

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

Council approves sale of certificates of obligation

Nearing closure for purchase of new home

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Willow Park City Council and staff moved a step closer to closing the deal on making 120 El Chico Trail their permanent home Tuesday, May 23, with the approval of the sale of bonds in two separate certificates of obligation totaling \$8,670,000.

One certificate was issued at \$4,420,000 and the other for \$4,250,000. The former is for tax exempt space to be used by the city and the latter is for space leased by other clients and is subject to federal investment taxes.

On April 3, 2023, the council authorized staff to proceed with issuing certificates of obligation to purchase the building. Currently, the city is leasing about 52% of the building for their own use. The remaining 48% is under private lease and the city will continue to honor those leases through their term once the building is purchased.

There are two other tenants in the building, Sylvan Learning Center and McKnight Title. Should they decide to stay for the remainder of their respective leases, one ends in July of 2026 and the other in December of 2026.

City Manager Bryan Grimes noted that once those tenants leave, the city can renegotiate that certificate payback agreement and perhaps even get a refund. Also, the property could then become tax exempt as they would not be leasing that portion to anyone going forward.

Grimes also stressed that the city is not paying the federal investment taxes. That responsibility falls to the folks who bought the bonds for the certificates of obligation. The city will pay the debt service.

"Mayor (Doyle) Moss called me today to say it's a historic day for the city of Willow Park," Grimes said. "It's a day I didn't think would happen when I came here five years ago."

Moss was out of town and missed Tuesday's meeting, which was chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young.

"People are taking more pride in their space, but production is something I underestimated. The staff loves it here, and it's really been an asset to the staff," Grimes continued.

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page A3

ALEDO ISD

Board votes to name athletic facilities for Buchanan, Wood

Tim Buchanan Stadium, Steve Wood Complex to host fans and players of the future

By Randy Keck
The Community News

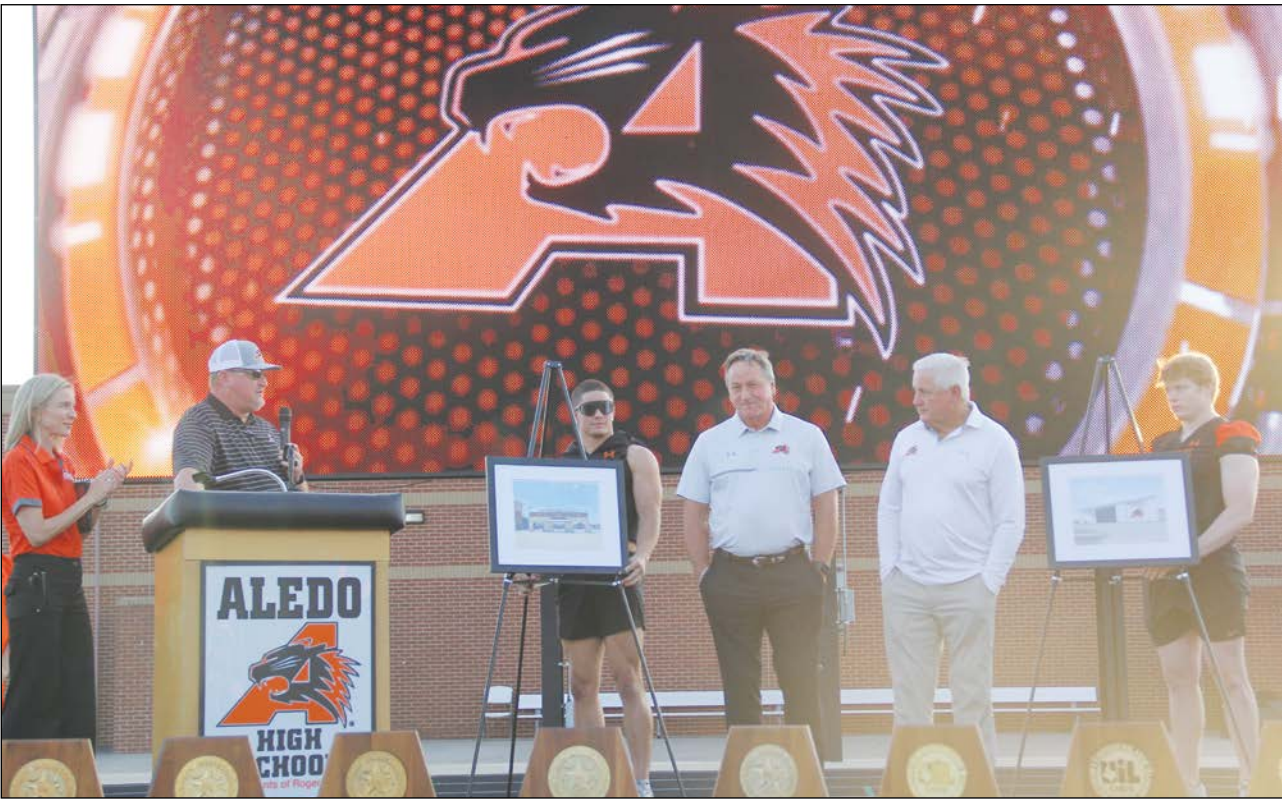
The Aledo ISD School Board voted unanimously at a special meeting on Monday, May 22, to rename its athletic complexes for coaches Tim Buchanan and Steve Wood.

The board's action was meant, and succeeded, at being a surprise for the two coaches who found out the news barely an hour later at a retirement reception held in their honor at Bearcat Stadium.

Bearcat Stadium will be named Tim Buchanan Stadium, and the indoor facility and field houses will be named the Steve Wood Complex.

School board member Jennifer Loftin made the motion to rename the facilities for Wood.

"Coach Wood and Coach Buc have been a huge part of what it means to grow greatness in Aledo ISD and we are so thankful for them," Loftin said. "I think that Coach Wood's commitment to students and his work as defensive coordinator and athletic director has regularly made a huge impact on how our students thrive. ... I also know that my kids are better for



EMMA DAVIS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

From left: Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn, AISD Board member Hoyt Harris, player Jake Gillespie, Tim Buchanan, Steve Wood, and player Brett Turner were on the stage as it was announced that athletic facilities would be named for coaches Tim Buchanan and Steve Wood. The players had artist renderings of the new facilities.

for the way that he has loved them and coached them and encouraged them to be their best. So we know that the indoor [facility] and the weight room and the coaches' offices is where the real work happens behind the scenes to make champions. And so I move that the indoor multipurpose facility, with its new

addition, and the field house be named the Steve Wood Complex, effective after his last contract day with the service in Aledo ISD."

The board unanimously approved the motion, as well as the next one.

Board member Hoyt Harris recounted Buchanan's history at Aledo in making his motion to

rename the stadium. He began by pointing out that Buchanan would be inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor this summer in Houston.

"That's obviously a well deserved honor for Coach Buchanan. I know it brings a great

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ALEDO

Press Café coming to town

Opening expected in fall

By Randy Keck and Rick Mauch
The Community News

A resident of Southwest Fort Worth, Felipe Armenta is quite familiar with neighboring Aledo.

He's seen how it continues to grow and prosper. As the owner of a popular restaurant chain, he couldn't let the opportunity to expand into the bustling suburb of Fort Worth pass him by.

So his company, FAR Out Hospitality, also the owner of Fort Worth's popular Press Café, has announced it will open a second location in the City of Aledo, and expects to be open by the fall.

"I believe one day it will all be connected," Armenta said of the geographic region. "Aledo's a great little community with great schools, great homes. It's a good demographic and just a great location."

Armenta noted that Press Cafe prides itself on having a unique take on contemporary American classics.

