

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO ISD

Threat training held at high school



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Aledo ISD Police Sgt. Billy Ray enters the training scenario as student Logan Kasper plays the part of a shooting victim and Rebecca Tschoepe plays the part of a student running to safety. **RIGHT:** Aledo ISD Police Dept. Lt. James Rhodes approaches a classroom with trainer Phillip McKenzie.

Local first responders work through risk scenarios

By Randy Keck
The Community News

An unfortunate reality in today's world is the need for training to prepare for threats that might exist for students in local schools.

Aledo ISD hosted a training on Friday, June 2, for members of its own police department and members of neighboring first-responder organizations to prepare for potential threats.

Utilizing the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program through Texas State University, first responders from several agencies participated in realistic scenarios

involving threats that could arise in a school situation.

Aledo ISD Police Chief Fred Collie explained that the training program is multi-faceted.

"The nationwide training program is to respond to active threats, not just active shooters, because not everybody has a gun; it could be a knife, it could be a vehicle," Collie said.

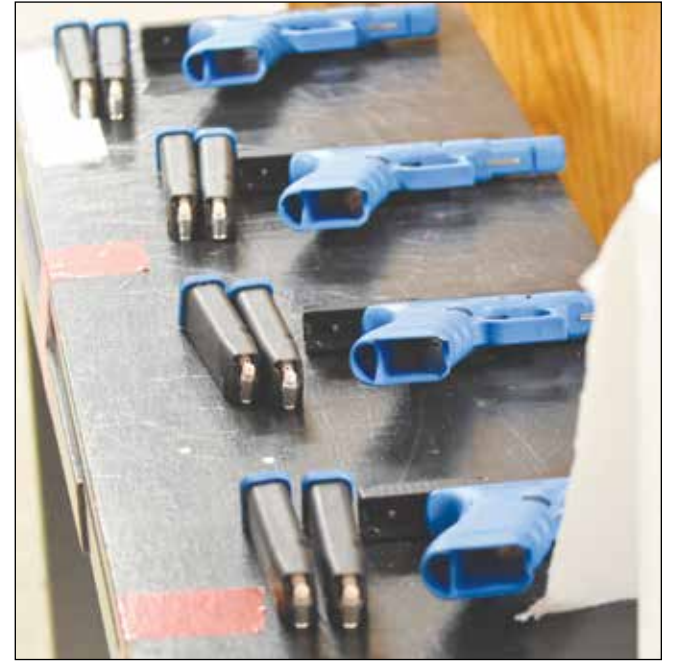
Participating in the training were personnel from Aledo ISD, Willow Park, and Hudson Oaks Police Departments; the Willow Park Fire Marshal's office; Parker County Sheriff's Office; and Texas Department of Public Safety. Two representatives of Christ Chapel West also participated in the training. A local business person participated as an actor, as did

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Parker County Sheriff's Deputy Mike Gallaher prepares his helmet.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Guns used in the training shot paintball-like projectiles for everyone's safety.

CRIME Stopping opportunistic crime before it starts

Don't make it easier for thieves

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

There are some noticeable similarities between Aledo and the idyllic town of Mayberry from the old Andy Griffith Show. Both are smaller communities where cordial folks walk down the sidewalk and know each other by name.

But that's just about where the similarities stop.

Aledo is a small community, but one that is rapidly changing. Unfortunately, with those changes comes an increase in crimes.

As summer dawns, the past few years have taught us that crimes of opportunity increase exponentially throughout Aledo and the neighboring communities of Morningstar and Walsh Ranch.

While these crimes are nothing dangerous on their face, with the typical situation being a homeowner who figures out their unlocked vehicle in the driveway was rummaged through at some point in the night, by and large these crimes are easily preventable. Taking a few precautions will not only insure you are not a victim of one of these crimes, but will go a long way to ridding Aledo of this problem altogether.

An ounce of prevention really is worth a pound of cure.

"The first step is, don't make yourself a soft target," said Officer Joseph Spragins of the Fort Worth Police Department. "Lock your doors. Keep stuff out of view.

People have this false sense of security, because they're in a nice neighborhood. The closer you are to the major outlets (FM 1187, Old Weatherford Road, I-20, etc.), the more of a target you become. Out of all the burglaries I've worked or seen a report on, especially in Walsh Ranch, I have yet to see one that was actually forced entry. At the end of the day, these are criminals are opportunistic. They're just going for the easy target. If they're walking down the street checking door handles and yours happens to be unlocked, they're going to rummage through your property."

Eliminate the opportunity

The math on this problem becomes real simple from here: Eliminate the opportunity, get rid of the opportunistic criminals.



How do you eliminate the opportunity?

First, keep valuables out of view, and make sure your doors on your vehicles, as well as your home, are locked day and night. On top of the door checkers who prow around several of the local neighborhoods at night, there have been numerous reports of vehicles being broken into during the business day.

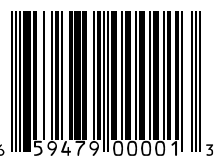
In Walsh Ranch, a resident had a purse stolen from their vehicle in

broad daylight while parked in their garage because the garage door was up and the vehicle was unlocked. It took mere seconds for a random passerby to help themselves to an easy score.

Park vehicles in garages if you can. If you can't, make sure all doors on the home and vehicles are closed and locked at all times.

