

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

Automated water meters on the way

Customers can monitor usage

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Water customers in the City of Aledo will soon be able to track their water usage in real time. The city has embarked on a project to install automated water meters.

"Automated water meters became a part of the conversation when we were talking about things that would make the city more efficient and ways that we could advance the city as we grow," Mayor Nick Stanley said.

Stanley said some meters in the city are decades old, and added that about 50 percent of U.S. cities now utilize automated meters.

"And so it just became one of those things, as we were talking about cost of water, transparency to the consumer, wanting people to have that ability to choose to set alerts on their phone for usage and be able to check your usage throughout the month. It became readily apparent that was something we needed to try and move to so the city council became really supportive of that idea," Stanley said.

The city conducted a pilot program with about 100 automated meters.

"That was successful and we saw good results from that. So we decided to move forward with it," Stanley added. He said it takes about 15-30 minutes to install an automated meter, and after that the meter will emit a radio signal that will allow the city to obtain readings without manually having to access each meter.

It takes the public works department about three days a month to perform meter readings throughout the city. Stanley said the saved staff time will be used on other needed projects throughout the growing city.

One advantage of the new system is that it will allow water customers to become aware earlier if they have leaks or other problems.

"You'll be able to log in — set your desired usage, and you can set alerts — the alerts for leakage I believe are automatic. But it's going to be an amazing tool for people to be able to see that progression and their uses throughout the month and really understand it," Stanley said.

Water rates in the city will not change with the implementation of the meters.

"And that ambiguity or misunderstanding of how much usage they have — that's going to be at their fingertips. I think that's empowering and I think that's going to help us a lot here in the city, both on the city side for city staff, and more importantly the residents."

Mayor Stanley's full remarks are in the video accompanying the web posting of this story.



Read this story online



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Living a dream



COURTESY OF DAYNE WEAVER

Dayne and Ashley Weaver will open Dayne's Craft Barbecue in Aledo with a target date of October. Turn to page 2 to continue reading.

WILLOW PARK

Council votes to sue water tank designer

Wastewater treatment plant to be re-bid

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Willow Park City Council voted unanimously to file a lawsuit against Half Associates, the company that designed the water line from Fort Worth to Willow Park and Hudson Oaks, at a special meeting held on Tuesday, July 18.

The lawsuit stems from an event in November of 2020, when it was discovered that the original estimated cost for the water line and associated equipment was going to be about \$6.5 million short.

The city had already procured funding from the Texas Water Development Board for the original estimate of \$13.4 million. Once Half had discovered its error, the cost shot up to \$19.9 million, leaving the city in the position of having to issue certificates of obligation to cover the difference.

The Willow Park City Council voted to issue the certificates at its Nov. 10, 2020 meeting. At that same meeting, representatives from Half explained how the error was made, and committed to working through the issue with the cities of Willow Park and Hudson Oaks.

After this week's meeting, Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes said

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ALEDO ISD

Buchanan inducted into Hall of Honor

Joins four other coaches in 63rd THSCA recognition

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

HOUSTON - A video about Tim Buchanan at Saturday night's Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) 63rd Hall of Honor induction banquet revealed the moment Buchanan found out he'd be one of five former football coaches to join the prestigious THSCA Hall of Honor in 2023.

As THSCA Executive Director Joe Martin reached out to Buchanan with the news in mid-December, Buchanan acknowledged during the surprise phone call that he was honored. But in the same breath, he told Martin he was trying to figure out a way to stop College Station's offense and score on its defense later that week as the Bearcats were slated to face the Cougars in the Class 5A Division I state championship.

Business-like, over-prepared, and focused with a healthy amount of respect for each opponent — just as he was in the previous 341 games he coached in 25 years at the helm of the Bearcats. And then, of



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Tim Buchanan is shown with his wife, Rebecca, daughter Mady, Allison Erinakes (Caleb's fiancé) and son Caleb.

course, Buchanan's Bearcats beat College Station 52-14 later that week for a UIL-program record 11th state football title.

With his eighth state title and final game coaching the Bearcats behind him, Saturday, July 15, was all about Buchanan for what many acknowledged was an overdue honor.

In front of nearly 1,000 fellow and former coaches and sports fans

from across the state — many of whom he inspired and mentored in his 40 years in the business — Buchanan was inducted into the THSCA Hall of Honor at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, joining a little more than 300 legends similarly recognized in the last six-plus decades.

Martin recalled that Buchanan had once served on the THSCA board.

"Tim obviously won a ton of games, the most state championships of anybody around. His reputation is the way that he coached his kids, the way that he acted from a professional standpoint, dealt with not only his own kids but the coaching profession. His relationship with coaches across the state is fantastic," Martin said.

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Aledo announces new Dayne's Craft Barbecue

Dayne Weaver sees dream becoming reality

By Randy Keck and Staff Reports
The Community News

The news just keeps getting better for the foodie community in east Parker County.

On the heels of recent announcements by Jake's Burgers and Press Café coming to Aledo, the city has announced that Dayne's Craft Barbecue will open in the fall in the space now occupied by Montes Burritos.

This will not be the first time barbecue has been served at that location — it was home to Jerry's BBQ in the late 1990s.

Dayne's is a Texas Monthly "Top 50 BBQ Spot." Its owners, Dayne and Ashley Weaver, currently operate out of a trailer at 9812 Camp Bowie West Boulevard. The new permanent location will give Dayne's more options and greater capacity to serve its customers.

"We're extremely excited to have a full kitchen with plenty of accommodations to do a lot of cool, fun dishes that we've always wanted to do but never had the space," Dayne was quoted in the Aledo release. "This bigger space will allow us to cook more food and serve more people at a faster rate."

