

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

TRINITY BIBLE CHURCH

## Breaking ground



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Participating in the groundbreaking for Trinity Bible Church's new worship center on March 3 were (from left) Lin Bearden (TexasBank), Adam Feriend (JRJ Construction), Dennis Connelly (Trinity Bible Church, Elder), Shelby Hanks (Trinity Bible Church, Elder), Tom Howorth (Trinity Bible Church, Founding Member), Fred Harper (Trinity Bible Church, Former Elder), Thomas Vanover (Trinity Bible Church, Elder), James Frailey (Trinity Bible Church, Elder), Jon Sherman (Trinity Bible Church, Pastor Emeritus), Joel Carpenter – Trinity Bible Church, Worship Pastor), Eric Kuykendall (Trinity Bible Church, Senior Pastor).

### Work begins on new worship center

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

Members and friends at Trinity Bible Church in Willow Park gathered to break ground on a new worship center on Sunday, March 3.

With hundreds in attendance, Senior Pastor Eric Kuykendall began with a prayer.

"God this is your land, and these are your people, and we pray and plead and beg for you to build this house, so that we don't labor in vain," Kuykendall prayed. "And may it be a project where you increase our faith in you, and you increase your fame in Parker County."

Following the groundbreaking ceremony, Kuykendall said the new worship center would seat between 750 and 800 people.

*Video of the groundbreaking ceremony can be found on the website posting.*

### CORRECTION

In the March 8 issue of The Community News it was reported that Craig Goldman and Clint Dorris were to be in a runoff in the U.S. Rep. Dist. 12 Republican race. The runoff will actually be between Goldman and John O'Shea.

The same article referred to both Jerry Stockon and Scott Jones as incumbents in the Pct. 4 constable race. Jones is the incumbent.

Finally, the percentages of votes in other races reported were from Parker County, not the district as a whole, and that was not clearly stated in the article. We regret the errors.

ALEDO

## Annual Run, Walk, Crawl set for March 23

The Aledo Children's AdvoCats will host their 18th annual Run, Walk, or Crawl Glow Run on Saturday, March 23, with proceeds going toward unmet needs of children and families in Aledo ISD communities.

This family-friendly fun run offers racegoers the choice of a 1K or 5K race. Both races begin and end at Buchanan Stadium in Aledo, and avoid public streets.

Light up gear will be provided on the night of the race to allow runners to cross the finish line glowing, not sweating. A virtual runner option is offered for those who want to support the cause but cannot participate in the race. The fun evening will also feature food trucks and a DJ.

**Race details**  
**Saturday, March 23, 2024**  
**Buchanan Stadium**  
**1000 Bailey Ranch Road**

- 7:15 p.m. - Gates Open
- 7:45 p.m. - Opening Ceremony
- 8:00 P.M. - 1K Glow Run
- 8:30 p.m. - 5K Glow Run

For more race information please visit [www.aledoadvocats.com](http://www.aledoadvocats.com). Additional updates will be shared on the Aledo Children's AdvoCats Facebook and Instagram pages leading up to the event.

### About Run, Walk, Crawl

Since its inception in 2006, the Run, Walk or Crawl has become the flagship annual fundraising event for AdvoCats. Money raised from the race provides vital services to children with the greatest needs in the communities of Aledo ISD. The organization is dedicated more than ever to continue its mission of improving lives and making a lasting impact.

### About Aledo Children's AdvoCats

The Aledo Children's AdvoCats is a women-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of volunteers serving families in the communities of Aledo ISD. An estimated 12.6% (or 1 in every 8 students) of the Aledo ISD population is economically disadvantaged. School counselors at each of the Aledo ISD campuses identify students in need of assistance and refer them to the AdvoCats organization.

WILLOW PARK

## Good things coming to King's Gate Park

**By Rick Mauch**  
The Community News

King's Gate Park now belongs to the City of Willow Park and big things lie ahead for the 22-and-a-half acres city officials call a gem.

Topping the list is a fundraising narrative by the nonprofit Weatherford Mountain Bike Club to raise \$16,500 for the construction of a kids mountain bike skills area and trail called Trinity Track. It will have berms, an armored trail, bridges and other trail elements suitable for children and beginners.

Using rock to armor or pave the trail is an alternative that hardens the tread while being more friendly to mountain bikes on multi-use trails. A berm is compacted soil, loose gravel, stone, or crushed rock that intercepts and diverts storm water runoff.

In addition, 3,000-plus linear feet of singletrack trail will be constructed on the park property to help beginners progress to riding more difficult mountain bike trails.

Other fundraising goals include creating a new recreational trail user amenity to King's Gate Park, trail markers and EMT locations for Willow Park Fire and rescue, a Trinity Track trailhead kiosk with a map and rules of the



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Plans are for some additions to the popular King's Gate Park in Willow Park.

trails and a sign with the name of the park.

Since the complete amount has yet to be raised, no deadline has been set for the additions. For those wishing to help with the cause, there are no online donations accepted. Donations can be made at these locations:

- Willow Park Plains Capital Bank, 100 Crown Pointe Blvd., Suite 102.
- Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Tr.

Checks should be made out to Weatherford Mountain Bike Club.

### Restrooms coming

And, of course, restrooms are on the city's radar, something Willow Park Director of

Communications and Marketing Rose Hoffman said is part of the city's master parks and trails plan.

"It'll be a capital expenditure," she said. "Willow Park is home to a number of families with young children. Any amenities we can provide are going to make the city more attractive and enjoyable for the folks living here and those coming here," Hoffman said.

Currently, King's Gate Park has a playground highlighted by a jungle gym and other play equipment, with benches next to the playground. On both sides are small soccer fields. And, of course there is a trail that goes around the entire park, including lots of green space, which Hoffman said is also very popular.

"Every time I drive through that neighborhood there are people out enjoying that space and that park," she said.

The park was created in 2021 as part of the Willow Park north development. It is located on King's Gate Road between Meadow Place Drive and the Interstate 20 Service Road near The Shops at Willow Park.

In August the Willow Park City Council voted to accept the dedication of Kings Gate Park from Wilks Development to the city and agreed to repay the cost of replatting.

"If you're looking for a place to relax and unwind, King's Gate Park is the place for you," Hoffman said.



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AMATEUR RADIO

# Operators criss-cross country's airwaves

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

A nationwide event occurred recently involving tens of thousands of North Americans, and the whole thing went mostly unnoticed - literally right over our heads.

At precisely 1 p.m. Saturday, March 9, amateur radio operators throughout the U.S. and Canada filled radio frequencies in a 24-hour contact frenzy called a Field day, while radio enthusiasts from around the globe listened in.

Participants met in groups and broadcasted from home, boats or automobiles, while some hiked to hills and participated in solitude.

Some members of the of the Parker County club met other radio enthusiasts at a public shelter at Benbrook Lake to converse and compete.

"You came at a great time. We are eight minutes from kick off," greeted club President Richard Flusher as he readied his equipment with others.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
Aleido ISD Police Sergeant Cliff Boltwood makes contact with a radio operator from Connecticut during a national amateur radio operator "Field Day."



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
**TOP:** Radio operators prepare for the field day kickoff. | **BOTTOM:** Matt Halbert of Hudson Oaks and Jason Howard of Annetta are among Amateur Radio Club of Parker County members broadcasting in a national competition over the weekend. The event lasts 24 hours.

### Their own language

After casual talk and greetings, operators began to spin dials and chatter into microphones in a language only radio operators would understand.

"November delta five, delta x-ray. November delta five, delta x-ray," he said.

A woman's voice returns through the radio static, "Continue with the field day. Continue with the field day. This is zero bravo one romeo victor. Uniform reading zero bravo one romeo victor"

Matt Halbert of Hudson Oaks congratulated Cliff Boltwood for the contact from Connecticut, and the result was scored automatically on a monitor.



Boltwood, an Aleido ISD police sergeant, enjoys ham radio as a hobby and for public service situations. Halbert is a cheerleader for the day because his radio unit is in the shop.

"It's funny to think I can reach all over the world with that little wire out there," Boltwood said of his thin, 6-foot whip antenna.

Flusher explained various antennas accomplish different tasks, such as a "Delta loop," or a "N-Vis," which is short for near-vertical incidence skywave, which looks like wire a camper would hang laundry on.

Some operators scanned for incoming calls while others sent out "ICQ" (I seek you).

### Many contacts

At the end of the event, Flusher reported more than 300 contacts were made from their location.

Amateur Radio Club of Parker County members operate at most large public events as a demonstration and to be ready for public service if needed. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Aleido Fire Station No. 34 on Bailey Ranch Road and can be found online at <https://w5pc.org/> and on Facebook.

Worldwide, radio operators participate in science studies, as well as safety and rescue situations. At times, immediately after disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes or floods, ham radio operators are the only means of communication.

