

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PARKER COUNTY

## Free emergency training offered

### CERT classes begin April 10

The Parker County Office of Emergency Services has announced a new round of free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training beginning April 10.

CERT training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available.

The training will consist of 27 hours, including both classroom and hands-on, over the course of six class sessions:

- 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Monday, April 10
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, April 15
- 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Monday, April 17
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, April 22
- 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Monday, April 24
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, April 29

Training will be held at Parker County's Emergency Services facility at 215 Trinity Street in Weatherford (on the north side of the Weatherford Farmer's Market).

The course is divided into units covering the following topics:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety and Utility Controls
- Disaster Medical Operations, part 1 & 2
- Light Search and Rescue
- CERT Organization/Incident Command
- Disaster Psychology
- CERT and Terrorism
- CPR/AED
- Stop the Bleed
- Wrap up, Final Exam, and Disaster Exercise

To sign up for the CERT training, email davidnelson@uwmail.com.



Read this story online



## Ready to Glow



KCSTUDIOS KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI

Hailey Vandiver gets a paw print tattoo from Chloe Wilson before the annual Aledo Children's AdvoCats Run, Walk or Crawl Glow Run on March 24. More photos can be found on page 5.



## Vendors prepare for Taste of Parker County

### Event set for April 20

By Crystal Woerly  
Weatherford College

More than 20 vendors, including local restaurants, caterers, bakeries, coffee shops and breweries, will offer sample-sized tastings of their most popular offerings in an "all-you-can-eat" format at the 14th annual Taste of Parker County. The event is scheduled from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at Weatherford's Heritage Park.

Turn to VENDORS, page 6

ALEDO ISD

## AHS students and grads featured in 'best of' volume

### Selections chosen from more than 35,000 entries

Volume five of *The Best of Texas Scholastic Photography* features work from 10 Aledo High School students and graduates who were taught by teachers Linda Greenwood and Emily Pyeatt Arnold: Ava Bathurst, Kaylee Halfmann, Megan Hoke, Alyssa Lively, Chloe Mahle, Alex Mount, Reagan Petersen, Marissa Powell, Jordan Prokell and Taylor Tiberg.

A photo by Halfmann graces the cover of the book.

The Association of Texas Photography Instructors (ATPI) unveiled the volume at the winter

conference held at the University of Texas in Arlington on Friday, Feb. 24.

The book features images selected from almost 35,000 images submitted in ATPI contests during the past five years. It will be a resource for photographers throughout the world - not merely in Texas - for years to come.

Since 1990, ATPI has worked with students and instructors in more than 4,900 high schools and middle schools in the state to achieve a higher quality of knowledge and teaching of photography.



Read this story online



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kaylee Halfmann's image adorns the cover of volume five of *The Best of Texas Scholastic Photography*.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo ISD instructor Emily Arnold, AHS seniors Kaylee Halfmann and Taylor Tiberg, and instructor Linda Greenwood look over volume five of *The Best of Texas Scholastic Photography*.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Seniors Taylor Tiberg and Kaylee Halfmann display the volume featuring their work.

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# In & Around Parker County

## Ring Leaders — 41 years of serving Parker County

Ring Leaders Kennel has served Parker County and its surrounding cities for 40 years, making it one of Aledo's oldest businesses.

Alaina Tenseth and her late husband, John founded the grooming and boarding business together in the mid-1970s.

When they decided to move west, the small-town business relocated from its original Fort Worth facility in October 1981 — and has stayed in Aledo ever since.

Its local facility offers 30 inside-outside runs that are climate-controlled and eight luxury suites, which are 8-foot-by-10-foot rooms with a patio area. Additionally, all animals have access to play areas.

When boarded, Tenseth, who shares property with the facility, said there's always someone physically present to watch the dogs and cats. There are also surveillance cameras.

"We never leave the animals unattended," Tenseth said.

Ring Leaders Kennel offers overnight boarding to all breeds and sizes of cats and dogs. It also offers full-grooming services to dogs and can provide specialized grooming for cats on an as-needed



basis, though it is not a common service offered by the kennel.

Tenseth she has been grooming and boarding animals for more than 45 years. It's a career she receives joy from and doesn't plan on changing.

Her longest-lasting clients have been with her for nearly 40 years — since 1975 — through the move from Fort Worth to Aledo.

Many have used Tenseth's services through a long lineage of pets.

"We've gone through several generations of pets and several generations of people," Tenseth said. "And we've never taken any of them for granted."

Call Ring Leaders at 817-441-8071 to schedule boarding or grooming.



### KEEP IT PAWS-ITIVE

April is dedicated to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



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BUSINESS

# Chamber honors members at annual gala

The East Parker County Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards at its "Sparkles & Spurs Gala" on March 21 at The Springs Event Venue.

PHOTOS BY MEGAN PARKS/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Read this story online



The award for Business of the Year (21-50 Employees) was presented to The Fort Card Room.



Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss (right) presented the Pappy Thompson Public Service Award to Hudson Oaks Police Chief Michael Baldwin.



Tarrant Area Food Bank - West received the Nonprofit of the Year Award.



The Athena International Leadership Award was presented to Zan Prince of First Bank Texas.



Bourbon N Branch Company won the Entrepreneur of the Year Award.



Paul Bruns of First Financial Bank won the Businessperson of the Year Award.



The award for Business of the Year (51+ Employees) was presented to ProFrac Holdings LLC.



The award for Business of the Year (1-10 Employees) was presented to Reunion Title of Texas.



The award for Business of the Year (11-20 Employees) was presented to HomeZone Furniture.



Debra Gass of Chicago Title won the Ambassador of the Year Award.

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## The Community News



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#### Content Submission Policy

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

# Senate passes tax cut package



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Senate last week unanimously approved a \$16.5 billion package to lower property taxes and inject billions of dollars into public schools.

As reported by the *Texas Tribune*, the three separate bills require the state to send at least \$5.38 billion to public schools while at the same time raising the state's homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with an additional \$20,000 exemption for homeowners 65 and older. According to the *Tribune*, the proposal would save an average homeowner \$341 on their annual tax bill. Seniors would save an additional \$227 annually.

