

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ANNETTA

Community cleanup scheduled

Mark Feb. 24 on calendar

By **Melissa Winn**
The Community News

Of the nearly 1,800 pounds of trash each American throws out on an annual basis, about 63 percent of it ends up in either a landfill or burned in incinerators. A portion of the rest turns into roadside litter to the tune of 24 billion pieces.

While that may seem like an astronomical number, cities across America combat that by hosting community cleanups several times a year. And with Texas having one of the most recognizable anti-litter campaigns in "Don't mess with Texas," it isn't surprising that one of those days is happening in the Town of Annetta.

The town will host its Fifth Annual Beautification Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 24. Residents meet at Town Hall and go out in groups to pick up trash, mainly along Old Annetta Road and FM 5.

Trash bags, vests and reflectors will be given out and bags filled will be placed in the roll-off dumpster. Aside from the vests, for safety reasons, a constable will follow groups with lights on.

Additionally, lunch will be provided and there is no pre-registration required.

"It lets everyone know we care," City Secretary Jamee Long said about why the event is hosted. "It also builds community."

The initial idea for having the day was raised at a council meeting by a concerned citizen five years ago and it has been part of the annual budget since that time.

Long said an average of about 20 people show up each year and that in years past, some "interesting" pieces of trash have been found.

"One year, an entire, completely intact toilet seat and a [utility knife] were found," she said.

The hope, Long said, is that more people show up each year.

"It's a great way to get to know your neighbors, meet your elected officials and take pride in the community," she said.



To get an official head count and to dispense groups to their perspective areas, Long said to show up no later than 9 a.m. to Town Hall, located at 450 Thunder Head Ln. in Annetta.

For questions or for more information, visit annettatx.org.



BUSINESS

Rushing to his defense

Aledo man fights fraudulent businesses to save own

By **John English**
The Community News

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series about a local man who discovered fraudulent businesses in his own field and in the process of uncovering them, ran the risk of losing his family's own business.

Robert Rushing remembers the day in August of 2023 when he went to scope out the local competition. Rushing manages Aledo Overhead Door, a family-operated, mom-and-pop business that serves Aledo and surrounding communities.

He had learned of a company called Aledo Garage Doors and Gate located at 241 S. Front St in Aledo. This business was also in the garage door repair industry, and Rushing wanted to see what he was up against.

What ensued would ultimately amount to a six-month long odyssey of fraud, the loss of his and his father's company's Google listing, artificial intelligence stonewalling, general discomfiture, and eventually the regaining of the company's listing.

But that would require a Herculean effort of diligence and perseverance on the part of Aledo Overhead Door, which should serve as a cautionary tale for other small businesses.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT RUSHING

An empty field Robert Rushing, of Aledo Overhead Door, found while investigating a competitor named Aledo Garage Door and Gate.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT RUSHING

A tile and flooring business named Embellishments with a building listed as Aledo Garage Door Repair. Robert Rushing, of Aledo Overhead Door, was led here from a Google website.



UIL REALIGNMENT

Aledo placed with several new teams

Still in football league with Ryan

By **Rick Mauch**
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats and Ladycats will be sharing districts with several different opponents from the past couple of seasons, per the newest realignment announced by the University Interscholastic League Thursday, Feb. 1.

In football, the two-time defending Class 5A Division I state champion Bearcats will still be paired with fellow powerhouse Denton Ryan in District 3-5A. Also, Azle and Brewer are carrying over into the same district for the next two seasons.

However, newcomers Granbury, Denton, Keller Fossil Ridge, North Richland Hills Birdville and North Richland Hills Richland are coming onboard.

Richland is coming off a 12-1 season and is 20-4 over the past two football seasons. Last season

Turn to **UIL**, page 11

STATE OF TEXAS

Springer calls for reopening Paxton impeachment

Cites 'admission of guilt' in January filing

By **Randy Keck**
The Community News

State Senator Drew Springer (R-Muenster) has written a letter to Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and his fellow senators seeking a way to reopen the impeachment proceedings against Attorney General Ken Paxton.



Drew Springer

Springer's district covers portions of Parker County.

The Texas House of Representatives voted in May to impeach Paxton, eventually filing 20 articles of impeachment following an investigation. The investigation was spurred when Paxton requested that the state pay for his settlement of a lawsuit from three "whistleblowers" who claimed they were improperly fired

after calling attention to alleged corruption in the AG office.

The impeachment trial was held in September, ultimately resulting in acquittal on all 30 counts.

Springer said there is now reason to question that acquittal.

"While I voted to hear the evidence against and ultimately acquit Attorney General Ken Paxton during the Senate court of impeachment, based on the evidence and the record at the time, I believed that was the right thing to do," Springer said in his letter. "However, recent developments have made me question whether AG Paxton and his legal team misled the Senate."

Springer's misgivings sprung from Paxton's amended filing in the whistleblower suit in January.

Paxton essentially said he would accept the facts of the whistleblower suit and accept whatever judgement the court rendered. By doing so, Paxton would have avoided having to provide a deposition under oath.

The trial judge ordered Paxton to provide a deposition on Feb. 1, but that order was overridden by

the Texas Supreme Court, which blocked the depositions and gave parties until Feb. 29 to provide broader legal arguments.

Springer, like the whistleblowers who filed the lawsuit, feel Paxton is trying to have it both ways.

"While AG Paxton claims this decision is not an admission of guilt, the fact of the matter is it is an admission of guilt," Springer said. "He can't accept the whistleblower's claims against him while touting that he's innocent against those very claims. This admission by AG Paxton is exceptionally concerning as he admitted to violating at least one - and potentially more - of the articles of impeachment. Specifically, Article 6, which addressed AG Paxton's violation of the Texas Whistleblower Act. Accordingly, AG Paxton completely changed his position in less than four months."

In addition, Springer said Paxton had essentially written a "blank check" at taxpayers' expense to stop the case and prevent his deposition.

"At this stage, and the point of this letter, I am asking the Senate whether there is a legal mechanism to reopen the impeachment proceedings. Failure to at least consider this possibility runs the risk of AG Paxton making a mockery of the Texas Senate," Springer said.

Springer is not running for re-election, so his term ends in January of 2023.

"Finally, if I am asked to support funding of any judgment in this case before my retirement - in light of AG Paxton's complete reversal - the Texas Legislature deserves a complete record," Springer said. "That record must include AG Paxton answering questions under oath so that the Legislature may determine whether to fund any judgment in this case. He should not be allowed to enter into a judgment at taxpayers' expense to make this matter go away for his own personal and political benefit. AG Paxton has spent more time fighting the deposition than it would have taken him to answer questions truthfully."



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In & Around Parker County

Ring Leaders — 42 years of serving Parker County

Ring Leaders Kennel has served Parker County and its surrounding cities for 42 years, making it one of Aledo's oldest businesses.

Alaina Tenseth and her late husband, John founded the grooming and boarding business together in the mid-1970s.

When they decided to move west, the small-town business relocated from its original Fort Worth facility in October 1981 — and has stayed in Aledo ever since.

Its local facility offers 30 inside-outside runs that are climate-controlled and eight luxury suites, which are 8-foot-by-10-foot rooms with a patio area. Additionally, all animals have access to play areas.

When boarded, Tenseth, who shares property with the facility, said there's always someone physically present to watch the dogs and cats. There are also surveillance cameras.

"We never leave the animals unattended," Tenseth said.

Ring Leaders Kennel offers overnight boarding to all breeds and sizes of cats and dogs. It also offers full-grooming services to dogs and can provide specialized grooming for cats on an as-needed



basis, though it is not a common service offered by the kennel.

Tenseth she has been grooming and boarding animals for more than 45 years. It's a career she receives joy from and doesn't plan on changing.

Her longest-lasting clients have been with her for nearly 40 years — since 1975 — through the move from Fort Worth to Aledo.

Many have used Tenseth's services through a long lineage of pets.

"We've gone through several generations of pets and several generations of people," Tenseth said. "And we've never taken any of them for granted."

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Content Submission Policy

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

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

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

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

Capital Highlights

TEA annual report just released



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Education Agency's annual report was released last week. It indicates per-student funding in the 2021-2022 school year averaged \$14,928 per student, up 42% since 2011. However, state funding has only risen slightly in the past decade, while local funding has increased substantially.

Texas public schools educate 5.518 million students while employing 371,778 teachers on 9,054 campuses, according to the report.

Compared to other states, Texas ranked 33rd in reading among fourth graders, and 41st among eighth grade readers, which were improvements over previous years. Texas public school students ranked 14th in math for fourth graders, down two slots, and 25th among eighth graders, up seven slots.

