

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

## Answer could be 'blowin' in the wind'

Ice House noise again a topic at council meeting

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Perhaps the answer to the Parker County Ice House noise debate lies in one of Bob Dylan's most famous songs.

It could be in the wind — or, given that wind cannot be controlled in such a setting, maybe not.

Still, while it's still not settled, progress appeared to be made in the debate between several residents of Willow Park and the city's entertainment/restaurant venue the Parker County Ice House at the city council meeting on Tuesday, May 10.

For several months dating to the fall of 2021, citizens in the area around the facility, located at 210 Willow Bend Dr., have been complaining about the loud noise coming from concerts at the venue. Concerns have included being able to make out complete song lyrics despite windows being closed, along with the waking of sleeping children, some homes as far away as almost 4,000 feet.

And while there were more complaints Tuesday night, there was also dialogue that indicated a solution might be forthcoming.

Kyle Bryson, one of the owners of the Ice House, addressed the council and the citizens' concerns. With him was Gary Lankford, representing the company that installed the sound equipment at the venue.

"We are not here to be a detriment to anybody's lifestyle," Bryson said. "We don't want to be a hindrance."

Then, he told the council, "Y'all knew it was gonna be a concert venue with a restaurant."

Both he and Lankford assured the council and citizens that steps are being done to reduce the noise, such as turning off the top level speakers and pointing all speakers downward to hopefully reduce the potential of sound traveling. However, both noted that factors such as wind direction and reflection from the surrounding hard surfaces are beyond their control.

Turn to **NOISE**, page A3

## Feeding Time



KIRSTEN GALLON

Kay Willoughby and Joshua Clift take a moment to feed one of the giraffes at the Fort Worth Zoo, where the Aledo High School prom was held on May 7. Photos from Prom, Promenade, and other senior class activities will be featured in *The Community News' Salute to Seniors*, which will be published June 3.

ALEDO HIGH SCHOOL

## Yearbook staff nationally recognized

Aledo students receive numerous awards

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

There is an expectation surrounding Aledo High School. No matter what the students do, they strive to do it better than everyone else.

When April turned to May in 2022, the awards for the 2021 school year were released and the yearbook and journalism staff at Aledo High School had won many awards.

Among these awards was the Gold Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) based out of Columbia University in New York City.

The CSPA hands out yearly awards to yearbook staff at all scholastic levels throughout the country. Two of their awards are called the Gold Crown and Silver Crown, and are awarded for all areas of scholastic journalism to multiple finalists.

Also, the staff at Aledo won multiple awards from the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The NSPA hands out an award encompassing each type of student media, called the Pacemaker, which was also awarded to Aledo making the staff one of only ten to win both the Gold Crown and Pacemaker.



AUDREY SCHABEL / ALEDO ISD

Audrey Schabel's award winning picture

The NSPA, like the CSPA, also gives out individual awards. Co-editors in chief Ava Bathurst and Faith Emmitte were named to the NSPA Honor Roll. Bathurst also received honorable mention for her sports feature photo.

At the state level in the Fall Fiesta hosted by the Texas Association of Journalism Educators, the Ledoian yearbook received First Place in Class 5A for Best in Show, the Catalyst Literary Magazine received First Place for Best in Show, and the Cat's Eye Newspaper received honorable mention for best in show.

Many students received multiple individual awards at the state level, including Ashlyn Poole for a personality profile, Taylor Tiberger for a sports action photo, and Madi Poston for a portrait photo. The entire staff was also awarded a Gold Star from the Interscholastic League Press Conference, a journalism branch associated directly with the University Interscholastic League.

Among the prestigious staff at Aledo is junior Kaley Schabel, who was named to the NSPA Honor Roll, but also received honorable mention

Turn to **STAFF**, page A3

ANALYSIS

## Money trail in state rep race has twists and turns

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

If you are a Republican voter your mailbox has likely been bombarded lately with mailers asking you to either support or reject one of the candidates for Texas House District 60, Glenn Rogers and Mike Olcott.

Rogers is the de facto incumbent for the district. He previously represented counties to the west; redistricting added Parker County to his district.

Rogers is also the target of the lion's share of negative campaign attacks through direct mail pieces and heavy radio advertising both in the district and even as far as Austin.

But who pays for all this negative campaigning? *The Community News* set out to discover who is paying the bills for the two campaigns, and who is paying the bills for the third-party negative attack ads that have been frequenting local mailboxes, usually originating from Political Action Committees (PACs).

The money trail is somewhat difficult to follow in some cases, but voters are entitled to know where the funds originate that are behind all those mailers.

One issue to grapple with in analyzing the candidates' and PACs' sources of funding is that the candidates are required to report their donors before the election; the PACs don't have to reveal their donors until afterward.

Still, some of the entities involved have track records that allow at least an idea of who is behind them.

Another thing to understand is that PACs can contribute money directly to campaigns, or they can engage in independent expenditures. In the case of independent expenses, the law prohibits any coordination between a campaign and the PAC that supports it.

We'll begin with the incumbent, Glenn Rogers.

Rogers' top contributor is the Texas Farm Bureau AGFUND, which has donated \$80,015.97. Second on the list is Dade Phelan, current Texas Speaker of the House, who added \$55,184. In all Rogers has seven donors who have

Turn to **RACE**, page A4



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# In & Around Parker County

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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.

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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.

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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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# NOISE

from page A1

"It's right on a service road, and there's a reflection," Lankford said. "We can face the speakers straight to the ground and you'd still hear a reflection."

Bryson added about the wind, "We can't control God."

The Ice House uses its own sound equipment for all concerts, so bands do not bring theirs in, Bryson said.

A general consensus appeared to be a correlation between the sound and the direction of the wind. There was also agreement that wind cannot be controlled on any day, including when a big concert is scheduled.

"That's right up there with me telling you what the price of diesel will be in 12 months," City Manager Bryan Grimes said.

## Looking North

Police Chief Carrie West noted that the majority of the complaints are from the north, which indicates a wind from the south exacerbates the problem. Bryson added that even with the re-angling of speakers, "A 25 mile per hour wind is just gonna carry that."

West said that while her department has received numerous complaints, the Ice House should be given the opportunity to solve the problem.

"I know they have started to make improvements. I know they are trying to be good partners," West said, adding that if there is indeed a noise violation when her officers arrive they will enforce the ordinance.

The investigations themselves have led to some confusion, she noted, saying that in some instances when they arrive there is no sound heard. Also, sometimes complaints can be contradicting.

For example, a lady called complaining that the concert noise woke her baby. However, in the same conversation she asked that the officer not knock on her door because it would wake her baby.

Also, West said when complaints are received on any noise call, "If they comply with our requests to turn it down, there is no citation."

Place 1 Councilman Eric Contreras asked if making the wall taller around

the outdoor concert area would help reduce the noise. Lankford responded, "Short answer, no. You'd be in a box with no top."

To which Bryson added, "Sound travels all directions. It's going to hit that wall and go around it."

The Ice House opened last summer and, after a short concert season, winter arrived. Then came the Texas Independence Day concert, which was on March 2, a Wednesday.

"I don't think people were prepared for that," Bryson said.

The majority of the complaints associated with the Ice House are connected to their "big" concerts. The smaller musical shows, such as a single guitar player, aren't riling up the citizens.

"When you have big concerts, my phone blows up the next day," City Manager Bryan Grimes told Bryson.

The next "big" concert on the Ice House calendar is Le Freak at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July. Contreras asked if the time of that concert and others might be moved up an hour so as to end around 9 instead of around 10 as they have been. In fact, Bryson reminded the council and audience that concerts used to go until around 11.

"We would look at that for sure," Bryson said of an earlier start, adding that Aledo High School football games at nearby Bearcat Stadium often go later than that.

Contreras asked several of the complainants in the audience to contact him with their thoughts on that suggestion.

City Attorney Pat Chesser said ultimately a variety of things need to be looked into further, including the time of the noise, the length, and repetitive nature. Of course, one possibility, he said, is simply eliminating "big" concerts.

However, he said, making everyone happy is perhaps the biggest challenge of all.

"Is a dog going to bark once or twice a night? Yes. If you play music, is somebody going to hear it? Yes," he said, adding that someone is always going to be the person sleeping during the day.

At the suggestion of Place 3 Councilman Greg Runnebaum, Mayor

Pro Tem Lea Young (Mayor Doyle Moss was absent) recommended city staff look at other noise ordinances in larger cities, consult outside technical sources, perhaps that the Ice House request a special permit before holding "big" concerts, that staff, in general, think of other ideas to address the issue.

Young also reminded everyone in attendance about the noise ordinance, "It's there to protect the citizens, but it's also there to protect the Ice House."

Place 5 Councilman Nathan Crummel also suggested city officials reduce the ambiguity in the language in the ordinance.

"It's not he said, she said, it's A,B, C weren't met, so D," he said.

## More police to be added

The council approved adding an additional \$45,000 to the budget for the addition of two more police officers. That amount will pay their salaries for the remainder of the fiscal year, after which West would like to see even more officers added to the force.

