

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## ANNETTA Council receives State Congressional Session update

By **Ryan Wade**  
The Community News

When the Annetta City Council convened on Thursday, June 15, the first order of new business was to get informed about how the changes made during the State Congressional Session in Austin would impact the way the council is able to manage local governmental business.

Craig Farmer, president of Municipal Planning Services, LLC, spent over an hour advising the council of new laws that were passed by the Texas Legislature during the spring session.

"The Texas Legislature is continuing to reduce the local control of cities and counties in the management and regulation of growth and development," Farmer stated at the top of his presentation as he read from his PowerPoint. "This session of the legislature continued with the trends in loss of local control of past legislative sessions."

While the Texas Legislature only meets on odd-numbered years, the 2023 Legislative Session was an active one. In total, the legislature introduced 11,807 bills from January 10, when the session began to May 29, when it concluded with the House introducing 70% of those bills. Nearly 40% of those bills (4,550) were passed. Governor Greg Abbott signed 873 of those bills into law and another 3,567 went into law on June 16 without the Governor's signature.

Of particular interest to the City of Annetta, Farmer pointed to Senate Bill 2440, among others. Bill 2440 states that cities and counties must now require plat applications to have an attached statement from a licensed engineer to certify adequate groundwater availability in order to develop a subdivision where groundwater is the main water supply.

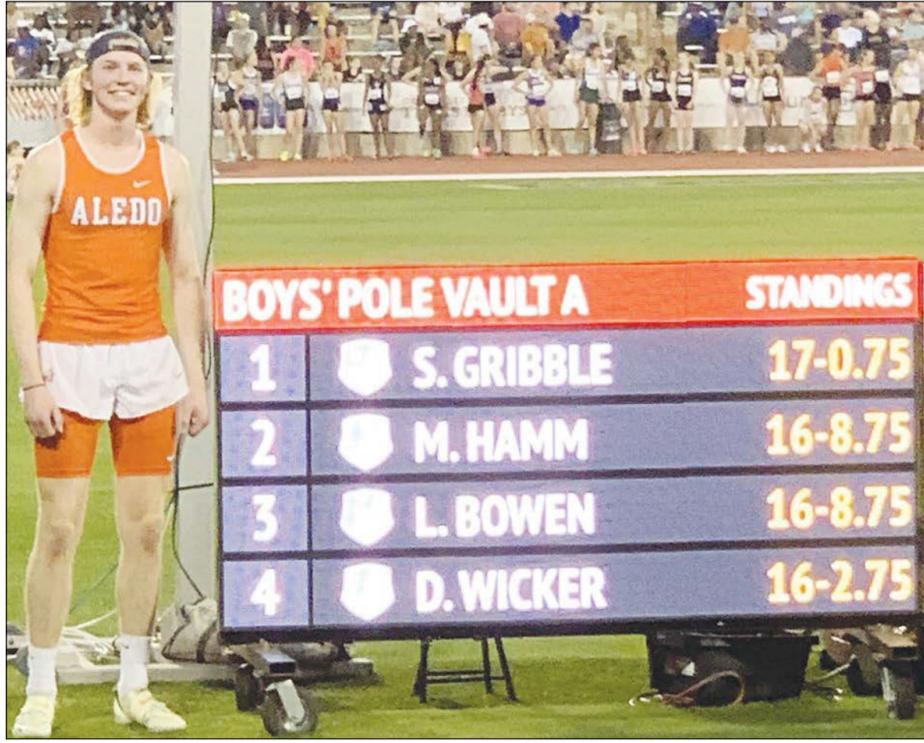
The other order of new business brought before the council was regarding placement of a "deaf child area" sign. The proposal for the sign was brought before the council by the child's mother along with a pair of supporters to speak on their behalf. After some back-and-forth between the parties and the council regarding the city taking no stance on a sign placed on private property, the council motioned to add a vote for a sign to be placed in the easement to the July meeting. Councilman for Place 3, Bruce Pinckard, stated he expects the vote to be unanimous and the sign to be placed in short order thereafter.



Read this story online



## Gribble moving on to new heights



ANDREW CLARK

Aledo's Sean Gribble set a school record in the pole vault to win the prestigious Texas Relays in Austin over the April 1, 2023, weekend.

### Putting disappointment at district in past

By **Rick Mauch**  
The Community News

While pole vaulting comes with some danger, Aledo's Sean Gribble has never been seriously hurt — with one exception: the District 5-5A Track and Field Meet in mid-April.

It wasn't from a broken pole or landing wrong. It was from a broken heart and not landing a spot in the postseason despite being one of the nation's top high school vaulters.

Gribble, a senior and an odds-on favorite to reach state and likely win it, failed to get out of district. He shockingly

no-heighted, and with that came an end to a high school career that was supposed to conclude with a gold medal and an exclamation point, not question marks and looking for answers.

"Honestly, I wasn't freaking out. I was just vaulting like a normal meet," Gribble explained. "When I walked away later, I said, 'Well, that's my high school career.'"

"I looked at my coach and said, 'Sorry.' I grabbed my bag and went to the training room. I sat there and prayed."

It was less than two weeks earlier that Gribble set a school record by clearing 17 feet, 0.75 inches at the prestigious Texas Relays in the same arena the state meet was held in mid-May. Excited and filled with momentum, he couldn't wait to get back

to Mike Myers Stadium and compete at state for the first time in his career.

Gribble even had the nation's best vault for a week before a vaulter from Indiana topped it by an inch. His vault is still seventh best in the nation now that all of the state championships have been held.

In fact, Gribble's school-record vault was more than a foot higher than that of 5A state champion Gator Young of Argyle (16-0).

Young, a sophomore, is a friend of Gribble. The two were looking forward to competing against each other in high school one last time in high school before Gribble moves on to vault for Texas Tech in college.