Spragins recommended if you have a truck with a tailgate or an

Turn to **CRIME**, page 3



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In & Around Parker County

Charitable Realty plans grand opening of new Aledo location

Lori Fowler was living a completely satisfied life as a tenured college professor working alongside the college president when there was a “knock at the door.”

“God kind of plucked me out of my role and said, ‘You’re not doing this anymore,’” Fowler said.

She was teaching a class and the students were challenging her — something she once enjoyed — but it wasn’t working for her this time. She gave in, and immediately thought “oh, no, something changed.”

“I went to the college president that day and I said, ‘I think I have to go, I don’t care anymore. I think my time here is done. And it’s time for me to go.’”

Fowler’s dad had been a real estate broker since 1971, and she had received her license before she quit teaching.

“And in the interim, I had built so much relationship, teaching sociology with nonprofit, that I wanted to continue that and I didn’t really know how to bridge nonprofit with real estate,” Fowler said.

So she formed Charitable Realty, based on the idea that when a person closes on a transaction, they get to choose a charity. And Charitable Realty donates a portion of their commission to that charity.

To date they have given away more than \$697,000 to everything from Parker County Center of Hope and A Wish With Wings to animal shelters, Cook Children’s Hospital, Alzheimer’s Association, and many more.

“We’ve given to every dog breed organization you can imagine,

GRAND OPENING
Charitable Realty
Thursday, June 22
241 North Front Street
Aledo

we’ve given overseas, given to several churches, we give a lot to the local Aledo community,” Fowler said. “We’re big supporters of Cook Children’s Hospital, we’re partners with Habitat for Humanity and Ronald McDonald House.”

Any 501(c)(3) non-profit or church is eligible for donations.

Fowler said the average real estate transaction is \$275,000, so it takes a lot of contributions to a lot of organizations to reach the \$697,000 level.

“It’s been super rewarding,” Fowler said. “Tithing back to the community is what we say that we’re doing.”

Charitable Realty has an average of 45-50 realtors, and now has realtors in Midland, Odessa, and an office in Amarillo.

“One thing that we do differently is for new realtors, we train them through a mentor program, which is quite a big draw,” Fowler said. “We assign them a mentor who trains them on everything they need to know. And they can go through a track all the way through broker-ship. We try to help them so they can not only be a really good realtor with lots of experience, but have a



lot of support. They can also become a broker and expand the Charitable Realty reach.”

The firm now has five brokers who started as new agents.

The team members truly operate as a family in addition to taking part in quarterly fun events and volunteering in the community. And a glance at their reviews shows numerous happy customers.

Charitable Realty recently moved to downtown Aledo — at 241 North Front Street.

“We started at 206 Elm 11 years ago, and when this space opened up we jumped at the opportunity to be here

on Front Street,” Fowler said. “We felt it was really important to be downtown and to have a presence here in what we consider to be authentic downtown Aledo since this is our roots, and where we had our start.”

A grand opening is scheduled for June 22, with a ribbon cutting at 4 p.m. that day.

“It will be open to the public — people can stop by and do a little meet and greet,” Fowler said.

For more information about Charitable Realty, call 817-825-8293, visit their office at 241 North Front Street in Aledo, or visit CharitableRealty.org.



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TRAINING

from page 1

four students from Aledo High School: Logan Kasper, Claire Cash, Kiera Carter, and Rebecca Tschoepe.

The students played the part of classroom students in the training scenarios.

Instructors were DPS Trooper Phillip McKenzie, Don Feare of Parker County Sheriff's Office, and Ryan Lingerfelt from the Aledo ISD Police Department.

The active threat training is not without risk. Collie explained to the student actors that there have been accidental deaths in

trainings in other locations when live guns or ammunition were inadvertently used.

To guard against that happening in the local training, there were pat-downs and multiple personal checks to make sure no one had live ammunition or firearms in the training area.

In the initial scenario the situation was simply described as "a man with a gun" at the school. One-by-one, personnel were sent down the hallway on the second floor of Aledo ISD to assess the threat as adult and student actors played the roles of assailant and students.

Collie talked about the importance of the training not only to his own personnel, but from the neighboring agencies as well.

"One of the things I really like about this training and the people that we have attending the training is that we have responders from adjacent organizations," Collie said. "And I know that if something goes sideways in one of our schools, it's not just going to be Aledo ISD PD responding. It's going to be other law enforcement agencies, other first responders, and the fact that we're all training the same way — we're all on the same page — is going to benefit everybody."



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo ISD Police Chief Fred Collie explains possible hazards of the live threat training to student actors (from left) Logan Kasper, Claire Cash, Kiera Carter, and Rebecca Tschoepe.

CRIME

from page 1

SUV with a back hatch that opens, another precaution would be to back the vehicle in the driveway close enough to the house that the tailgate or rear hatch cannot be opened.

Another thing to consider is lighting. Criminals prefer to work in the dark where they have a reasonable expectation of not being noticed or seen. Leaving front porch lights on all night, or installing motion-detecting flood lights are an excellent deterrent.

The next thing Spragins recommends is installing cameras.

"Cameras are everything," he said. "A lot of people have these Ring doorbell cameras. They are very beneficial to us during an investigation. On top of that, having cameras on the corners of your house that can span a wider range is important. Know where those cameras are pointing and where the border is."



Read this story online

"It's super easy to pair another house camera with your doorbell camera. Camera companies these days are making it very easy. Even I can figure it out."

On top of personal security cameras on your home, Spragins also recommended the Flock camera systems for neighborhoods governed by an HOA.

