

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Equine Lifeline



Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts provides some attention to Shelby, one of the horses at Layla Horse Ranch during its ribbon cutting on June 25.

Layla Rose Ranch helping horses find loving homes

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

It all started when Catherine Hudson was out for a walk one day near their home in Annetta. She met Cletus, a Tennessee Walker horse whose owner did not want him any more.

Cletus, now 8 years old, has been with Catherine and her husband, Matt, for two years now. They care for him daily as they hope he, and most of the other horses they have at Layla Ranch Horse Rescue, can find a forever home.

"Cletus was my first rescue," said Catherine, who runs Layla Ranch, "I saw him and we created a bond. He's the one who started the passion.

"We got our next one, started rescuing, and realized we needed a bigger place."

So they bought some nearby property, 11 acres, in fact, and Layla Rose Ranch Horse Rescue was born. Now, the 501(c)3 nonprofit is home to at least 10 horses that simply wanted to be loved, but often were mistreated or forgotten.

"Nothing was here but trees. We built everything around rescuing — and Cletus. But don't tell him that," Catherine said with a chuckle.

Ironically, neither Catherine or Matt grew up around horses. She's from Fort Worth and he's from Indiana. However, driven by their desire to rescue equine they learned a lot about them in a hurry.

"It was a late passion. It started with Mr. Cletus," Catherine said. "They were just done with him. I said I'll take him.

"Most people just surrender horses, say they can't afford to take care of them. A lot of times we go to kill lots. We have four right now from kill lots."

As Catherine was saying this, she pointed to a pair of Mustangs that came to the ranch on July 4 from kill lots. They were very thin and in need of nourishment, which, of course, they are now getting.

"They said they were feeding them, but they had other horses that were in better shape," Catherine said, noting that often they have to take whatever stories come with the horse with a grain of salt.

Most of the horses who come to Layla Rose Ranch arrive with a mistrust of people. Such was the case with Buddy, a 16-year-old quarterhorse missing one eye — also obtained from a kill pen.

"If you've ever seen one of those kill pens, it's packed with sick horses, abused horses," Catherine said. "A lot of times if you look into their eyes they've given up. He'd given up.

"He loves kids. He's such a kind horse. It's amazing watching them change so much when they come in. He was scared to death of men, which tells us it was a man who abused him. Matt spent a whole lot of time with him and now he's the nicest horse."

Their 10-year-old daughter Lilly loves helping her mom run the ranch.

"I think it's cool that my mom started a rescue. I just love being around the horses and helping feed and take care of them," she said.

The youngest horse at Layla Rose Ranch is Lola, nine months old. She came to them malnourished. The oldest is Kinsley, a 25-year-old rescued from, you guessed it, a kill pen.

"I follow some of the kill pens on Facebook and that helps us," Catherine said.

Of Kinsley, Catherine said, "She's not rideable anymore. So we're looking at a forever (companion) or a pasture pet."



Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts and Catherine Hudson shared ribbon-cutting duties on June 25, official opening Layla Rose Ranch.

A forever companion is an animal to belong to an elderly person, the two growing old together.

Another horse, a paint named Angel, roams around the preparation pasture. It's a place where new horses are kept until they can be cleared by a veterinarian to join the others.

"Angel was completely wild when we found her in a kill pen. She was pregnant and her baby died 11 days after it was born with pneumonia," Catherine said. "We tried everything we could."

Turn to LAYLA, page 3



Dr. Steven Spooner will perform at Weatherford College on July 29.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Peabody Conservatory piano professor to perform free concert

World renowned pianist Dr. Steven Spooner will perform a free concert in Weatherford College's Alkek Fine Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 29.

Spooner, a professor of piano at the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, is one of the judges for the final round of the fourth Annual Weatherford College International Piano Competition taking place in the Alkek July 29-30.

"We are fortunate to have him as a judge and

to host this recital," said Dr. Hyeyoung Song, WC's master pianist and founder of the competition.

His program includes works by Scarlatti, Chopin, Schubert/Liszt, Rieni along with his own compositions.

Spooner studied at the Tbilisi Conservatory, Moscow Conservatory, and at Indiana University. He has released more than 30 recordings, his latest being a 10-volume project "Aspects of Liszt" that explores the many facets of the Liszt repertoire.

PARKER COUNTY

Vandal ID sought

Reward may be offered

By Danie Huffman
Parker County Sheriff's Office

Parker County Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division is seeking the public's assistance in identifying and locating a man in connection with property damage in the 1200-Block of Jenkins Lane on July 3.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said the suspect is identified as a white male, 40 to 55 years-old, who was last seen wearing a ball cap and jersey shirt. The suspect also wore work gloves and a head lamp around his neck. He was seen in security footage in a white pickup with a front bumper guard damaging the security gate.

Anyone with information regarding the suspect's identity or location is urged to contact the



Parker County Sheriff's Office at 817-594-8845.

Witnesses may also contact Parker County Crime Stoppers at 817-599-5555. You may remain anonymous when contacting Crime Stoppers. Crime Stoppers will pay up to a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the suspect(s) involved.

You may also submit an anonymous tip to tip411 by logging onto www.parkercountysheriff.net under the tip411 link.



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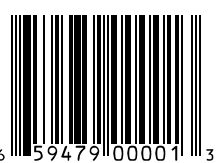
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In & Around Parker County

Where Commissions become Donations

Lori Fowler was living a completely satisfied life as a tenured college professor working alongside the college president when there was a “knock at the door.”

“God kind of plucked me out of my role and said, ‘You’re not doing this anymore,’” Fowler said.

She was teaching a class and the students were challenging her — something she once enjoyed — but it wasn’t working for her this time. She gave in, and immediately thought “oh, no, something changed.”

“I went to the college president that day and I said, ‘I think I have to go, I don’t care anymore. I think my time here is done. And it’s time for me to go.’”

Fowler’s dad had been a real estate broker since 1971, and she had received her license before she quit teaching.

“And in the interim, I had built so much relationship, teaching sociology with nonprofit, that I wanted to continue that and I didn’t really know how to bridge nonprofit with real estate,” Fowler said.

So she formed Charitable Realty, based on the idea that when a person closes on a transaction, they get to choose a charity. And Charitable



Realty donates a portion of their commission to that charity.

To date they have given away more than \$630,000 to everything from Parker County Center of Hope and A Wish With Wings to animal shelters, Cook Children’s Hospital, Alzheimer’s Association, and many more.

“We’ve given to every dog breed organization you can imagine, we’ve given overseas, given to several churches, we give a lot to the local Aledo community,” Fowler said. “We’re big supporters of Cook Children’s Hospital, we’re partners with Habitat for Humanity and Ronald McDonald House. Just this week, we gave to the Pyrenees rescue and Cook Children’s Hospital.”

Fowler said the average real estate transaction is \$275,000, so it takes a lot of contributions to a lot of organizations to reach the \$630,000 level.

“It’s been super rewarding,” Fowler said. “Tithing back to the community is what we say that we’re doing.”

Charitable Realty has grown to 52 realtors, and now has realtors

in Midland-Odessa, an office in Amarillo, and now a reach in Austin in addition to an office in Aledo. There are ten more agents about to sign on with Charitable Realty as well.

“One thing that we do differently is for new realtors, we train them through a mentor program, which is quite a big draw,” Fowler said. “We assign them a mentor who trains them on everything they need to know. And they can go through a track all the way through brokership. We try to help them so they can not only be a really good realtor with lots of experience, but have a lot of support. They can also become a broker and expand the Charitable Realty reach. We have two other associate brokers on the staff, we have an appraiser and we have an inspector on the team.”

