

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Early voting under way in local-level elections

Early voting began Monday for local-area elections in preparation for the main voting day on May 6.

The biggest item for most voters in east Parker County is the Aledo Independent School District's \$123,800,000 bond proposal. The proposal was recommended to the school board by a committee of area residents who studied the facility needs of the rapidly-growing school district.

The only other proposition decision for area voters concerns Emergency Services District No. 1 annexation of the City of Sanctuary.

In terms of choosing representatives to local government bodies, all voters in Parker County will choose between Doug Dowd and Scott Butler.

Other local area races are shown below. The race that will appear on any given ballot depend on where the voter lives.

### ALEDO ISD Proposition A

The issuance of \$123,800,000 of bonds by the Aledo Independent School District for the construction, renovation, acquisition and equipment of school facilities in the District

- For
- Against

### PARKER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1 Proposition AA

Adding service to the ESD

- For
- Against

### Proposition BB

Assuming debt and obligations of the new service area

- For
- Against

### Weatherford College Board of Trustees Trustees Place 4 Unexpired Term

Doug Dowd  
Scott Butler  
Trustees Place 6  
G. B. Bailey (unopposed)  
Trustees Place 7  
Lela Morris (unopposed)

### WEATHERFORD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Trustee Place 6

Nolan Waters  
Toby Leon Taylor

Turn to **ELECTION**, page A3



Firefighter James Cassaro is pinned by his son, Hudson, who is assisted by mom Alaina Cassaro during a pinning ceremony for Emergency Services District No. 1 on Friday, April 21. See story on page A3.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## ALEDO ISD

# Rock of stability

## Next elementary school to be named for Lynn McKinney

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

It was a combination of tears and smiles when the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the district's next elementary school after Deputy Superintendent Lynn McKinney at a special meeting on Thursday, April 20.

McKinney has announced her retirement at the end of the school year.

McKinney, who began teaching in the Aledo ISD 37 years ago at the elementary level, became the principal at Aledo High School in 1990 before moving into administration in 1999.

The administration worked to keep the board meeting a secret from McKinney while at the same time adhering to open meeting laws that require notice to be posted.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn opened with comments about the purpose of the meeting, saying one of the projects in the upcoming bond proposal is building elementary school number seven.

Board member Forrest Collins then moved that, upon her retirement, elementary



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lynn McKinney is shown with Aledo ISD board member Forrest Collins.

number seven be named for McKinney.

"You know how much you personally mean to me. And I know how much you personally mean to so many people in this community," Collins said to McKinney. "There's not a person I meet in this community who has an interaction with Lynn McKinney that doesn't love her. When I think of Aledo ISD, I think of Lynn McKinney, when

Turn to **MCKINNEY**, page A3

# 100 years of Aledo ISD growth: The modern era

By Dan Reilly  
Special to The Community News

*Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series highlighting the growth of the Aledo ISD throughout its history.*

In 1996, the district opened a third campus location south on FM 5. The newest building would separate seventh and eighth grades from the high school building, creating Aledo's first middle school, and providing more classroom space for high school.

Even with these changes, temporary buildings were utilized for high school classes. An increase in younger students put a strain on Aledo Primary School. Third grade was moved to Aledo Intermediate School, leaving only kindergarten through second grade at the northern campus. Grades three through five were at Aledo Intermediate School. Students in sixth grade through eighth attended the new Aledo Middle School.

As the school district prepared for the new millennium, the community passed a 1998 bond that would forever change the configuration of Aledo ISD. Included in the bond proposal was a fourth campus location that would be home to a brand-new Aledo High School designed to accommodate

1,800 students with an accompanying administration building on the same property.

The old high school would be converted to a junior high facility housing seventh and eighth grades. A reconfigured middle school would house fifth and sixth grades. A new elementary school would be built in a new development in the southern part of the district. The Aledo Primary and Intermediate campuses would be converted to full, independent elementary schools for grades pre-kindergarten to fourth grade.

For the first time in the district's history, students in the same grade would be split between three different elementary schools. It was during this process that the school board officially adopted the names of the schools we know today. At a January 17, 2000 school board meeting, Aledo Primary became Coder Elementary, Aledo Intermediate became Vandagriff Elementary, the new elementary school in the Deer Creek area would open as Stuard Elementary, and the Middle School would become McAnally Intermediate School.

By 2003, the plan put in place with the passing of the 1998 bond was complete. Coder, Stuard, and Vandagriff Elementary Schools



JONATHAN SAMPSON/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Charles McAnally cut the ribbon to commemorate the naming of the original McAnally Intermediate School's on Dec. 11, 2003.

spanned grades pre-kindergarten to fourth. McAnally Intermediate housed grades five and six. Aledo Middle School was home to seventh- and eighth-graders. Aledo High School was in its new home on Bailey Ranch Road.

### More bonds

It did, however, require the passage of Proposition No. 1 on a 2001 bond to complete all the projects

because of inflation, construction delays, and unforeseen costs not included in initial estimates.

Three other propositions failed in that election, including athletic fields for the new high school, a new stadium, and funds for future growth. As a result, outside athletic competitions continued at the facilities on the old campus serving Aledo Middle School.

Turn to **GROWTH**, page B3

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April 28, 2023  
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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. 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.

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

**APRIL 28**

**AdvoCats Garden Party**  
 The Aledo Children's AdvoCats will host a Garden Party on Friday, April 28, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Two Sisters Tearoom. Light bits, tea mint juleps, shopping and style show featuring spring releases. Tickers are \$20 per person. Derby dress with hats is encouraged.



**APRIL 29**

**Parker County's first annual Home & Garden Show**  
 The Parker County Home & Garden Show will be from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center. With 30+ vendors you can talk to licensed contractors, shop home decor, get treats for your pets and find just the right grill or patio furniture for your home. Enjoy free drinks, multiple prize giveaways and food trucks will be on site. Admission is free.



**Native Plant Sale**

Set For Saturday, April 29  
 The Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas is holding its annual Native Plant Sale at Heritage Park in Weatherford on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The sale will be held during the First Monday Trade Days, which is a new location for the chapter's annual event. It will feature dozens of native species including grasses, flowering perennials, groundcovers and shrubs. A list of plants in the sale will be posted soon

**ACROSS**

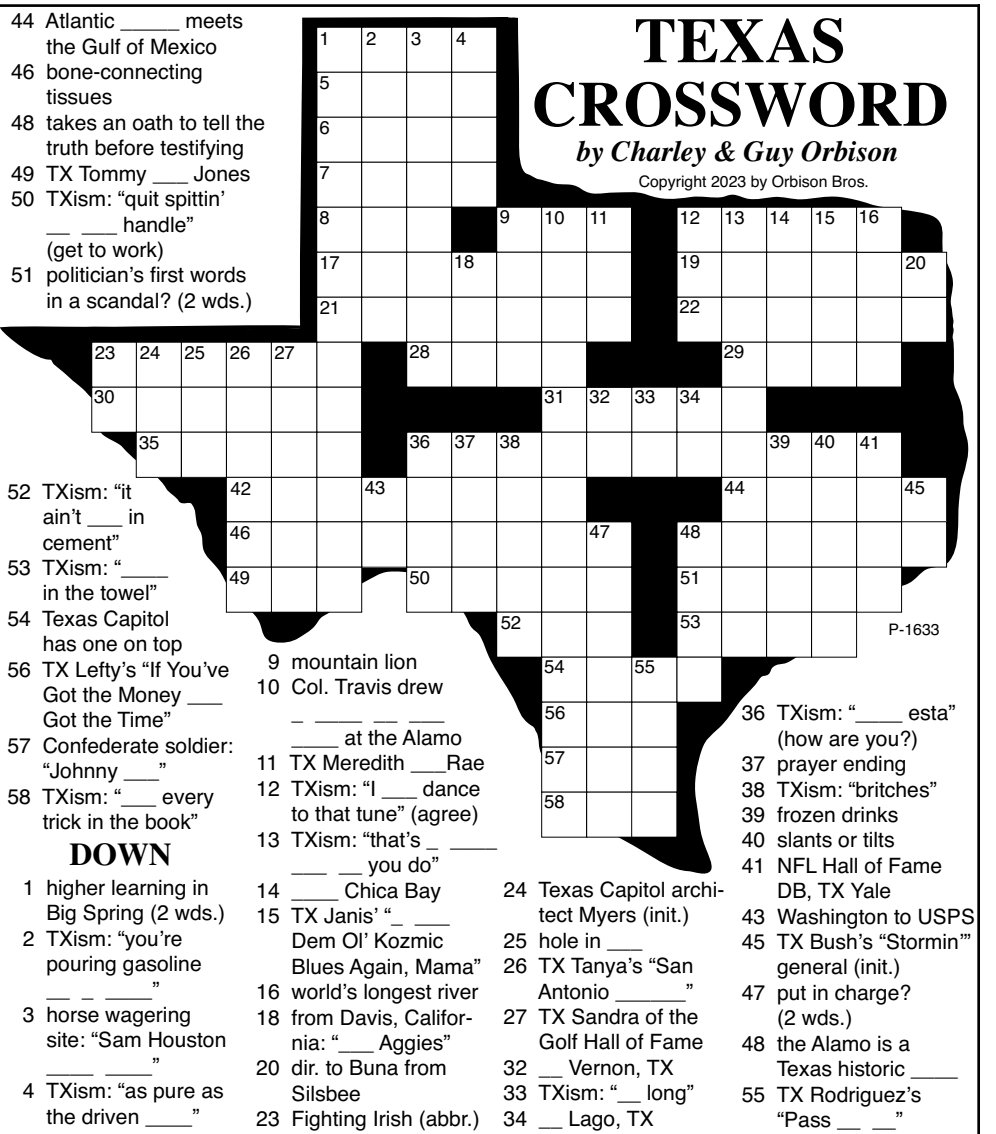
- 1 nachos are Texas "\_\_\_ d'Oeuvres"
- 5 TXism: "fits like ugly \_\_\_ ape"
- 6 seat of McLennan County
- 7 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ bricks shy of a load"
- 8 Texas actor Torn of "Men in Black"
- 9 she married Bobby Ewing on "Dallas"
- 12 John Neely Bryan's historic abode in downtown Dallas
- 17 TX Jim Hart wrote screenplay for "Brad Stoker's \_\_\_"
- 19 TX O. Henry's "\_\_\_ Santone"
- 21 carpet alternative: \_\_\_ tile
- 22 daughter of Texas Louise Mandrell
- 23 Sam Houston's Indian home "Wigwam \_\_\_"
- 28 disfavored group: "Ku Klux \_\_\_"
- 29 former Cowboy guard, Newton
- 30 TXism: "he uses barbed wire for \_\_\_ floss"
- 31 TXism: "never let \_\_\_ you sweat"
- 35 Strep of TX-filmed "Silkwood"
- 36 TX Cruz & Cornyn hang-out (2 wds.)
- 42 as a \_\_\_ team, TX "Babe" won 1932 AAU

