

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

## City Council takes stand against SB 2038

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

When Kit Marshall was the mayor in Aledo, her administration worked with the City of Fort Worth to have 228.24 acres of the Dean Ranch that makes up the northeast corner of the Rolling Hills Addition, commonly referred to as Aledo's "front door," brought into Aledo's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Fort Worth retained 321 acres of the property within its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

However, since Sept. 1, 2023, that parcel of property, along with countless others like it across Texas, have become embattled in a legal struggle with the state government.

During the 2023 Texas state legislative session, State Senator Paul Bettencourt, from Houston, authored Senate Bill 2038. This allows landowners to pull their property out of a city's ETJ simply by providing a petition signed by 50-percent of registered voters in the city holding the ETJ, or a majority in value of the holders of title of land in an area.

The state legislature passed the bill, then it was signed by Governor Greg Abbott before going into effect on Sept. 1, 2023.

Within the first month after the law went into effect, the city of Fort Worth was petitioned with the release of 1,600 acres of ETJ land. Since Sept. 1, 2023, that number has increased to around 2,000 acres.

Following the passage of SB 2038, Bettencourt released a statement saying, "No government should be able to impose rules and regulations on your property when you have no say on the rules or regulations, no say on who's creating the rules and regulations and no pathway to remove yourself from it until today."

### Matter of constitutionality

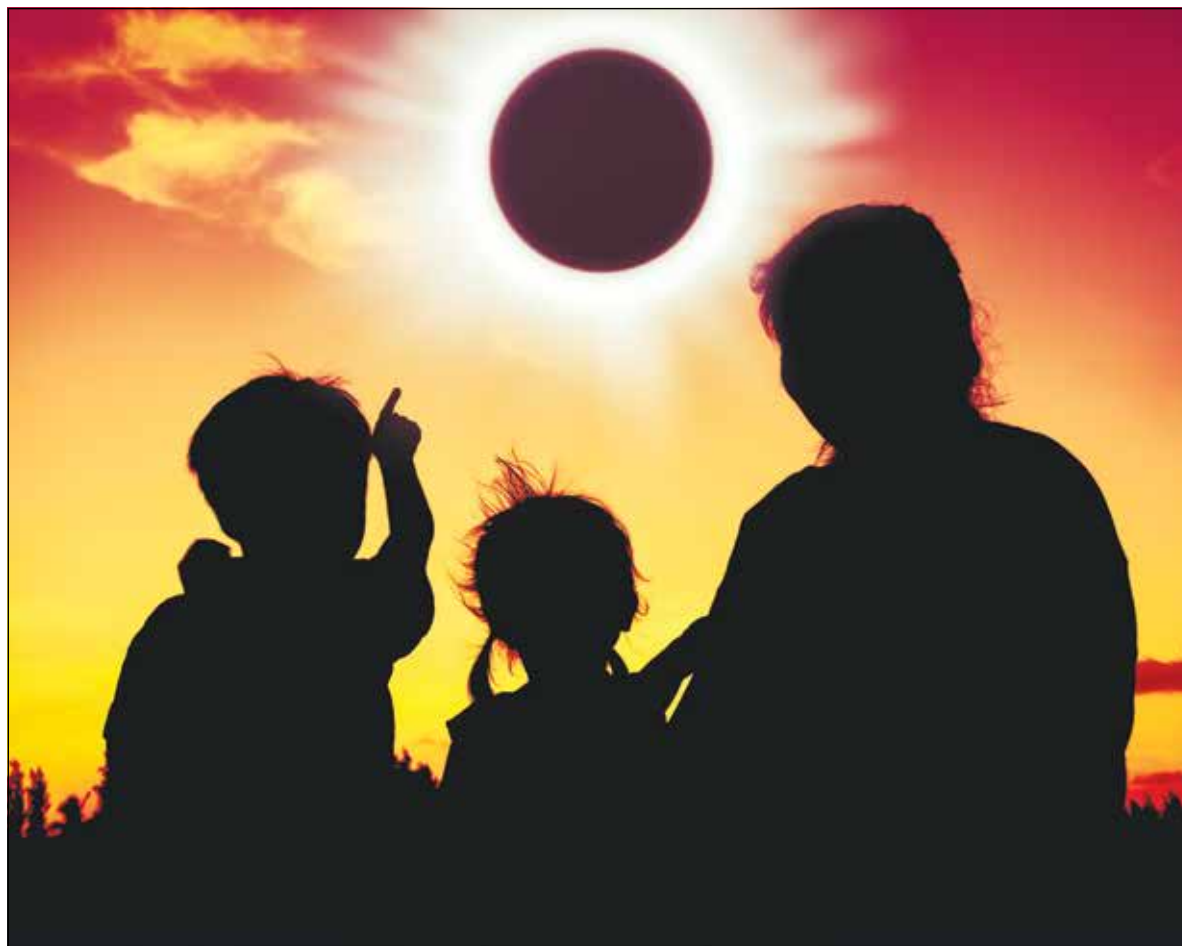
But opponents of the bill say this isn't a matter of property owner rights. It's a matter of constitutionality, of unintended consequences, and of pulling governance away from local communities and centralizing power in Austin.

Landowners are permitted to leave an ETJ if they do not like the regulations and statutes in one municipality and having neighboring cities compete for more favorable terms for the property owner to bring the property into their ETJ. Fort Worth Assistant City

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# Countdown to Monday's eclipse

## Willow Park has one of nation's best views

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Don't blink. Well, okay, you can blink, but don't keep your eyes closed for very long or you'll miss a historic event that has one of the best views in the entire United States right here in our backyard.

Monday, April 8, the City of Willow Park and the Parker County Chamber of Commerce are hosting *Total Eclipse of the Park* at the Aledo Athletics, Inc. ballfields, 9001 E. Bankhead Hwy. Gates open at noon and activities will conclude around 2 p.m.

Somewhere around 1:40 p.m. the eclipse will happen. The sun will be completely blocked out by the moon for more than two minutes, a rare occurrence.

"We are a great place watch the eclipse because we are right on the line of totality, which means you'll be able to get one of the best views in the county from our spot," Willow Park Director of Communications and Marketing Rose Hoffman said.

"The next full solar eclipse viewable from the (contiguous) United States will be in 2044, according to NASA. So this is a very rare and fun experience and a great way to celebrate as a community, and enjoy some cool science stuff."

Hoffman said 1,000 pairs of viewing glasses provided by

Donna J. Alberts with Edward Jones will be available for those who attend the event. She also recommends showing up early and bringing a lawn chair.

"We have advertised in both Tarrant and Parker Counties, and are working with Willow Park Police Department on traffic control the day of the eclipse to minimize the traffic issues in the area as people are arriving and leaving," she said. "Also, we have Miguel's Place, Salmark BBQ, La Reyna, and Frios Pops coming to sell delicious lunches to our guests. Frios even has specialty flavors in honor of the eclipse."

According to the National Weather Service, the most recent total solar eclipse in North or Central Texas was in 1878. After this, there won't be another until 2317.

In fact, since 1900, the United States has only seen 12 total solar eclipses pass over any portion of the country.

NASA reports the next total eclipse in the world will occur on Aug. 12, 2026, and will be visible from Greenland, Iceland, the Atlantic Ocean, and Spain.

"No one wants to say they were indoors looking at their phone when this magical day was happening!" Hoffman said.

### NASA tips for safety when viewing

- View through eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer during the partial eclipse phases before and after totality.

- You can view the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the moon completely obscures the sun's bright face - during the brief and spectacular period known as totality. (You'll know it's safe when you can no longer see any part of the sun through eclipse glasses or a solar viewer.)

- As soon as you see even a little bit of the bright sun reappear after totality, immediately put your eclipse glasses back on or use a handheld solar viewer to look at the sun.

- Even during a partial or annular eclipse, or during the partial phases of a total eclipse, the sun will still be very bright. If you are watching an entire eclipse, you may be in direct sunlight for hours. Remember to wear sunscreen, a hat, and protective clothing to prevent skin damage.

- Do not use eclipse glasses or handheld viewers with cameras, binoculars, or telescopes. Those require different types of solar filters. When viewing a partial or annular eclipse through cameras, binoculars, or telescopes equipped with proper solar filters, you do not need to wear eclipse glasses. (The solar filters do the same job as the eclipse glasses to protect your eyes.)

If you happen to be on the road driving when the eclipse happens

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BASEBALL

## Bradford starts season strong with Rangers

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

After a wild ride in the big leagues during his rookie campaign, Aledo native Cody Bradford went into the offseason with a checklist of things to work on in hopes of securing a roster spot with the Rangers coming out of spring training this season.



Cody Bradford

Not only did he make the roster, but as of now he's earned a spot in the starting rotation.

A big reason behind Bradford getting the starting nod for the Rangers coming into the season he credits to pitching coach Mike Maddux. At the end of last season, Maddux informed Bradford that he wanted him to develop a curveball to go along with his fastball and changeup. Bradford, who hasn't featured a curveball in his repertoire since his days at Baylor, went right to work.

With the help of the Rangers' pitching development staff, he found a curveball grip that he began to have some confidence in as spring training started. Maddux worked with Bradford to sort through opposing lineups during the spring to find at-bats they wanted to start off with a curveball.

The duo found a lot of success stealing strikes early in counts. Bradford believes that success in the spring is what instilled the trust in Maddux to put him in the five-man rotation to start this season.

