

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

City council accepts offer for train depot

Hallmark property needs new location

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

As Aledo continues to grow and transform into the new community it's becoming, old Aledo still has a strong presence downtown. The difficult act of holding onto the old while experiencing the new is a dance few communities have mastered.

But, Aledo is trying.

During the end-of-the-month meeting on Thursday, Aug. 26 for the Aledo City Council, the first step in preserving a hallmark piece of property from yesteryear for the future of Aledo was taken. The old train depot has sat in disrepair on the property where the current city hall sits, and where the new city hall will be erected.

For a number of years, the city has sought out a potential new owner of the building with little to show for their efforts.

With construction of the new city hall coming around the corner, finding a new home for the old depot has worked its way up the list of to-dos. The council approved a motion to appropriate \$25,000 to help cover the cost of relocating the depot from its present location to its future home at 200 S FM 1187.

The motion also provides City Manager Noah Simon the authority to negotiate the terms of sale and relocation to 1882 Partners, LP.

The city previously inquired about the cost of refurbishing the depot, but the cost of moving the structure, coupled with the asbestos removal, foundation preparation at a future site, and the cost of refurbishing the building was exorbitant. Per city guidelines for the potential sale, 1882 Partners, LP will have 18 months from the transaction date to relocate the building, complete the refurbishing project, and have the structure open for public use.

Mayor Nick Stanley stated he would also like to see language incorporated into the deal that the building cannot be sold or moved from Aledo once the rehab project is complete.

Speculation surrounding the possibility of an affiliation between Stanley with 1882 Partners, LP began to arise shortly after the conclusion of the meeting. When asked by The Community News for clarification regarding a possible relationship between himself and the group looking to purchase the depot, the mayor responded with an email stating, "Thank you for reaching out and requesting the clarification. While those are people that I do know from

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Officially Mother Nature



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay Larson (left) was officially crowned "Mother Nature" by the Parker County Master Gardeners Association on Aug. 23. Shown at right is Cat Miller, who organized and led the event.

Gay Larson crowned at Aledo event

By **Randy Keck**
The Community News

Many people who have hung around Aledo and Annetta for a while have referred to Gay Larson as "Mother Nature."

But Catherine (Cat) Miller and the Parker County Master Gardeners Association (PCMGA) made it official on Wednesday, Aug. 2, with a full-fledged coronation ceremony at the Aledo Community Center.

Friends and members of the Master Gardeners turned to look back when they heard a bell ringing to start the ceremony, as former PCMGA president Woody Shaw walked up the aisle in full regalia, shouting "Here ye! Hear ye!"

Shaw continued when he reached the front of the crowd: "We gather here today the 23rd of August 2023 on this joyous and historic occasion for Master Gardeners of Parker County and for all the world.

It is today that our Gay Larson is invested with her regalia and is formally crowned as mother nature of the county and of the world. May her reign be known for sustaining nature and teaching others how to. We join here today to celebrate and to rejoice."

Miller then began the proceedings with a prayer before announcing the purpose of the occasion.

"For a long time, I have wanted to thank Gay for everything she's done for me — everything she has taught me," Miller said. "And I had that on my heart for a long time. And I didn't know what that would be, what it would look like, where that would be. And then it came to me. Everybody knows Gay is Mother Nature. But she's never been crowned Mother Nature."

Miller continued by quoting Romans 12:6 (We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.) and I Peter 4:10 (Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve

others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.)

"That's exactly what Gay does," Miller said. "She certainly does. And can I get an amen?"

Miller then called Larson up to her "throne" at the front of the room.

Larson, who has always had a quick wit, said she wasn't sure what to expect.

"When you are faced with something like this and the person putting it on won't tell you what's going to happen, you have dreams," Larson said. "And I dreamed last night that Cat came with three miniature donkeys for entertainment. I was wondering where did she find three talented donkeys!"

Larson said the real event was better.

"I love Parker County Master Gardeners; I'm one of the original ones," Larson said. "And so I feel like the mother of the whole Association. I started in Tarrant County and my friend and Sharon came

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ALEDO ISD

Board approves decreased tax rate

One-time payment for staff included in budget

By **Mercedes Mayer**
Aledo ISD

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees has adopted a lower tax rate for the fifth year in a row at a meeting on Monday, Aug. 28. The 2023-2024 tax rate will be more than 16 cents lower than the previous year, bringing the five-year total reduction to nearly 39 cents or a 24.3% decrease since 2018-2019.

"We talked about this quite extensively during the Aledo ISD Bond 2023 process that we anticipated that the district's overall tax rate would be lowered pretty significantly," Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said, "so we are grateful to be able to lower our tax rate by such a large amount."

Over the last four years, the overall tax rate for Aledo ISD has been lowered by \$0.2271 as Maintenance and Operations tax rates have been compressed after the passing of House Bill 3 in 2019. Adding this year's decrease of 16 cents, the district's total M&O tax rate decrease is \$0.3875 in five years. The previous overall district tax rate for 2022-2023 was \$1.3679, and the Board adopted the new tax rate of \$1.2075 for 2023-2024.

The budget also includes a one-time payment of 2% of the market median salary/pay range midpoint for all employees that will be made on

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Ex-Students' Association Banquet

The Aledo ISD Ex-Students Association will hold their banquet on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Aledo Learning Center Training Room. Visitation will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the meal will be served at 6 p.m.

All ex-students of Aledo ISD are encouraged to attend. The cost will be \$25, which covers the meal, expenses, and \$5 for dues.

If you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend, send a note to Aledo Ex-Students' Assn., P. O. Box 737, Aledo, Texas 76008. For more information, call Ann Grace at 817-291-9846 or email rag70803@gmail.com.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo Thanksgiving Trot has announced that Jared Chasteen will be the recipients of funds from this year's race. Jared, who is self-employed, is fighting colon cancer, and has already amassed a very large amount of medical expenses. Jared and his wife Adeana have two children in Aledo ISD. The loss of income and mounting bills, added to the hardship of cancer treatment, gives the community an opportunity to step up and help one of its own. Watch for additional information and visit aledothanksgivingtrot.com.

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WEATHERFORD ISD

Board approves 2023-24 budget

Tax rate set at \$1.0365

By Melissa Winn
The Community News

At a special meeting Monday (Aug. 28), the Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees held a public hearing before adopting the annual budget and setting a tax rate that continues a trend of being lower than previous years — \$1.0365 per \$100 valuation.

Over the past six years, WISD has been able to shave off 42 cents and maintain a budget that keeps the district's goals within reach and lower debt.

The Maintenance & Operation (M&O) side yields the lower rate of .7575 cents (down from .8538 in 2022) and the Interest and Sinking (I&S) remains the same at .2790 cents.

The M&O tax rate provides funds strictly for the

maintenance and operations of the district while the I&S tax rate provides funds for payment on any debt that finances a district's facilities and can only be used for those expenditures.

Expected revenue is valued at \$96,833,584 – an increase of \$7.1 million from 2022-23 - and expenditures are sitting at \$100,031,998, leaving a deficit of approximately \$3.2 million. WISD will use its fund balance to make up for the shortage, which was expected.

"That's due to the completion of the automotive center," said Lori Boswell, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations.

That project, the Grizzard Regional Institute of Technology or GRIT, broke ground in April and accepted its first class of students at the beginning of the 2023 school year.

On the I&S and Child Nutrition fronts, both of those budgets are balanced for the upcoming year.

"I just want to thank [everyone] who was and is involved in the budget process," said board president Mike Guest. "It's a huge undertaking every year and we just appreciate all the hard work."

Prior to approving the budget, trustees held a public hearing without comment. They also accepted the debt management plan that allows the district to reduce debt by essentially refinancing funds and placing them in an escrow account producing a savings of \$1.83 million and eliminating the debt early.

Also at the meeting, the board:

- Voted to keep deposit accounts with Plains Capital Bank for another 2 years. Districts are allowed to renew existing contracts up to three times and this is the first renewal. Superintendent Beau Rees said he appreciated Plains Capital for working with the district and that he wanted to "keep that relationship going."



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford ISD Superintendent Beau Rees, left, and WISD Executive Director of Communication Charlotte LaGrone, center, accept a \$2,500 donation from Cenergistic's Wayne Couldron.

- Received recognition and a \$2,500 donation to the Weatherford ISD Education Foundation from Cenergistic (21 percent) savings on utilities since it began in late 2019.
- The next regular scheduled meeting of the board will be held Sept. 11.

Adopt a Shelter Dog!

These sweet dogs are looking for their forever home!!

All dogs are available for immediate adoption at the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter

URGENT



ROLLO

He is sweet, laid back, and loves to play chase with you around the yard.

Rollo is an approx 3 year old lab mix, and 95 lbs of love. He walks well on leash, offers to play with other dogs at the shelter, and has even seemed okay around the livestock.

He was surrendered due to his owner's declining health, but his previous owner says he is house trained, and loves to run and play!

We know there's someone out there that needs a new family member who will keep them smiling... Rollo is your guy!! Just look at his own happy face!

Rollo is neutered, microchipped, and UTD on vaccines. Ask to meet him in the front office, and bring your dog down for a meet & greet today!



NADINE is a large, 4 year old shepherd mix who weighs 78 lbs. She is waiting for her forever family to come adopt her! Nadine is playful, active, and affectionate. She loves to go on walks and play in the water. Bring your dog down for a meet & greet and take this sweet girl home! She was picked up as a county stray so not a lot is known about her history.

