

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

Bearcat Dance program wraps up strong season



PHOTO COURTESY EMILY ROBISON

The Bearcat Dance Team wrapped up a successful season recently and the program looks solid going forward.

By John English
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcat Dance program wrapped up its season with a bang last month, and coach Emily Robison said, by all indications, the future is bright indeed.

The varsity team competed in the Marching Auxiliaries of America (MA) Dance competition in late

February at Birdville High School, where it took first place in Hip Hop, and second place in the Jazz, Contemporary and Pom categories.

Robison said it was a great effort from her varsity team and for the 2023-24 campaign as a whole.

"The varsity dance team performed extremely well this competition season," Robison said. "We

were up against some very strong teams, such as the Birdville High School officers, Colleyville officers and team, and Midlothian team.

"Our placement for our team routines surpassed my expectations, especially receiving seventh place team overall out of the entire competition (at Birdville). Overalls are

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WILLOW PARK

Council approves plat for skating rink

Receives clean audit

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The next step to Willow Park getting a roller skating rink was approved by the city council at its meeting on Tuesday, March 12. They voted to approve the plat for just over 31 acres in the Haney Complex Addition.

Plans are to build a roller skating rink behind Fortified Fitness Gym, which is located at 9744 E. Bankhead Hwy.

The facility is expected to be named Retro Rink. Owner Jayme Haney said they are awaiting final permits to start construction. The property was annexed into the City of Willow Park on Jan. 9.

She said plans are for a 32,000 square foot facility with a wooden rink floor that will fit 350 skaters, along with six private party rooms - which will glow and have retractable walls to make the room larger if needed. They also plan to have an arcade with 40 video games and a full snack bar.

There will also be a toddler zone for parents with older children who skate and little ones who don't.

Hayne noted that, along with bringing another form of entertainment to the area, it will also provide another healthy option - for youngsters and adults.

"Roller skating is not only a fun social activity, it is extremely good for you. It's easy on the joints and you burn up to 600 calories an hour skating," she said. "The Retro Rink is bringing it big to Parker County.

"No more driving to the big cities for some fun and needed space for parties."

The nearest roller skating rinks to Parker County are Rollerland West in Fort Worth and Silver Wheel Skating Center in White Settlement, both about 10 miles from Willow Park.

Audit approved

In other business, the council approved acceptance of the annual audit by the CPA firm of Snow, Garrett and Williams, CPA. This is for fiscal activities from Oct. 1, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2023.

Snow, Garrett and Williams Senior Manager Reba Long told the council they were given a clean slate, including no internal control findings and no

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WEATHERFORD

New WPD officers sworn in

Clean-up event scheduled

By Jolee Skinner
Contributing Writer

Amy Borders, Director of Communications and Marketing for the City of Weatherford, announced that the Weatherford Police Department (WPD) swore in two new officers on Feb. 22.

Borders' announcement came at the Feb. 27 meeting of the Weatherford City Council.

Officers Trace Camp and Antonio Camacho were sworn in to the WPD after transferring from the Weatherford Lateral Program. Both men are bringing to the department three and a half years of experience as officers.

According to the Weatherford Police Department Facebook page, "Being able to hire officers with experience adds depth to our force and allows these new-to-us officers to be integrated into our family quicker than having to start from scratch."

Borders also announced the LOVE Weatherford April Clean-Up Event. The event is a massive spring cleaning happening the entire month of April. LOVE Weatherford is hosting and is encouraging other local organizations to sign up.

From sports teams, churches, business and scout groups, everyone is encouraged to help clean up within the city limits. Each organization can pick their date and time to pick up trash. LOVE Weatherford will supply each group with proper cleaning tools.

LOVE Weatherford is a non-profit charity organization located in Weatherford. For more information on the event, visit LoveWeatherford.org.

Other events announced at the city council meeting were Historic Hustle 5K on March 9, Second Saturday Downtown Market on March 9 on York Avenue, and Spring Fling at Chandor Gardens on March 16.

For more information about all these upcoming events in Weatherford, visit ExperinceWeatherford.com.



MELISSA WINN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford ISD Board members met recently for a work session on how to address the district's facility needs.

WEATHERFORD ISD

Work session yields short-term, long-term goals

By Melissa Winn
The Community News

Benjamin Franklin famously said, "If you fail to plan, you're planning to fail."

As a proponent of an educated public, Franklin would no doubt have been pleased to know Weatherford ISD was following his profound advice.

A work session March 4 helped trustees narrow down the district's biggest needs regarding its facilities and strategize about the

best ways to make those improvements happen with an unknown budget looming.

"We have to be cognizant of what dollars could be coming from the [State of Texas] and what school funding looks like," said Superintendent Dr. Beau Rees. "At this point, we just really don't know."

Rees was referring to the much-debated topic of school funding that has been on the minds of the education community since

September when state-funded vouchers for private school became a possibility.

Highlighting several campuses from the onset that all needed HVAC/mechanical work and roofing, Rees and board president Mike Guest said the best way to attack the rest of the wish list would be to identify short-term, intermediate and long-term projects.

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Obituaries

Weldon Lee Turner

Weldon Lee Turner, 79, passed away on Saturday, March 9, 2024 in Weatherford.

Weldon was born on January 15, 1945 to Stuart and Vonda Turner in Fort Worth. He grew up in White Settlement, moving to Willow Park just before his ninth-grade year and graduating from Aledo High School in 1963. He attended Weatherford College before completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Math from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1967, and a Master of Education from North Texas State University in 1978.

Weldon met Doris Heady at Aledo First Baptist Church. He fell in love with her blue eyes while in high school and knew she would be his future. They married on April 8, 1966 in Aledo, and he started teaching math in Aledo ISD in the fall of 1967. They were soon blessed with two daughters, Andrea and Carmen.

Weldon went on to become the principal of Aledo Middle School until 1986. He moved to Peaster ISD as high school principal, retiring in



Weldon Turner

2003 after 36 years in public schools. Even in retirement, he continued to mentor new teachers as a supervisor for ECAP, a teacher certification program.

Weldon loved cars, woodworking, whistling, and singing. His family and his faith were most important to him. He was an active member of Grace Baptist Church, Fort Worth, serving as a Deacon and Sunday School teacher, as well as singing in the choir.

Weldon is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Marcus Turner.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Doris; daughters, Andrea Hutchison (Chris), and Carmen West (Derek); four grandchildren, Carter and Keaton Hutchison, and Cole and Caroline West; sister, Gwen Taylor (Ron); and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, March 14, at Grace Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Interment was in Aledo Brown Cemetery.

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COUNCIL

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compliance findings. This brought a smile to every member of the council, Mayor Doyle Moss and City Manager Bryan Grimes.

“I want to thank Candy Scott (Willow Park Chief Financial Officer) and Jake Weber (Certified Public Accountant) for working with the auditors,” Grimes said. “This is another clean audit for the city of Willow Park.”

Property purchase

After returning from executive session, the council approved the purchase of a small piece of land, just under a couple acres, at 205 Canyon Ct. The empty lot is adjacent to the water treatment plant and allows for expansion of it should the need arise.

“The idea is if we ever need to expand those facilities, it is an ideal location,” Grimes said.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting is set for 6 p.m. on March 27. Council meets at Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Tr. in Willow Park.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

B&S Southern Sign Service crew members hoist a new digital sign into place at Aledo First Financial Bank.

WISD

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Maintenance

Rees said the administration would gather the information on the roofing that is still within warranty and the capital plans on upgrading the HVAC/mechanical units based on campus needs, those that break down most often, cost, etc., and bring it to the board at a future meeting. Guest added that to the short-term list.

Member Greg Shaw then asked about the need for some routine maintenance items he noticed at various campuses and where that falls within the budget. Lori Boswell, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, said those are tasks usually done during

summer when there aren't as many students around and at other times throughout the year.

“The priority is definitely for schools to look good on the outside and the inside,” Rees added. “Facelift things need to happen, and we'll put the figures together based on the annual schedule.”

