grow up!"

I confess, now that I am 70, that I was once one of the many immature ones that needed to grow up. I am not there yet but I am trying.

And one thing I learned about this life is that you never know what will happen, who you will marry, and what your kids will do.

There are six siblings in my immediate family. We couldn't stand UT Austin or its fan base. Two brothers went to Texas A&M, one on a football scholarship. Another brother went to Purdue on a football scholarship. Another brother went to UT Arlington. All brothers earned bachelor's degrees. My sister is currently working on

her bachelor's degree at Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

I went to Baylor Law school. Then I met my wonderful wife, Victoria, and found out she went to Texas and most of her family did. She went to Houston Law School.

But I had to figure out how this inter-family rivalry would work out, especially at Thanksgiving when Texas and Texas A&M usually played a rivalry game. In those days, TCU did not win much, nor did Baylor.

I found it better to concentrate on the turkey and dressing than the college football games. The Cowboys started a tradition of playing on Thanksgiving.

Years passed and then my sons really made things complicated as one went to North Texas for his bachelor's, University of Texas for his master's and he is now at Miami working on his doctorate. The other son is a senior working on his bachelor's at Texas.

One is married to a woman who went to Costa Rica University and then got her MBA from the University of Madrid. Her father has a master's in tax law from Harvard University. The folks from foreign countries don't have such university sports rivalries.

So, the real point here is getting an education. The score of last year's TCU-Texas game is of great interest to many, but not nearly as important as getting that degree.

When I attended the orientation for parents of incoming parents at Texas, a young man helping put on the program

really put it into perspective for me.

He explained the possible conflicts that could arise inside families over a college choice. He told us he was from College Station, home of Texas A&M. He was an Aggie legacy. Generations of his family had gone to A&M. He was taken to Kyle Field and other venues for Aggie games wearing Aggie t-shirts and hats. It was assumed that he would honor the family tradition and go to A&M.

During his senior year in high school he broke the news to his parents that he was going to UT Austin and wouldn't be an Aggie. He said it caused quite a storm at first but his parents accepted the decision and supported him.

He suggested that if any of us parents in the audience had similar conflicted feelings that we should stop by the university store and buy a Texas Dad hat before the sun set!

I bought one that very day that I proudly wear to this day. I also have a University of Miami dad's hat and some North Texas gear to go along with my TCU hat and Baylor gear.

We donate to the various colleges' academic funds. I leave it to others to give to athletics, there are plenty of those.

In the meantime I say Go Horned Frogs! Sic 'em Bears! Hook 'em Horns, Go Mean Green! Go Hurricanes! (Hope I didn't leave any one out!)

The Community News

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

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

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

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.

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.

Events

MARCH 25, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS

WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

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

MARCH 25

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. 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.ticketstotheicity.com/venue.php?org_id=88 For more information, call 817-341-8687 or visit www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

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.tcaeagles.org/athletics/booster_club.cfm.

Willow Park Cleanup Day
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.

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. 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>

MARCH 30

Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll and Hyde Play
The Weatherford College theatre department will present "Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll and Hyde Play" March 30 through April 2 in the Alkek Fine Arts Center. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. each day with doors opening at 7 p.m. Admission is free. The performance is a comic retelling of the classic story by Robert Louis Stevenson. The play explores the duality of human nature as well as the glaring ineffectuality of the Victorian English in their determination to maintain the status quo. As Dr. Jekyll's family tries to marry him off to an eligible young lady, he wreaks havoc both on London and his household.

APRIL 2

Annetta Clean-Up and Beautification Day
The Town of Annetta will host a Community Clean-Up and Beautification Day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 2. Volunteers will meet at Town Hall at 9 a.m. and will pick up trash on city streets. Household debris, old appliances, tires, and hazardous materials will not be collected. Anyone interested in participating should call 817-441-5770 or send an email to info@annetatx.gov. The city will provide safety vests and all bagged trash can be brought to Town Hall. After the clean-up, Annetta will provide lunch at Town Hall for the volunteers.

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, visit www.aledopc2024.com.

APRIL 4

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.

APRIL 8

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.