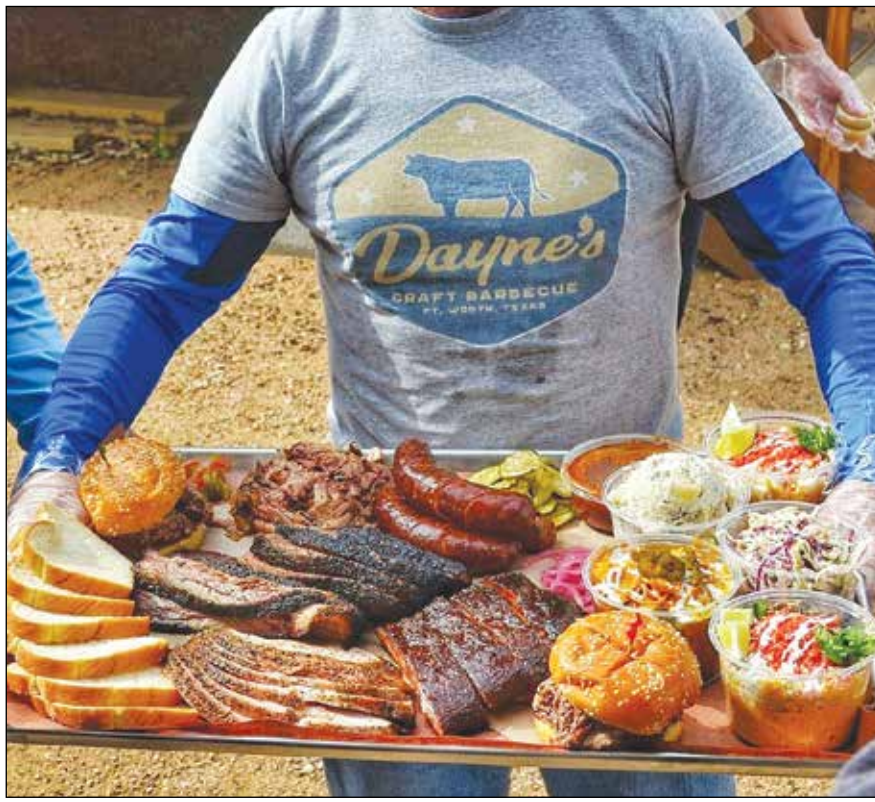
In addition to indoor dining space, the new location has 1,000 square feet of patio space and a pit area with room for three 1,000 gallon Centex smokers.

"I'm excited to welcome Dayne's to Aledo," Mayor Nick Stanley said. "Their food is outstanding and Dayne's has a wonderful and far-reaching reputation. Dayne's is a welcome addition to Aledo and their presence downtown will serve as a catalyst for our growing culinary scene."

Humble Beginnings

Dayne Weaver began his journey in Texas barbecue as a backyard smoker enthusiast. His father-in-law left a small kettle grill in his backyard in 2017, which Dayne converted into a mini-smoker. He threw a brisket on and was immediately hooked.

He began smoking meat every weekend, which turned into an



LEFT: A tray of food from Dayne's Craft Barbeque, including Prime Angus Brisket. | RIGHT: The Dayne's crew celebrates in front of a congratulatory billboard.



COURTESY OF DAYNE WEAVER

expensive hobby. Ashley, told him if he was going to continue to cook regularly, he needed to find someone to buy the food — thus "Dayne's Underground Barbecue" was born.

"It was about five years ago," Weaver said. "I probably spent about two years in the backyard dreaming about it. And finally, my wife put me on the spot, bought a big smoker for me and said, 'Hey, that thing that you won't stop talking about? Let's do it!'"

During those five years Weaver posted on social media that he would be selling meats and sides from his front yard, and the response was overwhelming; he sold out in less than an hour. He decided to hold an underground barbecue sale the last Sunday of every month. The crowd continued to grow and bring people from all over the state of Texas who wanted great barbecue — including a reporter and photographer from the Dallas Observer. Once the Observer article was released, Ashley knew that Dayne had to register his business. Encouraged by his wife, he named the brand "Dayne's Craft Barbecue."

Real Texas barbecue has always been important in Weaver's life. He comes from a long-time Fort Worth

family. His grandparents taught at Paschal High School, but Weaver saw a bit of travel growing up, as his mother was in the Air Force.

"I moved a lot as a kid. And so I lived overseas, with a lot of my childhood on military bases over in Japan, England, and then I lived in California and Colorado a little bit," Weaver said. "When you're overseas, the beef just tastes a little different. You can't get good barbecue over there. I remember being 15 and coming back to Fort Worth and getting a whole rack of ribs because I hadn't had an opportunity to get ribs in forever."

Weaver was so into barbecue that his dad would make ribs for his birthday.

Dayne's Craft Barbecue originally intended to move into a permanent location where their trailer is now, but in the end Weaver and the property owners could not come to terms.

"So we started to get a little discouraged with the situation we were in — we were hoping that they were going to be building that building out with a nice restaurant for us and that's what we were sold on. That's why we went over there," Weaver said. "So we were looking for an opportunity to do something on our own. And I

actually got a call from Joe Risky — he got me involved in this situation because I think he's a realtor on the commercial end. And so he told me about [the Aledo] opportunity. I met with them and I just fell in love with the building and the idea of making it our forever home. We've always wanted to move our family out west. But I always said I wanted to move out to Aledo and so I think God just lined everything up perfectly for us in this situation."

Weaver feels Dayne's will fit right in with Aledo's efforts to bring in unique restaurants. He has become a social media celebrity through YouTube videos he has done with Meat Church Barbecue in Waxahachie, and that may bring fans into Aledo who want some of his barbecue.

"We actually have three videos in the past year that have 1.2 million views on YouTube," Weaver said. "So we get people from out of state — from all around — that have seen these videos. And they've been dreaming of coming and trying our barbecue. So we've got thousands of people that are planning to travel to Dayne's Craft Barbecue no matter where it is. And so that's a cool thing that's going on."

Weaver plans additional videos, including instructional information on topics like how to make sausage.

"We've got a really good following that appreciates what we do," Weaver said. "And I'm really proud of that. I don't think you can find a barbecue joint that has better overall ratings on Google and Yelp and Facebook and anything you can rate somebody on. We've done a really good job of holding really good reviews and we try to treat everybody right."

Statewide Notoriety

Dayne's Craft Barbecue received a boost when it was named a "Top 50 BBQ Spot" by Texas Monthly magazine. Weaver said that honor came about when he was still working full time and serving barbecue every Saturday at a bar in Fort Worth called Lola's.

"I just committed to, 'hey, I'm gonna put out this awesome barbecue menu and every single Saturday, no matter what, we're going to be there. And we're going to be doing it.' And after about a year of doing that, the Texas Monthly barbecue editor came and ate our food — that was early 2020, actually, right before the pandemic. And then it just took off from

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HONOR

from page one

“His impact on high school athletics, when he took the Aledo job, it was a terrible job. They were absolutely terrible, and he turned it into something that it is today. It is phenomenal. That is something that no one else has been able to do. He went from nothing to a lot, stayed there and created a dynasty. He did it through hard work, having really good coaches and those coaches doing the right things by their kids,” Martin added.