West said her department needs at least six additional officers. She plans to ask for two more in the new fiscal year (along with the two that were approved Tuesday), and hopefully get another couple as soon as possible.

"We currently have one shift operating with one officer," she told the council, adding that the many calls even included a man with a machete.

West said she is "cautiously optimistic" she'll get an even larger increase in staff.

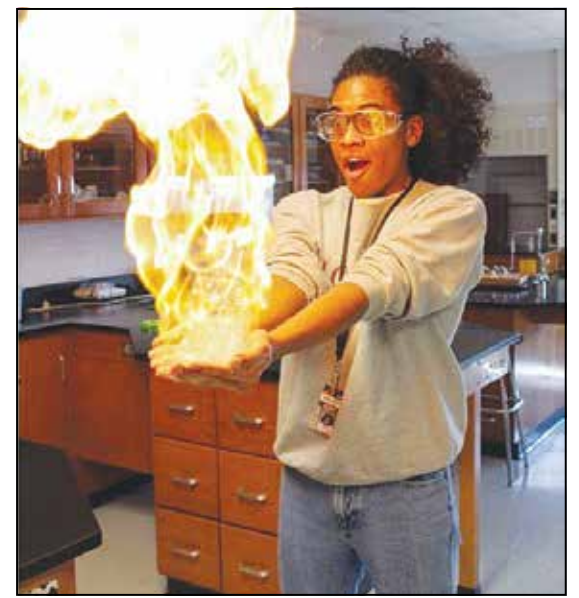
"We just have to make sure the resources are there (to pay for it)," she said. "I ultimately need six."

With the two additions, the police department will increase to 15 full-time officers and three reserves, West said. She said the search for the two new officers will begin immediately.

## Swearing in

Following the May 7 election, three council members were sworn in at Tuesday's meeting. They were Runnebaum, Young and Crummel.

Young was re-appointed as mayor pro-tem and Crummel was appointed alternate mayor pro-tem.



KALEY SCHABEL / ALEDO ISD

Kaley Schabel's award winning picture

# STAFF

from page A1

in the Walsworth Publishing Photo Contest. This is not the first time a member of the Schabel family has received the award.

Kaley's older sister Audrey, currently a student at Texas A&M University, received honorable mention at the Middle School level for a track photo when she was in eighth grade. The youngest of the Schabel daughters is seventh grader Maggie, who also received honorable mention at the middle school level for the same association.

Though Audrey was not able to be a part of the journalism staff through high school, she volunteered her time for photography.

"In ninth grade I took photojournalism," Audrey recalled. "It was the same credit I had from middle school and I liked the way it fit my schedule as opposed to yearbook. So I was never on the yearbook staff. So in ninth and tenth grade I took photos for the yearbook. I still enjoyed taking photos so I kept doing it."

Kaley is currently on the yearbook staff at Aledo and will serve as an editor in her senior

year. She credits her older sister for the inspiration to join the staff.

"It was definitely Audrey's fault," Kaley said with a laugh. "I was inspired by Audrey because going into eighth grade I had no idea what electives I wanted to take. So I thought 'Audrey enjoyed journalism so I'll just try it out' and I really liked it."

Maggie is in seventh grade at Aledo Middle School and looks forward to continuing taking pictures.

"I love the journalism part," Maggie said. "I really love taking pictures. I'm not sure how long I will stay in journalism but I definitely want to keep taking pictures for the yearbook."

Many more awards were won by the staff at Aledo. Emily Arnold, the AHS staff member who oversees the yearbook, is very aware of how special her staff is.

"It is extremely rewarding," Arnold said. "I feel like these students work so hard behind the scenes and that people don't really realize what goes into what they do. They see the end result when they see the yearbook, but this is just one aspect. It's gratifying to see them excel in telling the stories of our school."

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# RACE

from page A1

given more than \$10,000. (See sidebar for a listing of all contributions of \$5,000 or more).

Independently, Associated Republicans of Texas mailed a flyer supporting Rogers. Records show the key backer of ART is John L. Nau, Chairman and CEO of Silver Eagle Beverages, one of the largest Anheuser-Busch distributors in the nation. Nau has contributed \$1.4 million to the PAC. The above-mentioned Dade Phelan has donated \$277,233.50 to the organization.

Direct donations to Olcott are dominated by a single \$100,000 donation by David and Darlene Pendery of Flower Mound. The Penderys have also supported Don Huffines in his primary challenge to Gov. Greg Abbott and Defend Texas Liberty.

There are three other donors who have given \$5,000 or more. Olcott has also loaned his campaign \$300,000.

From there the road is more winding, and requires explanation.

We can start with Empower Texans, a PAC started in 2008. Two of its heavier contributors over the years were Texas oilmen Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks. Over the years, Dunn contributed more than \$7 million to the organization. Farris Wilks and his brother, Dan, donated \$2.4 million.

And current House District 60 candidate Mike Olcott made a contribution in the past to the PAC.

For former State Rep. John Stickland, who recently moved to Parker County, Empower Texans was his biggest contributor.

But a couple of years ago Empower Texans dissolved. The money behind it did not.

Dunn and Wilks funded a new PAC, Defend Texas Liberty, each providing more than \$2 million in funds. Stickland has claimed ownership of the PAC.

It is Defend Texas Liberty that is pushing out the aggressive anti-Rogers mailers and radio advertising. While not coordinating with or directly donating money to Olcott's campaign, the PAC benefits Olcott by attacking his opponent.

Other than required public records, there is little information about Defend Texas Liberty. It has a bare-bones website and a Facebook page with 11 followers.

A couple of wild cards are Texas Scorecard, which some people have claimed is associated with Defend Texas Liberty, but

## GLENN ROGERS CONTRIBUTORS

\$5,000 or more	
\$80,015.97	Texas Farm Bureau AGFUND
\$55,184.00	Dade Phelan
\$41,434.81	Texas REALTORS Political Action Committee
\$30,250.00	Texas Veterinary Medical Assn. PAC
\$25,040.45	Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC
\$15,000.00	Jim Martin
\$10,000.00	Charles W Gilchrist
\$9,604.00	Jim Martin
\$7,500.00	Texas Medical Association Political Action Committee
\$7,000.00	Blackridge Consulting LLP
\$5,000.00	Association of Texas Professional Educators Political Action Committee
\$5,000.00	The Charles Butt Public Education Political Action Committee
\$5,000.00	David Hawes
\$5,000.00	Don Crawford
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## MIKE OLCOTT CONTRIBUTORS

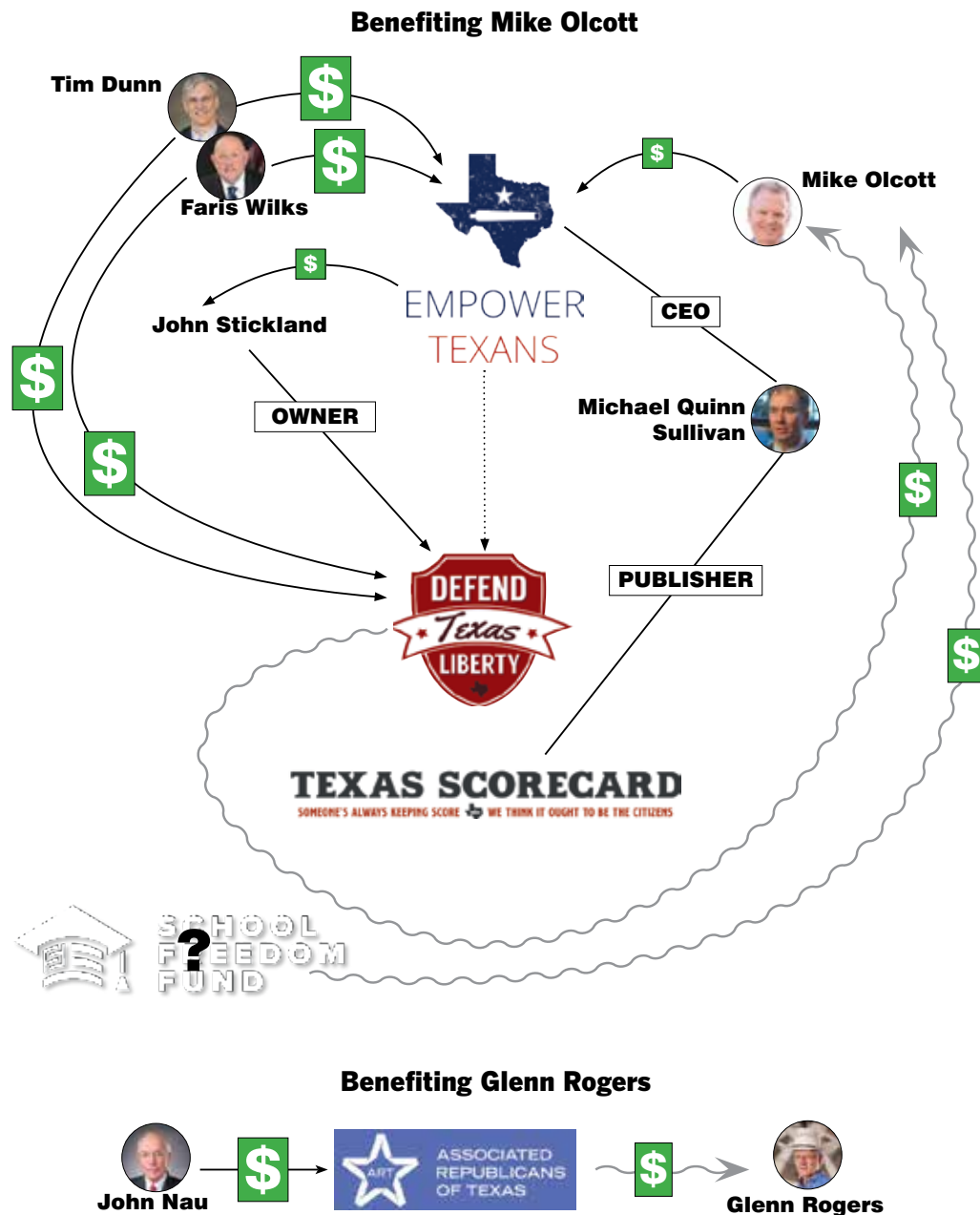
\$5,000 or more	
\$100,000.00	David A and Darlene Pendery
\$6,000.00	Charles Salisbury
\$5,000.00	Bo French
\$5,000.00	Charla Vinyard

