

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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90 DAY BURN BAN

Due to the current severe drought conditions and the very dry conditions, The Parker County Commissioners Court issued a 90 day burn ban across Parker County. On Friday, August 11, 2023, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an Emergency Declaration stating:

"A proclamation declaring a state of disaster in a certain number of counties based on the existence of wildfires that pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property." Greg Abbott.

For more information about this declaration and Emergency Declaration from Texas Governor Gregg Abbott should contact the Parker County Fire Marshal's office at 817-598-0969.

Back to School



JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

Cpl. Scott Hogue greets students at Stuard Elementary School on the first day of classes on Wednesday. More photos can be found in our Back to School section in this issue.

EDUCATION

Weatherford College ranked best community college in Texas

Student housing among high marks

By Crystal Woerly
Weatherford College

Weatherford College has been ranked as one of the top 10 colleges in Texas by Niche.com, a leading college ranking and review website. WC is the only community college to make the list, which is based on key statistics and student reviews.

WC ranked ninth overall, between the University of Texas at El Paso and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Rice University topped the list, Texas Christian University is second, and Southern Methodist University is third.

WC received high marks for its student housing, which was ranked as the 11th best in Texas. The college also received high marks for its campus safety, which was ranked as the eighth best in Texas. Niche students also highly rated the college's athletic facilities, fine arts facilities, and dining options.

One student who left a five-star review on Niche said, "Weatherford is a small, welcoming school that allowed me to have an excellent education and create a happy and inspiring place to study. Every teacher that I have had was more than welcoming and helped in every way that they could."

Another student who left a five-star review said, "I have enjoyed my experience at Weatherford College thus far.

The student-to-teacher ratios are amazing! The professors are very nice and willing to work with the students when life gets in the way of their education. I have appreciated my time here and will always have great memories."



Read this story online



ALEDO

Long Time Coming

Parking lot at Aledo United Methodist Church completed

By Madison Scott
The Community News

Since 1878 Aledo United Methodist Church has opened its doors open to the community, giving people a safe place to go. The church has grown immensely over the years. This April, Don C. Little, President of Ambassador Homes Inc., began the process of constructing the expansion of the parking lot that has been in the works for 10 years.

"They put it out for bids, and I'm a home builder and so I bid on it," Little said. "I gave them a very nice bid because I'm a member of the church."

Since April, the company has paved the whole lot and recently finished. One thing Little had to contemplate was the excessive amounts of rainwater filling the parking lot.

"What we managed to do is we hauled off 220 loads of dirt dropped in this area," Little said. "Had we not done so, when it had rained all the water would be running between the original lot and the church between the loads of dirt."

Pastor Joel Robbins is very excited about the expanding parking lot.

"The food pantry that's growing, the clothes closet down the street that our church actually kicked off and started, AdvoCats

was started in our church," Robbins said. "So many of the things that happened in the community as it grows are exciting to me because they're positive and supporting people unconditionally."

The parking lot was a long time in coming. When the church originally built its new sanctuary about 20 years ago, Pecan Street went right through what is now the parking lot. To make room for the expansion, the church bought the adjoining property and had Pecan Street re-routed to its current location. The parking lot has been unpaved since then.

"The parking lot for me it doesn't just mean progress — it means growth," Robbins said. "Not necessarily to the numerical factor but the factor of welcoming people. It's incredibly important that we do that."

The church has been wanting to do this but finances had been a concern.

"The church wanted to do it for years and the leadership took some steps to make financial possibilities end up being realities," Robbins said. "The church has great leadership and I'm very grateful for that."

Robbins moved to Aledo in July 2020. Since then, he has been the pastor of this church and met church member Charlie McLain. McLain was a long-time member and supporter of the church's ministries who passed away in October of last year.

"Charlie left part of his estate for the ministry of children and youth," Robbins said. "That's how Turn to **CHURCH**, page 3



FILE PHOTO - CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

When Aledo United Methodist Church began the project of expanding its sanctuary, Pecan Street had to be re-routed. Church member Charlie McLane dug the trenches to move gas supply lines.

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The married co-owners Jeff and Carrie Woychesin have grown their business from the ground up, based out of Aledo but servicing all DFW.

Carrie said JW Mechanical is a true mom-and-pop shop.

Carrie — who runs the social media, accounting books, and advertising — grew up in Aledo and graduated in 1996.

Jeff is the license holder and is one of the technicians, and even their 17-year-old daughter Stella works in the family business throughout her summer and winter breaks.

Their two golden retrievers also work in the office, serving as the positive energy and a calming presence to all that visit.

Additionally, all JW Mechanical technicians are EPA certified and verified by the state. “We don’t hire anyone that we don’t feel comfortable with in my own home and around my children,” Carrie said.

Beyond the familial employees, Carrie said they try to operate in a close-knit work environment.

“Our technicians are not selling technicians; they don’t operate on commission because we don’t want to create that kind of environment where there is reward in running up a ticket on a client unnecessarily. So many companies are out there creating salesman instead of good old fashioned service,” Carrie said.

An Army veteran family, Carrie said they always hire veterans when they can.

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Don Little, President of Ambassador Homes Inc.

CHURCH

from page one

strongly he felt, in fact, it's all he talked about."

McLain moved to Annetta in 1959 and gave back to the community in many different ways.

"Charlie helped raise people's children, he had dances in his barn to keep kids out of trouble on Saturday night in the 70s and 80s," Robbins said. "We had a Charlie McLain activity center and that's where our children would go."

Robbins said McLain would sit on his walker and watch the kids play on Sunday night at church. He also said McLain would be happy and excited to see the parking lot get paved.

People travel down that road to see relatives, people traveled down that road during times of war," Robbins said. "All sorts of things held that road as a narrative and it was time for a new narrative.

Madison Scott is an incoming senior at Aledo High School who just completed a summer internship at *The Community News*.



Read this story online

Fund set up to assist Maui fire victims from Aledo

Molly (Ancona) and Bo Whitaker, natives of Aledo, lost their home and virtually everything they own in the recent wildfires on Maui.

Molly said the fire not only destroyed their home, but it also wiped out the Lahaina United Methodist Church where she and Bo were married.

They, like many on the island, will need help in rebuilding their lives. Anyone who wishes to help can send checks made out to Molly Ancona and mail to:

Molly Ancona
P.O. Box 130
Aledo, TX 76008



Molly and Bo Whitaker

DONATE

Donations can also be made through Venmo at <https://venmo.com/u/Molly-Ancona> or Gofundme at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/molly-bo-whitaker>.



Molly and Bo Whitaker's home is shown both before and after the fire.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



The Lahaina United Methodist Church is shown before and after the Maui fire.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

	<h2>Matt Morris</h2> <p>GUS BATES Insurance & Investments</p> <p>817-529-5325 matt@gusbates.com</p> <p>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, PROPERTY & CASUALTY, RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES</p> <p><small>Securities offered through Kestra Investment Services, LLC (Kestra IS), member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Kestra Advisory Services, LLC (Kestra AS), an affiliate of Kestra IS. Kestra IS and Kestra AS are not affiliated with Gus Bates Insurance & Investments.</small></p>	<p><i>Sarah J. Morris</i> DDS & ASSOCIATES</p> <p>2551 River Park Dr. Suite 201 • Fort Worth, TX 76116 FAMILY DENTISTRY WHERE HONESTY & INTEGRITY MATTER!</p>	<p>State of the Art Sterilization Room Invisalign and Zoom! Whitening Massage Chairs and HDTV Water Purification System</p> <p>817-732-4419 www.sarahmorrisdds.com</p>
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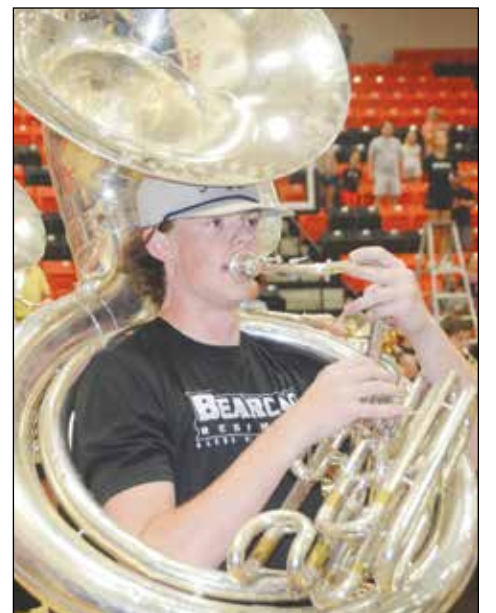
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Meet the Band

Several hundred supporters turned out for Meet the Band on Friday, Aug. 11 at the Aledo High School gym. Following the performance,

the audience was treated to the annual Band Olympics (photos next week!)

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS
THE COMMUNITY NEWS



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Mail:

P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008

Physical:

1015 Champions Drive, Aledo, TX

Phone:

817-441-7661

Web:

www.community-news.com

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Randy Keck

rkeck@community-news.com

Direct Line: 817-386-1469

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Loydale Schmid

lschmid@community-news.com

Direct Line: 817-386-1467

CIRCULATION

Barbara Russell

brussell@community-news.com

PAGE AND AD DESIGN

Laura Finer

production@community-news.com

B2B ASSISTANT

Emma Davis

edavis@community-news.com

EDITORIAL STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Amos - Features/Photography

Kathy Chruscielski - Photography

John English - Features

Rick Mauch - News and Sports

Breigh Mayer - Photography

Kristin Morales - Photography

Ryan Wade - News and Sports

Melissa Winn - News and Sports

CONTACT POINTS

Billing

billing@community-news.com

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Ad Design Materials

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www.community-news.com/submissions/

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

Record sea temps could spur more hurricanes



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

Forecasters for the National Weather Service are anticipating a more active hurricane season this year because of record-warm ocean surface temperatures, the *Texas Tribune* reported.

Hurricane season runs through the end of November. The Climate Prediction Center now predicts six to 11 hurricanes this season in the Atlantic Ocean, with as many as five of those being major hurricanes. The new projection is considerably higher than the one released in May just before hurricane season commenced.

Bradley Brokamp, an NWS meteorologist in Galveston, said the higher prediction is the result of the higher sea surface temperatures.

"The name of the game this season seems to be the heat because it's been quite exceptional," Brokamp told the *Tribune*.

