

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Aledo's Schultz returns to Germany after seven decades away

Childhood home still stands

By John English  
The Community News

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

Shortly after arriving in Aledo in 2022, Katie Schultz reluctantly decided to return to her home country after more than seven decades in the United States.

The German expat built a life and legacy and raised a family in her adopted country for more than half a century and at 88 years of age, was quite content with her life here in America.

Fortunately for Schultz, it was a trip that would help her to regain some perspective on her early life and serve as a reminder of what is really important.

"My sons, for decades, tried to get me to go to Germany," Schultz said. "I didn't want to. The idea of flying for that many hours over the ocean didn't sit well, and I wanted to remember Germany as it was in my childhood — I made a mistake."

Schultz initially broached the subject during a car ride to Weatherford one day with her son Darrell.

"If I wanted to visit Germany again, would you accompany me?" Schultz asked. "He almost drove off the road in shock. Immediately, my kids and their spouses began planning. They bought me a first-class ticket, and I made my only visit to Germany since 1950. It

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SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**TOP:** After more than seven decades, Katie made her first trip back to Germany. Here she once more stood in downtown Oldenburg, both her birthplace and the site of her parents' first two apartments (before they all moved into the barnhouse). Katie enjoyed the sites, here with the palace of the former Dukes of Oldenburg in the background. | **LEFT:** Katie, now 72, devoured the fragrance of this magnolia treat. Flowers always fondly remind her of her German roots, where they grew wild, adorned window boxes, or were sold as seeds to make money for her family to eat.



## WILLOW PARK Council names interim police chief

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

At its meeting on Tuesday, March 14, the Willow Park City Council announced the appointment of Daniel Franklin as interim police chief, effective March 24.



Daniel Franklin

Franklin, who has been the assistant police chief in Willow Park since August of 2018, is taking over for Carrie Ellis (formerly West), who is retiring. West recently married Belton Police Chief Gee Ellis and is leaving the area.

Ellis, the first female police chief in Parker County history, came to Willow Park six years ago.

"Me and her worked really well together, her thinking and mine are pretty much in line," Franklin said. "I wouldn't see much need to change the department."

"I'm excited to have an opportunity to continue the path Chief Ellis and I have been working on. I've worked with a lot of police chiefs and she's the best I've ever worked with."

Ellis had similar praise for Franklin, who previously worked in the Jacksonville Police Department for 20 years, including several years as assistant chief and captain.

"He has my resounding support and I've already offered a letter to the city manager for him," Ellis said. "He's completely capable and knowledgeable, an amazing guy, a great family man."

Franklin and his wife Karla live in Weatherford. They have four children, 19-year-old daughter Kaitlyn, 8- and 7-year-old sons Daniel Jr. and Jackson, and 5-year-old daughter Amelia.

"I have the utmost confidence in Assistant Chief of Police Franklin to step in," City Manager Bryan Grimes said, noting to him, "You have some big shoes to fill."

A retirement party is scheduled for Ellis on Thursday, March 23 from 4-6 p.m. at Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Tr. The public is invited.

## PS Building, firefighters transfer approved

After discussing the matters in closed session, the council returned to open session and approved the sale of the Public Safety Building, which includes the city's fire station,

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## BUSINESS

## Local banker shares 'nothing to something' story



MIKE PRINCE

Zan Prince, right, is shown with Congressman Roger Williams of Weatherford, chairman of the House Committee on Small Business.

## Zan Prince testifies before House Committee on Small Business

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

When U.S. Rep. Roger Williams (R-Weatherford) convened a hearing of the House Committee on Small Business on the topic of "From Nothing to Something: The Story of the American Dream," the person he invited to testify was Zan Prince, chairman of the board of First Bank Texas.

Prince, whose office is in Willow Park, provided her remarks on Feb 28 before the small business committee for Chairman Williams and other members.

"First Bank Texas is a family-owned community bank, the fulfillment of the American dream of Joe Sharp, a man with a strong foundation of hard work and an entrepreneurial spirit from West Texas dry land cotton farmer roots," Prince told the committee. "He was the product of strong faith, family values, and a public education that prepared him to reason, to figure stuff out in business and life. He often said that the impossible just took a little longer."

Prince's testimony was in the context of Williams' desire to "learn more about the current state of small business from the people who know it best: our country's entrepreneurs," as he said in his opening remarks.

Prince described how regulations have impacted her banking company since it was established in 1982.

"In 1982, bank documents were simple," she said. "Over time, we've added layers of 'consumer protection' that has done little to improve the understanding of accounts or transactions for our customers. Fiscal and regulatory policy are important."

She referred to the proposed rule by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that would require covered financial institutions to collect and report to the Bureau data on applications for credit for small businesses, including those that are owned by women or minorities.

"The proposed CFPB rule 1071 to collect small business loan data to ensure 'fair' access to credit by all small business owners misrepresents the lending market," Prince said. "There are no two small businesses that are alike. There's no standardized small business box of

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# Bearcats of Character

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees honored the February Bearcats of Character for optimism during the February regular board meeting. The district began recognizing Bearcats of Character during the 2021-2022 school year in tandem with beginning the character education program Positivity Project, or P2. P2 says that individuals who project optimism have a positive vision of what the future holds and maintain confidence that they will get there. They keep a positive attitude, despite potential setbacks – and often find ways to convert what may seem like obstacles into stepping-stones to achieve their goals.

The February Bearcats of Character, along with the comments of their nominators, are:



**Brown**



**McGowan**

**Landon Brown, 12th grade  
Aledo High School**

From Mrs. Nichols, AP Chemistry teacher at AHS: Landon is a Teacher Aid in PreAP Chemistry and he does not sit back and wait for instructions - he gets up and joins in helping and tutoring students. He has taken AP Chemistry and without me even asking him, he jumps in and really engages and helps groups learn the concepts. I have a lot of Sophomores happy to have his help and have noticed this character of optimism and kindness!

**Joie McGowan, 9th grade  
Aledo Learning Center**

Joie demonstrates optimism every day by seeing the good in other

people on campus, both with students and staff. Joie is quick to point out the positive in an event or personal interaction. Even through personally difficult circumstances, Joie remains optimistic and enthusiastic about finishing high school and moving forward toward a happy and fulfilling life. Recently, Joie was on crutches, but wasn't deterred, but was instead able to just laugh at the situation and persevered by being cheerful and gracious. The Aledo Learning Center is very proud of Joie!

**Deogracias Mulenga, 9th grade**

**Daniel Ninth Grade  
Campus**

From Kristen Martinez: "Deo" is a freshman whose family is from The Congo, in Africa. Besides having to overcome cultural and language barriers, Deo challenged herself and joined Ladycat Soccer, volunteering to be a goalkeeper – something the program desperately needed, but also something Deo had never done. She's trained hard since middle school and has always been very optimistic about her outlook as a soccer player. As a freshman, Deo has become the starting goalkeeper for the Ladycat JV Soccer team this year. Through it all, Deo always has a great attitude and a smile on her face. In addition, she has also joined HOSA at school and plans to compete soon. She has aspirations to someday become a surgeon. Deo is a great example of someone who carries the character trait of optimism. I wish everyone had a great attitude like hers!



**Mulenga**



**Ogden**

**Mark Ogden, 7th grade  
Aledo Middle School**

Mark Ogden is always positive and optimistic in class. He displays this character daily! I don't think I have ever heard him complain and he regularly lifts up others around him with his words of encouragement! Mark deserves the honor of being nominated as AMS Bearcat Most Optimistic Student.



**Hamilton**



**Lee**

**Kaison (KJ) Hamilton, 6th grade  
McAnally Middle School**

Ms. Dickerson shared that KJ is always positive with a smile on his face! In class he is often giving positive comments to students on their work as well as focusing on the good that he is doing and strives to maintain it.

**Graham Lee, 3rd grade  
Annetta Elementary School**

Graham's 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Coomer, says, "Graham is always able to find a bright side in any situation. He carries such an infectious optimistic outlook! He brings so much joy and laughter to our school family!"

**Kensleigh Bourland, 4th grade  
Coder Elementary School**

Kensleigh comes to class with a smile on her face, ready to put her all into whatever we are doing in class! She has a growth mindset and encourages others around



**Bourland**



**Hess**

her even when she faces challenges herself. She is a bright light! ~ Ms. Patton, 4th Grade Math/ Science Teacher

Kensleigh is the definition of optimism. She greets her friends and teachers with a smile each morning. She sees the best in every situation and is always willing to work hard and cheer her peers on to greatness. She is the kiddo that every teacher dreams of having in their class because she is sunshine on a cloudy day. She makes everyone's day brighter! ~Lindsay Wright, Coder Resource Teacher

**Taya Hess, 1st grade  
McCall Elementary School**

Taya walks into class everyday with a smile on her face, almost everyday she will say how much she loves coming to school. She always seems to see the positive in everything. One thing I love about her is she came after school started and knew no one - she stepped into class the first day and just fit right in. She is just such a positive person to be around and such a great friend with a smile ready to greet anyone.