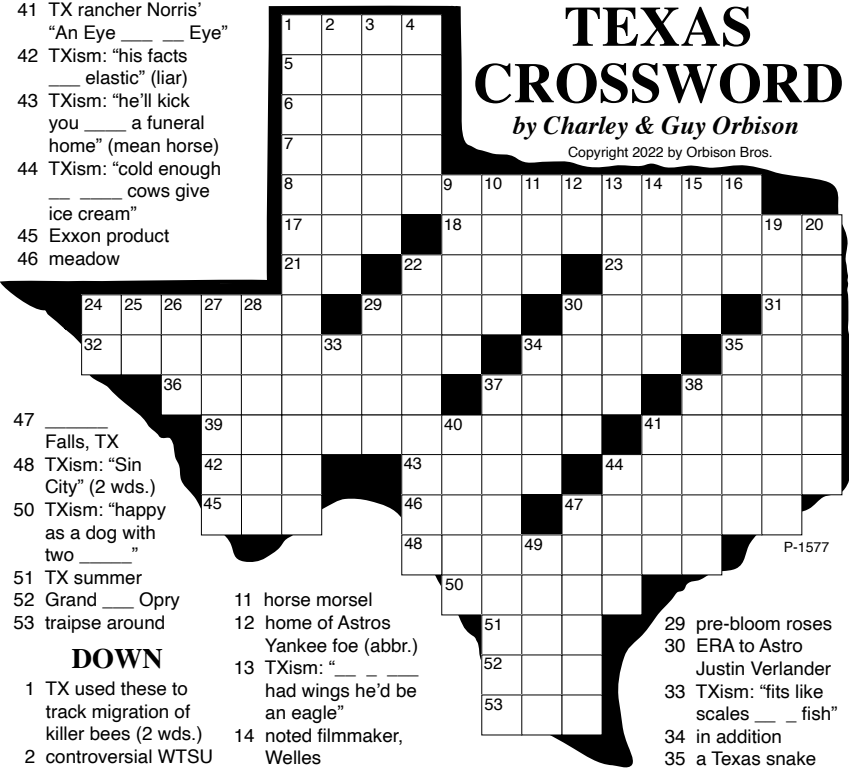
Duo Azul recital
Duo Azul, made up of Korean pianist Dr. Hyeyoung Song and American pianist Dr. Amy E. Gustafson, will perform a recital at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 8, in the Alkek Fine Arts Center at Weatherford College.

Duo Azul was founded in 2009 out of a deep friendship and a mutual love for the four-hands and two piano repertoires. The two met in Austin while they were both completing their doctoral degrees at the University of Texas. Admission is free.

ACROSS

1 this McEntire was Ma Tex in "North"
5 boot aroma
6 432 is Andrews
7 UNT or TWU bldg.
8 "Mission _____ Valero" (Alamo)
17 TXism: "she could sell _____ cubes to Eskimos"
18 TX Larry Hagman 1972 film: "Getting _____ All"
21 in AL, he bats for the pitcher (abbr.)
22 TXism: "have to prime my mouth to _____" (thirsty)
23 TXism: "_____ chance as a steer in a packing plant"
24 TX rancher Chuck Norris 1979 film: "_____ Of One"
29 "good" south of the border
30 Mule _____, TX
31 Marlin High class
32 TXism for "vicinity"
34 TXism: "hit me like _____ of bricks"
35 cable news net.
36 "mad" TX Harrell _____ "Eddie"
37 TXism: "run up a white _____"
38 "how" south of the border
39 steak house thick bread (2 wds.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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41 TX rancher Norris' "An Eye _____ Eye"
42 TXism: "his facts _____ elastic" (liar)
43 TXism: "he'll kick you _____ a funeral home" (mean horse)
44 TXism: "cold enough _____ cows give ice cream"
45 Exxon product
46 meadow
47 Falls, TX
48 TXism: "Sin City" (2 wds.)
50 TXism: "happy as a dog with two _____"
51 TX summer
52 Grand _____ Opry
53 trapeise around