"Our team has put in a lot of hard work to ensure that our guests have a memorable dining experience, and we can't wait to share it with everyone," he said.



MORGAN GIST PHOTOGRAPHY

Personalities in the process of bringing Press Café to Aledo include (from left) Joe Frank (Aledo building owner), Felipe Armenta (CEO - FAR Out Hospitality), Graham Elliot (Executive Chef), Nick Stanley (Mayor of Aledo), Scott Lowe (Partner - Vision Commercial Real Estate).

Press Café - Aledo will provide guests with unique and memorable dining experiences highlighting locally grown and seasonally inspired dishes through a menu curated by veteran chefs Armenta and Graham Elliot, with seamless friendly and hospitable service set in a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere.

Press Café's flagship location is part of the upscale Clearfork area of Fort Worth, and is described as "a modern, yet casual mix of fresh salads, your favorite sandwiches, wine, spirits, and great coffee."

The new location will be at the site of the former Bistro 1031 restaurant at 109 South Front St.

"It has great bones and it's in a cool little area," Armenta said. "It's a nice building in a nice location. I believe we can do something special there."

The restaurant's interior design is inspired by the beautiful views and surroundings that Aledo

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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 timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee.

Capital Highlights

House lawmakers defy Abbott on vouchers



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

A key House education committee adjourned last week without voting on a school voucher bill that is Gov. Greg Abbott's top priority this session, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. Barring some unforeseen maneuver in the last week of the regular legislative session, the bill is effectively dead for now.

The Senate had approved a bill that would provide Texas families \$8,000 in taxpayer money to fund private or charter school tuition. The House narrowed the scope so that it would only apply to students with disabilities or those attending schools with a failing grade issued by the Texas Education Agency – an estimated 800,000 students. The Senate bill would make vouchers available to 5.5 million Texas students.

State Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Killeen, chair of the House Public Education Committee, said he doesn't plan to call a vote on the measure. Abbott has threatened to veto the House version or call a special session if the House does not approve the Senate version.

Opponents of the voucher system say it would take money away from public education.

"These voucher proposals have been brought before — in 1957. A tuition grant bill was passed through the House. It failed ultimately, but it was to allow kids to leave integrated schools and join white-only schools," state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, said.

Bills favoring natural gas power plants advance

A Texas House committee voted Thursday to send to the House floor a Senate bill providing \$10 billion in taxpayer money for low-interest loans to build natural gas-powered electrical generating plants. The plan is still subject to change in the waning days of the legislative session, however.

The *Dallas Morning News* reported the call for plant expansions stem from the near collapse of the power grid during the devastating winter storm in 2021. Hundreds of Texans died during that blackout.

State Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, and chair of the

House State Affairs Committee that is considering the bills, said the \$10 billion loan fund and other power generation measures remain "works in progress." The legislative session ends May 29.

House, Senate closer on tax relief plan

The Texas House and Senate appear to be nearing a deal that would deliver billions of dollars in property tax relief, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. The proposal combines House Speaker Dade Phelan's preference for cutting appraisal caps by half with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's preference for increasing homestead exemptions.

The Legislature was under a mandate from Abbott and Patrick to return nearly half of the state's \$33 billion budget surplus to taxpayers. The latest measure would lower the appraised value cap from 10% to 5% for all properties. The House version would also raise the state's homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000, with an added \$10,000 exemption for seniors and disabled homeowners. Patrick's original proposal was to raise the exemption to \$70,000.

Draft budget bars tax dollars for Paxton settlement

House and Senate budget negotiators plan to bar using state funds to pay the \$3.3 million whistleblower settlement negotiated by Attorney General Ken Paxton and his former aides, the *Statesman* reported.

The settlement was reached in February after four former employees of the AG's office sued

Paxton, accusing him of bribery and abusing his office. Since that time the four aides were fired or have resigned. Paxton denied their allegations, but as part of the settlement apologized for calling them "rogue employees."

Paxton said when the settlement was reached that it would save taxpayer money in the long run by avoiding an expensive court battle.

"I have chosen this path to save taxpayer dollars and ensure my third term as Attorney General is unburdened by unnecessary distractions," Paxton said in a statement at the time. "This settlement achieves these goals."

Suspected fungal infections linked to Matamoros surgeries

The Texas Department of State Health Services is sounding the alarm to the public and doctors about suspected cases of fungal meningitis among Texas residents receiving surgery in Matamoros, Mexico – across the border from Brownsville. So far, the investigation has found at least five affected patients, four of whom are now hospitalized and one who died.

The patients traveled from Texas to Matamoros for surgical procedures that involved an epidural anesthetic, which is injected around the spinal column. One of the possible elective procedures conducted under an epidural is liposuction.

"It is very important that people who have recently had medical procedures in Mexico

monitor themselves for symptoms of meningitis," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. "Meningitis, especially when caused by bacteria or fungus, can be a life-threatening illness unless treated promptly."

Anyone who had surgery involving an epidural in Matamoros this year is advised to contact a doctor, DSHS said in its news release.

More than \$9 million in EMS student scholarships

The state is funding more than \$9 million for 1,500 emergency medical services scholarships. The goal is to expand the state's EMS workforce, especially in underserved and rural areas. The funding comes from legislation passed during the 2021 legislative session.

"This funding to support EMS education opportunities and to increase the workforce will ensure a strong EMS system in Texas," said Joe Schmider of DSHS. "These scholarships are impacting the current and future emergency care throughout all of Texas."

Potential EMS students can learn more by visiting dshs.texas.gov/emstexas.

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.



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28 years and counting...

— we have changed that now to the best news organization because, as you may have noticed, life is getting more digital all the time.

The paper product isn't going away, at least anytime soon. I've heard from enough of you who have told me you're still analog — you like to hold it in your hands. Still, we have more "room" on the website, so I invite you to check out what we are doing there.

The first actual event I covered upon buying the paper was Aledo High School graduation, which was held in the MPC at what is now Aledo Middle School. We had halftones shot of all 130 or so seniors and cut each one out by hand with a pair of scissors, and pasted them all down to paste-up sheets for the next issue of the paper.

This year, due to technology, we will be able to lay out all of the Aledo High School and Trinity Christian Academy headshots in less time than we pasted up those 130 photos in 1995.

Doing a little math, I have determined that the "kids" who graduated that year are now on the downside of 45 — technically if not practically old enough to be grandparents.

But that graduation has stuck with me — it was the year Willard Stuard retired as superintendent — and the words of then-principal Lynn McKinney have stayed with me ever since. She told the graduates that when life throws obstacles at you, just "get over it and get on with it!"

The first photo of Tim Buchanan appeared in these pages on Aug. 31, 1995, during

a team workout. And the first Bearcat football game I covered was at Kennedale on Sept. 8, 1995. The Bearcats won that game 14-6. Quarterback Dustin Proctor connected with Robert Ray for the first touchdown of the season, and Ray again hauled in a catch for the second touchdown.

A couple of things stand out in my mind about that game. First was the ease with which people could come on the sidelines — no media credentials needed in those days. In fact, I was the only media on either side of the field at that game.

The Bearcats finished that year with a 6-3-1 record (identical to the 1994 season, which was Buc's first season to have more wins than losses).

Turn to 28 YEARS, page A3



Randy Keck
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This week marks 28 years since I became owner of *The Community News*.

We've seen a lot of changes over those years, from a one-elementary-school district to six, and number seven on the way.

We have seen magic moments, and we have seen tragic moments.

Our original mission statement was "to provide the best newspaper possible for the residents of east Parker County"



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Willow Park City Secretary Crystal Dozier swears in re-elected council members Eric Contreras (back right) and Chawn Gilliland at Tuesday's council meeting.

