

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Aledo ISD voters approve \$123.8 million bond

New elementary school, land, high school improvements among funded items

By Mercedes Mayer  
Aledo ISD

Aledo Independent School District voters approved a \$123,800,000 bond proposal that will include a 2.5 cent Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate increase on Saturday, May 6.

The bond proposal, which was constructed by 49 community members who made up the Aledo Growth Committee, was approved by a margin of 2,582 for (56%) to 2,026 votes against.

"We are grateful for the Aledo Growth Committee and thankful that the community supported the proposal put forward by their fellow citizens and neighbors in approving this bond," Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "It took the AGC many hours and studying student enrollment, financial information, districtwide facility needs, and instructional goals to build a proposal that voters could get behind. As Aledo ISD's rapid growth doesn't look to be slowing down anytime soon, we look forward to getting to work immediately on the Bond 2023 projects."

Aledo ISD voters approved a bond proposal that focuses on immediate student capacity needs at the elementary level, additional and repurposed space at the high school level, the need for the district to repair, maintain, and improve facilities as well as facility safety and security equipment as technology improves, and that provides additional funding for AISD to purchase buses, technology, and land to meet needs due to growth.

"As we continue to grow at such a rapid pace, this bond proposal will help us keep up with the immediate fast growth at the elementary level particularly," AISD Board President Hoyt Harris said. "I am thankful for the many, many hours of hard work put in by the Aledo Growth Committee in creating this bond proposal."

From August 2022 through February 2023, the Aledo Growth Committee met 13 times — with two additional community-wide meetings — and also sent out a community-wide survey for feedback. In addition to the 2023 bond proposal, the AGC also presented a long-range plan for growth for the district for the next six years. The AGC will continue to meet and study updated data over the coming year-plus to begin to implement the long-range plan for growth.

"I am proud of the AGC and the work we put in on behalf of our growing

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Helen Hyles, center, poses for a photo with Pete and Sandra Mason as family and friends gathered for her 80th birthday on Saturday, May 6, at Cross Timbers clubhouse.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

WILLOW PARK

## Solid waste fees to see slight increase

Council offers support for regional water authority

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Willow Park City Council approved new solid waste fees in the city, retroactive to May 1, at its meeting Tuesday night, May 9. The city has not updated the solid waste fee schedule in almost a decade.

The new contract with Republic Waste Services of Texas, Inc. will have a monthly rate of \$20.78 for

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### BUSINESS

## The Little City That Could

### Hudson Oaks small but growing fast

By John English  
The Community News

Tom Fitzpatrick is a man with a vision.

By the time the self-proclaimed "Army brat" was elected Mayor of Hudson Oaks in May of 2022 and following his 21-year tenure as a city council member, Fitzpatrick had helped oversee the addition and development of numerous restaurants, stores, and other businesses.

Some of the companies that have set up shop in Hudson Oaks within the last year include Cheddar's, Chicken Express, Dutch Bros Coffee, Chipotle, and Discount Tire, just to name a few.

But how has this pint-sized (2.5 square miles) community tucked in between the cities of Weatherford and Willow Park established such a strong economic presence?

Fitzpatrick attributes it to three underlying factors — effective planning, a cohesive city council and city staff, and the fact that Hudson Oaks does not have an ad valorem (property) tax.

"Most of our growth, at least the kind we get credit for, is economic," Fitzpatrick said. "Now our population has grown, kind of like the rest of Parker county. We had a meeting with the Texas Demographic Center and learned that Parker county is the fifth fastest growing county in the state, and we are the ninth fastest in the country."

Hudson Oaks' population has grown from a little more than 1,000 residents to right at 2,600 in the past 25 years.

"The largest we will ever grow is to maybe 7,000, which would get us to home rule," Fitzpatrick said. "We just don't have the land size to become a big city. But there are several things that are unique to Hudson Oaks that are driving the economic development. We're one of just a few cities that does not have an ad valorem tax and that's huge. That's not only great for homeowners, but it's great for businesses too. That's just another tax that they don't have to pay."

### Growing through listening

When Fitzpatrick, 64, and his wife moved to Parker County in 1990, the population of Hudson Oaks was a little more than 700 people.

While it has nearly quadrupled in size since that time, Hudson Oaks is still far smaller in both population and area than Weatherford and Willow Park.

But Fitzpatrick does not see that as a disadvantage.

"We do a lot of creative things for a city our size," Fitzpatrick said. "For instance, H-E-B came in here, and we did a public improvement district to allow them and Chick-fil-A, really that whole area, to open up. Cities like ours don't do public improvement districts. Cities like Fort Worth did a public improvement district for the Stockyards."

"So what that allows us to do is fund the infrastructure for what a company like H-E-B requires, and then we get payments afterward that allow the city to recover."

One of the most important things city leadership does in Hudson Oaks is to listen to

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CITY OF HUDSON OAKS

Hudson Oaks Mayor Tom Fitzpatrick stands in front of the new Cheddar's restaurant, one of many businesses that are finding their way to this small Parker County city.



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

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

The Community News does not charge for time-limited 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

# Clock ticking on moving bills



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

The clock is ticking on getting bills out of the House and to the Texas Senate, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick warned last week in a story in the *Austin American-Statesman*. Patrick presides over the Senate and is worried many bills that have made it out of House committees but have not gone before the full chamber will not be considered before the session ends.

"I previously expressed concern the House was far behind in the passage of bills and a train wreck was coming," Patrick tweeted. At that time, more than 1,100 bills had made it out of committee but still had not been set on the House calendar. All bills must meet a May 11 deadline for a second reading to be further considered for final passage.

House Speaker Dade Phelan did not comment on Patrick's concern but has put that chamber on a six-day work schedule for the rest of the session.

### Poll: Raise minimum age for gun purchases

A new poll released by the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin indicates three-fourths of Texans polled said they support raising the minimum age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21, the Texas Standard reported.

"That included 91% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans," Joshua Blank, director of research, said. "This is a consistent finding, to be quite honest. We've asked this question before. We've asked similar questions. So, there's an appetite in some ways for stricter gun laws in Texas. It's just not something that is politically palatable in the process that we have."

Attempts by some Democratic legislators to push a similar measure in this legislative session have not gained traction and appear unlikely to pass.

### PUC chair warns of possible summer outages

The chairman of the Public Utility Commission warned last week that the state's main power grid is at risk if wind turbines don't produce enough power when needed, the *Texas Tribune* reported. Peter Lake reiterated that more on-demand power sources, such as power plants fueled by natural gas or batteries, need to be built to increase the electric grid's reliability.

"The Texas grid faces a new reality," Lake said last week. "Data shows for the first time that the peak demand for electricity this summer will exceed the amount we can generate from on-demand, dispatchable power, so we will be relying on renewables to keep the lights on."

Pablo Vegas, CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said at the news conference that wind and solar energy production results have increased considerably more than plants powered by coal or gas.

"So as a result, we are expecting to have to rely more on renewables during peak conditions than we ever have before," Vegas said.

Supporters of renewable energy scoffed at the view that the grid's reliability rests on renewable energy alone.

Luke Metzger, director of Environment Texas, said in a statement that renewable energy's growth in Texas "should be heralded and welcomed — not blamed, contrary to evidence, for grid problems."

The PUC is proposing the use of performance credits, funded by an estimated 2% increase in customer electric bills. The funds would go to companies that operate on-demand power sources in hopes of incentivizing them to build more power plants or keep existing plants operating longer, the *Tribune* reported.

### Allred to challenge Cruz for Senate seat

A three-term Dallas-area congressman is seeking the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in hopes of facing off against incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz next year. The *Dallas Morning News* reported last

week that U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, is seeking the nomination. He released a video blasting Cruz for hiding in a supply closet during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, and for leaving Texas weeks later for a Cancun vacation during the statewide electricity crisis caused by Winter Storm Uri.

"That's Ted for you. All hat, no cattle," Allred says in the video.

Cruz, whose campaign called Allred a "far-left radical," beat Democratic rival Beto O'Rourke by fewer than 3 percentage points in 2018.

### May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

Thousands of Texas motorcyclists are seriously injured or killed in crashes every year, the Texas Department of Transportation reports. In 2022, 562 motorcycle riders were killed, an 8% increase over the previous year.