**Stone**



**Anderson**

**Chandler Stone, 3rd grade  
Stuard Elementary School**

When I think about optimism and looking on the bright side, this student stands out as a shining example. She anticipates things before they happen and is a pro when it comes to 'rolling with the punches' and not taking life too seriously. She is a light in our classroom! - Ms. Cottrell, 3rd grade teacher

**Carter Anderson, 1st Grade  
Vandagriff Elementary School**

Carter comes to school happy and ready to learn each day. He always has a smile and a positive attitude. Carter is always hopeful and confident that there will be a positive outcome. He encourages others and his smile is contagious.

**Clara Nikodym, 2nd Grade  
Walsh Elementary School:**

From Clara's teacher, Mrs. Watkins: Clara is truly one of the most optimistic students I have ever been around. Despite any challenges that she faces, she always has an amazing attitude. She is not scared to try new things and will conquer them with enthusiasm. I have never seen her feel defeated or discouraged because something is hard. She encourages all of her classmates and helps them to see the bright side too. We are lucky to have Clara as a part of the Walsh community, and even more lucky that we get to have her in our class everyday.



**Nikodym**

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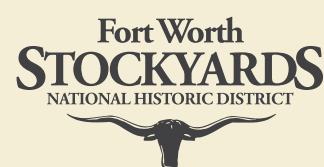
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# LOCAL

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circumstances that resembles consumer mortgages or car loans. If enacted, the process for lending to small businesses will be bogged down in technicalities that ignore creative, entrepreneurial plans to establish or grow a business."

Prince said there are plenty of laws on the books to hold people accountable. "yet every crisis brings more laws and rules that good people follow, and others still ignore."

"The 2008 response to the financial crisis is a textbook example that should have focused on the cause, big banks, but instead, imposed costly regulations for community banks," she added. "Regulations designed to make 'Too big to Fail' banks accountable result in needless regulation of community banks that aren't and weren't part of the problem. Those layers of additional requirements come at a cost to the end user of bank products and the bank's shareholders."

Prince expanded her thoughts in comments to *The Community News*:

"Take out the character, take out the vision, take out the enthusiasm, the entrepreneurial piece of small business and gather information just like it's a one to four family, and it's just not [like that]— so there's this disconnect with regulators and with real world on Main Street," she said. "They have a proposed rule that is just not effective for small business Main Street. Our organization has worked person-to-person with the same people that we see at high school games, or at church or the grocery store and it's a partnership. We know our customers, we know our communities, we know the things that might be most successful in our communities. And we just don't think it's appropriate for regulators to say it needs to be a certain price with certain terms, all the same, because no small businesses are the same."

Prince said she got more questions from Republicans than Democrats, including a lot of questions about access to credit and community involvement.

"When it's all said and done the community bank is a sponsor on the high school scoreboard. The community bank goes to the junior livestock auctions. The community bank is a sponsor on the education foundation or



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the volunteer fire department and and it's important that we don't leave our communities in a place that they don't have the stability and the access to those people who are really their partners," she said.

## Nothing to Something

Prince provided her own "nothing to something" story about her local bank.

Her father, Joe Sharp, took his family and a group of investors to Baird, Texas, to start a bank in 1982. That small bank grew to a banking organization that today has a billion dollars in assets and 14 locations.

Sharp graduated from Munday High School in 1955 in a class of 25 students. He went on to Hardin Simmons and then graduated from what was then North Texas State University.

"What he took was the ability to reason and the grit to make a difference and to work through whatever the process was," Prince said. "He was kind of funny, he always said that the impossible just takes longer. With that mindset and a foundation of ethics and and commitment to work, it was very successful for him and our family. He went with a foundation of faith and family and a commitment to hard work in an entrepreneurial spirit, and we did that person-to-person, building relationships."

In response to the recent collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, Prince said "it's important that you have somebody that you know, somebody that knows you. I give my cell number to customers, I'm more than available and willing to talk to them about their issues, their visions, their dreams. Our bank, since 1982, has weathered all kinds of storms hand-in-hand with customers who found themselves in situations that weren't right and, you know, for the most part, we work really hard to work them through that — not just discount the character and the commitment to work to make things all come out right in the end."

Another "nothing to something" story during the hearing was the testimony of Drew Davis, a 17-year-old entrepreneur from Hillsboro, Missouri.

Prince recalled that Davis, who has cerebral palsy, said he turned in a paper to his business teacher about a business he would do, and the straight-A student got a grade of 82 on the paper, being told by the instructor that it wouldn't work.



COURTESY OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Testifying before the House Committee on Small Business "From Nothing to Something: The Story of the American Dream" are (from left) Corinne Hendrickson, Drew Davis, Roy Heim, and Zan Prince.

"So it goes back to the ability to not take no, and to work, and have the spirit," Prince said. "That young man has Crippling Hot Sauce today."

Crippling Hot Sauce has sold more than 16,000 bottles and is in 90 different retailers across Missouri.

Davis is a constituent of Blaine Luetkemeyer, U.S. Representative for Missouri's 3rd District. Luetkemeyer said Davis' accomplishment is impressive for a 17-year-old.

"Even more impressive is that Drew has accomplished this while living with cerebral palsy," Luetkemeyer said. "He named his company 'Crippling Hot Sauce, to show he is not letting his disability slow him down or hinder his sense of humor. In fact he is using his company to help support the nearly 800,000 Americans living with cerebral palsy today by committing five percent of his proceeds to cerebral palsy research."

## Regulatory Environment

Another witness was Roy Heim, founder and owner of Heim Construction Co. in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania.

Both Heim and Prince spoke of the cost of compliance with federal regulations.

"We spend an enormous amount of time and money to stay compliant, employing 15 full-time employees in our office who work countless hours to ensure we remain in compliance with the forever-changing regulations," Heim told the committee. "Many of these laws and regulations, while well intended, make it much

more difficult, if not impossible, for small business to comply, complete, and survive, let alone profit."

In response to a question from Congressman Aaron Bean of Florida, Prince said "Every day, the regulatory requirement increases, or the interpretation of a regulatory requirement is ever-changing."

Prince said back when her bank started, regulatory compliance probably took part of the time of one employee.

"Today, it's at least six full-time employees," she said.

Prince closed out her testimony highlighting two local businesswomen: Sherry Waters and Debra Smith.

"Both ladies have built their businesses on hard work, an entrepreneurial spirit, integrity, and excellence that makes our community great. Both ladies have been very involved in support of our non-profits, schools, candidates for elected office, and our elected officials," Prince said. "Community banks provide 77% of agricultural loans and over 50% of small business loans. We provide the community partnerships that preserve local schools, charities, and businesses that make our communities thrive. Without community banks and small businesses, who fills the gap? Who makes a difference in our community? Who provides that which is unique to who we are today? I encourage you to continue to focus on an environment that creates opportunities for those small businesses and community banks."

For video of Prince's testimony, see the web posting of this story.

# CHIEF

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to Parker County Emergency Services District 1, pending ESD1 approval.

This means the city's police department will need a new location, which was discussed at the Feb. 28 meeting. It will likely be at the location of the old city hall, 516 Ranch House Rd., but city officials have said if that is to be the site of a new police station, old city hall will be torn down and a new building constructed in its place.

Also at the Feb. 28 meeting, council voted to name a committee led by Mayor Doyle Moss to assist and consult in the designing, building, and constructing of a police station.

Grimes said once the ESD purchase becomes official, he anticipates having about two years for the police department to move into a new facility.

The council also approved the transfer of employment for nine of the city's 11 full-time firefighters to ESD1, still serving the city, of course. Fire Chief John Schneider will remain in city employment, along with being the fire marshal. Kevin Lockwood, the other firefighter remaining with the city, is assistant fire marshal.

The move will include benefits for the firefighters.

## Standard Service

The council approved a request for a zoning change in connection with the proposed new restaurant Standard Service, planned for the south side of Interstate 20 near Platinum Collision and Forney Fence.

The change is from commercial and I-20 overlay district to planned development for restaurants and other uses. The land is almost six acres.



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## Storm update

Customer Service Executive Michael Dimas of Oncor gave a presentation regarding the response update to the wind storm that hit the area on March 2.

Dimas reported that in all of Oncor's service area, around 290,000 homes were without power, including more than 700 in Willow Park - but they all were back on within 48 hours. One area of Willow Park had three power line poles break with winds up to 80 mph, he said.

"Mother Nature's rough. We try to restore it as quickly as we can," Dimas said.

Grimes recommended the city look into putting folks in place to help, for example spotting weakened poles.

Dimas said citizens can also visit the My Oncor Alerts link at <https://www.oncor.com/>, which helps keeps them up to date on times of power restoration.

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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

# House pushes armed officer at all schools



Gary Borders  
gborders@texaspress.com

Under legislation prioritized by House Speaker Dade Phelan, every Texas school would have an armed police officer, and aspiring teachers would receive extra support.

The *Dallas Morning News* reported the bill would also provide \$15,000 in annual funding for safety measures for each school in the state. Another bill would increase the annual allotment per student for safety measures from \$10 to \$100.

Another House measure is aimed at improving teacher retention and recruitment, The *Morning News* reported. The measure, sponsored by state Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, would create a new grant to help prospective teachers pursuing special education or bilingual certification, and would increase funding for educator mentoring. Special education and bilingual teacher positions are especially hard to fill in Texas.

### Rising car insurance rates causing sticker shock

Average statewide auto insurance rates are up nearly 24% over last year, according to a report by the *Texas Standard*. That is the highest increase in at least 20 years, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. That comes on top of increased costs for vehicles both new and used, and higher fuel costs.