URGENT



JONA

aka Dozer aka Doe Doe Bird

He is an approx 5 yr old mastiff mix and weighs 78 lbs.

This silly and fun guy is the definition of "best friend." Do you need a new wingman at bbq's? Tv binge watching buddy? Long slow walk on the beach partner? Maybe even a teammate to fetch all those tennis balls that never seem to come back on their own? Jona is your guy!! He truly wants to be a part of the crowd, no matter what you're doing. He can hang out and relax, or be the life of the party! He is a volunteer favorite and he is more than ready to find a new home to be a part of.

Jona was picked up as a stray, and while he was microchipped and his owner was contacted, he was unable to reclaim Jona.

Some notes that we did get on him is: His real name is Dozer, but loves to be called Doe Doe Bird. He is silly and loves to play, and he is said to be house trained.

While at the shelter we have observed that Jona walks well on leash and has been friendly with the other dogs, cats, and livestock. Bring your dog down for a meet & greet today! He is neutered, microchipped, and UTD on vaccines.



LEWIS is an approx. 4 year old Shepherd Mix and weighs 58 lbs. He is an affectionate and laid back guy who loves to be around people. He has been friendly with other dogs here at the shelter, but a meet & greet is always recommended to make sure it's a good fit. He walks well on leash, rides nicely in the car, and loves to be out and about meeting new friends and seeing new places!

** All dogs are heartworm negative unless otherwise noted

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

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

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

Capital Highlights

Texans asked to conserve energy in heat wave



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

The agency that operates the power grid for much of the state asked Texans to conserve energy use several times last week as the grid was beset with high demand and low wind-power generation, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas has asked electric users to reduce energy use as the state continues to face a tenacious heat wave.

Demand on the grid operated by ERCOT has record levels 10 times this summer. The system has held up to the strain to this point. Any outages across the state have been local and caused by other reasons other than demand on the grid, such as downed power lines or blown transformers.

ERCOT is calling on large electric customers to voluntarily cut consumption during peak periods and is working with out-of-state power operators to secure additional power generation capacity.

In addition, two "virtual power plants" are now able to provide power to the grid, according to the Public Utility Commission of Texas. According to the PUC, "The pilot project tests how consumer-owned, small energy devices, such as battery energy storage systems, backup generators, and controllable Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers, can be virtually aggregated and participate as a resource in the wholesale electricity market, strengthening grid reliability."

The two pilot projects underway involve Tesla customers who

have electric storage systems in their homes and have agreed to sell their surplus power in the ERCOT market.

Wildfire danger remains high in Texas

The Texas A&M Forest Service continues to respond to requests for assistance on wildfires across the state as dry weather continues. Currently there are four active fires, the largest being the Shearwood Creek Fire in Jasper County. As of Sunday it had burned 3,000 acres and was 70% contained.

As of Sunday 208 counties had burn bans in place. Meanwhile, a helicopter delivering water to the 150-acre Barth Fire in Caldwell County almost collided with a drone being flown by someone not with the agency. It came within feet of the helicopter.

"Pilots have no way to detect a drone or know there is one present in the airspace until they see it," said Jared Karns with the forest service. "Suppression aircraft can respond to wildfires quickly, increasing the likelihood that a new ignition remains a small, manageable wildfire. Utilizing aircraft greatly enhances the state's fire-fighting efforts, but they have to be able to fly in a safe environment."

Under Federal Aviation Administration rules, all aircraft, including drones, are prohibited from flying over wildfire areas. More than 1,350 wildfires have occurred in the state in July and August to date.

TPWD trying to buy property containing state park

The commissioners overseeing Texas Parks and Wildlife Department voted unanimously last week to negotiate acquiring the roughly 500 acres that contains Lake Colorado City State Park in Mitchell County. The state

has been leasing it from Vistra Corp. for more than 50 years.

Earlier this year, the energy company sold a piece of property that contained Fairfield State Park to a developer, forcing the park's closure.

"This makes all the sense in the world," outgoing commission chairman Arch "Beaver" Alpin III said about the purchase, according to The Dallas Morning News. "I believe we've had a meeting of the minds on being able to do it. This will allow us to secure one of our parks for the long term and be able to own it."

The park is located off Interstate 20 about halfway between Sweetwater and Big Spring and offers opportunities for water recreation and outdoor activities for nearly 30,000 visitors annually.

Judge rejects 'invasion' defense in buoy suit

A federal judge in Austin rejected the state's assertion that it has the right to install buoys in the Rio Grande because of a "migrant invasion," The News reported.

"We are here for purposes of determining whether this is a barrier to navigation, whether this is a navigable waterway," U.S. District Judge Ezra said.

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the state over the buoys, saying their placement ignored the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which established that the federal government controls navigable waterways. The state's defense claims the Rio Grande is not navigable in the section where the buoys were installed, near Eagle Pass.

Counties can't ban solar farms, AG rules

An attempt by Franklin County officials to ban solar

farms has failed after provisional Attorney General Angela Colmenero ruled that counties don't have specific authority to do so, the Texas Standard reported.

Commissioners in that county voted last year to impose a 180-day moratorium on commercial solar development. They later rescinded it, but the Franklin County attorney asked for an attorney general's ruling.

As elsewhere, some Franklin County residents opposed the solar farms on grounds that trees would be cut down, grasslands destroyed, and wildlife blocked by fences.

WWI naval shipwreck found in Neches River

The Texas Historical Commission has confirmed a shipwreck found in the Neches River dates to World War I. The wooden-hulled vessel was one of nearly 40 built in Beaumont by the U.S. Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation and abandoned when the war ended.

Many of the 40 vessels were unfinished and often converted to barges or sold for scrap. Designed as steamships, they were nearly 282 feet long.

Many were eventually abandoned in the Neches and Sabine rivers near Orange in the 1920s.

THC said the shipwreck sites are protected under state and federal laws. The latest one became visible as a result of low water levels in the Neches due to drought and the summer heat.

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, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

Slings&Arrows

Politics and the art of winning hearts and minds



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

In politics, as in war, no campaign can truly be successful if the victor cannot win the hearts and minds of the vanquished.

Some of the most trusted allies of the United States were its enemies during World War II. Rather than seeking to impose the harshest measures after the war, the policy of the victors was to bring Japan, Germany, and Italy back into the community of nations — we won not only the military victory, but we won their hearts and minds.

A principle of American politics has likewise been that, following even the most hard-fought elections, both sides would join hands for the good of the country when it was over.

We have lost a lot of that in the current day, which to a large degree is responsible for the continuing decrease of Americans who identify with one political party or the other.

It seems that now the purpose of politics is not to win hearts and minds — it's just to win at whatever cost. I hear people making comments that they seek to "destroy the libs" or eradicate the other party.

It's a far cry from the days of Ronald Reagan. While many of today's speeches conjure images of devastation and annihilation, my memory of Reagan and others who led the country is of people who held out a vision of a better country and a better world.

Reagan had the "shining city on a hill." George W. Bush spoke of "a thousand points of light."

Whether you agreed with their politics or not, everyone could buy into those concepts, and could see us as a better nation and a better people.

It seems to some degree than many politicians have

ethical challenges, but I believe our system of government has functioned best when office holders were seen to have the moral, and not just political, authority to lead.

The political authority might allow you to govern, but it's the moral authority that wins hearts and minds and allows a leader to govern effectively.

The problem today is exacerbated because neither side seems to have the capacity to demand moral authority of their leaders.

In the coming weeks, the Texas Senate will conduct the impeachment trial of Ken Paxton.

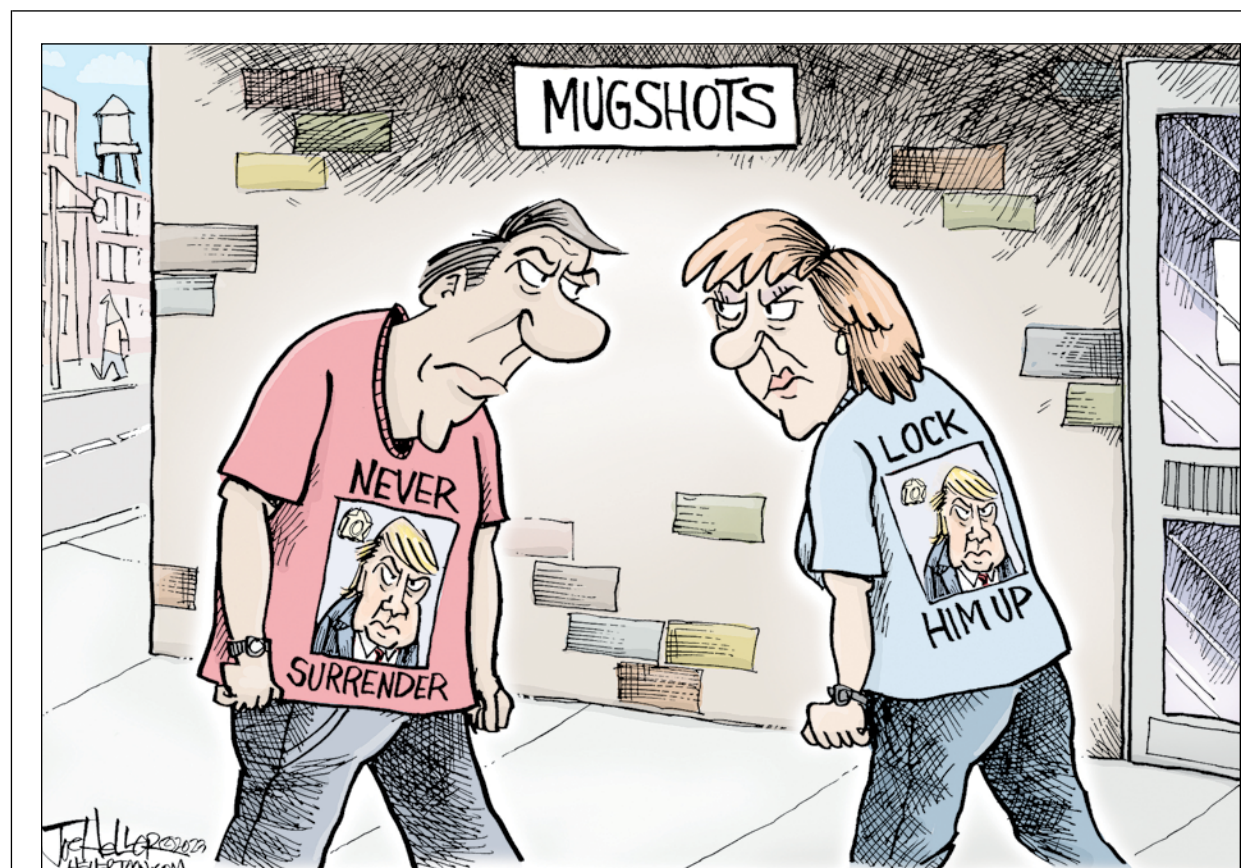
Without hearing the evidence, many have already made up their minds that the impeachment should not have happened.

