

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Coming to America

Schultz recalls adjusting to new home after leaving war zone

By John English
The Community News

Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series.

Just before she turned 15, Katie Schultz experienced one of the greatest and most transformative events of her young life when she and her family emigrated to the United States.

Growing up in Northwest Germany, Schultz' father worked as a bookkeeper in the city of Oldenburg, where he met her mother at his place of employment one fateful afternoon.

"My dad interviewed my mother for a job at the firm and immediately fell in love with her, coming home that very night to tell his parents he had found his future wife," Schultz said.

Sadly, Schultz's father died of renal failure when she was 5-years-old, and after surviving World War II with her mother and brother, Hans, the Schultz family would make the journey by ship to New York City. Schultz said the differences between Germany at the time and the United States were immediately noticeable.

"I didn't see the Statue of Liberty when our ship arrived," Schultz said. "My brother and I were asleep, in fact, under the still of night. But the freedom it represented was so wonderful to my mother that she made certain she saw the lady. Thinking back on that incident, it was almost a symbol for us — leaving the dark and awaiting a brighter day."

Schultz had limited private lessons in the English language while living in Germany, but it was not quite enough to prepare her for the shock of coming to a new land where German was not the primary language.

"My mother insisted that we retain some of our German



COURTESY OF DARRELL SCHULTZ

LEFT: Poor, pregnant with her first child, and still naïve about America, Katie was deliriously happy even in the harsh winters of North Dakota. Only a decade earlier she was running from her school through the pastures of Germany while air raid sirens wailed. | **RIGHT:** Katie is shown paying homage to her favorite high school teacher, Miss Emma Trenk, who taught a unique class while sponsoring the "Current Problems Club." The instructor was outspoken, demanded attention, but opened the students' eyes to the problems of the United States and the world in the 1950s. She cared about the hungry, the poor, the sick, and the ones shoved aside in society. She wanted Katie and her classmates to not think it was enough to know about the problems, but to do something about these problems. Katie has lived her life trying to live up to the challenge posed by her high school instructor.

heritage such as Christmas traditions, but only at home," Schultz said. "She told my brother and I that we were now going to be Americans. She expected us to learn the English language as fast as possible, as well as becoming good, contributing citizens to this land that was so open to accepting us."

Adjusting to her new home

Schultz embraced many aspects of her adopted country, but said it was the warmth and

graciousness that her American friends and neighbors extended to her and her family that still sticks with her to this day.

"Remember, only five years earlier our countries were at war," Schultz said. "I think considering the atrocities committed by Hitler and the Nazis and the sort of prejudice that could have been brought upon our little German family, Americans were amazingly kind to us.

"We had just come from a country where, just a few years earlier, you couldn't even whisper in the

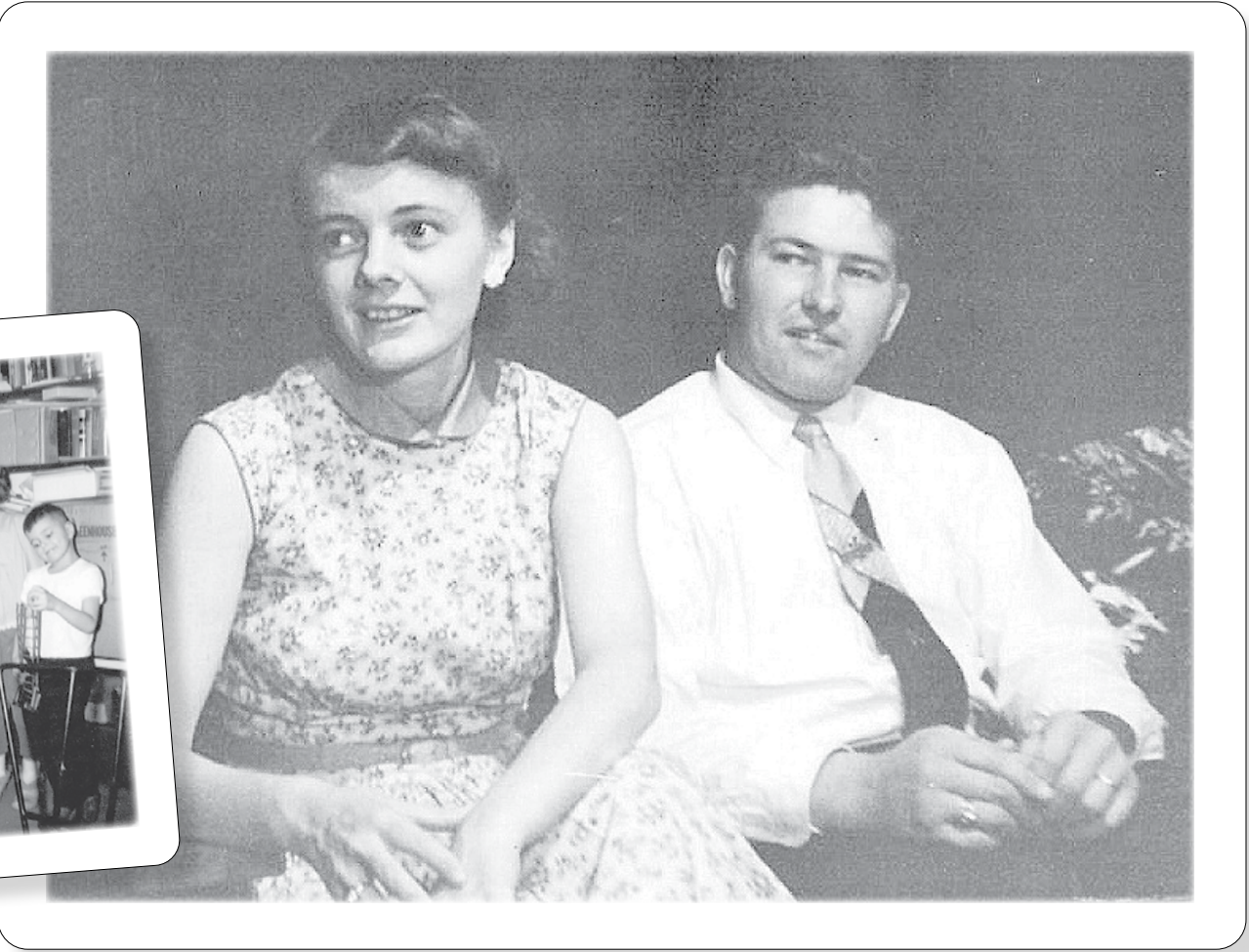
quiet of your own home against Hitler."