Michael Schnurman, a business columnist with *The Morning News*, was interviewed on the *Standard* and had this to say, in part:

"There are several elements that play into it. One...is the higher values of cars and used cars in particular - they really shot up during the pandemic," he said. "But the claims are also up a lot... When driving resumed, the number of accidents and the severity of accidents has really been a lot higher. If you look at fatalities, I think they were up 18%."

Schnurman suggested consumers shop around for auto insurance and look for discounts for bundling it with homeowners' insurance or multiple vehicles on the same account.

### PUC recommends hefty fine against power company

The Public Utility Commission has recommended that the Texas-New Mexico Power Company pay a \$1.74 million fine for inaccurate estimates of its customers' electric usage.

In a report released last week, The PUC said the power company failed to correct a violation of an order to install new meters that can be read remotely in a timely manner.

The commission said "TNMP's new meter rollout was significantly delayed," resulting in the utility "estimating thousands of meters for months on end."

The investigation found that TNMP was given three-years' notice that the "communication backbone" of its metering system was going to be discontinued by its third-party provider but failed to produce a plan until halfway through that timeframe. It also failed to have a backup plan in case its vendor could not provide the 170,000 new meters on schedule, according to the PUC.

### Texas Senate passes first bill of session

The Texas Senate last week passed a bill that would close a loophole in state law that allowed gun sales to people between the ages of 16 and 18 who have been involuntarily hospitalized for mental illness. The *Texas Tribune* reported it was the first bill passed by the Senate this session.

Courts are supposed to report all involuntary mental health hospitalizations to the Texas Department of Public Safety, which then sends them to the FBI's national background check system. However, problems with how existing state law was written led to those hospitalizations not being reported by courts.

The measure comes after an 18-year-old shooter in Uvalde with a history of mental health problems killed 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary last year. However, since that shooter was never hospitalized, closing the loophole would not have prevented him from legally buying two assault rifles.

### Women sue state over abortion ban

Five women are suing the state, saying its near-total

abortion ban resulted in them being denied abortions despite complications in their pregnancies that put their lives and fetuses at risk. The *Austin American-Statesman* reported the Center for Reproductive Rights filed the suit, which asks the courts to clarify what qualifies as a "medical emergency" exception in the law.

"Politicians in Texas are prohibiting health care that they don't understand; they could do something but they're not, and it's killing us," Lauren Miller, one of the plaintiffs, said. "It shouldn't be controversial for an individual to make health care decisions for themselves in consultation with their doctor. But you can't get that in Texas anymore."

The *Statesman* reported that Miller was pregnant with twins when doctors told her one of the babies had a severe genetic condition and was not going to survive, which threatened her life and the life of the other baby. She ended up traveling to Colorado to have an abortion and is scheduled to give birth to the healthy remaining twin this month.

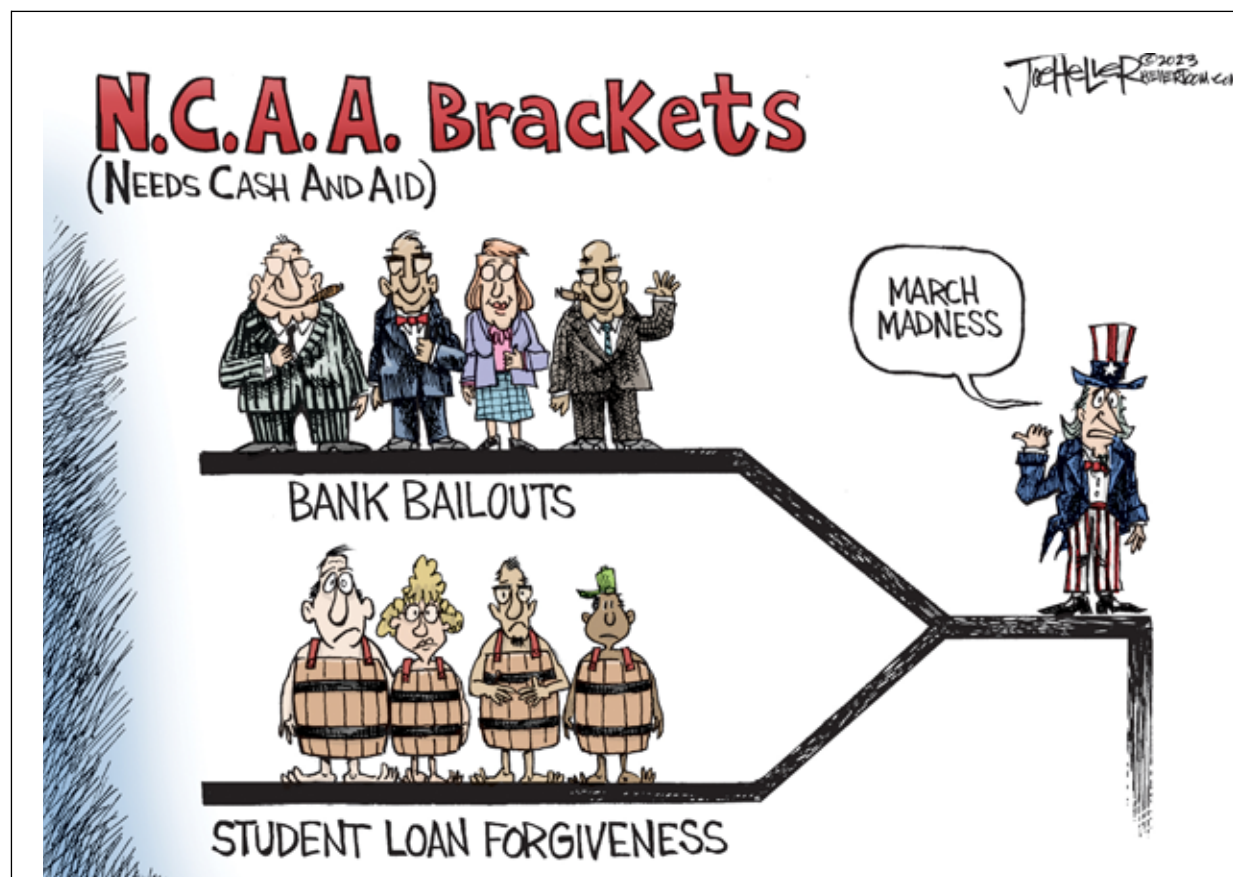
### Drought map spreads in parts of state

Drought conditions by the end of February covered 62%

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## Guest Column

# The time is now for parent empowerment



J Scott Utley  
parkercountygop@gmail.com

As a father of three, two of which have been in both private and public schools, I understand firsthand the value of choosing the school that best suits the unique needs of your child. I also know that the drivers for choosing an educational system change as your child matures as well as through the shifting dynamics of school districts.

Therefore, I strongly support Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) and reject the notion that ESAs will negatively impact the financial health of our strong public schools. Here is some data to support my conclusion.

In 2019, Texas legislators made a promise—and kept it. They pledged to fully fund Texas

public schools, while at the same time delivering on our conservative agenda that has made Texas the "best state for business" for 18 years running.

The education budget allocated \$11.6 billion for the biennium (2020 and 2021) on top of the previous budget, including \$6.5 billion in new dollars—funding for teacher raises and all-day pre-k among other items. Base per-pupil funding from the state was raised from \$5,140 to \$6,160, an increase of 20%.

Lawmakers added merit pay and bonuses for outstanding teachers, and funding for districts that have trouble recruiting teachers, such as inner-city schools and rural districts. They even cut school property taxes by \$5.1 billion.

It's time for the next step in educational reform. We can ensure that Texas public schools are fully funded, while at the same time we can put parents in charge of their children's educations.

As Gov. Greg Abbott said recently in Temple, "Public

schools play an essential role in our state. They educate our future entrepreneurs, scientists, and leaders. We must ensure that our education system works for every child. Parents also deserve education freedom. Without it, some parents are hindered in helping their child succeed. That must change this year."

But what about the apocalyptic predictions from opponents?

Gov. Abbott is clear—he plans to ensure that the public schools are made whole—"we're going to add even more money for both education as well as for teacher pay raises," he's said.

The fact is that so far, 31 states have some form of school choice. If those predictions were accurate, then wouldn't we see the wonton destruction of more than half of our nation's public schools? The claim that Texas must defund public schools to enact school choice is simply not true.

"In the five states with the most robust educational choice

policies, inflation-adjusted funding per pupil increased between 1.2 percent (Arizona) to 12.7 percent (Ohio) since 2002, which is not long after four of the five states enacted their first educational choice policy," EdChoice reports, citing a 2021 study.

What we learned from the pandemic (and our responses to it) is that one-size-fits-all never really does. Every student has unique needs, and a parent is the best person to evaluate those needs—and act.

This need not be either/or. We can fully fund our public schools, while at the same time delivering on parent empowerment. And the time is right—we can continue to improve Texas public education, even as we broaden educational opportunities for every child in the Lone Star State.

J Scott Utley is the Parker County Republican Chair and a 1989 graduate of Weatherford High School. He lives in Brock.