In fact, one comment made on one of our social media posts was that it simply doesn't matter what Paxton did or didn't do. We knew what we were getting when we elected him.

Let me be clear here. I don't know whether Ken Paxton should be removed from office or not. That's what the trial will be for.

But I find it sad that anyone would take that position.

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Obituaries

Russ Alan Jones

Russ Alan Jones, 62, passed away unexpectedly August 23, 2023.

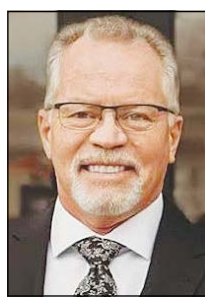
Russ was born to Coy and Dixie Jones on September 27, 1960. After graduating from Brownfield High School, Russ attended South Plains College in Levelland, receiving his Associate's Degree in Welding Technology.

He continued his studies at Angelo State in San Angelo, and graduated from Tarleton State University in Stephenville in 1988, with a BS in Industrial Technology. Russ completed graduate studies at Dallas Baptist University, obtaining his MBA in 2000.

Russ' career in aerospace began with LTV, Grand Prairie, in 1988, which was eventually Vought Aircraft, later merging with Northrop Grumman. He moved from the Grand Prairie plant to the Sector Headquarters in Las Colinas. He eventually moved to the Lockheed Martin plant in Fort Worth, but still remained as an employee of Northrop Grumman. Russ retired as a manufacturing engineer from Northrop Grumman on October 1, 2020. Russ was exceptionally proud of his contributions to the B-2 Stealth Bomber, C-17 Globemaster, and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Russ loved his chosen career in aerospace.

Russ enjoyed including anything his daughter was involved in or participated in. He was a very quick study in the world of theatre and musicals, in awe of Caitlin's accomplishments, and never prouder than having a permanent front row seat to all her endeavors and aspirations. He loved art of all mediums and was an accomplished sculptor. Russ gave his time and immense talents to family and friends, many the recipient of gifts of his own design and construction.

Russ was self-taught in numerous areas of his choosing and those which would further his assistance to others. Russ enjoyed the "art of the grill" and Texas High School football, specifically his beloved Aledo Bearcats. Russ volunteered with various organizations. Blood



Russ Alan Jones

donation to Carter Blood Care was regularly scheduled and he had contributed to various blood banks throughout his adult life.

Russ proudly served as ordained deacon, first at Hampton Road Baptist Church in DeSoto, and later First Baptist Church in Willow Park. Russ was a student of his Bible, spending time daily in devotional and God's word. During the past years Russ found joy in West Texas, enjoying the wide-open spaces, photographing and sharing pictures with his "community." It was there he completely refurbished his father-in-law's 1953 Ferguson tractor. Russ also previously completed the task of total restoration of his dad's 1961 Ford F-100.

Russ and Pamela married March 10, 1984. They enjoyed 39 years of life, marriage, and travel in the U.S. and to numerous foreign countries.

Russ is survived by his wife, Pamela, of Aledo, and daughter and son-in-law, Caitlin and Preston Isham of Fort Worth; his mother, Dixie Jones of Brownfield; brother, Dr. Matt Jones (Sherry) of Tyler; sister, Martha Everheart (Clay) of Bronte; and brother, Walt Jones (Kim), of Arlington. Russ is also survived by four nephews and one niece. In addition, survivors include two uncles, Loman (Lavoy) Jones of Levelland, John (Fran) Jones of Tyler, mother-in-law, Edith Muncy of Floydada, and sister-in-law, Penny Giesecke and husband, Mike of Floydada.

A visitation and memorial service was held Thursday, August 31, at Aledo United Methodist Church. Burial will be Monday, September 4 at Floydada Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Brownfield United Methodist Church (Brownfield, Texas), The Firehouse Theatre (Farmers Branch, Texas), First Baptist Church Music Ministry (Floydada, Texas) and Floydada Cemetery Association (Floydada, Texas). Please consider a blood donation to a bank of your choice.

The Community News September 1, 2023

BOARD

from page A1

October 13, a salary step increase for every teacher (minimum \$300 and possibly more depending on years of service), and an increase of \$25 per month toward the district's medical insurance premium contribution for staff. Trustees also increased the minimum bus driver pay to \$22 per hour with related targeted pay adjustments for current driving staff.

"We have the very best staff in the state, so we'd always like to do more," Board President Forrest Collins said. "It has been a very challenging budget year since we did not get the support we were hoping for from our state legislature; however, we remain committed to supporting our staff any way we can. And

because we have always done as much as we could, we are now able to stay competitive with staff compensation even in a tough budget year."

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees has had an ongoing commitment over the last several years to be more competitive with compensation, which has led to the district's starting teacher salary (\$60,200 for 2023-2024) being among the most competitive starting salaries in the DFW metroplex. Over the last six years, trustees have approved anywhere from a 3% to 7% raise for employees, including a 4% raise each of the last two years.

Trustees have also ardently advocated for Aledo ISD and Texas public schools in the Texas Legislature. Because of the lack of a

significant funding increase during the most recent legislative session, Aledo ISD, like most school districts in Texas, passed a deficit budget on Monday for the 2023-2024 school year. After it became evident over the last couple of months that the legislature would not be providing the expected additional funding, AISD began working with all campuses and departments to decrease their annual operational budgets by 10% while identifying additional savings where possible. The reductions will not affect staffing or require the elimination of any programs.

Trustees acknowledged during Monday's special board meeting that they could amend the budget if the Texas Legislature increases public school funding during an upcoming special session.



POLITICS

from page A3

When we give up our principles for the sake of winning, we have lost.

Based on the evidence I have seen, there should be a trial. And if Paxton is found guilty, it makes no sense to attack those who voted to hold him accountable.

I am a Sunday morning talk show junkie. Hulu dutifully records Fox News Sunday, Meet the Press, and This Week with George Stephanopoulos (although it should be called "This week Without George Stephanopoulos" since he is not on the show more than he is).

I find it interesting that when Democrats are questioned about Hunter Biden, somehow Donald Trump's name comes up in the answer. Likewise, when Republicans are asked about Donald Trump, Hunter Biden's name ends up in the answer.

So let me just say that if you can't defend Donald Trump without bringing up Hunter Biden, you can't defend him.

And if you can't defend Hunter Biden without bringing up Donald Trump, you can't defend him.

And if you are a political party person, let me just explain to you

that this is why your political party is now either second or third place behind independents.

The general public, many of whom may not tune into politics but once every two or four years, can still see the hypocrisy at work — and they don't want any part of it.

So I would just leave you with this: if you truly want to build your party, and not just win elections, then it is incumbent upon you to demand candidates who have the moral authority to lead before you grant them the political opportunity to do so.



COUNCIL

from page A1

living in the community, I do not have any interest or business with 1882 Partners, nor do I stand to benefit financially from anything they do."

Shelter skelter

Dr. Susan Bohn, Superintendent of Aledo ISD, was on hand during the meeting to discuss a proposed amendment to the 2015 International Building Code dealing with storm shelter requirements.

Specifically, under the current statute the school district would be required to build another storm shelter on the Aledo High School campus due to the renovations approved

during the bond election earlier this spring. However, as Bohn pointed out, the renovations made to the high school will not increase student capacity. The project will just create usable spaces for various clubs and teams where spaces do not currently exist.

She also stated the bond does not provide funding for the construction of additional shelters, which cost double per square foot of any other structure.

Over the course of the dialogue, Place 3 Council Member Shawna Ford stated her primary concern is that if the amendment is approved, it will not stand for just this specific project. Her concern is that future buildings of similar size will be able

to get by without providing adequate sheltering space in the event of a significant storm.

Mayor Pro Tem and Place 4 Council Member Nelson Rowles expressed a similar sentiment. He stated he would not know how he could handle it if a significant weather event led to the deaths of students if he chose the option of saving money over saving lives.

