

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

City continues to grow

Council leaders advance plans to meet increased demands

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

When Aledo's City Council assembled for their regularly monthly meeting on Thursday, June 22, the emphasis was heavily placed upon dealing with increased responsibilities the council has taken on.

Tom Bryson, Vice President and Public Sector Practice Leader for Cooksey Communications, kicked off the meeting by explaining the city's strategic communications plan to the council. A significant component to that plan put to the council was the suggestion to add a full-time communications person.

Bryson, along with City Manager Noah Simon, collaborated on a potential job requisition for the person who would take over the responsibilities of being the voice for the city. The vision Bryson and Simon laid out for the role would include driving messaging out to the residents of Aledo and engaging with the community by creating dialogue with local businesses, homeowners associations, and residents.

The proposition for hiring a full-time communications person was put before the council, where it was quickly approved. Simon added the application for the role is expected to be put online in early July.

Next up to the podium was Preston Scott, Principal Architect of Randall Scott Architects, with an update on the new city hall project. Scott advised the council his team is currently working with a construction management firm to ensure the prices they get on materials for the project keep them on budget.

Scott presented a detailed update to plans for the new structure, which will replace the current city hall at the intersection of FM 1187 and Old Annetta Road. Originally, the mock-up of the new city hall allowed for a number of flex spaces to accommodate growth as the community continues to develop going forward.

One of those flex spaces directly across from the new council chambers ended up being the size the city library needed. New plans have the city library moving into the city hall adjacent to the council chambers on the first floor just inside the main entrance of the building. Simon said the city is in discussions with the private East Parker

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MADISON SCOTT/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Party Machine provided musical entertainment at Boomin' 4th in Hudson Oaks. Thousands of people turned out for fireworks shows and family activities on the United States' birthday. See more coverage on page 3.

FOOTBALL

Dave Campbell's 2023 issue is out

Texas HS football Bible has Bearcats preseason No. 1

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The 2023 edition of *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* is out and high school football fans throughout the Lone Star state are thumbing through the pages to see what the prognosticators are saying about their favorite team.

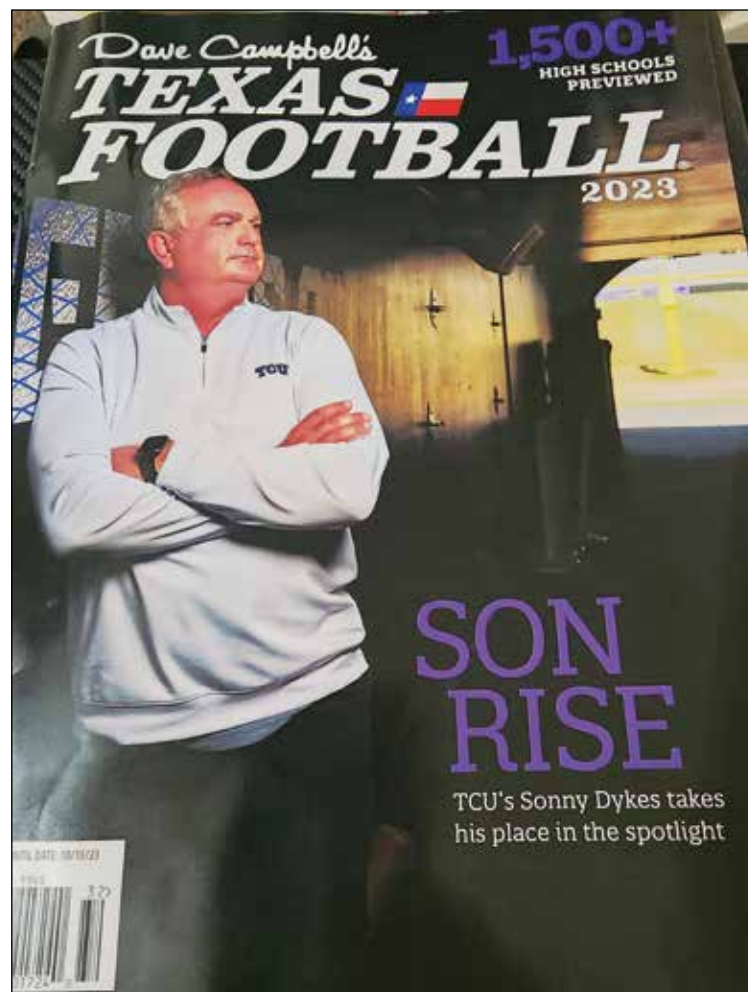
In Aledo an annual question is whether or not the Bearcats are preseason No. 1 and are they favored to win another state championship.

Quick answer: They are and they are.

This comes as no surprise to first-year Bearcats head coach Robby Jones, who is taking over for the retired legend Tim Buchanan. Jones was along for the ride the past two decades as the Bearcats won 10 state titles (they also won one in 1998 before he arrived), and now he inherits a program that brings back a plethora of talent from a Class 5A Division I state champion (seven offensive starters, five defensive).

"No pressure, right?" Jones said with a laugh. "I kind of expected it, to be honest with you. We have our quarterback back, our top rusher, our entire secondary.

"Nothing really changes because of the success we've had in the past. A target's always on us."



RICK MAUCH

The 2023 edition of *Dave Campbell's Texas Football 2023* magazine has the Bearcats preseason No. 1.

The Bearcats are ranked No. 1 in 5A Division I, with Longview second. They are followed by College Station, Lancaster and Mansfield Timberview.

The Bearcats defeated Longview 17-14 in the state semifinals and College Station 52-14 in the state final.

"I prefer for them to rank other teams ahead of us. It makes our kids kind of feel disrespected, kind of like when they had Denton Ryan ahead of us last year," Jones said.