COUNCIL

from page A1

"I want to say thanks to the taxpayers. We are very fortunate and blessed to be working in Willow Park."

The council and staff moved into the new facilities in mid-January and held the first city council meeting in mid-February. The square footage is 8,700, almost triple the space they had at their old location just down the road.

The Texas Attorney General still has to conduct a standard review of the agreement and sign off on it. Plans are to have everything final by June 21.

Narrowing down police chief search

The job posting for a new chief of police was closed on May 19. The city received 18 applications, including that of interim chief Daniel Franklin, who took over when Carrie Ellis retired from the position in late March.

At Tuesday's meeting, the council approved a hiring committee consisting of Mayor Moss, Councilman Eric Contreras, Councilman Chawn Gilliland, and Grimes. Human



Read this story online

Resources Director Candy Scott will serve as staff support.

The committee will review all applications and make a recommendation to city council to be voted on at an upcoming meeting. Grimes said he hopes to have a permanent chief decided upon sometime in June.

"I'm glad we've got a good robust field of applicants," he said. "I'm looking forward to reviewing them and making the best fit for the City of Willow Park."

Swearing in

City Secretary Crystal Dozier conducted the swearing in ceremonies for re-elected Place 1 and Place 2 Council Members Eric Contreras and Chawn Gilliland at Tuesday's meeting. Both, along with Moss, ran unopposed in the early May election. Moss, who was out of town, was sworn in on Friday, May 19.

Young was once again voted in as mayor pro tem by the council and Place 5 Council Member Nathan Crummel was voted alternate mayor pro tem.

"Thank you very much," Young said, adding with a laugh, "Otherwise, you'd have to conduct the meeting yourself."

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

New cheer coach hired

Jill Suchors to head up varsity squad

Staff Reports
The Community News

Trinity Christian Academy has announced the hiring of Jillian (Jill) Suchors as Varsity Cheer coach.

Suchors has served with Lone Star Cheerleading Association and was coaching and tumbling instruction at Cheer Texas in Amarillo, as well as serving as a Stunt Coordinator at Tascosa High School in the same city. Coach Suchors served as an assistant coach at West Texas A&M University, and has been a UIL / TAPPS Game Day Choreographer. She was most recently the middle school cheer coach in Springtown. She also worked in Special Education in the Amarillo and Springtown ISDs.

Suchors cheered competitively in New Mexico throughout her education in middle school and high school, and was a 4-year All Girl + CoEd crossover cheerleader at West Texas A&M University. She graduated in 2018 from WTAMU with a degree in Sport and Exercise Science.

Jill and her husband Jacob have a son, Slayton, as well as two dogs and a cat. They attend Grace Fellowship Church in Paradise, Texas. Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:10 — "Be still and know that I am God."



TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Jill Suchors and her husband Jacob are shown with their son, Slayton.

"This verse reminds us that God is in control no matter what is happening around us," Succors said. "In the midst of chaos and struggles, we can have peace knowing that He is in control of our path."

In her free time, Suchors says she loves to craft and do anything creative. In fact, she also owns a small design company, Sainted Slate Design Co., which provides balloon and event decor in the DFW area.

My goal is to be a positive Christian role model to my athletes as a young

wife and mother while sharing my love and passion for the sport of cheerleading," Succors said.

"We are so excited to bring Coach Suchors on board as the new cheer coach for TCA," TCA Athletic Director Cody McKenzie said. "With her experience and knowledge, we have faith that she will do a great job for our program and continue to build upon the success our squad has had. Coach Suchors brings a fun-loving attitude that is going to be infectious for our team, and her love for the Lord will help impact our ladies and grow them as young women in Christ."



Read this story online

28 YEARS

from page A2

Three short years later we were in the Astrodome, where Aledo won its first state championship in football! They played against the Cuero Gobblers, and I knew the publisher of the Cuero newspaper and was able to gloat occasionally when I ran into him.

I never dreamed, during that time, that one day we would be jockeying for position with the likes of the Dallas Morning News, Sports Illustrated, television cameras, and Max Preps to get photos at football games.

One of the things I have always said that sets us apart from most of the other outlets is that, even in the unlikely event the Bearcats would have a bad season, *The Community News* would still have someone covering and photographing the games.

The point of all this reminiscing is that it is a difficult closure to this year of newspapering for me. With the departure of Tim Buchanan and Lynn McKinney, especially, it leaves a void for me that goes back to those early days when we did things the hard way.

They have just always been there — and somehow I came to believe they would be permanent fixtures in the school system.

The school district and the football program going forward are in good hands, but they will never be the same for me. It has brought into sharp focus that if you hang around anywhere long enough, the things you used to hang your hat on go away.

If my memory serves me correctly, and at this age who knows, I think Joey Paul is the only person left who

was in the school district when I got here. Just to be clear, Joey started young! But it is interesting to note that Jake Albin was in that 1995 graduating class that I covered.

A person I ran into at the retirement gathering for coaches Buchanan and Wood asked if I was retiring. While I am technically retirement age, I feel like I have a few more good years of doing what I'm doing, although I might start scaling back a bit. I used to write these columns at 3 a.m. but these days I'm usually in bed by 10 at the latest!

So Buc, Lynn, Steve — I wish you happy retirements.

You will always occupy a special place in my heart, and in the heart of this community we all so dearly love.

Randy Keck is owner and publisher of The Community News, now entering his 29th year.



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Lack of community support is one of them."
- Dr. Elisabeth Herz, MD

"Getting to share my story with other women who had also experienced loss was
exactly what I needed to help propel me through my healing."
-Stefani H.



PROVIDING RESOURCES & COMMUNITY FOR BABY LOSS SURVIVORS

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Communication Is Key

Aspiring professor, former AHS student, named semifinalist for Cooke Transfer Scholarship

By Misty Browning
Weatherford College

Soon-to-be Weatherford College graduate Mya McKinney is a rare breed of student. The 23-year-old is driven by a love of connections and conversations, not social media likes and shares.

Weatherford College helped to shape her love of in-person communication when she started college during the COVID pandemic in 2020.

“What I search for in this life is interesting conversations, and I get to have them more when I’m in a college environment like this,” she explained. “Weatherford College has done so much for me. Even though it is a small campus, their work with the honors program is so interesting and cool; you get to be around like-minded people.”

A former Aledo High School student, McKinney has always had the drive to be something bigger than her surroundings. She homeschooled her junior and senior years of high school, graduating in 2018, to be home with her sick father.

McKinney started at WC as a member of the first group of students admitted to the Honors Program in 2020. During her time on campus, her achievements were extraordinary. She won the Brad Tibbitts Scholarship, awarded by the WC faculty, and the WC Creative Writing contest. She was co-president of the Creative Writing Club and volunteered with the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and the philosophy conference.

In March, McKinney presented a paper on the reality of literary influence at John Hopkins University, focusing on World War I poets. It was a paper she had worked on for more than a year with Dr. William Smith in the English department at WC.

“I looked at the validity of literary influence when we use it as a comparative tool in literature,”



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE
Mya McKinney, a former Aledo ISD student, is a finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship.

she said. “It seems to me that it’s more our personal opinions getting pressed onto our conception of the authors more than they were influenced by the people in their lives.”

McKinney did so well with her presentation that Johns Hopkins reached out for her to author a complete paper to be published in their journal, a feat most academics don’t see until graduate school. She said it’s still surreal to be working on such a momentous task.

“You know, it’s cool and strange,” she said. “You spend so much time on your work and like it yourself. But you think your work is not that interesting because you’ve done so much work on it over time.”

Smith said he was impressed by McKinney’s deep intellect from the first week she was in his class.