Council Member Shane Davis for Place 1 motioned to table the discussion, pending the district providing further information regarding current shelters and procedures to ensure students and faculty have adequate sheltering space available in the event of severe weather.



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community-news.com QR code and website link

Events

September 1, 2023
 THE COMMUNITY NEWS
 www.community-news.com

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

SEPTEMBER 2

Ironmen Breakfast
 Join Ironmen Breakfast Breakfast on Saturday, September 2, from 8-10 a.m. at Parker County Cowboy Church, for fellowship for the men. Join Rick and the "Baconators" for a meal & a message! Come hungry and bring a friend!



SEPTEMBER 7

Movie Time at Harvest - Disney's Swiss Family Robinson
 Join us for Movie Time at Harvest - Disney's Swiss Family Robinson on Thursday, September 7th for two showings: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.



Join us for an afternoon of tropical island adventure and family fun as we show Disney's 1960 classic Swiss Family Robinson in the Harvest Theater. Sit back, relax, and enjoy tropical-themed refreshments and snacks. Limited Seating - RSVP Required: Call to reserve your seat at either 1:00 or 3:00 pm showing. RSVP to 682-900-2338

SEPTEMBER 16

Morningstar 5k Color Run
 Join us for the 1st annual 5K Color Run and 1 mile Fun Run Fundraiser from 8 - 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 16. All proceeds go to Aledo Children's AdvoCats! Come walk or run and have some fun! Hosted by Riverside Homebuilders. Registration Fees (after August 15th):
 • 5K: \$35.00
 • Fun Run: \$25.00
 Info and sign up: <https://bit.ly/3K3MgBn>

OCTOBER 7

Aledo UMC Lord's Acre Fall Festival
 Join this fun annual event



from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, at Aledo United Methodist @ 100 Pecan St in Aledo, Tx for a day full of fun, vendors, food, a Kid's Zone, a Country Kitchen, Silent & Live Auction, and much more!

OCTOBER 21

ALEDO-FEST will be on Saturday, October 21, from 1 - 5 p.m. at Aledo High School's south parking lots, 1000 Bailey Ranch Road. This year's event will feature live music and many activities for kids of all ages! Meet your local businesses at the many vendor booths, do some gift shopping and early holiday finds, and get a little something for yourself! Come hungry for a variety of food trucks on-site for good eats & autumn treats! For questions or more information, please contact Deana McMullen, City Secretary, at City Hall: 817-441-7016, or cell/text: 817-829-4024, email, or visit Aledo City Hall.

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

ACROSS

1 TXism: "he's still got some snap in his garters"
 5 squeezein' snakes
 6 TXism: "it's near _____" (approximate)
 7 Texas veggie: fried _____
 8 golf or football prop
 9 TXism: "bone _____" (cemetery)
 16 TXism: "got a mind like a steel _____"
 18 Hawaiian dance attire (2 wds.)
 21 TX Don Henley's "All She Wants _____ Do Is Dance"
 22 TXism: "working between _____" (night work)
 23 once a brand of GMC cars
 24 Crowell High School football (2 wds.)
 30 TXism: "behind the _____" (predicament)
 34 TX Chandra Wilson was _____ Miranda Bailey on "Grey's Anatomy"
 35 small, narrow river
 36 Gulf canvas
 37 Amarillo's "Big Texan" features a 72-_____ steak
 39 TX George H.W.'s NASA director (2 wds.)
 43 cowboys _____ buckle on their belt

DOWN

11 honky tonk, e.g.
 12 Dallas' Rosewood developed Hawaii's _____ Maui Resort
 13 TXism: "_____ as a sluggish turtle"
 14 founder of famous TX King Ranch (init.)
 15 TXism: "shin _____" (big dance)
 17 "rash" vine? (2 wds.)
 19 disaster relief organization (2 wds.)
 20 you're apt _____ what you sow
 24 35th governor, Coke (init.)
 25 former Ford model
 26 Semitic person

44 party inflatable
 45 sodium symbol
 46 TXism: "just a _____ in the bucket"
 47 UT has original manuscript of E.M. Forster's "Passage _____"
 49 former Texas honky tonk used in "Urban Cowboy"
 52 Ranger Eovaldi stat.
 53 UT's Benton directed "Kramer _____ Kramer"

11 honky tonk, e.g.
 12 Dallas' Rosewood developed Hawaii's _____ Maui Resort
 13 TXism: "_____ as a sluggish turtle"
 14 founder of famous TX King Ranch (init.)
 15 TXism: "shin _____" (big dance)
 17 "rash" vine? (2 wds.)
 19 disaster relief organization (2 wds.)
 20 you're apt _____ what you sow
 24 35th governor, Coke (init.)
 25 former Ford model
 26 Semitic person

27 TX Ted Cruz group
 28 Gulf traveler
 29 pilot Earhart
 31 TXism for "female"
 32 TXism: "he _____ out" (concealed)
 33 in Jones County on highway 6
 38 TXism: "_____ soul" (no one)

40 _____ Chaney is a San Antonio street
 41 Lee Greenwood hit: "_____ Bless the USA"
 42 spread near Albany (2 wds.)
 48 "_____ in the tub"
 50 West Texas animal: mountain
 51 Luling Watermelon Thump once had a melon that weighed 88 of these (abbr.)
 56 extreme adjective
 57 TXism for old, senile men

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 HEARING TO VOTE ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.383113 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of CITY OF ALEDO.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.383113 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.318911 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.383113 per \$100

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

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

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that CITY OF ALEDO is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 21, 2023 AT 06:00 pm AT ALEDO COMMUNITY CENTER, 104 ROBINSON COURT, ALEDO, TX 76008.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, CITY OF ALEDO is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Aledo City Council of CITY OF ALEDO at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

FOR the proposal: Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Rowls, Summer Jones, Shawna Ford, Christian Pearson, Shane Davis

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: Mayor Nick Stanley

ABSENT: None

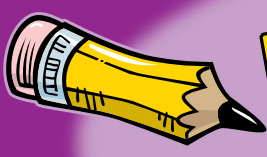
Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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

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

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.383113	\$0.383113	increase of 0.000000, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$345,275	\$400,207	increase of 54,932, or 15.91%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,322.79	\$1,533.25	increase of 210.46, or 15.91%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,351,824	\$2,910,297	increase of 558,473, or 23.75%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for CITY OF ALEDO at 817-596-0077 or parkeracad@parkeracad.org, or visit www.parkeracad.org for more information.



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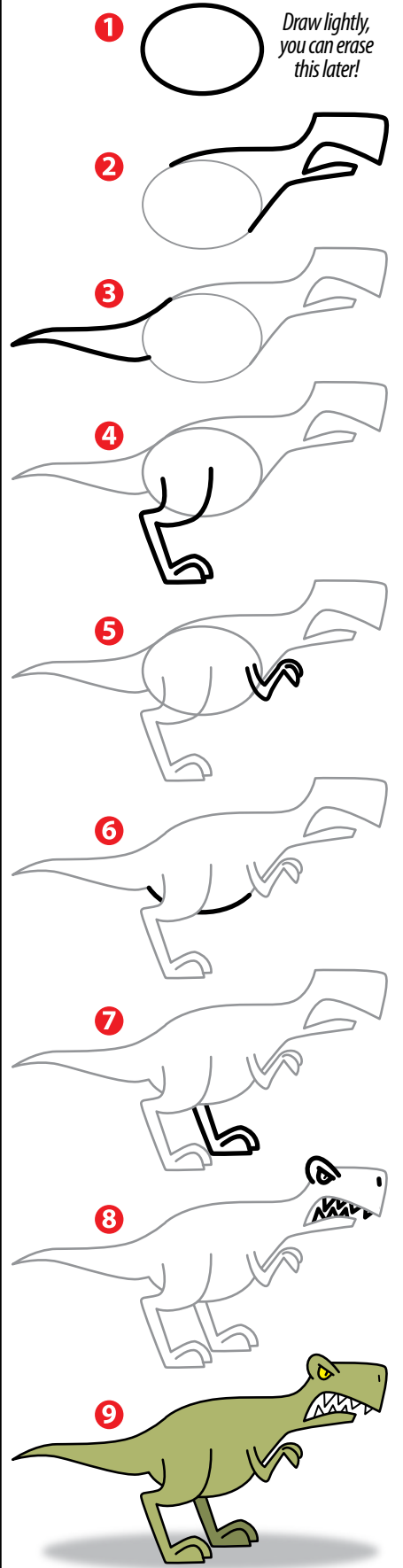
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Kid Scoop Together

Let's Draw a Dinosaur!

Follow these steps to draw a dinosaur. Have a family member try, too!