"People on motorcycles are more vulnerable on our roadways," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "It's important for drivers to pay extra attention and look out for motorcycles — especially at intersections, when turning in front of oncoming traffic and while changing lanes. We all want to get home safe."

During May, which is Motorcycle Awareness Month, drivers are urged to observe these safety precautions:

- Stay alert. Even a momentary distraction, such as answering a phone call or changing the

radio station, can have deadly consequences.

- Pay special attention at intersections. That is where one-third of motorcycle fatalities occur.
- Take extra care when making left turns. Always assume motorcycles are closer than they appear.
- Stay back and maintain a safe following distance.
- Slow down and observe posted speed limits.

### Six new state parks on the horizon

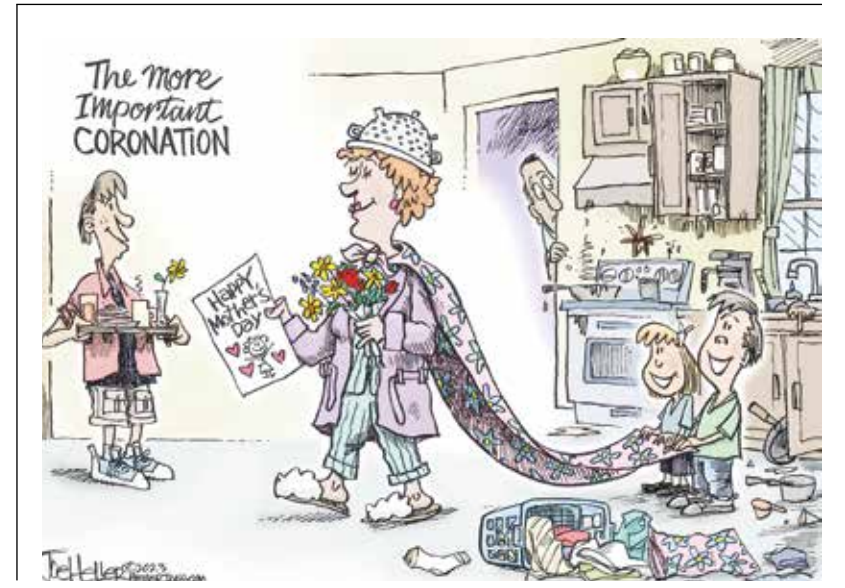
Texans will have the opportunity to enjoy six new state parks in the next 12 to 15 years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced recently. As TPWD celebrates 100 years of state parks, it is planning the development of a half dozen new places to camp, hike, fish, or just enjoy nature.

New parks in the works include Palo Pinto Mountains State Park near Fort Worth; the Dan A. Hughes Unit of the Devils River State Natural Area near Del Rio; Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area near Boerne; Powderhorn State Park near Port Lavaca; Chinati Mountains State Natural Area near Presidio; and Davis Hill State Natural Area near Houston.

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



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## Look at it This Way

# If only we could all be like Brad



Rick Mauch

sports@community-news.com

If only we could all be like my late neighbor Brad.

Just a couple days after the lovely Mrs. Junell and I moved into our home —ironically right across the street from where we lived for almost nine years before shuffling off to Colorado for a couple years — we were sitting on the bench out front. It was early July of last year, but shortly before sundown, so a good time to sit, imbibe in a nice glass of Merlot and soak in our return to the neighborhood we have loved for so long.

We look, and ambling across the street is a small man sporting a smile as big as his driveway. He was coming to welcome us to the neighborhood — he didn't know we had lived there before, in the

house right next to him and his wife Jan.

He saw the opportunity to be friendly, and if you knew Brad you knew he simply was not going to let a chance to do so pass him by. We clicked immediately and had a great visit. It was one of those rare times in life when you know you're meeting someone special, someone you can laugh with, share down moments with, or just know there's always a nice conversation just outside the front door and across the street.

You know, a good friend.

Much to our surprise — I should say shock — at the end of our initial conversation Brad revealed he had stage 4 cancer. He said doctors gave him about eight months to live.

But he didn't say it with sadness. He said it in a way that delivered a message of, "Damn it, I know the end is near, but until it gets here I'm going to enjoy every single second of this life as much as I can."

And that's what he did. Also, you just could not be sad around Brad. Oh, sometimes it was a melancholy feeling knowing that the time with my new good friend was limited. But then the image

of his smile and laugh, of how he got the greatest joy out of the simplest things, such as his beloved Texas A&M Aggies defeating my Alabama Crimson Tide, getting a scare thrown in him in their football game, or a deer that had been sighted outside the small patch of woods across the street from our neighborhood.

Brad was a fantastic photographer. I could sit for hours and look at his work, much of which was from East Texas, where we both grew up — me in Tyler and him in Mineola. He continued to take photos in the area as Jan would drive and he'd click away.

However, as time went on, the photo drives became less. So did our long visits. So did his visits with pretty much everyone except Jan, their children and nurses.

One of our last good visits was outside his house. His son had brought his classic car by that he had restored himself. Brad was so proud — and with good cause as this was one very cool ride.

The last time I saw Brad smile was a few days before he left this world. We were reminiscing about our younger years

in East Texas, which we did a few times and which always made him happy. It did me too.

Then, just as quickly as we met, Brad died. I'm not ashamed to say I cried. I'm still misting up as I write this, which took me a few weeks to work up the strength to do.

I miss my friend. I miss walking outside my front door and seeing him tinkering in the garage, or getting home late at night from a football game or event, and seeing him in there. The man loved to tinker and fix things.

If only he could have found a way to fix his own health.

Brad is proof that it's not how long you live, but how great you live. Judging from the short amount of time I knew him, my belief is that he packed more life into his 74 years than if he had lived to be 125.

I'm not angry that my prayers for him to live longer weren't answered in the fashion I desired. Let's face it, God missed one of his angels.

So do a lot of us here on Earth.



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## BOND

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community by putting together a bond proposal that represented our community's expectations," AGC co-chair Kelli Stumbo said. "This election shows their commitment to the future of our great school district."

The proposal uses two years of projected taxable value growth but not all of the district's available bonding capacity. While AISD's Interest & Sinking tax rate will increase \$0.025, it is expected that the district's overall tax rate will actually decrease due to continued compression of the Maintenance & Operations tax rate. AISD Trustees have lowered the overall tax rate each of the last four years, decreasing the tax rate 22.71 cents total, or an average of \$0.057 per year over the last four years. The 2022-23 tax rate compression



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for Aledo ISD was \$0.025 and is expected to be between \$0.04 and \$0.08 cents in 2023-24.

PASA, the district's demographer, projects that, by the 2024-2025 school year, projected enrollment at five of six elementary schools will exceed maximum capacity. With updated demographic reports pushing the projected need for more secondary space slightly further out — in 2027-28 projected district middle school enrollment will exceed max capacity, 2028-29 for high school enrollment — the AGC decided in its long-range plan for growth that the decision on how to build additional high school space would be better made in 2025 when committee members can reassess enrollment, bonding capacity, construction costs, and legislative

actions.

"Throughout the Aledo Growth Committee process, we talked about how the proposal we put

forth would be for the benefit of our kids in Aledo ISD," AGC co-chair Dan Reilly said. "We are thankful that the Aledo community put their faith in the AGC and that our students will see the direct benefit of the 2023 bond proposal."

The proposition includes:

- New Elementary School No. 7, named Lynn McKinney Elementary School, will be located on district-owned property northwest of the new McAnally Middle School (\$59.8 million).
- Additions/repurposed high school space (\$20.2 million)
- Replacement furniture for students in grades 9-12 that will complete districtwide furniture replacement (\$5 million)
- Safety and security (\$5 million)
- Technology (\$6.5 million)
- Maintenance (\$5 million)
- School buses (\$4.5 million)
- Land for future school sites — including additional high school facilities (\$17.8 million)

## FEES

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the next year, which includes recycling and a 95-gallon cart. It will increase by 4% each of the next two years, beginning May 1, resulting in a fee of \$21.48 per month in 2024 and \$22.22 per month in 2025.

"Two thousand fifteen is the last time we went up. We've been absorbing increases internally," City Manager Bryan Grimes said. "We just couldn't offset those costs anymore. We tried to make it easier on our customers."

At a meeting in early April, the council voted to amend the existing joint solid waste contract with Republic Waste Services to extend the contract through April 30, 2026. The amended contract also brought the city of Aledo onboard to join existing agreement members Willow Park, Hudson Oaks, Annetta North, Annetta South and the Town of Annetta.