In exchange for the increased state funding, local school property tax rates would be cut by 7 cents for every \$100 in appraised value. An owner of a \$300,000 home paying the state's average school tax rate would save \$210 annually in property taxes.

"This is off-the-charts, incredible property tax relief for millions of Texas homeowners," said state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston.

### Deadline to register for May 6 election nears

The deadline for eligible Texas voters to register in order to vote in the May 6 local elections is just around the corner, Secretary of State Jane Nelson announced.

"If you are not already registered to vote in the upcoming local elections, there is still time! Make sure to submit your voter registration application to your county voter registrar by Thursday, April 6 so that you can have an opportunity to make your voice heard in your local community," Nelson said.

Check with the local elections office to learn which municipalities, school districts and other entities are holding elections. Early voting begins on April 24 and ends on May 2, with Election Day on May 6.

### Paid parental leave for state workers?

For the first time, state employees could get 30 days of paid leave for childbirth or

adoption. A bipartisan bill passed the Texas Senate last week with unanimous support.

The *Austin American-Statesman* reported that Senate Bill 222, besides allowing the 30 days of paid leave, would apply to anyone paying into the Employee Retirement System of Texas; to employees working within the executive branch of state government; and give 10 days of paid leave to employees whose spouse gave birth.

"Paid parental leave will help the state attract and retain talent while combating the workforce shortage," the bill's main sponsor, state Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, said. A similar bill in the House would grant 60 days of paid leave under the same circumstances detailed in the Senate bill.

### Agency warns of dangerous drug combination

An animal tranquilizer called xylazine has been found mixed with illegal drugs distributed in the state, resulting in at least four deaths, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported.

The tranquilizer has been combined with fentanyl and other opioids, as well as Xanax and other drugs. It produces a strong sedative effect and can cause unconsciousness, low blood pressure, and a slowed heart rate and breathing. It can also

cause organ damage due to loss of blood flow.

Since it is not an opioid, the effects of xylazine cannot be reversed by using Narcan, officials said.

### New foster care model launched

Community groups representing nearly 50 counties in North and East Texas are assuming oversight of foster care from the state of Texas in a groundbreaking attempt to boost capacity and essential services for children under the state's conservatorship.

Three contracts were signed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and private groups. One serves Dallas County along with eight surrounding counties. Another serves 23 counties in Northeast Texas, while a third serves the Beaumont-Port Arthur area.

"This largest expansion to date for Community-Based Care is a real turning point in our state's intensive effort to move to local control, and a better system overall for the children and youth in our care," Stephanie Muth, DFPS commissioner, said. "Those kids belong to their communities, and those communities want the opportunity to make every day better for a child in foster care."

The expansion means that community-based care is now in place in half of the state

geographically, representing a third of the population.

### First case of avian flu in mammals in Texas

A striped skunk recovered from Carson County in the Panhandle has been confirmed as the first case of avian flu in a mammal in the state.

Officially called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, it is a highly contagious virus transmitted easily among wild and domestic birds. It has been detected in all states except Hawaii, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Transmission occurs through consumption of infected animal carcasses. Symptoms include stumbling, tremors, seizures, lack of fear of people, lethargy, coughing and sneezing, or sudden death.

While transmission risk from infected birds to people remains low, precautions should be taken, such as wearing gloves and face masks if in contact with wild animals, TPWD advised.

### School choice hearing draws hundreds

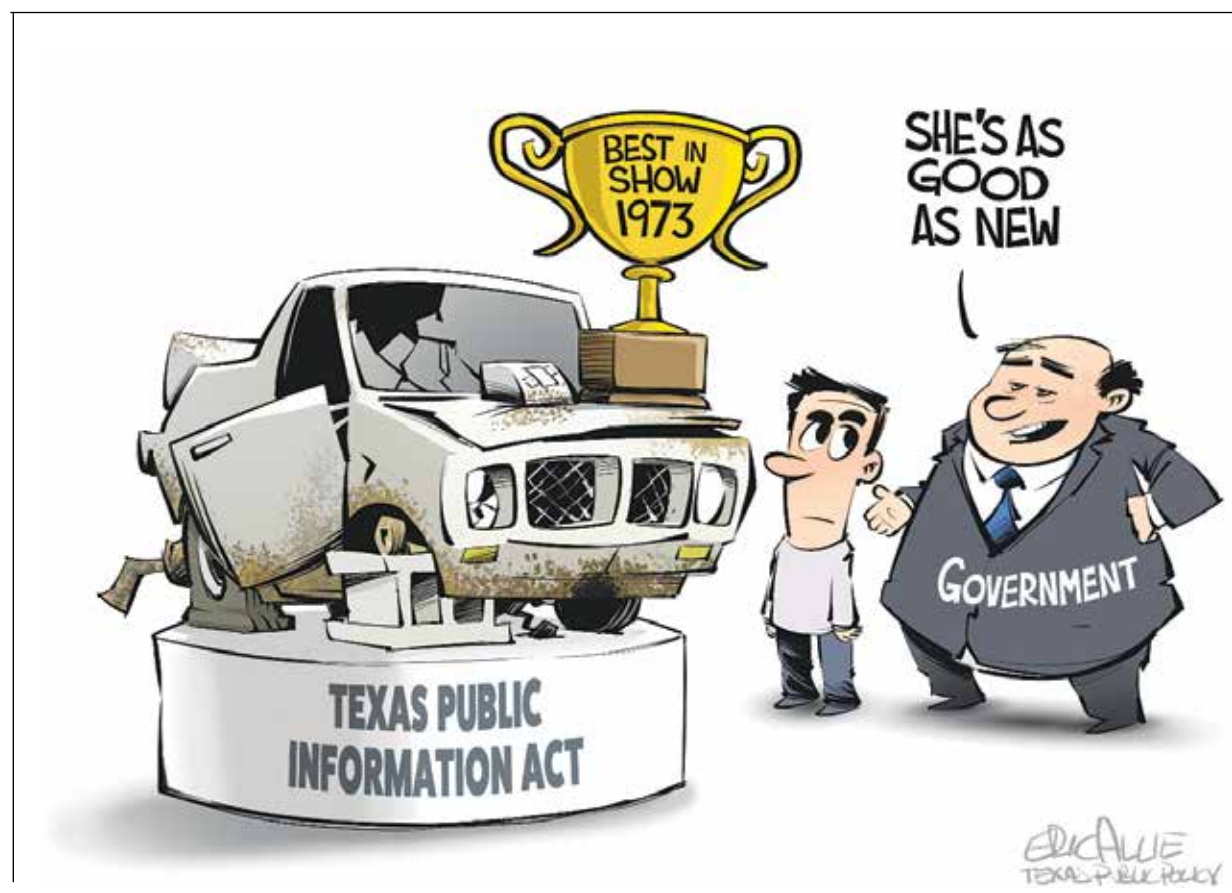
A Senate Education Committee meeting on proposals that would give parents public money for private schools drew about 200 people and stretched past midnight last Thursday, the *Statesman* reported.