“To be honored in this way by my peers in Texas high school football and coaching is one of the greatest accomplishments of my career,” Buchanan said. “And to look out into that room and see all of my family and friends and fellow coaches from Aledo and other stops in my coaching career made it even more special. This will be a night I will cherish forever; I am so appreciative of the THSCA for this recognition.”

Recalling that Aledo had its challenges when he was hired (he was the fifth coach in four years), Buchanan spoke of why he and his wife Rebecca chose Aledo.

“Very seldom do good jobs come open,” Buchanan said. “Typically, if a job is open there is something wrong with it. Aledo was a place that had been successful back in the 1970s; we felt it was a place where we could go and start a family and build a program. You go looking for a great place to build a family — Aledo was that place. We were very fortunate to be able to hire some really good assistant coaches, get kids that really worked hard and go through a heck of a program.”

Buchanan also noted that Aledo was ready to work hard to achieve their goals when he arrived.

Some of Buchanan’s former players were in the audience at the induction.

“There are quite a few of them here tonight,” Buchanan said. “That is why we do this. It is about kids. When I got ready to retire, people asked me what I would miss the most. ‘Are you going to miss the coaches’ — I said no. I can go see the coaches anytime I want. I said that I am going to miss the kids. It is the real reason that you do this.”

Buchanan noted that some of his former players are now in their 50s.

“We had a group meeting with our 1998 state championship team — the first one we had in Aledo — and we were talking and I told them that they are five years older than I was when we won our first championship,” Buchanan said.

“The unique thing about Aledo is everyone is an overachiever,” Buchanan said. “It doesn’t matter if you are a great student; if you are an A-plus student, you wanted to be an A-plus-plus. If they were a C student, they wanted to be a B. If they were a football player that ran a 5 flat (in the 40 yard dash), they wanted to run in the 4s. If they ran a 4.4 they wanted to run a 4.3. It was that way across the board. It doesn’t matter if it is band, football, basketball, baseball, one act play, UIL academics — the community is made up of people who want you to work their kids. 98 percent of the community want you to work their kids and that is what kept me there for 30 years.”

He also stressed the importance of being able to teach.

“When I got to be a head coach, when we went out and started searching for assistant coaches, we looked for good teachers,” Buchanan said. “If you can’t teach in the classroom, you dang sure can’t teach on the football field, basketball court, tennis court, or

baseball field. So we looked for good teachers. If you look at the majority of our coaches they are math, science, history, and English. There were very few PE teachers on our coaching staff. That right there was number one. You had to be a good teacher to be a good coach in the state of Texas. Then you have to be willing to work. We pay a little bit better today but when I first started in 1983 — I made one dollar a day and that didn’t include Saturday. That equated to \$171 for coaching. You don’t do it for the money, you do it because you love kids, competition, and you like seeing how you can help kids.”

Buchanan was one of five former football coaches in the THSCA’s Hall of Honor Class of 2023. Inducted alongside Buchanan were:

- Retired Houston North Shore coach David Aymond,
- Former Hereford High School and panhandle-area coach and athletics director Don Cumpton,
- Longtime San Antonio Warren High School football coach and current Trinity University assistant coach Bryan Dausin, and
- Former Kemp High School and Brenham High School head football coach and current assistant executive director of the THSCA Glen West.

Buchanan amassed a 281-58-3 record as a head coach, all at Aledo. Buchanan’s eight state championships ranks him tied for second all-time in Texas with G.A. Moore, who won eight state titles at Pilot Point and Celina; they’re behind Carthage’s Scott Surratt and Gordon Wood (Brownwood/Stamford), who each have nine. His impact was felt way beyond wins, losses and state titles, though.

“It was a wonderful night to celebrate Coach Buchanan as he is so deserving of this honor,” Aledo ISD



MERCEDES MAYER/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Texas High School Coaches Association Board of Directors President Lee Wiginton from Allen presents a plaque commemorating Tim Buchanan’s induction into the THSCA Hall of Honor in Houston on July 15.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. “What he has meant to not only our football program and athletics department but also our community is immeasurable. You just don’t find the kind of loyalty and dedication to one program or one school very often anymore. We are so fortunate that Coach Buc chose Aledo and spent three decades inspiring our student-athletes to be their very best.”

In addition to the video of Buchanan’s surprise phone call from Martin, Buchanan was featured in a video summarizing his career that included interviews with THSCA Hall of Honor member Ross Rogers who Buchanan coached under at A&M Consolidated early in his career.

Rogers saw back then that Buchanan was something special,

saying in the video, “Tim was the whole package; he knew how to handle the kids,” Rogers said. “He knew when to be tough and when to pat them on the back. He brought the whole package.”

After the video, Buchanan was interviewed on stage by Texas high school football guru and announcer Craig Way and officially inducted and presented with a wooden plaque by THSCA Board of Directors President Lee Wiginton from Allen.

“Being a coach and being called coach to me is a badge of honor,” Buchanan said in the video. “It’s one of the most honorable things you can do.”



Read this story online

DAYNE

from page 2

there, we just kept going after it. And they ended up naming us one of the top 50 in the state,” Weaver said.

Weaver got the food trailer in 2021, and first served three days a week. That expanded to four days, but Weaver is looking forward to serving all wee at the Aledo location.

“We’ve always been restricted by having a food trailer,” Weaver said. The same spot where we serve all of

our food is where we have to cook all the food — we operate out of a commissary kitchen. So what we can do is really limited. If we sell out of something, it’s not like we can just whip it up real fast. Because I mean, we basically close the kitchen down of the food truck, and now it’s a service line, you know, and so, and there’s only so much that we can do in there. So we’re really excited to have some more space.”

Dayne’s will continue to operate from its truck until the brick-and-mortar restaurant in Aledo is ready.

Weaver anticipates that will be about October.

In addition to building a pit room, there will be extensive work on the outside of the building, including a 1,000-square-foot patio.

The menu will remain the same, with both indoor and covered outdoor seating available. That menu includes traditional barbecue like Prime Black Angus Brisket and pork spareribs to more specialty items like bacon brisket and homemade sausage.

