

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving Aledo · the Annettas · Hudson Oaks · Willow Park, Texas

WILLOW PARK

Residents get look at much lower tax rate

County presents transportation bond information

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes — along with the city council — plans to keep a promise made last year.

Largely because the Parker County Emergency Services District 1 annexed the Willow Park Fire Department following a November, 2022 vote by citizens, Grimes and his fellow city leaders can keep their promise. He said at the time if the vote went through it would create such an opportunity because no longer would the fire department require the vast majority of sales tax for funding.

The proposed new property tax rate announced by Grimes at the Tuesday, Aug. 8, council meeting is \$0.397597, a decrease of \$0.1409 cents from the current rate of \$0.538450. It's a decrease of more than 26%.

"The easy thing would have been to keep the tax rate high," Grimes told Mayor Doyle Moss and the council. "I don't know if this is the largest tax reduction in Texas, but it's big. My city manager friends are in awe."

The council is expected to vote on the new tax rate, along with the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget, following public hearings on both at 6 p.m. on Aug. 22 at City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail.

Road Improvement Bond

Parker County Judge Pat Deen and representatives from the Parker County Transportation Board gave a presentation to the council concerning a proposed bond election. It is expected that the Parker County Commissioners Court will call for a \$130 million bond election on the ballot for the Nov. 7 election.

"If you've ever driven I-20 any day you'll be for this bond," Deen said.

If the bond is passed, county-wide road work will include a total of 35 projects:

- Safety improvements, 12 projects.

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page A2



Leaping Lasses



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Participants in cheer camp on Aug. 5 practice jumps. Cheer camp was among the last of summer camps before the start of school.

From Pete's to Jake's



FILE PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pete and Sandra Mason are shown in front of Pete's Deli in 1999. Notice the gas pump in the background. It was on the side of the store

601 FM 1187 to again become a community hot spot

By Ashlyn Poole
The Community News

With an anticipated opening in mid-August, Jake's Burgers is hoping to bring life back into an old building off of FM 1187, a

community hot spot during the 90s when Pete's Deli was in business.

Recently, Jake's Burgers owners and business partners Courtney Lindley and Bob Gregg met Pete and Sandra Mason, the owners of the old restaurant, to share memories of and goals for the space.

"We've heard their stories and loved to visit with them about what this place was for them at the time

in their lives that they were running the business," Gregg said. "It was a place where they could meet their friends and neighbors and be supportive to those people in any way that they could."

Although the building was existing when the Masons bought it, Pete

Turn to **JAKE'S**, page A3



TAKE CARE

With continued hot, dry weather, fire danger continues to increase. Please avoid any outdoor activity that could create sparks.

Emergency Services District No. 1 Chief Stephen Watson said "I would avoid open fire pits. Anyone welding should have some type of fire suppression readily available."

ALEDO ISD

AHS band program receives national honor

Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction Award will be presented in Chicago

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternity has announced that the Aledo High School Band program under the direction of Joey Paul has been selected as a 2023 recipient of the fraternity's Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction Award. The purpose of the Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction is to recognize those programs that exhibit and exemplify the founder's ideal of honoring superior achievement, moral uprightness, and promoting the international development of bands.

Aledo was a unanimous choice by a selection committee comprised of band directors from across the United States and Canada. The Aledo program will be recognized in December at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic held in Chicago.

"It's a great honor and I am super excited for the program to be recognized on the national level," Paul said, and added that the staff plans to attend the public presentation in Chicago.

In a letter to Paul, George Hattendorf, chair of the Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction, said other schools could learn from Aledo's band program.

"It is also hoped that other bands will use your program as an example to strive to attain these same levels of accomplishment," Hattendorf said.



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THISTLES

from page four

Hope. Some young, some old, some with special issues but all have one thing in common, they need a home and a human to love and care for them.

You can find out more about Howard and Mary D. and many other animals at the Saving Hope website. There are fees and costs. Owning an animal has its responsibilities.

If you want to adopt a Saving Hope animal, there is an application process. Potential owners are screened. Please don't be offended by this. The last thing anyone wants is a failed adoption. There is a meet and greet between the fosters and the prospective owners to see if it is a good fit.

The end result is hopefully a forever home.

Go to The Saving Hope website at <https://savinghoperescue.org/> and get started. An animal out there needs you and will repay you many times over with love and appreciation.



Kamron McCoy Hall (10) and Thaddeus Keller (82) battle for a pass during the first day of Bearcat football workouts on Aug. 7. About 205 players turned out for the practice.

BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

COUNCIL

from page one

- New road extensions, 11 projects.
- Road capacity widening, 8 projects.
- Frontage roads/ramps, 4 projects.
- The financial breakdown of the bond includes:
- Precinct projects, \$90 million.
- Partnership projects, \$25 million.
- Discretionary, \$15 million.
- Statistics presented included:
- Parker County grew by 34.1% between 2010-22.
- Parker County is ranked No. 6 in the U.S. in fastest growth.
- Parker county is currently growing at a rate of 4.8% per year.
- An estimated 22 people move into the county every day.

The presentation also noted the bond's importance because

local transportation funding will support growth; state and federal partnerships create more leverage for transportation improvement opportunities; regional partnerships will bring together the North Central Texas Council of Governments, municipalities and school districts; and it would expedite the safety projects in support of #EndTheStreakTX, a project designed to end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

Parker County Transportation Department officials said if, as expected, the election is called, they will spend between now and the election date educating the public more on the bond project.

"With the growth we're experiencing here, it just makes sense," Moss said. "The county needs it."

Land Annexation

The council approved a joint ordinance and extraterritorial

jurisdiction (ETJ) boundary agreement with the City of Aledo to release and transfer a 31.247-acre tract of property to the City of Willow Park's ETJ.

The land is owned by Dustin and Jayme Haney, co-trustees of the Haney Revocable Trust. It is located near the site of a new gym and Stillwater Meadow wedding venue on Bankhead Highway.

Willow Park City Attorney Pat Chesser noted that some additional nearby property, about three acres, also has to be annexed to fulfill the agreement.