**DOWN**

- 9 mountain lion
- 10 Col. Travis drew \_\_\_ at the Alamo
- 11 TX Meredith \_\_\_ Rae
- 12 TXism: "I \_\_\_ dance to that tune" (agree)
- 13 TXism: "that's \_\_\_ you do"
- 14 \_\_\_ Chica Bay
- 15 TX Janis' "\_\_\_ Dem Ol' Kozmic Blues Again, Mama"
- 16 world's longest river from Davis, California: "\_\_\_ Aggies"
- 20 dir. to Buna from Silsbee
- 23 Fighting Irish (abbr.)
- 24 Texas Capitol architect Myers (init.)
- 25 hole in \_\_\_
- 26 TX Tanya's "San Antonio \_\_\_"
- 27 TX Sandra of the Golf Hall of Fame
- 32 \_\_\_ Vernon, TX
- 33 TXism: "\_\_\_ long"
- 34 \_\_\_ Lago, TX

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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on the Cross Timbers website, <https://npsot.org/wp/crosstimbers/>

**MAY 6**

**Talking Tombstone Tour**  
 The Parker County Heritage Society will present a Talking Tombstone Tour A Grace Affair from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 6 at the Old City Greenwood Cemetery. Join as they explore the 160-year old



cemetery, a grave affair-mind, body and soul. General admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids. Tickets purchased upon arrival. The tours start every 30 minutes and lasts 75 minutes. For more information visit parkercounty-heritagesociety.com.

**MAY 7**

**Sunset on the Square 2023**  
 Join Downtown Weatherford Inc for the 3rd ANNUAL Sunset on the Square, 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 7. Enjoy an outdoor dining experience from Parker County's favorite restaurants!



Sponsorship opportunities are now available. For sponsorship information, please email: [info@sunsetonthesquare.com](mailto:info@sunsetonthesquare.com) or [info@d-winc.org](mailto:info@d-winc.org)

**Parker County Cars & Coffee**  
 The next Cars & Coffee will be held from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday May 7 at Cafe 23:5. The Parker County Cars & Coffee is held the 4th Sunday of the month.

**MAY 11**

**Gardeners' Club of Parker County**  
 Come hear about the Community Garden at St Francis Church and check out the Gardeners' Club of Parker County. Meeting every Second Thursday of each month September thru May at St Francis Church, 107 Ranch House Road in Willow Park. For further information, call 817-919-6280.

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PARKER COUNTY

# ESD 1 officially breaks ground on new fire training center

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Parker County has seen tremendous growth come to the area in recent years with significantly more planned for the near future. With growth comes change.

For Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1, the best thing they can do about all this change is to ensure they're prepared to deal with it when it matters most.

With that in mind, on Friday, April 21, ESD 1 broke ground on a state-of-the-art training facility that will be housed at 1439 Farmer Road. The 15,000 square-foot structure will allow the department to train in real-world scenarios that are presently lacking in many facilities in neighboring counties.

"The biggest thing that is going to set this apart is our ability to



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of ESD 1 prepare to symbolically break ground for the new training facility off of Farmer Road during a ceremony on Friday, April 21.

burn Class A fuels, like wood and normal combustible products that generate smoke," said Battalion Chief Charlie Dall. "A lot of the adjoining counties around us have flammable liquid products. They don't put off the smoke. Modern fire behavior or contemporary fire dynamics that we are experiencing in the real-world setting is a lot of petrochemical products that makes fire burn with a higher heat release and, more notably, a lot of smoke. By creating an environment that can replicate that is going to set this apart from the other training facilities in the area."

Training in the same conditions the firemen will likely encounter during an emergency call means a decrease in loss of life and loss of property.

"By having the fuel packages that we use, our suppression tactics will be more realistic," Dall expounded. "And by having purpose-built props that replicate actual floor plans we see, it will provide us a better means of practicing and learning victim removal and victim search techniques."

Plans for the facility will include space to replicate multiple types of facilities for the firefighters to train in ranging from standard family dwellings to warehouses. One of the hopes is this facility will allow other departments from around the state to come train alongside members of ESD 1 to improve their skills while making an investment in the local economy at the same time.



Read this story online



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Battalion Chief Charlie Dall shares a few words with attendees during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new firefighter training facility off Farmer Road on Friday, April 21.

# ESD 1 first responders receive badges

## Pinning ceremony held April 21

Emergency Services District No. 1 held a badge pinning ceremony for 17 suppression personnel and administered their oath of office on Friday, April 21, at the Aledo fire station.

Personnel who were sworn included:

Firefighters: Scroggins, Rutledge, Rice, Martin, Dieter, Button, Cassaro, and Rick;

Engineers: Rowe, Quintero, Urbanowski, Hanley, and Kelly;

Lieutenants: Ramsey, Harbold, and King;

and Battalion Chief Moore.

Photos and video can be found at the web posting of this story.



Read this story online

## ELECTION

from page A1

### TRUSTEE PLACE 7

Mike Guest (unopposed)

### CITY OF ALEDO

#### Councilmember Place 1

Shane Davis (unopposed)

#### Councilmember Place 3

Shawna Ford

Duane W. Beck\*



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\*Duane Beck dropped out of the race, but did so too late for his name to be removed from the ballot

### CITY OF FORT WORTH

#### Mayor

Mattie Parker

Alyson Kennedy

Jennifer Castillo

Adrian Devine Smith

Kenneth Bowens, Jr

### City Council, District 3

Michael D. Crain (unopposed)

### CITY OF HUDSON OAKS

#### Council Member Place 2

Brian Lixey (unopposed)

#### Council Member Place 4

Sean Cannon (unopposed)

#### Council Member Place 5

Daniel Cross

Chris Ramsey

Early voting locations include: Aledo ISD Admin Building, Hudson Oaks Public Safety Building, Parker County Courthouse Annex Kitchen, Springtown Senior Center, Peaster ISD Rock Gym, Azle City Hall, PCT 3 County Barn, and Millsap Community Center. Map links can be found on the web posting of this story.

Remaining early voting hours include 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday-Friday, April 26-28, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, May 1 and 2.

## MCKINNEY

from page A1

I think of growing greatness, I think of Lynn McKinney, and it is a great honor to be here today to recognize you and everything you've done for this school district."

"I don't think you have any idea the impact you've made on so many lives," board member Julie Turner added. "We are so excited and there's no one more deserving."

Board President Hoyt Harris recalled when he met McKinney for the first time in 1995 when she had to turn him down for a project he had proposed.

"I learned that she had one of the skills that I think is one of the most

important skills anyone that has to be working with the public or children and parents could ever have. And that is the skill of being able to tell somebody no without them being offended," Harris said.

