

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ANNETTA

Water restrictions announced

Deer Creek customers told to limit watering

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Town of Annetta implemented mandatory water restrictions or the Deer Creek Water System effective at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 20.

Landscape watering at each service address is limited to once per week. The allowable water days are based on the last digit of the address.

Odd-numbered addresses can water between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Even-numbered addresses can water between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. on Sundays.

Exceptions: are allowed for foundations, azaleas; new plantings (first year) of trees and shrubs may be watered for up to two hours on any day by a hand-held hose or a soaker hose.

The restrictions also reduce draining and filling of existing pools and prohibit filling of new pools. (Pools may add water to replace losses during normal use.)

A 10% rate surcharge will be billed for all water use of more than 21,000 gallons per connection per month.

Property owners are encouraged to wait until the current drought has passed before establishing new landscaping.

This will be in effect until further notification.

“As always, the Town of Annetta prioritizes the availability of safe, clean drinking water at reliable pressures for normal domestic use as well as adequate water storage levels to provide fire flow under emergency conditions,” according to a release from the city.

For more information, call Town Hall at 817-441-5770 or 682-261-2341 after hours.



Read this story online

TOWN OF ANNETTA WATER SCHEDULE

Limit landscape watering at each service address to once per week. The allowable water days are based on the last digit of the address.

- 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 Wednesday between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.
- 2, 4, 6, 8, 0 Sunday between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.



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Pickleball Hotspot

America's fastest growing sport gaining traction in Parker County

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

It's no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic took a lot from people. Those who managed to catch the virus with little consequence to their health, or managed to dodge it altogether, were not immune to the unintended consequences of the lockdowns.

Mental, relational, and physical health across the country declined to levels never experienced in our history.

It makes sense that as the nation came out of the lockdowns a huge emphasis in the lives of millions of Americans was to address those issues.

Enter pickleball.

The sport was invented in 1965, though virtually no one knew of its existence. However, since 2020, the popularity of the sport has taken off like a rocket. According to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, 8.9 million Americans as of 2022 were playing pickleball across the country. That's a 159% increase from just a few years ago.

Recently, east Parker County has started to experience some of that growth for itself. According



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Patrons of Courtside Kitchen in Fort Worth enjoy a mid-day game of pickleball on Tuesday, May 16.

to Brandon Mackie, the founder of Pickleheads.com, that's right on par with what they see on a regular basis.

“What we've seen is DWF has become an absolute Mecca,

pickleball hotspot,” Mackie said. “There's a ton of activity happening starting in the metro areas. There's a concept called ‘Chicken N Pickle’ with a couple locations there [in the Metroplex]. There's

some really influential folks that own some of the key assets in the pickleball space that live in the area and have invested a lot in promoting the sport. That's led

Turn to PICKLEBALL, page 3

ALEDO ISD

Breaking ground on No. 7

Newest elementary school honors legacy of long-time educator, Lynn McKinney

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Braving triple-digit temperatures during the early evening hours of Thursday, July 20, hundreds of Aledo ISD residents gathered in an open field east of Nightmist Road in Morningstar to honor long-time Aledo educator Lynn McKinney at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new elementary school bearing her name.

“It was a big surprise,” said McKinney of learning the new school would sport her name. “To have an honor such as this, it means the world to me.”

McKinney announced her intentions to retire at the end of the 2022-23 school year, bringing her 37-year career at Aledo ISD to a conclusion. Shortly after the passage of the 2023 bond back on May 6, the official announcement that the newest elementary school in the district would be named after McKinney was made.

Initial stages of dirt work for the project began earlier this

Turn to SCHOOL, page 2



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

From left: Aledo ISD School Board members David Lear and Jennifer Loftin, Lynn McKinney, school board members Jessica Brown and Jennifer Taylor, and Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn performed the ceremonial groundbreaking for the school district's seventh elementary school, named for McKinney.

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SCHOOL

from page one

summer following the passage of the 2023 bond. Elementary school No. 7, as it was previously known leading up to the election, was the primary component of the bond. With construction presently underway, Lynn McKinney Elementary School will open its doors just in time to welcome students to the first day of school in August 2024.

"It's a great opportunity for everybody to see all the work that went into [planning for this project] and recognizing all the people who worked on this," Aledo Growth Committee Co-Chair, Dan Reiley said. "But it's really special to see Mrs. McKinney out here. Thirty-seven years of work, she's meant a lot to so many people in the district. To see her honored like this is extra special."

The latest addition to Aledo ISD will not open a moment too soon. According to demographic growth trends and expectations provided to the Aledo Growth Committee back in August of 2022 and revised in January 2023, five of the six existing elementary schools within the district would have exceeded capacity before the 2024-25 school year got underway. With the completion of the \$59.8 million facility, the district will expand its capacity for grades K-5 by 889 students.

"One of the things I was thinking about earlier today is, because we are growing so rapidly and becoming so big, we are entering a new phase of perpetually planning for growth, building for growth, finishing construction, and starting construction," Dr. Susan Bohn, Superintendent of Aledo ISD, said during her presentation at the groundbreaking ceremony. "That will probably be our pathway forward for multiple decades."

Bringing a project of this proportion to fruition takes a significant contribution from hundreds of people ranging from Aledo ISD board members to architects, and the people who will be doing the labor over the next year to construct Lynn McKinney Elementary. For one group in particular, the Aledo Growth Committee comprised of 50 resident-volunteers, the work has just begun.

"We'll be busy," Reiley stated. "What we did was set benchmarks that we want to look at. We'll see the tax appraisal values that come back at the end of July. Then we'll see the new demographic information after enrollment numbers come in for August and September. We plan to meet at the end of September [to review information] and then meet quarterly, or as needed."



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lynn McKinney is all smiles as she greets members of the community prior to the ceremonial groundbreaking event for new elementary school named in her honor.

The AGC met a dozen times from August 2022 to February 2023 to review data and propose plans for a way forward before ultimately coming up with a single proposition to put before voters back in May. With the heavy lifting of the 2023 bond proposal in the rear-view mirror, AGC members were given the opportunity to remove themselves from future commitments as part of the group.

No one took the option to step away.

"We said all along this was Step 1," Reiley said. "I think it speaks volumes



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Co-Chairs of the Aledo Growth Committee, Kelli Stumbo and Dan Reiley, take to the podium during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Lynn McKinney Elementary School on Thursday, July 20.

to the commitment the people have on the committee. We did Step 1. We're bringing it to fruition. Now, let's get back to work on the next step, whatever that may be."

As for McKinney, she has no plans to ride off into the sunset now that she's retired.