we could find no information to support that other than the publisher of Texas Scorecard, Michael Quinn Sullivan, who was the CEO of Empower Texans.

Another organization attacking Rogers with mailers is the School Freedom Fund of Washington D.C. In the time we had available for research, we could not find any information about the PAC. The names of its donors will be available when filing is due after the election.

Resources:  
[followthemoney.org](http://followthemoney.org)  
[transparencysusa.org](http://transparencysusa.org)

## Money Trail of Independent Expenditures



The diagram above provides our best effort at tracking independent expenditures in the race for State Representative in District 60, showing the entities involved and their primary benefactors.

The wavy lines on the diagram indicate money that is not contributed directly to a candidate, but is being spent on the candidate's behalf by paying for communications attacking the candidate's opponent. Solid lines with arrows represent direct payments.

Michael Olcott has donated money in the past to the now-defunct Empower Texans, but its largest benefactors were Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks, who together contributed almost \$10 million to the organization over the years since 2008.

Michael Quinn Sullivan was listed as CEO of Empower Texans, which was the major donor to former State Rep. John Stickland's campaigns.

Stickland has said he is the owner of a newer PAC, Defend Texas Liberty. The most recent documents show that the major benefactors of Defend Texas Liberty are Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks. While actual numbers will not be known until after the election, Defend Texas Liberty is financing major attacks against Glenn Rogers and some other Republican incumbents in the state.

Another indirect benefactor of the Olcott campaign is the School Freedom Fund in Washington D.C. There is no available public information we could find about its funding sources.

The only independent expenditure we could find supporting Glenn Rogers is Associated Republicans of Texas, whose primary contributor is John Nau.

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## Dreams taking flight

AHS junior plays football, marches in the band, and flies

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

It's not unusual for a student at Aledo High School to take on more than one extracurricular activity. In the case of junior Luke Shelton, he has taken on three.

Shelton is a member of the Aledo football team, the Bearcat Regiment (band), and on weekends you can find him at the Parker County Airport logging his hours.

Shelton always had an itch to fly, but one day in particular caused his dream to take off.

"My mom had a friend whose husband worked for American Airlines," Shelton recalled. "He let me go up into their simulation facility and use their big machines, and he let me fly one and that was really cool."

Shelton took a discovery flight, the first flight before true lessons start, and wanted to keep going. The first few lessons were mostly flown by the instructors with Shelton taking on a little more responsibility with each flight.

"Eventually I was doing the preflight checks," he remembered. "Then I did takeoffs and landings. I wasn't really consistent with lessons because of band and football. Then, the closer I got to my knowledge test and check ride, the more lessons I needed just to keep everything up."

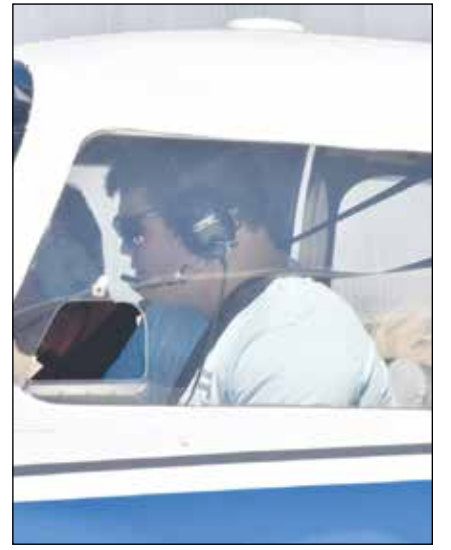
The hectic schedule for both Luke and his instructors opened the door for a new instructor, Russell Beasley.

"He's 10 years younger than I am and probably twice my size," Beasley recalled behind a laugh. "That was the first thing I noticed. He's a really quiet, but very thoughtful, studious and meticulous guy. And I know that his intelligence just really helps to pick it back up, even if he's taken some time off from flying."



Luke Shelton is all smiles following a flight at Parker County Airport.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Luke prepares for takeoff.

Thankfully Russell had the radio communication going so I could hear him talking."

Beasley was also impressed with Shelton's first solo flight.

"We flew out to Mineral Wells where he did his first solo flight," Beasley said. "That wasn't our first flight together, so we basically just did like a big rundown of everything that he needed to do, and just kind of assessed his skill level and I thought he did a really good job."

Since his first solo flight, Shelton has made a second home at Parker County Airport in Hudson Oaks.

"I thought it was the coolest thing," Shelton described flying over his hometown. "I could see the entire highway, all the neighborhoods around it, other airports, and the entirety of Lake Weatherford. There's a whole lot there that's really cool to see from the sky."

The passion for flying goes hand-in-hand with Shelton's career hopes to be an engineer, while also keeping his flying on the side.

After a long process, Shelton plans to take his check ride at the beginning of the summer to complete the process of becoming a pilot, all while marching in the band and playing on the gridiron.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Luke Shelton and instructor Russell Beasley perform a pre-flight checklist before taking off at the Parker County Airport in March.



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**Willow Park TEXAS**



# Commentary

MAY 13, 2022  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

## Capital Highlights

### Voters back property tax amendments



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

Texas voters overwhelmingly approved two proposed amendments on Saturday that will provide property tax relief to homeowners.

According to the Austin American-Statesman, nearly 85% of voters supported Proposition 2, which raises the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$40,000 starting this year. That will save the average homeowner about \$175 in school property taxes.

Another proposition that easily passed corrects an oversight to a 2019 bill passed by the Legislature, which didn't apply to homeowners who are disabled or 65 and older because their school taxes were already frozen.

The state will reimburse school districts for tax funding lost by both propositions, with the Legislative Budget Board anticipating the amount at more than a half-billion dollars, according to the Statesman.

Meanwhile, Texas voters get another opportunity to cast ballots starting May 16 in primary runoff elections slated for both Republican and Democratic candidates. The election is May 24, with early voting running until May 20.

Statewide runoff races are slated for attorney general and land commissioner in both parties, lieutenant governor and comptroller in the Democratic race, and railroad commissioner on the Republican side of the ticket.

More information can be found about particular races at [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov). Voters who cast ballots in one party's primary cannot vote in the other party's runoff election. However, voters who did not cast ballots in the primary can vote in either party's runoff.

#### First state case of avian influenza in wild bird confirmed

The first case of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in a wild bird in Texas has been confirmed. A great horned owl at a rehabilitation facility in Wichita County was confirmed to have the virus by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, which notified the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The potentially fatal HPAI is highly contagious and transmits easily among wild and domestic bird species. It has been found in 38 states, and its symptoms include diarrhea, incoordination, lethargy, coughing and sneezing.

TPWD recommends enhanced biosecurity measures at labs that deal with wild or domestic birds, including quarantining birds showing symptoms of HPAI.

While the risk of transmission to humans from birds is low, TPWD recommends taking basic precautions if contact with birds cannot be avoided, such as wearing gloves and face masks.

#### SBA loans available for Eastland Complex Fire victims

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved the state's request for a disaster declaration in communities affected by the recent Eastland Complex Fire, which means low-interest loans are available for qualified homeowners, renters, and businesses in affected communities.

Counties included are Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Palo Pinto, Shackelford, and Stephens.

"Thank you to the U.S. Small Business Administration for providing this much-needed financial assistance to communities affected by the Eastland Complex Fire," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

Applicants can apply online or receive additional disaster assistance information at [disasterloanassistance.sba.gov](http://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov).

The potential for more wildfires continues, especially in the Texas Panhandle and the Trans Pecos, including areas near Canadian, Amarillo, Childress, Lubbock, Abilene, Big Spring, Midland and Alpine, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

In the first week of May, the service responded to 26 requests for assistance on wildfires that burned more than 18,000 acres across the state. Burn bans are in effect in 132 Texas counties.