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Construction continues on the new Jake's in Aledo. Bob Gregg, one of the partners who own Jake's, looks forward to being ready for customers soon. "We are still confident in an August opening — hopefully early," Gregg said. "Our number one goal is to be rolling for the first home football game!"

## AISSD Trustees finalize 2022-23 business

### Begin preparations for new school year

By **Ryan Wade**  
The Community News

Even though school is out for the summer, students are in full-on vacation mode, and teachers are enjoying some much-needed time off, the same cannot be said for the Aledo School Board. The business of tending to the needs of the district never end, especially when that district is growing the way Aledo is.

When the Board of Trustees met on Monday, June 19 the session was a near three-hour long marathon tackling a wide array of topics. The board finalized business from the 2022-23 school year during a portion of the meeting before transitioning to planning for the future.

The first order of business as the meeting got underway was for the Board to take some time to acknowledge the academic achievements of Aledo's student athletes. In total there were 27 varsity athletes who received all-state academic awards during the spring season.

Scott Kessel, Executive Director of Student Services, took the podium next to update the board of trustees on what the Student Health Advisory Council had done for the year. A trio of students who served on the SHAC during the 2022-23 school year were allotted time to speak about their experience working on the council and the impact it made on them. Kessel wrapped up by praising the members who made a student-produced educational short film aimed at informing other students on the dangers of fentanyl.

### Onward and Upward

With a bow on the 2022-23 school year, the board shifted focus to the 2023-24 school year and beyond.

With the passage of the bond election, the board moved forward on several budgetary items in preparation for the years to come. The largest ticket item up for approval were the plans for the Lynn McKinney Elementary School project.

With the board approving the plans, the initial dirt work for the school is slated to begin within the next couple of weeks, pending the construction company acquiring all the necessary permits. Once construction gets underway, the project is expected to take a year to complete with doors slated to open just in time for the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

Also on the docket for the meeting was an opportunity for the

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Aledo's Sean Gribble, one of the nation's top high school pole vaulters, is moving past the disappointment of missing the postseason and onto a college career at Texas Tech.



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Sean Gribble signed with Texas Tech University in pole vaulting. He is shown with David, Sharon, Morgan, Alyssa, and Kyle Gribble.

## GRIBBLE

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"His mom told me he was heartbroken. He really wanted to go up against me at state," Gribble said.

While there's no guarantee Gribble would have won state, he admits there's a pain that accompanies never knowing what might have been. However, like most great athletes, he's turning the disappointment into opportunity.

"It hurts, but it's going to make stronger as a vaulter — and as a person," Gribble said.

### Behind the Scenes

Gribble is already considered a good person by pretty much everyone who has ever met him. He's kind to others, pleasant to be around, grateful for his talent, and he's not one for making excuses.

However, when pushed for what really happened at that district meet, Gribble humbly admitted that he was struggling with a split callous on his hand. Ironically, he developed it at the Texas Relays.

Instead of using a treatment called Second Skin, he opted for something different and he admits it was clearly the wrong choice.

"It's a part of the sport. You get callouses," he said. "I had tape on it, but it took away from my grip strength."

"It's a sad reality, one that I am going to have to live with."

### Cheerleading

Immediately, Gribble turned his attention to cheering for his teammates, most notably teammate Brad Campbell, a junior vaulter who advanced to state.

"I'm really proud of him. He did what I could not," Gribble said. "He's got a decent chance of reaching the podium (as a medalist) next year."

Aledo vault coach John Rhodes said Gribble's continued support and efforts to inspire his teammates while he was only able to watch in the postseason further proved his leadership ability.

"Sean has done a great job this year as our senior leader. He is everyone's biggest fan and always encourages his teammates. He always finds a way to stay positive," Rhodes said.

Gribble is simply a giving person. Immediately after the season he left for Pine Cove Silverado Camp in

Columbus to shadow counselors and help elementary student campers.

"I went as a kid in Tyler and I loved it," he said. "I remember how much fun I had and I'm looking forward to helping kids have the same great time I did."

### Adrenaline Junkie

Gribble is a self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie, which would help explain his love of pole vaulting. He's also into snowboarding, hiking, rock climbing, and mountain biking.

And while he's never had a serious injury vaulting — he did get a gash in his lip once by biting it in the middle of a vault — he has been injured. In junior high as an all-star baseball player he broke his arm and later his thumb. He broke his arm again in the eighth grade.

So what did he do? He decided to try a sport where he would leave the ground, turn himself upside down on a pole and propel himself many feet in the air and over a bar.

"A friend a grade in front of me pole vaulted and he said, 'You've got to try this!'" Gribble said. "He was right. I was hooked."

"We're a different breed. You've got to be a little bit insane to do it."

Gribble continued to progress in his new sport. As a freshman he cleared 12-6 before the COVID-19 pandemic ended the season. As a sophomore he reached 14 feet and in his junior season he won district with a vault of 15-3.

Then came new heights — literally.

"Four weeks into the summer between my junior and senior year I went from 15-3 to 16-8," he said. "I changed one thing in my technique and it made a tremendous difference."

"I got closer to the pole (the way he holds it). I was like, 'Whoa!'"

### A New Dream

Gribble's new dream is to vault for a championship in college for Texas Tech, and perhaps even get a shot at a world record and the Olympics. He is majoring in mechanical engineering.

In fact, he's already gotten a taste of what it's like competing against college vaulters. While his teammates were competing at the 5A Region I Meet at Tech, Gribble had the opportunity to participate in a vaulting competition against some of his future teammates. He placed

seventh out of the 13 vaulters, clearing 15-10.

"It was a warm day with a nice tail wind and I was using a bigger pole," he said. "It was really cool. It felt awesome. I was like a kid in a candy store."