"Maddux was, I think, impressed with how far [the curveball] has come in such a short time," Bradford said. "I only started throwing it in December. I really think that's the only reason I'm starting right now, or earned a spot in the rotation, is because he has faith in that pitch being a third quality pitch I can use to get through a lineup two to three times."

### Starting strong

Bradford earned a win in his first start of the season on Saturday, March 30, when the Rangers hosted the Chicago Cubs. He pitched five complete innings, giving up two runs on three hits. He also retired six of the 15 outs he was responsible for by way of strikeout.

"Towards the last outings in the spring, I started using [the curveball] later in counts," Bradford recalled. "Then, in the first game on Saturday, I actually got a strikeout with it."

"I think if I had come into spring training, and had been still

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# In & Around Parker County

## Trust your countertops to the experts



DFW Countertop Repair is a small family-owned business owned by Marcus Zurobski and Linda Bannister, who have been married and worked together for nearly 25 years. Zurobski began his career as a woodworker and craftsman making specialty wood crafts for artisans in Deep Ellum. According to Bannister, "Marcus had a following among artists who appreciated the meticulousness in the way he did his work. He carried that same attention to detail over when he expanded his talents into carpentry and remodeling."

After moving to Weatherford, the pair decided to start their own business, Marz Remodeling, LLC, a BBB accredited business, doing business

as DFW Countertop Repair. "We started out doing full-scale remodeling, but decided to specialize," said Bannister. "While there are many excellent fabricators out there, few companies focus exclusively on restoration or repair of existing countertops. If you've invested thousands of dollars in your home, you want to protect that investment. Our services are designed specifically with that goal in mind."

Zurobski was trained by leading experts in countertop repair. Continuing education is an important part of the work. "Every day I spend some time learning something new about this work. I love spending time in my shop experimenting with

new techniques, tools, or chemicals honing my skills." Zurobski said, "It's an exciting time in the industry as new materials and manufacturing techniques are expanding the types of materials that can be used for

countertops. You have to understand the unique properties of each one to know how to properly work with it. It's extremely important to keep up with the changes. It's exciting and I love the challenge."

DFW Countertop Repair works on most surface materials, including granite, quartz, marble, natural and engineered stone, and solid surface. Besides repair and restorations, they also specialize in modifying countertop to fit new appliances and installing sinks. They service both residential and commercial customers across the DFW area.

"Our focus is our customers. We don't cut corners or try to rush through jobs," Bannister said. "We take the time to do the work the way it should be done to achieve the best results possible."

For more info on DFW Countertop Repair, visit [DFWCountertopRepair.com](http://DFWCountertopRepair.com), or call 817-565-3110.

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# BRADFORD

from page 7

fastball-changeup heavy like I was out of the bullpen last year, I would say I'm probably not starting right now," he added.

While he's earned a spot in the starting rotation early this season, there are several key factors in play that will determine if that will last, and for how long. Chief among those factors is his performance.

To this point in his career, Bradford has been nothing short of reliable for the Rangers. Each time his number was called in 2023, he performed better than the outing before.

The lights never appeared to be too bright for the young left-hander, even in the World Series against the Arizona last October. Stringing together



a few more solid outings following his first start of the year on Saturday will go a long way to making his case to stay in the rotation.

### Other factors

The rest of the factors are all things out of his control. At the top of that list is the signing of Michael Lorenzen. The Rangers signed the nine-year veteran to a one-year deal in free agency back on March 22. An All-Star in 2023, Lorenzen started the year in Detroit pitching for the Tigers before being traded to the Philadelphia Phillies last July. While not a starter during the Phillies' playoff run last season, Lorenzen threw 5.1 innings during the playoffs without surrendering a run.

Due to his late addition to the Rangers, Lorenzen is presently with the Triple-A Round Rock Express. He

is expected to make a couple of starts for Round Rock before being brought up to Arlington to join the Rangers' pitching staff.

To go along with the anticipated addition of Lorenzen to the rotation, the Rangers are also expecting Max Scherzer and Jacob DeGrom to return from injury and settle back into the rotation. The Rangers placed Scherzer on the 15-day IL on March 28, setting him up to return as early as April 12.

The timetable for DeGrom's return following season-ending surgery to repair his ulnar collateral ligament nearly 10 months ago is a bit more murky. The Rangers placed the right-hander on the 60-day IL on March 22, indicating he could be ready to return as soon as May 21. However, in an interview with MLB.com back in February, DeGrom stated August was a more realistic timetable for his return.

### Team player

Regardless of which role he is tasked with taking on, Bradford is just grateful to be part of the Rangers.

"If the team sees a better fit for me in the bullpen, then I might slide back into a long-relief role like last season, and that's totally fine," he said. "I just want to serve the team wherever I can be used."

Bradford is currently slated to make his next start on Friday, April 5, when the Rangers welcome the Houston Astros to town for Game 1 of a four-game series. Barring any changes to the rotation after that start on Friday, Bradford should get the ball again on Wednesday, April 10 for Game 2 of a three-game set against the Oakland A's at Globe Life Field. First pitch for both games is slated for 7:05 p.m.

# ECLIPSE

from page one

- Keep your vehicle headlights on.
- Put the sun visor down to block your view of the sun.
- Don't wear your eclipse viewing glasses while driving.
- Don't try to photograph or video record the eclipse while driving.
- Don't pull over on the side of the road, highway or interstate to view the eclipse.
- Fully exit the roadway and park in a safe area far from traffic to view the eclipse.
- Be mindful of pedestrians who may be walking around with their eyes to the sky and not their surroundings during the total solar eclipse.

# Crawfish Fly-In to support Clouddancer scholarship

The Clouddancer Scholarship Fund will host its third annual Crawfish Fly-In from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, at the Mineral Wells Regional Airport, 5300 Airport Road in Mineral Wells.

The event will feature DC-3 rides, a warbird static display, parachute demonstrations, bounce houses, snow cones, crawfish, hot dogs, and hamburgers.

Admission is free.

Funds raised will go toward scholarships for veterans who wish to pursue a career in aviation. The scholarship is in honor and memory of Ashton Johnson of Willow Park, himself a veteran who wished to become an aviator.



Johnson served in the U.S. Army, first at Fort Sill, where he learned to work on Patriot missile systems and, and C-RAM, which is kind of rocket artillery, mortar, and all the computer engineering goes with all it.

He was sent to Afghanistan, where he put those skills to use and helped coordinate helicopter operations.

When he returned home, Johnson used the G.I. Bill to study aviation, but he learned that the G.I. Bill doesn't pay for the private pilot certificate.

He tragically lost his life about three years ago.

For more information, visit <https://clouddancer-scholarship.org>.

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# ALEDO

from page one

Manager Dana Burghdoff refers to the practice as "city shopping," telling the *Fort Worth Report*, "Now, the property owners are in a position to cherry-pick which city they want to work with. So it creates competition, if you will, between the communities. But it also can kind of mess up your planning for infrastructure planning and land use planning if property owners can try to come and go."

### Grand Prairie lawsuit

The City of Grand Prairie filed a lawsuit in Travis County in October of 2023 to halt SB 2038. Since that time numerous cities across the state have joined with Grand Prairie in the lawsuit. The City of Aledo elected to join the lawsuit in February.

"Our City Council is committed to maintaining



# Our City Council is committed to maintaining a high quality of life for every family in every part of Aledo, and that includes taking a stand against legislation that threatens our community like SB 2038.

a high quality of life for every family in every part of Aledo, and that includes taking a stand against legislation that threatens our community like SB 2038," stated Mayor Nick Stanley in a press release. "Perhaps the most concerning part of SB 2038 is that it allows a razor-thin majority of landowners to remove property from an ETJ for the property owner's

### Aledo Mayor Nick Stanley

interests without regard to public health and safety."

### More than own land

One of the unintended consequences of SB 2038, according to the press release by Mayes Media Group on behalf of the City of Aledo, is that not only can a property owner have their land removed from an ETJ, but they can also

remove other property owners' land from the ETJ without their knowledge or consent. With a majority of value of the holders of title of land in an area being able to pull property from the ETJ, there is no requirement to notify those holding the minority of value of title for the property.

The new law also allows property owners to force an election to remove property with just five-percent of registered voters petitioning for the election where only landowners who reside in the area are allowed to vote. Any landowners of the property involved in the election living outside the area are ineligible to vote and would have no say in what will happen with their property.

Prior to the passage of SB 2038, in order for a landowner to have their property removed from an ETJ, the landowner would have to apply to the city for removal. The city council would deliberate and

vote on whether or not to allow the removal from the city's ETJ. That process has been nullified by the passage of SB 2038.

### Petition to remove

In the past two months Aledo's City Council has been petitioned to remove the 228.24 acres of Dean Ranch from the city's ETJ. In February, the petition was nullified due to the fact that the request was brought by the original property owner, rather than the current owner.

Fast forward to Thursday, March 28, when the city council was petitioned once again, this time by the current landowners, Brothers in Christ Properties, LLC. With Aledo involved in a pending lawsuit along with Grand Prairie and a myriad of other municipalities across the Lone Star State, the motion was denied pending the outcome of the litigation.

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### Content Submission Policy

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

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

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

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

## Capital Highlights

# Solar eclipse means big money to Texas



Gary Borders  
gborders@texaspress.com

One economist is calling it "the most profitable 22 minutes in Texas history," according to the *Texas Standard*. The total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8 is expected to draw up to a million visitors to the Lone Star State, especially in its narrow path of totality.

