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KIRSTEN GALLON

Leftfielder David Jones has to make a quick dive back to safety at third base in the third game of Aledo's state semifinal series against Mansfield Legacy. For more on the series, see page 10.

POLITICS

Two candidates ask for recounts

Close contests, procedure problem prompt requests for hand recounts

By Randy Keck
The Community News

As *The Community News* went to press this week, at least one recount had started and another was planned in recent Republican Primary runoff races.

A paper ballot recount requested by Eric Contreras was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 8. When all the runoff votes had been tallied, Contreras trailed Mike Hale by only 10 votes, 2,450 to Hale's 2,460, in the Pct. 4 Commissioner's race.

According to Parker County Republican Chair Scott Utley, the Precinct 4 hand recount was to be conducted at six stations. Each station would have three people: a caller and a representative from each campaign to tally the votes.

The Texas House District 60 race was scheduled to be recounted on Thursday, June 9 with the same format.

In that race, Mike Olcott originally trailed Glenn Rogers 9,261 to 8,509 district-wide. However, when it was discovered that one Parker

Turn to **RECOUNTS**, page 3

Soggy Celebration



EMMA DAVIS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A lonely food truck sits in front of the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus on Friday, June 3, when the sky opened about the time Aledo's Summer Blast was about to begin. The city staff has a meeting planned this week to determine a new date for the festival and fireworks show.

Fort Worth coming west with new growth from ranch land

Aledo ISD partially lies in 5,000 home planned development

by Bob Francis
Fort Worth Report

A new development in west Fort Worth could bring 5,000 new homes and take 15 years to complete.

The development, which will also include 1,000 acres of prime commercial property, is moving closer to getting off the ground.

The project is just south of the Walsh Ranch development and includes the 3,790-acre historic Veale Ranch. Dallas-based PMB Capital Investments purchased the land last August.

The ranch property is located east of the company's Ventana development, an 1,800-home community. The Veale Ranch property is in both Tarrant and Parker counties and is in both the Aledo and Fort Worth school districts. It is about 12 miles west of downtown Fort Worth.

"We're excited about it, and we're still doing the upfront planning, which for a project of this scale is no small task," said Taylor Baird, a partner at PMB.

The homes in PMB's nearby Ventana project range from about \$400,000 to over \$800,000, Baird said. The Veale Ranch homes will probably start around \$350,000, but because of some of the larger lot sizes and topography could reach from \$800,000 to as much as \$1 million at the high end, he said.

"That's if today's prices hold," Baird said. "We've had significant price appreciation and inflation recently. I would expect a pretty broad range of home prices and product types that appeal to a lot of demographics."

PMB is working with the city on the water, sewer and other infrastructure plans for Veale Ranch, Baird said.

"This is going to be around for a long time, as we're probably looking at a 15-year project, at least," said Baird.

Plans for the project should reach the city in the next few months, Baird said.

The Veale Ranch has been in the Veale family since 1935. When put up for sale in 2017, the ranch was listed at \$95 million, though the sale price to PMB was not released.

PMB's Baird said close to 1,000 acres of the former ranch is expected to be available for commercial

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In & Around Parker County

At Brookshire's the people make the difference

If you ask store manager Mark Laudenhimer what makes Brookshire's in Willow Park special, he will say it's the people.

"It's our people that really make us glow," Laudenhimer said. "Everybody has a good attitude, and nowadays that's hard to find.

The store has a mix of experienced, friendly staff, but Brookshire's also provides many employment opportunities for local students, providing them with income and valuable experience.

Laudenhimer said it makes a difference that Brookshire's is a Texas company.

"We've tried to give our clientele what they want," he said, "and staying on the cutting edge in the grocery business and bringing things that most other grocery stores don't have."

Brookshire's has enhanced the grocery shopping experience locally with recent major upgrades to the store, including a new bar with big-screen televisions.

"It's a bar patio, we have beer and wine you're able to have a glass of wine while you shop, or you can sit up at the bar or on the patio and have a drink and do your shopping, or take a break from your shopping or just come up and grab appetizers," Laudenhimer said.

Recently the store had a crawfish boil on the patio, and future events will have additional activities.

Another recent addition to the store is aged beef.

"I think there's only a few places around where you can get aged beef," Laudenhimer said. "We'll cut whatever you want. If you want the whole thing or just want a steak, tell them what size you want and they'll take it out, cut it, and clean it up."

The deli department has also seen new additions like dinner and salad kits.

"That department is always changing with demand," Laudenhimer said.

Laudenhimer has been with Brookshire's for 25 years. He came to the Willow Park store about seven months ago. Before that he was at the Azle store for 12 years, and he had a history of community involvement, receiving Azle's "Citizen of the Year" award shortly before moving to the Willow Park Store.

That local involvement carries over to the Willow Park store, where Brookshire's has



worked with the Center of Hope, Tarrant Area Food Bank, and the Aledo ISD among others.

Of course, when grocery shopping, the main thing you want is groceries, and Brookshire's has a wide selection not only of staples, but at its meat and seafood counter, deli, and bakery.

You can drop off your prescription at the pharmacy and have it filled while you shop, and you can also drop off your dry cleaning and laundry, or order a specially decorated cake from Penny in the bakery.

Or, you can order online and pick up your groceries curbside.

And, in this age of high gas prices, your purchases add up for discounts on gas at Brookshire's at the fuel center on the west side of the store.

But at Brookshire's, the big difference is still the people and the service. They'll help you find what you're looking for, get you just the right cut of meat, and take your groceries out to your car when you're finished shopping.

Brookshire's is located at the corner of Interstate 20 and Ranch House Road in Willow Park. Call 817-441-5980 or visit <https://www.brookshires.com/stores/willow-park-97/6423>.