"I can't wait for the first day of school! I want to be here for the first day of school. I want to be McKinney Elementary's first volunteer," she said excitedly. "I'll always be a Bearcat. Always! My heart will definitely be with this district. As long as I'm taking a breath, Aledo ISD will be a focus for me everyday."



Read this story online

Obituaries

Beatrice Margaret Schmidtzinsky

Beatrice "Bea" Schmidtzinsky, 87, of Aledo, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on July 21, 2023.

Bea was born March 21, 1936 in Fredericksburg to Helmuth and Elsie (Keller) Klinksiek. She married Charles Schmidtzinsky on November 1, 1955. She had four daughters. The family moved to Aledo in 1967. She retired from Mervyn's department store in 2006. Her hobbies included quilting, gardening, and reading mystery novels.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Charles; daughter, Barbara Schmidtzinsky; and sister, Mildred Eckhardt.

She is survived by daughters, GERALYN Schmidtzinsky, Sheila Hill, and Gail Arnold (Lewis); grandchildren, Jeffrey Barrow, Jr., Travis Hill, Lee Arnold (Justine), Elizabeth Grimes (Chris), Joseph Arnold,



Beatrice Schmidtzinsky

and Terrance Nielsen (Kylie); great-grandsons, Connor Hill, Thorin Nielsen, and Hagen Nielsen; brothers, Clayton Klinksiek and James Klinksiek (Sue); sisters, Virginia Smith (Richard), and Marion Ottmers (J. W.); sister-in-law's, Louise Martinez (Gilbert), VerNell Martinez (Romero), and Leola Brodbeck; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, July 26, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

The deceased was transported to Schaeffer's Funeral Home in Fredericksburg for a memorial service prior to burial. Graveside services and interment followed at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Bea's honor may be made to Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Aledo or to a charity of your choice.

The Community News
July 28, 2023

POLITICS

Utley resigns as county GOP chair

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Parker County Republican Chair Scott Utley announced on July 23 that he was resigning his position due to a new business venture.

"My wife and I have launched a new business that will require my full attention. We are partnering with Generator Supercenter, the largest Generac dealer in America, to open their next location which will serve the West - O - Plex," Utley said in his announcement. "Our Generator Supercenter will officially open in September and I will not have the bandwidth to continue supporting our republican team with the focus that I have today."

Elected to the position about six years ago, Utley said the date of his resignation was timed to facilitate the selection of a new county chair utilizing the current meeting dates of the county Republican Party. He explained that the next Parker County

Republican Party meeting is Aug. 3, and the party rules require a meeting to fill the vacancy within 20-days.

"The reason I made the move I did is so that we could have an election or a conversation or nominations during a the next scheduled meeting," Utley told *The Community News*. "I wanted to be transparent, I want it to be the same day we always have meetings, I wanted people to be able to be there and see the proceedings."

Utley also said his successor would require training. The Texas Secretary of State will conduct county chair training in September, so his successor would have an opportunity to participate if selected in August.

"And then directly the day after that the Texas Republican County Chairs Association has an additional county chair training, so that gives

this person an opportunity to get caught up on some of the codes and election law," Utley added.

Any person who desires to be the county chair must be nominated by a member of the County Executive Committee. Utley said a set of rules based on the rules of the Republican Party of Texas will be coming out this week to govern the selection process.

Utley's successor would serve until a new chair is elected during the March 2024 Republican primary.

There are currently two people who have expressed an interest in becoming the new chair: Brady Gray and Joe Wilkinson. "My preference is someone who wants to do it for more than just the interim period," Utley said.

"This has been a difficult decision, but I know it is the right thing for my family and the Parker County Republican Party."



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PICKLEBALL

from page one

to a huge amount of growth in the number of facilities and the number of people playing in leagues and tournaments in the area. What we can see from the data is, because of all the activity in the metro area, it's starting to expand in all directions."

With so many people looking to become more physically active, have fun, and re-establish a sense of community these days, pickleball seems to be the right sport at just the right time to check all of those boxes at the same time.

"Pickleball is a great activity that you can use to stay active pretty much your whole life," Mackie stated. "I think that's really important

for people as they start to think about extending their lifespan, getting healthy, and building healthy habits.

"Pickleball's great for that, and it's also social. A lot of people don't even view it as an exercise. It's just a fun thing to do with friends and family that also has the added benefit of being good exercise."

A sport for all ages

Enthusiasts of the sport come from all ages, stages, and fitness levels. That's one of the primary drivers behind the growth of the sport in recent years, as Mackie points out.

"Pickleball is a great outlet for folks. It is great exercise. We have an article on our website documenting the calories burned playing pickleball. But what's really important

about pickleball is it doesn't require a high degree of athleticism to enjoy it. And you can play it much later in life than you can a sport like tennis or basketball. That's why it's been so popular over the last 15 years, primarily among senior communities."

Specifically in Aledo, pickleball is enjoying a significant rise in popularity. Currently, there are two primary locations locals are meeting up to engage with one another in a friendly game or two.

Spearheading the growth effort in Aledo is Britt Shoptaw. Shoptaw was introduced to the sport nearly four years ago while on vacation. He and his family instantly fell in love with the sport, not only because of the physical benefits of the game, but also because it was something they enjoyed doing together.

When they returned home from vacation, the Shoptaws began meeting up with friends at the Daniel Ninth Grade tennis courts where they would mark off a regulation pickleball court using blue painters' tape before each session.

Since then Shoptaw has worked with The Church at the Crossing and the Aledo United Methodist Church to help cultivate the growing interest locally. At the Methodist Church, the outdoor basketball court has official lines for three pickleball courts painted on it, along with temporary nets that can be moved on and off the court any time visitors want to meet up for a game.

"Right now we're playing on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons at the Methodist Church," Shoptaw said. "We're getting a lot more

new people coming to our groups. As I meet people and talk to them, and we play, I gather their information to add them to a GroupMe. I've got a GroupMe message that keeps people informed of when we're playing. We've got around 160 people in our Aledo Pickleball GroupMe."

A vast majority of those 160 people are folks Shoptaw has personally taught how to play during the Thursday evening meetings. Though the number of newcomers varies week-to-week, one recent Thursday evening saw 25 people show up to play at the Methodist Church with a majority of those being first timers.