Texas cities located in that path include Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Waco, Temple, Killeen, Llano, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, Uvalde, Del Rio and Texarkana. (That is not a complete list. Check online to see if your community is in the totality path.)

All of the state will experience at least a partial solar eclipse, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. For example, the sun will be about 94% eclipsed over Houston at its peak. The moon will start to block the sun around noon, with totality beginning near Del Rio on a path northeast across Texas.

Viewers are urged to wear eclipse glasses labeled with ISO 12312-2 standard or use a hand-held solar filter to avoid eye damage. Given demand, those might be a challenge to find at this late date.

Meanwhile, let's hope for a sunny day on April 8!

## Prosecutors settle securities fraud case against Paxton

Nearly nine years after felony securities fraud charges were brought against state Attorney General Ken Paxton, prosecutors last week agreed to drop the charges if Paxton pays about \$271,000 in restitution, performs 100 hours of community service, and takes 15 hours of legal ethics courses, the *Texas*

*Tribune* reported. The deal was struck just three weeks before Paxton was set to face trial.

Paxton did not have to enter a plea under the terms of the agreement. He is still under federal investigation for his relationship with since-indicted developer Nate Paul.

The settlement caps a topsy-turvy span of several months for Paxton, who was impeached in the House and acquitted in the Senate. Paxton successfully took on a number of those who voted to impeach him by backing their opponents in the GOP primary, and led Republican voters to oust three incumbent Court of Criminal Appeal justices who drew his ire with a previous ruling.

"The pundits, lobbyists and consultants have written his political obituary many times and yet they greatly underestimated General Paxton's tenacity and grit," Nick Maddux, a Paxton adviser and political consultant, said in an email.

## Appeals court again questions legality of immigration law

A panel of justices from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dealt another blow to a new law that seeks to give Texas a role in arresting and deporting migrants, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. The state had sought to enforce the law, Senate Bill 4, while the full court weighed its constitutionality.

Writing for the 2-1 majority, Chief Judge Priscilla Richman said the Texas law appeared to be "an end-run around" federal immigration law and provisions making immigration enforcement the responsibility of the federal government, not the state.

The ruling was the second time in a week that the 5th Circuit stopped the state from enforcing the new law.

"Allowing Texas to detain non-citizens without any input from the Federal Government about whether an arrest is warranted ...

would allow the State to achieve its own immigration policy," Richman wrote in a ruling joined by Judge Irma Carrillo Ramirez.

The state can ask all 17 judges on the 5th Circuit to review the panel's ruling or appeal it to the U.S. Supreme Court, *The News* reported.

## Cows at two Texas dairy farms contract bird flu

Cows in the Texas Panhandle have tested positive for the bird flu, the *Tribune* reported. That follows historic wildfires that killed at least 7,000 livestock.

Strains of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, commonly known as the bird flu, were confirmed last week by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. USDA officials said there is no safety concern to the commercial milk supply, and that consumer health also is not at risk.

This is believed to be the first time that bird flu has been found in livestock, researchers say.

"In the rare event that some affected milk enters the food chain, the pasteurization process will kill the virus," said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller.

With roughly 292 dairies and about 625,000 cows, Texas ranks fourth in the U.S. in milk production, the bulk of it coming from dairies in the Panhandle. Infected cows are expected to recover in 7-10 days.

"There should be no impact on the price of milk or other dairy products," the USDA said in a statement.

## Abbott launches Texas Space Commission

Gov. Greg Abbott last week launched the Texas Space Commission in a ceremony at NASA's Johnson Space Center. It is intended to "work to strengthen Texas' proven leadership in civil, commercial, and military aerospace activity by promoting

innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities, including the integration of space, aeronautics, and aviation industries into the Texas economy," the governor's news release noted.

The commission is governed by a nine-member board, which will administer grants from the Space Exploration and Aeronautics Fund, created by the Texas Legislature. Its board consists of both academics and professionals in the state's aerospace industry.

## Literally Anybody Else running for president

A 35-year-old teacher from North Texas is running for president after legally changing his name to "Literally Anybody Else," the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

"This isn't about me, 'Literally Anybody Else,' more so as it is an idea. We can do better out of 300 million people for president," Else told WFAA in Dallas.

Getting on the ballot could prove to be a challenge for the teacher formerly known as Dustin Ebey. Independent candidates need 113,151 signatures from registered voters by May 13 who did not vote in a primary election in order to get on the November ballot. If he is unsuccessful in garnering the required number of signatures, he would still be eligible as a write-in option.

Else is still working as a math teacher. He said his students still call him Mr. Ebey.

"This will be very hard to do, but it's not impossible," Else said. "I really want there to be an outlet for folks like me who are just so fed up with this constant power grab between two parties that has no benefit for the common person."

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



## Idle American

# The Blackwood Name Lives On....



Dr. Don Newbury  
newbury@speakerdoc.com

The name "Blackwood" has been as closely linked to Southern Gospel Music as ham and eggs to diners, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz to TV, and Tarzan and Jane to jungle movies. The family has endeared itself to a grateful nation for their renditions of gospel music for some 125 years.

It began when the family started singing in churches in 1934, when the Great Depression had the country in a death grip. In the original group were Roy, his oldest son R.W. and his two brothers, James and Doyle. (Actually, Blackwood music first came from the fiddle of Emmett Blackwood--Roy's dad--in the 1890s.)

There have been many names, including Blackwood Brothers, Blackwood Family and Blackwood Singers. They've all had songs in their hearts, commitment in their souls and remarkable energy as pioneers in Southern

Gospel Music. "Southern" is worthy of note; the USA is devoid of Eastern, Northern and Western Gospel Music.

In Branson recently, I chatted with R.W. Blackwood, Jr., who has sung at Pigeon Forge and Branson venues since 1990. He was a lad when his dad and uncles started gaining national renown in the 1940s.

He took leave of his Branson "gig" in November and has been battling COVID and lung trouble.

"I've been singing full-time, mostly on the road, for 60 years," he said. "Isn't it time for a sabbatical?"

Thankfully, his lung x-rays show improvement. He credits medical science and heavy-duty prayers at his church and beyond.

Alongside is Donna, his wife of 58 years. (Donna, R.W. Jr. and his brother Ron and wife Sandra, were members of the Blackwood Singers.)

During leave time, R.W. and Donna are greatly enjoying their two children, 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren, with two more expected soon.

A book about the Blackwoods would require multiple volumes. They've sung throughout the nation and beyond, appearing before both handful-sized groups and others that would fill largest cathedrals. R.W. cites many reasons for his family's preeminence.

First-generation Blackwoods traveled on horse-drawn conveyances, long before the family criss-crossed the nation in Cadillacs. Then, they had the first-ever customized "tour bus," followed by a twin-engine plane whose pilot was R.W. Sr. Tragically, he and Bill Lyles, another group member and also a pilot, were killed in an Alabama plane crash in 1954.

The funeral for R.W. Blackwood, Sr. was attended by thousands of friends and fans, among whom was a close family friend, Elvis Presley. (An even larger Memphis funeral was held 23 years later when Elvis died.)...

Presley and the Blackwoods visited often. Elvis always chose to sing gospel songs only, leaving his rock-and-roll performances for other places. Enamored by the Blackwoods' tour bus, he had a similar one customized for himself.

R.W. Jr. fondly remembers his childhood, playing games with the Everly Brothers when they were children.

He cherishes memorabilia of the family, many of whom branched out to join other groups after getting started.

Discovering the Blackwoods were Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scout Show and Ted Mack's

Amateur Hour. Then, singing in Shenandoah, Iowa, on KMA Radio--a 50,000-watt station covering much of the nation--helped greatly. Later, they sang at many Billy Graham Crusades.

The Blackwoods have won every award for gospel music, including eight Grammys and seven Dove Awards. His favorite is the Memphis Music Award. They've recorded numerous albums and sold millions of records. They also collaborated with Dallas' Stamps-Baxter Music Company to produce thousands of song books.

Back home in Ackerman, MS, is the Blackwood Brothers Parkway.

Just 11 years of age when his dad died, R.W. had to grow up quickly.

He's grateful for God's many blessings. In recent weeks, he has enjoyed attending Branson theaters instead of singing in them. His son Robbie is a drummer for the popular Clay Cooper Show. Grandson Joey is a singer/dancer in the Cooper Show and a singer in the theater's Elvis Show.

May the Blackwoods continue to brighten our lives.

*Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to write weekly and speak throughout Texas. Contact: 817-446-3872. Email: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com)*





## MUSIC

## Weatherford man living his musical dream in mid-80s

By John English  
The Community News

Charles Roberson's passion for German music began as a high school student in the 1950s.

His great, great, great grandfather served in the American Revolution, and his older brother served in World War II. While Roberson also served in both the Army National Guard and then the Air Force during the Vietnam War, it was music that paid for college.

Roberson, 85, attended Weatherford College for a year and then accepted a music scholarship from Hardin-Simmons University, because the HSU Band completed a European tour the previous year, and Roberson was informed by the director that they were going to do it again.

"I didn't care about going to Hardin-Simmons," Roberson said. "I wanted that free trip to Europe. So I go over there and sign up. I'm all ready to go, and all of a sudden the trip got canceled. So there I am stuck."