"There doesn't seem to be any Flock cameras west of Walsh," he stated. "When we got the three Flock cameras put out at Walsh, it has helped us tremendously. Your HOA can purchase it. It belongs to the HOA. But it links into the local law enforcement."

"If I search a license plate of a suspected thief, I'll search all of Flock. I'll get hits for the same vehicle up in Flower Mound and all over. All of North Texas that has Flock is tied into the system for us to see on the law enforcement side."

Avoid Complacency

The next thing to do is simply don't become complacent. As Thomas Jefferson said, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Recognizing how little time it takes

for a crime of opportunity to transpire means taking that extra step to ensure potential opportunities are vanquished before they can be realized.

A prime example Spragins mentioned was earlier this year when a resident in Walsh forgot something he needed for work when he left his house in the morning. He circled the block back to his house. Intending to just run inside to grab the item, he left the doors unlocked to his vehicle sitting in the driveway. In less than two minutes time while he ran into his home to grab the item, his firearm was stolen out of the center console of his vehicle.

The last thing Spragins recommends is that, if you are a victim to a crime of opportunity, file a police report.

"I cannot stress this enough, even if your car was just rummaged through it's still a BMV (burglary of a motor vehicle)," he emphasized. "It's still a criminal offense. It still needs to be reported, because more than likely, in your neighborhood there were other hits that occurred."

Without your report, we can't link timeframes. We can't link

direction of travel. We don't have anything to go on. And, we don't know what we don't know. If it's not reported, we don't know it occurred.

"It's very frustrating because I'll start getting calls asking what we're going to do about this BMV trend that's going on. But we don't know anything's going on because nothing's been reported. That's extremely frustrating for the police. We've got to have the community's help."

Don't chase

If you should hear something go bump in the night only to catch some would-be burglar in the act, Spragins stated it is important not to pursue a potential assailant. Laws in Texas protect homeowners from liability if force is used in the defense of their property. But the moment a pursuit takes place, the laws are dramatically different.

"Do not chase them," Spragins warned. "If you chase them and you get caught up in something, and use of force has to occur, it's going to come back on the homeowner. If the person is trying to step foot in their house, different story. But when you see somebody in your driveway

trying to get into your car, you spook them, they start running, and you chase after them, you're opening up a whole can of liability."

The better option in that scenario is to observe as many details as you can about the suspect. What are they wearing? About how tall are they? What direction did they head in? Did they drive off in a vehicle? If so, what color, make, and model was it? Did you get the license plate number?

If you have your phone on you, take pictures or video or and report it to the police.

"When a guy is going to work and notices his vehicle has been gone through sometime in the middle of the night and the call comes in, that's a priority three call," said Spragins. "That's low priority. The offense has already been committed. There's no suspect on scene. We'll take the report and do what we can to catch the suspect. Versus, it's 1 a.m. and the homeowner's frantically calling 911 because he saw the BMV taking place. That's a different priority call. The call taker's going to dispatch police to the scene."

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Content Submission Policy

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

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

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

The Community News does not charge for timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee.

Capital Highlights

Abbott, Patrick spar over tax relief



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

Gov. Greg Abbott late last week warned lawmakers to be prepared for several special sessions to pass a tax reform bill that he will accept, as well as a school voucher plan that failed to pass during the regular session.

Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick are at odds over how to deliver more than \$17 billion in property tax relief, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

During the first special session, called immediately after the regular session ended May 29, the House of Representatives quickly passed a tax relief bill that Abbott supports, then adjourned. The governor said the measure could result in eventually eliminating property taxes. The Senate has not taken action. Patrick, who presides over the Senate, countered that eliminating all property taxes would result in local sales taxes more than doubling to 19%.

"Whenever sales taxes underperform, property taxes will immediately go back up," Patrick tweeted.

Speaking before the Texas Public Policy Foundation last Friday, Abbott proposed reducing the overall tax burden through population growth and an expanded business market paying taxes.

"Texans want to own their own property, not rent it from government," Abbott said.

Scott named interim attorney general

John Scott, who most recently served as Texas Secretary of State under Abbott, has been appointed the short-term interim Texas attorney general after Ken Paxton was forced to step aside while awaiting trial in the Senate. Paxton was impeached by the Texas House on May 27.

"John Scott has the background and experience needed to step in as a short-term interim Attorney General during the time the Attorney General has been suspended from duty," Abbott said.

Scott also worked as a deputy attorney general under Abbott, overseeing all civil litigation undertaken by that office, then served as chief operating officer of the Health and Human Services Commission. Paxton's trial in the



Senate is slated to begin no later than Aug. 28, according to the *Texas Tribune*.

Legal heavyweights to prosecute Paxton

Two well-known Houston attorneys have been hired to prosecute the impeachment case against Paxton. Dick DeGuerin and Rusty Hardin have more than 100 combined years of courtroom experience, the *Statesman* reported.

"The people of the state of Texas are entitled to know whether their top cop is a crook," DeGuerin said. For his part, Hardin implored the Senate to make the proceedings public. That body plans to adopt rules of engagement for the trial on June 20.

Paxton, a three-term Republican, was impeached by a lopsided margin in the House. Impeachment is the rough equivalent of a grand jury indictment. The Senate will act as a court to determine his guilt or innocence of the 20 articles of impeachment. It requires a two-thirds majority to convict Paxton, whose wife, Angela Paxton, is a state senator.