Short-term list

Other short-term items identified were building a new agricultural barn; turning the old auto building into a welding facility; purchasing trucks, passenger vans and smaller vehicles for student transportation to events; and upgrading the visitor side of Kangaroo Stadium to add a windscreen, fencing and ADA-compliant bleachers. The latter,

Rees said, had recently been priced and would cost between \$1 million to \$2 million and would affect graduation.

“With a lead time of nine months, there simply wouldn't be enough time between the end of football season and graduation to get it done,” he said, adding that the visitor side is a “eye sore” and is worthy to address.

Long-term list

The long-term list included the possibility of a new elementary school on the north side of Weatherford near Causbie Road; remodeling of the P-Tech building; reality of turning Crockett into a daycare; a transportation, central receiving and maintenance hub

by the existing baseball field near Kangaroo Stadium; and building a locker room/band area.

Funding

The biggest discussion was around the funding of all these items. Rees pointed out that WISD hasn't called for a bond in nine years – a \$79.5 million one that is being paid off this year.

“No-one likes the ‘B’ word but there is only so much we can do internally,” he admitted.

While Weatherford is “better off” than other districts because of a healthy fund balance, some discussion on what would happen if the state came after the money to help fund vouchers was entertained by the trustees.

“If we keep building up this treasure chest [and not using it], that doesn't benefit our kids,” Shaw said. “It's a very real possibility.”

Guest acknowledged that but added that the reason other districts are in trouble is because they spent the money they had in reserves and now have no backup plan.

Rees said that more information would be brought to trustees in the coming months at future board meetings with the hopes that the funding vehicle is clearer by then.

The board meets again March 25 for a regularly scheduled monthly meeting, delayed a week due to spring break.



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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

Massive wildfires ignited by power lines



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Two wildfires that burned more than 1 million acres in the Panhandle were caused by downed power lines, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Juan Rodriguez, with the service, told the *Texas Standard* that its law enforcement investigators had concluded their probe into the source of the Smokehouse Creek and Windy Deuce fires.

"In this case, we saw winds that were over 60 and 70 miles an hour. And so, when the winds are doing that, driving down the roadways, you can just see power lines just bouncing up and down," Rodriguez said. "It's bound to cause one of these power lines to fail or something like that. So, you know, one of them or some of them may have fallen or just got out just due to the sheer wind."

Xcel Energy last Thursday issued a statement acknowledging that its facilities "appear to have been involved in an ignition of the Smokehouse Creek fire."

The company is urging people who lost property or livestock during the fires to submit a claim to the company.

As of Sunday, the Smokehouse Creek fire was 87% contained, while the Windy Deuce fire was 92% contained.

Some incumbents lose in primary

At least nine Texas House incumbents targeted by Gov. Greg Abbott and others lost bids for reelection in the March primary, while eight more are headed to runoffs, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

In addition, three sitting judges on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals lost their races after Attorney General Ken Paxton and former President Donald Trump endorsed their opponents.

Abbott spent more than \$6 million to target incumbents who blocked his school choice proposal last year.

"He's made it clear that if you cross him, you're going to have to fight for your reelection," Austin-based lobbyist and political consultant Bill Miller said. "For some people, that's like, 'Bring it on.' For others, it means, 'I quit.'"

House Speaker Dade Phelan faces a runoff without support from Abbott, who thus far has remained neutral in that race. Paxton and Trump backed his

opponent, David Covey, after the House voted to impeach Paxton on corruption charges. The Senate ultimately acquitted Paxton.

Phelan trailed Covey in the March primary and called the upcoming runoff a battle for the "soul" of the Southeast Texas district.

"In the next couple of months, the deceit and vitriol we've witnessed from my opponent and his dark money allies is poised to escalate to even greater heights," he said in a statement.

The Texas runoff election for races where no candidate exceeded 50% is on May 28. Early voting begins on May 20 and ends on May 24.

Charter school network placed under conservatorship

The state's largest charter school network has been placed under conservatorship by the Texas Education Agency following a three-year investigation into its spending practices, the *Texas Tribune* reported. The arrangement is part of a settlement agreement between TEA and IDEA Public Schools, which has 143 campuses.

During the investigation, TEA learned IDEA officials used taxpayer dollars to purchase luxury driver services and spent \$15 million to lease a private jet.

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Guest Column

"I'll Wear No Man's Collar"

-Davy Crockett



Dr. Glenn Rogers
glenn.rogers@house.texas.gov

First, I want to thank my supporters, those who voted for me and those who supported me prayerfully, financially, and in so many other ways. It has been the greatest honor to serve this district.

The corruption that exists at the highest level of Texas state government would have made Governor "Pa" Ferguson blush.

Governor Greg Abbott has defiled the Office of Governor by creating and repeating blatant lies about me and my House colleagues, those who took a stand for our public schools. I stood by the Governor on all his legislative priorities but just one, school vouchers. For just one disagreement, and for a \$6 million check from Jeff Yass, a Pennsylvania TikTok investor, and voucher vendor, Abbott went scorched earth against rural Texas and the Representatives who did their jobs-representing their districts.

My tenure in the Texas House included two general sessions, seven special sessions, redistricting, Covid, winter storm Uri, a Democrat quorum break, expulsion of a House member, and the impeachment of Ken Paxton. It also includes a litany of conservative victories that made Texas safer, reigned in out-of-control government bureaucracy, lessened what had become a crushing tax burden on our families and businesses, and fostered economic growth.

I am not a good politician. I am just a Texas rancher who wanted to make a difference in my community. Who knew this simple mission would have resulted in three brutal campaigns?

Throughout my three campaigns, because of my unwillingness to be compliant with the two billionaire, "Christian" Nationalist, power brokers that run this state, I have been unmercifully slandered through the politics of unwarranted personal destruction on social media, radio, post mail, streaming sites, and cable television.

In my first race the opposition was the Wilks, Tim Dunn, Empower Texans, and the entire enterprise of dozens of PACs and "non-profits" they financed. The race ended in a hard fought Covid-delayed runoff victory against Farris Wilks' son-in-law.

In my second race, my opposition was Wilks and Dunn, Empower Texans (rebranded to Defend Texas Liberty), and the voucher lobby, including the American Federation for Children and the School Freedom Fund (based in Virginia). In that race, we dealt with a runoff and an expensive, unnecessary recount.

In my third race the opposition was all the above, but now included a rebranded Defend Texas Liberty (Texans United for a Conservative Majority), vastly greater money from the Voucher lobby, and Governor Greg Abbott.

This time the millions of dollars spent spreading lies about my record and the non-stop false impugning of my integrity were

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Guest Column

Sunshine Week: Taking a stand against public information blackouts



Kelley Shannon
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Shining light on our government through public information helps us ask questions of elected officials - and hold them accountable.

Sunshine Week, taking place March 10-16, recognizes the importance of open government and educates Americans about their right to public information. It's not an abstract notion. It's about what's happening in the real world.

You may be checking on the safety of roads and bridges in your community. Or wanting to know how your school board is spending taxpayer money. Perhaps there's concern about pollution or water quality in your neighborhood.

In each of these scenarios, the Texas Public Information Act, one of our state's main government transparency laws, allows us to request government records, get answers and demand action. The act presumes records are open unless there's a specific exemption in the law. This places power in the hands of the people, and rightly so.

What can block the way, though, is a government ignoring or stalling an information request, which defies the law's mandate to provide records

"promptly," meaning as soon as possible "without delay."

Government's failure to respond results in an information blackout.

In most cases, a government agency in Texas cannot decide on its own to withhold records and must ask permission to do so from the attorney general's office, which rules on whether the law allows it.

Unfortunately, it's becoming more common for governments to abuse or overuse the attorney general ruling process; to charge outrageously high prices for producing documents; or to simply flout the public records law.

Since the May 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School, the Uvalde Leader-News has made multiple records requests related to the tragedy. Among other roadblocks it has encountered,

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Idle American

Life's Ups and Downs



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

To most mortals--mere or otherwise--the thought of jumping rope 30,660,000 times causes hair to stand on end, eyes to cross and regiments to crumble.

Not so to a preacher man named Van Minter, whose morning routine is vital to each day.