“Having a restaurant is going to give us the ability to do stuff like

breakfast, is going to give us the ability to open into the evening,” Weaver said. “When we start we will be open five days a week for lunch. And then we’ll start adding breakfast as we get staff that can keep up with what we’re doing.”

But the plans don’t stop there. Weaver envisions later dinner hours, and perhaps a once-a-month elevated dinner where the staff can get more creative (and have more fun).

“This building is going to give us the ability to open more hours, serve more people, serve people faster,

serve people better,” Weaver said. “So that’s something I definitely want people to understand and know, because the amount of revenue we do out of a food truck is pretty impressive right now, and we’re just capped at what we can do. And so we’re really excited to be able to spread our wings a bit and have some more room and just do all the things that we’ve always thought about doing and dreamed about doing.”

For more information, visit daynescraftbarbecue.com.

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

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Capital Highlights

Tax-relief plan headed to governor



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Proponents are calling it the "biggest property tax cut in Texas history." Both chambers of the Texas Legislature passed an \$18 billion package during the second special session, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

If signed as expected by Gov. Greg Abbott, the bill raises the homestead exemption to \$100,000, with an additional \$40,000 exemption for owners 65 and older. It also dedicates more than \$12 billion to lower school property taxes.

Agreement on a tax cut plan took months of haggling between competing plans in the House and Senate. After House Speaker Dade Phelan and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick met, a plan began to fall into place.

"I thank my partners in the Texas Legislature for coming together to honor the best interests of hardworking Texans who want to own their property—not rent it from the government," Abbott said in a statement following the passage of the tax plan.

The Legislature adjourned after passage of the bill in the House. Another special session is likely in the fall to address Abbott's bid to enact a school voucher plan.

Abbott aide named interim attorney general

A longtime aide to Abbott was named as the second interim attorney general, replacing John Scott, who served in the

role a little more than a month. Angela Colmenero has been serving as Abbott's deputy chief of staff. Previously she worked in the attorney general's office for nearly a decade.

"John Scott faithfully executed his duties as the interim Attorney General of Texas, and I thank him for his leadership in stepping up to serve his fellow Texans in this role," Abbott said.

Ken Paxton was suspended from that position after being impeached on 20 counts by the House and awaits a trial in the Senate on Sept. 5.

Scott told the *Texas Tribune* that he will "return to working as a consultant, attorney and board member for a broad variety of companies." He previously served as Abbott's secretary of state before returning to the private sector.

Second heat wave means record demand on grid

The second heat wave of the summer means the state's power grid is breaking records for demand almost daily, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas is forecasting several thousand megawatts of excess supply, with demand late last week exceeding 84,000 megawatts. ERCOT manages the power grid serving about 90% of the state, except for part of East Texas and the El Paso area.

Excessive heat warnings have been issued for much of the state, with heat index values topping 117 degrees around the Houston area. Much of the state is also experiencing triple-digit temperatures with high humidity.

The latest heat wave is baking much of the Southwest, with all-time record highs expected in Phoenix, Las Vegas and Palm Springs, California.

Drought conditions expected to expand

A hotter and drier June for much of the state means 45% of the state may slip back into drought conditions, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of June, about a fourth of the state was in drought, a marked reduction from winter conditions, thanks to ample rainfall.

"The latest seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service anticipates that drought will expand to cover most of central, southern, and West Texas by the end of September," Wentzel wrote.

However, the recent switch to El Niño weather conditions typically bring cooler and wetter-than-normal conditions this fall and winter.

First case of West Nile virus reported this year

Public health officials have confirmed the state's first case of West Nile virus, occurring in Dallas County, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The virus is transmitted through mosquito bites. Most people do not get sick, but about 20% develop symptoms such as headaches, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. Less than 1% of those infected develop more serious symptoms, including death.

"It's important for people to be aware that there are many diseases transmitted by mosquitoes found in Texas," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. "Most of these diseases cause mild illness but in rare instances diseases like dengue or Zika can cause severe illness. We've even

had a locally acquired case of malaria in Texas this year, which underscores the importance of taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites."

DSHS urges people when outdoors to wear long sleeves and pants, apply insect repellent, remove standing water in yards, such as in plant pots and buckets. The state had 41 cases of West Nile disease last year with seven deaths.

State slips in business-friendly rankings

An annual ranking of the most business-friendly states in America has always included Texas among the top five, but not this year, the *Texas Standard* reported. The latest rankings in CNBC's report had the state coming in sixth, behind North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and Minnesota.

The study has been undertaken since 2007. Business reporter Erica Greider with the *Houston Chronicle* cites several factors, including the electric grid, which averages about 20 hours a year without power on average in the state — third worst in the country. Other possible factors are quality of life issues, such as the environment and crime.

"It could be that maybe there's an element of, you know, the state's been coasting on its laurels because we've been so used to this growth and success that it's become a little bit less of the top line issue," Greider told the *Standard*.

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.



Read this story online

GuestColumn

Texas horse racing needs HISA



Robert Schmidt, MD
robert@rschmidtmd.com

The horse...inquisitive, sensitive, totally aware, much smarter than you think, fearful, and a creature of habit. When my daughter returns to our family barn after training in Florida for six months, her retired horses greet her with a whinny. An old friend has returned.

The horse is a fabric of historical Texas. The horse represents how we all arrived here, and how we survived in the earliest days. Some horses are bred to run — that's their job. All animals need a job and thrive when working. The thoroughbred's instinct is to run as fast and as far as it can. As long as there are horses, there will be horse races, and men and women will admire the sheer determination, stamina, strength, and speed of the majestic horse.

The tragedy at Churchill Downs this past May, in which twelve horses broke down on the racetrack, fractured their lower legs, and needed to be euthanized, should never be repeated. The cause of this rash of sudden breakdowns is uncertain: the current American thoroughbred

may be bred too strong up top across the chest with lower legs that are relatively too thin and fragile, or changes in the surface of the track due to humidity and weather variations may increase the risk of a ligamentous injuries which can then predispose to falls and catastrophic fractures. Most horses can survive the surgery, but few can survive the confinement and partial weight bearing needed to allow these fractures to heal.