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COWBOY CHURCH

# Pastor's path brought him where he 'needs to be'

By John English  
The Community News

For Joe Daggs, the message is very simple — everyone is welcome at his church, wherever that church may be.

Pastor of the Cowboy Church of Parker County, Daggs said while his journey to the Aledo church was rather circuitous, there is no doubt that God has placed him exactly where he needs to be.

"I was looking for a youth pastor," Daggs said. "I came from the Maxdale Cowboy Church down around Killeen, where I was pastor, and I saw they had an opening for a pastor up here.

"Usually, when a pastor leaves, you have an opportunity to find a youth pastor, because the youth pastor doesn't stay around. One thing led to another, and my point of contact asked if I would be interested in interviewing for the pastor position."

Daggs, 59, was not interested at the time, but offered to meet with church leaders because he was planning to retire to the area in a few years and thought it might make a good church home for he and his wife.

"It was a really pleasant meeting, but I didn't think too much more about it," Daggs said. "A couple of weeks later, they asked if I would put in a resume'. I told them I haven't done a resume' in 31 years. So I had to get my daughter to kind of look it over and make sure I still knew how to write a resume."

Daggs sent it in, and then he and his wife did what they always do when they need to make a big decision — they prayed about it.

"I said, 'Lord, are you trying to send us a message? Are you opening a door for us in another place?'" Daggs said. "So what we did was we said, 'Lord, if that is what your will is for us, to be here, you open doors, and we will walk through them.'

"He opened the door and even sent the pastor in Killeen to replace me. He (the pastor) was a friend of mine, and we grew up in the same church together. He's been a pastor for 30 years. He had come home to take care of his parents, and little did he know that he would be the pastor there and I would be the pastor here, and it would be the perfect fit for both of us."

## A different kind of church

Daggs said the biggest difference between a Cowboy church and other types of churches is the atmosphere.

"It's a little more relaxed, particularly in the way people dress," Daggs said. "Most people wear their hats if they want to in the sanctuary, and you can just kind of come as you are. We have people that range from shorts and flip flops, to cowboy boots and hats. I think what people find appealing when they get here is that it is just really, simple, Biblical truths.

"I went to Bible school, but I am not deep theologically. I keep it simple, and say that this is a simple truth of God, right here in his word, you can read it for yourself and this is what it means to us as Christians. This is how we apply it to our daily lives.

"We also don't take up offerings. The only time you'll see us take up an offering is if we are doing a love offering for an evangelist who comes or something like that."

Daggs has been at the Parker County Cowboy Church for a year and two months, but has been a pastor for 17 years and an ordained minister for 19 years.

The Cowboy Church in Parker County is affiliated with American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches (AFCC).

## Growing up in the faith

Daggs grew up in the church. His grandfather served as deacon at the Memorial Baptist Church in Killeen and his parents went to an interdenominational worship center in Killeen.

"I felt a calling early on in my life to the ministry," Daggs said. "But I didn't know it would be the pastorate."

Daggs, who worked for 31 years as a senior quality control engineer with Lockheed Martin, said he has had many memorable moments in his career, but one definitely stands out.

"Whenever you get to lead somebody to the Lord or get the chance to baptize somebody,"



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pastor of the Cowboy Church of Parker County, Joe Daggs

Daggs said on Feb. 23. "I received a phone call from the daughter of a gentleman that had become a really great friend of mine. This gentleman made western hats and I met him as a customer. He started attending the church there in Maxdale. He was saved, and I had the opportunity to baptize him.

"When this took place, he was in his early 90s. What a memorable day. When his daughter called, it was to inform me that earlier that day he had passed away. While his passing hurts, the reward is knowing that we had that moment together and knowing that he was baptized, saved and that when he left this earth, he slipped into his eternal life. Moments like that are rewarding."

Daggs said that after nearly two decades of pastoral service, he finds that two habits help keep his faith strong.

"There are so many things that add value and reinvigorate you," Daggs said. "But I think what honestly reinvigorates me the most are two things. One is my quiet time with the Lord, and then second is connecting with people, and learning who they are personally. That just ignites a fire in me to share the gospel and help them grow in their walk with Christ, and to coin a phrase from the Army, to 'be all they can be.'

"That's the thing that lights that fire in me, especially when they have those aha! moments where you can tell that they get it all of a sudden and the light comes on. That's what keeps you going week-in and week-out."



## Obituaries

### Jeffrey Allen Gloor

Jeffrey Allen Gloor, 56, of Willow Park passed away on March 17, 2024.

Jeff was born and raised in Fort Worth. He attended Texas Tech (located in God's country) in 1985. He added a list of Kappa Alpha brothers to his family immediately. He said he was no longer classified as an only child.

He also stated that he was the best manly man of the group.

Upon graduation he began working at IBM in Shreveport where he met Laura. He asked relentlessly for weeks for her to just give him one date. That one date led to marriage four years later.

Jeff and Laura moved to Fort Worth in 1995 and brought two beautiful children into this world: Sydney in 1998 and Carter in 2001. Shortly after moving to Fort Worth Jeff and Laura began to lead a high school youth group at Christ Lutheran Church. He never knew that meant a lifetime of love from a group of kids that still stay in touch. Leading kids to understand how to work hard, be thankful for what you have and have Christ be your rock was his goal. We think he was pretty successful.

Jeff began working at Net Data in 2004 until recently, when he started selling real estate. Sales was a passion of Jeff's and he was the

best. He could convince anyone they needed what he was selling.

Jeff enjoyed the years he got to be involved in Boy Scouts with Carter. He cherished the friends he made and the many outings he had with Carter. It was a proud moment for him when Carter attained his Eagle Scout. Another proud moment was when Sydney married a man just like him; he always said she couldn't have picked a better person to join our family.

A new joy of his life is Milli. Laughing, dancing and making funny sounds with Milli always made everyone laugh. Another goal of Jeff's was to make you laugh. Jeff enjoyed life to its fullest: hiking, skiing, construction with Laura, anything to be outdoors. He loved God, his family, friends and never met a stranger. Our lives will forever change but his memory will never be forgotten. Till we see you again.

Jeff is preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Frances Gloor; he is survived by his wife, Laura Gloor; children, Carter Gloor and Sydney Gloor Kennedy (Riley); and granddaughter, Millicent Kennedy.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 22, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1800 West Freeway in Fort Worth.

The Community News  
March 22, 2024



Jeff Gloor

## Weatherford Art Association



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Seelie Penny looks at photos and artwork displayed at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center by the Weatherford Art Association. View watercolor, ink sketches, oil paintings and photographs until April 6. The Center is located at 1400 Texas Dr., Weatherford, and is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Thursdays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Admission is free. Visit [www.weatherfordart.com](http://www.weatherfordart.com) for information about the Weatherford Art Association.

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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

# Texas counties among nation's fastest growing



**Gary Borders**

[gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com)

Recent estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that six of the 10 fastest-growing counties in the United States from 2022 to 2023 were in Texas. According to the Texas Tribune, Kaufman County, just east of Dallas, led the list with a 7.6% increase in new residents that brought its population to more than 185,000. Census data shows that Rockwall and Liberty counties closed out the top three, with growth rates of 6.5% and 5.7%, respectively.

Also in the top 10 with the largest residential growth rates are Chambers, Comal and Ellis counties. All 10 of the fastest-growing counties are in the South, Census officials said, and are due to people relocating from other parts of the country.

"Domestic migration patterns are changing, and the impact on counties is especially evident," said Lauren Bowers, chief of the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Branch.

Texas also holds eight of the 10 counties that added the most residents from 2022 to 2023, with Harris, Collin and Montgomery counties leading nationwide. Harris County added 53,788 residents, more than any other county in the U.S.

### Major wildfires nearly contained

The largest wildfire in Texas history is 89% contained as of Sunday, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service, after

burning more than a million acres. The Smokehouse Creek fire in Hutchinson County is one of two active wildfires in the state. The only other wildfire not contained is the Windy Deuce Fire in Moore County, 94% contained and consuming 144,045 acres.

There are currently 70 counties with burn bans in place.

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved Gov. Greg Abbott's disaster declaration request for the following Panhandle counties: Armstrong, Carson, Donley, Dallas, Gray, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman and Wheeler.

"These disaster declarations will help Texans in communities affected by the Smokehouse Creek and Windy Deuce wildfires receive critical financial assistance they need as they continue to recover and rebuild," Abbott said.

Low-interest loans are available to homeowners, renters, and businesses affected by the wildfires. Applications can be downloaded at [sba.gov/disaster](http://sba.gov/disaster).

### Texas challenges federal methane rule

The state is challenging a tougher methane emissions rule recently put in place by the Environmental Protection Agency through a lawsuit filed by the Texas attorney general's office last week. The regulations force oil and gas companies to reduce emissions in the next two years.

