

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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From Seedling to Branches

Branch to Hope seeks to address youth, family issues

By **Randy Keck**
The Community News

It may have appeared to the roughly 750-800 people who attended the inaugural Day of Hope at the brand-new Branch to Hope Community Center on Sunday, May 20, that the whole operation just appeared out of thin air. It's only been a couple of weeks since the organization took possession of its new 23-acre facility situated just between Aledo and Annetta.

While things have moved quickly the last few weeks, the machinery has been in motion for a while now.

The catalyst for the organization may have been the death by suicide of Hayden Hunstable, just four days shy of his 13th birthday, on April 18, 2020.

The Aledo community rallied around the Hunstable family, but the pain of the loss motivated Brad Hunstable, Hayden's father, and MJ Bentley, who now serves as the Branch to Hope chair, to do more than just grieve.



Two youngsters enjoy pleasant weather and the facilities at the new Branch to Hope Community Center in Aledo on Sunday, May 22 at its inaugural Day of Hope.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

"MJ was my neighbor when most important people in our lives The family decided to move, we lived in Bella Flora, and when to help us through that," Hunstable and since Bentley had recently Hayden passed she was one of the said. Turn to **HOPE**, page 7

POLITICS

Rogers wins District 60

Commissioner race undecided

By **Randy Keck**
The Community News

Republicans and Democrats went to the polls on Tuesday, May 24, to make their parties' final selections in primary runoff races for the November general election.

Two ballot positions and de facto November winners were decided within Parker County. One race was still undecided at press time.

In the Republican race for Pct. 2 Commissioner, Jacob Holt outpolled Joe W. Harris, 2,309-1,541, to claim that seat because there will be no Democrat on the ballot in November.

Likewise, Tim Mendolia will become the new Justice of the Peace Pct. 4, drawing 2,458 votes to opponent Allison Bedore's 2,011.

"Thank you to my family, friends, and supporters," Bedore said in accepting the loss. "The outpouring of messages and calls since last night have been uplifting and inspiring. Your faith and confidence in me means everything."

The race for County Commissioner Pct. 4 was too close for either candidate to either declare victory or concede. Mike Hale ended the night with 2,358 votes to Eric Contreras' 2,312, a difference of 46 votes — less than one percent.

According to the Parker County Elections office, there was one ballot by mail that will be processed if the ballot board accepts it. In addition, there were seven defective mail ballots that could still be corrected by May 31, and another eight provisional ballots that will be reviewed on June 1.

Neither candidate wanted to comment on the race pending the review of the ballots.

In the heated race for State Representative District 60, Palo Pinto County carried the day to push Glenn Rogers to victory over challenger Mike Olcott, who took the majority of Parker County votes.

Districtwide, Rogers outpolled Olcott 9,261 to 8,509. Olcott carried Parker County by 1,124 votes, but Rogers carried Palo Pinto by 1,429 votes, and Stephens county by 447 votes.

In Parker County Olcott had 7,383 votes to Rogers' 6,259.

"We're happy to see that we won the race," Rogers said. "It was a very difficult, hard fought race — maybe the ugliest race I've ever seen. I don't know that I've ever seen a dirtier campaign and we're just happy for it to be over and glad that we won and thank the voters for for making the right decision to elect me to go back to Austin."

The Community News invited comments from Mike Olcott and Tim Mendolia, but did not receive a response by press time.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

All Steinway WC becomes first community college All-Steinway Spirio Institution

By **Crystal Woerly**
Weatherford College

Thanks to generous supporters of the fine arts, Weatherford College is now an All-Steinway Spirio Institution, and the first community college ever to claim the title.

WC first attained the status of All-Steinway in 2019 with the purchase of 10 Steinway & Sons pianos through the efforts of a Weatherford College Foundation fundraising campaign. With the purchase of an 11th piano through the foundation's Marjorie Alkek Fund, the college now claims three Spirio | grand pianos in the collection, elevating WC's Steinway status.

"Weatherford College has demonstrated a pledge to distinction and an unparalleled educational experience by providing their students with Steinway & Sons pianos," said Bryan Elmore, director of institutional sales and services with Steinway. "These pianos inspire

Turn to **PIANOS**, page 3

Female Blackhawk pilot encourages others to fly high

By **Rick Mauch**
The Community News

Elizabeth McCormick doesn't believe in gender barriers. She believes in dreams, creating, and capitalizing on opportunities.

And, in the vein of the legendary Annie Oakley, she is proof that no matter the gender, if you want something you can go get it.

The former U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot was the guest speaker — finally — at the Friends of the Weatherford Public Library Annual Spring Luncheon at the Doss Heritage and Cultural Center on May 6. She was originally scheduled to speak in 2020, but the event was canceled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This luncheon was three years in the making," said FOL President Kathy Ott with a chuckle.

McCormick, who has written 20 best-selling books, including her most recent, "The Pilot Method," was named by Choicepoint Health as one of the top 30 motivational speakers in the world. She is also listed No. 4 on the list of Leadership Experts to Follow Online.

In addition, she is a Congressional Veteran Commendation recipient.



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Blackhawk helicopter pilot Elizabeth McCormick entertains guests at the Weather Friends of the Library Luncheon.

Her presentation at the event was entitled "You in the Pilot Seat."

"I had a degree in math, a minor in art and an associates degree in engineering. I couldn't get a job," McCormick told the crowd as she explained how her career as a helicopter pilot began.

In the early 90s she was living with her husband, who was stationed in Fort Polk, Louisiana, she recalled, when the idea came to her to also join the army.

"One night I looked at my 'starter husband,'" she said, pausing, then adding, "Don't laugh too hard, you might still be on yours. I looked at him and said, if he can be in the Army, so can I. I wanted the coolest job. What's the coolest job? Pilot. I didn't know it was that hard."

Then, one day while walking she came across an area where helicopters were fenced in, and she realized what she wanted to do — fly them.

"I clutched the gray hot fence and looked and said, 'Yeah, this is what I'm supposed to do. It just felt right.'"

Then, when speaking with a recruiter, he informed her

Turn to **PILOT**, page 3



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JW Mechanical Systems has serviced Aledo and the Parker County area for about half a decade.

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"We've been officially in Aledo for six years," Carrie said. "We got started out of the garage with Jeff running service calls, and now we've grown to eight trucks in that duration."

Carrie said JW Mechanical is a true mom-and-pop shop.

Carrie — who runs the social media, accounting books, and advertising — grew up in Aledo and graduated in 1996. Her family has lived in the area since the 1980s, she said.

Jeff is one of the technicians, and their 65-year-old daughter Stella works in the family business throughout her summer and winter breaks.

Their dogs Otis and Lacy also work in the office, serving as the positive energy and the calming presence.