Last season, Longview was preseason No. 1, Ryan was second and Aledo third. Ryan and Aledo are both in District

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WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Massive gift in the works

Stuarts donating Canyon West to college

By Crystal Woerly
Weatherford College

Most local golfers are familiar with Canyon West Golf Club, but many may not have given much thought to who owns the facility. Soon that owner is expected to be Weatherford College.

The college announced in a press release on Monday, July 3, that "Richard and Nancy Stuart are finalizing the details of donating Canyon West Golf Club to Weatherford College."

The exact terms of the transaction are still in negotiation and subject to the approval of the Weatherford College Board of Trustees. Once its expected approval happens it will be the largest gift in the college's history.

Construction began on Canyon West in 1996. According to the course's website, a thick slab of limestone was found about four feet deep during construction, and the limestone was used to create the course's signature waterfall and other features.

The Stuarts purchased the award-winning 6,653-yard, par 72 golf course in late 2012.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW

AHS alum Leah Vann connected to winning

From beating cancer to national championship

By John English
The Community News

Leah Vann still remembers when a local football star would come to visit her in the hospital.

And he would come on a regular basis.

A sophomore at Aledo High School who was receiving cancer treatment at the time, Vann said it was these encounters, along with growing up in a town steeped in a tradition of football excellence, that first piqued her interest in sports writing.

“Living in Aledo and growing up going to football games was kind of like the driving inspiration for it,” Vann said. “I really loved how it brought people together. I had Leukemia at the age of 15 and that was the Johnathan Gray era. He came and visited me in the hospital a lot, and then *Sports Illustrated* wrote about it. It was this amazing story because he didn’t just come one time.

“He kept visiting me. *Sports Illustrated* did this really cool article, and I thought, ‘I want to write stories like that someday.’”

Currently an LSU football and baseball beat writer for *The Advocate* in Baton Rouge, the 28-year-old Vann remembers her time as a Bearcat with great fondness.

“Friday nights in Aledo — there’s nothing like it,” Vann said. “One thing that stands out to me was when I was going through cancer treatment, one of the cheerleaders asked what my favorite color was. I said light blue, and she told everyone to wear light blue for Leah, and it was when we were playing in the playoffs.

“I remember getting pictures from the pep rally all day of people wearing light blue for me, and then I heard about it on the radio when I was listening to the playoff game that night.”

A roundabout trip

Vann, who briefly played volleyball and also ran track at AHS, first became interested in journalism in high school, but took a rather circuitous journey to becoming a reporter for a daily newspaper.

Vann said her mother thought she as “too smart” to be a sports journalist, so she decided initially to major in biology at the University of Texas at Austin.

“I thought, ‘well, I just survived cancer, so I should probably be a doctor,’” Vann said. “But then I started working for the student newspaper my junior year, and I fell in love with it. It was exactly what I had been wanting to do, and I was tired of putting myself through pre-med classes that I’d work hard at, but didn’t really feel like my heart was in.”

Her senior year at UT-Austin, she took a sports journalism class and had a couple of online articles published.

“My professor told me ‘you need to apply to any small-town newspaper that will take you,’” Vann said. “So I sent out applications all over the country. I probably sent out 150 applications.”

It was a small paper in Mason City, Iowa called the *Mason City Globe Gazette* that gave Vann her start.

“When you move from Austin to Mason City, Iowa, people think you’re pretty freaking nuts,” Vann said. “But the thing is that I really loved it. I covered sports for 23 high schools. I covered junior college sports, and dirt track racing and old-people bowling. You name it, and I covered it. It was a blast, but I knew I was meant for something more, plus I had all these clips published.”

Vann then went to work for the *Steamboat Pilot & Today* in Steamboat Springs, Colorado and became their sports editor and photographer.

Back to school

Vann then decided to take a break and return to school, earning a masters degree in journalism from



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEAH VANN

Aledo alum Leah Vann sits in the dugout at the Men’s College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

Northwestern University in Chicago in 2020.

“I wanted the connections and to network,” Vann said about attending Northwestern. “And I wanted to work for a major outlet covering a major college football team and eventually the NFL.”

The only job she could find after graduation, however, was back in Iowa, but this time, it was for a bigger paper in Iowa City, a college town, where she got her first taste of covering NCAA Division I college football.

“I covered all of the offseason and four regular season games for the Iowa Hawkeyes before I got the call from *The Baton Rouge Advocate*,” Vann said.

That was in October of 2021.

A learning experience

In sports journalism, Vann said she has found a venue that allows her satisfy her inquisitive nature and share what she has learned with other people.

“I love to write, and it’s a great opportunity to meet people, get to know them and tell their stories,”

Vann said. “I also feel like you are constantly learning as a journalist. Someone once told me that when you’re in journalism, you never stop being a student, and I think that is very real. As someone who really enjoys school, I loved the idea of researching, finding something out, and then trying to convey it in a way that people understand.

“I also love the way that other people shape your story. When

you’re trying to get know somebody and, say your profiling an athlete, these are really passionate people, and I’m a passionate person. So I often find that I am inspired by the people I get to write about.”

These days, she is writing about the LSU Tigers baseball team, which recently won a national championship.

Vann just returned from Omaha, Nebraska, where she wrapped up a 2023 season in which she attended and covered 66 of LSU’s 71 games.

“I go to every single conference game, including away games,” Vann said. “So I’m driving to Tuscaloosa, to Oxford, to Starkville. Last year I flew to Fayetteville, Arkansas. This

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JOHN BALLANCE/THE ADVOCATE

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BEARCATS

from page one

3-5A Division I, which meant the Bearcats weren't favored to win their district for the first time in well more than a decade.

Of course, Aledo did win district and enters the 2023 campaign with a national-record 111-game district winning streak. This includes a 35-21 victory at Ryan last season.