The team members truly operate as a family in addition to taking part in quarterly fun events and volunteering in the community. And a glance at their reviews shows numerous happy customers.

For more information about Charitable Realty, call 817-825-8293, visit their office at 405 S. FM 1187 in Aledo, or visit CharitableRealty.org.

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Obituaries

Charlie Lawrence

Charlie Lawrence passed away on July 17, 2022.

Born in Breckenridge on May 19, 1941, he was the youngest of nine children. He grew up on a ranch, riding horses, herding cattle, roping calves, cheekily driving at age six to get this and that. His was a childhood remembered equally for its hard work and responsibilities, as well as its unparalleled freedom.

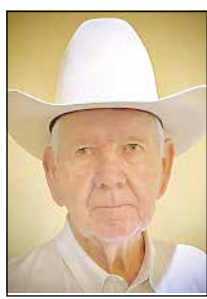
He attended school in Albany, Texas, and graduated from Albany High School in 1959 (in a class of 41) – a proud Lion to the end of his days. During his time at Albany, he competed in various sports including basketball, rodeo, and football; he was quite the calf roper and football athlete.

He made lifelong friends while at Albany, primary among them Jackie Eubanks, Pete Jones, and Buddy Webb. After graduation he went on to play football at Cisco Junior College, later transferring to and graduating from North Texas State University. During summers in high school and college he worked in the oil field for his brother-in-law, Wilburn Riley.

This experience left a lasting impression on him and would factor into later life decisions to inspire great success in others. After graduating from North Texas, he began a career as an educator and coach. He initially coached in Weatherford for the Kangaroos, later for the Aledo Bearcats, where he took them to their first state championship game.

After leaving coaching he returned to the oil field. He led or started various drilling companies including Riley Drilling, Inc., Lawrence-Cannon Drilling, Inc. and Texas-Wyoming Drilling, Inc.

Beyond his work life, he loved sports, loved to compete, and to watch his children compete. In his spare time, he did find the time for an occasional round of golf here and there. He loved games practically



Charlie Lawrence

of any sort, especially the domino game “42,” which was a family favorite.

Later in life his de facto home teams were the Brock Eagles and the Aledo Bearcats. If they were your team, too, then you probably saw him at Brock and or Aledo football, basketball, and softball games. Charlie was that kind of person that saw a friend and the good in everyone he met, was trustworthy to a fault, and genuinely did his level best to have a purposeful and positive impact on those that he met and came to know.

He was extremely proud of his time as a coach where he got to know many young men and was always hopeful that, in some way, he was able to make some difference in their lives. He was able to see things in them they couldn't see in themselves and worked hard to bring the best out of someone. The same can be said of his time in the oil field for those that worked with and for him. They worked hard together, and he looked after them.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents, Pearl and Albert Lawrence; sisters, Betty, Florence, and Lucille; and his brothers Gray, John T., and Monroe.

Survivors include his wife, Julie, of Weatherford; sons, Stacy (Melinda) of Richardson, Ryan (Leslie) of Houston, daughter Amanda (Danny) of Mineral Wells; grandchildren Sophie, Margaux and Ian of Richardson, Jonah and Ellis of Houston, and Lucy and Olivia of Mineral Wells; brother, Rayford (Margaret) Lawrence of Abilene, sister Geraldine Lewis of Midland, sister-in-law Janice Phelan of Austin; numerous nieces and nephews, including Candy Riley, Janice Riley, Ginger Barte, and Ken Lawrence, all of Albany.

The service was scheduled for 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, at First Baptist Church of Dennis. Graveside will be at 10 a.m. Friday, July 22, at Greenwood Cemetery.

The Community News
July 22, 2022



TREY FREEZE / TREYFREEZE.COM

Sandy Roberts (left), Catherine Hudson (right), and Hudson's daughter Alexa surround Shelby, a horse with a disease that will eventually cause her ligaments to give out.

LAYLA

from page one

Not all horses that come to Layla Rose Ranch can be relocated to homes. For example, Shelby, a 9-year-old Rocky Mountain, is a forever resident. She has a disease through which, over time, her ligaments will completely give out.

“We know she's in really good hands here,” Catherine said, fighting back a tear.

Layla is a 2-year-old after which the ranch is named. She is Shelby's baby.

Layla Rose Ranch is 100% operated by volunteers. Every bit of any proceeds raised goes toward the care of the horses.

“There is no paid position,” Catherine stressed.

Matt is the Chief Experience Officer at Work Wear Safety, based in Fort Worth.

“Finding your passion, no matter what stage in life, truly changes who you are and what your were created to be,” he said of Catherine. “She brings light into the lives of otherwise hopeless situations. And that's a pretty amazing opportunity for any of us.”

Catherine said she has a half dozen volunteers helping out. One of those is Pete Zachrison, who, like Catherine, came from the city but fell in love with horses.

“I'd never done anything like this before,” he said. I'm a city boy. I moved here from Las Vegas, but I rode a couple horses on trails and now I just love it.”

If you'd like to be a volunteer, you can sign up on their website, <https://laylaroseranch.org/>. There's also a place to donate supplies from their Amazon wish list, and good ol' fashioned monetary donations can also be made on there.

Also, if you are interested in adopting, you can register to do that on the website as well. As one might expect, the application process is very thorough.

“We're really strict,” Catherine said. “The goal is for the ones that are adoptable, to get them to a place where they trust people again, to get them to a place where they will be loved like they deserve to be.”

Catherine noted that Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts was impressed with the ranch and even spoke at an event there recently. In fact, Catherine said the mayor

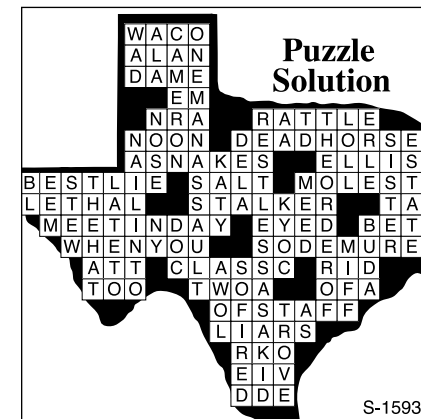
asked her to speak at an upcoming city council meeting.

“On behalf of the town of Annetta we are honored to have Layla horse rescue as part of our community,” Roberts said. “We are a rural town that takes care of not just our two-legged citizens but our four-legged friends too.”

Catherine admits she gets close to the horses. When you're saving an animal's life, you're a very caring person to begin with.

Also, being with him is simply some of her favorite time.

“They're very peaceful, very therapeutic. I just love hanging out with them,” she said. “The three we adopted out, I cried. You spend so much time with them.”



S-1593



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Events

July 22, 2022
 THE COMMUNITY NEWS
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More events can be found at www.community-news.com/events

THURSDAY, JULY 21

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 Cuppett 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. Cuning at 817-694-0245 or Jill Harper at 817-980-6159.

SATURDAY, JULY 23

WC Summer Stage presents 'Little Red Riding Hood'
 The Weatherford College Summer Stage Children's Series presents "Little Red Riding Hood" by Heath Thompson July 23-24 and July 30-31 in the Alkek Fine Arts Center, 239 College Park Drive in Weatherford. Showtimes are 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is free and doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. The cast consists of Tyle Sabbatini as Little Red, Nickoli Wooten as the Wolf, Saphira Buchfink at Betsy and Nate Field as Chuck. Ethan Sebree, a WC theatre student, is directing the production. The high-energy, interactive play follows the traditional story of Little Red Riding Hood with a few silly twists. The

show runs approximately 30 minutes and is targeted toward children ages 10 and younger.