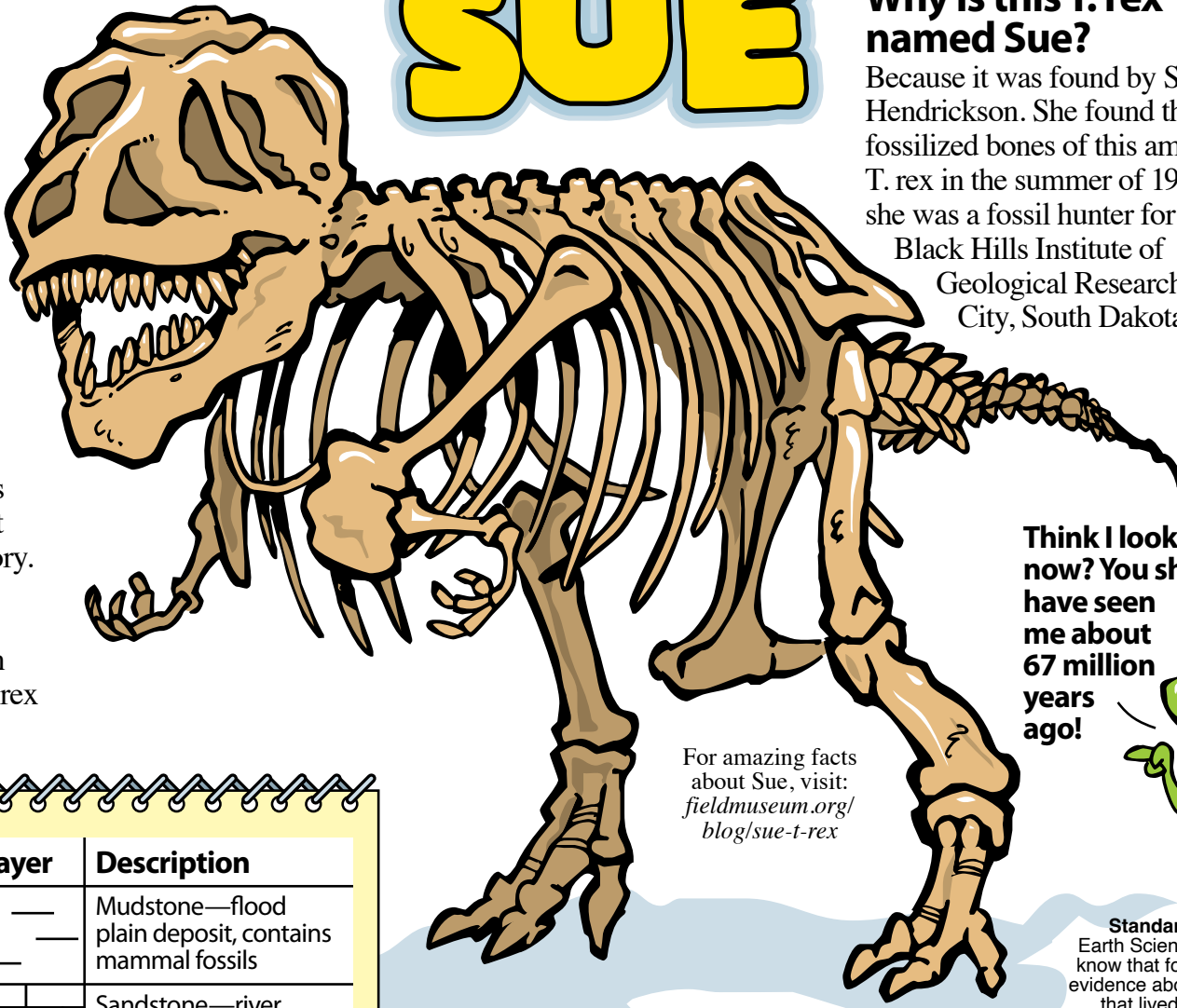
A Dinosaur Named SUE

How did Sue find this fossil?

"I was pretty lucky," remembers Sue. "But it does take more than just luck," she admits. Sue Hendrickson also knew the right kind of rock to explore.

Fossil Hunters Know Rocks

Different layers of rocks were formed at different times in the earth's history. This chart, called a **stratigraphic column**, can help you discover in which kinds of rocks T. rex fossils could be found.



Below is a drawing of Sue—the largest, most complete and best preserved fossil of a Tyrannosaurus rex ever found.

Why is this T. rex named Sue?

Because it was found by Sue Hendrickson. She found the fossilized bones of this amazing T. rex in the summer of 1990 when she was a fossil hunter for the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in Hill City, South Dakota.

Think I look good now? You should have seen me about 67 million years ago!



For amazing facts about Sue, visit: fieldmuseum.org/blog/sue-t-rex

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know that fossils provide evidence about the animal that lived long ago.

Time	Rock Layer	Description
Paleocene 56 to 65 million years ago		Mudstone—flood plain deposit, contains mammal fossils
Cretaceous 66 to 144 million years ago		Sandstone—river deposit
		Shale—deep ocean deposit, contains ammonites, mosasaurs and plesiosaurs
Jurassic 145 to 199 million years ago		Chalk—ocean deposit, contains marine reptiles
Triassic 200 to 251 million years ago		Sandstone—river deposit
Paleozoic 252 to 541 million years ago		Limestone—shallow ocean deposit, contains shells

- Color layers that could include T. rex fossils **BLUE**.
- Color layers that do not contain T. rex fossils because they were deposited under an ocean **YELLOW**.

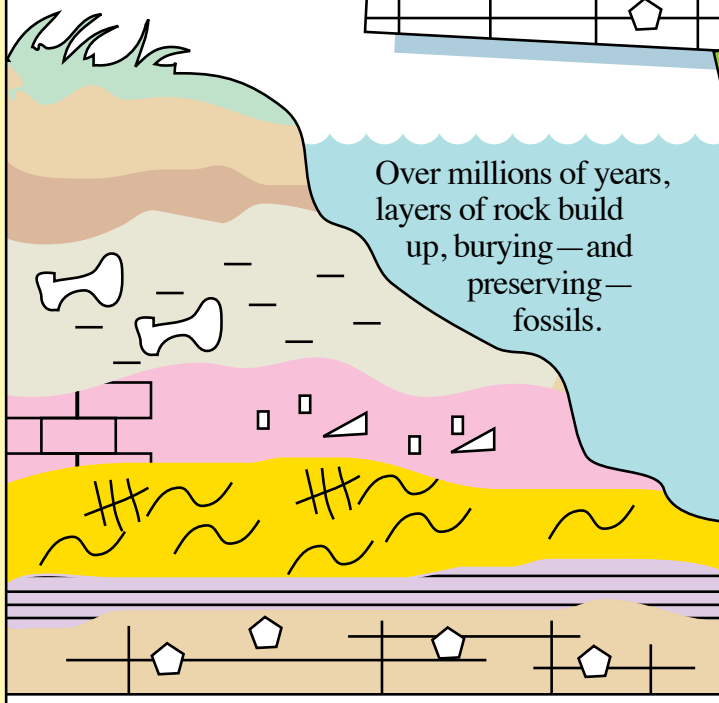
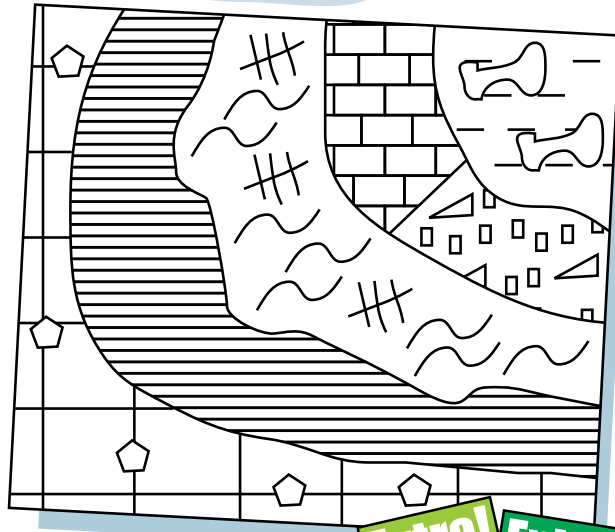


In North America, Tyrannosaurus rex lived between 66 to 90 million years ago. They did not have wings to fly or fins to swim.

Stratigraphic Map & Geologic Map © The Field Museum, Chicago

Where would you look?

Apply what you learned from the stratigraphic column to figure out where in this map you would look for dinosaur fossils.



Over millions of years, layers of rock build up, burying—and preserving—fossils.

Extra! Extra!

Adjective ABCs

Look through the newspaper and find 5 or more adjectives that would describe the T. rex called Sue. Put the adjectives in ABC order.

Standards Link: Spelling: Put words in alphabetic order.

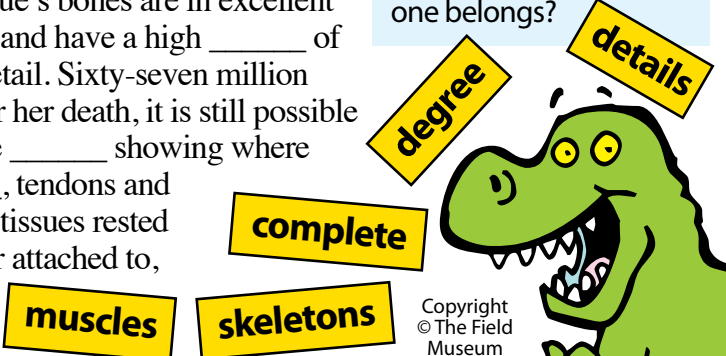
Kid Scoop Puzzler

The Importance of Sue

The first T. rex specimen was found in 1900. Since then, only a handful of _____ that are more than half complete have been discovered. Sue's skeleton is 90 percent complete. Sue is the largest, most _____, and best preserved T. rex ever found.

Most of Sue's bones are in excellent condition and have a high _____ of surface detail. Sixty-seven million years after her death, it is still possible to see fine _____ showing where _____, tendons and other soft tissues rested against, or attached to, the bone.

Sue swiped some words out of this story. Can you figure out where each one belongs?



Standards Link: Life Science: Students know some kinds of organisms that once lived on Earth have completely disappeared.