"I think this is such a great way to to honor you and can't wait for us to have the school open for you to visit," board member David Lear said.

Bohn recalled meeting McKinney when she (Bohn) was interviewing for the superintendent position.

"I remember sitting and talking to her in her office ahead of time. And what I really remember about her is that she had a very deep love for this place. And she was also very honest with me, and I really appreciated that about her," Bohn said,

recalling that McKinney was near retirement at the time. "I came in and people told me that, you know, 'she might not be around long,' but she's stayed for five years — I'm really, really grateful that she did. And we would not have had the last five years that we've had if she hadn't chosen to stay, and, in fact, be sort of the rock of stability through lots and lots of change in the district."

Bohn said the school district was doing "37 Days for Lynn McKinney" in commemoration of her 37 years, and the board naming the school was their part of that program.

Harris then pointed out that the board needed to vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

A visibly moved McKinney then rose to speak, and recalled that first meeting with Bohn. She and her husband had been talking about retirement, but McKinney said she decided to stay on a year for the transition.

"And I found out in about a week, she [Bohn] didn't need any help, that she had it. And then it was like, 'I want to be on this person's team. I want to be a part of this,'" McKinney said. "I'm so glad that you got here, Dr. Bohn, and to work under your leadership has been amazing. And not a regret, but one of the things I wish could have happened was that

I met you much younger in my career, I guess I would have definitely followed you all over the state wherever you went.

"And it's been amazing to do what I love with people that I love, in a place that I love. And I think sometimes when we've been here for a while, we take for granted what a special place this is. So we just have to keep remembering what makes us who we are, and keep working towards that every day. And I cannot imagine a greater honor than the gift you all have given me today."

Video of McKinney's remarks can be found with the web posting of this story.



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# Saturday in the Park

On any given day hundreds of young people can be found in the spring at the Aledo Athletics ballparks participating in the national pastime. These players were found on April 13.



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PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Lady Dawgs third baseman Marley Rose readies a throw to first.



Levi Smith reaches first on a hit for the Giants.



Ryan Corcia of the Angels runs to first after a hit.



Second baseman Carter Blackburn of the Angels t-ball team throws to first.



Reagan Dendy waits for a pitch.



Bella Foxworth of the Texas Twisters swings at a pitch.



Parker Johnson pitches for the Pirates.



Katem Shaw of the Lady Dawgs fields a grounder.

# Churches

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## AHS exchange student fan of Bearcats and new country

By John English  
The Community News

Elena Aresi's face lights up as soon as she hears the words "the Aledo football team."

The Italy native is an exchange student at Aledo High School this year, and following a season where her adopted school's team won the 5A-Division I state championship, Aresi is now a certifiable devotee of Bearcat Nation.

"From the first game I really fell in love with it," Aresi said. "I didn't know anything, so I started asking questions to my host family about the sport, and then I kind of got obsessed with it. Now I love American football. All the games were so much fun — the home games, the playoffs and all the way to state. I lost my voice, but it was amazing."

Gina Davis, Aresi's host mother during her stay in the United States, could not agree more.

"My husband is a huge sports fan and he has taken her to every sporting event we have," Davis said. "She went to the Mavericks, and she went to the Rangers and she went to a tennis tournament that was here. But when she said she is obsessed with the Aledo football team, that is not an understatement. She was probably their biggest fan."

The AHS junior has even memorized the Bearcat roster.

### Adjusting to differences

Aresi, 17, grew up in the city of Milan and came to the U.S. in August of 2022 to spend her junior year abroad and expand her horizons a bit.

"I wanted to learn English and find out what Texas is all about," Aresi said. "I wanted to learn about your culture."

And what has she learned?

"It's a lot different from my life in Italy," Aresi said. "Italy is completely different. We don't have any sports in high school. The food is different, and people here are nicer than they are in Italy. And then we have smaller cars, and we don't have the rodeo or American football."

Another difference is how she gets around these days.

"One of the biggest adjustments for me was that I used a lot of public

transportation in Italy," Aresi said. "And I walked a lot. But I can't walk anywhere here. And then one of the conditions of doing this is that I can't drive, and I don't have a license. So I have to rely on my host family to take me everywhere, and that's different."

But the Davis family does not mind, and Aresi has traveled extensively with her host family throughout her stay.

One of Aresi's biggest objectives in studying abroad this school year was to improve her English, and Davis said she has certainly accomplished that goal.

"I think it's improved quite a bit," Davis said. "Her vocabulary has always been extremely impressive. The students have to do a language test before they come and she scored high on that. She has been studying English throughout her time in school, and so when she got here she was using some words that typical 17-year olds from the United States don't use. She spoke really slowly at first when she got here, and now she speaks almost as fast in English as she does in Italian."

Aresi said that in Milan, her typical day usually involved walking to school with her friends, coming home and making some pasta in the early afternoon.

The school day is not as long in Italy and students do not eat at school.

Aresi would then go to the gym and maybe into town to hang out with her friends.

There are no extra-curricular activities in Italian schools, and while that makes for a shorter day than in American Schools, Aresi sees the virtues of both.

"I like how American Schools are organized with the extracurricular stuff," Aresi said. "But I don't like eating at school. I prefer eating alone at my house. So they both have their pros and cons, but I would say

the American School day is way more fun."

### Picturing America in her mind

Aresi admits that while some of her ideas of what America would be like before her visit were pretty accurate, others were a little bit different than reality.

"I watched a lot of movies like 'High School Musical,'" Aresi said. "I thought people would be dancing and singing, but that didn't happen. I had expectations about prom, and I'm really excited about it and all of the sports. I wanted to travel a lot, and we have done that. But I always knew that I was going to have a great time here."

Aresi was allowed to participate in extracurricular activities and decided to join the yearbook staff.

One of the things she has enjoyed the most about her visit is the Aledo community itself.

"It's been really welcoming," Aresi said. "The school has helped me a lot to make new friends. And I like that it's a small town, and I've gotten to meet a lot of people. It's a lot different than a big city. I have a lot of special people here that I'm going to miss, my friends and host family and just the community. There is so much spirit, and I love the school."

Davis said this is her family's first exchange student and said it could not have gone better.

"It's been a fantastic experience," Davis said. "We're all glad we did it. She has joined with our family and participated in everything, and she's 100 percent in on any new thing that we want to do or place we go to eat. She is all in. It's also given us a chance to go back to do a lot of the tourist type of things that we haven't done in a long time, and it's so much fun to see her get so excited."

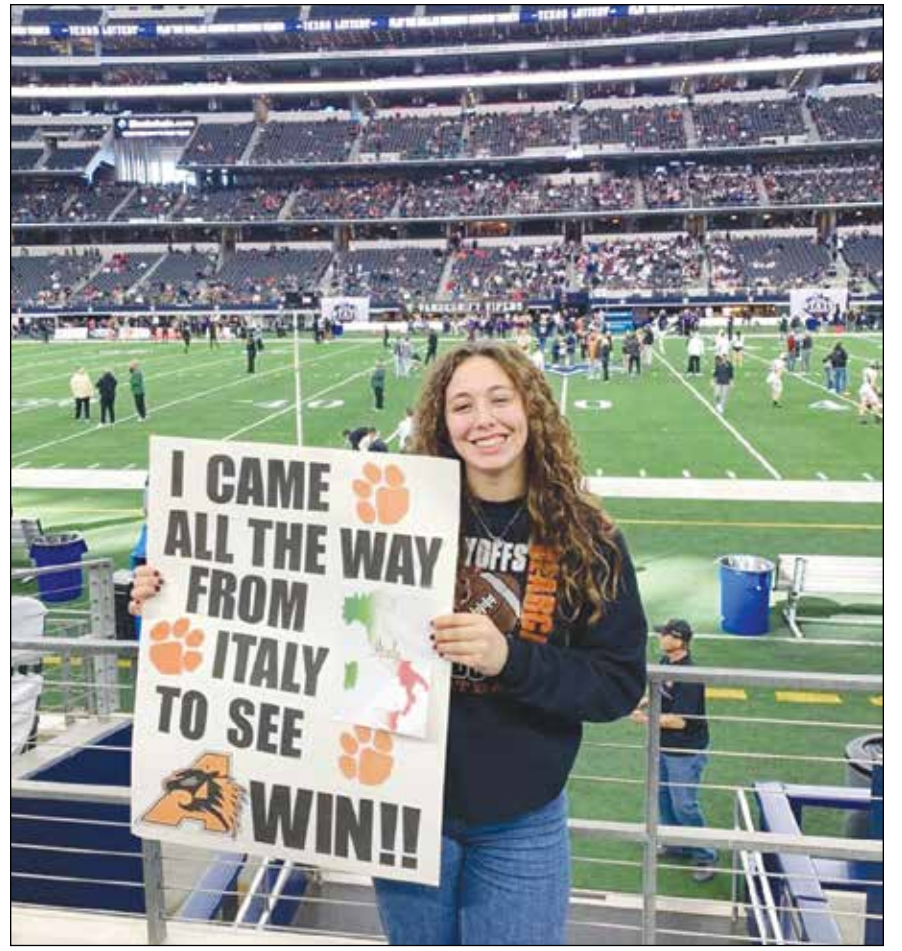
Aresi said she did not miss Italy at all for the first five months of her trip, but in January began to struggle

I like that it's a small town, and I've gotten to meet a lot of people.