The new collection fees are consistent throughout all six cities.

Beginning on May 1 of 2026, Republic's garbage, trash, and recycling collections will all be done with an entirely new fleet of automated side loader trucks, doing away with the current system of workers manually emptying the trash and recycle into the back of the trucks. However, Republic may continue to utilize its existing fleet for brush and debris collection and disposal.

At that meeting it was noted that Republic officials promised no employees will lose their job as a result of the change in pickup and will be given other duties within the company.

Once the amended renewal expires, the new agreement begins May 1, 2026 for a five year initial term with a five year automatic renewal.

### Support of HB 5406

The city council approved a letter of support for House Bill 5406,

backed by State Representative Glenn Rogers. The bill, currently before the 88th Texas Legislature, would create the Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority (CTRUA).

The CTRUA as billed would provide the vital function of coordinating the water planning for the region, saving time and costs by eliminating duplications of effort, identifying synergies, and leveraging economies of scale.

The letter also states that bringing forward cooperative, coordinated plans which speak on a regional basis will give the CTRUA a stronger voice as it competes for funding on both the state and federal level.

Grimes said, if passed, the bill would create a regular coalition for communities that can't do like Willow Park and Hudson Oaks and draw from Fort Worth water.

"They don't have the power to unilaterally go out and do something on their own, like Willow Park or Hudson Oaks," he said, adding of the CTRUA, "They're very similar to what a MUD (municipal utilities district) would be, but this is more of a regional authority."

Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young said, "We teamed with another city. This allows them (other communities) to team with another entity."

Grimes also stressed that there is no obligation from Willow Park by simply offering a letter of support.

"We don't need it, but it doesn't hurt our city for others to have this," Young said in support.

Grimes cited nearby Aledo as an example of perhaps being able to capitalize on the creation of a CTRUA.

"I know they're looking for \$26 million for a wastewater treatment plant," he said.

In his appeal letter, Rogers noted that North Central Texas — especially counties like Parker, Palo Pinto, and Stephens — is one of the fastest growing regions in

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### Update on mysterious PACs

Near the end of the bond election, The Community News reported on what we referred to as two political action committees opposing the bond. While the "Concerned Parents of Aledo" was indeed a political action committee, we have learned that "Leading Local," the other organization opposing the bond, is actually a 501(c)(4) non-profit political organization.

There is still no information about who was behind the two organizations. Concerned Parents of Aledo still has not filed the financial donor report that was due in April, and 501(c)(4) organizations are allowed to redact contributor information from open records requests.

However, it has been determined that the Concerned Parents

of Aledo and Leading Local used the same return mailing address and the same postal permit for their mailings.

In another development, there were reports that former state representative candidate Michael Olcott was going door-to-door to encourage voters to oppose the bond, and handing out business cards that showed him to be a Republican precinct chair in Parker County, a position he no longer holds. There were also images circulated of a flyer opposing the bond that contained erroneous information.

"The truth is that while talking to voters before the recent May 6 election, I frequently handed out old business cards to share my contact information, but verbally explained that I was no longer a precinct chair," Olcott said to The Community News. I pointed out that the contact information on

the card was still accurate and that they could call me if they had a question or concern about the upcoming election. On the day they alleged that I was 'deceiving' voters, I was with two current Republican precinct chairs who can both attest to my account at the door."

Olcott continued by saying that, after he was made aware of the accusations, he began writing the word "former" on the cards he handed out.

As for the flyer that was pictured, Olcott said he did not distribute that flyer.

"Interestingly, the handout was not one I had given to a voter. The picture was clearly setup and manufactured to continue to push this fake, non-issue," Olcott said. "Even the county chair referred to this as hearsay."

- Randy Keck, Editor



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# CITY

from page A1

residents and carefully plan for every type of development.

"Last year, we just finished a comprehensive plan and we've probably done four in the time I've been on city council or as mayor," Fitzpatrick said. "Most cities our size haven't done one. Part of these comprehensive plans is that we get community input. So we listen to our citizens and what they're looking for. That helps us to be a city that everybody wants to live in."

Fitzpatrick added that he and the city council get really good feedback from prospective businesses that decide to move to Hudson Oaks.

"One of the things that we hear from businesses that they like is that we have a very stable city government," Fitzpatrick said. "When businesses are going to make big investments, they want to see stability in a government. They want to know that when they come to a city council and get approval to build, that the city council is not going to do something else that may hurt their investment."

That stability is evident in the community's governmental history.

## Consistency pays off

Hudson Oaks became a city in 1978, and Fitzpatrick is only its sixth mayor.

"We don't have a lot of turnover in our city council or mayor," Fitzpatrick said. "We have a really good city staff and we have historically had very good city managers. We have a great police chief. So we have good stability."

And that council and staff genuinely care about the issues affecting the citizens of Hudson Oaks.

A few years back, for example, after recognizing a community need, the city spent \$1.4 million to install fiber internet for its residents.

"So what did that allow us to do?" Fitzpatrick said. "Well, we got Nextlink to move their headquarters here to Hudson Oaks to run that fiber internet. By having that internet, we've also got Superior Livestock to move to Hudson Oaks from the Stockyards. Their lease kept going up and they do all of their livestock sales over the internet."

Fitzpatrick said the new internet especially came in handy during the bad days of the pandemic.

"Because of COVID, I've been telecommuting for the past three years," Fitzpatrick said. "Without high speed internet, me and some other folks would have had some real challenges with our jobs."

Fitzpatrick, who has worked for a major aerospace company in the Metroplex for the past 38 years, said there is a lot more on the horizon for Hudson Oaks as well.

"A lot of things right now are conceptual, so we don't want to jinx them," Fitzpatrick said. "But we are finishing up our second apartment complex right next to the H-E-B. Last night, (April 27) we approved a re-plot that will be essentially seven commercial lots in front of those apartments."

Three of those lots are right along the access road and will likely become restaurants.

The Jerry Durant Auto Group also had a grand opening event for the new



Dutch Bros Coffee is one of many businesses that are flocking to Hudson Oaks.

Shottenkirk Toyota within the last few months in Hudson Oaks.

"The primary goal will remain that we should never have an ad valorem tax," Fitzpatrick said. "That's why the city was set up in 1978 by a small group of folks. They did not want Weatherford to annex this location and then have Weatherford city taxes. Our focus is to manage our budget effectively, plan well so that we control what's coming in, and that

all comes back to having a good city council and city staff. We are attracting the kind of businesses that we want. Hopefully, the citizens are happy with that."

Fitzpatrick said the city will have another big restaurant moving in next to Cheddar's, potentially by the end of this year, though he is not at liberty to say which at this point, and said what means the most to him is that Hudson Oaks residents enjoy their city.

## CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY SINCE APRIL 2022

- ACE Accounting
- Bahama Bucks
- Beard Bar
- Birchway House
- Bourbon and Branch
- Cheddar's
- Chicken Express
- Chipotle
- Club Pilates
- Coco Beach Tan
- Crumble Cookie
- Discount Tire
- Dutch Bros Coffee
- Extra Space Storage (new owners, not new build)
- HOBP Shell & Office/Silverado
- Hotworx
- Hyundai Collision Center (after flood restoration, not new build)
- Jerry Durant Warehouse
- Lacquer Lab
- Lush Dental
- Lusso Hair
- Magnolia Chiropractic
- Shottenkirk Toyota
- Verizon (new location)

"When I was running for mayor last year, I talked to about 600 people, and I asked everyone of them the same question, 'How do you like living in Hudson Oaks?'" Fitzpatrick said. "To a person, everyone said they loved living here. Imagine a community where everyone you ask said they are happy to be there. It was incredible."

# FEES

from page A3

the country. He cited that families from across the United States and even the world are moving here to take advantage of what the state and region have to offer.

However, with two severe droughts over the past decade, he said the growth has begun to put a severe strain on the area's water resources. He stressed that it is vital that this growing problem be addressed before it becomes an unmanageable crisis.

The letter from Willow Park city officials stated, "We ask that swift action be taken by the members of the 88th Texas Legislature to approve HB 5406 and implement the creation of the Cross Timbers

Regional Utility Authority. Any delay will put further stress on the region's aging water systems and could see funding opportunities move to other areas of our state."