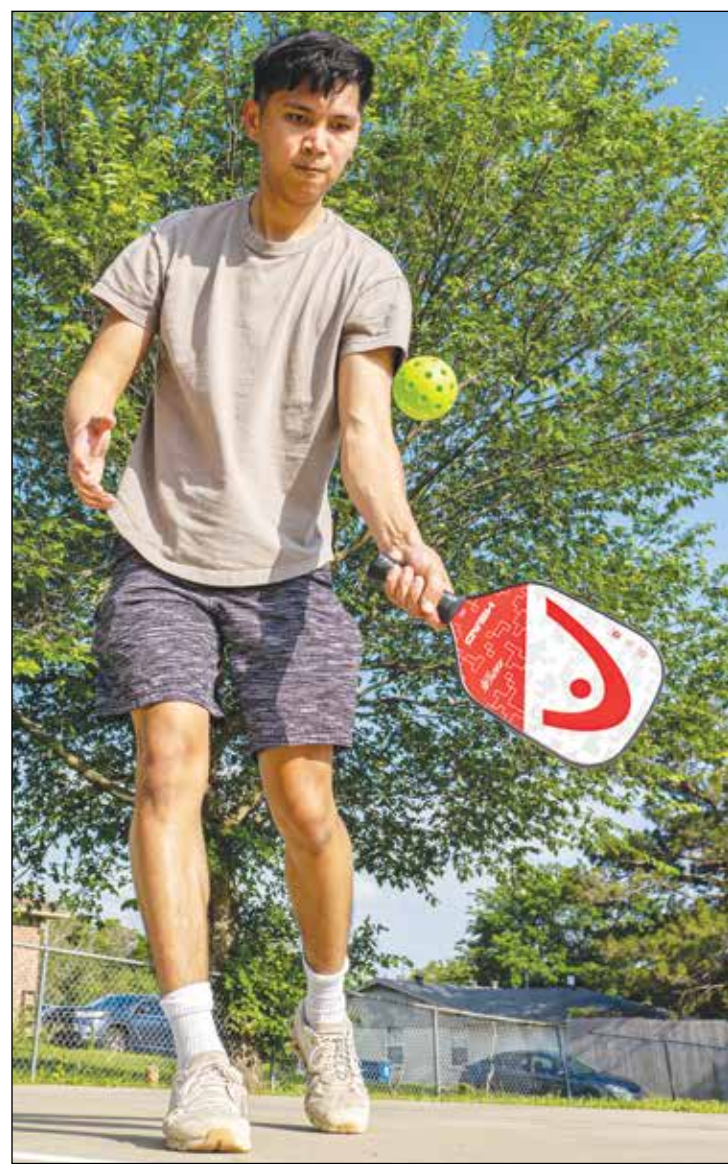
Not very expensive

Another reason pickleball has gained so much traction in recent years is its low cost of entry. Unlike sports like golf that have a higher financial commitment to start playing, often coupled with hefty fees to continue being active in the sport, most courts that offer open play will loan players the equipment they need with a nominal rental fee for the court.

According to Mackie, the average person can try out the sport for the first time for around \$8. Mackie warns, however, once people try the sport their financial burden may increase slightly.

"Get out there and try the sport. But, I will guarantee if you do that, you probably will be buying your own paddle and getting into it, because it's just so much fun," he said.

A quick search on Amazon.com revealed pickleball equipment sets range in price from \$40-\$80, generally speaking.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kevin Pradez serves the ball during an evening match at the Aledo United Methodist Church.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Zac Hess makes a play for the ball during a local pickleball match at the Aledo United Methodist Church while his wife and doubles partner, Hailey Hess, looks on.



Right now, Shoptaw is involved in a fundraising campaign that will expand the number of locations in Aledo where residents can participate in pickleball games. The funds will pay for a full build out for pickleball courts to be installed at the Branch to Hope Community Center.

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

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

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

Capital Highlights

Patrick issues gag order ahead of trial



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last week issued a sweeping gag order ahead of the impeachment trial of suspended Attorney General Ken Paxton, the *Houston Chronicle* reported, saying "out-of-court statements" by both sides threaten to jeopardize the trial.

The trial is set to begin Sept. 5.

The gag order prohibits members of the Senate and House, their staffs, witnesses, and attorneys from making statements that could have a "substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing the trial." Violators could be found in contempt of court and face up to six months in jail and up to \$500 in fines.

Patrick is acting as the judge in the impeachment trial. The gag order was required under the impeachment rules established by the Senate in June.

Meanwhile, Paxton has asked that three Democratic state senators be disqualified, saying their public statements prove they cannot be impartial, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Paxton is targeting Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and Sens. Roland Gutierrez and José Menéndez, D-San Antonio.

"Senators Menendez, Gutierrez, and Johnson's own public statements convincingly establish bias and prejudice against the Attorney General," the motion states. "That cannot be cured."

In a related matter, conservative activist Dr. Steven Hotze has sued Patrick and the Senate to allow Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, the suspended attorney general's wife, to participate in the trial's deliberations and vote on her husband's fate. The Senate rules for the trial disqualified her from participating.

A&M president resigns following botched hiring

Texas A&M University President M. Katherine Banks resigned last week after the faculty senate moved to investigate the botched hiring of journalist Kathleen McElroy to revive the university's journalism program, *The News* reported.

"The recent challenges regarding Dr. McElroy have made it clear to me that I must retire immediately," Banks wrote in her

resignation letter submitted late Thursday. "The negative press is a distraction from the wonderful work being done here."

McElroy, a 1981 A&M graduate, elected to remain a tenured professor of journalism at the University of Texas in Austin after the original offer for a tenure-track position at A&M was reduced to a one-year contract. The university received criticism from some people concerning McElroy's work on diversity and equity issues while working in multiple roles at *The New York Times*.

Mark A. Welsh III, dean of A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Service, is now acting president of the university.

Feds suing state over razor wire, buoys along the Rio Grande

The U.S. Justice Department has notified the state that it will file suit over the floating buoy barricade in the middle of the Rio Grande, which is meant to deter migrants from crossing illegally, as well as the razor wire now strung across the U.S. side, the *Texas Standard* reported.

"The State of Texas' actions violate federal law, raise humanitarian concerns, present serious risks to public safety and the environment, and may interfere with the federal government's ability to carry out its official duties," the letter sent to Gov. Greg Abbott stated.

In response, Abbott said the state has the "sovereign authority to defend our border, under the U.S. Constitution and the Texas

Constitution," adding, "We will see you in court, Mr. President."

Speed top contributing factor in Texas crashes

Speed-related crashes killed 1,469 people on Texas roadways, according to the Texas Department of Transportation — the top contributing factor in traffic fatalities.

"Getting to your destination two or three minutes faster just isn't worth the risk of a crash and causing harm to yourself or others," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams.

For the latter half of July, Texas law enforcement agencies are participating in Operation Slowdown, a statewide, high-visibility speed enforcement program. TxDOT is also running a number of commercials, billboards and social media posts urging drivers to slow down.