He was also told an uplifting story from Brit Pursley, Tech record-setting vaulter from the 1980s. Pursley had his own disappointing performance in high school, tripping in the hurdles and no-heighting in the pole vault.

"It cheered me up, not because I was happy that happened to him, but it showed me that you can bounce back and do great things," Gribble said. "I had the biggest grin on my face."

Among the things Gribble said he learned from his disappointment is to rely on others for support.

"I learned to depend on people around me. Going from such a high high at the Texas Relays to such a low low at district, they were there for me," he said. "It was a difficult time and it will probably always hurt at least a little bit. Everyone dreams of winning state, especially as a senior."

"But there's lots of good things ahead, I believe that. God put people in my life to help make that happen. This is not the end."



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## Obituaries

### Jeana Brooks

Jeana Elaine Brooks, 61, passed away Monday, June 19, 2023 at her home in Brock, following a courageous five-year battle with ovarian cancer.

Jeana was born June 6, 1962 in Hillsboro, daughter of John Findley "Wimpy" Brooks and Edith (Bennett) Brooks.

Jeana got her first pony when she was just four years old and that event would spark a lifetime love for horses and a passion for roping. Jeana attended Hill College on a basketball and rodeo scholarship where she won the Southern Region College Breakaway Championship.

Sam Houston State University awarded Jeana a rodeo scholarship for the next two years. She was a member of the SHSU Rodeo Team that won the National Collegiate Rodeo Championship. Jeana was a fierce competitor, fast and athletic, a dominate force in tie-down roping. Over the next 10 years, Jeana won seven World Championships in tie-down roping and was a one-time PWRA all around Champion. Jeana continued riding, roping, and competing for decades in



Jeana Brooks

multiple rodeo associations. She was an inductee of the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame. She was also the first women's rodeo inductee in the Hill College Athletic Hall of Fame. Jeana's relationship with her horses, Baby and Toad, would be known as some of the greatest partnerships in rodeo history.

In addition to her love for rodeo, her love for children was equally strong. She was an educator by profession, but more widely known as Coach Brooks and could always be found in the gym. She would teach for a total of 29 years, 28 of them being at Aledo ISD.

Jeana was always willing to try anything at least once, even traveling as long as she was able to get home before the next trip was booked. She was known for building just about anything; her hands were always keeping busy. She was always cracking jokes and if you didn't laugh you quickly became the butt of the joke. Jeana even on the hottest days could be found in the barn working or rocking a cat to sleep. Most of all Jeana was incredibly impressed by her

daughter Reese, and her hunger to learn, explore every zoo, and their ability to laugh at each other.

She was feisty, strong-willed, and stubborn, but will be remembered for her willingness to do anything for anyone she loved, full of life and energy. She was the perfect match for Stacey.

Jeana was preceded in death by her parents;

She is survived by her wife, Stacey Jackson; daughter, Reese Jackson; parents-in-law, Wayne and Charlotte Jackson; brother-in-law, Josh Jackson; sister-in-law, Dawn Jackson; sister, Donna Wood; and numerous family members and friends.

Over the years, Jeana touched countless lives and will be missed by all who knew her.

In honor of Jeana and paying it forward donations can be made to Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund.

Visitation is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, at White's Chapel of Memories, 130 Houston Ave. in Weatherford.

The funeral service is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, June 23, at Parker County Cowboy Church, 5050 South FM 5. A private interment will be at Annetta Cemetery.

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### Loreta Montgomery

Loreta Ruth Montgomery of Willow Park passed away on Sunday, May 21, 2023, with her husband, Gary, at her side.

Loreta was born in Osceola, Texas, on July 18, 1936, to Maley and Ruth Jane (Bryan) Walker. Her family moved from Osceola to Victoria to Houston and then to Whiteface, Texas. She was a true Texan and was even a cotton "puller" as a young girl.

The family left Texas after Loreta's sophomore year and moved to Robinson, Illinois, or as she liked to call it, "a foreign country."

After graduating, Loreta worked as a secretary. She met the love of her life, Gary Joe Montgomery, in Robinson. It



Loreta Montgomery

was a whirlwind romance. They married three months later on September 2, 1956. They had many adventures during their 67 years of marriage. Military and job transfers took them to Ohio, Texas, Illinois, and Oklahoma while raising their four children—

Leslie, Lisa, Bryan and Sara. They returned to Texas in 1983. Loreta loved the Lord, her family, and her church. She was the most loving wife, daughter, sister, mother, and Nanny and will be deeply missed by all.

Loreta was preceded in death by her parents, her brother and sister-in-law Wendell and Helen Walker, and her son-in-law Clay Giddens.

She is survived by her husband, Gary; children: Leslie Combs

of Willow Park, Lisa Giddens of Willow Park, Bryan Montgomery of Willow Park, and Sara Jackson (Matt) of Fort Worth; grandchildren: Jeremy Combs, Joshua Giddens (Alena), Jordan Combs, Sara Giddens, Rebekah Giddens, Madison Salvati (Adam), and Lawson Jackson; great-grandchildren: Abageal Combs, Jacksyn Combs, Jonas Giddens, and another great-grandchild due in August; sisters: Louise St. John (Jim) of Franklin, Ohio, Edith Williams (Vince) of Winter Haven, Florida, Theresa Tighe (Rick) of St. David, Arizona; brother Marvin Walker (Kathy) of Paintsville, Kentucky; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Loreta's Coming Home Celebration will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 1, at New Faith Baptist Church, 3303 W. FM 5.

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## AISD

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board to address some of the transportation needs for the district. Aledo ISD has an aging bus fleet with significant wear and tear while simultaneously being tasked with servicing the largest district in the metro from a square mileage perspective. With the passage of the bond, the board had the opportunity to approve the purchase of new school buses to replace a number

of the more seasoned buses from the fleet.