But a passion for German music also stuck, and after his stint in the military and a career at General Dynamics, now Lockheed Martin, Roberson picked it up again.

### Getting started

Born in 1938 in Pampa in the Panhandle, Roberson's family moved to the Breckenridge area when he was a young boy. His father had made some money during the depression working in the oil industry and bought 150 acres just North of Weatherford.

Roberson went to Weatherford schools and participated in several band clinics at Tarleton State University in Stephenville when he was a teen.

The Parker County man started out as a trombone player and eventually switched to euphonium. As an adult, he played with the Fort Worth City Band in the mid-90s and later branched out and played with the Dallas Czech Concert Orchestra.

### Finding his true music love

In the early to mid-oughts, the German Band of North Texas came and asked him to play with them. For Roberson, it was a no brainer.

"I just love it," Roberson said. "It's creative. With German music, you play it pretty much the way you feel it. It's just fun music. The funny thing about it is that we don't have that many Germans in the band. I'm 80 percent Gaelic, Celtic and Scottish. We do have a few Germans, but right now, the conductor is African-American. He was career Air Force and played in bands all over Europe, and he became quite an expert in German music. So it's a diverse group."

### Switching instruments

After playing euphonium for years, along with the trombone and trumpet, Roberson switched to the tenor horn for the German band.

"It's an Eastern European instrument that you don't really see around here very often," Roberson said. "I was a euphonium player before that. I actually didn't have a tenor horn when I played with the Dallas Czech Concert Orchestra. I played the first tenor horn part on the euphonium. The tenor horns are hard to get, and they are expensive if you order them from the Czech Republic or Germany."

Fortunately, for Roberson, his son-in-law found a tenor horn through a company out of California that had just received a shipment of 29 of the instruments from China.

Roberson was able to buy one, case and all, for \$360.

"I told him 'Put it on your credit card right now, and I will pay you back,'" Roberson said. "It is the exact copy of the German version, and it plays beautifully."

### Straying from convention

Roberson, who also occasionally performs with the Cross Timbers Lower Brass Ensemble, made it clear that the German Band of North Texas does not follow all of the conventions of a traditional German band.

"We don't wear the silly outfits and the Lederhosen and stuff like that," Roberson said. "We don't have accordions or banjos or anything like that. If there is anything that will make me look for my gun, it would be to play an accordion or banjo too long."

There are about 25 members of the German Band of North Texas and they are all volunteers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Charles Roberson of Weatherford still plays his favorite German music in a live band at the age of 85.

Roberson said the ensemble's former conductor would often go to Oslo, Norway to get the band authentic German music.

"When the Nazis pulled out of Germany, they left their horns and their music and everything," Roberson said. "The Norwegians archived it all."

"Our director would get us some really authentic music, some of it well over 100 years old. We have a few pieces that were manuscripts that were never published, that we can play at a concert today."

### Bucket list item

Roberson crossed off a bucket list item a few years back when he was chosen for the all-state German band the year before the COVID 19 pandemic hit.

"I had always wanted to play with them," Roberson said. "It is by invitation only and they pick the best German musicians in Texas. I

got an invitation to go and play with them and it was wonderful.

"We played at the Beethoven Mansion in San Antonio. It has a large courtyard and a big pavilion. There were more than a thousand people in the audience."

The German Band of North Texas also have a Schellenbaum, a rare percussion instrument of which only one other band in Honolulu and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra are in possession.

The Group performs at Muenster twice a year for Oktoberfest, and then plays the German Festival in April.

They have also played in Southlake and Plano German Festivals, along with Texas Live! in Arlington. The ensemble also performs Christmas shows.

### Military background

Although music occupies much of his time, Roberson's military background still figures prominently in his life, as he serves as First

Vice Commander of Post 163 of the American Legion in Weatherford.

"We have one of the nicest Legion halls in the state," Roberson said. "The American Legion at the state convention has competitions for the historians, judging how well they have kept up with everything. We have won it several times. Then for 2023, the state commander was from our post."

Roberson also served as the Grand Marshall of the Veteran's Day Parade in Weatherford this past year.

### Looking ahead

The German Band of North Texas will be playing in Downtown Granbury in April, and Roberson said the most important thing for him is that people enjoy themselves at the group's performances.

"I hope people leave with a feeling of happiness," Roberson said. "We just want to bring a good feeling to the people. It's hard to explain, German music, but you kind of get hooked on it. We want them to leave with smiles on their faces."



"I just love it, it's creative. With German music, you play it pretty much the way you feel it. It's just fun music."

- Charles Roberson

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**APRIL 6**

**Community Shred Day**  
The City of Willow Park will host a community shred day from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 6, at 516 Ranch House Road. Residents can bring all their old documents for free shredding!  
- No cardboard and no hard metals such as 3-ring binders  
- Paper clips, brads, and staples are ok  
- You MUST bring proof of residency in the form of a photo ID or current utility bill. Any questions can be directed to the city secretary's office at 817-441-7108x108.



7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 16 at the Aledo Community Center. Seating is limited, \$15 per person cash or check at the event. Pre-register through the Parker county Agrilife Extension office.

**Celebration 2024 committee parent meeting**  
Class of 2024 parents/guardians, mark your calendars!  
The Aledo Project Celebration 2024 committee is hosting a parent meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Apr. 15 in the DLC Room at Aledo High School. Go in the front doors of the High School and the room is on your right. We will discuss upcoming senior events, including the After-Prom Party

**APRIL 18**  
**Taste of Parker County**  
The 15th annual Taste of Parker County will be held from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 18, at Weatherford's Heritage Park This food-tasting



fundraiser benefits the Weatherford College Foundation. More than 20 vendors, including local restaurants, caterers, bakeries, coffee shops and breweries, will offer sample-sized tastings of their most popular offerings in an "all-you-can-eat" format. Individual tickets are \$40 through April 17 and \$45 on April 18. Tickets are available online at [wc.edu/taste](http://wc.edu/taste). For more information, contact Sodek at [ssodek@wc.edu](mailto:ssodek@wc.edu) or 817-598-8924.

**APRIL 27**  
**Willow Park Palooza + Car Show**  
Get ready for some serious family fun because

**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

**APRIL 16**

**Container Gardening**  
Learn how to plant flowers to create stunning containers from the expert, Gay Larson at the Container Gardening event from 6 -

**ACROSS**

- TXism: "jumpy as \_\_\_ on ice"
- Saturday is a cowboy's \_\_\_ day
- TX Mildred \_\_\_ "Babe" Didrikson
- Austin band: "Asleep \_\_\_ the Wheel"
- Texas fire \_\_\_
- inner Fort Worth suburb: \_\_\_ City
- director Preminger
- TXism: "grabbin' at straws"
- detests
- "copying" company
- "Wreck it Ralph" song: "When \_\_\_ You Again?"
- party-giver
- "\_\_\_ on" (tell somebody else)
- Austin's "TreeFolks" encourage people to \_\_\_ tree
- TXism: "she could sell ice cubes to \_\_\_"
- noted TCU coach: \_\_\_ "Dutch" Meyer
- "let \_\_\_ bygones"
- TXism: "ain't \_\_\_ lick of sense"
- this agcy. administers soc. security
- TXism: "\_\_\_ bill of goods" (lied)
- biblical shouts of praise
- golf peg
- TXism: "short as \_\_\_ eyebrow"
- clean and tidy
- Texas legendary "no hitter" pitcher (init.)
- TXism: "\_\_\_-walking drunk"
- maker of caulks and sealants
- he is \_\_\_ to his state (a fine Texan)
- Del Rio FM station
- \_\_\_ Colony, Texas in Denton County
- this Desmond played with the Texas Rangers in 2016 playoffs
- TX Perot's 1st naval officer rank (abbr.)
- university before it was Texas A&M-Kingsville (4 wds.)
- this Farley founded Boys Ranch in Oldham County
- city in Texas and Georgia
- TX Tommy Lee Jones 1978 film: "Eyes of Laura \_\_\_"
- Galveston has the "International \_\_\_ Festival"
- office furniture
- works hard to do something (2 wds.)
- locals hired to be in a crowd in a film
- TXism: "useless as panty \_\_\_ to a pig"
- "Honest \_\_\_" Lincoln
- this Farley founded Boys Ranch in Oldham County
- city in Texas and Georgia
- TX Tommy Lee Jones 1978 film: "Eyes of Laura \_\_\_"
- Galveston has the "International \_\_\_ Festival"
- office furniture
- works hard to do something (2 wds.)
- locals hired to be in a crowd in a film
- TXism: "useless as panty \_\_\_ to a pig"
- "Hook ' \_\_\_ Horns!"
- Rim State Park"
- TXism: "He's still got some \_\_\_ in his garters" (able)
- \_\_\_ as a pin"
- on banks of the Rio Grande: "Santa \_\_\_ National Wildlife Refuge"
- a bolo to a cowboy
- this Tom pitched for the Astros in the 1993-94 season
- soft drink created in Waco: \_\_\_ Pepper

**DOWN**

- "Honest \_\_\_" Lincoln
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- city in Texas and Georgia
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**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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The Shops at Willow Park 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 Sale from 8a.m. - 3p.m., on Friday May 3, and Saturday May 4, at 1825 E Bankhead Dr, Weatherford, Texas. Come shop and see what all we have in our sale. All proceeds go towards Summer Activities for the Children. Cash/Check only. Clothing, toys, books, home decor, holiday decor, furniture, and more.