Border standoff continues in Eagle Pass

Despite a 5-4 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that U.S. Border Patrol agents can cut razor wire placed along the Texas-Mexico border to deter migrants from crossing the Rio Grande, Texas National Guard members and state troopers continue to lay down wire as a convoy of protestors from across the country heads to Eagle Pass. *The Texas Tribune* reported Gov. Greg Abbott has been joined by 25 Republican governors who support his claim the state has the right to supersede the federal government's constitutionally mandated rights to control the nation's border because of the migrant "invasion."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick also defended ignoring the high court ruling.

"We believe, constitutionally, we are right. We have a right to

defend our citizens. We have a right to defend this country," he said on Fox News.

Immigration rights groups say claims that immigrants are part of an invasion could lead to increased border vigilantism and violence.

Whistleblower lawsuit against Paxton can continue

The legal saga of a whistleblower lawsuit filed against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton will continue despite his efforts to have it thrown out, even though the Texas Supreme Court issued an emergency ruling to delay his testimony temporarily, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

Travis County state District Court Judge Catherine Mauzy ruled that the case, brought by four former top aides to Paxton who allege wrongdoing on the part of the attorney general, can move forward despite Paxton saying he will not contest the suit and will comply with any settlement agreement issued by the court.

TJ Turner, an attorney for the whistleblowers, said Paxton is attempting to avoid taking the stand.

"This is just the latest parlor trick in OAG's quiver that they've deployed to avoid what the Attorney General fears most, and that's testifying under oath," Turner said, referring to the Office of the Attorney General.

Mauzy noted Paxton has been willing to concede the whistleblowers' case but simultaneously maintain his innocence.

"Those seem to me to be contradictory positions," she said.

Criminals impersonate state in asset seizure attempts

Some taxpayers are receiving fraudulent letters warning the state will seize their assets and property for unpaid taxes unless payment is received with seven days, the

state comptroller's office said. The letters did not come from the Comptroller's office, which said in a news release that criminals have been running these types of scams for years. The letters demand immediate payment and often provide a false link for such payment.

"Be incredibly wary whenever you receive unexpected messages like these, as they can be a trap. The criminals' threats are designed to get you to react by calling the criminals' phone number or clicking on a fake link to solve the problem. The consequences can be catastrophic," the news release said.

Victims can not only lose money but can become victims of identity theft or have malware installed on their computers simply by clicking on a scam link.

If you receive an unexpected message of this type, do not respond in any fashion. Instead, call the Comptroller's Collection Team at 800-252-8880.

Courthouse arsonist found guilty

A man accused of setting fires at the historic Mason County Courthouse and an occupied home was found guilty last week. Nicholas Miller was accused of starting both fires almost three years ago, according to investigators with the state fire marshal's office.

"I want to thank our investigators and the local public safety authorities for their exemplary work in this case," said Debra Knight, state fire marshal.

"By coordinating evidence, communication and resources, we worked together to achieve justice and further enhance the safety of Texans."

The building was being prepared for restoration at the time of the fire, and all county records and documents had been relocated just weeks before the blaze.

Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 28.

To continue reading visit: <https://www.community-news.com/stories/tea-annual-report-just-released,71683>

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mailboxes are already being filled with mail pieces regarding the race for Texas House District 60, which includes Parker County.

We want to provide our readers with coverage of the positions on both sides.

To that end, we teamed up with The Coyote radio station at Weatherford College to invite both candidates to an on-air debate that we would also live stream.

The Glenn Rogers campaign responded with its willingness to participate. Despite a number of calls and texts, Michael Olcott has not responded.

Likewise, we invited Mr. Olcott to submit a column with his views on the topic of school choice/vouchers. While we received a response, we never received a submission.

As we get closer to the primary, we will reach out to both candidates for recorded interviews. However, we can only report back the positions of those who respond to our requests.

Idle American

A Joke from the 20th Century



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

It's an old joke from the 1990s, pulled from the files each time the Super Bowl rolls around.

Late Congressman Charles Stenholm, a distinguished Christian statesman from Ericksdahl (near Stamford) popularized the yarn in Texas, claiming that it originated in Washington, DC. It was during more civil times, when Republicans and Democrats not only talked to each other, but shared jokes across the aisle.

That the joke has whiskers is further linked to the "good old days" because it was shared at Super Bowls featuring the Dallas Cowboys. It was back when there was little argument but that the Cowboys were "America's team." Yes indeed, it was a LONG time ago.

Here's the joke: The youth minister of a church put up signs all over town inviting youth to attend a Super Bowl party. There'd be sandwiches and cookies for all.

Hours before the party, he grew antsy, fearing they'd run out of food before they ran out of "takers."

As a precaution, he prepared a hasty sign for the sandwich table. It read: "Please take no more than two sandwiches. Remember, God is watching you."

When he exited, a junior high kid slipped in, noticing the stark request on the sandwich table sign.

He decided to make a sign of his own for the cookie table.

It read: "Take all the cookies you want—God is watching the sandwiches."

During the recent Christmas/New Year's bowl season, James and Jeanie Williamson and their family gathered at their daughter's home in Houston. Mary and her hubby, Justin, have a

Turn to CENTURY, page 5

Guest Column

Don't make teachers political pawns



Forrest Collins

Forrestcollins@att.net

For far too long our teachers have been used as political pawns in Texas. Every teacher has heard the promises of substantial raises for years. Teachers have seen the political ads and heard the rhetoric from politicians claiming they love teachers – but all they have received are broken promises and heavier workloads. Teachers are constantly criticized, asked to do more with less, and expected to solve all the world's problems.

It is disgusting how our teachers are dangled carrots with no chance of ever getting anything substantial. The governor actually used the term "carrot" in reference to him holding teachers hostage so he can continue his mission of funneling public funds to his campaign donors' private businesses.

The governor also just accepted a \$6 million donation,

believed to be the largest single donation in Texas history, from a billionaire in Pennsylvania to push vouchers. It is not a coincidence that the governor has made vouchers his #1 priority and is supporting every candidate willing to ignore their constituents and do his bidding.

We have seen the political grifters call our teachers "glorified babysitters." We have seen politicians during the legislative session use teacher raises as a political tool to degrade their opponents when they themselves have no intention of giving teachers a raise. We have seen them file bills they know won't pass, and don't want them to pass. We have seen them claim to support teachers, but they've done nothing to truly support them. Five legislative sessions later, a complete lack of action tells us their words are cheap lip service.

When we say we support our public schools, what we are saying is that we support the work our teachers are doing. When we support our teachers, we are supporting our children. Our school district is the heart of our community and if a politician isn't supporting our schools, they aren't supporting our

community. They aren't supporting our teachers. They aren't supporting our children.

Here is the thing every teacher needs to know. There are laws against you talking about your own job while at your job and laws that prevent you from collective bargaining – because politicians are afraid of what you would do if you all got together and voted for your own interest and the interest of your students. They offer carrots hoping you don't get together and demand what you have earned through your dedication and hard work and what is in the best interest of the families you serve.

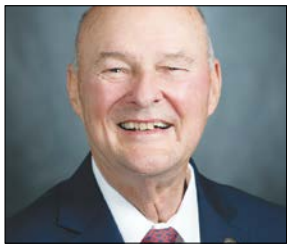
Teachers, I know that you are selfless professionals that have dedicated your lives to children. I also know that many of you have grown weary of the burden placed on you and are tired of being taken for granted. You make a difference every day for every child that walks through the door. You deserve better. It is time to make a difference for yourselves and every educator in Texas.

It is time to vote.

Forrest Collins is the chair of the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees.

GuestColumn

Vouchers are bad public policy



By Rep. John Raney
info@raneyfortexas.com

In November, during the fourth called special session, I offered an amendment to strike education savings accounts, also known as vouchers, from House Bill 1, the education bill. My amendment passed on a vote of 84-63. I am proud of the voucher stance 20 of my Republican colleagues and I took despite the intense pressure from our own political party. Representative Glenn Rogers HD60, stood strong for his district and the State of Texas.

I am by no means a public education expert, but I believe in my heart that using taxpayer dollars to fund an entitlement program is not conservative and is bad public policy.

Under the voucher provision of House Bill 1, the actual biennial cost to the state's next biennium would have been as high as \$7.3 billion just to provide \$10,500 for each current private school student and \$1,000 to each current homeschool student. Having served four terms on the House Committee on Appropriations, I can assure you, if ever vouchers

pass, the Legislature will have no choice but to raise taxes. We can also kiss goodbye the notion of a reduction or elimination of school property taxes.

