

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO ISD

Three added to Bearcat Leadership Team

District announces hiring of Assistant Superintendent of Student and Community Programs, Assistant Principal at McCall Elementary School, and Early Literacy Specialist

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

Aledo ISD has named Dr. Ingia Saxton as Assistant Superintendent of Student and Community Programs, Karen May as Assistant Principal at McCall Elementary School, and Audra Ellerbusch as Early Literacy Specialist.

"I am excited to welcome Dr. Saxton to Aledo ISD and onto our Bearcat Leadership Team, and I'm very happy that Mrs. May and Mrs. Ellerbusch will continue important roles in our district with different leadership positions," Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "We are lucky to have all of them as a part of our Bearcat



Ingia Saxton



Audra Ellerbusch



Karen May

Leadership Team, and I can't wait to see them work in their new leadership roles."

Saxton, an Aledo High School alumni, will be the district's Assistant Superintendent of Student and Community Programs and will begin that role in July. Saxton has been the chief of secondary schools at New Braunfels ISD since 2021. Prior to that, she was the director of district and administrative services at Brock ISD. Saxton also served as the principal at Brock Junior High and Brock Intermediate, and she was a school counselor at Brock Junior High.

Saxton was also a school counselor in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, assistant principal and counselor at

Caddo Grove Elementary in Joshua ISD, and ESL and Science Lab and Learning Lab teacher at Elder Elementary in Joshua ISD.

Saxton has a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas, a master's degree from Tarleton State University and a Ph.D. in educational leadership from TCU.

"I am blessed to have the opportunity to return to my roots in Bearcat Country to step into the role as Assistant Superintendent of Community and Student Programs," Saxton said. "I look forward to supporting Aledo ISD as we continue to grow while working alongside amazing staff, students, parents,

and community members to prepare our students for their future."

May will be the assistant principal at McCall Elementary School. She has been an assistant principal at McAnally Middle School (and formerly McAnally Intermediate) since 2019. Prior to that, May served as a special education teacher at Hughes Middle School in Burleson ISD and as an English-language arts-reading teacher at Leonard Middle School in Fort Worth ISD. May has a bachelor's degree from Oral Roberts University and a master's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington.

"I'm so excited to join the McCall family," May said. "I've been so blessed to be a part of McAnally for the last four years, leading and serving through many transitions. This move to McCall brings me back to my first love of elementary education. I will be able to mold young minds and grow greatness at the start of our Bearcats' educational journey. It's bittersweet to leave my McCats, but getting to create exceptional experiences for future McAnally McCats is an honor."

Ellerbusch will serve Aledo ISD as an Early Literacy Specialist. She has

been a kindergarten teacher at Vandagriff Elementary School since 2015. Prior to that, Ellerbusch was a Pre-K teacher at a private childcare center and a kindergarten teacher at Ridglea Hills Elementary School in Fort Worth ISD. Ellerbusch also coached volleyball and track at Lake Country Christian School, and she was a before- and after-school teacher and summer Pre-K teacher at Calvary Christian School. Ellerbusch has a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas, and she completed the district's Teacher Leadership Cohort (TLC) in 2022. She is expected to graduate with a master's of education in curriculum and instruction from Tarleton State University in May of 2024.

"It has been my joy and passion over my 21 years in education to teach young students to read and write," Ellerbusch said. "I am excited to be stepping into the role of Early Literacy Specialist and can't wait to support our teachers, staff, and the youngest students of Aledo ISD next year in this new role."



Read this story online

PAC WATCH

We are still watching, but as of press time the required finance report for the Concerned Parents of Aledo political action committee is still not on file with the Texas Ethics Commission.

PARKER COUNTY

New sub courthouse officially opened

Old Weatherford Road location provides breathing room for county services

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Elected officials and well wishers joined with the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce to hold a ribbon cutting at the new East Parker County Sub Courthouse on Tuesday, May 16.

The facility, located at 16600 Old Weatherford Road (just to the south of the Morningstar development), houses an office of the Parker County Tax Assessor-Collector, the Pct. 4 Constable, and the Pct. 4 Justice of the Peace. Vehicle registrations can be handled at the new office both through in-person visits and by way of a drive-thru window.

The building's functions relocated from the old Brookshire's building on the north side of I-20 in Willow Park.

County Judge Pat Deen said the new sub courthouse was a step in the right direction, as it is owned by the county. The county was paying rent at the previous location.

In addition to a courtroom for Justice of the Peace Pct. 4 Tim



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The East Parker County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at the new East Parker County Sub Courthouse on Tuesday, May 16. County officials shown in front are (from left) Tax Assessor-Collector Jenny Gentry, County Judge Pat Deen, Pct. 4 Commissioner Mike Hale (cutting the ribbon), and Pct. 4 Justice of the Peace Tim Mendolia.

Mendolia, the building has a jury room with an adjacent office for a deputy, a meeting room for attorneys and a room that can serve as an office for a station deputy.

The land for the facility was donated to the county by the Morningstar development.

The Tax Assessor-Collector office is open weekdays. Auto registration is open from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., but closed from 12-1 for lunch. Title hours are from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Justice of the Peace office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, but closed from 12-1 for lunch.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The new East Parker County Sub Courthouse will provide more convenient facilities for local residents to conduct county business. The new building contains a courtroom for JP Pct. 4 proceedings.



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Bearcats of Character

April 2023 Bearcats of Character honored for humor

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees recently honored 11 students with the Bearcats of Character designation. Aledo ISD began recognizing Bearcats of Character shortly after beginning the character education program Positivity Project - or P2 - in 2021-2022.

P2 says that a person with the character strength of humor is skilled at seeing the funny side of things, bringing smiles and laughter to others, and identifying and communicating the absurdities in life. It is also well known that humor has health benefits as well — both mental and physical. Humor plays an important role in stretching the mind to look at things from a different perspective, and it also promotes positive emotions within individuals, better connections between groups, and even helps to improve focus.

Below are the Bearcats of Character along with comments from their nominations.

that I get one more year to watch her grow and flourish!