Another item requiring significantly less investment, but no less important approved by the board was the purchase of protective shields for the Aledo ISD police officers across the district.

To view Monday's meeting, or any previous board of trustees meeting, in their entirety go to [aledoisd.org](http://aledoisd.org). Full videos of the meetings can be found by clicking on the school board tab at the top of the page, and then scrolling down to the icon for school board videos.



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## Parker County Master Gardener Training Information dates set

The Parker County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be offering a Master Gardener Intern Training Course starting soon. Those seeking to apply for Master Gardener intern training must attend one of two mandatory information meetings. The first meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 25 and the second meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1st. Both informational meetings will be held at the Parker County AgriLife Extension Office, 604 N. Main Street in Weatherford, 76086 and should last less than two hours. If interested, please call the Extension office to register for one of these sessions at 817-598-6168. Space is limited.

During these meetings, details of the course and expectations for participants will be outlined, and applications will be offered. Applications will be accepted until August 7th at which time participants will be notified of the interview process.

The training course begins September 5, 2023 and will include both on-line and in person training. This training is conducted by experts in their respective field and provides the necessary classroom instruction toward the certification process to become a Master Gardener. The course is open to residents of Parker County and the cost will be \$250.00 per person.



The Parker County Master Gardener program is an educational and volunteer program sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and is a part of the Texas A&M University System. Parker County Master Gardeners receive instruction in a wide range of topics including general horticulture, landscape management, lawn care, tree care, insect and disease management, water conservation, and more. In exchange for this training, the Master Gardeners volunteer time to the community through the Parker County AgriLife Extension program.

For more information or to register for the information meeting, contact the Parker County Extension office at 817-598-6168.

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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 vetoes bills; feud with Patrick grows



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick claimed last week that Gov. Greg Abbott is sabotaging the Senate's work because of their ongoing feud over which approach to property tax reform is best, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Abbott vetoed three bills by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, who has been Patrick's point senator on increasing homestead exemptions in order to provide tax cuts. As of Friday afternoon, he had vetoed 31 bills.

Abbott has threatened a string of vetoes if the House and Senate can't agree on a compromise on property tax relief. In each veto proclamation, Abbott has issued the following statement: "This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Patrick took issue with that. "The governor's suggested threat today to veto a large number of Senate bills is an affront to the legislative process and the people of Texas," he said.

### Will the state's electric grid hold this summer?

Much of Texas is in the throes of a sweltering heat wave, prompting concern that the electric grid will be strained as Texans try to keep cool. However, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the grid, predicts it will be able to handle forecast peaks in energy usage, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

The biggest factor is demand for air conditioning of homes and businesses, according to Robert Hebner, director of the University of Texas Center for Electromechanics.

"Any rapid change in temperature causes great difficulty. If you have a gradual change, (companies) usually adjust to it fairly well," Hebner said. "This summer, there's a good chance they've anticipated well enough that we'll be able to get through."

The first official day of summer is Wednesday, June 21.

### New law bans paper license plates

Temporary paper "dealer tags" will soon be a thing of the past

after Abbott signed House Bill 718. The new law phases out the tags and requires dealers to issue \$10 metal plates to buyers purchasing vehicles, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

Paper Texas tags have been criticized by law enforcement officials for years, since they are easy to fake and often used on vehicles used to commit crimes. A report by KXAN in 2021 found that selling of fake Texas tags had become a \$200 million illicit business.

The Department of Motor Vehicles has until December of next year to come up with a plan for creating and distributing metal plates to dealerships. The law itself goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

### Bill restricting local control signed into law

Cities and counties will be further restricted from implementing ordinances or regulations on issues normally addressed by the state after Abbott signed House Bill 2127, the Statesman reported. According to the bill's language, it is a means to "provide statewide consistency by returning sovereign regulatory powers to the state where those powers belong."

Previously, regulations put into place by cities were unenforceable if found to be in violation of a state code. An oft-cited example is an Austin ordinance passed in 2018 aimed at forcing most private employers in that city to provide sick leave. However, that ordinance never

took effect since courts ruled it unconstitutional.

Opponents of HB 2127 fear it will further erode local governments' power to handle community issues.

"We barge into bedrooms, locker rooms, boardrooms, examining rooms and now city council meetings," Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, said during the debate. "We should be doing our job rather than micromanaging theirs."

Abbott praised the bill's passage, tweeting after the signing that he "signed a law to provide a new hope to Texas businesses struggling under burdensome local regulations."

### Murder rap now possible for fentanyl distribution deaths

Several bills were signed into law last week to fight fentanyl overdoses by classifying those deaths as poisonings, allowing universities to use opioid reversal drug Narcan, and implementing felony charges for producing and distributing fentanyl.

"This law makes clear that any person who causes a death by unlawfully manufacturing or delivering fentanyl can be prosecuted for murder in the state of Texas," Abbott said. Nearly 2,000 Texans died last year after taking fentanyl, sometimes unknowingly because it was mixed with other drugs.

Despite the passage of these bills, some family members of overdose victims expressed disappointment that a bill that would no longer classify fentanyl test strips as drug paraphernalia did not make it out of the Senate.

### Distracted driving deaths on the rise

Distracted driving has killed more than 2,000 people in Texas since 2017, and the number of deaths attributed to it increased by 10% in 2022. Approximately one of every six crashes on Texas roadways in 2022 was attributed to distracted driving, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

"Texting, adjusting audio or navigation systems, or scrolling on a social media site can wait until you're safely parked," said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director. "We're urging Texans to make the right choice and put the phone away."

It has been illegal since Sept. 1, 2017, to read, write or send a text while driving in Texas.

Drivers are urged to put phones away while driving, to pull entirely off the road to use a phone, and to avoid eating or drinking until parked.