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Artist James Spurlock provides a demonstration during the opening reception for the Artists of Horseshoe Trail at Aledo Workspace on Friday, June 3. The art exhibit will be open throughout the summer from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at 1015 Champions Dr. in Aledo.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

RECOUNTS

from page one

County box with 2,070 votes had not been counted on election night, the differential in that race tightened to only about 300 votes. “We were obviously disappointed when the results came in on election night indicating that we lost our race by 752 votes after all precincts had been reported. When I woke up Wednesday morning, I was at peace with the results,” Olcott said. After learning of the uncounted votes, however, Olcott requested the hand recount in Parker County. “While I do not expect foul play, HD 60 voters deserve to have full

confidence that every legal vote was counted and the outcome was accurate,” Olcott said. “My hope is a recount will do just that.” However, Olcott also requested recounts in the other two counties in the district, Stephens and Palo Pinto. The Stephens County recount was completed and reportedly confirmed the original vote counts there. The Palo Pinto recount was set for Friday. Parker County’s voting machines create a paper back-up ballot for each vote cast. The paper ballots will be used for the recounts.

QUOTABLE

It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.

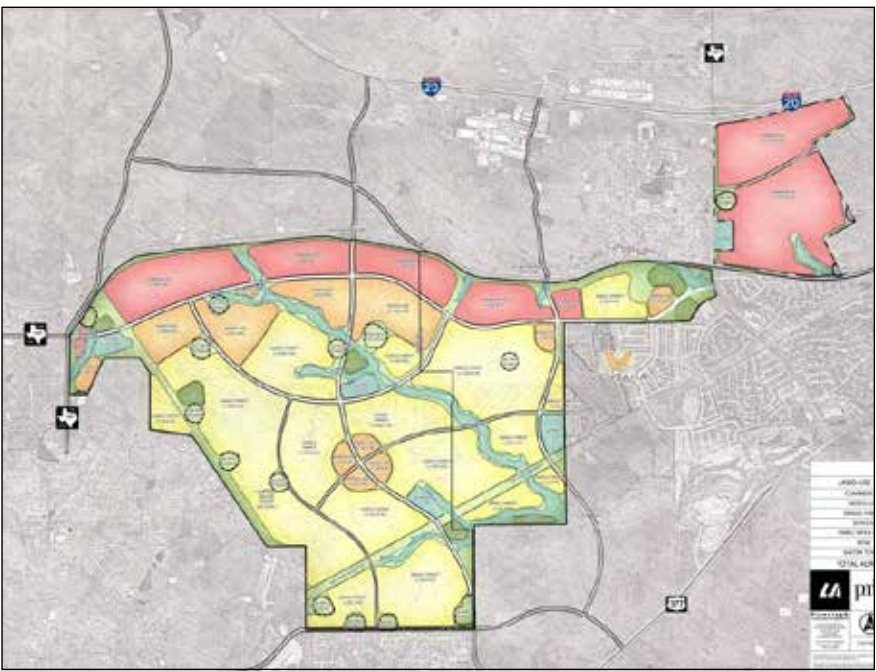
Albert Einstein

VEALE

from page one

development in the Veale Ranch project, most of that just south of Interstate 20 and along a Union Pacific rail line. The Walsh Ranch project, under development, also has about 2,800 acres designated for office and industrial development just north of the rail line. “It’s a great area for a big project,” Baird said. “We’ve owned the Veale Ranch for almost a year and we just want to get the upfront planning done, which sets us up for the most success for the overall project.” The city could see big benefits from a large commercial project in that area, Michael Crain, District 3 councilman for the area, said. “This will help us attract a large project to the city, to have this much land available for commercial development,” he said.

Fort Worth already has garnered some interest from large commercial projects. When Fort Worth officials announced that the city was on the short list in 2021 for the Rivian Automotive manufacturing plant with a site under consideration on the westside in Walsh Ranch area, just north of Veale Ranch, many were taken aback by the location. “It surprised some people,” said Crain. “But that area is ready to grow.” Had electric vehicle startup Rivian Automotive chosen the west Fort Worth site, the area would have exploded with growth. Rivian eventually decided on a site in Georgia, but Crain said the process of working with Rivian was a good experience that will better prepare economic development officials the next time a project of that size and scope comes along. “One of the city’s issues is not having enough commercial tax base, so anything we can do to change that is a great opportunity for us,” he said. The Veale Ranch project’s length isn’t bothersome, Baird said. “We’re not going to make hasty decisions early on that jeopardize the quality of the project over the long term.” The once-rural area west of Fort Worth first began to change when the Walsh family – who had owned 7,000 acres of ranch land just north of Veale Ranch since the 1930s – opened the land up for development.



COURTESY PMG

The proposed project has about 868 acres for commercial, 445 acres for mixed use, 1,770 acres for single family homes and about 60 acres for five school sites. The left-most portion of the map is where FM 1187 makes its 90-degree turn just to the southeast of Aledo.

Development of the 7,267-acre Walsh Ranch began in 2017 via a partnership with Dallas-based Republic Property Group. About 1,600 acres are included in the first development phase with 3,500 total planned homesites. Over 1,000 homes have been sold in the development known as Walsh, according to Republic Property Group. “By the end of this year, from a development standpoint, they will have delivered about half of that entire residential community already, which is huge,” said Greg Miller, a spokesman for the Walsh family. “It’s only been on the ground for a little more than five years now, so the traction’s been really, really good.” That part of the development – primarily north of Interstate 30 – is continuing apace, Miller said. What the Walsh family, through the Walsh Companies, has focused on in the past 18 months is its partnerships with the various Fort Worth economic development groups for the 2,800 acres south of I-20, the area that Rivian had under consideration, he said. “That is one of the largest plots of development-ready land for a future huge economic deal for Fort Worth,” Miller said. Miller said they are not planning to take the first offer that comes up for that area.

“It’s what’s going to be right for Fort Worth and really kind of open up that west part of Fort Worth as an additional economic corridor in the same ways that Alliance has up north,” he said. Crain said the city and state are working to prepare for the transportation needs of the area as it grows. “I think one of the things we learned from working on the Rivian project is that we need to be proactive in terms of transportation,” he said. “That’s something that can’t wait.” PMG’s Braid sees the west Fort Worth developments as some of the best assets in the north Texas area. “You’re 12 to 15 minutes from downtown Fort Worth from the Veale Ranch and from Walsh Ranch,” he said. “That’s unique. There aren’t a lot of other large acreage opportunities like this near major metros that people want to live in, even around the state of Texas.” Bob Francis is business editor for the Fort Worth Report. Contact him at bob.francis@fortworthreport.org. At the Fort Worth Report, news decisions are made independently of our board members and financial supporters. Read more about our editorial independence policy here. This article first appeared on Fort Worth Report and is republished here under a Creative Commons license.