Willie Salmon, 12th grade Aledo Learning Center

Willie is always in a good mood and enjoys laughing. He can find the humor in just about anything and shows his humor in his interactions with others. Among all of his great qualities, Willie is great at making people smile, especially when they are having a bad day. He tries to lift others up with a silly joke or a smile. Principal Cheryl Jones said of Willie, "Sometimes, I don't think he even realizes he is doing it, it is just part of his good nature and kind heart. And he has great taste in music!" His science teacher, Gayla Fernandez, commented that he has a "pleasant personality" and that he "loves a good laugh."



Stodola



Hudman

Kyle Stodola, 9th grade Daniel Ninth Grade Campus

Kyle uses humor in an appropriate manner to encourage and reinforce others with positive intent. Mr. Albin shared that Kyle made a 3D printed model of his (Mr. Albin's) bald head and face with octopus tentacles and called it an Albinopod! The students and Mr. Albin got a kick out of this creation and thought it was hilarious! Mrs. Cooper shared that Kyle enthusiastically dresses up for every dress up day and genuinely has fun promoting school spirit through his chosen costumes. Mr. Bruton shared that Kyle tends to make it difficult for

him to get through an introduction of an activity for class, because of his humorous facial expressions he displays when getting excited about an engineering build or activity. Kyle is constantly cracking the staff and his peers up with his humorous antics and consistently adds great energy and humor to our day!

Ledger Hudman, 6th grade Aledo Middle School

Ledger is always finding the joy and humor in things that happen. Each day he comes to class and brightens the room with his sense of humor and quick wittedness. I love that he is able to do this without disrupting class, staying respectful to his teacher and without making anyone feel left out or picked on. Even when things don't go his way, he is able to find a sliver of humor to it. If he can tell that someone is having a bad day, he is quickly able to cheer them up with a quick joke or a silly remark. Nothing seems to stop him in finding joy and humor even when it is difficult. Ledger is an excellent example of the character strength humor.



Bobo



Case

Wyatt Bobo, 7th grade McAnally Middle School

Wyatt's social studies teacher, Mr. Landrum, shared that "Wyatt always catches me off guard with random comments. It always seems that he's able to get a laugh out of me in a way that other students can't. His humor is truly genuine, too, and always brightens my eighth period." Teachers recognize that when Wyatt

has a connection with a teacher, his humor really shines and he is witty and funny kid! Thank you, Wyatt, for helping us all remember to enjoy the moment and that laughter is important!

Rosie Case, 5th grade Annetta Elementary School

From Ms. Williams, 5th grade teacher: "Rosie brings joy to the people around her every day with her wit and humorous personality. She is so funny! Along with humor, Rosie also displays the character strengths of self-control and social awareness by choosing the correct times and places to make jokes and be silly. She makes us laugh every day and makes our classroom a happier place!"



Hungerford



Rodriguez

Ethan Hungerford, 4th grade Coder Elementary School

From Laura Patton, 4th Grade Teacher: "Ethan has a bright smile and contagious energy. His zest to laugh and bring joy to others around him are strong personality traits. Ethan loves to be amazed and is intensely curious, fun-loving and happy. It is a true pleasure to have him in my class!"

From Mrs. Andrews, Music Teacher: "Ethan is a bright student who is usually thinking 2-3 steps ahead of me. He almost always has a connection to whatever it is I'm teaching, and his gift is making us laugh. If he can't think of a joke that relates, he makes one up. On multiple occasions, he has created a new song that may (or may not) go along with what we are doing in music

class. He certainly keeps me on my toes. It will be exciting to see what his future holds."

Jordan Rodriguez, 1st grade McCall Elementary School

Jordan's teacher, Mrs. Bryant, had this to say about Jordan: "Jordan lights up the classroom when he comes in. He loves to dance and giggle. His laugh is so contagious you can't help but smile and laugh with him. We love his humor and happiness! What a blessing he is to McCall!"



Pritchett



Abstein

Dexter Pritchett, 2nd grade Stuard Elementary School

Mrs. Mooney, 2nd grade teacher, said "Dex's smile lights up every room he is in. His humor is full of joy and is always for something positive. Dex is continually helping to bring a smile to face of others. He is funny, witty, and such a light in the world!"

Henry Abstein, 3rd Grade Vandagriff Elementary School

Specials teachers say that Henry can find the appropriate humor in most situations. He always has a smile on his face that is contagious to others.

Mrs. K says Henry is always cheerful and usually smiling in my class. He also likes to ham it up sometimes too, in order to make friends laugh! Henry has a very fun personality and I'm happy to welcome him to class.

Turn to BEARCATS, page A4

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BASEBALL

Weatherford College earns first World Series berth

Next stop: Grand Junction

By Crystal Woerly
Weatherford College

For the first time in school history, Weatherford College will play for a national championship in baseball.

The Coyotes (50-9) outlasted New Mexico Junior College 15-13 to win the Region V Tournament championship on Tuesday at Roger Williams Ballpark. WC earned a berth in the 10-team NJCAA Division I World Series, known as the JUCO World Series, in Grand Junction, Colorado, happening May 27 to June 3.

Weatherford is ranked No. 5 in the country; New Mexico is No. 9. It was WC's 18th consecutive win.

When the game began Monday night, Weatherford built a 10-1 lead by the bottom of the fourth inning. But New Mexico had a six-run outburst in the fifth and sixth innings.

WC had a 12-8 lead in the bottom of the seventh when the game was delayed due to lightning in

the area. The contest was postponed until Tuesday afternoon.

Weatherford quickly tacked on three runs when play resumed, giving the Coyotes a 15-8 lead.

But New Mexico wasn't done. The Thunderbirds put five more runs on the board in the top of the ninth inning. The Coyotes got the final out and the celebration ensued for the team's first regional title.

Robin Villeneuve continued to produce at the plate, going 3-for-3 with three doubles, three RBI and three runs scored. Jack Clark was 2-for-3 with two runs. Jack Arthur and Josh Zapata each hit home runs.

Charlie Giese got the hard-earned win on the mound, scattering nine hits over five and two-thirds innings Monday. Giese gave up five earned runs and two walks while striking out four.