Schultz started junior high school in Dubuque, Iowa in 1950, where she was assigned a host student named Luann Powers, who took the German girl under her wing and showed her the ropes.

Schultz later learned that students were informed prior to her enrollment at the school that she "was not, under any circumstances, to be bothered or embarrassed."

Schultz quickly adapted to her new life in America.

Turn to **SCHULTZ**, page 5



COURTESY OF DARRELL SCHULTZ

LEFT: Since age 10, Katie's lifelong passion was to serve God and His Church. A dutiful pastor's wife and mother, she is shown readying the church bulletin. Photographed in the pastor's church study at Avoca, Nebraska, she is surrounded by her two daughters and oldest son, Darrell. Katie, now 88, constantly looks for things she can do at her Aledo church, still trying to inspire others. | **RIGHT:** Katie and Pastor Glenn Schultz were bright-eyed newlyweds when, only a couple of days after their honeymoon, they began married life simultaneously serving four rural churches. Katie — who only knew how to make sandwiches when she married — and her husband were lovingly taken under the wings of their congregants as she adapted to life as an American citizen.

CORRECTIONS

A printer gremlin infiltrated the March 3 issue, changing the word "video" to a "w" in the front-page story about a gun-related incident.

In the feature about Lynn McKinney in the Feb. 24 issue, Weldon Turner was erroneously referred to as William Turner.

We regret the errors.

ALEDO ISD

50-50 swap plus 50 makes 100

Board authorizes resolution toward trade and purchase of Walsh land

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously at a special meeting on Tuesday, March 7, to authorize Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn to complete negotiations to trade approximately 50 acres of land it owns adjacent to McAnally Middle School for 50 acres to the north owned by Walsh Ranches Limited Partnership. The agreement also calls for the purchase of 50 additional adjacent acres from Walsh at a price of \$35,000 per acre.

The resulting 100-acre tract is north of McAnally Middle School.

Bohn told the board there would be a period of time for the district to do its due diligence before entering into a final contract.

The resolution approved gives Bohn the ability to negotiate as needed to close on the tract of land.

"As you all know, a 100-acre tract is the size of land we're looking for a high school site. This could be in the future a high school site as needed," Bohn told the board.

The tract is undeveloped and would require infrastructure that does not now exist, which is a factor in negotiations.

"There's a lot of work to do before we negotiate the full close," Bohn said.

Turn to **SWAP**, page 3



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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

McKenzie May, first-grader at Coder Elementary School and Stella Price, first-grader at Southwest Christian School, approached the end of Girl Scout Cookie sales at Wal-Mart in Hudson Oaks. Both girls are part of the new Daisy Girl Scout Troop #4854 that just started in January. The troop sold a total of 6,108 boxes and will donate a large number of boxes to first responders as a result of so many donations given at their booths.

Obituaries

Melynda Truett Reagan

Melynda Truett Reagan, age 67 of Aledo, Texas, passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on Friday, February 17, 2023.

Melynda was born on May 5, 1955, in Asheville, North Carolina, before moving to Knoxville in 1965. She and her husband Gary relocated to Texas in 1977.

Melynda always said she was not born in Texas but got here as fast as she could.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Ray Truett and Polly Sue Truett, and is survived by husband James Gary Reagan; son, Matthew Truett Reagan, his wife, Janlyn Reagan; their children Truett Gaines Reagan, Kealie Maelyn Reagan, Matthew



Melynda Reagan

Neyland Reagan, and Cullen James Reagan; son, Andrew Douglas Reagan, daughters-in-law Shannon Dickson and Danielle Reagan; their children Rebecca Kate Reagan, Abigail Peyton Reagan, Knox Douglas Reagan and Reese Lee Reagan.

Mynda, as she was affectionally known by her family, lived to serve others and was wholeheartedly dedicated to her family and friends. Her remains will be scattered between Aledo, Texas, and Redstone, Colorado -- the two places she considered home in her heart.

A service was held March 3 at Parker County Cowboy Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Parker County Center of Hope. www.centerofhopetx.com

The Community News
March 10, 2023



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SWAP

from page one

If negotiations are successful, the Aledo ISD will trade 50 acres to the east of McNally Middle school for 50 acres north of McNally along with the purchase of an additional 50 acres. The housing shown at left is the Morningstar Development.



Homestead exemption deadline approaches

The Parker County Appraisal District wants you to know that its time to file for your homestead exemption if you have not done so. Now is the time to file for your homestead exemption with the Parker County Appraisal District.

The homestead exemption reduces the amount of property taxes a homeowner must pay each year by removing part of the home's value from taxation. It also limits the amount that your appraised value can increase to 10% annually. This is commonly referred to as a "homestead cap." The homestead cap

doesn't kick into effect until the second full year that you have qualified for a homestead exemption.

Although you can only claim one property as a homestead, a new law in 2022 allowed property owners to claim a pro-rated general residence homestead exemption on a property that becomes their principal residence at any point in the year. Previously, property owners could only claim this exemption if they owned and lived in the home as of Jan. 1.

To file for your homestead exemption, provide PCAD with a copy of your Texas driver license or Texas ID card with a picture ID and a completed application. The address on



the license or ID card must match the physical address of the residence for which you are applying. The application is located at www.parkercad.org.