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TENNIS

## Aledo returns strong after break

By Cathy Mason  
The Community News

After a rained out tournament in Midlothian, spring break and a non-competition week, the Aledo varsity tennis team came back strong to earn medals in nine divisions at the tournament hosted by Waxahachie High School on March 28.

With impressive 4-0 records for the day, Bryanna Orr won first place in Girls A Singles, Will Beyer and Francois Britz captured first place in the Boys Doubles B Division and Scott Mason and Elli Kate Bussmeir claimed first place in Mixed Doubles A.

After a first round loss, Ben Kurth fought his way to first place in the consolation round for Boys Singles A Division, with a record of 3-1 for the day. Casen Freeland earned two wins in the Boys Singles B Division.

Gracie Heydman and Sydney Byrd took second place in the Girls Doubles B division, ending the day with a 3-1 record. Jacob Heckathorn and Patrice Loftin placed second in the Mixed Doubles A division with a 3-1 record, after battling Mason and Bussmeir in an all Aledo final.

Craig Mason and Ben Farmer earned 3rd place in the Boys Doubles A division with a 3-1 record for the day. Also placing third were Kenley Germany and Lila Satterfield (2-1) in the Girls Doubles A Division, and Natalie Nawrocki (3-1) in the Girls Singles B Division.

The team will travel to Abilene on April 4 to participate in the Sharon Wartes Invitational on April 5-6.



Ethan Elmore tied with fellow Bearcat Jett Moore as low scorer at this week's district golf tournament at Sugar Tree Golf Course. Each golfer shot a 157 over two rounds.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

GOLF

## Bearcats district champs again

Ladycats defending  
By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

First appearances aren't always what they seem. Two weeks after finishing second, four strokes behind Northwest, in the Boys District 5-5A Preview at Sugar Tree Golf Course in Lipan, the Aledo Bearcats won the district championship on the same course.

The Bearcats Black Team posted a score of 633, opening with a 314 on Monday, April 1, and following with a 319 on April 2. It was 23 strokes better than runner-up Northwest Blue at 656 (329-327).

Both teams qualified for the Class 5A Region I Tournament April 15-16 at Hillcrest Golf Course in Lubbock. Joining them will be the two low individuals not on those teams from

district, Northwest medalist Tristen Musacchio (80-82 = 162) and Jase Potts of Wichita Falls Rider (79-84 = 163).

From regionals the top three teams and three lowest-scoring individuals not on those teams will advance to state April 29-30 at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown.

Aledo Orange shot 712 (348-364) to tie for fifth.

### Individual leaders

Leading the Aledo Black contingent were Jett Moore (80-77) and Ethan Elmore (78-79), who tied for low medalist at 157 each. Moore won a one-hole playoff.

"It was pretty fun to watch those two in a playoff," Aledo coach Brian Mourning said. "I'm so proud of the way they played. I'm proud of the whole team."

Braden Stokes of Aledo Black was fourth individually with a 159 (79-80), Helton Mosiello was eighth with a 164 (81-83), and Gavin Beard narrowly missed a top-10 finish, placing 11th with a 168 (77-91).

The four lowest individual scores comprise the team score in each round.

"I think our kids were just ready. Getting beat in the district preview left a sour taste in our mouths," Mourning said. "It made our guys open up their eyes. It was good for us. We need to be pushed."

"I'm really happy with how they played and how they handled the wind conditions on the second day. Gavin going out and shooting 77 on that first day, I'm really proud of him. And for Ethan to come through big for us, that was critical."

Turn to GOLF, page 8

TRACK AND FIELD

## Eight from Aledo compete at Texas Relays

### St. Peters takes silver in shot put

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Eight members of the Aledo Ladycats and Bearcats entered the arena at Mike A. Myers Stadium to face some of the top high school competitors from across the nation at one of the nation's most elite track and field meets, the annual Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays, held at the University of Texas at Austin Friday and Saturday, March 29-30.

They left with all eight posting top-20 finishes, including seven in the top seven of their respective events.

The meet serves as a final tune-up before district competition, along with giving some of the top athletes another chance to be seen by college scouts throughout the United States. Along with the high school competition, universities from across the country compete at their own level.

Ladycat Lauren St. Peters led all Aledo performers with a second place silver medal finish in the girls shot put. She had a throw of 46 feet, 3.75 inches.

She has finished first (3 times) or second (twice) in every meet this season. Last season she placed third at the Class 5A State Meet in the shot put, also qualifying as a sophomore - along with the discus.

Turn to TRACK, page 8

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GIRLS SOCCER

# Ladycats fall to Midlothian in area playoff

## Youthful roster brings optimism for next season

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

No one associated with the Ladycat soccer club expected the Class 5A area round playoff match-up at Tim Buchanan Stadium against Midlothian to be easy. It was a “David versus Goliath” scenario pitting a perennial soccer powerhouse against at young team who just hoped to be in the playoff picture when the season began.

While the Lady Panthers’ 6-0 win on Thursday, March 28, wasn’t easy to accept, it signaled the season being officially over for a Ladycats squad that has grown by leaps and bounds over the past three months.

“[Midlothian’s] a good team,” commended Ladycats head coach Bryan Johnson after the match. “I still don’t think they’re 6-0 better than us. I do know that score line says that. I also know we’ve got girls that didn’t quit and fought hard to the very end. I saw some things from some of the younger girls that I hope we’re going to grow from. And the seniors got to put in that effort there at the end. All positives.”

### Taking on the bombardment

For 80 minutes the Lady Panthers (23-2) prowled around the pitch, and for 80 minutes the

Ladycats (11-9-3) took everything thrown their way with an unwavering determination. Midlothian, which won for a 22nd straight contest, started the game with the hammer down, catching the hometown team off guard with their first score of the contest

coming just 13 seconds into the match. The Lady Panthers added a second goal in the ninth minute of play before finding the net a third time before the end of the first half.

When play resumed in the second half, it was much the same. Behind a three-goal

effort by Zayla Reagan, Midlothian overwhelmed the Ladycats defense to score a trifecta of second-half goals before the game, along with the Aledo season, came to an end.

While they scored six goals in the match, had it not been for the spectacular

performance of Ladycat goalkeeper, Ava Fennell, the final score easily could’ve been significantly more lopsided. The Lady Panthers took 21 shots on goal during the match, not including a couple other attempts that were called off-sides by the officials.

Of the 21 missiles fired at her goal, Fennell stopped 15. By contrast, when the two teams met up earlier in the season, the Lady Panthers scored six goals on 10 shots with Fennell tending the net.

“Ava played lights out,” Johnson said of his keeper. “It was amazing! Hopefully she can grow from that, and continue to get better. I think back to when she was an eighth-grader and I didn’t have a goalkeeper. She said, ‘I’ll do it!’ I remember those first few games.

“She had no idea what she was doing. She couldn’t punt the ball. She had no concept of where she was in the goal. Then, lead her up to this year – her junior season – and she’s making saves against a U17 National Team player.

“She’s punting the ball to mid-field. She’s making goal kicks. Some of our top goalkeepers we’ve ever had couldn’t take goal kicks.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ladycat goalkeeper Ava Fennell maneuvers around teammate Baylee Velarde to defend the net during a Midlothian corner kick in the area playoff match on Thursday, March 28. Midlothian took 21 shots on goal during the match with Fennell collecting 15 saves.

She works at it. She’s earning her role. There’s growth there every time. She’s a pretty freaking amazing kid. I think we’re very lucky to have her here in Aledo.”

### Optimism for next season

In a season that started off with so many question marks, a significant amount of youth, no known goal scorers, and just six seniors on the roster, the notion of making a playoff run seemed insurmountable. Doing what Aledo teams do

best, the Ladycats went to work every day looking to replace those question marks with some definitive statements.

As they worked their way through the pre-district portion of the schedule, things started to take shape. Fennell secured the starting job in the net. The defensive backfield came together. Freshman Allyson Weimer emerged as the top goal scorer on a team desperately in need of some offensive firepower.

Turn to **PLAYOFF**, page 9

## GOLF

from page seven

Elmore was listed as the No. 5 player on the Black team and Beard was No. 4 before the tournament began. They quickly rose to the top of the leaderboard, with Beard leading after the first day and Elmore second.

“I have guys in the program who can do that. It shows how deep we are.”

Aledo Orange was led by Brian Yarbrough with a 169 (85-84), followed by Tyler

Anderson, 177 (89-88); William Kirkman, 186 (90-96); Maddux Jessup, 190 (84-96); and Cade Moore, 192 (91-101).

### Regionals

The tournament’s second day featured some testy winds and even some nippy temperatures, both of which are commonplace in Lubbock this time of year.

“To hit a ball and try to put in a narrow fairway (at Sugar Tree), and to have success, I’m proud of our kids

and the way they handled themselves,” Mourning said. “There’s no holes out there that give you a break.

“Today was a lot like the wind we’ll probably be facing in Lubbock. Our kids know how to hit in the wind.”

As for the teams to beat at the regional tournament, Mourning noted Lubbock Cooper because they will be on their home course. He also said foes such as Amarillo Tascosa, Argyle, Grapevine, Colleyville Heritage - and also Northwest - will pose challenges as his team tries to make another state tournament appearance.

## TRACK

from page 7

St. Peters also placed seventh at the Texas Relays in the discus with a throw of 147-6.

The senior has committed to compete for the University of Nebraska next season.