Beyond the familial employees, Carrie said they try to operate in a close-knit work environment.



"We're always trying to do right in our community," Carrie said.

An Army veteran family, Carrie said they always hire veterans when they can.

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PIANOS

from page one

students to realize their artistic talents and best prepare them to compete at the highest level in the professional world.”

Steinway’s Spirio | r technology creates a high-resolution player piano capable of live performance capture, playback, and livestreaming with in-sync video and audio from one Spirio piano to another or many worldwide.

WC is currently providing live music performances by students and instructors to the Texas Health Arlington Hospital’s Spirio-equipped piano.

“We are also working with the Arlington and Fort Worth ISDs to provide teaching and concerts remotely—and live,” said Duane Durrett, WC’s dean of fine arts. “These are opportunities to reach out to students we may otherwise not be able to reach through recruiting efforts.”

While there are 17 institutions in Texas that own Steinway & Sons Spirio | r pianos, WC is the first public community college in America to become an All-Steinway Spirio Institution.

“I am thrilled that WC is one of the first institutions in the country to offer Spirio technology,” said WC master pianist Dr. Hyeyoung Song. “Spirio technology gives our instructors and students the ability to record and listen to their music lessons and performances as never before. Our musicians can now advance their artistry by removing any bad habits that detract from excellence. The ability to hear, compare and study their music will help them develop the necessary confidence needed for professional-caliber performances.

“And I am excited that Spirio technology will enable us to experience wider musical adventures such as various concerts, music engineering and business, and community service.”



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

From left: Brent Baker, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Frederick Sanders, director of the WC Jazz Orchestra; Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, WC President; Duane Durrett, WC’s dean of fine arts; and Bryan Elmore, director of institutional sales and services with Steinway & Sons

Art show coming to Aledo

The Artists of Horseshoe Trail will hold an art exhibit throughout the summer at Aledo Workspace, 1015 Champikons Drive in Aledo.

An artist reception and opening night will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 3, and will feature live demonstrations by James Spurlock and Stephanie Burk.

Artists include Spurlock, Burk, Judy Baker, Lesli Carr, Karen Chatham, Kristin Coffee, Susan Disney, Cindy Easton, Susie Gregg, Brooke Gritch, Cynthia Hill, Karen Hosch, Jerra Lewis, Anita McDonald, Sheila Moncrief, Grace Nowlin, Michelle Pappas, Dian Rhodes, and Johnnie Smith.

The exhibit will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

PILOT

from page one

they had openings for a cook. She responded that she wanted to fly a blackhawk helicopter.

“He said, ‘You can’t do that,’ she recalled. ‘You can believe your potential or you can believe what someone else has to say. I didn’t have to know how I was going to become a helicopter pilot to believe I was going to become one.’

“What would have happened if I believed him instead of me?”

She said even the doctor at her physical told her she was wasting his time, as did the examiner for the flight aptitude skills test. She didn’t listen to any of them, just as she advised the audience to not listen to anyone negative in their paths.

“We get to choose what we believe — you get to choose,” she said. “Every morning when you wake up breathing you have an opportunity

until that doesn’t happen any more. You are in the pilot seat of your life.”

McCormick took the audience through a simulated helicopter training, albeit without leaving their chairs.

“Even though you’re in the air there are speed limits, did you know that?” she asked, adding with a laugh, “There are no signs, though.”

As further evidence to never give up on a dream, she told the audience of how through seven weeks of training she was struggling and on the verge of failing. Still, she showed up day after day, despite such denigrating remarks from her instructor as “a monkey could fly better.”

“I just really want to see that monkey,” McCormick said, which drew a loud laugh.

Then, a substitute instructor arrived for her final week of training with a simple question.

“He asked, ‘Do you want this?’ she said. “I said ‘oh yea!’ He said, ‘Great, let’s teach you.’”

“For the first time I had someone teaching instead of yelling,” she continued.

McCormick also altered an old expression when she told the crowd, “Practice makes permanent. How we practice determines how we perform. Everything we do today builds our tomorrow.”

A few years later she found herself stationed in Fort Drummond, New York.

“It snows there in July. I knew I was in trouble when they issued us a snowblower,” she said. “There was five feet of snow on Mother’s Day. The coldest it got while I was there was minus-63, and that was actual temperature, not wind chill.”

Then came the Great North American Ice Storm of 1998.

“You think Snowmageddon last year was bad? There were people without power for 90 days,” she said.

But during that time came a heroic opportunity for her. On a flight on which she was the secondary pilot, they entered a cloud and

if one of the blades were to freeze it could knock them out of the sky. It appeared from a gauge that there was a malfunction and that was about to happen.

They also had a colonel on the flight with them.

The lead pilot panicked. Thanks to the quick thinking of McCormick, however, she realized it was malfunction in the gauge and not in the part that de-iced the blades. They landed safely.

A few days later, she was told by the colonel that he was listening the whole time. Instead of chastising her for overriding the lead pilot, he commended her and thanked her for saving the lives of himself and everyone else on board — adding that if she hadn’t done what she did, he was about to come up the cockpit and do it himself.

“We all have a capability, a responsibility to lead from where we are,” she said. “We can’t wait.”

She ended her presentation with a reminder for the audience to FLY - First Lead Yourself.

Other business

Prior to McCormick speaking, Ott reminded the audience of the FOL Annual Meeting at 10:30 a.m. on June 1 at the library. At that meeting, to which the public is invited, there will be the election of board officers.

Library director Chris Accardo and his staff were recognized for receiving the 2021 Achievement in Library Excellence Award. Only 10 percent of libraries in Texas receive this honor, Ott said.

“We never stopped checking out books, not for one day or one hour,” Accardo said, addressing the pandemic.

Accardo also reminded the audience to visit the new Story Path at Love Park. It features 18 kiosks that tell a story for children, with the story changing every couple weeks to a month.



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Commentary

May 27, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
www.community-news.com

Capital Highlights

Wildfires continue across state



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Firefighters are looking to the skies for much-needed rain this week as crews continue battling wildfires across the state. Fires reported Sunday by the Texas A&M Forest Service were being fought in Brown, Taylor, Wilbarger, Llano, Schleicher, and San Saba counties.

"Minimal rainfall, hot and dry conditions, and an intensifying drought continue to support wildfire activity across the state," said Wes Moorehead, TFS fire chief. "Due to conditions, these wildfires are requiring more time and resources to contain. Texas A&M Forest Service continues to support local fire departments and has situated additional resources to the areas of concern."

Burn bans are in effect in 131 counties, covering nearly all regions of the state with the exception of East Texas.