Double Double Word Search

- GEOLOGICAL
- COLUMN
- MILLION
- PRESERVED
- SWIM
- SPECIMENS
- SURFACE
- ROCKS
- WINGS
- FOSSILS
- SOFT
- BONES
- HIGH
- BLUE
- SUE

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



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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: FOSSIL
Fossil is a noun that means the remains of a living animal or plant from long ago.

Sue was excited when she found the fossil of the T-Rex.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

News of Discovery

Look through the newspaper for an article that tells about a new discovery. Read the article and then identify **who, what, when, where, why** and **how**.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify main idea and supporting details in a newspaper article.

What do you get when you mix a dinosaur with a lemon?

ANSWER: A dino-sour.

Write On! Dinosaur Obituaries

Write an obituary about a favorite dinosaur.

NATURE

from page A1

from Arlington — she drove all this way to see me with the robe.”

Following her remarks, Pastor Boot (Gay’s husband, Rolf Larson) handed Larson her scepter and her orb. Miller said the scepter was made from an upside-down candle tree. The head of the scepter was made from the roots of the tree.

After fitting Larson with her robe, Miller administered the oath: “Do you solemnly promise and swear to nurture gardens and teach of the gardens?”

“I love to tell people about gardens. Yes,” Larson replied.

Testimonials

After the coronation members of the audience were given the opportunity to tell their favorite stories about Mother Nature.

Husband Rolf told the group that he had been a registered representative of the New York Stock Exchange for 25 years before retiring. Spending his time assisting Gay in her gardening endeavors, Rolf was eventually made an honorary member of the Parker County Master Gardeners.

“When Gay and I wake up every morning, there is always something that has to be done,” Rolf said. “And we do it and at night when we go to bed, usually the last thing is we turn the water off.”

“We always say we did whether we did or not,” he quipped. “But we always have some project going on. Gay and I have just become so much closer in working physically together. We sit on the back porch a lot and we talk about how blessed we are. God’s loved us. We don’t know why he loved us in spite of who we are and what we do. He loves us so much.”

That Larson has made a difference in many lives was evident when other master gardeners rose to speak on her behalf.

Ellen Woodward spoke about Larson going to their 4-H group in 1996 where Woodward’s daughter

was a member. They propagated some oleanders in the group and planted one next to the house.

In 2005 Larson went to visit when Woodward became a master gardener. She showed Larson the oleander, remarking that it died out every year when it froze and left an ugly root.

“She said ‘take that sucker out!’ Woodward remarked. “So I just love that she knows you know what to do. And she’s not afraid to take something out even though I was attached to it. You can trust whatever advice she may give. But I will have to say for me, Gay is more than a gardening friend. She is Jesus with skin. And you can always call her up. And she’s got great advice and great wisdom.”

Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley was next, proclaiming “the 23rd day of August 2023 as the coronation day of crowning Mrs. Gay Larsen as Mother Nature in the City of Aledo.”

Stanley pointed out all the work Larson and the master gardeners had done to beautify Aledo City Hall, the Aledo Community Center, and her weekly work at the Union Gospel Mission in Fort Worth.

“The giving of oneself and service to one another empowers the giver and the recipient,” Stanley said in his proclamation.

Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts likewise spoke of Larson’s work for the Town of Annetta.

“When I joined city council, I guess it’s been five years ago, I was invited to participate in Bearcat 101. And I had this harebrained idea because August is our Monarch Awareness Month and so we need the master gardeners to you know, come there and help us talk about this,” Roberts said. “And I think we did barely a phone call and Gay brought the entourage and everything — and every year we don’t even have to ask, she’s on automatic.

She participates with me every year people come up to our table now they’re like, ‘so are you just educating us on butterflies?’ It’s like, No, we’re really the town of Annetta!” So thank you for always giving, thank you for always educating, and thank you for doing what you do.”

Emotional thanks

Some of the testimonials were a bit emotional, as in the help recalled by Larson’s neighbor, Holly Stene. She recalled moving to the neighborhood and losing several rose bushes to rose rosette.

“So in a panic I called Gay and I said can you go tell me what’s going on in my yard? And so she said ‘you’re gonna have to dig them up and don’t ever plant another rose there in its place,’” Stene recalled.

Later that day they had lunch together and Larson provided advice about the landscaping around the house.

“And it was just so sweet that she took time out of her day to come have lunch with us and tell us all about the plants,” Stene said.

“While that was happening Granddaddy Boot was on the driveway with sidewalk chalk drawing with her daughter,” Larson recalled.

The Larsons also maintain the entrance to Deer Creek off of Old Annetta Road, and Stene referenced that in her remarks: “it’s such a nice place to turn in every day when you come home and see all the work that they’ve done and I echo what Ellen said about you are Jesus with skin and it’s spiritual wisdom that you can get from both of you.”

Annetta City Secretary Jamee Long recalled the Larsons helping beautify Town Hall and putting up Christmas lights.

Christi Huntington spoke about the times became a master gardener in 2009 under Larson’s tutelage. Huntington had small twins at the time.

She’s such a beautiful example of what a woman can be in this world.

Sharon Nice



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts showed her appreciation for Gay Larson’s efforts on behalf of Monarch butterflies.

“She’s just been a huge part of my life,” Huntington said. “My grandmother always said, you know, if you do something you love, you’ll never work a day in your life. And there have been times that Gay has been like, ‘can you please give me that shovel because I want to go do that for you.’”

“It takes guts to be a master gardener and to have small children,” Larson said.

Lynda McCartney recalled her intro gardening class when she had only been in the community a short time.

“I remember I kept on hearing the name Gay Larson. And it was spoken with reverence and awe. That’s how it came across to me. I couldn’t figure out who this lady is. So I think I went over to introduce myself to her one day and I was trying to get my intern volunteer hours in so she let me work here in this this area on the off days because I had Bible study on Wednesdays,” McCartney said.

She also referred to “the guy who had been following her around. Gay and Rolf, they’re lovely people. And I cannot think of a nicer thing for Cat to do than to honor her this way.”

Jay Kingston, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Agent for Parker County, said “if you want to be kind-hearted and compassionate with a passion for gardening” that Gay would fit the description. Larson was one of the 12 people who started the Parker County Master Gardeners.

“I think we see that the foundation that was laid for our group was strong, and it’s, because of you and your coworkers,” Kingston said.

Sharon Nice, a Tarrant County Master Gardener from Arlington, recalled working with Larson years ago.

“We were Master Gardeners when my husband passed away, and I came and started working at the mission,” Nice said. “And then it turned out to be fun, wonderful, beautiful friend.”

Others spoke as well to honor Gay Larson, but Master Gardener Terri Stokes summed up the event nicely at the end: “She’s such a beautiful example of what a woman can be in this world. And how you can be there for your community. So, thank you for all you’re doing. Thank you for being such a beautiful example for all of us.”



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FAMILY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | 1:30PM | COWTOWN COLISEUM

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Look at it This Way

It's early, but Bearcats already look like champions



Rick Mauch
sports@community-news.com

Ok, I admit it. Going into the Aledo Bearcats' football season opener against Dallas Parish Episcopal Friday, Aug. 24 at Buchanan Stadium, I was expecting a close game.

And it was - for all of a half quarter.

Then, Davhon Keys returned an interception 27 yards for a touchdown to put the Bearcats up 22-7 and for all intents and purposes the game was over. Sure, the final score was 50-35, Aledo, but that was, let's just say, deceptive.

"I thought someone was chasing me. I was peaking around and saw no one there. It was sweet," Keys said of his TD.

To put it bluntly, there was a better chance of me beating Hauss Hejny in a footrace than Parish Episcopal, let's call them DPE for short, had of stopping the Bearcats once they got rolling. For those of you who may not know, Hejny, the Bearcats quarterback, is one of the fastest high school runners in the state.

He could probably beat me - and most of you also, so don't laugh - with one foot tied up and hopping 100 yards.

In fact, with the exception of the fine performance by Panthers quarterback Sawyer Anderson and his top two receivers, Carson Darby and Hutch Crow, it seemed the entire DPE offense was playing that way. Actually, the defense, too, for the most part.

This wasn't a season opener against a team that won a couple games last season. DPE is the four-time defending Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division I state champion.

The Panthers came into the contest having lost all of four games the past four seasons, and their 46 wins included last year's 24-17 victory at home against the Bearcats, a game they led 24-3 and which included a number of these same Aledo players.

Including Keys and Hejny.

"I think the difference was the preparation," said Keys, an LSU commit who ended the night with two interceptions. "This year we knew what Parish could do. I think having more experience this year played a

Turn to **THIS WAY**, page B7

FOOTBALL

Bearcats get revenge in season opener



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Raycine Guillory (9) scored two touchdowns in the season opener

Jones gets first win as head coach

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

The Robby Jones era of Aledo Bearcat football is officially underway.

The defending 5A Division I Texas state champions wasted no time handing their newly-minted

head coach his first win as they rolled to a 50-35 victory over Dallas Parish Episcopal on Friday, Aug. 25 at Tim Buchanan Stadium.

"If feels good to get the first win of the season," Jones said after the game. "We had a bad taste in our mouth after last year starting off 0-2. We wanted to get off to a good start and I think we did that."

The Bearcats haven't dropped back-to-back season openers in

32 years since the start of the 1990 and 1991 seasons. After falling to Parish Episcopal 24-17 to start off the 2022 season, Aledo dominated the Panthers on Friday, exacting revenge in the champion-versus-champion showdown.