#### Look twice for motorcycles, TxDOT urges

A motorcycle safety and public awareness campaign is underway, spearheaded by the Texas Department of Public Transportation. It urges motorists to look twice for motorcycles, especially at intersections — the most common collision site.

Last year, 519 riders were killed and 2,318 were seriously injured in crashes in Texas. More than half of the fatalities result from collisions with other vehicles.

"Drivers simply don't see the motorcycle or misjudge its distance and speed. The small size of motorcycles can make them appear farther away when they're actually closer. The combination of congested roadways, distracted driving and the difficulty of seeing motorcycles in traffic has led to many preventable fatalities each year," a TxDOT news release said.

#### COVID-19 cases tick up slightly in state

The number of COVID-19 cases in Texas rose slightly in the past week to 21,105, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 68 new deaths reported. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state was essentially unchanged, with 783 reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated now stands at 17.615 million, or 60.4 percent of the state's population, while 6.783 million have received a booster shot, according to DSHS.

*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).*



## Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Teachers vote for Rogers

Teachers, it's time to use your voice at the voting booth. In the election for State Rep District 60 run-off, please vote for Glenn Rogers. Why? As the current representative, Rogers is on the record as a strong supporter of students and teachers.

His opponent, on the other hand, I don't trust. Judgement? Maybe so, but I've seen Mike Olcott in action.

I didn't know Mike Olcott until I started attending regular meetings of the Aledo ISD where I used my voice in support of higher teacher salaries. Olcott attended some of these meetings as well and although he spoke in favor of higher salaries in 2019 (reluctantly I observed), he did not support raising salaries in 2014.

I was also appointed as a member of two Aledo Growth Committees, tasked with examining district growth and planning, with others, facilities and proposals to the community for new classrooms to prevent overcrowding. Michael Olcott opposed both growth proposals. Olcott aggressively and actively worked against a 32-member committee made up of various members of the community, who worked a year to study the issues to bring classrooms to our expanding community.

Finally, Michael Olcott has contributed in the past and has ties to an organization(s) that supports vouchers and really wants to dismantle public education. This Super PAC, Empower Texans (now Defend Texas Liberty PAC sending all those nasty mailers) and one of its leaders tweeted on Jan. 8 of this year that "A reminder that 'public education' is a babysitting service offered at the convenience of government employees. Public education in Texas is about employing otherwise unemployable adults,

not educating kids." I can tell you that the teacher living in my house is no babysitter.

Teachers, please vote for Glenn Rogers. He is the right choice to represent Parker County with Early voting starting on May 16-24.

ROBERT COX  
ALEDO

#### Support for Mike Hale

Please join me in support of Mike Hale for County Commissioner in Precinct 4. I have confidence in Mike's commitment to serve as a full-time commissioner and will work proactively in meeting the needs for our growing county. Mike understands as property evaluations increase, tax rates can be lowered. Please take time to vote for Mike Hale during the May run-off elections.

STEVE DUGAN  
PARKER COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
PCT. 4

#### City of Willow Park Assistant Fire Chief

A "HUGE" thank you to Assistant Fire Chief John Schneider. On May 4, 2022, during a burn ban, Chief Schneider sent a crew to investigate after he was informed about the smell of smoke in the Trinity Drive/Sam Bass Court area. Because of the wind, it was difficult to pinpoint the origins of the smoke, and it is truly commendable that Chief Schneider took swift action to ensure the safety of the citizens of Willow Park. Thank you, Chief Schneider, for taking your job seriously and for all you do!

--FRANCES HORCH  
WILLOW PARK

#### Supporting Rogers

We'd like to tell you why we support State Representative Dr. Glenn Rogers in the special election on May 24. Dr. Glenn Rogers is a conservative

Republican who represents our new Texas House District as the incumbent. He has a record that is pro-life, pro-border control, pro-Second Amendment, pro-business, pro-property tax controls, pro-law enforcement and pro-Parker County. He's also very supportive of public schools, which is a big difference between him and his opponent. Glenn has voted to protect our kids from the radical leftist agenda. Most importantly, he's an honest, decent man.

Mike Olcott and his supporters have falsely attacked Representative Glenn Rogers. They have lied about his record in the Texas House. When they try to tie him to President Biden or tell you he's not a "real" conservative, they just aren't telling you the truth. Glenn Rogers is indeed a solid conservative. He represents the people of Parker County, and that's why we support him.

We should never reward dishonest and negative campaigning. So please join us in voting for Representative Dr. Glenn Rogers in the Republican Primary Runoff. Early voting is May 16 through May 20. Election Day is Tuesday, May 24.

-BRIAN & PENNY SHELTON  
ALEDO, TEXAS

#### LETTERS POLICY

The Community News welcomes letters from readers on topics of local interest. Letters should be signed and should be limited to approximately 300 words. Please include a telephone number or other contact information so the identity of the letter writer can be verified. Send letters to The Community News, P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008 or e-mail to [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com).

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

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

The Community News does not charge for timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee. The deadline for submitting announcements is noon Friday for the following week's paper.

## The Community News

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

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



# Events

MAY 13, 2022  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

**MAY 13**

**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).

**Shakespeare in Aleo**  
Theatre off the Square will present Romeo and Juliet at 6 p.m. on May 13 and 14 in the park next to the Aleo Community Center. Tickets are \$10 for people 12 and older, and \$5 for people younger than 12. Patrons may wish to take blankets and chairs. Picnic food, drinks, and coolers are allowed.

**Night at the Pops 2022**  
The Aleo High School Wind Ensemble, AHS Choir, and AHS Colorguard will present their annual Night at the Pops at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, May 13-14, in the Aleo High School Auditorium.

**MAY 16**

**Rotary Club of Aleo**  
The Rotary Club of Aleo 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).

**MAY 22**

**Day of Hope**  
The Branch to Hope Community Center will host the inaugural Day of Hope from 4-8 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, at its new facility at 699 Susie Lane in Aleo. The Branch to Hope Community Center is a multi-generational recreation and event center focusing on restoring hope and bringing the community together through engaging activities for all life stages. Activities during the event will include fishing, food trucks, music, a mini rodeo, petting zoo, horses, community booths, and face painting. For more information, email [branch2hope@gmail.com](mailto:branch2hope@gmail.com).

**JUNE 3**

**Safe At Home Program**  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Parker County will conduct a "Safe @ Home" class from 10-11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 3, at the Parker County Extension Office, 604 North Main Street in Weatherford. Safe @ Home will provide instruction for youth on how to be safe inside the house, outside the house, online, and with others when they are home alone. It will cover safety habits, how to handle emergencies, and making a call to 911. This class is for youth who will be in grades 4-6, or ages 9-12. The class will equip them to be safe when they are home alone. The cost to attend is \$20 per child, which includes a booklet and snack. To register your child, call the Parker County

Extension Office at 817-598-6168. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited.

**Aleo Summer Blast**  
The annual Aleo Summer Blast will run from 6-10 p.m. Friday, June 3, in the Aleo 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.

**JUNE 14**

**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 Aleo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aleo. For more information, email Joan Ward at [cjkat1959@gmail.com](mailto:cjkat1959@gmail.com).

**JUNE 21**

**Safe Sitter Course**  
Texas AgriLife Extension will conduct a Safe Sitter course from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21 at the Parker County Extension Office, 604 North Main Street in Weatherford. Safe Sitter is a medically-accurate program that teaches boys and girls ages 11 and up how to handle emergencies when caring for children. The class teaches safe and nutrition childcare techniques, behavior management skills, and appropriate responses to medical emergencies. CPR basics will be covered but will not be a certification course.

**ACROSS**

1 Davis County spoken, not written

6 "Million" Gates wagered he could sell barbed wire in Texas

7 TXism: "the tail wagging the dog"

8 TX Mary Kay of cosmetics fame

9 FC Dallas players compared to the Astros, e.g. (2 wds.)

15 TX Audie Murphy's war (abbr.)

16 clean up used lumber? (2 wds.)

19 this George killed 23 and wounded 27 at Kileen Luby's in 1991

21 TX Banks, infielder who was "Mr. Cub"

22 "idea" (should reconsider)

27 pecan is the Texas state

28 22-across could be "of time and money"

29 O. Henry: "Austin's crown" (hill country)

30 TX-filmed 1986 "Adam: Continues"

32 Rangers broadcaster, Eric (init.)

33 TXism: "eyed cow"

36 forearm bone

37 Amarillo hosts "State Fair & Rodeo"

38 cattle assembly

**DOWN**

10 "good boy"

11 actress Cloris of TX-based "The Last Picture Show" (init.)

12 latest "thingamabob" (3 wds.)

13 firearms maker

14 USA is now a part of Remington transgressions

15 TX Paula Prentiss 1965 film: "Pussycat?"

16 former nat'l job for Texans sr. & jr. Bush

17 unembellished

18 "I should have coming"

19 1977 country song: "Take This and Shove It"

20 poetic "before"

21 TXism: "the fire" (trouble)

22 TXism for brief success (4 wds.)

23 filled with wonder

24 visitors to "Hippie Hollow" (2 wds.)