More teachers added to task force

The Texas Education Agency added 24 more teachers to the Teacher Vacancy Task Force formed in March, bringing the number of teachers to 26 — the same number as administrators originally chosen. TEA drew criticism when it announced the original task force with just two teachers selected.

"Teachers are the single most important school-based factor affecting student outcomes," said Mike Morath, Texas education commissioner. "And the Teacher Vacancy Task Force will further ensure our ability to provide the best guidance, support, and resources to help schools find and retain the teachers they need for all their students. Having these two-dozen additional perspectives from a diverse and talented pool of Texas classroom teachers is going to immensely benefit the important considerations before the Task Force."

Public school systems both large and small across the state are facing a severe staffing shortage, exacerbated by a flood of retirements and resignations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force hopes to develop strategies for addressing the problem.

'Click It or Ticket' campaign underway

Buckling up is always a wise idea, but not doing so could cost drivers a ticket as the Texas Department of Transportation conducts its 20th annual "Click It or Ticket" campaign with enhanced enforcement statewide.

"Since its launch in 2002, the Texas Click It or Ticket campaign has saved nearly 7,000 lives," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "We're proud of the work we've done over the decades and the countless hours put in by our law enforcement partners. But there are still far too many preventable deaths on Texas roads."

Texas officers and deputies will step up enforcement of the state's seat belt and

child car-seat laws for the next two weeks. Texas law requires everyone in a vehicle to be properly restrained. Children under the age of 8 must be in a child-safety seat unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches. If a child is not secured, the driver faces fines up to \$250.

Tree-killing insect confirmed in Dallas County

The presence of the emerald ash borer (EAB) was confirmed last week in Dallas County. The county has been added to the list of Texas places under quarantine to slow the spread of the insect.

"EAB is a destructive, non-native wood-boring pest of ash trees," said Allen Smith, Texas A&M Forest Service regional Forest health coordinator. "Since 2018, we have deployed nearly 500 traps across Central, East and North Texas annually watching for the insect's presence and movement."

Native to Asia, the aggressive pest has killed millions of ash trees since entering the country 20 years ago. In Texas, it has been confirmed in Harrison, Bowie, Cass, Dallas, Denton, Marion, Parker, and Tarrant counties.

Texas A&M Forest Service works with communities under state quarantines restricting the movement of wood into and out of impacted areas.

TDI data breach exposes personal data

A state audit released last week reported a breach of personal information of 1.8 million workers who filed claims with the Texas Department of Insurance. The department said the personal information included Social Security numbers, addresses, dates of birth, and other personal information.

The breach occurred "because of an issue in the programming code in the department's web application that manages workers' compensation data. The issue in the code allowed members of the public to access a protected part of that online application," the Texas Tribune reported.

In response to media reports, TDI said it promptly fixed the programming code error when it was discovered and that there was no evidence to date that there was a misuse of information. It is providing a year of free credit monitoring and identity protection services to those whose data was exposed.

Number of COVID-19 cases remains steady

The number of new cases of COVID-19 cases reported in Texas during the past week stayed steady at 26,798, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 58 deaths reported in the state. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state rose slightly to 859, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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.



Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Statement from Rep. Rogers on election night victory

Friends,

From supporters to staff to family, I want to thank everyone who contributed to yesterday's victory. However, I cannot, in good conscience, celebrate this achievement in light of the recent tragedy that occurred in Uvalde. While those who made yesterday possible were enjoying this occasion, there were those in our same great state dealing with an unmeasurable tragedy. The loss of a child is

something that I understand firsthand, and it is a pain that I would not wish on anyone. In a time such as this, words can bring little comfort to those who are bearing suffering too great to comprehend.

To those who took to the polls last night to cast their vote, it is in this moment that I hope we can remember that we are all one family — and that we share in the love and pain of our fellow Texans equally. From Parker, Palo Pinto, and Stephens, together, I believe that our district can accomplish great things, and we have the opportunity to offer

an equally great service to others. Those in Uvalde need our help, support, and prayers. I ask that you spare your time, donations, or resources in any way you can to the multitude of organizations that are working with these families firsthand.

During this election season, I am forever grateful for the support of my constituents across the district, and I look forward to upholding my end of the bargain as your State Representative.

God Bless Texas!

- Rep. Glenn Rogers



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.

Life & Community

May 27, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
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First Day of Hope offered lots of fun

The inaugural Day of Hope at Branch to Hope drew between 750-800 people for all sorts of activities, from fishing to barrel racing. - Photos by Randy Keck



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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Caden Witt makes a splash on the big water slide at the 2021 Aledo Summer Blast.

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.

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.

JUNE 4

Super Safety Saturday
Texas Health Willow Park will host Super Safety Saturday, a family-friendly safety event, from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 4, at 101 Crown Pointe Blvd. in Willow Park.

The event will include pool and sun safety education, food trucks, hands-only CPR, life jacket and bicycle helmet fittings and giveaways, home safety, child safety, fire safety (smoke room demonstration), drowning prevention, gun safety with gun lock giveaways, poison control tips, emergency service notification for Weatherford and Willow Park, suicide prevention, and With of Weatherford Safety and Emergency Services. Kid-friendly activities include bounce houses; face painting; McGruff a DJ for

entertainment; Jaws of Life demonstration; impaired driving simulator; tours of the Willow Park Fire Department truck, LifeCare ambulance, and Carelite helicopter; and a trackless train ride. Prizes, snow-cones, and water will be provided at no cost. For more information, call 817-757-1500.



Summer Concert

Aledo United Methodist Church will host a summer concert featuring Doc's Garage Band at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 4, on the Camper's Church lot next to the youth house on Pecan Drive in Aledo.

The concert promises lots of songs the kids can dance to, a good old fashioned gospel medley, and some of the band's greatest hits. Cookies and ice cream will be served. Attendees are encouraged to bring a folding or camping chair.

JUNE 6

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.

ACROSS

- Pearsall is the seat of this county
- monthly lodging expense
- TXism: "chew ___ awhile" (think about)
- TXism: "suits ___ a fare-thee-well"
- Dallas-based chain: ___ Friday's
- what TX Tommy Lee Jones does for a living
- restores to health
- TXism: "use your ___ something besides a hat rack" (think)
- Lorrie Morgan tune: "___ for Monday" (1991)
- "Laguna Madre," e.g.
- actor Don of "The Buddy Holly Story"
- TX Morgan Fairchild got start on "___ for Tomorrow"
- Jackson County seat
- rip apart
- "the bull" in Mexico
- this Gray was Sue Ellen on "Dallas"
- device to vary the intensity of light
- LBJ's Attorney General (2 wds.)
- a type of native Texas wildflower
- TX George Strait hit: "___ the Hole"
- single shout of approval (2 wds.)