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Commentary

June 10, 2022
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
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Capital Highlights

TEA directed to make schools safer



Gary Borders
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Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Education Agency to ensure school facilities are made safer in the wake of the killing of 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary in Uvalde.

In a letter to TEA Commissioner Mike Morath, the governor requested the agency:

- Instruct school districts to identify actions to make campuses more secure prior to the start of the new school year.
- Instruct all school districts to conduct weekly inspections of exterior doors to verify they are secure during school hours.
- Develop strategies to encourage school districts to increase the presence of trained law enforcement officers and school marshals on campuses.

The state has made an initial \$5 million investment to establish a Family Resiliency Center in Uvalde County. The center will provide psychological services, crisis counseling and other health services for those affected by the massacre.

To date, the governor has rejected calls for a special session to consider additional gun control measures. Instead, he has asked legislative leaders to convene special committees to develop recommendations on school safety, mental health, social media, police training, firearm safety and other issues.

GOP donors urge Congress to act on gun control

More than 250 major Republican donors in Texas signed an open letter published in The Dallas Morning News urging congressional action to increase gun restrictions. The letter was published as a full-page ad on Sunday. It endorses the creation of red-flag laws, raising the age to purchase a gun to 21, and expansion of background checks.

“Most law enforcement experts believe these measures would make a difference,” the letter reads. “And recent polls of fellow conservatives suggest that there is strong support for such gun-safety measures.”

Texas Sen. John Cornyn is leading bipartisan negotiations on possible gun reform measures.

“We are grateful that our Senator John Cornyn is leading efforts to address the recent tragedies in Uvalde and elsewhere across our great Country,” the letter says. “He’s the right man to lead this bipartisan effort, as he has demonstrated throughout his career.”

Among those signing the letter are major financial supporters of Abbott.

Inflation increase is highest in 40 years

A report by the state comptroller’s office notes that inflation increased to 8.5% nationally in March — “the highest year-over-year percent change in consumer prices since January 1982.”

Food and energy prices were the leading contributors, with gas prices reaching record levels. The largest source of inflation

in food products were in meat, poultry, fish and eggs, up 14.3% in the past year.

The comptroller’s report said the increase in prices is likely a “confluence of economic pressures related to the coronavirus pandemic stemming from both the supply side and the demand side.”

The pandemic disrupted production and transportation lines in the global supply chains, which are not expected to fully recover until next year. In addition, demand now exceeds production capacity, often leading to empty grocery shelves and nearly empty lots at car dealerships.

Finally, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent sanctions on that country have contributed to driving up the cost of oil.

Inflation decreased slightly in April.

Emergency SNAP benefits again extended

Once again, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide nearly \$318 million in emergency food benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for June.

All SNAP households will get a minimum of \$95 in additional food allotments on top the regular allotment. More than \$6.9 billion in emergency benefits have been provided to Texans since April 2020.

“We’re here to support families when they need us most,” said Texas HHSC Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter. “Providing access to fresh, nutritious foods is essential for healthy families.”

Vehicle deaths reach 41-year high in 2021

The number of people killed in vehicle crashes totaled 1,532 last year, with 6,493 major injuries — the highest level since 1981. More than a third of those deaths involved excessive speed, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. With a 16% increase last year in speed-related wrecks, TxDOT is urging drivers to slow down and drive to weather and traffic conditions.

“Speed is the number one factor in roadway crashes in our state, causing 1 out of every 3 traffic deaths,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “When you speed, you increase the risk of death and serious injury in a collision. By observing the speed limit and driving to specific weather and road conditions, Texans can make our roads safer for everyone.”

COVID-19 cases continue to rise

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week rose to 46,946, with 42 new deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That is more than double the number of new cases reported a month ago. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state also rose to 1,168, 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@texaspess.com.

Guest Column

A Tragic Cycle



Jack Hunt
hello@thewellaledo.com

1. Shock and horror. “Another school shooting?!”
 2. Mourning and prayer. A myriad of verse quoting and prayer vigils.
 3. Investigation and questions. “How?!”
 4. Anger and blaming. “Who was responsible?”
 5. Solutions and division. “You should’ve done...What can we do?”
 6. Detachment and indifference. “This just in...” (And so, we numb our pain turning our attention to the next tragedy, championship, social cause, or meaningless celebrity trial.)
 7. Repeat.
- Step 7 is repeat. Historically step 7 will be repeat—unless something changes.
- Step 5. I know what every good parent would do: anything to save their child’s life. We do it anyway in smaller dosages. I once paid \$16 for cotton candy in Disney World to settle down

our normally rational 4-year-old. (That scene didn’t make the mouse’s magical marketing department.) Within reason and in daily decisions, good parents “lay down their lives” a.k.a. personal comforts and preferences for the humans they care for and adore.

I don’t know what every good believer would do concerning the horror that occurred at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. If we do nothing, then we’ve chosen step 7 in my proposed list of response to tragic events. Believers can ignore or believers can engage.

Step 6. Here’s how we ignore...here is how I’m quick to ignore, though it’s hard to admit. My geographic and community proximity doesn’t merit traveling the 329 miles to Uvalde. There are believers there, community leaders there, pastors there, counselors there...so I’ll stay here. Now as a believer, you may feel moved, divinely directed even, to go to Uvalde. Then you should go. I’ve not sensed that to date, so I’ll stay. And since there’s not a school shooting here, and I pray to God there never is, here or anywhere again, then I’ll go from step 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and without intention step 6 and...

...go to that cookout.
...binge watch that show.

...plan that getaway.

...sleep, eat, work, play... leading to Step 7, repeat.

Repetition of good and bad “medicates” a society saying, “you take the good with the bad” and “it is what it is”—I hate both of those statement. That is quitting. That is raising the white flag. Shoulders shrug, head down, face long, move on.