He has kept this commitment for almost 12,800 days, having begun his 36th year on "leap year," February 29. He made the pledge to himself upon completing his collegiate basketball career in 1989.

"I remember the time and place clearly," he said. "After my final game, I realized that I needed a plan to stay in shape without playing basketball."

Those who know him best have long regarded him to be "the man with a plan."

Thus his routine of jumping rope 2,400 times daily--mostly in his garage, but sometimes on hotel rooftops and in parking garages--began, and he hasn't missed a single day.

Claiming that he never feels quite right until after his 30-minute workout, Rev. Minter brushes his teeth, dons his size 14 training shoes and amps up his favorite 80s music for his "ups and downs."

His eyes are focused on 24 signs painted on his garage wall, numbered one through twenty-four. Silently, he counts to 100 while staring at each sign, mentally counting jumps he makes at 150-170 spins per minute. Over the years, his wife, Leslie, and three daughters--Holli, Hallee and Hattie--have "let him be" during his workout. Only emergency messages interrupt.

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ROGERS

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just too much to overcome. The real losers in this race are:

- 1) Texas Public Schools;
- 2) Rural Texas; and
- 3) Representative Government.

This morning, I have no regrets. I believe in the words of Sam Houston, "Do right and risk the consequences."

History will prove Ken Paxton is a corrupt, sophisticated criminal. History will prove vouchers are simply an expensive entitlement

program for the wealthy and a get rich scheme for voucher vendors. History will prove Governor Greg Abbott is a liar.

History will prove that our current state government is the most corrupt ever and is "bought" by a few radical dominionist billionaires seeking to destroy public education, privatize our public schools, and create a theocracy that is both un-American and un-Texan.

May God Save Texas!



IDLE

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"When I began, I prayed to be able to jump rope daily for at least 40 years, and by God's grace, I'm getting close," said the pastor whose intent in college and seminary was to train to be a youth minister, a post he held for 22 years. Associated with Lake Ridge Bible Church in Mesquite for almost 21 years, he is a lead pastor there now, commonly preaching twice on Sundays.



Van Minter

His wife is likewise committed to fitness, has reached admirable heights with Optavia, a wellness program.

"Van has jumped rope through college, our honeymoon and helping guide three daughters through life, so why should he stop jumping now? It has worked so far." Leslie laughed.

Point taken.

Van has heard all the jokes and bromides about his height. He towers to 6'8", weighing around 250 pounds since college.

From his youth in Saudi Arabia, during his Blinn Jr. College/HPU days and since, he's dealt with all the "how-the-weather-up-there" questions.

I am reminded of a "seven-foot-plus" encountered at a vacation spot in Arizona. Dressed in western

attire, he, too, was good-natured about constant height references. "When folks ask me if I play basketball, I ask them if they play miniature golf," he joked.

Rev. Minter has "tips" for anyone with questions about Christianity and rope-jumping.

He identifies with country music artist Roy Clark's sentiments in his song "Thank God and Greyhound You're Gone." He, too, is thankful to God, but his sadness concerns Nike's decision to leave the custom jump rope market. Early on, Van's ordinary ropes were reduced to shreds in about three weeks. Thankfully, his "Nikes"--used for some three decades--have held up for about 18 months each.

"Luckily, I've got eight of 'em stashed away," he says....

His health is excellent, and most hospital visits are made to see members of his flock.

He has landed there as a patient three times, however, always for kidney stones that have troubled him 30 times to date. "My hospital stays have been over-nighters," he remarked, "So I have been able to get home in time to jump rope."

His resolve is remarkable, and his integrity and commitment have been evident since I met him during my presidency at Howard Payne upon his arrival there in 1988. He was a "class act" student, always focused on Christian service. That he is beloved by his church and all who know him is no surprise. Surely his name should appear in the Guinness World Records.

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, author and speaker, writes weekly. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

POWER

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IDEA's schools serve about 80,000 students in grades K-12. While independently run, they are funded with state money, totaling about \$821 million in the current school year.

Under the arrangement, conservators have the authority to oversee and direct all district actions, though they will not fully take over governing the district.

IDEA said in a statement that it's "pleased to have reached a settlement agreement ... to resolve compliance issues our organization self-reported to regulators after an internal investigation in 2021."

TPWD approves land swap with SpaceX

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission last week voted unanimously to swap 43 acres of state park to SpaceX in exchange for nearly 500 acres of privately-owned land near Port Isabel, the *Texas Standard* reported. The decision came despite hearing from Rio Grande Valley residents who opposed the swap.

The Boca Chica State Park land sought by SpaceX, owned by Elon

Musk, is spread around the company's launch facilities. It contains some of the most sensitive habitats in the world, particularly for migrating shorebirds.

SpaceX has not purchased the 477 acres yet. TPWD will now conduct an environmental assessment of the land, which will include a 30-day comment period.

Dozens of Rio Grande Valley residents drove to Austin to attend the hearing and voice opposition. They questioned including why the hearing wasn't held in Brownsville.

"The process, the notice and this public meeting seems to have been intended to impede participation by the public, especially those who would be most impacted by the decision," Marisa Perales, an environmental justice attorney based in Austin, told commissioners.

Counties brace for massive traffic ahead of eclipse

Hundreds of thousands of tourists are expected to flock to the Hill Country and other small towns in the prime viewing path of a rare solar eclipse on April 8. Some counties have already issued emergency declarations to help them prepare and respond to an

expected strain on their infrastructure, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

Bell and Kerr counties have already issued emergency declarations, and San Saba County is expected to do so as well. Hill Country officials are urging residents to stay home, avoid driving, refill prescriptions, buy groceries and fuel vehicles several days before the eclipse.

Some counties expect their population to double or even triple as folks flock to Texas to glimpse the rare phenomenon.

When the moon passes between the sun and Earth, the eclipse will result in total darkness for more than four minutes in areas in the path of totality. It will enter the state southwest of Uvalde at 12:10 p.m. and exit at 3:06 p.m. north of Texarkana.

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.



BLACKOUTS

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the newspaper has yet to receive the total compensation amounts paid to Uvalde school district administrators who were terminated or resigned after the shooting.

Other examples abound. A city in the Rio Grande Valley never replied to repeated requests for city manager applications until The Monitor newspaper reported the non-responsiveness. City officials finally said there weren't any applications. In San Antonio, bird enthusiasts complain they have not received all the city records they requested related to tactics used to remove migratory birds from a local park.

Craig Garnett, the Leader-News publisher, wrote in one of his columns that government entities have "learned to play word games with open records

requests, to assert that they have no such records in their possession or simply lie about what they have turned over." He added: "They do so because there are absolutely no consequences for them to do otherwise."

The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas and other members of the diverse Texas Sunshine Coalition have urged the state Legislature to close loopholes in the Public Information Act and add enforcement measures to the law.

Although many public officials understand they are the custodians of the people's records and are committed to carrying out the letter and spirit of the Public Information Act, others must be pushed in that direction.

The Texas Public Information Act, now 50 years old, states that the act shall be construed in favor of granting a request for information and that "government is the servant and not the master of the people."

Without the free flow of information, the people are in the dark. We need plenty of sunlight to ensure our government is answerable to us.

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit organization based in Austin that advocates for open government and free speech.

LETTERS POLICY

The Community News welcomes letters from readers on topics of local interest. Letters should be signed and should be limited to approximately 300 words. Please include a telephone number or other contact information so the identity of the letter writer can be verified. Send letters to The Community News, P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008 or e-mail to news@community-news.com.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Love doesn't end with loss

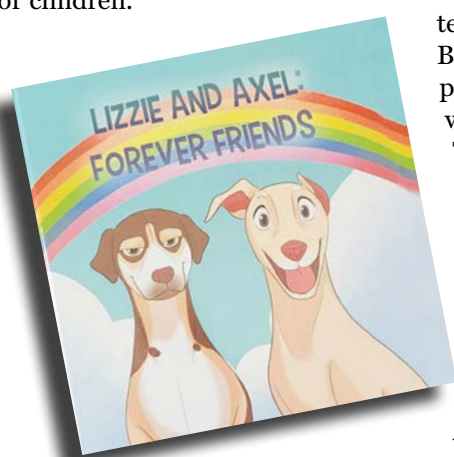
Author shares story of furry companions

By Christopher Amos

The Community News

Emotions after losing a pet are often difficult to navigate, especially in a child's world. For young ones, coping with grief from a pet dying is not only a new and difficult experience, but one that has unanswered questions.