DOWN

1 TX used these to track migration of killer bees (2 wds.)
2 controversial WTSU president in 1990 (2 wds.)
3 town near Cascade Caverns
4 Austin potted-meat event: "Spam _____"
9 neck backs
10 Dallas Stars came to TX from Minnesota's _____ Cities
11 horse morsel
12 home of Astros Yankee foe (abbr.)
13 TXism: "_____ had wings he'd be an eagle"
14 noted filmmaker, Welles
15 Astros' first arena had this roof type
16 flightless Australian bird
19 TX Kenny Rogers' "Till _____"
20 TXism: "more _____ way to skin a cat"
22 TXism: "I can't _____ for that"
24 TX Willis: "_____ ha, take it away Leon!"
25 Santa _____, TX
26 _____ City, TX
27 special sale marker (2 wds.)
28 tool used by 14-down
29 pre-bloom roses
30 ERA to Astro Justin Verlander
33 TXism: "fits like scales _____ fish"
34 in addition
35 a Texas snake
37 TXism for "overweight" (4 wds.)
38 hair grooming tools
40 "_____ a time"
41 TXism: "no hill _____ stepper"
44 baseball touches
47 nachos cheese
49 instrument in the Dallas Symphony

APRIL 12
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.

Cancer Support Group
A support group to create a space for those who have battled or are battling cancer meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aledo. For more information, email Joan Ward at cjkat1959@gmail.com.

APRIL 24
Rewind: Totally 80s
The Aledo Class of 2023 Project Celebration Committee has announced this year's fundraising event: "Rewind: Totally 80s!" The adults-only event will take place from 6-10 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, at Studio Eighty, 500 Taylor Street in Fort Worth. For event and raffle tickets, visit: <https://www.aledo2023.org>

Project Celebration is a nationwide program that provides a drug-free and alcohol-free event after prom. For more information about sponsorships or the event, email Penny Shelton at pennyshelton@att.net.

APRIL 25
Business Women of Weatherford Luncheon
Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker will be the guest speaker at the kickoff luncheon for the Business Women of Weatherford from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, April 25 at the Emerging Technologies Building at Weatherford College. The cost is \$20 per person or \$200 for a reserved table of eight. RSVP is required and space is limited. To register, visit <https://www.chamberdata.net/webforms/EvtRegistration3.aspx?dbid=tx-wea&evtid=5201198>

MAY 1
Sunset On The Square
Downtown Weatherford, Inc. will host the second annual Sunset on the Square outdoor dining event beginning at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 1, in

downtown Weatherford. Social hour begins at 5 p.m. with appetizers served from local favorite restaurants. Guests will then enjoy an al fresco dining experience with food served by Fire Oak Grill, Zeno's on the Square, and Downtown Cantina. Individual tickets are \$150 and include a four-course dinner (hors d'oeuvres, steak dinner with salad entree and a side, refreshments, and dessert). A full table for eight guests is \$150. To purchase tickets, visit <https://sunsetonthesquare.com/pages/buy-tickets/>. For sponsorships and information, email Info@sunsetonthesquare.com or call 817-381-8796.

JUNE 3
Aledo Summer Blast
The annual Aledo Summer Blast will run from 6-10 p.m. Friday, June 3, in the Aledo High School south parking lots. The event features numerous free activities for families and children in addition to food trucks, live music by Sonny Burgess and Jolie Holliday Burgess, and a fireworks show after dark.

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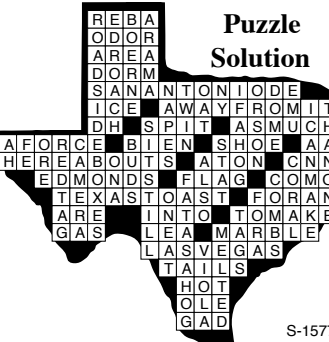
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VISIT

from page one

who lost their jobs or are returning to the workforce “so they can go to Weatherford college, get that associate’s degree, that skilled training, so they’re competitive for those living wage, high-paying, high-value, high-skilled jobs. I’d love to see that right here in Parker County.”

His second issue was education.

“We today do not have the best system of public education in America. In fact, when you compare us to California, or Florida, or North Carolina, New York, Illinois, any one of our peer states, over the last seven years that Greg Abbott has been governor, they have been doing better while we have been doing worse,” he said.

O'Rourke said teachers in Parker County are paid about \$7,500 less than the national average for teachers, which he said is an impetus for the loss of teachers, counselors, and librarians.