Texas oil and gas operators emit more methane than any other state, according to the EPA. A report in the Houston Chronicle said the program would reduce negative climate impacts and improve health,

saving up to \$7.6 billion annually through 2038.

The Texas Railroad Commission claims the rule is detrimental to the oil and gas industry, and maintains the industry has made great strides to reduce emissions.

"Texas is taking action against the federal government's egregious overreach," said RRC Chairman Christi Craddick. "The latest attack on oil and gas is nothing more than an attempt to shut down the industry that creates hundreds of thousands of jobs, funds one-third of our state's economy, and produces clean and reliable energy for the world."

### Court: Minors need parental consent for contraceptives

A federal appellate court upheld a state law requiring parental consent for minor seeking access to birth control, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. The ruling partially upholds a late 2022 ruling that blocked federally funded clinics from providing contraceptives to teens without proof of parental consent.

Teens have the right to access confidential contraception services at Title X clinics under a program established in 1970. A lawsuit filed in 2022 challenged the Title X regulation, arguing it violates state law and infringes on parental rights.

"Minors have been unable to access confidential contraceptive care in our network of Title X clinics for more than a year," Stephanie LeBleu, a project director at Every Body, a non-profit that administers federal funds to more than 150 Title X clinics across the state, said in a news release.

Turn to **TEXAS**, page 6

## Idle American

# God's Blessing of Branson



**Dr. Don Newbury**

[newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com)

Hills are greening up, fiddlers are tuning up and visitors from around the globe are showing up as the entertainment mecca of Branson, MO, gears up for a record-breaking season in the beloved Ozarks.

It's a magical place known for musical excellence where God is honored—and where there are so many fiddlers—it's difficult to predict whether "Cotton-eyed Joe" or "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" gets more play.

Most of us can't get enough of either number, unflustered if the instruments go up in smoke as the music intensifies.

Such strains are anticipated, as are tears in the eyes of veterans, first responders, law enforcement officers, medical personnel and firefighters. They stand in response to thunderous roars of rafter-shaking thanks in the more than 100 venues at what has become what

is arguably America's favorite family place. Some 11 million folks are expected to visit Branson by year's end, when Christmas shows attract masses.

I called my ancient Uncle Mort, letting him know that we had landed in Branson along with the spring-breakers, and that I was keeping count of the different types of string instruments that would include a gigantic harp. By week's end, though, I admitted that I hadn't seen a single lyre. "Well, there was at least one liar at every show you attended," Mort cackled.

The Pandemic greatly challenged Branson, but it wasn't a knock-out blow. Branson faithful held on tight, with most attractions surviving and once again thriving. Maybe it tightened the bonds of family and faith on both sides of the stage lights.

It's an understatement to say there's "something for everybody" in Branson. While this is indeed true, even more is coming. Two years from now, they're opening a \$400 million, 320-room hotel with seven restaurants and an "immersive" water park.

We took careful notes of extremes during this visit. Specifically, we checked out places

specializing in ice cream dishes. Two stood out among the dozen or so businesses offering dairy treats.

One place we'd never seen before is called "The Yard." It glistens. Also noticed in a tiny downtown location was "Boo Boo Baba's." It has a makeshift sign: "Root Beer Floats, \$1.99." We bought two.

"The Yard" is beyond upscale, capitalizing on all things bovine, including stuffed cows, calves and other animals, with milk shakes served in pint and quart jars for patrons with "hang-the-cost" attitudes.

"Hey, we're on vacation," someone said, ready to fork over a \$20 bill for a treat that's both a culinary delight and a work of art.

A unique mood is established upon entry. A sign advises: "Live like somebody left the gate open."

The humongous desserts are indeed artfully assembled. They made me think of a favorite tie which always is a landing spot for food that misses my mouth. I don't know whether to frame it or eat it.

A fun scene at "The Yard" occurs when tykes, not yet kindergarten age, tug at their dads' pant legs, begging for one of those "big-uns." Several of the

Turn to **BRANSON**, page 6

## Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Appalled

I was appalled at the article on the front page of The Community News on March 8, 2024. There was such a bias on Mike Olcott's victory, and inaccuracies at every turn.

In the third paragraph, Rogers referred to "his opponents as the Republican power establishment in the state." Rogers is the establishment candidate and we the people (63% of us) chose someone who would indeed fight for our values. 88% of the people in Parker County voted for school choice in the March 2022 primary election and it became one of the GOP's priorities (written as parental rights and empowerment).

In the fourth paragraph, Rogers is quoted "the millions of dollars spent spreading lies about his record and nonstop impugning of my integrity were just too much to overcompensate" as well as saying, one of the real losers was representative government. Representative government spoke. 63% of us voted for Michael Olcott vs. 37% for Rogers. Mike's contributions totaled \$515,869 and Rogers contributions totaled \$940,688 (\$50,000 was from our current Speaker of the House who gave the Democrats chairmanship positions and often voted with the Democrats). This money went to spreading countless lies about Mike.

In paragraph six, we need to remember the people of Texas voted for Paxton after all concerns were revealed. Rogers did seek to impeach our most conservative AG, so yes, his opposition to Paxton and support of this impeachment negatively affected his race.

In paragraph 7, the writer, quotes Rogers again on how "history will prove"...this and that... Basically how he was right. History has proven that the people have chosen a new person to represent them. Calling Paxton corrupt and Abbott a liar is not something Rogers would have done a year ago. He is deflecting this loss and blaming everyone but himself. Losing doesn't necessarily have to mean being a sore loser.

The article goes on to actually seem unbiased related to the Pct. 4 Constable race, and the State Board of Education race, mentioning Jones and Hall is the winners, and remarking fairly about the races. Well done on paragraph 8 through 12!

Then, however, in paragraph 13 through 16, the author truly shows his or her lack of information. The statistics are all off too. Goldman and Dorris are not in a runoff (statistics are wrong). Goldman and O'Shea are! Roger Williams won 77.64% of the vote, not 88.5%, and Yarborough won 33.94% with Hagenbuch at 36.38%.

It is sad that people who won fair and square are not given an unbiased write up. Speaking derogatorily about the candidate the people elected is a very bad decision. In essence, it is speaking negatively about the people themselves for making a bad decision. Not something a local paper should be doing, in my opinion.

I'm thankful the people who read the community news are not as gullible as their paper assumes they are.

- Susan Minnich

### Response

As to the charge of bias in the story, I would point out that it is our responsibility to reach out to candidates for comments after an election, and we did that. Glenn Rogers, Scott Jones, and Jerry Stockton all responded either by phone or with a written statement.

As he did all through the campaign, Michael Olcott did not provide a comment in response to my request. Had he done so, his quotes would have been reported alongside Rogers' comments.

If there was bias, it was on the part of a candidate who was given numerous opportunities during the campaign to provide information to this newspaper and did not. We reported and quoted what was said by the candidates who responded.

As to the other issues in the letter, please see the correction on page 1.

- Randy Keck



## CHEERLEADING

# Aledo caps successful season

By John English  
The Community News

With the tryouts for the 2024-25 school year recently completed and all eyes looking toward the future, one should not lose sight of what the Aledo cheer program was able to accomplish this past season.

The varsity and junior varsity teams both participated in the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Nationals competition in January and coach Sarah Burk said both teams exceeded her expectations going in.

"Each team went out and did their very best at NCA," Burk said. "I am so proud of each and every cheerleader and the way they have worked together all season to achieve a unified goal. I am so happy that all the hard work and effort these girls put in all season showed in their performances and they got to see that pay off."

Aledo took fifth place in varsity and first place in the junior varsity/freshmen competition at the NCA Nationals, and Burk said the teams literally accomplished their objectives going in.

"We met the goals I had for both teams," Burk said. "I was hoping to place top five for my varsity and win for my JV."

The Bearcats cheer team also won the Best Use of Props Award in both competitions Aledo competed in, and Burk said this is an area where her teams do a lot of prep work.

"We strategically use signs, megaphones, poms and flags throughout the routine to enhance the crowd-leading aspect of our routine," Burk said. "It is a part of the scoresheet, so we do our best to maximize the points in all categories on the scoresheet."

### JV makes debut

Even more impressive, perhaps, is that this is the first year for AHS cheer to compete at the junior varsity level.

Senior Captain Daniella Tregellas said the 2023-24 season is one that she will never forget.

"I was blown away by how much our team accomplished this year," Tregellas said. "With the varsity team, we placed top five in the state and



received a Best-in-Crowd-leading award that no one else in Aledo cheer has ever earned. The varsity team struggled through many challenges this year, but we had each other's back through it all.

"This is the first year that we have had a JV team competing and they improved so much as the year went on. It was so rewarding for them to win Nationals knowing that all of the hard work that they put in was worth it.

"Overall, I am beyond proud of what each team put on the mat and accomplished this year because it showed all of the work that we put in."