"We look forward to serving businesses on Bankhead. Anything we can do to contribute to the success of small businesses we'll do it and look forward to stepping up," Grimes said.

Kings Gate Park

The council voted to accept the dedication of Kings Gate Park

from Wilks Development to the city and agreed to repay the cost of replatting.

The Planned Development Zoning District for The Shops at Willow Park, approved by the council in 2016, includes a segment for a hike and bike trail and open space.

This early transfer will accelerate the city's possession of additional public park space and allow for easier construction of the single track hike and bike trails planned, and other park improvements.

Wilks Development agreed to the early transfer and had the park land engineered, surveyed, and is preparing legal documents for closing, all of which they have paid. Willow Park officials proposed to pay for the title, but upon agreeing that the property needed to be replatted due to their retention of the Reserves at Trinity entrance, it was decided it was easier for Wilks to pay the \$2,347.60 for the title,

and the city pay for the replat, an estimated \$2,500.

"Kings Gate will be the cornerstone of our parks system," Grimes said. "It will be a source of joy for our residents."

ARPA funds redirected

The council approved the redirecting of \$665,153 from the American Rescue Plan Act funds at the request of Assistant City Manager Bill Funderburk.

Originally meant for the sanitary sewer line along Bankhead Highway, they will now be diverted to the wastewater effluent line project that ties into Squaw Creek Golf Course.



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JAKE'S

from page one

was the first person to put a kitchen inside.

"I had a brother that had a convenience store and he had a kitchen in his, and he did very well," Pete said. "So we decided we needed a kitchen. There was a pretty good sized stock room, so before I opened, I had that built into a kitchen."

A hot topic of conversation between the previous and new building owners was the unique community and the people in it.

"We tried to welcome everybody and year after year, it just kept growing," Pete said. "If I was up front and somebody walked in, it was 'Howdy, hello. How y'all doing?' We just greeted everybody, tried to wait on them as quick as we could."

After talking to Pete and Sandra, the business partners reflected on their goals for Jake's Burgers.

"The experiences and genuine relationships with the community, I think, is what they did fantastic," Lindley said. "That's what we hope to bring to the community, too. It's just a genuine, authentic relationship with everyone around it."

Lindley and Gregg bought Jake's Burgers with a group of partners two years ago. A growing restaurant, they decided Aledo was a good fit for Jake's ninth location. In fact, they've been looking for an opportunity in the town for quite some time, according to Gregg.

"We really wanted to take a brand that had heritage and history and carry it to grow into communities like Aledo where we can provide fresh, great food, a friendly environment, and a place that really has something for everyone," Gregg said. "So we saw these opportunities with the Jake's brand and now we get to carry it to its next phase of growth."

However, the process hasn't been easy for the owners, or the construction crew. Actually, the building hasn't been used as a restaurant since the Masons shut down Pete's Deli in 2000.

"Every project that is an older building has unique challenges that are unknown," Gregg said. "One of the questions we get on our website all the time is 'When are you going to open?' because we've been working on this location for almost two years. However, there are a number



ASHLYN POOLE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Courtney Lindley, left, and Bob Gregg are the owners of the new Jake's Burgers.



ASHLYN POOLE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pete and Sandra Mason had an opportunity to meet Courtney Lindley and Bob Gregg, the owners of Jake's Burgers, for a sneak peek of the new restaurant.

of challenges that you don't find out about until you start."

One such challenge was a massive void of dirt underneath the foundation, which conflicted with plumbing work. However, the location also provided opportunities that Lindley and Gregg turned into amenities.

"To be able to create the backyard environment that we are working to create with outdoor cooking, an outdoor bar, and a place where families and friends can hang out," Gregg said. "Not just eat, but have a great restaurant experience and also a great neighborhood hangout experience. That's what we were very excited about in this particular location."

The restaurant is projected to open before Aug. 17, just in time for the first high school scrimmage game.

"We'll do two days of live training with invited guests and then open to the public following that," Gregg said. "We'll make it known to the community that we're ready to go. We're just waiting on final formal approvals and working through a few last minute items so that we can finalize the date."

And Jake's has Pete and Sandra's approval. Now, there's three things tying the four of them together: the building, love of community, and VIP status at Jake's.

"I can see it's gonna be a hot spot just by looking at it," Pete said. "There'll be a lot of people coming here."



Read this story online

Clear the Shelter

More than 40 furry creatures (47, to be exact) found new homes at the Clear the Shelter event on Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter.

The shelter has experienced huge intakes of animals, and continues to look for permanent or foster homes for them.

The shelter will have another big event

on Aug. 26, and is offering \$25 adoptions through the month of August.

In addition, the shelter will waive the adoption fee on one selected animal each day for the remainder of August.

For more information, visit facebook.com/WPCAnimal.

PHOTOS BY ASHLYN POOLE



Read this story online



Caleb Martinex meets a new friend.



Melissa Colton and Hayden Hopkins



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The Community News



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Content Submission Policy

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

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

Child care centers closing across state



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

An unprecedented number of child care centers are expected to close across the state as pandemic relief funding ends, the *Texas Standard* reported. A survey conducted by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children of about 1,600 child care programs indicated 44% were likely to close their doors without additional funding. Federal pandemic relief funds ended for most centers in June.

The Texas Legislature declined to pass a \$2.3 billion House proposal for child care providers, with the intent that the money be used to raise the average wage of staff from \$12 per hour to at least \$15 per hour.

Since 2020, Texas child care providers have received more than \$4 billion in COVID-19 funding, according to the *Texas Tribune*. The money helped cover child care costs for more than 800,000 Texas children.

"This is going to be something that affects every community here in the state of Texas and will have a lasting effect on our economy as the supply of workers in all industries is shortened because of the lack of child care," Cody Summerville, executive director of TAEYC, said.