“It is no wonder that we’re losing one-third of Texas school teachers within the first five years that they join the profession,” he said. “What if instead of doing all that, we paid these teachers enough so they never work a second job.”

He also recommended canceling the STAAR test this year, saying there was already enough stress on teachers, and advocated less intrusion on teachers from the state government.

“That’s how Texas goes from nearly dead last in performance in so many of these categories. Like having seven out of 10 fourth graders unable to read at grade level to becoming the best in the nation in public education. We can get behind that. This is one I’ve heard from Republicans and Democrats alike. They can all get behind it.”

His third issue was expanding Medicaid in the state.

“The largest provider of mental health care services right now is the county jail system, where you got people with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and clinical depression getting arrested on purpose

far too often, to be taken to the one place that they don’t have insurance, where they’re guaranteed the care that they would otherwise be denied,” O'Rourke said. “That is so immoral. It is so expensive against the alternative of just taking yes for an answer that 90 cents on the dollar that the federal government will pay, if we will take Medicaid expansion.

“The kicker on this is when we take that \$10 billion a year additional and bring it into our communities from the federal government, you are no longer paying for uncompensated care at your public hospitals through your property tax bill, we will lower property taxes in Texas as a result.”

A call to action

O'Rourke encouraged people in the crowd to volunteer for his campaign. He coached them how to respond to questions about him. He said Abbott was using scare tactics in ads, saying O'Rourke would turn Texas into Venezuela.

“I don’t know how you do that, by the way, but I’m not interested,” he said. “You say ‘look, he talked about great jobs, world class schools, and the ability to see a doctor and just be healthy enough and well enough to live to your full potential. That’s it.’

“We don’t need any more division, any more culture wars any more, being at each other’s throats, or pitted against one another right now.”

O'Rourke touched on the alleged sex trafficking and other abuses going on in foster care centers around the state.

“Imagine if, instead of attacking those transgender kids and their families who are navigating some really tough issues in their lives, we instead focused on Child Protective Services and the 30,000 foster kids in this state who are being abused and trafficked in state care. 23 of them lost their lives in state care over the last two years ... For the last six years, they’ve been warning the governor that kids come out more damaged from that system than when they first went in. And after six years, the judge has been



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

O'Rourke posed for photos with supporters following his remarks.

working on this issue says it has gone from bad to worse.”

He also touched on the topic of abortion.

“Imagine if, instead of attacking women, and preventing them from making their own decisions about their own bodies, and putting a \$10,000 bounty on the back of anybody who assists any woman, we guaranteed in Texas that every woman makes her own decisions about her own future,” he said.

Finally, he addressed the issue of the power grid failure last year.

“Imagine, instead of allowing the power grids to fail when the temperature drops, and literally not being able to keep the lights on in the energy capital of the world, and taking millions of dollars of campaign contributions from the energy CEOs who made billions of dollars in illegal profits last February, what if we instead of that fixed the grid, and instead of asking you to pay higher utility bills, which everyone is right now in Texas, we call that the Abbott tax? Because you’re footing the bill for what those billionaires stole from us. What if we fixed the

grid? What if we connected ERCOT to the national grid so we can draw down your utility bills in the bargain? We can do that.”

Following his remarks he took questions from the audience about education, empathy, loss of teachers and the border.

On that particular issue, he spoke of the success of his home city of El Paso.

“El Paso, Texas has been ranked as one of if not the safest city in the United States of America for most of the last 15 years,” he said. “And that is not in spite of the fact that we are a city of immigrants, I would argue it’s because of the fact that we are a city of immigrants — those who have chosen us have made us stronger and safer and more successful than we would have been otherwise.

“But I also want to acknowledge we have legitimate concerns at the border, when people are trafficking other human beings, when they are trafficking illegal drugs that could come in here, when we have people crossing, and we’re unaware that they’re doing this in between ports



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Parker County Republican Chair Scott Utley stages a counter event outside Chandor gardens. “All we’re doing is coming out here to welcome Beto to Parker County, reminding him that it’s a fast-growing conservative County. So, but it’s going to be a respectful kind of a counter event,” he said.

of entry. That concerns me. And I think that concerns all of us.”

He advocated re-writing the immigration laws.