Step 7...R-e-p-e-a-t. What if we changed one letter? Let’s lose the “a”. In its place, an “n.” Now we’re getting somewhere.

In this perspective, I’m defining believers as individuals who in this life have invited God to step into their messy lives. Thusly scripture instructs us that forgiven people forgive. Jesus’s summation of over 600 religious laws is “Love God and Love others” (see Matthew 22). Jesus never avoided complicated people and messy lives. Also, upon repentance and salvation (accepting Jesus as Lord) believers are not caught away from this world to another, more Heavenly location with endless golf, pork barbecue with mustard sauce, and only dogs with no cats. (I lost some of you there...just easing the tension...come back!)

God leaves believers here to step into messy lives because OUR lives ARE messy. Now

Turn to **HUNT**, page 5

Slings&Arrows

It’s time to start taking the Second Amendment seriously



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

In the wake of the tragic mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde and the hospital shooting in Tulsa, and the roughly 20 mass shootings that happened in between, the predictable has once again happened: stalemate between those who advocate absolute rights to gun ownership and those who want to pass either background checks, some kind of “red flag” law, or in other ways attempt to limit the ability for some people to buy guns.

In the course of these arguments, the Second Amendment to the Constitution is often used and often abused.

I have interviewed numerous people who have run for various political offices over the years, and many of them have told me they want us to “get back to the Constitution.”

Pretty much anyone in politics will tell you he or she reveres the Constitution regardless of the person’s political stripes. Typically, more liberal people will tend to see the Constitution as a “living, breathing document” while more conservative people will adhere to a more “strict constructionist” view, wanting to follow the Constitution as written rather leaving it up to interpretation.

For the purpose of this column, I’m going to take a more “strict constructionist” view, taking the words from the Constitution itself rather than attempting to “interpret” the Second Amendment through the lens of court decisions through the years.

In addition, it is probably pertinent to point out what “arms” were at the time the Second Amendment was written. In battle, the “Brown Bess” and Charleville muskets, as well as American-made muskets, were used. With skill, the user could get off as many as two to three rounds a minute.

Long rifles were also used, although their use on the battlefield was limited; dense smoke from the muskets made

targeting difficult, and the complicated reloading process made it difficult to fire it with frequency.

Finally, bayonets were used in close combat.

With all of that in mind, let’s get started with the text of the Second Amendment.

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

The Second Amendment was written in a time when much of the country consisted of “citizen soldiers.” It was written that “every citizen was a soldier, and every soldier was a citizen.”

The first and 13 most ignored words of the Second Amendment explain why it was written: to keep a State free, a well-regulated militia was necessary. Therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

But what is a militia? How is that defined?

Our good friend, the Constitution of the United

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The Community News

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- Affiliations:**
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 - Texas Press Association
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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.

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HUNT

from page four

this isn't a "pass" for me to stay "messy". That would be adopting the mantra, "It is what it is," dismissing personal responsibility. But if step 7 is "Repent", for believers and unbelievers alike, then I believe we break the tragic cycle.

"Repent" is a beautiful word! No one can become a believer without

repentance! Repentance unites us—a need for grace, love, and acceptance from a savior who loves me, loves us, despite our messiness.

This writing is incomplete. The solution is as complex as our society finds itself. For now, for me, maybe for you, I'm ready to break this cycle of violence in America. For now, I'll sign off with a new proposed list.

What changes the cycle?
What if a new step 7 cycles to healing and not another tragedy?

Step 1...repent.
Step 2... be still.
Step 3... pray and listen.
Step 4... respond in love, check all reactions with scripture.
Step 5... express thanks.
Step 6... extend help; receive help.
Step 7...repeat.
Pray for Uvalde.
Now more than ever...

Jack Hunt is pastor of The Well in Aledo.

19 students and two adults in Uvalde might now be enjoying their summer vacations, and their families and friends wouldn't be dealing with unimaginable grief and trauma.

There have been more than 200 mass shootings in the United States since the start of 2022. The one thing they all have in common, by definition, is that someone had weapons they shouldn't have had.

So yes, it's time to take the Second Amendment seriously. Because no one is truly safe at school, at a concert, in a grocery store, in a hospital, in a shopping mall, in a downtown shopping district, outside a nightclub, at an arts festival, at a graduation party, near an apartment complex, at a house party, at a car show, at a memorial service, at home, in a casino, in a motel, at an Easter party, at church, at a trail ride, on a subway, or many other places, until we are serious about preventing unhinged people from getting their hands on weapons of war. (The preceding is a partial list of where mass shootings have occurred in 2022.)

So I say bring on the Second Amendment. But let's make sure we know what it really says.

Randy Keck is owner and publisher of The Community News.

Obituaries

Don Rosenberger

Donald "Don" A. Rosenberger passed away on May 5, 2022. Don was born in Hackensack, New Jersey on June 4, 1923. He was 98 years old and was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years Dorothy Rosenberger and parents Albert and Rose Rosenberger. A family memorial service will be held this summer.

Don was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who cherished spending time with his family and friends. He was extremely patriotic. Don volunteered to serve in the U.S. Navy at the beginning of World War II and served for four years in Europe.

He was a member of the 69th U.S. Navy Construction Battalion (Seabees) which saw duty on Omaha Beach, France in 1944, and he was recognized with an appreciation award from the French Government for his services during the liberation of France. The award was presented personally by the French Consulate in Houston.

Don enlisted in the Navy Reserve following WWII and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War where he served aboard a communication ship for two years. The ship was awarded two battle stars for its participation in the conflict. The South Korean Government later presented a service medal and letter of appreciation to Don and to all veterans of the invasion forces on the 50th anniversary of the war.

Following World War II, Don attended the University of Buffalo and majored in Business Administration. He worked for Texaco Inc. in New York City; Buffalo, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; and Houston, Texas in various supervisory capacities and



Rosenberger

retired after 37 years of service. In retirement, he and Dorothy enjoyed many years of active participation in musical organizations in Houston. In later years they lived in Aledo, where they joyfully participated in their grandchildren's numerous activities.