The Texas Education Code is an extensive, comprehensive framework of rules and laws governing tax-supported public schools. Spending taxpayer dollars to fund 'choice' programs without the accountability of the code undermines our constitutional and moral duty to educate and protect the nearly 5.5 million students of Texas. A better alternative would be to reduce these rules and laws governing public schools and create more local control.

An assertion has been made that I once supported vouchers given my presence at Brazos Christian School last spring. Governor Abbott's staff asked me to introduce him at the event in my district. As a courtesy, I did so. I should note that I edited the lengthy introduction script presented to me by Governor Abbott's staff to reflect my long-time position of supporting education as a whole in addition to praising Governor Abbott's public education funding effort during the regular session.

House Bill 1 would have increased public school funding by over \$7 billion. It would have also provided a one-time \$4000 teacher retention stipend for full-time teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses (\$2000 for part-time), created a paid

Turn to **POLICY**, page 6

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Falsehoods

The WANTED flyer in the mail saying Representative Glenn Rogers is WANTED for working AGAINST our schools, teachers, parents, and students is FALSE. The flyer states Rogers is working with liberals against Governor Abbott to deny a pay raise for teachers, \$68 million in local school funding, and access to high-quality schools for all students. That is also FALSE. Dr. Rogers is working for EVERY constituent in the district he serves.

Governor Abbott called four special sessions last year to pass his EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT (vouchers) initiative. It failed every session. Because it failed, Abbott has made it clear he wants those Republicans that voted against his initiative to be voted out of office.

Governor Abbott is the reason teachers did not get a pay raise and much-needed school funding was denied. He held those two initiatives hostage until his voucher system was approved. Now, he is attacking members of his own party to replace them with those that will vote with him regardless of what their constituent's desire.

I am appalled that we are seeing a movement to elect people to leadership positions who want to be power-seekers rather than public servants to every citizen they serve. The only way we can stop this movement is to vote for people like Dr. Glenn Rogers who applies his values to make decisions in behalf of his constituents rather than ignoring them to please autocratic leaders.

It is time we stop this power-seeking movement. Vote for Dr. Glenn Rogers.

- Joe Tison
Weatherford

GuestColumn

Out of touch on school choice



By Nathan Cunneen
ncunneen@federationforchildren.org

In his January 16 opinion article, State Representative Glenn Rogers argues against school choice policies by leaning on fallacious assertions and uncited evidence. Not only is Rogers's anti-school choice position built on rhetorical quicksand, he also stands against school choice programs despite the majority of his constituents supporting them.

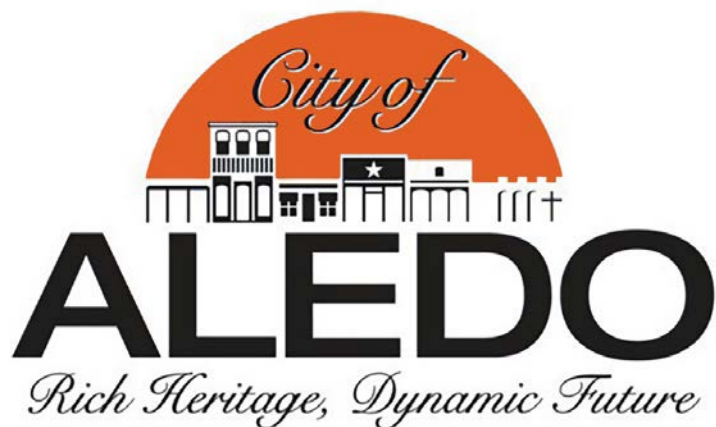
In Texas, like the rest of the country, students are assigned to a public school based on where they live. For many students, that system works great, and we should celebrate it. However, as evidenced by state performance data, residentially assigned schools aren't working for every student. When a student's assigned school does not meet their needs, they usually have limited options. For affluent families, it's easy to pay for a private school out of pocket or geographically move to a new school district. - but those opportunities often remain out of reach for low-income and working-class families.

School choice programs, sometimes referred to as "vouchers," allow families to use the dollars allocated for their child's education at their chosen school. That could be their residentially assigned public school, or they could choose to enroll in a private school. Legislation proposed in Texas last year, House Bill 1, would have made \$10,500 available to families with low-income and students with special needs at the front of the line. The bill was supported by Governor Gregg Abbott, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, and passed the State Senate by a comfortable margin. Unfortunately, Rep. Rogers and others in the House struck down the bill.

Rep. Rogers stood with powerful public-sector unions (they endorsed him in his last election)* and other members of the education establishment to stop school choice. They believe the only way to support students is by exclusively funding public schools - at the expense of giving parents school choice. But HB1 not only included school choice, it also attempted to send \$7 billion additional dollars to public schools and give \$4,000 raises to teachers - a true "all of the above" proposal to improve education across Texas. Rogers and his anti-school choice colleagues decided to scuttle the entire bill entirely.

Why? He claims that school choice will hurt public schools.

Turn to **SCHOOL**, page 6



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

TAKE NOTICE the City Council of the City of Aledo, Texas, shall convene at 6:00 o'clock P.M. on the 28th day of March, 2024, at the Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, Texas, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation in a principal amount not to exceed \$3,515,000 for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) the construction of public works, to wit: improvements and extensions to the City's Sewer System, and (ii) professional services rendered in connection with such projects and the financing thereof, and such certificates shall be payable from ad valorem taxes and a pledge of the surplus net revenues of the City's combined Waterworks and Sewer System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$18,515,000; (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$37,443,313; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$5,971,880; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is August 15, 2055. The above information excludes \$13,295,000 in principal amount of outstanding debt obligations the City has designated as self-supporting which the City reasonably expects to pay from revenue sources other than ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that in the event such self-supporting revenue sources are insufficient to pay debt service, the City is obligated to levy ad valorem taxes to pay such debt obligations. The certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Subchapter C of Chapter 271.

Deana McMullen
City Secretary
City of Aledo, Texas

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CENTURY

from page 3

spacious home, complete with all kinds of kitchen paraphernalia, the kind Justin, an accomplished cook, deems important. During the visit, Mary and her sister-in-law, Sarah, busied themselves with small talk.

Thinking it may have been misplaced or somehow relocated by the Cornetts' five children, Mary asked, "Where is the sugar bowl?"

Pausing, Sarah answered, "I think it's in New Orleans." Justin, as well as Mary's hubby, John Williamson, and the grandchildren made great sport about the exchange, deciding that the small talk had grown even smaller.

Their laughter perhaps lessened Sarah's shade of red, but powers that be at Texas Christian and Baylor Universities should be blushing about mystifying booboos concerning their basketball playing floors.

Both are obvious to fans who have witnessed home games of both Baylor and TCU.

Let's take the two issues one at a time.

At TCU, the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum is state-of-the-art after a recent multi-million dollar facelift.

Overall, the re-do is magnificent. The floor pattern may be a work of art, but to the hordes of us who'd prefer to follow the game without risking sea sickness, it is lacking. Trying to follow the players and fast ball movement induces dizziness, the artwork appearing to be ocean waves shortly before storms brew. It may win a prize at the art show, but it is hard on TV viewers.

Social media is buzzing with unhappiness with TV coverage at Baylor's new \$212 million Foster Pavilion, where the Bears now play basketball. Fans say that no provisions were made for TV cameras' placement for horizontal shots. Cameras are decidedly directed downward, the effect somewhat lessened by "zooming in."

At a time in history when both Baylor and TCU are combatants

in big-time sports with big-time budgets and the big-time glitz that goes with such emphases, changing floor designs and finding new areas dedicated to TV cameras should be "slam dunks."

Somehow, reference to colors brings to mind a tale attributed to my late Uncle John Harper, who was in law enforcement much of his life.

He often parked near a newly-painted STOP sign. The black letters shined boldly against a brilliant red background. There, he ticketed and lectured motorists failing to come to complete stops. One driver objected, maintaining that he had merely "oozed through" the intersection.

"S-T-O-P don't spell 'ooze,'" Uncle John countered, handing him a citation.

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks publicly throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sharon Breckeen and 20 Parker County Master Gardener interns raked, trimmed, and pulled weeds at Aledo Community Center in preparation for spring planting. "We'll be planting flowers and other plants of color because this garden is so visible to the road," garden student Gary Paradiso said.

SCHOOL

from page 4

But powerful evidence shows that school choice makes public schools better. Twenty-six out of twenty-nine academic studies indicate that public schools improve when exposed to private school choice programs because the competitive effect forces them to up their game.

Shoppers aren't taking money from Walmart when they choose to shop at HEB (though Walmart might claim they are). Empirical evidence shows that it's the same with education; the forces of competition result in a more enjoyable shopping experience for the consumer.

