

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## FOOTBALL

### Gridiron Club of Dallas honors Moeller, Buchanan

#### National Football Foundation chapter hosts 14th annual awards

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Senior center Max Moeller of the Aledo Bearcats and former Aledo head coach Tim Buchanan were honored Sunday night at the Gridiron Club of Dallas' 14th annual banquet at the Dallas/Addison Marriott Quorum by the Galleria.

Moeller was one of 51 scholar-athletes from North Texas to be honored at the event. Buchanan received the Legend Award.

Moeller and Buchanan celebrated Aledo winning an 11th state championship in mid-December with a 52-14 victory against College Station. It was Buchanan's eighth championship as a head coach.

#### Moeller

Moeller was a part of the varsity for three seasons, also seeing time at linebacker. His varsity career included being part of the 2020 state championship team and the Bearcats amassed a record of 39-4 during his tenure.

Moeller, who plans to attend Texas A&M, was a first-team All-District 5-5A center and All-Parker County selection. He was also first-team academic all-state and is ranked in the top 6% of his class.

Moeller is an AP Scholar and received the National Merit Small Town Scholar Award. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and served as vice-president of the Young Men's Service League, where he was awarded the Heart of YMSL Award.

Moeller has served more than 150 hours of community service during his high school career. He is also a four-year member of the Bearcat Regiment where he served on the band council, leadership team, and as social officer.

"Max is the perfect example of what a coach wants his players to be," Aledo Athletic Director Steve Wood said. "He is a student first, but is going to give his absolute best at everything he does."

#### Buchanan

Buchanan arrived at Aledo in 1993 for his first head coaching job after stints at an assistant at several programs, starting with Bastrop in 1984. He was an assistant on the 1991 A&M Consolidated team that won a Class 4A state championship.

Buchanan was also an assistant at Killeen Ellison in 1985 and 1987, at The Colony in 1986 and at A&M

Turn to **HONORS**, page 3

## BDGA Clay Shoot



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trinity Christian Academy student Rylie Reeder prepares for her next round at the recent Business Development Group of Aledo Clay Shoot. More photos can be found on page 9.

## WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

### Board extends president's contract

#### Approves 2023-24 tuition and fees

By Crystal Woerly  
Weatherford College

The Weatherford College Board of Trustees approved a one-year extension to President Tod Allen Farmer's contract and approved the 2023-24 tuition and fees schedule at their meeting Thursday, March 9.

"I really appreciate the work that's been done by our college president for the last year," said board chairman Mac Smith. "Obviously, we have many, many people who work on the executive level, and I want to tell you how much I really appreciate what you do... We are lucky to have Dr. Farmer; we've been very fortunate to have him and what he brings to the table."

Farmer was hired by the board in 2018 and his contract now extends to 2026. The board also approved a 6 percent raise in his salary.

"It's a great honor and a privilege to serve with the many, many

Turn to **COLLEGE**, page 2

## PARKER COUNTY

### Sheriff announces large fentanyl seizures, multiple arrests

#### Seven county deaths related to fentanyl in 12 months

By Danie Huffman  
Parker County Sheriff's Dept.

With the continued prevalence of fentanyl related drug seizures and deaths, several recent cases initiated by the Parker County Sheriff's Office Special Crimes Unit (SCU) have led to large seizures of fentanyl and other illicit drugs in the Fort Worth and Parker County areas.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is purported to be 50-times stronger than heroin.

From January 2022 to January 2023, there were seven confirmed deaths in Parker County resulting from fentanyl ingestion, according to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. Two additional fentanyl-related deaths are pending toxicology results. SCU investigators believe additional nonfatal incidents may exist but are going unreported due to the fear of law enforcement intervention.

Authorities discovered only one death case was found to be a result of a lethal use of heroin. The remaining cases all were confirmed to be a direct result of a lethal mix of fentanyl. These deaths resulted from narcotics purchased off the streets including methamphetamine, cocaine,



PARKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT

Parker County Special Crimes Unit investigators seized weapons, electronics, and more than \$116,000 in illegal narcotics, including suspected methamphetamine, Adderall, cocaine, Alprazolam, Hydrocodone, MDMA, Psilocybin (mushrooms), Promethazine, hydroponic marijuana, and THC cartridges, wax, and edibles from the home of Isaiah Marquis Christopher.

Xanax, Tramadol — all mixed with fentanyl, which proved to be deadly.

Special Crimes investigators said they believe the rise in fentanyl deaths is due to the decrease in price.

"Years ago, heroin went for \$100 per gram," said SCU

Commander James Peel. "Today, we see fentanyl and heroin pills manufactured on the streets and sold for \$5 per pill. People think because it's in a pill form that it won't harm them but in reality, it turns out to be deadly."

One such investigation began last year in April, following

several Parker County overdose cases. Sheriff's SCU members arrested Aiden Bandy in May within hours of learning he was the source of the fentanyl distribution in several of the fentanyl-related incidents. "Our Special Crimes investigators respond to every

Turn to **SHERIFF**, page 3



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ANNEMARIE FRITZ/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A rare pink grasshopper was recently spied by Annie Fritz in a back yard in Willow Park. It is estimated that there is less than a one percent chance of seeing a pink grasshopper in your lifetime. Pink grasshoppers rarely live to adulthood because their coloring makes them easy to spot by predators.

## Obituaries

### Lilly Sue Parsons

A sweet angel, Lilly Sue Parsons, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 18, 2023. Lilly was born briefly into this world on March 18, 2023, in Fort Worth, Texas to her loving parents, Phillip Wayne Parsons and Abby Sue (Farmakakis) Parsons.

Lilly was preceded in death by her grandfathers, Jimbo Trainor and Vissilios Dimitrios Farmakakis; great-grandfather, Earl Wayne Parsons II; and uncle, Earl Wayne Parsons, III.

Lilly is survived by her mother, Abby Parsons, and father, Phillip Parsons, both of Lipan; siblings, Brynn Marie Farmakakis, of Bandera, Earl Wayne Parsons IV, Emberly Renee Parsons, Rainee Victoria Rose Parsons, and Berkley Louise Parsons, all of Lipan; her maternal grandmother, Angela Marie Barth; grandfather, James



Lilly Parsons

Nathan Barth of Lakehills; paternal grandmother, Traci Renee Parsons of Aledo; great-grandmother, Phillis Barnes Parsons of McKinney; aunts, Ashlee Marie Farmakakis of Lakehills, and Angelina "Montana" Louisa Parsons of Aledo; and uncle, Dimitrios (Jimmy) Farmakakis of New Braunfels.

A memorial service honoring her precious life will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023, at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel, 913 N. Elm Street in Weatherford, officiated by Dean Suedmeyer of New Life Fellowship. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service in the funeral chapel.