Read this story online



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**LEFT:** Several of Katie Gisela's Germany childhood classmates are alive (some still living in the same home). One such is Manfred Haase, a brilliant man with a stunning memory...and also a joy to be around. As Katie was getting ready to depart the house of Manfred and his wife, Lotti, Manfred stoked a hardy laughter from Katie as he pushed her, in his rollator, to her awaiting car. All her classmates she saw in 2022 were equally charming and hospitable. | **MIDDLE:** Katie is shown standing in front of her childhood barnhouse for the first time in 72 years. The two windows behind her (with drawn curtains) were the living area she and her brother were confined to while her dad slowly died in a bedroom. Despite what could have brought back bad memories for some people, Katie loved seeing that her old homestead both still stands and is used today. She said, "This was the greatest vacation I ever had in my life. I'll never forget it, no matter what." In front of the house you can see the overgrown ditch the neighborhood boys used to challenge her to jump across using one of her grandfather's bean poles, as a child — a challenge she wasn't afraid to make or put them up to try, as well. | **RIGHT:** On June 25, 1995, Glenn Schultz and Katie Schultz returned to Dubuque, Iowa—the site where they fell in love and later wed—to a family reunion and celebration of their four decades of marriage. Glenn would enjoy only one more before his passing.

## SCHULTZ

from page one

had been more than 72 years since I left from a seaport in Hamburg at age 14."

Thus began her homecoming journey, replete with the people, places, structures, and landscapes of her childhood and so awash in the memories of the Germany of her youth that at times, it felt overwhelming.

"My family gave me the best vacation of my life," Schultz said. "No matter how old I become, I don't think I'll ever forget it. I was in Germany, with my two sons and their wives, from July 7-15, 2022. I was able to see five of my classmates, all with sharp minds and some of them living in their childhood homes. I also had a chance to talk with a sixth friend on the phone as well as spend a couple of days with two of my cousins."

Her old friends had a nice surprise for her as well.

### The old homestead

"Probably the most amazing thing was how a couple of my

classmates had worked to get me the opportunity to not only see my old home, but to go inside of it," Schultz said. "Though many of the features had been modernized."

Schultz said there was now running water and electricity and there were no longer two indoor outhouses, among other upgrades.

"My oldest son, one of my cousins and I, enjoyed meeting the owner who showed us inside," Schultz said. "He even opened up the attic so we could see the old smoke chamber and bedroom upstairs still were the same."

Always a nature lover, Schultz said she was amazed at how much the local landscape brought her back.

"There were still so many birch trees and flowers," Schultz said. "The fields I laid in and ran through were still there, as green as ever. My house, though, was almost consumed by growth of items that had a 70-year head start on me."

One of the other highlights was visiting the Glück Auf, a sports club that had its construction financed by Schultz's father and his friends.

"For years, my dad's photo hung in the hallway," Schultz said. "All of

us, visiting in 2022, didn't think the building would be there. But not only did it still exist, it had changed little from my childhood. Some of the equipment I used to practice on was still stored there.

"The club was very excited to meet me, the daughter of one of the founders, and presented me with a book of the club's history and that photo (of her father) that I used to pass all the time in my youth, Texas frame and all. I was happy to see little children exercising there, just like when I taught the 5-year-olds before I moved from Germany."

Schultz said perhaps the most memorable aspect of the trip came on the final day, just before she and her family traveled to the airport, when she and four of her classmates got together for one last visit.

"We talked about how we needed to share our stories because future generations needed to know that war is such a blight and that it was real, indeed," Schultz said. "We felt, while we still have the minds to remember living through the war, we needed to point out that it is an evil, but one

can emerge from it with some good memories if they're willing to make sacrifices."

And good memories are basically what Schultz focuses on these days, as she reflects on her rich and fulfilling life.

### Looking back

"I enjoy thinking about being a child in Germany and again when I got to revisit it," Schultz said. "I love children. I was allowed to have four of them and still have them around to this day, two in Texas and two in Iowa. I also got to teach children and live long enough to hear them thank me for the efforts. I worked with children with special needs for about a third of my life, and that was very enjoyable.

"I look forward, every day, to seeing my youngest grandson get married this June. He tried to arrange it so he and his fiancé could be married on the same date my husband and I were, but they will be one day off. I still thrill in looking at and smelling flowers. I like to sit outside, here in Aledo with my oldest son,

listening to the sounds of birds and watching them fly. Most of all, my fondest memories are of my family, going back to the grandparents, all the way to my great grandchildren of today."

As someone who has lived through so much change in her 88 years, Schultz has learned a thing or two about what makes life worth living.

Fortunately, she was willing to share a few of those.

"Stay healthy," Schultz said. "Get educated. Maximize your potential and be good citizens. Be kind to others even if they aren't kind to you. Smile and find joy in the little things. Make good memories. Take photographs and enjoy them as you age. Savor every day. Save a life, starting with your own. Have a good family and those will always be your happiest memories. And find and serve God."

Part one of this series, *Horrors of War, Glories of Life*, ran in the March 3 issue. Part two of this series, *Coming to America*, ran in the March 10 issue. All three installments can be found at [www.community-news.com](http://www.community-news.com).



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EDUCATION

# Aledo Education Foundation announces new executive director

## Valerie Kerr to take the helm

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The Aledo Education Foundation (AEF) Board of Directors announced that Valerie Kerr will be its new executive director, succeeding Shawn Callaway, founder and executive director of AEF, since its inception.

Kerr has been the AEF director of operations for three years. She has a degree in marketing from Texas Tech University, and has significant work experience with non-profits and fundraising. Valerie and her husband Jerrod have lived in Aledo five years with their sons, Jett and Easton.

“Valerie is in a unique position to take her service to AEF, Aledo ISD, and the Aledo community to the next level and has demonstrated her passion for and commitment to AEF,” said a news release from the organization. “AEF is thrilled to have Valerie serve in this critical role and we look forward to great things in our continued support of our teachers, staff, students, and schools.”

The AEF board of directors is working on a transition plan.

“The board of directors would like to acknowledge ten amazing years of leadership and support for Aledo ISD from Shawn Callaway and congratulate him on his new role as president and owner of

Foundation Innovation LLC, a company specializing in the startup and revitalization of education foundations, as well as, advising non-profits and school boards,” the release said.

During Callaway’s tenure with AEF since its creation a decade ago, it has raised a net amount of more than \$3.1 million to benefit the students and staff of AISD. Callaway was instrumental in developing the the Innovative Teaching Grant and Fast Cash Grant Programs that have awarded more than \$989,027 for Aledo ISD teachers and staff for the ultimate benefit of AISD students, provided an additional \$819,652 in restricted funds and gifts for specific programs.

In addition, Callaway has worked with more than 120 board members and more than 1,000 volunteers through the years. We thank him for his dedication and hard work supporting Aledo ISD and the community.

“It has been the greatest honor of my life to see the foundation come to fruition and to see the lasting benefits this foundation and the money raised has been able to provide the students and teachers in Aledo ISD,” Callaway said. “Thank you to the directors that have embraced my vision and passion and partnered together to make Aledo ISD such an amazing district.

“As I begin this next chapter in my life, Aledo will remain my home



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Valerie Kerr, left, will take the helm of the Aledo Education Foundation, following its founding Executive Director Shawn Callaway (right).

and will always hold such a special place in my heart. Thank you for your support and donations over the years that created such an exceptional school district. I’m so excited that Valerie Kerr has been named the second executive director of the foundation and know that she is going to continue the amazing work of this organization. It’s so much easier knowing that it is in good hands and great things are to come under her leadership.”

# CAPITAL

from page 4

of the state, up nine percent points from a month earlier, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. Drought-free areas include all of East Texas up to Dallas County to the west and Jefferson County to the south. The most severe drought conditions are in the far northern edge of the Panhandle, the counties surrounding San Antonio, and nearly all of South Texas.

“The latest seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service is optimistic for East and North Central Texas,” Wentzel wrote. “Through the end of May, that part of the state is expected to remain drought-free. Unfortunately, drought is expected to expand in the rest of the state.”

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.



Read this story online

# Obituaries

## Cory Lee Barnhart

Cory Lee Barnhart, 43, of Aledo passed away peacefully on March 5, 2023.

Cory was born in Fort Worth to Tex and Jan Barnhart on September 18, 1979. He grew up in Poway, California, and graduated from Poway High School in 1998 where he developed lifelong friendships. Cory went on to study at the California State University in San Marcos where he also played lacrosse. He graduated college in 2006 and continued his career in construction with his father, Tex, and his uncle Doug. In 2013 Cory made the move back to Texas where he continued his growth in the construction industry working as a Project Manager. At present he was working for Carcon Industries in Dallas.

Cory loved his family and friends above all else. He is survived by his son Baron Asher Barnhart and his daughter Marybelle Benay Barnhart as well as the mother of his children, MarJoe Barnhart; parents Tex and Jan Barnhart; sister



Cory Barnhart

Cristi Nava/Joey; nephew Simon Nava; grandfather Glenn Teaff; loving aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as many other loving family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Mearl and Rosemary Barnhart, grandmother Lonelle Teaff and cousin Keith Beasley.

There was no doubt that Cory was always the brightest light in the darkest of spaces with his smile, sense of humor, and passion for lifting others up. He loved to make people laugh and he was very good at it. Cory was also the very best at bringing people together, both friends and family. He knew how to accept people for who they are without judgement and those that knew him could count on having a lifelong friend that would always be by their side. His core friendships with Ryan, Dave, Bill, Zak, Jeff, and Dirk were at the foundation of who he was and supported him throughout his life. Cory was the happiest and most passionate when he was with his children and it is a blessing that

their faces were the last ones that he saw before he left to go to his heavenly home.

A visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at Starbuck Funeral Home in Merkel, Texas. A celebration of his life will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023, at First Baptist Church in Merkel. Interment will be at Rose Hill Cemetery, Merkel, Texas

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations can be made to 529 Educational Funds, being established for Baron and Marybelle. Checks can be made payable to the Finch, Thornton and Baird LLP Client Trust Account. Mailing address is: AGC San Diego, 10140 Riverford Road, Lakeside, CA 92040 Attn: Eddie Sprecco, or by clicking on following link <https://secure.lawpay.com/pages/finch-thornton-and-baird-LLP/trust>

Please put “fbo 529 account/Barnhart” under client

“No farewell words were spoken, there was no time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it and only God knows why.”

The Community News  
March 17, 2023

## Janice Lee Hicks

Janice Lee Hicks, 62, passed away surrounded by her family on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

Janice was born on December 28, 1960, in Merkel, Texas to Jack Lee South and Billie Jo (Baldwin) South. She graduated with a master’s degree in social work and worked tirelessly as a therapist in Aledo. She served countless families and individuals, but that achievement pales in comparison to how wonderful a wife, mother, and Nay Nay she was to her family. Janice married Michael Cason Hicks and together they have three children: Amanda, Cason, and Jackson. She had many talents, but her family always came first. Janice brought much joy to everyone who knew her, and she will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Janice was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Billie Jo South.

Janice is survived by her beloved husband of 44 years, Mike Hicks



Janice Hicks

of Hudson Oaks, Texas, and their children: Amanda Jo Hicks, Cason Lee Hicks and his wife Amber Hicks, and Jackson Taylor Hicks. She also had three grandchildren who adored her, Jonah Hicks, Kynlee Hicks, and Olivia Hicks. She is also survived by her sister Judy South, brother Tommy South, brothers-in-law Mark Hicks and Kirk Hicks, and sisters-in-law Jeanie West and Debbie Williams, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel (913 North Elm Street, Weatherford). A time of visitation will be held one hour prior to the service, beginning at 10 a.m at the funeral chapel. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of the following two organizations close to Janice’s heart: Freedom House ([www.FreedomHousePC.org](http://www.FreedomHousePC.org)) or The Dog Alliance ([www.TheDogAlliance.org](http://www.TheDogAlliance.org)).

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March 17, 2023

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# Events

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

**MARCH 17 - APR 2**

**"The Savannah Sipping Society"**

The popular Jones Hope Wooten playwriting team will 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. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays.

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](https://buy.ticketstothecity.com/venue.php?org_id=88)

For more information, call 817-341-8687 or visit [www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org).



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 27 - MAY 21**

**Walk Across Texas! Parker County kicking off 2022 Challenge**

Walk Across Texas! Parker County 2023 wellness and fitness challenge will kick off on March 27. The program hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Parker County will run from March 27 - May 21. It is a free eight-week program to help people of all ages establish the habit of regular physical activity. The challenge are for teams of up to eight people to walk 832 miles, the distance from Orange,

Texas to El Paso, Texas. Walk Across Texas is a fun, free and flexible way for our county to get active.

For more information, contact the Parker County Extension office at 817-598-6168. To begin Across Texas, Go to [howdyhealth.org](http://howdyhealth.org). Also join on Facebook: Walk Across Texas Parker County.

**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

**ACROSS**

- 1 TXism: "winder" (exciting)
- 5 in 1910, TX Johnson knocked out the "great white"
- 6 Greek given name
- 7 TXism: "bunched up like \_\_\_ at a trough"
- 8 birth month for TX "Dandy Don" Meredith (abbr.)
- 9 with 36-across, cartoon animals named by Bill "Tex" Henson
- 16 actress Patricia of TX-based "Hud"
- 18 American Airlines Center to the Dallas Mavericks (2 wds.)
- 21 sch. exercise (abbr.)
- 22 drug addict
- 23 TX "alligator" or "spotted" fish
- 24 ground-huggin' cloud? (2 wds.)
- 30 boot repairs (2 wds.)
- 34 private San Antonio univer. (abbr.)
- 35 gas at \$2.50 per gallon these days? (2 wds.)
- 36 last name in 9-across cartoon
- 37 Texas among other states?
- 39 TXism for "vulnerable" (3 wds.)
- 43 murders
- 44 San \_\_\_\_\_, TX
- 45 TX "Cowpokes" artist Reid (init.)

- 46 TXism: "mean as a bulldog on a gunpowder"
- 47 TXism: "bunkhouse chill"
- 49 restaurant reminder: "\_\_\_ server"
- 52 Texas peak: "\_\_\_ Capitan"
- 53 Love or Hobby guess
- 54 ethanol scopolamine, e.g. "truth"
- 55 most slippery

- 58 showy cup-shaped flower
- 59 TX George W. to George H.W.
- 60 Cowboy Dalton Schultz position
- 61 \_\_\_\_\_ Rio, TX

**DOWN**

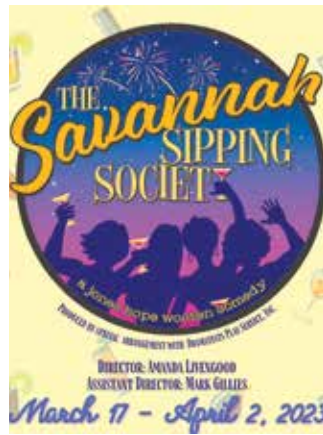
- 1 this "Happy" made "Alamo Village"
- 2 TXism: "takes a big loop \_\_\_ him"
- 3 Springtown newspaper
- 4 "Don't \_\_\_ With Texas"
- 9 this Hilton started his hotel chain in Texas (init.)
- 10 TXism: "fat as a boarding"
- 11 TX B.J. sang "\_\_\_ Lonesome I Could Cry"

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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12 orange's skin  
 13 TXism: "up \_\_\_ without a paddle"  
 14 TXism: "leave \_\_\_ stone unturned"  
 15 TXism: "he \_\_\_ his own grave"  
 17 woolly critters at the front? (2 wds.)  
 19 snake in Texas  
 20 most factual  
 24 \_\_\_ Porte, TX  
 25 female eggs  
 26 TXism: "if he \_\_\_ dog he wouldn't wag his own tail" (lazy)  
 27 "Alibates \_\_\_ Quarries National Monument" in Texas

28 TX Willie: "Turn \_\_\_ lights, the party's over"  
 29 what you'd better do when the dipstick is dry (2 wds.)  
 31 young British man viral infection, e.g.  
 33 "my feet \_\_\_ from under me"

37 big pelvis bone  
 40 corporation abbr.  
 41 "Swoosh" sneaker  
 42 German Christmas market in Texas, if spelled with a "K": "\_\_\_markt"  
 48 TXism: "\_\_\_ some away" (save)  
 50 sneak a look  
 51 TX Willie has lived 89 of these (abbr.)  
 56 "\_\_\_ to love her but it's all over now"  
 57 it cost \$ 31,000 to \_\_\_ famed Texas longhorn "Starlight"



**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



Friday, March 31, at Dove Ridge Vineyard.

For more information email J Scott Utey, Parker County Republic Chair, at [parker-countyGOP@gmail.com](mailto:parker-countyGOP@gmail.com).

**APRIL 15**

**Weatherford College Flute Festival**

Weatherford College will 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/3CllKx4>. For a Spotify playlist, visit <https://bit.ly/3IP7piy>.

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## POWERLIFTING

## Aledo lifters qualify for state

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Two members of the Aledo Bearcats powerlifting team qualified for the upcoming Texas High School Powerlifting Association Division I State Meet at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene on Saturday, March 25. They qualified from the recent Region I Meet held at Abilene Wylie High School.



Caleb Loth



Davhon Keys

Davhon Keys qualified by winning the 220-pound division, lifting a total weight of 1,495 pounds. Caleb Loth qualified by finishing second in the 198 class with a total of 1,455 pounds lifted.

Keys lifted 575 in the squat portion, bench pressed 355 and had a dead lift of 565. Loth had a squat lift of 555, a bench press of 365 and he dead lifted 535.

Several others from Aledo placed in the top five of their respective weight classes, including Wilson Sehnem, fourth in 123, 800 pounds lifted; Alex Arana, fourth in 242, 1,430 pounds; Raymond Howard, fourth in 275, 1,440 pounds; Bryon Wheeler, fourth in 308, 1,480 pounds; Nevin Walker, fifth in 114, 535 pounds; and Andrew Chastain, fifth in 165, 1,165 pounds.

Also lifting were Cory Tilley, seventh in 165 division, 1,135 pounds; and Caden Atwood, seventh in 220, 1,290 pounds. D.J. Williams scratched in the 308 class.



Read this story online

## BASEBALL

## Barry gets 300th win in elite tourney

### Bearcats win three of four at Medford Tournament

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats gave Trinity Valley School a drubbing and gave their coach Chad Barry a present at the same time this past Friday, March 10.