Rogers noted that several billion dollars in substantial surplus funds are likely going to be designated for Texas water infrastructure in the 88th legislative session. He said it has been proven across the state that regional authorities are much better positioned to acquire funds from the Texas Water Development Board and other sources.

He also said that regional, cooperating authorities are also better suited to assist struggling small water utilities with the technical and financial expertise needed to gain compliance and funding.

The bill is in draft form and is currently being polished and

reviewed for legal conflicts by the Legislative Counsel office.

"Abundant, dependable, safe water is a legacy we owe to our children and grandchildren," Rogers wrote. "Establishing the Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority is a responsible first-step in creating the plans and obtaining the funding to make sure future water supplies are available to meet future water demands."

## Water agreement with Hudson Oaks

The council approved an inter-local agreement with the City of Hudson Oaks for a water meter telemetry equipment on the City of Willow Park water tower for the purpose of reading water meters through wireless transmission for the City of Hudson Oaks.

Assistant City Manager Bill Funderburk told the council that after five years the city can terminate the agreement with Hudson Oaks, providing they give 365 days notice.

"We don't know where technology will be in five years," he said, explaining the reason for the clause.

## Fisher graduating

Grimes announced that there will be a skeleton crew of staff at Willow Park City Hall Friday, May 12. That's because most of the staff will be in Stephenville attending the graduation of Planning and Development Director Toni Fisher, who will receive her bachelor of science degree in business administration from Tarleton State University.

"I remember her saying when I hired her, 'I'm going to get my degree. It's important to me,'" Grimes recalled. "I think everybody has pitched in to make it happen."

"Toni Fisher is great for the city and one of the best hires I've ever made."

Fisher is going on two years with the city. She said she was humbled by the support in her pursuit of her degree.

"More than I could have ever asked," she said. "I never expected them to come to it (graduation), but I should have figured. They have been so supportive."

Fisher is graduating with a 4.0 grade point average and is part of Beta Gamma Sigma, the international honor society for students in the top 10% of their class in business schools.

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## Destination

# IMAGINATION

### Stuard students' imaginations among best in state

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

A child's imagination is an amazing thing.

Six students from Stuard Elementary School are proof. Working together, their Destination Imagination team finished eighth in the state at the recent competition held at the University of Texas at Arlington.

The team of Elliott Skinner, Garrett Condon, Sophia Stamper, Campbell Hutcheson, Oliver Wight, and Aiden Gibbins — all age 10, except for Stamper and all in fourth grade except for Condon (fifth) — competed in the technical challenge category. They qualified for state by winning the Fort Worth Region championship at Midlothian High School.

"My husband Eric and I did this together at Weatherford High School. We went to Globals (the highest level of competition) my senior year (2003) and came in fifth," said Stephanie Skinner, Elliott's mother and the team sponsor/coach.

"I know first-hand how great this is for kids, the fun they have, what they learn, the confidence it builds in them."

The competition asked them to create a skit and a puzzle containing at least six pieces. The puzzle had to be integrated into their story, and they also had to create two puzzle solvers that used technical methods to solve the puzzle.

They were awarded points for creativity, technical innovation, and teamwork.

The team wrote a story about two people traveling into the Amazon Rain Forest. One person was bitten by a Brazilian Wandering Spider, the world's most venomous. In order to create the anti-venom needed to cure the bite, they had to travel through the jungle to find six ingredients (the puzzle pieces).

The puzzle solvers put their pieces into place, including the crucial piece, the antibodies used to create

the anti-venom. The puzzle solvers included a catapult and conveyor belt, and a bucket that carried the puzzle piece down a team-created ramp. It tipped over at the bottom of the ramp to deposit the puzzle piece into place.

"They were one of very few teams that successfully completed their puzzle," Stephanie said. "They chose a very technical challenge, but we have some very technical people. Everyone had different ideas, which gave us a lot of options."

The team was named The Mighty Bananas. Why?

"I like bananas," Oliver said with a chuckle.

To prepare for the competition, the team practiced and prepared for several months. The team was picked in August and they began work in September.

"I liked seeing all the progress we made. It was awesome," Elliott said. "Being creative is a good way to go."

Stephanie noted that once the skit — which had a time limit of eight minutes — began, the students were completely on their own. Any help remembering their lines, etc. was up to them to work through together.

Fortunately, things went smoothly for the Bananas.

"I had the most amount of lines. I played the daughter," Campbell said. "I liked it. People are watching and staring and it gives you more bravery. Now I can say 'I did that!'"

Stephanie added, "There were a lot of lessons learned, like projecting. I don't think any of them had performed before. But they did fantastic. I'm so proud of them."

Garrett said his favorite part of the competition was memorizing the skit. "It was also a lot of fun putting all the stuff on, like the makeup. I was a shaman."

The group worked with a budget of \$225 for props and supplies. The team had to get creative to stay within that budget.

"We're talking about re-using refrigerator boxes. One of their pieces was made out of an old pole," Stephanie said.

"I like the feeling of joy and trustfulness," Sophia said.

To which Aiden added as a description of teamwork, "I respectfully disagree with your idea, can you please try my idea?"

Campbell said the teamwork provided a major lesson for her.

"I'm used to doing a lot of things by myself," she said. "I learned to be more flexible."

Perhaps the best part was the fun the students had.



STEPHANIE SKINNER

Stuard Elementary students (clockwise from right) Garrett Condon, Oliver Wight, Aiden Gibbins, Sophia Stamper, Campbell Hutcheson and Elliott Skinner finished eighth in the state and were Fort Worth Region Champions in Destination Imagination competition.



STEPHANIE SKINNER

Oliver Wight works on a prop as his team, The Mighty Bananas, prepares for Destination Imagination competition.

### A child's imagination is an amazing thing.



STEPHANIE SKINNER

Garrett Condon (front) and Elliott Skinner admire the ramp the team created as part of the Destination Imagination competition.

"When we went to the awards ceremony (in Midlothian) it was glow in the dark in the auditorium and we got to play with beach balls," Campbell said.

"We got to trade pins with other teams and that was really cool," Oliver added.

Each year the different regions have new pins created that the students exchange.

"I had a blast just seeing their progress from the beginning," Stephanie said. "Also, seeing my own kid grow into someone more confident was special. They're more cohesive now. I've coached other kids' teams, but it's great to coach my own kid's team."

Her younger son, 8-year-old Sam, will be on a competitive team next year, she said.

"There's a long journey that starts with brainstorming. Initially, you come up with something and then you make it happen," Stephanie said. "There were some growing pains, but it was all such a wonderful and fun experience."



STEPHANIE SKINNER

Mighty Bananas team members (from left) Oliver Wight, Sophia Stamper, Garrett Condon and Campbell Hutcheson hold up the regional championship trophy for Destination Imagination competition.



STEPHANIE SKINNER

Campbell Hutcheson paints some props in preparation for competition.



## Obituaries

### Sandra Lee Faïres

Sandra Lee "Mimi" McIlhane Faïres, 82, of Aledo, Texas, passed away on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Willow Park.



Sandra Faïres

Mimi was born May 11, 1940, in Beaumont, to Fred and Jerrye McIlhane. She graduated from Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth and attended vocational nursing school. She worked in multiple medical offices in the Fort Worth area as she raised two kids, Renae and Kevin. Her last office provided her with the opportunity to meet Lynn Faïres, who would become the love of her life.

Mimi and Lynn moved to Aledo where they found lifelong friendships, had successful businesses, and set the stage to live the rest of their lives in service to their friends and family. They were often seen on the social scene within the community. They were inseparable. Mimi was heartbroken with the passing of her beloved friend and companion, Lynn, in August of 2000. She never fully recovered from her loss.

Sandra came to be known as Mimi to all those who knew her from the affectionate name given to her by her grandchildren. Her home became the hub and the place to be as Parker and Price grew up. All the kids loved her gentle laugh and deep sense of humor. Her relaxed disposition made her fun for all generations to enjoy. She loved her role as matriarch and the opportunity to serve and spoil the kids.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Lynn; and son, Kevin. Survivors include her daughters, Renae Taggart and companion, John Williams, of Lubbock, Leslee Lewis and husband, Patrick, of Aledo, Amy Skipper and husband, Matt, of Aledo, and Meg Faïres of Colorado; grandchildren, Parker Taggart and wife, Aubrey, Price Taggart and wife, Caroline, Lauren Hutson, and Carter Lewis.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made, in Mimi's honor, to SPCA of Texas.