The Jockey Club, in recognizing this problem, sought relief from Congress and in one of the few truly bipartisan pieces of legislation in the past 10 years, the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) was passed. This lifesaving legislation allows the government to designate a corporate entity to unite the horse industry, to find ways in which horse tragedies can be eliminated, and drug abuse can be regulated at the Federal level.

The model is not a new one. A Federally sponsored corporate entity serves to regulate the Securities and Exchange Commission. The needs are similar. Regulation among multiple states with multiple interests are consolidated under a single governing body with superior resources and a single purpose-driven goal.

In response to the HISA act, most states have supported and endorsed this model, but a few outliers, including the State of Texas represented by the Texas

Racing Commission, have sought to preserve the status quo.

The Commission's stated rationale is that only the Texas Racing Commission may regulate parimutuel racing and simulcast wagering in Texas. Although National regulation affects all aspects of our life living in Texas, the Texas Racing Commission, due to this perceived legal technicality, has been unable to find a compromise solution. As a result, the Texas racing industry suffers, the Texas patrons who enjoy horse racing suffer, and our thoroughbred gladiators suffer the most.

A second consequence of this stalemate is that racetracks in Texas can no longer simulcast Texas races to other communities and states and receive wagers allotted for their racing program. Without the ability to simulcast, the betting handle at Sam Houston Racetrack during the winter meet fell 90% and the handle at the current Lone Star spring and summer racing meet is not significantly better. Tracks survive by taking approximately 15% of the betting handle to support their operations and purses. The current situation is unsustainable.

Having served on the Texas Racing Commission for ten years, including four years as Chairman, I can attest that the Commission staff, stewards, and

the working regulators are superb and unmatched in their quality and dedication. The political appointees of the Commission, however, have lost sight of their designated purpose.

In this one rare instance, Congress has actually provided us — and our horses — a solution. Ultimately, HISA has the resources, the regulatory power, and sophisticated lab testing that can root out illegal drug use, research track surfaces, and analyze breeding patterns. HISA has the potential to improve the sport and create a safe horse racing animal that can thrive in a newer environment.

The Texas Racing Commission needs to recognize its responsibilities and protect our animals in an ever-changing world. The consequences of the Texas Racing Commissioners' opposition to these efforts simultaneously leaves our horses at risk and our tracks on the path to ruin.

Texas deserves better.

Robert Schmidt, MD is a Fort Worth based orthopedic surgeon specializing in joint replacement surgery of the hip and knee. He and his wife had bred and raced thoroughbreds under the colors of Oak Meadow Farm. He was appointed by Governor Perry to the Texas Racing Commission and served for 10 years, including 4 years as chairman. He currently serves as Mayor of Annetta North, Texas.



Read this story online

Thistles&Roses

Consider a puppy party



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

A recent story on KTVT Channel 11 reported that, according to Lauren Anton, executive director of Saving Hope animal rescue, many animals they have rescued from kill shelters and other places are dying of forms of parvo and influenza. They don't find out the animals are sick until they have been taken in for foster care and adoption. But they still have healthy animals that desperately need homes.

The *Community News* recently reported that Saving Hope announced plans to build a no-kill shelter on the Aledo-Iona Road. That facility can't be built soon enough.

Anton reported that during COVID, people stopped spaying and neutering. Now all shelters are packed with more animals than ever. The Channel 11 report stated that rescue groups say a shortage

of veterinarians, a spike in costs to vaccinate, and voluntary surrenders have contributed to the current situation. Many are being euthanized at kill shelters because they simply don't have room and too few people wanting to adopt.

Anton stated that, locally, her organization has 1,200 dogs and cats in their care for adoption.

If you visit their website, www.savinghoperescue.org, you can view photos of the many animals that need homes. If you see a dog or cat that you like and want to adopt, there is an application to fill out. Saving Hope charges an adoption fee that covers vaccinations and spaying or neutering. Owning an animal is a responsibility and there are costs associated. You have to be serious when you want to adopt.

Their fees are small compared to purchasing a French Bulldog, the number one most popular breed in the world. You are talking about \$4,000 for a puppy. This breed has many problems with breeding with artificial insemination and c-sections required in many cases. See www.frenchbulldogbreed.net Very few French females can give birth

naturally. I wonder why such a breed was ever developed.

My point, which may seem obscure, is there are many animals in this world that need homes and love, and will give it back many times over. All of the dogs in our home have come from the street or shelters.

For now we need less thought about pedigree and more thought about spaying, neutering, and vaccinating. The current misery for so many animals has been caused by humans. But humans can stop it.

Contact Saving Hope and ask about giving a puppy party. Puppies will be brought and people can see the animals first hand. You can't immediately take them home. The adoption application and process still has to be followed, but individuals who are committed have a good chance of being an owner.

And remember, from wherever you obtain a pet, spay, neuter and vaccinate.

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

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAVINGHOPERESCUE.ORG - ALL ANIMALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION.



Read this story online



Thalia - Siberian Husky Mix



Otto - Siberian Husky Mix



Smiley - German Shepherd Mix



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bearcat Pack & Ship owner Danelle Weaver completes the ribbon cutting by the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce at her new business on Thursday, July 13.

COUNCIL

from page one

there had not been satisfactory progress in that process.

"We've been working through that process for probably over a year now," Grimes said. "And we haven't been satisfied with the elements. And I think we've reached the point where it was time to file suit."

Following an executive session, council member Lea Young made a motion "to reject any settlement offers from Half and Associates on the litigation and authorize the city attorney to file suit."

Wastewater plant re-do

In other action, the council voted to reject any bids that have not been withdrawn on the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and to begin the process over.

Following a lengthy process of finding a suitable location for its new treatment plant, the city entered into an agreement with Willow Park Baptist

Church for a property swap. The current plant sits adjacent to property owned by the church, and is leased by the city.

Under the agreement, the new wastewater plant would be built on the church's original land, and the church would get the land occupied by the current plant.

The city went out for bids in May of this year for construction of the plant. However, the low bidder, MH Civil Constructors, withdrew its bid, and the next low bidder and the city were unable to connect.

City council member Eric Contreras made a motion to reject "all non withdrawn bids for the construction of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant" and authorize the city to re-advertise for bids and to make a claim on the bid bond of MH Civil Constructors Incorporated.

The motion was approved by the council, as was a motion to notify Willow Park Baptist Church that the city would extend its lease of the property for two more years until Aug. 18, 2025.