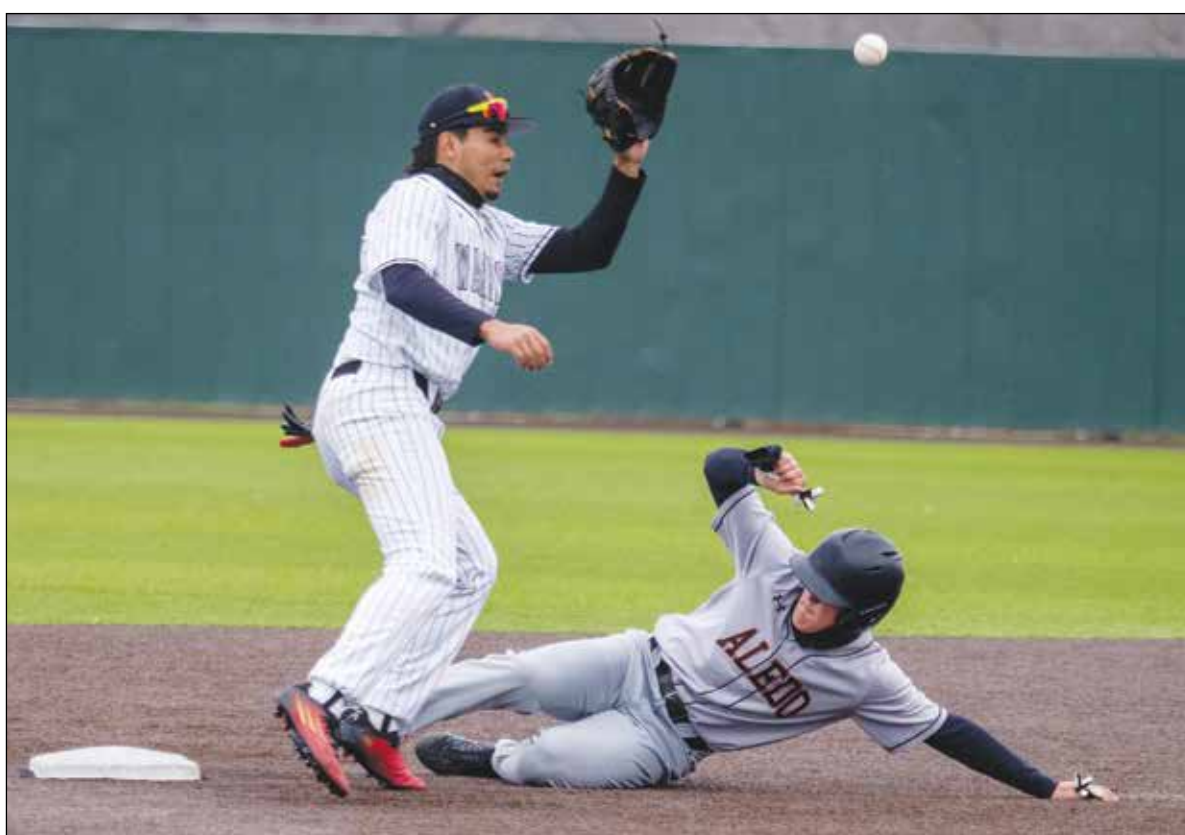
The 6-0 victory was the 300th of Barry's career as a head coach, which spans 13 seasons. It came as part of the Drew Medford Memorial Tournament at Fort Worth Arlington Heights High School, in which the Bearcats won three of four games with two one-hit pitching performances.

"I think it's a testament more of the commitment of the kids over the years and having some wonderful assistant coaches," Barry said. "They make my job easier."

Also in the tournament, Bearcat Trace Mazon was awarded one of several Drew Medford Memorial Scholarships. He received \$1,000 to use toward college. He celebrated by collecting three hits, stealing four bases, and driving in a run in the tournament.

The Bearcats, now 11-5 and ranked 10th in the state in Class 5A by the Texas High

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 9



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trace Mazon steals second base during the fifth inning of the Bearcats' 2-1 win over Arlington Martin on Saturday, Feb. 25. Mazon later scored the winning run on a double by Andrew Cambre. Mazon received a \$1,000 scholarship at the Drew Medford Tournament on the March 10 weekend.

## GIRLS SOCCER

## Ladycats off to postseason as No. 2 seed



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Emaree Gibson and Jourdan Hart celebrate after Gibson scored the first goal of the night for the Ladycats in an earlier contest.

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Despite ending the regular season with a 3-2 upset loss at home to Granbury Friday, March 10, the Aledo Ladycats will enter the playoffs as the No. 2 seed from District 5-5A. In fact, they had that position secured before facing a Lady Pirates squad that was in a must-win situation to seal their own playoff berth.

The Ladycats (15-6-2 overall) were second in league play with a 9-3 record, trailing only Wichita Falls Rider. They will face Fort Worth North Side, the third-place team from District 6-5A, in bidistrict March 24 at 6 p.m. at Clark Stadium in Fort Worth, part of a doubleheader with the boys teams from the same schools meeting after.

Before their bidistrict game, the Ladycats will meet Waxahachie Life in a warmup match Monday, March 20 in

Aledo following a boys matchup of the same two schools that starts at 6 p.m.. Both games will be at Bearcat Stadium.

"I feel the team is playing well. A break will be good," Ladycats coach Bryan Johnson said.

Both the girls and boys are off all this week for spring break.

The Ladycats led the Lady Pirates 1-0 at the half.

Reagan Krajca scored a goal and had an assist for Aledo, while Jourdan Hart also scored a goal. Emaree Gibson also had an assist.

Prior to the loss to Granbury the Ladycats had outscored their previous four opponents 16-1. In an earlier meeting Granbury on Valentine's Day Aledo won 3-0.

The Ladycats have eight shutouts this season and have surrendered one goal or less in 16 contests.



Read this story online

## BOYS SOCCER

## Bearcats enter postseason on surge



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Clay Murador takes a shot on goal while battling an Azle defender during the varsity match.

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats are entering the Class 5A boys soccer playoffs with back-to-back shutouts following a 5-0 home victory against Granbury on Friday, March 10. That was preceded by a 1-0 home win over Azle on Tuesday, March 7.

It was the 15th time this season the Bearcats (13-5-2) surrendered one goal or less. It was their eighth shutout.

The Bearcats finished third in District 5-5A with a 7-4-1 league mark. They will play Fort Worth Northside, the runner-up in District 6-5A, at Clark Stadium in Fort Worth at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 24.

Prior to bi-district, Aledo will host Waxahachie Life in a warmup game at home at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 20.

"The defense has really stepped up last couple of

games. Gives us some confidence heading into the playoffs," Bearcats coach Derek Vierling said.

Deagan Dietz was the goalkeeper. He was amply supported with an explosive offense that was highlighted by two goals and an assist by Clay Murador.

Also scoring goals for Aledo were Austin Randriamahefa, Peyton Shaffer and Bruce Nogueira. Adrian Solis had a pair of assists, while Cole Crawford and Zach Reynolds also assisted.

Following league champion Brewer (14-2-3, 9-1-2), the race for postseason positioning was extremely tight in 5-5A. Wichita Falls Rider finished second with 24 standings points, Aledo was third with 22 and Northwest was fourth with 22.

The Bearcats split their two matches each with Rider and Northwest.



Read this story online



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Harrison Kear jockeyes for control of the ball with an Azle player. on Tuesday, March 7. Aledo won 1-0.

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# BASEBALL

from page 8

School Baseball Coaches Association, opened the tournament with a 9-7 loss to L.D. Bell as the Blue Raiders scored five runs in the top of the final inning. Aledo rebounded with a 4-2 win over Arlington Martin, followed by back-to-back one-hit shutouts. After the blanking of Trinity Valley they shut out Nolan Catholic.

Luke Saunders pitched five innings and struck out 12 with Riley Haug coming in for an inning of relief against Trinity Valley. Mazon had two hits and Blake Burdine hit a home run with three RBI to lead the offense.

Four pitchers combined for the shut-out against Nolan, with Matthew Clark pitching four innings. Hayden Smith, Jon Paulsen and Ryan Jones also joined in. Bryce McCain was 3-for-3 with a double and three stolen bases to pace things offensively.

"The team is playing pretty good. We still have some little things we need to work on and just work to sharpen our approach at the plate a little bit," Barry said. "I'm very pleased so far."

The Bearcats return to play on Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. when they host Brewer (3-5) to open District 5-5A play. They then travel to Brewer on Friday, March 24.

## Drew Medford Memorial Tournament

Hosted by Arlington Heights High School March 9-11

	R	H	E
L.D. Bell	0	0	0
Aledo	0	0	1

**Aledo hitting:** Boyd Thompson 1-3, 3B, BB, RBI; Boston Dwinell 1-3, 3B, BB, RBI; Trace Mason BB, SB; Drew Weckel 1-3, RBI, SB; 1-3, 3B, 2 RBI; Ryan Jones BB, RBI; Dylan Taylor BB; Brady McAnear 1-2, RBI; Brooks Burdine HP.  
**Aledo pitching:** Eddie Howard 0.2 IP, 3 H, 3 ER, 1 K, 3 BB; Garrett Addington 0 IP, 2 BB; Luke Taylor 4 IP, 3 H, 4 ER, 4 K, 2 BB; Thompson 0.1 IP, 1 H, 2 R (0 ER), 0 K, 1 BB; Mazon 0.2 IP, 1 K.

