

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

Council approves new TIRZ boundary

Downtown added to economic development tool

By **Ryan Wade**
The Community News

Following a lengthy presentation by Trent Petty, who provides strategic planning services to cities, Aledo's City Council approved a boundary amendment to the city's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) during their meeting on Thursday, April 4.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones are common across Texas. According to the January 2024 Comptroller Report, there are more than 600 TIRZ zones across the state with a taxable value of approximately \$94 billion.

Petty praised TIRZ as a tool that does not raise taxes on residents, but is funded 100 percent by the growth of new development value within the defined zone.

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WEATHERFORD

Fire department donates equipment to Weatherford Fire Academy

Council reviews housing analysis

By **Jolee Skinner**
Contributing Writer

The Weatherford City Council on March 26 approved a motion of donate used fire department equipment to the Weatherford College Fire Academy for training purposes.

Weatherford Fire Department Chief Jonathan Peacock asked the council for this approval for equipment including two hydraulic hoses, one power plant, one ram, a spreader, and one cutter. The equipment is about 17 years old and is valued between \$2,000 and \$4,000.

The motion for donation of the equipment was approved by all city council members. City Council member Matt Ticzkus

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Eclipse

Young and old, near and far, event was something to remember

By **Rick Mauch**
The Community News

Audrey Corley sat in her lawn chair, anxious and curious — combined with a little uneasiness.

After all, the first-grader at Coder Elementary School in Aledo had never seen a full solar eclipse. But then, neither had anyone else in attendance, including her father, Michael Corley, who was there with his daughter on this special day at the Aledo Athletic, Inc. ballfields on Bankhead Highway.

They were among a couple hundred who turned out for Total Eclipse of the Park, co-hosted by the City of Willow Park and the Parker County Chamber of Commerce.

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RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Willow Park's Finest prepare to watch the eclipse. From left are Lieutenant Quincy Hamilton, Lieutenant Jaclin Ramirez, and Chief Daniel Franklin at Total Eclipse of the Park, co-hosted by the City of Willow Park and Parker County Chamber of Commerce.

COMMENTARY

East Parker County Library marks 35 years

By **Cathy Mason**
The Community News

East Parker County Library As we celebrate National Library Week at East Parker County Library, it is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the history of the East Parker County Library. This week marks 35 years since East Parker County Library opened its doors.

In June of 1988, a group of concerned residents discussed the possibility of establishing a public library. Karen Brown, Carrie Jo Kelly, Esther and Dan Rosenthal, Peggy and Marvin Herring, and Jean Koldin appeared before the Aledo City Council to discuss the many advantages of a public library. The aldermen voted to support the endeavor, and in April of 1989, National Library Week, the East Parker County Library opened its doors to the public as one of a very small group of non-profit libraries in the state.

For the first five years of its existence, the library was run by volunteers, and then in 1994 Anita Bond was hired as the librarian. Bond, who passed away on March 12, continued to serve the library in some capacity until 2017. Her years of dedication helped to establish a strong foundation for EPCL.

In addition to Bond, there have been a number of loyal supporters, including staff, volunteers, and board members.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Programs librarian Tracy Lambert Jack directs children's story time at 10:30 a.m. Fridays with stories, crafts, and snacks.

These library supporters ensured the library doors stayed open during more challenging times, whether it was due to relocating the library or budget shortfalls. EPCL is indebted to people like former Board President Richard Henderson, Esq., who, along with his president duties, happened to hear about the Hattie Mae Leslie Foundation, and arranged a grant that paid off the remaining mortgage in our current space; people like Jan Orr-Harter, who hosted our fundraising Garden Party for many years at her own

historic home and served as the fundraising chair in some of our leanest years.

The library is also indebted to people like Diane Brown, who served on the board and also added her artistic and creative talents to market many library programs and events; people like Julie Howell, who began volunteering at the library in 2004 and has now become our longest employee; and people like Sue Ellen Shaw, the director who created and elevated our Friday story time to an

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EDUCATION

TCA names new Head of School

Craig Smith has extensive experience in Christian education

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Trinity Christian Academy School Board has announced that Craig Smith has been named as the fourth Head of School in the school's history.

Dr. Steve Newby, current head of school, announced his intention to retire earlier this year, prompting the TCA School Board immediately began a nationwide search for a new head of school for the 2024-2025 school year.

The board partnered in their search with the nationally-renowned consulting firm Vanderbloemen.

The search resulted in Smith's selection on Feb. 26, followed by a school wide announcement to TCA families.

Smith has 24 years of extensive leadership experience in administration in the Christian school environment in Taylor and Tarrant Counties. He has served as a head of school and associate head of school at schools in the city of Fort Worth.



Craig Smith

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ECLIPSE

from page one

"It can actually hurt your eyes if you don't use your glasses," Audrey said, adding that she and her classmates had been learning about the historical event in school.

"I'm scared and excited, but more excited," she added.

"I'm kinda big on you don't want to miss once-in-a-lifetime events, and if you can see them with family, you definitely don't miss it," her father said.

Unforgettable

Audrey and Michael, like everyone else in attendance, agreed the experience was indeed unforgettable. As the moon completely covered the sun at approximately 1:40 p.m., gasps could be heard, along with comments such as, "It's so cool!" and "This is incredible!"

And indeed it was. After all, how often does this kind of history come around? Well, in North and Central Texas this was the first time since 1878 and the last time until 2317.

The Willow Park and Aledo area were among those in the path of totality. If you wanted to experience this phenomenon at its fullest, this was a place to be.

Edith Bagniewski came all the way from Minnesota. She has a good

friend in the area, Alaina Tenseth, whom she visits every couple years.

"We went to high school together and she came down to see it better," Alaina said.

"The bluebonnets are in season, and it was just a great time to see those and the eclipse," Edith said. "Also, I've never seen an Indian Paintbrush before."

Meanwhile, Alaina's nephew, Tom, made the trek over from Weatherford in his own unique style wearing a welding mask.

"It's the perfect way to view it," he said.

Hardy Trang came from New Orleans via a detour through Temple, where he was going to watch with his sister before weather forced him to change his plans.

"I figured I'd come here since it's more cloudy there," he said. "My sister stayed there and I just spoke to her on the phone, and sure enough, they're dealing with a lot of clouds."