The NJCAA will release seedings and a bracket for the tournament. Watch weathletics.com and WC's athletics social media feeds for updated information on the tournament.



Read this story online



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

The Weatherford College Coyotes players, coaches and fans have plenty to celebrate as the team qualified for its first ever NJCAA Division I World Series by winning the Region 5 championship on their home field. The Coyotes (50-9) defeated New Mexico Junior College 15-13 Tuesday, May 16, for their 18th consecutive victory to clinch the berth. For coach Jeff Lightfoot, he previously led Eastfield College in Mesquite to the 2001 NJCAA Division III World Series championship in 2001.

BEARCATS

from page A3

Mrs. Grimm says Henry is not only a hardworking student, he has a kind and wonderful spirit. He almost always has a smile on his face, which is quite infectious. He likes to laugh and he likes to make others laugh. He doesn't know a stranger and can talk to students and adults alike with the greatest of ease. If anyone needs to be cheered up, Henry is the student to call!

**Will Wurster, 5th Grade
Walsh Elementary School**

From Will's teacher, Mrs. Campbell: "I have seen firsthand how Will's humor

has positively impacted our classroom and school community. He has an incredible ability to make others laugh, even during challenging or stressful situations. Whether it's through witty comments, hilarious impressions, or clever puns, Will's humor always brings a smile to everyone's face. He is able to create a lighthearted and fun atmosphere in our classroom, which helps to boost morale and relieve tension. I am honored (and delighted) to be a part of the joy he brings to school each day."



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Happy 100th birthday!

Well wishers celebrate Jean Buford's special day

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

In a century of living, Jean Buford has clearly seen a lot.

But even she was overwhelmed by the turnout for her 100th birthday party Thursday, May 11, at the Parker County Senior Center. A crowd of about 200 in attendance joined the Webster Brothers (Don and John) in singing happy birthday, among other activities to show their love for their favorite centenarian, who hit the century mark the next day.

"I'm overcome. You just don't know how much I appreciate this," Jean told the crowd. "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

Jean is generally considered an inspiration for anyone who knows her. She lives by herself, still drives, goes to church each Sunday, and she volunteers at nursing facilities and enjoys coming to the Senior Center regularly for fellowship.

"My license is good for one more year," Jean said. "I have a 2002 Buick and it doesn't even have 40,000 miles on it."

Then, she added with a laugh, "I don't intend to buy another."

Judging from the love that was in the room, odds are a collection could be taken up to get Jean a new car if she changed her mind.

The day's activities also included a proclamation from Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschall, a reading of a letter from Governor Greg Abbott, and the presentation of a flag from State Senator Phil King's office.

And for anyone who might think Jean is frail at her age, Jennifer Bledsoe, Director of Operations for Parker County Committee on Aging, told a story indicating otherwise. She said Jean fell recently and it was suggested she go to the hospital for stitches, to which Jean replied, "I don't need stitches. I'll just have to come back and have them taken out."

"This woman is the most amazing woman. You inspire me so much," Bledsoe said.

The day included Jean's favorite lunch, meat loaf. Also, every plate had a small cupcake on it wishing Jean a happy birthday.

"When you grew up in the depression, you ate meat loaf," Jean said.

Many came forward to have their picture taken with Jean, who was presented with a crown. It's the second time in a month she's been crowned as she was also the queen at the recent Senior Prom at the Parker County Sheriff's Posse Event Center.

A group of students from Weatherford Christian School dressed up as Rosie the Riveter in her honor. Among the many accomplishments in her life, Jean was a World War II Navy WAVE. A couple of the many well-wishing posters hanging up in the Senior Center referred to her as the "Original Rosie the Riveter."

"She's become very dear to me. She went to (Texas) Tech and I did as well, so we started with that in common," said her good friend and Senior Center volunteer Mendy Billingsley. "She's a beautiful person. I've never met anyone else like her and I'm sure I never will again. She's just Jean."

Sheri Matherley, a new volunteer at the Senior Center, only recently met Jean but said the immediately made a strong impact on her life.

"She's a great inspiration. Something really neat is my son, who turns 19 tomorrow, shares her birthday," she said.

A special surprise for Jean was the arrival of her daughter Annie Stephenson and son-in-law J.D. Stephenson.

"My kids weren't supposed to be here until Friday," said an

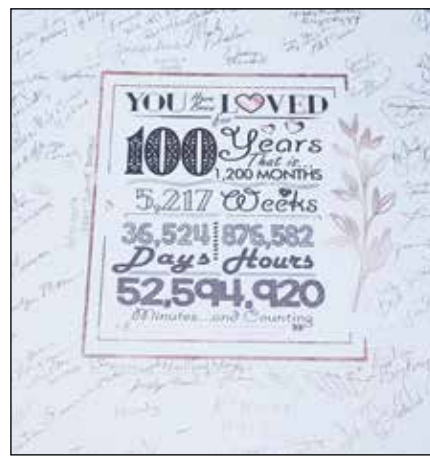
excited Jean. "I'm ecstatic. I knew they (Senior Center) were going to do a little something, but not this!"

Jo Saunders, also a Senior Center volunteer, has known Jean for a couple years. She said Jean is the epitome of getting everyone you can out of life for as long as you can.

"She doesn't sit home like a lot of people when they are aging. She's involved. She gets out," Saunders said. "She appreciates life."

A special highlight was when the Webster Brothers dedicated the hymn "How Great Thou Art" to Jean and the audience joined in singing.

"I think Jean is an inspiration and an example of God's blessings in our lives," Don Webster said. "We are honored to be able to celebrate her 100th birthday."



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Well wishers signed a big card for Jean Buford.



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Jean Buford is overwhelmed at the attention surrounding her 100th birthday as Judy Flanagin from State Senator Phil King's office honors her.



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Judy Flanagin, with the assistance of Captain John Stuart US Navy, presents a flag on behalf of Senator Phil King's office to Jean Buford.