Cards or letters of condolence can be sent to:

Phillip & Abby Parsons; 300 Valle Vista Road ; Aledo, Texas 76008

The Community News  
March 24, 2023

## COLLEGE

from page one

dynamic stakeholders of Weatherford College," Farmer said. "Weatherford College has always been a great place, and it's becoming even better. And that's not a result of just the president, everyone knows that it's our entire team working together to propel this institution forward."

The 2023-24 tuition and fees schedule includes several changes, including an \$8 per semester credit hour increase for in-district students and a new technology fee of \$10 per semester credit hour.

"It's interesting, in the news, the price of getting an education for a teacher has really become spotlighted and the shortage of teachers," said board member G.B. Bailey. "And the fact that we now have a four-year bachelor's degree for education at a cost like this is wonderful for the community. Hopefully, it will encourage more people to go into that field."

A full list of the new tuition and fees can be located in the March board packet available at <https://wc.edu/about/administration-departments/board-of-trustees/agendas.php>

### In other business, the board:

- Approved the minutes from the Feb. 9 board meeting.
- Approved the financial reports ending Feb. 28.
- Approved the quarterly investment report.
- Approved a Sourcewell Cooperative Contract quote on electric vehicle charging station equipment for the NCTCOG grant project.
- Approved a resolution to authorize an interlocal agreement with the North Central Texas Council of Governments.
- Approved cooperative contract quotes on HVAC air duct cleaning at the main campus.
- Approved TASB update No. 44.
- Approved competitive sealed proposals as the method of procurement and delegated authority and selection of a committee to Farmer for the Carter property site

development project, for the electric vehicle charging stations site development project, and for the irrigation well replacement project at the main campus.

- Received a written academic and student service update including a new partnership between WC and Our Lady of the Lake University for an accelerated completion agreement for students in WC's Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Organizational Leadership program who wish to continue studies in the OLLU master's program.
- Received a public relations update from Brent Baker, Katie Edwards and Crystal Woerly including data on the college's website, print publications, video production, social media, press releases, community engagement and radio station.
- Approved authorizing the college president to proceed with an application for a Registered Texas Historical Marker to be placed at the DeBresson stable located on the Carter property.

### In his President's Report, Farmer:

- Thanked the board of trustees for their support of new academic programs at WC including the recently approved bachelor's degree in education, the fourth bachelor's program at WC.
- Congratulated WC alumnus Shaun Martin on recently winning a Grammy Award.
- Announced the WC Foundation Board of Directors recently renamed the permanent scholarship endowment program in honor of the late Bob Glenn.
- Announced the Intercollegiate Tennis Association recently ranked the WC women's tennis team No. 15 in the nation.
- Recognized the campus police department, three members from the food service department and several student life employees who served WC students during the February ice storm.
- Announced the resignations of Theresa Hutchison, executive assistant to the president; Chelsea Cochran, assistant director of creative services; and Lisa D'Amico, humanities instructor.

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SENIOR LIVING

of Aledo

# An Evening at Casino Royale

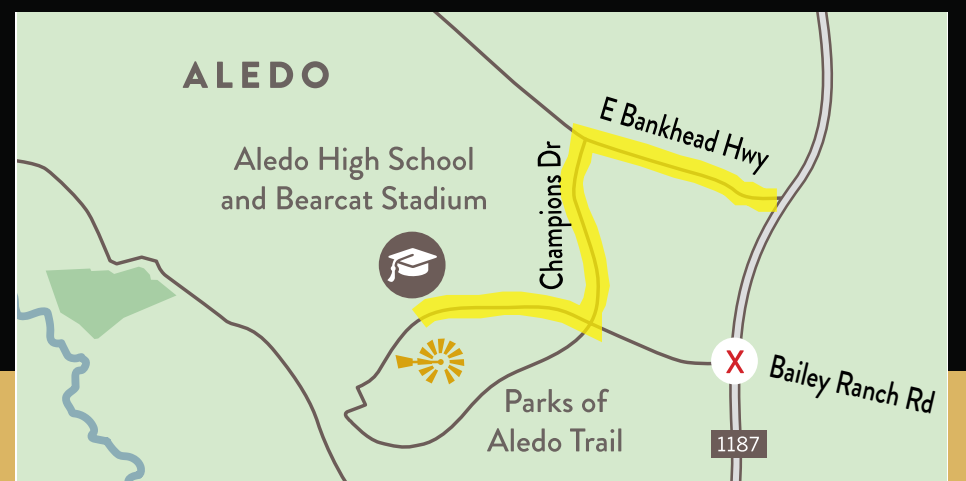
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SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Max Moeller (left) was one of 51 scholar-athletes from North Texas to be honored at the Gridiron Club of Dallas' 14th annual banquet. Former AHS head football coach Tim Buchanan (right) received the organization's Legend Award.

## HONORS

from page one

Consolidated from 1988-92 before coming to Aledo.

At Aledo, Buchanan's career began with a 2-8 season. From there, he went on to finish with a 281-58-3 record and 1993 was his only losing campaign.

The Bearcats under Buchanan won their first state championship in 1998 in Class 3A. They won 10 more championships from 2009-22 in Classes 4A and 5A, seven with him as head coach and three with Wood at the helm during a five-year stretch when Buchanan stepped away to focus solely on being athletic director.

In 2019 Wood became the AD and Buchanan returned to coaching. On the heels of Wood winning a title in 2018, Buchanan followed with titles in 2019 and 2020 for the program's second three-peat.

"Nobody has accomplished what Buc has as far as high school football goes," Wood said. "He is deserving of every accolade or award that is out there."

In all, Buchanan was 8-0 in state championship games as a head coach, also winning in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2013. His 2013 team is the only team in history at any level to score more than 1,000 points in a

season, outscoring their opponents 1,023-140, an average of 64-9.

Buchanan's eight state championships are just one behind the University Interscholastic League 11-man record shared by the Late Gordon Wood of Brownwood and Scott Surratt of Carthage.

Buchanan served as athletic director in Aledo from 1993-2018. Along with the football championships, he oversaw state titles in golf (2007), softball (2008, 2014, 2015) and baseball (2014). Aledo also had teams reach the state tournament in boys and girls soccer, volleyball, and girls basketball.

In 2013-14 Aledo became the only high school in Texas to win state championships in football, softball, and baseball in the same school year.

The athletic program also had numerous individuals win state titles in a variety of sports, including two-time state girls golf champion Cheyenne Knight, who went on to be an All-American at the University of Alabama and is now a member of the LPGA Tour.

Buchanan was also recently named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor. He will be celebrated in a ceremony July 15 at 7 p.m. at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.



Read this story online

## SHERIFF

from page one

overdose case reported in our jurisdiction," Sheriff Authier said. "We are taking this threat very seriously and we are tracking down the sources and charging the distributors and manufacturers accordingly."

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier is quick to point out that a majority of these "so-called" overdose cases are in fact poisonings.