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Howdy Party
 The Parker County Aggie Moms' Club will host its annual Howdy Party to welcome new Aggies and celebrate all things Texas A&M from 6-10 p.m. Sunday, July 24, at Shep's, 202 Fort Worth Hwy in Weatherford. This event is their annual fundraiser for student scholarships. The evening will include live and silent auctions, Yell Practice, Aggie Mom Boutique, catered chicken fried steak dinner, keynote speaker Cliff Dugosh '86, recognition of 2022 scholarship recipients, and more. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at <https://parkercmomms.aggienetwork.com>.

FRIDAY, JULY 29

International piano competition
 Finalists announced for 4th annual International Piano Competition: Finalists for the fourth annual Weatherford College International Piano Competition will perform live in the Alkek Fine Arts Center on July 29 and 30. Contestants from all over the world submitted online entries including pianists from Canada, Poland, China, Korea and the United States. Preliminary rounds judges selected the top performers in two age divisions: Junior and Young Artist. "It has been an incredible time

for me listening to all the wonderful participants, the levels are very high in both categories, especially the Young Artist Division," said preliminary round judge Dr. Kyra Xuerong Zhao from the New England Conservatory.

The Junior Division Final Round will begin at 8 a.m. Friday, July 29, followed by an award ceremony and masterclass at 3 p.m. The evening will conclude with a concert by Dr. Steven Spooner at 7 p.m. Competition will continue Saturday, July 30, with the Young Artist Division also beginning at 8 a.m. followed by an award ceremony and masterclass at 4:30 p.m.

Free concert
 World renowned pianist Dr. Steven Spooner will perform a free concert in Weatherford College's Alkek Fine Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 29.

Spooner, a professor of piano at the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, is one of the judges for the final round of the fourth Annual Weatherford College International Piano Competition taking place in the Alkek July 29-30.

"We are fortunate to have him as a judge and to host this recital," said Dr. Hyeoung Song, WC's master pianist and founder of the competition.

His program includes works by Scarlatti, Chopin, Schubert/Liszt, Rieni along with his own compositions.

ACROSS

1 seat of McLennan County

5 Texas moonwalker, Bean

6 both Texas Christian & Notre ___ claim the 1938 national championship

7 "Hook '___ Horns!"

8 gun rights grp.

9 TXism: "first ___ out of the box"

15 Tex Ritter sang the theme song for 1952 western "High ___"

16 TXism: "you're buying oats for a ___" (waste)

19 TXism: "lower than ___ belly"

21 Waxahachie's county

22 most outlandish fishing story? (2 wds.)

27 popular seasoning

28 abuse sexually

29 deadly

30 illegal pursuer of another person

32 this Agee blocked for Emmitt Smith in 1990 (init.)

33 TXism: "go to ___" (Sunday)

36 Texans love black-___ peas

37 a wager at Lone Star Park

38 Texas-based film, "___ Comin' Back, Red Ryder?"

39 "___ she wore flannel PJs on her honeymoon"

41 cell service provider

42 least serious crime: ___ ___ misdemeanor

45 "get ___ of it"

46 TXism: "got ___ many irons in the fire"

47 Vega High class (2 wds.)

48 TXism: "that's a horse ___ different color"

49 TX James Baker was Reagan's and George H.W.'s Chief ___

52 TXism: "there's more of them than ___ in Texas"

53 Texas Traveling Wilbury, Roy (init.)

54 between E.I.II and E.V.?

55 president born in Denison, TX (init.)

DOWN

1 TXism: "light ___" (cheapskate)

2 peach cobbler ___ mode

3 Milam County seat

4 TX Lucian Adams got Medal of Honor for ___ against Germans

8 TXism: "plain as the ___ on your face"

9 TXism: "___ in church"

10 Quanah High class

11 six points on Fri. night

12 check phrase: "pay to ___"

13 sprawl or lie lazily

14 honorary Texas Ranger: ___ Stanley Gardner

15 TXism: "he couldn't drive a ___ a snow bank"

16 Seur ___ Salle, an explorer in Texas

17 Jenna Bush Hager to Barbara Bush Coyne

18 real ___

20 a Houston suburb

22 famous UT and NFL QB, Layne (init.)

23 this Myers designed the Texas Capitol (init.)

24 meat & veggie dish

25 TXism: "he's a little shy in ___ size" (slow witted)

26 TXism: "he'll be ___ his own funeral"

28 archaic "reward"

31 Yoakum FM before it was KYKM

34 Yankee city (abbr.)

35 this Holiday spent time in Texas

37 southern Austin suburb on I-35

40 fit of pique

43 unauthorized absence for a soldier (abbr.)

44 Mavs fans were ___ up for 2022 playoffs

50 treasure ___

51 TXism: "drunk ___ skunk"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
 Copyright 2022 by Orbison Bros.

Spooner studied at the Tbilisi Conservatory, Moscow Conservatory, and at Indiana University. He has released more than 30 recordings, his latest being a 10-volume project "Aspects of Liszt" that explores the many facets of the Liszt repertoire.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5
Walsh Kinder Camp
 Walsh Elementary School will host Walsh Kinder

Camp from 10-11:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 5.

All kinder students and their families are welcome to participate in a Q&A with the principal, meet the kinder team of teachers, learn about campus procedures, connect with other kinder families, and learn about campus volunteer activities.

The event will end with popcicles on the playground.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
Summer Sidewalk Shop
 Carve & Cask will host a Summer Sidewalk Shop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 243 Willow Bend Drive in Willow Park. A variety of local small businesses will be on hand, and the shopping will be on Tax Free Weekend. Send event information to events@community-news.com.

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Capital Highlights

Wildfire danger continues to rise



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

As we cross the halfway point of July, wildfire danger continues to increase across the state. On Friday, July 15, Texas A&M Forest Service firefighters responded to 15 new wildfires that burned 651 acres. As of Sunday, there were eight active wildfires; the largest was the Nethery Road Fire in Kimble County, involving an estimated 3,500 acres. It has been 70% contained.

The forest service is taking to the air to augment fire suppression efforts on the ground. It has opened the Austin Airtanker Base at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The service has three dozen aircraft mobilized at 17 airports around the state for wildfire response. The Austin Airtanker Base will serve as a reload station for aircraft coming and going to wildfires. It is the only airport in the state set up for what is known as a Very Large Airtanker, or DC-10.

Forest service aircraft can get anywhere in Texas in less than one hour. Since being placed in operation in early December, they have flown 4,641 hours and dumped 6.8 million gallons of water and retardant on Texas wildfires.

"This year, we have utilized aviation resources for response in areas experiencing significant wildfire activity," said Jared Karns, with the forest service. "These aircraft provide support to ground crews and assist in protecting homes as well as other critical infrastructure."

There are now 212 counties across the state with burn bans — 84% of the total number of Texas counties.

Fourth consecutive month with rain deficit

Unsurprisingly, June was warmer and drier for much of Texas, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of June, drought conditions covered 86% of the state, up eight percentage points from May.

"That all adds up to the conclusion that Texas is in a significant drought, the worst since 2011, but not worse than 2011," Wentzel wrote.

The drought predictably is having an effect on the state's water supply reservoirs, which are at 75% of capacity, 10 percentage points below normal for this time of year, according to TWDB.