Another NWS meteorologist, Jeff Lutze, based in Corpus Christi, said the higher probability of Atlantic hurricanes increases the likelihood of a storm striking Southeast Texas.

"The big question mark is whether or not we'll get the upper air pattern to allow the storms to get this far into the Gulf of Mexico," Lutze said. Some of the most damaging hurricanes to hit Texas in recent years came in August or September.

Federal grand jury investigating Paxton

The *Austin American-Statesman* reported last week that federal prosecutors have seated a grand jury in San Antonio and

called witnesses close to suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to testify. Paxton's attorney has already confirmed that there is an active federal investigation of his client.

While the Justice Department has declined to comment, the secret proceedings come a few weeks before Paxton is set to stand trial for impeachment in the Texas Senate on bribery allegations involving Austin real estate developer Nate Paul, who was indicted on unrelated federal charges in May for mortgage fraud.

Paxton has been under indictment for securities fraud since 2015, with a trial set in Houston for February 2024. He was suspended without pay after the Texas House overwhelmingly passed 20 articles of impeachment in late May.

Wildfire danger continues to increase

Continued hot, dry weather has increased the number of wildfires, prompting the Texas A&M Forest Service to raise the State Wildfire Preparedness to Level 4, the second-highest level, in order to ensure resources are available to fight first breaking out across the state.

"Areas with high potential for wildfires include the Cross Timbers, Rolling Plains, Eastern/Western Hill Country where oak/juniper fuel is present and for the Western Pineywoods, as well as Central and Southeast Texas where pine fuel is present," the service said.

As of Sunday, there were seven active fires, the largest being the Hawkeye Fire in Wichita County, consisting of 2,150 acres, which was 50% contained, and the Burnet 109 Fire, also in Wichita County, consisting of 2,126 acres, which was 75% contained.

Gov. Greg Abbott last Friday declared a wildfire disaster declaration

in nearly 200 Texas counties, while burn bans are now in place in 181 counties.

July was hotter and drier than norm for most of the state, according to Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, with 49% of the state now in drought, up 25 percentage points since the end of June.

Abbott signs largest property tax cut in state history

Abbott last week ceremonially signed legislation that — if voters approve it in November as expected — will provide what he is calling the largest property tax cut in Texas history. The \$18 billion reduction raises the homestead exemption to \$100,000 and provides other tax-reduction measures.

Voters will decide its fate as one of 14 proposed constitutional amendments in November. The measure is widely expected to pass, as do most measures to reduce taxes when placed on the ballot.

"As the saying goes, everything is bigger in Texas—and now that includes property tax relief," House Speaker Phelan said at the ceremony.

ERCOT grid holds up despite record temperatures

The state's electric grid, which supplies electricity to 90% of the state and is run by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, has thus far withstood record demand brought on by the summer heat. An analysis by the *Dallas Morning News* points to two factors for the grid's ability to meet that demand: planning and renewable energy.

"The secret to ERCOT's success has been astonishingly high levels of performance to date by the wind and

solar ... and by the thermal fleet," Alison Silverstein, an electric system reliability consultant and researcher, told the *News*. The latter refers to the state's gas, coal and nuclear power plants.

In preparing for demand, ERCOT made conservative estimates of how much energy each power plant could generate and accounted for worst-case scenarios in preparing for summer.

Chronic Wasting Disease prompts new TPWD rules

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issued new rules limiting movement and testing restrictions for white-tailed deer in deer breeding facilities after receiving confirmation of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in nine deer breeding facilities in seven counties this year.

As the *Texas Standard* reported, CWD threatens both the deer and the state's hunting economy. White-tailed deer hunting generates more than \$4 billion of economic activity in the state each year. The new rules aim to manage the spread of the disease.

MCWD is a fatal neurological disease found in deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. It progresses slowly and may not produce visible signs for several years.

"Since 2021, we have seen an increase in CWD detections from breeder deer at an unprecedented rate," said John Silovsky, Wildlife Division Director for TPWD. "It's our hope that these emergency rules will strengthen our surveillance and reduce the number of CWD positive detections across the state."

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.

State Representative Update

Parental Rights and Responsibilities



Dr. Glenn Rogers

glenn.rogers@house.texas.gov

Phony political action committees, self-proclaimed "activists", and conspiracy theory media would like Texas parents to believe that they are helpless and hopeless when sending their children to so-called "government schools." These groups have deployed misleading tactics across the state. Many constituents have found questionable flyers in their mailboxes or received mass text messages on their phones. Public education is under attack like never before seen in Texas.

There are many things that make Texas stand apart. We have the best BBQ in the world, the greatest sports teams in the country, and of course, the most conservative government in the Union. Another thing Texas does best: letting parents be parents.

While other states battle to secure parental rights, Texans can rest assured, as their parental rights have been guaranteed for decades. As summer break

comes to an end and the school year begins, it's crucial for parents of our great public-schools to be well-informed about these rights.

Here are just some of those rights from the Texas Education Code:

Sec. 26.001 - Purpose

- Parents are partners with educators, administrators, and school district boards of trustees in their children's education.
- Parents have the right to actively participate in creating and implementing educational programs for their children.

Raising our Texas children cannot be successfully done by teachers alone. Nor should it.

Parental involvement in education is essential for children to maintain strong academics and obtain moral social behavior. Ask your child's teachers questions, stay in-the-know about what your student is learning each week. Read their syllabuses, look over their homework, and ask your student about what they are doing at school. Teachers appreciate dedicated, knowledgeable, and observant parents because they want your child to succeed.

Turn to RIGHTS, page 7

GuestColumn

A note to Bearcat parents, guardians and community members

As our entire staff, administration, and Board of Trustees have been preparing to welcome nearly 8,200 Bearcats back for the first day of school this week, we have also been working on finalizing the budget for the 2023-2024 school year. We are blessed to serve in this community and to partner with you to ensure we are #growinggreatness through the programs we offer here and the exceptional experiences our students encounter everyday. We take our responsibilities very seriously and believe we understand the high expectations that our community has for how our children are served in their schools.

As our children return to Aledo schools for the 2023-2024 school year, we wanted to make everyone aware of the impact of recent legislation or failed legislation on our schools, students, and staff and the expected budget shortfalls due to the lack of support from our state Legislature. This is not unique to Aledo ISD as these same effects are being felt by school districts across the state.

Local Property Taxes

In late July, the Governor signed Senate Bill 2 from the second special session that will provide local property tax relief through both an increased homestead exemption and a reduction in the district's M&O tax rate. We are still waiting for the dust to settle, but we expect a significant tax rate reduction due to this and

prior legislation. It is important to note that, as it relates to money for schools, this is merely a shift of the funding obligation from the local taxpayer back to the state and has no material impact on how much money schools receive to operate in total; meaning there is no new money for schools in this bill.

School Funding

As you may be aware, schools are funded primarily on a per-student basis. The amount of money a school district receives (from local and state sources) is determined by formulas provided by the state Legislature. These formulas have not been updated since 2019, even as operations costs required to serve students have increased due to inflation and due to our efforts to increase teacher pay to attract and retain the best teachers possible.

Given the state's \$33 billion surplus, we were hopeful that more funding for public schools would become a reality. In fact, state leadership publicly asserted before the legislative session that their priorities included raises for teachers but, to date, nothing has been done. We are hopeful that in a future special session our legislators will address this; but at this point, we will work under the assumption that our leaders in Austin will not be using their historic surplus to help address this issue. Texas currently ranks #42 in the country in funding per student.

Turn to NOTE, page 7

Look at it This Way

Don't like how it's called? Call it yourself



Rick Mauch
sports@community-news.com



Finally, someone has come up with a real solution to unruly fans at sporting events.

As someone who both played and coached youth baseball, I can attest first-hand that the good sportsmanship designed for the players on the field doesn't always make its way into the stands. The same is also true in other sports, of which I have covered many games in my days as a full-time sports writer.

I've heard everything from how blind an official is to how they were "paid off by the opponent." I even once heard someone in the stands shout out that the reason a female basketball player missed a free throw was that she was "too ugly to see the basket."

She wasn't ugly, for the record, not that it matters what she looked like because it was still verbal abuse. Also, I'm still trying to understand

how looks and making free throws are connected. Wilt Chamberlain was perhaps the most notorious ladies man in all of sports and most games he couldn't hit a free throw if it meant a date with the prettiest cheerleader in the NBA.

But most of the verbal abuse is heaped upon the officials. And, for whatever reason, there has always seemed to be an inordinate amount of it in youth baseball and softball.

Please, let me make one thing perfectly clear, I am not singling anyone out and I'm sure you are not in the group of which I am speaking. However, I'm betting that you, like me, have encountered the type of individual of who I am writing.

You know, the one who has the best view of the strike zone of anyone in the ballpark, even though there is an umpire just a few inches from the zone itself.

Well, a Little League baseball organization in the Deptford Township of New Jersey has created a way to deal with unruly fans. They implemented a new rule stating that any parent and/or fan who argues with an umpire has to volunteer as an umpire for three games before being allowed back as a spectator.

It's the epitome of the old statement "Don't like how the job is being done. Do it yourself."

For the most part I have to say the most I've heard from fans is
Turn to CALL, page 12

RIGHTS

from page 4

Sec. 26.004 - Access to Student Records

- Parents have access to written records concerning their child, including attendance, test scores, grades, disciplinary records, counseling records, health information, evaluations, and learning assistance records.

Sec. 26.005 - Access to State Assessments

- Parents have the right to access copies of state assessment instruments administered to their child, except as provided by Section 39.023(e).

Sec. 26.006 - Access to Teaching Materials

- Parents have the right to review teaching materials, tests, and observe virtual instruction used in their child's classroom.
- Teaching materials and tests must be made readily available for review by parents.
- Students may be allowed to take home instructional materials upon request, subject to availability and return conditions.
- Login credentials for online learning systems must be provided to parents.



Read this story online

Parents should be encouraged to be an active steward of their student's academic materials. Parents have the right to view and obtain the records; parents should exercise that right. To hold your student

accountable, let them know that you are watching and observing their academic performance. Staying aware of school activities will enable parents to work with teachers and students to produce successful graduates.