No additional impeachment articles for Paxton

The deadline has passed with no additional impeachment charges against suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton,

who already faces 20 articles of impeachment in a trial set in the Senate for Sept. 5, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

House members in late May voted 121-23 to send the articles of impeachment to the Senate, accusing Paxton of bribery and misuse of office. Paxton was indicted in 2015 for securities fraud, with that trial now set for 2024.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who will preside over the impeachment trial, said it will likely last two to three weeks.

New law cracks down on street racing

Gov. Greg Abbott last week signed two laws cracking down on illegal street racing. House Bills 1442 and 2899 enhance penalties for those involved in such activities and provide law enforcement and prosecutors additional tools to address those crimes.

"Street takeover" events have been occurring in Austin, Fort Worth, and other cities, where intersections are blocked by vehicles doing donuts in intersections while others film the event.

Abbott ceremonially signed the bill in Fort Worth, where a street takeover led to a pair of fatalities.

"Street racing and street takeovers are not a victimless crime," said Mayor Mattie Parker. "Right here in Fort Worth, we lost a wonderful young couple who had three children. These types of incidents are all too common across the country."

Abbott announced the formation of a task force in February to combat street takeovers. The Texas Department of Public Safety, working with local law enforcement, has made more than 50 arrests and nearly 400 traffic citations related to illegal street racing across the state.

Wildfire danger continues to rise as state bakes

Texas A&M Forest Service is warning of increased wildfire danger as high temperatures and dry conditions continue to cover the state.

"Since mid-July, wildfire activity has increased substantially across Texas due to expanding drought conditions," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "Over the past two weeks, state and local firefighters have responded to 280 wildfires that burned almost 10,000 acres."

While the risk of wildfire has increased, the five active wildfires across the state have largely been contained. The number of counties with burn bans in place increased to 168 as of last weekend.

A&M reaches \$1 million settlement with journalism professor

Texas A&M University reached a \$1 million settlement with a journalism professor whose botched hiring led to the resignation of the university's president, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

University officials released the results of an internal investigation last week that admitted "mistakes were made during the hiring process."

Kathleen McElroy, a former editor for the *New York Times* and a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin, accepted a tenure-track position to restart A&M's journalism program. A public signing ceremony was followed with backlash, including from six A&M regents, because of her work to diversify newsrooms. The original offer eventually was reduced to a one-year contract with no

protection from being summarily fired. McElroy decided to stay at UT-Austin while making public how the offer had changed.

"I hope the resolution of my matter will reinforce A&M's allegiance to excellence in higher education and its commitment to academic freedom and journalism," McElroy said. She is a Texas A&M graduate.

Texas leads nation in 'family annihilation' cases

Cases of "family annihilation," where one family member kills at least two close family members, occur every five days in the United States, according to a study originally made by the *IndyStar* and analyzed by the *Statesman*. That analysis indicated since 2020 such homicides have occurred in Texas 33 times — more than any other state.

Firearms are used most frequently in family annihilations in the state, the study showed. Texas, the second most populous state in the nation, leads the country in firearm-related deaths, with 4,613 reported in the state in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The data focused on the two and a half years since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A lot of the stressors of the COVID pandemic exacerbated the issues around domestic violence and mental health," Mikisha Hooper, with the Texas Council on Family Violence, told the *Texas Standard*. "So that isolation, the financial pressure, and those types of things are exacerbating the increase in the number of homicides that we're seeing," she said.

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

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disgruntled Resident

Mr. Keck, I am providing corrections to the article, "City to Absorb EPC Library," written by Ryan Wade about the City of Aledo council meeting held on July 27th. First of all, the title of the article is curious to me, because there was no discussion at all about the City absorbing the East Parker County Library. Mr. Wade must have been confused, but I'm sure the public appreciates finally being made aware of the private discussions that have taken place until now. If all of those details were known by the reporter, why weren't they included in the article about the June 22nd council meeting?

The portrayal in the article of my desire to speak was completely incorrect and when a reporter chooses to reference a member of the public in a negative light, at least get the scenario right and maybe attempt to provide details from the resident's perspective. Had the reporter inquired, I would have told him that I signed up to speak during public comments, as well as on agenda item 7H, a resolution that the council was to consider approving reimbursement of expenses with "future debt."

The posted agenda item referenced expenses related to the Clear Fork Interceptor and Lift Station Project, but no amount was listed on the public notice. I requested and received a council packet that included a copy of the resolution and an amount of

\$3.5mm was included as the maximum principal for "future debt." There was no staff memo to explain the item further, nor any other financial details about the item. Mayor Stanley and the City's attorney disregarded HB 2840 passed in 2019 when they refused to allow me to speak and rather than allow me at least one minute, our exchange only made the City look bad, especially when other members of the public spoke on issues for far longer than their allotted 3 minutes.

Every debt issuance the City of Aledo approves matters a great deal to the taxpayers, especially when their utilities have increased. It wasn't enough that the City issued \$18.5mm in debt last year for a new City Hall absent a vote at the ballot box and then less than one year later the City needs another \$2mm in order to absorb the EPC Library? What happened to the future Police Department and how is that planning coming along? When is the City of Aledo going to offer their residents access to the council packets in order to truly support public engagement at council meetings?

I urge the newspaper staff to do a better job of reporting the full story and not just the story pleasing to City officials. East Parker County desperately needs an investigative reporter!

- Marcy Galle
Willow Park



Read this story online

Thistles&Roses

Howard and Mary D. are available for adoption



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com



Howard

Mary D

Meet Howard and Mary D., two of the many dogs available for adoption through Saving Hope animal rescue. Their stated mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and find homes for abandoned, neglected, and abused domestic animals in Fort Worth and surrounding areas.

This is also "Clear the Shelters" month, sponsored by Telemundo and NBC 5. There is a special emphasis to adopt animals, mostly cats and dogs, from the area shelters. You can go to a shelter and start adopting an animal.

Saving Hope aspires to educate people on the issue of unwanted and abandoned animals. Spaying and neutering is high on the list. Surprisingly, there are many macho Texans that refuse to castrate or spay their animals. Many of our fellow citizens consider animals to be property without need of nurture.