Public schools are essential but cannot serve every kid's unique needs. Our goal shouldn't be to prop up a system of schools; it should be to support the education of students.

I know firsthand how school choice can impact a student's life. Before making Texas my home, I received a school choice scholarship while growing up in Florida. It was imperative to my parents that I obtain a high-quality education that met our academic expectations and aligned with our family values. Unfortunately, we couldn't afford private education on our own. A school choice scholarship made my education possible and led me to become the first in my family to graduate college.

As I remarked before the Texas Senate Education Committee, I attended one of the best public schools in Florida, but that school was not right for me. While other kids thrived, I struggled emotionally, morally, and academically. I needed the smaller, more personal environment of a private school to make my education successful, and that was only possible for my family because of school choice.

Texans should ask Rep. Rogers and others who oppose school voucher proposals: if the only way to protect public schools is to deny families like mine a choice, isn't it time to rethink the system?

HB1 would not have created a perfect program, and school choice policies are not blanket solutions to all the problems facing our education system. For instance, the Texas legislature should consider increasing the ESA amount so that more families can afford private school education - which would directly address one of Rep. Roger's alleged concerns.

But instead of working with his colleagues to strengthen the proposal, Rep. Rogers joined all House Democrats and sided with liberal teachers' unions* to kill school choice and prevent families from having a choice in their education. It doesn't get less "conservative" than that.

It's unlikely that Rep. Rogers' failure to support his constituents will fare well for him during his re-election campaign. During the 2022 midterm elections, Texas Republican primary voters were asked for their stance on school choice. In each of Texas' ten-most rural counties, at least 75% of voters indicated support for school choice policies. In Rep. Rogers' district, 88% of voters supported the statement, "Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, and the funding should follow the student." Thankfully, the voters have the opportunity to have their voice heard in the primary election on March 5th.

Texas has a long history interwoven with the values of personal freedom, choice, and competition. Texans should ensure that our children's future includes those virtues when they go to the ballot box this year.

Nathan Cunneen is the Director of Strategic Analysis at the American Federation for Children in Columbia, Maryland. Heresides in Dallas, Texas.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: There are no teachers' unions in Texas. In our fact checking, we could find no endorsements of Rogers from unions of any kind.*



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Programs librarian Tracy Lambert Jack directs children's story time at 10:30 a.m. Fridays with stories, crafts, and snacks. The East Parker County Library will have a large sidewalk sale of books for all ages and interests from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10.

POLICY

from page 4

leave option to supplement FMLA benefits, increased Basic Allotment, increased special education funding and several grants related to it, created a teacher residency program, and offered a pathway to a six-figure salary with a focus on low-income and rural communities.

Governor Abbott knew he did not have the votes to pass vouchers, so he tried to force the House's hand by including it in House Bill 1 - a bill he described as an "extraordinarily effective bill." Had House Bill 1 not been pulled by the author at the direction of leadership because

vouchers were no longer included, it undoubtedly would have passed the House. Governor Abbott took his ball and went home shifting his focus to retaliation at the polls.

President Ronald Reagan said, "The person who agrees with you 80 percent of the time is a friend and an ally - not a 20 percent traitor." Governor Abbott should take a page out of President Reagan's book. Instead, he is endorsing and reportedly helping to fund primary opponents running against the members of his own party who could not, in good conscience, vote for his voucher plan. Shame on you, Governor Abbott.

John Raney represents House District 14 in the Texas Legislature.



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Kid Scoop Together

Make a Timeline!

Look at the timeline dates below. Next to each one, write something you learned from today's **Kid Scoop** page on the lines next to each date.

- 1827 _____
- 1847 _____
- 1861 _____
- 1905 _____
- 1926 _____
- 1952 _____
- 1964 _____

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African American Newspapers

First African American Newspaper

Freedom's Journal was the first African American owned and operated newspaper. The newspaper editors said, "Too long have others spoken for us." They wanted to write about and for their fellow African Americans. Starting in 1827, *Freedom's Journal* helped lead the way for other Black-owned newspapers in the 1800s.



Standards Link: Read informational text about Black history and journalism.

1847

Frederick Douglass started a newspaper called *The North Star* in 1847. This was a newspaper where black people could write about their news, ideas and share opinions.

Use the code to find out what Frederick Douglass said about reading.

| | | | |
|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| A = 16 | E = 12 | N = 8 | U = 4 |
| B = 15 | F = 11 | O = 7 | V = 3 |
| C = 14 | I = 10 | R = 6 | W = 2 |
| D = 13 | L = 9 | T = 5 | Y = 1 |

7 8 14 12 1 7 4
 9 12 16 6 8 5 7
 6 12 16 13 1 7 4
 2 10 9 9 15 12
 11 7 6 12 3 12 6
 11 6 12 12

— FREDERICK DOUGLASS

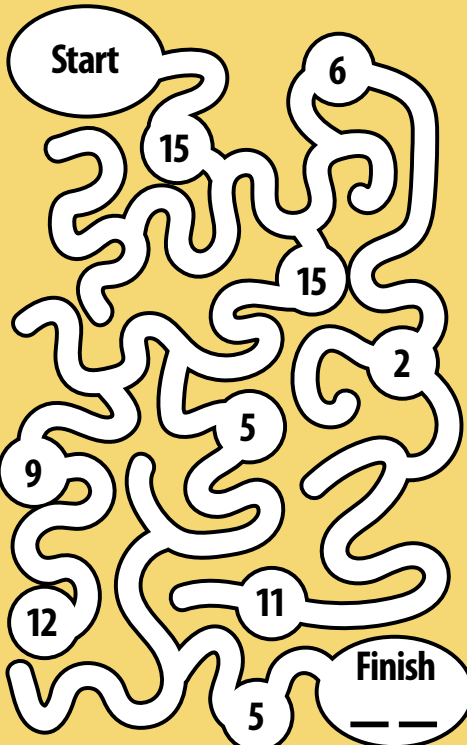
THE Chicago Defender

Cut out each piece and paste the paragraph in the correct order in the space below.

so popular that he became one of African American newspaper. Abbott started the newspaper about \$7.30 today. His paper was In 1905, Robert Abbott founded Chicago's first Black millionaires. with 25¢. That's the same as *The Chicago Defender*. It was an

How many papers?

Add up the numbers on the correct path of the maze to find out how many African American owned and operated newspapers circulated throughout the U.S. in 1861.



Standards Link: Read informational text about Black history and journalism.

SUNDAY CHICAGO BEE

Twenty-one years after Robert Abbott founded *The Chicago Defender*, Anthony Overton, an African American millionaire, started *The Chicago Bee* to compete with *The Chicago Defender*. It was a remarkable business as the staff was mostly women. That was very unusual in 1926. Olive M. Diggs was one of the newspaper's managing editors. Other female editors included Ida B. Wells. She helped start the civil rights organization known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

What year did Anthony Overton start *The Chicago Bee*?

Simeon Booker Jr.

In 1952, Simeon Booker Jr. became the first Black reporter for a well-known and well-read newspaper that still publishes today. Circle every other letter below to find out the name of this newspaper.

T R H K E U W B A L S V H W I J N
 P G S T R O H N Y P A O N S B T
 T H

Extra! Extra! Newspaper ABCs

On one page of the newspaper, find and circle every letter of the alphabet that you can. Then connect the letters to create a design. Color your design and share! Have fun!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow written instructions.

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Kid Scoop Puzzler

1964

The Washington Informer is a weekly newspaper published in Washington, D.C. It is owned by a woman and reports on the African American community in the D.C. area.

The publisher is Denise Rolark Barnes. Her father, Calvin W. Rolark, founded the paper in 1964.

Fill in the missing vowels to find out something special about *The Washington Informer*.

THE WASH _NGT _N
 INF _RM _R P _BLISH _S
 K _D SC _ _P!

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell words correctly.

Double Double Word Search

- BEE
- CENTS
- FREE
- IDEAS
- LEAD
- NEWS
- PAPER
- REPORTER
- RIGHTS
- SHE
- STAFF
- STAR
- TODAY
- WEEKLY
- WRITE

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

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

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **NEWSPAPER**
 The noun **newspaper** means paper printed with news, opinions, ads and other information.

A newspaper brings the world into your hands.
 Try to use the word **newspaper** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Analyze the News

Work in teams to measure how many column inches your newspaper devotes to news from different groups of people in your community, such as children, seniors, men, women, people of color, etc. Graph your results.

Standards Link: Mathematics: Graph data.

"The time is always right to do what is right."

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Write On! Leadership

What are three things good leaders do? Make a list and explain how each of these things makes a good leader.