Contrary to the barrage of criticism aimed at our public schools and educators, we are blessed with an overwhelming majority of educators that seek, each and every day, to effectively teach and nurture our students. These are the teachers that sit beside us in church and spend countless hours, outside the classroom, planning and developing teaching skills and curriculum. Parents and teachers make great teams when they respect each other and work together.

Along with the extensive Parental Rights afforded to all public school parents, Texas grants all of its citizens with extensive educational freedom, meaning that parents can send their student to any type of school they so wish, public, private, charter, virtual, or homeschool.

So, before we get too busy with all of the back-to-school activities, the extracurriculars, the sports... take a moment to read the Texas Education Code and get familiar with your rights. The list of rights is extensive. Do it for yourself, our educators, and most importantly for our students, the future of Texas!

Glenn Rogers is the Texas State Representative for House District 60, which includes Parker County.

NOTE

from page 5

School Safety

In Aledo ISD, we have a long history of making safety a priority as we work daily to keep our students and staff as safe as possible, so we were pleased to see state leadership announce that improving school safety was a priority before the legislative session. We had high hopes that with these improved safety measures would come significant funding. The Legislature did pass a handful of school safety bills with several new requirements for school districts along with a new set of building safety standards that schools must meet. However, the funding supplied was meager at best.

Before this legislative session, Aledo ISD received roughly \$72,000 from the state's School Safety Allotment, but our safety and security expenditures are approximately

\$1 million per year. Due to the new laws in place, Aledo ISD will now receive roughly \$228,000 annually, which includes \$15,000 per campus to provide a police officer at each school (something AISD committed to doing years ago with the establishment of the Aledo ISD Police Department). You can see that this does offset some of our costs but is not nearly enough to cover neither what we are already committed to doing nor the many new unfunded mandates that were the result of the Texas Legislature's work this past session.

Aledo ISD 2023-24 Budget Impact

Overall, the effect of this Legislative Session on our operating budget is an increase of approximately \$1.1 million - a 1.4% increase compared to our current operating budget - with most of the money allocated to school safety

requirements listed above. After it became evident over the last couple of months that the Legislature would not be providing the expected additional funding, we began working with all campuses and departments to decrease their annual operational budgets by 10% while identifying additional savings where possible.

Districtwide, we are also implementing some new guidelines for ongoing expenditures. The reduction will not affect staffing or programs, and, with what resources we have, we will continue to prioritize being competitive with compensation in order to attract and retain the best teachers possible. If the Legislature does not increase funding in a future special session - and since the Legislature won't meet again in a regular session until 2025 - reductions to staffing or programs will be increasingly likely.

Despite this, we want you to know that we remain committed to #GrowingGreatness, creating exceptional experiences, and providing the best education available in our state and country for our students every day. We know that is what you expect for your children and for all the children in our Aledo ISD community, and we have these same high expectations for all of our students in Aledo. The Texas Constitution requires that the state establish and support free public schools in Texas, and we will continue to ardently advocate for our Aledo ISD students, staff and community members.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us if you have any questions. And also please reach out to our legislators to share your thoughts and requests as they represent us in Austin and prepare for the upcoming special session this fall:

Senator Drew Springer: (512) 463-0130; drew.springer@senate.texas.gov

Senator Phil King: (512) 463-0110; phil.king@senate.texas.gov

State Representative Glenn Rogers: (512) 463-0656; glenn.rogers@house.texas.gov

Sincerely,
Aledo ISD Board of Trustees: Forrest Collins, President; Jessica Brown, Vice President; David Lear, Secretary; and Board Members Jennifer Loftin, Jennifer Taylor, Zach Tarrant and Hoyt Harris; and Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn

P.S. Don't forget that funds for bonds like our community passed in May are separate from the funds used to educate our students, pay teacher salaries and operate our facilities. The district's overall tax rate has decreased nearly 23 cents the last four years, and we anticipate it will decrease an additional 14-16 cents (or nearly 12 percent) this year.



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



AUGUST 19

Hatch Chile Peppers In-Store Roasting Event
Join the Hatch Chile Pepper Roasting event on Saturday, August 19 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Brookshire's Aledo, TX.

AUGUST 21

Board Game Hour
Middle and High Schoolers, join us at the library for an hour of board games and bingo on from 5 - 6 p.m. on Monday, August 21st. Snacks provided!



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.



AUGUST 31

Dementia Support Group
Join us for our Dementia Support Group on Thursday, August 31st at 5:30 p.m. at Harvest of Aledo. Guest speaker Kim Waid, Certified Dementia Practitioner.

Harvest of Aledo is here to provide emotional, educational, and social support to friends and families of individuals coping with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias.

You don't have to do this alone. Make new friends. Learn from each other.

RSVP to 682-209-0643



SEPTEMBER 1

The Shops at Willow Bend: Bubbles & Baubles DIY Blankets

The Shops at Willow Bend

Join our September Bubbles and Baubles event on Friday, September 1, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Rebel Athletic Store inside of The Shops at Willow Bend! Come and DIY your own blanket!

There will be complementary drinks for adults. Cost to attend: FREE!

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- Lavaca, TX
- "Hill Country State Natural _____"
- "The King and I" country
- bottom of a boot
- he went on a killing spree in Houston area, 1983 (2 wds.)
- TX Pride's "Is Anybody Goin' _____ Antone"
- "war on drugs" agcy. reductions
- TX Robert Benton directed this Streep in 1979 film "Kramer vs. Kramer" (init.)
- kinda like PTAs
- TXism: "got _____ my plate than I can say grace over" (overextended)
- "just _____"
- what a "legal eagle" charges (2 wds.)
- TXism: "that's a _____ pill to swallow" (difficult to accept)
- TX Jim Reeves hit: "He'll Have to _____"
- TX Stormie Jones got first _____ transplant
- TX Larry Hagman's mom, Martin
- respectful response to a man: "Yes _____"
- a Texan, in a national sense
- this Estrada was in "Midway" with TX Dabney Coleman
- "_____ a nice day"
- TXism: "lower than a _____"
- provide food at an event
- TXism: "fits like ugly on an _____"
- TXism: "worn to a frazzle"
- oldest Polish town in the nation: Panna _____, TX
- "yes" in Mexico
- Texas river fish
- TXism: "let _____ be bygones" (make peace)
- Chica
- TXism: "don't give a hoot _____ holler"
- "_____ of thieves"
- "you ain't seen nothing _____"
- first half of the Bible (abbr.)
- make a comment
- Rains County seat
- dork or geek
- TXism: "_____horse town" (small)
- TXism: "looks good enough _____ sermon" (dressed up)
- a noisy sleeper
- a German monetary unit before the euro
- Gov. Hogg's only daughter (init.)
- nat'l teacher union
- photographic devices, for short
- Spurs' AT&T Center
- glossy fabric
- Texas-born Sly Stone sang "_____ Is a Star"
- TX Keyes book: "Scarlett O' _____ Younger Sister"
- a Bedouin
- "in _____ of"
- TX Helmond was _____ Robinson on first NFL "
- Mary" pass in 1975
- Texas Blue Bell makes _____ cream
- TV's talking horse (2 wds.)
- TXism: "works from can't see _____ see" (hard worker)
- in Knox County on U.S. 277

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Send event submissions to events@community-news.com. Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The ALEDO ISD will hold a public meeting at 06:00 pm, August 28, 2023 in Administration Building Board Room, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.757500/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.450000/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	7.23 % increase
Debt Service	27.81 % increase
Total Expenditures	11.85 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$6,538,981,074	\$10,264,677,959
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$270,418,813	\$399,484,898
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$5,345,137,843	\$6,272,654,473
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$270,418,813	\$399,484,898

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$376,053,438
*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.942900	\$0.425000	\$1.367900	\$9,525	\$2,402
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.823530	\$0.494340	\$1.317870	\$9,235	\$3,203
Proposed Rate	\$0.757500	\$0.450000	\$1.207500	\$9,539	\$3,262

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$407,049	\$588,371
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$359,033	\$361,060
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.367900	\$1.207500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$4,911.21	\$4,359.80
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$-551.41

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.246897. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.246897.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$20,475,165
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$4,537,104

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

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.

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TENNIS

Bearcats have busy week



LEFT: Craig Mason serves in one of his matches. | RIGHT: Bryanna Orr and Kenley German high five after playing a girls doubles match.

Take five of six matches

By Cathy Mason
The Community News

The Aledo Racquetcats tennis team played six matches this past week, winning all but one.

On Monday Aug. 7, the Racquetcats took on Denton Guyer in the morning (winning 12-7), and Lubbock Cooper in the afternoon (falling 6-13). Continuing their doubleheader play on Aug. 8, they competed against Austin McNeil in the morning (11-7) and Lake Highlands in the afternoon (10-9).

On Friday, Aug. 11, the team traveled to Mansfield, winning 12-7, and hosted Abilene Cooper on August 14, winning 12-5.

Boys doubles: Scott Mason/Craig Mason prevailed over Denton Guyer 8-7 with a tiebreak score of 7-5. Also winning were Jacob Heckathorn/Francois Britz (8-4).

Girls doubles: Eleanor Jack/Patrice Loftin (8-5) and Natalie Nawrocki/Gracie Heydman (8-3).

Mixed doubles: Benjamin Farmer/Lila Satterfield won 8-4.

Winning their singles matches were Farmer (8-3), Heckathorn

(8-5), Bryanna Orr (8-3), Kenley Germany (8-4), Satterfield (8-4), Heydman (8-6) and Jack (6-4).

Posting wins in the Lubbock Cooper match were girls doubles Orr/Germany (8-5), mixed doubles Farmer/Satterfield (8-3), and singles matches of Farmer (8-4), Heckathorn (8-5), Orr (8-6) and Heydman (8-1).

Winning matches against Austin McNeil were boys doubles Mason/Mason (8-5), Heckathorn/Britz (8-4), girls doubles Ella Kate Bussmeir/Loftin (8-4), Nawrocki/Heydman (8-2) and mixed doubles Farmer/Satterfield (8-4). Singles winners included C. Mason (8-6), Farmer (7-5), Germany (8-6), Bussmeir (8-4), Satterfield (8-1) and Heydman (8-6).