There is a recently-released, well-made documentary called "Rescuing Rex" that discusses this phenomena. The same movie says Texas has the highest number of unwanted animals in the entire country. It is time many Texans had a change of attitude.

At Saving Hope, many of the animals are fostered by individuals until homes are found. Our family is fostering Howard and Mary D., two loving and beautiful puppies found abandoned under the bridge of the I20/I30 merge in Parker County.

They were heat exhausted and dehydrated and covered with countless fleas and ticks that were literally sucking the life out of them. With a little TLC, they have become wonderful dogs that need homes. Our ark is full with our three other dogs, already.

There are about 1,200 animals currently available through Saving Hope. Turn to THISTLES, page A2



Read this story online

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

AUGUST 11

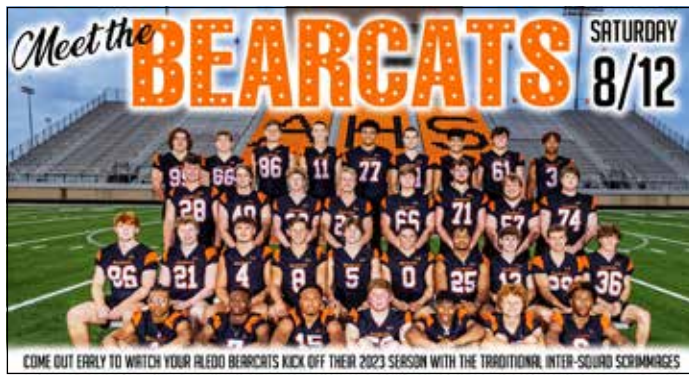
Meet the Band
Area residents are invited to Meet the Band starting at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 11, at the Aledo High School gym. Special guests at the event are members of the Aledo Middle School and McAnally Middle School bands. In addition to concessions during the performances, there will be a last-chance opportunity to join the Aledo Band Boosters and opportunities to purchase band merchandise and yard signs, and to pre-order alumni gear. The Band Olympics will follow at the ninth-grade turf practice field. Everyone is welcome to bring a lawn chair to see the fun.

AUGUST 12

Meet the Bearcats - bring towels, peanut butter, and jelly!
The annual Meet the Bearcats will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Aledo High School Indoor Practice Facility. The public is asked for donations of large, white towels and peanut butter and jelly. Football, cheer, and dance teams will autograph posters, and related booster clubs will have merchandise for sale. Inter-squad scrimmages will begin at 7 a.m. on Aug. 12.

AUGUST 14

Aledo ISD Meet the Teacher
See your school's website



or Facebook page for more information.

AUGUST 16

Aledo ISD First Day of School
School hours will remain the same for the 2023-2024 school year: Elementary/Early Childhood Academy (PK-5): 7:30 AM first bell 7:40 AM tardy bell 3:10 PM dismissal



Secondary (6-12):
8:30 AM first bell
8:40 AM tardy bell
4:10 PM dismissal

AUGUST 21

Teen Time Game Night!
East Parker County Library will host a teen time game night for middle and high schoolers from on Friday, August 21, from 5-6 p.m. Come enjoy an hour of snacking and board gaming fun.

AUGUST 22

Native Plant Society meeting
The Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month except July and December. The location varies and is announced before the meetings. The August meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Aug. 22 via Zoom.

ACROSS

1 TX George W. Baird High School class (2 wds.)

6 St. Marks in Dallas is a ____ school

7 29th and 32nd governor " ____ " Ferguson

8 TXism: "living high on the ____" (rich)

9 in Eastland County on highway 6

15 TX Ryan Palmer is on PGA ____

16 in Cameron County on highway 107

19 soft fruit that is not commercially grown in Texas

21 hollow unleavened breads

22 Galveton's "Bishop Palace" (2 wds.)

27 TX Gramm, U.S. senator (1985-2002), and representative (1979-83)

28 kin to the llama

29 mockery, ridicule

30 TXism for "leave it alone" (3 wds.)

32 late TX Helmond of TV show "Who's the Boss?" (init.)

33 "North ____ & Rodeo" in Denton

36 " ____ and void"

37 Del ____ Texas

38 former Cowboys tight end, Jay

39 using electronic sounds to substitute for expletives

41 fish appendage

DOWN

1 TX Wills, "Western swing" musician

2 "one" in Mexico

3 Baylor County seat

4 TXism: " ____ snappin' turtle"

8 " ____ for the best"

9 "All the Gold in California," Texas group (2 wds.)

10 TXism: "dab it ____"

11 late Texas actor, Rip (init.)

12 Jason Spezza went from the Dallas Stars to this Toronto team (2 wds.)

13 got ____ in my shirt (tear)

14 TXism: " ____ lick of" (none)

15 TX Shelley Duvall's "Tall ____ Legends"

16 TX Ellerbee book: "And ____ Goes"

17 tackling Dak for a loss

18 TXism: "happy ____ in slop"

20 actress in Texas-filmed "Silkwood"

22 TXism: "old ____ dirt"

23 TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse ____"

24 ____ gallon hat

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

42 married woman, south of the border

45 TXism: "easy as falling off ____"

46 this Sarah made the first "lone star" flag (init.)

47 natural hair style worn by some Texas black folks

48 TXism: "the ____ is in the fire" (trouble)

49 most graceful

52 "Zeke's" college state

34 this Fred won TX Byron Nelson Golf Classic, 1987 (init.)

35 this Stilwell started Port Arthur (init.)

37 "One ____ one Ranger"

40 map or plan for a piece of land

43 org. of the Texans and the Cowboys

44 Palmeiro left the Rangers for this Baltimore team

50 TXism for "hello"

51 " ____ Siecke State Forest"

August Storytimes
Fridays @10:30AM at the East Parker County Library

AUG 4 Watermelons!

AUG 11 Back to School

AUG 18 Sign Language

AUG 25 BINGO

Stories Craft, Songs, and Snack plus Puzzle and Play! Library Dogs read on August 11th.

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.