JOURNALISM

Aledo publisher among community journalists to talk at UT-Austin

Symposium focuses on rural journalism

Special to The Community News

Randy Keck, publisher of The Community News, will be one of three morning panelists at a symposium held at the University of Texas in Austin entitled "Courage, Tenacity, Integrity, and Innovation in Rural Journalism," on Feb. 29.

The meeting will feature two winners of the Tom and Pat Gish Award for courage, integrity and tenacity in rural journalism: 2023



Randy Keck

winner Craig Garnett of the Uvalde Leader-News, and Laurie Ezzell Brown of The Canadian Record, who won the award with other family members in 2007.

Keck will appear with Garnett and Brown on a panel that will be moderated by Benjy Hamm, director of the Institute for Rural

Journalism at the University of Kentucky, which will present the Gish Award to Garnett at the conference luncheon.

A second panel in the afternoon will be moderated by Austin Lewter, director of the Texas Center for Community Journalism at Tarleton State University. It will focus on successful innovation in rural journalism and will feature Tara Huff of the Eagle Press in Hutchinson county; John Starkey of newly nonprofit Rambler Texas Media, which includes the Ozona Stockman in Crockett County; and Daniel Walker, who bought the

Vernon Daily Record, Burkburnett Informer Star and Clay County Leader in May 2022 after editing the Vernon paper for 11 years.

The conference will be hosted at the Texas Union, 2308 Whitis Ave., by The Center for Ethical Leadership in Media of the UT School of Journalism and Media, directed by Drs. Kathleen McElroy and Mary Bock.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3ukw3D6>.



Obituaries

Tom Walker, Jr.

Thomas "Tom" Melvin Walker, Jr., 77, passed away on Monday, January 22, 2024.

Tom was born December 13, 1946, in Fort Worth, to the late Thomas Walker, Sr. and Margaret (McKinzie) Walker.



Tom Walker, Jr.

Tom graduated from North Side High School Class of 1965 in Fort Worth and then attended North Texas State University, graduating with a Bachelor's degree, where he was also actively involved in Campus Crusaders for Christ.

Following his academic studies, he enlisted in the military, proudly serving his country in the United States Air Force, where he was stationed in Guam during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to the States, Tom built a career in the sales industry. He was naturally charismatic and excelled in his career. Tom could have a conversation with anyone, and people always felt comfortable with him.

Tom will be remembered as being most congenial and encouraging; he always told people how proud he was of them. He was a wonderful son, father, and grandfather, and he gave great honor to his parents. Tom enjoyed ballroom dancing and singing in various quartets and choirs in his church community.

The family wishes to extend special thanks to Cindi Neverdousky and Jim Plummer for the friendship, love, and vital roles they played in Tom's life and care.

Tom is survived by his son, Preston Walker; son and wife, Austin and Courtney Walker; granddaughter, Margaret Walker; grandson, Wyatt Walker; brother, Ted Walker; and nephew, Chad Walker.

A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, January 27, 2024, at the Galbreath Pickard Hilltop Chapel, in Willow Park.

A private interment will happen at a later date at Mount Olivet Cemetery, in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Community News
February 9, 2024

BUSINESS

from page one

Checking things out

Rushing drove out to the address listed as the location for Aledo Garage Doors and Gate last summer, but it was not what he expected.

"It was an empty field," Rushing said. "And that's when I knew that there was something seriously wrong happening. The tile shop was just a one-off thing in my mind, but when I got to the empty field in August, then I thought, 'this is crazy.'"

The tile shop incident Rushing was referring to came a few months earlier when he discovered a company online called Aledo Garage Door Repair, which listed its address as 621 FM 1187 in Aledo.

The company actually located at that address is called Embellishments, which is a high-end tile and flooring showroom.

"Essentially, the first listing I found was the tile shop on Apple Maps," Rushing said. "That happened in May, so I called them, and I just thought it was a one-off thing that was weird. I thought 'Now we've got somebody pretending to be in Aledo, but that it was just one company.'"

It did not end there

"Even though this problem is with Apple Maps, the owner of the actual company (Embellishments) was having trouble getting his

Google listing verified because of this," Rushing said.

Aledo Overhead Doors, Rushing's father's company, faced a similar problem.

"We are the only garage door company physically located in Aledo," Rushing said. "But we have to prove that we are real, while these other companies are committing fraud. Meanwhile, small businesses like us are stranded, trying to prove that we exist.."

The problem was that when Rushing had attempted to reach out to Google and Apple Maps about the issue, he was not able to speak to an actual person, as the listings are operated through artificial intelligence.

"Google refuses to speak with businesses about these problems," Rushing said. "All they do is give suggestions to try on the web, while these fraudulent companies operate without punishment."

Easy to commit fraud

These episodes, in the words of Rushing, demonstrate how easy it is to commit fraud on Google Maps and Apple Maps.

"The very things that are designed to protect us from fraud are the things that can potentially destroy us in the process," Rushing said.

To make matters worse, Aledo Overhead Doors then had its business listing suspended by Google.

"Essentially, everything is trying to be automated by artificial intelligence on every process now," Rushing said. "All the big companies are switching to an AI platform to try to automate everything. They have a human counterpart to it that is supposed to correct the mistakes that artificial intelligence makes."

"So what has happened is that the artificial intelligence from Google decided that our company didn't meet the criteria that it needs to have a listing on Google, even though we've had a listing for years."

Ironic twist

In a tragically ironic twist, Aledo Overhead Door, a legitimate garage door business, had its listing suspended in an effort to prevent fraud.

"So the computer generated the suspension for our company, but we can't even talk to a live human being about the suspension for fear that we might actually be the fraudsters trying to sidestep the suspension," Rushing said. "It's a mouthful to try to explain, but it's basically a whole complicated series of errors. Each one by themselves doesn't necessarily mean anything, but when you compound them all together, you can literally destroy a small business that is real, because they have to prove they are real to a computer, not to a human being."

On top of all of this, a Google search for Rushing's

business, Aledo Overhead Doors, reveals other "businesses" advertising in his company's name.

"This is intentionally done to confuse customers into thinking they're contacting a company in their own city when they are actually located miles and miles away," Rushing said.

The Aledo man said he is still not clear who was listing these companies or if the companies even exist.

"It could be a business, and it could just be some foreign entity that has a call center somewhere," Rushing said. "We just don't know. It could be an actual garage door company here within the Metroplex. It's hard to tell where it is coming from because we don't have the tools to back trace where the phone number is coming from."

Fighting back

Whoever the companies are that are doing this are bold enough to advertise in the name of their competitors, and Rushing and Aledo Overhead Door were not going to take it lying down.

The company fought back and eventually regained the Google listing for Aledo Overhead Door.

More to come

Check back with *The Community News* in the coming weeks for the second installment of this story.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ladycats sink Granbury to cap off Senior Night

Finish second in district

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Seniors Caroline Browning and Natalie Anderson got the sendoff they deserved in their final regular season game of their prep careers. The Ladycats dominated Granbury en route to a 52-35 victory on Senior Night.

Aledo (27-9 overall, 10-2 in district) finished the season firmly holding onto the No. 2 seed heading into the bi-district round of the 5A playoffs. They will play Everman or Fort Worth Wyatt in the bi-district round at a time, date and place still being decided at press time.

The Ladycats jumped out to a 10-point lead in the first quarter and never looked back. Kinley Elms dominated the paint with Granbury successfully providing no resistance as she led the Aledo offense. She finished the game with an 18-point night on the hardwood.

As the second quarter got underway with the Ladycats leading 17-7, the Lady Pirates managed to keep pace on the scoreboard. Aledo outscored Granbury 12-11 down the stretch as the home team took a 29-18 lead into the break.

The Lady Pirates managed to chip away at the Aledo lead in the third quarter as the frame came to a close with the Ladycat lead down to eight points, 36-28. That was as close as Granbury would get, as Aledo outpaced the visiting squad 16-7 in the final eight minutes of action to produce the final score.

Ladycats vs. Granbury – Feb. 6

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Aledo | 17 | 12 | 7 | 16 | - | 52 |
| Granbury | 7 | 11 | 10 | 7 | - | 35 |

Aledo scoring: Kinley Elms 18, Elizabeth Griffin 11, Caroline Browning 8, Natalie Anderson 7, Brooklyn Dempsey 4, Rebekah Jarrell 2, August Carlone 2.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Pacheco clutch jumper lifts Aledo to win

Postseason berth clinched

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Bearcat hoops head coach, JD Robinson has stressed the past two seasons how thin the margin of error is each game for his team. The difference between the 2022-23 season, in which Aledo missed the postseason by a single game, and this season has largely been the Bearcats' ability to come out on the plus side of one-possession games the way they did on Tuesday, Feb. 6, winning 46-44 against Granbury.