"Many of the adults and teenagers consuming these counterfeit drugs are unaware they are laced with fentanyl which has the potential to kill them," Authier said.

In a separate investigation, brothers Samuel (22) and Angel Ibarra (19) were arrested by SCU in October for distributing fentanyl pills.

SCU investigators then arrested Amber Barnett, 41, in November on charges following the death of a Parker County male caused by fentanyl poisoning.

Another SCU investigation led to the arrest of a known narcotics trafficker identified as Isaiah Marquis Christopher, 26. Christopher was arrested on a Parker County warrant in December for delivery of a controlled substance following a traffic stop by Fort Worth Police. A search warrant was conducted at Christopher's residence and SCU investigators seized weapons, electronics, and more than \$116,000 in illegal narcotics, including suspected methamphetamine, Adderall, cocaine, Alprazolam, Hydrocodone, MDMA, Psilocybin (mushrooms), Promethazine, hydroponic marijuana, and THC cartridges, wax, and edibles.

Christopher was selling counterfeit Xanax and other drugs to Parker County teens and young adults which resulted in several poisoning hospitalizations.

In another investigation, SCU Investigators arrested Daniel Lloyd Nugent II, 48, in February, who possessed 70 fentanyl and heroin pills; and Brittany Dawn May, 31, was arrested March 3, on narcotics charges after purchasing 27 fentanyl pills. Also last month, SCU and Fort Worth authorities executed search warrants at



homes of known fentanyl and heroin distribution sources.

These cases are under active investigation in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). As drug investigations develop in complexity and extend beyond the Parker County jurisdictional boundary, they are often adopted by other agencies at the city, county, state and federal level.

"We would like to thank all of our partner agencies for their assistance with these investigations," Authier said.

During a recent trip to the southern border Sheriff Authier witnessed firsthand the crisis effecting our nation.

"Meeting with federal, state, and local officials shed a much-needed light on a growing situation which desperately needs our immediate attention," Authier said. "In Parker County we are combating the results of the massive influx of illicit narcotics entering our open border and endangering every community in Texas and across America. We take a proactive approach in fighting drug trafficking and go after the suspects responsible. These poisonings are tragic incidents which can be avoided. Education and awareness are the keys in prevention. We urge those struggling with addiction to seek help immediately. Our SCU investigators are actively investigating cases and working with other agencies in efforts to take out the source and supply."

Sheriff Authier also added he would like to thank our Special Crimes Unit for



PARKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT

Seized drugs

their diligence in building these cases and for continuing to combat the street drug fight in our community.

"I believe the men and women of the Parker County Sheriff's Office Special Crimes Unit are the finest drug fighting force in the State of Texas," Authier said.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/families-against-fentanyl-biden-admin-overdose-deaths-covid-19>  
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sc/pr/dea-recognizes-first-ever-national-fentanyl-awareness-day>  
<https://www.foxnews.com/us/dea-launches-national-fentanyl-awareness-day-highlight-overdoses-drug-overtaking-us>



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# Events

March 24, 2023  
 THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
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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 playwrighting 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).



time 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 Cross Texas, Go to [howdyhealth.org](http://howdyhealth.org). Also join on Facebook: Walk Across Texas Parker County.

**MARCH 30**

**Old West Round-up**  
 Sanctified presents the 5th Annual Old West Round-Up from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, at Sheriff's Posse Grounds. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy Curckwagon Cuisine.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit [sanctifiedhope.org](http://sanctifiedhope.org) or contact 817-901-5446. Email: [info@sanctifiedhope.org](mailto:info@sanctifiedhope.org)



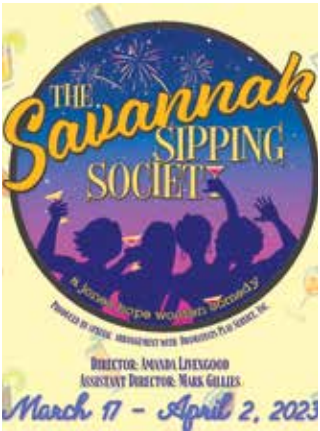
**MARCH 31**

**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

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
 Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**

- 1 TX Kris film: "Alice Doesn't Live Anymore" (1974)
- 5 gem found in TX
- 6 "San Jacinto Battleground State Historic \_\_\_\_\_"
- 7 state tech. college system (abbr.)
- 8 Mitchell County seat
- 17 TX Benson film: "\_\_\_\_\_ to Billy Joe"
- 18 TXism: "the blazes \_\_\_\_\_" (big man)
- 21 TX Janis sang "\_\_\_\_\_ and Bobby McGee"
- 22 chunk of dirt
- 23 some East TX areas
- 24 Iraqi dictator
- 45 filmed in Galveston: "Capricorn \_\_\_\_\_"
- 46 "\_\_\_\_\_ Houston" Hussein who was caught in 2003
- 29 this was to be channel 19 in Nacogdoches
- 30 TXism: "his axles \_\_\_\_\_ hot" (active)
- 31 Commemorative Air Force Texas founder, Nolen (init.)
- 32 TXism: "he couldn't drive \_\_\_\_\_ snow bank" (incompetent)
- 34 snakes or scarves
- 35 TX Jimmy Dean's "Big \_\_\_\_\_ John"
- 36 plow pullers
- 37 TX Tommy Lee Jones film: "Eyes of Laura \_\_\_\_\_" (1978)
- 38 "Cinco de \_\_\_\_\_" is celebrated in Texas
- 39 TXism: "lost everything \_\_\_\_\_ under my fingernails" (broke)
- 41 this Sophia was in "Houseboat" with TX Martha Hyer
- 42 TXism: "let sleeping dogs \_\_\_\_\_"
- 43 Abilene's Dyess Air Force \_\_\_\_\_
- 44 removed an apple skin
- 4 "the echo" in Mexico (2 wds.)
- 9 this TX English sang for Lawrence Welk
- 10 soldier no-no (abbr.)
- 11 "I \_\_\_\_\_ It My Way"
- 12 TX Janis died of this (abbr.)
- 13 jai alai wickers
- 14 TXism: "if \_\_\_\_\_ any better the sheriff wouldn't allow it"
- 15 Luby's transport
- 16 sweet tater
- 19 TX Byron's "How \_\_\_\_\_ the Game"
- 20 "L" of TX LBJ
- 22 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ no cigar"
- 24 "Alamo City" letters
- 25 fire or red insect
- 26 natl. patriot org.
- 27 in Texas: "Sierra \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains"
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ School in Dallas
- 29 Houston AM
- 30 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ of" (kinda)
- 33 TXism: "likely as \_\_\_\_\_"
- 34 TXism: "nekkid"
- 35 more "nekkid"
- 37 TX rancher Chuck Norris 1984 film: "\_\_\_\_\_ Action"
- 38 brainless
- 40 short, quick race
- 41 former Speaker of Texas House, Pete
- 44 skins an orange
- 47 Joan of "Gunpoint" with TX Audie
- 49 TX Beasley, an NFL defensive back



**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 night-

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@parkercountyGOP@gmail.com](mailto:J.Scott.Utley@parkercountyGOP@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/3CiiKx4>. For a Spotify playlist, visit <https://bit.ly/3IP7piy>.