With him was Tram Ngo, also from New Orleans, who said, "We got to witness a partial eclipse before, but this is so much better."

To continue reading visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/young-and-old-near-and-far-eclipse-was-something-to-remember:77858>



FIRE

from page one

remarked about the great partnerships that exist in the Weatherford community.

"One of the things that I think makes our community great is the strong partnerships that we have between some of the different entities like the city, the college, the school district, and I think that this continues to communicate that," Ticzkus said.

Also at the meeting Director of Development and Neighborhood Services Kaleb Kentner approached the council and discussed the 2023

Weatherford housing analysis project updates. He said the planning and zoning commission reviewed and updated the analysis which included new data of percentage of existing housing occupied by renters versus owners.

"We went through and made all the changes that were discussed in the joint meeting and the planning and zoning commission did hold a meeting and reviewed this project," Kentner said.

Kentner then showed the council a spreadsheet of the past housing analysis and a spreadsheet of future housing development plans. This includes more multifamily

housing to accommodate the explosive growth in Weatherford's housing market that was noted in this spreadsheet.

On this spreadsheet, there are at least three housing projects under construction, four completed and one project that has city permits approved.

"I'd just like to thank the planning and zoning commission for all their hard work, the staff for all their hard work," Council member Heidi Wilder said. "I think this will really keep us focused, it will keep us up to date. We won't be wondering where we are. We are very focused and drilled in."

TCA

from page one

According to a release from TCA, "He exhibits strong leadership skills in advancement, enrollment, and relationships and is described as a 'shepherd-leader.' He is a man who loves God and his family and desires to be used to advance the discipleship of students."

Smith most recently served as associate head of school for Southwest Christian School in Fort Worth before starting his own consulting firm in July of 2023.

Smith attended Abilene Christian University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications. He later

earned a certification in Leading School Strategy and Innovation from the Harvard Graduate School of Education/Harvard Business School. He has more than 10 articles published on donor relations, non-profits, and enrollment in the private school sector.

Smith and his wife, Jan, have been married for 39 years. Jan is a first-grade teacher at Birdville Elementary School. They have three adult children — two sons and one daughter, all of whom are married — and proud grandparents of two granddaughters.

Craig and Jan have been members of The Hills Church for more than 30 years. In his off time, Craig loves the outdoors - walking, biking,

kayaking, and rafting - and being still in creation. He and Jan love to travel, see their children and grandchildren, and explore new places.

One of Smith's favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

"It is a beautiful benediction and prayerful adoration to our all-powerful God," Smith said.

To continue reading visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/tca-names-new-head-of-school:77759>

COUNCIL

from page one

In 2019, the city, with the help of Petty, established the initial zone boundaries, which included a large section of an up-and-coming development known as the Parks of Aledo. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe in the months that followed, the issue was pushed aside.

Shortly after being hired as the city manager for Aledo in May of 2022, Noah Simon noticed the preliminary work for the TIRZ was done in 2019. Simon added working on the TIRZ to his lengthy to-do list after starting in his new role.

After a number of months working with Simon and his team to update the information regarding the growth of Aledo over the past

several years, Petty made his pitch to the TIRZ board prior to the start of the city council meeting on Thursday.

Petty, formerly the city manager of Grapevine, credited the TIRZ for making it possible for downtown Grapevine to be what it is today. His experience utilizing the TIRZ, coupled with his knowledge of the tool, has made him one of the most sought-after consultants by communities across Texas.

To start off his presentation, he spent several minutes informing the board of what the TIRZ is and how it's used. After laying that foundation, he continued with his recommendations for adjustments to the initial zone.

These included the removal of the Parks of Aledo development now that so much of the property is built out to remain compliant with

recent TIRZ laws passed during the 2023 State Legislative session.

The updated recommendation added the downtown area to the zone, with Petty highlighting that downtown Aledo has the potential to become as much of an attraction to Aledo as downtown Grapevine is today.

Along with his recommendations, Petty also cautioned that with so many communities already having TIRZ zones in place, and developers favoring the zones so highly, not having one in place could mean developers pass on opportunities to build in Aledo for more favorable situations around the metroplex.

One example Petty made of how the TIRZ could be used in the future was centered around the development of Dean Ranch. Petty said the city could bargain with a

developer to have the developer pay up front out of their own pocket for necessary infrastructure to be built into the development while the city reimburses the developer from the TIRZ over an agreed upon number of years. In that example, the city is not required to fund the infrastructure work up front and is not on the hook for paying back the developer until TIRZ dollars begin rolling in from the increased tax value of the property with the development underway.

In Aledo, as in many communities across the state, the TIRZ board is comprised of members of the city council. While the two entities are primarily made up of the same members, they function separately from one another. The TIRZ board can approve a zone, but it is up to the city council take the

recommendation of the TIRZ board to vote on implementing the zone.

Following Petty's presentation, the TIRZ board asked a number of questions to garner clarification before ultimately deciding to approve the recommendation for the updated zone to the city council.

As the TIRZ board meeting adjourned and the city council meeting began, the council had a final opportunity to ask any questions they had of Petty before considering a vote on the matter. Following the brief Q&A, a motion was made to vote on Ordinance 2024-203, followed by a second before being approved in a near-unanimous (one nay) vote to implement TIRZ Zone 1.



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Youth's life honored through toy drives

Cook Children's Hospital patients benefit from memory of Jacob Harper

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

Jacob Harper loved family, friends, and toys. Lots of toys.

That is why his mother, Melinda Sawyer, and friends, have held regular toy drives for patients at Cook Children's Hospital since his passing six years ago.

The Aledo McAnally Middle School student began spending increasingly more time at Cook Children's as a rare brain disease encroached on his childhood.

According to the National Institute of Health, Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 8 occurs in only about one in 100,000 persons. Onset of the disease affects coordination, speech, and eye movement in patients generally aged 1 to 60.

It took Jacob's life at age 12.

Lego theme

The drives would vary in themes over the years, such as a pajama drive and the Jacob's Jurassic Toy Drive last Christmas. The current collection drive, continuing until April 29, is a Lego toy drive honoring what would have been Jacob's 18th birthday.