The Community News  
May 12, 2023



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Annetta Elementary School held its inaugural arts fair on Tuesday, May 9. Additional coverage is coming soon to community-news.com, and in next week's print issue.

## Weatherford Art Association

### Artists of the Month for April announced

By Debra Strandberg  
Special to The Community News

Artist Yvonne Tarrant received the first place ribbon for her oil painting "That's a Wrap" in the Weatherford Art Association's monthly Artist of the Month contest.

Tarrant painted the quiet moment when her husband was walking their two horses, Diesel and Oops, back from the arena to the barn. This classic equine scene and other works by Yvonne will be on view at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center during May.

Second Place went to photographer Carmen Davailus, for a photograph on metal, "Miracles on West Texas Highway." The artist photographed this perfect scene of wildflowers on a road near Groesbeck, Texas. Her lovely Texas spring view will be displayed during April at First Bank Texas in downtown Weatherford.

Third Place was awarded to Cindi Neverdousky for her oil painting, "Flamenco." Cindi celebrated her favorite red in the flowing skirts of the dancer. A study of motion



DEBRA STRANDBERG

Weatherford Art Association Artists of the Month for April were (from left) Yvonne Tarrant, Carmen Davailus, Cindi Neverdousky.

and vivid color, Cindi's painting can be viewed throughout April at the Fort Worth Community Credit Union on South Main Street in Weatherford.

A non-profit 501 (C) (3) corporation, the Weatherford Art Association provides monthly demonstrations to increase the knowledge of its members and support arts education for the

community. Meetings are held from 6 to 7:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at 125 South Waco off the square in Weatherford. For more information, visit weatherfordart.com.

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**Important Notice!**  
The Aledo PTO will NOT be ordering any extra to sell on our website in August. The only way to purchase school supplies through the Aledo PTO for the 2023-2024 school year is through EPT's website between now and June 1st!

Preschool and Elementary Computers	
Pre-K/PCPD through 2nd	\$56
Kindergarten through 2nd	\$60
2nd-5th B&B Item Donation Kit for Campus	\$15
Middle School Computers	
6th through 8th	\$65 shipping
9th-12th B&B Item Donation Kit for Campus	\$16

Late orders (with a price increase) will be available online May 24th through June 1st.

*If financial assistance is needed, please contact your school's counselor for an Advocats application by June 1st.*

ceremony will be at the Flag pole and following the ceremony flags will be provided that will be put on the over 600 Veteran graves located there. For questions contact Ron Chandler at 817-223-8926 or Bret Watson at 817-946-0906. or e-mail: legion-post163@aol.com

**JULY 4**

**Spark in the Park**  
Join Weatherford Parks and Recreation for Spark in the Park 2023, 6 - 10:30 pm on Tuesday July 4 at Heritage park. Come enjoy music, food, waterslides and fireworks.

Texas country's modern-era founding fathers, Pat Green, will be the headliner at the amphitheater starting at 7:45 p.m.. Opening act will be Chris Colston starting at 6 p.m.. Following artist concerts will be the famous fireworks show. The event is FREE TO ATTEND!  
Checkout the webpage for Facebook for event/parking maps: <https://www.facebook.com/events/757972976023061>

**JUNE 3**

**PCSP Frontier Days Rodeo Parade**  
Kick off Rodeo Week with the 76th PCSP Frontier Days PRCA Rodeo PARADE in Weatherford at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 3. Spectators of the Parade will start at 9th Grade Center, 1007 S Main St., head North on S Main, around the Courthouse, West on Palo Pinto (Mineral Wells Hwy), Left on Waco St. to Cherry Park area (long route).



and will be at Memorial Gardens on Mineral Wells Hiway beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 28. The

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**MAY 29**

**Memorial Day**  
Memorial Day Ceremony is hosted by Parker County American Legion Post 163

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

- TXism: "got a mind to"
- Lufkin's code is 956
- TX A. J. Foyt won here four times
- traveled by horse
- Texas Tarzan, Ron Hewlett-
- runs its U.S. business from Texas
- USS Texas aided the Normandy landings on
- great sound at Dallas' Meyerson John Connally's wife (init.)
- actor Grant of 1958 "Houseboat" with TX Martha Hyer
- TX Mahomes, e.g. national clothing retailer (2 wds.)
- TXism: "let's \_\_\_ horse trading" (negotiate)
- anno Domini abbr.
- Dallas NE suburb
- TXism: "nuff \_\_\_"
- TXism: "she has to sneak \_\_\_ mirror to fix her hair" (homely)
- romantic night setting? (3 wds.)
- TXism: "does a bull give \_\_\_?" (no)
- Ivory Joe's "\_\_\_ Met You Baby"
- dir. to Nacogdoches from Trinity
- "a whole \_\_\_" (lots)
- Fort Worth "Horned Frogs" university
- UT grad actor Wallach
- sensational newspapers
- TXism: "\_\_\_ in cement" (permanent)
- San Antonio based Inns: \_\_\_ Quinta
- jacket or saddle leather
- TX Willie's "Farm \_\_\_" was in Lincoln, NE in 1987
- TXism: "dumb as a stump"
- Reese \_\_\_ Force Base was in Texas
- TXism: "never let 'em \_\_\_ you sweat"
- Eden Echo income producers
- TX-born Meredith MacRae was in "Petti \_\_\_ Junction"
- actor Russell in TX-filmed "Silkwood"
- mental hospital
- Texas actor Rip (init.)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ your bill" (drink)
- Father of Mexico: Father Miguel Hidalgo \_\_\_
- this Dunaway was TX Bonnie Parker
- Gov. "\_\_\_" Ferguson
- oil was discovered by \_\_\_ in Corsicana in 1894
- TXism: "\_\_\_ some to"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ some boot leather" (run)
- TX Tommy \_\_\_ Jones
- TXism: "got as much to \_\_\_ hibernating bear" (idle)
- attempted

**DOWN**

- TX Gene Autry's "That Silver-\_\_\_ Daddy of Mine"
- TX Byron Nelson's pal Palmer
- Fort Worth boot-maker: M.L. \_\_\_ Sons
- this Dunaway was TX Bonnie Parker
- Gov. "\_\_\_" Ferguson
- former Cowboys GM Tex (init.)
- \_\_\_ and eggs
- TXism: "\_\_\_ some to"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ some boot leather" (run)
- TX Tommy \_\_\_ Jones
- TXism: "got as much to \_\_\_ hibernating bear" (idle)
- attempted

**Saturday afternoon we will have a good ole' fashioned FREE family friendly Street Dance, with opening band Tyler Bond, at 5 p.m. Feature band, Albert Leon Payne & Friends, will play at 7 p.m. Street dance will be on the corner of Dallas/York Street on the Northwest Quadrant of the square in Downtown Weatherford. Food trucks will be available. Coolers welcome and bring your chairs!**

For more information visit [pcsp.net](http://pcsp.net) or email [parker-countyposse@gmail.com](mailto:parker-countyposse@gmail.com).

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## TRACK AND FIELD

## St. Peters looks to cap spring comeback



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Lauren St. Peters of Aledo High School competes in the Class 5A girls shot put event at the UIL State Track and Field Meet on May 13, 2022 in Austin, Texas.

### Three Ladycats competing at state

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Lauren St. Peters had a feeling she'd be back in Austin this month.

When the junior hurler competed in the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays in the University of Texas' Mike A. Myers Stadium in late March, she realized something. Despite recovering from surgery on her left leg — her planting leg — she had a good chance to return to the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet and compete for a state championship.

And now, that's exactly where she is. Not only has she returned, she is the No. 1 seed in the shot put with a career-best throw of 47 feet, 5.75 inches at the Region 1 Meet in Lubbock April 28-29.

St. Peters has thrown almost a foot farther than second seed

and fellow junior Madeleine Fey of Midlothian at 46-8.

St. Peters is one of three Ladycats who will compete in Austin this weekend. Joining her are freshman Sofia Brandenburg in the 800-meter run and junior Taylor Hindman in the pole vault.

Like St. Peters, Hindman is making a return appearance at state. Last season St. Peters was fourth in both the shot put and discus and Hindman tied teammate Maggie Kilburn, then a freshman, for seventh.