A former Aledo student has experienced the journey from loss and grief to acceptance and comfort, and shares her insight through the eyes of her pets in a new children's book. Chyanne Brake, a 2013 AHS graduate, explained that her first book, *Lizzie and Axel, Forever Friends*, is a story adults can use as a preparation and teaching tool for children.



Parents have said they also find reflection and comfort with the book's message.

Brake, who lives in Gatesville as she finishes her masters degree in emergency management and disaster response, said her love of pets and her compassion as a paramedic helped shape the message in her book.

Coming to the rescue

Brake and her paramedic husband, Thomas Handke, adopted Lizzie and Axel from Second Chance Farm, a rescue shelter in Granbury dedicated to rehabilitating and rehoming pets with disabilities or injuries that make them unwanted by many would-be pet owners. The pair were a perfect "mismatch," Lizzie was born deaf and Axel was born blind, and the two became inseparable playmates and friends.

Lizzie had a quirky-cute character and funny facial expressions that Brake's friends loved, so she began posting public videos of the pup, which exploded in popularity on TikTok with more than 30 million views. However, the fun videos eventually came to an end when Lizzie became sick.

"We lost Lizzie last summer," Brake said. "She suddenly got sick, and after we lost her we decided to turn this into a book to help kids understand what to expect when pets pass away."

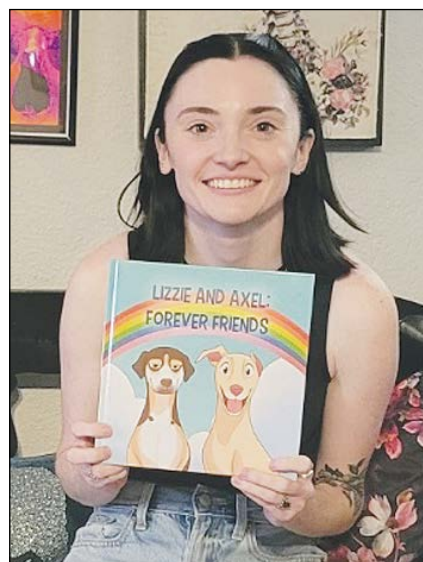


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHYANNE BRAKE

Chyanne Brake with her book *Lizzie and Axel: Forever Friends*.

The lovable characters, their friendship and the message they bring make the book popular.

"We have been getting a lot of feedback. There are parents that said their kids read it every single night," Brake said. "They love it. The cute dogs are in there, it is super colorful, and they love the story."

Adding to the family

A new rescue dog has joined Axel, and Brooks said they may release other books and expand the pup's message to include fire safety and other subjects she and her husband have experienced as paramedics.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHYANNE BRAKE

Chyanne Brake and her husband Thomas Handke with Lizzie and Axel who they rescued and adopted from Second Chance Farm in Granbury.

The book is dedicated to Lizzie and Axel and to the employees of the rescue shelter from which they came.

"May this book serve as a tribute to the incredible work of Second Chance Farm and a reminder that every animal deserves a chance to experience love, warmth and

companionship," the liner notes read.

Lizzie and Axel, Forever Friends can be purchased at sassy-sentiments.com/collections/childrens-book.

Brake said she returns to Parker County often and is planning to do book signing events in the future.

DANCE

from page one

out of all teams at the competition regardless of size or class, so I was incredibly impressed with the varsity team."

Getting a boost

Robison said that effort gave the program a boost moving forward.

"I would say this year's team and placements have been one of the best our team has had," Robison said. "This year we were up against a lot of strong dance teams, and we held our own. I was super impressed

and happy at our first competition when the Varsity dance team beat Sachse High School and won Grand Champions for the Medium Select Team. In addition, we won second runner-up overall Select Team."

Varsity Head Dance Captain Grace Garrett reflected on the season as a whole with great pride and a sense of accomplishment.

"This year with the dance team has been such a success," Garrett said. "We have a great team of hard-working girls who support and uplift each other. Although the competition days were long and hard, they created so many

memories. All the early practices and long hours paid off."

Overall program payoff

It paid off for the subvarsity squads as well, as Robison said her younger teams also had strong showings in 2023-24 and made her optimistic for the coming years.

The Bearcat junior varsity team, for instance, finished out strong in 2024 at the American Dance/Drill Team (ADTS) Metroplex competition on Feb. 17 at Mansfield High School.

"They performed so well and received first runner-up Best in

Class in the JV team," Robison said. "Our JV program continues to grow and flourish, and with the addition of our middle school teams, our JV team will continue to thrive."

Junior varsity dancer Jaycie Carr was selected as the Solo Winner of the American Metroplex Spectacular competition.

Robison said it has been a privilege to watch the Aledo junior varsity and both middle school teams compete this year, and said that each team has "worked so hard."

The Aledo Dance coach said all of her teams continue to make

good progress and said much of that starts at the top.

"The development of the dance program in Aledo has come such a long way in a short amount of time, so I am extremely blessed to witness the greatness in our program," Robison said. "All of our coaches are dedicated, passionate educators who rise to any challenge to ensure our students and teams are successful."

Aledo and McAnally Middle School tryouts will run from March 25-28.



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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0010847001

APPLICATION. City of Aledo, P.O. Box 1, Aledo, Texas 76008, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010847001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0027120) to authorize an increase in the discharge of treated wastewater to a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 1,200,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 600 Barnwell Road, Aledo, in Parker County, Texas 76008. The discharge route is from the plant site to an unnamed tributary, thence to Clear Fork Trinity River Below Lake Weatherford. TCEQ received this application on January 11, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Aledo City Hall, Building B, outside the City Manager's Office, 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.61,32.686111&level=18>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Aledo at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Louis Gatica, Public Works Director, at 817-441-7016.

Issuance Date: March 4, 2024

TRACK AND FIELD

Bearcats win own relays, Ladycats second

Weather cuts meet short again

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

For a second consecutive week the weather cut short a track and field meet in which Aledo was competing. This time it was their own Bearcat Relays on Wednesday, March 6.

Still, it wasn't enough to keep the Bearcats from once again winning for an 18th straight regular-season meet. They almost doubled runner-up Northwest, scoring 171.6 points to the Texans' 91.5.

The Ladycats finished second, scoring 137 to 165 for the Lady Texans. They also got a school record in the shot put as Lauren St. Peters had a throw of 48 feet, 10 inches. St. Peters is seeking a third straight trip to state this season.

The matchups were a preview of what could lie ahead in the District 5-5A Meet, which will also be in Aledo on April 3-4.

"Ran good, times are starting to really drop, gained some depth with the basketball season being over, just have to get them in shape now," Bearcats coach Andrew Clark said. "Things are coming together for district."

While the win was convincing for his team, there was at least one canceled event that Clark said he wished could have been completed.

"I wish we could have run the 4x400. Northwest beat us last week at their home meet, I made



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lauren St. Peters set a school record in the shot put with a throw of 48 feet, 10 inches at the Bearcat Relays on Wednesday Mar. 6.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jack Fink placed second in the 3200 at the Bearcat Relays.

a few adjustments this week and really thought we could get them back on our home track," he said. "I guess we will have to wait until district to find out."

The Bearcats won the two relays that were run, the 4x100-meter and 4x200, beating runner-up (and district foe) Granbury in the former and Northwest in the latter.

As for his team's performance, Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said, "Girls did great - although we still have plenty of room for

improvement. All of the girls, varsity and JV, did a great job and competed well. There were many improvements made. We have to continue to work hard, improve, and prepare for district."

Following spring break, the Bearcats and Ladycats return to competition March 21 in Joshua.

Aledo Bearcat Relays March 6

Aledo, Weatherford results

Varsity Girls

Team scores: Aledo 165, second; Weatherford 78.5, third (Northwest won with 165).