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ALEDO ISD

## Poised in public

### Elementary and middle school students address AISD Board

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

It was a big lectern, but that didn't intimidate students from McCall Elementary School and Aledo Middle School when they addressed the school board in February.

Aledo Middle School Principal Mandy Musselwhite introduced students who spoke of their "Exceptional Experiences at Aledo Middle School."

Speakers were Caleb Doss, Luke Tarrant, Landry Kasper, Amos Collier, Julia Bettencourt, and Abigail Myser.

Likewise, students from McCall spoke of their positive experiences at school. Speakers were Kaitlyn Newell, Alex Morris, Liam Scott, Carolina Luna, and Ejona Halili.



Caleb Doss spoke about inviting new students to the Bearcat Den at Aledo Middle School.



Amos Collier expanded on the SUSO program. "As part of our problem solving skills project, we have to devise a plan to use the limited space and resources in our local library to create a more productive and inviting space," he said.



Abigail Myser spoke of her experience with Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO). "SUSO is a community civics program that allows a group of students to identify community issue and create presentation to solve the issue," she said.



Julia Bettencourt added that "We have learned to take information and apply it to real life situations. We've worked on our presentation skills, we've learned to gain research through asking questions rather than regurgitating knowledge through our books and our essays provided in class."



Landry Kasper called out the assistant principals at AMS. "They get the job done but they're also very fun people to be around," he said.



Kaitlyn Newell spoke about her experience as part of the McCall Student Council.



Third-grader Liam Scott spoke about the Big/Little Buddies program, and brought along his kindergarten buddy, Riley Johnson.



Luke Tarrant spoke about his experience as an ambassador at Aledo Middle School.



Alex Morris spoke about the Positivity Project. He said the program helps build gratitude, honesty, and respect.



Second-grader Ejona Halili told the board about love of learning.



Carolina Luna spoke about academic goal setting.



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We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 email [news@community-news.com](mailto: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

# Bill would require fentanyl education



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The death of a Leander High School graduate from a fentanyl overdose has prompted state Rep. Terry Wilson, R-Georgetown, to file a bill that would require 10 hours of education annually concerning the dangers of the drug to students in sixth grade and up, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

Tucker Roe, 19, bought what he thought was a Percocet pill on Instagram, according to his mother, Stefanie Turner. It turned out to be laced with a deadly amount of fentanyl, a powerful opioid responsible for more than 5,000 deaths in Texas last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"He was struggling with sleeping and stress, and he purchased a pill to help him sleep, and that pill took his life," Turner told the *Statesman*. Wilson's bill would allow a number of different types of organizations to provide the education, including public health agencies.

### More arrests made in Austin 'street takeover'

More than three dozen charges against 17 people were made last week in the takeover of several Austin intersections on Feb. 18 and 19. The *Statesman* reported those arrested face charges including evading arrest, obstructing a highway, reckless driving, and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Video footage shot during the incidents showed cars spinning through intersections, fireworks exploding, and dozens of people running through the streets.

"The events that occurred disrupted our community, they garnered much of our attention, and they were clearly not good for our community," Austin Police Chief Joe Chacon said.

### Pedestrian, bicyclist fatalities on the rise

Pedestrian fatalities resulting from traffic crashes increased 34% from 2017 to 2021, while bicyclist deaths increased 58% during the same period. The Texas

Department of Transportation has kicked off a pedestrian and bicyclist campaign this month to urge all Texans to follow the state's traffic laws and reduce those fatalities.

"We have a shared responsibility to every member of our community - to every family and every individual - to help reverse these trends and reduce traffic fatalities in Texas," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams.

Texas law requires drivers to stop and yield for pedestrian and bicyclists in crosswalks, to yield while turning, and to pass bikes at a safe distance. Pedestrians, in turn, are urged to cross only at intersections and crosswalks, to obey all traffic signs and signals, and to use sidewalks when possible.

Bicyclists are required to stop at red lights and stop signs, to ride in the same direction as traffic, and to use bike lanes when available.

### Nelson confirmed as Texas Secretary of State

Former state Sen. Jane Nelson was confirmed last week by the Texas Senate as secretary of state. Gov. Greg Abbott appointed her to the position two months ago.

Nelson served in that chamber for 30 years.

"I will work to safeguard honest and accurate elections in all 254 counties across our great state, while continuing to support

business owners by ensuring that government moves at the speed of Texas business, not the other way around," Nelson said in a statement after her confirmation.

### Adjuster indicted after TDI investigation

A Texas public insurance adjuster has been indicted by a Kimble County grand jury after being accused of stealing more than \$268,000 in insurance claims. An investigation by the Texas Department of Insurance alleges Andrew Joseph Mitchell signed the names of clients on their insurance claim checks and kept the money.

Mitchell, based in Clear Lake Shores, Texas, solicited clients across the country using the internet, according to authorities.

"We have other victims here in Texas we're referring to prosecutors, but Mitchell is currently in jail in Louisiana, and we know of investigations in at least two other states," TDI fraud investigator Mark Pardaen said.

### Lawmakers want to legalize Sunday liquor sales

A pair of bills introduced in the Legislature would legalize the sales of ready-to-drink cocktails seven days a week, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. Under current law, liquor stores are closed on Sunday, and grocery and corner stores can only sell beer and wine.

State Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, filed his version of the bill recently.

"As industries innovate and new products become staples in the marketplace, it only makes sense for us to take a look at ways government can reduce regulatory red tape," Hancock said. A twin version of the bill was filed in the House by state Rep. Justin Holland, R-Rockwall.

Liquor stores would still be required to be closed on Sunday under the bills.

### TPWD seeks input on land and water plan

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is seeking public input to help the agency make future management decisions.

"In fulfilling our mission, TPWD is committed to delivering effective natural resources stewardship and outdoor recreation programs that exemplify the highest standards of quality, service and professionalism," said David Yoskowitz, executive director of TPWD.

Public input can be made through April 14 by completing a survey being conducted by Texas A&M University. The survey can be found at: [tinyurl.com/nhkcwmxw](http://tinyurl.com/nhkcwmxw).

*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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).*



Read this story online



## Look at it This Way

# Ellis made big impact in a small town



**Rick Mauch**  
sports@community-news.com

Carrie Ellis, formerly West, came to Willow Park six years ago and immediately made history as the first female chief of police in Parker County. More than that, a lot of folks think she was one of the best chiefs the county has ever known, all due respect to other chiefs.