Supporters spoke about allowing school choice and financial

Turn to **SENATE**, page 6



Read this story online



## Guest Column

# Transparency at the Texas Capitol: A bipartisan effort



**Kelley Shannon**  
kelley.shannon@foift.org

To witness bipartisanship at the Texas Capitol, look to the lawmakers who are working to improve open government laws.

Legislators from both political parties are igniting interest in transparency and creating the opportunity for all lawmakers to protect the people's right to know. They're carrying on our state's legacy of openness.

When the reform-minded 1973 Legislature enacted the Texas Public Information Act, known then as the Open Records Act, it established one of the nation's strongest transparency laws. This year marks its 50th

anniversary. Court rulings and other actions have weakened the law since its passage, but as we celebrate open government during Sunshine Month throughout March let's rally around the bills Texas legislators have filed this session to fortify the landmark act:

### Contracting transparency

Access to government contracts allows taxpayers to see how their money is spent. A bipartisan proposal would enhance a law passed in 2019, ensuring the release of "super public" information, including the overall contract price and description of items and services. Senate Bill 680 by Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and House Bill 2492 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, are the bills addressing contracting transparency.

Public records business days: A definition of "business

day" in the Public Information Act is needed to provide consistency for everyone seeking public records. Currently, governments declare on their own which days they are open or closed for handling TPIA requests. Sometimes they don't respond to requests. Proposals to correct this are contained in Senate Bill 618 by Johnson; House Bill 2135 by Rep. Terry Canales, D-Edinburg; and Senate Bills 43 and 44 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo.

### Dates of birth

Birthdates in criminal justice documents, such as police reports and incarceration records, and in candidates' applications for public office allow the public to accurately identify a person. Correctly identifying someone charged with a crime protects the reputation of those who have the same name but aren't facing charges. A date of birth also helps with thorough vetting of political candidates. Senate Bill 46

by Zaffirini and House Bill 2309 by Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, allow access to birthdates in these records.

### Public records and attorneys' fees

If a records requestor runs into roadblocks and must sue to obtain public documents, the ability to recover legal fees levels the playing field between that individual and the government, especially if a government hands over records at the last minute after months of costly litigation. This legislation is House Bill 2874 by Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo.

### Searchable-sortable records

While some governments provide data in searchable-sortable spreadsheet form, often making it easier to analyze, others do not. Senate Bill 965 by

Turn to **CAPITOL**, page 6



## Latest Glow Run qualifies as success

### AdvoCats annual event held March 24

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

The Aledo Children's AdvoCats hosted 575 runners at their annual Run, Walk, or Crawl Glow Run on Friday, March 24.

The 1K and 5K event features a glow-in-the-dark experience with music and activities before the race, and awards afterward.

The Run, Walk or Crawl has become the flagship

annual fundraising event for AdvoCats. Funds raised go toward three main outreach programs of the AdvoCats: the Children's Fund, which provided individual assistance to students in the Aledo ISD; the Clothes Closet, which allows qualifying families to shop for clothes at no charge; and the Angel Project, which organizes and provides Christmas gifts for qualified Aledo ISD students.

Find more event photos on the web posting of this event.

For more information, visit [aleoadvocats.com](http://aleoadvocats.com).



Read this story online



Jeremy and Miranda Lawson with Emily at the beginning of the 1K race



Volunteers Emma Boyd and Jackson Mulkey

PHOTOS BY  
KCSTUDIOS  
KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI



A family poses for a group photo outside the track.



James Wilkens gets a temporary tattoo from a volunteer.



Danja McAlevey fastens a glow in the dark bracelet on Mia.



Time for photos!



Time for a selfie!



Johnathan Gray leads a pre-race warmup.

# Churches

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A vendor dishes out a sample at a previous Taste of Parker County event at Heritage Park.

## VENDORS

from page one

This food-tasting fundraiser benefits the Weatherford College Foundation.

"It's a chance to try some items that you haven't tried before, and the vendors always impress," said Jaci Edwards, event organizer for the WC Foundation. "We have awards in a number of categories, and the vendors are motivated to win!"

Individual tickets are \$40 through April 19 and \$45 on April 20.

As of press time, this year's vendors include Aaron's Catering, Antebellum Ale House, Back Home Bakery, Beckoning Events, Ben E. Keith Beverages, Cafe Yvonne by Salt Horse Culinary, Caitlyn's Catering, Chicken Express, CookseysCupcakes, Danibelle's Lebanese

Cuisine LLC, Edgewise Eight Brewing, Firefly Grilling Co., Flavor on 51, Great Harvest Weatherford, Grove Brewing Co., LLC, HTeaO, Ironworks Coffee, Major Perk Coffee, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Rahr & Sons Brewing Company, Sweet Emilia's, Tailgaters BBQ and Yesterday's Sandwich Shop. Other vendors have expressed interest as well.

In addition, musicians from the WC Jazz Studies Department will provide live music on two stages.