Elena Aresi



Read this story online



GINA DAVIS/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
Elena is shown at the state championship game, won by the Bearcats.



GINA DAVIS/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
Elena is shown riding horseback in Kansas.

with homesickness for about two weeks.

She did get past it, and it taught the Aledo junior something about herself that she says is one of the most important takeaways from her time here.

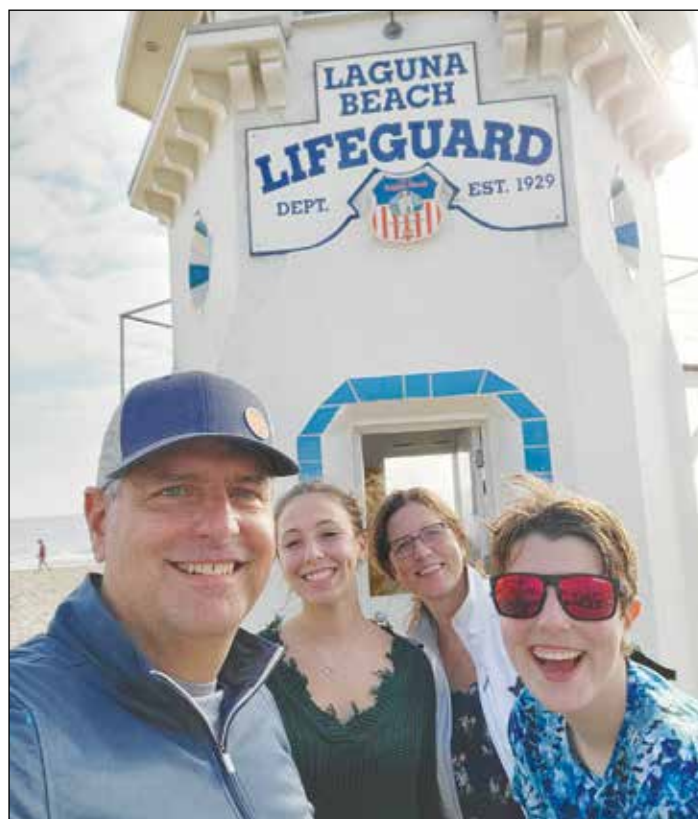
"I'm stronger than I imagined," Aresi said. "Because when you're

alone, and you don't have your family or friends, you have to count on yourself. Even though I have a host family that I love, and they've helped me a lot, there are some days where you're alone, and you feel alone. You just have to react and get through that by yourself. And I've been able to do that."



GINA DAVIS/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Elena is shown at the end of the Aledo Bearcats' state semifinal football game against Longview. She, like many, was happy the Bearcats won as she was not ready for the season to be over.



GINA DAVIS/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Chris Davis, Elena Aresi, Gina Davis, and Alex Davis are shown at Laguna Beach, California. They got in the Pacific Ocean in October.



GINA DAVIS/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Foreign exchange student Elena Aresi is shown at Bob's Big Boy in California with some of the American food she's really enjoyed.

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## Capital Highlights

### Senate, House begin budget reconciliation process



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Senate unanimously approved a \$308 billion two-year budget last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The next step is to reconcile that budget with one passed earlier by the Texas House.

The Senate's budget funds \$10 billion in electric grid reforms, provides pay raises to state employees, and devotes more than half of its budget to funding education.

"Over the next few weeks, I will be working with my colleagues in the Senate and the House to reach a consensus on the differences between the two chambers, and I look forward to sending the final appropriations bill to Gov. (Greg) Abbott before the legislative session ends," state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston said in a statement. Huffman chairs the finance committee.

The main difference in the two budgets is in how to provide property tax relief. The House version dedicates \$17.3 billion to cutting the annual amount a home's appraisal can increase, from 10% to 5%. The Senate budget allocates \$16.5 billion for property tax relief by increasing the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with added breaks for homeowners 65 and older.

#### Medicaid expansion for new moms possible

The Texas House has passed a bill that allows low-income moms to stay on Medicaid for a full year after childbirth.

The Texas Tribune reported that is a marked increase from current practice, in which postpartum Medicaid expires two months after birth in Texas.

The bill has widespread support, including from Gov Greg Abbott and more than 170 groups in the state across the political spectrum. However, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, has not publicly stated his position on the measure.

Texas has the largest uninsured population in the country, with nearly 1 in 5 Texans lacking health insurance, the Tribune reported.

"As I have said before, it is essential that the Texas House makes meaningful progress this year on



Read this story online

better supporting mothers and children in the state — and that starts with extending health coverage for new moms to a full year," House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, said previously when outlining his priorities for the legislative session.

#### Bill bans 'sexually explicit' books in school libraries

The Texas House last week passed a preliminary measure that requires vendors to assign a rating to books with sexual content before selling them to school districts, The Dallas Morning News reported. The measure requires one more vote in the House before heading to the Senate, where it is likely to pass.

"This bill is about radically sexual content in the hands of unaccompanied children in public school libraries," state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, the bill's sponsor, said from the House floor Thursday.

Opponents to the measure are concerned it would lead to books about LGBTQ people being banned from libraries. About a dozen people with the Texas Freedom Network held a read-in on the Capitol rotunda's floor as the bill was being debated.

State Rep. Venton Jones, D-Dallas, is one of eight openly LGBTQ legislators. He said the bill would hurt children who grow up feeling out of place because of their sexual orientation.

"I remember going to my school library looking for books when healthy conversations with my loved ones were not always available or always comfortable," Jones said. "What I was looking for was materials that spoke to me and for stories of the people who came before me."

#### Billions more for university research likely

Billions of dollars for higher education research appear likely as two bills have passed the House, the Statesman reported. One measure changes the name of the National Research University Fund to the Texas University Fund, while another proposes a constitutional amendment to enact the bill and allocate \$3.5 billion to the fund.

Both bills were filed by state Rep. Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood.

"This is a transformative piece of legislation that will allow Texas for generations to come to be the intellectual capital of the world," Bonnen said last week. "It changes the eligibility requirements for access to this fund, and it does so in a merit-based approach and in an approach that, as other universities grow

and enhance their research performance, they will be able to access this fund and not dilute the ones that are currently in the fund."

Similar measures have already passed the Senate, though that body allocated \$1 billion less than the House measure.

#### 'Lights out' across Texas helps birds migrate

The annual migration of birds through Texas to northern breeding grounds has begun, and Texans are urged to help by turning off outdoor lights at night from now through May 12, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Bird mortalities are associated with light pollution, which disorients our winged friends. One of every three birds migrating through the United States comes through Texas in the spring and fall — nearly 2 billion in total, according to TPWD.

Texans can help by:

- Turning off all nonessential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. during this migration period.
- Not using landscape lighting to illuminate trees or gardens where birds may be resting.
- Aim security and safety lighting downward.
- In commercial buildings, ensuring custodial work is done by 11 p.m., and lights are turned off.

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.

## GuestColumn

### Children, teachers, and community are worth the investment



**Dan Reilley**  
reilleypt@gmail.com

A new Political Action Committee (PAC) has recently formed to oppose the Aledo ISD Bond proposed by a group of 49 community members — your neighbors, friends, and fellow taxpayers. The group calls themselves "Concerned Parents of Aledo ISD PAC" and you may see some information from them in your mailbox.

I, too, am a concerned parent of Aledo ISD. That is what convicted me to get involved and find solutions. My family moved here in 2016, and I voted against the 2017 Bond out of concern for taxes, debt, and construction costs. Why? Because that is what someone told me. Someone at church convinced me that if we voted no, then the district would be forced to come back with a smaller, better bond package. Apparently, Aledo had a history of bonds failing before they passed, but my no vote did not change what was needed for the kids in the district. Growth was obviously an issue, and as a newer resident contributing to the "problem," I wanted to be part of the solution.

In 2019, I volunteered for the Bearcat Growth Committee and became intimately engaged in the district's demographic projections, finances, debt management practices, and facility deficits. I

quickly learned what was shared with me prior to the 2017 Bond did not paint a complete or accurate picture of Aledo ISD and the challenges the district faced in preparing for the future.