New, donated Lego toys will go to Cook Children's Child Life Program,

which was helpful and compassionate with Jacob and his family during his treatments.

"They said Legos are what they run

out of first," Sawyer said. "The nurses were beyond excited when we told them what we were going to collect — especially for the older kids because they have their electronics and stuff, but Legos give them something to do."

Sawyer described how drawing blood is particularly hard on a child and the child life specialists would provide a toy to play with or a therapy dog to pet to focus the child's attention elsewhere during the painful procedure.

"One time before drawing blood they brought a large doll that Jacob got to do a mock blood draw with," she said. "He got to do the entire process on the doll so he could understand what they do and why they do it. They're incredible up there."

Year-round toys

Donated toys are needed not only for Christmas but throughout the year for patients' birthday parties. Parents are allowed to choose gifts in the hospital's inventory to fit their child's wants and needs.

The toy drives in honor of Jacob are a reflection of how he lived his short life.

"Jacob was such a happy kid," his mother reflected. "He loved to see other kids happy. That is the way he was. That was just part of his personality."

Where to go

Parker County drop-off locations before April 29 are:

- CrossFit SAF, 5973 Stacy Lane
- Weatherford Physiologic Physical Therapy, 709 FM1187
- Aledo Bearcat Sports Bar, 5080 I-20 Frontage Rd, Willow Park



COURTESY OF MELINDA SAWYER

Jacob Harper is shown on his birthday. Patients at Cook Children's Hospital can receive toys for their own birthdays through gifts to Jacob's Toy Drive.

- Bigfoot Ink Apparel, 9899 E. Bandhead Hwy., Aledo
- NJS Counseling, 106 Austin Avenue, Weatherford
- Stuard Elementary School, 200 Thunderhead Lane, Aledo
- Parker County Baseball/Softball Academy, 9909 E. Bankhead Hwy., Aledo.



COURTESY OF MELINDA SAWYER

Jacob Harper, who passed away about six years ago, is remembered by frequent toy drives to benefit children at Cook Children's Hospital.

LIBRARY

from page one

event that more and more families looked forward to every week and expanded our Summer Reading Program.

The library also has several long-time volunteers that come every week to help out with various tasks, including SueAnne and Tom McBroom and Pamela Miller. Almost every director has spent their own money, time, and sometimes their spouses' talents to add value to the library, in building furniture, installing shelves and

TV's, gardening, painting...the list could go on: people like Bobbie Crosslin, who used her accounting expertise and hours of personal time to straighten out and streamline financial issues and people like Randy Keck, who served on our advisory board, and has used his platform at *The Community News* to promote and support the library for many years.

In the past 35 years, the EPCL has lacked financial stability, but it has never lacked heart. This library would not be open today if not for the talents and determination of so many people who served

on the board, were employed there, or just volunteered their time to ensure that our community had this important resource. The above is just a very small list.

In addition to Julie, we would also like to recognize the current employees Amy Cobble, Landine Dominick, Tracy Lambert Jack, Marty Hungate, and new Director Beck Gorman for their dedication to the library.

The first library building was the historic two-story stone building in downtown Aledo. That rented space was sold in 1997, so

in October of that year the library moved into the smaller space next door (currently Two Sisters, next to the Aledo Diner). The 800-square-foot storefront was home to the library until the 1999 purchase of its current location, which was the old Aledo Post Office. The library renovated the space and opened its doors to the public in January 2001.

The East Parker County Library has come a long way since 2001. We have expanded services by embracing technology, joining a county

consortium, earning state accreditation and creating more and more programs to serve our community. We were able to begin creating a makerspace with a generous gift from the family of Karen Villarreal and have expanded those resources with additional grants. As we look forward to the possibility of becoming a department within the City of Aledo, we are honored to give homage to all of those who worked so hard to keep the library open and vibrant.



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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

Agencies blasted over wildfire oversight



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

State agencies and regulators were heavily criticized at a Texas legislative hearing for failing to communicate during the deadly Panhandle wildfires, the *Texas Tribune* reported.

The three-day hearing, held in Pampa, investigated the Smokehouse Creek fire and others that burned more than a million acres, destroyed hundreds of homes, killed up to 10,000 cattle and resulted in two deaths.

State Rep. Ben King, R-Canadian, chaired the committee and said the hearing was difficult but necessary.

"You may not like the line of questions or the tone of questions, but we are here for answers," King told representatives of the state's regulatory agencies last week. "It's not a personal attack on you or your agencies, but it's time for answers."

Xcel Energy has acknowledged that a fallen power line ignited the Smokehouse Creek fire. The company hired by Xcel to perform safety inspections - Osmose Utilities Services - declined to participate in last week's hearings.

Mike Hoke, with the Public Utilities Commission, said the agency doesn't conduct inspections. Instead, it relies on the utility companies to hire its own inspectors. He said utility companies can hire whoever they wish to inspect utility poles with any oversight from the PUC.

The legislative committee is expected to publish its results and recommendations for any legislative changes by May 1.

First human case of bird flu in Texas detected

The first human case of avian influenza in Texas was reported last week by the Texas Department of State Health Services. It came after contact with infected dairy cattle and is only the second case of a human being infected with bird flu in the United States.

"The risk to the general public is believed to be low; however, people with close contact with affected animals suspected of having avian influenza A(H5N1) have a higher risk of infection," the alert from DSHS said.

Symptoms can include a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, fatigue, eye redness, shortness of breath, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or seizures. The alert urged health care providers who see someone who may have the virus to immediately contact their local health department.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the commercial milk supply is considered safe and that milk from infected cattle is being dumped.

State's lawyer says immigration law maybe 'went too far'

An attorney defending a new state law allowing law enforcement officials to arrest people who cross the border illegally told a panel of federal judges the law possibly "went too far," *The Dallas Morning News* reported. The 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals previously halted enforcement of the law and is now hearing arguments over its legality.

"What Texas has done here is they have looked at the Supreme Court's precedent and they have tried to develop a statute that goes up to the line of Supreme Court precedent but no further," Texas Solicitor General Aaron Nielson said. "Now to be fair, maybe Texas went too far, and that is the question this court is going to have to decide."