Boy Scouting was a part of Don's life from an early age. He later became the

first Scoutmaster of a new Troop in Houston. During his years of leadership, the Troop thrived and grew to thirty-five young men, many of whom reached the rank of Eagle Scout. A second hobby was flying, which he pursued after World War II - he earned his Private Pilot's License and enjoyed flying throughout his life.

Don also loved to travel, including many trips with his wife to Seabee Reunions in the U.S. and trips to Europe. Music consumed his interest all his life. His vocal musical interests were stimulated during his high school years and continued for the remainder of his life. Don was a bass-baritone soloist in church choirs for many years. His favorite choral anthem was "With A Voice of Singing" by Martin Shaw.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honor of his name,

Make his praise to be glorious.
With a voice of singing declare ye this,

And let it be heard, Alleluia.

Don is survived by his son, Brian, and wife Kyla of Aledo and grandchildren Amelia and Andrew; daughter Carol and husband Nigel Mays of Belleair, Florida and grandchildren Robert and Steven.

The Community News
June 10, 2022



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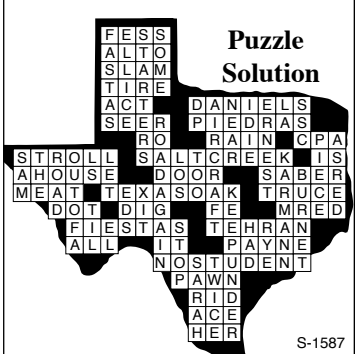


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Sports

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In My Eyes



Nolan Ruth
nruth@community-news.com

The beauty in the agony of defeat

My life in 23 years has not been unlike anyone else in the world. I have experienced highs and lows. I have loved, and I have had my heart broken. I have been rewarded, and I have faced consequences.

I have won, and I have lost. The one constant is that those ups and downs usually tie into my sports teams.

I remember the elation I felt when Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks won the 2011 NBA championship. Then, five months later the agony kicked in when the Texas Rangers fell to the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

Even here in Aledo, I remember an 11-year stretch while I was growing up that the Aledo Bearcats football team continued to fall short of a state championship and the sadness felt with it. Then in 2008 the Aledo Ladycats softball team won its first state title behind famed pitcher Whitney Canion. A year later, a particular running back named Johnathan Gray burst onto the scene, and an era of dominance had started across Aledo High School.

Growing up in that time, and experiencing it in high school myself, has

Turn to **EYES**, page 9



Reagan Davis (3) celebrates as Presley Hull jumps for joy after she slides into home plate to tie the game in the seventh inning of Friday's state semifinal game against Georgetown. Hull scored on a double hit by Claire Byars.

JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

SOFTBALL

Heartbreak

Ladycats fall to Georgetown in state semifinal

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

It was not the weekend the Aledo Ladycats (33-3) had hoped for when they arrived in Austin for the University Interscholastic League Class 5A state championship tournament. Despite making the trip as the second-seeded team, Aledo's season came to an unexpected end when they fell to the Georgetown Lady Eagles (34-4) 3-2 in extra innings.

The game was the second consecutive time the two teams met in the semifinal, with Georgetown successfully avenging its 8-5 loss to the Ladycats in 2021. Despite outhitting the Lady Eagles 9-5, Aledo struggled on the base paths throughout the game and was unable to score until the seventh inning.

"They're good kids," head coach Heather Myers said after the game. "They're going to fight. It's a tough loss. It's a tough loss when you feel like you're the better team. The girls did their jobs for the most part. We just waited a little too long to wake up."

After a dropped third strike allowed a Georgetown baserunner to get on base in the second inning. A passed ball got the runner to second, and an error resulted in her scoring the first run of the game. Sophomore pitcher Brenlee Gonzales quickly settled back in and held Georgetown off the board as much as she could, striking out 11 in the process.

The Lady Eagles led 1-0 throughout the rest of the game, until a late rally tied the game when Claire Byars drove in Presley Hull from second base. It appeared the Ladycats had seized momentum, but Georgetown was not finished.

A wild play resulted in a Georgetown runner in a rundown between third base and home plate. An off-line throw allowed the go-ahead run to score. The third and final run for the Lady Eagles scored on a double in the next at-bat.

Turn to **SOFTBALL**, page 9

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Events

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

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 12

Democratic Women
The monthly meeting of the Parker County Texas Democratic Women will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 12, in the Strain Room of Weatherford College's Doss Student Center. PCTWD is part of a statewide organization whose goal is to increase the participation and influence of Democratic women in Texas government and politics. For more information, visit <https://parkercountydemocrats.org/parker-county-texas-democratic-women/>

JUNE 13

Parker County Active Democrats
The Parker County Active Democrats (PCAD) will hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 13, in the Strain Room of Weatherford College's Doss Student Center. The meeting will feature a special thanks to all the party's poll workers and precinct chairs. For more information, visit <https://parker-countydemocrats.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 jcjk1959@gmail.com.

JUNE 20

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.

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. 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 23

Hiring Fair
The East Parker County Chamber of Commerce will host a hiring fair from 3-6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, on the third floor of the Weatherford College Emerging Technologies Building, 225 College Park Dr. in Weatherford. There is no cost for members of the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce. Each registrant will receive one rectangular table and two chairs. To register, visit <https://eastparkerchamber.com/eventregistration/register/17773>. For more information, call 817-441-7844.