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



Read this story online



## Look at it This Way

# Let's get Buc in the TSHOF

school football coach in the history of the state is on the 2024 ballot for the Texas Sports Hall of Fame (TSHOF).

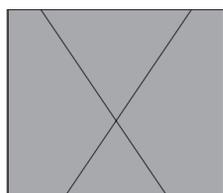
We can help him get elected. Unlike other halls of fame, the general public has a say in who gets inducted in this one, which, by the way is quite impressive if you haven't gone to Waco and taken a tour.

We owe this to Buc. Because of him you can mention the Aledo Bearcats in other states and folks who know high school know what team you're talking about.

Trust me, I tested this theory while living in Colorado and it worked.

Thanks to someone who knows a thing or two about the TSHOF, legendary sportswriter/sportscaster Randy Galloway, Buc's being up for election was brought to my attention.

Turn to TSHOF, page A5



Rick Mauch

sports@community-news.com

Some things in life are just too easy. Predicting the Dallas Cowboys will not make another Super Bowl anytime soon, for example.

Or saying that the Aledo Bearcats will contend for another state football championship.

There's a term for these. It's called no-brainers.

And here's another. If Tim Buchanan is on a hall of fame ballot, he should be voted in. Well, it so happens the man who is arguably the greatest high



TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Former Bearcats head coach Tim Buchanan has a discussion with freshmen during practice.

# TSHOF

from page A4

Galloway, an Aledo resident for going on two decades now, was deservedly inducted into it last year and gave stirring accolades to my friend and late Community News Sports Editor Tony Eierdam.

"This is the ultimate hall of fame in our state. It's hard for high school football coaches to get in, and I think that needs to change," Galloway said. "What is Texas known for? High school football."

And when you're the driving force behind more state championships than any other high school program in the state, not being in your state's ultimate hall is like, well, explaining why a tractor needs hubcaps.

Here's how we can help Buc get in. It's simple, really. Go to the TSHOF website ([www.tshof.org](http://www.tshof.org)) and buy a membership. They cost as little as \$25, and this gives you the right to vote, along with discounted admission and at the gift shop. Heck, for fifty bucks, you get free admission and even a hat or T-shirt.

Then, you vote. Up to 10 inductees may be honored each calendar year, six from the primary ballot, two from the veterans ballot and two at-large selected by the TSHOF Board of Trustees.

Buc is on the primary ballot.

There are only a handful of high school football coaches in the TSHOF currently, and Buc has more state championships than any of them, except for Gordon Wood with nine (seven at Brownwood, two at Stamford). But then, when you add in the three the Bearcats won when Buc was the athletic director, that gives him a hand in 11.

Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the 75-4 record and three state titles Steve Wood

had during the five seasons Buc gave up coaching to solely be the AD. They flipped jobs in 2018 and what does Buc do? He goes out and wins three more titles in 2019, 2020 and 2022.

With all due respect to the likes of Wood, G.A. Moore (six titles at Celina, two at Pilot Point), Paul Tyson (four state titles at Waco High), Chuck Moser (three state championships at Abilene) and Rusty Russell of Masonic Home - also the subject of the 2021 movie "12 Mighty Orphans" - Buc stands tall among them all.

It would take this entire newspaper and next week's to list all of the Bearcats' accomplishments under Buchanan. Highlighting the list, however, are being the only team ever to three-peat as state champions twice (2009-11 and 2018-20, with Wood as head coach in 2018), winning at least one playoff game every year since 1996 and being the only team ever to score more than 1,000 points in a single season (2013).

Along with all of this, Buc is a nice guy. Not that it has anything to do with his worthiness to be in any hall of fame, but it's always a plus when the person you're voting for is someone you'd enjoy having a cup of coffee or beer with.

He's also loyal. Somewhere along his journey he could have left Aledo for a job in the college ranks, we all know that. But he loved what he did and he loved where he did it.

Again, not that loyalty plays a role in his HOF worthiness, but it's a good characteristic, nonetheless.

Buc has given Aledo football fans plenty to be proud of over three decades. Now, it's our chance to do something for him.

And it only costs \$25. Actually, quite a bargain for being a part of history when you think about it.



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

## BASEBALL

# Coyotes made coach's dream come true

By **Jeff Lightfoot**  
Weatherford College Baseball Coach

*Editor's note: A 1988 graduate of Weatherford High School, Jeff Lightfoot came home to Weatherford College in 2003 to revive a long dormant baseball program. He remains the only head coach in the modern era of Coyotes baseball. His resume includes over 800 victories and a NJCAA Division III World Series championship at Eastfield in 2001. He is also the winner of many awards, including being 2001 NJCAA Coach of the Year.*

*But one thing that was missing from his resume' was taking the Coyotes to the NJCAA Division I CWS. That piece was put in place this season when the Coyotes made the trip to Grand Junction, Colorado in early June, finishing third in the nation with a record of 53-11.*

*Lightfoot describes in his own words what that experience meant to him personally.*

I have had many people over the years tell me what a special place Grand Junction is, from the volunteers

to the crowds to the pageantry of the event. I always assumed that I would take several teams there and get to experience it for myself.

As the years went by I couldn't help but begin to wonder if it was just not meant to be. I have always felt as if I had a missing piece to my career. Yes we have won a lot and had some big moments, but without that trip to Grand Junction I couldn't help but feel incomplete.

This season was special and checked a lot of boxes for me personally and as a program.

Grand junction was magical, the regional was electric and the ride along the way was unforgettable.

Having said all of that it always comes back to relationships. This year was special because of the players, staff and fans that were there hanging on every pitch.

It's the look on my wife Misti's face and the embrace after winning the regional to punch our ticket to Grand Junction. She knows what it means and how hard it is to get to that point. She is the

one that picks up the slack when I work 20-30 days straight and give up every Saturday since January.