To win another district championship, however, the Bearcats are going to have get past Burleson Centennial, ranked 13th in the state, and Ryan, No. 15. Both of those matchups will be in Aledo this season.

"Our district is really tough. Ryan was disappointed in how their season ended last year. They expected to meet us in the fourth round," Jones said. "They have a lot of young talent. We saw those young guys last year and they're only getting better."

"Centennial lost a lot, but they reload that triple-option offense. It's a system."

The Bearcats defeated Centennial twice last season, 64-21 in Burleson in the regular season and 42-21 in the Region I final. Those were the Spartans' only losses in a 12-2 campaign.

In addition to having two state-ranked teams in their district, the Bearcats will open the season against a pair of state powers - the only two teams to defeat them in last season's 14-2 record. They host four-time defending Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division 1 state champion Dallas Parish Episcopal, preseason No. 1 among TAPPS large schools. They then travel to Denton Guyer, No. 9 in Class 6A.

On the national scale, Aledo is No. 53, according to MaxPreps. Guyer is No. 58 and Episcopal is No. 62.

Preseason All-State

Two Bearcats earned preseason Class

5A All-State accolades from the magazine.

Fresh off of being named the Class 5A Division I state championship game MVP, quarterback Hauss Hejny was honored on the offense. The TCU commit rushed 10 times for 142 yards and two touchdowns and completed 11 of 14 passes for 176 yards and two more TD in the state final. In all, he rushed for 1,276 yards and 15 TD while throwing for 2,092 yards and 20 scores with just seven interceptions during the season.

Keys led the team with 102.5 tackles, including 82 solo, along with 8.5 for a loss and an

interception returned 73 yards for a touchdown. He also recovered three fumbles and forced three.

Elsewhere around the area

As for other area football teams, the Brock Eagles are preseason ranked No. 2 in Class 3A Division I and the favorites to win District 4-3A Division I. Also, the Weatherford Kangaroos are picked fifth in District 3-6A.

The Eagles, coached by former Aledo assistant Billy Mathis, are coming off of an 11-5 season that saw them rebound from an 0-4 start to reach the state championship game. They finished second in the state to Franklin, falling 17-14 on a last-season field goal. Brock returns seven offensive and seven defensive starters.

Weatherford narrowly missed the playoffs last season, finishing 7-3. The Kangaroos return five offensive and five defensive starters.

The Peaster Greyhounds (3-7 last season) are picked sixth in 4-3A Division I and the Willow Park Trinity Christian Eagles (1-9) are predicted to finish fifth in TAPPS Division 3 District 1. The Greyhounds bring back seven offensive and eight defensive starters and the Eagles return nine offensive and seven defensive.

PARKER COUNTY

Fireworks and Fun

By Ashlyn Poole
The Community News

Beginning in the sunlight with festivities and ending with fireworks at dark, the cities of Hudson Oaks and Weatherford each hosted their annual Fourth of July events, free to the public.

Hudson Oaks' annual Boomin' 4th Independence Day event involved live entertainment with the band Party Machine, whose

music could be streamed from any device throughout the performance. Boomin' 4th also had a food court, a kid's zone and fireworks exploding over the top of Gene Voyles Park to end the American holiday.

Weatherford's traditional Spark in the Park welcomed thousands of people with live music from singer-songwriter Chris Colston and three-time Grammy nominee Pat Green, along with local food trucks,

sponsor booths, and waterslides. The family-fun evening ended with one of the largest firework shows in North Texas and was visible miles away from the launch site in Heritage Park.

Visit *The Community News'* website for special video coverage of both events.

BOOMIN' 4TH PHOTOS BY MADISON SCOTT

SPARK IN THE PARK PHOTOS BY ASHLYN POOLE



A spectacular fireworks show ended the evening at Spark in the Park.



Chris Colston was one of the performers at Spark in the Park, where Pat Green was the headliner.



Chase Hukill sports patriotic colors at Boomin' 4th in Hudson Oaks on July 4.



Spark in the Park provided a safe, family-friendly activity for July 4.

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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

Senate passes tax bill as second special session begins



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Senate on the first day of the Legislature's second special session unanimously passed a tax bill last Wednesday that increases the homestead exemption and includes a pay hike for teachers, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The first special session ended with the Senate and House unable to agree on how to provide property tax relief.

The Senate bill provides a \$2,000 pay increase for teachers in urban districts over the next two years, and a \$6,000 hike for teachers in rural areas. It increases the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan are set to meet in an attempt to come to agreement on the property tax issue, after Patrick texted the best way to resolve debt differences between House and Senate versions would be to meet face-to-face.

"They have responded; we're looking forward to a meeting... Whenever that is, I believe we can get this resolved quickly," Patrick told the Statesman.

During the first special session, the House passed its version of a property tax package on the first day and immediately adjourned for the remainder of the 30-day session.

Three die daily in state due to drunk driving

Officials with the Texas Department of Transportation are again urging Texans to drive sober, as drunk driving deaths increased again last year to 1,162 — an average of more than three people a day. The agency is spearheading a Faces of Drunk Driving campaign, highlighting families whose lives have been adversely

affected by a drunk driver, such as Monse Montoya, who lost her mother and father when a drunk driver ran a stop sign and T-boned her parents' car.

Last year, 26% of all traffic deaths in Texas involved a drunk driver.

"Numbers can sometimes feel abstract," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "But these are real people whose lives were either lost or forever altered by someone's decision to drink and drive."

Weevils making positive impact on giant salvinia

Giant salvinia presents a major threat to Texas lakes, forming dense carpets of foliage on water surfaces that can expand very rapidly and make boating, fishing and swimming nearly impossible. Now, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists say there are encouraging signs that giant salvinia weevils are effective in controlling the invasive species.