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Jennifer Bledsoe, Director of Operations for Parker County Committee on Aging, reads a special birthday card to Jean Buford, for her birthday



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Jean Buford celebrates her 100th birthday with daughter Annie Stephenson and son-in-law J.D. Stephenson.



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
A large crowd turned out at the Parker County Senior Center to celebrate Jean Buford and wish her a Happy 100th Birthday.

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 BIDS shall be submitted in sealed envelopes upon the blank form of proposal furnished. Sealed envelopes shall be marked "RFP for Rigid Frame Shop in Annetta, Texas. DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 12:00 PM, June 12, 2023.
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Proposals for Aledo Elementary #7 are due on Tuesday, June 6th, 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 an in-person Prebid + Outreach Event in Aledo, TX on Thursday, May 25th, 2023, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm. Refreshments to be provided.
Location: Aledo ISD Administration Building, Board Room, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008
PLEASE RSVP HERE: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/aledoes7>
 Please reach out to Conner Wade with any questions: Connerwade@coreconstruction.com.
 Ph: 972-955-6292
 Last day for RFI's will be Thursday May 30th, 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.

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ORDINANCE NO. 874-23
 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS, ADOPTING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SERVICES IN THE CITY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
 PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS DAY 9TH DAY OF MAY, 2023.
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Events

May 19, 2023
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
www.community-news.com

More events can be found at www.community-news.com/calendar

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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 2 nd	\$56
Kindergarten through 2 nd	\$60
3 rd through 5 th	\$65
6 th through 8 th	\$65
9 th through 12 th	\$65

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

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

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). 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 or email parker-countyposse@gmail.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,

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "let him ___ in his own juice"
- in Hays County on I-35
- Jimmy Johnson was NFL "Coach of the ___" in 1990
- dir. from Dublin to McGregor
- TX Dan Jenkins' "Life ___ Ownself"
- labor union federation that represents 240,000 Texans
- TX Brickell who married Paul Simon
- "___ finger" (done easily)
- TX Willingham film: "Of ___ Men"
- woodworking "joint"
- "simple ___ ___ with no laces"
- TXism: "___ sheared like a spring lamb" (swindled)
- acetone is the simplest "___ alone" (did not bother)
- a change in Astro headwear (2 wds.)
- San Antonio Spurs CEO: ___ Buford
- TX Nolan Ryan had knee ___ repaired in 1993
- historical periods
- TXism: "___ the trail"
- tasty orange Texas melon: can ___
- yearly earnings
- writer with ink
- TXism: "he could shoot the ___ of a gnat" (good marksman)
- pecans, e.g. ___ graduating h.s. students
- TXism: "gotta ___ your spurs" (achieve)
- Cowboy scores (abbr.)
- Texas Tiguas use this in some pottery (2 wds.)
- "on a grand ___"
- "___ heap of trouble"
- Fort Worth univer.
- TXism: "does a wet dog stink?"
- TXism: "___ pilot" (preacher)
- in Taylor County on highway 84
- TXism: "his facts are ___" (liar)
- TXism: "___ to eye" (agreeing)
- TX Tanya's "Texas When ___"
- TX B.J. Thomas sang song from "Butch Cassidy ___ Kid"
- TX Ginger's dance partner, Fred (init.)
- RV gas (abbr.)
- Texas-born Gene Autry wrote "Here ___ Claus"
- TXism: "___ ain't true, there ain't a cow in Texas"
- director Preminger
- intense feelings
- winter flurries rarely seen in the Rio Grande Valley
- units of electrical inductance
- constructs a building
- Tommie of 1990 Cowboys or 1973 Astros
- MLB leag. of Astros and Rangers
- TXism: "pull yourself up by the boot ___" (recover)
- Nazi leader
- television station in Texarkana
- "I smell ___" (suspect betrayal)
- TX Preston Jones' "___ Ann Hampton Laverly Oberlander"
- large primate
- TX Don Henley had a lot of these with the Eagles
- a Texas Gattin
- TXism: "plain as the ___ on a mule"
- in Upshur County on FM 450 (2 wds.)
- Santa ___
- she was "The Big Valley's" Audra (init.)

MAY - JUNE 19
Pre-Packaged School Supplies for 2023-2024
Get everything your child's teacher requested, all delivered before the first day of school. Order online between now and June 19! Visit www.aledopto.org/schoolsupplies for more information and to order your child's school supplies today! If financial assistance is needed, please contact your student's school counselor as soon as possible.

MAY 29
Memorial Day
Memorial Day Ceremony is hosted by Parker County American Legion Post 163



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



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>

JULY 8
Parker County Peach Festival
The 38th Annual Parker County Peach Festival returns to Weatherford on Saturday, July 8th, 2023. Come enjoy and shop the more than 200 art/craft/

food & activity booths as well as the amazing shops, restaurants & boutiques in historic downtown Weatherford. The new expanded festival area makes it easy to spread out and enjoy the day!

Come get your fill of all the peachy treats like home-made peach ice cream, peach cobbler, peach pie, peach tea, peach smoothies and just plain ol' juicy peaches.

Tickets will be available online in June 2023!!

For more information on www.peachfestivaltx.com

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TRACK AND FIELD

Four Finish



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Jaden Allen runs a leg of the 800-meter relay for Aledo at the UIL State Track and Field Meet on Thursday, May 11, 2023 in Austin.

Bearcats' relay team finishes fourth in state

By Rick Mauch
 The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats ended the 2023 track season with a fourth-place finish in the 800-meter relay at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet Friday, May 12.

The quartet of Hawk Patrick-Daniels, Jaden Allen, Hauss Hejny, and Aven Lawrence - all juniors - clocked a time of

1:26.61 seconds. They narrowly missed the medal podium by .62 seconds.

"The kids competed great, three-tenths off their fastest time of the year and got fourth place - out of lane 9!" exclaimed coach Andrew Clark. "It was a really bad draw to have the third fastest qualifying time and get stuck out in lane 9."

Common narratives claim that in races with corners, running in the outside lanes (typically 7 through 9) is

disadvantageous as the runner cannot see their competitors.

Killeen Ellison, running in Lane 6, won state with a time of 1:25.01.