The hand shakes/bro hugs with the staff and feeling of exhaustion and joy, knowing how hard we worked and sacrificed to get to that point. It's the players that bought in to the plan and trusted the process of being a champion. From the classroom to the weight room to practices they bought into the details of being a champion.

Each of them had to be coached differently. They challenged our staff to get better and we did.

And finally the fans, community and Coyote family that came along for the ride. It's about Brent and Dave and The Coyote coming to Colorado, bringing the World Series to the people of Parker County and beyond.

It's the former players that drove four or five hours to come watch the Coyotes host a regional and to hug my neck. It's The community members that flew out to Grand Junction just for one game.

Those are the special things that will last forever.



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# Tennis Camp

Tennis camp was held in Aledo last week, providing opportunities for future Bearcats and Ladycats to work on their swings.

PHOTOS BY BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Coach Carlson



Lucan Jones



Rowan Williams



Ebby Jones



Kara Kinberling



Eric Jack

# Soccer Camp

PHOTOS BY BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Ebby Jones



Abigaayle Savioe



Luke



Hudson Jetter



Alexus Egleberry

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# Events

June 23, 2023  
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More events can be found at [www.community-news.com/calendar](http://www.community-news.com/calendar)



**Super Safety Saturday**  
Saturday, June 24  
9 a.m. - Noon

**FREE TO COMMUNITY**

For more information, call 817-757-1500.

Snow cones and water will be provided at no cost\*  
101 Crown Pointe Boulevard  
Willow Park, TX 76087

Texas Health Willow Park is truly grateful for the generous support from our community sponsors:

HEB for a generous grant  
Jerry's Chevrolet for the use of the car for the hot car thermometer supplied by Cook Children's  
Sargent's Wrecker Service for towing and removing the car used for the Jaws of life demonstration

TexasHealth.org/WillowPark

Join Texas Health Willow Park for a family-friendly safety event:

- Pool and sun safety education
- Food Trucks
- Hands - only CPR
- Life jacket and bicycle helmet fittings and giveaways
- Home safety
- Child safety
- Fire safety - smoke-room demonstration
- Drowning prevention
- Gun safety - gun lock giveaways
- Poison control tips
- Emergency Service notification for Weatherford and Willow Park
- Suicide prevention
- City of Weatherford Safety and Emergency Services
- Snake Education

**Kid-Friendly Activities:**

- Bounce Houses
- Face Painting
- McGruff
- DJ for entertainment
- Jaws of life demonstration
- Photo Booth
- Obstacle course
- Drawings for four bicycles
- Tours of the Willow Park Fire Department fire truck, LifeCare ambulance and CareLife helicopter
- Trackless train ride

Texas Health Neighborhood Care & Wellness WILLOW PARK  
Part of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth

Following artist concerts will be the famous fireworks show. The event is FREE TO ATTEND! Checkout the webpage for Facebook for event/parking maps: <https://www.facebook.com/events/757972976023061>



**JULY 8**  
**Parker County Peach Festival**  
The 38th Annual Parker County Peach Festival returns to Weatherford 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. Come get your fill of all the peachy treats like homemade peach ice cream, peach cobbler, peach pie, peach tea, peach smoothies and just plain ol' juicy peaches. \$10.00 for adults \$5.00 children 5-12, under 5 are free. For more information on [www.peachfestivaltx.com](http://www.peachfestivaltx.com)

**JULY 21 - 30**  
**Once Upon A Mattress**  
Weatherford College

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**

- ooze
- in Hays County on I-35
- Cowboys' Tom Landry was 1966 "Coach of the \_\_\_\_" in Texas
- TX Forrest of "North Dallas Forty" (init.)
- early name for TAMUCT (abbr.)
- in Canton: "\_\_\_\_ Kingdom Paradise Island" (waterpark)
- TXism: "there are two chances, \_\_\_\_ and none" (unlikely)
- business of the Johnson Space Center in Houston
- Astros former spring training site: "\_\_\_\_ County Stadium" in Florida
- Caesar or taco, e.g.
- across the river from Rio Grande City
- Washington bills
- Longhorn Band drum: "Big \_\_\_\_"
- Kids start with \_\_\_\_ (IPV) shot at two months
- Cage of 2017 "Mom and Dad" with TX Anne Winters
- 17th governor: \_\_\_\_ Roberts
- TX Chesnut's "\_\_\_\_ Home"
- "Azie \_\_\_\_" paper
- female deer
- 1977 film of UT grad Eli Wallach (2 wds.)
- stores all over Texas
- style of many Fair Park buildings: \_\_\_\_ Deco
- Floresville is the seat of this county
- they're "upon you" in Texas
- \_\_\_\_ long" (goodbye)
- TXism: "does a cat have a climbing \_\_\_\_?" (yes)
- \_\_\_\_ Boston, Texas
- very short socks
- night
- "you don't have to \_\_\_\_ it in"
- OJ's judge, Lance
- biblical donkey
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_ pilot" (preacher)
- 2 \_\_\_\_ of the storm
- stretchable
- TXism: "useless as \_\_\_\_"
- 8 additionally
- 9 in May and June, Cowboys have off \_\_\_\_
- TX-born Rashad who was "Clair Huxtable" (init.)
- TX Owen Wilson's co-star in "Marry Me" is aka "J-\_\_\_\_"
- 12 first "A" in "STAAR"
- 13 how TX George Foreman would train
- 14 Texas wants to \_\_\_\_ massive immigration at its border
- 15 after traveling, it's \_\_\_\_ be back in Texas
- 16 Baldwin of "Pearl Harbor" with TX-born Jennifer Garner
- 17 TXism: "in \_\_\_\_ with" (associated)
- 18 he was "Mingo" when TX Fess was "Daniel Boone" (2 wds.)
- 20 TXism: "chew \_\_\_\_ awhile" (ponder)
- 21st governor: \_\_\_\_ Culberson
- 23 rented residence (abbr.)
- 24 "it's a \_\_\_\_ point"
- 25 Hawaiian "howdy"
- 26 car imported from an oriental country
- 28 cry noisily
- 31 Mc\_\_\_\_, Texas
- 34 Chris \_\_\_\_ Doux both competed and sang at Houston Rodeo
- 35 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ chaser" (early riser)
- 37 Cowboy Hall of Fame WR, Pearson "the \_\_\_\_ have it" (passed)
- 43 Sam Houston's last wife, Margaret \_\_\_\_
- 44 a Spanish wine
- 50 mascot of Sul Ross State University
- 51 Harris of "The Right Stuff" with TX Dennis Quaid