Report on state employee workforce issued

A report from the state comptroller's office on the workforce of state agencies indicates Texas faces staff shortages and high turnover, with compensation being the primary factor.

Average salaries for state employees are 11.7% lower than the overall market, according to the State Auditor's Office. Moreover, 35% of state employees live in the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown and the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan statistical areas, which have cost-of-living expenses higher than the state average.

State workers in health and human services and the prison system in particular have high turnover, which the

report blames on low pay and high stress.

The turnover rate for all state employees in fiscal 2022 was 22.7% — the highest turnover rate in more than 10 years.

The five agencies with the most employees are:

- Health and Human Services Commission — 32,345
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice — 30,277
- Texas Department of Transportation — 12,375
- Department of Family and Protective Services — 11,984
- Texas Department of Public Safety — 10,210

Nearly 64,000 Texans to have student loans forgiven

The *Texas Tribune* reported that nearly 64,000 Texans will have their federal student loans forgiven because they qualified for an existing forgiveness program that was poorly administered. A total of \$3.1 billion will be forgiven for Texas borrowers, an average of \$48,500 per borrower.

The move is unrelated to President Joe Biden's now-defunct student debt forgiveness program that was blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court last month. The latest steps are being called a "correction" by the U.S. Department of Education and affect borrowers whose debts should have been canceled but weren't due to "past administrative failures."

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



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Slings&Arrows

Misleading Mailers and Mazes



Randy Keck

rkeck@community-news.com

"Shysters" is the only word I could think of to describe political operatives who are bombarding us with misleading mailers and billboards.

I just got one in the mail yesterday.

Under a blaring headline "OUR SCHOOLS ARE UNDER ATTACK" the mailer attempts to

conflate the voting record of our representative on the State Board of Education, Pat Hardy, with "the left," which, according to the mailer, "tells our children there are an infinite number of genders, that boys should compete in girl's (sic) athletics, and that we should be ashamed of America and its values."

The mailer goes on to assert that Hardy "VOTES WITH THE DEMOCRAT MINORITY 96% OF THE TIME."

Like the misleading billboards along I-20 in Willow Park attacking State Rep. Glenn Rogers, the language used reflects an alternate reality.

So let's be clear. Texas is a conservative state. Texas is a very

conservative state with an overwhelming Republican majority. And with some exceptions, the Democrats in Texas lean toward the conservative end of their party.

The State Senate is roughly 61% Republican and 38% Democrat. The State House is 57% Republican and 42% Democrat.

And the State Board of Education is 66% Republican, where Republicans outnumber Democrats 10-5.

To its credit, Texas has had a history of enacting legislation with bi-partisan votes, where the Republican majority and the Democrat minority hash out issues to the benefit of all Texans.

So to say a Republican representative, whether in the legislature or on the State Board of Education, "votes with Democrats" may technically be true, but it leaves a false impression that Democrats are driving the bus.

They are not.

The more accurate (and truthful) statement is that Democrats are voting with the Republican majority.

In Rogers' case, the billboard statement that "Rogers joined 61 Democrats to impeach Ken Paxton" is very misleading.

The correct statement is that 95% of the Democrats in the

Turn to MAILERS, page 5



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A camper makes a catch on one ball immediately after transferring a ball to her throwing hand during batting practice during Ladycat Softball Camp on Thursday, June 15.

GuestColumn

Texas Scorecard fails the test of truth



Zan Sharp Prince
zan@zanprince.com

Dear Friends,

In this place, we stand for God, Country, and Truth! You know that Parker County, Texas is one of the most conservative places in the country, and thank God for each of you as you work every day to maintain Parker County values! You also know that the track records of State Senator Phil King, State Senator Drew Springer, and State Representative Glenn Rogers are available at <https://capitol.texas.gov/> and conservative by any standard but the Texas Scorecard.

All three of our elected officials fail, yes fail the Scorecard's test as conservatives. And why is that so? Is there an agenda other than truth with the Texas Scorecard? Not sure that I understand the blatant disregard for facts, but by any standard but theirs,

the facts support our elected officials as conservative members doing our business in Austin.

And while we think about the fallacies of Texas Scorecard, think about all of the organizations they are tied to: Empower Texans, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, Defend Texas Liberty, Texas Federation for Children PAC, Young Conservatives of Texas Legislative Ratings, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility Fiscal Index, Texans for Responsible Leadership, Texas Right to Life, True Texas Project, Texas Family Project, Texas Gun Rights, Abolish Abortion Texas, Strong Borders Action, Texans for Vaccine Choice, Texas Taxpayer Advocates, and Young Americans for Liberty.

And locally, they are attached to the Parker County Conservatives, an organization who first filed a report with the Texas Ethics Commission with a start date of 4-14-2015 who claims to be impersonated by Parker County Republicans for Conservative Government, an organization that has been filing reports with TEC and encouraging you to vote since 2004! Looks like Parker County

Conservatives is trying to impersonate Parker County Republicans for Conservative Government, a group of local grassroots activists who are committed to the best elected official in each position!

Now we may agree with some, maybe even many, but not all of the positions of our friends aligned with Texas Scorecard' entities, but we cannot agree with their tactics. There's no exception for truth in politics. Slandering any human being has no place in civil society, let alone the best place to live and work in the world! It's time to ask our candidates to tell us why them instead of them or their surrogates throwing rocks at their opponent.



Read this story online

Please do your research from the State record of votes and do not reward behavior that we wouldn't allow in our homes and businesses.

You are difference makers! Please make sure you campaign and vote with truth!

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

MAILERS

from page 4

House joined 75% of the Republicans to vote to impeach Ken Paxton.

The Billboard is paid for by "Defend Texas Liberty" Political Action Committee, which would take a dozen spreadsheets to even attempt to understand all the tomfoolery that happens there. Money comes and money goes through a maze of interconnected groups and people, all designed to hide who is behind the messaging.

The State Board of Education mailer was presumably paid for by "Texans for Conservative School Values." As of Tuesday, July 26, there is no record of that organization filing

with the Texas Ethics Commission as a Political Action Committee, nor is there a record of it filing with the IRS as a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization.

In other words, "dark money." I can make an educated guess who is ultimately behind this misleading mailer. But my guess is that one might have to navigate a maze to get there.

Like the recent "Concerned Parents of Aledo" political action committee that never filed its legally-required list of donors, we can guess who was behind it, but again, one might have to navigate a maze to arrive at the truth.

All of this is truly concerning.

As voters, we all have the right to know who is paying for the political information we receive, because the source of the money has an effect on the credibility of the message.