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ANIMAL CARE

Keeping Parker County Pets Alive

Agency funding heartworm treatment for adopted animals

By John English
The Community News

According to the American Heartworm Society, more than one million pets in the United States have heartworm disease. Both dogs and cats can contract the condition and, worst of all, it can be fatal.

Enter Parker County Pets Alive — a nonprofit organization that raises funds to help cover the cost of treatment for many of the heartworm-positive dogs housed at the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter.

Board of Directors Member Jenni Day started the 501(c)(3) back in 2012 and said it has evolved considerably over the last 11 years.

“We started out as a rescue when the shelter was going through some big changes - new staff and there had just been some issues and what not,” Day said. “We started off as a regular rescue with volunteers where people could foster. We’d take dogs, get them fostered and then get them homes. But there are so many rescues that we decided that we would just be a fundraising organization, to help pay for things that the shelter can’t pay for medical wise.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARKER COUNTY PETS ALIVE

Parker County Pets Alive helps dogs in the fight against heartworms, which can be fatal.

This entails a great deal of fundraising because treatment can be costly.

“You know, you adopt out a heartworm-positive dog for \$25, and take them to the vet, and if they’re heartworm positive, they’re going to get quoted \$1,200 to treat this \$25 dog,” Day said. “And a lot of times that was an issue, and they were the first ones to be put down if it came to that. Weatherford tries not to do that. They have a really high live-release rate. But, if they’re looking for who usually goes first, then usually it was a heartworm-positive or sick dog. So we pay for every single dog that comes to the

shelter that gets adopted and is heartworm positive.”

Not if, but when

Parker County Pets Alive works with Riverstone Veterinary Hospital in Brock and Dr. Ryan Cate for treatment purposes, and Day said heartworm treatment should not be taken lightly.

“In Texas, if your dog is not on a heartworm preventative, your dog is going to get heartworms,” Day said. “It’s not if, but when. Because it’s spread by mosquitoes. We have mosquitoes 12 months out of the year here, and one will bite a positive dog and then goes and bites a negative dog. Then in a nutshell, the heartworms start growing in the dog that was previously negative.”

Day said there are preventative medications that can be taken for heartworms and some even work retroactively.

“Sometimes in older dogs, the procedure is rough on them because it’s killing them (the heartworms) off,” Day said. “They have to keep their heart rate down and for some dogs that’s hard to do. You know, the mailman walks up or a squirrel runs by and the dogs are going to go crazy. You have to keep their heart rate down because as the worms

are dying, and breaking up and being shed out through the bloodstream, they can choke out the heart if they get too excited. So that’s another heartbreak. If you adopt a dog and get it treated, it’s basically a six-month treatment program.”

Misconceptions

And Day said there are some misconceptions when it comes to heartworms.

“The big one we get is ‘My dog only goes outside to go potty, you know, so they’re not going to get it,’” Day said. “Have you ever been bitten by a mosquito in your house? That’s basically the comeback for it. People also think that if one of their dogs doesn’t have it, the other dogs aren’t going to have it. That doesn’t work either.

“Clear the shelter is an upcoming event and we talk about it to people about it because a lot of people really don’t know...and it’s so big. It’s so big in Texas, but it’s real treatable. The dog that I had, he had heartworms and he also had a broken femur, and now he’s fine.”

Day said it is best to have a blood test completed because pets can have heartworms for a while with no symptoms, and said there is a certain symptom to watch for.



“Coughing, because they’re getting choked out is one,” Day said. “And it’s pretty obvious. Sometimes it will sound like kennel cough, which just sounds like a dry cough, but they do an X-ray of the heart and lungs. The shelter does a blood test. It’s real easy. There’s several different kinds, and it’s immediate, so they just take some blood and look at it under a microscope, and they can see the microfilariae swimming around and tell how serious it is.”

“Seeing the dogs that we’ve helped, you know the happy tails, as we call them on our Facebook,” Day said. “The dogs that have gone through our program, that are living their best lives. Someone’s adopted them. They’re part of a family, they’re going camping, going to the dog park. You know, just seeing the dogs that the people have gone through the program, and giving a dog with a heartworm a chance. And they’re healthy going forward. We love to see the happy ones.”

Most fulfilling

The most fulfilling part of her job is follow up after treatment.

For more information on Parker County Pets Alive or to make a contribution, visit <http://parkercountypet-salvive.org>.



The Parker County Pets Alive board of directors consists of (from left) Michelle Ventress, Cindy Malik and Jenni Day.



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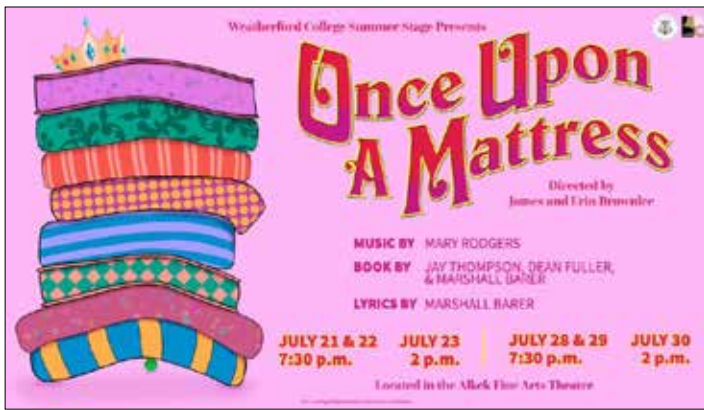
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More events can be found at www.community-news.com/calendar



Weatherford College Summer Stage Presents
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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

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.simplix.com/>



GARAGE SALE
COMMUNITY WIDE
PARKS OF ALEDO

JULY 21-22

Parks of Aledo Community Wide Garage Sale
Community Wide garage sale from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Friday, July 21 and Saturday July 22. The Parks of Aledo is located at 201 Parkview Drive, Bailey Ranch Road and 1187 across from Aledo High School. Each neighbor will have a set up in their driveway.

JULY 22

PCCOA Summer Carnival
Parker County Senior



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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 benefiting 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.

JULY 24

Teen Time Peace Out!
Middle and High schoolers are invited to get groovy from 5-6 p.m. on Monday, July 24, at the East Parker County Library. Tie-dye, friendship bracelets, and other far-out activities. Snacks provided.