But, as the great singer/comedian Jim Stafford sang in his song "Wildwood Weed," all good things gotta come to an end. Google him and the song, youngsters, it's really quite funny and somewhat ageless — perhaps even more so in today's times.

In all transparency, I do not now nor have I ever lived in Willow Park. Had fate sent me there I would gladly call it home as pretty much everyone I've ever met from the city has been nothing short of nice, though I have a feeling Mayor Doyle Moss might beat me thoroughly should we play a round of golf.

But time on the links aside, from the mayor to City Manager Bryan Grimes and City Public Relations Director Rose Hoffman, whom I've known longer than — well, let's just say a while as the exact time would age us both more than I'm sure we care to share — I am proud to call numerous folks in the fine city a friend.

And that includes Ellis. From the first time I interviewed her I could tell there was something cool about this lady. She's a forward thinker, and goodness knows the world can use all those we can find.



**Carrie Ellis**

Well, Willow Park found one and she set about to make a difference in the community. I could now provide a long list of her accomplishments, but let's just say the folks in Willow Park are much better off today because of her — again, all due respect to those before.

However, a few things have to be mentioned, such as her strong focus on competitive hiring and promoting, along with getting the department to the prestigious level of "Recognized Agency" with the Texas Police Chiefs Association in 2020.

More recently, she helped Trinity Christian Academy in Willow Park with an onsite officer

program. She and the department also acquired funding for better patrolling of the part of Interstate 20 that runs through Willow Park during the busiest times of the year.

We shared a laugh after that last one as I've been driving through Willow Park doing no more than 65 mph for years, only to be told by Ellis that I've actually had five miles per hour to spare and might actually be slowing down traffic.

This kind of creativity and accomplishments win folks awards, and Ellis was indeed awarded the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce's Pappy Thompson Community Service Award in 2020.

On a personal level, Ellis has always been respectful of my position in the media, something we don't always get with law enforcement officials — and, in all honesty, my business does

Turn to ELLIS, page 7

# ELLIS

from page 6

have folks who will put a scoop before feelings. We don't do that, however. We have a job to do, but that doesn't mean we can't do all we can to spare a reputation, or at least soften a blow.

Ellis gave me a chance to earn her trust, and I thank her for that. After all, she understands we are both serving the public and trust is a must if we are both to be good at our jobs.

Ellis is also personable, a great quality to have in a leader. I never saw her make an arrest, but I'm sure she could be tough, all the while having compassion necessary to let the perp know they would get fair treatment throughout the whole process.

And though I never saw her much except at city council meetings, mostly, there was a light-heartedness that showed she was more than just the job. She not only knows how to laugh at a joke, but also to come back with great zingers of her own.

Carrie recently married a fine man, Gee Ellis, the chief of police in Belton, a great city in its own right. I know, my son grew up there.

It's hard to be away from someone you love. I spent only a few months flying back and forth to Colorado on business, staying a week or two at a time, after my wife Junell and I moved back to Texas. I understand and applaud Ellis for putting the love of her life first.

Daniel Franklin has been named the interim chief of police in Willow Park. He's a good man who will do a wonderful job leading the city until a decision is made on giving him the position permanently or hiring someone else from outside. Working alongside Ellis since 2018 as the assistant chief, he was also instrumental in the department's advancement.

And, should he have the interim label removed and be given the job, I look forward to working with him. Like Ellis, he's someone who's easy to communicate with, be it talking official business or asking how the family is.

Ellis promised to stay in touch with the folks in Willow Park, calling them family. It's amazing how close folks can get in a short time when there's genuine caring for each other going on - and it's obvious Ellis and her Willow Park family do share something special.

Good luck Chief Ellis. Whomever is fortunate enough to have you as their next police chief hit the jackpot.

*Rick Mauch is a free-lance journalist and a regular contributor to The Community News.*

# Thistles&Roses

## Take time to smell the flowers



**Richard Henderson**  
richard@rahenderson.com

This is the time of year in late winter/early spring when some flowers bloom beautifully for a very short time. I also pause to experience the moment of their beauty because each moment is all we really have in this often too-busy life.

I wonder every year when I see those small trees that bloom in the woods with brilliant white flowers just what are they and where do they come from? I think that they are wild plums, but some say that they are dogwoods. All I know is that they bloom in February, are gone by March, and disappear into the landscape and I forget about them until the next February.

Daffodils have a very short lifespan. Dozens are planted in Trinity Park in Fort Worth and show their brilliant yellow vividly for such a short time in February and are also gone by March.

The redbud trees also bloom brilliantly and last a little bit longer. They are planted into landscapes, but also grow wild and show their colors in the barren woods before the blooms fade and they blend into the background as other trees and bushes began to leaf out.

Irises will soon bloom and last a month or two. Clark Gardens in Mineral Wells has many beds of various exotic and regular irises in dozens of beds. When they bloom, it reminds me of my late mother who loved irises and visiting Clark Gardens.

Clark Gardens also has a huge hill of rosemary plants of many varieties. The honey bees swarm as these plants bloom profusely in different colors. I recommend that you find time to go to Clark Gardens and experience life's moments there. The model trains are also a treat.



Bradford pears, promoted by Neil Sperry, the legendary Texas horticulturist, bloom brilliantly white in the spring, provide shade in the summer, and have brilliant red leaves that last in the fall until major winds blow them away.

When the crepe myrtle, that most beautiful plants of the southern United States, finally blooms in many colors in the summer, we have flowers for a longer time. My grandmother used to comment on the crepe myrtles. I didn't understand what she

was talking about as a child, but now I do.

Bluebonnets are starting to bloom. Texas owes a debt to Lady Bird Johnson for her dedication to Texas wildflowers. Mexican Hat and other plants will soon bloom in our meadow.

While life is so fragile and our time here is so short, we can rely on these short plant life cycles to repeat themselves. We, on the other hand, are not going to be here forever. So we should enjoy the flowers when they bloom and our families and our friends with these fleeting moments that we have.



Read this story online

# Slings&Arrows

## The name of the game is 'adapting'



**Randy Keck**  
rkeck@community-news.com

I am in the process of listening to a series of podcasts called "Business Wars."

Business Wars has several "seasons" under its belt - a season being defined as four-six episodes on a particular topic.

I have always thought of myself more as a journalist than a businessman, but as the owner of this newspaper I have to wear both hats.

Competition is the life of the American economy - it is responsible for innumerable advances in technology and service. And it is often the business that has humble beginnings that takes a better idea and goes on to rule a segment of a market.

The first Business Wars season was dedicated to Blockbuster vs. Netflix. Anyone old enough to remember having to rewind VHS tapes will recall that, at one time, Blockbuster ruled the video rental business.

But then along came this little upstart, Netflix, with a better idea. At the time, and this was before streaming, Netflix had the idea of renting DVDs through the mail. They set up a website and anyone could log on, pick out the movie they wanted to rent, and usually it would be in their mailbox the next day - along with a post-paid mailer to send it back.