DeGuerin has defended a number of high-profile clients, including former U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay and singer/songwriter Billy Joe Shaver.

PUC chairman resigns from panel

Peter Lake has resigned as chairman of the Texas Public Utility Commission, effective July 1. Appointed in the aftermath of the widespread outages caused by Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, Lake oversaw the overhaul of the embattled commission, including adopting weatherization standards for power plants

and rebuilding the beleaguered Texas power grid, according to *The Dallas Morning News*.

"Together we've overcome sometimes seemingly insurmountable challenges and delivered on our promise to Texans that we'd keep the lights on," Lake said in a statement.

Meanwhile, another PUC commissioner appointed last August to the five-member board was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in the closing days of the regular session. Kathleen Jackson of Beaumont previously served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Texas Water Development Board.

Final COVID-19 workers' comp report

The workers' compensation division of the Texas Department of Insurance has issued its final update of COVID-19 worker's comp claims. By April 30, insurance carriers reported nearly 100,000 COVID-19 claims and 472 fatalities. A little more than half of the overall claims and of the fatalities involved first responders and correctional officers.

Because of the low number of new claims, no further updates are anticipated.

Historic investments made in higher education

Texas higher education leaders appear pleased with funding allocated by the Legislature during the regular session, with a record \$5 billion allocated for the next two years.

"The 88th Legislature showed Texas' commitment to expanding opportunity through higher education and our determination to be at the forefront of higher education research, development, and

innovation," said Commissioner Harrison Keller of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Several bills overhauled and increased state funding for community colleges and established the Texas University Fund to increase the state's investment in research at the state's public universities. Several other programs should expand access to higher education, including the Texas Leadership Scholars Program, as well as increased funding for student financial aid.

Texans, beware of poison hemlock

Students of philosophy and history may recall the Greek philosopher Socrates was forced to drink a concoction made of hemlock, resulting in his death. The beautiful but deadly plant has been spotted in Texas, according to a story in the *Houston Chronicle*. A Dallas-area woman has taken to social media to warn about some weeds she pulled up and the severe adverse reaction that quickly occurred. Only a quick shower and a trip to the emergency room saved her life.

Poison hemlock has a smooth, green stem and an umbrella-shaped cluster of white flowers. All parts of the plant are extremely toxic to both humans and livestock, according to Texas A&M Agrilife. It can grow up to 10 feet tall. It is reportedly especially common in the Edwards Plateau region of the state west of San Antonio and Austin along creeks and bottomlands.

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

GuestColumn

Don't judge until evidence is heard



Zan Prince

Zan@zanprince.com

Attorney General Ken Paxton is in the news locally and nationally, on social media, and in conversations. It's a hard discussion that needs facts and light before those of us who don't have the facts weigh in, so I thought that I'd present some perspective.

I've received several emails attacking the Republicans in our House. I've heard lots of claims that the House made an instant political retaliation in

one to three days. There's been a lot of name calling. I've heard that the process in the House is illegal. I've seen threats of political retaliation against our Texas Representatives by folks that I'm pretty sure weren't attendees at the Committee Meetings.

Representative Geren and others say they received phone calls from Attorney General Paxton threatening them if they voted for the Impeachment Articles. I've heard a lot of trash about our Texas Representatives, but I have not heard facts that they had to consider to come to a very hard decision to refer Articles of Impeachment to the Texas Senate.

Attorney General Paxton has produced a "lot of smoke" that may or may not come from fire. The house committee has done a months-long investigation

and all members in the House evaluated the evidence to move forward. The key word is "evidence." The next thought is for those of us who really don't have the evidence is wait and watch. The Senate will do their job in compliance with their oath of office.

Here are some reports on what's happening that you may not have seen.

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2023/05/26/Texas-House-impeach-attorney-general-Ken-Paxton/8141685091149/
<https://apnews.com/article/texas-attorney-general-paxton-impeachment-1eaccf-00ce80d26c4fc94eab1672e1bd>

So today, I don't voice my opinion without truth and facts. I do want to thank Representative Glenn Rogers and his colleagues

for doing the extremely hard work that we have elected them to do. Now it's a matter before the Texas Senate. Let's rely on their integrity to listen to the truth and make the right decision for Texas in complete compliance with their oath of office to serve the people of Texas, to defend and uphold our laws and Constitution. Let's wait and watch, let the process work.

And while we wait, thank you to the Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate for a job well done in the 2023 legislative session! Thank you for protecting children, defending our border, attacking property taxes, debating how we give school choice with accountability! Thank you!

Zan Prince is the former chair of the Parker County Republican Party.

Events

June 9, 2023
 THE COMMUNITY NEWS
 www.community-news.com

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

JUNE 13
Willow Park City Council Meeting
 6 - 7 p.m.

JUNE 13
Anetta North City Council Meeting
 7 - 8 p.m.

JUNE 14
EPCCC Membership Luncheon
 The luncheon will be held at the Willow Park Baptist Church Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Wednesday Jun 14. As the 88th Legislature's regular session has come to a close, Senator Drew Springer and State Representative Glenn Rogers will be giving an update.

JUNE 15
Anetta City Council Meeting
 7 - 8 p.m.

JUNE 15
Parker County Republican Woman Luncheon
 The luncheon will be at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on June 15. House Representative Glenn Rogers will be the speaker. Email Rachael Watson at paralegalservicesofnorth-texas@gmail.com to make your lunch reservation no later than June 9th.

texas@gmail.com to make your lunch reservation no later than June 9th.