The Bearcats foursome entered state on the heels of running a school-record time of 1:26.30 in the Region 1 Meet in Lubbock a couple weeks earlier.

Denton Ryan originally finished fourth in the event, but was disqualified because a runner took five consecutive steps in another runner's lane.

Turn to **FOUR**, page B7

TRACK AND FIELD

Ladycats win silver, bronze at state

Personal records set

By Rick Mauch
 The Community News

Aledo Ladycats track coach Mike Pinkerton was smiling so much it could hardly be contained in Mike A. Myers Stadium.

And why not? Two of his athletes had just won medals at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet, one with a record-setting performance and the other capping a comeback from an injury that could have kept her from competing at all in 2023.

Add to that, a third — a freshman, at that — had a career-best performance and top-five finish.

"Not too bad at all," Pinkerton said.

Leading the performances was junior pole vaulter Taylor Hindman. She cleared 12 feet, 6 inches to place second and win a silver medal.

In the shot put, junior Lauren St. Peters had a throw of 46-4 for third place and a bronze medal. And in the 800-meter run, freshman Sofia Brandenburg finished fifth with the best time of her young career, 2 minutes, 13.32 seconds.

"Breaking the school record was like a dream! All my hard work and dedication payed off in that moment and the realization that my name would be

Turn to **LADYCATS**, page B6



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Taylor Hindman of Aledo High School cleared a career-best 12-6 to take second place at the UIL State Track Meet on May 12.

GOLF

Mahanay hopes to exit with title



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo senior Braylon Mahanay will compete at the Class 5A Boys State Golf Tournament in Georgetown Monday and Tuesday, May 22-23.

Bearcat competing at 5A State Golf Tournament

By Rick Mauch
 The Community News

One way or another, Braylon Mahanay is going to play his final round as an Aledo Bearcat golfer next Tuesday, May 23. In fitting Aledo fashion it will be at the Class 5A State Tournament on the White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown.

It's not quite the ending Mahanay was hoping for as he's competing solo, his team coming up just shy of a return visit at last month's Region 1 Tournament in Lubbock. That inspires Mahanay even more to finish strong to honor his long-time teammates and friends.

"Yeah, we're not going as a team, and I wish we were," he

said. "But I thought if I could make it to state one last time to play for a state title that would be a great way to end my career here."

Mahanay qualified as a medalist for state after tying for third at the regional tournament. He bested the legendary West Texas winds at the Rawls Golf Course to make his return to Georgetown and another course he knows well.

"We all know how hard the Rawls Course was," Mahanay said. "This course is challenging in a different way, though."

"I know the holes visually. It's not long, but it's pretty tight. You've got to hit it straight."

White Wing can be described as deceptively challenging. Bearcats coach Brian Mourning noted that it forces golfers to play smart — which is something Mahanay does well.

"Braylon's going to be Braylon. He has an even keel attitude that serves him well," Mourning said. "He's the anchor of this guy's team. He doesn't get frustrated."

Last season Mahanay tied for 38th individually at state with rounds of 80 and 77. That experience, along with playing in a state preview at White Wing in March, give him added confidence this season, he said.

"At the beginning of the season I was playing pretty good, but the preview, the Bearcat Brawl, district, Rawls and now, I am feeling really great about my game," he said.

Though he'll only be a Bearcat in heart and spirit after this season, Mahanay isn't going far. He has committed to play for Weatherford College next season.

"They're a top 20 Juco (junior college) in the state, and they're close to home also," he said. "And coach (Jesse) Speirs is a great guy. I'm going to enjoy playing for him."

Mourning added, "I look for him to go to Weatherford College, play great, and then finish elsewhere playing for a larger program. He has a lot of great golf ahead of him - and a lot in life. He's just an all-around great young man."

As for saying farewell to his golfing days at Aledo and friends/teammates, some of whom he said he's known since kindergarten, Mahanay said, "I've definitely been thinking about it. It's definitely bittersweet. But it's time for the next chapter. Hopefully we can close this one in a big way."



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JAMI WARNER

The Aledo Ladycats ended their season by competing in the Class 5A State Golf Tournament for a third straight year. Pictured are senior Maddie Warner, junior Kyla Morales, senior Mallory Miller, senior Sana'a Lemen, and freshman Emily Crick, along with coaches Alex Groff, Brian Mourning (head coach) and Tom Croft.

RODEO

Several from area in NTHSRA Finals

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Several competitors from the area will compete in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals Friday and Saturday, May 19-20 at the NTHSRA Arena in Saginaw.

The first round begins Friday night at 8, with the second round starting Saturday at noon.

Among those from the area competing is Noah Lee of Weatherford, who enters ranked first in bull riding. Close behind as the No. 3 qualifier is his teammate Jesus Villa.

The top 15 in point standings in each event at the end of the regular season qualified for the finals.

Savannah Letson of Weatherford leads all qualifiers in pole bending. Weatherford also has three of the top five qualifiers in ribbon roping with Taygan Bertsch second, Clayton Praytor third and Caleb Lewis fifth.

Those three are also in the top six of calf roping, with Praytor third, Bertsch fourth, Lewis fifth and Haiden Smith of Weatherford sixth.

Aledo's top qualifiers are Ashtyn Coufal, seeded seventh in walkup goat tying, and Gunner McCraw, who is seeded eighth in chute dogging.

Weatherford has three of the top five boys in all-around competition. Bertsch is second, Lewis fourth and Praytor fifth.

Weatherford also leads the team standings with 10,164 points, with Azle second with 9,107.

Here is a complete list of qualifiers from Weatherford and Aledo and their respective events.

- Cassidy Klein, Weatherford, No. 8 in barrel racing; No. 8 in poles.
- Noah Lee, Weatherford, No. 1 in bull riding.
- Jesus Villa, Weatherford, No. 3 in bull riding.