### Other honors, relationships

Tregellas was a Texas Girls Coaches Association all-state selection, as well as an academic all-state selection, and teammates Chloe Wilson, Ava Schmitz, Alex Saenz, Ivana Cutaia, Taylor Prestage, Ashlyn Neeley, Lilly Wilson and Maryn Ward all earned academic all-state honors this past season as well.

Reflecting on her time at Aledo, Tregellas said her biggest takeaway is the

relationships she has developed throughout the years.

"I will remember the girls that I have been surrounded by during my time with AHS Cheer," Tregellas said. "I can remember the girls who were leaders from my freshman year until my senior year. Every girl that I have been on the mat or cheered with has made such an impact on my life, and we have created a bond that can't be broken.

"I have also been allowed to work with girls at the middle school level and it is so amazing to see so much improvement in Aledo cheer. Every single girl that I have worked with holds a special place in my heart."

Burk hopes is that her student-athletes come to understand how the right attitude and approach in life transcends sports

"I instill in these athletes our core values to be successful on and off the mat," Burk said. "These cheerleaders have seen that their attitude, effort and discipline are worth the work in all aspects of their lives."

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CHELSEY HORNE



Ashlyn Neely, Danielle Tregellas, Ava Bridge



Sophia Cohen, Addy Myser, Maddox Lucas



Liachan Guffey



Maddox Lucas



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# TEXAS

from page 4

## Paxton, Cornyn still exchanging barbs

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is possibly considering a run against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn following a streak of successes in ousting Republican House incumbents in the March primary, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Paxton has repeatedly attacked Cornyn, up for reelection in 2026, as being too moderate.

“Super Tuesday showed there is a large base of Paxton-friendly voters who not only admire him but want his kind of unapologetic aggressive conservatism in the United States Senate, said conservative radio talk show host Mark Davis.

The two have clashed several times on social media. When Cornyn announced he would run to replace Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, as the Republican leader in the Senate, Paxton posted on X, formerly Twitter, “Republicans deserve better in their next leader and Texans



deserve another conservative senator.”

Cornyn replied, “Hard to run from prison, Ken.” Paxton faces a trial this spring for securities fraud and is under federal investigation for his ties to a since-indicted real estate investor.

## Third anniversary of Operation Lone Star

Operation Lone Star, the state’s border initiative, recently marked its third anniversary. According to Abbott’s office, the multi-agency effort has led to apprehension of more than a half-million people believed to be here illegally. More than 36,100 felony charges have been filed and more than 100,000 migrants have been transported to other cities, the governor’s office said.

In addition, more than 469 million doses of fentanyl have been seized during that three-year period.

*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.*

# BRANSON

from page 4

most exotic dishes would feed a scout troop.

I’ll be “in and out” with many observations and suggestions concerning our trip in upcoming weeks, never claiming to be an authority by any measure. You won’t notice any reference to the many recognized golf courses in the area, simply because I don’t know anything about the sport.

I agree with the guy who says too much time is spent on golf unless it is providing a livelihood, in which case, go for it.

A woman, as clueless about golf as I am, said it well. “I’m not even sure which end of the caddy to hold.”

Alas, our recent trip ended too soon. We saw the blossoms appear on the Bradford pear and redbud trees, but wished for additional blooms to come later.

We can dream, however, of the many wildflowers that soon will

cover the mountainsides until fall and winter take over.

And we can hope for other visits up the way.

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

## 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.

# 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## JULY 21

The Aledo City Council announced that water customers in the city would soon be able to track their water usage in real time as the city embarked on a project to install automated water meters. The city conducted a pilot program with about 100 automated meters. Mayor Nick Stanley noted it takes the public works department about three days a month to perform meter readings throughout the city.

He said the saved staff time would be used on other needed projects. One advantage of the new system is that it will allow water customers to become aware earlier if they have leaks or other problems.

At a special meeting, the Willow Park City Council voted unanimously to file a lawsuit against Halff Associates, the company that designed the water line from Fort Worth to Willow Park and Hudson Oaks. The lawsuit stemmed from an event in November of 2020, when it was discovered that the original estimated cost for the water line and associated equipment was going to be about \$6.5 million short. The city had already procured funding from the Texas Water Development Board for the original estimate of \$13.4 million. Once Halff had discovered its error, the cost shot up to \$19.9 million, leaving the city in the position of having to issue certificates of obligation to cover the difference.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

From left: Aledo ISD School Board members David Lear and Jennifer Loftin, Lynn McKinney, school board members Jessica Brown and Jennifer Taylor, and Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn performed the ceremonial groundbreaking for the school district’s seventh elementary school, named for McKinney.

On the heels of recent announcements by Jake’s Burgers and Press Café coming to Aledo, the city announced that Dayne’s Craft Barbecue was coming to town as well. Dayne’s is a Texas Monthly “Top 50 BBQ Spot.”

Parker County Pets Alive, an organization that provides heart worm treatment for adopted dogs, was profiled.

Talayna Halley of Willow Park landed an opportunity to continue her education at the Mayo Clinic.

Six Aledo Ladycats and one former member of the squad competed in the Fort Worth Junior Golf Association Girls Championship. All were competing in the 14-18 age category. Sanaa’ Lemen placed second in the First Flight of Division I with a four-round total of 342. Also placing second was Reagan Gilliland in the Third Flight with a 390. Kennedi Parker took fourth place in the Third Flight with a 396.

Aledo sixth-grader Brayden Lightfoot won the Drive, Chip and Putt Regional competition held at Prairie Lakes Golf Club in Grand Prairie. Brayden placed first with a combined score of 124 out of 150. Brayden participates in the First Tee program at Squaw Creek and also the PGA junior League at Ridglea Country Club in Fort Worth.



Read this issue online



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo sixth-grader Brayden Lightfoot won the Drive, Chip and Putt Regional competition held at Prairie Lakes Golf Club in Grand Prairie on July 17.

## JULY 28

Braving triple-digit temperatures during the early evening hours, hundreds of Aledo ISD residents gathered in an open field east of Nightmist Road in Morningstar to honor long-time Aledo educator Lynn McKinney at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new elementary school bearing her name. McKinney announced her intentions to retire at the end of the 2022-23 school year, bringing her 37-year career at Aledo ISD to a conclusion.

Pickleball, America’s fastest-growing sport, gained traction in Parker County.

Turn to page 9



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Zac Hess makes a play for the ball during a local pickleball match at the Aledo United Methodist Church while his wife and doubles partner, Hailey Hess, looks on.

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More events can be found at [www.community-news.com/calendar](http://www.community-news.com/calendar)



**MARCH 23**  
**RUN, WALK, OR CRAWL GLOW RUN**  
Aledo Children's AdvoCats will host their 18th Annual Run, Walk, or Crawl Glow Run at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, Mar. 23, at Buchanan (Bearcat) Stadium in Aledo, TX. Proceeds help to meet unmet needs of children and families in Aledo ISD communities. This family-friendly fun run offers racegoers the choice of a 1K or 5K race. Both races begin and end, and avoid public streets. Light up gear will be provided on the night of the race to allow runners to cross the finish line glowing, not sweating. The fun evening will also feature food trucks and a DJ! 7:15 p.m. Gates Open 7:45 p.m. Opening Ceremony 8:00 p.m. 1K Glow Run 8:30 p.m. 5K Glow Run For more race information or to register, please visit [www.aledoadvocats.com](http://www.aledoadvocats.com).

**MARCH 24**  
**Aledo Unite Methodist Church Easter Egg Hunt**  
Join United Methodist Church at 12 - 1 p.m. on Sunday, Mar. 24 at the church 100 Pecan Drive, Aledo, for an Easter Egg Hunt. Open to the whole commu-



nity. The huge Egg hunt is divided in to age groups. Come and find the 1000+ eggs.

**MARCH 26**  
**Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society Meeting**  
The Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 26, at the Mount Pleasant School, 213 Raymond George Way in Weatherford. The meeting is followed by the program at 6:30. The public is always welcome and light refreshments will be available. For a status update on the groundwater in North Texas, geoscientist Jill Garcia of the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District will speak at the March 26 meeting. The groundwater district covers Parker, Wise, Hood and Montague counties. The goal of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to protect our environment through conservation, research and use of native plants. For more information visit [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org).

**MARCH 28**  
**Vandagriff Spring Carnival**  
Mark your calendar! The 2nd Annual Vandagriff Spring Carnival March 28th from 5pm-7pm.



**MARCH 30**  
**Broadway & Breadsticks**  
Join Parker County Theatre Company for an evening of food and fun from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, Mar. 30, at Aledo United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. Hear from some amazing singers, as they bring Broadway to Parker County. Ticket includes a three-course dinner.