Generally, the completed application and required documentation are due no later than April 30 of the tax year which you are applying.

Completed applications may be hand delivered or mailed to: Parker County Appraisal District 1108 Santa Fe Drive Weatherford, TX 76086



Read this story online

THEATER

TOTS to present 'Savannah Sipping Society'

Staff Reports

The Community News

The popular Jones Hope Wooten playwriting team (Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten) will make their return to the Theatre Off the Square stage soon with the presentation of "The Savannah Sipping Society." The show opens Friday, March 17, and runs weekends through April 2.

This production is directed by Amanda Livengood, with Mark Gillies as the assistant director, and Jordan Herndon as the stage manager. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Theatre Off The Square is located at 114 North Denton Street, Weatherford.

Interpreter services will be provided at the performance on Saturday, April 1, at 8 p.m. Services are provided through a partnership with the American Sign Language Interpreting Program of Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus.

The show is a heart-felt comedy that brings

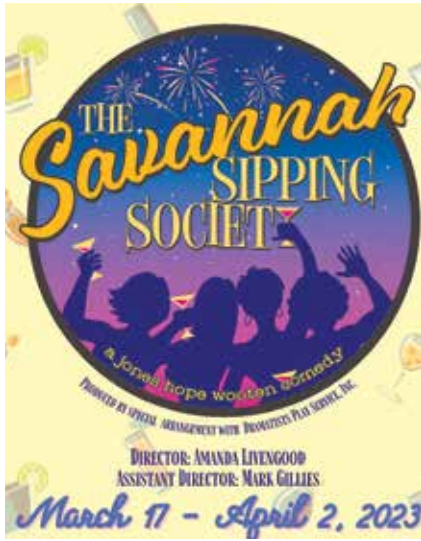
together four very different southern women, all facing a need to escape the monotony of their situations. Over an impromptu happy hour, they decide to reclaim their enthusiasm for life.

The play follows them as, together through their misadventures, they find the confidence to jumpstart their new lives. It's another hilarious, fierce, and surprisingly touching story by audience favorites Jones Hope Wooten, who have brought several shows to the TOTS stage.

Cast members are:

- Randa – Michelle Newman.
- Dot – Peggy Osburn.
- Marlafaye – Kathy Manning.
- Jinx – Sharla Farmer.
- Grandmother Covington/ Marlafaye understudy– Jamie Dye.

All seats are reserved; tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors (60-plus)/students/children under school age. Matinee tickets are \$15 for all ages and no other discounts



apply. Purchase tickets in the box office prior to each show or visit https://buy.ticketstothecity.com/venue.php?org_id=88.

Additionally, 2023 flex packages are on sale for \$100. The flex package comes with seven "flex credits" (tickets) that can be redeemed for admission to any mainstage show in the 2023 season.

For more information, call 817-341-8687 or visit www.theatre-offthesquare.org.



Read this story online

TRACK AND FIELD

Ladycats second at Northwest

By Rick Mauch

The Community News

In a field that included some of the top programs around, the Aledo Ladycats placed second in the always-tough Northwest Texan Invitational this past Friday, March 3, in Justin.

Aledo scored 128 points, trailing only Northwest Eaton with 140.

"That was a very tough meet. I am so proud of the girls for their performance," coach Mike Pinkerton said. "The competition there was about as good as it gets and our girls did fantastic."

"Best of all, we are a young team and are only going to keep getting better."

The Ladycats got a pair of gold medals from freshman Sofia Brandenburg, who took first place in the 800-meter and 1600-meter runs, running a personal-best time in each. Also, junior Lauren St. Peters won gold in both the shot put and discus and junior Taylor Hindman took the top spot in pole vault.

Aledo also captured three silver medals and four bronze medals.

The Ladycats bested two fellow teams from District 5-5A as Denton

Ryan was third with 100 points and Northwest was fourth with 93.

The Ladycats were competing in their own Bearcat Relays at press time.

Northwest Texan Invitational Girls varsity

Team score: 128, second place (Northwest Eaton won with 140).

Top individual results (distances in meters)

800: 1. Sofia Brandenburg, 2:18.54 (PR); 2. Sarah Tillotson, 2:18.83 (PR). 1600: 1. Brandenburg, 5:19.97 (PR); 3. Elizabeth Griffin, 5:30.09 (PR). 3200: 3. Griffin, 11:54.40 (PR). 100 hurdles: 2. Savannah Thompson, 16.56 (PR). 300 hurdles: 3. Tillotson, 47.38 (PR). 1600 relay: 3. Jady Rowls, Mykel Murry, Tillotson, Addison Smith, 4:11.46. Shot put: 1. Lauren St. Peters, 39-10.75. Discus: 1. St. Peters, 134-06. High jump: 3. Taylor McKenzie, 5-0. Pole vault: 1. Taylor Hindman, 12-0.

Girls junior varsity

Team score: 44, fifth place.

Top individual results

400: 2. Jillian Moore, 1:05.88 (PR). Pole vault: 1. Claire Campbell, 9-00 (won tiebreaker); 2. Kara Overstreet, 9-00 (PR); 3. Kaitlyn Walker, 8-06.



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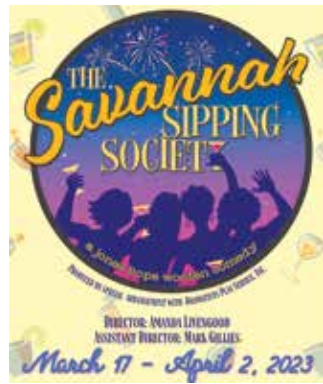
MARCH 17 - APR 2

"The Savannah Sipping Society"

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For more information, call 817-341-8687 or visit www.theatreoffthesquare.org.