By the time Blockbuster found out what was going on, they were playing "catch-up," and that got even worse for them when Netflix became one of the pioneers of delivering streaming video.

Season after season on Business Wars, you hear the story of upstart companies that end up challenging market leaders - and often winning.

I feel we were one of those upstart companies back in the mid-1990s. Our main competitor in Parker County had several times more circulation than we did. Over the years we survived all kinds of competitive tactics, to the extent that they even started a free newspaper in Aledo, but what they have to show for it is that *The Community News* is now the county's largest-circulation newspaper.

But that doesn't mean we can keep doing the same thing the same way and flourish. The world is changing, and I used to think "survival of the fittest" meant "survival of the strongest."

Not so. "Survival of the fittest" means "survival of the most adaptable."

A lot of big companies with multi-million-dollar CEOs never learned that.

*Randy Keck will soon celebrate 28 years as owner and publisher of The Community News.*



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## BASEBALL

## Brewer bests Bearcats in district opener

### Stranded runners hamper scoring

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Runs came at a premium during a classic pitchers duel in the Aledo Bearcats' District 5-5A opener on Tuesday, March 21, as the visiting Brewer Bears left town toting a 3-1 win.

Trey Ramirez tossed a complete game for the Bears in the win. Robert Burk was shackled with the loss for Aledo despite a solid outing on the bump where he tossed five complete innings while surrendering three runs on six hits.

Aledo (11-6 overall, 0-1 in District 5-5A) returned to action following a 10-day hiatus for spring break. The Bearcats entered district play coming off back-to-back wins prior to the break.

Both hurlers settled down nicely once they dialed in their command after getting off to rough starts in the first inning. Burk walked the leadoff hitter for Brewer on four straight pitches to get the game underway. A wild pitch to the second batter allowed the runner to advance to second. A sacrifice bunt by the two-hole hitter put the first run of the game

just 90 feet away from the plate. A ground ball to Aledo second baseman Boyd Thompson on the right side of the infield scored the runner from third as the Bears hopped on the board early, 1-0.

Mirroring his counterpart, Ramirez walked Thompson on four straight pitches to open the home half of the first inning. Bosten Dwinell popped up the 1-2 offering to short left-center. With the centerfielder rushing in and the shortstop drifting out, the ball fell into no man's land for the first hit of the game.

With runners on first and second, Trace Mazon stepped into the box for Aledo. The Bearcats continued to be aggressive on the base paths as Aledo head coach Chad Barry employed the double steal during the first offering to Mazon. A good jump by Thompson at second, coupled with the pitch missing the mark, allowed both runners to advance uncontested as the Brewer catcher was unable to get a throw off to either bag.

Mazon walked a few pitches later to load the bases full of Bearcats with no outs in the inning.

Ramirez managed to work his way out of the bases-loaded jam following a brief conference on the mound with the Bears skipper.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Boyd Thompson successfully turns the first half of a 6-4-3 double play to end Brewer's half of the second inning in the District opener on Tuesday, March 21. The Bears defeated Aledo, 3-1.

The Bearcats left the bases full of runners with no damage done to end the frame.

On top of the three runners left on base to end the first, Aledo would strand a total of seven baserunners across as many innings.

"We left too many runners on base," Barry said. "It was the tell tale of the night, really. We load the bases in the bottom of the first and then don't even make them

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 9

## SOFTBALL

## Ladycats continue run through district

### Outscoring district opponents 65-2

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats softball team continued their torrid run through District 5-5A with wins over Brewer (6-0 at home) and Azle (17-1 on the road).

Clearly, spring break had no effect on the Ladycats as they blanked Brewer on March 15 and then returned to blast Azle on Tuesday, March 21. The Ladycats, who are now 5-0 in league play, improved to 17-4-1 overall and won for the ninth straight game.

The Ladycats got a pair of dominant pitching performances from Nathalie Touchet and Brenlee Gonzales. In shutting out Brewer, Touchet held the Lady Bears to two hits while striking out seven and walking two. Gonzales hurled a three-hitter against Azle, striking out 10 and walking one.

Touchet improved to 8-0 and posted her fifth shutout. She also has two no-hitters.

Gonzales, now 5-2, has surrendered one run or less in four of her wins, including one shutout.

In district, Aledo has outscored its opponents 65-2.

Delaney Rosser led the offense, going 6-for-9 combined in the two wins. She also drove in three runs.

Addie Perry, Claire Byars and Ana Flores had four hits each.

Ironically, both games went seven innings despite the score in the win over Azle, which one might think would have been called by the mercy rule. The Ladycats, leading 9-0 at the time, erupted for eight runs in the top of the seventh.

Also ironic, the Ladycats did their offensive damage with only one extra-base hit against the Lady Hornets, a double

by Flores. Aledo also benefited from 10 walks against Azle pitching, including two each by Presley Hull, Maddy Jarvis and Gonzales. Texas Ray also walked and was hit by a pitch.

The Ladycats are ranked 16th in the state in Class 5A by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

Aledo will host Granbury at 7 p.m. Friday, March 24 before traveling to face Wichita Falls Rider at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 28. This will be the Ladycats' first contest against the Lady Pirates, while Aledo defeated the Lady Raiders 18-1 at home on Feb. 28 behind Touchet's one-hitter.

Turn to **SOFTBALL**, page 11

## BASKETBALL

## Two Lady Eagles receive All-State honors

## Staff Reports

The Community News

Two Trinity Christian Academy freshmen were named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 4A All-State Team for the 2022-2023 basketball season.

Sadie Gough was named First Team All-State, and was the TAPPS District 1-4A Player of the Year in addition to first-team all-district honors.

Emily Ickert was named to Second Team All-State and was the TAPPS District 1-4A Newcomer of the Year in addition to first-team all-district honors.

Seniors Margaret Cowley and Meghan Young, and junior Caroline Thompson, were named second-team all-district.

Junior Giuliana Marcantonio was named honorable mention on the all-district list.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Freshman Sadie Gough was named to the TAPPS 4A All-State First Team.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Freshman Emily Ickert was second team All-State.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Margaret Cowley was named second-team all-district.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Meghan Young was named second-team all-district.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Junior Caroline Thompson was named second-team all-district.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Junior Giuliana Marcantonio was named honorable mention all-district.



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RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**RIGHT:** Boyd Thompson successfully turns the first half of a 6-4-3 double play to end Brewer's half of the second inning in the district opener on Tuesday, March 21. The Bears defeated Aledo, 3-1. | **LEFT:** Bearcat first baseman Bosten Dwinell adjusts his glove between pitches.

## BASEBALL

from page 8

have to make a play to get out of it. I feel like that set a tone for the night. We were fighting an uphill battle the whole night.”