“What makes Mya such a special student to me is the insight she brings into her classes,” he said. “The first time I met Mya was in the fall of 2021 when she was a student in my English class. It was a rough semester, and the students were all masked and socially distant.

“For Mya, it was her first day of college, and on the second day of class, I asked students to define the word ‘community.’ A few students volunteered definitions that were fine but very literal. Mya shyly raised her hand, so I called on her. She defined community as ‘a group of people who can imagine the same ideas.’ I immediately wrote her

name down, knowing she would be a special student.”

As McKinney prepares to transfer to continue her education, she finds herself a semifinalist for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship. This highly selective scholarship was designed to create a clear pathway to a four-year degree by offering up to \$55,000 per year. The foundation awards community college students who have demonstrated exceptional academic ability, leadership, service and a determination to complete their bachelor’s degrees at top four-year institutions.

McKinney is one of 459 semifinalists nationwide chosen from more than 1,700 applicants and was the only student from Weatherford College to move onto the semifinalist level.

Whether she wins the scholarship or not, she plans to attend the University of North Texas, where she was accepted into the honors college. She will study in the accelerated master’s program while working on a double major in philosophy, followed by a master’s degree in literature and a Ph.D. in English literature.

“The goal is to be a professor or be in academia,” McKinney said. “I know that it is a difficult goal since there are not a lot of job openings. They can stick me in a broom closet — I just want to teach and talk to students while being around people with cool ideas and see where they go.”

PRESS

from page A1

provides. The space will feature a full bar with wines both by the glass and by the bottle, locally brewed bottled and draft beers, as well as hand-crafted cocktails, all of which will contribute to elevated dining experiences.

Press Café - Aledo will be open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, with brunch on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the restaurant’s regular menu, Press Café - Aledo will offer daily specials and features that will provide guests with an ever-changing selection of seasonal dishes.

During a press conference to announce the opening, Armenta said someone from Aledo came up to him to thank him for coming to his town. Likewise, Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley expressed gratitude and excitement.

“Press Café is an exciting and welcomed addition to our community. As one of the most popular restaurants in the Metroplex, Press Café’s outstanding reputation and exceptional fare will be an

economic driver for Aledo and will serve our residents and visitors well,” Stanley said.

“Press Café and the FAR Out Hospitality team have a reputation as one of Dallas-Fort Worth’s best hospitality and restaurant groups, providing outstanding food and drink for loyal patrons. I know our residents eagerly await its opening later this year.”

Armenta said he anticipates the opening to be at the end of September or early October, just in time to grab a bite before catching a Bearcats football game.

FAR Out Hospitality is the owner of several well-known Dallas-Fort Worth restaurants, including Tavern, Pacific Table, The Grill, Maria’s Mexican Kitchen, Towne Grill, Cowboy Prime, and the soon to open Le Margot and F1 Smokehouse. The latter two are set to open soon at Bellaire and Hulen in Fort Worth, and at North University just past 7th Street. Le Margot is a French bistro and F1 Smokehouse is upscale barbecue.

For more information about Press Café - Aledo and FAR Out Hospitality, visit www.farouthospitality.com.

STADIUM

from page A1

deal of pride to our community as well,” Harris said. “Tim Buchanan has certainly brought our football program a long way since he first arrived here in 1993.”

Harris recalled that Buchanan spent his first few weeks clearing rocks off the practice field, saying Buchanan literally built the program from the ground up.

“I often wonder during that time if he ever dreamed he would arrive to campus some 20 years later to see every television network and TV truck locally and nationally here to ask him the question of ‘coach, how’s your team so good?’”

“I bet he also never dreamed that he would stay in Aledo for 30 years,” Harris continued. “He bounced around a little bit and there wasn’t a lot going on here — you know, 30 years ago, to really entice someone to stay.”

Harris commented that Buchanan has stayed 30 years, 25 as head coach with five years carved out as athletic director.

“In 2006 Bearcat stadium opened,” Harris said. “Since that stadium has opened, our varsity teams have compiled a record of 82 wins and six losses with an average margin of victory of 40 points, which we all know could obviously be 60 if you want it to be, but Coach Buchanan is not a bully. So it stayed at 40. In 2022, his final season as head coach, Coach Buchanan led the Bearcats to their 11th state championship and just has had amazing career. Trustees having literally built this program from the ground up to where it is today, I make a motion that effective after his last contract day of service with the Aledo ISD that Bearcat stadium be renamed Tim Buchanan stadium.”

The coaches found out about the naming honors when the short school board meeting was re-broadcast on the big scoreboard at the retirement reception.

More coverage of Buchanan and Wood’s retirement reception, along with coverage of Lynn McKinney’s retirement reception, will appear in next week’s issue.



Read this story online



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MEMORIAL DAY

Mom works to memorialize fallen soldiers

Pain lingers more than a decade later

By John English
The Community News

Nov. 29, 2010, was the worst day of Kaye Jordan's life.

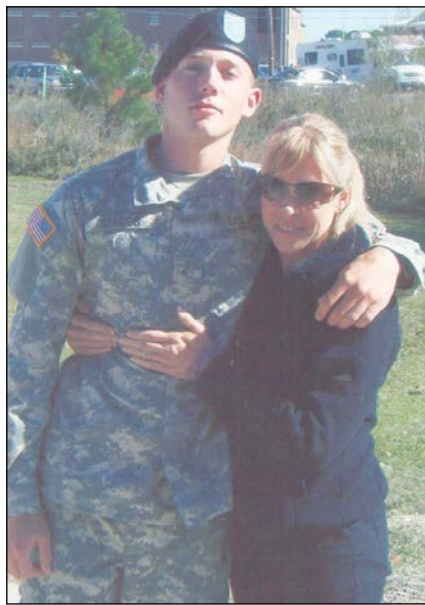
Her only son, Austin Staggs, a 19-year old private first class in the Army, was killed by an Afghan soldier during his first and only deployment to Afghanistan.

Jordan's voice still trembles as she reflects upon the day that would change her life forever.

"This is something that you don't ever want to have to accept," Jordan said. "You just do your best, because you can't change it. It took me three years to stop being in denial and to start accepting that I was never going to see Austin again."

Jordan, 62, described her son as the sort of young man who brought out the best in people and did his part to ensure that everyone felt welcome.

"Austin was just your normal boy," Jordan said. "He enjoyed being outdoors. He played some sports, but he wasn't really into sports that big. He liked fishing and hunting. He liked to make people laugh. He was a funny kid. He had a



COURTESY OF KAYE JORDAN

Austin Staggs gives his mom, Kaye Jordan, a hug. Austin lost his life in Afghanistan. Kaye is president of Gold Star Families in Parker County, an organization that honors families who lost a loved one in war.

good personality and was sweet. He was kind to people at school that other people were not kind to. That was probably what was most special about Austin."

Jordan serves as the President of the Parker County Gold Star Families, a position she took on after her son's friend, Clayton Beauchamp, was killed in Afghanistan.

"For about a year and eight months, I didn't leave my house," Jordan said. "I didn't know how to do this. Then after we lost Clayton I was thinking we really needed to do something. I didn't want a scholarship for our kids. I wanted it to be something simple and important where everyone is remembered. So our whole goal was to build a veteran's memorial park here in Parker County."

Austin and Clayton went to Weatherford High School together and both worked for a time at a local Sonic in Parker County.

Beauchamp died on Aug. 7, 2012.

"Clayton was trying to get Austin to go into the Marines, but Austin wanted to go into the army," Jordan said. "They were friends."