“And what is most important to us not again, as Democrats or Republicans, but as Texans, we know that there are people who want to come to this state, who will work jobs that probably your kids are not going to work, we want to make sure there’s a legal path for them to do that, and a legal path for them to return to their home country, if that’s what they want to do.”

O'Rourke additionally advocated guaranteeing a legal process to asylum seekers.

“Right now, we’re forcing them to live in squalor on the streets of Mexican border communities, instead of following our own laws.”

He criticized Gov. Abbott’s decision to send 10,000 National Guard troops to the border, “forcing them to leave their families, their jobs, their careers, their communities, with 10 days notice for a one-year of deployment to become part of a solution in search of a problem for those Guard members.

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Sports

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BASKETBALL

All-District teams announced

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats basketball team could have fielded a, well, basketball team, landing five players in All-District selections.

For the Ladycats, Claire Byars, Reagan Davis, and Presley Hull were named First Team All-District, and Kandle Boggus and Addyson Hebel were named Second Team All-District.

Named to Academic All-District were Sophie Smith, Kandle Boggus, Haley Lowe, Kenzie Grau, Natalie Anderson, Claire Byars, Kinley Elms, Reagan Davis, Abby Morrison, and Presley Hull.

Abby Morrison was named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Second Team Academic All-District, and Sophie Smith received Honorable Mention.

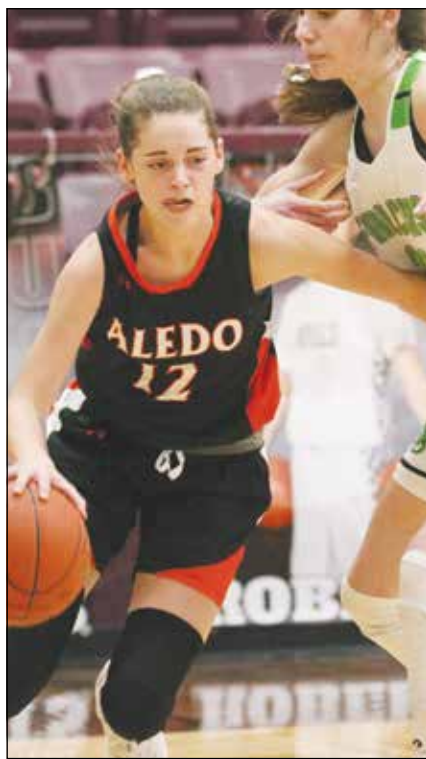
For the Bearcats, Xavier Anderson was one of three places who shared the title of Defensive Player of the Year.

Daniel Sohn and Drew Clock were named First Team All-District, while Brandon Fields and Peyton Wiggins were named to the Second Team.



MICAH MCCARTNEY/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Claire Byars



MICAH MCCARTNEY/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Reagan Davis



MICAH MCCARTNEY/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Presley Hull



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Xavier Anderson



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Daniel Sohn



KRISTIN MORALES

Drew Clock

SOCCER

Bearcats, Ladycats set for postseason

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

First-round playoff Class 5A matches are set for the Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats soccer teams late this week.

Girls

The Ladycats (11-7-2 overall) finished third in District 5-5A with a 7-3 league mark. They will host District 6-5A runner-up Colleyville Heritage (15-3-2, 10-1-2 in district) Thursday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Bearcat Stadium.

"It will be a tremendous first-round playoff game," Aledo coach Bryan Johnson said.

The teams are almost even offensively, with the Lady Panthers having scored 76 goals and the Ladycats 73. Heritage has a slight advantage on defense, having surrendered 26 goals to 35 for Aledo. Heritage has held opponents to one goal or less 18 times this season, including five shutouts, while the Ladycats have held their foes to one goal or less 11 times with seven shutouts.

Aledo is 7-3-1 at home this season and Heritage is 7-1-1 on the road.

Tickets to the game are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Boys

The Bearcats (6-12-1 overall) placed fourth in District 5-5A at 4-6. That gave coach Derek Vierling's squad a bidistrict matchup against 6-5A champion Grapevine (23-0-1, 13-0-1) on Friday, March 25 at 7 p.m. in Castleberry.