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

ACROSS

- 1 "Old Yeller" TX actor _____ Parker
- 5 in Cherokee County on U.S. 69
- 6 Dallas' "_____ Bang Theater" (1959-72)
- 7 pickup rubber
- 8 TXism: "play possum"
- 9 Dallas-born Bebe of 1941 "Hi Gang!"
- 16 prophet
- 18 across Rio Grande from Eagle Pass: _____ Negras
- 19 TX singer Roy (init.)
- 20 Willie's "Blue Eyes Cryin' in the _____"
- 21 TXism: "tax wrangler"
- 24 TX Tanya's "San Antonio _____"
- 30 casino in Pocasset, Oklahoma
- 34 TXism: "the fat _____ in the fire" (in trouble)
- 35 TXism: "like _____ afire" (fast)
- 36 TXism: "it's Katy bar the _____"
- 37 cavalry sword
- 39 late Texas rock singer: "_____ Loaf"
- 40 "The Heart of _____" is in exact center of our state
- 44 declared after Battle of San Jacinto
- 45 "I" topper
- 47 TXism: "shin _____" (big event)
- 48 Santa _____, TX
- 49 TV's talking horse (2 wds.)
- 50 parties in Mexico
- 53 Perot freed employees from this Iranian city
- 56 TXism: "never in _____ my born days"
- 57 TXism: "high tail _____" (flee)
- 58 Brownwood university: Howard _____
- 59 Texas schools try to ensure that _____ gets lost in the crowd
- 62 Ruby got infamous gun at a Dallas _____ shop
- 63 "get _____ of it!"
- 64 TX "Cowpokes" artist Reid _____
- 65 His/_____ towels

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "_____ greased lightning"
- 2 TX Cyd Charisse real name: Tula _____
- 3 the best eleven Cowboys
- 4 TXism: "cut me _____ slack"
- 9 soft drink invented in Waco (init.)
- 10 USS San Jacinto: _____ carrier
- 11 TXism: "it's _____ bout" (about)
- 12 TX Tanya sang "Texas When _____"
- 13 TX singer Tubb _____
- 14 "hasta _____ vista"
- 15 aborted atom smasher in Waxahachie (abbr.)
- 17 TX Willie hit: "On The _____"
- 22 TXism: "_____ of cake" (easy)
- 23 TXism: "as clear _____ River mud"
- 24 Gen. _____ Houston
- 25 El Paso: "_____ Pass"
- 26 TXism: "hot as _____ tar in July"
- 27 TXism: "could talk a wagon _____ ditch" (persuasive)
- 28 jeans maker (init.)
- 29 TXism: "_____ the cat out of the bag"
- 31 _____ Fresno, TX
- 32 TXism: "_____ big for his britches"
- 33 former VW sports car: _____ Ghia
- 38 county and county seat on U.S. 281
- 41 TX Perot's old co.
- 42 big historic TX ranch
- 43 TXism: "a hard dog to _____ the porch" (good dog)
- 46 "shop '_____ you drop"
- 51 _____ Paso
- 52 TX store: _____ 'n Go
- 54 TXism: "I _____ my boots retreaded"
- 55 TX cover crop
- 60 Judge Hughes who gave oath to LBJ
- 61 how many times the Cowboys beat each divisional foe in 2021

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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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. Cuning at 817-694-0245 or Jill Harper at 817-980-6159.

JULY 6

Peach Walk
The Tarrant Area Food Bank West will host a Peach Walk from 5:30-7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, at 112 Winners Circle in Weatherford. Participants will journey

through the new TAFB facility, sampling peach-themed bites while learning how they can be a part of alleviating hunger in the community. A single \$30 ticket will provide 150 meals. Two tickets (\$50) will provide 250 meals. To register, visit <https://tafb.org/events/>.

JULY 9

Peach Pedal Bike Ride
Registration is under way for the annual Peach Pedal Bike Ride on Saturday, July 9, at Weatherford High School, 2121 Bethel Road in Weatherford.

The 61-mile ride starts at 7:30 a.m. The 39-mile ride starts at 7:45 a.m. and the 28-mile and 8-mile rides start at 8 a.m. The registration fee is \$35 if you register in the month of June. The fee is \$40 if you register between July 1-7. Ride-day registration is \$45. The ride benefits the United Way of Parker County and the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce. Each rider will receive a t-shirt and additional swag. For more information, visit <https://www.peachpedal.com/>.



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NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR SEALED BID FOR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY CITY OF WILLOW PARK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Willow Park, Texas, will receive written sealed Bids only, for the following real property: The R-1 Residential Property commonly known as 100 Block Circle Court, Lot 5, Block 3, Hillcrest Subdivision, Parker County, Willow Park, Texas, 76087 consisting of approximately 4,250 square feet (50' x 85') of vacant land.

The City shall receive bids from qualified buyers as outlined in the Request for Sealed Bid. Said bids must be in the office of the City Secretary, City of Willow Park, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, NO LATER THAN **12:00 P.M. CST on FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022**. Bids that are postmarked but not received until after this deadline will not be accepted. Bids received after the posted cut-off time will not be accepted.

All bids are to be marked clearly on the outside of the envelope **"BIDS FOR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY ON CIRCLE COURT"**.

Please mail sealed bids to City of Willow Park, Attn: City Secretary, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas, 76087; or deliver by courier or in person to the City Secretary's office, Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087. Bids may NOT be sent electronically.

Request for Sealed Bid for Sale of Real Property documents may be downloaded at www.willowpark.org, or obtained at the City of Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, TX 76087. Bid documents will be available for download/pickup on and after **June 3, 2022**. Further information may be requested by contacting Toni Fisher at tfisher@willowpark.org.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids or to accept the bid which is deemed by the City of Willow Park to be the best value to the City of Willow Park. The minimum bid to be submitted for the property is \$2,000. The City of Willow Park also reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the bid process.

For additional information, contact Toni Fisher at the City of Willow Park at (817) 441-7108.

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EYES

from page six

definitely shaped who I am. I expect to win, and I hate losing, as is the same for almost all athletes from this town.

When that becomes the case, sometimes I'm in danger of forgetting how to lose. Thankfully, I experience small failures day-by-day that keep me in check, but it does not make it any easier. However, I like to look back to the 2010-11 Texas Rangers. In the two years of disappointment from losing the World Series, what we forget to remember is the road that got us there.

When I remember that the football team won its 100th consecutive district game, the wrestling team had a district champion in its first year of existence, and a baseball pitcher threw a no-hitter just hours before a softball pitcher threw one, I cannot help but smile.

I do wish I could have covered an unprecedented sports year for Aledo High School that involved multiple state championships. But I would not trade the memories made, the friendships forged,

or the laughs shared to have that season.