Memorial and memories

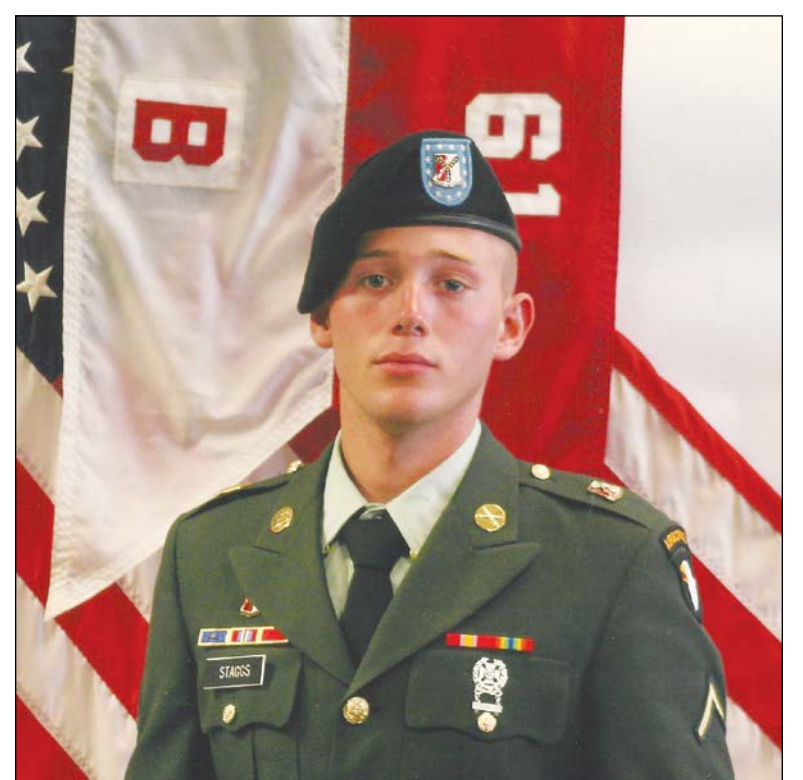
The Gold Star Families started the memorial park with a prayer garden, and then added a pavilion, a Gold Star memorial monument, and walk of honor for the Veteran's Memorial at Soldier Spring Park.

The City of Weatherford gave the organization the land, but Gold Star Families of Parker County had to raise \$400,000 for its features.



COURTESY OF KAYE JORDAN

Austin Staggs lost his life in Afghanistan. He and many other soldiers who were killed in action are memorialized by Gold Star Families, an organization of which his mom, Kaye Jordan, is president.



COURTESY OF KAYE

LEFT: JordanKaye Jordan and her son Austin Staggs are shown before he went to battle in Afghanistan and lost his life. His death and the death of his friend prompted her to join Gold Star Families, of which she is the president, to honor and memorialize family members lost at war. | **RIGHT:** At only 19 years old, Austin Staggs became a casualty of war. His mom, Kaye Jordan, and the Gold Star Families honor his memory and the memory of many other solders who died in battle.

"We were going to make sure this happened," Jordan said. "So that's what we did to make sure our kids weren't forgotten."

Legacies Alive helped the Gold Star Families of Parker County by raising and donating money to defray the costs associated with the park, which is located at 109 Thrush Dr. in Weatherford.

With Memorial Day coming up, Jordan said Austin and Clayton's sacrifice takes on a special meaning.

"Memorial Day is hard, but it's necessary," Jordan said.

"Because people need to remember what these young kids did and the sacrifices they made."

It is especially personal for Jordan and the other Gold Star Families.

"It rings different when you've lost someone at war, especially your child," Jordan said. "You think about it all the time. And May is hard, because you also have Mother's Day. On Mother's Day it was great, because we would go out to eat and then do whatever we were going to do. We would go swimming, or to the park or the zoo. We always did something that was really fun."

"Now Mother's Day is really hard. I don't go to church on Mother's Day because it's just too difficult. I'm thankful that all of the other mothers have their children and they are together, but I know what's too hard for me. So I do what's best for me."

Going the distance

Jordan cycled 800 miles from Denver to Weatherford in 2019 to help raise funds for a Gold Star memorial in Keller, and still works with Gold Star Families whenever she can.

This Memorial Day, the Parker County Gold Star Families will get together with Blue Star Families in Granbury for a ceremony and celebration.

"We will lay down the Memorial Day wreaths for their ceremony," Jordan said.

While the pain of losing her son is still ever present, Jordan wants to keep his memory and the memory of other fallen soldiers alive with continued work on the Memorial Park in Parker County and by supporting the causes of other Gold Star Families.

"Every day when I wake up I tell him good morning," Jordan said. "And I always tell him good night, so I still talk to him every day. And I know he would want me to live my life and be happy. So I do my best to accomplish that."



Night at the Pops 2023

Light sabers, storm troopers, Harry Potter, E.T., Spiderman and other characters made appearances when the Aledo High School Fine Arts Department performed its Night at the Pops 20th Anniversary Show “Disney vs. Universal” on April 12 and 13. Band and choir members provided memorable evenings for the people present.

Photos by Christopher Amos



A back-stage view of Night at the Pops.



Aledo High School Band Director Joey Paul leads the opening of the production. The band performed its Night at the Pops 20th Anniversary Show.



Andrew Boykin wields a light saber.



Top: Choir members added vocals to the performance. | BOTTOM: A back-stage view.



Caroline Ward



Student technicians backstage prepare for the Night at the Pops experience.



Gracie Issacs, Kennedy Hodges, Elly Roach



Aledo Band Director Jacob Albin speaks with choir members Victoria Duffey and Katie Curran backstage as the interview appears on stage for the pre-event audience to enjoy.



Program hosts Max Moeller and Alina Garwacki take the audience on a tour of their favorite movies.



Anna Robbins (R2D2) and Elly Roach (Princess Leia) greet guests outside the auditorium.

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Pre-K/PPCO	\$56
Kindergarten through 5th	\$60
Optional Bulk Item Donation Kit for Campus	\$15
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Middle School Campuses	
6th through 8th	\$65
Optional Bulk Item Donation Kit for Campus	\$16
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Late orders (with a price increase) will be available online May 24th through June 19th.

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



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

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.,

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 worry
5 TX McCaughey had a starring _____ in "A Time to Kill"
6 large Texas ranch, spelled out
7 flat-topped hill
8 TX Larry McMurtry's "Lonesome Dove" was _____ novel
17 TX Bonnie & Clyde, e.g.
18 in Kilgore: "East Texas _____"
20 TXism: "_____ have to get better to die" (sick)
21 TX-born Nimitz was the last to have the _____ of fleet admiral
22 TXism: "got as much _____ as a steer in a packing plant"
24 convulsions
29 ill-mannered fashion designer: Christian _____
31 TXism: "costs _____ arm and a leg"
32 made by Texans and Cowboys in the NFL draft
34 winter garment
35 TXism: "_____ as dirt"
36 name of Jay Gould private rail car in Jefferson, TX
37 TXism: "esta _____" (good)
38 school kids often walk in single _____ city on Redfish Bay (2 wds.)

DOWN

1 TX Nanci Griffith 1987 song (3 wds.)
2 in Falls County on U.S. 77
3 this Moreno killed 6 people in Houston area in 1983
4 _____ toast
9 TXism: "horny _____" (lizards)
10 trigonometric function of an angle
11 _____ hart, Texas
12 TX Fawcett's only husband (init.)
13 TX Adams, Medal of Honor recipient
14 TXism: "strike while the iron _____"
15 TXism "_____ bout" (about)
16 six-shooter in Hidalgo County on Mexico border
21 TXism: "he could out _____ legged bobcat"
23 finished position of Astro Jeremy Pena or Ranger Corey Seager (abbr.)
25 TXism: "_____ shooter" (slingshot)
26 Claudia _____ "Lady Bird" Johnson
27 "_____ State Park"
28 this Drayton owned the Houston Astros from 1992 to 2011
29 in Fisher County on highway 70
30 TXism: "_____ a bull give milk?" (no)
33 fmr. immigr. agcy.