MARCH 25

AdvoCats Run, Walk, or Crawl

The Aledo Children's AdvoCats have announced



that the annual Run, Walk, or Crawl Glow Run will be held Saturday, March 25, at Bearcat Stadium.

The Glow Run is a nighttime fun run in the heart of Aledo that raises money for the programs of the AdvoCats.

Participants in the Glow Run can choose to participate in a 1K or a 5K race that begins and ends at the Aledo High School track. Additional event information will be provided as available. For more information, visit <https://aledo-advocats.com/index.php/advocats-rwc/>.

MARCH 31

Bearcats 'n Boots

The Aledo Education Foundation will present its annual Bearcats 'n Boots gala fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. on Friday, March 31, at the Hilton Downtown in Fort Worth.

Live entertainment will be provided by Lonestar. The event will feature live and silent auctions, a three-course meal, an open bar,



and complimentary valet parking. Tickets range from \$3,000 for a table of 10 \$15,500 for platinum investor. To purchase tickets, make a donation, or browse auction items, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/bnb2023/welcome>.

Reagan Day Dinner

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott will be the featured speaker at the annual Parker County Republican Party Reagan Day Dinner from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, March 31, at Dove Ridge Vineyard.

For more information email J Scott Utley, Parker County Republic Chair, at parkercountyGOP@gmail.com.



APRIL 15

Weatherford College Flute Festival

Weatherford College will

ACROSS

1 "___ Free Press" published in Kyle
5 TX Janis album: "___ Dem Ol' Kozmic Blues Again Mama!"
6 TXism: "___ enough to pucker a pig"
7 Lindsay High class
8 Sinatra ___ it his way
9 Levi first made jeans for these workers
15 TXism: "couldn't ___ hide nor hair of it" (lost)
16 TXism: "___ horse on a merry-go-round"
19 deer horns
21 Texas wheeler-dealer, Billy Bob
22 in WWII, this was an escort ship
27 actress Meredith in "The Son of Davy Crockett" (1941)
28 trijet wide-body airplanes
29 this Jean was a Cowboy tight end (1972-75)
30 Davy Crockett rifle: he ___ "Betsy"
32 dir. to Azle from Springtown
33 TXism: "gone ___" (deteriorated)
36 means of 47-across
37 TX McFarland was on TV's "___ Gang"
38 "Dandy Don" would sing "___ the lights ___" on ABC

DOWN

1 TXism: "he cashed in ___ chips" (died)
2 "long time ___"
3 TXism: "___ learnin' nothin' when you're talkin'"
4 TXism: "___ fence" (unsure)
8 eat a fancy meal
9 "he ___ head and you're not thinkin' right"
10 TX George Strait's "Ace ___ the Hole"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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39 America started this in the 1980s but we're not much healthier (3 wds.)
41 Texas-filmed "___-wee's Big Adventure" (1985)
42 dissertation
45 TXism: "fought tooth and ___"
46 Asner of "JFK," partially filmed in the Dallas area
47 egress
48 American conglomerate
11 follows Bible's OT
12 TX Ross Perot founded
13 Boot Hill epitaph: "___ in Peace"
14 completely satisfy
15 beefed up livestock
16 "___ Reaper" (death)
17 gratifying the senses
18 declare forcefully
20 historical periods
22 Texas actress, Fawcett who was 17-down (init.)
23 TXism: "lower than a snake's belly in a wheel ___"
24 TXism: "___ an overdose of woe" (very sad)
25 costume or outfit
26 TXism: "he's ___ -loop roper" (bad with a rope)
28 this Christian was a famous French fashion designer
31 parent to child: "___ I say, not as I do"
34 TX Willie's "Why ___ I Have to Choose?"
35 "___ of kilter"
37 TXism: "finally got the hang ___"
40 TX Brooks who played at UNT and now the USFL
43 TX Strait's "All My ___ Live in Texas"
44 Frank of 1963 film "4 for Texas"
50 "what's in ___?"
51 "___ can do" (unable)

host its second annual Flute Festival from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 15 in the Alike Fine Arts Center at Weatherford College.

Guest artists are Stephen Clark and Greg Patillo.

Registration is free. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3ClikX4>. For a Spotify playlist, visit <https://bit.ly/3IP7piy>.



EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Send event submissions to events@community-news.com.

Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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from page one

"It was comical, actually, because they were speaking in English and making these hand gestures trying to get me to comprehend that they were inviting me to attend," Shultz said. "I felt right at home. Thank God for those loving, accepting people."

Shortly after arriving in the United States in an episode that Schultz now describes as a “humorous event,” something rather sobering happened.

While there was certainly new terrain to navigate, Schultz said that, by and large, her family got along just fine.

“Baseball and American football were foreign to my childhood in Germany,” Schultz said. “There was definitely a whole lot more food readily available as well. Even the church was different from Germany



COURTESY OF DARRELL SCHULTZ

LEFT: Outside the parsonage at Bessie, Oklahoma, Katie Schultz (31) is shown with her daughters. Tiny Lori was named after Lore Bäethke, one of Katie's German playmates, whose family fled and escaped from the Russian army during World War II. | **CENTER:** Katie has faced some serious health woes in her life, including kidney disease (the cause of her dad's death) and cancer. In 1971, at age 36, she was recovering from one such illness when she lost much of her hair and had to turn to wigs. But, as always, she'd be smiling..."Find the silver lining." This family photo was captured on a borrowed Polaroid camera at Mankato, Minnesota, with her youngest child, Brian, having completed the family group. Despite her health woes that year, she helped with the family finances by babysitting in their mobile home. | **CENTER:** Because she had to sacrifice scholarships and join the workforce right after high school (in order to help her widowed mother with finances), Katie never had the chance to fulfill the dreams of perhaps majoring in journalism or interior decorating. Once she came to the United States and could get her hands on materials to sew with and opportunities to embroider, she became very color conscious. That's evident in this photo when she was a guest speaker in the Home Economics Department at Burns Flat, Oklahoma, where she made sure everything from the cake she baked to her outfit was color coordinated.



in that they had a youth group. I felt out of place in some of the traditional German clothing and with my braids, but they disappeared in a hurry as we sought to fit in.