In a close match with Lake Highlands, wins were posted by boys doubles Heckathorn/Britz (8-3), girls doubles Bussmeir/Loftin (8-1) and mixed doubles Farmer/Satterfield (8-4). Singles winners were Farmer (8-0), Will Beyer (8-6), Tom Ruminsky (8-3), Bussmeir (8-4), Satterfield (8-0), Sydney Byrd (8-4) and Heydman (8-1).

All three boys doubles teams won against Mansfield High School. Scores were Mason/Mason (8-4), Heckathorn/Britz (8-1) and Beyer/Ruminsky (8-6). Girls doubles winners were Bussmeir/Loftin (8-6), and the mixed doubles pair of Farmer/Satterfield won 8-2. Singles winners were C. Mason (8-1), Farmer (8-4), S. Mason (8-1), Heckathorn (8-4), Orr (8-3), Germany (8-4), and Bussmeir (8-1).

In the Aug. 14 match against Abilene Cooper, doubles winners were Orr/Germany (6-3, 4-6, 11-9), Bussmeir/Loftin (6-3, 6-1) and Farmer/Satterfield (6-3, 6-2). Winners in the singles bracket were Orr, Germany, Bussmeir, Satterfield, C. Mason, Farmer, Beyer, Heckathorn and Ruminsky. Games played by S. Mason and Byrd were called for time, though both were up by a set.

The team is set to play its last pre-district match against Birdville on Friday, Aug. 18. The district opener against Granbury is scheduled for Aug. 22 at Granbury High School.



Read this story online

CROSS COUNTRY

Season opens at Birdville

Ladycats take first, Bearcats second

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

In this case the early bird got the victory as the Aledo Ladycats began the 2023 cross country season by winning the Birdville Early Bird Invitational this past Saturday, Aug. 12 at The Buff in Haltom City.

The Ladycats scored 44 points to 77 for runner-up Argyle and 78 for third-place Weatherford.

The Bearcats finished second among varsity boys with 63 points, behind Argyle with 45. Weatherford was third with 78.

"We're where we want to be. We're building base," coach Mike Pinkerton said. "We've got a long road ahead of us, a lot of work to do, but this is a good start. We want to be peaking in October and November, not August."

The event was 3200 meters, or 3.2 kilometers. Typically, cross country meets are 5 kilometers.

Ladycat sophomore Madison Larsen topped the field among varsity girls, posting a time of 11 minutes, 22.10 seconds. In third place was freshman Micah Neal, clocking an 11:49.60, and sophomore Mykel Murry was fifth with a 12:31.10.

Junior Jack Fink was the lone Bearcat in the boys top 10. He was second with a time of 10:07.18. Three other Bearcats broke the top 20 as sophomore Dominick Barrera was 13th with an 11:04.65, sophomore Anderson Smith placed 16th in 11:07.84 and junior Luke Schabel was 20th in 11:13.28.

Also for Aledo girls varsity, freshman Mayden Mitchell placed 17th with a time of 13:32.26 and senior Aubrey Connally's time of 13:50.25 was 24th. Sophomore Sadie Williams was 25th in 14:15.05.

Bo Merrill of the Bearcats ran an 11:23.89 for 27th, freshman Tyler

Connelly was 31st with an 11:26.22 time and sophomore Lincoln Tuin took 69th in 13:03.13.

The Bearcats and Ladycats are back at The Buff Saturday, Aug. 19 for the Cowtown Challenge.

Aledo JV

Sophomore Layton Ybarra of the Bearcats won the junior varsity boys division with a time of 10:40.60. Joining him in the top 10 was sophomore Ian Robbins, sixth with a clocking of 11:48.52.

Also for the Bearcats, freshman Reed Murray, 12th, 12:07.14; sophomore Zach Rivas, 23rd, 12:40.57; freshman Ethan Matthews, 43rd, 13:09.97; freshman Jaden Delgado, 55th, 13:37.04; sophomore Isaac Price, 61st, 13:42.78; senior Caden West, 69th, 14:06.76; and freshman Reese Copeland, 91st, 15:09.92.

JV Ladycats and their finishes include senior Emily Lewis, 35th, 17:14.56; sophomore Giana Anaya, 38th, 17:26.39; sophomore Maddy Shepard, 39th, 17:34.64; freshman Alexa Estrada, 44th, 18:57.89; and freshman Julie Bettencourt, 52nd, 21:17.60.

Weatherford Top Results

Varsity girls: Freshman Nayelli Ordonez, second, 14:45.20; sophomore Mia Saldivar, 15th, 15:29.28; freshman Paige Blake, 16th, 15:32.65; sophomore Stella Adams, 17th, 15:42.44; sophomore Brylee Hernandez, 18th, 15:56.16.

Varsity boys: Senior Josh Gal, ninth, 10:47.22; senior Braxton Boyer, 10th, 10:49.25; junior Riley Starling, 11th, 10:59.89.

JV girls: Senior Rayla Castillo, fourth, 11:59.00; freshman Remington Boone, seventh, 12:39.00; junior Macayla Kopacz, 12th, 13:18.50.

JV boys: Junior Erick Ibarra, ninth, 12:01.99; sophomore Daniel Brown, 15th, 12:10.61; freshman Xavier Ascuero, 20th, 12:34.85.



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**TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION INTO THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH OF PROPERTY GENERALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND FULLY DESCRIBED AND DEPICTED IN EXHIBIT A, LOCATED WITHIN THE CURRENT ETJ OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, TEXAS, FOR ALL MUNICIPAL PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR FILING NOTICE OF THIS ANNEXATION IN DEED RECORDS OF PARKER COUNTY AND WITH THE PARKER COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 9
PUBLICATION CLAUSE

THE TOWN SECRETARY OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH IS DIRECTED TO PUBLISH IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, THE CAPTION, PUBLICATION CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCES AS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 52.012 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

SECTION 10
EFFECTIVE CLAUSE

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FROM AND AFTER ITS PASSAGE, AND IT IS SO ORDAINED PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 8th DAY OF AUGUST, 2023

///ROBERT SCHMIDT, MAYOR

**TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION INTO THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH OF PROPERTY GENERALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND FULLY DESCRIBED AND DEPICTED IN EXHIBIT A, LOCATED WITHIN THE CURRENT ETJ OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, TEXAS, FOR ALL MUNICIPAL PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR FILING NOTICE OF THIS ANNEXATION IN DEED RECORDS OF PARKER COUNTY AND WITH THE PARKER COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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SECTION 10
EFFECTIVE CLAUSE

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///ROBERT SCHMIDT, MAYOR

MEMBER 2023

Texas Press Association

VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats outlast Fossil Ridge

Victorious in home opener

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

The last week has been a test of endurance for the Aledo varsity volleyball squad, without question. After playing eight matches in a three-day trip to Katy over the weekend, the Ladycats went to the limit with Fossil Ridge in their home opener on Monday, August 14 before winning the match three sets to two.

Aledo (7-3) started off the match with the throttle on the floor. Each of the first two sets went to the home team by scores of 25-22 and 25-19 as the Lady Panthers fell behind with haste.

Facing an early end to the night, Fossil Ridge caught their second wind. The rival squads battled in two tightly contested sets before the Lady Panthers edged out a pair of late wins by tallies of 27-25 and 26-24, bringing the drama to a fever pitch in the final set.

In the final stanza of the evening the Ladycats mounted a rally Fossil Ridge could not keep pace with. By the time the dust cleared Aledo celebrated a 15-9 win in the final set to take the match.

Vivian Parker led the Ladycats with 24 digs and 18 kills while serving up three aces.

Ava Reding played the maestro conducting Aledo's offense as she amassed a staggering 39 assists and four aces.

Alyssa Todd and Kinley Elms also finished in double-digits for kills. Todd scored 13 while Elms finished the match one off her pace with an even dozen of her own.

Ella Meador is already making an impact early on in her sophomore season. The first-year varsity player tacked on 17 digs to the score sheet. Meanwhile, Kenrie Pruitt and Logyn Denbow picked up 11 digs each while keeping the floor clear for the Ladycats.

Ella Isbell and Alyssa Todd stood like a stone wall as they combined for eight blocks to halt the Lady Panthers' offense.

The Ladycats get some well-earned time off before their next match on Tuesday, Aug. 22 when they travel to Arlington to take on the hosting Lamar Lady Vikings. Start time for that match is slated for 6 p.m.

The community gathered in the Aledo High School gym on Aug. 5 to interact with this year's varsity volleyball team at Meet the Ladycats.

A fun feature of the evening was the alumni game, when some former varsity players took on the current varsity. In the end the two teams split sets. Youngsters enjoyed autographs from the varsity players at the event.

To see more photos see our website. <http://www.community-news.com/stories/meet-the-ladycats,45301>

BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Read this story online



Future Ladycats and Bearcats seek autographs from varsity players.



Haley Lowe



Ava Reding



Kinley Elms



Ella Meador



Karsyn Trott



Caroline Pruitt



Madison Widmayer



Faith Brooks



Ella Isbell



Madison Goings jumps to serve in the alumni game.



Vivian Parker goes for a kill.



Natalie Anderson serves to the alumni.



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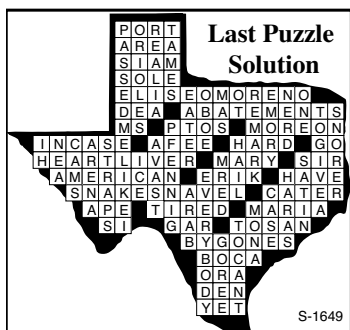
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TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION INTO THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH OF PROPERTY GENERALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND FULLY DESCRIBED AND DEPICTED IN EXHIBIT A, LOCATED WITHIN THE CURRENT ETJ OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, TEXAS, FOR ALL MUNICIPAL PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR FILING NOTICE OF THIS ANNEXATION IN DEED RECORDS OF PARKER COUNTY AND WITH THE PARKER COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
SECTION 9
PUBLICATION CLAUSE
THE TOWN SECRETARY OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH IS DIRECTED TO PUBLISH IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA NORTH, THE CAPTION, PUBLICATION CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCES AS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 52.012 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTION 10
EFFECTIVE CLAUSE
THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FROM AND AFTER ITS PASSAGE, AND IT IS SO ORDAINED
PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 8th DAY OF AUGUST, 2023
///ROBERT SCHMIDT, MAYOR

City of Willow Park
Notice of Public Hearing
The City of Willow Park City Council will hold a public hearing on the matter listed below:
PUBLIC HEARING to consider a request for change in rezoning of "PD" Planned Development District for Red River Development's single-family dwelling subdivision of Country Hollow of 19.16 acres John H. Phelps Survey, Abstract No. 1046, City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas.
City Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2023
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Willow Park City Hall
120 El Chico Trail, Ste A
Willow Park, TX 76087
Any member of the public has the right to appear at the Public Hearing. Please contact the Development Department at 817-441-7108 or tfisher@willowpark.org with any questions.
The above notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City of Willow Park City Hall, Willow Park, Texas on/before August 25, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.



ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK (CMAR) SERVICES
Aledo High School Additions and Renovations
RFP 2308-01
The Aledo Independent School District (the District) is requesting proposals for Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) Services for the Aledo 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 Aledo ISD Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX, 76008. Proposal documents can be viewed and downloaded on Aledo ISD's Business Office website located at through the Aledo 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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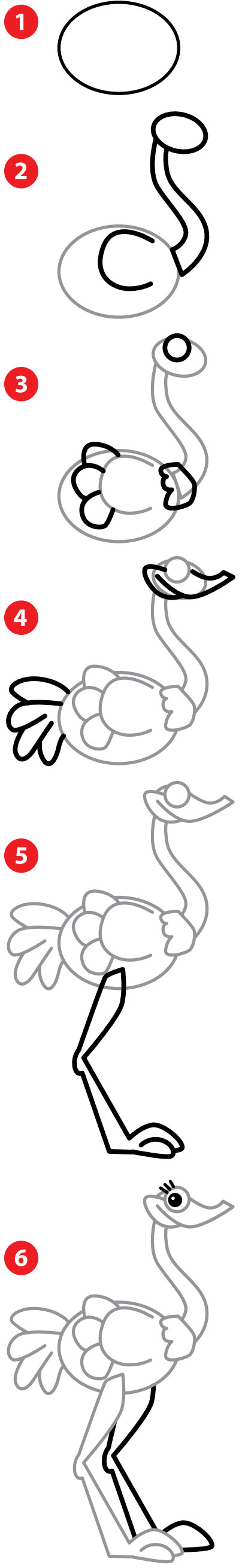


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Kid Scoop Together

Let's Draw!

Follow these steps to draw an ostrich.



OSTRICHES HEAD TO TOE!

When you think of a bird, what do you usually picture? A small bird that flies? Most birds are just like that.

But there is a bird in Africa that's different. An ostrich can grow to be 9 feet tall (2.7 m) and can weigh 320 pounds (150 kg). Even though it is gigantic, it has small wings and does not fly.



Eyes

Ostrich eyes are the largest eyes of any land animal. They also have long eyelashes. Each eye is bigger than their brain.

How big?

11

Billiard ball

Golf ball



Feathers

Males have fluffy black feathers with white plumes on their wings and tail, while females are grayish brown.

Legs

Ostriches may not be able to _____, but they can run! They can reach _____ of over 40 miles per hour (70km per hour). An ostrich holds out its small _____ when running. This helps them keep their _____. And an ostrich's legs are also good for _____

_____ themselves from lions, hyenas, and other _____



Do ostriches bury their heads in the sand?

Hold this page up to a mirror for the answer!

mirrored text: "Do ostriches bury their heads in the sand? Hold this page up to a mirror for the answer!"

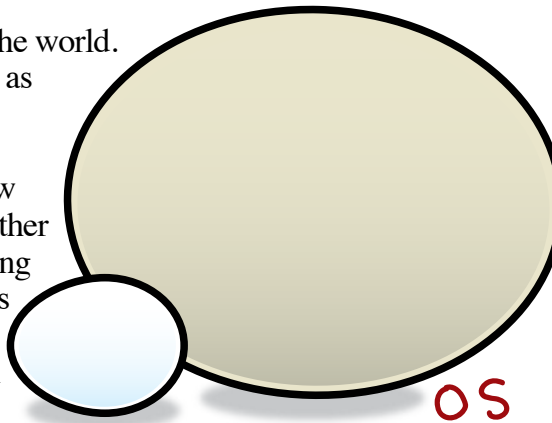
Toes

Ostriches have two toes on each foot. And each toe has a long claw.

Ostrich Eggs

Ostriches lay the largest eggs in the world. Their eggs weigh about the same as two dozen chicken eggs.

Ostriches lay their eggs in shallow pits they scratch into the dirt. Mother and father ostriches take turns lying on top of their eggs. The mother's brown feathers camouflage the egg in the day. The father's black feathers camouflage it at night.



Circle every other letter to discover a surprising fact about ostriches.

A O B S K T L
R Y I J C U H D
E Y S I H T A C
V O E U T X H
I R J E B E H S
Y T G O S M U
A L C V H P S

OS

Baby ostriches are only about 10 inches (25cm) tall. They weigh about 2 pounds—less than 1kg.

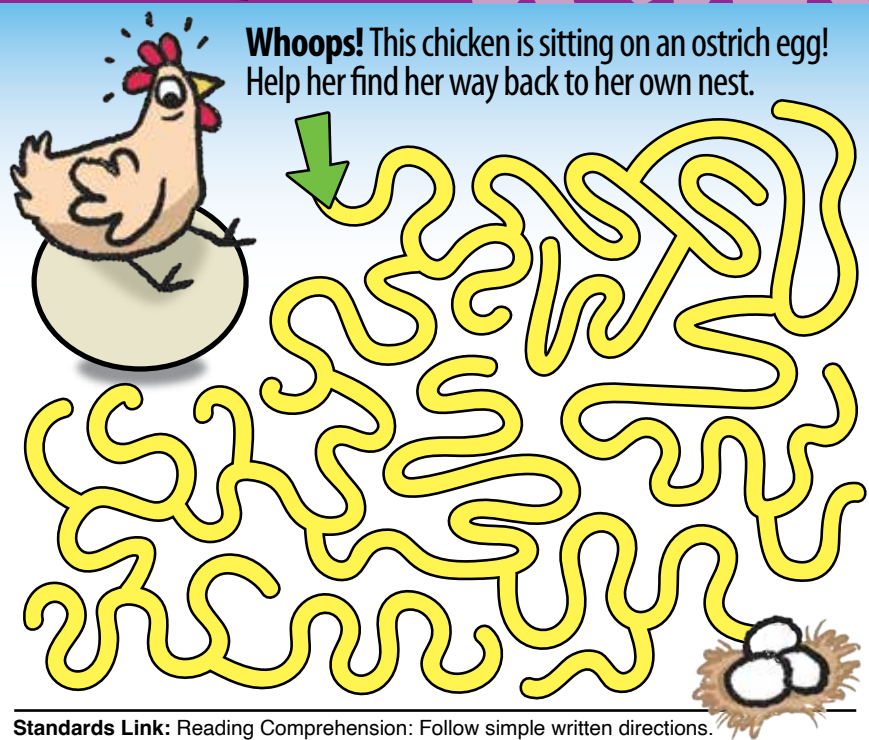
Standards Link: Science: Students understand that animals have unique features for survival.

Extra! Extra! Big, Bigger, Biggest

Look through the newspaper for a picture of something big. Then find another picture of something bigger. Then look for the biggest thing you can find in the newspaper. Glue these to a sheet of paper with the words **Big, Bigger, and Biggest**. Can you repeat this with pictures of things that are small, smaller, and smallest?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Understand comparative and superlative adjectives.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Whoops! This chicken is sitting on an ostrich egg! Help her find her way back to her own nest.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- AFRICA
- BRAIN
- CLAW
- DIRT
- EGGS
- EYES
- FLY
- HIDE
- LIONS
- NIGHT
- OSTRICH
- PLUMES
- SAND
- SHALLOW
- WINGS

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Ostrich Poem

Look through the newspaper for the letters O-S-T-R-I-C-H. Write a little poem or a paragraph about ostriches using these words to start each line.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write in a variety of genres.



What did the angry ostrich say after losing the animal foot race?

ANSWER: "The winner was a big ol'cheatah!"

Write On!

My favorite animal is ...

Finish this story.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **PLUME**

The noun **plume** means a large, fluffy feather.

The fluffy **plumes** of ostriches give them a shaggy, almost furry look.

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

SWIMMING

Ladycat shines internationally

Crews wins two medals

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The first time Victoria Crews traveled to Italy, it was on a cruise with her family in 2019 and she spent much of her time on a ship ON the water.

This time she spent much of her time IN the water, and the experience was golden with a bit of exciting bronze.

The Aledo High School swimmer traveled to Fort Worth's Sister City of Reggio Emilia, Italy the final week of July to compete in the seventh Giochi del Tricolore Games. Fashioned in the style of the Olympics, they occur every four years, beginning in 1997, and are an international celebration created to inspire unity and peace among athletes from around the world.

The competition featured 26 cities from 19 countries.

Crews, who will be a junior this school year at AHS, was competing for her club team, Sigma Swimming-Metroplex Athletics. She was in five events, finishing in the top 10 in each and in the top five in four.

This included winning a gold medal the 200-meter backstroke, clocking a time of 2 minutes, 48.02 seconds.

"I think I did pretty good, especially considering the week before I had season-ending competition with Sigma," Crews said. "It was very rewarding, to say the least.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Victoria Crews of Aledo represents the United States following her gold medal victory in the 200-meter backstroke at the Giochi del Tricolore Games in Reggio Emilia, Italy in late July. | **RIGHT:** Victoria Crews displays her gold and bronze medals won at the Games.

"I got a taste of what could potentially be my future if I swim professionally."

Though she won a gold medal, Crews said that perhaps the most exciting part of the competition was when she set a personal-record time of 1:10.96 in the 100 butterfly. She captured a gold medal as a result.

"I don't think I was ever so happy to get third in my life," she said with a smile. "And to do it in Italy, of all places."

Crews, the only AHS swimmer at the event, also had a PR of 29.25 seconds in the 50 freestyle despite taking seventh, her lowest finish of

the event. Her other finishes were fourth in the 50 backstroke and fifth in the 50 butterfly.

Swimming wasn't the only thing Crews and her fellow swimmers did in Italy. The organizers hosted cultural and educational events to educate the athletes of the importance of using sport as a cross-cultural connection to establish meaningful relationships. For example, Crews became friends with some swimmers from Tunisia.