34 former Dallas Sidekicks leag.
35 TXism: "keep your saddle _____" (be prepared)
37 TXism for "to fish" (3 wds.)
38 villain
40 this Gramm was a U.S. Senator
41 former Vikings QB Tarkenton
44 Pampa's county
47 this Ford took over for Nixon in 1974
49 TXism: "hot as road _____ July"

MAY - JUNE 19

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MAY 29

Memorial Day

Memorial Day Ceremony is hosted by Parker County American Legion Post 163 and will be at Memorial

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Send event submissions to events@community-news.com.

Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.



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Annetta Elementary School Choir presents concert

The Annetta Elementary School Choir performed a sun-and-sand-themed concert on May 18 to a delighted audience. Numbers included “It’s a Wonderful World” and “Wipeout.”

View the website for video.

Photos by Emma Davis/The Community News



Emma Mendez and Madison Miller were prepared to enjoy the show.



TOP: Annetta Elementary School choir members added a splash of color to their performance on May 18. | RIGHT: Jeanne Kessinger (Choir Director) opened the show.



LEFT: Annetta Elementary School students run to pick up streamers during their choir concert on May 18. | CENTER: The choir concert performed a sun-and-sand theme. | RIGHT: Maxwell Troung opened as “Ukulele Bob.”



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GOLF

Mahanay finishes Bearcat career at state

Next season at Weatherford College

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Braylon Mahanay's career as an Aledo Bearcat golfer came to a close Tuesday afternoon, May 23, at the Class 5A Boys State Golf Tournament at White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown.

Mahanay shot a 157 over two days to tie for 39th individually. He opened with a 78 on Monday and followed with a 79 on Tuesday.

"He struck the ball real well. First few holes of the tournament his adrenaline was going and he hit a few balls deeper on the green than he wanted. Led to a couple three-putts and put him at two over pretty early," Aledo coach Brian Mourning said. "He made some great putts all tournament, but the ball was not falling for him. Obviously, the pin placements were in tough locations and just couldn't get anything to drop."

Mahanay was making his second straight appearance at state. He led the Bearcats as a team to the tournament in 2022.

Ironically, Mahanay matched his state score from last year, when he also shot a 157 (80-77).

Thomas Curry of Texarkana won the individual title with a 134 (66-68) over two rounds, five shots ahead of Luke Colton of Frisco Wakeland. The team championship went to Montgomery Lake Creek with a 595



ALEDO GOLF

Braylon Mahanay of the Aledo Bearcats finished his high school golf career by competing at the Class 5A Boys State Tournament at White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown.



CANDICE MAHANAY

TOP: Coach Tom Croft, Braylon Mahanay, and Coach Brian Mourning | BOTTOM: Chris Mahanay, Braylon Mahanay, and Candice Mahanay

(303-292), with Comal Smithson Valley second at 601 (302-299).

In earning his way to state, Mahanay won the District 5-5A championship, as did the Bearcats as a team. At the Region 1 Tournament he finished tied for third to qualify for state, while the Bearcats narrowly missed joining him as a team with a fourth-place finish.

Now that his high school career is over, Mahanay took a moment to reflect.

"I loved every minute of it," Mahanay said. "Playing as a team with some of your best buddies always makes for fun times. Getting to travel and play courses all around Texas, missing school, doing what you love to do and hanging out with the team, couldn't ask for much more."

However, Mahanay is staying local for a little

while longer with his golf game. He will play for Weatherford College next season.

"I'm excited Braylon gets to keep playing at the next level and glad I had the opportunity to see him grow this year," Mourning said. "He's been a staple for us all year and is going to be missed next year."



Read this story online

BASEBALL

Nine Bearcats earn All-District honors

Leave legacy for underclassmen

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats followed up their 2022 record of 29-12 with a 23-12 record this spring, advancing to the second round of the playoffs. Though the team struggled to find a way to perform consistently early on in district play, they rallied to win five district games in a row in the final two weeks of the regular season to secure the top seed heading into playoffs.

"Most of the time, when they had to answer the bell, they did," Coach Chad Barry said of the competitiveness of his ball club. "I thought [this season] was very successful. We handled our business on the field well. When we needed our pitchers to go out and have big games, for the most part they did that. The way we ended districts on that hot streak, I thought they finished it the right way."

Just as the Bearcats began to hit their stride late in the year, they faced their toughest tests of the year to close out the regular season. In the series against Azle and Wichita Falls Rider, Aledo outscored the opposition 31-8 as the team had their game firing on all cylinders right when it mattered most.

"I couldn't be happier for them," Barry said. "I know the season didn't end the way they wanted it to. I think they felt like they were going



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

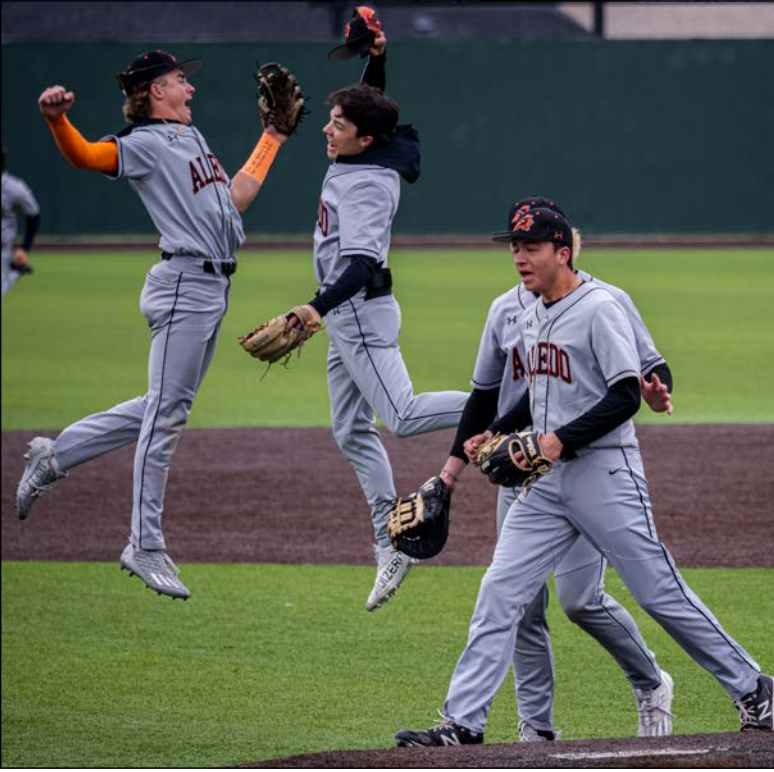
Robert Burk delivers a pitch against Wichita Falls Rider on April 29. Burk tossed three scoreless innings in the game. He finished the season with a 6-1 record on the hill for Aledo.

to be right back there in the regional finals again. It shows just how difficult it is to do that. But, as far as their performance, they had a lot of inexperience going in. Sometimes that's going to cause some inconsistent play. They hit some roadblocks and some speed bumps along their way. They figured out how to work through those and play through

them. I thought they did a great job of that."

While Aledo will graduate a whole host of seniors from this year's team, Barry feels confident that this group has done what is necessary to pass the torch forward so that the future of Bearcat baseball continues to burn bright.