The U.S. Justice Department is arguing that Texas is trying to usurp the federal government's authority to enforce immigration laws, while the state says it wants to work with the federal government.

State economy again expands faster than nation

The state's economy continues to grow faster than the nation as a whole. Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates gross domestic product for Texas grew in 2023 at an annual rate of 5.7%, more than double the national average of 2.5%. The state also continues to lead the nation in job creation, adding almost 50,000 new jobs in February.

"Texas is again outpacing the nation in economic expansion and job growth thanks to the best business climate and the strongest workforce in America," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

While Texas outpaced the national average for GDP growth, a few states posted higher percentage increases - Nevada, Utah and Idaho.

Distracted driving is deadly driving, TxDOT reminds

Driving the vast highways of Texas can become a bit tiresome, often with hundreds of miles before reaching one's destination. But the Texas Department of Transportation is urging drivers to resist the urge to check that ping of the phone to read a text message or watch the latest social media video a friend sent.

TxDOT reported nearly 400 people died on Texas roadways last year because of distracted driving, and nearly 2,800 suffered serious injuries.

"Any loss of life is tragic, but imagine killing or seriously injuring someone else because you thought you could text and

drive at the same time," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "When you're behind the wheel, you need to be focused on only one thing: driving. Looking at your phone, eating or adjusting your music can wait until you're safely parked.

Texting while driving is not only dangerous; it's a crime to be caught reading, writing, or sending a text while driving, and can cost a driver a \$200 fine. Many cities also outlaw the use of a handheld device while driving.

Internet subsidy fund is going broke

A federal subsidy that provided \$30 monthly for internet service is about to run out of money, the *Tribune* reported. The subsidy was part of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and helped 1.7 million Texas households save money on their internet bills. South Texas households had a higher-than-average rate of participation.

The subsidy funding is scheduled to run out in May. Congress has failed to act despite calls for the program to receive additional funding.

Some broadband advocates worry terminating the program could jeopardize future broadband investments.

"If we build the infrastructure but then all these people lose internet access, we are going to be taking one step forward and two steps back," Kelly Garbee, executive director of Texas Rural Funders, a nonprofit focused on rural philanthropy, told the *Tribune*. "It is important to take a long view."

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.

Thistles&Roses

Treat coins with respect



Richard Henderson

richard@rahenderson.com

Pennies, nickels, and dimes don't get much respect. Most people will not bend down to pick up a lost penny. Many won't bend down to pick up a nickel or a dime either.

I still bend down to pick up the abandoned penny. I took a picture of one on the ground that went into my pocket. I also wondered where it came from and what was purchased that resulted in that penny becoming change, and I wondered who dropped it.

I grew up in the 1950s and 60s in an economically challenged household. That is a sophisticated way of saying that we were poor. I still have that mentality many decades later. I am no longer poor, but I am programmed to think that way.

Pennies, nickels, and dimes were much sought after back then. A quarter or a fifty cent piece represented true wealth. In those days, soft drink bottles had deposits on them so if you took

them to a store you could get two cents each for them. Eight "Coke" bottles could get you sixteen cents and you could purchase another soft drink and a candy bar.

The United States mint's 2022 annual report revealed that it costs 2.72 cents to make one penny and 10.41 cents to make a nickel. In comparison, coins like dimes, quarters, and the half-dollar cost less to produce and distribute than their face value.

We should give up the penny and the nickel if we are losing money to make them.

Today, non-profit organizations like the March of Dimes (MOD), put real dimes with an envelope window showing the dime. Some have nickels and even quarters showing.

That is a hook. Who is going to throw real money in the trash? I think many people will, and real money ends up in the landfill.

But these organizations have certainly done some studies that show that their percentage of donations go up when a person opens the envelope and putting a real dime in there results in more needed money for their cause.

I get a dime per month from MOD. I send one donation per



year but I keep all of the dimes in a change jar.

Recently, I decided to sort and count the change in the jar. and I had about \$6. I went to the HEB gas station and I asked the attendant if she minded getting a lot of change. Surprisingly, she welcomed it saying they were always needing coins. I got a \$6 credit for my gas. A jar of change lying there doing nothing turned into a gallon of gas.

I think it is a mental thing. And it is symbolic. But if you respect the pennies, I think you will respect the dollars more.

Suze Orman, the money adviser of talk TV, advises people who are trying to learn more about their money and use it wisely. She suggests that people search the corners of their couches, side pockets in their cars, and find all the coins that can find. If memory serves, the average person finds \$30.

Treating these small amounts with respect is a teaching tool. It is a way of training our subconscious that if we treat the small amounts of money, well we will manage larger amounts even better.

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

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



Crawfish Fly-in
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.

APRIL 16

Container Gardening
Learn how to plant flowers to create stunning contain-

ers from the expert, Gay Larson at the Container Gardening event from 6 - 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

The 15th annual Taste of Parker County will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 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. In addition, musicians from the WC Jazz Studies Department will provide live music on two stages. Tickets are available online at wc.edu/taste. For more information, email Sodek at ssodek@wc.edu or call 817-598-8924.

APRIL 23

Native Plant Society of Texas

"Wilding" with Terri Walker will be the program at the next meeting of the Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. The meeting with light refreshments will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, at the Mount Pleasant School, 213 Raymond George Way, in Weatherford.

Walker will explain what is a wildscape, why a wildscape is needed, and how to build a wildscape that could collectively help save our planet. For more information, visit <http://www.npsot.org/chapters/cross-timbers/>.

APRIL 27

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



ACROSS

1 Nicholas of film "Mom and Dad" with TX Anne Winters

5 spoken, not written

6 Lucy had title role in this 1974 film

7 poetic "appearance"

8 mustang or bronco (2 wds.)

17 TX Laura Bush, _____ Welch

18 boll weevil once caused this to Texas cotton (2 wds.)

21 DL or SSN, e.g.

22 "don't _____ your feet" (get it done)

23 newspaper VIP

24 horrified

29 TX ZZ Top album: "_____ Hombres"

30 TX Lupe Ontiveros had a part in "As Good _____ Gets"

31 Texas-based film: "Hell _____ High Water"

32 most areas of Texas have a _____ library

34 "_____ fact" (by that very fact)

35 2012 film starring TX Amy Acker: "Much _____ About Nothing"

36 where Jimmy and Jerry went to college

37 largest continent

38 boot smell?