The event is made possible by the support of Gilchrist Automotive, H-E-B, Mike's Westside Rental, First Bank Texas, the Parker County Hospital District, and Plains Capital Bank.

Tickets are available online at [wc.edu/taste](http://wc.edu/taste). For more information, email [jedwards@wc.edu](mailto:jedwards@wc.edu) or call 817-598-6272.

## WC fine arts presents seven April events

By Crystal Woerly  
Weatherford College

April is a busy month for fine arts at Weatherford College. Make sure to mark your calendar for these upcoming free events.

All events begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Marjorie Alkek Fine Arts Center unless otherwise noted.

On Thursday, April 6, WC's master pianist Hyeyoung Song will perform a Beethoven Piano Sonata concert.

Duane Durrett's annual "It's All About the Music" concert is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, in the third-floor community room of the Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building. The evening will feature Patrick Hill on saxophone, Kelly Durbin and Fredrick Sanders on piano, Durrett on drums and Lou Harlas on bass.

On Friday, April 14, "Opera Goes to Broadway" will spotlight WC's opera students singing selections from the best of musical theatre, directed by Rick Rainey.

Saturday, April 15, will feature WC's second annual flute festival open to musicians of all ages and abilities. The event will end with a public concert at 5 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 18, the WC Jazz Orchestra performs its Tribute to Jazz Composers concert. The evening will spotlight American jazz music and its influence.

The public is invited to the final round of the fifth annual WC International Piano Competition on Saturday, April 22. The event begins at 8 a.m. and will feature the top 12 pianists from 80 artists who applied from around the globe. The award ceremony for the competition will take place at 3:30 p.m. with a reception to follow at 5:30 p.m.

From April 27 to April 29, WC theatre students perform "The Bacchae," an ancient Greek tragedy written by the Athenian playwright Euripides during his final years in Macedonia.

Keep up with WC's fine arts events at <https://wc.edu/campus-life/fine-arts.php>



## SENATE

from page 4

relief for parents of private school students, while opponents warned against siphoning money from public districts, lack of oversight, and using taxpayer money for religious schools.

State Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, is sponsoring Senate Bill 8, which would provide \$8,000 per child for private school, homeschooling, tutoring, or other educational costs. He told the Statesman that education savings accounts would not hurt public schools.

"We can lift up public schools and teachers like never before,"

Creighton said. "We can reconcile both very easily."

Opponents say the proposal would harm public schools.

"For the state to statutorily tarnish the reputation of our public schools by directly putting dollars to private entities, that would further the vicious cycle," Francesca Fraga Leahy, an Austin mother attending the hearing, said.

*Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspess.com](mailto:gborders@texaspess.com).*

## CAPITOL

from page 4

Johnson, Senate Bill 45 by Zaffirini and House Bill 2493 by Capriglione would codify the ability to obtain searchable-sortable records if such a format is available.

These measures are supported by the Texas Sunshine Coalition, made up of more than 15 diverse organizations united around the principle that access to information is essential in advocating for public policy and participating in our democracy.

Additional proposed transparency measures deal

with public meetings, police accountability and other timely subjects.

For example, when someone dies in police custody, the public needs to know what happened. Some law enforcement agencies use a loophole in the Public Information Act to withhold records. Rep. Joe Moody, D-El Paso, filed House Bill 30 to remedy the problem.

Addressing public notices, Senate Bill 943 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, and House Bill 2178 by Hunter would require government notices that by law must be published in a newspaper to also be posted at no extra cost on the

newspaper's website and on a Texas Press Association statewide public notice website. This posting through a neutral third party provides an easy, reliable source for viewing public notices.

Transparency advocates will be speaking out until the legislative session ends May 29 to urge passage of these proposals that shine light on government, enabling us to hold it accountable.

Simply put, open government is good government.

*Kelley Shannon is executive director of the nonprofit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, based in Austin. For more information go to [www.foift.org](http://www.foift.org).*



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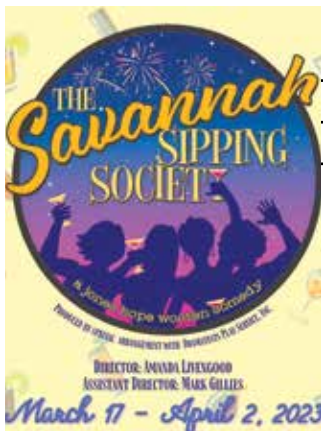
# Events

March 31, 2023  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
www.community-news.com

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.tickets-to-the-city.com/venue.php?org\\_id=88](https://buy.tickets-to-the-city.com/venue.php?org_id=88) For more information, call 817-341-8687 or visit [www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org).



**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 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 7**

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
The American Red Cross will host a Blood Drive from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, April 7 at the Church at the Crossing Gym. Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: churchatthecrossing to schedule an appointment.