The victory secured a postseason berth this season for the Bearcats (17-11, 4-4 in District 5-5A). With two district games left on the schedule, Aledo can do no worse than the No. 4 seed. If they win the final two games of the regular season, they may find themselves taking hold of the No. 3 seed heading into the bi-district round of the playoffs. In fact, they have a shot at moving into

a tie for second, depending on what happens with Saginaw and Northwest on Friday.

After leading nearly the entire game, and by as much as 12 points at one time, the Bearcats found themselves in an all-too-familiar position of being locked in a one-possession game with time running out.

With the game tied at 44-all and the threat of overtime looming, the Bearcats put the ball in the hands of Joaquin Pacheco. Pacheco took the inbound pass with 10 seconds left on the clock. Working his way around the top of the key, teammate Jack Sawyer threw a pick on a Pirate defender, creating just enough space for Pacheco to get a clean look at the basket for a split second.

That was all he needed, as Pacheco buried a jumper from the free-throw line, lifting the Bearcats to victory, cementing a playoff berth in the process.

"The second the ball touched my hands, I got excited," Pacheco
Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 11



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Joaquin Pacheco launches his game-winning shot as the Bearcats defeat Granbury 46-44 on Tuesday, Feb. 6.



AUSTIN STOCKON

From left to right: Lillian Carruthers, Riley Blankenship, Arianne Mathias, Baillie Sessom, Margaret Schabel, Kyra Wright, Avery Kernan, Samuel Belyeu, Kyle Scharlow, Noah Chasteen, Bryce Vonasek, Oliver Tatro, Cooper Cyphers, Brice Bohn, and Brady Powell

WRESTLING

District 4-5A Tournament

Aledo qualifies eight for regionals

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

As the Aledo wrestling program continues to grow, so does the success. The program qualified eight wrestlers for regional competition from this past weekend's District 4-5A Tournament in Vernon.

The contingent was led by Brice Bohn's runner-up finish in the boys 113-pound division and Kyra Wright, second in the girls

126 category. Bohn was an alternate to state last season.

The top four finishers in each weight class qualified for the Region I Tournament, which will be held at West Texas A&M University in Canyon Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9-10. From there, the top four finishers in each weight class will move on to state in Cypress Feb. 16-17.

As a team, the Bearcats finished fifth and the Ladycats were sixth.

Turn to **DISTRICT**, page 11

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



FEBRUARY 10-11

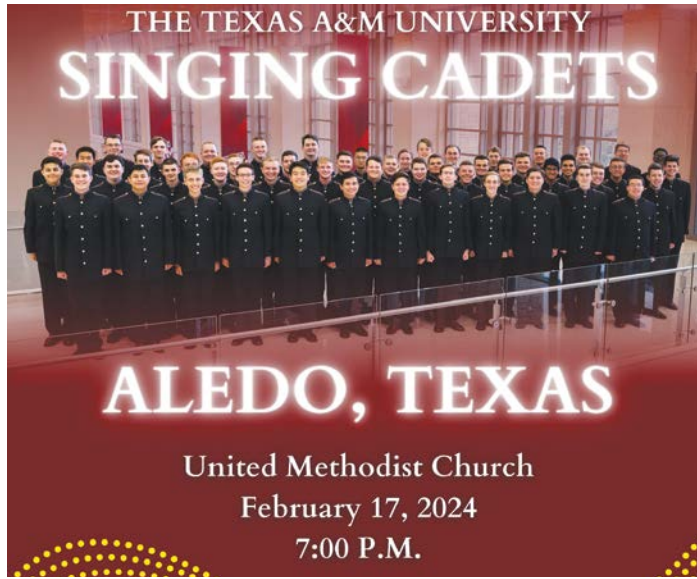
February Dog Days Fort Worth Botanical Gardens

This weekend is bound to be a doggone good time! Enjoy two full days of hanging out with your pup in the beauty of the Garden, February 10-11. Dog Days will be held during regular Garden hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.), with regular admission for humans and an additional \$5 per dog. Hydration stations for dogs will be provided by the Garden across campus. FWBG members receive free admission and pay \$5 per dog. For more information: <https://fwbg.org/events/february-dog-days/>

FEBRUARY 13

Dementia Support Group

Join us for our Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13 at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. We are honored and privileged to care for those affected by dementia. Even more so, we value the efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents.



We are excited to be partnering with Kim Waid, Certified Dementia Practitioner, and Account Executive at Elara Caring Hospice to create an engaging and nurturing environment that will help build a community of love and support as we walk through this journey together. This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

FEBRUARY 17

Texas A&M Singing Cadets

The Parker County Aggie Moms' Club will host the Texas A&M Singing Cadets at 7 p.m. on Saturday,

Feb. 17 at Aledo United Methodist Church. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr Aledo TX, 76008. Internationally known as the "Voice of Aggieland", The Singing Cadets is Texas A&M University's premier men's chorus. This is a fun-filled patriotic concert appropriate for all ages. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Texas A&M Singing Cadets, the Parker County Aggie Moms Club Scholarship fund, and a contribution to Aledo United Methodist Church for use of their facilities. For more information contact Deralee Dawson Bowlin '86 817-675-9902 pcaggie-

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- this Meharg was first female Texas Secretary of State
- Mineola's county
- Jackson County seat
- TX Charley Pride tune: "Just Me"
- money machine
- TXism: "exciting as a fire at office"
- TXism: "phoo-water" (perfume)
- TXism: "hot enough a horny toad"
- a blimp, e.g.
- TX Jimmy Webb wrote "By the ___ Get to Phoenix"
- in Anderson County on U.S. 287
- weevil came to U.S. thru Texas
- TXism: "cut ___ slack"
- married woman in Mexico
- 1960's protests
- this Palmer won the Texas Open three times (init.)
- TXism: "he ___ with the facts" (liar)
- Gulf shrimp catchers
- this conven. was in Houston in 1928
- a ___ pizza is a small one
- Fair Park is on the ___ of Dallas
- "let the ___ settle"
- Odessa's county
- king toppers in cards
- Cowboy Jake Ferguson position (abbr.)
- needed in a drought
- TXism: "just a ___ (small amount)"
- more intelligent
- Cheryl of film "Wilson" with TX Harrelson
- comly room at home
- female sheep
- use a needle and thread
- TX Simmons who developed the "leveraged buyout" (init.)
- org. in Europe
- 1-20 that runs across Texas
- Corey Seager had 6 of these in the 2023 World Series
- Japanese wrestling
- heaven
- ___-A-Whirl rides are built in Plainview
- returns a case to a lower court
- UT has 1st photo ever taken, by this French inventor
- "don't ___ out your welcome"
- Texas pest: fire ___
- this Nellie was in limo with JFK (init.)
- passed away
- wound reminder
- TXism: "___ on the barrel head"
- TXism: "___ a whipped pup"
- Texans have to ___ car registration annually
- TXism: "dot the i's and cross the ___"

DOWN

- TX Simmons who developed the "leveraged buyout" (init.)
- org. in Europe
- 1-20 that runs across Texas
- Corey Seager had 6 of these in the 2023 World Series
- Japanese wrestling
- heaven
- ___-A-Whirl rides are built in Plainview
- returns a case to a lower court
- UT has 1st photo ever taken, by this French inventor
- sharpen, like skills
- former Cowboy star, Emmitt (init.)
- modern lights
- "half hitch," e.g.
- did 20-down
- avid paintings collector? (2 wds.)
- welcome rugs


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FEBRUARY 20

Parkinson's Support
Join our monthly local support group for those

living with Parkinson's Disease and families from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at Martin Crest Assisted Living and Memory Care, 1818 Martin Dr, Weatherford, TX 76086. We offer a safe environment for talking about your expe-

periences, enhancing your ability to cope with the daily challenges of Parkinson's. You are invited to be part of a group that connects and shares with each other on how to live well with Parkinson's. Sponsored by: Freedom Hospice





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Legal Notice

Notification is given that The First National Bank & Trust Co of Weatherford dba First Bank Texas, 220 Palo Pinto St, Weatherford, TX 76086 has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on February 1, 2024, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to establish a mobile branch to serve Tarrant, Parker, Callahan, Taylor, Jones, Haskell, and Knox Counties in Texas. The Mobile Branch will be housed at 100 Willow Bend Dr. Willow Park, Texas 76008. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with Carolina Ledesma, Director for Licensing, Community Bank Regions: South, Southeast 500 North Akard Street, Suite 1600, Dallas, TX 75201 or Licensingpubliccomments@occ.treas.gov within 30 days of the date of this publication. To request a copy of the public portion of the filing, contact the Director for Licensing, Carolina Ledesma, at Community Bank Regions: South, Southeast 500 North Akard Street, Suite 1600, Dallas, TX 75201 or email Licensing@occ.treas.gov. Filing information may also be found in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available at www.occ.gov.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Rio Vista Phase 3 Subdivision Improvements, to include excavation, paving storm drain, water, and sanitary sewer will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

12:00 Noon, Friday March 1, 2024

And publicly opened. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the place of opening prior to the time stated above. Any bidder desiring an electronic copy of the proposal form and bid documents should email their request to mariaf@barronstark.com.