"Texas Relays was very motivating. I'm thankful for the opportunity I had. I don't think I'd be back at state if I had not competed there," St. Peters said.

St. Peters finished 10th in the shot put with a throw of 41-5.5 and was 12th in the discus, throwing 136-6. Though she's thrown much farther since, competing against some of the best in the nation gave her a confidence she needed to

push forward through recovery and right back to state.

St. Peters followed her strong showing at state last season by winning the USA Track and Field 17-18-Year-Old Division national championship in the shot put. She was competing as a 16-year-old as she didn't turn 17 until September.

Then, in January, she had surgery. She said the doctor told her she could wait until after track season, but surgery was going to happen either way. She chose to go ahead and have surgery and work to come back in the spring.

"There wasn't a concern about whether I'd be able to compete, but when and how far would I be able to throw?" she said.

Then, when the time came, it was a bittersweet moment.

"I hadn't had a competition since July. I was super encouraged, but I didn't know what to expect," St. Peters said. "I came out at my first meet and threw

Turn to **TRACK**, page B7

## GOLF

## Ladycats look to send seniors out on high note with low score

### Team's third straight trip to state is next week

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Aledo Ladycats golf coach Brian Mourning has said if all the players on his team put their best game together on the same day they would be a very tough team to beat.

The Ladycats are heading back to the Class 5A State Tournament with that goal in mind as they will compete Monday and Tuesday at the White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown. It is their third

consecutive trip to the elite event and the program's 10th time since 2012.

"I think if we all have a good day together, we could definitely end up with a medal," said senior Mallory Miller, adding about herself and fellow seniors Sena'a Lemen and Maddi Warren, "It's our last tournament in high school. We definitely want to be the best we can."

The Ladycats' best finish ever at state was in 2015. They were second as a team with Cheyenne Knight, who is now on the LPGA Tour, winning a second straight individual championship.

The Ladycats have shown steady improvement as the toughest part of the season approached. After winning the District 5-5A championship in runaway fashion, they challenged for the Region 1 title before finishing second to back-to-back Class 4A (now moved up to 5A) state champion Argyle.

The Ladycats are no stranger to the course. The seniors and junior Kyla Morales have ample experience at White Wing, including a state preview in November.

"If they play to their potential, we could knock about 60 strokes off our state preview score,"

Turn to **GOLF**, page B5



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Junior Kyla Morales takes some practice swings in preparation for the state tournament.



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Freshman Emily Crick works on her swing prior to state.

## TRACK AND FIELD

## Bearcats looking for gold in Austin



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aven Lawrence is shown at the Aledo track meet earlier this season. Lawrence is one leg of the boys 800-meter relay that will compete for gold this weekend at the state track meet.

### 800-meter relay hopes to improve on school record set at regionals

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Two seconds. It took longer than to type those two words.

However, even less than two seconds separates the Aledo Bearcats' 800-meter (4x200) relay from a gold medal at this weekend's Class 5A State Track and Field Meet at the University of Texas in Austin.

The quartet of juniors Hawk Patrick-Daniels, Aven Lawrence, Jaden Allen, and Hauss Hejny clocked a school-record time of 1 minute, 26.30 seconds. It has them sitting as the third seed at state, narrowly behind top seeded Denton Ryan's 1:24.68 and second seed Red Oak's 1:25.14.

That school record was set at the Region 1 Meet in Lubbock April 28-29. First-year Bearcats head coach Andrew Clark believes that time can be improved upon and that a gold medal is definitely in their sights.

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page B7

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SOFTBALL

# Lady Royals upset Aledo with area playoff sweep

## 18-game win streak ended

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

One big inning. That was the difference maker for Richland in both games of the area round of Class 5A softball play-offs as the Lady Royals managed to upset Aledo's Ladycats with a two-game sweep.

In Game 1 of the series on Thursday, May 4, the Lady Royals started off by posting three runs in the top of the first. The home team managed to shut out Richland in the final six frames, but the damage was done as the Ladycats fell, 3-1.

On Friday, May 5, the Ladycats held a 2-1 lead heading into the bottom of the fifth inning. Just as they did in the Game 1, the Lady Royals (24-10-2) put together one

big inning they were able to ride out to the finish as they won 6-2.

The Ladycats ended the season with a 26-6-1 record and fell short in their bid for a third consecutive trip to the state tournament. They had won 18 straight games before this series.

Unlike most of the season, hits came at a premium for Aledo in the series. Across the two games, the Ladycats collected just nine hits against Richland hurlers. With fewer baserunners came fewer scoring opportunities. With the few scoring opportunities they did have, Aledo struggled to capitalize with timely hits.

In Game 2, the Ladycats struggled to mount any offense at the plate through the first three innings. In the top of the fourth, trailing 1-0, they were finally able to garner some momentum when senior third

baseman Presley Hull led off the inning with a line-drive single to right field.

Texas Ray hit the first pitch of her at-bat to short. However, a throwing error allowed her not only to reach safely, but provided an opportunity for both Ladycat runners to advance an extra base.

With two runners in scoring position, Aledo pitcher Brenlee Gonzales drove in the first run of the game for the Ladycats with a hard hit grounder through the infield and into left field. Hull scored from third with ease to make it a 1-1 contest. Meanwhile, Ray moved up to third.

Two batters later, Nathalie Touchet launched a fly ball deep to center field. Richland's centerfielder managed to make the catch for the second out of the inning, but the ball was deep enough to allow Ray to trot home. Touchet's sacrifice fly put her team on top, 2-1.

Unfortunately, Aledo's lead was short-lived. Richland used a pair of walks coupled with four singles in the bottom of the fifth to play station-to-station softball. The home team added five runs in the inning to bring the Ladycats' season to an unexpected end.

The Lady Royals put up three runs in the visiting half of the first inning in Game 1 to put Aledo down by a deficit they struggled to erase all game long. With one final opportunity to work their way back into the game in the bottom of the seventh, it appeared as though it might happen.

The Ladycats were poised to pounce after Gonzales led off the inning with a double to right field. Richland earned a pair of quick outs



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Delaney Rosser tosses to shortstop Reagan Davis while attempting a double play during the Ladycats' 3-1 loss to Richland on Thursday, May 4.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

After hitting a leadoff double, Texas Ray slides into third base during the home half of the second inning in Game 1.

with a strikeout and a pop out that left pinch runner Jordyn Edington standing on second.

Maddy Jarvis beat out a dropped third strike during her at-bat that also allowed Edington to advance to third as Reagan Davis stepped into the batter's box. As the 1-0 pitch was delivered to Davis, Jarvis took off for second to put the tying run in scoring position for Aledo.

Davis took a hack at the 1-1 offering, but got under it just a little too much. The Lady Royals' shortstop was able to settle under the ball to make the catch for the final out as Richland avoided a late rally by the hometown team.

### Class 5A area (second round) best-of-three playoff series

### Richland def. Aledo 2-0 Richland 3, Aledo 1

May 4

	R	H	E
Richland	3	0	0
Aledo	0	1	0

Aledo hitting: Perry 2-for-3; Hull 1-for-3, Ray 1-for-3, 2B; Gonzales 1-for-3, 2B; Delaney Rosser RBI.  
Aledo pitching: Touchet 7.0 IP, 3 H, 3 R (3 earned), 2 BB, 5 K.

### Richland 6, Aledo 2

May 5

	R	H	E
Aledo	0	0	0
Richland	0	0	1

Aledo hitting: Addie Perry 1-for-3; Presley Hull 1-for-3, Texas Ray 1-for-3; Brenlee Gonzales 1-for-3, RBI; Nathalie Touchet RBI.  
Aledo pitching: Brenlee Gonzales 6.0 IP, 7 H, 6 R (5 earned), 5 BB, 2 K.

## GOLF

from page B4

Mourning said. "I think we're close to it."

Mourning added that he's also told his team to "Just go play. They have nothing to lose."

He noted that at the beginning of the season the goal was to return to state — which they've done. Now, if they can win a medal, it's the proverbial icing on the cake.

Warren posted her best round ever at the regional tournament, shooting a 79 on the opening day. Lemen, who has signed to play at Wayland Baptist next season, won district and finished fifth at regionals with rounds of 77 and 76.