The girls 4x800-meter relay of Sofia Brandenburg, Mayden Mitchell, Micah Neal and Mykel Murry posted a fifth-place time of 9 minutes, 55.24 seconds.

Pole vaulters Brad Campbell and Taylor Hindman placed sixth and seventh in boys and girls Division B, respectively. Campbell cleared 15-3 and Hindman vaulted 11-9.75.

Addison Smith rounded out the Aledo competitors. She tied for 19th in the girls 100 dash in Division II with a time of 11.86 seconds.

“Great weekend! Very proud of these athletes,” Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said.

The Ladycats and Bearcats were hosting the District 5-5A Meet at press time. The top four finishers in each event will advance to the Area 5/6-5A Meet April 11-12 in Fort Worth.



BILLIE SUCHOKI

Aledo High School seniors Brad Campbell (pictured above) and Taylor Hindman, qualified in the pole vault at the Texas Relays. The relays are the second largest track meet in the nation.

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## GIRLS GOLF

## Ladycats first, third at district preview

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

As they begin defense of their District 5-5A championship, the Aledo Ladycats led play in the Girls District Preview at Sugar Tree Golf Course in Dennis on March 27.

The Ladycats Black team won the championship, shooting a 373, with Granbury Purple second at 392. The Ladycats Orange squad placed third with a 403.

Individually, Aledo's Kyla Morales of the Black team took top medalist honors by shooting an 88. Akiyah Ditto of Granbury Purple was a stroke behind in second, and Emily Crick of Aledo Black and Claire Jordan of Granbury Purple tied for third with 91 each.

Also in the top 10 for Aledo were Harper Price, Orange, 95, fifth; Reagan Gilliland and Karlee Shaw, Black, 97 each, tied for sixth; Abby Gray, Orange, 99, eighth; and Kennedy Parker, Black, and Kylie Kirland, each 102, tied for ninth.

The tournament is designed to give teams a last bit of pre-district competition and to give them a glimpse of each other before the district tournament, which was being played at Sugar Tree at press time on April 4-5.

The Ladycats have qualified as a team for the Class 5A State Tournament each of the past two seasons.

## SOFTBALL

## Ladycats unblemished in district, look invincible

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

It's been two weeks since the Aledo Ladycats softball team surrendered a run to an opponent. With wins in the past week over Wichita Falls Rider and Northwest, not only has Aledo managed to remain undefeated in District 5-5A competition, but they've extended their reign of decimation to 19 consecutive games without a loss.

Since starting their District 5-5A schedule back on March 5, the Ladycats (23-2 overall, 8-0 in district) have allowed just two opposing runners to cross home plate. They have a firm hold on first place in the league with just four district games remaining.

The dominance continued with a 10-0 win on Tuesday, April 2, when the first-place Ladycats hosted the

last-place Northwest Lady Texans. Head coach Heather Myers has stressed all season that they need to be disciplined in their approach at the plate. Her goal has been for her team to draw more walks than strikeouts over the season.

On Tuesday, that was certainly the case. Aledo earned eight free passes, along with three Ladycats getting plunked by the Northwest pitcher. Meanwhile, not a single Ladycat batter struck out, as the home team cruised to a 10-0 win in five innings.

Brenlee Gonzales threw a complete-game shutout as she gave up a lone hit while striking out nine Lady Texans.

### Whoa, Taylor!

Taylor McKean has been nothing short of



spectacular in the circle for the Ladycats this season. Thursday's (March 28) 6-0 win against Wichita Falls Rider was no exception.

The young right-hander features a fastball that gets on hitters quick. Her rise ball climbs the ladder on hitters, making it virtually impossible to hit the middle of the softball. And if that wasn't enough to make opposing batters shutter at the thought of stepping into the box, her changeup is absolutely filthy.

While the Ladycats didn't have their best offensive output of the season, the six runs they put on the board were more than enough to secure the win with McKean obliterating the Lady Raiders at the dish. Kennis Marx capped

off Aledo's offensive production with a home run and a pair of RBI.

With the Ladycats in the field, McKean did what she does best - shut it down. She threw a complete game two-hitter against Rider while striking out 17 batters in seven innings of work.

### On the road

The Ladycats will be back in action on Friday, April 5, when they head north to Saginaw for a district matchup against the Lady Rough Riders. Presently, Saginaw is sitting in fourth place in District 5-5A with a 3-4 record.

First pitch in that game is slated for 6:30 pm.

Visit this story's web posting for box scores.

## BOYS SOCCER

## Broncos oust Bearcats in area round

By Jim Zimmerman  
The Community News

FLOWER MOUND - The Aledo Bearcats' 2024 soccer season came to an end in the area round of the Class 5A playoffs on Thursday, March 28, falling 2-1 to Denton at Neal Wilson Jaguar Stadium.

For the second round of the playoffs, both teams had quick turnarounds and not much time to rest and recuperate from their first-round matches. The Bearcats defeated Arlington Heights 3-0 on March 26 and the Broncos defeated Burleson Centennial 1-0.



So, both teams had the same amount of time to prepare and address any health concerns that teams that advance in the playoffs normally have when you get into the second season.

The weather conditions were perfect for the match. At the time of kickoff, it was 69 degrees and just a little breeze.

Each team had opportunities to take the lead before the Broncos (17-5-2) took advantage of a well-played corner kick and grabbed a 2-1 advantage at the 3:11

mark of the first half. That was the score at intermission and the District 7-5A runners-up made it stand in the second half.

Aledo finished the season with a 14-4-6 overall record and was the fourth-place team in District 5-5A. The Broncos were second in District 7-5A with a 9-3-2 record.

Off Austin Randriamahefa's 24th assist of the season, Elliot Smith was able to put Aledo ahead 1-0 with a shot from right in front of the goal at 15:12, his fourth goal of the season. Bruno Nogueira had an excellent chance from about 20 yards in front

of the Broncos' net for a second goal, but the ball hit off the top of the goal and Denton was able to clear.

The Broncos were able to tie the game at the 14:30 mark of the first half with a shot just outside the left hash mark of the 15-yard line. They scored the game-winner with about three minutes left in the first half.

Both teams worked their offenses better in the second half and created some scoring opportunities, but neither team was able to put the ball in the net.

Visit this story's web posting for more.

## BASEBALL

## Bearcats' perfect district record remains

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

The District 5-5A baseball schedule is grueling. There are no easy games.

Aledo head coach Chad Barry has said countless times the margin of error is slim and the team that does the little things right is usually the one that wins.

His Bearcats (14-7-1 overall, 5-0 in district) have been doing just that. Since entering their district schedule on March 19, the Bearcats have swept all five games they've played thus far. That includes back-to-back road wins in the past week over Granbury to close out their series, followed by a win over Saginaw.

The series opener with Saginaw on Tuesday, April 2, wasn't without its share of drama. Leading 4-1 heading into the bottom of the seventh

inning, Eddie Howard took over on the mound for the Bearcats. Howard struggled to find his groove early, plunking the leadoff batter.

The Rough Riders managed to string together a trio of singles following the hit batsman, to make it a one-run game with no outs.

With the tying and go-ahead runs on the bases, Howard found his grit. He got the first out of the inning with a fly out to right field. Luke Trager made the catch close enough to the infield to keep both runners at bay.

With one out and a pair of runners on, Howard struck out the next two batters on just seven pitches to send Aledo home with another district win.

The Bearcats needed just one inning to produce all the offense they needed to pull out the win. In the top of the third

inning with one away, Trager singled on a line drive to left field. As the line-up turned over, Boyd Thompson drew a walk pushing Trager to second with Brooks Burdine coming to the plate.

In the first pitch of his at bat, Burdine slapped a liner back up the middle. Trager motored around third on the hit, scoring from second while Thompson pulled in at third to put runners at the corners with one out.

Ryan Jones earned his a trip to first the hard way, after wearing the 3-2 pitch like a cheap suit, to load the bases.

With the bases juiced, Drew Weckel hit a fly ball to left for the second out. However, the ball was hit deep enough to allow Thompson to tag up and score from third to give the Bearcats their first lead of the game, 2-1.



Brennon Evans, who has been swinging a big bat all season long, singled to right, allowing Burdine to score easily as Aledo went up 3-1 with two gone in the inning.

Barry made the call to pinch run for his catcher.

With the new runner in the game, the Saginaw hurler became gravely concerned with the runner at first. With Weston Nance at the plate and Jones at third, the Rough Rider pitcher made one too many moves over to first, allowing Jones to swipe home during a pickoff move.

With Aledo up 4-1, Nance grounded into the 3-to-1 play to end the inning.

The Bearcats will close out the series with Saginaw when they host the Rough Riders at Bearcat Stadium on Friday, April 5. First pitch is slated for 6:30 pm.

### Gran-buried

Devin Miller has been rock solid on the bump for the Bearcats this season. The series finale on the road in Granbury on Thursday, Mar 28, was no different.

The right-hander threw six shut-out innings, giving up a lone hit and striking out a pair along the way. Thompson and Jones committed a pair of uncharacteristic errors apiece that ended up being of little consequence as Aledo kept the Pirates off the board.

Howard closed out the game by striking out the side in the home-half of the seventh inning, as the Bearcats earned their second series win in a row.

Visit this story's web posting for box scores.