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of the La Dorada Phase 1 Subdivision Improvements.

A performance bond, payment bond, and maintenance bond in the amount of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract and upon payment of all persons supplying labor or furnishing materials **WILL** be required by the Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

Barron-Stark Engineers, LP

Publication: February 9th, 2024
February 16th, 2024

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LEGAL NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notification is hereby given that NBT Financial Bank, 2535 N.E. 28th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76106, has filed an application with the Texas Department of Bank on February 6, 2024 as specified in Chapter 15 Part 2 Title 7 Texas Administrative Code, for permission to establish a domestic branch at 200 Shops Blvd, Willow Park, Texas 76087.

Any person wishing to comment on this application, either for or against, may file written comments with the Texas Department of Banking, 2601 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78705-4294 on or before the 14th day after the date of this publication. Such comments will be made a part of the record before and considered by the banking commissioner. Any person wishing to formally protest and oppose the Application to Establish a Branch and participate in the application process may do so by filing a written notice of protest with the Texas Department of Banking on or before the 14th calendar day after the date of this publication accompanied by a protest filing fee of \$2,500. The protest fee may be reduced or waived by the banking commissioner upon a showing of substantial hardship.

Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Willow Park City Council will hold a public hearing on the matters listed below:

- PUBLIC HEARING** to consider a Request for Zoning Change from "Class II: Residential 'R-1' Single-Family District" to "Class IV - Industrial: Commercial - 'LI' Light Industrial District" for the Haney Complex Addition, Tracts 1-3, being approximately 31.247 acres in the Eliza Ozer Survey, Abstract Number 1031, City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas.
- PUBLIC HEARING** to consider a Request for a Special Use Permit regarding the addition of a Roller Skating Rink as an allowable use for Lot 3, Block 3 in the Haney Complex Addition, which is concurrently requesting a Zoning Change from "Class II: Residential 'R-1' Single-Family District" to "Class IV - Industrial: Commercial - 'LI' Light Industrial District" in the City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas.
- PUBLIC HEARING** to consider a Request for Zoning Change from "Class II: Residential 'R-1' Single-Family District" to "Class I - Special purpose: 'PD' Planned Development District" for 721 Ranch House Road, Lot 1, Block 1 in the Willow Park Church of Christ Addition, City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas.

City Council: Tuesday, February 27, 2024
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 x100 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 February 9, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.

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UIL

from page one

the Royals advanced to the third round of the playoffs before losing in a 61-40 shootout to Forney, which reached the state semifinals before falling 43-7 to the Bearcats.

In Denton, the Broncos turned a corner last season and are coming off a playoff appearance.

Meanwhile, Ryan remains in the district and appears to once again be the biggest threat to Aledo's national-record winning streak, which stands at 111 entering the 2024 season. When the teams met in Aledo this past season the Raiders overcame a 17-0 deficit to take a 19-17 lead late in the game before Bearcats quarterback Hauss Hejny broke free for a long run to give Aledo a 25-19 win.

Ryan is coming off an 8-3 season and a second-round playoff appearance. While the Raiders' overall history doesn't match that of Aledo, it is still one of consistent playoff appearances and several state championships, the most recent coming in 2020 with a state runner-up finish in 2019. Since 2015 they are 112-14.

"It's probably the toughest district in 5A, two state championship contenders with state championship pedigrees with Aledo and Ryan," said Robby Jones, who guided the Bearcats to a state title in his first season as head coach after being a part of 10 others as offensive coordinator since 2009.

"Richland was a district champion last year and they return a lot of firepower with quarterback Drew Kates' 2,614 yards (also 32 touchdowns, 5 interceptions) and running back Michael Turner's 1,625 rushing yards (22 TD). Denton Ryan returns pretty much their entire team, eight starters on defense, nine starters on offense. They were young last year and will be a lot better the next two years.

"Fossil Ridge drops down from a tough 6A district, and their head coach Derek Ramsey was the

defensive coordinator at (Denton) Guyer when Guyer won state championships."

Among the other returning teams, Jones noted that, "Brewer was another young team last year and they will be a lot better."

The Bears are coming off a 3-7 season, but scored 217 points in eight district games.

In other sports, Aledo will compete in District 5-5A, with Azle, Granbury, Saginaw and Brewer remaining as district-mates. Fossil Ridge and Chisholm Trail will join them.

"It definitely helps that we will not have to travel quite as much," Ladycats basketball coach Nikki Hyles said. "I also feel that the competition level should be comparable to what we have seen these past two years, so I think realignment was as good as we could have hoped for."

Bearcats baseball coach Chad Barry said of the new district, "It's very similar as the last one. It's a district that you to go play each and every game or you will get beat. First round of the playoffs becomes a much larger task. That is a tough first draw."

Barry was referencing District 6-5A, which will include Argyle, Colleyville Heritage, Denton, Denton Ryan, Grapevine, Birdville and Richland.

"We are excited about the next two years with our new UIL realignment that has us facing some new

opponents as well as keeping us paired with some of our long-time rivals with nearby schools," Aledo Athletic Director Brandy Belk said. "We are also thankful that both football and volleyball/basketball districts include schools that are closer to us distance-wise, meaning less late-night travel for our student-athletes and coaches.

"I look forward to seeing our student-athletes compete at the highest level over the next two years."

To continue reading visit: <http://www.community-news.com/stories/aledo-placed-with-several-new-teams,71245> or scan QR code



BEARCATS

from page 8

recalled after the game. "I wanted the last shot. I brought it up the middle and Jack had a screen. I saw [the Granbury player] was cheating. I just made a move, Jack closed him off, and gave me a perfect shot. He couldn't have done his job any better for me to get a wide-open, game-winning shot."

Aledo started off fast in the first quarter, utilizing ball movement to get the Pirate defense out of position. Jackson Todd put the Bearcats on the board with an early three-point bucket right in front of the visitor's bench. That shot set the tone for Aledo's offense in the first half as they jumped out to a 14-9 lead after one quarter, and a 22-15 lead at halftime.

In the second half Granbury began to find their way. Aided by the Bearcats struggling to keep possession of the basketball, while simultaneously becoming foul prone, the Pirates cut the lead to 35-30 at the end of the third.

With Owen Peterson already in foul trouble before the end of the third, Jackson Todd quickly found himself in foul trouble as well early in the fourth quarter. To make matters worse, Granbury found their rhythm as Daylon Webb tied the game at 37-37 with 5:51 remaining following a huge three-pointer near his bench.

A back-and-forth battle ensued until Todd fouled out with just a minute left on the clock as Aledo led 44-42. Kensington Colston forced a turnover before tying the game up at 44-all with a layup at

the other end of the floor leading to the dramatic finish moments later.

Aledo will host Wichita Falls Rider in their final home game of the season as they celebrate Senior Night on Friday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 pm. They close out the regular season on the road against Northwest on Tuesday, Feb. 13, as they take on the Texans at 7:30 p.m.

If the Bearcats remain the No. 4 seed they will likely face District 6-5A top seed Fort Worth Arlington Heights in bi-district. If they move up to third they would likely face Fort Worth Southwest or Everman.

Bearcats vs. Granbury – Jan. 23

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|---|----|----|---|----|
| Aledo | 14 | 8 | 13 | 11 | - | 46 |
| Granbury | 9 | 6 | 15 | 14 | - | 44 |

Aledo scoring: Joaquin Pacheco 14, Jack Sawyer 12, Jackson Todd 10, Owen Peterson 6, Cohen Christie 4.



DISTRICT

from page 8

Also qualifying for the Ladycats are Baillie Sessom, third in 185; Avery Kernan, fourth in 107; and Rilei Blankenship, fourth in 132.

Joining Bohn at regionals for the Bearcats will be Bryce Vonasek, third in 215; Kyle Scharlow, fourth in 150; and Samuel Belyeu, fourth in 165.

Regional alternates for the Bearcats after fifth-place finishes are Oliver Tatro, 126; Brady Powell, 190; and Cooper Cyphers, 285. Noah Chasteen placed sixth in 120.