Giant salvinia invaded Texas waters in 1998 in the Houston area. It was found in Toledo Bend Reservoir later that year.

It is now found on 36 Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks and marshes. With the spread to more lakes in recent years, TPWD has worked to attempt to establish weevil populations in colder portions of the state while continuing stockings to augment or rebuild existing populations in areas more hospitable to weevils.

The weevils are more tolerant of low temperatures than previously believed, according to TPWD, and continue to be effective at reducing the spread of giant salvinia.

Boaters are urged to clean, drain and dry boats and gear before traveling from lake to lake in order to prevent the spread of all invasive plant species.

SNAP benefits for storm victims

Victims of the mid-June storms that caused numerous power outages and subsequent food losses can apply for replacement benefits through the



Solar power station near Lake Stamford in north central Texas with lots of blue sky above rows of solar panels.

RICHARD LEWIS MOREDOC / SHUTTERSTOCK

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in a dozen Texas counties.

Those counties include Camp, Cass, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Morris, Ochiltree, Panola, Titus, Upshur, and Wood.

"For families that have been impacted by the recent storms, these replacement food benefits will help provide some peace of mind," said Michelle Alletto, with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

SNAP recipients with food lost or destroyed during the storms can apply by July 14 by dialing 2-1-1 and selecting option 8.

New law could boost student math skills

A new Texas law recently signed by Gov. Greg Abbott requires school districts and charter schools to automatically enroll fifth graders who score in the top 40% on state math tests to be placed in advanced math classes, KUT reported. The result could be more equitable access to advanced math classes, advocates say.

"This will have a huge impact," Kristen Hengtgen, a senior policy analyst with The Education Trust, said. "The sheer numbers of students who will be identified for advanced math in Texas and in the country is so exciting."

The Education Trust is a non-profit that promotes education equity.

Parents will be able to opt their children out from advanced math classes if they wish.

During heat wave, solar power crucial to grid

The "heat dome" that settled over much of the state during June has pushed electrical demand to new highs. One key component in keeping the grid from overloading is the increase in solar panels, which have grown more than sixfold since 2019, according to the Texas Tribune.

Solar power recently provided nearly 20% of the state's power grid needs. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas reported 16,800 megawatts of solar power could be produced on the state's grid as of the end of May. That compares to 2,600 megawatts in 2019.

"The solar we've added in the last year has been tremendously beneficial, and the solar we will continue to add will also be beneficial," said Michael Webber, an energy resources professor at the University of Texas at Austin. "Solar is such a boon for us for grid reliability."



Read this story online

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.

Thistles&Roses

Summertime is a good time to help those in need



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

Summertime and the Living is Easy. (From the opera Porgy and Bess by Ira and George Gershwin)

Well, it is summer time here in Parker County but, the living is not so easy for some folks.

I recently spoke with Traci Markwardt, Executive Director of the Center of Hope in Weatherford, to ask how things were going at the Center. I had seen multiple media reports that charity giving was down nearly four percent nationwide in 2022, 10% when adjusted for inflation. It was the fourth time in 40 years for such a decrease.

Markwardt told me that their in-kind giving was up slightly and that donations were about the same for 2023 so far. Sales at the Hope Chest, their upscale resale shop, are about even. The

overall number of services the Center provides is impressive, to say the least

She also reported that demand has increased for 2023. The Center has received 15,000 visits through June, an increase of 35% over 2022. In a typical year, there is an increase of 18% of new families. This year, that number has doubled to 36%.

She reports that food assistance is up 40% with 17,300 individuals receiving groceries through their food pantry, and the Center has served 18,800 meals in their dining room which is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday. All are served meals who want them. Local churches and organizations help prepare the meals. She also reports that, with inflation, food costs are up 12-17%.

The Center offers more services including dental, medical, utilities, and professional counseling. That demand is up 19% for 2023.

All of these numbers are for the first six months of the year. It's a long time until December!

Markwardt says that the summer is a most difficult time as donations of cash and in-kind to the food pantry slow down. The

schools are not open for lunch and there has been a cut back of funding because of government cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.

The Center helps by providing summer camps, called Camp Hope, to kids where they are taught to prepare meals and then given ingredients to take home and prepare a meal at home. There are 11 such camps held in low income neighborhoods. The children get fresh produce and proteins.

One cost-cutting measure is a collaboration with the Parker County Hospital District. The Center was sending clients to expensive clinics. Now the Center has a telediagnostic medical clinic inside the Center where patients are seen for half the cost.

I asked her how they were avoiding a deficit in the face of so much demand and price increases. She said emphatically that God and this community have taken care of the Center for 25 years, and she does not fear a shortfall. She said their diversified areas of funding (no government funds), including grants, support from

60 churches, 65 businesses, and multiple individuals in the Parker County Community, help meet their needs. That the Center is meeting serving so many people in need with all of these challenges is a true statement of their faith.

How can you and I help? You can visit their website www.centerofhopetx.com and you will see many ways to contribute. You can go to your pantry and find some groceries, or go to the store and buy some, and take them to the Center at 1318 Clear Lake Road in Weatherford. You can donate on-line or mail a check. You can volunteer. You can go on a shopping spree at the Hope Chest and find some bargains. You can look around your house and see what you could donate for them to sell. You can hold a food drive in your church, neighborhood, or other organization.

But do something now, so that the summer time can be a little bit easier for folks in need.

Richard Henderson is a local resident who practices law and helps rescue unwanted animals.