**APRIL 13**  
**Parker County Master Gardener Association's Annual plant sale from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 13, at First Monday Trade Days Grounds Pavilion - Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, 76086.**  
Native Pollinator Plants, Grasses, Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs, Roses, Shrubs, Succulents, Culinary and MORE!  
Bring your plant gardening questions to our "Ask a Master Gardener" table! Proceeds help fund horticultural, educational, & local projects in Parker County. Bring your wagon! Cash or Check Only

**ACROSS**

- Fort Worth theater: \_\_\_\_\_ Manana
- TXism: "got knocked down \_\_\_\_\_ or two"
- XIT Ranch covered \_\_\_\_\_ counties
- Anthony: "Leap \_\_\_\_\_ Capital of the World"
- month of Texas Poetry Day (abbr.)
- Halloween "treat" opposite (2 wds.)
- TXism: "never sign anything by the glow of a \_\_\_\_\_ light"
- TXism: "could talk \_\_\_\_\_ of a ditch"
- Texas "Pretty Paper" singer, Orbison (init.)
- TX George Jones' "The Race \_\_\_\_\_"
- George H.W. illness on 1992 Tokyo trip
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ wet hen" (angry)
- old series: "Texas John \_\_\_\_\_"
- Davy's state (abbr.)
- TXism: "restless as \_\_\_\_\_ church"
- Alpine, TX is named for these mountains
- TX comedian/actor, Foxx
- Texas boomtown hotel: "a cross between \_\_\_\_\_ a flophouse"
- TXism: "scared the dickens out \_\_\_\_\_"
- "The Lone \_\_\_\_\_"
- ex-Mav. Alex (init.)
- greenish-blue color

**DOWN**

- Palo Duro \_\_\_\_\_
- TXism: "just down the road \_\_\_\_\_"
- Cruz & Cornyn
- Texas sun sometimes?
- Ozona High class
- Cannonsnap Creek was misnamed for this in 1837 (2 wds.)
- prickly heat
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ sheared like a spring lamb" (swindled)
- Texas bluebonnet: "El \_\_\_\_\_"
- ex-Cowboy LB Norton (init.)
- Texas pitching legend (2 wds.)
- TXism: "pick \_\_\_\_\_ the litter"
- TX Cindy Garner book: "The \_\_\_\_\_ Jokebook About Men"
- TX Tommy who won ten Tony Awards
- "\_\_\_\_\_ Ferguson: first female governor also known as (abbr.)"
- TXism: "shin \_\_\_\_\_" (big event)
- loved
- Texas forage crop
- TXism: "he's all show \_\_\_\_\_ go"
- Texas singer, Gilley (init)
- that is (abbr.)
- female church leader
- Yo \_\_\_\_\_ Digo Creek
- Texas or Iowa town
- Texas traditional knowledge
- TX Jules Bledsoe's "Old \_\_\_\_\_ River"
- SeaWorld San Antonio has this in its "Orca Encounter"
- TXism: "got a heart as \_\_\_\_\_ Texas" (kind)

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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are back with their annual event, Willow Park Palooza from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 27. It is FREE to the public. The event promises to be a blast for parents and kids alike, with live music, face painting, balloon artists, food trucks, local vendors, and even a car show! It will be an unforgettable day filled with fun and excitement, so don't miss

out on this spectacular event! Visit the Willow Park Palooza page on our website for more information and a schedule of events. <https://theshopsatwillowpark.com/willow-park-palooza/>  
Car Show  
Registration: 9-11 a.m. (first come, first served)  
Event Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Cost: \$15 show participant fee, FREE to attend

**MAY 3**  
Texas Pythian Home Garage Sale  
Texas Pythian Home, Inc is holding the Annual Garage

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## Look at it This Way TCA exhibits more than sportsmanship



**Rick Mauch**  
sports@community-news.com

Something important to remember about sports is it can be so much more than what the scoreboard reads. Up there, someone is going to be seen as a winner and the other side is going to be reflected as having lost, or come up short if you want to use a nicer phrase.

But sometimes everyone is a winner - and sometimes everyone loses. It can happen at the same time, as was recently demonstrated in an evening of basketball when the Willow Park Trinity Christian Eagles and Lady Eagles hosted the Arlington Pantego Christian Panthers and Lady Panthers recently.

On the court, the teams split their games, the TCA girls and Pantego boys winning. However, this was one of those times when, long after the scores are forgotten, those in the gym, including myself, will remember something that made a far greater impression.

### Remembering Hannah and Brandi

It was a player who was not on the court that evening who garnered the most attention. I'd like to tell you it was because she set some sort of record or was being honored for a career achievement or something of that ilk, but that would simply not be so.

In early February Pantego Lady Panther Hannah McDaniel and her mother Brandi died in an automobile accident on Interstate 20 just outside of Big Spring. They were returning from a basketball game in Midland, and instead of riding the bus with her teammates, Hannah chose to spend that lengthy time on the road having some quality time with her mother.

She and her mother would have been proud of what the folks at Trinity Christian did for them this night. With Hannah's dad, Mark McDaniel, painfully watching in attendance, they remembered his daughter and wife and honored them in a variety of ways.

Between the girls and boys games, the teams and whoever else wanted to join in, grabbed hands and formed a prayer circle around the court. It was a moving moment, reminding us that even though we may not know someone, our job is to love all people and when one suddenly leaves this world, we all mourn.

It hurts to lose someone, and it hurts vicariously even if we aren't the one who lost someone dear. Their hurt

Turn to TCA, page 9

## SOCCER

# Bearcats secure playoff berth

### Ladycats fall but still second in district

By Jim Zimmerman  
The Community News

The Aledo high school soccer teams traveled to Granbury Tuesday night and split their matches, but both will still be advancing to the postseason.

The Bearcats needed to win their match to secure at least a fourth-place finish in District 5-5A and came out with a dominant 8-1 win over the Pirates to do just that.

Next up for Aledo (13-3-6) is District 6-5A champion Fort Worth Arlington Heights (17-4-2) in bidistrict. Game details, including date, site and time, were still being worked out at press time.

The Bearcats finished league play with a 5-3-4 record, a game ahead of fifth-place Wichita Falls Rider, against whom they owned a tiebreaker by virtue of winning 5-3 at home and tying 2-2 in Wichita Falls. The top spot in district was actually a three-way tie between Northwest, Brewer and Saginaw, all at 8-2-2.

Sophomores Trapper Davis and Brody Gill connected twice for two goals each, Robby Sloan, Evan Randriamahefa, Cole Crawford, and Ryan Spriggs also contributed to the Bearcat scoring barrage.

The Pirates scored their only goal at the 14:50 mark of the first half and Aledo kept the ball in the Pirates' half of the field for the majority of the second half of the game.

### Lady Pirates 3, Ladycats 1

After falling behind 2-0 to the Lady Pirates, Coach Brian



JIM ZIMMERMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of the Aledo Ladycats soccer team show their support for Kade Pruitt, a fellow student who has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Johnson's team made it close at the 4:43 mark of the first half when Allyson Weimer scored a goal and Ainsley Elmore assisted. The Ladycats and trailed 2-1 at halftime before Granbury added an insurance goal.

Despite the loss, the Ladycats (9-8-3 overall, 6-4-2 in district) remained second in District 5-5A, narrowly ahead of Azle and Northwest, which tied for third with 6-5-1 league marks. Wichita Falls Rider won the league.

Up next for the Ladycats is Everman (11-10-1), the third-place team from District 6-5A.

Aledo will host the match on Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m.

"Spot two goals, have to come from behind, I told the girls at halftime we can come back and win this." Johnson said. "We had a good practice, we looked good warming up but we just couldn't put it all together."



After the game the team posed with a sign for a young man, Kade Pruitt, who has been diagnosed with leukemia, to show love and support for him and his family.

## SOFTBALL

# Ladycats continue league dominance

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats made short work of their host Brewer in a District 5-5A softball game on Tuesday, March 19, winning 15-1 behind the one-hit pitching of Taylor McKean.

McKean pitched all five innings before the game was called because of the mercy rule. She struck out nine and walked none.

Aledo banged out 12 hits and capitalized on five errors by the Lady Bears in the win. Kennis Marx led Aledo with three hits, including a pair of home runs, and four runs batted in.

Addie Perry, Delaney Rosser and Ana Flores also had a pair of hits each, with Flores also hitting a home run, a double and driving in five runs.

The Ladycats, 19-2 overall, improved to 4-0 in district play and ran their league winning streak to 34 games. They are ranked ninth in the state in Class 5A by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

This season Aledo has outscored its district opponents 56-2 and has outhit them 46-5. They've also committed just three errors compared to 15 for their opponents.

The Ladycats were hosting Azle at press time. They travel to

Granbury on Tuesday, March 26 and host Wichita Falls Rider on March 28, both games starting at 6:30 p.m.