Six ways to save water in summer heat

TDWB is offering six tips on saving water in a state whose population is expected to increase from 29.5 million in 2021 to 51.1 million in 2070 — a 73% increase that will put a strain on water supplies. Water conservation is one of the major strategies recommended in the 2022 state water plan. Here are the tips:

- Water landscape in the early morning and at night when winds are calmer and temperatures lower.
- Design a water-wise landscape with native shrubs, trees and grasses. Native plants have adapted to a region's climate and conserve water more efficiently.

- Follow local watering restrictions. They're there for a reason: to make sure a community doesn't run out of water.
- Manage in-ground irrigation systems and check sprinkler heads. Avoid leaving systems on automatic settings that may come on when it isn't necessary — like during a thunderstorm.
- Consider installing a rainwater harvesting system. In general, for every inch of rain that falls on a 2,000-square-foot roof, about 1,000 gallons of water can be collected. Find out more here: tinyurl.com/mryburys.
- Cover your pool or spa when not in use, since evaporation throughout the summer can add up to the equivalent of a pool's volume.

TxDOT approves \$146 million for statewide transit

Two grants totaling \$146 million have been announced by the Texas Department of Transportation to fund transit providers across the state, particularly in rural areas.

"This funding is critical to ensuring everyone in Texas, especially in rural areas, has access to where they need to go safely and reliably," TxDOT Transportation Commissioner Alvin New said.

Transit agencies can use the funds, which come from both federal and state coffers, to cover maintenance costs, buy new buses, build new facilities and expand services to more people, according to TxDOT. The funding is a 65% increase over last summer's funds, in large part due to federal funds from the infrastructure act passed last year.

O'Rourke outraises Abbott in last four months

Democratic gubernatorial challenger Beto O'Rourke raised \$27.3 million from Feb. 20 to June 20, outpacing Gov. Gregg Abbott's \$25 million, according to the Austin American-Statesman. Abbott still has a commanding lead in cash on hand, with \$46 million in the bank. The O'Rourke campaign has not released how much cash it has on hand.

The O'Rourke campaign said nearly all its donations were made online, at an average of \$54. Teachers gave more money than people from any other occupation.

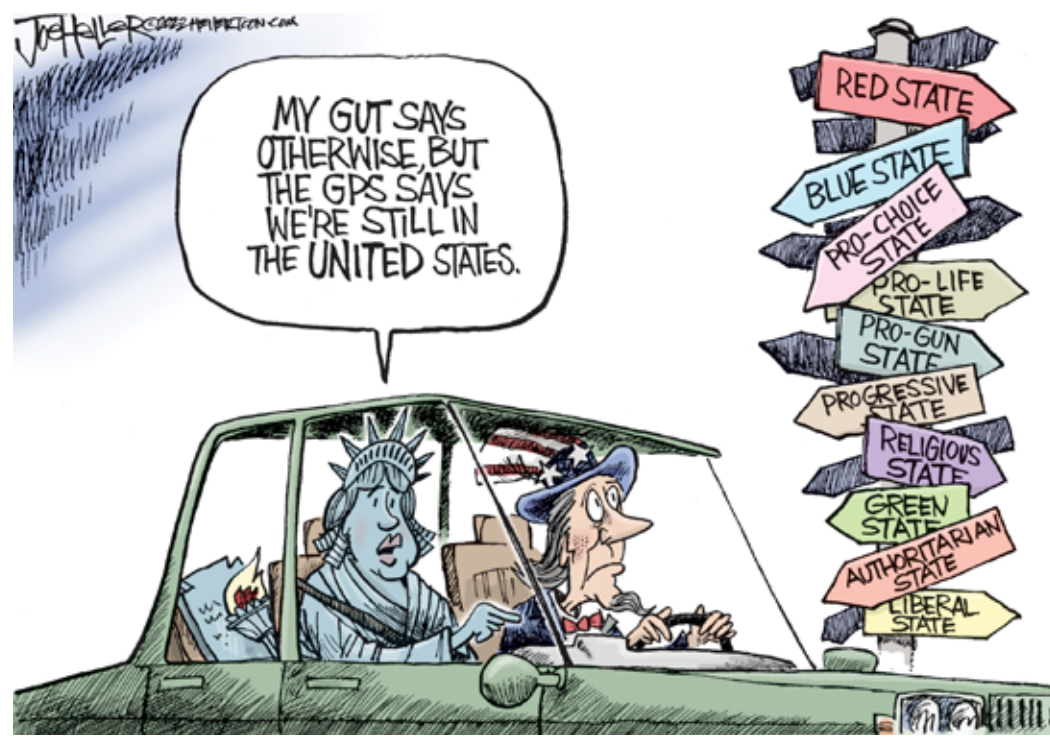
The latest poll indicates the race for governor has tightened, though Abbott still holds a 6-point lead — 45% to 39%.

BA.2 variant of COVID-19 spurs hike in cases

With the highly transmissible BA.2 variant of COVID-19 now the dominant strain, the number of new cases continues to rise in Texas and elsewhere. The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported 107,367 new cases in Texas during the past week, up 27% from the previous week. A total of 124 new deaths were reported, just slightly up from the previous week. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations rose slightly to 3,240, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Nearly 60% of the state's entire population is fully vaccinated, according to DSHS, with 7.178 million Texans also getting at least one booster shot.

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.



Guest Column

Big Tech is steamrolling America's newspapers



Brett Wesner

Google and Facebook have enormous economic and political power in society — especially over the news industry. Many ask if they have played a role in the misinformation that erodes our free press and plagues our democracy.

Google and Facebook have a duopoly of the distribution of digital news content, which drives people to their platforms where they make money. The platforms hoard critical data and use clever tactics, like reframing stories in rich previews, to keep users on their sites — siphoning off the advertising revenue that small and local publishers need and weakening their ability to be rewarded for their own content.

Google and Facebook generated \$4 million in U.S. advertising revenue every 15 minutes during the first quarter of 2022. That amount could fund hundreds of local journalists in every state in the country.

It's no wonder that, despite record news consumption, local newspapers across the country have seen diminished revenues — leading many to lay off journalists or go out of business. Local newspapers simply can't compete with these national platforms, Google and Facebook. The imbalance of power between these platforms and local newspapers — let alone any single local paper — is so vast that newspapers cannot negotiate the exploitation of news. But antitrust laws shield Google and Facebook from the possibility of news publishers working together to demand better terms.

No company should have this much control over the news. Congress must take action to curb undue influence of Big Tech on the news media industry — and the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA) aims to do just that.

The JCPA is specifically designed to address Google's and Facebook's anticompetitive practices. The proposed legislation

The proposed legislation would provide a temporary, limited antitrust safe harbor for small and local news publishers to collectively negotiate with Facebook and Google for fair compensation for the use of their content.

would provide a temporary, limited antitrust safe harbor for small and local news publishers to collectively negotiate with Facebook and Google for fair compensation for the use of their content. The policy also incentivizes and rewards publishers who invest in their journalists and newsroom personnel, awarding outlets with demonstrated investments in their staff a larger portion of the funds that result from the negotiations.

By addressing Google's and Facebook's monopoly power and ensuring more subscription and advertising dollars flow back to publishers, the JCPA not only protects and promotes quality news, but also encourages competition.

In today's partisan political climate, it is rare for Democrats and Republicans to agree on anything — but the JCPA is one important exception. Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle agree: we need to pass the JCPA to ensure that publishers — especially small and local publishers — are treated fairly and can serve their communities.