PUBLIC MEETING AND HEARING ON THE TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.397597 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of CITY OF WILLOW PARK.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.397597 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.444640 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.430651 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for CITY OF WILLOW PARK from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that CITY OF WILLOW PARK may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that CITY OF WILLOW PARK is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 22, 2023 AT 6:00 AT Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, TX 76087. Even though a Public Hearing is NOT required, the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed tax rate at the same meeting.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, CITY OF WILLOW PARK is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Willow Park City Council of CITY OF WILLOW PARK at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above. YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Lea Young Eric Contreras
Chawn Gilliland Nate Crummel
Greg Runnenbaum

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting: Doyle Moss, Mayor

ABSENT:

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by CITY OF WILLOW PARK last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by CITY OF WILLOW PARK this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.538450	\$0.397597	decrease of -0.140853, or -26.16%
Average homestead taxable value	\$296,517	\$335,983	increase of 39,466, or 13.31%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,596.60	\$1,335.86	decrease of -260.74, or -16.33%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$3,224,724	\$3,108,241	decrease of -116,483, or -3.61%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for CITY OF WILLOW PARK at 817-596-0077 or parkeracad@parkeracad.org, or visit www.texas.gov/propertytaxes for more information.

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Kid Scoop Together

Seafood Favorites

Work with a family member to do the math to discover five of the most popular types of edible seaweed.

- 10 = NORI
- 21 = WAKAME
- 17 = KELP
- 19 = ARAME
- 14 = DULSE

7+7+7

9+8

2+6+2

5+5+5+4

3+3+3+5

Seaweed

Expert says seaweed can feed the world and slow climate change.

Seaweed is a type of plant that grows in the ocean and other bodies of water all over the world.

It's not like the plants you see on land because it doesn't have roots. It can float and move through the water.

Seaweed comes in different shapes, sizes and colors. Some seaweed looks like long ribbons. Some look like big, leafy plants.

Unscramble the letters to discover different seaweed colors.

ERGNE

WORBN

PLUEPR

DER

What's in a name?

Usually, we think of weeds as something we **don't** want in the garden. But seaweed is actually very good for the planet. It can help end hunger and maybe even slow down climate change.

Seaweed has so many good uses that some scientists think we should call it something different. How about a "sea vegetable," "sea forest," or "water food"?

What do you think?

How many fish can you find on this page?

Would you eat seaweed?

Many kinds of seaweed are so nutritious that the United Nations estimates that farming only 2% of the ocean could feed as many as 12 billion people!



Circle every other letter to discover the name of this delicious rice and seafood treat wrapped in seaweed.

A S T U H S L H J I
S

Seaweed Means Survival

Replace the missing words.

URCHINS HIDING LIFE DEPEND SHELTER

Seaweed is important to marine _____. Animals such as fish, sea turtles and even whales _____ on seaweed for food and _____. Small fish use seaweed as a _____ place from predators. Sea _____ eat seaweed.

Burger Lovers Need Seaweed

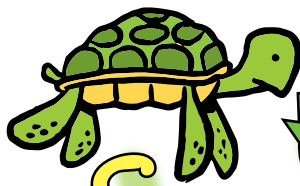
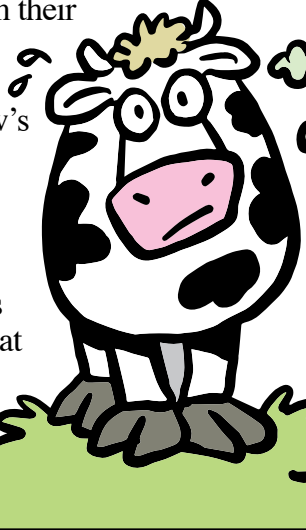
Even meat eaters can be helped with seaweed. It makes an excellent animal feed!

Yum!

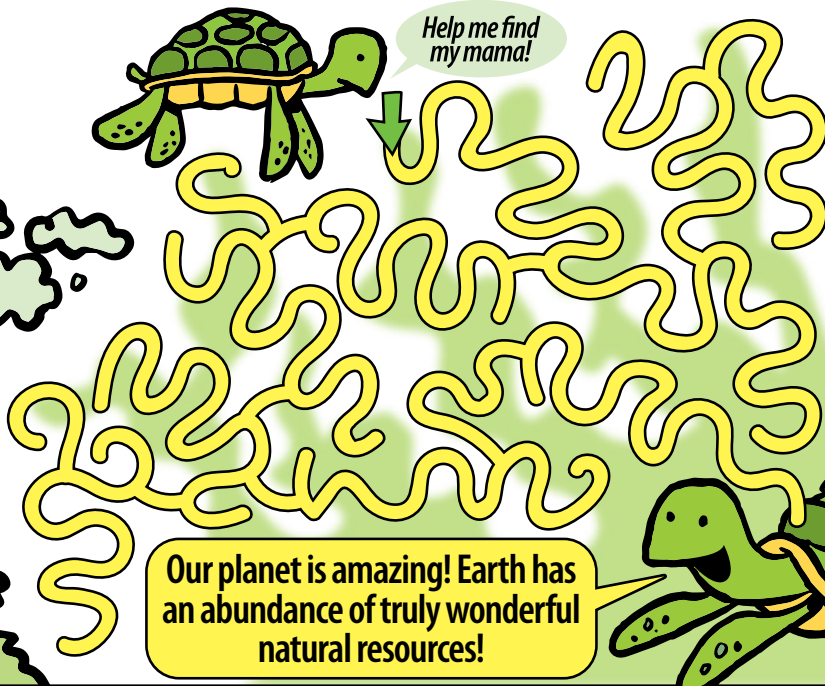
Wind Stopper

Feeding livestock seaweed also cuts down on their wind (also known as toots). A cow's "wind" adds methane gas to the air.

Methane gas is part of what is causing climate change.



Help me find my mama!



Our planet is amazing! Earth has an abundance of truly wonderful natural resources!

Extra! Extra! Earth is My Happy Place

Look through the newspaper for pictures and words that identify the parts of nature that you like. Cut these out and glue them onto a piece of paper. Under or next to the newspaper clippings, write what you love about each kind of nature.