"We came out with a sense of purpose knowing that we were going to execute when we needed to," senior quarterback and TCU-commit Hauss Hejny said after

the game. "There's a few things to clean up with penalties and stuff like that. But, I thought we competed overall really well. We were able to move the football, throwing the ball and running the ball. I'm super proud of everyone. Coach (Joe Ryan) Williams called a great first game. It's good to get Coach Jones his first big win of the

Turn to **REVENGE**, page B3

TENNIS

Aledo blanks Granbury

Start of district play

By **Cathy Mason**
The Community News

After an hour heat delay, the Aledo Racquetcats tennis team took on the Granbury Pirates in the District 5-5A opener on Aug. 22 in Granbury. Aledo walked away with a victory of 19-0 and even won five extra matches.

Scores were:

Boys doubles: Line 1, Craig and Scott Mason, 6-1, 6-4; Line 2, Jacob Heckathorn and Francois Britz, 6-0, 6-0; and Line 3, Will Beyer and Tom Ruminsky, 6-0, 6-1.

Girls doubles: Line 1, Bryanna Orr and Kenley Germany, 6-1, 6-0, Line 2, Elli Kate Bussmeir and Patrice Loftin, 6-0, 6-1; and Line 3, Eleanor Jack and Sydney Byrd, 6-0, 6-1.

Mixed doubles: Benjamin Farmer and Lila Satterfield, won their first set 6-0, then lost their second set 6-7, in a 3-7 tiebreak. They fought back to win the match tiebreaker 10-7.

Boys singles: Line 1, C. Mason, 6-0, 7-5; Line 2, Farmer, 8-1; Line 3, S. Mason, 6-3, 6-1; Line 5, Heckathorn, 8-5; and Line 6, Ruminsky, 6-0, 6-1. Line 4, Beyer, battled back from a 6-7 loss in



CATHY MASON/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

the first set (tiebreak 4-7) to win the second set 7-5 and the match tiebreak 10-4.

Girls singles: Line 1, Orr, 8-2; Line 2, Germany, 6-2, 6-1; Line 3, Bussmeir, 6-0, 6-0; Line 4, Satterfield, 8-0; Line 5, Gracie

Heydman, 8-2; and Line 6, Byrd, 6-0, 6-1.

Extra matches were played in mixed doubles and boys/girls singles. Brennan Holbrook and Natalie Nawrocki prevailed in mixed, 6-3, 6-0. Boys Line 7,

Ben Kurth, won 6-2; and Line 8, Paxton Psencik, won 8-0.

Girls Line 7, Jack, won 8-0; and Line 8, Nawrocki, won 6-0.

The Racquetcats were hosting Azle at press time and travel to Brewer, Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 4 p.m.

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ALEDO FOOTBALL ADVANCE

Another statement game

Bearcats travel to 6A Guyer

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

It's not often when you're as dominant a football program as Aledo that statement games come in season openers. But that's what head coach Robby Jones and his players were thinking last week as they defeated Dallas Parish Episcopal 50-35 at Buchanan Stadium.

The game wasn't as close as the score might indicate as the Bearcats, defending Class 5A Division I state champions, dominated the game for the most part against the four-time defending Texas Association of Private and Parochial School Division I state champions from the outset.

After the game, Aledo quarterback Hauss Hejny noted, "The score doesn't indicate how well we handled them."

In 2022, Parish defeated the Bearcats in Dallas, 24-17 in Hejny's first start at quarterback. Suffice to say, he's matured since then, being named the MVP of the state championship game and having signed to play for TCU since then.

Now comes another statement game as Aledo travels to Denton to face Class 6A powerhouse Guyer at C.H. Collins Stadium Friday night at 7. Guyer had little trouble with the Bearcats in Aledo last season, winning 44-14 as everything that could go wrong did for the home squad as Guyer quarterback Jackson Arnold passed for 348 yards and four touchdowns.

Arnold is now at the University of Oklahoma, and Guyer graduated a strong senior class, but Jones knows that, like Aledo, the Wildcats are a program that reloads instead of rebuilds.

"If we can go play well against those guys and come out with a win, that would be big," said Jones, who is in his first year of leading the Bearcats. "They are a very good 6A program and it will be a great measuring stick for us. But it is definitely not going to be easy."

"That's a tough victory, but if we play well and have things go right, we could definitely come out on top."

In other words, the exact opposite of what happened last season when everything that could go wrong did at home for Aledo in a 44-14 loss.

The Wildcats are coming off a 42-14 win at Rockwall Heath to open the season. In that game it looks as though they also found their new starting quarterback in Logan McLaughlin, who passed for 197 yards and three touchdowns.

The Wildcats, like the Bearcats, have speed. Receiver Josiah Martin, a Boston College commit, caught six passes for 92 yards last week. Corbin Glasco, caught three passes for 63 yards, runs the 100-yard dash in around 10.6 seconds and, as did Aledo's Raycine Guillory did against Parish, turned a short pass into a long touchdown against Heath.

On the offensive line, the Wildcats average around 280-plus pounds, Jones noted. Left tackle Willie Goodacre, a Syracuse commit, is 6-foot-5 and weighs 315 pounds.

"They're going to be a lot bigger than us," Jones said.



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hawk Patrick-Daniels (1) ran for 83 yards and scored two touchdowns. Shown blocking are Djay Williams (77) and Tyson Timms (86).

On defense, Wildcats cornerback Eli Bowen has committed to Oklahoma. Noseguard Pelumi Olanipekun, who gave the Bearcats fits last season, had three tackles for a loss against Heath.

Hejny said a key is to go in with the same chip on their shoulder they had against Parish.

"I wasn't prepared last year, but since then we've got a lot of trust built. We just need to keep this same focus and attitude," he said.

Guillory making statement

Sophomore move-in running back Raycine Guillory, who led Mansfield Lake Ridge in rushing (769 yards) and touchdowns (12) last season, wasted no time in letting folks in Aledo he means business.

Guillory took a swing pass from Hejny on the game's first play and raced 75 yards for a touchdown. He finished the night with 183 total yards, including 113 on the ground.

"We've had good running backs here for a long time and he's going to fit right in," Jones said.

That long list includes the likes of Jonathan Gray (national record 205 TD, almost 11,000 yards rushing, played at University of Texas), Ryan Christian (TCU standout, some time in Canadian Football League), Jace McClellan (currently starting for Alabama), Jess Anders and DeMarco Roberts, to name a few.

Williams impressed

Djay Williams made the move from guard to tackle on the offensive line for the Bearcats this season. It didn't take long for him to get comfy in his new position.

"That's not an easy thing to do but he's done it well," Jones said of the move. "A lot of big runs (against Parish) were helped by his blocks."

"I think he's going to do a fine job there this season."

Short but strong history

While pretty much anyone who keeps up with high school in Texas - and even beyond - is aware of the success of the Bearcats, with a state-record 11 state championships (10 since 2009), the Wildcats have compiled their own impressive resume.

Since opening in 2005, Guyer has been a regular in the post-season. What's more, the Wildcats have also regularly made their way deep into the playoffs.

It didn't take long for the Wildcats to make their first state semifinals appearance in 2008. Two years later they were in the state finals and in 2012 they won the Class 4A Division I state championship - defeating the Bearcats 42-30 in the second round of the playoffs, by the way.

In all, Guyer has one state championship, three other state finals appearances and four semifinal appearances. In each of the past four seasons they have either played for a state championship or advanced to the semifinals, posting a 53-8 record.

Last season the Wildcats won their first 14 games before falling 47-28 to eventual state champion DeSoto in the 6A Division II semifinals.

Head-to-head

Not many teams can say they have a winning record against the Bearcats, especially since Aledo started its run of dominance in the mid-1990s under former head coach Tim Buchanan. However, Guyer is one of those few as the Wildcats hold a 3-1 all-time advantage.

Along with last season and their aforementioned playoff win in 2012, Guyer came into Aledo and won 60-57 to open the 2019 season. It was Buchanan's first game back as head coach after having spent five seasons as athletic director only.

Like last season, the Bearcats rebounded to win the remainder of

Turn to **ADVANCE**, page B3

Game at a glance

Aledo Bearcats (1-0) vs. Denton Guyer Wildcats (1-0)

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, C.H. Collins Stadium Stadium, Denton.

Returning starters: Aledo 7 offense/5 defense, Guyer 3 offensive/4 defensive.

Last week: Aledo defeated Dallas Parish Episcopal 50-35 at home, Guyer won 42-14 at Rockwall Heath.

Last season: Aledo, 14-2, 5A Division I state champions. Guyer, 14-1, 6A Division I semifinals. Guyer won 44-14 in Aledo.

Aledo offensive players to watch: RB Raycine Guillory had an impressive debut with the Bearcats after moving in from Mansfield Lake Ridge. He rushed 11 times for 113 yards and two touchdowns against Parish Episcopal, along with catching two passes for 70 yards, including a 75-yard TD; WR Trace Clarkson caught five passes for 82 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown.

Guyer offensive players to watch: QB Logan McLaughlin (10-of-15, 197 yards, 3 TD passing; 5 carries, 34 yards rushing vs. Heath), WR Josiah Martin (6 catches, 92 yards vs. Heath).

Aledo defensive players to watch: LB Davhon Keys (9 tackles, 2 interceptions, one returned 27 yards for a touchdown vs. Parish), LB Ben McElree (5 tackles, all solo, 1 for loss vs. Parish).