Brett Wesner is the Chair of the National Newspaper Association and president Wesner Publications in Cordell, Oklahoma.

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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.

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RODEO Bushaw making drive to nationals

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Will Bushaw may not be old enough to drive a car on his own yet, but he sure knows how to steer a horse around a rodeo arena with no assistance.

Bushaw will turn 16 in September, and his mother, Aimee, said he, like all teenagers, "Can't wait to get wheels."

In the meantime, the Peaster High School sophomore is hoping to continue his upward trajectory on his current mode of transportation - at least around the ranch and in the arena - as he competes in the National High School Finals Rodeo next week in Gillette, Wyoming. The competition began Sunday and runs through July 23 featuring the top high school rodeo competitors in the United States.

Bushaw, 15, is coming off winning the boys cutting championship at the Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals in Abilene in mid-June. In doing so he continually improved with each go-round, scoring 151 in the opening session, 152 in the second and finishing with a 154 score to win the overall title by 2.5 points.

His performance also paved the way for him to be named the Texas High School Rodeo Rookie of the Year.

This all came on the heels of a fourth-place finish in Region 3 of the Texas High School Rodeo Association in the regular season.

Of course, every great rodeo competitor will say success starts with having the right horse. Bushaw presented high praise for his trusty steed.



KARL UNERTL

Will Bushaw will compete in the National High School Finals Rodeo next week in Gillette, Wyoming.

"My Horse, Velvets Revolver, is extremely talented and we get along great. He is a 10-year-old gelding with earnings of almost \$300,000," Bushaw said. "He is the nicest horse ever and very good to be around."

Bushaw is competing at nationals for the first time, though he watched and learned from another great rider close to him. His brother, Charles Russell, was a two-time THSRA state champion and national qualifier in cutting.

The brothers are also both National Cutting Horse Association championships. Charles is a past Amateur and Limited Non Professional Futurity winner, while Will captured the 2020 National Youth Cutting Horse Association Junior Youth world title and the 2020 NCHA Summer Spectacular Derby.

Will was also the 2017 NYCHA Junior Rookie of the Year.

"I come from a cutting family, my parents, grandparents, and uncles have done it their entire lives," Will said. "I was 3 years old the first time I ever showed."

Along with the thrill of competition, Will said it's simply fun. In fact, it's also relaxing. Well, not in the arena so much, but certainly being in the atmosphere he loves.

"I enjoy spending time with my friends at shows, and just being around horses in general. It is something we do as a family," he said.

There is a danger involved in what the Bushaw brothers do so well. In fact, Will once broke his wrist riding bareback in his pasture when he slid off the horse.

"It can potentially be dangerous, so you have to make smart decisions and maintain your tack," he said. "That is probably the worst injury I have ever had horseback."

Will plans to attend Texas A&M University after high school, where he wants to major in business. He then wants to help run the family ranch.

And, of course, he wants to keep competing in cutting as much as possible.

"Unfortunately, cutting is not a collegiate sport, but I will continue to cut as a hobby for the rest of my life," he said.

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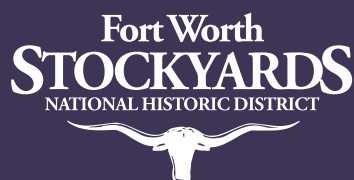
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Comeback Season

The Cade Pulido Story

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

A phrase originating from the mid-19th century says “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” The phrase has caught plenty of meaning in the past 200 years, with many prime examples.

For the past two years, Aledo Bearcat infielder Cade Pulido has truly embodied that phrase. The 2022 graduate overcame a setback from his junior year to completely redeem himself in his senior year.

Pulido started playing baseball at an early age and grew into the game throughout his childhood. Once he moved to his club team, he connected with his future Aledo teammates for the first time.

“I was about 3 and playing t-ball,” Pulido explained. “Then as I grew up I moved into select ball around 8 years old. That’s where I met all my buddies like Ethan [Jaques], Hunter [Rudel], Carter [Shands], Adrian [Guzman] but then I separated from them and went to a different team.”

After rejoining his classmates for their freshman year, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the 2020 baseball season from being completed.



KRISTIN MORALES

Through hard work and determination, Cade Pulido landed a spot on the 2022 Bearcats’ roster.

The early termination hurt Pulido as he was prevented from making a mark on a full season.

“He battled for playing time,” Aledo baseball head coach Chad Barry remembered. “Towards the

end of their sophomore year, we start to really say ‘Can they really play for us on the varsity or not?’

If we don’t ever believe that they can then we have to start looking at other options. And he kind of fell into that category in his sophomore year.”

With life starting to return back to normal just in time for the 2021 baseball season, players, fans, and coaches anticipated a full season to take place as tryouts began.

“I worked really hard that whole offseason,” Pulido said. “I knew the situation I was going to be in and that I had to outwork people. During the tryout process I thought I did pretty decent, but we always think that we can do better.”

“We, as a program, try not to put juniors on JV,” Barry explained. “We felt like we had a good second baseman in Guzman and as well Keaton Laidley before he got hurt. We just felt like he had two guys that were the same age as him that would be playing in front of him.”

Pulido was left off of the final cut list, making it an unprecedented spring without baseball for the young infielder.

“I got a text from Barry telling me to come to his office,” Pulido said. “I remember thinking ‘Oh no, this is not going to be good.’ I

Turn to PULIDO, page 12

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126 RANCH HOUSE ROAD

Aledo All-Stars win world series

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Part of growing up in Aledo for the local youth is playing ball at Aledo Athletics off of Bankhead Highway in the spring. Since 1976 the nonprofit organization has provided Aledo youth the opportunity to play baseball and softball from age 4 all the way through middle school.

At the end of every spring season, the all-star teams take shape and start competing in summer tournaments, culminating with a world series in July.

After the spring season of 2022, coach Jacob Henderson selected his 10U team from the nominees submitted by the coaches from the recreation league.

Once the team was selected, they started playing in tournaments across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Many tournaments were played against select teams, which raised the competition level for the young squad.

“We played eight tournaments in nine weeks,” Henderson said. “We started with select team tournaments which were above our competition level, and won a couple, lost a bunch but learned a lot. Then we won two out of three all-star tournaments before heading to New Orleans.”

On Wednesday, July 13, the team traveled to New Orleans for the United States Specialty Sports Association World Series. For many of the kids, it was their first time traveling for a large baseball tournament.

“It was a once in a lifetime experience,” Henderson said. “Five days of tournament baseball, just focused on them and playing some good teams and good competition. The boys really came together as a family and that’s what we preached all summer.”

The first two days were spent in a round-robin competition to determine seeding for the double-elimination tournament. Aledo went 3-0-1 in the round-robin tournament, winning their first game and tying the second game. The next day, the team won both of their games to clinch the top seed in the tournament.



Aledo All-Star players shown include Aaron Dobles, Zach Faulkner, Ryan Frazier, Grady Gillium, Jack Gwaltney, Shane Henderson, Robert Huff, Jonah Landreth, Logan Morrow, and Luke Underdahl. Coaches are Jacob Henderson, James Morrow, Isaiah Huff, and Lee Gwaltney

However, the team lost their first tournament game to Slidell, Louisiana, making every game from that point on an elimination game.

In their two games on Saturday, the team snuck by with scores of 6-2 and 9-8, setting up a rematch with Slidell on the morning of July 17. Aledo won the game 11-3 to set up the championship series with Pike County, Georgia.