Top individual finishes

Distances in meters

3200: 1. Remington Boone, Weatherford, 11:57.20; 2. Macayla Kopacz, Weatherford, 12:16.96, 3. Carley Couch, Aledo, 12:43.38; 6. Aubrey Connelly, Aledo, 13:12.42.

Turn to **TRACK**, page 12

BASEBALL

Bearcats go 1-3 in tourney

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

On the surface, there are two ways to look at the Aledo Bearcats' performance in this past weekend's Drew Medford Memorial Tournament. They dropped three of four games, or they were just a play or two away from going 3-1.

Aledo coach Chad Barry, however, summed it up in a single word, "inconsistent."

The tournament, played at various sites around Fort Worth, including these four games in Aledo, is named in memory of former Paschal pitcher Drew Medford, who died in a car accident in the summer of 2016, shortly after graduation. He had committed to play for TCU.

The tournament also features a scholarship given to a player on each team deemed to embody the characteristics of Medford, a drive to succeed, humility, empathy for others and leadership. From Aledo, senior Garrett Rester was chosen.

As for the contests in the tournament, they included a pitchers duel in a 1-0 loss to Hurst L.D. Bell, a 12-2 win over Fort Worth Nolan Catholic, a 9-8 loss to Prestonwood and a 5-1 loss to Weatherford.

The victory against Nolan Catholic was something of an anomaly. The Bearcats only managed a pair of hits, but capitalized on receiving 14 walks from Vikings pitching.

The opening day of the tournament on March 7 was rained out.

"Couldn't get little things done in the loss to L.D. Bell. We had

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 12

SOCCER

Ladycats win shootout, Bearcats cruise

By Jim Zimmermann
The Community News

In typical Texas weather conditions, one day it's 75 degrees the next it's 52 and raining, the Aledo soccer teams "weathered" the conditions Friday night and both teams left Azle with victories.

The Ladycats (9-7-3 overall, 6-3-2 in District 5-5A), in second place in district behind the Wichita Falls Rider Lady Raiders, outplayed the Lady Hornets (6-4-1 in district) for most of the game. Azle scored on the only kick they had in the entire game in the first half, a 43-yard free kick.

"The keeper misplayed the ball and the defender didn't follow

the run and they scored off the bounce," said Aledo coach Brian Johnson. The Ladycats outshot the Lady Hornets 9-1 and had nine corner kicks.

In the second half, Aledo's Reagan Tomlin picked a great time to score her first goal of the year as she tied the game at 1-1 and the match went to a shootout.

The Ladycats didn't need to take all five of their allotted shots in the shootout as they scored on their first four kicks and Azle could only score on one.

The Ladycats' next match will be March 19 against the Granbury Lady Pirates (2-8-1 in district) in Granbury. This match will help determine if they will play South Hills or Everman in the first round of the playoffs.

Bearcats get crucial win in race for playoffs

The Bearcats, (12-3-6 overall, 4-3-4 in District 5-5A), dominated the Azle Hornets, (0-11 in district) in a 5-0 important win to help their run for the playoffs.

"We played great! We held so much possession, Azle rarely touched the ball in the first half," Aledo coach Derek Vierling said excitedly.

The Bearcats are in fourth place in the league and the top three places, held by Northwest, (8-2-2), Brewer, (7-2-2), and Saginaw, (7-2-2) are secure in making the playoffs. Right behind Aledo is Wichita Falls Rider, (4-4-3), so the Bearcats need to beat Granbury, (2-8-1) on March 19 to keep themselves locked in fourth place and keep Rider out.

In case of a tie, the Bearcats are 1-0-1 against Rider. They tied 2-2 in Wichita Falls and won 5-3 in Aledo.

"After Austin scored the fourth goal less than a minute into the second half, we were able to play almost the entire time, so, it was a great team win" Vierling said.

Austin Randriamahefa scored two goals and had an assist, and Cole Crawford scored two goals. Brody Gill also scored a goal and had an assist.

Hunter Waugh led the defense, along with goalkeepers Deagan Dietz and Pierce Ling, who combined for the shutout.

The Bearcats will likely face either Arlington Heights or North Side in the first round of the playoffs.

POWERLIFTING

Bearcats compete at regionals

Staff Reports
The Community News

Raymond Howard lifted 1,490 pounds to finish 10th in the 275-pound division at the Texas High School Powerlifting Association Class 5A Region I Division I Championships in Abilene this past weekend.

Also for Aledo, Cory Tilley finished 11th in the 181 weight class, lifting 1,305 pounds. Alex Arano scratched in the 220 division.



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SUBVARSITY

Bearcat Relays

Aledo, Weatherford results

Staff Reports
The Community News

JV Girls

Team scores: Weatherford 120, second; Aledo 89.5, third (Northwest won with 128).

Top individual finishes

3200: 1. Kjersten Loy, Aledo, 13:01.11; 3. Madison Pulis, Weatherford, 13:23.89; 4. Sophia Frank, Aledo, 13:45.92.
4x100 relay: 2. Weatherford, 52.25; 5. Aledo, 54.31.
800: 2. Paige Blake, Weatherford, 2:35.62; 4. Cayleigh Madrid, Weatherford, 2:37.68; 5. Sadie Williams, Aledo 2:40.61; 6. Sofia White, Weatherford, 2:41.51.

100 hurdles: 2. Ivy Knox, Weatherford, 18.27; 4. Braylin Wiggins, Aledo, 19.31.

100: 1. Jazmin Sanchez, Weatherford, 13.73.

4x200 relay: 1. Weatherford, 1:50.91; 3. Aledo, 1:55.46.

400: 1. Eden Anderson, Aledo, 1:04.86; 3. Emma Davis, Aledo, 1:06.07; 5. Micheala Salinero, Weatherford, 1:08.40.

300 hurdles: 3. Knox, 52.80.

High jump: 2. Claire Connor, Weatherford, 4-10; 3. Kennedy Robert, Weatherford, 4-8.

Pole vault: 1. Austyn Johnson, Aledo, 10-0; 1. (tie) Kaitlyn Walker, Aledo, 10-0; 3. Kara Overstreet, Aledo, 9-0.

Long jump: 1. Loralai Lee, Weatherford, 15-7.50; 5. Taelynn Price, Aledo, 13-10.

Triple jump: 1. Morgan Estevez, Aledo, 31-3; 6. Jillian Moore, Aledo, 29-1.75.
Discus: 1. Jaclynn Gomez, Weatherford, 82-8;



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Omari Din-Mbuh placed second in shot put with a throw of 41-4 feet at the JV Bearcat Relays.

5. Kayle Fuller, Weatherford, 74-1; 6. Kyla Pierce, Aledo, 70-9.

Shot put: 5. Emma Thornton, Weatherford, 27-10; 6. Kailey Wright, Weatherford, 26-5.50.

JV Boys

Team scores: Aledo 135, first; Weatherford 85.5, third.

Top individual finishes

3200: 1. Tyler Connelly, Aledo, 10:43.11; 2. Bo Merrill, Aledo 10:44.30; 3. Gerardo Miranda, Weatherford, 10:47.77; 4. Tony Gorman, Weatherford, 11:07.78; 5. Ian Robbins, Aledo, 11:09.88.

4x100 relay: 2. Aledo, 44.62; 5. Weatherford, 45.66.

800: 2. Luis Sosa, Weatherford, 2:11.62; 3. Reed Murray, Aledo, 2:13.68; 5. Erick Ibarra, Weatherford, 2:15.74.

100 hurdles: 1. Xavier Craven, Weatherford, 17.38; 2. Taylor Lindsey, Weatherford, 17.43.

100: 2. Cash Martin, Aledo, 11.64; 3.

Bayne Martin, Aledo, 11.72.

4x200 relay: 2. Aledo, 1:34.90; 5. Weatherford, 1:37.62.

400: 4. Quinn Stankavich, Weatherford, 56.47.

300 hurdles: 1. Craven, 43.60; 3. Lindsey, 44.74; 5. Briley Perkins, Aledo, 45.28.

High jump: 2. Holt Fraiser, Aledo, 6-0; 5. Braxton Spencer, Weatherford, 5-10.