"The American schools were also significantly larger than my neighborhood school in Germany. We didn't have to know where the bomb shelters were here in the U.S. or spend every night sleeping in one.

"In Germany, school ended
shortly

after noon, and we went home to daily soup. We couldn't believe, in American schools, that we could have things like gelatin, pudding, even a piece of cake with a meal. Hamburgers? I still love them today, but we had never heard of such a thing in Germany."

As she grew into her later teen years, Schultz took a job at a small family-owned cafe in Dubuque that she kept between her junior and senior years of high school.

She would serve as editor of the student newspaper and at one point had aspirations of becoming a journalist.

The Iowan has always had a fondness for flowers and colors and thought about a career in interior design as well.

Schultz eventually went to work for the Dubuque Container Company, making \$2.45 an hour working as the secretary for the company's purchasing agent until she married in 1955.

Becoming a citizen

She became a U.S. Citizen in the spring of 1956 in Bismarck, North Dakota.

"I remember that day well," Schultz said. "The judge, among other questions, asked me, 'Why

are you now in North Dakota?' I told him my husband had accepted a job. The judge asked, 'May I ask what your husband does?' I said, 'He is a pastor here.' He asked me which denomination and I said, 'He's a Lutheran pastor.' The judge then got very excited and said, 'Oh, that's wonderful!' He was clapping his hands."

Schultz met her husband in Dubuque, at a church group for young adults.

The group was specifically designed to link young men about to become pastors with prospective wives.

"It worked in our case," Schultz said. "We married in 1955 when I was 20 years old, and we celebrated 41 years of marriage before he passed away."

From 1973 until 2005, Schultz worked at the Hope Haven Area Development Center Corporation in West Burlington, Iowa, where she helped young adults with special needs to learn to work, live on their own, and develop survival skills.

Schultz, now 88, lived in Iowa until the day after her 87th birthday, before taking a scenic route through the back roads of multiple states in a U-Haul with her son, Darrell, singing most of the way in joyful anticipation of her arrival in the city of Aledo.



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Content Submission Policy

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper.

Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph.

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

Capital Highlights

Texas again leads nation in new corporate projects



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

Texas once again has topped the list for new and expanded corporate facilities added in a year, according to *Site Selection* magazine. With 1,028 new projects in 2022, the state had more than the next two states combined — Illinois and Ohio.

"Texas truly is America's economic engine, and we stand apart as a model for the nation," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said, according to The Dallas Morning News. "When choosing where to relocate or expand their businesses, more and more innovative industry leaders find themselves at home in our state."

Two projects valued at \$8.5 billion each helped snare the state's top spot: a chemical plant in Orange and a liquified natural gas plant in Corpus Christi. They were followed by a \$5 billion silicon wafer plant in Sherman.

"The Lone Star State's economy is larger than that of Canada, South Korea, and Australia," Site Selection said in its March issue.

New court system for businesses proposed

A new court system devoted solely to settling business disputes is being proposed by the state's top three elected officials, though it has its share of critics as well. The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott, House Speaker Dade Phelan and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in separate announcements proposed the creation of a specialty business court, modeled after the Chancery Court of Delaware. The court has been in existence for more than two centuries and has been emulated by a few dozen states. The specialty business court has been listed as a top priority of legislators during this session.

Abbott said the court would provide consistency in applying state law when businesses end up in court disputes.

A high-powered lobby group, Texans for Lawsuit Reform, is backing the plan.

"Businesses today know the same case with the same facts can produce wildly varying outcomes simply based on which part of the state it's filed in and which judge is hearing it, and we know attorneys are telling their clients not to litigate in Texas because of this unpredictability," TLR spokeswoman Lucy Nashed Calrelli said in the Statesman story.

The judges for the business court would be appointed by the governor, according to House bill 19, filed last week. The president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association called that problematic.

"The bottom line is that Texans value electing their judges," San Antonio attorney Laura Tamez said.

Child fatalities drop in last fiscal year

The number of children in Texas who died due to accidents, maltreatment, and unsafe sleep declined by 27% in the last fiscal year. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reported 182 children died due to abuse and neglect in the state during fiscal year

2022. The most common causes of fatalities involving neglect were drowning, unsafe sleep, physical neglect, and medical neglect, DFPS reported.

Children 3 years of age and younger comprised almost 80% of all confirmed child abuse and neglect fatalities over the past 10 fiscal years. However, in the past three years, there has been a marked increase in fatalities involving older children. In all confirmed cases of abuse and neglect, parents were the most common perpetrators.

College students join fight to end DUI deaths

With spring break approaching, the Texas Department of Transportation is joining with students at Texas A&M in a peer-to-peer program focused on highlighting the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

One person in the state dies every 7 hours and 41 minutes in a DUI-related crash, according to TxDOT. During spring break of 2021, Texas had 874 alcohol-related traffic crashes with 31 deaths and 107 serious injuries. TxDOT is partnering with U in the Driver Seat, a peer-to-peer program led by A&M students

that is focused on saving lives by preventing DUI-related crashes. Student leaders from around the state are joining the campaign and urging fellow students to always find a sober ride.

"Our message to students is this: Help keep yourself and others safe by finding a sober ride, taking a cab, using a rideshare, or simply staying put," said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director.

TPWD celebrates park centennial with grants

As Texas state parks mark their 100th anniversary, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is awarding the largest sum of grants in the program's history. The agency is distributing more than \$2.8 million to create 55 new grant-funded partnerships across the state to promote conservation and recreation.