JULY 25-28

Snack Drive at the Library
Bring boxes of single serving snacks and/or waters and Gatorades to the East Parker Public Library to share with our First Responders.

JULY 28

Ice Box Shaved Ice Storytime
Ice Box Shaved Ice will visit storytime at 10:30 on Friday, July 28. Enjoy shaved ice on us after storytime to celebrate the end of summer reading!



Disney sing-a-long
July 28 10am-12pm
Ages 5-9

Disney Sing-A-Long
Come to Disney Sing-A-Long from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Friday, July 28, at the Destiny Voice & Music Studio Aledo. Sing, dance, and play along to Disney's greatest hits. Featuring songs from Moana, Frozen, Encanto, and Tangled! This event is for ages 5-9. Register here: <https://www.destinystudioaledo.net/summer-workshop>

Scoops & Petals Party
Visit The Shops at Willow Park Lawn from 1 - 3p.m. on Friday, July 28 for ice cream and bouquet building! MELT Ice Cream will be



SCOOPS & PETALS PARTY
MELT ICE CREAM
FRIDAY, JULY 28TH - 1-3 P.M.
SHOPS AT WILLOW PARK LAWN

ACROSS

- TX golfer Nelson book: "___"
- Played the Game"
- longtime U.S. representative Teague
- TX-born Robin Wright's husband actor, Sean
- TXism: "too lazy ___ swat flies"
- Congress voted to admit Texas as a state in this mo.
- TXism: "give me some ___ room"
- TXism: "a sight for ___ eyes"
- he coached for the Longhorns, Oilers, & Cowboys (2 wds.)
- what TX "Spanky" wrote on the flying red horse atop Dallas' Magnolia Bldg. (2 wds.)
- a legal right
- Brady hosted the "___ the Cactus Shoot"
- TXism: "mobile mouse ___" (cat)
- country ballad: "___ on My Mind"
- a dazed state
- takes gas with a hose
- ___con (now free)
- TXism: "about as clear as Red ___" (confusing)
- TXism: "fast as ___ up a rafter"
- this Lupino was in 1972 film "Junior Bonner" with TX Joe Don Baker
- polite TX refusal to a woman (2 wds.)
- popular attractions at Six Flags? (2 wds.)
- "Friendship" (2 wds.)
- TXism: "scared the dickens out ___"
- TX Perot's starting naval rank (abbr.)
- female sheep
- Alpine High School class
- gave a new "handle"?
- tossed or Caesar
- snake or scarf
- this Tinkle wrote Alamo book "13 Days to Glory"
- TXism: "at the ___ of my rope"

DOWN

- ___ to it!"
- Grand ___ Opry
- in Runnels County on U.S. 83
- book about murder in Commerce: "The Last ___"
- TXism: "it'll ___ a pinch"
- "The White ___" in Fort Worth
- TXism: "hasta ___ vista" (see ya later)
- init. of 1-across
- the San Antonio Trail (2 wds.)
- TXism: "___ to a frazzle" (tired)
- with "long," Houston dock worker
- TXism: "do I have to draw you ___?"
- counterterrorism "war" abb.
- the hens won't lay "cause the dog "___ ___ up"
- historic area: "Coahuila ___" (or "Tejas")
- west Texas climate
- Sinatra in "Four for Texas" (init.)
- TX actor Rip (init.)
- Austin: "War is ___ only resource"
- whirls around
- Gov. "Ma" once opposed women's right ___
- chew
- popular cookie
- barn rodents
- TX Ella ___ Morse's "Cow-Cow Boogie"
- TXism: "neon light ___" (inspiration)
- TXism: "___ hog had wings he'd be an eagle"
- is in debt
- defensible
- "___ Pa Kettle"
- actor Asner

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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JULY 29

Summer Bash
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Aledo High School 2023 Golf Tryouts

When: August 2, 2023
Where: Squaw Creek Golf Course
Time: 8:00am
What to bring:
 *UP TO DATE PHYSICAL *Copy of 2022-2023 Report Card
 *Own Balls *\$19 TO PAY FOR YOUR ROUND
 *Own Clubs *Push carts are allowed
 *Water bottle and snacks

The golf program at Aledo High School is a highly competitive sport. This tryout is for individuals who are interested in high school golf. We will be evaluating several things: golf swing, etiquette, knowledge of rules, and past tournament experience at the junior level is highly recommended.
 Parents may come and watch but must stay on cart paths. No communication with players during the round.
DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS: July 26th at 5:00pm
 To sign up email me at bmourning@aledoisd.org and include: Students name, grade, and playing experience.
 Any additional information will be sent thru AISD social media platforms

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WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Student lands opportunity at prestigious Mayo Clinic

Minnesota next stop for Willow Park resident

By **Misty Browning**
Weatherford College

It's a not-so-well-kept secret that Weatherford College's diagnostic medical sonography program was named "best ultrasound technologist school in Texas" by Nursing Process. In this program, students must pass three national registries that help them land jobs either prior to or quickly after graduation. The program also draws students from all over the country, including recent graduate and Portland, Oregon, native Talayna Halley.

"I knew I was going to do ultrasound because I was praying about it with my mom for a long time," Halley explained. "I was in high school and doing dual credit at the same time. One day I went to help landscape my grandfather's house, and he asked me about my life...He then asked about the healthcare field, a recession-proof job. My dad had just had an ultrasound done and had been telling me about it, but I had been casting him off."

She started looking into schools near her home. Only one school in Oregon does ultrasound, and it was far from home and expensive, so Texas began to draw her attention. With her family in tow, they moved to Willow Park soon after she decided on Weatherford College.

"I had a friend who moved to Austin and loved the area," she said. "I was surprised it was green and had trees. It had its own type of beauty. My options were narrowed down to Weatherford, and I prayed that God would open the right doors. I attribute my ending up at Weatherford to fasting and prayer."

Another determining factor for Halley regarding attending Weatherford College was being a WC Foundation scholarship recipient, specifically a scholarship funded by Richard and Nancy Stuart. She then met the Stuarts at a foundation dinner later that year.

She loved the opportunity to express her gratitude for their generosity and for taking the time to care for future generations. It was also a chance for her to experience the WC community and all its charm.