As it turned out, after every failed bond election since 2001, the major projects included in the next bond that passed were at a higher price than originally proposed! Delaying projects had cost the taxpayers more money, put more capacity stress on the district's educational infrastructure, and placed our teachers in the difficult position of educating our kids in less than ideal circumstances (large class sizes, shared resources, aging facilities).

The 2019 Bond went a long way in getting the district "caught up" with facility capacity and providing a similar experience for all students regardless of the campus they attended. Growth has continued as was projected.

The time has arrived once again to decide about our children's educational future, but this concerned parent of Aledo ISD is worried that voters may once again receive information that does not present a complete or accurate picture of the challenges facing our school district and the solutions proposed.

As a co-chair of the current Aledo Growth Committee that put together the current bond proposal, I can attest that the concerns for taxes, debt, and construction



Read this story online

Turn to WORTH, page B3



 <b>Matt Morris</b> GUS BATES Insurance & Investments 817-529-5325 matt@gusbates.com EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, PROPERTY & CASUALTY, RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES	 <b>Sarah J. Morris</b> DDS & ASSOCIATES 2551 River Park Dr. Suite 201 • Fort Worth, TX 76116 <b>FAMILY DENTISTRY WHERE HONESTY &amp; INTEGRITY MATTER!</b>
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# GROWTH

from page A1

As projected, growth in the area continued in the early 2000s. A 2005 bond provided funding to address the growth. A fourth elementary school (McCall) was added north of I-20, classrooms were added to Coder and Stuard Elementary Schools, and the Aledo Learning Center was constructed to offer more opportunities for high school students. In a second proposition, funding was approved for athletic facilities on the new high school campus, including Bearcat Stadium.

By 2008, Aledo ISD had four elementary schools serving kindergarten to fifth grade, a sixth-grade-only intermediate school, a middle school for seventh and eighth graders, and a high school that was just starting to feel the impact from enrollment growth previously addressed at the elementary levels.

Included in the literature from the 1998 Bond that set a new path for Aledo ISD was the recognition of a future choice for the community to make regarding high school:

“When this new facility reaches capacity, the school board and community will face two possibilities: (1) add classrooms to create a 5A high school of 2,000 students, or (2) create a second 4A high school. That decision will need review in eight to ten years.”

In 2008, that decision time had arrived. A 2008 bond provided the funding for the Daniel Ninth Grade campus. Rather than build a second high school, the community at the time decided to expand the current high school campus to its current capacity, creating room to grow into a high school that

would meet the state's highest enrollment classification for UIL competitions.

Ninth-graders moved into their own facility, but utilized the adjacent high school building for some classes and special programs. This is still the case today.

## Reconfiguring

Continued growth required some grade level reconfiguration at the elementary school level. Although a 2015 bond approved the construction of a new elementary school, it would not be open for two more years. Fifth-graders joined the sixth-graders at McAnally Intermediate campus between 2015-2017 to accommodate a growing elementary school population.

By 2017, kindergarten enrollment had surpassed 400 students (422) for the first time as the district opened its fifth elementary school, Walsh Elementary School. McAnally Intermediate returned to sixth grade only as the five elementary schools once again welcomed kindergarten through fifth grade. Coder Elementary remained the only school providing pre-kindergarten classes.

As anticipated, more rooftops produced more students, placing more strain on the educational infrastructure in Aledo ISD. More classroom space was needed for elementary school children. Aledo Middle School was experiencing the double trouble of student overcrowding and a deteriorating building. A 2019 bond provided the funding to address both elementary and middle school capacity concerns while

securing the continued lifespan of aging buildings.

With these funds, a sixth elementary school (Annetta) opened in 2021, a second middle school (McAnally) opened in 2022, Aledo Middle School was significantly renovated to nearly a brand new campus with added capacity, Vandagriff Elementary had a new, larger home at the renovated former intermediate school campus, pre-K was moved from Coder Elementary to add classroom space, and an Early Childhood Academy now occupies the space of old Vandagriff Elementary housing all district pre-K students and a daycare for district employees.

The 1955 high school building was retired and torn down after serving students for more than 67 years.

As the community approaches the 100-year anniversary of a “bold commitment to education and investment in their children,” reflect for a minute on when you and your family entered this timeline of growth. For the past century, our community has embraced new families moving to the area and welcomed new generations of existing residents as their families grew. We have all contributed to the growth of this area in some way, and the community has always responded by taking care of the next generation.

Special thanks to Lynn McKinney for her commitment to our children over her many years of service in Aledo ISD and for helping piece together part of our community's history. Also, thank you to Ben McCarthy for keeping history alive through his Facebook group, Backroads of Aledo.



Read this story online

# Obituaries

## Kevin Paul Feldman

Kevin Paul Feldman, 65, beloved husband, father, son, uncle and friend passed away Monday, April 17, 2023.



Kevin Feldman

Kevin was born June 30, 1957, in Sault Saint Marie, Michigan, son of Irwin and Betty (Baril) Feldman. He married Linda Marshall and they spent more than 20 happy years together.

Kevin had many talents. He worked as VP of Construction-Rehab Projects for Equity Residential, where he served with them more than 15 years in various capacities for maintenance and construction. Kevin was also a real estate agent/investor. He was an all-around handyman, “If it is broken, it can be fixed!” was his motto, and thus Mo Betta Engineering was born, providing services for primary friends, family, and church needs as requested. Kevin was a genius-level thinker, an Excel wizard, and excellent in all computer

skills. He was a mentor, encouraging others to think effectively, and training teams of associates in skills such as electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and pool maintenance.

Kevin enjoyed fishing, camping, boating, and doing maintenance projects for others. He often did maintenance projects around the church, many times without request from the priest. He just saw a job that needed to be done and did it. It could be anything from gardening to renovation projects with the Community Building. He gave his skills and talents freely in service to the Lord.

Kevin loved the holiday season! He baked holiday strawberry bread for on-site management teams, smoked holiday hams for family and friends, and pulled Christmas trees out of swimming pools to settle a family dispute between mother and daughter (a story for another day).

Kevin was a great listener. He allowed others to share their stories openly, freely,

without judgment. He provided advice when requested and gentle guidance when he saw it was needed to help one move forward.

Kevin was a good guy with a big bear façade and a gentle heart. He will be missed by many.

He was preceded in death by his step-daughter, Ashley Lorraine Hobbs.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Feldman; parents, Irwin and Betty Feldman of Tucson, Arizona; sisters, Kristy Butler (Bob), of Richmond, Virginia, and Kimberley Smith (Chris), of Arlington; sons, Jason Feldman of Forney, and Adam Feldman; daughter, Brianne Feldman; step-son, Andrew Marshall of Grapevine; seven grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and many extended family members, co-workers, church family, and friends.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, April 29, 2023, at St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church, 117 Ranch House Road in Willow Park.

The Community News  
April 28, 2023

# WORTH

from page B2

costs were passionately debated. The committee wrestled with the reality of growth and the associated investments required by the community. At the forefront of our discussions was what was best for our children, but every decision point was examined through the eyes of our community as represented by the 49 committee members.

What are we asking the community to support? How

will this impact their kids and grandkids? How will this impact their taxes? Will the community support what this group has identified as an immediate concern? How do we best plan for the next ten years and beyond?

Ultimately, the bond proposal in front of the Aledo ISD community for vote on May 6, 2023, reflects nearly eight months of data review, discussion, debate, and compromise that invests in our children and acknowledges the real cost associated for

our community. I believe our children, our teachers, and our community are worth the investment! Please vote. Please support the proposal from your taxpaying peers who volunteered their time and came to a unanimous recommendation for your consideration.

Dan Reilley is a parent in Aledo ISD and Co-Chair of the Aledo Growth Committee.

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# In & Around Parker County

## Church at the Crossing has a place for you!

Children, youth, and adults can all find a place at Church at the Crossing in Aledo.

### YOUTH:

The CrossYTH Student Ministry is looking forward to a busy summer! We will be headed to camp June 12-14, serving at Adventure Week June 26-29, serving at Mission Waco July 27-30, and ending our summer with a giant pool party and cookout on August 6.

There will also be girls & guys events on Wednesdays throughout the summer! We can't wait for all the fun and fellowship in the Texas sun!

### CHILDREN:

The Crossing is coming up on its 18th year of hosting Adventure Week for the Aledo Community. This year AW23 is June 26-29 9:30 AM-12:30 PM @The Crossing. The cost is totally free unless you want to buy a T-Shirt for \$5.

This year the theme is EGYPT RESCUE TEAM. We will be studying in the book of Exodus about how God sent Moses to Rescue His People out of Egypt. We will also be going to summer camp in Glen Rose, Texas July 6th-10th for 3rd-6th Grades.

### MISSIONS:

The Crossing is involved in serving our community in many ways. We partner with many organizations including Center of Hope, Grace House, Titus 2 Ministries, and the Refugee ministry to name a few.