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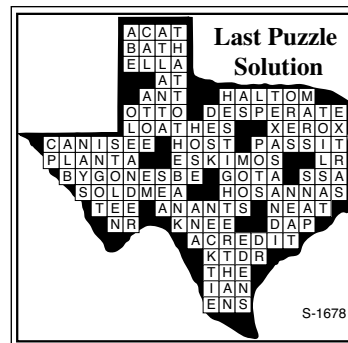
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Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Election held on May 4, 2024 will be tested on April 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at Parker County Courthouse Annex, 1112 Santa Fe Drive, to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Jenise 'Crickett' Miller  
Parker County Elections Administrator

## AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automáticamente que se usará en la Elección celebradas el 4 de mayo de 2024 se probará el 10 de abril de 2024 a las 9:00 am en el anexo de la corte del condado del Parker, 1112 Santa Fe Dr, para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

Jenise 'Crickett' Miller  
Firma del/dela Oficial

## Notice of Public Hearing

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

**Discussion & Action: to consider a request for Zoning Change from "Class II - Residential: 'R-1' Single-Family District" to Commercial "Class III - Business: 'C' Commercial District" for 129 South Ranch House Road: 5.686-acre tract of Lot 1, Block 1 of the Willow Park Baptist Church Addition; 0.737-acre tract of Lot PT 1-B, Tract A and 1.463-acre tract Lot PT Tract B, Block 1 of the Eastern Parker County Industrial Park Addition, City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas.**

City Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2024  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Location: Willow Park City Hall  
120 El Chico Trail, Ste A  
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Any member of the public has the right to appear at the Public Hearing. Please contact the Development Department at 817-441-7108 x100 or tfisher@willowpark.org with any questions.

The above notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City of Willow Park City Hall, Willow Park, Texas on/before April 5, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.

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# Kid Scoop

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Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

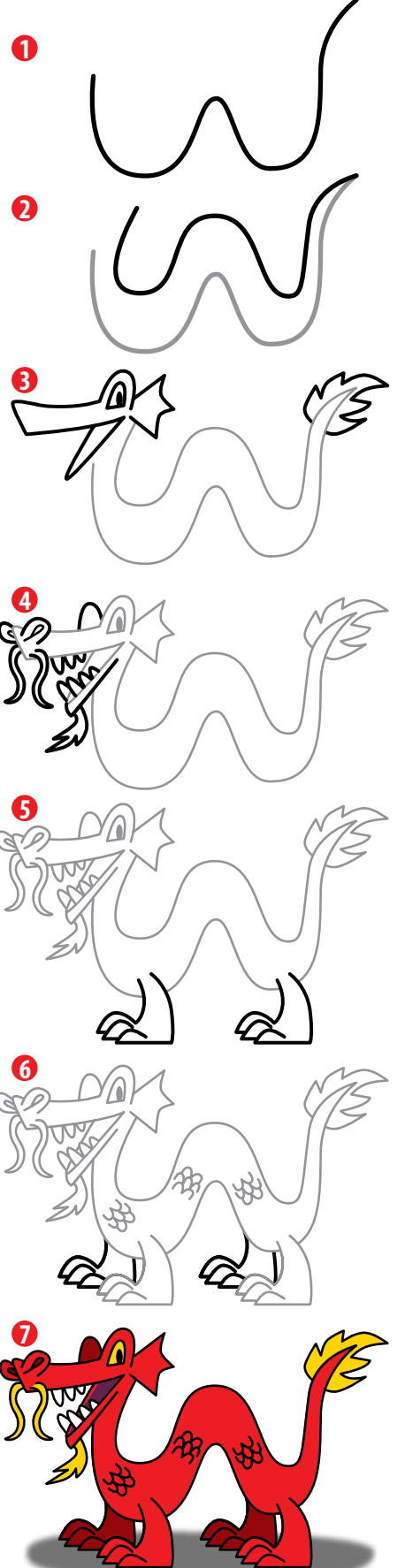
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## Kid Scoop Together

### Did a dragon eat the sun?

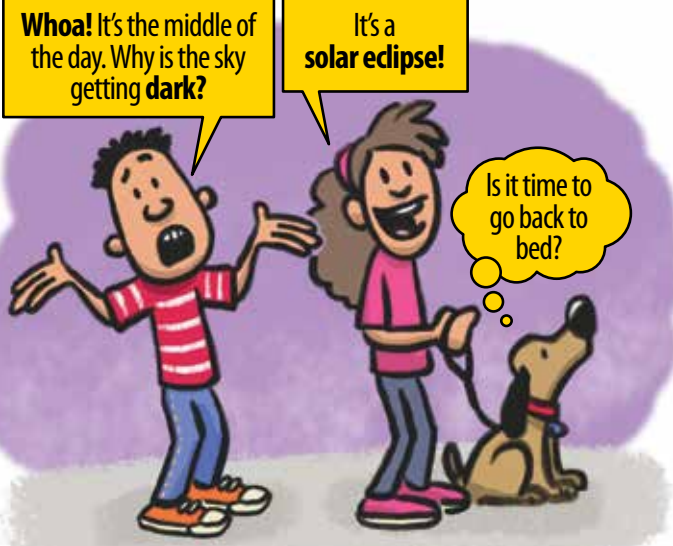
In ancient China, some believed that solar eclipses occurred when a dragon ate the Sun. People would bang drums and pots and make all kinds of loud noises during eclipses to frighten the dragon away.

#### Draw a Dragon



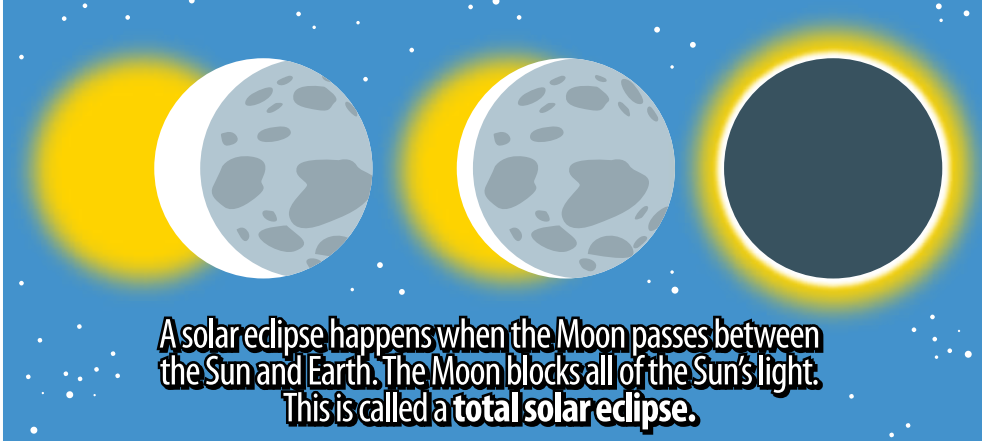
## Solar Eclipse

Imagine, it is daytime and suddenly the birds stop chirping. Animals curl up to go to sleep and the sky begins to darken. It isn't anything to worry about, though. **It's a solar eclipse!**



During a solar eclipse, people and animals sometimes get a little confused!

Standards Link: Describe eclipses of the sun and moon.



A solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth. The Moon blocks all of the Sun's light. This is called a **total solar eclipse**.

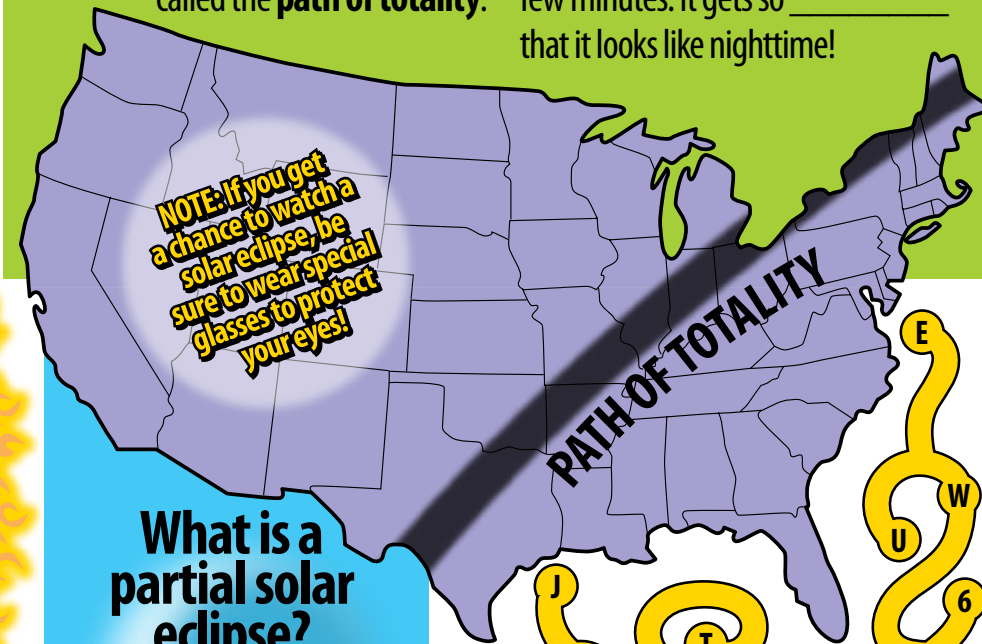
Replace the missing words.

**BLOCKS SEE SHADOW DARK PATH ROTATES**

### Where can I watch a solar eclipse?

When the Moon blocks the Sun's light, it casts a \_\_\_\_\_ on part of the Earth. The only people who will \_\_\_\_\_ the total solar eclipse will be people in the \_\_\_\_\_ of totality.