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) was established in 1996 to introduce under-represented audiences to outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education. Among the projects approved are students monitoring water quality along the Rio Grande, communities of color learning about the cultural history of the

Turn to **PROJECTS**, page 7



Slings&Arrows

Don't be Fake News

"Falsehood flies, and the Truth comes limping after it; so that when Men come to be undeceiv'd, it is too late; the Jest is over, and the Tale has had its Effect..."

-- Jonathan Swift



Randy Keck

rkeck@community-news.com

In the midst of heavy storms last week a photo was distributed on social media purporting to show a tornado on the west side of downtown Weatherford.

The photo made its way not only around Parker County, but made it to other states as well because it was pretty dramatic and seemed plausible in the midst of the heavy winds and damages we were experiencing.

The photo was shared by local office holders, people in the media, and who knows how many individual users of social media.

That tornado picture turned out not to be real.

It was, as the parlance goes, "photoshopped" or, more generically, digitally manipulated.

The idea that false information gets spread on social media is not only not shocking, it is disturbingly commonplace.

From the time personal computers began to be widely used in the 1980s until the present, technology has had the potential to put a great deal of power that had been the exclusive domain of professionals into the hands of people who, up until that time, didn't have it.

Early computer programs allowed people to create custom greeting cards, thereby making them in a sense "designers," but the programs didn't provide for the knowledge and practice of good design.

I remember Lotus 1-2-3, the first widely-used spreadsheet program (and which, incidentally, can still be run on Linux). It provided powerful tools for financial and numerical analysis,



A fake tornado photo made the rounds on social media last week during large storms in Parker County.

but it didn't supply its users the knowledge to be effective financial planners or analysts.

And I'm old enough to have used Wordstar, the great-grandfather of modern word processors. At the time it seemed revolutionary, at least compared to a

typewriter, but I'm glad I no longer have to use "B" for bold and "Y" for italic on a Kaypro portable ("portable" only in the sense that it was self-contained and could be lugged from place to place) computer. Still, Wordstar,

Turn to **FAKE NEWS**, page 7

SOFTBALL

McKean perfect as Ladycats dominate tourney

Two perfect games and a no-hitter en route to outscoring opponents 70-2

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Taylor McKean was perfect in two pitching performances and the rest of the team wasn't far behind her as the Aledo Ladycats dominated the Marshall Tournament over the past weekend, March 3-4.

Following a rain-cancelled opening day, the Ladycats (14-4-1) got the first of two perfect games pitched by McKean in a 10-0 victory against Fort Worth South Hills. She did not allow a baserunner and struck out 13 in five innings.

On the final day, McKean went six innings, again not allowing a baserunner while striking out 10 in six innings in an 8-0 win over Pleasant Grove.

Aledo also got a no-hitter from Nathalie Touchet in defeating Marshall 12-0. It was her second no-hitter of the season to go with a one-hitter.

Brenlee Gonzales had her own pitching gem in a 2-1 win over Hooks, tossing a two-hitter.

In all, Aledo outscored its opponents 42-1 and outhit them 46-2. Leading the Ladycats offensively were Claire Byars and Delaney Rosser with six hits each, while Reagan Davis and Presley Hull each had five. Byars had two doubles and two triples, along with three walks; Rosser and Hull each hit a home run, while Hull also had a double and triple with five RBI and Rosser drove in four runs. Davis added a double and triple with four RBI and three stolen bases.



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Reagan Davis slides safe at home plate during Tuesday night's shutout of Northwest, 10-0.

Aledo also made just one error on defense in the tournament.

The Ladycats have concluded tournament play and are settling into District 5-5A play. The only non-district game they have left in the regular season is at Forney on April 11.

Aledo is ranked 24th in the state in the latest Texas Girls Coaches Association poll.

District - Aledo 10, Northwest 0

With Gonzales pitching her second two-hitter in a row, the Ladycats improved to 2-0 in league play with a blanking of visiting Northwest Tuesday, March 7. It was the second

consecutive game in which Gonzales has not surrendered an earned run.

Gonzales' effort in the circle was supported by nine different Ladycats getting a base hit, led by Davis with two, including a double. Gonzales aided her own cause with a hit and walk.

The game was called after five innings because of the mercy rule. However, it was a pitcher's duel through the first three, with Aledo leading 1-0.

Then, in the fourth, the Ladycats erupted for five runs and they sealed the early finish with four more in the bottom of the fifth.

Over the course of their six-game winning streak dating to Feb. 28 the Ladycats have outscored their

Turn to **SOFTBALL**, page 11

SOCCER

Aledo teams shut out visiting Hornets in home finale

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

For a final home game of the season, Aledo's soccer teams couldn't have written a better script for their matchups against the Azle Hornets on Tuesday, March 7. From temperatures in the low 70s, a slight breeze blowing across the pitch, honoring the elder statesmen on both clubs for Senior Night, or the complete denial of a visiting goal in either match, it was an evening filled with joy for all the Aledo faithful.

The Bearcats started off the night with a dominant performance. Aledo attacked the goal consistently throughout the contest, but struggled to put one in the net. In the 27th minute of the second half Adam Averett finally dialed in a scoring shot from 15 feet out for the Bearcats as he leaped over the diving Hornet goalkeeper. A single goal was all the home team required with big Zach Taylor minding the twine at the other end of the field for Aledo as they cruised to a 1-0 win.

In the nightcap the Ladycats put an old-fashioned school yard whipping on Azle. Aledo added five more goals to their season total while keeper Ava Fennell earned her third shutout of the year.

With one district game left on the schedule both squads have secured their respective playoff bids. The Ladycats (15-5-2 overall, 9-2 in districts) are the No. 2 seed in District 5-5A. While the team wants to win out to close the regular season on a high note with playoffs looming around the corner, should Granbury pull out a win on Friday, it will not affect the playoff picture for the Ladycats in the least.