Standards Link: Use descriptive writing.

Standards Link: Science: Plants have structures that aid in survival.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Seaweed Food Use the code to find out how seaweed is used in foods around the world.

Here, sheets of dried seaweed are used in soups and to wrap sushi. In this country, a seaweed called **laver** is used to make a popular food called laverbread.

- CODE**
- 0 = A
 - 1 = B
 - 2 = C
 - 3 = E
 - 4 = I
 - 5 = L
 - 6 = S
 - 7 = T
 - 8 = W
 - 9 = Z

0 6 4 0 8 0 5 3 6

A seaweed called **dulse** is mixed with milk, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla to make a popular drink in this country.

1 3 5 4 9 3

Double Double Word Search

- CHANGE
- COLORS
- EARTH
- EAT
- FEED
- FISH
- HIDING
- HUNGER
- MARINE
- OCEAN
- SEAWEED
- SLOW
- WATER
- WHALES
- WIND

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

S D S R O L O C O J
J E R E G N U H N T
B E A X W I Q I H C
T F D W T Z A D S W
O D L U E B Y I I H
C H A N G E M N F A
E V Q S W A D G M L
A B E N I R A M W E
N V A R L T W O L S
W A T E R H U X N B

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Science Solutions

Find and read news articles about scientific developments or research. Write a summary answering these questions: Who are the scientists? What kind of science is involved? How will this help humans?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Summarize an article.

What did the ocean say to the sea when the sea asked if he wanted to come to the party?

This joke is from Kid Scoop reader Lucas Warner, age 11

ANSWER: Shore!

Write On!

Live underwater?

Would you like to live underwater? Why or why not?

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **EDIBLE**

The adjective **edible** describes something that is safe to eat.

The scientist found several **edible** plants on the island.

Try to use the word **edible** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

VOLLEYBALL

Ladycat netters drop season opener at Keller

On the road at Katy tourney this weekend

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

For the second season in a row, Aledo's Ladycat volleyball squad started the year off with a strong performance on the road in Keller before ultimately ending up with a loss.

The Ladycats (0-1) were swept by the defending District 4-6A champions on Monday, Aug. 7, in three highly competitive games by scores of 25-19, 25-21 and 25-19.

With every new season comes new faces earning the opportunity to step up into more significant roles. As key figures of Aledo Volleyball like Alyssa Gonzales, Maddie Frank, and Mia Little all graduated following the 2022 season, opportunities for young players like junior middle blocker Haley Lowe, junior defensive specialist Logyn Denbrow, sophomore outside hitter Alyssa Todd, and junior defensive specialist Morgan Estavez open up.

Lowe, Denbrow, Todd, and Estavez ran with the opportunity in their first varsity match of the 2023 campaign. Todd led the Ladycats in kills with nine while also keeping the floor clean with 10 digs on the night. Estavez led the Ladycats in aces against the Lady Indians with three to her credit. Meanwhile, Denbrow served up a pair of aces of her own on the night.



Kinley Elms blocks a Weatherford kill attempt and Ella Isbell plays aggressive defense at the net in a scrimmage against Weatherford on Aug. 5.

Lowe had a solid outing at the net, as the 5-foot-10 middle-blocker scored three kills offensively and a pair of blocks to round out her defensive performance.

Then there are the returning varsity players tasked with setting the example for the younger players. Kinley Elms, who had a solid sophomore season last year, came out firing on all cylinders at the net for the Ladycats. Elms tallied eight

kills in the season opener while also picking up a pair of blocks. Vivian Parker had a well-rounded performance, as well. The 6-foot-1, senior collected three kills, a block, and 10 digs across three sets.

Junior defensive specialist Kenrie Pruitt led Aledo in digs as she amassed 20 in her first match of the year. Junior

setter Ava Reding rounded out the stat leaders for the Ladycats with 18 assists on the night.

From here the Ladycats will head south – way down south. They travel to Katy for a three-day tournament this weekend just in time to wave goodbye to summer break before the first day of school on Wednesday, Aug. 16.



Read this story online

SWIMMING

Wild competes at TAAF State Brumfield wins lone gold medal

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Weatherford Wild had 11 swimmers compete at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation State Games of Texas in Brownsville July 27-30.

The contingent was led by Chloe Brumfield. Competing in the Girls 8-Under division, she won the team's lone gold medal by taking first place in the 25-yard backstroke with a time of 22.46 seconds.

Five boys posted top-10 finishes, including two each individually by Maxwell Gentry and Corbin Lane in the 11-12 division. They also each swam a leg of the 200 medley relay, as did Jaxon Edwards and Eli Vanzant.

Matthew Williams competed in the Men's 35-39 division in the 100 individual medley, but did not compete in the finals.

Weatherford Wild results TAAF Games of Texas July 27-30 at Brownsville (Distances in yards)

Girls individuals 8-Under

Chloe Brumfield: First in 25 back, 22.46; 11th in 50 free, 44.12; 11th in 25 free, 19.89.
11-12

Turn to SWIM, page A9

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by FAR OUT HOSPITALITY dba PRESS CAFÉ, to be located at 109 S FRONT ST, ALEDO, PARKER COUNTY, Texas. Owner of said corporation is FELIPE ARMENTA.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK

The City of Willow Park City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2023-2024 fiscal year budget at a City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 22, 2023, in the Willow Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 120 El Chico Trl., Suite A, Willow Park, Texas.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$167,369 or 11.08% and of that amount \$167,369 is tax revenue from new property added to the tax roll this year. The public is encouraged to review the City's proposed budget on the City of Willow Park website at www.willowpark.org or view a paper copy of the budget in the City Secretary's office.

The public may comment by providing written comments either through the mail at the following address: 120 El Chico Trl., Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087, or by email at cdozier@willowpark.org. Any written comments received by the City on or prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the public hearing will be included with information provided to the City Council for their consideration.

Members of the public are encouraged to provide input through any means available and/or to participate in the public hearing in person.