While the Ladycats had no regional alternates, placing sixth in their respective weight classes were Lillian Carruthers, 100; Arianne Mathias, 138; and Margaret Schabel, 145.

"We faced a tough district this year and my kids battled hard. The biggest take away I have is that every wrestler improved from where they finished last year in district," coach Austin Stockon said. "We head to [Canyon] this week to face one of the hardest regions in

the state, but I am excited to see my kids rise to the challenge."

District 4-5A Wrestling Tournament

Aledo results

Top four in each weight class qualified for regionals

Girls

Team finish: sixth.
Top individual finishes (season record in parentheses)
100 pounds: Lillian Carruthers (10-8), sixth, scored 9 team points.
107: Avery Kernan (14-7), fourth, 16 team points. Won by fall in 38 seconds, lost by fall in 1:55, won by fall in 1:28, lost by fall in 2:38, won fourth-place match by fall in 1:55.
126: Kyra Wright (11-4), second, 20 team points. Won by fall in 1:32, won 7-2 decision, lost by fall in 44 seconds in championship match to Zoe Bennett (40-2) from Lubbock Cooper.
132: Rilei Blankenship (9-13), fourth, 13 team points. Lost by fall in 1:16, won by fall in 1:36, won by forfeit, lost by fall in 1:44, won fourth-place match by fall in 2:35.
138: Arianne Mathias (17-14), sixth, 9 team points.
145: Margaret Schabel (2-7), sixth, 6 team points.
185: Baillie Sessom (14-2), third, 16

team points. Won by fall in 20 seconds, lost by fall in 1:09, won by fall in 36 seconds, won 5-0 decision in third-place match.

Boys

113: Brice Bohn (24-9), second, 20 team points. Won by fall in 4:46, won 5-4 decision, lost by fall in 3:31 in championship match.
120: Noah Chasteen (7-7), sixth, 10 team points.
126: Oliver Tatro (8-8), fifth, 14 team points.
150: Kyle Scharlow (13-12), fourth, 13 team points. Won 11-2 major decision, lost 7-0 decision, won 3-0 decision, lost 9-6 decision, won by no contest in fourth-place match.
165: Samuel Belyeu (24-10), fourth, 17 team points. Lost by injury default, won by fall in 45 seconds, won by fall in 4:18, won by fall in 2:59, lost 7-3 decision, won by no contest in fourth-place match.
175: Randy Dixon (14-17) 4 team points.
190: Brady Powell (8-7), fifth, 12 team points.
215: Bryce Vonasek (27-10), third, 24 team points. Won by fall in 1:44, lost by fall in 4:35, won by fall in 1:27, won by fall in 50 seconds, won by injury default, won by fall in 43 seconds in third-place match.
285: Cooper Cyphers (4-4), fifth, 13 team points.



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SOCCKER

Weimer earns hat trick in Ladycats win

Bearcats fall

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Judging by the way the pre-season schedule played out, the results of the first three matches of Aledo's District 5-5A soccer schedule are surprising.

After going 3-4-1 in their pre-district schedule, the Ladycats sit at 1-1-1 in district play, coming off their best performance of the season on Friday, Feb. 2, in which freshman Allyson Weimer earned her first varsity hat trick of her career in the 3-0 shutout of Saginaw.

Meanwhile, the Bearcats have entered district play riding the struggle bus. After going undefeated in the pre-district, Aledo's varsity boys team finds themselves in unfamiliar territory. Winless in their first three matches, the Bearcats (9-2-3, 0-2-1 in district) fell to Saginaw 5-2 on Friday.

While Weimer did all the scoring for the Ladycats in the first match of the evening, what the score sheet doesn't reflect is the complete domination by Aledo for all 80 minutes. Up front, the Ladycat offensive attack kept the Saginaw keeper busy for the entire match.

Six Ladycats combined to put a dozen shots on goal through the match. Weimer put four shots on goal, scoring three times. Emaree Gibson took three shots at the net. Georgia Zirbser took a pair of shots of her own. Emery Thompson, Hailey Vandiver, and Ainsley Elmore all got a shot off during the match, as well.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Freshman Trent Newton scores a goal with a header off a free kick during the Bearcats' district match against Saginaw on Friday, Feb. 2.

Saginaw sinks Bearcats

The Rough Riders benefited greatly from the return of Mathy Tampwo in their matchup against the hosting Bearcats. Tampwo scored the first goal for Saginaw on a penalty kick less than five minutes into the first half after being taken down with an errant tackle inside the penalty area.

Just over 10 minutes later Tampwo scored his second goal of the match putting Aledo in an early 2-0 hole they were unable to climb out of.

Cole Crawford put the Bearcats on the board with 19:32 left in the first half, scoring off a free kick by Austin Randriamahefa, cutting the lead to 2-1 in favor of Saginaw.

With just 13 seconds remaining in the first half, Ben Martinez scored for the Rough Riders to give

the visiting team a 3-1 advantage at the break.

Trent Newton scored the second goal of the match for the Bearcats off a header to make it a 3-2 game with 17:39 remaining.

However, just as quickly as Aledo appeared to gather some momentum, Saginaw snatched it away with a pair of goals just 30 seconds apart, including the third of the match for Tampwo completing the hat trick in his return.

On to Brewer

After having their bye on Tuesday, Feb. 6, Aledo's soccer teams will head to Brewer on Friday, Feb. 9, to take on the Bears in a District 5-5A meeting. Brewer leads both the boys and girls districts. The Ladycats will take the pitch first at 5:30 p.m. with the boys match to follow at 7:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Top-ranked Coyotes sweep Lamar

Aledo's Mazon stands out

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

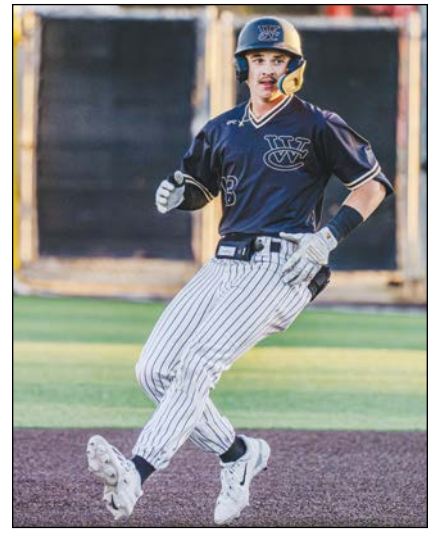
The Coyotes of Weatherford College advanced their record to 5-1 early in the baseball season following a decisive sweep of Lamar Community College over the weekend.

On Friday, Feb. 2, WC blanked the Runnin' Lopes in a twin bill, 6-0 and 30-0, the most runs ever in a game for the Coyotes. On Saturday, Feb. 3, the Runnin' Lopes offered more in the way of competition, but were still no match for the Coyotes, as WC devoured Lamar 16-2 and 9-6 in the double-header.

Aledo's Trace Mazon and Brock-native Tyler Moody represented Parker County well in the series. Moody went 3-for-8 with a hit, five runs batted in, three runs scored, three stolen bases, and six walks. Mazon went 7-for-15 at the plate over the weekend. The former Bearcat shortstop turned Coyotes third baseman scored seven runs, drove in another 13 for WC, hit a pair of doubles, walked twice, and stole a bag.

Mazon played a crucial role in the Coyotes 9-6 win over Lamar on Saturday's series finale. After a pair of early long balls put the Runnin' Lopes up 3-0 heading into the bottom of the third, Mazon drove in the opening run for WC with a sacrifice ground out to the right side of the infield.

Later in the game with the Coyotes up 5-3 heading into the bottom of the seventh, Mazon led Weatherford College's offense to put the game out of reach. With a pair of Coyotes occupying the bases, Mazon hit a deep fly



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's Trace Mazon pulls into second base with a two-run double in the bottom of the seventh inning as Weatherford College went on to beat Lamar, 9-6, on Saturday, Feb. 3.

to center field that dropped in beyond the grasp of Lamar's center fielder. The Coyotes raced around the bases as Mazon pulled up to second base with a stand-up double. He advanced to third base on a wild pitch before scoring easily on a single moments later.

Weatherford College wasted no time putting the Runnin' Lopes behind in the first three games of the four-game set. The Coyotes scored in the bottom of the first inning in each of the first three games, providing their pitching and defense an opportunity to play from ahead. The WC pitching staff fared remarkably well in those first three games, as they retired a combined 32 Runnin' Lopes via strikeout.

To continue reading visit: <https://www.community-news.com/stories/top-ranked-coyotes-sweep-lamar:7177>

GOAL!!!

Good Luck District 5-5A Play



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