For the Bearcats (11-5-5 overall, 5-4-1 in districts), the picture is a bit murkier heading into the final matchup of the season. Currently, Aledo sits in fourth place in the District 5-5A standings. Regardless of the outcome on Friday, they will hold the fourth spot at a minimum.

However, if the Bearcats score three or more goals with a win in

Turn to **SOCCER**, page 12



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Robbie Sloan drives passed a pair of Azle defenders during the second half of the match on Tuesday, March 7.

BASKETBALL

Four Ladycats named all-district

Staff Reports
The Community News

Four members of the Aledo Ladycats have been named to the All-District 5-5A Girls Basketball Team by the league's coaches. All are seniors.

Selected for the first team are Clair Byars and Presley Hull. Second-team honors went to Kandle Boggus and Reagan Davis.

The quartet helped the Ladycats to a fourth-place finish in district play and a playoff berth, where they defeated Everman before falling to Colleyville Heritage in the second round. Aledo finished the season 17-17 overall and 6-6 in district.

PHOTOS RYAN WADE AND JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Claire Byars



Presley Hull



Reagan Davis



Kandle Boggus

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CORRECTION

In the online version of the March 3 story “Bearcats win their own tourney; Ladycats place third” the photo that showed the varsity girls golf team was actually the JV girls team. The corrected photo is on this page.

We also misspelled Maddi Warner’s name in the original photograph. We regret the errors

ALEDO ATHLETES AMONG STATE LEADERS

Entering their own meet at press time, several members of the Aledo Ladycats and Bearcats are among the state’s leaders in their respective track events, including two who lead all competitors in Class 5A.

Pole vaulters Sean Gribble and Taylor Hindman top their events in Class 5A, with Gribble having cleared 16 feet and Hindman having gone more than 12 feet, 1 inch. Gribble is second among all classifications.

Also in 5A pole vaulting, Brad Campbell’s clearance of 14-06 has him tied for fourth in the state and Braylon Campbell is tied for eighth at 13 feet. Among the girls, Maggie Kilburn has vaulted 10-06 and is tied for ninth in 5A.

Thrower Lauren St. Peters is among the top five in two events. She is fourth in the shot put with a throw of 39 feet, 10.75 inches and is fifth in the discus with a 134-06 toss.

Teammates Sofia Brandenburg and Sarah Tillotson are eighth and ninth in Class 5A in the 800-meter run with times of 2:18.22 and 2:18.83, respectively.

- Rick Mauch

POWERLIFTING

Ladycats qualify four for state

By Rick Mauch
Community News

So often with Aledo athletics, it’s lights out for the competition.

In the case of the Ladycats powerlifting team, that was literally the case — for themselves as well — at the regional powerlifting meet in Sherman on Thursday, March 2.

The inclement weather and high winds that spread across North Texas caused a power outage that created some adjustments. In all, there was a delay of more than an hour and a half.

There was, however, no power outage concerning the girls’ strength, as Aledo finished second as a team and qualified four lifters for the state meet in Frisco on March 18.

Adrianna Lambert led Ladycat state qualifiers, winning the 220-pound division. She will be joined at state by three runners-up in their respective divisions, Avery Gray in the 259-plus division, Ari Mathias in the 148 class and Taylor Sehnem in the 114 class.

For Gray and Sehnem, this is their second season to reach state as they did so in the program’s first season a year ago.

Narrowly missing a second state berth was Taylor’s sister Morgan, who was third in the 114 division.

Haley Farmer was fourth at 198, as was Charlee Soward at 123, while Hannah Clark took fifth in the 148 class.

“The girls did an amazing job staying focused. The power went out 30 minutes into the meet,” coach Josh Morgan said. “We finished squat under battery lights. Then, we waited for the power company to decide if they could get things restored that night. When we finally did resume the meet, our girls did what they had to do.

“Lots of personal bests that resulted in points. Fourth or fifth places might not always sound like a big deal, but those points made the difference.”

In all, Aledo had 15 athletes compete after a scratch by another team.

Taylor Sehnem and Gray also won a district championship last month as the Ladycats took second.

The Ladycats also made history earlier this season when they took first place in a meet for the first time in their short history, winning a meet at Brock.



Read this story online



Adrianna Lambert



Taylor Sehnem



Ari Mathias



Avery Gray



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ladycat golfers placed third in their first entry in the Bearcat Brawl. Shown are (from left) Emily Crick, Maddi Warner, Kyla Morales, and Mallory Miller. Not shown is Sana’a Lemen.

TRACK AND FIELD

Bearcats run regular-season win streak to nine

By Rick Mauch
Community News

It was close, but the streak continues.

The Aledo Bearcats have won 10 consecutive regular-season track meets following their championship in the Northwest Texan Invitational on March 3 in Justin. The last time the Bearcats did not win a regular-season meet was in 2021 at the Decatur Fit N’ Wise Invitational.

Aledo scored 113 points at Northwest to edge District 5-5A rival Denton Ryan.

“Varsity ran great in what will be our toughest invitational meet of the year,” first-year Bearcats coach Andrew Clark said. “We were injured and missing some key pieces to the relays, and we still ran good enough to win the varsity division.

“Obviously, times were slower without our fastest athlete (Hauss Hejny) on the track and our second fastest athlete (Jaden Allen) limited, but the guys competed well enough in the field events and the other

running events to outpoint Denton Ryan.”

Hejny and Allen have been battling some tightness, Clark said.

The Bearcats were down by 12 points to Ryan going into the 1600-meter relay and the quartet of Nathan Wood, Blake Burdine, Christopher Johnson, and Aven Lawrence ran the team’s fastest time of the year in the event, a 3:26.87.

“Again, without our fastest athlete,” Clark said.

The Bearcats won the meet despite winning just one gold medal. Sean Gribble cleared a career-high 16 feet to win the pole vault.

The Bearcats also won six silver medals and four bronze medals.

In addition, Aledo had two competitors place fourth, one place fifth and four place sixth to score points.