"I think we're just scratching the surface," Barry stated. "I think



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trace Mazon and Boyd Thompson celebrate following Luke Taylor's complete game, no-hit bid over Arlington Martin on Feb. 25. Mazon was named Most Valuable Player on the 5-5A All-District Team. Thompson was named first-team all-district second baseman

we're just going to get better and better as we go along."

Bearcats earn top honors on All-District Team

Bearcat shortstop Trace Mazon served the team well as captain during the 2023 spring baseball campaign. So well in fact, that the

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page B7

Look at it This Way

Lightfoot's dream now a reality



Rick Mauch
sports@community-news.com

Coyotes in first JUCO World Series

Two decades ago Jeff Lightfoot came home. A 1988 graduate of Weatherford High School, he came to Weatherford College in 2003 to start a baseball program.

It wasn't long before that program became competitive on the highest level. At the start of each season the Coyotes were consistently among the favorites to contend for a conference championship, and at the end of each one they regularly found themselves battling for a regional title.

But one thing eluded Lightfoot and his program: a berth in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I World Series. They came close on several occasions, reaching the regional final in 2004 and 2017 and reaching the fourth round of the tournament in 2008, 2010 and 2011.

Now, for the first time in school history, they are headed to the World Series. They will be one of 10 teams left standing and competing in Grand Junction, Colorado starting Saturday, May 27, in the double-elimination tournament that goes into the first weekend of June.

And while Lightfoot and his team spent this week preparing for the journey of their baseball lifetimes, he admits it still hasn't completely sunk what they have accomplished - and stand to achieve over the next week.

"I'm sure that it won't fully hit until we walk on the field in Grand Junction," Lightfoot said of the feat.

The Coyotes are legitimate contenders to win the whole shebang. While Lightfoot has had some powerful teams in the past, this year's squad seems to have put it all together, as indicated by steam-rolling through the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference with a 29-3 record, having a 50-9 overall record, sweeping opponents in the Region V Tournament and carrying an 18-game winning streak into the World Series.

And speaking of winning Region V, they did so on their home field. How sweet is that in a season filled with magic?

"Just shows you that God's timing is perfect," Lightfoot said. "Being able to win the championship here at WC and celebrate with our community and all of the people that have invested so much in our program is a blessing. The times when we got close and did

Turn to **REALITY**, page B8

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Competitive sealed bids addressed to the City Secretary/Administrator of the Town of Annetta, Texas will be received at Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane/P.O. Box 1150, Annetta, Texas 76008 until 12:00 PM (local time) on June 12, 2023 for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment and the performing of all work required in the construction of a 49 feet by 50 feet rigid frame shop, with a 20 feet by 50 feet lean-to and pouring the foundation for the building for storage in Annetta, and other improvements incidental thereto, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

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.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS and contract documents may be examined without charge at the Annetta Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008.

In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating proposal prices, the Owner reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject any or all bids. No bid may be withdrawn within sixty (60) days after date on which bids are opened.

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Proposals for Aledo Elementary #7

CORE Construction, Inc., Construction Manager at Risk for Aledo ISD is requesting Competitive Proposals from subcontractors and suppliers for the Aledo Elementary #7. Please provide GMP 2 proposals based on current construction documents 80% Construction Documents.

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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TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Senior athletes sign to continue careers

Four signings

Special to The Community News

Four athletes from Trinity Christian Academy recently signed to further their academic and athletic careers at colleges and universities.

Kanyon Kelley signed with Schriener University to play basketball and Bella Sigala signed with East Texas Baptist University to be a part of their sand volleyball team.

Two cheer athletes signed letters: Abby James with Tarleton State University and Olivia Vajdos with Abilene Christian University.



Read this story online



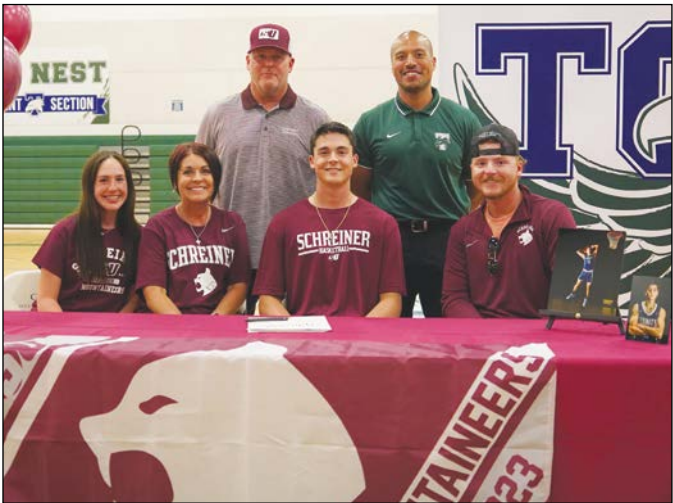
Olivia Vajdos, surrounded by family, signed to be on the cheer squad at Abilene Christian University.



Abby James is shown with her parents as she signed to be on the cheerlead squad at Tarleton State University.



Dora Sagala, surrounded by family, signed to play beach volleyball at East Texas Baptist University.



Kanyon Kelley signed with Schriener University to play basketball. He is shown with his family and varsity basketball coach Daniel Perez.

BEARCATS

from page B5

Weatherford College commit was named Most Valuable Player on the 5-5A All-District Team by the league's coaches. In the field he committed just two errors all season, giving him a .978 fielding percentage, while turning 11 double plays. At the dish, the right-hander carried a .467 batting average this season. He collected 42 hits, 13 of which went for extra bases. He hit a pair of home runs, drove in 26 runs, scored 32 more, and stole 16 bags around the basepath.

"It's always a stretch, because you're asking an 18-year-old kid to do something that he may not be very comfortable with," Barry said. "I think that's part of the process of becoming a man. Sometimes you have to take on roles that you're not the most comfortable with and step up and lead. I thought Trace just did a phenomenal job of that this year. He followed two really great [team captains] we've had two years before that. I think he was mentoring Boyd [Thompson] to take over for next year."

Mazon's leadership was infectious. In total, nine Aledo players received all-district honors this season.

Brooks Dwinell, Aledo's senior left-fielder and Grayson College commit, was named the 5-5A Offensive Player of the Year. He finished the season with a .304 batting average. He collected 21 hits on the season along with 16 RBI and scored 16 runs himself.

Senior right-handed hurler and Hill College commit Matthew Clark was named first-team all-district for his performances on the bump this season. Clark went 7-2 in 45.1 innings of work. He finished the season with 53 strikeouts and a 1.54 ERA. His most notable performance of the season came on April 18 when he struck out 13 Azle batters en route to a two-hit, complete-game shutout.

Andrew Cambre didn't see the field much this season as he

recovered from a shoulder injury sustained prior to the start of the year. However, that didn't keep him from bringing the lumber to the yard. Filling the role as the Bearcat designated-hitter and clean-up man, the senior Centenary College of Louisiana commit did exactly what he was supposed to do, hitting in the four-hole. Cambre drove in 26 runs this season on 26 hits while batting .299.

The other half of the cleanest middle infield in the district, Boyd Thompson, was named first-team all-district second baseman. As a junior, Thompson flashed the leather in the field, completing 93 of 97 plays in his direction for a .957 fielding percentage this season. Batting in the lead-off spot, he hit .308, scored 30 runs, and drew 20 walks.

The other junior to be awarded first-team honors was outfielder Garrett Rester. While patrolling the outfield, Rester accounted for 32 outs in 35 balls hit to his part of the yard. He committed a lone error in the field all year. At the plate he hit .348 and collected 23 hits.

Not to be out done, a trio of Bearcats were named second-team all-district. Senior outfielder and McLennan Community College commit Bryce McCain had a .975 fielding percentage and a .301 batting average for the season.