While the White Wing course is challenging in its own right, calling strategy very much into

play, conquering the challenge of the Rawls course in Lubbock and those legendary West Texas winds is always a confidence builder.

"I think I'm very capable of doing even better there," Warren noted of White Wing, adding that she's not taking anything for granted, however.

Morales said she will miss her friends and teammates Lemen, Miller, and Warren when they are gone after this season — which is all the more reason to have a strong showing in their final tournament.

"I think we have a way better chance of finishing higher than last year (12th). It's important to send them out on a good note," she said.

"It's going to be bittersweet to see the seniors go," said freshman Emily Crick, adding that she learned from them, "It's okay to

have a bad day. You come back the next day and do better."

Lemen also used the word bittersweet to describe her final competition as a Ladycat.

"It's our last tournament together. While it's going to be really sad, it's one chapter closing another opening up," she said.

"I don't think it's hit me yet," Warren said. "Overall, it's been a great learning path. It's (state) something I look forward to, but knowing it's the last time playing together is a very sad feeling."

Mourning said the seniors "set a standard for everybody else."

"They're just great kids — all my players are," he said. "They do a great job, and not just on the Black Team (the A team), but throughout the program, lifting everybody up."

"And they've competed at the highest level."



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Seniors (from left) Sena'a Lemen, Mallory Miller, and Maddi Warren will play their final tournament for Aledo at the 5A State Tournament Monday and Tuesday.



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1. A Special Exception for 1681 Old Annetta Road, a property containing 21.590 acres of land (Abst. 1002, Survey: Nations Wm. Surv. Wm. Nations) to allow for a 2,000 square foot accessory structure that exceeds the allowed square footage as set forth in Section 8.10.B.2.c of the Town of Annetta Zoning Ordinance 215.

All interested persons are urged to attend.  
**TO BE PUBLISHED: Friday, May 12, 2023**  
 (s) Jamee Long, City Secretary/Administrator  
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TRACK AND FIELD

# Lady Eagles win two gold medals

## State meet held in Hewitt

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

Amberlie Daniels captured a pair of gold medals at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 4A State Track and Field Meet in Hewitt on the weekend of May 6.

Daniels won one individual gold medal, winning the high jump by clearing 5 feet. She then joined Libby Tovar, Gracee Whiteaker, and Sophie Scott to win the 1600-meter relay with a time of 4 minutes, 7.46 seconds.

Also medaling for the Lady Eagles was Ella Cockrum with a silver in the discus. For the Eagles, the 800 relay of Matthew Sykes, Caleb Nelson, Evan Chrane and Hudson Quinn also brought home a silver medal.

At the regional meet in Arlington on April 27, Ella Cockrum won a regional championship in the girls discus. She also qualified for state in this same event last season.

Reigning boys state discus champion Ben Camp finished third at regionals.



Read this story online

As a team, the Lady Eagles were the North Region runners-up and the Eagles were third.

### TAPPS Class 4A State Track Meet Hewitt, May 5-6

#### Trinity Christian Academy results

##### Running events in meters, field events in feet

###### Girls

Team score: 58, fifth place.  
Individual results  
100: 7. Libby Tovar, 13.07.  
400: 7. Sophie Scott, 1:00.76.  
800: 5. Gracee Whiteaker, 2:25.63.  
100 hurdles: 4. McKenna Kelley, 17.33.  
1600 relay: 1. Tovar, Amberlie Daniels, Whiteaker, Scott, 4:07.46.  
High jump: 1. Daniels, 5-0; 4. EmmaGrace Bolz, 4-8.  
Discus: 2. Ella Cockrum, 126-0.  
Shot put: 7. Addison Shoppach, 31-4.25.

###### Boys

Team score: 45 points, seventh place.  
110 hurdles: 5. Braxton Smith, 16.49.  
300 hurdles: 4. Smith, 42.84; 6. Landry Crumpler, 43.87.  
400 relay: 5. Smith, Caleb Nelson, Evan Chrane, Hudson Quinn, 44.38.  
800 relay: 2. Matthew Sykes, Nelson, Chrane, Quinn, 1:32.08.  
1600 relay: 6. Sykes, Kosta Luecker, Nelson, Quinn, 3:31.71.  
High jump: 5. Jackson Sykes, 6-0.  
Discus: 6. Ben Camp, 126-5.



Trinity Christian Academy girls track and field seniors Libby Tovar, Sophie Scott, Amberlie Daniels.



TCA boys track and field seniors Caleb Nelson, Evan Chrane, and Hudson Quinn.

## TRACK

from page B4

seven feet under my PR. Something wasn't clicking."

But she wasn't deterred. She kept pushing herself, and her performance at the Texas Relays was just the boost she needed for a surge at what coach Mike Pinkerton said was perfect timing.

"She got back into form at the right time. You can't even tell now that she had surgery," he said. "And she has really been coming on strong the last few weeks."

St. Peters' throw of 45-3.5 at the District 5-5A Meet was then a personal record. She bested that at the Area 5/6 Meet, throwing 45-10.5, and then, of course, came her throw at regionals.

"Something that's changed since March is my mindset," St. Peters said. "So much is mental. I'm going to go into state with the same mindset, just throw my best with confidence."

### Looking for more

Brandenburg enters state as the No. 7 seed in the 800 meters, having clocked a time of 2 minutes, 15.19 seconds at the Region 1 Meet. However, she and

Pinkerton know she has a faster time in her, having run 2:14.21 at district.

The top seed in the 800 is Kailey Littlefield of Lucas Lovejoy with a time of 2:08.40. The third-place time, which would put Brandenburg among the medalists, is 2:11.73. Pinkerton is confident her best time is yet to come at state.

"I think that's very doable now that she's only training for the 800," he said.

Brandenburg also competed in the 1600 previously.

Hindman qualified for state with a vault of 11-9 at regionals. However, like Brandenburg, she has done much better, clearing a school-record 12-5 at district.

"Out there at (Texas) Tech, the wind was crazy, as it will do," Pinkerton said of the regional meet. "But she knows what she can do."

Hindman is seeded fifth with four vaulters tied for the top spot with vaults of 12-0.

Class 5A field events start at 9 a.m. Friday, May 12 and running events begin at 5 p.m.



Read this story online



Read this story online



The Trinity Christian Academy Eagles golf team finished second in district and qualified for regionals. Pictured are (from left) head coach Monte Martin, Canyon Kelley, Hudson Smith, district individual champion Wyatt Deary, Brody Blauser, and Nash Carlson. Regional results were pending at press time.

## BEARCATS

from page B4

"The 4x200 is in a great place. Allen is getting in better shape day to day...he isn't where he was pre-injury, so with the extra two weeks of work (since regionals) we should see his time drop," Clark said. "Also, we had a bad exchange on the third exchange that cost us some time. We clean that up and get Allen in better shape to finish, I think we can drop some serious time."

The Bearcats also have the 1600 (4x400) relay competing, along with junior Brad Campbell in the pole vault.

The 1600 relay is seeded fifth, with the foursome of junior Adam Averett, Lawrence, junior Blake Burdine, and Hejny posting a time of 3:19.39. The top qualifying time was Mansfield

Timberview with a 3:15.74, but Aledo is narrowly behind third seed Comal Smithson Valley (3:18.87) and second seed McKinney North (3:18.35).

The Bearcats have a season-best time of 3:19.06 in the event at the Area 5/6 Meet on April 21 with senior Nathan Wood running a leg of the relay.

"We would be sitting in fourth with our best time in the season so I am expecting that. I think we have a serious chance to go low 3:18 or a high 3:17, which will put us in the mix for a medal," Clark said.

The last Bearcat to medal at the state meet in the running events was Clay Murador in the 400 as a sophomore in 2021.

As for who will run the relays, Clark has several options as juniors Christopher Johnson and Vincent Luffey, along with

freshman Dominick Barrera, are also possibilities.

"When it is all said and done the four fastest/healthiest guys will be on the track," Clark said. "We have a great group of guys that understand that and understand their role."

Campbell comes into state seeded sixth. He cleared a career-best 15 feet, 3 inches to finish second at regionals after winning both district and area competition at 14-6 and 15-1.

The top qualifying vault was by Argyle's Gator Young at 16-5.

Field events are Friday morning, May 12 at 9 a.m. and running events begin at 5 p.m.