**JUNE 24**  
**Super Safety Saturday**  
Texas Health Neighborhood Care & Wellness Willow Park will hold a free to the community event at 101 Crown Pointe Boulevard in Willow Park from 9 a.m. - noon on Saturday, June 24. Join Texas Health for snow-cones, bounce houses, face painting, photo booths, music, tours of a fire truck, ambulance and helicopter. For more information call 817-757-1500.



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..

**JULY 4**  
**Spark in the Park**  
Join Weatherford Parks and Recreation for Spark

Summer Stage Presents  
Once Upon a Mattress.  
Located in the Alkek Fine Arts Theatre. Showtimes

are 7:30 p.m. on July 21 & 22, 2 p.m. on July 23, 7:30 p.m. on July 28 & 29, and 2 p.m. on July 30.

Tickets are \$10. For more information and to purchase visit <https://weatherfordcollege.simplertix.com/>

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**Once Upon A Mattress**  
Directed by James and Erin Brownlee

MUSIC BY MARY RODGERS  
BOOK BY JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER, & MARSHALL BARER  
LYRICS BY MARSHALL BARER

JULY 21 & 22 7:30 p.m. | JULY 23 2 p.m. | JULY 28 & 29 7:30 p.m. | JULY 30 2 p.m.

Located in the Alkek Fine Arts Theatre

**EVENT SUBMISSIONS**  
Send event submissions to [events@community-news.com](mailto:events@community-news.com). Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-178**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF ALEDO OF PROPERTY GENERALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND FULLY DESCRIBED AND DEPICTED ON EXHIBITS "A" AND "B" LOCATED WITHIN THE CURRENT ETJ OF THE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, FOR ALL MUNICIPAL PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR FILING NOTICE OF THIS ANNEXATION IN DEED RECORDS OF PARKER COUNTY AND WITH THE PARKER COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**SECTION 9.**

**ENROSS AND ENROLL**

The City Secretary of the City of Aledo is directed to enross and enroll this Ordinance by copying the caption, publication clause, and effective date clause in the minutes of the City Council and by filing the Ordinance in the ordinance records of the City.

**SECTION 10.**

**EFFECTIVE CLAUSE**

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and is so ordained.

Passed and approved this the 27th day of April, 2023.

Nick Stanley, Mayor

ATTEST: Deana McMullen, City Secretary

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-180**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALEDO, AS AMENDED, BY CHANGING THE ZONING OF 6.01 ACRES COMPRISED OF 3.653 ACRES OF LAND, SITUATED ON LOT 1, BLOCK 1-R, ALEDO ORIGINAL TOWN AND 2.36 ACRES SITUATED ON LAND FROM ABSTRACT 483, FAWKS L.R. SURVEY, CITY OF ALEDO, PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS, CURRENTLY ZONED AS R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO DB (DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT) ZONING; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REFLECT SUCH CHANGES; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**SECTION 6.**

Any person, firm, or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand (\$2,000) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. In addition, any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance may be subjected to such civil penalties as authorized by law.

**SECTION 10.**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law., and is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 27TH DAY OF APRIL, 2023.

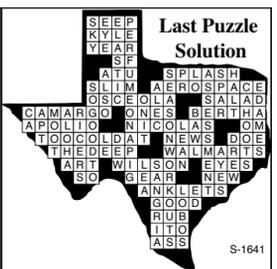
Nick Stanley, Mayor

ATTEST: Deana McMullen, City Secretary

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RODEO

# Two WC cowboys win reserve national champion titles

Weatherford College's Dawson Gleaves and Jace Helton both earned reserve national champion honors after finishing as runners-up in their events at the College National Finals Rodeo. The event wrapped up with the finals Saturday night in Casper, Wyoming.



Read this story online

Gleaves turned in an 80.5 ride Saturday, his best of the week. Nicknamed "Sticky," the Amarillo native finished with 233.5 on four bulls, only 2.5 points behind two-time national champ Tristen Hutchings of Sul Ross State University and 67.5 ahead of the third-place competitor.

WC's Jace Helton (heeler) and Quade Hiatt (header) of West Texas A&M University finished second in team roping despite a 10.5 Saturday night, their slowest time of the week. They finished with 29.1 on four. The run helped Hiatt win the men's All-Around national championship.

The combined points from Gleaves and Helton gave WC a sixth-place men's team finish with 470 points. Clarendon College won the men's team national championship, and the University of West Alabama won the women's title.

This was Weatherford College's 19th consecutive College National Finals Rodeo.



JACKIE JENSEN

WC's Jace Helton (heeler) and Quade Hiatt (header) of West Texas A&M finished second in team roping.



JACKIE JENSEN

Dawson Gleaves rides a bull, turning in a 80.5 on Saturday.

SOFTBALL

# Eight Ladycats academic all-state

**Staff Report**  
The Community News

Eight members of the Aledo Ladycats softball team have been named Class 5A Academic All-State by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

Honored from Aledo were seniors Claire Byars, Chloe Cox, Reagan Davis, Morgan Fontenot, Presley Hull, Madison Jarvis,

Allison Mallard and Nathalie Touchet. sport in good standing and be of good moral character.