The Mustangs have won nine straight games entering the match. They have outscored their opponents 81-21 this season,

Turn to **SOCCER**, page 11

	<h2>Matt Morris</h2> <p>GUS BATES Insurance & Investments</p> <p>817-529-5325 matt@gusbates.com</p> <p>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, PROPERTY & CASUALTY, RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES</p> <p><small>Securities offered through Kestra Investment Services, LLC (Kestra IS), member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Kestra Advisory Services, LLC (Kestra AS), an affiliate of Kestra IS. Kestra IS and Kestra AS are not affiliated with Gus Bates Insurance & Investments.</small></p>	<p>State of the Art Sterilization Room Invisalign and Zoom! Whitening Massage Chairs and HDTV Water Purification System</p> <p><i>Sarah J. Morris</i> DDS & ASSOCIATES</p> <p>817-732-4419 www.sarahmorrisdds.com</p> <p>2551 River Park Dr. Suite 201 • Fort Worth, TX 76116</p> <p>FAMILY DENTISTRY WHERE HONESTY & INTEGRITY MATTER!</p>
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**City of Annetta South, Texas
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND THE CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Annetta South, Texas will hold a public hearing at a meeting that begins at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aleo, Texas 76008.

Further notice is hereby given that, a second public hearing is scheduled where the request and the recommendation of the Annetta South Planning and Zoning Commission will be considered by the City of Annetta South Council at a meeting that begins at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 12 2022 at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5, Aleo, Texas 76008.

At such time and place, the Council will hear and take action on an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance No. 2018-4-10, as amended, Zoning Map to rezone property from Agricultural to Single Family-1 generally described as The Refuge/ formerly Deer Creek X proposed subdivision, generally located west of Deercreek IX and northeast of the nearest public cross streets located at Lakeview Court and Canyon Lake Drive.

Citizens are invited to attend and participate in the public hearings. For more information contact cityofannettasouth@gmail.com.

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Hunter Rudel delivers a pitch in action last week against Weatherford.

KRISTIN MORALES

BASEBALL

Bearcats continue hot play

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

After a bumpy start to the regular season, the Aledo Bearcats baseball team is off to their hottest start in a long time. Going into the final two pre-district games, the Bearcats had a record of 8-4 and were on a six game winning streak including a no-hitter and two walk-off wins.

After completing the last tournament of the season, the Bearcats welcomed the Josuha Owls to Bearcat Park. A couple of early

miscues gave Joshua the lead in the first inning, but Hunter Rudel and Matthew Clark rolled from there, not allowing another hit all game.

Aledo trailed 1-0 into the sixth inning before Texas-commit Max Belyeu tripled to deep center field to drive in Cade Pulido, tying the game. After the Owls were sat down in order, the Bearcats walked off yet again in the bottom of the seventh when Trace Mazon doubled to bring home Colton Whitmire, giving Aledo the 2-1 win.

Three days later, the Bearcats

hosted Abilene High in an afternoon game. Much like the game prior, Abilene took a two-run lead in the second inning.

Then, Ethan Jaques walked in the bottom of the inning and ended up scoring on a wild pitch to get Aledo on the board.

In the third inning, Jaques made his name known again when he doubled to left, scoring Whitmire and Belyeu, giving the Bearcats the lead. Ethan Nawrocki then drove in Jaques to give Aledo a 4-2 cushion after three innings.

Jaques was not done making sure everyone knew his name, as in the fifth inning he knocked in Ryan Jones to extend the lead. Luke Paulsen came in to pitch the final inning to make the win official and send the Bearcats into district play with a 10-4 record and an eight-game winning streak.

The Bearcats began District 5-5A play against the Brewer Bears (4-10-1) Tuesday at Bearcat Park at press time, followed by a road contest with the Bears on the road at 7 p.m. Friday, March 25.



Colorguard Auditions

The Aledo Colorguard will hold auditions from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 5 and April 7 at Aledo High School. No experience is necessary. To register, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QBRDEHB9MXaQXGOY-3QYvOuZvCTZHqBrBqLHVxTc2M/viewform?edit_requested=true. For more information, email jmarquez@aledoisd.org.

SOCCER

from page nine

have held opponents to one goal or less 19 times and have 11 shutouts.

The Bearcats enter the postseason with back-to-back losses and have been outscored 53-34 this season. They have posted five shutouts and held eight opponents to a goal or less.