25 TX Willie's "Farm Aid" was in 1990

26 great San Antonio Spur, Duncan

27 fly like an eagle

28 "Brave New World" writer, Huxley

29 good looking gals

30 TX "scream queen" actress, Gwynne

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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The cost of the program is \$50 that will cover materials and lunch. Any youth who would like to take the class can sign up by calling the Parker County Extension office at 817-598-6168.

**JUNE 28**

**Let's Cook - for kids**  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will host a cooking class for kids 5 - 8 from 9:30 a.m. to noon on June 28 and 29. The classes are targeting young children and will focus on My Plate, safety in the kitchen, easy healthy foods to pre-

pare and fitness activities. The cost for the two-day class is \$30 per person. Sign up by calling Parker County Extension Office at 817-598-6168.

**JULY 9**

**Parker County Peach Festival**  
The 37th annual Parker County Peach Festival will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 9, in downtown Weatherford. Peachy treats are always featured, including homemade peach ice cream, peach cobbler, peach pie,

peach tea, peach smoothies, ice cream topped with fresh peaches, or just regular peaches. In addition to the vendors, many antique and specialty stores will have specials throughout the day. Two entertainment stages will feature local celebrities and entertainers. For easy transportation to the festival, air-conditioned shuttles will run from three locations. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for younger than 5. For more information, visit <https://www.parkercounty-peachfestival.org>.

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# Helping feed the hungry



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

We are hearing more and more these days that many of our fellow citizens are facing hunger. Food pantries have long lines. Some people interviewed for news reports state that they are coming to get food from these sources for the very first time.

Food costs are expensive but just how expensive? What does that fact mean to individuals and their families? I decided to do a little research to get a better perspective. I relied on both Texas state and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Census websites. These sites give general statistical information, but bottom line, food is expensive and getting more so. And each family and their needs are different.

In their March, 2022 report, released in April 2022, the USDA states that a family of four, consisting of two adults aged 20-50, and two children aged 6-10, spends \$278 per week, which is \$14,472 per year on groceries. This is classified as a "moderate" food budget. The average family member eats \$3-5 worth of food at each meal at home, according to these sites. The average meal eaten out is \$11. You can see that eating out just a few times a year can drive the food budget out of sight. Add another child or two and teenagers, then I can't imagine what the food bill would be.

These statistics assume people are buying food and preparing it at home. Leftovers are used and not thrown away and people are taking their lunches to work and school.

The state of Texas says that the median income for families is



\$67,000. That means more than half are earning less than that much. Many earn \$40-50,000.00 or even less. Imagine a family of four making \$40,000 or less needing to spend a "moderate" amount of nearly \$15,000 from their annual earnings for food, then pay rent, gasoline, insurance, etc.

I noticed the problem first-hand when I began exercising last year at the Benbrook YMCA. There are stout metal shelves with food stacked on them at the entry doors. I started bringing mostly canned goods and dry pasta to the YMCA. I would bring a load on Fridays and by Monday, most of what I had brought was gone.

I asked the YMCA personnel how it worked. They said that food appears from donors and food disappears, no questions asked. People in need just know where the source is for food.

Another source is The Center of Hope in Weatherford. They have a pantry that looks like a mini-mart.

If you want to help, go to your pantry and see what has been in there for a while and maybe needs a new home, and then sack it up and take it to the YMCA or The Center of Hope, 1318 Clear Lake Road, Weatherford.

You can search for sales at stores and take those to these places. You can also send checks, charge a donation, or even volunteer.

I don't know what the ultimate solution to this problem could be. I know I can't solve it. There may be a political solution but political blame is not the point I am making. Let us feed the hungry now and solve the immediate problem.

My purpose is to make people aware that families are struggling and need help. Food and water are the basic necessities for humans to survive. Shelter is the next basic necessity.

There was a story in *The Community News* a few years ago that reported a higher than expected number of homeless students in the Aledo ISD. Some were living in storage units. I hope that situation has improved.

I know that even if each of us does just a little bit, it is better than doing nothing.

I know it makes me feel good when I see the food I donated one day is gone the next time I visit the YMCA.

Sometimes I wonder what child or adult ate the can of soup or mac and cheese I donated and I say a little prayer for them.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Rebecca James Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Aledo High School Senior Madeleine Gass on Tuesday, May 3. The James Family created the scholarship in memory of Rebecca James, who passed away on June 26, 2013, after a tough battle with Lymphoma. The scholarship is awarded each year on her birthday of April 30. Pictured are (from left) Walker James, Adaline James, Madeleine Gass, and Devin James. Madeleine plans to attend Texas A&M University this fall.

EDUCATION

## Landry Smith named UT Tyler History Scholar

The University of Texas at Tyler announced that Landry Smith of Aledo has been named a 2022 history scholar. A UT Tyler junior history major with a pre-law minor, Smith received the Frank H. Smyrl Endowed History Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.



**Landry Smith**

The UT Tyler Department of History presents scholarships to declared history majors in recognition of excellent academic performance and to encourage the study of history at the university.

This scholarship honors the memory of Frank H. Smyrl, PhD, founding department chair and first dean of the UT Tyler College of Liberal Arts, now known as the College of Arts and Sciences. He is survived by his wife Carolyn Smyrl,

who is the chief benefactor of this award.

"I cannot understate my appreciation for the legacy of Dr. Frank Smyrl and his wife Mrs. Carolyn Smyrl," said Smith. "My love for history has been deepened due to individuals like them and those within the history department and College of Arts and Sciences. I hope to represent these individuals and CAS well."

A UT Tyler 2020-21 Presidential Honors Scholar, Smith served as the UT Tyler Student Government Association vice president and was recently named president-elect for the 2022-23 academic year. Smith will graduate in May 2023, and he plans to attend law school after graduation.

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**Early Voting May 16-20**

**Election Day May 24**

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## State-Bound

GOLF

### What's new? Ladycats back at state tourney

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Austin area is nice this time of year. Just ask the Aledo Ladycats golf team.

For the eighth time since 2012 — and one of those years there was no tournament because of COVID-19 — the Ladycats are competing in the Class 5A State Tournament. Monday and Tuesday they will be among the field of 12 competing at the White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown, the same course their male counterparts competed on this past Monday and Tuesday.

And the Ladycats feel as if they have some unfinished business.

"We didn't do too great last year. We're excited to get back," said senior Alyssa Saunders, a varsity member for four years who has committed to play at the University of Texas at Tyler next season.

"I'm excited to make up for last year," said junior Mallory Smith, a varsity member for two seasons.

The Ladycats finished 10th last year in their first state appearance since 2018, when they were fourth. They were projected to be among

the favorites in 2020, winning the Region I Preview, before the tournament was wiped out.

This year they are going in as Region I champions, winning the title on what is considered by many to be one of the state's toughest courses, the Rawls Course at Texas Tech in Lubbock. The course is renowned for its wind, along with the unpredictable West Texas weather.

"I was pretty nervous about regionals, but the girls came out and stayed focused," Ladycats coach James Mullins said. "Our goal this year was, if anything, bringing home the regional trophy. State's going to be tough. Whoever stays focused, like we did Day 2 in Lubbock, will win it."

Among the field will be defending state champion San Antonio Alamo Heights, which didn't lose a player from last season and is, in fact, bringing its Gold and Blue teams. There's also former three-time state champion Grapevine, along with perennial powers

Turn to **GOLF**, page B2

TRACK AND FIELD

### Aledo sending seven to state

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Aledo track program will be well-represented this weekend at the Class 5A Track and Field Meet with seven members competing at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas.

Lauren Peters will compete in two events in Austin after capturing gold in the discus and shot put at the Region I Meet at Texas Tech University in Lubbock April 29-30. The sophomore posted personal records in both events with a throw of 138 feet, 7 inches in the discus and 44-10 in the shot put.