Many of you have reached out to me over the past few weeks, thanking me for my coverage. Really it should be me thanking you for your kindness, generosity, and friendship. While there are too many to name specifically, you all know who you are and I will cherish those memories made. Each one means more to me than I can express in this column.

That's the beauty of sports. People are brought together for something they enjoy, whether as players, coaches or spectators. Emotions run high sometimes, and we don't always get the outcomes we want. Even in that dreaded agony of defeat, the beauty is there when we remember the road, and each of those memories on and off the battlefield that led up to the finale.

As the curtain falls and we prepare to move on to 2022-23, I remember the road and smile knowing that the memories will be with me for the rest of my life.

SOFTBALL

from page six

Aledo had its back against the wall yet again, and was determined to either come back again or go down swinging. Mississippi State signee Macy Graf singled to give some life to the Ladycats. Texas Ray singled her home two plays later to pull back to within one

run. Unfortunately, the next play saw a ground ball make contact with Ray as she was running from first to second, for the final out, effectively ending Aledo's season.

Despite losing a strong corps of seniors, Myers is convinced that the next players up will benefit from the two years of making it to Austin.

"It is definitely a huge experience for the girls," she

emotionally stated. "They got to see what it looks like to fight. So it's a great experience just being here for them. It's just a tough loss."

Georgetown advanced to the final game the following day, but fell to Montgomery Lake Creek (40-0) by a score of 7-0, giving Lake Creek the title of UIL Class 5A State Champions for 2022.

BASEBALL

from page 10

campaign for Barry and his squad. They won the District 5-5A championship, posted an 11-game winning streak en route to a second straight regional final, and cracked the state's top 10 in the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association poll.

"I think any time you end the season in the postseason it was a success, and when you make the regional finals it's especially good," Barry said. "But that doesn't ease the pain today. But I am so proud of these guys for the season they had. They made Aledo proud."

Aledo series batting

Adrian Guzman, 6-14.

David Jones, 5-11, walk, 3 RBI.

Trace Mazon, 4-11, home run, double, walk, 4 RBI.

Max Belyeu 4-11, home run, 2 walks, hit by pitch, 6 RBI.

Andrew Cambre, 4-11, 3 walks, 3 RBI.

Ryan Jones, 4-11, walk, 3 RBI.

Estevan Flores, 3-10, 3 walks, 2 hit by pitch, RBI.

Cade Pulido, 2-8, 2 walks.

Ethan Jaques, 1-11, walk, 2 hit by pitch, RBI.

Aledo series pitching

Carter Shands, 0-0, 6 innings, 4 hits, 1 run (0 earned), 1 strikeout, 4 walks, 1 hit batter.

Jaques, 0-0, 5 innings, 8 hits, 5 runs (0 earned), 7 strikeouts, 0 walks, 1 hit batter.

Hunter Rudell, 1-0, 5 innings, 6 hits, 7 runs (4 earned), 6 strikeouts, 4 walks, 0 hit batters.

Preston Clark, 0-1, 2.2 innings, 2 hits, 3 earned runs, 4 strikeouts, 5 walks, 0 hit batters.

Adrian Guzman, 0-0, 2.1 innings, 4 hits, 5 earned runs, 4 strikeouts, 1 walk, 0 hit batters.



KIRSTEN GALLON

Brooks Dwinell kneels in shock after the devastating comeback by Mansfield Legacy to beat the Bearcats in the 5A Regional Final.

Ryan Jones, 0-0, 0.2 innings, 3 hits, 1 earned run, 0 strikeouts, 0 walks, 0 hit batters.

Boston Dwinell, 0-1, 0.1 innings, 0 hits, 3 earned runs, 0 strikeouts, 2 walks, 1 hit batter.

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Look at it this way



Rick Mauch

Weekend heartbreak doesn't override season of success

There was a lot of heartbreak this past weekend, something folks around these parts aren't used to. Just a day after the Aledo Ladycats softball dropped a 3-2 contest to Georgetown in eight innings in the Class 5A state semifinals, the Bearcats baseball team was on the wrong end of a comeback for the ages against Mansfield Legacy.

When Legacy erupted for a dozen runs in the top of the seventh inning, it erased an eight-run Aledo lead en route to a 13-9 victory for the Broncos, along with their first berth in the Class 5A State Tournament since the school opened in 2007.

"It was unbelievable how it happened. We were on our way to state," said Virginia Barnett, grandmother of senior Hunter Rudell, who posted the Bearcats' lone pitching victory in the series.

It was a shocking ending for both the Ladycats and Bearcats. It will likely hurt in their memories for a

Turn to MAUCH, page 9

BASEBALL

Season ends in shocking fashion

Legacy stymies Aledo trip to state

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

For every incredible moment in sports, one team has to be on the wrong end.

So it was with the Aledo Bearcats Saturday at Cleburne High School's baseball field as they fell short in their quest for the team's first state tournament berth since 2015. Instead, it is Mansfield Legacy playing this weekend in Round Rock after a come-from-behind 13-9 victory in the third game of their best-of-three Class 5A Region I finals series.

The game featured the most improbable comebacks. The Bearcats (29-12) led 9-1 entering the top of the seventh and the team was seemingly on its way to state. However, the Broncos (32-9) scored 12 runs to overtake Aledo.

Legacy had won the opening game the night before, 8-5, in eight innings after the Bearcats had rallied to tie it in the bottom of the seventh with four runs. Then, in the first game Saturday, Aledo had little trouble winning 12-4 in a game that was highlighted by Max Belyeu's grand slam home run.

"We were just trying to find somebody who could get an out," Aledo coach Chad Barry said of the seventh-inning collapse. "I tip my hats to those guys over there (Legacy). They never say die."

Legacy is making its first trip to state in team history. The school opened in 2007. For Aledo, it's the second straight year the Bearcats have



KIRSTEN GALLON PHOTOGRAPHY

Pinch runner Colton Whitmire comes across the plate ahead of the throw for another Bearcat run.

lost in the regional final. They lost to Amarillo in three games last season.

Legacy's rally began with a solo home run by Parker Ibrahim, his second of the day as he also homered in the previous game. That was followed by six singles, four walks, an error, two sacrifice flies and a balk. The inning also featured four pitching changes by the Bearcats.