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BASEBALL

# Bearcats sweep Trimble Tech

## Eye matchup with Burleson next

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

Aledo's Bearcat baseball team cemented the No. 1 seed in the district just as all aspects of their game finally began to mesh together in the past couple weeks of the regular season.

Taking on Trimble Tech, who earned the fourth seed in their own district, in the bidistrict round of the playoffs, Aledo head coach Chad Barry emphasized the importance of his team trending towards their best baseball at such a pivotal time.

The Bearcats (23-10) overwhelmed the Bulldogs (11-16), sweeping Trimble Tech out of the playoffs by scores of 8-0 and 11-1 in the best-of-three elimination series.

"To play them, and to sweep them is good for our program," Barry said at the conclusion of the series. "At the same time, I felt like we should sweep them. We were the one seed. They were the four seed out of their district. I told our guys, it's not about who you're playing. You're playing against the ball. You're playing against the percentages. We can control how sharp we come out and our focus, and make sure we maintain the level that we're capable of playing at. I stressed to them that's how we need to play baseball."

With the first series of the playoffs in the rearview window, the Bearcats look ahead to a matchup with a familiar foe in Burleson

(23-6-1) later this week at the Depot in Cleburne.

"We've played them the last two years in a row in the second round," Barry said, looking towards the series against the Elks. "It's been a dogfight every time. They're a familiar foe. We know they play well. They're very well coached with Caden Crawford and Wayne Wayson there. It's going to be drastically different than the series we just played."

Every facet of the game went as well as the Bearcats could hope for in the opening round. Matthew Clark and Robert Burk were spectacular in their respective starts, combining for eight-and-one-third shutout innings against the Bulldogs. Jake Bumgardner, Bosten Dwinell, Luke Saunders, and Bryce McCain all put in quality innings of work out of the bullpen allowing a lone run by Trimble Tech in their combined four-and-two-thirds innings.

Offensively, the Bearcats amassed 19 hits in the two games. Starting shortstop Trace Mazon went 6-for-8 in the series, including a 4-for-4 performance at the plate with a double and a triple in Game 2.

Following his 3-for-3 performance that included a home run he absolutely melted over the right-field fence in Game 1, Dwinell couldn't get a pitch to hit in Game 2. The Bulldogs pitched around Aledo's starting first baseman hoping to find easier outs elsewhere in the lineup.

On the bases the Bearcats were a constant threat, putting pressure on the Bulldog

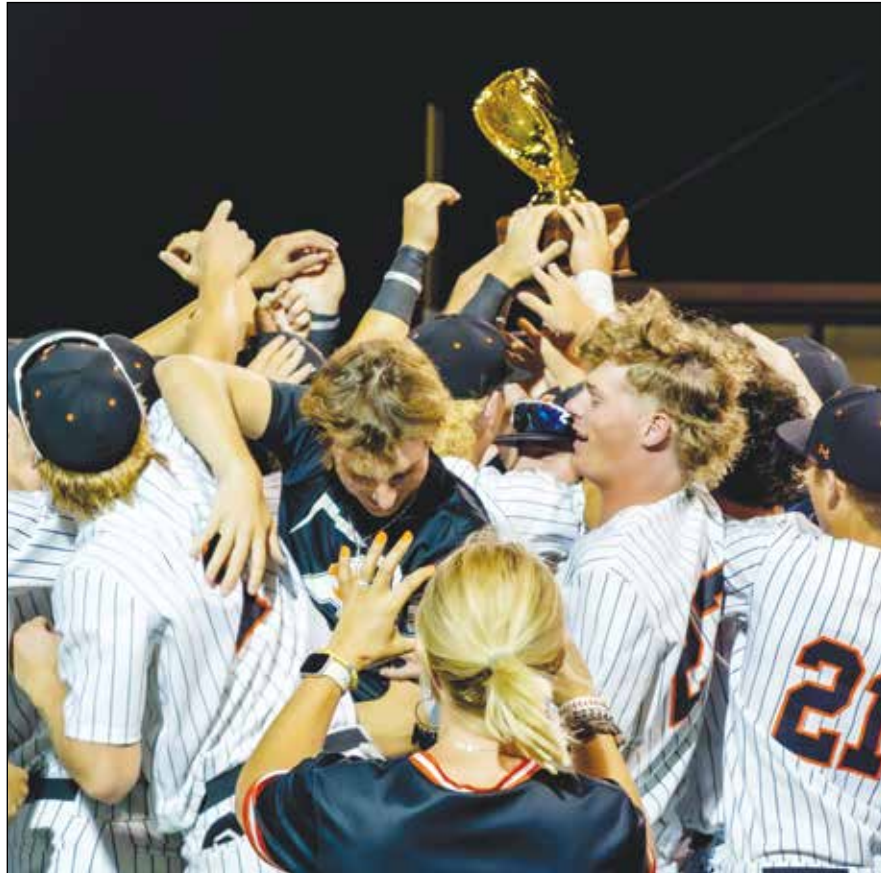
battery. In total, Aledo stole 11 bags during the two-game set.

"If you're going to make a run, you've got to have everything in the right place at the right time," Barry stated. "Getting guys thrown out on the bases, not running bases right, you do things like that. Not playing solid defense, not getting timely hits, having good approaches at the plate, if you're doing any of those things like that, it will show up in the playoffs. It always does. To be able to be consistent. To be able to get better and better each week. It's a good sign. That's exactly what we should be doing at this point."

In spite of how well his team has performed the past three weeks, including in the opening series of the playoffs, Barry knows there is still room for improvement. With another second-round showdown against Burleson waiting in the wings, he's looking to maximize the time between series to fine tune all aspects of the game before meeting the Elks on neutral ground in Cleburne.

"I think our kids understand that to be able to make deep runs, it's the little things that count," Barry added. "There's a lot of little things that go into the details. The little things get magnified in big games. Little mistakes end up being huge in tight games. Those are the things we're trying to avoid."

The best-of-three series against Burleson starts on Thursday, May 11, with games slated for Friday and then Saturday, if needed. Thursday and Friday's games are slated for a 7 p.m. start. Game 3, if needed, is scheduled for noon on Saturday.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Bearcats celebrate after winning the bi-district trophy with their sweep of Trimble Tech on Friday, May 5.

### Class 5A bidistrict baseball best-of-three series Aledo defeated Fort Worth Trimble Tech 2-0

**Aledo 8, Trimble Tech 0  
May 4**

	A	T	R	H	E
Aledo	3	1	0	2	0
Trimble Tech	0	0	0	0	0

R H E  
Aledo hitting: Boyd Thompson 1-for-2, BB, 2 SB; Brooks Dwinell 1-for-4; Trace Mazon 4-for-4, RBI, 2B, 3B, SB; Andrew Cambre 1-for-3, RBI, SB; Bosten Dwinell 2 BB, SB; Dylan Light 1-for-1, 2 RBI, BB; Ryan Jones BB; Bryce McCain 1-for-4, 3 RBI, 2B, SB; Dylan Taylor RBI; Garrett Rester SB. Aledo pitching: Robert Burk 3.1 IP, BB, K; Luke Saunders 0.2 IP, H; Bryce McCain 2.0 IP, R (0 earned), 3 BB, 4 K.

Jake Bumgardner 1.0 IP; Bo. Dwinell 1.0 IP, K.

### Aledo 11, Trimble Tech 1 May 5

	A	T	R	H	E
Aledo	2	1	4	1	0
Trimble Tech	0	0	0	1	0

R H E  
Aledo hitting: Boyd Thompson 1-for-2, BB, 2 SB; Brooks Dwinell 1-for-4; Trace Mazon 4-for-4, RBI, 2B, 3B, SB; Andrew Cambre 1-for-3, RBI, SB; Bosten Dwinell 2 BB, SB; Dylan Light 1-for-1, 2 RBI, BB; Ryan Jones BB; Bryce McCain 1-for-4, 3 RBI, 2B, SB; Dylan Taylor RBI; Garrett Rester SB. Aledo pitching: Robert Burk 3.1 IP, BB, K; Luke Saunders 0.2 IP, H; Bryce McCain 2.0 IP, R (0 earned), 3 BB, 4 K.

# Tee Time



Pictured are (from left) head coach Monte Martin, Kanyon Kelley, Hudson Smith, district individual champion Wyatt Deary, Brody Blausler, and Nash Carlson.

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