**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/3CI->

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- 1 1983 UH BB team: "Phi Slama \_\_\_\_"
- 5 TXism: "best I ever wrapped \_\_\_\_ around"
- 6 a person's head (archaic)
- 7 most young 'uns learn 'em preschool
- 8 a Texas negative
- 9 what the Dallas Stars skate on
- 12 TX Ginger film: "\_\_\_\_ We Dance"
- 17 Ralph Waldo
- 19 resident of western city: "El \_\_\_\_"
- 21 this Porfirio was a TX landscape artist
- 22 Mexican general at Battle of Palo Alto
- 23 Texas stunt pilot Danaher flew in "\_\_\_\_ of the Sun"
- 28 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ of breathing room"
- 29 \_\_\_\_ of return
- 30 Texas-based film: "The Ballad of Gregorio \_\_\_\_"
- 31 Texas actor, Lee Jones
- 35 Texas Blue Bell ice cream holder
- 36 TXism: "he's \_\_\_\_ big as Texas" (kind)
- 42 TX A.C. Greene's "\_\_\_\_ Country"
- 44 SMU alum TV producer, Spelling
- 46 self-images
- 47 \_\_\_\_ and flows
- 49 Alan Bean was first Texan to walk \_\_\_\_
- 50 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ egg" (savings)
- 51 smart
- 52 "take \_\_\_\_" (sit down)
- 53 stat. for an Astro pitcher
- 54 former Arlington, Texas ace \_\_\_\_ Van Poppel
- 55 nickname of Texas Rayburn (2 wds.)
- 13 UT humanities & arts Center (2 wds.)
- 14 largest continent
- 15 "\_\_\_\_ Maples State Natural Area"
- 16 TXism: "she'll be \_\_\_\_ to her own funeral"
- 18 "\_\_\_\_ Grande"
- 20 USA continent abbr.
- 23 UT Heisman winner Earl (init.)
- 24 wife of JFK sniper (init.)
- 25 org. that runs pro rodeo circuit (abbr.)
- 26 "left \_\_\_\_ for future discussion"
- 27 break a promise
- 32 TX Buddy Holly's "\_\_\_\_ Boy"
- 33 TXism: "sold \_\_\_\_ a bill of goods" (swindled)
- 34 Gov. "\_\_\_\_" Ferguson
- 36 TXism: "don't \_\_\_\_ off half cocked"
- 37 Baird high school class (2 wds.)
- 38 "under the \_\_\_\_" (covertly)
- 39 a Colt was the "gun that \_\_\_\_ the west"
- 40 TXism: "sticks like tar on \_\_\_\_"
- 41 chimney residue
- 43 big truck racing series (abbr.)
- 45 this Nick started with TX JoBeth in "Teachers" (init.)
- 48 more of a "knee knocker"
- 49 former Texas Oatmeal Festival race: "\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-Thon"
- 56 bed support

**THE SECOND ANNUAL FLUTE FESTIVAL**  
APRIL 15, 2023  
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GUEST ARTISTS  
STEPHEN CLARK & GREG PATILLO

Registration QR code  
Spotify Playlist QR code

iKx4. For a Spotify playlist, visit <https://bit.ly/3IP7piy>.

**Willow Bark**  
The City of Willow Park is hosting the Willow Bark community event benefiting Parker Paws, from 11 a.m to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 15 at McCall Elementary School. A fun-filled day for hoomans and their K9s with lots of activities planned.



including- food trucks, live music, kids games, doggie costume contest and wiener dog races.

**EVENT SUBMISSIONS**

Send event submissions to [events@community-news.com](mailto:events@community-news.com). Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and contact for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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## GIRLS SOCCER

## Midlothian ousts Ladycats in area round

### Aledo ends season as bi-district champs

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

After defeating Fort Worth North Side on Friday, March 24, in bi-district, the Aledo Ladycats ran into their toughest adversary to date on Tuesday, March 28 when they took the pitch in the area round against Midlothian's Lady Panthers with their state championship aspirations.

The Lady Panthers (21-1-3) pounced on Aledo for six goals while shutting down the Ladycats offense, bringing Aledo's 2023 campaign to a close in the second round of the playoffs in Justin.

Aledo (17-7-2) was the runner-up in District 5-5A with a 10-2 record. Midlothian, ranked eighth in the state, won District 8-5A with a 15-0-1 record.

In Friday's matchup with North Side, the Ladycats dominated the action throughout. Emery Thompson got the rout underway as she buried a shot in the back of the net from 60 feet out with little more than 32 minutes left in the first half.

Harper Smith scored a pair of goals in the match to lead the

Turn to **SOCCER**, page 12



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trinity Christian Academy senior Maverick Gonzales was named honorable mention all-district.

### CORRECTION

In the article "Two Lady Eagles receive All-State honors" that appeared in the March 24 issue of The Community News, Sadie Gough was incorrectly identified as the "TAPPS District 1-4A Player of the Year." She was the Offensive Player of the Year.

In addition, all-district honorable mention Maverick Gonzales was inadvertently excluded from the list and photos.

We regret the errors.

## SOFTBALL

## McKean extends streak of dominance

### Ladycats add two more wipeouts

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Aledo pitcher Taylor McKean has been nothing short of dominant in her past four starts for the Ladycats. In Monday's (March 27) victory at Wichita Falls Rider she struck out 15, walked one, and surrendered a single hit in a 14-0 victory.

In winning four straight, McKean (5-3) has thrown four consecutive shutouts and has 26 straight shutout innings. In that span she has struck out 47 and walked just two.

She also has a pair of perfect games in the streak, back-to-back, in fact. She and the Ladycats defeated Fort Worth South Hills on March 3 in the Marshal Tournament and duplicated the accomplishment the next day in an 8-0 win over Pleasant Grove.

The last time McKean surrendered a run was on Feb. 24 in a 4-4 tie against Mansfield.

Aledo (19-4-1) is now 7-0 in District 5-5A and has outscored its opponents 89-3. The Ladycats

Turn to **SOFTBALL**, page 12



JACKIE HAYSLIP

Chloe Cox runs home and is followed by Liliiana Flores who rounds third. Both Ladycats scored against the Azle Hornets on March 21.

## BOYS SOCCER

## Bearcats' season ends against North Side

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats came up short in a 3-2 battle against the hosting North Side Steers in their Class 5A bi-district matchup Friday, March 24.

With what often resembled a mosh pit at a rock concert more than a soccer match, bodies hit the pitch early and often.

Early in the contest, North Side set a frenetic pace with their attack that had both teams sprinting the length of the field. The Bearcats (13-7-2, fourth in 5-5A at 7-4-1) struggled to mount any tenable offense in the initial moments of the match, but were left to weather the storm by punting the ball to the far end of the field to force the Steers to face defensive resistance the length of the pitch.

Just 11 minutes into the game the frenzied pace paid off for the Steers as they put their first goal on the board to take the 1-0 lead.

However, in the minutes that followed, the blistering pace the home team set early on began to take an inevitable toll on the Steers. As North Side began to run on fumes, Aledo was able to capitalize by mounting some offense of their own.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Clay Murador dribbles by North Side defenders during the bi-district match on Friday, March 24. He scored two goals in the game to bring his career total to six playoff goals as a Bearcat.