### Ladycats 15, Brewer 1 - March 19

	R	H	E
Aledo	3	17	40
Brewer	0	00	01

Aledo hitting: Kennis Marx 3-4, 2 HR, 4 RBI; Addie Perry 2-5, RBI, SB; Delaney Rosser 2-3, BB, HP, RBI, SB; Ana Flores 2-3, 2B, HR, 5 RBI; Marina Tavares 1-3, BB; Kyleigh Pawlak 1-3, BB, 2 RBI; Jordyn Edington 1-2, 2 BB, 3 SB; Gracie Jones BB.

Aledo pitching: Taylor McKean 5 IP, 1 H, 1 run (earned), 9 K, 0 BB.

## BASEBALL

# Bearcats win district opener

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Three pitchers combined for a four-hitter and 10 strikeouts and Brennon Evans hit a home run as the Aledo Bearcats (10-7-1 overall) began District 5-5A play with a 4-1 victory at Brewer on Tuesday, March 19.

Evans had two hits and drove in a pair of runs. Eddie Howard, Jenson Huffman and Luke Sandefur handled the pitching duties.

The game was tied at 1 after two innings before the Bearcats took a 2-1 lead in the fourth and added two more runs in the fifth.

Earlier, on March 14, the Bearcats traveled to Godley and won 6-0 in a nondistrict contest. Brooks Burdine (3) and Johnny

Turn to BASEBALL, page 9

## GIRLS POWERLIFTING

# Five Ladycats compete at state

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Five members of the Aledo Ladycats competed at the Texas Women's High School Powerlifting Association Class 5A Division I Meet at the Comerica Center in Frisco this past Saturday, March 16.

Leading the Ladycats with an 11th place finish in the 220-pound division was Adrianna Lambert. She lifted a total of 820 pounds in squat, bench press and dead lift.

Hannah Clark was 12th in the 132 division, lifting 815 total pounds. Madison Widmayer was 17th in the same weight class with 730 pounds.

Bryanna Orr placed 16th in the 123 class with 695 lifted. Ari Mathias also qualified for state in the 148 division but did not place.

### Weatherford

Two Lady Kangaroos competed in the Class 6A State Meet March 13 at the Comerica Center, each finishing seventh in their respective divisions. Lauren Schweiss lifted 690 total pounds in the 105 weight class and Zoe Tesi lifted 815 in the 132 class.

### Willow Park Trinity Christian

McKenna Kelly of Willow Park Trinity Christian qualified for the Class 1A/2A State Meet March 13 at the Comerica Center. She competed in the 123 weight class but did not place.

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TRACK AND FIELD

# Area runners compete in Texas Distance Festival

## Aledo's Garrison eighth in 5,000

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

Molly Garrison of Aledo led all area runners in the Texas Distance Festival this past weekend in Southlake. She clocked a time of 18 minutes, 17.36 seconds to place eighth in the 5000-meter run.

Vincent Luffey of the Bearcats finished 45th in the 1600 run, posting a time of 4:21.39.

Ladycats running the 1600 were Sofia Brandenburg, 39th with a

5:10.25; along with Mayden Mitchell, 5:46.14; and Sadie Williams, 6:14.86.

### Weatherford

Madison Pulis of the Lady Kangaroos placed 48th in the 3200 with a time of 13:23.25.

Lady Roos running the 1600 were Rayla Castillo, 5:28.92; Remington Boone, 5:32.42; Macayla Kopacz, 5:36.51; Cheyanne Gorman, 5:43.90; Cayleigh Madrid, 5:51.13; Nayelli Ordonez, 5:58.27; and Sofia White, 6:10.44.

Running the 1600 for the Kangaroos was Emiliano Martinez, posting a time of 5:48.17.

## BASEBALL

from page 8

Ruffin (2) combined for five hits, including a triple and two runs batted in by Ruffin. They combined to reach seven times as each was also hit by a pitch, and they stole a combined three bases (Burdine 2, Ruffin 1).

In all, the Bearcats had five steals against Godley.

On the mound, Devin Miller, Huffman and Sandefur limited Godley to three hits.

The Bearcats were hosting Brewer at press time and have a home-and-home series against Granbury next week on March 26 and 28, all games at 6:30 p.m.

### Bearcats 6, Godley 0 - March 14

	R	H	E
Bearcats	002	130	0-690
Godley	000	000	0-031

Aledo hitting: Brooks Burdine 3-3, HP, 2 SB; Johnny Ruffin 2-3, 3B, HP, 2 RBI, SB; Ryan Jones 1-1, 3 BB, SB; Drew Weckel 1-4, 2 RBI; Luke Trager 1-3, 2B, BB, SB; Noah Graham 1-3, BB, 2B, RBI.

Aledo pitching: Devin Miller 2 IP, 1 K, 2 BB; Jensen Huffman (W) 3 IP, 3 H, 3 K; Luke Sandefur 2 IP, 3 H.

### Bearcats 4, Brewer 1 - March 19

	R	H	E
Bearcats	010	120	0-451
Brewer	010	000	0-143

Aledo hitting: Brennan Evans 2-3, HR, 2 RBI; Jones 1-4, 2B; Weckel 1-3, RBI; Weston Nance 1-1, 2B, RBI; Graham BB; Lucas Nawrocki BB; Br. Burdine HP.

Aledo pitching: Eddie Howard 1 IP, 2 K; Huffman (W) 4.1 IP, 3 H, 1 R (earned), 5 K, 1 BB; Sandefur 1.2 IP, 1 H, 3 K.

## TCA

from page 8

reminds us of how we will feel someday when our parents, grandparents, or - God forbid - a child such as Hannah is suddenly called from this world.

Children should never precede their parents in death. Never, never, never, no, no, no, never.

### There was more

Along with the prayer circle, no admission was charged. Instead, donations were taken up for a scholarship Pantego started in Hannah's memory.

Oh, yeah, all this took place on TCA Senior Night. The players, parents and coaches all sacrificed what was meant to be their special evening. Though, if you look at it closer, what they did proved just how special they are.

After all, sacrifice is one of the key words when it comes to how we treat our fellow human beings. Sacrifice and love - and TCA showed both of those in abundance on this evening.

"We're just doing what we can to remember them," TCA Athletic Director Cody McKenzie said humbly.

For the record, they don't come much nicer than McKenzie. As examples for students go, he's at the top of the list - and it's exactly for nights such as this.

"The time you have in this world is precious. That's a wakeup call," McKenzie added.

Various local companies pitched in to donate water, food and even print shirts with Pantego's logo - that were worn by TCA students and fans as a sign of support.

In addition, the district in which TCA and Pantego compete, did likewise with raising money for Hannah's scholarship. Goodness, however it begins, can be contagious, and somehow I believe that would bring a smile to the faces of Hannah and Brandi to see that being the case in the wake of their tragedy.

### Class act

Pantego Athletic Director Jeff Kemp summed up what TCA did in two words.

"Pure class," Kemp said.

He continued by adding, "Everything was thought through and done with a compassionate touch. It was a night where there were 'random acts of kindness' being displayed everywhere you looked. It is something as an athletic director, coach, father and fan that I will never forget. Thank you to all the players, coaches, parents, school board, booster club and administrators from TCA that made this night so special at such a dark moment."

As someone who previously wrote about Pantego Christian

years ago for another publication, let me say they know class when they see it.

### Hug your youngsters

Personally, this evening made me stop down and go back in my memories to a time when my own children were still young and excited about the adult life ahead of them. I was fortunate enough to see them reach adulthood and still be a part of this world.

In the many times I've spoken to my children since, I often think of how Mark McDaniel must feel, the words he longs to say to his daughter and wife, the hugs he wants to give them. He will feel an emptiness I hope I never know.

Most folks my age now turn to their grandchildren for childhood joy. My precious Zoe, Gracie and Wren are still learning about life, and someday I'm sure each will be a beloved teammate just as Hannah was.

One of my favorite Garth Brooks' songs is titled "If Tomorrow Never Comes." It reminds us to tell and show those around us just how much we love them because we just never know when it will be the last chance we have to do so.

So, hug your children, grandchildren and anyone else you hold dear. Tell them you love them.

Even if we don't play on the same team, we are all in the same world.

**"It was a night where there were 'random acts of kindness' being displayed everywhere you looked."**

- Jeff Kemp



## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



(NJCAA) All-Academic Teams. Squads that achieved a team grade point average of 3.0 or higher were honored as Academic Teams of the Year, and WC's volleyball, women's basketball, baseball, softball, women's tennis, and men's golf teams earned that distinction.

In an effort to defend his title, Aledo's Braylon Mahanay rallied in the final round, but finished tied for second in the 14-18 Division I Championship Flight of the Fort Worth Junior Boys Golf Tournament with a four-round total of 291. In all, Aledo had 10 players competing, all in the 14-18 Division I category. Also in the Championship Flight, Dylan Kiser had the lowest round of the tournament for any Bearcat, shooting a 66 to win the Wendell Condit Medalist Award, named after the longtime tournament director who retired in 2013 and passed away in 2018. Also, Jett Moore and Helton Mossiello tied for third in the Second Flight.