"They got close to our team and it was great getting to know them throughout our trip," she said.

This year, the theme of the games is "Sports can change people; People can change the world."

Crews said she and her friends also found some time to take in some of the countryside. This included a quick trip to Florence, which is only a couple hours away.

"We got there early and were able to take some pics of touristy places before they got too busy," she said.

Now Crews is back home and preparing for the coming Aledo High swim season and what she hopes will be a third consecutive trip to state. She while her team is already close, she believes her experience in Italy will help them all.

"We're tight and like family, and I think I share what I did and saw to help us become an even more connected team," she said.



Read this story online



Read this story online

Congratulations!



Victoria Crews

Bringing home the gold medal victory in the 200-meter backstroke at the Giochi del Tricolore Games in Reggio Emilia, Italy

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Back to School



A panoramic shot shows Aledo High School and the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

First Day of School

Coming Together



JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

Students at Annetta Elementary School get into the swing early on the first day of classes.



JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

Stuard Elementary School Principal Katie Griffin points the way for a student.



JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

Athletes at Aledo Middle School drill on the first day of classes.



JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn joins in class activities during the first day of School at Walsh Elementary School.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Cash and Easton Colvard



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley along with his wife, Courtney, son Nolan, and Coder Elementary School Principal Gina Henze.



JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

School Board member Jennifer Taylor helps with the drop-off of students at Stuard Elementary School on opening day.



JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn joins in class activities during the first day of School at McCall Elementary School.



JON SHELDON/ALEDO ISD

McAnally Middle School Principal Josh Jenkins welcomes students to the first day of classes.

Aledo High School, Daniel Ninth Grade Campus to see more overlap this year

By Madison Scott
The Community News

This school year Angi Tims will be principal of both Aledo High School and the Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.

"I'm starting my 19th year here in Aledo ISD as a high school administrator and I started my journey as an assistant principal in the high school building," Tims said. "But I had the privilege of opening the ninth grade campus and serving as principal there at the high school."

The Aledo ISD administration has changed the roles of associate principals and restructured the leadership. Tims has hired a second associate principal, meaning one is over administration and operations, the other is over teaching and learning.

"It was very important to me to make sure that we create a leadership and support structure that was going to make sure that all of our students and all of our staff were supported through the change," Tims said. "So between the three of us we have built a calendar and schedule that will allow us to support students and teachers nine through 12."

The restructuring came about because the high school is operating at capacity, but the ninth grade campus has some capacity left. To best make use of that space, the administration has moved Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes to the ninth grade building and moved health science to the high school.

"We really moved some things that just made sense and we needed to because of enrollment in the program," Tims said. "I do anticipate as we move forward and continue to grow, that we will continue to spill into the ninth grade building again

because they have room whereas on our campus we just don't have that."

Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn has worked along with the staff to plan for the growth of students approaching this school year.

"As we've been planning for growth — and we're going to have a little over 8,000 students this year — we will plan in multiple decades to have like 65,000," Bohn said. "When we think about building multiple high schools, the ninth-grade campus model is harder to do."

"As we've been planning for growth — and we're going to have a little over 8,000 students this year — we will plan in multiple decades to have like 65,000."

Aledo ISD Superintendent
Dr. Susan Bohn

The school district has the support of a group of community members called the Aledo Growth Committee that comes together to help with long-range planning.

"They really started looking at high schools and the model of the ninth-grade campus plus the high school was just not something they were interested in pursuing," Bohn



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo High School, which opened in 2001, is near capacity. Aledo ISD officials will utilize available space in the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus this school year to provide more cohesive instruction.

said. "It's less efficient, money-wise, and we're using taxpayer dollars so we have to make sure we're accountable to taxpayers for how we grow."

Bohn said the discussion of building a new school started in September of 2022 and continued through February, leading to a bond election in May. The conversation about a new high school is ongoing.

"We don't have a plan right now to build a new high school but we know we will have to," Bohn said. "So the thought was when we do build the second high school it is a nine through 12 campus. It is not a 10 through 12 campus, and we figured out that we have to build another campus for an upgrade."

Bohn said they didn't make this change because of too many students, but it's more about staffing and leadership. With the growth of the student body, the bond that was passed in May had also incorporated

an addition to the indoor practice facility.

"It doesn't really add a lot of capacity but it creates space for student programs," Bohn said. "This is something that the Growth Committee wanted us to do."

This will help create space for band, cheer, wrestling, and robotics since a majority of the space in the high school is shared. The district plans to build a second high school around 2030 to help serve the students. The second high school is planned to be constructed north of I-20 along Old Weatherford road.

In addition, the district purchased a tract of land behind First Bank at the intersection of Bailey Ranch Road and Champions Drive.

"It's about 20 acres ... the district has closed on that piece of property and the use of that piece of property is unknown," Bohn said. "One of the concepts that the Aledo Growth Committee was talking

about was a college and career academy."

Many districts in Dallas Fort Worth have the college and career academy. This would also leave room in the high school for students in the classrooms. For now, the classes that Tims has moved to the ninth grade campus are in the front of the building so students can make it to their classed at the main high school on time.

"We were very thoughtful in trying to minimize the time it would take for the students to get from this building to that building," Tims said. "We have a really great team of administrators, counselors, and teachers that have been working to tackle this and bring us together, and this isn't something that I was able to do alone."



Read this story online

Welcome Back - Have a great school year!



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Aledo ISD Back to School 2023

The excitement that is the first day of school never dulls for me. This year, Aledo ISD will move over the 8,000-student threshold for the first time in our district's history. To me, yes, that's rapid growth; we had less than 6,000 students in Aledo ISD when I started in 2018. But it's also an opportunity to inspire excellence in that many more students in our school district.

To our newest Bearcats: being a part of this community is special. It's hard to explain, but I'll try to sum it up in two simple words: All In.

Whether you're new to the district or you've been here a long time, in partnership with our parents and community, we come together to meet the needs of our students and give 100% while doing it. We have a multitude of opportunities for students to find what they're passionate about, we have high levels of learning and exceptional experiences provided by the best staff in the state, and we're surrounded by a connected community that supports our students, staff, and their schools in all ways.

All in Aledo means that we are all in this together and all for the betterment of our students, staff, and community. We are so grateful to have parents and community members on our campuses every day volunteering, mentoring, serving on committees, and so much more. You are an integral part of our everyday success!

All in Aledo means that, no matter what your student is interested in, we have a multitude of opportunities where ALL of our students can find what they are passionate about. It is my hope daily that our students feel like they belong and are connected to our schools and community.

And All in Aledo means we're ALL IN - we're 100% prepared and give 100% effort! We're ALL IN on being successful and representing ourselves and our community to the best of our ability.

I'd love for you all to be ALL IN Aledo with me as we walk through another school year in partnership for our students and staff. We are so fortunate to be Bearcats. Let's go make this our best year yet!

We want to make sure you're informed and know all of the exciting things going on in our district, so please - especially if you aren't a parent already receiving regular communication from Aledo ISD - fill out the form at <https://bit.ly/BeIntheKnowAledoISD> to be added to our email and newsletter distribution list.

Have a great year, Bearcats!

Dr. Susan Bohn is the Aledo ISD Superintendent



Have fun dating, but always be safe



AISD taking matter seriously

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

High school dating is supposed to be a fun experience. For many, it is how they met the love of their life and it is not uncommon for high school sweethearts to stay together forever.

Unfortunately, high school dating and safe dating don't always go hand-in-hand, if you'll pardon the expression.

The most recent Centers For Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System survey in 2021 found that 9.7 percent of high school students have experienced sexual dating violence. That number was significantly higher for girls (15.3%) than boys (4%).

Also, about 8.5% of high school students reported experiencing physical dating violence, again with the total higher for girls (10.2%) than boys (6.7%).

And while those percentages have decreased slightly in the past decade, this is, without question, a matter that needs to be taken seriously. And school districts like Aledo are doing just that.

"Aledo ISD addresses the matter of dating violence as required by the state in policies related to freedom from discrimination, harassment, and bullying," noted Scott Kessel, AISD Executive Director of Student Services.

On May 18, 2007, then Texas Governor Rick Perry signed House Bill 121 into law. HB 121 mandates that all school districts in Texas adopt and implement a dating violence policy.

To the extent possible, a school district shall make available to students: (1) age-appropriate educational materials that include information on the dangers of dating violence; and (2) resources to students seeking help.

As of June 2022, 28 states and the District of Columbia required some level of dating violence prevention education, and nine strongly encouraged it, according to research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics.

Secondary campuses in the AISD share a program with students called Play It Safe that's offered through the Women's Center of Tarrant County. Play It Safe reinforces the details of what makes healthy relationships, how to appropriately interact with others, and what to do when things don't seem right.

"Parents are given opportunities to preview the Play It Safe materials before they are shared with students and can request that their children not participate," Kessel said. "Parents are also

provided with suggestions of how to have conversations on the topic at home with their kids if they choose to do so."

Studies have shown that teenagers who experience abuse in their early romantic relationships can face lifelong consequences as a result. Also, it's been determined that up to 88% of teens with a history of dating violence experienced interruptions and difficulties with their education.

However, school districts like Aledo are poised to educate students about dating violence, and to respond when something happens.

Aledo ISD has a tip line for any student - victim, friend, witness, etc. - to be able to report to school and district administration, along with district-employed police officers, about things happening that shouldn't be. Additionally, the district partners with Parker County Crime Stoppers to be able to report criminal activity.

Reports to both the AISD tip line and Crime Stoppers can be made anonymously or not.

Kessel and others also stress the importance of keeping parents informed, along with parents advising their children of safety - and for both parents and teens to listen to each other.

"It's always important for parents and kids to have conversations about matters like this," Kessel said. "They can be hard conversations to have, but are critical to keeping everyone as safe as possible. Always knowing when and where kids are going, and who they'll be with is also always a good practice for kids and parents to be on the same page about."

Kessel added that, of course, if any child or parent is feeling a need to find help, Aledo ISD would always encourage them to reach out and not feel like they have to handle the situation alone.

"Our schools and school staff have resources that can help, or they can work quickly to connect students and families with the best resources to support the kids in our community," he said.

Anyone in immediate danger should always call 911. There are also a number of resources available to help people recognize and escape abusive relationships, including the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the National Sexual Assault Hotline, and LoveIsRespect.org.