JUNE 22
Aledo City Council Meeting
 6 - 7 p.m.

JUNE 22
Hudson Oaks City Council Meeting
 7 - 8 p.m.



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

works 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 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 8th, 2023. Come enjoy and shop the more than Over 200 arts, crafts, food and activity booths, Live music, children's activities, Peach Pedal Bike Ride as well as the amazing shops, restaurants & boutiques in historic downtown Weatherford. T.Come get your fill of all the peachy treats like homemade peach ice cream, peach cobbler, peach pie, peach tea,

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- "happy as a ____"
- flying saucers
- "legal eagle" charges
- New Braunfels FM
- surgical recovery area in a hosp.
- TX Kenny Rogers early group: "The First ____"
- TXism: "in this ____ of the woods"
- TXism: "____ the horse's mouth" (confirmed)
- "____ Aldrich helped TCU be the national champ in 1938"
- Fort Davis football class (2 wds.)
- TXism: "the bigger they ____ the harder they fall"
- TX Farrah Fawcett, e.g. (2 wds.)
- UT Southwestern Medical Center is a leader in treatment of multiple ____
- 8th governor Clark of Texas, for short
- TX Harrelson 2004 film: "She ____"
- country FM station in Abilene
- TX singer songwriter, Griffith
- "Bend" is a curve in the Gulf Coast
- famous writer Mark who owned land in Archer County
- many Texas towns had a prisoner of ____ in World War II
- birth st. of honorary Texan, John Wayne
- man in 45-across was every ____ cowboy
- like a proton but with no electric charge
- fortunately
- dir. from Weatherford to McGregor
- cowboy bolos
- TXism: "if the saddle squeaks, ____ paid for"
- Texas-based 1943 film: "King ____ the Cowboys"
- gun rights grp.
- ____ Cavern State Park"
- in Upshur County on U.S. 259 (2 wds.)
- Hondo is seat of this county
- former Ranger closer, Henke (init.)
- large tub
- meat & veggie dish cooked in a pot
- state residents
- TXism: "strong as ____ breath"
- save from danger
- "____ Brown & His Band of Renown"
- TXism: "could ____ through a crowbar" (hot chili)
- fish-eating duck
- hammer targets
- TXism: "does a have a climbing gear?" (yes)
- 17th governor, Roberts (init.)
- TX Tommy Lee Jones film: "Eyes of ____"
- TXism: "siestas"
- TXism: "raining ____ and dogs"
- Korean car
- TXism: "hot as ____ griddle"
- language of the Romans

DOWN

- Dez Bryant city
- TXism: "he'd argue with ____ post"
- TXism for "store bought molars"
- Sulphur Springs AM past Oilers WR, Givins (init.)
- TXism: "dead as a ____"
- TXism: "pay ____ never mind" (ignore)

peach smoothies and just plain ol' juicy peaches. Tickets will be available online in June 2023!! \$10.00 for adults \$5.00 children 5-12, under 5 are free. For more information on www.peachfestivaltx.com

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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SOFTBALL

Strong senior class etches mark on future of Ladycats

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Aledo's 2023 softball season didn't go quite the way the Ladycats hoped it would.

That's true of most things in life. Something else that is also true in life is that there is a lot of beauty in the journey even when the destination is yet to be found.

So it was for this season.

"This was a successful season in my eyes," Ladycats head coach Heather Myers said. "No, we didn't make it as far as we wanted or expected. But, that's part of the beauty of this game. You just never know. I really loved seeing the girls come together as a team. They all truly seemed to enjoy each other and worked hard for each other day-in and day-out."

Surrounded by a supportive group of seniors, the Ladycats finished the season with a 26-6-1 overall record. The season had a lot of ups with very few downs sprinkled - most in early in the year and, of course, there was the stunning early playoff exit in the second round.

Once district play came around in late February, the Ladycats were locked in and on their way to yet another league title.

Starting on Feb. 28 when Wichita Falls Rider came to town, Aledo ran roughshod over every other team in District 5-5A. By the time the Ladycats put away Granbury in the season finale, they'd secured the top spot in the



JACKIE HAYSLIP

Claire Byars hits the ball over the fence for a home run against Saginaw HS this season.

district heading into playoffs with a perfect 12-0 record.

The Ladycats' district winning streak was extended to 30 games. The last time they dropped a league contest was 5-4 at Granbury on March 12, 2021.

Hoping to catch lightning in a bottle, Trimble Tech made the trip to Aledo for the bi-district round of the playoffs. Instead, the Lady Bulldogs were blown away by the storm that was Taylor McKean on

the mound. McKean threw a perfect game, striking out 14 of the 15 batters she faced in a prolific performance by the sophomore right-hander.

Meanwhile, the Ladycat offense overwhelmed Trimble Tech. Aledo put up 11 runs in the first inning before tacking on another four partway through the second frame.

With the game well in-hand the Ladycats began using at-bats

to work on fundamentals. The game ended after Trimble Tech came up empty in the top of the fifth thanks to the run rule as Aledo advanced to the area round of the playoffs.

Unfortunately, that's where the Ladycats lost the trail on their journey back to the state tournament, which would have been a third consecutive season. Although Aledo beat Richland 8-1

Turn to **SOFTBALL**, page 9

Look at it This Way

Thanks a bunch, Coyotes



Rick Mauch
sports@community-news.com

Thanks a bunch, Weatherford College Coyotes baseball. Because of you, what might have been a laid-back week with summer starting turned into one of scrambling to get things done because we had baseball to listen to and/or watch.