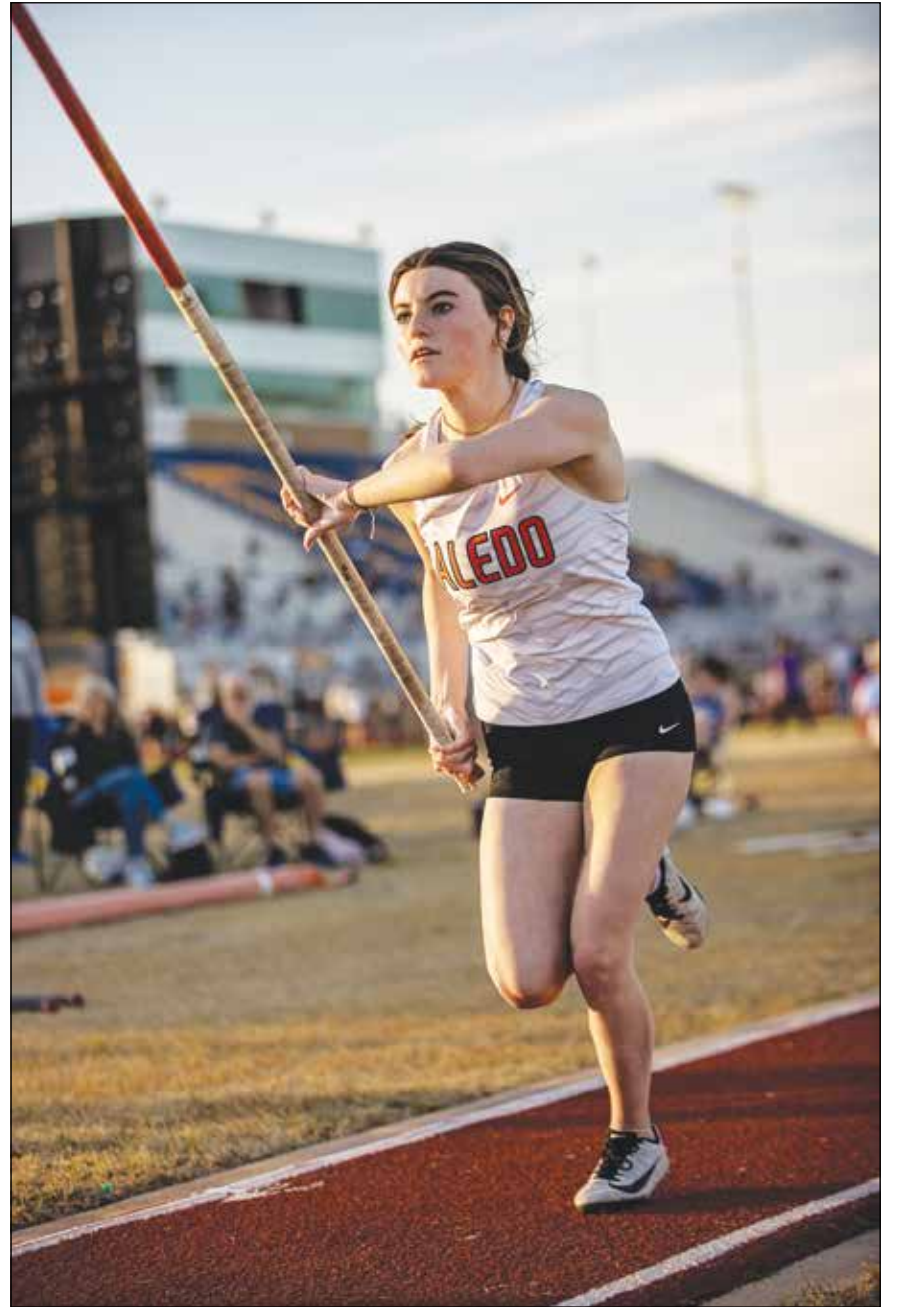
Also setting personal records to qualify as 1-2 in pole vaulting were freshman Maggie Kilburn and sophomore Taylor Hindman. Each cleared 11-09, but Kilburn won via tiebreaker.

"Lauren absolutely showed up to compete. After winning the discus on Friday, she had to come up with a big throw in the finals of the shot put to win that also," Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said. "Maggie and Taylor did an amazing job in

Turn to **TRACK**, page B3

**RIGHT: Maggie Kilburn (pictured) and teammate Taylor Hindman will represent Aledo at the state track meet in Austin this week.**

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GOLF

# Bearcats wrap up season at state

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats concluded their 2022 golf season in familiar fashion, competing at the Class 5A State Golf Tournament.

Aledo finished 12th with a two-day score of 655 on the White Wing Golf Course in Georgetown. They opened with a 332 and improved by nine shots to 323 on the second day.

While this was the first state tournament for this group of Bearcats, Aledo is no stranger to the state tournament. Every season since 2011 Aledo has sent one of its golf teams to state. The Bearcats previously qualified as a team in 2011 (fourth at state), 2015 (12th), 2017 (10th) and 2019 (12th). They also sent individuals in 2012 (Logan Lambert), 2014 (Lambert) and 2018 (Evan Pennington).

The Ladycats are also making a return to state, competing on the same course Monday and Tuesday. They have previously qualified as a team in 2012 (seventh), 2013 (10th), 2014 (fourth, with now LPGA golfer Cheyenne Knight winning individually), 2015 (second, Knight repeated as champion), 2016 (12th), 2017 (10th), 2018 (fourth) and 2021 (10th).

There was no state tournament in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was a good season program-wide," Bearcats coach Joe Roquemore said. "We have to learn to be at our best in the

most important tournaments. We stepped up at the 5A Region I Golf Tournament and qualified for the state tournament. The next step is to compete at a higher level at the state tournament."

The Bearcats finished third in the Region I Tournament, competing on one of the state's toughest courses amid some of the toughest conditions, dealing with the unpredictable winds at Lubbock's Rawls Golf Course.

At state, Aledo was led by Braylon Mahaney with a 157 (80-77). Right behind was Jett Moore with a 158 (80-78). Rounding out their scores were Jake Phillips at 168 (86-82), Logan Ban with a 174 (88-86) and Dylan Kiser at 175 (86-89).

The four lowest scores each round comprise the team score.

Austin Anderson won the tournament with a 587 score (294-293), followed by Dallas Highland Park Blue with a 591 (303-288) and Highland Park Gold at 594 (303-291).

The individual champion was Anderson's Keaton Vo with a 133 (67-66), six shots ahead of Maximus Cavagas of Boerne Champion at 139 (69-70).

Aledo had no seniors competing and all five players are expected to return next season.

Aledo qualified for the postseason by winning the District 5-5A championship.

## GOLF

from page B1

Austin Anderson, Montgomery and Highland Park.

Being regional champs, along with their own traditional presence at state, Mullins said folks will be keeping a close watch on his squad.

"As a matter of fact, winning regionals makes it harder on you. You're not the chaser any more, you're the chasee," he said. "But the kids are disciplined, dedicated and competitive. They'll be ready for it."

"It proved we can play well under the toughest conditions," junior and two-year varsity member Sana'a Lemen said of regionals.

"I think playing in that wind helped prepare our mental toughness," Saunders added.

Unlike the boys, who only had to wait two weeks between regionals and state, the girls had an extra week to wait. Smith said she'd rather have jumped right into state on the momentum of winning regionals, but is ready whenever it finally does arrive.

"It's a little long wait, but everyone else has the same challenge," she said. "We had one of our best rounds at regionals, so we're ready."

Saunders said she realizes this will be her final two rounds as a Ladycat, no matter what happens at state. She's excited about playing at the next level, but first things first.

"I'm going to be happy as long as I give it my best shot," she said. "It's just so great to be back."

Rounding out the Ladycats team at state are junior Madison Warner and sophomore Kyla Morales.



Aledo's Kyla Morales, preparing to putt during a practice round, will be competing with her Ladycat teammates Monday and Tuesday at the Class 5A State Tournament in Georgetown.

RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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# TRACK

from page B1

the pole vault. They did not let wind and weather affect them at all.”

Also going to Austin is the boys 800-meter relay of Sammy Steffe, Aven Lawrence, Hauss Hejny, and Clay Murador. The quartet clocked a time of 1 minute, 27.04 seconds in taking second in the finals. They improved from a time of 1:27.39, which placed them third in the preliminaries with Jalen Pope running a leg in place of Murador, who has been nursing an injury all season.

“We need to give Jalen some recognition for helping the team advance to the finals. We are working on getting healthy while also training to compete at our best at the state meet,” Bearcats coach Robby Jones said.

The finals time sent the Aledo group to state by the narrowest of margins. The Mansfield Timberview foursome clocked a 1:27.05.

This will be Murador’s second consecutive trip to state. He qualified in the 400 last season, finishing third at state and capturing a bronze medal.

The Bearcats might have had two relays going to Austin were it not for a baton exchange mishap that disqualified them from the finals in the 400 relay. The team of Hejny, Steffe, Jaden Allen, and Keiran Patrick-Daniels posted a season-best time of 41.57.

Jones also praised the The 1600 relay made up of Nathan Wood, Bryceson Boss, Blake Burdine, and Jalen Pope, which finished sixth. Hejny ran on this relay in the prelims but was not able to compete in the finals.

“The coaching staff was really pleased with the improvements that we have made in the 4x400 relay,” Jones said. “One of our goals at the beginning of the year was to put together a 4x400 relay that could get to the finals of the regional meet and compete for a spot at the state

meet and they accomplished that.”

The foursome of Wood, Pope, Burdine, and Hejny set the school record at the area meet with a time of 3:22.23, breaking a 21-year-old record.

Peters’ win in the shot put was also by a narrow margin of one inch over Glennis Woolridge of Mansfield Timberview. She also bested runner-up Woolridge by seven inches in the discus.

Kilburn and Hindman vaulted a solid nine inches more than the third-place finisher.

Both the Bearcats and Ladycats had some near misses for state berths. For the boys, Sean Gribble placed third in the pole vault, clearing 14-06, while Bryceson Boss placed fourth in the 800 and Angel Din-Mbuh was fourth in the discus. For the girls, Madyson Boutwell was fourth in the shot put and the 1600 relay also took fourth.