Read this story online

FOOD BANK

TAFB West holding second annual fundraiser

Peaches in the Warehouse

Staff Report

The Community News

The Tarrant Area Food Bank West will host its second annual signature fundraiser, Peaches in the Warehouse, from 5:30-7 p.m. on Friday, July 7, at the food bank, which is located at 112 Winners Circle in Weatherford. It is combining the celebration of Parker County peaches with fighting hunger and benefiting TAFB West.

Guests will travel on a self-guided, progressive food experience through the Tarrant Area Food Bank West to learn more about the need in the community, the role that the food bank plays in being "More than Food" and how they can be a part of fighting hunger.

Attendees will walk around TAFB West, stopping at four different stations, at their own pace. At each station, a unique dish is served with Parker County peaches as the integral ingredient to showcase the flavor of the peach itself.

TAFB representatives will be available at each station to share more about the special program or need TAFB has. In the Volunteer Center, there will be tables and refreshments (including a signature peach cocktail) and a display of five luxurious raffle packages.

The Tarrant Area Food Bank West has seen their shelves empty at times, given so many factors as to why government and store donations have been in decline recently. Tarrant Area Food Bank West has struggled to maintain the necessary food inventory to support of over

60-plus partner agencies that distribute food in the seven counties that the TAFB West satellite location supports, and its own food distributions from TAFB West Community Market.

Government and retail food donations and financial support have been in decline. Fundraisers like Peaches in the Warehouse provide a direct investment back into feeding their communities from the tickets sold.

Sponsors for the event include:

- Brookshire's - Mission Kitchen
 - Tri-County Electric - Mission Market
 - Parker County Hospital District - R.E.D. Bus
 - Paschall Insurance - TAFB West Gardens
- To donate, visit www.tafb.org/donate



COLLEGE

from page one

The college plans to continue operating Canyon West as a golf course, retaining its current members and remaining open to the public. It will also benefit the college with room for potential instructional programs in turf management, culinary arts and others.

WC will use the course's pavilion and clubhouse for special events and other uses. The college's men's golf team and women's golf team (added for 2023-24) will also utilize the course.

"Nancy and Richard Stuart have already helped countless WC students make a better life for themselves and their families," said WC President Tod Allen Farmer. "This transformational gift will support new and existing academic, workforce and athletic programs for generations to come."

The Stuarts are among the most generous donors in Weatherford College history, giving to support scholarships, artificial turf for softball and baseball, Steinway pianos and other projects. WC's softball facility, Stuart Field, is named in



CANYON WEST WEBSITE

Canyon West Golf Club may soon belong to Weatherford College as a gift from Richard and Nancy Stuart.

their honor, and Nancy Stuart serves as vice president of the WC Foundation.

"We are very pleased to help Weatherford College in this way," Nancy Stuart said. "We think this

will enhance the college's programs and put WC on an even higher level."

Additional material was added to the press release by staff from The Community News.

COUNCIL

from page one

County Library for the purpose of merging the library into the city.

Once the project is completed, a future Aledo police department could be housed on the back side of the building, although there are no imminent plans for the city to form a department.

Simon said the area can be used for a future police department or another entity providing public safety services to the city. Aledo contracts with the Parker County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement coverage. The area set aside for law enforcement will include a gated parking area for cruisers and an entrance that is separate from the rest of city hall. Preston said the space inside the building is designed to be like a Swiss Army Knife. As the city continues to grow, areas within the building will be able to be rearranged to accommodate changing needs of the community. If the police department requires

its own facility in the future, the vacated space can be utilized for something else without undergoing a significant construction project or costing taxpayers a significant amount of money.

The final order of business during the three-hour marathon session was presented by Mayor Nick Stanley. He proposed adding a second scheduled city council meeting each month as a measure to combat all the emergency meetings from the last several months and to reduce the amount of time the council spends in each meeting.

A second scheduled meeting will benefit members of the council with consistency in their schedule. It will also provide city employees with an opportunity to establish a routine with their preparation for each meeting, which is presently lacking as they must prepare for emergency meetings.

Members of the council were receptive to adding a second meeting each month, though no official decisions were made during the June meeting.



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In & Around Parker County

CALL ON ATEX TRASH SERVICE

Atex Trash Service is a locally owned, family owned business that prides itself on excellent service for an affordable price. After 11 years in business, Atex Trash Service is building an outstanding reputation as a company that is truly here to build something simply by helping others, and it is that hometown business model philosophy that has quickly made them one of the fastest growing businesses in the community.

"We work hard to take good care of our customers and we are committed to building our business with sound principles and ethics in mind," said Tim Green, one of the owners. "We strive to be a helpful and positive influence in the community, to be fair and honest in our business practices and to always make our decisions based on what is in the best interest of our customers, our employees and the community while maintaining a healthy company."

Many of us are cutting back, and being careful about what we spend in this economy. We want to save money on household necessities, but when it comes to services around our home, we don't want to sacrifice our peace of mind to save a few dollars. We want our service providers to be honest and dependable, worthy of our trust.

Billy Green is that kind of man, and he raised his son, Tim,

to treat others with respect. He encouraged and developed Tim's heart of service. Watching his father, Tim had an example of great moral character and strong work ethic. Together they are a glowing example of honesty, reliability and self-sacrifice. When you have the opportunity to visit with them, you instantly feel at ease. Their positive attitudes are contagious, and you will leave with a smile.

Together, Billy and Tim started Atex Trash Service as a way for them to serve their community - their neighbors. Being able to make a living serving others is a dream come true for Tim. Atex Trash Service has been helping area residents save money on their residential trash pick-up since July 2010. Tim and Billy Green are the dynamic duo of father and son teams, proving that you can provide Superior Quality Service at the Lowest Price.

Atex provides weekly trash pick-up for a flat rate of \$35 a month for their standard service.