Senior right-handed starting pitcher Robert Burk went 6-1 in nine starts for Aledo this season. He struck out 21 batters and finished off his senior campaign with a 1.61 ERA. He plans to play baseball at Ranger College in the fall.

Luke Saunders rounds out the all-district players for the Bearcats. The junior right-hander threw 28.1 innings this season across 10 appearances. He ended the year with a 0.71 ERA, giving up just three earned runs all season.



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Request for Proposal

The City of Aledo (the "City"), is pleased to issue this Request for Proposals ("RFP") to identify a partner and master development team ("Developer") to successfully rehabilitate, relocate, and develop the City-owned structure currently located at 200 Old Annetta Rd, Aledo, Texas 76008, commonly known as the Aledo Depot (the "Depot"). The City requests responses detailing a Developer's experience in similar projects, if any, with a preference given to Developers who have demonstrated successful historic revitalization projects. The Developer will be expected to support the planning, financing, development, construction, and ownership of the building.

The City's preferred development vision includes the relocation and rehabilitation of the Depot in a manner that will allow the Depot to be a feature of downtown Aledo. The relocation of the Depot must be completed by August, 2023

Submittals are due prior 3:00 PM on June 14, 2023. Sealed proposals (an **ORIGINAL PLUS SEVEN COPIES, PLUS ONE (1) ELECTRONIC VERSION ON FLASH DRIVE**) subject to the Terms and Conditions of this REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS and other contract provisions ("RFP"), will be received by the **City Manager at 104 Maverick St, Aledo, Texas 76008**, before the closing time and date shown above. **Proposals must be returned in a sealed envelope, addressed to the City Manager, City of Aledo, and have the RFP number, closing date, and company name clearly marked on the outside of the envelope.** The City will retain late proposals; however, they will not be opened nor considered in the evaluation of the proposal. Proposals may be withdrawn at any time prior to the official opening. Proposals may not be altered, amended or withdrawn after the official opening without the recommendation and approval of the City Manager.

For more information, email City Manager Noah Simon at nsimon@aledotx.gov or call 817-441-7016.

Notice of Public Hearings

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

First Public

Hearing Planning and Zoning Commission

Location:

Aledo Community Center
104 Robinson Court
Aledo, Texas 76008

Date:

Thursday, June 8, 2023 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Second Public Hearing City Council Meeting

Location:

Aledo Community Center
104 Robinson Court
Aledo, Texas 76008

Date:

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Time:

6:00 P.M.

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

1) Public Hearing to receive input and consider comments for a Zoning Change request from Single Family Residential R-1 to (PD) Planned Development District with C-1 Commercial Base Zoning – 2.663 acres of unplatted property situated on land from Abstract 438, Richard C Eddleman survey. (819 Old Annetta Road)

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

Published in *The Community News*, May 26th and posted at Aledo City Hall, June 1st.

Iván G. Gonzalez, AICP, City Planner

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Andrew Jones

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REALITY
from page B5

not punch the ticket makes a lot more sense now.

“I am happy for our staff, players and community to be able to experience this run. Also being able to have my son Cole on staff with us this year makes it that much sweeter.”

A champion before

Lightfoot is no stranger to competing in a JUCO World Series. Before coming to Weatherford he led Eastfield College in Mesquite to a Division III national championship in 2001 and before that to the championship game in 1998.

And while it does bring back some memories for him, there is just something extra special about taking a team from the community you grew up in to the pinnacle.

“It was such a different time in my coaching career it’s hard to compare. But the feeling of being one of only a (couple) handful of teams still practicing this time of a year is pretty cool. Bonding as a team and working together to win a championship is a special feeling,” he said.

One could also say the field of teams in Grand Junction couldn’t be more perfect for a team like the Coyotes, who are making their first appearance. Three other teams, Andrew College of Georgia (34-23), Gaston College of North Carolina (49-11) and Salt Lake City Community College of Utah (31-17) are also there for the first time.

Also, none of the teams competing have ever won a

championship. The team with the most appearances is Blinn (44-13) with seven, but this is their first appearance since 2014.

Johnson County (55-8), from Overland Park, Kansas, is making its third trip, but likewise hasn’t been there since 2014. Delgado Community College (45-11), from New Orleans, is in the World Series for a sixth time, but was last there in 2016.

The teams with the most recent appearances are Shelton State (31-28), from Tuscaloosa, Alabama with six trips (including this season), most recently in 2021. College of Central Florida (51-6), from Ocala, is making its second straight appearance, as is Wabash Valley (53-11), from Mount Carmel, Illinois.

With all due respect to each of those teams — all perfectly capable of hoisting the championship trophy — you have to like the Coyotes’ chances. They come from arguably the toughest JUCO region in the entire country, with McLennan walking away with the championship just two years ago.

McLennan, in fact, isn’t only in the same region, they are in the same conference as the Coyotes.

Ninety feet at time

So, when did Lightfoot realize he had a team that was good enough to do something no other Coyotes squad had ever done?

“Honestly we have been so caught up in the process I really have not looked too far ahead. We talk every day about playing to a standard not worrying about the opponent or the scoreboard,” he said. “Our eyes have been focused on the next 90 feet.”

For non-baseball folks, that’s the distance between bases — and the Coyotes have covered a lot of that distance this season while keeping their foes from doing the same. They average almost 10 runs per game and surrender just over three.

And while, in all honesty, they won’t likely do that against the quality competition they’ll be facing in Colorado, all they have to do is cover the 90 feet between third base and home a few more times than the other teams.

This season also saw Lightfoot win his 800th game as a head coach. He didn’t get there by being cocky — confident, yes. In fact, he’s quite humble, another winning characteristic.

Take, for example, the Region V Tournament they won to reach the World Series. Instead of basking in their historic glory, Lightfoot said, “We are grateful to all the fans, family and friends that have come out to support us this season and especially in the regional. The attendance at the regional was incredible and it had a big impact on the atmosphere.”

“We are humbled and honored to represent our college, community and Region V in Grand Junction. We are looking forward to the opportunity and have every expectation to go out there and compete at a high level. Win the next 90 feet!”

A great man (don’t ask who) once said “accomplishments speak louder than words” (or something like that). What the Coyotes have done this season is shouting — and, by the way, the mountains of Colorado have quite the echo, so things could get even louder this coming week.



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Weatherford College baseball action is shown against New Mexico Junior College.

BASEBALL

Coyotes named No. 4 seed in World Series

First game set for June 2

In a live-streamed broadcast Tuesday morning, the National Junior College Athletic Association released seedings for its Division I World Series, and Weatherford College is the fourth seed in the upcoming 10-team tournament to determine a national baseball champion.

WC (50-9) will face No. 7 seed Delgado Community College at Sam Suplizio Field in Grand Junction, Colorado, at 10 a.m. local

time on Saturday, May 27. The double-elimination tournament continues through Friday, June 2.

Delgado, located in New Orleans, has a 45-11 overall record after winning the South Central District championship Sunday. This is the Dolphins’ sixth trip to the JUCO World Series and their first since 2016.

This is Weatherford’s first trip to Grand Junction, having won the Region V Tournament title at Roger Williams Ballpark on Tuesday, May 16. The Coyotes are on an 18-game winning streak.

All of WC’s World Series games will be broadcast on the college’s radio station, 102.5 and 88.5 FM “The Coyote,” as well as on the station’s free smartphone app and web page (wc.edu/thecoyote).

A live video stream is also available at njcaa.org/network. Day passes for the NJCAA livestream are \$10, and tournament passes are \$30.

Weatherford was ranked No. 5 in the nation in the latest NJCAA poll released May 15. Delgado was No. 11.

For more information on the tournament, visit to jucogj.org.

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