Crystal Dozier
City Secretary
City of Willow Park

**REQUEST FOR BID
Aleido ISD**

Aleido ISD, a Pre-K through 12th grade Texas school district, is soliciting requests for competitive sealed proposals for E-Rate Category One Internet Access Services.

E-Rate 2024 Category 1 Internet Access 470# 240000073

Questions and Bid Submission Site: <https://kelloggllc.bonfirehub.com/portal>

FCC Forms 470 are available online: <https://data.usac.org/publicreports/Forms/Form470Rfp/Index>

Questions must be submitted online to the Questions and Bid submission site on or before Friday, August 18, 2023, by 2:00 PM CST.

Submit bids online to the Questions and Bid submission site prior to the deadline.

Deadline for submission of proposals online is 2:00 PM CST, Tuesday, September 12, 2023, no later than 2:00 PM CST.



It is the responsibility of the submitting entity to ensure that the proposal is received in a timely manner. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered for award, regardless of whether the delay was outside the control of the submitting firm.

The Aleido Independent School District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to make awards as they may appear to be advantageous to the District and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

**ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK (CMAR) SERVICES
Aleido High School Additions and Renovations
RFP 2308-01**

The Aleido Independent School District (the District) is requesting proposals for Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) Services for the Aleido High School Additions and Renovations Project ("Project"), as part of the 2023 Bond Program. The District shall receive, publicly open, and read aloud at the specified date and time listed below the name of the proposers and prices if any in a conference room at Aleido ISD Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aleido, TX, 76008. Proposal documents can be viewed and downloaded on Aleido ISD's Business Office website located at through the Aleido ISD eBid System located at: <https://www.aledoisd.org/Page/4288>. Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM (CST), Tuesday, September 12, 2023. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal(s) that provide(s) the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

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SWIM

from page seven

Blair Mezger: 17th in 50 breast, 44.37; 21st in 50 back, 41.23; 25th in 50 fly, 46.49.

Boys individuals

9-10
Harrison Gentry: 17th in 25 fly, 21.53.

11-12
Maxwell Gentry: Sixth in 100 IM, 1:23.71; ninth in 50 back, 37.51; 11th in 50 fly, 38.22.

Corbin Lane: Sixth in 50 back, 36.86; seventh in 100 IM, 1:24.92; 13th in 100 free, 1:11.00.

13-14
Rafe Haugen: 16th in 200 free, 2:47.70; 20th in 50 back, 39.14.

Blake Mezger: 14th in 50 breast, 37.44; 22nd in 100 IM, 1:22.68; 23rd in 50 free, 30.03.

Eli Vanzant: 14th in 50 free, 26.83; 17th in 100 IM, 1:17.94; 23rd in 100 free, 1:01.76.

15-17
Zach Edwards: 28th in 50 breast, 38.05; 21st in 200 free, 2:23.54.

35-39

Boys relays

13-14
200 medley: Seventh, Haugen, Mezger, Jaxon Edwards, Vanzant, 2:24.54.

200 free:
12th, Vanzant, Edwards, Mezger, Haugen, 2:06.92.



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TRACK AND FIELD

Fink wins national championship

Aledo youth takes gold at AAU nationals

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Once again Mach I Track Club has a national champion as Josh Fink of Aledo won the 3000-meter race walk in the Boys 13-14 division at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Des Moines last week.

Fink clocked a personal-record time of 15 minutes, 31.19 seconds. He was almost 13 seconds ahead of his nearest competitor, another Texan, Ruel Newberry of Denton.

"I knew I had lapped third place and second place was on my tail until the last 300 meters or so, and he just fell back," Fink said. "I looked at the Jumbotron and didn't see him and I felt really good at that point."

Fink explained the difference between running and racewalking. He also ran in a couple other events, posting personal-records in those as well, finishing 20th in the 3000 run in 10:32.21 and 46th in the 1500 in 5:06.59.

"When you land your foot your knee has to be straight, and you always have to have a foot on the ground," he said. "Once you get the hang of it you just go. I've been doing both for about four years (since he was 9) and I'm very comfortable with both."

"With racewalking I like that you have to have a certain form. It makes it more tricky, but also fun."

Fink added that having his older brother Josh, who runs for Aledo High School, along with his younger sister Jenna also competing during



Josh Fink shows off his medal from the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics, which were held July 29-Aug. 5 in Des Moines, Iowa.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

the week made it even more exciting. He said they visited the state capital and the city's famous Grays Lake, which has about two miles of lake shore.

"It was a great running spot," he said.

In summing up the week, Fink said, "A national championship, three PRs, pretty good."

Jack Fink also garnered All-American status with a fourth-place finish in the Boys 17-18 division of the 3000 with a personal-best time of 9:00.18. He also placed 20th in the 1500 with a clocking of 4:13.49.

Jenna had a pair of PRs in taking 14th among 8-Under Girls in the 1500 at 6:27.18 and 45th in the 800 in 3:19.27.

Josh Fink's accomplishment came a year after his teammate, Gannon Dolan, won a national championship in the 3000-meter run in the same division with a national-record time of 8:59. Dolan moved up to the 15-16 division this year and finished second in that event in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics in Eugene, Oregon a few

days earlier with a personal-best time of 8:49.76.

Dolan also placed sixth in the 1500, posting a time of 4:09.26 in the finals. In the preliminaries he set a Mach I club record with a 4:07.91.

The other Mach I runners who placed in the top 10 in Eugene are Ty Williams among Boys 13-14 and Layton Ybarra in the Boys 17-18 category.

Williams's personal-record time of 2:03.96 placed him eighth in the 800 and bested his previous personal best set in the prelims of 2:05.45. Healso competed in the 1500, finishing 16th in the prelims with a personal-best time of 4:24.51.

Ybarra was eighth in the 300, recording a PR of 8:54.20. He was 13th in the 1500 prelims with another PR of 4:07.86.

Gannon's younger brother, Malachi Dolan, had a PR of 5:57.52 to take 22nd in the Boys 8-Under 1500. He was 36th in the 800 prelims, clocking a 3:05.14.