Because of you, some of us didn't get around to the dishes on more than one day. It's your fault more than a few errands got put on the back burner.

Oh, and speaking of burners. They weren't used much last week because, well, you can't be in the kitchen cooking when your local junior college baseball team is in the running for a national championship and the game is on.

So, on behalf of the local food delivery folks, let me also say thanks also for creating extra business for them.

And thanks to Dave Cowley and Brent Baker for their excellent announcing from Grand Junction, Colorado. With all due respect to the ESPN+ announcers, the best way to take in the game was turning up The Coyote radio station and turning down the TV sound while watching.

The Coyotes weren't the only superb team from Weatherford, let's just say.

In short, Coyotes, you turned what would have been an ordinary bring-on-summer week into one of excitement and thrills, not to mention giving us some edge-of-your seat baseball from the NJCAA Division I World Series.

And we owe you a lot of gratitude. You gave the folks in Parker County and a lot of other places - remember, JUCO players come from all over - a lot to be proud of. You did something no other Coyotes baseball team has done, and that, as they say, is something that no one can ever take away.

This is a season and week that will be talked about for quite some time. Even if you were to go back and win it all next year, the excitement of this inaugural trip to the promised land will always exist.

From the opening 10-9 come-from-behind win over Delgado of New Orleans to the heartbreaking 14-13 elimination loss to eventual national champion Central Florida, it was a week we will never forget. In going 3-2 in the prestigious tournament, you certainly proved you belong with the nation's elite.

Oh, and let's not forget that while Central Florida rallied to eliminate you and win the title, you flat-out shelacked them earlier in the tournament, 14-6. Too bad you couldn't play them a third time to break the 1-1 game deadlock.

When all the dust cleared, you Coyotes were No. 3 in the

Turn to **COYOTES**, page 9

BASEBALL

WC finishes World Series in third place

Four named All-Tournament

Brent Baker
Weatherford College

Weatherford College wrapped up the greatest baseball season in school history with a third place finish at the NJCAA Division I World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado.

In their fifth game of the series, WC lost to the No. 1 seed, the College of Central Florida, 14-13 Friday night at Sam Suplizio Field. Central Florida beat Wabash Valley College (IL) the following night for the Patriots' first national championship.

WC's Robin Villeneuve, Jack Arthur, Kanon Sundgren and Ryne Rodriguez earned All-Tournament Team honors.

Villeneuve and Arthur tied for the most home runs in the tournament with four each. Villeneuve had the second most total bases at 22 and hit .444, going 8-for-18 with two doubles, six RBI and four walks. Arthur had the fourth most RBI with 10 and hit .304.

Sundgren and Jack Clark tied for the second-best batting average in the tournament at .563 (minimum 15 at-bats). Sundgren was 9-for-16 with six RBI and three walks. Clark was 9-for-16 with seven RBI and seven walks.

Rodriguez pitched the most innings in the tournament with 11



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

NJCAA Division I World Series logo behing home plate in Grand Junction, Colorado. The Weatherford College Coyotes finished 3rd in the series on June 2, 2023.

and had the fourth-most strikeouts with 14.

In Friday's elimination game, Weatherford got on the board first with a two-run home run by Sundgren and an RBI single by Clark. Central Florida (56-7) would follow in the bottom of the inning with seven runs.

In the third, trailing 7-3, the Coyotes added a run off a Villeneuve homer to centerfield. In the fourth, the Coyotes would take the lead on a Dayton Tockey double to left center scoring two.

In the fifth, Central Florida retook the lead, 9-8, on a home run to left field. Up came Villeneuve for Weatherford in the sixth and

tied the game up as he sent a 1-0 pitch over the centerfield wall.

The Patriots would regain the lead 10-9 on an RBI in the sixth. In the seventh inning, Weatherford regained the lead with a three-run homer from Arthur.

With the Coyotes leading 13-10, Central Florida hit a pair of home runs in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game back up at 13-13. Juan Correa, the eventual MVP of the World Series, hit a two-run home run to left and Thad Ector hit a solo home run down the left line.

With two outs in the bottom of the eighth, Central Florida loaded the bases on a base hit and two

walks. Kainen Jorge came up and was walked on a 3-1 pitch to score what would be the game-winning run. WC reached on a one-out single by Clark but would be stranded.

The Coyotes were 3-2 in the World Series, beating Delgado Community College (LA) 10-9 and Central Florida 14-6, losing to Wabash Valley 14-4, beating Blinn College 12-2 and losing to Central Florida in the final game Friday.

WC finished the season with a school-record 53 wins (53-11), a conference championship, a Region V title and the team's first World Series berth.

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RODEO

Lots going on this weekend at PCSP event

Competition and entertainment galore

Staff Report
The Community News

The annual Parker County Sheriff's Posse Frontier Days Rodeo wraps up this weekend, but there's still plenty to take in from competitors on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and Women's Professional Rodeo Association circuits to top-notch musical entertainment.

Friday and Saturday, June 9-10, beginning at 8, competition will include:

- Bull riding
- Bronc riding
- Steer wrestling
- Calf roping
- Team roping
- Ladies breakaway roping
- Barrel racing
- Mutton busting

Each evening will include a grand entry beginning at 7:30 p.m. with youths, followed by adults.