Guyer defensive players to watch: DB Max Hornsby (9 tackles, 7 solo vs. Heath), DB Kaedyn Cobbs (5 tackles, interception vs. Heath).



BREILEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Trace Clarkson (11) had five catches for 82 yards and a touchdown against Parish Episcopal.

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK

Madison Larson
Cross Country


The sophomore paced all varsity runners by finishing sixth in the prestigious Southlake Invitational this past Saturday, Aug. 26. She posted a time of 17 minutes, 33.1 seconds over the 5K course, competing in the Elite Division.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Raycine Guillory
Football

The newcomer to the Bearcats, a sophomore, made his presence known immediately this past Friday, Aug. 25, catching a 75-yard touchdown pass on the first play of the night from quarterback Hauss Hejny. He ended the evening in a 50-35 victory against Dallas Parish Episcopal with 123 yards rushing on 11 carries and scored touchdowns of 33 and 17 yard.

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FOOTBALL

Kangaroos' offense shines against Keller Central

Host Richardson Pearce Friday

From Staff Report
The Community News

The Weatherford Kangaroos racked up 484 yards of offense in a 44-19 rout of Keller Central at the Keller ISD Athletic Complex Friday night, Aug. 25.

Weatherford senior quarterback CJ Thornton was an efficient 15-of-22 passing for 201 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions. All of Thornton's touchdowns went to Xavier Holder, who caught five balls for 114 yards.



The Kangaroo offense sputtered at first, as Weatherford trailed 3-0 at the end of the first quarter. But the Roos exploded with a 28-point second quarter, highlighted by a spectacular halfback pass from Keats Bohannon to Holder for a 37-yard touchdown.

Backup quarterback Lane Cowley threw a touchdown pass on his first official varsity attempt, a 29-yard toss to Robert Taylor in the fourth quarter. It was the Roos' fifth passing touchdown of the night.

Defensively, Andrew Groh had seven tackles and Jackson Thompson had six. Liam Riley and Jamie Gray each pulled in an interception for the Roos.

Keller Central quarterback Landon Smith was 11-of-17 with two interceptions and no touchdowns. Backup Chevy Andrews threw two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter.

For the first game of the year, it was relatively clean for both teams on the penalty front. Weatherford was flagged six times for 50 yards and Keller Central had five penalties for 15 yards.

The Kangaroos (1-0) host Richardson Pearce (1-0) Friday at 8 p.m. Pearce beat Wylie High School 35-32 Friday night. Weatherford beat Pearce on the road last season, 41-31.



RANDY CUTSHALL

Xavier Holders had six catches for 114 yards and three touchdowns against Keller Central.



RANDY CUTSHALL

Backup quarterback Lane Cowley is shown carrying the ball. Cowley threw a touchdown pass on his first official varsity attempt.



RANDY CUTSHALL

Jackson Thompson had six tackles against Keller Central on Aug. 25.

Weatherford 44, Keller Central 19

Weatherford 0 28 10 6 - 44
Keller Central 3 3 0 13 - 19

Team stats

Rushing yards: Weatherford 199, KC 168.

Passing yards: Weatherford 285, KC 132.

Caught-thrown-int.: Weatherford 17-24-0, KC 15-21-2.

Fumbles lost: Weatherford 1, KC 2.

Weatherford individual leaders

Offense

Passing: CJ Thornton 15-22-0, 219 yards, 3 TD; Keats Bohannon 1-1-0, 37 yards, 1 TD; Lane Cowley 1-1-0, 29 yards, 1 TD.

Rushing: JoJo Polk 11 carries, 85 yards; Colton McClure 5-44.

Receiving: Xavier Holder 6 catches, 114 yards, 3 TD.

Defense

Interceptions: Liam Riley 1, Jamie Gray 1.

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VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats' win streak moves to eight



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Freshman outside hitter Kaelee Berkley elevates for a spike during Tuesday, Aug 29 varsity volleyball action against Paschal.

Enters state rankings

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

After going 4-0 at the Arlington Invitational over the weekend where Kinley Elms was named MVP and Alyssa Todd received all-tournament honors, the Ladycats returned to Aledo to host Paschal's Lady Panthers on Tuesday, Aug. 29. Aledo won the match in four sets by scores of 25-15, 25-16, 20-25, and 25-23.

The win over Paschal marks the eighth in a row for the Ladycat netters. With the win, Aledo (18-6) officially cracked the Top 15 in the 5A state rankings.

The No. 14 ranked Ladycats dominated Paschal in the first two sets. The offense ran like a well-oiled machine with Ava Reding setting up her hitters to execute for the finish. Elms and Kaelee Berkley were efficient in their attacks from the outside as they drilled home point after point like a pair of snipers.

Defensively, Haley Lowe came up with a pair of early blocks at the net while Kenrie Pruitt refused to let the ball touch the hardwood.

Up two sets already, Aledo started off the third set a bit sloppier than they'd played in the match to that point. Paschal managed to get

out to an early lead before eventually taking the set to make it 2-1 heading into the fourth.

In what ended up being the most tightly contested set of the match, Aledo came away with the win in the set, and the win in the match by a 25-23 score.

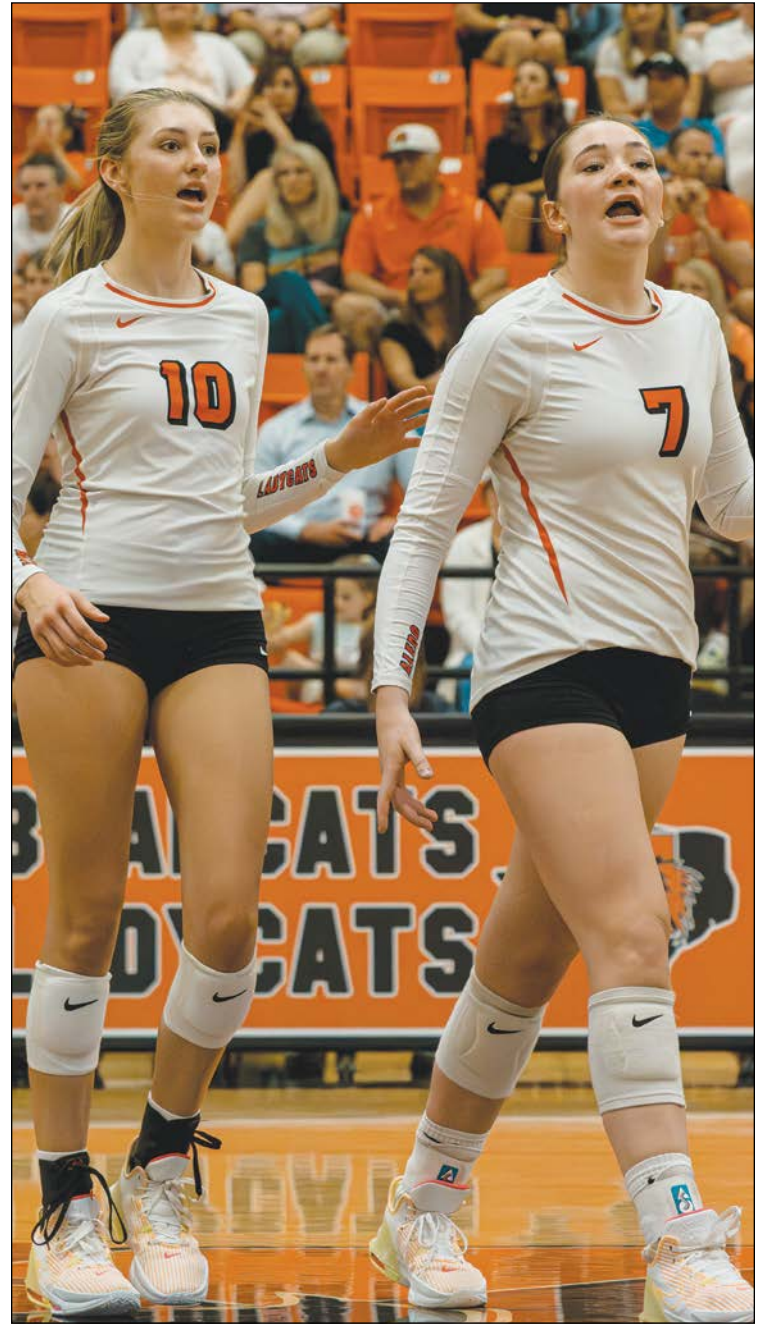
Elms led the Ladycats with 18 kills on the night. Berkley added another 13. Todd and Ella Isbell added another nine and eight kills, respectively.

Pruitt was an absolute machine for the Ladycat defense. She led the way with 22 digs in the match. Behind her in the stat sheet, Todd and Reding picked up 14 digs each. Ella Meador tallied 13 digs of her own, and Natalie Anderson rounded out the stat with 11.

On top of having 14 digs in the match, Reding led the Ladycats in assists, as well, with 34.

Isbell added four blocks to her stat line for the evening to lead in the category for Aledo. Lowe had three of her own. Skyler Lambert added a pair of blocks, as well.

The Ladycats head back out on the road on Friday, Sept. 1 as they take on Highland Park. The hosting Lady Scots sit at 13-11 thus far in the season. Varsity action in that match is slated for a 6 p.m. start.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Juniors Haley Lowe (10) and Kinley Elms (7) rally the Ladycats at the start of the match with Paschal on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

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