Pole vault: 1. Lukas Green, Aledo, 12-3; 2. Evan Murdock, Aledo, 11-6; 3. Landon Kusich, Aledo, 11-0.

Long jump: 3. Martin, 18-9.75; 6. Jaylen Powell-Willis, Aledo, 18-4.

Triple jump: 2. Powell-Willis, 39-2.25.

Discus: 2. Harrison McMillian, Weatherford, 113-4; 4. Grant Foreman, Aledo, 102-10; 5. Hudson Fay, Aledo, 102-3.

Shot put: 1. Keegan Jackson, Weatherford, 43-1.50; 2. Omari Din-Mbuh, Aledo, 41-4.

BASEBALL

Kangaroos go 5-0 in tourney

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Weatherford Kangaroos (12-3-1) won all five games they played in the Drew Medford Memorial Tournament this past weekend. The tournament is named after the former Fort Worth Paschal pitcher who died in a car accident in 2016.

Weatherford 6, Benbrook 0

Weatherford hitting leaders: Joel Gonzales 2 H, 2B, 3 RBI; Joel Cienega 2B, BB; Rhys Vindiola 2B, RBI. Weatherford pitching: Caiden Hubbard 2 IP, 1 H, 5 K, 1 BB.

Weatherford 9, Fort Worth Country Day 2

Weatherford hitting leaders: Jett Vindiola 2 H, 2B, BB, RBI; Gonzales 2B, RBI; Jarrett Don Carlos 2B, RBI; Colton McClure HR, BB, 2 RBI. Weatherford pitching: CJ Thornton (W) 5.1 IP, 1 H, 1 ER, 8 K, 2 BB; Shane Everhart 0.1 IP, 1 H, 1 ER, 1 K, 0 BB.

Weatherford 13, Trinity Valley 12

Weatherford hitting leaders: Landon Boone 4 H, 2 RBI; Cienega 2 H, 2B, 3 RBI; J. Vindiola 2-2B, HP; R. Vindiola 2 H, 2 RBI; Antonio Alonso 2 H; Gonzales 2B, HP, RBI. Weatherford pitching: Everhart (W) 0.2 IP, 2 H, 0 R; Tanner Seglam 1 IP, 1 H, 7 R (0 ER), 1 K, 2 BB; McClure 3.1 IP, 4 H, 5 R (2 ER), 5 K, 0 BB.

Weatherford 4, South Grand Prairie 3

Weatherford hitting leaders: Gonzales 2 H, RBI; Bryce Smith 2 H, 2B. Weatherford pitching: Hubbard (W) 2 IP, 1 K, 2 BB; R. Vindiola 5 IP, 4 H, 3 R (2 ER), 4 K, 4 BB.

Weatherford 5, Aledo 1

Weatherford hitting leaders: Gonzales 2 H, RBI; Ayden Thomas 2 H; J. Vindiola 2B, 2 BB. Weatherford pitching: Roy Moon 1 IP, 1 K; Thomas (W) 5 IP, 2 H, 1 ER, 6 K, 2 BB; Seglam 1 IP, 1 BB.

SOFTBALL

Ladycats continue district dominance

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Not that they lose all that often when playing softball in Aledo, but in district play they take things to another level.

The Ladycats ran their district winning streak to 33 straight with a 10-0 win at home over Saginaw on Monday, March 11. In a 3-0 start to league play (18-2 overall), they have outscored their opponents 41-1.

Of course, it's nothing new for Aledo to dominate league opponents. Last season in going 12-0 in district they outscored their foes 141-8. The year before they went 10-0 in the league and had a 120-9 scoring advantage.

In defeating Saginaw, Brenlee Gonzales pitched a one-hitter. She struck out 11 and walked just one before the game was called after five innings.

The Friday before Gonzales pitched a three-hitter in a 14-1 win at Northwest. She struck out 14 with no walks and the run was unearned.

Ana Flores had a double, home run and drove in four runs against Saginaw, while Addie Perry had three hits, including a double, and Austyn Marriage's pair of hits included a double.

In the win over Northwest, 10 different Ladycats had at least one base hit. Jordyn Edington led with three hits, including a pair of triples

and a double, while Kennis Marx had three hits that included a double.

Also against Saginaw, the Ladycats stole eight bases, with Perry collecting four.

The Ladycats ran their overall winning streak to 14 games this season. They are ranked 13th in the state in Class 5A by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

Aledo is seeking a third trip to state in four seasons.

After spring break, the Ladycats return to district play at Brewer on March 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Ladycats 14, Northwest 1 - March 8

	R	H	E
Aledo	063	104	-170
NW	010	010	-134

Aledo hitting: Kennis Marx 3-3, 2B, BB, RBI; Jordyn Edington 3-3, 2B, 2-3B, HP, 2 RBI; Addie Perry 2-3, BB, 3 RBI; Taylor McKenzie 2-4, RBI; Gracie Jones 2-3, 2 RBI; Grace Heath 1-1; Brenlee Gonzales 1-4, BB, 2B; Kyleigh Pawlak 1-4; Marina Tavares 1-1, 2B, RBI; Ana Flores 1-4, 2B, BB.

Aledo pitching: Gonzales 6 IP, 3 H, 1 R (0 ER), 14 K, 0 BB.

Ladycats 10, Saginaw 0 - March 11

	R	H	E
Saginaw	000	000	-014
Aledo	341	02x	-10101

Aledo hitting: Perry 3-3, BB, 2B, RBI, 4 SB; Flores 2-4, 2B, HR, 4 RBI; Austyn Marriage 2-3, 2B, RBI; Gonzales 1-2, 2 BB; Tavares 1-3, 2B; Edington 1-2, BB, 2 SB; Breleigh Mayer HP.

Aledo pitching: Gonzales 5 IP, 1 H, 11 K, 1 BB.

TENNIS

Racquet Cats win big at Chisholm Trail

By Cathy Mason
Community News

It was another strong day of competition for the Aledo varsity tennis team recently as they earned seven medals at a tournament hosted by Chisholm Trail High School.

Elli Kate Bussmeir and Scott Mason earned another first-place finish in Mixed Doubles A by defeating Benbrook (8-3), Richland (8-2), Arlington Martin (6-0, 6-1) and Paschal (6-1, 1-6, 10-3).

Three doubles teams earned second-place honors.

In Boys Doubles A, Craig Mason and Jacob Heckathorn defeated Benbrook (8-0), South Hills (8-1), and Azle (3-6, 6-3, 10-4) but lost

to Chisholm Trail in the final (0-6 2-6). In Girls Doubles A, Kenley Germany and Bryanna Orr started their day with a bye round and a default. They then defeated Azle (6-2, 6-3) but fell in a hard-fought tie-break to Boswell in the finals (4-6, 7-5, 16-18), earning second place.

Patrice Loftin and Nate Ashabraner competed in Mixed Doubles B and defeated Benbrook (8-5), Azle (8-2), Chisholm Trail (2-6, 6-4, 10-5) but fell to Arlington Martin (0-6, 4-6) to finish in second place.

Will Beyer and Francois Britz defeated Weatherford (8-1), and Brewer (8-0). They lost to Boswell

(6-3, 3-6, 9-11), but came back to earn third place in Boys Doubles B by defeating Trinity (6-3, 6-0).

Lila Satterfield earned third place in Girls Singles A by defeating Trinity (8-0), and Paschal (8-1). She lost to Arlington Martin (4-6, 6-4, 8-10) and came back to defeat Boswell (6-2, 6-1). Gracie Heydman earned third place in Girls Singles B with wins over Weatherford (8-1) and North Crowley (8-0), a loss to Cleburne (3-6, 6-3, 5-10) and a win over Chisholm Trail (6-1, 6-3).

The team is scheduled to compete in the Waxahachie Tournament on March 28.