"We realize however, not every family's needs are the same," said Tim, "We are able to customize plans for smaller and for larger families." They serve Parker, Tarrant, and Wise County areas

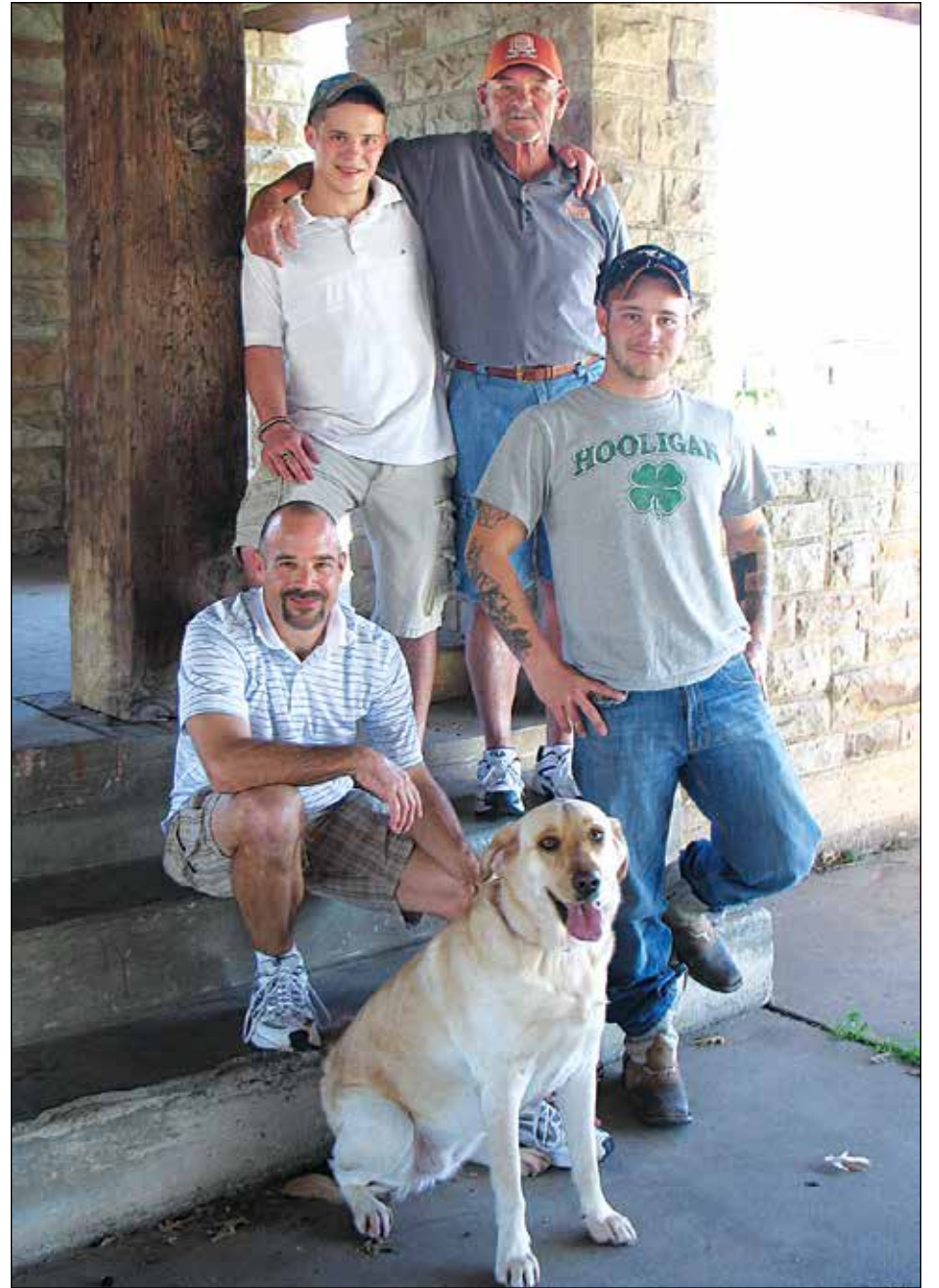
outside of Azle, Springtown, Weatherford, Poolville and Aledo, and the area continues to grow! Just call and see if they can help you. Since they are a local, family-owned company, you know who will answer the phone when you call. Tim and Billy are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and later if you need them. Just call 817-344-8464.

You can also contact Atex through their website 24 hours a day at www.atextrash.com. It's an easy-to-navigate website where you can contact Tim, sign up for new service, and even securely pay your bill online. You can also see what others have to say on their Testimonial Page or look them up on Facebook.

Operating this business means the whole family can work together! Tim's sons Laken and Gaige have grown up, and they're now the third generation with Atex helping to take care of the community.

"I'm happiest when I am doing for others," said Tim, "and to be able to build something positive with my family, well, I simply couldn't ask for anything more."

Give Atex a call and see how they can help you. You'll be glad you did!



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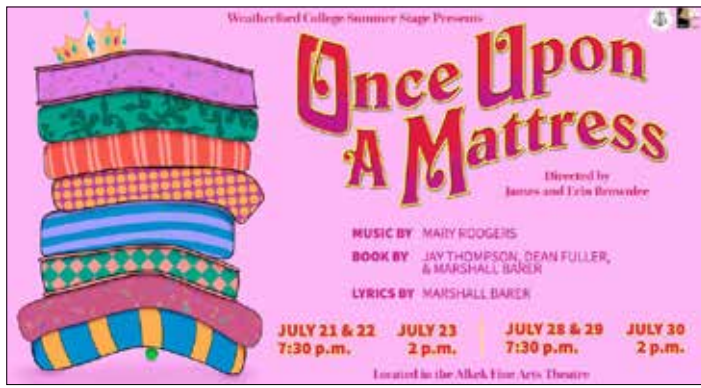
Events

July 7, 2023
 THE COMMUNITY NEWS
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More events can be found at www.community-news.com/calendar



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



JULY 21 - 30
Once Upon A Mattress
 Weatherford College 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 20. Tickets are \$10. For more information and to purchase visit <https://weatherfordcollege.simplertix.com/>



JULY 22
PCCOA Summer Carnival
 Parker County Senior Center will have a Summer Carnival for the whole family from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 22. There will be live music, food, games, bounce houses, a petting zoo, face painting and more. Proceeds benefitting Parker County Meals on Wheels & Senior Center. Tickets for games and activities may be purchased at the Carnival. For more information contact 817-596-4640.