39 a tied game: "_____ your sister"

41 wrestling matches "tween two schools _____ Boston, TX

43 the cowboy _____ against the hitchin' post

44 TX Hyer film: "The Sons of _____ Elder"

45 biblical donkey

46 TXism: "_____ a spell" (stay and visit)

47 apple drink

48 resided in a certain place

50 TXism: "fits like ugly _____ ape"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

13 Ector County seat

14 Texas-based Tandy's 20th century retailer: "_____ Shack"

15 Scottish for stain, tarnish

16 TXism: "table graze"

19 TXism: "_____ boy" (trustworthy)

20 mistakes by Astros or Rangers

22 TWU has a collection of these that were worn by Texas first ladies

24 Texas summer necessity (abbr.)

25 "_____ long way" (travel a distance)

26 throw _____ rare cattle breed

28 TXism: "pull up _____" (relocate)

29 96-mile path: "Lone Star Hiking _____"

30 TXism: "I bought _____ in a poke"

33 he wrote the nat'l anthem (init.)

34 TXism: "ain't"

35 Texas oil well firefighter, "Red"

37 TXism: "_____ two-bits" (crummy)

38 made public what was secret

40 "you _____ a mouthful" (good point)

41 Florida's "hanging chad" county

44 pottery oven

47 noted espionage novelist, Tom

49 WWII atomic bomber, "_____ Gay"

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.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

AVISO DE ELECCIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA SÁBADO, 4 DE MAYO DE 2024
PARKER COUNTY CITY OF FORT WORTH VOTERS (VOTANTES DE LA CIUDAD DE FORT WORTH EN EL CONDADO DE PARKER)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places indicated in "Exhibit A-1" will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Saturday, May 4, 2024, for voting in a special election to authorize the Fort Worth convention center as a venue project and to impose a new venue hotel occupancy tax not to exceed two percent (2%) as listed in the measure attached as "Exhibit A-3."

Por medio del presente se les informa que las casillas indicados en el "Anexo A-1" abrirán de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. el día sábado, 4 de mayo de 2024, para la votación en una elección extraordinaria a fin de autorizar el centro de convenciones de Fort Worth como un proyecto de sitio y de imponer un impuesto de ocupación hotelera por el nuevo lugar que no exceda del 2% (dos por ciento) como se indica en la medida adjunta como "Anexo A-3".

EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE will be conducted each weekday at locations and during the times listed in "Exhibit A-2":

LA VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA EN PERSONA se realizará entre semana, en los lugares y horarios indicados en el "Anexo A-2".

Applications for a Ballot by Mail must be received between January 1, 2024 and April 23, 2024 by mail, fax or email to:

Las solicitudes de boletas por correo deberán recibirse entre el 1.º de enero y el 23 de abril de 2024, vía correo postal, fax o correo electrónico, en:

Early Voting Clerk, P. O. Box 639, Weatherford, Texas 76086
Dirección postal: Early Voting Clerk, P.O. Box 639, Weatherford, Texas 76086
Express Courier Delivery: Early Voting Clerk, 1112 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, Texas 76086
Entrega por mensajería express: Early Voting Clerk, 1112 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, Texas, 76086
Fax: 817-598-6183; Email: s.bryan@parkercountytx.com

Websites (sitios web): <https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/citysecretary/elections>; <https://www.parkercountytx.com/118/Elections>

EXHIBIT A-1 (ANEXO A-1)

PARKER COUNTY/CONDADO DE PARKER
Countywide Polling Place/Lugar de Votación del Condado
For Polling Locations, Visit/Para los Lugares de Votación, Visite:
<https://www.parkercountytx.com/118/Elections>
<https://www.parkercountytx.com/DocumentCenter/View/10825/EV-ED-Sites-May-4-2024?bidId=>

EXHIBIT A-2 (ANEXO A-2)

PARKER COUNTY/CONDADO DE PARKER
EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE DAYS AND HOURS (DÍAS Y HORAS DE VOTACIÓN TEMPRANO POR APARICIÓN PERSONAL)
For Early Voting Polling Locations, Visit/Para Lugares de Votación Temprano, Visite
<https://www.parkercountytx.com/118/Elections>
<https://www.parkercountytx.com/DocumentCenter/View/10825/EV-ED-Sites-May-4-2024?bidId=> EXHIBIT A-3 (ANEXO A-3)

CITY OF FORT WORTH MEASURE A

Shall the City of Fort Worth, Texas be authorized to provide for the planning, acquisition, establishment, development, construction, and renovation of the Fort Worth Convention Center and related infrastructure (the "Venue Project") as a sports and community venue project of the type described and defined in Section 334.001(4)(B) of and permitted by Chapter 334, Texas Local Government Code (the "Act"), designated by City Council Resolution No. 5866-01-2024, and described in summary form as the Fort Worth Convention Center and related infrastructure, as defined in Chapter 334, Texas Local Government Code, and to impose a new venue hotel occupancy tax on the price paid for a room in a hotel, at a rate not to exceed two percent (2%) of the price of the hotel room, for the purpose of financing the venue project, as and to the extent permitted by Subchapter H of Act, with such tax to be in addition to the tax imposed under Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code and with the combined hotel occupancy tax rate imposed from all sources not to exceed seventeen percent (17%) of the price paid for a room in a hotel?

MEDIDA "A" DE LA CIUDAD DE FORT WORTH

En caso de que la Ciudad de Fort Worth, Texas, reciba la autorización para disponer la planificación, adquisición, establecimiento, desarrollo, construcción y renovación del Centro de Convenciones de Fort Worth e infraestructura relacionada (el "Proyecto de Espacio") como un proyecto de espacio deportivo y comunitario del tipo que se describe y se define en la Sección 334.001(4)(B) del Capítulo 334 del Código de Gobierno Local de Texas (la "Ley"), y permitido por este, designado por la Resolución N.º 5866-01-2024 del Ayuntamiento, y que se describe de manera sucinta como Centro de Convenciones de Fort Worth e infraestructura relacionada, según se define en el Capítulo 334 del Código de Gobierno Local de Texas, y establecer un nuevo impuesto de ocupación hotelera sobre el precio que se pague por una habitación de hotel, a una tasa que no será superior al dos por ciento (2 %) del precio de la habitación de hotel, con el objetivo de financiar el proyecto de espacio, en la medida permitida por el apartado H de la Ley. Dicho impuesto será adicional al impuesto establecido conforme al Capítulo 351 del Código Fiscal de Texas y junto con la tasa del impuesto de ocupación hotelera establecido para todas las fuentes, no deberá ser superior al diecisiete por ciento (17 %) del precio que se pague por una habitación en un hotel.