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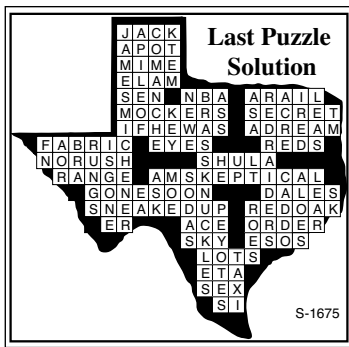
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REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Aledo is pleased to issue this Request for Statements of Qualifications to identify a qualified firm or joint venture for onsite project management services to support construction of the City of Aledo Municipal Complex.

The City is requesting Statements of Qualification's (SOQ) regarding onsite project management services.

Submittals will only be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024.

Bid # PW-2024-006

CITY OF ALEDO MUNICIPAL COMPLEX - PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained in person from the City of Aledo City Hall, 104 Maverick Street, Aledo, Texas 76008 or downloaded at www.aledotx.gov. RFQ documents will be ready for pickup on and after March 1, 2024.

The City of Aledo website will be updated with addenda, additional reports or other information relevant to the RFQ. It is the sole responsibility of all plan holders, whether they have received digital downloads or paper copies of the plans and specifications, to periodically check for Addenda which may have been posted on the City of Aledo website.

There will be a non-mandatory pre-submittal conference on March 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM. The pre-submittal conference will be held at Community Center Conference Room, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo, TX 76008.

Bidders should submit all inquiries and/or questions concerning this project to the person identified below by Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. Questions that result in changes to the RFQ will be answered in writing and copies distributed to bidders of record in the form of an addendum.

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Kid Scoop Together: Lookalike Leprechauns

Each leprechaun below has a twin. Draw a line between each twin but remember: Leprechauns can be VERY tricky! Look closely.



Standards Link: Research: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

St. Patrick's Day Exclusive! "Leprechaun Lips" Tells All!

NEWS FLASH! We found a leprechaun to answer questions about these mysterious little people! He wouldn't really show himself to us. Mostly what we saw during the interview were his lips, oversized sunglasses and his hat.

Q: How do leprechauns get all that gold?

A: We make shoes for the fairies. Silly fairies wear out their shoes quickly because they dance all night. We are always busy making new shoes for them. They pay us with gold. Lots of gold!



Q: How big are leprechauns?

A: Wee folk are we. Three feet tall at most.

Can you read inches of the newspaper columns that are equal to 3 feet?

How many shamrocks can you find on this page?

Standards Link: Measurement: Use standard measurement. Reading Comprehension: Read grade-level appropriate materials.

Q: How do you catch a leprechaun?

A: It isn't easy. If you should see a leprechaun, get as close as you can without him seeing you.

Follow the path to the leprechaun's pot of gold.

Quickly take him in your grasp and don't take your eyes off of him. Then ask where his pot of gold is hidden.

He will try to talk you into looking away. If you do look the other way, he will be gone when you look back.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade appropriate words correctly in context.



Leprechaun's shoe shelf has toppled. Can you match the pairs of fairy shoes?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects; identify matching attributes.

Q: Why do leprechauns play tricks on people?

A: We play tricks on people who don't believe in us. We especially like to bother teachers who try to tell children that we don't exist.

Leprechaun Lips Tricky Story

Ask your teacher or a friend for verbs, nouns and adjectives. Use these words to fill in the blanks of this story.

One fine morning, I went for a walk in the woods. I tripped on a _____.

When I looked down, I saw a _____ little _____ with a green _____.

"_____, " he said. "My name is _____."

I'm a leprechaun. If you want my _____ of _____, you'll have to _____ me first!"

I tried to _____ him, but he was too _____ for me.

He just laughed and called out to me, "_____ St. Patrick's Day!"

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing.



Extra! Extra!

What's green?

Look through the newspaper for words and pictures of things that can be green. List them here.

Bonus Challenge: Can you list them in ABC order?

Standards Link: Spelling: Put words in alphabetical order.

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St. Paddy's Patterns

Which leprechaun comes next in each row? Circle it.



Standards Link: Writing Applications: Relate ideas of an experience.

Double Double Word Search

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

- LAUGHED
- LOOKING
- LIPS
- GOLD
- PAY
- SHOE
- DANCE
- GREEN
- GRASP
- WOODS
- EYES
- EASY
- GONE
- ASK



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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's phrase: **GIFT OF GAB**
If someone has the "gift of gab," it means the person is a good talker. The word *gab* comes from *gab*, the Irish word for mouth.

Katie had the gift of gab, which sometimes got her in trouble for talking too much during school.

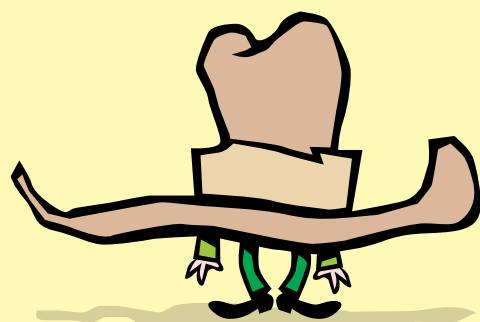
Try to use the phrase gift of gab in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Abbreviations

St. is an abbreviation for Saint. Clip six examples of abbreviations from the newspaper. Write the whole word for each abbreviation.

Standards Link: Word Analysis: Recognize common abbreviations.



What would you get if you crossed a leprechaun with a Texan?

ANSWER: A pot of chili at the end of the rainbow.

Write On!

Favorite Jokes and Riddles

Write down a list of your favorite jokes or riddles! Share with your friends.

TRACK

from page 8

4x100 relay: 3. Weatherford, 50.06; 5. Aledo (Victoria Crews, Sarah Edwards, Macie Laidley, Amely Bischof), 52.20.
 800: 1. Sofia Brandenburg, Aledo, 2:17.84; 2. Mykel Murry, Aledo, 2:22.33; 3. Micah Neal, Aledo, 2:23.70.
 100 hurdles: 5. Savannah Thompson, Aledo, 17.03; 6. Natalie Anderson, Aledo, 17.17.
 100: 4. Stella Adams, Weatherford, 13.00; 5. Ava Garrett, Weatherford, 13.34.
 4x200 relay: 2. Weatherford, 1:46.41; 4. Aledo (Crews, Edwards, Laidley, Bischof), 1:51.86.
 400: 1. Addison Smith, Aledo, 59.37; 3. Murry, 1:01.10; 4. Mayden Mitchell, Aledo, 1:03.11; 5. Garrett, 1:03.48.
 300 hurdles: 4. Amelia Whittle, Weatherford, 50.04; 6. McKenzie Spain, Aledo, 50.72.
 High jump: 2. Taylor McKenzie, Aledo 5-0; 6. Jodie Kreipe, Weatherford, 4-10.
 Pole vault: 1. Taylor Hindman, Aledo 12-1; 2. Maggie Kilburn, Aledo, 11-9; 3. Claire Campbell, Aledo, 10-0; 4. Ashley Garner, Weatherford, 9-6; 6. Hailey McDaniel, Weatherford, 7-6.
 Long jump: 3. Nyashia Thomas, Weatherford, 16-0.75; 4. Lucy Kentner, Weatherford, 15-1.75; 5. Ainsley Elmore, Aledo, 15-1.25; 6. Anderson, 14-11.50.
 Triple jump: 1. Crews, Aledo, 35-7.50; 5. Thompson, 33-2; 6. Victoria Kourouma, Weatherford, 32-10.75.