With 12 minutes remaining in the first half, Indiana University commit Clay Murador tied the match at 1-1 with his first goal of the contest.

North Side answered back a few minutes later to take a 2-1 advantage into the half.

In the second half Murador scored his second goal of the match and the sixth playoff goal of his career in three playoff matches.

Unfortunately, Northside managed to find the goal once more as the Bearcat 2023 season came to a close in Fort Worth.



Read this story online

## BASEBALL

## Bearcats bounce back against Brewer, shut out Granbury

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

After suffering a 3-1 loss to Brewer at home on Tuesday, March 21, Aledo head baseball coach Chad Barry emphasized the Bearcats' need to address their approach at the plate, especially with two strikes.

Since then, the Bearcats (13-6 overall, 2-1 in District 5-5A) have been on a tear, outscoring opponents 19-2 as they redeemed the loss to the Bears with an 11-2 win at Brewer on Friday, March 24. They followed up that performance with an 8-0 shutout in Granbury on Tuesday, March 28.

"We definitely have had better at-bats," Barry said. "I thought we moved runners really well [on Tuesday], too. We had two bunts for hits. I thought we played solid in all facets of the game."

Not only has the offensive production improved over the past two games, but the Bearcats have been nothing short of stellar on the bump. It's been almost a month since Aledo's hurlers gave up more than three runs in a game. Tuesday's win over Granbury marks the fourth shutout of the young season for the Bearcat hurlers.

### Bearcats prey on Pirates

The trio of Matthew Clark, Jake Bumgardner, and Luke Saunders combined to toss a three-hit shutout against Granbury. Clark picked up the win as the starter as he put in four innings of one-hit baseball before exiting with a 2-0 lead. Bumgardner threw two innings of relief, giving up a one hit as well, before handing the ball off to Saunders to finish off the seventh.

The Bearcats got on the board in the top of the fourth after Trace Mazon was plunked by a pitch. With one on and one away, Andrew Cambre singled to right allowing Mazon to advance to second on the hit to put a runner in scoring position.

After a ground out moved both runners up a base Ryan Jones stepped into the box with two on and two outs. A week prior Aledo stranded seven runners on base, but that was not the case against Granbury. Jones singled to right field, giving Mazon and Cambre ample time to charge around the bases as the visiting team took the lead.

Cambre singled again to lead off the top of the sixth inning. He was replaced on the base path by Brooks Burdine, who promptly stole second to move into scoring position.

With a runner in scoring position and no outs, the Bearcats manufactured a run as Brooks Dwinell dropped down the sac bunt, moving the runner over to third. Jones earned another RBI

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 12

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TRACK AND FIELD

# Bearcats run win streak to 12

## Win Owl Relays with room to spare

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

One has to go back to 2021 to find the last time the Aledo Bearcats did not finish first in a regular-season track meet.

And that streak is now at a dozen as Aledo once again controlled almost all facets of the meet in winning the Joshua Owls Relays on Friday, March 24.

The Bearcats tallied 192 points, easily outdistancing runner-up Cleburne with 111. The Bearcats junior varsity was also dominant, winning by a margin of 202 to 114.5 for runner-up Everman.

"The kids ran well after not running in a meet over spring break. We had several PRs set in the throws and jumps, which are coming at a good time leading into the last invitational meet and then district in two weeks," head coach Andrew Clark said.

"The win streak is a huge help. Kids want to see it stay alive, so it has led to some extra motivation."

The Bearcats were hosting their second meet of the season Thursday at press time and will host the District 5-5A Meet on April 12-13. In addition, pole vaulter Sean Gribble will compete in the elite Texas Relays Friday and Saturday at the University of Texas in Austin.

"Should be exciting to see where he finishes with what is easily the most

competitive meet of the season by far," Clark said.

The Bearcats garnered a plethora of points (60) by winning all three relays. Keiran Patrick-Daniels, Hauss Hejny, Jaden Allen and Aven Lawrence comprised the 400-meter relay, while Blake Burdine replaced Allen on the 800 and Nathan Wood replaced Patrick-Daniels on the 1600 to join Burdine, Lawrence and Hejny.

Winning individual gold medals were Vincent Luffey in the 800, Isaac Sohn in the shot put and Brad Campbell in the pole vault.

### Joshua Relays - Aledo Bearcat Varsity

Team score: 192, first place.

#### Top individual results

(Running distances in meters, field events in feet)

100: 2. Keiran Patrick-Daniels, 11.22.

400: 2. Chad Thomas, 52.78 (PR).

800: 1. Vincent Luffey, 2:02.75; 3. Dominick Barrera, 2:02.05 (PR).

1600: 2. Jack Fink, 4:46.32 (PR).

3200: 2. Fink, 10:05.35; 3. Luffey, 10:05.37.

110 hurdles: 3. Evan Thompson, 15.61.

300 hurdles: 3. Thompson, 42.33.

400 relay: 1. Patrick-Daniels, Hauss Hejny, Jaden Allen, Aven Lawrence, 42.25.

800 relay: 1. Patrick-Daniels, Blake Burdine, Hejny, Lawrence, 1:28.82.

1600 relay: 1. Nathan Wood, Burdine, Lawrence, Hejny, 3:30.49.

Shot put: 1. Isaac Sohn, 44-08.25; 3. Isaac Knott, 41-10.

Pole vault: 1. Brad Campbell, 14-06.

Long jump: 2. Jayton Owens, 20-03.25 (PR).

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TRACK AND FIELD

# AMS tops Bearcat Invitational

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Aledo Middle School took the top spot in both boys divisions and in the seventh-grade girls division at the recent Bearcat Relays. McAnally Middle School claimed the top spot among eighth-grade girls.

In the reported results below, running distances are in meters, field events are in feet. No individual results were reported for McAnally.

### Seventh-Grade Girls

Team scores: AMS 166, first; McAnally 151, second.

#### Top individuals

400: 3. Elizabeth Brethauer, 1:09.32.

1600: 2. Ashlynn Durnil, 6:42.50; 3. Ramona Wills, 6:48.04.