"We felt like we had them right where we wanted," Barry said. "But then it just fell apart. We came back from six once and tied a game in the seventh, but I've never seen anything like this."

Junior outfielder Trace Mazon, who had four hits in the series including a home run and double, said, "It didn't seem real. Baseball's a crazy game. You set down for one second and it'll bite you in the butt."

He went on to say the loss will serve as inspiration for next season.

"This will help us work harder all offseason. We are not going to let this happen again. We do not want to ever feel like this again."

Aledo jumped out early in Game 3 with four runs in the first inning, highlighted by Ryan Jones' two-run single. They extended their advantage to 7-0 after two as Belyeu singled in two more runs, and added single runs in the fourth and fifth.

Adrian Guzman went 4-for-4 in the loss, finishing the series with a team-high six hits.

Game 1

After Mazon led off the bottom of the first with a solo home run for the Bearcats, Legacy responded with three runs in the third and

two in the fifth to take a 5-1 lead into the bottom of the seventh.

Then, the Bearcats, aided by two Legacy errors, two walks and a hit batter, scored four runs on just two hits to tie the game. David Jones' single closed the gap to 5-4 and Mazon tied it with another single.

However, the Broncos countered with three runs in the top of the eighth to take the lead in the series.

Game 2

A five-run outburst in the second inning put Aledo in command, highlighted by Mazon's two-RBI double. Then, after Legacy narrowed the gap to 5-4, the Bearcats came back with a run in the sixth, followed by six more in the top of the seventh as Belyeu blasted a grand slam home run, the first of the senior's high school career.

"I knew it when I hit it. It felt good," said the outfielder who is headed to play for the University of Texas next season. "My favorite memory of playing here is everybody giving it their all for the team. Nobody wanted it for themselves."

Hunter Rudel got the pitching victory, going five innings, giving up no earned runs, scattering four hits, walking three and striking out four. Guzman pitched the final two innings, striking out three and not allowing a baserunner.

Final thoughts

The Bearcats' season ended short of their goal of state, but it was, nonetheless, another memorable

Turn to BASEBALL, page 9

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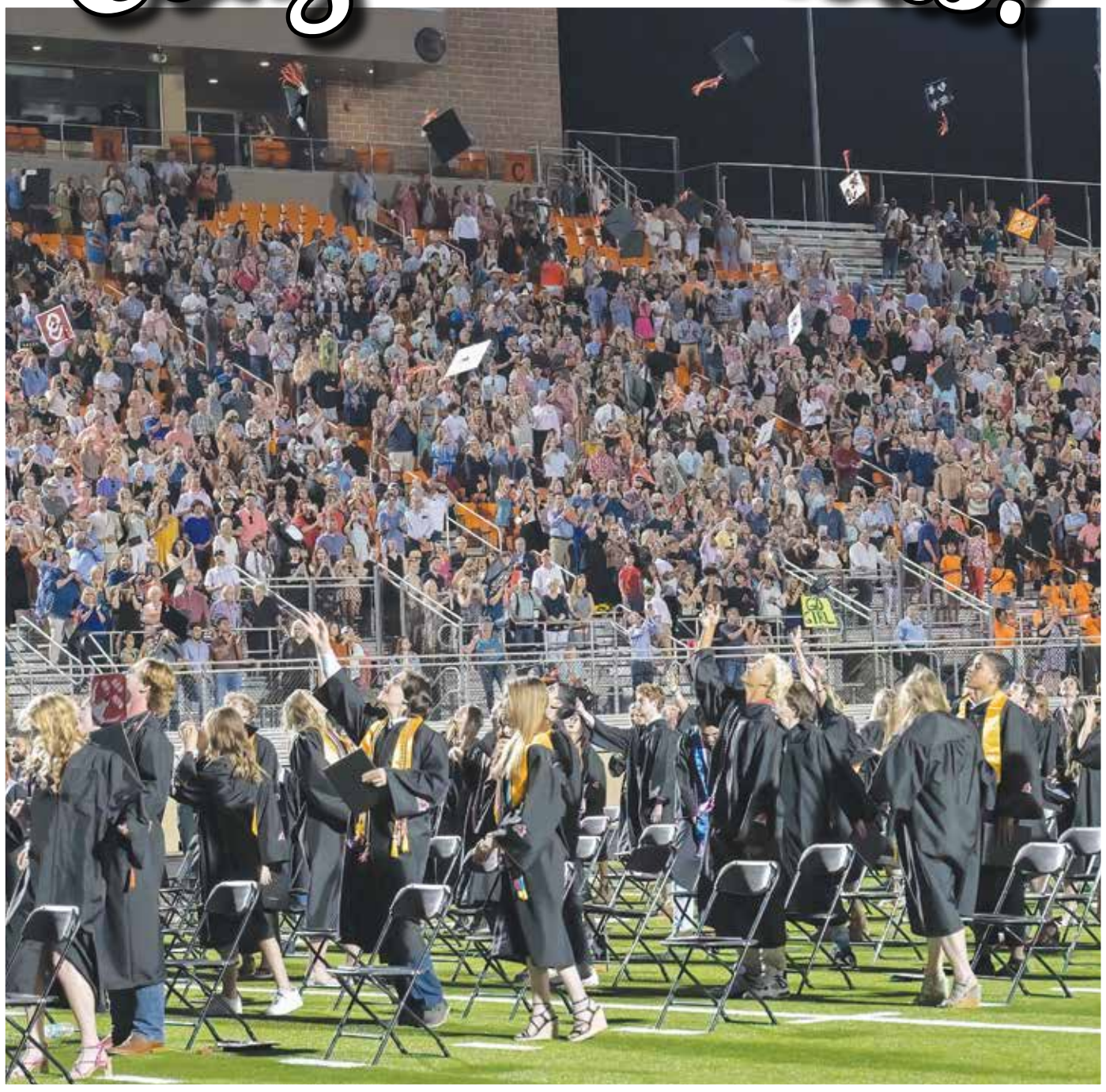


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