- Reagan High, Weatherford, No. 5 in breakaway roping.
- Clayton Praytor, Weatherford, No. 3 in calf roping; No. 3 in ribbon roping; No. 14 in chute dogging.
- Taygan Bertsch, Weatherford, No. 4 in calf roping; No. 2 in ribbon roping; No. 15 in team roping-header; No. 14 in team roping-heeler.
- Caleb Lewis, Weatherford, No. 5 in calf roping; No. 5 in ribbon roping; No. 11 in team roping-header; No. 13 in team roping-heeler.
- Haiden Smith, Weatherford, No. 6 in calf roping; No. 6 in chute dogging; No. 9 in ribbon roping.
- Gunner McCraw, Aledo, No. 8 in chute dogging.
- Ashtyn Coufal, Aledo, No. 7 in walkup goat tying.
- Sienna Pendergrass, Weatherford, No. 14 in walkup goat tying.
- Savannah Letson, Weatherford, No. 1 in poles.

BASEBALL

Bradford makes big-league debut

Former Bearcat draws praise from manager

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

From the time they first pick up a bat and a ball, just about every young baseball player dreams of the opportunity to play in the Major Leagues with their family and friends cheering them on from the stands.

For Aledo's Cody Bradford, that dream became a reality on Monday night as he took the mound for the American League West Division-leading Texas Rangers in the series opener at Globe Life Field against the National League East-leading Atlanta Braves.

While his first big league start didn't go as he hoped, the lanky left-hander displayed a fearless tenacity, even while facing some of the best hitters the game has to offer.

"He was ok," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said after the game. "I think it's fair to say he made some mistakes, especially with his off-speed pitches. We had trouble keeping the ball in the ballpark tonight. He wasn't giving up a lot of hits, but the ones he gave up did some damage."

It's tough to debut against this club. But, he battled. He gave us five innings. It's always good to get your first start. He'll learn from this."

Bradford's trial by fire started with the first batter he faced. Before the first official pitch was thrown, the lefty hurler was sweating like a preacher at a tent revival in August. Ronald Acuna Jr. led off the game for the Braves in the midst of an MVP-caliber year through the first month of the season. Bradford took Acuna to a full count, but missed just a touch high with the 3-2 changeup away to lead off the game with a walk.

With the defense aligned to cover the right side of the infield, Bradford was able to get Matt Olsen to chop a grounder to Josh Jung for the 5-to-6-to-3 double play

that helped the rookie get out of the first unscathed.

Bradford started off the second inning picking up the first major league strikeout of his career on a 2-2 fastball on the outer half that Marcell Ozuna couldn't catch up with.

The next pitch he threw ended up being a slider down over the middle of the plate that Kevin Pillar sent sailing 411 feet into the bullpen to make it a 2-0 game.

As the lineup turned over at the top of the order later in the second inning with a runner on second and two outs, Acuna channeled his inner Tiger Woods to hit a two-run golf shot off a breaking ball below the zone that landed in the second deck 454 feet away as the Braves went up 4-0.

A credit to his grit in light of the towering shot sent out to the fans in their previous encounter, when Acuna stepped in the box in the top of the fifth, Bradford went right after him. With a runner on, Bradford sat Acuna down looking for the first out of the inning.

In total, Bradford threw five complete innings surrendering six runs on seven hits while walking a pair and striking out three Braves.

"A debut is never an easy time, because I'm sure [Bradford's] got the nerves going," Bochy surmised. "Especially against a good team. At times he executed his pitches very well. At times it just got away from him. When you're facing a team like [the Braves], you're probably not going to get away with too many mistakes."

The Rangers called up Bradford for a spot start on Monday in order to give the rest of the rotation an extra day of rest following a lengthy road trip. Bradford has now been sent back to Round Rock, where he was named the Pacific Coast League's Player of the Month for April. There is some speculation he may return to the big leagues before the All-Star break in July if he is able to return to form back in Triple-A.

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LADYCATS

from page B5

on that board for a long time was an amazing feeling," said an excited Hindman. "Last year I did not do good as I could have at state, but it definitely served as a good learning experience that helped me to succeed this year. I knew the facility and how the meet was run, so I was much more comfortable this time around.

"Also the girls that made it on the podium with me were super awesome, and specifically Alexandra Harber (now three time state champ) was very sweet and helpful."

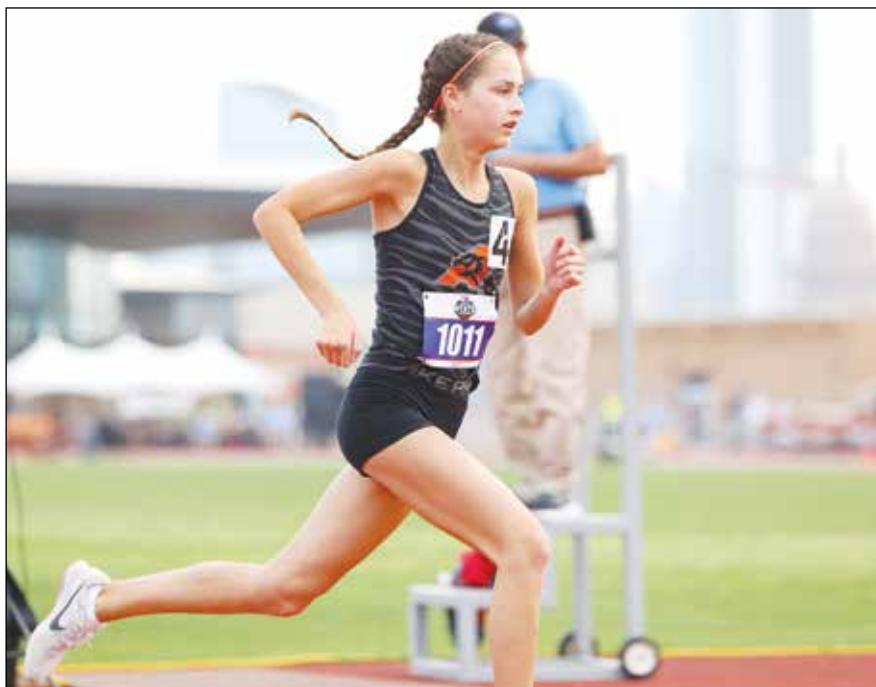
Harber, a senior, cleared 13-9.25 to win gold.