Musical acts this weekend will feature Josh Ward on Friday and Cory Morrow on Saturday. Concerts begin after the rodeo ends each night.

For more information or tickets, visit <https://pcsp.net/tickets/>.



The Parker County Sheriff's Posse parade was held on June 3.

RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Matt Morris

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This is notice of a Request for Qualifications AND Proposals ("RFQ/RFP") for paving, sidewalk, and related improvements unit price construction contract. The PC- ESD1 will select the Proposal that provides the Best Value to the PC- ESD1. Submissions must arrive no later than 9:00AM on June 23rd, 2023, at the Parker County ESD1 administration, address listed below. Qualification submissions will be opened at 9:30am, on June 23rd, 2023 at the same location.

The full RFQ/RFP and Unit Criteria Package are available from the PC- ESD1 at the following address:

Parker County ESD1
C/O Stephen Watson
Fire Chief
PO Box 323
315 Morrow Road
Springtown, Texas 76082

It will also be made available on the Parker County Emergency Service District 1's website at the following address:
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The Fire Chief of Parker County ESD1, Parker County, Texas is designated as the contact person for all inquiries, Telephone inquiries are permitted. The telephone number of Fire Chief Stephen Watson, is (817) 523-7598.

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SOFTBALL

from page 6

early in the season in a tournament, the Lady Royals had their number when it mattered. The Ladycats were swept out of the best-of-three series by scores of 3-1 and 6-2, respectively.

Speaking of the heartbreak her team felt following the loss to the Lady Royals, Myers stated, "One of the best moments, though, was after we lost to Richland. We had made it back to the school and me, Coach (Kendall) Sifuentes and a few of the seniors just went up and sat on the field looking at the sky. It was a tough day for all of us, but that moment of just sitting there with my girls is something I'll never forget."

All-District

To say the Ladycats were solid on the diamond would be an understatement. In total, a dozen Aledo players earned all-district honors for their play on the field this season. Junior pitcher and Oregon State commit, Brenlee Gonzales was named the District 5-5A Most Valuable Player. On the mound she went 9-2 with a 1.94 ERA this season. At the plate, she ended the year with a .431 batting average in 58 at bats. Senior hurler Nathalie Touchet was named Co-Pitcher of the Year for District 5-5A. The Mizzou signee went 11-1 while toeing the rubber this season with a 0.70 ERA.

Ladycat shortstop, Reagan Davis earned all-district honors as the Offensive Player of the Year. In 88 plate appearances this season she hit .412 and scored 31 runs for Aledo. Davis will attend Ole Miss this fall.

Freshman second baseman Delaney Rosser was named All-District Newcomer of the Year. Her maiden voyage in varsity action was a good one. In 95 plate appearances she hit .390 with 23 RBI while scoring 24 runs herself.

Receiving first-team all-district honors for the Ladycats were Presley Hull, Ana Flores, and Addie Perry. The lone senior of that trio,



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pinch runner Chloe Cox is ready on third base.

Hull, will attend Tarleton State University now that her high school career has concluded.

A trio of Aledo players also made the second-team all-district list. Texas Ray (Tulsa University), Claire Byars, and Maddy Jarvis (Oklahoma State University) all received recognition for their play in their respective senior campaigns.

McKean and Allison Mallard received honorable mention recognition in the district. McKean was the third pitcher in a stalwart rotation for Aledo this season. Mallard began the season battling a significant ankle injury before she was able to put together an excellent three-game set late in the year.

Looking ahead

As the Ladycats say goodbye to a significant number of senior leaders, there are a lot of questions around what Aledo's diamond gals will look like next season.

"We are very blessed with talent," said Myers. "We will see when the time comes who will be where. There are a lot of

moving parts and things to look at when 70-percent of the starting lineup graduates. One thing is for sure, we will be stronger than many people anticipate."

As far as what the graduating seniors meant to the program, Myers did not withhold her adulation in the least.

"We did have several seniors this season. Most have been on varsity since their freshman year, and many had earned a starting role by their sophomore year. Being that young and competing at such a high level isn't always easy, but they handled it with grace and grit," Myers said. "By the time they were juniors there was no more fear of playing on the big stage. It was fun to watch that transition. The maturity that came with it was incredible."

"To say they will be missed is an understatement. Their leadership and ability to create and maintain a positive team atmosphere will be missed the most. The underclassmen have had some of the best role models in these seniors. We can already see that a lot of that has rubbed off on them. [I'm] very thankful for that."

TRACK AND FIELD

St. Peters named all-star

Staff Report

The Community News

Junior Lauren St. Peters of the Aledo Ladycats capped her comeback season by being named to the Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 5A/6A All-Star Team.

St. Peters finished third at the Class 5A State Meet in the shot put with a

throw of 46 feet, 4 inches. She had previously finished fourth in that event and the discus as a sophomore before injuring her knee and having surgery in January.

The throw was the second best of her career, bested only by her throw of 47-5.5 at the regional meet.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

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

COYOTES

from page 6

nation. You posted a 53-11 record, had a 20-game win streak, won a conference championship and a regional title en route to the best baseball season in Weatherford College history.

Yep, I'd call that a memorable season. And, Coyote players, you gave your coach the moment of a lifetime. I've watched Jeff Lightfoot take several Coyote teams to the brink of this accomplishment, but this season you made his dream come true.

We might very well be seeing several of you Coyotes from this year's team in the Major Leagues some day. Or, should I say several MORE of you as WC has certainly made its imprint in the big leagues,

including former Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta.