DOWN

- TXism: "plenty ___" (quick)
- Texas maker of handcrafted shoes
- "for old times' ___"
- TXism: "___ sheared like a spring lamb" (was swindled)
- "si" south of the border
- Eagle Pass AM station
- hay bundle
- TXism: "___ hog had wings he'd be an eagle"
- XIT ranch covered ___ counties
- female sheep
- TXism: "___ lying through his teeth"
- between L and XXL
- lawless area in Fort Worth: "Hell's Half ___" (1873-1919)
- De ___, Texas
- tater
- oil well failure
- it's worth six points in football (abbr.)
- dir. from Crockett to Orange
- Santa's helper
- what law enforcement might put on a telephone (2 wds.)
- cowboy contests
- a Gulf eel, for one
- TXism: "build ___ before you buy chickens" (prepare)
- leases
- TXism: "the whole ___ and caboodle"
- this Henke was a Ranger closer (init.)
- TXism: "close but ___ cigar"
- TXism: "___ bricks shy of a load"
- diving position
- TX Phyllis Coats has portrayed this Superman girlfriend Lois

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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JUNE 10

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.

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 Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aledo. For more information, email Joan Ward at cjckat1959@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

Turn to **EVENTS**, page 7

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EVENTS

from page six

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.

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 prepare 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 5

Art Camp

The Weatherford Art Association will host Art Camp from 10 a.m. to noon for four weeks in July. The first week will run from Tuesday, July 5 to Friday, July 8. The remaining weeks will run from Monday-Thursday at Central Christian Church Cupped Hall, 1602 S. Main Street in Weatherford. Campers will be divided into two age groups: grades K-2 (ages 5-7) and grades 3-5 (ages 8-10).

The cost for the camp is \$60 per student per week (t-shirt included).

To register, visit www.weatherfordart.com and look for payments/donations. For more information, call K. Cunniff at 817-694-0245 or Jill Harper at 817-980-6159.

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 Weatherford 9th Grade Center, Weatherford College, or Heritage Park. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for younger than 5.

For more information, visit <https://www.parkercountyteachfestival.org>.

HOPE

from page one

moved to Walsh, the Hunstables followed.

"I don't know why, but I called MJ four or five days [after Hayden passed] and knew she had a brother that made movies."

Bentley's brother, Bill McAdams, Jr., shot the movie Gallows Road in Aledo in 2015. Bentley is a partner in Fort Worth Studios, a multimedia production company.

"I'm calling you — I don't know how this works. But I feel like I need to talk about this. And I don't know why," Hunstable told Bentley.

Hunstable had just recorded a Facebook video with the title "COVID killed my son, but not in the way you think."

The video went viral and gained national attention, with Hunstable receiving sometimes 10,000 messages a day from "people who were concerned about what's happening in the world — what's happened with our kids, concerned about the polarization of the country, that lack of faith in the country," Hunstable said.

The seedling

Bentley put Hunstable in contact with her brother Bill on about the fourth day after Hayden passed away. The result of the collaboration was the award-winning movie "Almost 13," which raised the awareness of suicide.

"Almost 13" was written and directed by McAdams, and produced by Bentley and Therese Moncrief. The story of the development of the movie will be in a future issue of The Community News. Watch it at <https://haydenscorner.org/almost-thirteen/>

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10-17 year olds. In fact, the three leading causes of death among teenagers in the United States are accidents, suicide, and homicide.

Hunstable saw a connection between some of the technological change and youth mental health.

"You've seen the data around what's happened since 2006-seven-eight where the iPhone was introduced, the Xbox was introduced, Facebook was introduced," Hunstable said.

The roots

During the last few years Bentley has been leading bible studies and volunteering her time in the community. In that experience she has seen the pain and struggles of many young people.

Depression and suicide have both been rising among adolescents in recent years.

Bentley felt the need for a "safe, intentional, educational, caring, fun place for kids and their families to use the neighbors around them to help navigate through the tough times."

She reached out to Hunstable. Hunstable feels that schools in many ways have shifted from being places where students learn good life skills to more academic topics like math and science and preparation for standardized tests. Broken homes and families, divorce rates, and the pandemic added to the mix.



"There's just so much pain and suffering and division and we both love this town and so I think through seeing our experience, she (Bentley) started thinking about all these things and when she came to me around this idea of this community center, I was 100% all in. Cook Children's Hospital has recorded a video last week and the number of suicide attempts are through the roof," Hunstable said.

"A lot of it is just bad foundational skills in life, something to teach kids — how do you react to a bully? Why should you not vape? How do you know how to deal with anxiety and hearty stuff that just happens? How do you deal with something that's tragic in life?"

But it's not just the kids; the parents also lack some of the required skills. "Conversations are the first step to safer kids," Hunstable said. "For parents, it's tough to know how to do that. And so when she (Bentley) said that we can build foundational skills for kids, we can be a place for parents to come and learn some of this as a community and help their own kids. And we do it with a underpinning of faith. You know, to me, it just seems like a very logical thing and hopefully we can branch these out across the whole country."

"Conversations are the first step to safer kids," Hunstable said. "For parents, it's tough to know how to do that. And so when she (Bentley) said that we can build foundational skills for kids, we can be a place for parents to come and learn some of this as a community and help their own kids. And we do it with a underpinning of faith. You know, to me, it just seems like a very logical thing and hopefully we can branch these out across the whole country."

The growth

The seed was planted, it sprouted, and quickly branched out into a fully-functioning community center.

"So you can see that this is such a beautiful place of 23 acres of lots of stuff here," Bentley said, referring to the property the Branch to Hope organization had just purchased. "It was \$2.1 million. So it takes money to actually make this happen and purchase this property. So we went out fundraising and I had raised a significant amount of money for the down payment for our loan to purchase

this. Well, that money was raised from people in the community."

Bentley said she prayed, asking God what the organization should be.

"This is your (God's) place because that was the main thing, is this is all God, not us. He's just using everyone here at the table."

Gordon Jones, owner of Chicken Express in Willow Park, texted Bentley and said he had a dream that the logo was a tree.

"And it has fruit and it's all about the fruit and it's Genesis and he starts quoting Genesis," Bentley said. "And he said 'I just wanted to let you know that that's what the Lord laid on my heart.'"

Around the same time Bentley was driving to school and a notification popped up on her phone from Bobbie Cox.

During the pandemic, Cox was looking for a way her bible study group could continue.

"One day I was sitting, reading Second Corinthians 1:11. And I looked at my clock, and it was 1:11 p.m. And the scripture says, gather and pray," Cox said. "So the Lord said, pause at 1:11 every day, send out a text to your group and say, 'Let's pause and pray for our country and each other.'"