Also, while she did not advance to state, Addison Smith clocked a personal record of 12.08 seconds in the prelims to reach the finals of the 100 dash.

In the team standings at the regional meet, the Ladycats were fourth with 53 points. The Bearcats were seventh with 33 points.

“I thought all the girls competed extremely well. Regionals is a big stage with tremendous competition, and these girls didn’t let any of that phase them,” Pinkerton said. “Long jump, shot, discus, high jump, pole vault, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 4x400 relay – all competed at a very high level.”

In all, Aledo sent 26 athletes to the regional meet, 13 boys and 13 girls.

“Everyone went out to Lubbock and competed really well. We faced some adversity with a long bus ride, new relay legs and injuries, but the boys went out and competed at a high level,” Jones said.

“Isaac Hernandez was running in one of the most competitive distance fields in the state and managed to place sixth in the 3200. Bryceson

Boss ran a really good race in the 800 run and finished fourth in another stacked race, then he stepped in for an injured teammate and ran a good leg on the 4x400 relay that ran the second fastest time in school history. Two sophomores, Jaden Allen in the 100 dash and Evan Thompson in the 110 hurdles both ran season-best times and missed making the finals by one spot.”

### State rankings

With her performances at regionals, St. Peters now ranks fourth in the state among shot putters in Class 5A. She is seventh in the state in the discus.

The top three shot put throws in the state are 47-4, 46-3, 45-6.5. The top three discus throws are 179-7.5, 155-4 and 154-5.

Kilburn and Hindman are tied for seventh in the pole vault with their regional performance. The top three vaults are 13-0, 12-9 and 12-3.

### Class 5A Region I Track and Field Meet Texas Tech University, Lubbock

#### Top Aledo results

(Top two finishers in each event advance to state)

#### Boys

800: 4. Bryceson Boss, 1:56.21 (personal record).  
3200: 6. Isaac Hernandez, 9:44.40.  
800 relay: 2. Sammy Steffe, Aven Lawrence, Hauss Hejny, Clay Murador, 1:27.04.  
1600 relay: 6. Nathan Wood, Bryceson Boss, Blake Burdine, Jalen Pope, 3:23.97.  
Discus: 4. Angel Din-Mbuh, 158-06 (PR).  
High jump: T-7. Jack Mitchell, 6-0.  
Pole vault: 3. Sean Gribble, 14-06.

#### Girls

100: 6. Addison Smith, 12.20.  
200: 6. Smith, 25.08.  
400: 6. Emery Thompson, 59.22 (PR).  
1600 relay: 4. Delaney Deller, Thompson, Sidney Tillotson, Smith, 3:58.71.  
Shot put: 1. Lauren St. Peters, 44-10 (PR); 4. Madyson Boutwell, 36-07.  
Discus: 1. St. Peters, 138-07 (PR).  
Pole vault: 1. Maggie Kilburn, 11-09 (PR, won tiebreaker); 2. Taylor Hindman, 11-09 (PR).

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Dowling, Camp win state titles for Trinity

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Saving the best performances of their career for the final meet of the season, senior Kennan Dowling and junior Ben Camp won state championships in the 110-meter hurdles and discus, respectively, at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 4A State Track and Field Meet at Waco Midway this past weekend.

Dowling clocked a personal-record time of 15.32 seconds in the 110 hurdles to capture a gold medal. Camp had a personal-best throw of 128 feet, 9 inches to bring home his gold medal in the discus - on his final throw of the season.

“Ben Camp’s and Kennan Dowling’s performances at this year’s state meet were amazing. These two athletes have worked extremely hard at their craft and were able to put it all together when it mattered the most,” Trinity coach Cody McKenzie said. “We are so proud of how Kennan was able to close out his high school career with a state championship, 110 and 300 hurdle school records, and was part of the four by 100 team that set a new school record as well.

“He is an amazing team leader and we will miss him moving forward, but are excited about the opportunity to see what he does at Hardin Simmons next year with track.

“Ben is a tremendous athlete that has put together an amazing year, setting both our discus and shot put school records. We are very excited to see how he continues to improve into his senior year.”

Dowling came close to winning two gold medals,



TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Ben Camp won a gold medal in the discus.

but settled for second and a silver medal in the 300 hurdles, clocking a time of 41.30 seconds, also a PR. His freshman brother, Asa Dowling, also competed in the 110 hurdles and finished sixth.

Cade Hays came close to a state championship. The sophomore placed second in the discus with a PR throw of 127-06.

The Lady Eagles were led by a trio of fourth-place finishes from the 400 and 800 relays, along with freshman Ella Cockrum in the discus.

Trinity athletes posted nine personal records in the meet.

The Eagles finished sixth as a team with 47 points, while the Lady Eagles were eighth with 39.

“This season has been really exciting. The program has continued to grow each year and we are blessed to

Turn to TCA, page B5



TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Kennan Dowling won gold and silver medals in hurdles.

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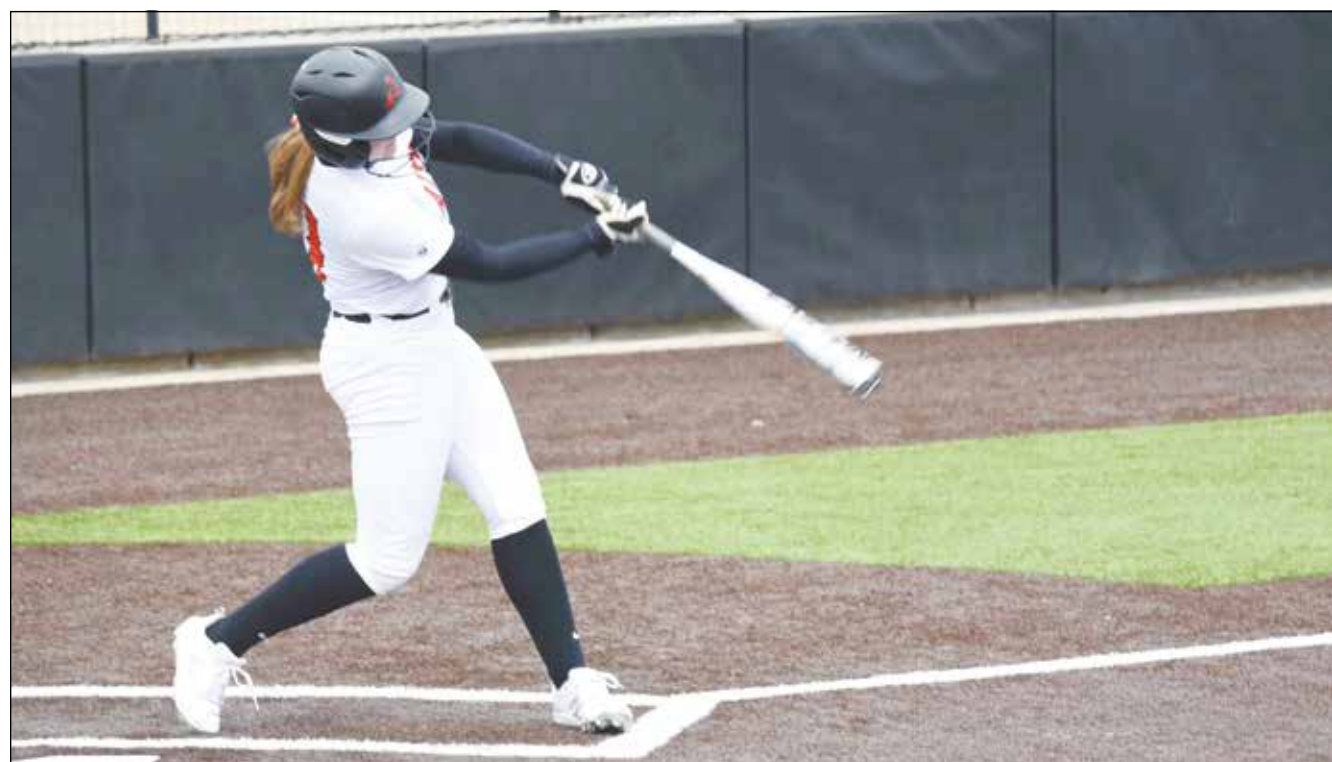
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JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Marissa Powell, shown earlier this season, hit a home run to end game one of the Mansfield Legacy series.

SOFTBALL

# Ladycats revenge tour continues

## Rematch with Colleyville Heritage set

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats softball team is on a mission. After sweeping the first round, the Ladycats took on the Mansfield Legacy Broncos (22-8) in the area round and continued their dominance by sweeping Legacy 12-1 and 13-1.

Aledo (28-2) will face Colleyville Heritage (27-3) in a best-of-three series, starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, at Aledo. Game two will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 13, at Colleyville Heritage High School. If needed, game three will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, at Boswell High School in Saginaw.

"Even though we beat them last year I still feel like there's unfinished business," head coach Heather Myers said about the upcoming

series. "The girls are ready. The girls are fired up and I know they're going to come out and play. They have been itching to play Colleyville again."

It was a rather inauspicious start to the second round against Mansfield Legacy, when the Broncos scored early in the first inning. However, before Legacy could even record an out, the first four Aledo batters got on base and scored.