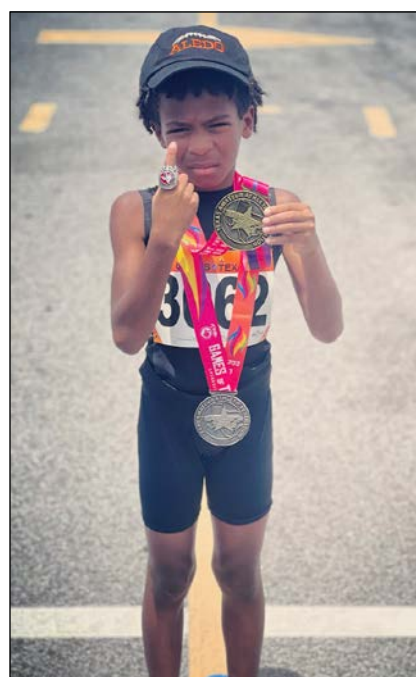


PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIE GIBSON  
Willie Gibson III of Aledo, age 8, won gold medals in the 200 and 400-meter dashes at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas in Brownsville.



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Despite competing on a sick horse, Weatherford's Will Bushaw finished 10th in the boys cutting competition at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming. He finished second in 2022. Also, Weatherford's Kynzington Muth placed third in barrel racing at the junior high level.

### AUGUST 4

During an Aledo City Council meeting, updated renderings for the new city hall are unveiled, featuring a new home for the East Parker County Library just inside the main entrance across the hall from the council chambers. City officials cite transitioning the library from a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity to the Aledo Public Library will provide the library with long-term financial viability, while also creating the runway for the institution to enhance programming offered to the community. The earliest expected dates for the transition to begin are during the latter part of the city's fiscal year in April or May of 2024.



The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter held its annual Clear the Shelter event.

In addition to adoptions, there were raffle prizes, food trucks, and a vendor fair (including a face painter and a Doggy Kissing Booth). In all, 47 animals were adopted.

Precinct 4 Constable Scott Jones explained the role of his office. The primary job of the constable is to serve the justice of the peace, both by serving civil process papers and acting as bailiffs for the court. However, they also have the same law enforcement authority as any other police officer.

Trace Mazon continued to add to his legacy as a member of the Aledo Bearcats baseball team by being named to the Elite Team in Class 5A as part of the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association All-State Team. Mazon, a member of the varsity Bearcats for two seasons, helped them to 52 wins during that span, including a berth in the Region I final in 2022.

Willie Gibson III of Aledo, age 8, won gold medals in the 200 and 400-

meter dashes at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas in Brownsville. He posted his fastest times ever with a 30.81 seconds in the 200 and 1 minute, 09.83 seconds in the 400.

### AUGUST 11

The Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternity announced that the Aledo High School Band program under the direction of Joey Paul was selected as a 2023 recipient of the fraternity's Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction Award. The purpose of the Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction is to recognize those programs that exhibit and exemplify the founder's ideal of honoring superior achievement, moral uprightness, and promoting the international development of bands. Aledo was a unanimous choice by a selection committee comprised of band directors from across the United States and Canada. The Aledo program was recognized in December at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic held in Chicago.

Turn to page 12

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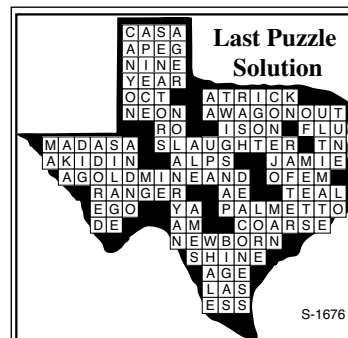
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Notice is given that the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Annetta North will hold a public hearing at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at the Annetta Methodist Church, 2836 FM 5, Annetta, Texas. The board will have a public hearing regarding a request for a variance of setback to allow minimum side setback of ten (10) feet for property known as Lot 1 Block 1, Creekside Estates, also known as 201 Dixon Rd, Aledo, Texas 76008. For more information you may contact the Town Secretary, Shelia Elmore, at (817) 222-8405.

//Robert Schmidt, Mayor

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The Aledo Independent School District (the District) is requesting competitive sealed proposals for CSP# 2403-02, Aledo ISD Safety and Security Project. CSP documents, plans, and specifications can be viewed and downloaded on the District architect's website at <https://www.huckabee-inc.com/construction/>. The District will hold a mandatory pre-bid meeting on April 2, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the Aledo ISD Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo TX 76008 followed by a site visit to each facility where scope is occurring. Proposals must be delivered to Aledo ISD, Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008 as specified in the CSP no later than 2:00 PM (CT) on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Proposals received after that date will not be evaluated or considered. The District shall receive, publicly open, and read aloud at the specified date and time the name of each proposer and prices in the Walsh conference room at the Aledo ISD Administration Building, 1008 Bailey Ranch Rd, Aledo, TX, 76008. Proposals will be electronically unsealed and opened shortly after the specified time of closing. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal(s) that provide(s) the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

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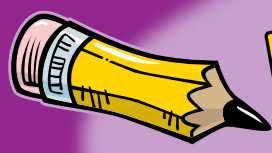
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**Kid Scoop Together**

## What Do You Know About Goats?

Try answering each of these questions. Then read *Kid Scoop* with a family member and find out which ones you got right.

If you got any wrong, you will learn something new!

- Goats can climb trees.  TRUE  FALSE
- Goats pupils are round.  TRUE  FALSE
- Goats like to eat tin cans.  TRUE  FALSE
- Goat burps are loud.  TRUE  FALSE
- Goats are foragers.  TRUE  FALSE
- Goats are one of the first animals tamed by humans.  TRUE  FALSE
- Goats like to live alone.  TRUE  FALSE
- Goats can learn their names.  TRUE  FALSE
- Goats have one big stomach.  TRUE  FALSE
- Baby goats are called kids.  TRUE  FALSE

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Answer questions using evidence from text.

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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:  
**PREFER**

The verb **prefer** means to choose one thing over another.

I prefer to do my homework right after school before I go out to play with my friends.

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



# GOATS

## Goats and People

For 10,000 years people have been herding goats. Goats are one of the first animals people used to get

**M** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle every other letter to fill in the missing letters.

**O M Y I J L B K**



## Goats Get Lonely

Goats like to live in groups, or herds. In fact, if they live alone, they will become very sad. If you ever want a goat for a pet, you should get more than one.



Help this lonely little goat get back with the herd!

## Can goats climb trees?

Yes! They are mountain animals and have been known to climb to the tops of trees!

Goats can be taught their names! And they will come when called.

**START**

How many goats can you find hidden in this tree?

## Grazers or foragers?

Foragers prefer leaves and the seeds on top of wild grass. They will also eat grass.

In nature, goats roam mountaintops and reach as high as possible to pick out tasty leaves and the grasses they enjoy.



Goats are burpers! When they digest their food, gas forms, and it escapes as loud, healthy burps.

This goat's big burp knocked some of the words out of these goat facts. Can you fill in the missing words?

Both male and female goats have beards and \_\_\_\_\_

Goats have \_\_\_\_\_ stomachs.

\_\_\_\_\_ goats are called billies.

Female goats are called **NANNIES**.

**NANNIES** \_\_\_\_\_

**MALE** \_\_\_\_\_

**KIDS** \_\_\_\_\_

**HORNS** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOUR** \_\_\_\_\_

Baby goats are called \_\_\_\_\_

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have structures that aid in survival.

## Do goats eat tin cans?

There is a myth about what goats eat. It claims goats eat anything and everything. Often, goats are drawn chewing on tin cans.



This is not true. Goats are very picky eaters. They only eat plants. But even then, they will refuse to eat dirty hay. They prefer to eat looking up and enjoy fresh leaves on trees.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have structures that aid in survival.

## Goat Art

Look through the newspaper for five or more words that describe a goat. Cut out these words and glue them onto a piece of paper. Decorate your paper with pictures of goats.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify adjectives as describing words.

Baby goats are called **kids**. Each kid has a unique call, and along with its scent, that is how its mother recognizes it from birth—not by sight.



## Kid Scoop Puzzler

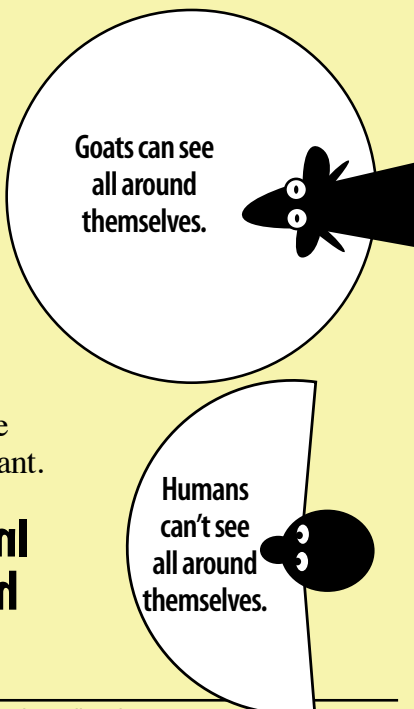
### Look Into My Eyes

Look into a goat's eyes and you will see that their pupils are rectangular. Because of this, they can see almost 360 degrees, without turning their heads.