"I was able to witness the tight-knit community and how the scholarships are changing the lives of the students receiving them," Halley said. "I also heard from the donors about their lives and the differences they are making. I was completely overwhelmed by the love that filled the room. So many people in that place truly cared and wanted to support us and see us succeed."

"The college is such an uplifting community and feels like home. I remember calling my mom the first week I lived here and telling her that Southern charm is real, not just in the movies. People here are so kind."

Halley loves the career she's chosen. It's a position that is always in high demand, and she says she enjoys getting to help people in sometimes scary situations.

"I love how every day is different because every patient is different. Our patients are coming to us because they think something is wrong," she said. "Sometimes they are scared about the possibilities of what we might find. That's why I love doing ultrasound; because we are so intimately involved in their care process. We get to be that smiling face, soft word, or gentle touch."

Kelly Staub, director of the WC diagnostic medical sonography program, couldn't say enough positive things about her former student.

"She consistently demonstrated excellence in the classroom and during her clinical rotations," Staub said. "She moved from Oregon to Texas to pursue her dream of becoming a sonographer, and she made that dream come true through hard work and determination."

"I am excited for Talayna and Inna Begma to represent Weatherford College at such a renowned facility. The Mayo Clinic, which has been ranked the number one hospital in the nation for seven consecutive years, stated students from the Weatherford College Sonography Program were top-tier interview candidates who excelled in all areas of their intensive interview process."



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Talayna Halley of Willow Park is ready to continue her education at the Mayo Clinic.

That's correct; Halley will move back north to Minnesota in a few weeks to work at the Mayo Clinic alongside her classmate.

She said she's "kinda" excited to experience the winters since she came from a colder state. Now, she gets to experience the next exciting step in adulthood, living by herself and living out from under her parents' roof. And she'll use the education WC has provided to help her toward her dream career.

"The Mayo Clinic wanted the best of the best, and since we are new

graduates, they can shape and mold us. We understand how ultrasounds work and the various pathologies we are looking for," Halley said. "Since we haven't worked anywhere else, they can shape us into the sonographers they wanted us to be."

"I applied and hoped for the best. There's lots of pressure and responsibility on our shoulders. I know Weatherford College has prepared me for that. I'm excited about what the future holds because I've been so well prepared for it."

Matt Morris

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GOLF

Drive, Chip and Putt



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo sixth-grader Brayden Lightfoot won the Drive, Chip and Putt Regional competition held at Prairie Lakes Golf Club in Grand Prairie on July 17. Brayden placed first with a combined score of 124 out of 150. Brayden will advance to the Sub Regional Competition to be held at Firewheel Golf Course in Garland on July 28, with a chance to get to the finals in September 2023 at Champions Golf Course in the Woodlands for the ultimate prize to compete at Augusta National in April 2024. Brayden participates in the First Tee program at Squaw Creek and also the PGA junior League at Ridglea Country Club in Fort Worth.

GOLF

Ladycats fare well in FW Junior

Two players finish second in their divisions

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Six Aledo Ladycats and one former member of the squad competed in the Fort Worth Junior Golf Association Girls Championship last week and two finished as runner-up in their respective divisions.

All were competing in the 14-18 age category.

Sanaa' Lemen, a recent graduate, placed second in the First Flight of Division I with a four-round total of 342. She

put together rounds of 95, 80, 82, and 85, finishing six shots back of first place.

Lemen was one of six playing in Division I.

Also placing second was Reagan Gilliland in the Third Flight. She posted rounds of 99, 94, 101, and 96 for a total of 390, a dozen back of the winner.

Kennedi Parker took fourth place in the Third Flight with a 396 (103-104-101-88), Kyla Morales was sixth in the Flight Flight, shooting 351 (87-81-96-87), Emily Crick took seventh in the Second Flight at 364 (93-87-93-91) and

Harper Price finished seventh in the Third Flight, shooting 443 (112-112-113-106).

Karlee Shaw competed in Division II, which played two rounds. She shot a 197 (100-97) to place seventh.

The tournament took place over four days, July 10-13, on five different courses. Division I was played at Meadowbrook on Monday, at Squaw Creek on Tuesday, at Mira Vista Country Club on Wednesday and at Rivercrest Country Club on Thursday. Division II was played at

Meadowbrook on Monday and at Pecan Valley Hills Course on Tuesday.

"That's a long four days of golf in the heat. It makes it that much more difficult to play really well every day," Aledo Coach Brian Mourning said. "I'm glad they got a chance to compete. I'm proud of all the kids' efforts."

The boys championship was taking place at press time with Bearcats Jett Moore, Cade Moore, Braden Stokes, Grayson Freeman, Helton Mosiello, William Kirkman, Brian Yarbrough, and Johnnie Reed expected to play.



Read this story online

HALL OF FAME

Lightfoot, former player among WHS honorees

Induction in September

Staff Report
The Community News

After leading the Weatherford College Coyotes to the best season in their baseball history, head coach Jeff Lightfoot is being honored by his alma mater, Weatherford High School. He is part of the 2023 WHS Hall of Fame class.

Lightfoot, a 1988 WHS graduate and former member of the Kangaroos baseball team, will be joined by eight

other honorees to be inducted at a ceremony on Sept. 15 in a homecoming luncheon. Also inducted will be another former Kangaroo baseball player who played for Lightfoot at WC, Trooper Reynolds, a 2012 WHS graduate.

Joining them will be former Kangaroo football player Gil Gore, a 1967 graduate, and members of the 1996-97 golf team, including Jarrod Dickey, Justin Dickey, KW Gibbins, Brock Widener, Chad Garren (posthumously) and coach Keith Young.

Lightfoot led the Coyotes to a 53-11 record this past season and the program earned its first ever berth in the NJCAA Division I World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado. The Coyotes finished third in the nation.

Lightfoot is the only coach the Coyotes have ever had, reviving the program 21 years ago. He previously won a NJCAA Division III World Series with Eastfield College in Mesquite in 2001 and finished as runner-up in 1998.

Lightfoot has a career record of 822-537-1, including 618-444-1 at WC. Under his tutelage, more than 150 former Coyotes have moved on to play baseball at universities across the nation, including more than 100 at NCAA Division I programs. Also, 35 former Coyotes have played professional baseball including four in the major leagues, with former Jake Arrietta winning a Cy Young and World Series with the Chicago Cubs in 2016.



Read this story online

Huge Honor



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