ACROSS

- chewy movie candy
- TXism: "get your ducks in _____" annually
- Austin has "Art-O-_____" annually
- Palestine AM radio
- TX Willie's is 90
- chicken fried steak & Bar-B-Q in Texas
- Rockport is "where the fun never _____"
- TXism for "mean man" (2 wds.)
- TX Kenny Rogers' "Love or Something Like _____" (1978)
- TX Buck Owens' "I've _____ Tiger By the Tail" (1964)
- a player for the Spurs or Cowboys
- _____ Brothers Band" recorded "Down in Texas '71" directed by TX King Vidor: " _____ Passage" (1940)
- TXism: "news wrangler" (abbr.)
- select
- TXism for "old man" rub out writing
- TXism: "lit out for _____" (departed)
- TX Tanya's 1st hit: " _____ Dawn"
- U.S. Army post in San Antonio: " _____ Houston"
- Houston's Olajuwon initials, before "Hakeem"

DOWN

- TXism: " _____ the bottom of a well"
- easternmost city in Texas
- TXism: "Sunday go _____ clothes"
- TX Steve Forrest old TV series
- city that put Cowboys out of playoffs in 2023 (abbr.)
- TXism for "miser"
- Pecos AM radio
- this Cesar made Astros 40-man roster in 2023
- TXism: " _____ a skunk" (intoxicated)
- seeing organ
- TXism: "brains _____ box" (computer)
- TXism: "dot _____ and cross the T's"
- opposite of "anode"
- Jewish snack food
- TX-born Roddenberry wrote script for 1971 film "Pretty Maids All in _____"
- Incavaglia who played for Rangers & Astros
- rented
- "each" abbr.
- oil or gas additive
- Ozona newspaper
- "Deaf" Smith's given name
- TXism: "he could _____ eagle"
- snuggle
- summer necessity in Texas (abbr.)
- TX Lucy, the original Southern Belle (init.)
- Texas singer "Meat _____"
- sullen, sulky
- _____ dog (homeless)
- snuggle
- TX Ely who was TV's "Tarzan"
- TXism: " _____ many irons in the fire"
- "Star Trek" fan
- TX Steve Miller's "Living in the _____"
- Fort Worth "Coliseum" name before it was "Cowtown" (2 wds.)
- pool hall shout: " _____ em"
- "oh dear" (hyph.)
- Beatty of "Big Bad John" with TX Deane
- poker stakes
- Houston's 2nd wife, Rogers

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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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, with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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EXHIBIT A
 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

TAKE NOTICE the City Council of the City of Aledo, Texas, shall convene at 6:00 o'clock P.M. on the 24th day of August, 2023, at the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation in a principal amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) designing, constructing, acquiring, improving and equipping a city hall housing public safety facilities, municipal court facilities, library facilities, administrative offices for the city's street and water and sewer utility departments, city council chambers and facilities for various other governmental functions of the City (and any necessary or related removal of existing facilities) and (ii) professional services rendered in connection with such projects and the financing thereof, and such certificates shall be payable from ad valorem taxes and a limited pledge of the net revenues of the City's combined Waterworks and Sewer System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$18,515,000; (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$37,856,956.31; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$4,498,375.00; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is August 15, 2057. The above information excludes \$14,025,000 in principal amount of outstanding debt obligations the City has designated as self supporting which the City reasonably expects to pay from revenue sources other than ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that in the event such self-supporting revenue sources are insufficient to pay debt service, the City is obligated to levy ad valorem taxes to pay such debt obligations.

Deana McMullen
 City Secretary
 City of Aledo, Texas

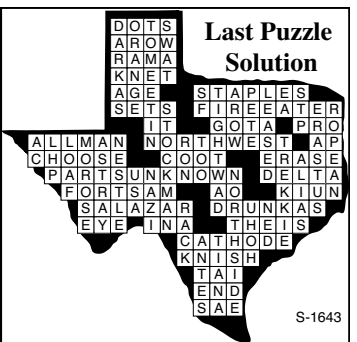
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SUMMER TRACK

**Mach I leads way at
association meet**

Qualifies 23 for regionals

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Continuing a tradition of great summer performances, the Mach I Track Club qualified 23 athletes from the recent USA Track and Field association meet in Arlington to the regional meet going on at Clark Stadium in Fort Worth at press time.

The top eight finishers in each event at association competition qualified for regionals. From there, the top five in each event will move on to nationals in Eugene, Oregon the final week of July.

"It was really crazy because of rain delays," Mach I coach Lupe Torres said of the association meet.

In all, Mach I runners captured nine gold medals, five silver and four bronze.

Leading the way was Gannon Dolan with a pair of gold medals in the Boys 15-16 1500-meter and 3000-meter runs. Dolan won a national championship and set a national record last season in winning the 3000 in the Boys 13-14 division with a time of 8 minutes, 59 seconds. His time at association this year was 9:18.90.

Also winning two gold medals was Ty Williams in the Boys 13-14 800 and 1500, along with a silver medal in the 3000. Gannon's younger brother, Malachi, won gold in the Boys 8-Under 1500 and 800.