2400: 3. Cecilia Frank, 10:16.54.

300 hurdles: 3. Hailey Wuenstel, 54.42.

1600 relay: 2. Alyssa Giles, Brethauer, Frank, Jules Avery.

Pole vault: 1. Emma Ralph, 7-00; 2. Elizabeth Gamez, 6-06; 3. Addison Fields, 6-00.

Long jump: 1. Wuenstel, 14-11.50.

Triple jump: 1. Peyton Davis, 30-02.

Shot put: 1. Katelyn Lowe, 29-05; 3. Harper Fink, 27-06.50.

Discus: 2. Bailey Martin, 61-09; 3. Lily Morris, 60-04.

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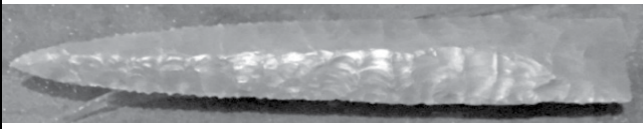
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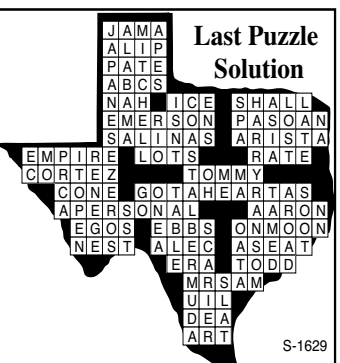
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ALEDO ISD

# Winterguard wins Tulsa championship

## Heads to North Texas championship on Saturday

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

The Aledo Varsity Winterguard team recently won the Tulsa Winter Guard International (WGI)



competition. The Aledoans placed ahead of second-place Lafayette High School in Wildwood, Missouri and third-place Liberty High School from Liberty, Missouri.

The winter guard program is titled "Wild Horses" and features

soloists Morgan Furlow, who portrays a horse, and Kathleen Campbell, who aspires to run with the wild horses.

Both Aledo High School varsity and JV groups will compete in the North Texas Colorguard

Association championship on Saturday, April 1, at Lake Ridge High School in Mansfield.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**LEFT:** The three colorguard captains are (from left) Morgan Furlow, Kathleen Campbell, and Daniela Hernandez. | **RIGHT:** The Aledo Varsity Winterguard team that won the Tulsa WGI is composed of (front row, from left) captains Morgan Furlow, Kathleen Campbell, and Daniela Hernandez and (back row) Elizabeth Kehrt, Meredith Thomas, Mahalia Houchen, Faith Canady, Delaney Means, Adriana Olazaran, Libby Van Cleef, and Leah Novak.

BOYS POWERLIFTING

# Aledo lifters compete at state

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

Two Aledo powerlifters ended their season at the Texas High School Powerlifting Association State Meet in Abilene on Saturday, March 25.

Caleb Loth and Davhon Keys each finished 16th in their respective divisions. Loth competed in the 198-pound class and Keys was in the 220 division.

Loth lifted a total of 1,475 pounds, which included a squat lift of 585, bench press of 375 and a dead lift of 515. Key totaled 1,540 pounds lifted, 600 squat, 365 bench and 575 dead lift.

"They both competed very well and hit their highest total of the year!" exclaimed head coach Brad McCone. "Extremely proud of them."

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### Notice of Public Hearings

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council of the City of Aledo, Parker County, Texas will conduct public hearings in the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas.

<p><b>First Public Hearing</b></p> <p>Location: Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008</p> <p>Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023</p> <p>Time: 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>Planning and Zoning Commission</b></p> <p>Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008</p> <p>Thursday, April 13, 2023</p> <p>6:00 P.M.</p>
<p><b>Second Public Hearing</b></p> <p>Location: Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008</p> <p>Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023</p> <p>Time: 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>City Council Meeting</b></p> <p>Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court Aledo, Texas 76008</p> <p>Thursday, April 27, 2023</p> <p>6:00 P.M.</p>

The purpose of the hearings is to receive input regarding consideration the following:

- 1) Public Hearing to consider an ordinance amending Section 23 of the City of Aledo, Texas Zoning Ordinance pertaining to swimming pool standards.
- 2) Public Hearing to receive input and consider comments regarding recommending the initial zoning of newly annexed territory as Planned Development with Single Family R-2 uses for a 106.52-acre tract of land off Bailey Ranch Road, also known as The Lakes.
- 3) Public Hearing to receive input and consider comments for a Zoning Change request from Single Family Residential R-1 to Downtown Business District DB for 6.013 acres of land situated on Lot 1, Block 1-R, Aledo Original Town and 2.36 acres situated on land from Abstract 483, Fawks LR survey. (100 Pecan Drive)

For further information or questions regarding these public hearings, please contact the City of Aledo at (817)441-7016.

Published in *The Community News*, March 31st, 2023, and posted at Aledo City Hall, March 31st, 2023.

# WILLOW BARK

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RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Katie Cox gets knocked down by the North Side goalkeeper while attempting to put a shot on goal during bi-district action on Friday, March 24.

## SOCCER

from page 8

Ladycats in scoring. Her first goal came at the 20:22 mark of the first half as she snuck a shot past the North Side goalkeeper from a dozen feet out, putting Aledo up by a 2-0 tally at the half.

Her second goal of the contest got the scoring rally underway in the second half for the Ladycats. Thompson drew the attention of the defense before making the pass over to Smith for the uncontested, close-range goal that put Aledo up by a 3-0 score with just less than 23 minutes left to play.

Then the scoring frenzy began.

Reagan Krajca put in a goal of her own from 20 feet out a few minutes later to give the Ladycats a 4-0 cushion with 17:34 left in the match. Little more than a minute later Hailey Vandiver buried a 50-footer to increase the lead to 5-0. With 13:11 left to play Emaree Gibson put an exclamation point on the Ladycats' performance with a whopping 75-footer to cap off the offensive onslaught.