Because Pike County did not lose a tournament game, Aledo had to win two games against their counterpart from the southeast region of the country. It was a close contest, but Aledo squeaked out a 7-6 victory to set up a championship-deciding game immediately following.

With Henderson’s son Shane on the mound, Aledo held Pike County to just four runs in the game, while the heroes from Parker County scored a whopping 12. With victory at the doorstep, Shane polished off the victory by striking out the final batter and bringing the title back to Aledo.

“What a great feeling that was,” Henderson reminisced. “My son struck out the last guy to win the game and all I remember is everyone running towards third base, throwing their gloves up in the air and there was a big dogpile of celebration.”



KIRSTEN GALLON

Ethan Jaques

BASEBALL

Area athletes honored by THSBCA

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Several players from Aledo and Weatherford received postseason honors from the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association recently.

Named to the Class 5A All-State Team from Aledo was senior outfielder Ethan Jaques. From Weatherford, also a senior outfielder, Jake Williams was selected. Both were named third team.

Jaques helped the Bearcats to a 29-12 record, the District 5-5A championship, and into the Region I final, where they fell in three games to Mansfield Legacy.

Prior to the postseason, the Bearcats entered the THSBCA state rankings at No. 10 in the poll. Their run ended against No. 5 Legacy.

Williams played a key role in helping the Weatherford Kangaroos to a 22-7-2 record and

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GOLF TEAM TRYOUTS

The Aledo High School golf teams will hold tryouts on Monday, Aug. 1 and Tuesday, Aug. 2 at Squaw Creek Golf Club, 1605 Ranch House Road in Willow Park.

Tryouts for the women's team will run from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1. Tryouts for the men's team will be the same hours on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Anyone wishing to try out should send the name of the student athlete, grade, and number of years playing competitive/tournament golf to Coach Brian Mourning at bmourning@aledoisd.org by 5 p.m. on July 29.

All players must bring up-to-date physicals, their own golf clubs and balls, wear collared shirts (tucked in), a knowledge of the game with a good understanding of the basic rules, a copy of last year's report card, and their own water bottles.

The tryouts will consist of a short game evaluation, a full swing evaluation, play three holes, golf etiquette, and commitment to the team.



TIF WILLIAMS

The Weatherford Swim Team will be well-represented this weekend at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Swim Meet in Corpus Christi. Pictured qualifiers are (top row, from left) coach Tif Williams, Kody Burlison, Cullen Costello, Michael Goff, Landry Crickman, Carson Goff, Kade Burlison, Eli Vanzant, Zach Edwards, Saphira Buchfink, Michael Spillers, Hali Hughes, Elijah Helmrick, Ava Helmrick, Lily Helmrick, coach Matt Williams. (Bottom, from left) Left to Right Colt Spillers, Bowen Judd, Noah Wagnon, Max Gentry, Scarlett Burlison, Layla Olsen, Emma Kechnie, Elizabeth Walters, Emma Circelli. Also qualified but not pictured are Katie Cox, Landry Crickman, Blake D'Spain, Brady D'Spain, Abbie Farber, Noah Farber, Calla Ferguson, Charlie Hixson, Izy Hixson, Campbell Hord, Brandon Hughes, Abbie Lane, Brooklyn Nowakowski, Isa Vidal and Sydney Vidal.

GOLF

Mourning named new coach at AHS

Tryouts scheduled Aug. 1-2

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

With the Texas heat, many golfers like to hit the course in the morning.

In Aledo, there is a brand new Mourning in the golf program, as in new head coach Brian Mourning, who has taken over both the boys and girls programs. Mourning replaces Joe Roquemore and James Mullins, who led the boys and girls to Class 5A State Tournament appearances this past season, respectively.

Mourning comes to Aledo after having spent the past six months as a tax preparer in Glen Rose. Prior to that he had been an assistant baseball coach at Godley and head softball and golf coach at Fort Worth Southwest High School. He also worked in the Keene ISD and has nearly 20 years experience in all.

Mourning, a 1994 graduate of Godley High School, has a bachelor's and master's degree from Texas Tech University, and he will be teaching psychology and sociology at Aledo High School. He played football and ran track

for John Rhodes, a coach at Aledo for 34 years and still a coach of the Vault Cats pole vault club.

"Coach Mourning is a great addition to our coaching staff, and I'm excited to see him continue to elevate our golf program and keep up the great golf tradition we have in Aledo," Aledo Athletic Director Steve Wood said.

Mourning, who lives in Cresson and is a member at DeCordova Bend Country Club in Granbury, called Aledo a "perfect fit."

"I just feel like I need to be in the classroom and out on the course helping and leading young people," he said. "I feel like this is where God is leading me to be.

"I can't emphasize how much coach Mullins and coach Roquemore have helped me, and coach Wood for his support. I'm going to do my best to help these kids out."

Mourning has already hit the ground running, with tryouts for the Bearcats and Ladycats set for Aug. 1-2 at Squaw Creek Golf Course. Both tryouts are from

5-7:30 p.m., with the girls going on Monday and the boys Tuesday.



Brian Mourning

"I'm looking for kids to come out and compete with a good attitude and a great effort," Mourning said. "When you make mistakes, it's an opportunity for growth.

"This is an opportunity for me to see these kids and get to know them."

Mourning stressed that returning players - and Aledo has plenty - also have to try out.

"I still want them to try out. It's another opportunity for them to compete," he said. "I want kids to come to practice every day knowing they're going to have to compete."

Mourning also emphasized that if some players can't make the tryout schedule because of a conflict they contact him before July 29 and something will be arranged for separate tryouts.

"We'll work it out. I'm not going to punish a kid for being out of town for family vacation," he said. "I'm just excited to get the season going."

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Leatu accepts position at NCAA program

Alexandra Leatu, who coached the Weatherford College women's tennis team in its return to competition in 2021-22, has accepted the head coach position at Queens University.

Queens is a private university in Charlotte, North Carolina. Currently an NCAA Division II program, the university announced July 1 that it is making the jump to Division I athletics.

After two decades without a tennis team, Weatherford College hired Leatu to build its program from the ground up. In their first year, the Coyotes finished eighth at the NJCAA

National Tournament and were ranked as high as No. 7 by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Leatu came to WC after serving as head coach at Division I Georgia State University. She played at Vanderbilt University and Baylor University.



Leatu

"Alex did a great job of building our program," said Bob McKinley, WC athletic director. "We appreciate the solid foundation she built here and wish her the best at Queens."

McKinley said a search for a new WC women's tennis coach is under way.

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Commercial/Industrial Land - Aug. 30 - Real Estate to be sold Absolute, Regardless of Price. ExxonMobil directs immediate sale: 3.7 Acres South of Marilyn St., Conroe, TX; 38,147 SF, 577 W. Santa Fe St., Conroe, TX; 5.37 Acres, Mc Farland Rd., League City, TX. FineAndCompany.com, 312-278-0600.