While the Bearcats struggled to get their offense going at the dish early on, their defense was firing on all cylinders. The double play is often referred to as a pitcher's best friend, and Aledo turned a pair of 6-4-3 double plays to close out the top of the second and third innings.

In the top of the second with a runner on and one out, Burk was able to get the ground ball he needed to set his defense up to complete the double play. Mazon and Thompson did not disappoint as Mazon fielded the ball cleanly before dishing it to Thompson to complete the back end of the play. Thompson kicked the bag at second as he avoided the sliding baserunner before firing a strike to Bosten Dwinell patiently awaiting the throw at first.

In the third inning the Bearcats found themselves in a similar situation. Burk induced the ground ball. Mazon made the routine play before passing it off for Thompson to complete the back half of the play. However, as Thompson kicked the bag looking to complete the

turn the Brewer baserunner did not sufficiently attempt to avoid the play after being ruled out at second. The umpire called the runner at first out on the play due to interference to make it another quick inning in the field for Aledo.

Aledo continued to trail 1-0 until the bottom of the fourth inning. Jones started off the home half reaching base on a throwing error by Brewer's shortstop that allowed the Bearcat batter to make it all the way to second on the play. Bryce McCain attempted to give himself up with a sacrifice bunt, but he was able to beat out the throw to first for a base hit. Ramirez's throw to first was off target, as well as late giving Jones an opportunity to score from third while McCain moved into scoring position at second.

The rally ended there as Aledo tied the game up at one run apiece heading into the fifth inning.

Brewer used a walk, a single, and an extra base hit to manufacture a pair of runs in the top of the sixth inning that ended up being the difference in the game.

Jake Bumgardner came on in relief for the Bearcats in the sixth, tossing a pair of scoreless innings in the no-decision appearance.

“I felt like our pitching and defense were good enough to

win the game,” Barry said. “At the plate we did not execute. We did not get clutch hits when we needed to. We took some very, in my opinion, selfish swings with two strikes that we've got to make adjustments on to shorten up our swings.”

Next up on the schedule for the Bearcats is a trip to Brewer on Friday where they will try to claim some redemption on the road. First pitch is slated for 7 p.m.

“We're going to go back to work,” Barry said in anticipation of Friday's game at Brewer. “We're going to work on our approach - two-strike approach, situational approach, things like that. We've got to figure out who we are. We've got to have better plate discipline. We can't be hitting the ball and popping it up with runners in scoring position. At least we need to hit the ball on the ground to make them field it, throw it, catch it instead of just get under a pop fly and catch it.”

### Aledo vs. Brewer – Tues, March 21

	R	H	E
Brewer	100	002	0 - 362
Aledo	000	100	0 - 141

Aledo hitting: Garrett Rester 2-3, SB; Bryce McCain 1-3; Bosten Dwinell 1-4, SB; Trace Mazon SB; Boyd Thompson SB; Andrew Cambre HP.

Aledo pitching: Robert Burk 5 IP, 6 H, 3 ER, 3 K, 3 BB; Jake Bumgardner 2 IP, 0 H, 0 R, 2 K, BB.

# BDGA Clay Shoot

The Business Development Group of Aledo recently held its annual clay shoot, which benefits local school and youth organizations. Shooters from several schools participated in the youth shoot earlier in the day. That was followed by a shoot for adults later. Photos show shooters from Aledo ISD and Trinity Christian Academy.

Video snippets can be found on the web posting of this story.

PHOTOS RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



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**EVENT**

**South Texas Home and Garden Show,** Floresville, TX, Sat., March 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free Event. More than 70 vendors. Food trucks, plants, drawings. Floresville Event Center, 600 Hwy 97 W. www.southtexashomeandgarden.com.

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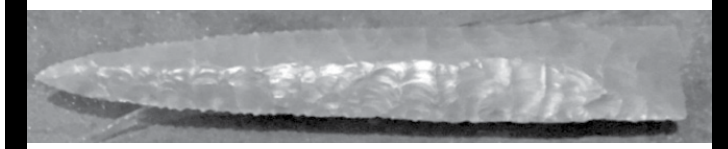
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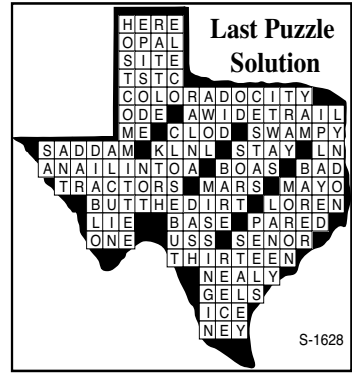
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The City of Aledo is currently taking applications for Board & Commissions Alternate Members for the Planning & Zoning Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and Aledo Economic Development Corporation. Alternates will attend meetings along with regular board members and would vote in the event of an absence of a regular board member. Appointments to the Boards & Commissions are approved by the City Council.

For additional information please contact City Secretary Deana McMullen at 817-441-7016 or by email at citysecretary@aledotx.gov

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JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Maddy Jarvis successfully dives for a fly ball during the March 15 game against Brewer.

## SOFTBALL

from page 8

### Aledo 6, Brewer 0, March 15

	R	H	E
Brewer	0	0	0
Aledo	2	1	0
Aledo hitting: Delaney Rosser, 3-3, 2B, RBI; Texas Ray, 3-4, 2-2B, 2 RBI; Reagan Davis, 2-3, RBI, SB; Addie Perry, 2-4, 2B, RBI; Claire Byars, 2-4, SB; Ana Flores, 1-3; Presley Hull, BB, RBI.			
Aledo pitching: Nathalie Touchet, 7 IP, 2 H, 0 R, 7 K, 2 BB.			

### Aledo 17, Azle 1, March 21

	R	H	E
Aledo	0	2	1
Azle	2	0	0
Aledo hitting: Rosser, 3-6, 2 RBI; Flores, 3-4, 2B, BB, RBI; Perry, 2-5, BB, 2 RBI; Byars, 2-4, BB; Hull, 2-4, 2 BB, RBI, SB; Maddy Jarvis, 2-3, 2 BB, RBI, SB; Ray 1-4, BB, HP, RBI; Brenlee Gonzales, 1-4, 2 BB, RBI; Davis, 1-5, 2 RBI, SB.			
Aledo pitching: Gonzales, 7 IP, 3 H, 1 ER, 10 K, 1 BB, 1 HP.			



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Reagan Davis slides safe into home plate March 15 during the Ladycats vs Brewer Bears game.

## ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

# Several from Aledo honored by THSCA

### Staff Reports

The Community News

Several members of the Aledo boys and girls basketball teams, along with wrestlers, have been named academic all-state by the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Girls basketball: First team - Taylor Patezold. Second team - Allison Mallard, McKenzie Grau, Reagan Davis, Claire Byars, Presley Hull.

Boys basketball: First team - Nevishan Warnesuriye. Honorable mention - Brant Tubbs, D'Leon Starnes.