Eventually she had an app developed called "Branch to Hope."

It was that app that popped up when Bentley was driving to school.

"I went, 'oh my gosh, it's a tree. I forgot it's a tree!'" Bentley said. "And so I looked at my daughter and I said, 'Maddie, what if we just partner with Branch to Hope? She's the online community center. It's a massive worldwide online community center to gather people and pray. Why couldn't we be the first brick and mortar for Branch to Hope?'"

The women quickly agreed, and that's when Bob McCarthy came along.

McCarthy had a non-profit that was no longer active, but he never filed the paperwork to dissolve it.

"I didn't resolve it for a reason. I didn't know what the reason was. Now we do," McCarthy said.

So the new Branch to Hope organization quickly had a 501(c)(3) non-profit designation. Quickly, as in three days. All they needed was a place.

They had their eye on the 23 acres for some time.

That's when Aaron Valencia and Stacy Lynch from Lynch Legacy Group came along. They were keeping their eyes peeled for properties that would meet the needs of Branch to Hope.

Valencia has two children who graduated from Aledo High School.

"I've gotten invested in the youth here and in Aledo and the school," Valencia said. "I love our school district." Valencia wanted to be on board.

As a new agent, he approached Lynch, and the two of them searched for properties. Both Lynch and Valencia had family experiences that moved them to participate.

Valencia said he knew of other youths who have attempted suicide.

Bentley actually found the property, and Lynch took on the job of handling the real estate.

"I'm a very faith-based person so I believed in what their vision was and Aaron and I just started working together on it," Lynch said, sitting in what was to be the Welcome Center at Branch to Hope. "We sold this house twice to a residential person but it doesn't have a master bedroom. So the house never really worked (for residential). It was on the market almost a year."

But Bentley saw the property as a place for the community center, and events accelerated.

"It just started clicking," Lynch said. "We'd come out here and I felt the Holy Spirit. I could feel him moving in this place. And things were clicking quickly and once you own the vision, and you believe in it, then God takes control and he makes it happen."

Flowering branches

The final piece was having appropriate financial guidance, provided by Brad Manning.

"I was in this meeting that Stacy was referring to — it was just a business meeting that all of a sudden became a passion and I stuck around," Manning said.

And Manning shared future plans for the 23 acres. The welcome center is the main structure as the property stands.

"The Welcome Center is the place you come to where it starts," Manning said. "We've got in our master plan a 20,000 square-foot community center, basketball courts, community rooms, on deck to be built. We have a private school that is set up — that doesn't mean the public school system won't be able to use this. But we're offering options and opportunities for everyone. Now I know everybody laughs — I'm the CPA, I'm the numbers guy. And it has been the most amazing journey, watching what God has done."

For more information, visit www.branchtohope.org.

Next week

Salute to Seniors

2022

Public Hearing Town of Annetta

The Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council of the Town of Annetta will hold separate public hearings on separate dates to consider Specific Use Permit applications for the following properties:

1. Property located at 1381 Old Annetta Road on 2.204 acres, platted as Lot 3, Block 1, Windmill Estates PC E-470 Subdivision, Town of Annetta, Parker County, Texas. Zoning change from R-1 Residential to R-1 Residential with a Specific Use Permit to allow an accessory dwelling unit to be constructed on the same lot as the main dwelling unit. The accessory dwelling unit is to be used by a person or persons related to occupants of the main dwelling unit.
2. Property located at 105 Rosemeade Court, on 2.000 acres platted as Lot 10, Block 1, Rosemeade Addition Subdivision, Town of Annetta, Parker County, Texas. Zoning change from R-1 Residential to R-1 Residential with a Specific Use Permit to allow an accessory dwelling unit on the same lot as the main dwelling unit to be used by a person or persons related to occupants of the main dwelling unit.

Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Date: June 9, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

City Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Date: June 16, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Annetta Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the hearings.

Jamee Long
City Secretary



OCEANS OF
POSSIBILITIES

Summer Reading Program

Registration is underway for the Summer Reading Program at the East Parker County Library.

With a theme of "Oceans of Possibilities," the program will run from June 3 to July 30 at the library with regularly-scheduled programs.

Each participant will keep a reading log over the summer, and can pick up rewards at the library's circulation desk when milestones are reached.

For more information, visit the East Parker county Library at 201 FM 1187 in Aledo, or call 817-441-6545.

SOFTBALL

Ladycats to defend regional title

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

When the season began in January with the first scrimmage, head coach Heather Myers and the Aledo Ladycats had one goal in mind: get back to Austin, and win. They got one step closer with a regional semifinal sweep over Abilene Wylie, winning 14-2 and 7-3 late last week.

The Ladycats (31-2) will face the Lubbock Monterey Lady Plainsmen (35-4-1) for the Class 5A Region I crown and a trip to Austin on the line. All games will take place at Abilene Christian University, with Game 1 starting at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 26. Game 2 is set to start at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 27 with Game 3 immediately following if needed.

The series matches two of the state's top five teams in Class 5A, according to the Texas Girls Coaches Association rankings. Aledo is No. 3 and Monterey is fifth.

Two long win streaks are also on the line. Aledo has won 22 consecutive and Monterey has 16 straight.

The Ladycats bring one of the stingiest defenses and pitching staffs in the state into the series. Aledo has posted 12 shutouts and a dozen other times they've surrendered a single run.

On the other hand, Monterey has one of the state's most explosive offenses. The Lady Plainsmen have scored in double digits 26 times, including 15 or more runs a dozen times.

Last season the Ladycats advanced to the state championship game before falling 4-1 to Barbers Hill. It was their first trip to state



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Marissa Powell slides safe into second base for a double during Friday's game.

since three consecutive appearances between 2013-15, which included state championships in 2014-15 with coach Jeff Lemons.

Aledo got off to an electric start against Wylie (23-9). Texas Ray was responsible for the first run when she singled in Macy Graf. Seven runs scored in the second inning, sparked by a solo home run by Ana Flores, and topped off with a three run home run by Madysen Boutwell, making it an 8-0 game.