So for now, I'll leave you with a couple of things.

First, no Republican member of the State Board of Education will ever vote for boys competing in girls' athletics or for any of the other charges on the mailer. That's just an attempt to deceive.

Second, if you receive a political mailer and the "paid for by" line includes the words "liberty," "patriots," or "concerned," then beware. Because likely those organizations have little to do with liberty, patriotism, or actual concern.



Read this story online



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A misleading billboard along I-20 in Willow Park.

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THEATRE

Young local star shooting for the moon

WHS grad achieving greatness at early age

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Hannah Baker has found the love of her life — theatre.

If early results are an indication, she and the stage look to have a long and healthy relationship.

"Of course, it's not the kind of thing someone can plan, but I definitely see myself auditioning for Broadway and traveling shows," the 18-year-old recent Weatherford High School graduate said. "I'd love to be in the industry."

Hannah is off to a great start. She's performed with numerous theatre companies throughout North Texas in such celebrated venues as the Granbury Opera House, the Plaza in Cleburne, and the Artisan Theatre Center. And during her time at WHS she set the standard for excellence.

Hannah capped her high school career by being nominated for a prestigious award by Broadway Dallas, formerly Dallas Summer Musicals. She was nominated for lead performer in a high school production for playing the Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz, while she and her castmates were nominated for Best Ensemble and the show was up for Best Choreography.

The awards honor high school performers from Tyler to Lubbock and all points in between.

"Being nominated was crazy. I wasn't expecting it at all," Hannah said. "I played a character I wasn't expecting to get nominated for. The Scarecrow is kind of silly."

In fact, anyone who has seen the legendary show knows Scarecrow isn't the main character, it's Dorothy. But Hannah gave such an outstanding performance she garnered a lead nomination.

The event wasn't simply an awards presentation. She and others performed a medley to showcase all the nominees. She traveled to Dallas twice a week for about a month to rehearse.

"It was a big commitment, just from playing a little character in an old musical - and then getting to work with these professionals," she said. "One of my directors was a major character in Phantom of the Opera on Broadway.

"That was my favorite part, working with those people. They were so smart and detail-oriented."

Getting Started

Hannah first hit the stage when she was just a child. She performed in musicals directed by her mother, Elizabeth Baker, at Mary Martin Elementary School.

At first, theatre wasn't that attractive to her. Then, something happened that changed her thinking.

"My mom put makeup on my face, and I didn't like that. But then, when I was about 6, I was in an ensemble for Peter Pan," Hannah said.

Then, in the summer of her fifth-grade year, she attended a theatre camp in Granbury. That same year she performed in the Opera House Christmas Show, Meet Me in St. Louis.

"Twenty six performances for an 11-year-old," she said. "After that I kept auditioning for shows."

The Opera House has been a big part of her career ever since. In fact, she is performing Mary Poppins Jr. as part of the summer youth series presented by the Granbury Theatre Company.

"Hannah is the type of performer who garners the utmost respect from her fellow performers. Not only because she is incredibly talented. Hannah is one of the hardest workers you will ever find," Opera House President and Executive Director Micky Shearon said. "Most importantly, Hannah is a genuinely warm, kind, and encouraging person who cares deeply about those around her. People want to work with her and be around her.

"I can't tell you the number of kids that have ended up in our theatre academy program as a direct result of Hannah. There is no question in my mind that Granbury Theatre Company and Academy are better because of Hannah Baker's involvement."

Familiar with New York

The Big Apple is nothing new to Hannah. Earlier in July she spent a week there for a second consecutive summer working with a company called iTheatrics. They create junior shows from major productions and use youngsters like Hannah for test runs.

For example, they'll take a complete Broadway show and edit it down to 30 minutes for family productions.

Last summer Hannah helped create Charlie and the Chocolate



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Recent Weatherford High School graduate Hannah Baker was nominated for a Broadway Dallas Award for Lead Performer in a show among high school students.

Factory Jr. and this year she worked on Shrek Kids and Madagascar Kids.

"You get to meet kids from all over the country, and really cool adults, and we're all creating these shows," Hannah said.

From that a script is created for theatre companies across the United States to use.

"Just last year they created Finding Nemo Jr., and I was just in Finding Nemo Jr.," Hannah said. "I kept thinking I probably know someone who worked on this."

Talented Family

Hannah comes from a family filled with talent. Along with her mother, who teaches music at Mary Martin Elementary School, her father Brent and older brothers Wilson and John Thomas are all musicians. In addition, Brent is a morning radio co-host (with Dave Cowley) on The Coyote radio station.

"They're the ones who taught me if you want something, bust your butt," Hannah said. "Practice all day. My mom taught me the importance of theatre and how it touches young lives.

"I grew up in a place where it (entertaining) was normal and encouraged. It definitely makes sense that I am who I am."

Along with her talents of acting, singing, and dancing, Hannah plays a little piano and bassoon.

"She's a pretty decent guitar player, too," said Brent, who should know, as that is also his instrument of choice and one that he has played in bands himself.

Hannah also volunteers at church, mostly in the children's program. She tells and explains Bible stories, along with leading them in music sometimes.

"It's a fun way to serve," she said.

Favorite Talent

Of her many talents, Hannah said she loves singing best.

"I'm obsessed with musicality. The more I learn about it the more I see its greatness. You can do it anywhere," she said. "Knowing I can sing high notes I've never sung before, that's such a great feeling.

"I express whatever I'm working on most when I'm singing. But then, I grew up in a musical family."

Brent said, "We are very proud of her, not only for her talent, but her work ethic. She works extremely



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hannah Baker of Weatherford dreams of performing onstage professionally, and her career is off to a strong start as she has been in shows at theatres throughout North Texas.

hard and doesn't just rely on God-given talent.

"You don't just roll out of bed and do all she's been able to do at such a young age. It takes perseverance and commitment."

Favorite Role

Asking Hannah to pick a favorite role is like asking a parent to pick a favorite child. Each one is special to her in a different way, though she did single out some that made the biggest impact.

"Scarecrow is definitely one of them," she said. "When I got the part I said to myself I'm just gonna play around and they'll tell me if it's too much. I guess it worked. Plus, all my friends were in it."

She also loved playing Sister Mary Robert in the Granbury Theatre Company's production of Sister Act.

"That was so much fun, and I got some solo work, and the ensembles were great," she said.

Another GTC production she loved being in was the role of Anybodys in West Side Story.

"It's not a huge role, but it's definitely important and unique," she said. "She kinda doesn't fit in anywhere. She's also kind of like me, very spunky."