Boys wrestling: Second team - Zach Attaway. Honorable mention - Cash Clayton, Jackson Rudnick.

To qualify for academic all-state a student must be in good standing, of good moral character, a senior and have a grade-point average of 92 or above for all classes in grades 9 through current. Weighted GPA are accepted.



Read this story online

## GIRLS POWERLIFTING

# Gray eighth in state

### Staff Reports

The Community News

Aledo's Avery Gray finished eighth in the state in the 259-plus division at the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association Class 5A Division I Girls State Powerlifting Meet at the Comerica Center in Frisco, Saturday, March 18.

Gray lifted a total of 795 pounds. She had a squat lift of 320 pounds, bench pressed 175 and had a dead lift of 300.

Also qualifying for Aledo was Adrianna Lambert in the 220 division but she scratched from competition.

Aledo also had several athletes named academic all-state by the THSWPA. Arianna Schmidt, Taylor Paetzold and Taylor Sehnem were named to the elite team, Taylor Hart garnered first-team honors and Jackie Melendez and Meredith Brown were selected for the second team.



Read this story online

## RODEO

# Several from area among NTHSRA leaders

### By Rick Mauch

The Community News

Several competitors from the Aledo-Weatherford area are among the top 15 in their respective events in the North Texas High School Rodeo as only a few rodeos remain before the NTHSRA Finals May 19-20.

The top 15 in each event qualify for the finals.

A couple from Weatherford lead their events as Noah Lee sits atop the bull riding standings with 531 points, 147 ahead of Millsap's Mecate Trammell, and Savannah Letson leads in poles with 812 points, a 154-point advantage over Azle's Laurel Allred.

Weatherford has two competitors for the boys all-around championship.

Taygan Bertsch is second with 1,813 points and Caleb Lewis is third with 1,533, both behind Kreece Dearing of Abeka with 3,864 points.

Also, Weatherford leads the team standings with 8,323 points. Azle is second with 6,958.

Here is a complete list of those ranked in the top 15 in their respective events:

Barrel racing: 10. Cassidy Klein, Weatherford.

Breakaway roping: 6. Reagan High, Weatherford.

Bull riding: 1. Noah Lee, Weatherford; 3. Jesus Villa, Weatherford.

Calf roping: 3. Taygan Bertsch, Weatherford; 4. Clayton Praytor, Weatherford; 5. Caleb Lewis, Weatherford; 7. Haiden Smith, Weatherford.

Chute dogging: 6. Smith; 7. Gunner McGraw, Aledo.

Goat tying-walkup: 8. Ashtyn Coufal, Aledo; 12. Sienna Pendergrass, Weatherford.

Poles: 1. Savannah Letson, Weatherford; 12. Klein.

Ribbon roping: 2. Bertsch, 5. Praytor, 7. Lewis.

Team roping-heeler: 10. Lewis, 12 Bertsch.

Team roping-header: 10. Lewis, 11. Bertsch.

Boys all-around: 2. Bertsch, 3. Lewis, 5. Praytor, 9. Smith.

Girls all-around: 12. Letson.

Area team rankings: 1. Weatherford, 2. Azle, 7. Millsap, 9. Springtown, 11. Brock, 21. Aledo, 23. Peaster.

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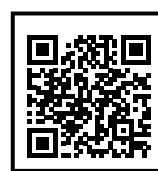


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TRACK AND FIELD

# Several from Aledo among state leaders

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Continuing a tradition of strong track seasons, several members of the Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats are among the state leaders in their respective events.

Leading the Aledo contingent is pole vaulter Sean Gribble. His vault of 16 feet, 8 inches is not only the best in Class 5A, it leads the state in all classifications. Gribble accomplished his feat at the Aledo's own Bearcat Relays on March 9.

In Class 5A, Ladycat Lauren St. Peters has the top throw in the shot put of 43 feet, 7.5 inches accomplished at the Bearcat Relays, which is also sixth among all classes. She is also sixth in the discus in 5A, having hurled 134-06 at the Northwest Texan Invitational on March 3.

Taylor Hindman has the highest pole vault among girls in Class 5A. She cleared 12-1 at the Haltom Hays Relays on Feb. 23. She is tied for ninth in the state among all classifications.

Brad Campbell ranks fourth in Class 5A in boys pole vault with a clearance of 14-09 at the Bearcat Relays. Vincent Luffey's time of one minute, 55.74 seconds in the 800-meter run at the Bearcat Relays has him ranked seventh among 5A boys, while Sofia Brandenburg's clocking of 2:16.21 in the same event at the Bearcat Relays has her eighth among 5A girls.

The Bearcats and Ladycats are back in competition Friday, March 24 in Joshua.



Read this story online



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sean Gribble clears the bar at the Bearcat Relays, where his clearance of 16'8" leads the state in all divisions.

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.



Read this story online

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 post-season chase until things slipped away over the final four games.

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



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Drew Clock soars towards the basket for a layup during Aledo's 81-52 win over Azle on Friday, Feb. 3rd.



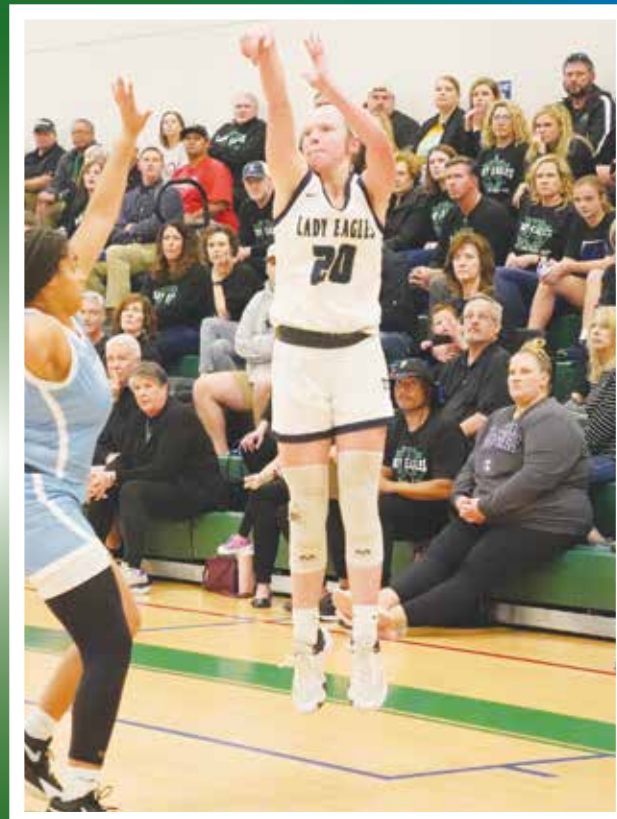
RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brandon Fields blows past a Saginaw defender during the Bearcats' 66-64 double-overtime loss on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

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