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TENNIS

Aledo returns strong after break

By Cathy Mason
The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team played in the Sharon Wartes Eagle Invitational this past weekend in Abilene with some great competition. This was a huge tournament with 32 teams in each bracket.

Leading the Aledo contingent were Patrice Loftin and Jacob Heckathorn, who won first place in their mixed doubles bracket.

Other notable finishes:

- Kenley Germany/Lila Satterfield, fifth in girls doubles A.
- Sydney Byrd, sixth in girls singles B.
- Scott Mason/Elli Kate Bussmeir, sixth mixed doubles A.
- Bryanna Orr, ninth girls doubles A (consolation champion).
- Will Beyer/Francois Britz, ninth boys doubles B (consolation champions).
- Craig Mason/Ben Farmer, 11th boys doubles A.
- Ben Kurth, 13th, boys singles A.

Overall, the team came away with more wins than losses and great preparation for the District 5-5A Tournament. They will head to Mansfield on Friday, April 12 for the Kowbell Classic tournament.

Waxahachie Tournament

After a rained out tournament in Midlothian, spring break and a non-competition week, the 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, Orr won first place in girls A singles, Beyer and Britz captured first place in the boys doubles B division and S. Mason and Bussmeir claimed first place in mixed doubles A.

Turn to **TENNIS**, page 7

GIRLS GOLF

Ladycats complete another Aledo sweep at district

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Once again Aledo dominated its district golf scene with both the girls and boys bringing home a championship. A week after the Bearcats won the District 5-5A championship at Sugar Tree Golf Course by 23 strokes, the Ladycats claimed the girls title in even more convincing fashion.

Aledo Black bested runner-up Granbury Purple by 55 strokes in the April 4-5 tournament. The Ladycats shot 679 (338-341) to the Lady Pirates' 734 (357-377).

Both teams advance to the Class 5A Region I Tournament at Lake Ridge Country Club in Lubbock April 17-18. From there the top three teams, along with the top three individuals not on those teams, will qualify for the 5A State Tournament at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown/Sun City May 6-7.

Harper Price of Aledo Orange also qualified for regionals as the second medalist not on a qualifying team. Her score of 187 (101-86) led Aledo Orange and was ninth overall individually.

As a team, Aledo Orange was third with a 796 (423-373).

Aledo Black's Kyla Morales led all individuals, shooting a 159 (79-80), with teammate Emily Crick placing second with a 163 (81-82). Reagan Gilliland was fourth with a 175 (86-89).

Also in the top 10 from Aledo Black were Kennedi Parker, seventh at 182 (92-90), and Karlee Shaw, 10th at 188 (98-90).

Ladycats coach Brian Mourning said of Morales, "Happy to see her win district her senior year," adding of Crick, "She's a sophomore and glad to have her around a few more years."

"Proud of the other three for going out playing good. It's a team sport and when one kid has a bad day the others are there to pick them up."

The team score is comprised of the four lowest individual scores in each round.

Turn to **GOLF**, page 7



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Harper Price prepares to swing during a round. Price qualified for regionals with a ninth overall finish individually and a score of 187 (101-86).



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo's district champion Emily Crick lines up her putt.

SOFTBALL

Ladycats run-rule Lady Rough Riders

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

Following a 14-2 win over Saginaw on Friday, April 5, the Ladycat softball win streak advanced to 20 games as they propelled into the top three in the Texas Girls Coaches Association state softball rankings.

The Ladycats (24-2, 9-0 in District 5-5A) started off the game with a four-run first inning as Addie Perry, Ana Flores, Marina Taveras, and Kyleigh Pawlak all scored.

Saginaw came out aggressive at the plate in the home half of the first inning, hoping to get some of those runs back before Taylor McKean had a chance to settle into the circle.

Uncharacteristically of her, McKean issued a walk to the second batter she faced. The Lady Rough Riders managed to follow up the free pass with back-to-back extra-base hits to cut the Ladycat lead in half, 4-2.

From there, McKean flipped a switch. She struck out the next two batters she faced to get out of the inning, then surrendered just one more hit down the stretch.

Back at the plate in the top of the third inning, the Ladycats put together a big inning. Aledo put nine runs across the plate to go up by double digits with an opportunity to close out the Lady Rough Riders early on their home field.

Leading 13-2 heading into the fifth inning, Aledo added one more to increase their lead to a dozen runs with another run-rule win on the horizon.

Desperate for runs to keep their chances alive, the Lady Rough Riders got no help from the Ladycats. Saginaw got a baserunner to start off the frame as McKean issued her fourth free pass of the contest.

Turn to **SOFTBALL**, page 7

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April 12, 2024
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Kelly Ranch Townhomes Water Line Extension Improvements, will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

12:00 Noon, Friday May 3, 2024

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

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of the Kelly Ranch Townhomes Water Line Extension Improvements.

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

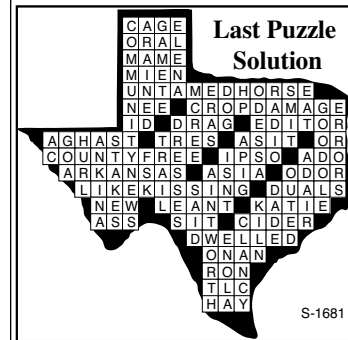
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any or all irregularities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

Barron-Stark Engineers, LP
Publication: April 12, 2024
April 19, 2024

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Avanzada Phase 1 Retaining Wall Improvements, will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

12:00 Noon, Friday May 3, 2024

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

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

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

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

Barron-Stark Engineers, LP
Publication: April 12, 2024
April 19, 2024

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for La Dorada Phase 1 Subdivision Improvements, to include excavation, paving storm drain, water, and sanitary sewer will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

12:00 Noon, Friday May 3, 2024

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

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

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

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

Barron-Stark Engineers, LP
Publication: April 12, 2024
April 19, 2024

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals addressed to Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for Kelly Ranch Public Water Supply Wells Phase 3, will be received at the office of Barron-Stark Engineers, 6221 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 until

12:00 Noon, Friday May 3, 2024

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

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of the Kelly Ranch Public Water Supply Wells Phase 3.