Hindman finished in a tie for seventh at state as a sophomore with fellow Ladycat and then freshman Maggie Kilburn, who was fourth at regionals this season.

"Taylor and I were talking, and she said she can't wait to go back and win gold," Pinkerton said, noting Hindman and St. Peters are the first Ladycats to medal at state since Sierra White finished second in the pole vault in 2019.

Hindman cleared the first four bars on her first attempt each time before finally having one miss at 12-6.

"There are several skill factors in the vault and many athletes struggle



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Freshman Sofia Brandenburg of Aledo High School placed fifth in the Class 5A girls 800-meter run during the UIL State Track and Field Meet, in Austin.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Lauren St. Peters of Aledo High School came back from knee surgery to place third in shot put at the state track and field meet in Austin.

with consistency, but it is a strength of Taylor's," Aledo pole vault coach John Rhodes said. "She is not the tallest or the fastest athlete but she brings her best every time. I'm really excited to see what she can do as a senior."

St. Peters concluded her season with the second-best throw of her career — a season that might not have been were it not for her determination. She had knee surgery in early 2023, but she fought back to

get a medal after narrowly missing with fourth-place finishes in the shot put and discus as a sophomore.

"For her to go through what she went through and get back here — and get on that podium — is nothing short of amazing," Pinkerton. "I am so proud of her and she is an inspiration to many."

St. Peters had the best throw of her career at regionals, and it was the top qualifying throw for state. She threw 47-5.75.

In a surprise upset, Serena Ramirez slipped past top-seeded St. Peters and second seed Madeleine Fey of Midlothian to win state with a throw of 48-7.75. Fey was second at 47-10.

Brandenburg clipped almost a full second off her previous best time of 2:14.21. In fact, she was in contention to medal herself, sitting in second place with 200 meters to go.

"Her inner motivation is unbelievable," Pinkerton said. "Now, Sofia has been here. She knows what it's like. She knows the procedures. I'm expecting great things of her in the years to come."

"I am just so proud of all these girls. They worked so hard and they came down here and it paid off — and I know they all want to come back and get more."



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

TOP LEFT: Hauss Hejny ran legs in both the the 800-meter and 1600-meter relays for Aledo at the UIL State Track and Field Meet. | **TOP RIGHT:** Adam Averett runs a leg of the 1600-meter relay for Aledo at the UIL State Track and Field Meet. | **BOTTOM LEFT:** Blake Burdine runs a leg of the 1600-meter relay for Aledo at the State Meet. | **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Aven Lawrence ran legs in both the the 800-meter and 1600-meter relays for Aledo at the UIL State Track and Field Meet on Thursday, May 11, 2023.



FOUR

from page B5

That disqualification not only moved everyone behind them in the event up a notch, but also kept the Raiders from winning the overall team state championship.

Also for the Bearcats, junior pole vaulter Brad Campbell placed seventh, clearing 14 feet, 6 inches.

"It was a great experience. He will be looking to make back-to-back appearances at the state meet," Clark said.

Gator Young of Argyle won gold with a vault of 16 feet.

The Aledo 1600 relay squad of sophomore Adam Averett, Lawrence, sophomore Blake Burdine and Hejny, finished eighth with a time of 3:24.53.

"With the rolling time schedule due to incoming weather, I knew the 4x400 could take a hit," Clark said. "We had very little recovery time between races. The kids still got out there and competed."

"Great year overall, a lot to celebrate."



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BASEBALL

Bearcats fall to Burleson

Playoff run comes to an end

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats' baseball season came to an end on Friday, May 12, at the Depot in Cleburne.

Burleson swept Aledo out of the Class 5A playoffs with back-to-back wins in the area (second round) series by scores of 8-4 and 10-4, respectively.

After putting away Trimble Tech in the bi-district round of the playoffs, Aledo head baseball coach Chad Barry said the series with Burleson would be night and day different than the one-sided affair with the Bulldogs. Although the Bearcats' record over the Elks in the second round of playoff baseball has been one of prolonged success, having dismissed Burleson from the playoffs each of the last two seasons, Barry cautioned his club to the formidable nature of their familiar foe.

Entering the series, the Bearcats (23-12) had managed to put their game all together in the weeks leading up to the playoffs as they locked down the top seed in District 5-5A. For much of the season as they struggled to find consistency with their approach at the plate, running the bases well, and avoiding the occasional defensive blunder, quality pitching was the aspect their game on which they were able to rely.

That was not the case for the series with Burleson (25-6).

Over the two-game series, Aledo pitchers struggled with their command early in counts, forcing them to pitch from behind. In Thursday's

series opener the Elks amassed 13 hits in the seven-inning affair. In Game 2 on Friday, the Bearcats issued nine free passes onto the bases while simultaneously giving up eight hits as Burleson batters once again found themselves in favorable counts often throughout the game. In total, Aledo walked 15 hitters in 14 innings of play over the two games.

"You can't do things like that in the playoffs and expect to live long," Barry said after Game 2.

"We walked six [on Thursday]. We walked nine [on Friday]. You can't do that with teams like [Burleson] that can really swing the bat."

Down a game in the best-of-three series, Aledo started off the home half of Game 2 aggressively. Brooks Dwinell reached base on a one-out fielding error by the Elks' third baseman. He was quickly joined on the base path by Trace Mazon, who doubled to left to put both Bearcats in scoring position with the cleanup spot in the order coming to the plate.

Andrew Cambre did exactly what the cleanup batter is supposed to do. The senior designated hitter sent a shot right back up the box into center that cleared the bases as both Dwinell and Mazon came around to score.

In recent history, games between Aledo and Burleson have been dog-fights where no lead is ever safe. That certainly held true on Friday. After Aledo went up 2-0 in the bottom of the first, the Elks fired right back in the top of the second to go up by a score of 3-2.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bryce McCain celebrates with his teammates after tying the game with a solo home run in the bottom of the third inning.