People can see about 160 to 210 degrees around them.

Hold this page up to a mirror to see why a goat's wide vision is important.

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Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

## Double Double Word Search

- BURPS
- CALL
- CANS
- EAT
- HERDS
- HORNS
- KIDS
- LEAVES
- MYTH
- PICKY
- PREFER
- ROAM
- SCENT
- SIGHT
- TRUE

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

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

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

## FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

### Greater or Less Than?

Clip 10 numbers from the newspaper and glue them in two columns on a sheet of paper. Between each of the two sets of numbers, draw the correct "greater than" (>), "less than" (<) or "equal to" (=) symbol.

Standards Link: Math: Understand >, < and = symbols.



What do you call a goat that enjoys vacuuming the house?

ANSWER: A room-baaaa.

## Write On!

### Goats in a Tree

Imagine you see three goats in a tree. What are they doing there? How did they get there? Write a short news article.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.



## 2023 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



BRELEIGH MAYER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

### AUGUST 11 (CONTINUED)

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

About 205 players turned out for the first day of workouts for the Aledo Bearcats football season.

The Weatherford Wild had 11 swimmers compete at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation State Games of Texas in Brownsville. The contingent was led by Chloe Brumfield. Competing in the Girls 8-Under division, she won the team's lone gold medal by taking first place in the 25-yard backstroke with a time of 22.46 seconds. Five boys posted top-10 finishes, including two each individually by Maxwell Gentry and Corbin Lane in the 11-12 division. They also each swam a leg of the 200 medley relay, as did Jaxon

Edwards and Eli Vanzant.

Once again Mach I Track Club had a national champion as Josh Fink of Aledo won the 3000-meter race walk in the Boys 13-14 division at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa. Fink clocked a personal-record time of 15 minutes, 31.19 seconds, almost 13 seconds ahead of the runner-up. His older brother, Jack, also garnered All-American status with a fourth-place finish in the Boys 17-18 division of the 3000 with a personal-best time of 9:00.18. Their sister, Jenna, placed 14th in the 8-Under Girls 1500. Josh's accomplishment came a year after his teammate, Gannon Dolan, won a national championship in the 3000-meter run in the same division with a national-record time of 8:59. Dolan moved up to the



Read this issue online

15-16 division this year and finished second in that event in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics in Eugene, Oregon with a personal-best time of 8:49.76. Dolan also placed sixth in the 1500 and in the preliminaries of that event set a Mach I club record with a 4:07.91. The other Mach I runners who placed in the top 10 in Eugene are Ty Williams in the Boys 13-14 and Layton Ybarra in the Boys 17-18 category.

### AUGUST 18

Students returned to school throughout the area. In connection with the day, earlier in the month Aledo ISD's annual Bearcat Nation 101 drew big crowds. The event is organized to provide area community services the opportunity to meet new residents to the area

Weatherford College was ranked as one of the top 10 colleges in Texas by Niche.com, a leading college ranking and review website. WC is the only community college to make the list, which is based on key statistics and student reviews. WC ranked ninth overall, between the University of Texas at El Paso and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Rice University topped the list, Texas Christian University is second, and Southern Methodist University is third.

Completing a project 10 years in the making, Aledo United Methodist Church finished the expansion of its parking lot. When the church originally built its new sanctuary about 20 years ago, Pecan Street went right through what is now the parking lot. To make room for the expansion, the church bought the adjoining property and had Pecan Street re-routed to its current location. The parking lot had been unpaved since then.

Molly (Ancona) and Bo Whitaker,



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

natives of Aledo, lost their home and virtually everything they owned in the wildfires on Maui. Molly said the fire not only destroyed their home, but it also wiped out the Lahaina United Methodist Church where she and Bo were married. Anyone who wishes to help can send checks made out to Molly Ancona and mail to: Molly Ancona, P.O. Box 130, Aledo, TX 76008. Donations can also be made through Venmo at <https://venmo.com/u/Molly-Ancona> or Gofundme at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/molly-bo-whitaker>.

Aledo High School swimmer Victoria Crews competes in Italy in Reggio Emilia, Fort Worth's Sister City. Competing in the seventh Giochi del Tricolore Games, fashioned in the style of the Olympics and held every four years, she competed for her club team, Sigma Swimming-Metroplex Athletics. She won a gold medal in the 200-meter backstroke and 100 butterfly (with a personal-best time of 1:10.96).

She was also seventh in the 50 free-style, fourth in the 50 backstroke and fifth in the 50 butterfly.

Trinity Christian Academy in Willow Park began a new school year with the theme "Take the Next Step," which builds on last year's theme of "Live His Story." School Marketing Director Denis Hobbs said an exciting initiative this school year is Teaching for Transformation, or Tft. TCA Secondary School also rolled out its new small group student mentoring program along with its house system for the TCA Junior and High School.

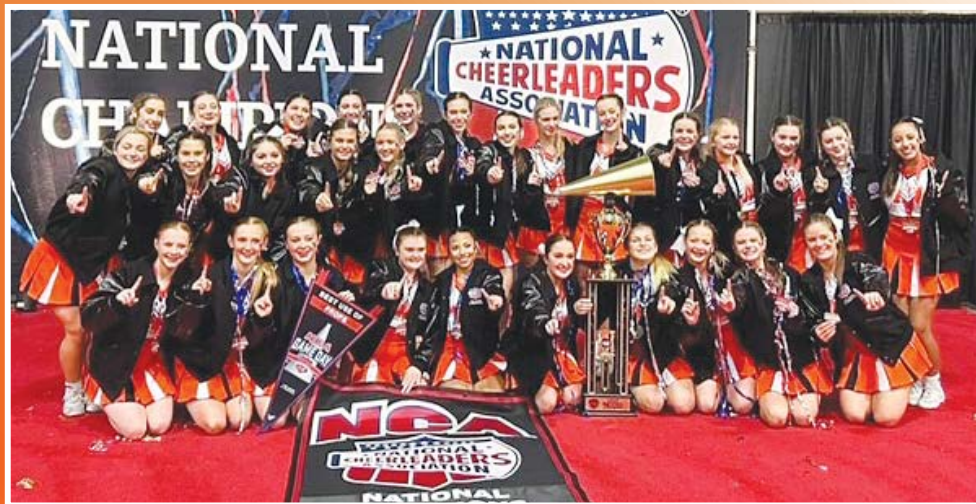
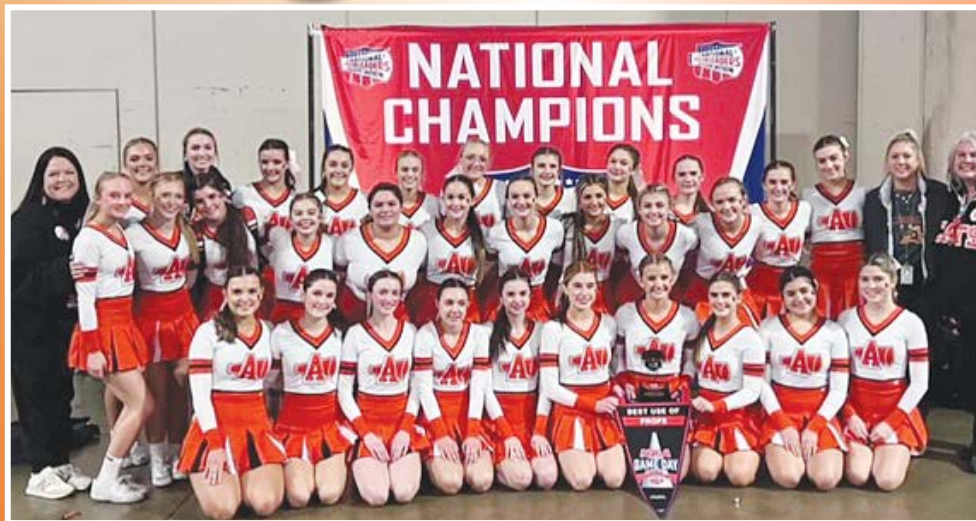
The annual Back to School section featured a story about Aledo ISD's plan to have more overlap between the high school and Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.



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To be continued.

# Way to Go!



**Aledo High School Cheerleaders won fifth place in the Class 5A Division I UIL State Spirit Competition. They also received the Best Crowd Leading Award in their division. This was the best finish at UIL State for Aledo Cheer in school history! At the NCA Nationals, Aledo took fifth place in Varsity and first place in junior varsity/freshmen competition.**

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