For someone to speak to, 988 is a confidential, no-cost line that directs callers in need to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and integrated crisis response systems. There are also crisis intervention apps like SafeUT, which connects users to licensed counselors who are ready to listen to any sized crisis or concern.



2023-2024 ALEDO ISD INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

Month	Days	Notes
JULY 2023	1-31	
AUGUST 2023	1-31	Aug. 1-3: New Teacher Academy; Aug. 7-15: 5 District/Campus PL Days & 2 Work Days; Aug. 16: 1st Grading Cycle Begins
SEPTEMBER 2023	1-30	Sept. 4: Student/Staff Holiday; Sept. 22: Student Holiday/Work Day
OCTOBER 2023	1-31	Oct. 11: 1st Grading Cycle Ends; Oct. 12: Student Holiday/PL Day; Oct. 13: Student/Staff Holiday; Oct. 16: Student/Staff Holiday; Oct. 17: Student Holiday/Work Day; Oct. 18: 2nd Grading Cycle Begins
NOVEMBER 2023	1-30	Nov. 15: Student Holiday/PL Day; Nov. 17: Student Holiday/Work Day; Nov. 20-24: Student/Staff Holiday
DECEMBER 2023	1-31	Dec. 20: Early Release/Work Day; Dec. 20: 2nd Grading Cycle Ends; Dec. 21-29: Student/Staff Holiday
JANUARY 2024	1-31	Jan. 1-3: Student/Staff Holiday; Jan. 4: Student Holiday/PL Day; Jan. 5: Student Holiday/WK Day; Jan. 8: 3rd Grading Cycle Begins; Jan. 15: Student/Staff Holiday
FEBRUARY 2024	1-29	Feb. 2: Student Holiday/Work Day; Feb. 16: Student Holiday/PL Day; Feb. 19: Student Holiday/Work Day
MARCH 2024	1-31	March 8: Early Release/Work Day; March 8: 3rd Grading Cycle Ends; March 11-15: Student/Staff Holiday; March 18: Student Holiday/PL/WK Day; March 19: 4th Grading Cycle Begins; March 29: Student Holiday/Flex Day
APRIL 2024	1-30	April 1: Student/Staff Holiday; April 2: Student Holiday/Work Day
MAY 2024	1-31	May 23: Early Release/Work Day; May 23: 4th Grading Cycle Ends; May 24: Staff Work Day; May 27: Staff Holiday; May 28-29: Flex Days
JUNE 2024	1-30	

Grading Cycles:
 1st: 39 Days
 2nd: 39 Days
 3rd: 41 Days
 4th: 45 Days
 Total School Days: 164

Semester 1: 78 Days
 Semester 2: 86 Days
 Total School Days: 164

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2023

2024

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Free and reduced-price school meals available for qualified students

The Aledo ISD recently announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under certain current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

The district has begun distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available at AISD Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Rd., Aledo TX 76008.

Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

- Income
- Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels
- Categorical (Automatic) Eligibility
- Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDIR)
- Program Participant
- Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
- Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must complete an application for free and reduced-price meals and return it to Renee Goodenough, AISD Nutrition Department Secretary, C/O Early Childhood Academy, 408 FM 1187 South, Aledo, TX 76008 817-441-5142.

Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

- Names of all household members
- Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member

- Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number."
- Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct.

Categorical or Program Eligibility

Aledo ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. Aledo ISD will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact Renee Goodenough, ASID Nutrition Department Secretary at 817-441-5142.

Goodenough should also be contacted if all children in household are not listed on any communication or notice, or if any household wishes to decline benefits.

Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. The information provided by households on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Child Nutrition Director Patty Willhite will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Earl Husfeld, CFO, 817-441-5111.

Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if



Household Size	Total Income									
	Annual		Monthly		Twice-Monthly		Bi-Weekly		Weekly	
No. of Household Members	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$18,954	\$26,973	\$1,580	\$2,248	\$790	\$1,124	\$729	\$1,038	\$365	\$519
2	\$25,636	\$36,482	\$2,137	\$3,041	\$1,069	\$1,521	\$986	\$1,404	\$493	\$702
3	\$32,318	\$45,991	\$2,694	\$3,833	\$1,347	\$1,917	\$1,243	\$1,769	\$622	\$885
4	\$39,000	\$55,500	\$3,250	\$4,625	\$1,625	\$2,313	\$1,500	\$2,135	\$750	\$1,068
5	\$45,682	\$65,009	\$3,807	\$5,418	\$1,904	\$2,709	\$1,757	\$2,501	\$879	\$1,251
6	\$52,364	\$74,518	\$4,364	\$6,210	\$2,182	\$3,105	\$2,014	\$2,867	\$1,007	\$1,434
7	\$59,046	\$84,027	\$4,921	\$7,003	\$2,461	\$3,502	\$2,271	\$3,232	\$1,136	\$1,616
8	\$65,728	\$93,536	\$5,478	\$7,795	\$2,739	\$3,898	\$2,528	\$3,598	\$1,264	\$1,799
For each additional family member, add	+\$6,682	+\$9,509	+\$557	+\$793	+\$279	+\$397	+\$257	+\$366	+\$129	+\$183

the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, Aledo ISD is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American

Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf> from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain

the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



LEFT: Jackson Babb spruces up his personal parking space at Aledo High School to prepare for his senior year. | RIGHT: Seniors spend the morning painting their parking spots.

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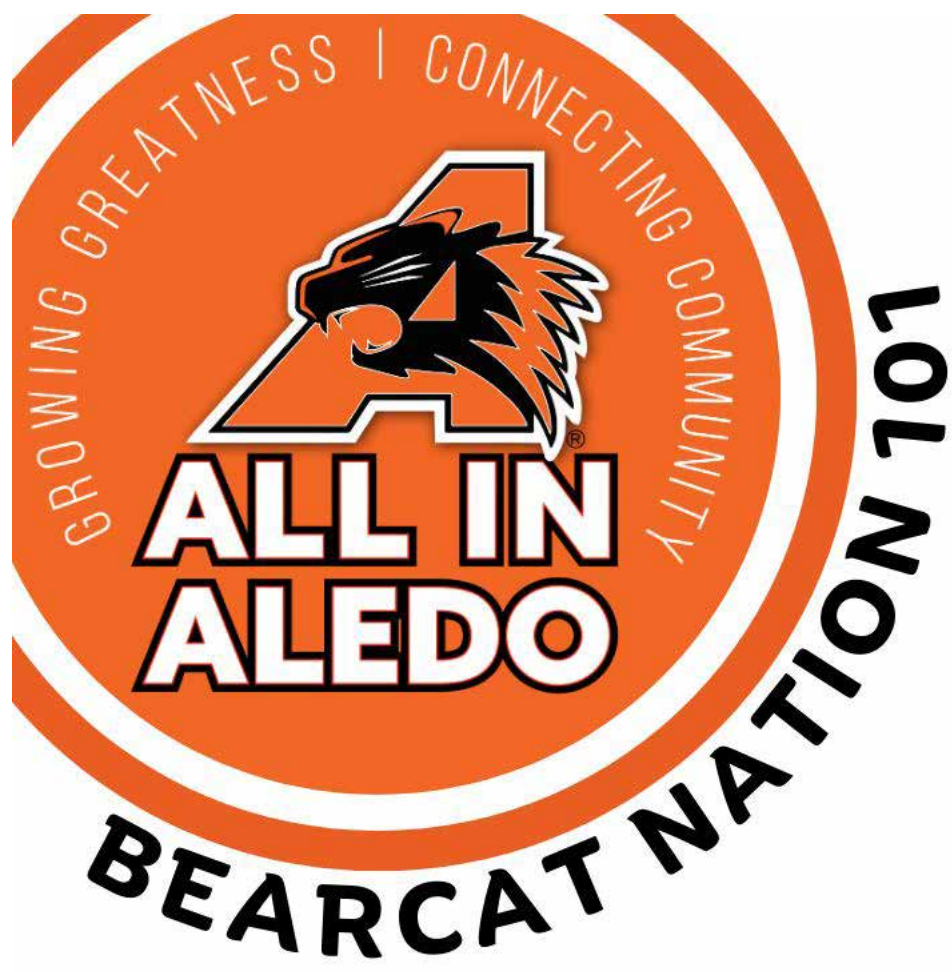


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Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Aledo ISD's annual Bearcat Nation 101 had crowds throughout the morning of Aug. 5 at the Aledo High School cafeteria. The event is organized to provide area community services the opportunity to meet new residents to the area.

PHOTOS BY RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Addison Browning (left) and Marissa Browning are shown at the Texas Girls Choir booth.



Lots of local citizens turned out for Bearcat Nation 101 Saturday, Aug. 5 at Aledo High School Cafeteria, a chance to meet folks in the school district and around the community.



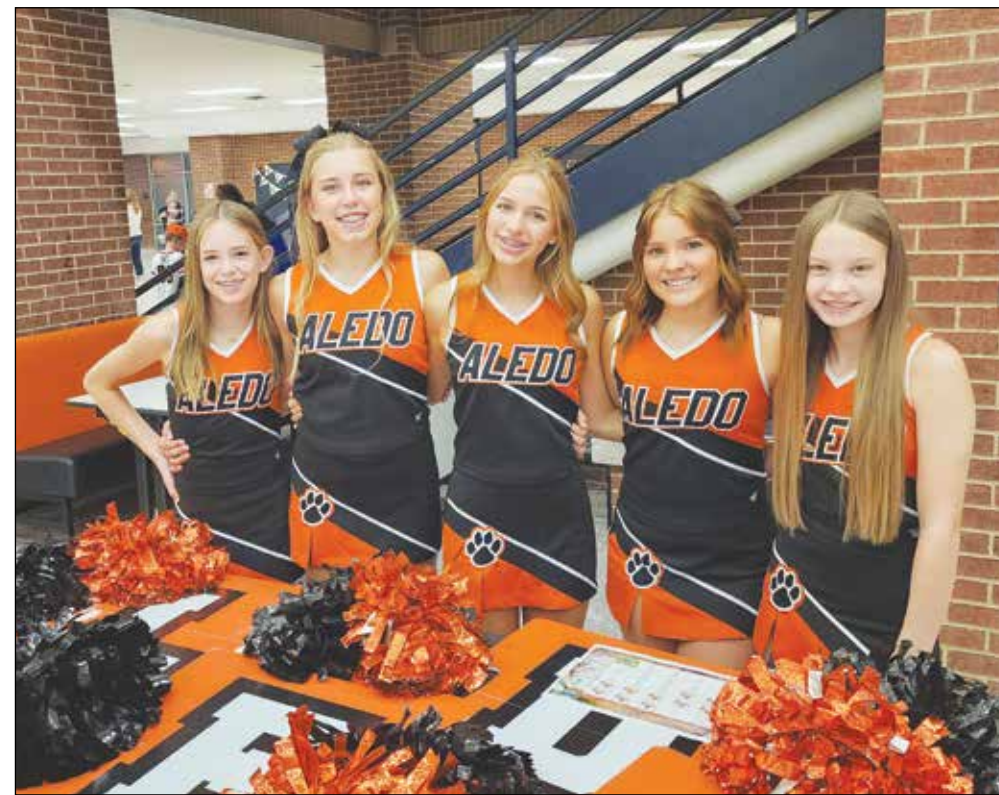
Tracy Lambert-Jack and Wyatt Jack read a copy of The Community News at the East Parker County Library booth.