The Moon's shadow follows a long path as the Earth \_\_\_\_\_. This is \_\_\_\_\_ the Sun's light for a few minutes. It gets so \_\_\_\_\_ that it looks like nighttime!



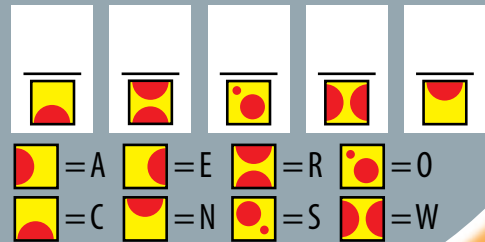
### What is a partial solar eclipse?

Sometimes the Moon only blocks part of the Sun's light. This is called a **partial solar eclipse**.

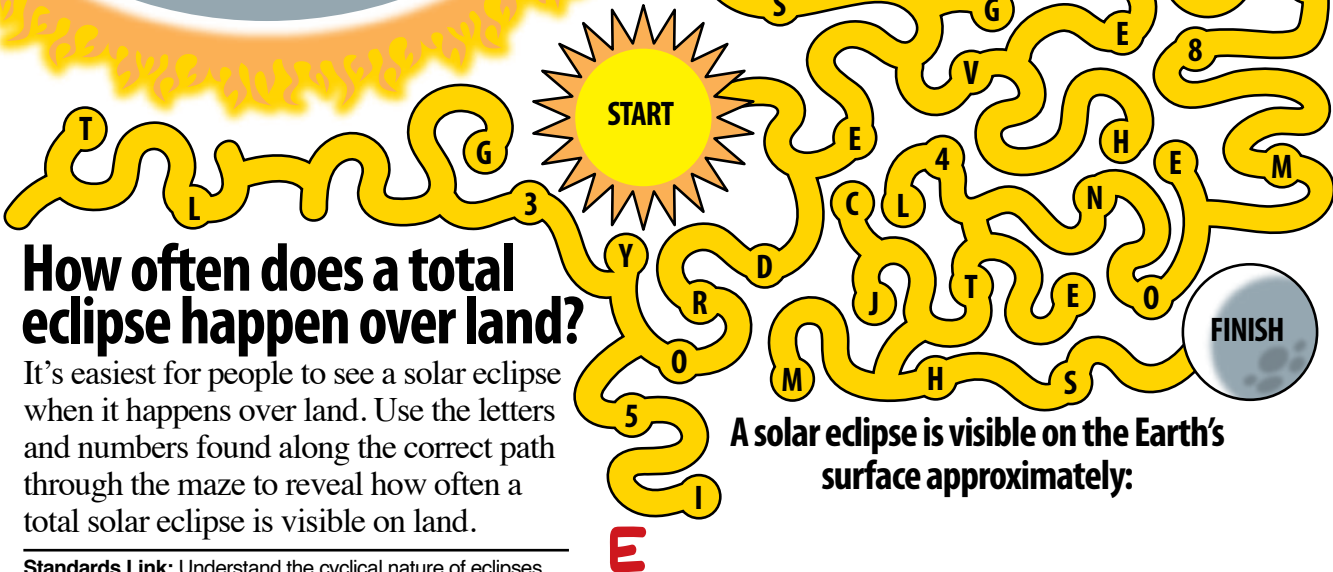
## Surprising Corona

The sun is surrounded by a layer of gases that are hard to see until a total eclipse. This layer is called the **corona**. The corona is very dim. It's usually hard to see because the Sun is so much brighter.

During an eclipse, the corona shines around the outside of the moon's shadow. Use the code to discover what the word **corona** means.



Standards Link: Describe features of the sun.



### How often does a total eclipse happen over land?

It's easiest for people to see a solar eclipse when it happens over land. Use the letters and numbers found along the correct path through the maze to reveal how often a total solar eclipse is visible on land.

Standards Link: Understand the cyclical nature of eclipses.

### Extra! Extra! Grammar Eclipse

Select two sentences from the newspaper. In one sentence, black out each of the nouns. In the other, black out each of the vowels. Give the sentences to a partner. Which one is easier for them to understand? The one without nouns, or the one without vowels?

Standards Link: Recognize vowels; identify nouns.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

**SUPER COOL:** During a solar eclipse, the Moon not only blocks the light of the Sun, but it also temporarily blocks the Sun's warming rays. Hold this page up to a mirror to see how this can affect the air temperature in the path of totality.



During a solar eclipse, the Moon not only blocks the light of the Sun, but it also temporarily blocks the Sun's warming rays. Hold this page up to a mirror to see how this can affect the air temperature in the path of totality.

## Double Double Word Search

- CORONA
- DARK
- DIM
- EARTH
- ECLIPSE
- LAND
- LAYER
- MOON
- PARTIAL
- PATH
- SHADOW
- SHINES
- SOLAR
- SUN
- TOTAL

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



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

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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **SOLAR**

The noun **solar** means having to do with the sun.

We will get special glasses to watch the **solar** eclipse.

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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Out of the Shadows

Good reporters are said to shine light on problems—to take them out of the shadows. Find a newspaper article about a problem. If the reporter hadn't written about this, would you have learned about the problem?

Standards Link: Write to express an opinion.



### How did the moon pay for its cup of coffee?

ANSWERS: With star bucks.

## Write On! Sunny Person

### Sunny Person

If the Sun was a person, what would they be like?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.



# PLAYOFF

from page 8

"We kind of figured some stuff out," Johnson recalled. "The youth we've got coming up with the freshmen, and we've got a good core group that's going to return next year, I really do feel like there's going to be a lot of positives to what's coming going forward."

"Our season's over, but next Wednesday we start off-season and get right back after it. We've got 10 girls playing club right now in the International Cup. That's growth for Aledo. It's been incredible. It's been a good season."

## Farewell to seniors

Losses like the one the Ladycats experienced on Thursday generally hits the seniors

the hardest. With the season coming to an end, Thursday was no exception. On a roster of 26 players, the small and mighty group of six seniors may have played their last match in an Aledo uniform, but Johnson is grateful for the mark they've left on the program.

"We had six seniors this year. We're losing them, but I think they've laid a pretty good foundation for this group. They've been good leaders and somebody to look up to this year, which has been awesome," he stated.

Following their final season in Aledo, each of the six seniors will depart to begin the next chapter of their lives. Georgia Zirbser will head off to attend Texas A&M along with teammate Hailey Vandiver. Emaree Gibson will head north to play soccer for Friends University in Kansas. Payton Weaver will attend Oklahoma State University. Emma Boyd and Dakota Jackson also plan to attend college starting in the fall, though their specific destinations are not immediately known.

# TCA hosts first meet in own stadium

## Staff Reports

The Community News

Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy teamed with Fort Worth Covenant Classical to host a track meet on the home track of the Eagles and Lady Eagles on Thursday, March 28.

It's the first track meet TCA has hosted since moving into its new stadium during the 2022 football season.

## Willow Park TCA/Grace Covenant Classical Meet March 28 at TCA

### TCA results

Running events in meters, field events in feet and inches

#### Boys Varsity

- 200: 2. Toby Thomes, 23.70.
- 400: 2. Marshall Hughes, 58.13.
- 800: 2. Hughes, 2:18.67; 3. Jacob Calgren, 2:26.61.
- 1600: 2. Wilson Winchester, 5:16.14.
- 3200: 1. Winchester, 11:33.62.
- 110 hurdles: 2. Braxton Smith, 15.60.
- 300 hurdles: 1. Landry Crumpler, 41.84; 2. Owen Coates, 43.12.
- 4x100 relay: 1. William Saadeh, Kosta Luecker, Canaan Kaznowski, Braxton Smith, 45.66.
- 4x200 relay: 1. Garrett Gough, Pearson Kuykendall, Canaan Kaznowski, Thomes, 1:34.84.
- 4x400 relay: 1. Thomes, Crumpler, Gough, Coates, 3:39.21.
- Shot put: 2. Reese Morgan, 31-2.5; 3. Kadin James, 29-6.
- Discus: 1. James, 127-5; 3. Chance Wortham, 78-8.



Hannah Miller - 100m hurdles



Canaan Kaznowski, Pearson Kuykendall - 100m dash

Long jump: 2. Crumpler, 20-4.5; 3. Hodge Hunter, 18-10.25.

Triple jump: 1. Gough, 42-5.

#### Girls Varsity

- 200: 1. Gracee Whiteaker, 26.93; 2. Olivia Quinn, 28.45.
- 400: 1. Whiteaker, 58.68.
- 1600: 1. Emma Saadeh, 5:59.96.
- 3200: 1. Saadeh, 13:09.41.
- 100 hurdles: 1. McKenna Kelley, 17.28.
- 300 hurdles: 1. Kelley, 50.34.
- 4x400 relay: 2. Kelley, Quinn, Saadeh, Whiteaker, 4:26.67.
- Shot put: 1. Ella Cockrum, 31-7; 2. Addison Shoppach, 30-9; 3. Emilie Epps, 29-10.
- Discus: 1. Cockrum, 116-7; 2. Anna Nelson, 87-3; 3. Epps, 76-6.75.
- Long jump: 1. Quinn, 15-5.
- Triple jump: 2. Quinn, 31-2.



Jackson Sykes - High jump

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