To be considered for TCGA Academic All-State a student/athlete must be a graduating senior with an overall GPA of 94 or above for grades 9-11, must be a varsity participant or member of the support staff of that



Read this story online

The eight also helped the Ladycats win the District 5-5A championship and advance to the second round of the Class 5A playoffs, finishing with a 26-6-1 record.

# Wrestling Camp

Wrestling camp was held in Aledo last week, providing opportunities for future Bearcats to hone their skills.

PHOTOS BY BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Connor Chambers



Cota Tyler and Korry Moreno



Cota Tyler and Gentry Graves



Wyatt Shackelford

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TRACK AND FIELD

# St. Peters has big weekend at Nike Nationals

## Captures two bronze medals in elite event

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Aledo Ladycat senior-to-be Lauren St. Peters experienced both familiarity and something different at the Nike Outdoor Nationals in Eugene, Oregon this past weekend.

The familiar, she won a pair of bronze medals in the shot put and discus to add to her collection. However, medals in this event are, without question, some of the more prestigious to be won as she competed against some of the best young talent the United States has to offer.

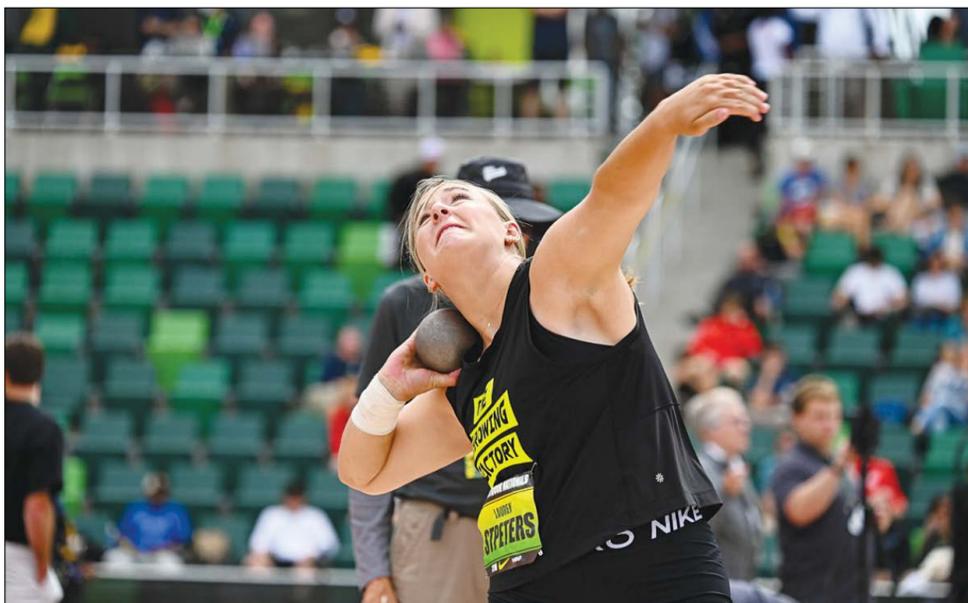
The something different, she competed in the hammer throw, a sport that is not offered in high school competition in Texas.

"The hammer is a great tool for the shot put and discus. It really works your core harder than the other two," St. Peters said.

Competing in the Championship Division, St. Peters had a third-place throw of 151 feet, 4.5 inches on Friday, June 16. The next day she came back to take third in the shot put with a personal-best throw of 47-6.25.

Her previous best in the discus was 47-5.5 at the University Interscholastic League Region I Meet in Lubbock on April 29, which she won to earn a berth at state. In Austin, at the 5A State Meet, she placed third.

Her best throw in the discus remains 154-05 when she won the UIL Area 5/6 Meet on April 21 in Justin.



Aledo senior-to-be Lauren St. Peters won a pair of bronze medals in the Nike Outdoor Nationals in the shot put and discus.

Lauren St. Peters with her medals after the Nike Outdoor Nationals in Eugene, OR.

Despite all the success she's had - and even having competed at the Nike Nationals last year and reaching the finals in all three events - St. Peters admitted to being a little nervous before the weekend began.

"I heard someone say 'Changing your nerves to excitement is something that can help you,'" she said. "That was kind of my motto through the weekend."

St. Peters has been on something of a roll since the Texas Relays in early April. It was there she realized she could again be on top of her sport after having had knee surgery in January. She simply does what

she does best and the results take care of themselves.

"I try to hone it on the repetition of it. I try to not get too caught up in the statistics," she said.

"I'm super proud of Lauren and everything she has accomplished and will accomplish in the future," Aledo Ladycats track coach Mike Pinkerton said. "She has a tremendous work ethic, as well as being highly competitive. Can't say enough good things!"

Now, about that hammer throw. She finished 13th with a personal-best throw of 137-10.75.

"I had to expand my stamina through three days. I'd be lying if I

said I wasn't exhausted," she said. "It was kind of a bummer, and it was raining, but I did so good in the shot put and discus, so that's okay."

"I'm really proud to be able to compete at a high level in all three. I think I'm the only girl at the competition who did all three."

While the hammer throw isn't offered in Texas high school competition, St. Peters plans to throw it in college. Shortly after the state meet she made a verbal commitment to compete for the University of Nebraska.

"When you're looking at a throwing program, it doesn't get any better than the University of Nebraska," she said. "It won't be official until November, but I'm glad to have all this recruiting business over."

St. Peters said she plans to spend the rest of the summer focusing on weightlifting and conditioning. She might also attend a few camps, she said.

Oh, and one more thing.

"Working on the hammer," she said with a grin.

COURTESY OF NIKE NATIONALS

JENNIFER JARVIS



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