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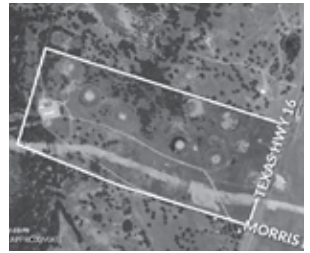
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 Conroe, TX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some fencing • Zoning: None • Real Estate Taxes (2021): \$2,285.77 | <p>5.37 ACRES
 Mc Farland Rd.
 League City, TX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,200' frontage • Real Estate Taxes (2021): \$199 • Zoning: Public / Semi-Public |
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NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS FOR GROUP HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION AND LIFE INSURANCE FOR CITY OF WILLOW PARK EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS

The City of Willow Park is seeking competitive sealed proposals for group health, dental, vision and life insurance coverage, for City employees and their dependents. Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the Proposal Specifications. Proposal specifications may be picked up from Tommy Morris Agency LLC, P.O. Box 365, Abilene, TX 79604, or by contacting the Tommy Morris Agency, LLC at 325-673-4289. All sealed proposals must be marked Attn: Health Bid Proposal and addressed to The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council, City of Willow Park, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087 and may be delivered by hand, U.S. Mail or other courier service to that address. All proposals must be received by the City on or before 10:00 A.M. on August 15, 2022. Sealed proposals received after the due date and time shall not be considered by the City Council. Sealed proposals will then be opened by the City Secretary at 10:15 A.M. on August 15, 2022 at the Willow Park City Council Chambers, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas, and read aloud at the proposal opening. Proposals will then be analyzed by the Tommy Morris Agency who will make their recommendations to the City Council.

The City Council retains the right to reject any and all proposals submitted and to waive any irregularities in the proposals. The City Council may award the proposal that presents the best value for the City. In determining the best value for the City, the City Council shall consider: (1) the purchase price; (2) the reputation of the proposer and of the proposer's services; (3) the quality of the proposer's services; (4) the extent to which the services meet the City's needs; (5) the proposer's past relationship with the City; and (6) the total long-term cost to the City to acquire the proposer's services. Please note that to obtain the best final offer, the City may permit revisions to the proposals after submission and before the award of the contract pursuant to LGC Section 252.042(b). For additional information, interested providers should contact Tommy Morris Agency at 325-673-4289.

Signed
 Crystal Dozier
 City Secretary
 City of Willow Park

This notice shall be published in The Community News on July 15, 2022 and July 22, 2022.

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BASEBALL

Rosson to renew career at Ohio State

Two years of eligibility remain

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

When Hunter Rosson graduated from Aledo High School in 2018, his future in the game of baseball looked bright. He had been a major part in the Bearcats baseball program through his time in high school and it was time for the next step.

After a long and winding road of obstacles, Rosson announced on July 11 that he would spend his final two years of eligibility at Ohio State University.

Initially out of high school, Rosson decided to stay close to home and play ball for the Weatherford College Coyotes of the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference.

When the fall season started in 2018, things took a wrong turn for Rosson as he suffered a hamstring injury during conditioning drills that kept him sidelined.

"I thought it was a cramp at first," Rosson explained. "It never really went away. I tried to stay off of it, I tried to do rehab and it eventually felt better. Then a week later I tore it, so I didn't have a fall season my freshman year."

After nursing the injury over the next few months, Rosson worked his way back and ended up being named the starting shortstop for the spring. Not long into the season, the injury came up again, forcing him to miss the majority of the season until the final two series of the regular season.

The following summer, he traveled to California to play in a summer collegiate league, but yet again the hamstring continued to cause problems.

"Thankfully, I didn't tear it again," Rosson remembered. "It definitely started bothering me again, though, so I shut it down after only a week of being out there. Basically, my whole freshman year was kind of just a wash, so it was frustrating."

In the fall of 2019, the Coyotes appeared to have a truly special team on their hands. Then Rosson got another curveball with the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic, shutting down the season prematurely.



Hunter Rosson is shown playing in his junior year at Aledo High School.

FILE PHOTO/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

"We had a really good team," Rosson recalled. "We were at the top of our conference, we had a couple (NCAA) Division I guys, a couple draft guys, I feel like we could have gone pretty far in the postseason."

Due to the pandemic, Rosson was given the option of staying at Weatherford for another year or transferring to a bigger college. With all college athletes getting the same option at all levels, he decided to stay another year, hoping to get more playing time.

"I had a couple schools that offered me," Rosson said. "I had a decision to make, and I kind of knew that the DI schools would be pretty backlogged, so I just decided that Weatherford was my best option."

The Coyotes had a number of other players decide to stay, keeping a talented roster together and starting off the season with a bang. Rosson, who had been moved to left field, hit a home run in the opening tournament to start the promising campaign.

Then, in the final game of the tournament, Rosson reinjured the same hamstring.

"I hit a ball up the middle that the shortstop made a play on," Rosson described. "I ended up being safe at first because of the throw, but because it was so late and the game

went so long I just felt my hamstring pop again."

Again, Rosson missed the majority of the season with his injury. Despite the time on the injured list, he fought back late in the season and earned second-team all-conference honors.

He ended his career at Weatherford with a career total .305 batting average in 269 at-bats with 14 home runs and 52 runs batted in.

"I'm super thankful for everything that (head) coach (Jeff) Lightfoot, coach (Judson) Kinzy, and coach (Colton) Turner did for me while I was at Weatherford," Rosson said. "They were patient with all my injuries and gave me the opportunity out of high school that a lot of other schools didn't. I have great relationships with everyone on that staff and I'm just extremely thankful I was given the opportunity to represent Weatherford College for three years."

With his eligibility at the junior college level coming to an end, Rosson had to transfer to a university, and he ultimately settled on the University of Oklahoma. However he was unable to crack the fall roster, and ended up transferring in the spring to the University of Texas at Arlington, while the Sooners went on a magical run to the College World Series Final.

"It wasn't fun," Rosson said. "What happened, happened. I was able to accept it, but I've been an athlete my whole life and I wanted to be an athlete. I loved my time there, and I loved going to school there, but if I'm able to play, I want to play."

Due to the transfer during the academic year, Rosson was ineligible to play competitively for the Mavericks, but was allowed to practice.

After the 2022 college baseball season came to an end, Ohio State announced the hiring of TCU assistant Bill Mosiello as the head coach. Mosiello and Rosson had known each other for a long time when the hiring occurred, and it did not take long before Mosiello gave Rosson a call.

"He wanted me to go to TCU," Rosson recalled. "That just didn't work out. Then when he got the job up there he was looking for players that he knew to take with him and I was one of them. I'm just super thankful for him and for the opportunity."

Rosson is currently finishing the summer season with the Hays Larks of the Jayhawk Collegiate League in Hays, Kansas before he will officially enroll at Ohio State in the fall.

HONORS

from page eight

the championship of District 6-3A. The Kangaroos were upset in bidistrict by Haslet Eaton, with all three games having identical 5-4 scores.

Weatherford senior first baseman Dayton Tockey was named to the 5A/6A North All-Star Team. The game, played at Dell Diamond in Round Rock last month, was won by the South, 7-3.

The Kangaroos also had three seniors named academic all-state, pitcher Josh Goree, second baseman Nick Gutierrez and pitcher/outfielder Andrew Ortiz.

GOLF

Locals enjoy success in NTPGA Junior events

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Might we see them holding up a major golf championship trophy themselves someday? Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Annika Sorenstam, Georgia Hall, and many others got their own starts playing golf as a youngster.

Several youths from the area enjoyed success recently in Northern Texas PGA Junior Tour events.

On the Medalist Tour, in a tournament in Azle, Dixie Mae Crain of Springtown took the top spot in the Girls 11-12 age group with a score of 79.

While she was the only one to bring home a championship, Weatherford's Mary Shaw was the runner-up in the Girls 15-18 division, shooting an 88. Chloe Gaines, also from Weatherford, was sixth with a score of 103.

In the Boys 15-18 division, Aledo's Ford Hill took fifth with an 84.

The NTPGA Junior Tour has tournaments throughout the summer on courses throughout the Metroplex and state.