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

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Kid Scoop Together

Corny Math

Work with a family member to use your math skills to reveal more facts about corn.

Each corn stalk usually grows _____ ear of corn.

12 - 11 = _____

The average ear of corn usually has about _____ kernels.

670 + 130 = _____

If you plant one kernel and care for it, you end up with _____ kernels!

400 + 400 = _____

If a farmer plants 30,000 kernels in one acre, how many will he plant in 100 acres?

About how many are there in two ears of corn?

800 + 800 = _____

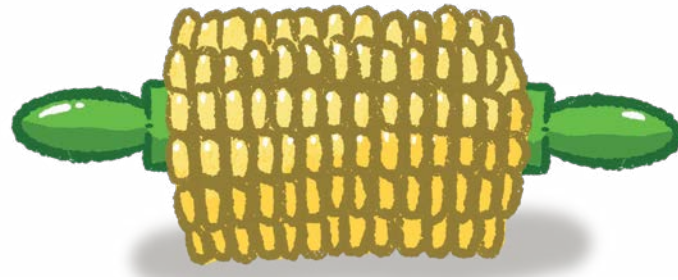
If a giraffe is 16 feet tall, how much taller is the tallest stalk of corn ever measured?

If a corn plant grows 2 inches a day, how long until it is 12 feet tall?

Corn Seasons

Corn is used in more than 3,500 ways. To name just a few, there is corn starch, corn syrup, corn oil, popcorn and good old eating corn. Corn is even used to make a kind of fuel called **ethanol**.

Two Kinds of Corn



Most of the corn grown is **dent corn**, also called **field corn**. Dent corn is picked dry and used mostly for livestock feed and ethanol.

Another popular corn is **sweet corn**. Sweet corn is sweeter and juicier than dent corn and is the kind we eat!

Which of these things are partly made of corn?

- Batteries Matches Diapers

ANSWER: All of them!

Replace the missing words.

Spring

Corn seeds are planted in the spring. Corn seeds are called **kernels**.

In the spring, farmers wait until the _____ is warm before planting corn. The corn kernels need warm soil and spring _____ to start growing.

EARS SOIL GROWING STALKS
WATER HURT FIX RAINS

Summer

During the summer, farmers care for their corn plants. They make sure they get enough _____. They check for weeds, diseases and insects that could _____ the plants. It takes science to grow healthy corn crops!

With water and warmth, corn grows about 2 inches a day. Corn _____ usually grow to about 8 feet tall. The tallest stalk on record was about 45 feet tall—nearly as tall as a four-story building!

Fall

In the fall, corn plants stop _____. The plants turn brown, and the _____ point down. Farmers wait for the ears of corn to dry, and then they harvest.

Winter

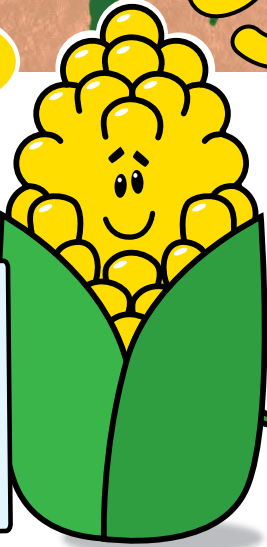
Farmers ship their corn to customers. They also _____ their equipment and get ready to plant again in the spring.

Corn was first grown in this country more than 9,000 years ago:

The letters along the correct path through the corn maze reveals the answer!

Use the code!

- = B
- = C
- = E
- = I
- = M
- = N
- = O



How Technology Helps Farmers

Corn for many centuries was picked by hand. But there have been many inventions that help farmers.

One machine combines several farming jobs in one machine. It cuts the corn stalks and then brings them through the machine. This machine then separates the kernels from the rest of the plant. The machine is called a:

-
-
-
-
-
-

Make a Tall Corn Stalk

Roll up sheets of the newspaper to make long rolls. How long is one sheet rolled? Estimate how many more pages need to be rolled to make one long roll that is 45 feet long. Then keep rolling pages and lining them up until you make a 45-foot-long roll—the length of one of the tallest corn stalks measured.

Standards Link: Math: Estimate lengths.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **STALK**

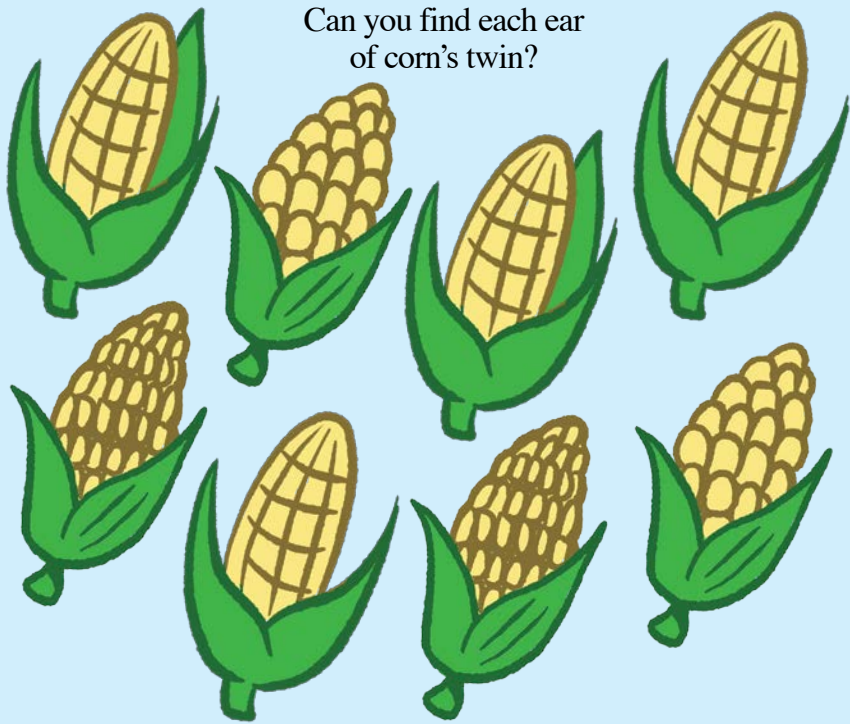
The noun **stalk** means the main stem of a plant.