There are also several roles that she'd love to play should the opportunity arise. They include Ado Annie in Oklahoma, Elphaba in Wicked, Grizabella in Cats, Dolly Levi in Hello Dolly, and a couple of very special roles.

"I would love to play Peter Pan, and the mom Heidi in Dear Evan Hansen," Hannah said.

Battling through COVID

While live theatre shut down everywhere during COVID, Hannah

said she was certain it would return. In the meantime, she did what other actors were doing, she made do.

"After a couple months we were doing virtual," she recalled. "It wasn't the same as having a live audience, but we got through.

"We also did a show with masks on. That was really a challenge. Half of your performance is in your face - plus, we couldn't project.

"But now I think live theatre is back and even better."

Looking Ahead

Hannah plans to attend Weatherford College for a year to get her associates degree. Then, she will audition for other, four-year schools as she pursues a bachelor of fine arts in performing arts.

"I would love to be a voice teacher when I'm older," she said.

And while she would love a career in show business, she wants a family as well.

Through it all, she wants to continue telling stories through the shows she is in.

"That's what it is. You're celebrating what was created, you're respecting the script and seeing so many minds come together to create something consistent," she said.

Whatever the future holds for her, Shearon believes Hannah has the potential to find herself among the best in the theatre business.

"Hannah Baker is a legitimate triple threat. She sings, dances, and acts equally well, and she does each exceptionally well," Shearon said. "Hannah is without question the most talented young artist I've ever had the pleasure to work with. You can look for her on Broadway some day!"



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Only 18 years old, Hannah Baker of Weatherford is off to a strong start in her theatre career, having performed all over North Texas and earning an acting nomination from Broadway Dallas.

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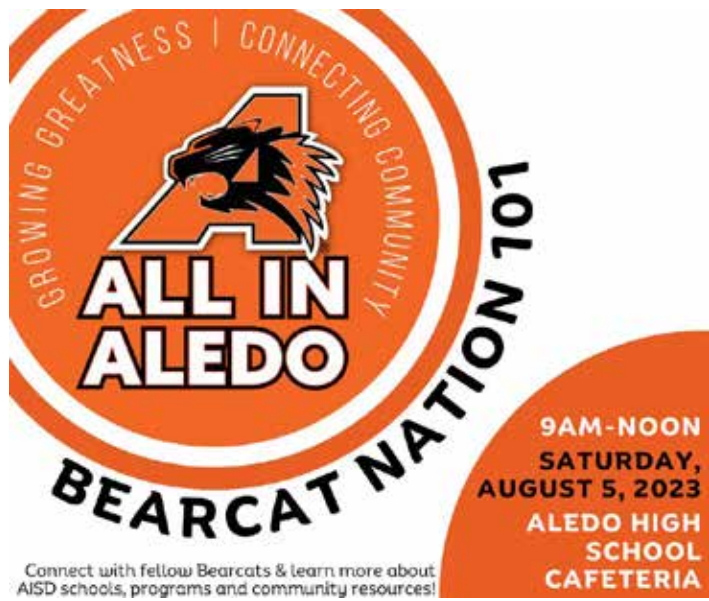
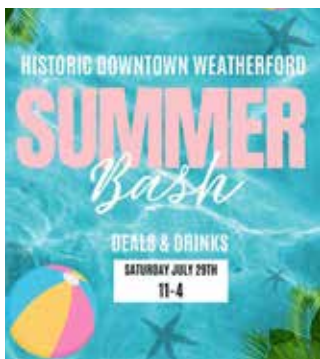
More events can be found at www.community-news.com/calendar

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 28 & 29, and 2 p.m. on July 20. Tickets are \$10. For more information and to purchase visit <https://weatherfordcollege.simplix.com/>

JULY 29

Summer Bash
The shops in Historic Downtown Weatherford is having a Summer Bash from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, July 29. Come snag some awesome summer deals & drinks from your favorite shops!



Connect with fellow Bearcats & learn more about AISD schools, programs and community resources!

AUGUST 5

Bearcat Nation 101
You're invited to Bearcat Nation 101! Connect with fellow Bearcats and learn more about AISD schools, programs and community resources!

This free annual event is a great way to meet admin-

istrators and employees from departments throughout the district as well as find ways to get plugged in to the community no matter what your child is passionate about!

The event will be held in the Aledo High School Cafeteria, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, August 5.

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.

ACROSS

- album by Texas group "ZZ Top": "___ Hombres"
- sharpen
- TXism: "___ bien" (good)
- TX Sam Rayburn was a 24-___ congressman
- this Moe was TCU basketball coach (1987-94)
- pamper place
- Panna ___, Texas
- "masticates," if you wanna get fancy
- Ector County seat
- in Hidalgo County on highway 107
- TXism: "___ a junkyard dog"
- "found ___ wrote years ago"
- you can ___ free
- 72-ounce steak at the "Big Texan"
- this Carter founded the "Fort Worth Star-Telegram"
- Morton Salt is doing this in Grand Saline, Texas
- TXism: "got tumbleweed blood in his veins"
- "don't ___" (don't annoy)
- TXism: "high ___" (costly)
- TXism: "___ picture"
- Waxahachie is seat of this county

DOWN

- TXism: "___ Catholic?" (yes)
- natural skill, aptitude
- Mule ___, Texas
- do the butterfly or backstroke
- can order it sweet in Texas cafes (2 wds.)
- oil or gas additive
- Vice President, TX John, said his job "___ worth a bucket of warm spit"
- TX Mary Kay ___ of a cosmetics empire
- dad's mate
- TXism: "short as ___ memory"
- 500 sheets of paper
- "there ___ such thing as a free lunch"
- TXism: "tough ___ old boot"
- it runs along the Euphrates
- entangle
- old Oilers coach: ___ "Bum" Phillips
- Pleasant, Texas (abbr.)
- TXism: "mosey ___ to the trough" (join in)
- TXism: "can't make a silk purse out of ___ ear"
- in Collin County on U.S. 75
- a rope is tied to this on a boat
- TXism for "relatives"
- ___ Colony, Texas
- ___ Jo, Texas (abbr.)
- sole apiary regulator in Texas (abbr.)
- Livingston is the seat of this county

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION
 The Town Council of the Town of Annetta North will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday the 8th day of August, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at Annetta Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 2836 FM 5, Annetta Texas, where all persons will have the right to appear and be heard on the proposed annexation by the Town of Annetta North, Texas, of land, generally described as Lot 2R1 Block 1, McDavid South, an addition to Parker County, Texas according to the plat recorded in Plat Cabinet B, Slide 429 of the Plat Records of Parker County, Texas, commonly known as 111 Quail Bluff Lane, Aledo, Texas, contiguous to the current city limits and within the Town's exclusive extraterritorial jurisdiction. A map of the area proposed for annexation is available at Town Hall.

TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION
 The Town Council of the Town of Annetta North will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday the 8th day of August, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at Annetta Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 2836 FM 5, Annetta Texas, where all persons will have the right to appear and be heard on the proposed annexation by the Town of Annetta North, Texas, of land, generally described as Lot 2R2 Block 1, McDavid South, an addition to Parker County, Texas according to the plat recorded in Plat Cabinet B, Slide 429 of the Plat Records of Parker County, Texas, commonly known as 115 Quail Bluff Lane, Aledo, Texas, contiguous to the current city limits and within the Town's exclusive extraterritorial jurisdiction. A map of the area proposed for annexation is available at Town Hall.

TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION
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community-news.com

IMMEDIATE WATER RESTRICTIONS DEER CREEK WATER SYSTEM

Effective immediately, July 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., the Town of Annetta is implementing mandatory watering restrictions for the Deer Creek Water System to the following:

- Limit landscape watering at each service address to once per week. The allowable water days are based on the last digit of the address.
 - 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 Wednesday between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
 - 2, 4, 6, 8, 0 Sunday between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- (Exceptions: Foundations, azaleas, new plantings (first year) of trees and shrubs may be watered for up to 2 hours on any day by a hand-held hose or a soaker hose.)
- Reduce draining and filling of existing pools and prohibit filling of new pools. (Pools may add water to replace losses during normal use.)
- A 10% rate surcharge will be billed for all water use over 21,000 gallons per connection per month.
- Property owners are encouraged to wait until the current drought has passed before establishing new landscaping.

This will be in effect until further notification. As always, the Town of Annetta prioritizes the availability of safe, clean drinking water at reliable pressures for normal domestic use as well as adequate water storage levels to provide fire flow under emergency conditions.

If you have any questions, please contact Town Hall at (817) 441-5770 or at (682) 261-2341 after hours.

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RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A young catcher readies himself to receive the pitch during a bullpen session at the Bearcat Baseball Camp.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

45 student-athletes named NJCAA All-Academic

By Crystal Woerly
Weatherford College

Weatherford College athletics had one of its best seasons in history in the 2022-23 academic year, and the Coyotes were successful students as well. The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) has released its Academic Teams of the Year and All-Academic teams, recognizing student-athletes across the country for their work in the classroom.

Squads that achieved a team grade point average of 3.0 or higher were honored as Academic Teams of the Year, and WC's volleyball, women's basketball, baseball, softball, women's tennis, and men's golf teams earned that distinction.

The following WC student-athletes were First Team NJCAA All-Academic honorees for

maintaining 4.0 GPAs — volleyball: Taylor Borden, Nikoleta Tatar and Alykx Vlahopoulos; women's basketball: My Andersson, Diana Mozer and Hena Spahic; softball: Teoni Lamb, Presleigh Payne and Tori Thompson; baseball: Joseph Baran and Matthew Rheaume; golf: Michael Goad and Bradley Missel.

Second team (3.80 to 3.99 GPA) NJCAA All-Academic student-athletes included — volleyball: Alexis Pruitt, Stella Scott and Dru Witherspoon; men's basketball: Ramondo Battle II, Jaelyn Brooks and Alexander Daniels, Jr.; softball: Lilly Bean, Sabrina Graf and Carter Smith; baseball: Joe Banta III, Layden Baldwin-White, Joseph Carbone

III, Charles Giese and Johnathan Greve; and women's tennis: Mia Milojevic.

Third team (3.60 to 3.79) honorees were — volleyball: Mary Doyle and Meagan Ledbetter; women's basketball: Ksenija Dokic, Mikayla Green, Briarley Rogers and Helena Svilberg; men's basketball: Jaden Kennedy; softball: Celise Bobbitt, Annabelle Guay, Alexis Nava and Chloe Prentiss; baseball: Louka Daoust, Kevin Duran, Garrett McLaughlin and Preston Newberry; women's tennis: Telma Llorenzo Herreros; and men's golf: Samuel Benson.

WC's rodeo team does not compete in the NJCAA; it is instead governed by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.



Read this story online

SWIMMING

Wild qualifies 35 for state

TAAF Games this weekend

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Weatherford Wild Swim Team is well represented this weekend at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas in Brownsville. They qualified 35 swimmers from the TAAF Region 4 Meet in Southlake on July 15-16.

The top four swimmers in each event for ages 14 and under qualified, while those ages 15 and over qualified simply by competing in the regional meet.

In all, 21 male swimmers and 14 females earned a spot at state. This includes 22 individual events and 13 relays.

The two age groups most represented are Girls 11-12 and Boys 13-14, each with seven qualifiers.

Boys 9-10 and 11-12 each had five qualifiers, while Girls and Boys 15-17 each had four.

Zach Edwards (Boys 15-17) qualified in the most events, each advancing in six. Kade Burlison (Boys 15-17) qualified in five events, as did Cullen Costello (Boys 11-12), Karla Rodriguez (Girls 15-17) and Jubilee Morgan (Girls 15-17).

Here is a complete list of Wild state qualifiers and the events in which they qualified:

Females

- 8-Under
- Chloe Brumfield, first in 25 back, 24.76; second in 25 free, 20.03.
- 11-12
- Madison Balaban, 200 free relay, fourth, 2:20.24.
- Emma Circelli, 200 free relay.
- Campbell Hord, 200 free relay.
- Blair Mezger, first in 50 breast, 42.89; third in 50 fly, 39.36; 200 free relay.
- Kyla Roberts, 200 free relay.

- Elizabeth Walter, 200 free relay, 13-14
- Avery Meek, third in 50 back, 36.37.
- 15-17
- Saphira Buchfink, 200 medley relay, second, 2:19.96; 200 free relay, third, 2:05.17; mixed 100 free relay, third, 56.05.
- Jubilee Morgan, mixed 200 medley relay, fourth, 2:15.61; 200 medley relay, 200 free relay; mixed 200 free relay, 2:01.35; mixed 100 free relay.
- Brookelyn Nowakowski, mixed 200 medley relay, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, mixed 200 free relay.
- Karla Rodriguez, mixed 200 medley relay, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, mixed 200 free relay, mixed 100 free relay.
- Males**
- 9-10
- Samuel Balaban, 100 free relay, second, 1:16.38.
- Harrison Gentry, fourth in 25 fly, 24.16; 100 free relay.
- Wesley Judd, 100 free relay.
- Beau Mezger, 100 free relay.
- Colt Spillers, 100 free relay.