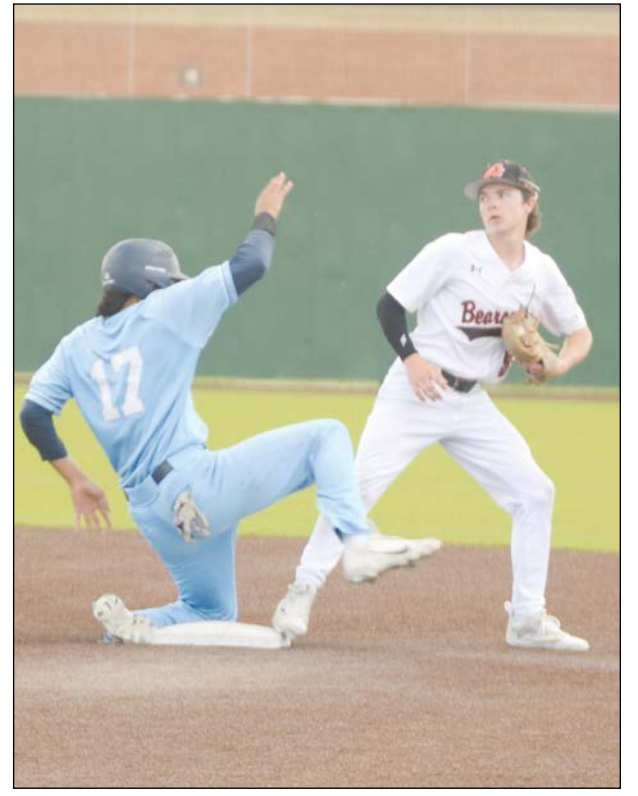
Discus: 1. Lauren St. Peters, Aledo, 144-10; 4. Braelee Gilbert, Weatherford, 105-3.



Shot put: 1. St. Peters, 48-10; 4. Kennedy Cardenas, Aledo, 30-8.

Varsity Boys

Team scores: Aledo 171.6, first; Weatherford 65.10, fourth.
 Top individual finishes
 3200: 2. Jack Fink, Aledo, 10:07.09; 4. Braxton Boyer, Weatherford, 10:31.21.
 4x100 relay: 1. Aledo (Adrian Fuller, Adam Averett, Boogie Owens, Aven Lawrence), 42.12; 3. Weatherford, 43.10.
 800: 1. Vincent Luffey, Aledo, 1:57.93; 2. Anderson Smith, Aledo, 2:02.00; 3. Dominick Barrera, Aledo, 2:03.17; 6. Tristyn Allison, Weatherford 2:04.75.
 110 hurdles: 1. Evan Thompson, Aledo, 15.25; 2. Asa Dowling, Weatherford, 15.91; 3. Lincoln Tubbs, Aledo, 16.20; 6. Isaac Brooks, Aledo, 16.61.
 4x200 relay: 1. Aledo (Fuller, Tubbs, Owens, Lawrence), 1:28.73; 3. Weatherford, 1:30.13.
 400: 3. Wyatt Reeves, Weatherford, 52.28; 4. Kaden Axel, Weatherford, 52.86.
 300 hurdles: 1. Tubbs, 40.87; 2. Thompson, 41.93; 5. Brooks, 43.91.
 High jump: 5. Robert Taylor, Weatherford, 5-6; 5. (tie) Brooks, 5-6.
 Pole vault: 1. Bradley Campbell, Aledo, 15-0; 2. Braylon Brown, Aledo, 13-6; 3. Kantyn Kasich, Aledo, 13-0; 5. Brigham Harmer, Weatherford, 10-6.
 Long jump: 2. Jayton Owens, Aledo, 21-2; 3. Dayton Kreipe, Weatherford, 21-0.75.
 Discus: 2. Carson Dempsey, Aledo, 138-4; 3. Liam Riley, Weatherford, 126-7; 4. Christian Sandoval, Aledo, 122-7.
 Shot put: 1. Dempsey, 49-8; 2. Jacob McIntire, Aledo 48-1; 4. Riley, 44-7.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Pitcher Devin Miller (26) was opening pitcher during the game against L.D. Bell on Mar. 22. | RIGHT: Shortstop Brad Thompson (9) had a force out at second after a fly out to Luke Trager in right field.

BASEBALL

from page 8

problems getting bunts down and moving runners," Barry said. "Pitching and defense was good, but we have to be able to hit with our guys on base. Too many fly ball outs as well.

"Saturday was better at the plate, but our defense was terrible. We dug ourselves out of early deficits only to make errors and fall behind by large amounts again. We were our own worst enemy on Saturday."

The Bearcats (8-7-1) were playing at Godley at press time. They open District 5-5A play after returning from spring break, playing at Brewer on March 19 and hosting the Bears on March 22, both games beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Drew Medford Tournament

L.D. Bell 1, Bearcats 0 - March 8

	RHE
L.D. Bell	000 100 0 -160
Bearcats	000 000 0 -050

Aledo hitting: Boyd Thompson 1-3; Luke Trager 1-3; Brennan Evans 1-3, 2B; Johnny Ruffin 1-2, BB; Jake Bumgardner 1-3.

Aledo pitching: Devin Miller 5.2 IP, 6 H, 1 ER, 6 K, 2 BB.

Bearcats 12, Nolan Catholic 2 - March 8

	RHE
Nolan Catholic	020 0 -2 33
Bearcats	140 7 -12 20

Aledo hitting: Brooks Burdine 1-2, BB; Rhett Spiers 1-2, 2B, BB, 3 RBI; Noah Graham 2 BB, 2 RBI; Jackson Parker 2 BB, RBI; James Cloke 2 BB; Zeke Garcia 2 BB, 2 RBI; Miller 2 BB; Luke Sandefur BB, RBI; Reese Hetherington BB; Trager RBI.

Aledo pitching: Sandefur 4 IP, 3 H, 2 ER, 9 K, 4 BB.

Prestonwood 9, Bearcats 8 - March 9

	RHE
Prestonwood	240 03 -982
Bearcats	002 24 -862

Aledo hitting: Thompson 2-3, 2B, 2 RBI; Drew Weckel 2-3, 2B; Ryan Jones 1-1, 2 BB; Trager 2-2, BB; Lucas Nawrocki 2 BB; Ruffin BB, RBI; Spiers 1-1, 2 RBI; Evans HP.

Aledo pitching: Jensen Huffman 2 IP, 4 H, 6 R (4 ER), 1 K, 2 BB; Bumgardner 2.2 IP, 2 H, 3 ER, 3 K, 4 BB; Spiers 0.1 IP.

Weatherford 5, Bearcats 1 - March 9

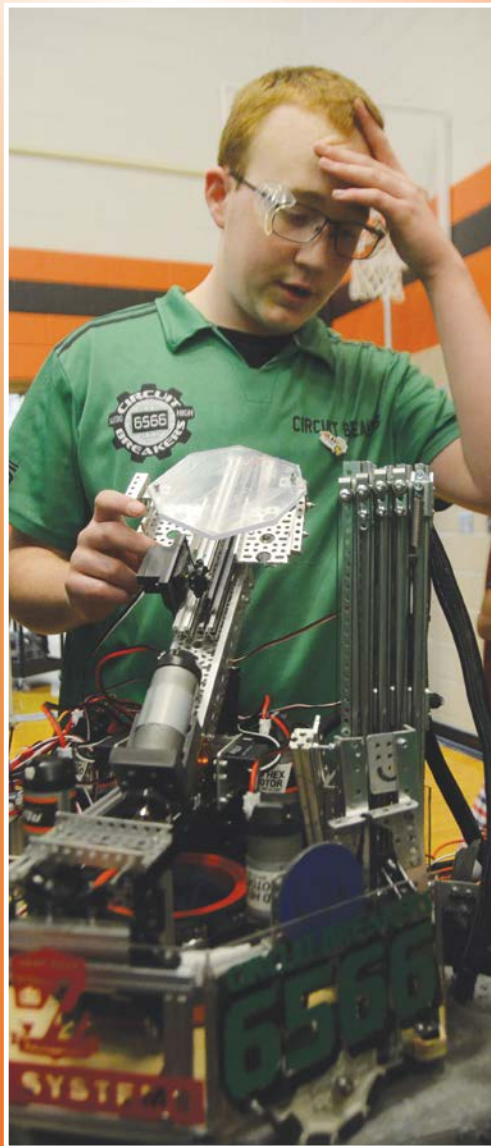
	RHE
Weatherford	200 003 0 -561
Bearcats	000 010 0 -122

Aledo hitting: Graham 1-3, HR, RBI; Spiers 1-2, BB, 2B; Br. Burdine BB; Jones BB; Weckel BB.

Aledo pitching: Ethan Hodo 0.1 IP; Nowrocki 1 IP, 2 K, 1 BB; Luke Saunders 5.2 IP, 6 H, 3 ER (3 ER), 8 K, 3 BB.

Teamwork

Aledo Robotics Team



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