The corn plant has one main stem called a **stalk**.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you find each ear of corn's twin?



Double Double Word Search

- ACRE
- CARE
- CORN
- CROPS
- DENT
- EAR
- FARMER
- FEED
- FIELD
- GROWS
- HARVEST
- PLANT
- STALK
- SWEET
- WATER

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Life Cycle

Look through the newspaper for pictures that show people, animals or things at different stages of their lives. Cut them out to create a life cycle.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand the natural life cycle of people and objects.



Why did all the farmer's jokes make everyone groan?

ANSWER: They were really corny jokes.

Write On!

Your Favorite Vegetable

Write a riddle for people to figure out your favorite vegetable.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.

TRACK AND FIELD

Bearcats repeat as district champs, Ladycats second in close contest

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

After having their 18-meet regular-season/area winning streak ended recently at Joshua, the Aledo Bearcats continued another streak by winning the District 5-5A championship in the confines of their own Tim Buchanan Stadium April 3-4.

It's the fifth straight time the Bearcats have won district dating to 2019, with no meet being held in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This season they scored 197 points and outdistanced runner-up Northwest, which finished with 111.

Meanwhile, the Ladycats placed second by a single point, scoring 174 points to 175 for district champion Northwest.

Individually, the top four finishers in each event qualified for the Area 5/6-5A Meet at Clark Stadium on Friday, April 12. From there, the top four finishers in each event will advance to the Class 5A Region I Meet in Lubbock April 19-20, where the first- and second-place finishers in each event, along with the top third-place finisher across the entire region, will qualify for state at the University of Texas in Austin May 2-4.

Individually for the Ladycats, Lauren St. Peters won both the discus and shot put. Sofia Brandenburg (800), Addison Smith (200) and Taylor Hindman (pole vault) also won gold, as did the 4x400-meter relay.

For the Bearcats, Jack Fink (3200), Evan Thompson (110 hurdles), Vincent Luffey (1600) and

Braylon Brown (pole vault) captured gold.

Also, the Bearcats won two medals in six events, finishing 1-2-3 in the pole vault and 1-2 in the 1600. The Ladycats won two medals in five events, with a 1-2-3 finish in the 800 and a 1-2 finish in the pole vault.

"It wound up much closer than I thought it would be - which is a testament to our girls team," Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said. "They gave it everything they had. Northwest has an extremely good team, and are very strong in areas that we are not as strong in. It was a great battle."

"I fully expect our girls to compete well at area."

The Bearcats won district despite a disqualification for flinching in the starting block in the 4x200-meter relay. While that could be challenging to try and win another area meet without competing in that event, Clark has confidence in his squad, nonetheless.

"I think we have a shot at it. The guys ran great, had a lot of PRs (personal records), which is what you want at district," he said. "I still think we have some places where we can shave off more time and hopefully, we get that done before regionals in two weeks."

District 5-5A Track and Field Meet April 3-4 at Aledo Aledo results Top four in each varsity event



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Adam Averett of the Aledo Bearcats will be competing in five events at the Area 5/6-5A Meet this week. | **RIGHT:** Addison Smith of the Aledo Ladycats (in front) qualified for area track competition in three events, including winning the 200-meter dash, at the District 5-5A Meet April 3-4 at Aledo's Tim Buchanan Stadium.

qualify for area meet
Running distances in meters,
field events in feet and inches

Varsity Boys

Team score: 197 points, first place.
Top individual finishes
3200: 1. Jack Fink, 9:52.52.
4x100 relay: 2. Adrian Fuller, Adam Averett,
Jayton Owens, Kaydon Finley, 41.81.

800: 2. Vincent Luffey, 1:57.49; 3. Anderson Smith, 2:00.93; 4. Dominick Barrera, 2:02.15.
110 hurdles: 1. Evan Thompson, 15.19; 3. Lincoln Tubbs, 15.50; 4. Isaac Brooks, 15.79.
400: 2. Averett, 48.61; 4. Trey Warner, 50.52.
300 hurdles: 3. Tubbs, 40.41; 4. Thompson, 40.86.
200: 2. Fuller, 22.02; 3. Aven Lawrence, 22.28.

1600: 1. Luffey, 4:30.19; 2. Fink, 4:33.69.
4x400 relay: 2. Warner, Owens, Averett, Lawrence, 3:21.34.
High jump: 3. Averett, 6-0.
Pole vault: 1. Braylon Brown, 15-0; 2. Bradley Campbell, 14-0; 3. Kantyn Kasich, 12-6.
Long jump: 2. Averett, 22-0; 3. Owens, 21-9.
Discus: 3. Christian Sandoval, 122-4; 4. Carson Dempsey, 120-9.

Turn to **TRACK**, page 7

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Town of Annetta will conduct a public hearing on May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, and will act upon the following request:

1. A Special Exception for 101 Silver Ridge Lane, a property containing .729 acres of land (Lot 1, Block 15, Deer Creek Phase VII Subdivision) to allow for a 700 square foot accessory structure that exceeds the allowed square footage as set forth in Section 8.10.B.2.c of the Town of Annetta Zoning Ordinance 215.
2. A Special Exception to Section 8.10.B.10 of the Town of Annetta Zoning Ordinance 215 for 101 Silver Ridge Lane, a property containing .729 acres of land (Lot 1, Block 15, Deer Creek Phase VII Subdivision), to allow garage doors on any size accessory structure to face the right-of-way with additional landscaping, exterior materials or colors and ornamental features to ensure compatibility with the neighborhood.

All interested persons are urged to attend.
TO BE PUBLISHED: Friday, April 12, 2024

Jamee Long, City Secretary/Administrator
Town of Annetta, Texas

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