"I thought that we would have a little bit of success," stated Ladycats head coach Bryan Johnson. "I felt like we made some adjustments at halftime and figured out a couple of things. It kind of bothered me, after we scored that third goal, they went down right off the kickoff and got a shot on goal. Then they got a corner and another shot on goal. I didn't want them to have any shots, but they ended up with four shots. That was me being lax, pulling defenders off. I know I can't do that."

Johnson knew going into the meeting with Midlothian he would have to have his team prepared to play 80 minutes of mistake-free soccer.

"It's an uphill battle," Johnson said of the encounter with the Lady Panthers. "We're going to have to play the best game we've played. We're going to have to defend like crazy, score when the chances come. We can't miss chances. It's going to be a very competitive game. It always has been against Midlothian. They're a good team. They're solid all the way from keeper to forward."



Read this story online

## SOFTBALL

from page 8

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

A few days earlier, on Friday, March 24, the Ladycats made short work of visiting Granbury as Nathalie Touchet pitched a two-hitter in a 10-1 victory. Touchet improved to 9-0 this season.

In the two wins, Claire Byars paced the offense with four hits and four runs batted in. Reagan Davis had five stolen bases.

In their two wins against Rider this season, Aledo has outscored the Lady Raiders 32-1. Touchet pitched a two-hitter in an 18-1 home win on Feb. 28.



Read this story online

The Ladycats are playing at 7 p.m. Friday, March 31, at Northwest. They return home to host Saginaw at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 6.

### Aledo 10, Granbury 1

	R	H	E
Granbury	1	0	0
Aledo	0	0	5

Aledo hitting: Addie Perry, 2-4, HP; Claire Byars, 2-5, RBI, SB; Maddy Jarvis, 2-4, RBI; Reagan Davis, 2-4, 3 SB; Presley Hull, 1-3, 2B, BB, 2 RBI; Texas Ray, 1-3, 2B, BB, 4 RBI; Brenlee Gonzales, 1-2, 2 BB; Ana Flores, 1-3, HP, Delaney Rosser, 3 BB, RBI.  
Aledo pitching: Nathalie Touchet, 7 IP, 2 H, 1 R (0 ER), 9 K, 1 BB.

### Aledo 14, WF Rider 0

	R	H	E
Aledo	4	2	8
Rider	0	0	0

Aledo hitting: Flores, 3-4, 2B, RBI; Byars, 1-3, 3 RBI, SB; Perry, 1-2, HP, SB; Rosser, 1-2, 2B, 2 RBI; Chloe Cox, 1-3, HP; Ray, HP; Taylor McKean 2 BB, HP, 2 RBI; Maddy Flora, BB, RBI; Davis 2 SB.  
Aledo pitching: McKean, 5 IP, 1 H, 0 R, 15 K, 1 BB.

## BASEBALL

from page 8

by hitting a ground ball to the right side of the infield, giving Burdine the opportunity to score from third to make it a 3-0 game at that point.

In the top of the seventh Aledo rallied for five runs as Brady McAnear, Garrett Rester, Boyd Thompson, Bosten Dwinell, and Mazon all scored in the inning.

### Aledo avenges loss on the road

Bryce McCain led the charge for the Bearcats as they went to Brewer on Friday looking to avenge their 3-2 loss earlier in the week. McCain tossed four and two-thirds innings, giving up just two runs on four hits while recording 11 of the 14 outs he was responsible for pitching by way of strikeout.

At the dish, McCain wasn't to be trifled with, either. Aledo's hurler went 2-for-2 at the plate with a walk and a home run to left in the seventh with the game already out of reach for the Bears.

The Bearcats' approach at the plate was vastly different against Brewer on Friday compared to Tuesday, as was the result. While the only run Aledo scored on Tuesday was in the fourth inning, on Friday the fourth inning was the only frame the Bearcats didn't put a run on the board.



Read this story online

Aledo manufactured runs by stringing hits together and taking advantage of situations where they had runners in scoring position. The visiting squad put a run on the board in each of the first three innings, then capped off the fifth, sixth, and seventh innings driving in multiple runs in each stanza.

"We still have some things we can sharpen up on," Barry stated following back-to-back wins by his team over the last week. "But, I definitely am pleased with how we've responded since the first district game."

The Bearcats will take to the diamond again on Friday, March 31 as they look to take two in a row from the Pirates and push their winning streak to three games when Granbury comes to town. First pitch in that district matchup is slated for 7 pm.

### Aledo 8, Granbury 0

	R	H	E
Aledo	0	0	0
Granbury	0	0	0

Aledo hitting: Boyd Thompson 1-3, HP, BB; Bosten Dwinell RBI, BB; Trace Mazon 1-3, 2 RBI, SB, HP; Andrew Cambre 2-4, RBI; Brooks Dwinell RBI; Ryan Jones 1-4, 3 RBI; Bryce McCain 1-4; Brennon Evans BB; Garrett Rester 3-3, 2B; Brooks Burdine SB.  
Aledo pitching: Matthew Clark 4 IP, H, 3 BB, 2 K; Jake Bumgardner 2 IP, H, 2 K; Luke Saunders 1 IP, H, BB, K.

### Aledo 11, Brewer 2

	R	H	E
Aledo	1	1	1
Brewer	0	0	0

Aledo hitting: Thompson 3-5, 3B; Bo Dwinell 1-4, RBI; Mazon 1-for-5, RBI; Cambre 1-3, 2 RBI, HP; Br. Dwinell 2-4, 2 RBI, 2B, HP, SB; Jones 1-4; Bryce McCain 2-2, RBI, HR, HP, SB; Evans 1-3; Rester BB.  
Aledo pitching: McCain 4.2 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, 3 BB, 11 K; Luke Taylor 0.1 IP; Luke Saunders 2 IP, BB, 3 K.

# Winterguard



(front row, from left) captains Morgan Furlow, Kathleen Campbell, and Daniela Hernandez (back row) Elizabeth Kehrt, Meredith Thomas, Mahalia Houchen, Faith Canady, Delaney Means, Adriana Olazaran, Libby Van Cleef, and Leah Novak.

**Good Luck this weekend!**

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