Starting Mothers Day and running through Fathers Day we will be collecting money for Grace House's Baby Bottle Campaign.

We also will be serving meals to those in need at Center of Hope in Weatherford, and we will be serving several times in the upcoming months. We recently painted bookcases for the Ready for School Program for young refugee children in Fort Worth. We also will be assisting with needs of newly arrived refugee families helping them to have an easier transition to their new homes.

### CHURCHWIDE:

Spring Picnic - May 7th - Baptisms

We invite you to visit our Crossing family! Service Times: Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:45am Visit us online [www.crossingaledo.com](http://www.crossingaledo.com) to connect with other ministries and events.



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SOFTBALL

## Ladycats breeze past Azle and Granbury to close regular season

### Top seed from district in playoffs

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

After running away with the final two games of the regular season against Azle and Granbury, Aledo's Ladycats (24-5-1 overall, 12-0 in District 5-5A) ran away with the No. 1 seed heading into the playoffs.

On Wednesday, April 19, the Ladycats treated Azle to a 13-1 drumming on Senior Night. They followed up that performance by plundering the Lady Pirates, 10-0, in the season finale on Friday, April 21 as Brenlee Gonzales pitched a no-hitter.

Gonzales struck out seven and issued no walks. Were it not for an Aledo error no runner would have reached base.

Both games ended early with Aledo up by 10 runs or more at the end of the fifth inning invoking the run rule.

### "Another strikeout" a cliché for Touchet

Senior hurler Nathalie Touchet took the mound for Aledo on Senior Night in the final regular season home game of her high school career. Aside from her lone mistake on the night that ended up being a solo home run for the Lady Hornets in the top of the first

inning, Touchet spun a gem in the circle. She tossed all five innings, giving up just the one hit, while walking a pair. Her five strikeouts in the game put her at 100 on the season as she crossed the threshold of 300 in her career as a Ladycat.

### More hits than the Billboard Top 40

The story of Aledo's excellence in execution at the plate hasn't changed over the season. In the final two games of the year, the Ladycats continued to manufacture runs virtually at will by stringing timely hits together with runners scattered around the bases.

On top of the hard-hit line drives to the gaps, extra-base hits have been bountiful over the past week. Ana Flores picked up a double against Azle and Granbury. Reagan Davis blazed around the bases for a triple against Azle. Addie Perry and Brenlee Gonzales each earned a triple in the season finale at Granbury. Presley Hull motored around the bases for a triple in each contest, as well.

### Ladycats begin playoffs with their eyes on the prize

With the final games of the 2023 schedule out of the  
*Turn to SOFTBALL, page B8*



KEITH HILL

Aledo shortstop, Ana Flores, tags second base for the force out on a fielder's choice in the top of the first inning of the Ladycats' 13-1 win over Azle.

BASEBALL

## Bearcats peaking at right time

### First place in district heading into final game

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

After an up-and-down start to the month of April, Aledo's Bearcat baseball team has put it all together in the last two weeks of the regular season as they've won four in a row while simultaneously securing the No. 1 seed in District 5-5A.

Aledo (20-10 overall, 9-3 in district) took care of Azle on the road with a 15-7 win on Friday, April 21, that included a nine-run eighth inning. They followed up that performance on Saturday, April 22, with a 2-0 shutout of Mansfield Lake Ridge as they celebrated Senior Day. On Monday, the Bearcats secured their spot atop the District 5-5A standings with another shutout victory, their ninth of the year, over Wichita Falls Rider, 7-0.

The Bearcats will conclude their 2023 campaign on Friday as they look to sweep Rider's Raiders at Bearcat Field before starting their playoff bid next week. Friday's season finale is slated for a 7 p.m. start.

### Scoring late, feeling great

Having lost the first game of the series to Aledo at Bearcat Field a few days before, Azle sought to take Game 2 on their home field on Friday. The Hornets swarmed the Bearcats early, scoring six runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Following the six-run first-inning flurry by the home team, the Bearcats managed  
*Turn to BASEBALL, page B8*

TRACK AND FIELD

## Aledo teams sweep area titles

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

A little more than a week after sweeping to championships in the District 5-5A Meet on their own turf, the Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats repeated the accomplishment at Texan Stadium in Justin in the Area 5/6 Meet on Friday, April 21.

This is the third consecutive season the Aledo teams have achieved such a sweep.

The Region 1 Meet is Friday and Saturday, April 28-29 at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. The top two finishers in each event qualify for state, as does the top third-place finisher in each event across all four regions as a wild card.

State is May 11-13 at the University of Texas in Austin.

The Ladycats scored 142 points to outdistance runner-up Northwest with 96 points. The Bearcats had a little closer victory, edging Fort Worth Southwest 117-110.

"While other teams were battling it out in the speed events, we were picking up points almost everywhere else," Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said. "Very proud of how these girls competed!"

For a second straight season the Bearcats have won every meet in the regular season and area.

"I knew it would be tight in the points without having a 4x1 and the vaulter, but the kids showed up and ran well enough to get the win," Bearcats coach Andrew Clark said.

At district, the 400 relay dropped the baton and did not advance. Also, shockingly, Sean

Gribble, who has the highest pole vault in the state (17-0.75) and the second highest in the nation, had a no height.

The Bearcats' 1600-meter relay broke the school record with a winning time of 3:19.06 with Nathan Wood, Aven Lawrence, Blake Burdine and Hauss Hejny.

"I think we are just getting started. I think with the pressure of the big meet and someone out in front of us that we have to go catch, I think they can break the record again and also qualify for state," Clark said.

The Bearcats' 800 relay of Hawk Patrick-Daniels, Chris Johnson, Hejny and Lawrence was close to breaking the school record, clocking a winning time of 1:27.36.

"I think once we get out to Regionals and we have some  
*Turn to TRACK, page B7*

BOYS GOLF

## Bearcats' Mahanay qualifies for state

### Bearcats narrowly miss team berth

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Aledo senior golfer Braylon Mahanay will once again compete at the Class 5A State Golf Tournament this year after qualifying at the Region 1 Tournament in Lubbock Wednesday and Thursday, April 19-20.

Mahanay had two rounds totaling 149 on the Rawls Golf Course. He was the individual leader after the first day, shooting a 2-under-par 70 and followed with a 79.

Mahanay was tied for third overall. However, his score was the lowest among golfers not on state qualifying teams.

The top three teams and the top three individuals not on those teams qualified for state.

Sharing low medalist honors were Blake Keen of Burleson Centennial and Gavin Lane of Argyle, each finishing with a 144.

The state tournament is May 22-23 at the White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown.  
*Turn to GOLF, page B7*



CANDICE MAHANAY

Aledo senior Braylon Mahanay will compete at the Class 5A Boys State Golf Tournament May 22-23 after qualifying from the 5A Region 1 Tournament in Lubbock.

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The Aledo Independent School District (the District) is requesting proposals for Apparel, Awards, Promotional Items, & Spirit Wear. The District shall receive, publicly open, and read aloud at the specified date and time listed below the name of the proposers in a conference room at Aledo ISD Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Rd., Aledo, TX, 76008. Proposal documents can be viewed, received, and submitted through the Aledo ISD eBid system located at: <https://aledoisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx> Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM (CST), Monday, May 8, 2023. Information on the eBid system is available on our website at: <https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/4287> The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal(s) that provide(s) the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

**Proposals for Aledo Elementary #7**

CORE Construction, Inc., Construction Manager at Risk for Aledo ISD is requesting Competitive Proposals from subcontractors and suppliers for the Aledo Elementary #7. Please provide GMP proposals based on current construction documents.

Proposals for Aledo Elementary #7 are due on Thursday May 4th, 2023, by 2:00 pm CST.

Submit via email to bidstx@coreconstruction.com, through Building Connected or by hand delivery to CORE Construction, 6320 Research Road, Frisco, TX 75033.

CORE Construction will be hosting a virtual pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20th, 2023, at 10:00 am, via MS Teams. Please use the below link to join:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NW13ZDY3ZDgtOGRI5M00MjQwLTkwMGMTGyNjg1ZmlwOVRk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2244aa2f4e-7160-484f-a981-e46fcca0834c%22%2c%220id%22%3a%225bb17076-ee78-4806-9d9d-bd799dce8077%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NW13ZDY3ZDgtOGRI5M00MjQwLTkwMGMTGyNjg1ZmlwOVRk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2244aa2f4e-7160-484f-a981-e46fcca0834c%22%2c%220id%22%3a%225bb17076-ee78-4806-9d9d-bd799dce8077%22%7d)

Please reach out to Conner Wade with any questions: Connerwade@coreconstruction.com.

Last day for RFI's will be Thursday April 27th, 2023, by 12:00pm.

Plans are available via Building Connected and area plan rooms.