Rebecca James and her daughter Pinley shop at The Bearcat Store.



New Aledo Athletic Director Brandy Belk is shown with the Aledo Bearcat.



Middle School cheerleaders welcomed everyone at their booth.



At the Aledo Education Foundation booth are (front row, from left) Kaden Rice, Paige Rice, Valerie Kerr, Dustin Parker, and Jill Keith, and (back row) Matt Sudderth and Ashley Hodo.



Communications Director Rose Hoffmann is shown at the City of Willow Park booth.



Aledo Class of 1981 graduate Debbie Hataway is shown with her granddaughter Everleigh Boling, a kindergartener at Vandagriff Elementary School.



(From left) Eryka Swyrn, Gay Larson, and Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts share information about monarch butterflies.



Representing Girl Scouts were (front row, from left) Dana Pierce, Emmeline Vassalli, Kaylee Pierce, and MacKenzie Moldenhauer, and (back row) Amber Vassalli and Diana Moldenhauer.



The Church at the Crossing was represented by (from left) Nathan Morris, Brandi Little, and Shawn Powell.



Director of Transportation Ranjan George and Routing Coordinator Lisa Grace are shown at the AISD transportation booth.



Rotary Club representatives were (from left) Dr. Renea Skelton, Chloe Skelton, Bronwyn Coppinger, James Price, and Isaac Price.



(From left) City Secretary Deana McMullen, City Manager Noah Simon and new Community Engagement Manager Whitney Walters are shown at the City of Aledo booth.



Cub Master Joe Davidson and Den Leader Jeff Fink represented Cub Scouts Pack 2001.



McCall Elementary third-grader Chloe Headley visits with the Aledo Bearcats mascot.

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Trinity Christian Academy unveils new theme for the 2023-24 school year

Staff Reports
The Community News

What is happening at TCA for the 2023-24 School Year?

“God has brought us about 560 students. We have an \$8 million dollar budget, and we have 110 full and part-time employees,” said TCA Marketing Coordinator Denise Hobbs. “We are blessed to have 90 acres, with 83 across Bankhead. 2024 will start our 31st year in providing Christian education. It is a testimony to God’s blessings as the school has grown from just 10 students in 1993. We still have some secondary openings for students and we are still enrolling.”

Hobbs said the theme for this school year will be “Take the Next Step” which builds on last year’s theme of “Live His Story.”

“As we look at what we will be doing this year, it’s important that we not only live His story but also that we take the next step in that story. For each of us, that may look a little different, but our verses to go with this theme offer us an explanation of what that looks like for all of us. Colossians 2:6-7 says:

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Hobbs said.

Hobbs said an exciting initiative this school year is Teaching for Transformation, or TtT.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

New faculty members at Trinity Christian Academy include (front) Danyel Fisher - Early Bird; (second row, from left) Mark Smith - Assistant Athletic Director, Mike Paloma - Secondary Classroom Teachers, Maxine Hill - Elementary Teacher, Lori Bratcher - Elementary Aide, Jill Suchors - Varsity Cheer Coach, Stephanie Krohn - Secondary Teacher, Carman Peterson - Secondary English Teacher, Kelly Dildy - Elementary Teacher, and Ky’ra Myers - Elementary Teacher; (third row) Holly Killough - Secondary Teacher, Debra Yarger, Elementary Aide, Brenda Kilbourne - Administrative Assistant, Hannah Mitchell, Elementary Teacher, Maggie Dorrell - Elementary Teacher, and Dayla Shorter - Secondary Teacher; and (back row) Garret Hilton - Varsity Girls Basketball Coach and Jeff Peterson - Varsity Boys Basketball/ Secondary Teacher. Not shown is Katherine Mullen - Varsity Volleyball Coach.

“This is a multi-year professional development program that will invite and empower our teachers and students to play their part in God’s Story through their everyday learning,” Hobbs said. “Our elementary team is ready for students! We are so excited about the depth of experience of

our teachers, a special emphasis on Biblical integration, and a team spirit to support all students socially and emotionally.”

TCA Secondary is excited to roll out its new small group student mentoring program along with its house system for Junior and High School.

“These two programs combined will help to even further improve our excellent school culture,” Hobbs said.

Football season is also here! The Eagles will host the first official game of the season at 7 p.m. on Aug 24 against Temple Christian.

Trinity Christian Academy is a PK3-12 college preparatory institution in Willow Park, providing a Christ-centered, biblical approach to academic excellence in our community.



Read this story online



**TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
2023/2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

AUGUST 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2		
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2		
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31						

APRIL 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2024

GRADING PERIODS

AUG 17 - OCT 13

OCT 16 - DEC 15

JAN 04 - MAR 08

MAR 20 - MAY 23

Professional Development days and Spring Holidays (including Spring Break) may be reclaimed & used to make up for bad weather days if needed.



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Welcome Back to School
Aledo ISD and Trinity
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Have a great year!



Weatherford ISD welcomes new teachers

By Randy Keck
The Community News

School board members, community leaders, political leaders, and administrators gathered at the Weatherford High School cafeteria on July 31 to welcome new teachers to the district.

Weatherford ISD Superintendent Beau Rees began by introducing members of the school board.

"Our board loves this school district; many of them went to high school here in Weatherford, and they bleed Roos blue," Rees

said. Let me promise you that having been superintendent of schools for 21 years, I've worked in four different school districts, that these guys are incredible leaders in that they care about you and they care about kids, and they help us make it all happen."

Weatherford radio personality Dave Cowley acted as master of ceremonies, sharing that he has been a member of the Weatherford Education Foundation for 20 years. The foundation hosted the lunch.

Weatherford ISD board president Mike Guest encouraged the new teachers to keep their eyes on the goal of helping students learn.

"You see what's happening today - education has become politicized," Guest said. "Don't listen to the mess. Keep loving our kids, keep educating our kids, be a part of that kid's life."

At the beginning of the lunch, all attendees received a sheet of paper. Cowley spoke of the positive

influence teachers had on his life, and asked the audience members to think of a teacher that made a difference in their lives. He then asked the audience members to write one word that described that teacher.



Read this story online

Words like "loving," "passion," "kind," "graceful," and "understanding" filled the pages in the room - all fitting aspirations for the new school year.



Weatherford ISD Superintendent Beau Rees welcomed teachers to the new teacher luncheon on July 31.



The Weatherford High School cafeteria was a busy place on July 31 when the Weatherford Education Foundation hosted new teachers and the local business community to a new teacher luncheon.



Weatherford ISD School Board President Mike guest encouraged the new teachers in the audience.



The audience was asked to think of a teacher who made a difference in their lives, and to write a single word describing that teacher.



Dave Cowley, a 20-year member of the Weatherford Education Foundation, served as master of ceremonies.



Weatherford ISD

2023-2024 School Calendar

Approved 12-12-2022

July 2023							August 2023							September 2023							October 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	H	5	6	7	8	6	PD	NP	NP	PD	PD	5	3	H	5	6	7	8	9	8	H	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	WD	WD	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	PD	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	WD	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	PD	WD						
30	NP																										

November 2023							December 2023							January 2024							February 2024							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	PD	10	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	H	H	16	17	18	19	20	11	WD	13	14	15	16	17
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	WD	H	H	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	H	20	21	22	23	24	
19	H	H	H	H	25	24	H	H	H	H	30	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	
26	27	28	29	30	31																							

March 2024							April 2024							May 2024							June 2024								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
					1	2	1	2	3	4	PD	6	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	WD	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
10	H	H	H	H	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	ER	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
24	25	26	27	28	H	30	28	29	30	26	H	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																													

IMPORTANT DATES: FALL SEMESTER

- July 4 - Holiday
- July 31 - August 2 New Professional Orientation
- August 3-15 Staff Professional Development/Work Days
- August 16 - First Day of School
- September 4 - Holiday
- September 15 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- September 18 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- October 6 - Parent/Teacher Conference Day - Student Holiday
- October 9 - Holiday
- October 30 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- October 31 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- November 20-24 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 20 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- December 21-January 3 - Winter Break

IMPORTANT DATES: SPRING SEMESTER

- January 4 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- January 5 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- January 15 - Holiday
- February 9 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- February 12 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- February 19 - Holiday
- March 11-15 - Spring Break
- March 29 - Holiday
- April 5 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- April 8 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- May 23 - Last Day of School/Early Release for All Students
- May 24 - Work Day for Staff
- May 27 - Holiday

LEGEND		GRADING PERIODS	
ER	Early Release Day	1st Six Weeks:	August 16 - September 22
H	Holiday	2nd Six Weeks:	September 25 - November 3
NP	New Professionals Training	3rd Six Weeks:	November 6 - December 19
PD	Professional Development Day for Staff	4th Six Weeks:	January 8 - February 16
PTC	Parent/Teacher Conference Day	5th Six Weeks:	February 20 - April 12
WD	Work Day for Staff	6th Six Weeks:	April 15 - May 24



PlainsCapital Bank salutes all of the hard working teachers and administrators across Aledo ISD. Your unwavering commitment to excellence and achievement continues to make a positive impact on our community and Aledo youth. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