Sisters Hadleigh and McKinley Walton both competed in the Girls 13-14 division 3000 and both had personal records. Hadleigh was 52nd in 11:56.88 and McKinley was 57th in 12:16.47.

Also competing in Des Moines, Emmy Strathmeyer competed in the Girls 15-16 division and placed 20th in the 3000 in 11:54.65, 49th in the 1500 in 5:33.16 and 64th in the 800 in 2:44.69. Nico Walden was 30th in the 1500 with a time of 4:26.53 (PR) and 38th in the 3000 in 10:09.09.



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TENNIS

Aledo off to 3-0 start

Defeating opponents and heat

By Cathy Mason
Special to The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team began their season with a 13-6 win against Peaster at home on Aug. 2. They followed that with a doubleheader victory two days later, defeating Saginaw Chisholm Trail 14-5 in the morning and Boswell 11-8 in the afternoon, both on the road.

With the return of seven boys and eight girls from last season, optimism is once again high for success.

Aledo took an early lead in doubles play against Peaster. Boys Line 1 Scott Mason and Craig Mason won 8-6 and boys line 3 Will Beyer and Francois Britz won 8-4. Girls line 1 Elli Kate Bussmeir and Bryanna Orr won 8-3; girls line 2 Kenley Germany and Lila Satterfield won 8-2 and girls line 3 Natalie Nawrocki and Gracie Heydman won 9-7.

Mixed doubles Patrice Loftin and Brennan Holbrook won 8-5.

Winning singles on the girls side were line 2 Germany, 8-1; line 3 Bussmeir, 8-0; and line 4 Satterfield, 8-1. Winning singles on the boys side were line 1 C. Mason, 8-5; line 2 S. Mason, 8-2; line 4 Beyer, 8-2; and line 5 Heckathorn, 8-6.

On Friday, Aug. 4, the Raquetcats beat the 104-degree weather to claim doubleheader victories over Chisholm Trail in the morning (14-5) and Boswell in the afternoon (11-8).



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo tennis team members pictured are (front row, from left) Paxton Psencik, Tom Ruminsky, Ben Kurth, Casen Freeland, and Brennan Holbrook; (second row) Kenley Germany, Elli Kate Bussmeir, Eleanor Jack, Bryanna Orr, Sydney Byrd, Lila Satterfield, Gracie Heydman, Natalie Nawrocki, and Patrice Loftin; and (back row) Nate Ashabraner, Will Beyer, Scott Mason, Jacob Heckathorn, Craig Mason, Francois Britz, Benjamin Farmer, and Ibrahim Choudhry.

Against Chisholm Trail, boys line 2 Heckathorn and Britz won 8-1. All of the girls doubles pairs won (line 1 Bussmeir/Orr at 8-0, line 2 Nawrocki/Loftin at 8-2 and line 3 Heydman and Eleanor Jack at 8-3).

In boys singles, line 1 C. Mason won 8-4, line 3 Ben Farmer won 8-1, line 4 Beyer won 8-1 and line 6 Tom Ruminsky won 8-3.

The girls were victorious in all of their singles matches (line 1 Orr, 8-0; line 2 Bussmeir, 8-0; line 3 Satterfield, 8-0; line 4 Heydman, 8-3; line 5 Sydney Byrd, 8-2 and line 6 Loftin, 8-0).

After a lunch break in the air conditioning, the team was out again to take on Boswell High.

Winning in the doubles round were boys line 2 Heckathorn/Britz 8-5; girls line 1 Orr/Bussmeir 8-3 and mixed Farmer/Satterfield 8-5.

Winning in the singles round for the boys were line 3 Farmer 8-3; line 4 Beyer 8-5; line 5 Heckathorn 8-3 and line 6 Britz 8-1. Winning for the girls were line 1 Orr, 8-5; line 3 Satterfield, 8-6; line 5 Byrd, 8-3 and line 6 Nawrocki, 8-2.

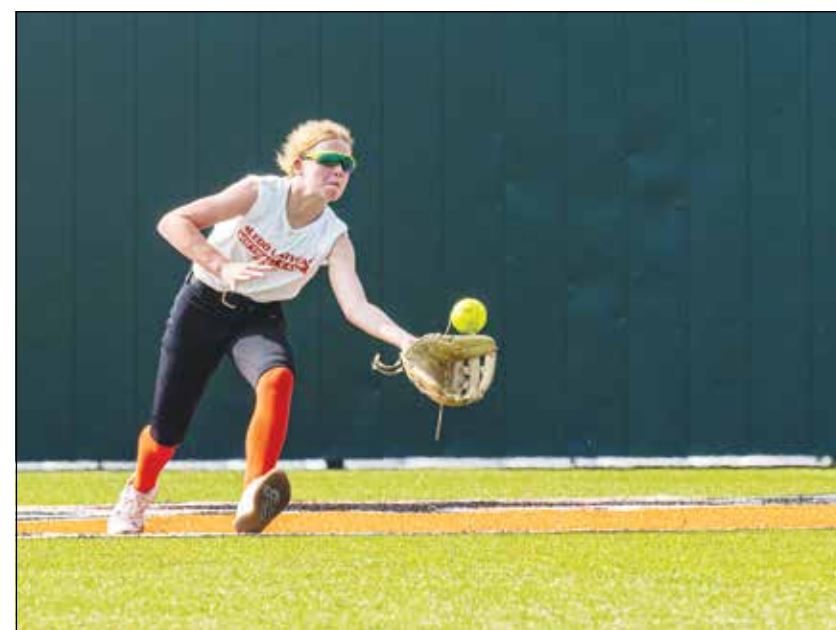
With 15 returning team members and six talented incoming freshman, the team is poised to once again be very competitive in district play. The team will play seven additional pre-district matches in preparation for district competition starting on Aug. 22 at Granbury.

Summer Camps



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

During fielding drills at the Ladycat Softball Camp on Thursday, June 15, a camper rushes in from centerfield to make a terrific catch.

Congratulations!



Josh Fink

First place 3000-meter race walk at the AAU Junior Olympics in Des Moines

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