In the bottom of the third the Elks picked up a pair of quick outs to start off the inning as the Burleson crowd started to make some noise down the first base side of the stands. With one swing of the bat Bryce McCain silenced the opposing fans as the Bearcat faithful jumped to their feet when he launched a missile over the left-field fence to tie the game up at 3-3.

Burleson broke the tie in the top of the fourth inning when they scored a go-ahead run to make it a 4-3 affair. The Elks' advantage was quickly erased in the home half of the fifth inning as Mazon hit a solo shot over the wall in left as the Bearcats stormed out of the dugout in a raucous celebration as he trotted around the bases.

Unfortunately, the fireworks ran out for the Bearcats at that point. Five of the nine walks Burleson collected in the game came in the final two innings of play as they scored six runs to put the game out of reach for Aledo.

"They're a good ballclub," commented Barry of the Elks. "They were here last year. We put them out in the second round. They were young. They had a lot of kids coming back and they learned from that. They looked more like the aggressor. They kind of dictated everything in this series. I thought they out-hit us, they out-pitched us, they out-defensed us. Every time we would do something, they would counter. When we scored, they would come right back."

In Game 1, Burleson took the early advantage plating a pair of runs in the bottom of the first and

Class 5A best-of-three area (second) round playoff series in Cleburne
Burleson wins series 2-0
Friday, May 12
Burleson 10, Aledo 4

	B	R	H	E
Burleson	0	3	0	10
Aledo	2	1	0	0
Aledo hitting: Boyd Thompson 1-for-4; Brooks Dwinell BB; Trace Mazon 3-for-4, 2B, HR, RBI; Andrew Cambre 1-for-4, 2 RBI; Bosten Dwinell BB; Dylan Taylor BB; Garrett Rester 1-for-3; Bryce McCain 1-for-3, HR, RBI. Aledo pitching: Luke Saunders 5.2 IP, 4 H, 4 R (2 earned), 4 BB, 3 K; Bo Dwinell 0.0 IP, 2 R (2 earned), 3 BB; Jake Bumgardner 0.1 IP, H; Mazon 0.2 IP, 2 H, 4 ER, 2 BB, K; Luke Taylor 0.1 IP, H.				

Thursday, May 11
Burleson 8, Aledo 4

	B	R	H	E
Aledo	0	0	0	4
Burleson	1	0	0	6
Aledo hitting: Thompson 2-for-4, 2B; Br. Dwinell 1-for-3, HBP; Mazon 1-for-3, RBI, BB; Cambre 1-for-3, 2 RBI, BB; Ryan Jones 1-for-4, RBI; Rester 1-for-3. Aledo pitching: Matthew Clark 3.1 IP, 7 H, 4 ER, 2 BB, 3 K; Taylor 0.1 IP, H, 3 ER, 2 BB; Garrett Addington 0.0 IP, 3 H, R (0 earned); Bumgardner 2.1 IP, 2 H, 2 BB, 3 K.				

never looked back. The Elks added six more runs in the bottom of the fourth to put the Bearcats in an 8-0 hole with three innings left to play.

Hits by Mazon, Cambre, and Ryan Jones in the top of the fifth inning aided the Bearcats in cutting the deficit to four runs, but that was as close as they would get as the game came to a close.



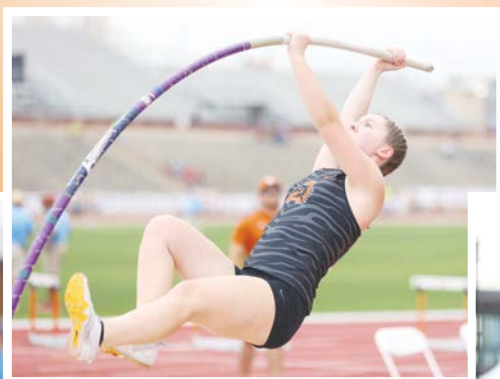
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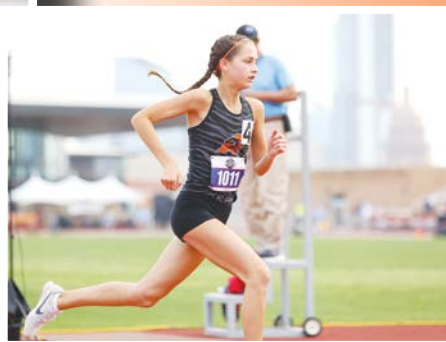
Lauren St. Peters



Sofia Brandenburg



Taylor Hindman



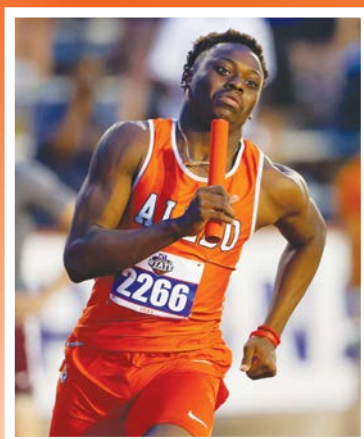
Jaden Allen



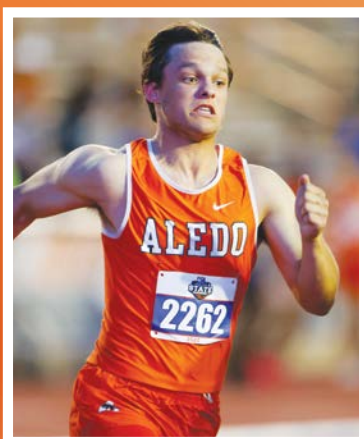
Adam Averett



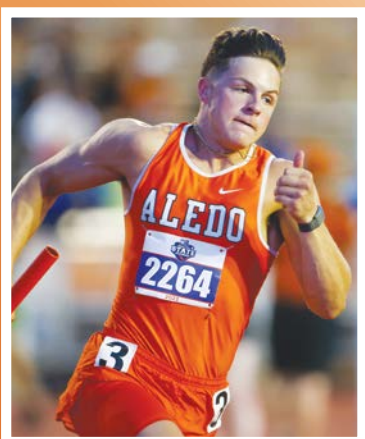
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