Grapevine is 9-0-1 on the road and Aledo is 4-5-1 at home.

Despite the big difference in stats, Vierling gives his team a puncher's chance at the upset.

"They are really good. Several rankings have them No. 1 in the state and most have them top two or three," he said, adding, "But they are due for a loss."

Tickets are \$5 adults, \$3 for students.

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Teoni Lamb

SOFTBALL

WC sweeps Ranger

The Weatherford College softball team swept Ranger College in a doubleheader Saturday at WC's Stuart Field.

The Coyotes won game one 8-0. Annabelle Guay was 2-for-2 scoring two runs. Charlee Horton drove in three runs for WC.

Emma Southerland was the winning pitcher with the shutout, going five innings, allowing zero runs on four hits and striking out three.

Weatherford kept up the momentum in game two, beating Ranger 10-2.

Darlene Montoya was 2-for-3 with one RBI and two runs scored. Guay was 1-for-1 with four RBI and two runs scored.

Teoni Lamb earned the win for WC, pitching four innings, allowing two runs on four hits, walking zero and striking out four.

The Coyotes are now 16-9 overall and 7-5 in conference. The Coyotes return to Stuart Field Saturday, March 26, in a noon doubleheader.

RODEO

Aledo, Parker County among NTHSRA leaders

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

With the North Texas High School Rodeo Association set to return to action following a month-long spring break, several competitors from Aledo and Parker County are among the leaders in the quest to advance to the finals.

The top 15 in each event will earn a berth in the finals May 13-15 at the NTHSRA Arena in Saginaw.

Leading the Aledo contingent are a pair of competitors in fifth place in their respective events, Ashton Coufal in walk-up goat tying and Tyson Douglas in Chute Dogging. Meanwhile, Jason McElroy sits sixth in saddle bronc.

Also in the top 10 in her event is Adrianna Ruckteschler, who is eighth in barrel racing. Currently, three Aledo athletes are in the running for the finals as Ashlyn Coufal is 13th and Nicole Altieri is 14th in that same event.

Also, Caleb Smith is 13th in chute dogging and Caylee Akins is 14th in breakaway roping.

Seven teams from the area are ranked among the top 25 in the standings, with Aledo sitting 13th. Also, Azle is second, Weatherford is fifth, Springtown is sixth, Peaster is 14th, Brock is 15th and Millsap is 25th.

Competitors from all over Parker County are among the leaders in a variety of events, including:

Steer wrestling - 2. Christopher Withaeger, Peaster; 3. Cade Walker, Springtown; 5. Caden Farrell, Weatherford; Camden Alvarez, Springtown.

Team roping-heeler - 3. Beldon Cox, Millsap.

Barrel racing - 3. Lindsey-Kay Reichert, Azle; 4. Heavenly Scribner, Azle.

Chute dogging - 3. Walker, 4. Farrell, 6. Withaeger.

Pole bending - 1. Scribner; 2. Savannah Letson, Weatherford; 4. Laura Allred, Azle.

Bull riding - 3. Carter High, Weatherford; 4. Mecate Trammell, Millsap.

Rookie Cowgirl - 1. Scribner; 5. Reagan High, Weatherford.

Rookie Cowboy - 2. Walker; 3. Jesus Leyva, Azle.



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Kade Bragg

BASEBALL

Coyotes split with Ranger

Weatherford College and Ranger College split a baseball doubleheader Saturday in Ranger.

WC won the first game, 14-0. The Coyotes out-hit Ranger 16-4 and hit three home runs.

Noah Boughton was 2-for-4 with three RBI. Robin Villeneuve was 4-for-4 with a home run and two RBI.

Kade Bragg earned the win allowing four hits, no runs and two walks while striking out seven.

Ranger took the second game, 8-6. WC started with a 4-0 lead after the top of the first thanks

in part to a three-run Cal Stark home run. But Ranger countered with three runs in the first, two in the second and three more in the sixth.

Ten pitchers took the mound in the second game—five for each team. Ranger's Kyle Collet earned the win, allowing two hits, no earned runs and one walk over five innings while striking out three.

WC's Austin Green was 2-for-3.

Weatherford is 18-9 overall and 3-5 in conference play.

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