All interested subcontractors and suppliers including Local, HUB, MBE, WBE SBE are encouraged to participate.

The following Federal Programs, authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, may be available for eligible students attending private schools: Title I Part A-Improving Academic Achievement, Title II Part A - Professional Learning, Title III Part A-English Language Acquisition, Title IV Part A-Student Support, and IDEA - Special Education. Private Schools interested in learning more about these services are invited to attend an informational meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023 @ 10:00 am. The meeting will be held at the Aledo ISD Administration Building at 1008 Bailey Ranch Rd. Schools that choose to access these funds must comply with all requisite federal policies and procedures. For more information, contact Candace Summerhill or Rebecca Deatherage at Aledo ISD by email, [csummerhill@aledoisd.org](mailto:csummerhill@aledoisd.org) or [rdeatherage@aledoisd.org](mailto:rdeatherage@aledoisd.org). A packet of information concerning these federal requirements will be available at the meeting.

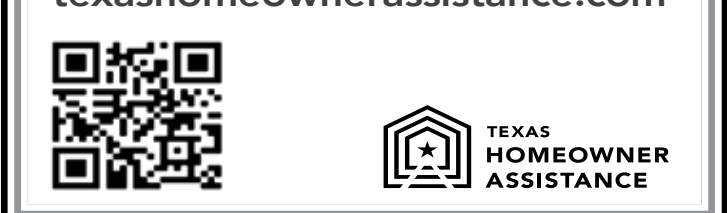
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CANDICE MAHANAY

The Aledo Bearcats finished fourth at the 5A Region 1 Boys Golf Tournament in Lubbock. Pictured are (from left) Grayson Freeman, Dylan Kiser, Helton Mosiello, Braylon Mahanay and Jett Moore.

## GOLF

from page B5

Mahanay will compete solo at state as the Bearcats missed qualifying as a team by the narrowest of margins. Their two-day score of 628 (311-317) on the Rawls Golf Course left them in fourth place, one stroke behind third-place Lubbock Cooper (305-322).

Argyle, back-to-back state champions in Class 4A before moving up this season, won the regional tournament, shooting 605 (314-291), followed by Burleson Centennial at 625 (310-315).

"The region was tough and, unfortunately, we didn't get out. I thought the kids played well under some tough conditions," coach Brian Mourning said.

Day 1 conditions saw the winds gusting up to 40 mph on the back nine. Despite that, the Bearcats were very much in the hunt, just six strokes off the lead and tied for third.

"The field was tough, but we had a few holes that got away

from us coming down the stretch," Mourning said. "Give credit to Cooper, Centennial and Argyle who played well down the stretch. We will be back next year and use this as an opportunity to grow from and motivate us to get it done next year.

"Braylan has been our anchor all year and the work he puts in is finally paying off for him. Happy to see him get a shot at a medal down in Georgetown. We have a lot of great talent at the 5A level, but he can compete and play with the best of them. I'm excited to see him get after it down there."

Also for the Bearcats, senior Dylan Kiser shot 157 (77-80), junior Jett Moore posted a 160 (81-79), while sophomore Helton Mosiello (87-79) and freshman Grayson Freeman (83-83) each came in with a 166.

The four lowest scores each round comprise the team score.

The Bearcats won the District 5-5A championship alongside the Ladycats, who did qualify for state earlier in the week.

## TRACK

from page B5

better competition we will have a really good chance at both breaking the school record and qualifying for the state meet," Clark said.

The Ladycats won seven gold medals, including two each by Lauren St. Peters in the shot put and discus and Sofia Brandenburg in the 800-meter and 1600 runs. Molly Garrison won the 3200, Taylor Hindman captured the pole vault and the 1600 relay of Mykel Murry, Emery Thompson, Addison Smith and Sarah Tillotson also claimed gold.

Individually for the Bearcats, Vincent Luffey took the top spot in the 1600 run and Brad Campbell topped the field in the pole vault.

Both coaches addressed the issue of the fabled West Texas Winds Lubbock is known for.

"Regarding the wind in Lubbock, the wind always blows there - nothing out there to stop it. However, we have had a very windy spring, so I don't expect us to have any problems with the wind. Whatever wind there happens to be, everyone will have to deal with it," Pinkerton said.

"I believe our girls are primed and ready to compete at regionals. We have what I believe is a very good chance to get some kids to state."

Clark added, "Regionals is tricky in and of itself, and then on top of that it's in West Texas. The wind/weather is always a factor out there. Our guys will be ready to compete, though.

"The idea of the prelims and finals is the interesting part. Having to run both relays on back-to-back days

can be hard on your legs. However, we have some depth so we will look at possibly running some alternates for the prelims to get us into the finals and then have some fresh legs for the finals. In all I think we have a really good shot at getting the relays and several of the open events down to the state meet."

### Class 5A Area 5/6 Track Meet

April 21 at Justin

Top four in each event qualified for Region 1 Meet in Lubbock, April 28-29

#### Girls

Team score: 142, first place  
Regional qualifiers  
3200: 1. Molly Garrison, 11:40.03; 4. Elizabeth Griffin, 12:02.00.  
800: 1. Sofia Brandenburg, 2:15.79; 2. Sarah Tillotson, 2:16.91; 3. Sidney Tillotson, 2:27.63.  
100 hurdles: 4. Savannah Thompson, 16.00.  
100: 4. Addison Smith, 12.38.  
400: 3. Emery Thompson, 1:00.64.  
300 hurdles: 2. Sa. Tillotson, 47.36.  
1600: 1. Brandenburg, 5:14.94; 3. Griffin, 5:21.12.  
1600 relay: 1. Mykel Murry, E. Thompson, Smith, Sa. Tillotson, 4:02.13.  
Discus: 1. Lauren St. Peters, 154-5.  
Pole vault: 1. Taylor Hindman, 12-3; 3. Maggie Kilburn, 11-0; 4. Austyn Johnson, 10-0.  
Shot put: 1. St. Peters, 45-10.50.

#### Boys

Team score: 117, first place  
Regional qualifiers  
3200: 3. Jack Fink, 9:54.23.  
800: 2. Vincent Luffey, 1:57.05; 3. Dominick Barrera, 2:00.29.  
800 relay: 1. Hawk Patrick-Daniels, Chris Johnson, Hauss Hejny, Aven Lawrence, 1:27.36.  
200: 2. Lawrence, 21.84.  
1600: 1. Luffey, 4:33.31; 3. Henry Zedler, 4:35.34.  
1600 relay: 1. Nathan Wood, Lawrence, Blake Burdine and Hejny, 3:19.06.  
Long jump: 3. Jayton Owens, 21-9.25.  
Pole vault: 1. Brad Campbell, 15-1; 3. Andrew Gamez, 11-6.



Read this story online

## GIRLS SOCCER

# Thompson leads 12 Ladycat district honors

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Sophomore Emery Thompson of the Aledo Ladycats was named the Defensive MVP on the All-District 5-5A Girls Soccer Team. She is one of a dozen players to receive accolades from the coaches in the league.

First-team honors went to senior midfielders Jourdan Hart, Reagan Krajca, and Harper Smith, along with senior defender Ella Bertram.

Placed on the second team were senior goalkeeper Jaime Smith, junior midfielder Emaree Gibson, and junior forwards Georgia Zirbser and Sydney Mcguire, along with sophomore defender Reagan Tomlin.

Honorable mentions went to junior forward Hailey Vandiver and junior defender Payton Weaver.



Emery Thompson was named Defensive MVP on the District 5-5A All-District soccer team.

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### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS GROUND STORAGE TANK ROOF REPLACEMENT

Separate sealed bids for the construction of **Ground Storage Tank Roof Replacement** will be received by **City of Willow Park, Texas**, until **3:00 PM, on Thursday, May 25, 2023**, at the Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of installation of either aluminum dome style or steel umbrella style replacement roofs for an existing 0.35 MG and an existing 0.50 MG ground storage tank, and includes the removal and disposal of existing roofs.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at **10:00 AM on Tuesday, May 16, 2023**, located at Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, and Specifications, may be examined at the following location:

Jacob & Martin, LLC  
1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be **\$100.00** for 11x17 plans. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be **\$0.00**. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

Bid Bond: A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the **City of Willow Park**, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

City of Willow Park    Doyle Moss, Mayor    April 28, 2023

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS 2022 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE II

Separate sealed bids for the construction of **2022 Drainage Improvements - Phase II** will be received by **City of Willow Park, Texas**, until **4:00 PM on Thursday, May 25, 2023**, at the City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of installing approximately 98 LF of 12" HDPE culvert, 219 LF of 18" RCP culvert, 22 LF of 24" RCP culvert, grade approximately 23,520 SY of drainage ditch, apply erosion protection measures to any disturbed areas and any associated work.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, and Specifications, may be examined at the following location:

Jacob & Martin, LLC  
1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online at [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Orders for CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may include hard copies for pick up, mail out or digital download via [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, TX 76086. Cost for hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be **\$100.00** for 11x17 half size plans. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be **\$0.00**. Contractors must purchase a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

Bid Bond: A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the **City of Willow Park**, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

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KEITH HILL

Ladycat seniors pose for a final picture together during Senior Night on Wednesday, April 19. Shown are (from left) Presley Hull, Texas Ray, Nathalie Touchet, Claire Byars, Reagan Davis, Chloe Cox, Allison Mallard, Maddy Jarvis, and Morgan Fontenot.