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PULIDO

from page seven

thought he was going to move me down to JV. Ultimately there weren't enough varsity jerseys and had he put me on JV there would have been underclassmen playing above me. I kind of took that as a wake up call. I didn't think it was his best decision but I can't change that."

However, rather than throwing in the towel and ending his career, he immediately went right back to work.

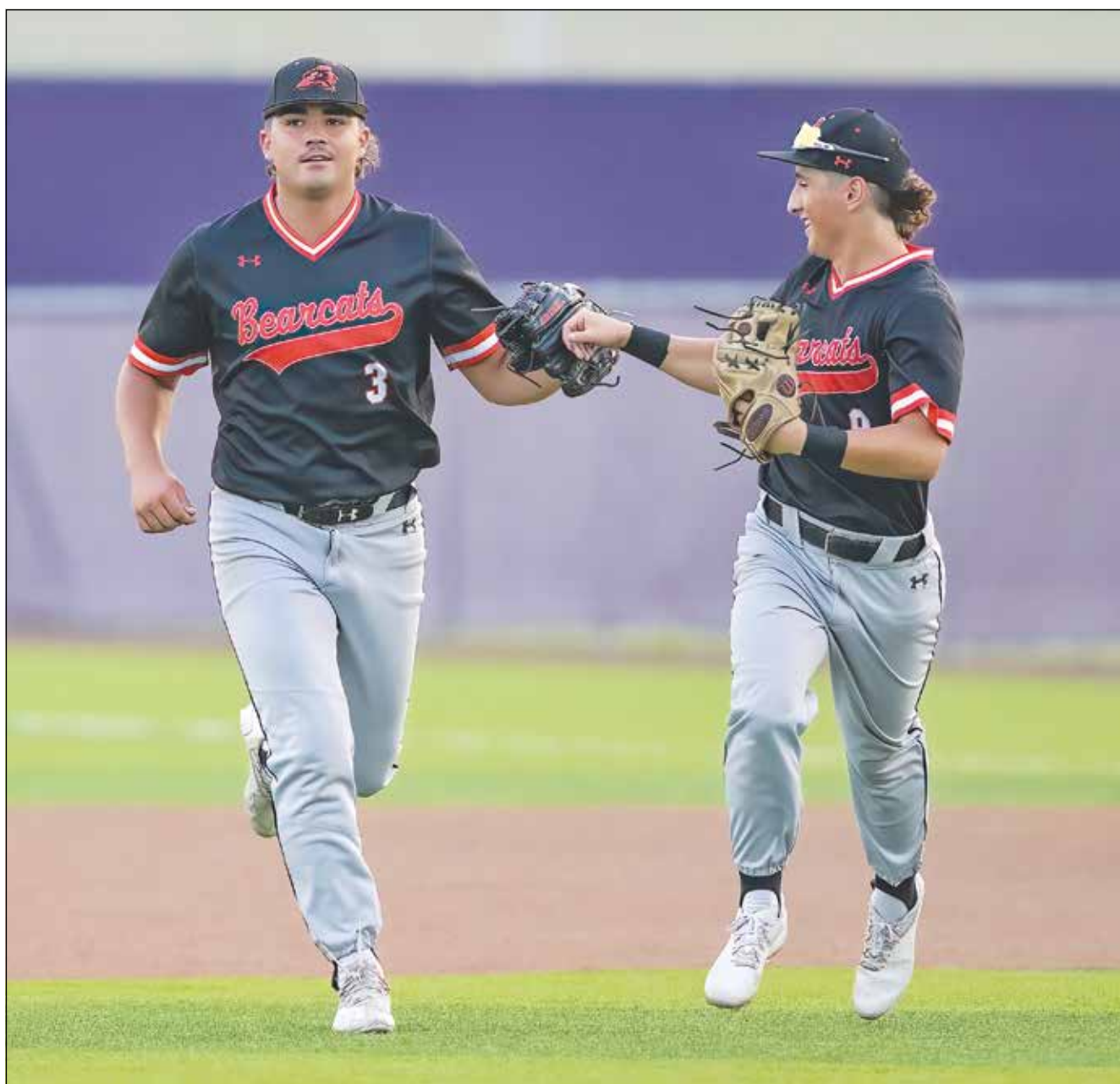
"It was funny because I was on the field with them every day," Pulido reminisced. "I was hitting in the cages just to show Barry that I was still working. Then I would go down to the weight room and lift...I never stopped working. From the day I got cut until I made the team again, it was an everyday thing."

"Every time you looked around he was in the batting cage," Barry recalled. "He was playing catch with somebody in the outfield, or he was in the weight room. He took it upon himself to prove me wrong, and he did. When it was all said and done, I regretted my decision."

Pulido kept working out off the field as the Bearcats marched to the regional final before falling to Amarillo. Still, he kept working to make the roster for the next season.

"What I saw from him was just a year of hard work," Barry declared. "You could tell he had gotten stronger, he had gotten faster, he had a better arm, he had a mentality about himself. He played with a chip on his shoulder. He felt like every time he stepped on the field, he felt like he had to prove something to everybody."

Pulido made the team and got opportunities to play in the early tournaments. It was in one



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 a 2022 playoff game against Bureson Centennial.

tournament game against South Grand Prairie which his hard work and dedication were truly personified.

"Eathan Jaques was throwing a no-hitter," Barry recollected. "Pulido

was playing second that game, and I distinctly remember a play where there was a foul ball behind first base over by the bullpen."

"At the time I wasn't really focusing on Ethan's no-hitter," Pulido

recalled. "It was their leadoff batter and hit this pop fly. Every ball that gets hit, I react and see if I have a chance to get it. When the ball went up, I had no hesitation. I just started running."

Pulido made a dead sprint from his position at second base to track the ball down and slid feet first, as if he was on ice, to make the catch.

"In my peripheral vision, I could see the fence," Pulido described. "So I was looking at the ball and the fence and I knew it was going to be close. I slid feet first into the wall instead of running straight into it and then I just made the catch."

"He was sold out," Barry said. "He was going wheels-off trying to get to it, and I remember going 'Wow! What a play.' But he played like that every time."

Pulido was used often throughout the rest of the 2021 season and made a solid presence known at the plate, accumulating 18 hits in 68 at-bats for a batting average of .265. He hit three triples on the year, trailing only centerfielder Max Belyeu (4) on the team. He totaled 22 RBI and 17 runs scored for a grand total of 39 runs.

"I've never been as proud of any kid that has come through this program as I am of him," Barry expressed. "His determination, not taking no for an answer and saying 'I'm going to prove all my critics wrong' and then going out and doing it. I think it speaks volumes of him and the way he's been raised and his passion for the game itself. It's something we need a heck of a lot more of. Regardless of what sport you're coaching, if you've got a bunch of Cade Pulidos your job is going to be a lot of fun."

Pulido plans to attend Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to study Civil Engineering and hopefully walk on with the baseball program for the Islanders.

On to Nationals!



Mach I Track Club qualified 16 athletes for the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Greensboro, North Carolina, from July 31 to Aug. 6. Pictured are (front row, from left) Carolyn Walsh, Jenna Fink, Josh Fink, Cameron Allen, and Andrew Walsh and (back row) Ashland Cross, Emmy Strathmeyer, Jack Fink, Aiden Mansell, Gannon Dolan, Nicole Walden and Sam Haight. Not pictured are John Luffey, Brody May, Josh Kocis, and Makaylee Ray.

Congratulations to the Mach I Track Club!

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