Kayleigh Smith was the starting pitcher for the first game and, despite giving up a pair of runs in

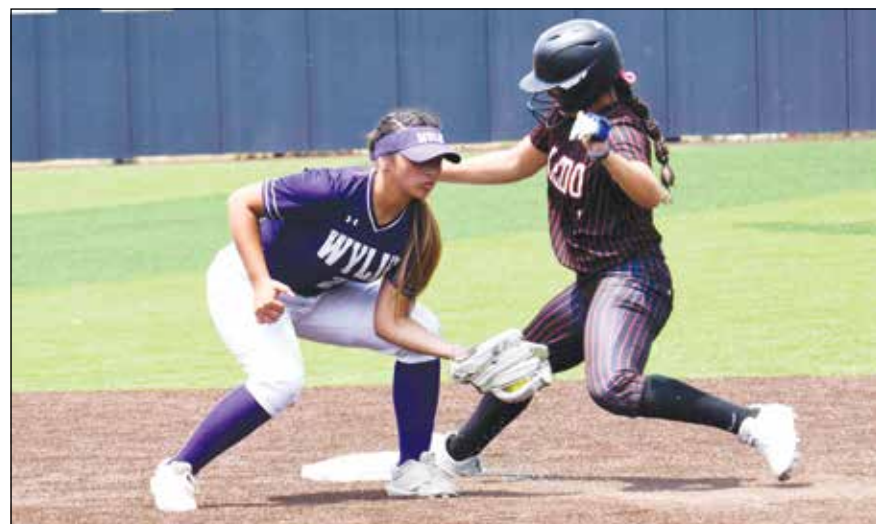
the third inning, settled in nicely as she only allowed three hits.


Graf knocked in the ninth Ladycat run when she singled to score Maddy Jarvis. Five more runs in the fourth inning put the game out of reach. Smith put down the Bulldogs in order to close out the game in the fifth inning, 14-2.


JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Macy Graf is safe at second with a double in Friday's game against Abilene Wylie.


Turn to **TITLE**, page 9



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TITLE

from page one

"I felt like we were super prepared," Myers said after the series. "I felt that the girls went in there and they attacked. It was nice."

Game 2 was not as easy for Aledo as the first. The Bulldogs took a quick 1-0 lead in the first inning, making it the first time the Ladycats had trailed since April 12 against Azle.

Aledo responded with four runs in the second inning. Again, Wylie came back with a run in the bottom of the inning, making it 4-2.

After the Bulldogs scored again in the third to make it 4-3, Myers turned to Brenlee Gonzales to come in for relief of Nathalie Touchet.

"Nathalie is a great pitcher," Myers said. "Sometimes you've just got to go with your gut. I felt like we needed to put Brenlee in and she finished well."

The Ladycats finally scored again when Graf singled in Reagan Davis, followed by two more runs in the sixth inning. Gonzales finished the game without allowing another Bulldog run, sending Aledo to its second consecutive regional final.

BASEBALL

from page 12

pitched into the seventh inning in a low scoring pitchers' duel.

The third inning was the only inning that saw any scoring. After Mazon reached on an error, Jaques, Belyeu and Estevan Flores all recorded hits in consecutive at-bats. The Bearcats scored three times in the inning and it proved to be enough.

Centennial kept hitting, though, and after more than 100 pitches Rudel was pulled after giving up a leadoff single in the bottom of the seventh. Preston Clark came in to close out the game and got the first out on a ground ball.

However, a hit-by-pitch put another runner and brought the tying run to the plate. After getting the second out, the Spartans hit a deep fly ball to Mazon in right field that almost cleared the fence to tie the game, but Mazon was able to drift back to make the series-clinching out.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Marmion takes over as new AD

By Rick Mauch
The Community News



Marmion

When Bryan Marmion began his career in coaching and athletic administration, Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy had yet to host its first student.

Now, more than 30 years into that career, he has taken the helm of the athletic department and football team at the school that was founded in 1993. The school, like their new AD, has a history of athletic success — and he plans to continue both.

"I am honored to be able to serve as the athletic director at Trinity Christian Academy. TCA has a long-standing, well-earned reputation for athletic, academic and Christian excellence," Marmion said. "It is a great fit for me professionally and personally. I am looking forward to building on the program's previous success."

Marmion, 55, replaces Joe Hamstra, who, likewise, was both head football coach and AD since 2015. He left to start a ministry that identifies at-risk children and matches them with Christian schools.

"I am so excited about the experience that Bryan brings to TCA. Not only has he built outstanding Christ-centered football programs, but he has also led solid athletic departments while growing facilities and programs," TCA Secondary Principal Jesse Whiteaker said. "Bryan is a man of faith, consummate professional and the expertise he brings will certainly add value to our school and community."

Marmion's career includes 14 years of coaching collegiately, 16 years as a high school head coach and 20 years of high school administration experience, including 16 as athletic director.

Collegiately he has been an assistant at Linfield University and California Lutheran University, and was the head coach at Texas Lutheran University for five years. On the high school level, he was head coach and AD at San Antonio Christian for 12 years and for four years at Cornerstone Christian in Granbury.

And he's enjoyed eight playoff appearances, three district titles and one state semifinals appearance.

He restarted the Texas Lutheran football program after it had been disbanded 11 years prior to his arrival. He also started the football program at San Antonio Christian and built it into one of the top Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 5A programs in the state.

TCA competes at the TAPPS 4A level. The school has seen tremendous growth over its years of existence, including new athletic facilities.

"The administration and school board at Trinity Christian Academy understand the significance of athletics to our school families and the role it plays in the culture of TCA," Marmion said. "The Ludwig Family Athletic Complex is a strong statement to our school families and Parker County that TCA not only values the learning experiences gained in athletics, but it is also committed to providing our students with outstanding venues to practice and compete in."

And the work is not done, Marmion continued. The athletic program's success doesn't just apply to when the participants are students at the school, there is a life after in which he wants them to be successful.

"Our primary goal is that athletics are used as a tool to grow young men and women as Christians. Beyond that I want to make sure we have an infrastructure in place to support a growing student body," he said.

"This includes completing the baseball field, softball field, tennis courts and indoor practice facility at the Ludwig Athletic Complex, hiring and retaining head coaches that are capable of building programs from the elementary level up to consistently compete at the state level and adding teams and sports to meet the demands of school growth."

MARMION LOOKS AT SEASON AHEAD

Along with taking over the reins as the new athletic director at Trinity Christian Academy, Bryan Marmion inherits a football program in need of rebuilding.

But then, as his history shows, if anyone knows how to build a program into a winner, it's Marmion. He's done so at both the high school and college ranks.

After a history of success at the six-man level, the Eagles moved up to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division III 11-man level in 2016. They enjoyed immediate success, going 29-10 over their first three seasons, including winning a state championship in 2018.

However, the past three seasons have been rough with a 7-22 record, including 2-8 last season, though they did reach the postseason each year and even advanced to the second round in 2020.

"Trinity may have been affected by COVID as much as any team in 2021. Our opening game was canceled due to COVID and we played short-handed for the next several weeks while players were quarantined," Marmion said.

Marmion said the team is moving from a wing-t to a spread offense, so there was a significant amount of teaching this spring.

"Senior quarterback Evan Chrane has proven to be a quick study and athletically gives us the dual threat we want at the position," he said, adding that senior Ben Camp, who just won the state discus championship, will anchor both sides of the line at offensive tackle and defensive end.