Presley Hull added two more runs in the second inning by doubling home Texas Ray and Madysen Boutwell, making the score 6-1.

Nathalie Touchet settled in at pitcher after giving up the early run and did not allow another run and struck out four over five innings pitched.

Three more Aledo runs scored in the fourth inning, and Marissa Powell walked it off with a two-run

double in the fifth to end the game by run-run.

"Marissa literally told them to get ready to run on the field," Myers recalled. "She literally called her walk off. The girls are dialed in and they're fun to watch."

Game two got off to a slower start, but still Hull was up to the task and hit a solo home run in the second inning, giving the Ladycats a 1-0 lead.

The Broncos tied it up in the bottom of the second inning on a passed ball, but Aledo went right back to work scoring three runs in the top of the third and adding four more in the fourth, making it 8-1.

Powell and Macy Graf hit back-to-back home runs in the sixth inning to bring the score to 10-1 before the Ladycats scored three more times in the seventh inning to bring the final score to 13-1, closing out the series.

## TCA

from page B3

have a great group of kids who work extremely hard each week for us and each other," McKenzie said. "This year's team broke 12 different school records, and while we celebrate what we have been able to accomplish, we are looking forward to the great group of athletes we have returning and a new track and field facility."

### TAPPS Class 4A State Track and Field Meet TCA at Waco Midway High School

#### Boys

100: 6. Reece Hargrove, senior, 11.30 (PR).  
110 hurdles: 1. Kennan Dowling, senior,

15.32 (PR); 6. Asa Dowling, freshman, 16.92 (PR).

300 hurdles: 2. K. Dowling, 41.30 (PR).  
400 relay: 4. George Brenner, senior; Hudson Quinn, junior; K. Dowling; Hargrove, 43.83.

Shot put: 6. Ben Camp, junior, 42-11.75.  
Discus: 1. Camp, 128-09 (PR); 2. Cade Hays, sophomore, 127-06 (PR).

#### Girls

100: 7. Libby Tovar, junior, 13.03 (PR).  
200: 6. Sophie Scott, junior, 27.75.

800: 5. Gracee Whiteaker, sophomore, 2:32.90.

1600: 8. Whiteaker, 6:08.03 (PR).

400 relay: 4. Tovar; Amberlie Daniels, junior; McKenna Kelley, sophomore; Scott, 52.26.

1600 relay: 4. Tovar, Daniels, Whiteaker, Scott, 4:20.65.

Discus: 4. Ella Cockrum, freshman, 108-03 (PR).

Long jump: 5. Scott, 16-01.

## RODEO

# Several from area reach NTHSRA finals

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

With the regular season now at an end, the North Texas High School Rodeo Association will crown its champions this weekend in the NTHSRA Finals Rodeo at the NTHSRA Arena in Saginaw.

The top 15 in each event qualified to compete in the finals. Competition runs Friday through Sunday.

Numerous competitors from Aledo and Weatherford will be chasing championships. Among the top names are Weatherford's Savannah Letson, the regular season leader in pole bending, and teammate Caden Farrell, second in chute dogging and third in steer wrestling.

Aledo leaders include Tyson Douglas, fifth in chute dogging, and Mason McElroy, sixth in saddle bronc.

Here's a complete list of competitors from Aledo and Weatherford

this weekend, including their place in the final regular-season standings:

Calf roping: 8. Clayton Praytor, Weatherford; 15. Haiden Smith, Weatherford.

Breakaway roping: 5. Lily Hamilton, Weatherford; 9. Caylee Akins, Aledo; 10. Reagan High, Weatherford.

Saddle bronc: 6. Mason McElroy, Aledo. Ribbon roping: 5. Praytor; 14. Smith.

Walk-up goat tying: 9. Ashtyn Coufal, Aledo.

Steer wrestling: 3. Caden Coufal, Aledo. Barrel racing: 8. Adrianna Ruckteschler, Aledo; 12. Savannah Letson, Weatherford; 14. Coufal.

Chute dogging: 2. Farrell; 5. Tyson Douglas, Aledo.

Pole bending: 1. Letson.

Bull riding: 4. Carter High, Weatherford. Rookie Cowgirl: 6. High; 10. Annabelle McNelly, Aledo.

All-Around Cowgirl: 10. Letson.

All-Around Cowboy: 6. Farrell; 9. Praytor. Teams: 4. Weatherford, 5,923 points; 12. Aledo, 2,387.

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BASEBALL

# Bearcats sweep first round

## Will face Burluson in Area

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

It is officially playoff time for the Aledo Bearcats baseball team. The district 5-5A champions took the field on the weekend of May 6-7 to take on the Denton Broncos (18-12), and came away with a two game sweep by scores of 6-2 and 9-4.

The Bearcats (23-10) are moving on to the area round where the Burluson Elks (16-13) await. Burluson won both coin flips determining series length and location. Elks head coach Kendall Clark chose a one game playoff that will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 13, at Burluson High School.

"I think it will be a dog fight," Aledo head coach Chad Barry predicted. "They have one arm that they totally believe in and I think they're going to ride him as long as they can. My message to the team is going to be the same; 'Put barrels on balls, work the count, and play clean baseball.' If we can do those things I think we'll be all right."

In game one against Denton, Hunter Rudel took the mound and pitched a gem, going seven full innings, giving up just five hits and striking out five.

Aledo's bats awoke early as Adrian Guzman doubled to left field, scoring Colton Whitmire. Denton tied the game at one in the third inning, and took a 2-1 lead in the fourth. However, David Jones pulled Aledo back even when he drove in Guzman from second base.

The Bearcats then drove in three more runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to take a 5-2 lead. Guzman came across one more time in the fifth inning, bringing the final score to 6-2 after Rudel closed out the game on the mound.

"In game one you're usually trying to feel each other out," Barry



NOLAN RUTH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

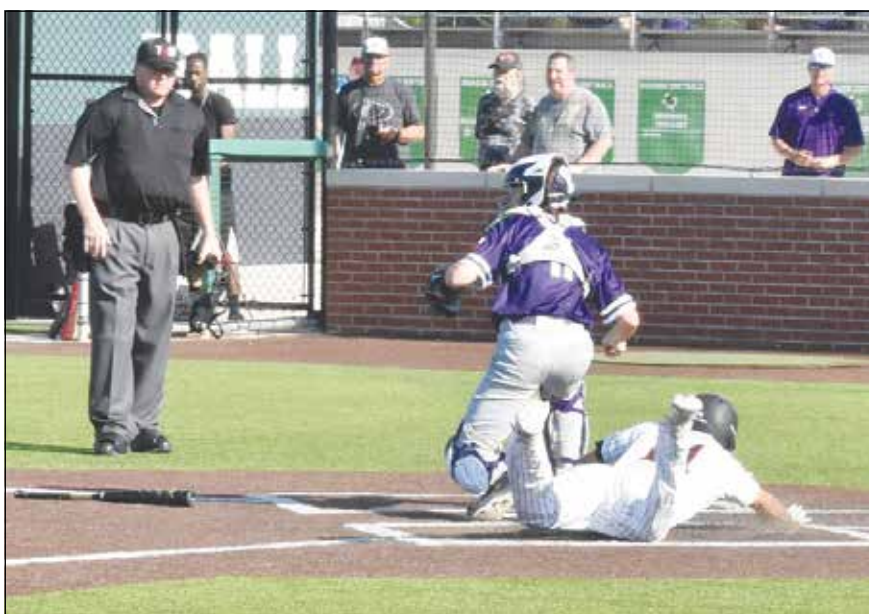
Hunter Rudel throws to first baseman Bosten Dwinell in an attempt to pickoff a Denton baserunner

said. "After that it's just about executing, trying to have a good at bat, trying to get hard hit balls and I felt that we did that once we got to the second time through the line up."

In between games one and two, the Aledo High School prom occurred but the team remained focused.

"They're mature enough to know that a couple hours of fun wasn't worth throwing the season away," Barry remarked. "They had a meeting after the game and Estevan [Flores] told them not to do anything stupid and that we had business to attend to the next morning, and I think they all heeded his advice."

The Bearcats got off to another fast start in game two. Trace Mazon doubled to lead off the game, and



NOLAN RUTH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Adrian Guzman slides safely into home plate to score a run in Aledo's 6-2 win over Denton.

"I think it will be a dog fight. They have one arm that they totally believe in and I think they're going to ride him as long as they can. My message to the team is going to be the same; 'Put barrels on balls, work the count, and play clean baseball.'"

AHS Head Baseball Coach  
Chad Barry

Ethan Jaques doubled him home in the next at-bat. The Broncos tied the game in the bottom of the first, but Aledo exploded in the second inning, scoring four runs including two on a triple by Jaques.

Inning by inning, Denton chipped away at the Bearcat lead, ultimately making it a 5-4 score after five innings. However, Aledo was not about to let the game slip away, and scored four more runs after five and a half innings.

Preston Clark was brought in as pitcher to close out the series and did not allow a run in the final two innings, ultimately completing the sweep.

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