Along with besting Ryan, Aledo topped another District 5-5A foe as Northwest placed fourth with 68 points.

Turn to **TRACK**, page 11



Read this story online



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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Michael Emmett Giotis, Deceased, were issued on January 11, 2023, in Cause No. 22P455, pending in the Probate Court of Parker County, Texas to: Zarmina Giotis, Independent Executor.

The location of said Independent Executor is Tarrant County, Texas, whose office address in Tarrant County is:

c/o John J. Corbin, Law Office of John J. Corbin
1020 Macon Street, Suite 12
Fort Worth, TX 76102

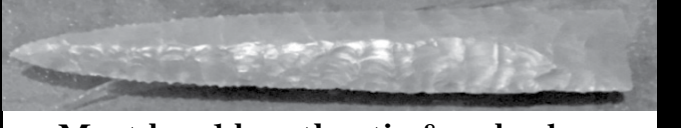
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them, care of John J. Corbin, 1020 Macon Street, Suite 12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, attorney for the Independent Executor, Zarmina Giotis, within the time and manner prescribed by law.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ John J. Corbin
John J. Corbin TBN 24036402
Law Office of John J. Corbin
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Pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Government Code Chapter 2269, Subchapter F, it is the intention of the Aledo ISD to select a Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR), via a one-step Request for Proposal (RFP) process, for the potential construction of an Elementary School (Project), pending the outcome of the District's May 6, 2023 bond election.

Aledo ISD is seeking a CMAR at this time for the construction of the Elementary School to avoid any delay in the Project's planning and construction if voters approve the bond election in May. If voters do not approve the bond election in May, Aledo ISD will not proceed with the construction portion of the Elementary School, and the CMAR's services on this Project will be limited to the completion of the preconstruction portion of the work.

Information and documentation concerning the RFP may be found on the Business Office Purchasing page of the Aledo ISD website: <https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/4288>. Questions regarding the RFP must be directed in writing via email to Mr. Chris Campbell, Aledo ISD Chief Facilities and Construction Officer, at ccampbell@aledoisd.org.

Sealed responses marked "CMAR Request for Proposal 23-030323" will be received until 2:00 PM CST on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the Aledo ISD Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008.

All responses must be received prior to the above stated time and date. Late responses will be returned unopened.



Puzzle Solution
S-1626

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CATHY MASON/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Scott Mason and Bryanna Orr placed first in Division A mixed doubles at the Chisholm Trail Tournament. | RIGHT: Jacob Heckathorn and Francois Britz finishing first in Division B boys doubles at Chisholm Trail.

TENNIS
Racquetcats win big at Chisholm Trail

Staff Reports

The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team dominated play in the Chisholm Trail tournament, held on Friday March 3, earning medals in every division and posting four first-place finishes.

In Division A, Elli Kate Bussmeier placed first in girls singles, while Scott Mason and Bryanna Orr placed first in mixed doubles. Third-place finishes included Kenley Germany in girls singles and Benjamin Farmer in boys singles. Hogan Posey and Craig Mason finished third in boys doubles.

In Division B, Will Beyer earned first place in boys singles, with Jacob Heckathorn and Francois Britz finishing first in boys doubles. Natalie Nawrocki and Patrice Loftin earned third place in girls doubles and Gracie Heydman was the consolation winner in girls singles.

The team was competing in Midlothian at press time. After spring break the team travels to Abilene for the Sharon Wartes Invitational Tournament on March 24-25. These are the last two tournaments prior to the district competition on March 28-29 at TCU.



Read this story online

SOCCER

from page 8

the season finale at Granbury on Friday, Aledo will take over the third-place spot from Northwest, who has completed their regular-season schedule.

Should Wichita Falls Rider lose their season finale against a Saginaw club that has caught fire of late, the Bearcats potentially could find themselves as the two seed by the end of the day on Friday.

Bearcat head coach Derek Vierling's offensive strategy against Azle was to use Clay Murador as a decoy to draw the defense, thus creating scoring opportunities for the rest of the team. And, scoring opportunities were plentiful.

While Aledo managed to find scoring opportunities, they struggled to zero in on the goal in the first half. Shots sailed left, right, and over the goal for the Bearcats. While they struggled to convert scoring opportunities into points on the

scoreboard, it was clearly only a matter of time given their relentless offensive pressure.

That time came with 27:21 left to play in the second half. With the Bearcats threatening once again, Adrian Solis made a pass leading Averett towards the keeper box. Azle's keeper charged out from the goal attempting to intercept the ball before a shot could be made.

He was too late.

Averett got to the ball first, putting a shot on the goal with a full head of steam. As the keeper slid for the ball, it sailed over him with Averett right behind it as he jumped over the grounded keeper to avoid a collision. The solitary goal ended up being the game-winner as Aledo went on to win.

The Ladycats wasted little time making Azle aware of their intentions. Aledo's offensive pressure overwhelmed the Lady Hornets early leaving the

visiting club to resort to booting the ball beyond the touch line in a vain attempt to slow the onslaught.

Emaree Gibson put the first score of the game on the board for Aledo with 28:05 left in the first half of play. Presley Clayborn added a second goal just over three minutes later to put the Lady Hornets in a 2-0 hole less than halfway through the first period.

Georgia Zirbser, Katie Cox, and Hailey Vandiver all added goals of their own en route to the blowout victory for the hometown team.

When Aledo and Granbury met on the Aledo pitch on Valentine's Day, the Ladycats won a 3-0 shutout. Meanwhile, the Bearcats took a 1-1 tie at the end of regulation before winning the shootout 4-3.

The Bearcats game will kick off first in Granbury at 5 p.m. Friday with the Ladycats to follow in the nightcap.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Georgia Zirbser works an Azle defender near the goal during the first half of the Ladycats 5-0 win on Tuesday, March 7.

Congratulations

Kandle Boggus

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Aledo Ladycats

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