Those aren't the only changes that have folks excited, Marmion said. The new athletic facilities have folks excited.

"This is such a unique time for not only the Eagle football program, but the entire TCA community. Replacing or renovating existing facilities always creates excitement, but it is a completely different energy when a school commits to building athletic facilities for the first time," he said. "The fact that TCA will be hosting Friday Night Lights on-campus for the first time already has our entire school family buzzing from elementary through high school."

- Rick Mauch

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Notice of Public Hearings

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council of the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas will conduct public hearings in the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas.

First Public Hearing Location: Date: Time:	Planning and Zoning Commission Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008 Thursday, June 9, 2022 6:00 P.M.
Second Public Hearing Location: Date: Time:	City Council Meeting Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008 Thursday, June 23, 2022 6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the hearings is to receive input regarding consideration the following:

- 1) Public Hearing to consider and receive input regarding consideration of a request for a Zoning Change from (R-2) Single Family Residential District to (PD R-2) Planned Development Single Family Residential District – Lots 8- 9, Block 9, Lasater Addition, an addition to the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas, according to the plat recorded in Volume 277, Page 641, Plat Records, Parker County, Texas.
- 2) Public Hearing to consider amending Section 27.3.1, Section 27.3.2, and Section 27.3.7 the City of Aledo Zoning Ordinance to change the size of standard and compact off-street parking spaces.
- 3) Public Hearing to consider amending Section 27.6.32 of the City of Aledo Zoning Ordinance to change the required parking ratio for restaurant uses from total floor area to total dining area.

For further information or questions regarding these public hearings, please contact Nathan Gonzales, at telephone number (817) 717-4255 or cityplanner@aledotx.gov.

Published in *The Community News*, May 27, 2022, and posted at Aledo City Hall May 20, 2022.

Deana McMullen, City Secretary

Classifieds

May 27, 2022
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 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA, TEXAS, AMENDING SECTION 4.08 OF THE ENGINEERING DESIGN MANUAL BY AMENDING REQUIREMENTS FOR SCADA SYSTEMS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Any person who commits an offense under this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each offense. Each day any such violation shall be allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by state law and it is so ordained.
 PASSED AND APPROVED on this 19th day of May, 2022.
 (s) Sandy Roberts, Mayor
 Attest: (s) Jamee Long, Town Secretary

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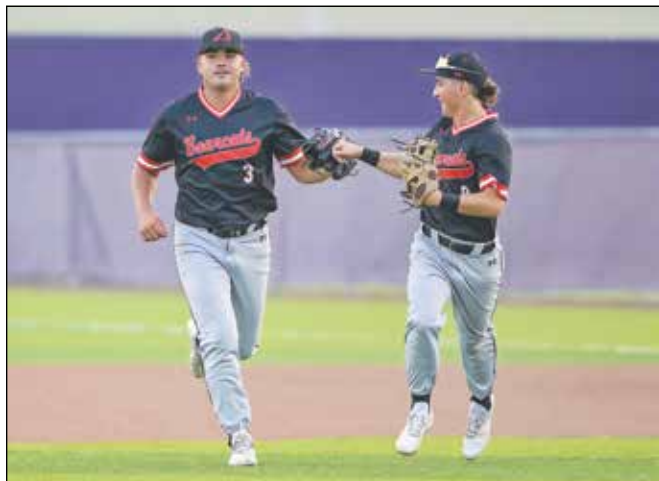
JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Reagan Davis congratulates Ana Flores after her home run Thursday night against Abilene Wylie.

ON THE DIAMOND



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Pitcher Nathalie Touchet gets the Ladycats started in Friday's game against Abilene Wylie.



KIRSTEN GALLON, KIRSTEN GALLON

Aledo starting pitcher Hunter Rudel (3) and second baseman Cade Pulido share a fist to glove bump after a three up, three down start in the top of the first inning of Game 2.



KIRSTEN GALLON, KIRSTEN GALLON

Aledo pitcher Preston Clark (4) and catcher Estevan Flores have a light-hearted chat before Clark finished Game 2 in relief.




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BASEBALL

Bearcats advance despite obstacles

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

The farther you go, the tougher it gets. That proved true for the Aledo Bearcats baseball team in their Class 5A Region I quarterfinal series with the Burlleson Centennial Spartans.

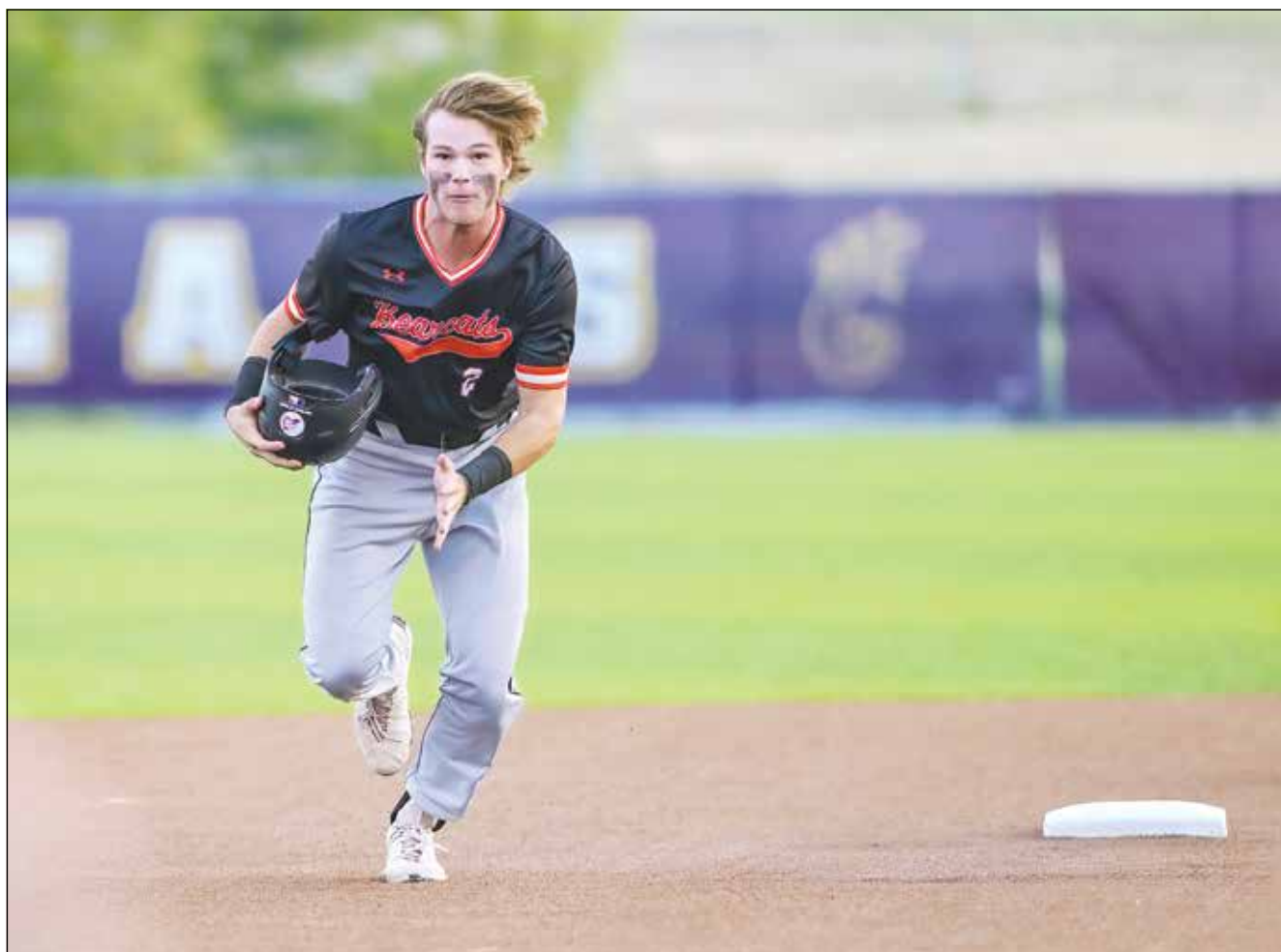
Along with the talent of their opponent, the Bearcats (26-10) also had to battle weather and electrical problems to advance. Despite all of the obstacles, Aledo swept the Spartans (24-12) by scores of 4-0 and 3-0.