- 11-12
- Kody Burlison, 200 medley relay, first, 2:27.89; 200 free relay, first, 2:11.85.
- Cullen Costello, fourth in 200 free, 1:10.35; second in 50 breast, 37.64; third in 100 IM, 1:21.38; 200 medley relay; 200 free relay.
- Max Gentry, fourth in 50 back, 37.35; fourth in 100 IM, 1:23.00; 200 medley relay; 200 free relay.
- Bowen Judd, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay.
- Noah Wagnon, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay.
- 13-14
- Jaxon Edwards, 200 medley relay, first, 2:18.00; 200 free relay, first, 1:59.35.
- Trenton Griffis, 200 medley relay.
- Rafe Haugen, fourth in 200 free finals, 2:56.08; 200 medley relay; 200 free relay.
- Blake Mezger, fourth in 50 back, 37.22; 200 medley relay; 200 free relay.
- Ryan Roberts, 200 free relay.
- Michael Spillers, first in 50

- breast, 34.42; 200 medley relay; 200 free relay.
- Eli Vanzant, fourth in 100 free, 1:01.37; third in 100 IM, 1:16.77; 200 medley relay; 200 free relay.
- 15-17
- Kade Burlison, mixed 200 medley relay, fourth, 2:15.61; 200 medley relay, third, 2:11.66; 200 free relay, second, 1:54.96; mixed 200 free relay, third, 2:01.35; mixed 100 free relay, third, 56.05.
- Zach Edwards, second in 200 free, 2:23.32; mixed 200 medley relay; 200 medley relay; 200 free relay; mixed 200 free relay; mixed 100 free relay.
- Michael Goff, mixed 200 medley relay, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, mixed 200 free relay.
- Jackson Skalak, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, mixed 100 free relay.
- 25-39
- Matthew Williams, first in 100 free, 1:01.51; first in 50 back, 34.49; third in 50 free, 29.88; first in 100 IM, 1:10.20.



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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

FW JUNIOR BOYS GOLF

Bearcats have impressive showing

Mahanay rallies for second

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

In an effort to defend his title, Aledo's Braylon Mahanay rallied in the final round, but finished tied for second in the 14-18 Division I Championship Flight of the Fort Worth Junior Boys Golf Tournament.



Braylon Mahanay

The tournament was played over four days July 17-20 on a variety of courses in and around Fort Worth, including the opening day at Ouste Ranch Golf Course in Weatherford.

Mahanay posted a four-day total of 291, two shots back of champion Colin Price of Godley. He opened with a 69 and closed with a 70, with rounds of 75 and 77 sandwiched in between.

"I expected Braylon to make a charge. He's not going to have too many bad rounds," Aledo coach Brian Mourning said.

Mahanay will be playing for Weatherford College in the fall. He competed individually at the Class 5A State Tournament his senior season

with the Bearcats after helping the entire team reach state his junior year.

In all, Aledo had 10 players competing, all in the 14-18 Division I category.

Also in the Championship Flight, Dylan Kiser had the lowest round of the tournament for any Bearcat. He opened with a 66 to win the Wendell Condit Medalist Award, named after the long-time tournament director who retired in 2013 and passed away in 2018.

Kiser finished 16th in the flight as he followed with rounds of 78-88-80.

Braden Stokes placed 14th in the First Flight, posting a 319. This included rounds of 70-86-86-77.

In the Second Flight, Jett Moore and Helton Mosiello tied for third place, each shooting 316. Moore put together rounds of 78-82-76-80, while Mosiello shot 76-82-79-79.

Grayson Freeman tied for seventh in the Third Flight with a 344 (85-86-89-84).

"That tournament is tough, especially in this heat. You get a couple good rounds and you've done something," Mourning said. "Fortunately, we don't have any high school tournaments that are four rounds."

Also in the Third Flight, Brian Yarbrough shot 271 (89-84-98)

but missed the cut for the final day, as did Cade Moore with a 278 (88-92-98) and Johnnie Reed with a 301 (91-106-104). William Kirkman shot 83 and 85 on the first two days before withdrawing from the tournament.

The flights were determined after the opening round.

Following the first day at Ouste Ranch, Day 2 was played on Ridglea Country Club's Championship Course. The third day saw the Championship Flight and Second Flight played at Rivercrest Country Club, with the First and Third Flights at Mira Vista Country Club. The final day had all flights playing at Shady Oaks Country Club.

NTPGA Junior Tour

Several area golfers are seeing plenty of action on the Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Tour this summer. During July area success included:

July 16 - Christian Moll, Aledo, tied for sixth in the Boys 13-14 division of the Prep Tour at Meadowbrook Park Golf Course in Arlington, shooting 48 over nine holes.

July 24 - At Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas, Stokes shot 70 to place third in the Boys 15-18 division of the Metro Tour. He tied for first but lost in a playoff.



Read this story online

CUTTING HORSES

Bushaw makes return to nationals

Has another top-10 finish

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

It's hard to compete when you're sick.

Will Bushaw experienced this at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming last week.

It wasn't him who was ill. It was his horse, and just like a human, being sick makes an extremely challenging competition even moreso.

Despite this, Bushaw, a junior at Peaster High School, placed 10th in the overall aggregate scoring in the boys cutting competition. He was hoping to move up one notch and become a national champion after finishing second in 2022, his first appearance at the finals.

Still, he said returning to nationals was itself exciting.

"Overall, I'm not upset with how it ended. My horse getting sick definitely made a difference, but I don't think it affected the outcome," Bushaw said. "I showed him the first two gos and borrowed a horse for the short go."

Bushaw and his horse had an overall aggregate score of 426.5. The winning score was 443 by Cody Gann of Leighton,



PHOTO COURTESY OF AIMEE BUSHAW

Will Bushaw posted a second consecutive top-10 finish in boys cutting at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming last week despite his horse getting sick.

Alabama, with Corsicana's Aden Bernhagen second at 441.

In the opening round, Bushaw posted a score of 134. He rallied with his best performance of the rodeo in the second round, posting a 147. Then, in the short, he had a fourth-place showing of 145.5.

Bushaw's horse is at a veterinary hospital in Colorado. However, Bushaw is still competing this weekend in the National Youth Cutting

Horse Association Senior Scholarship competition in Fort Worth.

Muth third among Junior High

In the National Junior High Finals Rodeo, Weatherford's Kynzington Muth placed third in barrel racing. She had an aggregate time of 46.802 in an extremely close competition.

The winning time was 46.758 by Merrick Moyer of Woodward, Oklahoma.



Read this story online

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