	R	H	E
Arl. Martin	2	0	0
Aledo	0	0	0

**Aledo hitting:** Thompson 1-2, BB, SB; Bo. Dwinell 1-3; Mazon 1-3, RBI, SB; Andrew Cambre 1-3, RBI; Brooks Dwinell 2 BB; Jones BB, Brennan Evans 1-3, 2 RBI.  
**Aledo pitching:** Robert Burk 7 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, 2 K, 1 BB.

	R	H	E
L.D. Bell	0	0	0
Aledo	0	0	0

**Aledo hitting:** Mazon 2-4, SB; Bo. Dwinell 1-2, 2 BB, SB; Br. Dwinell 1-3, BB, ST; Garrett Rester 1-2, HP, SB; Ben Caruthers 1-3, 2 RBI, 2 SB; Burdine 1-2, HR, BB, 3 RBI.  
**Aledo pitching:** Luke Saunders 5 IP, 1 H, 0 R, 12 K, 3 BB, HP; Riley Haug 1 IP, 1 K.

	R	H	E
Nolan Cath.	0	0	0
Aledo	2	0	1

**Aledo hitting:** Bryce McCain 3-3, 2B, 3 SB; Rester 2-2; Jones 2-3, RBI, SB; Thompson 1-2; Cambre 1-1; Caruthers BB, SB; Burdine BB, SB; Weckel BB; Mazon HP, SB.  
**Aledo pitching:** Hayden Smith 1 IP, 1 K; Jon Paulsen 1 IP; Matthew Clark 4 IP, 1 H, 2 K; Jones 1 IP, 1 K, 1 BB.

## GIRLS TRACK

# Ladycats edge Centennial to win own relays

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

If the Bearcat Relays are any indication of what's to come, Aledo and Burleson Centennial are going to have a battle for supremacy among District 5-5A girls.

The Aledo varsity girls won a thrilling championship, edging the Lady Spartans 139.75 to 137.75. The Ladycats sealed the victory with a runner-up finish in the 1600-meter relay while Centennial was seventh.

"I was really proud of the girls, both varsity and JV. For the Varsity, any time you can compete with Burleson Centennial, you know you have a strong team,"

Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said. "They competed really well. The great part was that, since it was our home meet, we were able to run our athletes (boys and girls) who hadn't been to a meet yet. They ran for no points, but were able to run. Very proud of all of our athletes!"

Sofia Brandenburg and Lauren St. Peters each won a pair of

Turn to RELAYS, page 11



LEFT: Trinity Hindman goes for distance in the long jump.



RIGHT: Emery Thompson runs her leg in the 1600 relay.

MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

# AMS tops Bearcat Relays

Staff Report  
The Community News

The Aledo Middle School track teams won two of four divisions in their own Bearcat Relays Thursday, March 9 at McAnally Middle School. Due to inclement weather, only running events were held.

The AMS seventh-grade girls scored 140 points to runner-up McAnally's 74. The seventh-grade boys also won, scoring 127 points to McAnally's 123.

McAnally captured the eighth-grade girls championship, scoring 148 points to 117 for AMS. In eighth-grade boys competition, Stephenville Henderson won with 112 points, with AMS

second with 107 and McAnally third with 82.

McAnally's individual results were not available at press time.

### Bearcat Relays March 9

Top AMS individual results (distances in meters)  
Running events only  
Seventh-grade girls  
100: 3. Brinley Stokes, 13.59.  
200: 1. Avery Sands, 27.66.  
400: 3. Elizabeth Brethauer, 1:09.66.  
1600: 3. Ashlynn Durnill, 6:39.82.  
2400: 3. Cecilia Frank, 10:10.47.  
100 hurdles: 1. Hailey Wuenstel, 18.17;  
3. Peyton Davis, 19.82.  
300 hurdles: 1. Wuenstel, 54.73; 2. Davis, 57.31.  
400 relay: 2. Brooklyn Taloa, Wuenstel, Avery Pipkins, Sands, 55.34.  
800 relay: 1. Stokes, Pipkins, Taloa,

Sands, 1:58.20.  
1600 relay: 2. Alyssa Giles, Brethauer, Frank, Jiles Avery, 5:01.80.

### Eighth-grade girls

100: 3. Ainsley Elmore, 13.22.  
400: 3. Eden Anderson, 1:07.22.  
1600: 3. Ella Dority, 6:26.19.  
2400: 2. Dority, 9:43.86.  
100 hurdles: 1. Elmore, 17.71; 3. Macie Laidley, 18.11.  
300 hurdles: 1. McKenzie Spain, 53.99.  
400 relay: 3. Brooklyn Dempsey, McKenna Smith, Kyla Pierce, Laidley, 55.03.  
1600 relay: 2. Pierce, Spain, Hannah Hubley, Anderson, 4:44.30.

### Seventh-grade boys

200: 2. Maddox Nurse, 25.22.  
400: 1. Cade Nussbaum, 1:02.51.  
800: 2. Gavin Molock, 2:44.91.  
1600: 1. Mick Sandefur, 5:42.51; 3.

Kaiden Jones, 5:59.50.  
2400: 1. Sandefur, 7:18.05; 3. Jones, 7:18.93.  
110 hurdles: 2. Chase Powell, 20.61.  
400 relay: 2. Cooper Cheak, Nurse, Kouper Wedgeworth, Bo Baskin, 49.91.  
800 relay: 1. Cheak, Wedgeworth, Nurse, Baskin, 1:45.69.  
1600 relay: 1. Cheak, Wedgeworth, Nussbaum, Baskin, 4:14.03.

### Eighth-grade boys

400: 1. Garhett Love, 57.26; 2. True Voskamp, 58.75; 3. Holt Frazier, 59.39.  
800: 3. Tobin Nelson, 2:26.06.  
110 hurdles: 2. Gavin Richardson, 18.91.  
300 hurdles: 3. Richardson, 48.87.  
800 relay: 3. Cooper Hull, Parker Phillips, Adam Jones, Cole Cox, 1:42.56.  
1600 relay: 1. Frazier, Jones, Voskamp, Love, 3:56.68.

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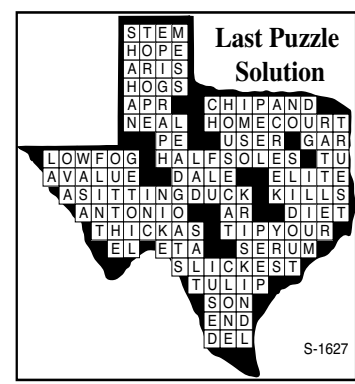
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BOYS TRACK

# Bearcats extend streak with win at home

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats withstood a challenge from District 5-5A rival Burseson Centennial to win their own Bearcat Relays on Thursday, March 9. Aledo finished with 199 points and Centennial was second with 170.

It was the 11th consecutive regular-season track meet won by the Bearcats dating to 2021.

The Bearcats won two of three relays (400 and 1600) and took second in another (800), which was critical in their win as the

Spartans were second in the 400 and 1600 and won the 800.

Aledo also got key gold medal performances from Vincent Luffey in the 800-meter run and 3200. Evan Thompson did likewise, winning gold in the 110 and 300 hurdles, Isaac Sohn won the shot put and Sean Gribble continued his dominance in the pole vault.

The Bearcats also won at the junior varsity level, outdistancing Centennial 198-118.

“It was a great win for both varsity and JV divisions,” coach Andrew Clark said. “Spring break will be good for us as we don’t have

a meet and the kids will get a little recovery time. We should be ready to go when we get back after the break and compete in Joshua.”

The Bearcats and Lady return to competition on March 24 in Joshua.

**Bearcat Relays**

**March 9 Aledo results**  
**Varsity boys**  
Team score: 199, first place (Burseson Centennial second with 170).  
Top individuals (distances in meters for running events)  
100: 2. Keiran Patrick-Daniels, 11.28; 3. Jaden Allen, 11.29.  
200: 2. Aven Lawrence, 23.44.  
400: 2. Nathan Wood, 52.98.  
800: 1. Vincent Luffey, 1:55.74 (PR).

1600: 3. Henry Zedler, 4:38.20.  
3200: 1. Luffey, 9:40.64 (PR).  
110 hurdles: 1. Evan Thompson, 15.59.  
300 hurdles: 1. Thompson, 42.57; 2. Lincoln Tubbs, 43.96.  
400 relay: 1. Patrick-Daniels, Hauss Hejny, Allen, Lawrence, 42.61.  
800 relay: 2. Patrick-Daniels, Blake Burdine, Christopher Johnson, Allen, 1:31.93.  
1600 relay: 1. Wood, Burdine, Lawrence, Hejny, 3:28.87.  
Shot put: 1. Isaac Sohn, 47-07.75 (PR).  
Discus: 2. Isaac Knott, 130-09.  
High jump: 3. Lawrence, 6-0.  
Pole vault: 1. Sean Gribble, 16-08 (PR); 2. Brad Campbell, 14-09 (PR).