The Abilene Wylie Bulldogs (25-5) await the Bearcats in the regional semifinal round. Aledo will have an advantage in Game 1, as it will take place at Weatherford College with first pitch scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 26. Game 2 will take place at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 27, at Abilene Christian University. If a third game is needed, it will start at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 28, at Iowa Park High School.

Aledo enters the series ranked 10th in the state in the latest Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association poll. The Bearcats have won nine straight games and the Bulldogs bring a 10-game win streak into the series.

"I know Abilene Wylie is a really good ball club," head coach Chad Barry praised his upcoming opponent. "They had a really good last year, they're good every year. I know Grant Martin does a phenomenal job coaching those guys and it's going to present a major test for us."

The series against Burlleson Centennial could not have had a better start for the Bearcats. Ethan Jaques took the mound and went



KIRSTEN GALLON

Aledo centerfielder Max Belyeu heads to third base carrying his helmet after an errant throw knocked off his helmet as he slid into second in Game 2 against Centennial.

straight to work, pitching four innings of no-hit baseball.

Aledo got on the scoreboard in the second inning when four consecutive singles brought two runners across. Cade Pulido and Ryan Jones both got aboard with one out. David Jones drove in Pulido with a hard hit ball to right field, advancing

Ryan Jones to third. Trace Mazon drove in Ryan Jones four pitches later, giving the Bearcats a 2-0 lead.

Pulido picked up an RBI of his own in the third inning as he doubled home Brady McAnear making it a three-run ballgame.

After Jaques polished off his fourth inning without surrendering

a hit, the left field lights at Boswell High School went out and were unable to stay on. After an hour of waiting and deliberation, it was determined that the game would be delayed and finished the next day at Godley High School.

"We simply told them that we had the lead," Barry remembered

telling his team during the break. "We still had to get nine outs though. The only bad thing about it was that Centennial went all day knowing that they weren't down to their last game. They were able to regroup and come back out and try to take game one."

After a 23-hour delay, the game restarted and the fourth inning closed with the Bearcats going down in order. Adrian Guzman drove in Max Belyeu in the fifth to score Aledo's fourth and final run of Game 1. Jaques took his no-hitter into the sixth inning until a triple with two outs broke it up, but the runner did not score.

The game ended quietly in the seventh with Jaques earning the complete game shutout.

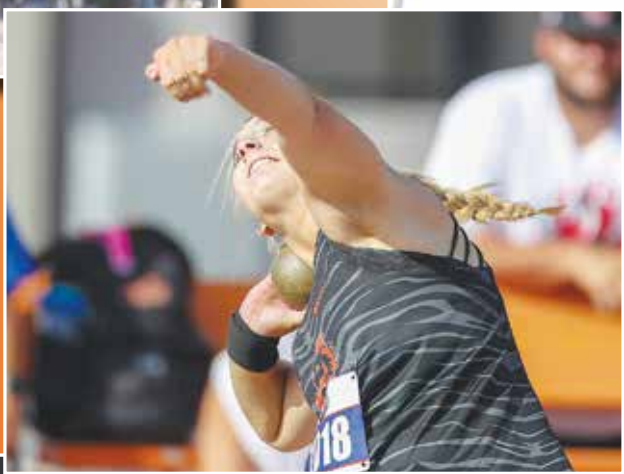
"Ethan is one of those kids that can throw and never gets really sore," Barry explained the decision to let Jaques finish the game. "He told me he was going to go home and take an epsom salt bath and I told him that I didn't need him to try to be tough for me, and he promised. When I talked to him the next morning he said 'Give me the ball. I'm going to finish this game.' We had guys ready to go just in case but he pitched a gem."

The wind in Godley had already been howling, but in the 30 minutes in between the conclusion of Game 1 and the start of Game 2, the wind shifted and storms started forming on the horizon. This created difficult conditions for batters on both sides.

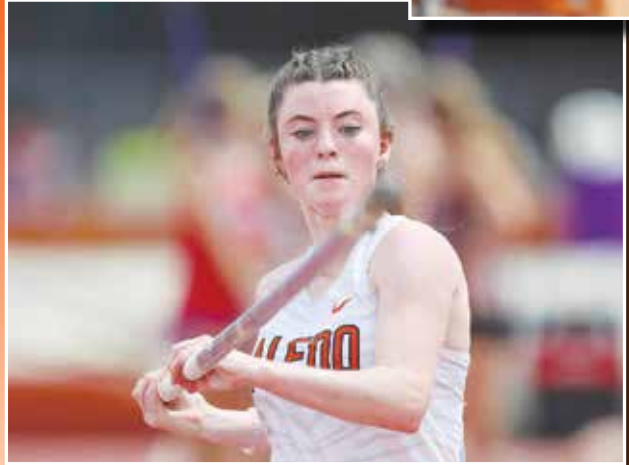
Hunter Rudel got the start at pitcher in the second game and

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 9

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Photos by Scott W. Coleman



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