## SOFTBALL

from page B5

way, the Ladycats look ahead to the playoffs with their eyes and aspirations set on a third consecutive run at the elusive state championship.

The Ladycats reached the championship game in 2021 before falling to Mont Belvieu Barbers Hill and were eliminated in the semifinals last season by Georgetown in eight innings.

The last time the Ladycats weren't involved in the state championship discussion was during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season. Prior to that, Aledo brought home the hardware in 2008 before going back-to-back in 2014 and 2015.

The Ladycats enter this playoff run with a chip on their shoulders, looking to end the eight-year title drought. From pitching to hitting, defense to baserunning, the Ladycats are peaking at the right time as they enter the 5-5A tournament picture with a single goal in mind.

Aledo carries a 17-game winning streak into the postseason. In their perfect district run (they've now won 30 straight in league play) this season they

outscored their opponents 141-8 with six shutouts.

### Aledo 10, Granbury 0 Friday, April 21

	A	R	H	E
Aledo	4	3	3	0
Granbury	0	0	0	0

Aledo hitting: Addie Perry 1-for-2, 3B, BB, SB; Claire Byars BB, 2 RBI; Presley Hull 1-for-3, 3B; Texas Ray 1-for-3, RBI; Brenlee Gonzales 1-for-3, 3B, RBI; Ana Flores 1-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI; Delaney Rosser BB; Maddy Jarvis 1-for-2; Reagan Davis 1-for-2, RBI.

Aledo pitching: Brenlee Gonzales 5.0 IP, 0 H, 0 R, 0 BB, 7 K.

### Aledo 13, Azle 1 Wednesday, April 19

	A	R	H	E
Azle	1	0	0	0
Aledo	3	0	6	4

Aledo hitting: Davis 3-for-4, 3B, 3 RBI; Byars 1-for-3, BB, 2 RBI; Hull 1-for-2, 3B, BB, 2 RBI; Ray 1-for-3, RBI; Flores 1-for-3, 2B, RBI; Rosser BB, HBP; Chloe Cox BB, RBI; Nathalie Touchet HBP; Jarvis 1-for-3. Aledo pitching: Touchet 5.0 IP, H, R (earned), 2 BB, 5 K.

At press time, the Ladycats were scheduled for a one-game bi-district game at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at home against Fort Worth Trimble Tech.

## BASEBALL

from page B5

to find their way defensively as they kept Azle off the board for the final six innings of scheduled baseball.

However, offensively the Bearcats looked like a team who left their sticks at home. Aledo stranded six runners in the first six innings on top of going three-up, three-down in the fourth and fifth innings.

Trailing 6-0 with just three outs left to make something happen, Aledo rallied. Playing station-to-station baseball, the Bearcats used five base hits, a triple, a walk, and an error to cinch the game at six runs apiece and head for free baseball.

In the extra frame, Aledo devastated Azle's pitching. Dylan Taylor started off the inning drawing a leadoff walk to put the go-ahead run on base. Brooks Burdine wore the 1-0 offering like a cheap suit in the following at-bat to put a pair of Bearcats on the bases with no outs on the board early in the frame.

With Azle's hurler still struggling to find the zone, Boyd Thompson worked his way on by drawing a five-pitch walk to load the bases for the visiting team.

The shenanigans that followed was peak performance at the plate for the Bearcats.

With the bases juiced full of Bearcats and not an out on the board, Brooks Dwinell doubled to center to drive in a pair of runners. The 8-6 lead in the top of the eighth was the first of the game for Aledo.

But, the party was just getting started.

With runners on second and third, Trace Mazon hit a deep triple to center to drive in Thompson and Dwinell as Aledo went up by four runs.

With his younger brother already home, left-handed slugger Bosten Dwinell slashed a line drive down the right-field line as Mazon scored from third like he was out for a Sunday stroll in the park.

Feeling the pressure now, Azle began to crumble. Andrew Cambre hit a grounder to short, but the Hornet shortstop failed to wrangle the routine ground ball. The error allowed Cambre to reach easily as Dwinell advanced to third on the play.

With runners at the corners, Ryan Jones drew a walk that loaded the bases for the second time in the inning for Aledo.

With all three outs still in their back pocket and the bases full of Bearcats, Bryce McCain barreled a line drive to left in the first pitch of his at-bat. As Dwinell, Cambre, and Jones all crossed the plate, Aledo held a commanding 14-6 lead.

Having batted around, Burdine returned to the plate with a runner on and one out in the inning. He hit the 0-1 offering deep enough to center to drive in McCain for the Bearcats' final run of the game for Aledo as they charged ahead, 15-6.

### Arms race

Aledo's pitching staff combined to toss 14 shutout innings against Mansfield Lake Ridge and Wichita Falls Rider. Connor Mitchell, Bosten Dwinell, McCain, and Thompson combined to blank Lake Ridge while surrendering just three hits and

striking out five. McCain led the Aledo hurlers, fanning four batters in two innings of work while picking up the win.

Another stellar performance on the mound by a Bearcat starter against a district opponent was just what the doctor ordered when Matthew Clark took the hill against Rider on Monday. He tossed a complete-game shutout, giving up two hits and striking out eight.

### Aledo 7, Wichita Falls Rider 0

**Monday, April 24**  
Bearcats 000 221 2-7 8 2  
Rider 000 000 0-0 2 2  
Aledo hitting: Boyd Thompson 1-for-4; Brooks Dwinell 2 BB; Trace Mazon 1-for-3, SB; Bosten Dwinell 1-for-4, RBI; Andrew Cambre 2-for-3, 2B, RBI, BB; Ryan Jones 1-for-3, BB; Bryce McCain SB; Garrett Rester 2-for-3, 3 RBI.  
Aledo pitching: Matthew Clark 7.0 IP, 2 H, 0 R, 2 BB, 8 K.

### Aledo 2, Mansfield Lake Ridge 0

**Saturday, April 22**  
Lake Ridge 0 0 0 0 0 0-0 3 0  
Aledo 0 0 0 0 2 0 x-2 4 0  
Aledo hitting: Robert Burk 1-for-1; Mazon BB, SB; Luke Taylor 1-for-2, 3B; Dylan Light 1-for-2, RBI; Weston Nance 1-for-2, 2B, RBI.  
Aledo pitching: Connor Mitchell 2.0 IP, H; Bo, Dwinell 2.0 IP, BB, K; McCain 2.0 IP, H, BB, 4 K; Thompson 1.0 IP.

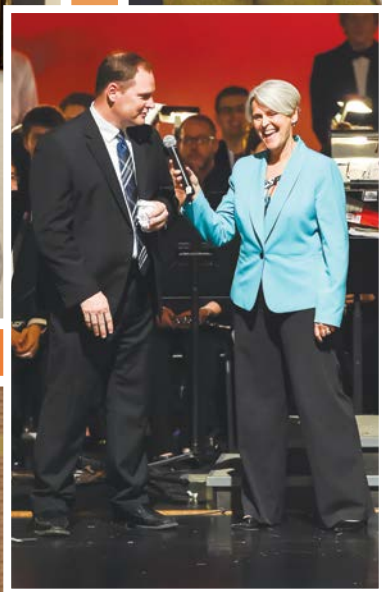
### Aledo 15, Azle 7

**Friday, April 21**  
Aledo 0 0 0 0 0 6 9-15 13 3  
Azle 6 0 0 0 0 0 1-7 8 2  
Aledo hitting: Thompson 1-for-5, RBI, BB; Br. Dwinell 2-for-4, 2B, 2 RBI, BB; Mazon 2-for-4, 3B, 3 RBI, BB; Bo, Dwinell 1-for-4, 2B, RBI; Cambre 2-for-5; Jones BB; McCain 1-for-3, 3B, 3 RBI; Brady McAnear 2-for-2, RBI; Dylan Taylor BB, Rester 1-for-2; Brooks Burdine 1-for-1, 3B, 2 RBI, SB.  
Aledo pitching: Robert Burk 0.2 IP, 4 H, 6 R (2 earned), BB; Garrett Addington 1.1 IP, H, K; L. Taylor 2.0 IP, 3 K; Luke Saunders 4.0 IP, 3 H, R (earned), 2 BB, 7 K.

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