**Junior varsity**  
Team score: 198, first place (Centennial second with 118).

**Top individuals**  
100: 2. Raycene Guillory, 11.73 (PR).  
400: 1. Adam Leverett, 53.29 (PR).  
800: 2. Luke Schabel, 2:10.00 (PR); 3. Trey Warner, 2:11.00 (PR).  
1600: 1. Schabel, 4:58.95 (PR); 2. Daniel Stephens, 5:04.99 (PR).  
3200: 1. Bo Merrill, 10:50.66 (PR); 2. Lincoln Tuin, 10:55.14 (PR).  
300 hurdles: 1. Kyle Stork, 45.19 (PR).  
400 relay: 1. Guillory, Ben McElree, Davhon Keys, Adrian Fuller, 45.23.  
800 relay: 1. Guillory, Kaydon Finley, Keys, Fuller, 1:34.53.  
1600 relay: 1. Everett, Jackson Parker, Trace Clarkson, Jacob Gillespie, 3:40.51.  
Shot put: 1. Alex Arana, 39-01.50.  
Discus: 1. Waldron Byars, 116-09; 3. Christian Sandoval, 109-07.  
Pole vault: 1. Thaddeus Keller, 10-00; 2. Evan Murdoch, 9-06.



Read this story online



LEFT: Aven Lawrence ran legs in both the 400- and 1600-meter relays. | RIGHT: Sean Gribble prepares for his next vault at the Bearcat Relays on March 9. Gribble won the meet in pole vault with a personal record of 16-08.

LEFT: Ray Guillory placed second in the boys JV 100-meter dash, and ran the first leg of the first-place 400- and 800-meter relays. | RIGHT: Isaac Knott placed second in varsity discus.

## RELAYS

from page 9

gold medals for the Ladycats, Brandenburg in the 800-meter run and 1600 and St. Peters in the shot put and discus. Sarah Tillotson took the top spot in the 300 hurdles and was second in the 800, while Taylor Hindman won in pole vaulting.

In fact, Aledo had the top four finishers in the pole vault as behind Hindman were Maggie Kilburn, Austyn Johnson and Anslie Lopez.

### Aledo Bearcat Relays

**March 9**  
**Top Aledo results**  
**Girls varsity**  
Team score: 139.75, first place (Burseson Centennial second with 137.75).  
Top individual finishers (distances in meters for running events)  
800: 1. Sofia Brandenburg, 2:16.21 (PR); 2. Sarah Tillotson, 2:19.76.  
1600: 1. Brandenburg, 5:28.23.  
300 hurdles: 1. Tillotson, 48.22.  
1600 relay: 2. Jady Rowls, Emery Thompson, Tillotson, Addison Smith, 4:10.08.  
Shot put: 1. Lauren St. Peters, 43-07.50.

Discus: 1. St. Peters, 131-03.  
High jump: 3. Taylor McKenzie, 4-10.  
Pole vault: 1. Taylor Hindman, 11-08, 2. Maggie Kilburn, 10-06; 3. Austyn Johnson, 9-06 (won tie-breaker); 4. Anslie Lopez, 9-06.

**Junior varsity**  
Team score: 65, fifth place.  
Top individuals  
400: 3. Jillian Moore, 10:07.70.  
800: 3. Sadie Williams, 2:44.10.  
1600 relay: 3. Moore, Taelynn Price, Joanna Zenteno, Williams, 4:34.89.  
Pole vault: 1. Claire Campbell, 9-06 (PR); 2. Kara Overstreet, 9-00 (won tie-breaker); 3. Kaitlyn Walker, 9-00.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Two Bearcats named all-district

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Two seniors on the Aledo Bearcats were honored by the league’s coaches as members of the All-District 5-5A Team recently. Drew Clock was selected for the first team and Brandon Fields was named to the second team.

The duo helped the Bearcats to a 14-14 overall record and a 4-8 mark in district. The Bearcats were in the thick of the postseason chase until things slipped away over the final four games.

The overall record was a two-game improvement over the 2021-22 season.

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SOFTBALL

# Ladycats stay perfect in district

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats are continuing a two-year dominance of district foes with their latest conquest being a 14-0 victory at Saginaw Friday, March 10. The game was called after five innings because of the mercy rule, something that has become synonymous with Aledo softball in league play.

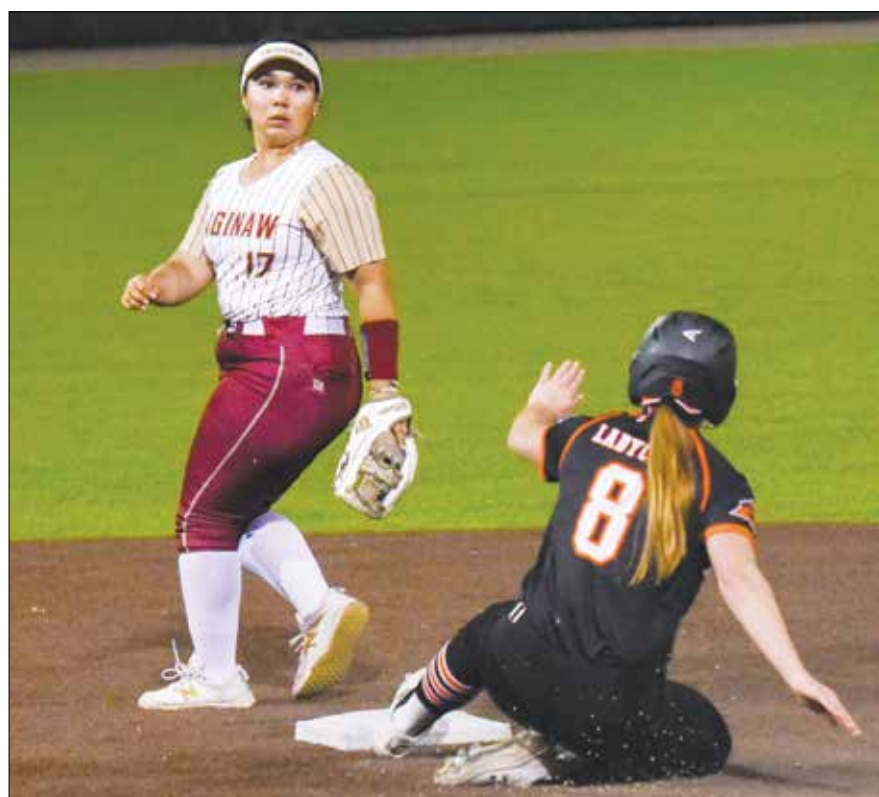
Over the course of last season and this the Ladycats have outscored their district foes 162-11 in 13 games — with six of those runs surrendered coming in a 12-6 win over Azle last season.

In all, Aledo has won 21 straight league games following their last district setback, 5-4 at home to Granbury on March 12, 2021.

This season the Ladycats (15-4-1 overall) are off to a 3-0 start District 5-5A play and have outscored their opponents 42-1, along with out-hitting them 46-5.

The Ladycats, ranked 22nd in the state by the Texas Girls Coaches Association, have won seven straight games entering their contest at home against Brewer (5-8 overall, 1-0 in district) at press time. This includes a 4-0 performance in the Marshall Tournament March 3-4 that saw them outscore their opponents 32-1 with a pair of perfect games pitched by Taylor McKean and a no-hitter by Nathalie Touchet.

The Ladycats have also faced a pre-district schedule that included several Class 6A teams. One of their



JACKIE HAYSLIP

**LEFT:** Taylor McKean takes the field against Saginaw High School Friday night to pitch for the Ladycats. The Ladycats shutout the Rough Riders 14-0. | **RIGHT:** Presley Hull slides safe into second base Friday night against Saginaw High School.

losses was to 19-0 Mansfield Lake Ridge, No. 1 in that classification, and they've split a pair of contests against No. 20 Waxahachie.

"I have been impressed with the ability of my girls to play lights-out no matter our opponent," coach Heather Myers said, calling the tournament in Marshall, "a great chance for our girls to spend extra time together and get their minds right. We spent time bonding and setting goals for our season on top of getting some good

looks at different lineups to figure out what will work best for us this year.

"We have an abundance of talent and we have emphasized the importance of maximizing every opportunity we are given. We like to go into every game with the goal of scoring early and scoring often, and they have done a great job getting this done. We hope to continue dominating throughout district and making a statement game after game."

And that's exactly what they've done so far in district. Their most

formidable foe, Northwest (9-5, 1-1), could only manage two hits in a 10-0 loss at Aledo on March 7. Saginaw could only get one hit off McKean, who struck out nine, walked one and surrendered no earned runs.

Five Ladycats had two hits each, with Reagan Davis getting a double and triple, Delaney Rosser hitting a triple with two runs batted in and Presley Hull collecting a double. Texas Ray had two hits, was hit by a pitch and drove in two runs, while Ana Flores' two hits included a pair of RBI.

Ten Ladycats combined for the team's 15 hits.

Following the game against Brewer the Ladycats travel to Azle Tuesday, March 21 and then return home to host Granbury on Friday, March 24. Both games have a 7 p.m. first pitch.

	R	H	E
Aledo	4	16	03
Saginaw	0	0	00

**Aledo hitting:** Reagan Davis 2-3, 2B, 3B, SB; Delaney Rosser 2-3, 3B, 2 RBI; Presley Hull 2-3, 2B; Texas Ray 2-3, HP, 2 RBI; Ana Flores 2-4, 2 RBI; Claire Byars 1-1, BB, RBI; Taylor McKenzie 1-1; Brenlee Gonzales 1-3; Kennis Marx 1-3; Maddy Jarvis 1-2, RBI.  
**Aledo pitching:** Taylor McKean 5 IP, 1 H, 0 R, 9 K, 1 BB.



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