In addition, a number of larger four-year college programs are anxiously awaiting the arrival of many of you.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a car to wash, some weeds to pull and those dishes aren't going to clean themselves. And before you ask, like the lovely Mrs. Junell did, why couldn't those things be done over the weekend, well, that's a simple, one-word answer.

Golf. After all, I couldn't do that either as long as you Coyotes were grabbing all of our attention last week.

So, now it's back to normal this week - with one glaring exception. We all now live in a community that has a baseball team that came within a blink of a national championship.

So, thanks a bunch Coyotes.



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SWIMMING

Wild opens season at home

Win more than 20 gold medals

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Weatherford Wild swim team opened its 2023 summer season at home this past Saturday, June 3.

"First meet went well. Some veteran swimmers really knocked some time off of their swim from last year and the new swimmers did a great job figuring out the ropes," coach Matt Williams said.

In all, Wild swimmers won more than 50 medals, including over 20 gold.

The Wild even posted a 1-2-3 finish in the boys 13-14 50-yard backstroke.

Rea Davis, competing in the Women's 25-39 and Mixed 18-Over relays, won five gold medals to lead all Wild swimmers. Michael Spillers won four for the boys competing in the 13-14 age group.

Other multiple medal winners for the Wild were Melissa Davis with three, along with Matt Williams, Barbie Goff, Andi Busey, Ryan Roberts and Zach Edwards with two each.

The Wild are back in competition in Mineral Wells on Saturday, June 10. They also have a meet in Trophy Club on June 17 before the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 4 Meet in Southlake July

15-16. From there, qualifiers will advance to state.

Weatherford Wild Swim Meet June 3

Top Weatherford results Distances in yards Mixed

18-Over

200 medley relay: 1. Melissa Davis, Rea Davis, Lauren Spillers, Matthew Williams, 2:56.02.

100 free relay: 1. Barbie Goff, R. Davis, Williams, M. Davis, 1:03.35.

15-17

200 free relay: 2. Brookelyn Nowakowski, Noah Farber, Karla Rodriguez, Kade Burlison, 1:57.83.

Females

8-Under

50 free: 1. Andi Bursey, 48.34.

25 free: 3. Bursey, 22.73.

11-12

200 medley relay: 1. Izy Hixson, Sydney Vidal, Blair Mezger, Emma Circelli, 2:52.39.

50 backstroke: 3. Mezger, 42.84.

50 breaststroke: 2. Mezger, 42.01.

50 free: 3. Grace Phillips, 32.23.

200 free relay: 1. Colbie Ogle, Brinley Richey, Phillips, Kyla Roberts, 3:03.41.

13-14

200 medley relay: 1. Lola Rice, Avery Meek, Kate Kentner, Reily Hughes, 2:40.31.

50 backstroke: 2. Meek, 38.78.

50 breaststroke: 2. Meek, 43.14.

50 butterfly: 2. Kentner, 37.31.

15-17

50 backstroke: 1. Brookelyn Nowakowski, 34.15.



MATT WILLIAMS

Swimmers celebrate with flags during the Weatherford Wild Swim Meet this past Saturday.

50 breaststroke: 1. Jubilee Morgan, 41.48.

50 free: 2. Morgan, 29.86; 3. Nowakowski, 30.26.

100 IM: 2. Morgan, 1:16.97.

25-39

50 butterfly: 1. M. Davis, 1:04.28.

50 free: 2. M. Davis, 45.00.

40-Over

50 breaststroke: 1. Goff, 53.69.

Males

6-Under

25 free: 3. Frankie Galvan, 41.50.

8-Under

25 breaststroke: 2. Blake Garcia, 36.11.

25 free: 3. Garcia, 21.39.

9-10

50 free: 2. Colt Spillers, 39.70.

11-12

200 medley relay: 1. Cullen Costello, Kody Burlison, Max Gentry, Noah Wagnon, 2:39.08.

50 breaststroke: 2. Costello, 40.17.

50 butterfly: 3. Gentry, 40.39.

100 individual medley: 2. Gentry, 1:25.55; 3. Corbin Lane, 1:27.00.

200 free relay: 1. Joaquin Rice, Samuel Warden, Charlie Hixson, Josiah Fuller, 2:50.92.

13-14

200 medley relay: 1. Jaxon Edwards, Michael Spillers, Ethan Kilbourne, Ryan Roberts, 2:51.81.

100 free: 1. Spillers, 1:01.61.

50 backstroke: 1. Spillers, 36.56; 2. Blake Mezger, 40.92; 3. Edwards, 49.13.

50 breaststroke: 1. Spillers, 35.83; 2.

Mezger, 36.47.

50 butterfly: 3. Kilbourne, 44.93.

50 free: 2. Kilbourne, 31.25; 3. Mezger, 31.73.

100 IM: 2. Kilbourne, 1:31.86.

200 free: 1. Roberts, 3:19.09.

15-17

200 medley relay: 1. Enson Griffith, Noah Farber, Michael Goff, Zach Edwards, 2:08.71.

50 back: 1. Edwards, 36.97.

50 breaststroke: 3. Farber, 34.35.

50 free: 2. Farber, 26.04.

200 free: 3. Ka. Burlison, 2:48.60.

25-39

100 free: 1. R. Davis, 1:09.91.

50 breaststroke: 1. R. Davis, 39.71.

50 free: 1. R. Davis, 31.81.



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