Also at the meet, running for Athletic Performance, Aledo's Sarah Tillotson won the Girls 17-18 1500 with a time of 5:10.76 and was second in the 800 in 2:18.17.

**USA Track and Field
Association Meet**

At Arlington Sam Houston High School
June 23-24

Distances in meters

Top 8 in each event qualified for regionals
Mach I qualifiers
Boys

8-Under
800: 1. Malachi Dolan, 3:03.75.
1500: 1. Dolan, 6:13.55.

9-10
800: 8. Coy Shumar, 2:49.91.
1500: 3. Shumar, 5:52.63.

13-14
800: 1. Ty Williams, 2:07.42.
1500: 1. Williams, 4:25.71.

3000: 2. Williams, 10:05.01; 5. Josh Fink, 11:02.66; 6. Thatcher Pettit, 11:04.81.

15-16
1500: 1. Gannon Dolan, 4:12.82.
3000: 1. Dolan, 9:18.90; 5. Nico Walden, 10:11.94; 7. Aiden Lemens, 10:29.54.

17-18
800: 7. Layton Ybarra, 2:03.59.
1500: 1. Ybarra, 4:21.73; 4. Jack Fink, 4:27.56.

3000: 1. Fink, 9:20.73; 2. Ybarra, 9:22.92; 5. James Romo, 10:00.82; 8. Jacob Wolfe, 11:01.66.

2000 steeplechase: Josh Gal advanced automatically.

Girls
8-Under
800: 2. Jenna Fink, 3:26.70.
1500: 1. Fink, 7:17.50.

9-10
800: 7. Amelia Rivas, 3:56.29.
1500: 3. Rivas, 8:59.75.

11-12
1500: 3. Abigail Rivas, 6:19.74; 5. Paisley Miller, 6:38.90.

3000: 2. Miller, 13:49.08

13-14
3000: 2. Hadleigh Walton, 12:49.92; 3. McKinley Walton, 12:51.99.

15-16
1500: 8. Emerita Strathmeyer, 5:55.55.
3000: 4. Strathmeyer, 12:26.27.

17-18
800: 8. Josefina Berry, 2:37.50.

1500: 4. J. Berry, 5:52.19; 7. Carolina Berry, 6:08.29; 8. Natalia Fabian, 6:47.71.

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SUMMER GOLF

Youngsters from Aledo enjoying strong summer

Coach likes seeing year-round play

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Several young golfers from Aledo are enjoying a successful summer on the Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Tour. Bearcats and Ladycats coach Brian Mourning likes seeing the continued play throughout the year.

"Absolutely! The more tournaments the moare experience they get," Mourning said. "It's going to help them out come the fall. I want these kids to compete as much as they can. If you want to be good at golf, you've got to stay at it."

It's not only the high school players who are having success. Youths as young as 11 years old are playing well. Mourning likes seeing those future Bearcats and Ladycats in action.

"We've got some young ones who are playing great and on their way," he said. "I just want them to be careful not to get burned out. But it is great to see them loving the game so much and working hard at it - and having fun."

Summer results have included:

Squaw Creek at Willow Park Boys

- 15-18
 - 2. Dylan Kiser, 72; 6. William Kirkman, 84.
- #### Girls
- 11-12
 - 1. Ainsley Henze, 95.

- 15-18
- 2. (tie) Kyla Moralez, 80; 5. Reagan Gilliland, 84.

Rockwall Boys

- 15-18
- 1. Kiser, 71.

Grapevine Boys

- 13-14
- 4. Tyler Anderson, 81-78 = 159.

Garland Boys

- 13-14
- 5. Anderson, 88-80 = 168.

Grand Prairie Boys

- 13-14
- 7. Anderson, 83-81 = 164.

Dallas Boys

- 13-14
- 1. Braden Stokes, 74.

Dallas Girls

- 13-14
- 9. (tie) Christian Moll, 47 (nine holes).

Azle Boys

- 13-14
- 5. Pierce Russom, 112.

Burleson Girls

- 15-18
- 5. Gilliland, 89.

Fort Worth Boys

- 15-18
- 1. Gilliland, 91.

Fort Worth Girls

- 15-18
- 2. Kiser, 74; 4. Stokes, 78.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEAH VANN

Aledo alum Leah Vann sits on the field at the Men's College World Series.

VANN

from page 2

year I flew to Columbia, South Carolina. I've gone to Gainesville. I've been to pretty much every stadium in the SEC."

In just her second full year of covering LSU sports, Vann was honored by winning a national Top 10 award in the Associated Press Sports Editors Explanatory Category of the APSE's annual writing contest.

Vann was in category A, which is the highest division of publications. And the former Aledo resident is not finished.

"I feel like I'm only getting started," Vann said. "I received my first national journalism honor this year, which was kind of cool, because I

wanted to know that I am actually good at this. And I really wanted to cover a power five football team within five years of graduating college. I definitely accomplished that. Moving forward, I really want to cover something at the pro level.

"That's really my ultimate goal is whether I'm covering professional baseball or I'm covering the NFL.

Whatever puts me in a big city...that is what I want."

Looking back

The 2013 Aledo High School graduate often reflects on her days at her alma mater as the place where her passion for sports was originally nurtured and has some advice for aspiring journalists.

"Be ready to work really hard, because it's a grind," Vann said. "Everybody looks at it for the fun things that you are doing, but going to games is maybe 10 percent of the job. The other 90 percent is doing research, making phone calls, developing sources — it seems like a glorious job, but it's hard work.

"The other thing is to remember that it's not about you. A lot of people come into the industry immediately thinking they have this voice of expertise

on a team or on a game, but you must lead with humility. You have to be willing to learn about the team that you cover, and then in time, people will start to look for your opinion. It's not the other way around."



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