

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## WILLOW PARK

### Former church to become fine arts school

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Willow Park City Council made a decision at its Tuesday, April 23 meeting that is both educational and entertaining.

They approved a zoning change for the building that once housed Willow Park Baptist Church, allowing it to become The Premier Academy of Fine Arts of North Texas. The property, located 129 S. Ranch House Rd., will be leased by The Journey Church, which intends to sublease areas within the campus to operate as a private high school.

Although a church can occupy any zoning district, a private school usage requires commercial zoning, hence the request for change in zoning from "R-1" Residential to "C" Commercial.

Dr. Elizabeth Timius, Executive Director and Founder of The Premier Academy of Fine Arts, said the school is unlike any other fine arts academy. For one thing, she said, it is the only Christian fine arts academy in the state.

She also noted that what sets her school apart is its ability to find paying gigs for students within the field of fine arts.

"By the time a student graduates (from the school) they should be able to pay their own tuition through paid opportunities," she said.

Timius also noted that the school plans to have its own television station and will produce programming such as music videos and entertainment short videos. These will also, through Wings Distribution, be available on such sites as iTunes, Spotify and Pandora.

Courses will include studies in animation, graphic design, choir, theatre, dance and more.

"Anything that falls under the umbrella of fine arts is taught," Timius said.

Timius said the school actually had a soft opening this school year with a few students, but plans to expand to around 100 students, with approximately 20 faculty/staff members for the 2024-25 school, which is expected to run Sept. 9, 2024 through May 15, 2025.

City officials noted all traffic to and from the school will be commuter (no bus service). A traffic study has not been done by the school and the planning and zoning commission did not require one.

The P&Z commission conducted a public hearing and there were no objections to the zoning change.

"It's a unique concept. I think it will catch on in Willow Park," City Manager Bryan Grimes said. "A lot

Turn to SCHOOL, page 2



## Scrumptious



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

John Wayne of Firefly Grilling Company gave out samples and smiles at the annual Taste of Parker County on April 18. The annual event raises funds for the Weatherford College Foundation. Turn to page 3 to read more.

## PARKER COUNTY

### Big checks bring big smiles

Parker County Health Foundation distributes funds

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

It was all smiles on Friday, April 19, for representatives of several Parker County non-profit organizations. Board members of the Parker County Health Foundation distributed checks to its partner organizations that in all cases exceeded the expectations of the recipients.

The distributed funds were proceeds from the Boots & Bling event in February and the Pink Luncheon in October.

Organizations supported include the Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County, Parker County Center of Hope, Parker County Committee on Aging, Grace House, Freedom House, Manna Storehouse, Sanctified Hope, and the Careity Foundation.

This is the first year that PCHF board members delivered the checks and good news in person. The fact that the checks in most cases were for more than the agencies asked for meant smiles all around — in all cases.

PCHF Chair Craig Harbuck and Vice Chair Penny Shelton were accompanied by board members Sheri Hall, Whitney Harris, and Jay Bartley to make the check presentations.

Turn to PCHF, page 2

## ANNETTA

### Girl Scout earns highest honor

#### Mental Health Awareness Month proclaimed

By Jim Zimmermann  
The Community News

Aledo High School senior Jane Claire Anderson received recognition from the Annetta City Council members for the winning the Girl Scout Gold Award. The recognition came at Annetta's April 18 council meeting.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest honor given to Girl Scouts.

"I am impressed with your dedication and desire as a leader," Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts said. "Your music project fits right in with our May Mental Health Awareness month for senior citizens."

Anderson is a drum major in the marching band, a piccolo player, an Aledo Ambassador, and president of the National Honor Society at AHS. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in neuroscience.

According to a statement from Girl Scouts, "Gold Award Girl Scouts are rock stars, role models, and real-life heroes. How do they do it? By using everything they've learned as a Girl Scout to help fix a problem in their community or make a lasting change in their world."

"And you don't have to be a seasoned activist or star student to get there. Girl Scouts who want to get involved and go for the Gold Award get a team of trusted adults and leaders in their community to guide them through challenges and lead them to success, step-by-step. There's no other program like it."

#### Other business

Under new business, the proclamation to make May 2024 Mental Health Awareness month and Water Safety month was approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 16.



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF ANNETTA

Aledo High School senior Jane Claire Anderson (left) with Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts after the Annetta City Council recognized Anderson for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award.

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## Obituaries

### Ronald Morris

Ronald Morris passed away on April 16, 2024, in Falls City, Nebraska.

Ronald was born on August 3, 1979, in Topeka, Kansas to Jerry and Cynthia (Kinkle) Morris. He was raised in Fort Worth and graduated from Aledo High School in 1998. After graduation, he started working construction with his father and brother. He also took great pride in being a volunteer fire fighter for the Aledo Fire Department. He moved to Falls City in 2012.



Ronald Morris

Ron was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Survivors include his life partner, Jessica Judd of Falls City; daughter, Kathrien Morris; parents, Jerry and Cynthia Morris of Aledo; brother, James Morris of Aledo; sister, Erin Leivestad of Lawrence, Kansas; and niece, Hailey Judd.

It was Ronald's wish to be cremated and a service will be held at a later date.

The Community News  
April 26, 2024

### Janice M. Pringle

Janice M. Pringle passed away on April 13, 2024.

Janice was born in Clovis, New Mexico, on January 30, 1939, to her parents James Barnett and Hattie Bell.

Janice was preceded in death by her loving husband of 50-plus years William Robert Pringle, Sr.; beloved son, William R. Pringle, Jr.; loving granddaughter Hollie E. Henschel; loving brothers, Marvin Bell and Charles Bell; loving sisters, Margaret Bell, and Joanne Corbin (Bell).

Janice is survived by her son, Douglas Pringle, and daughter, Hedy Henschel (Pringle); six grandchildren: Justina, Allison,



Janice Pringle

Benjamin, Sarah, Matthew, and Lance; and seven great grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends who loved her dearly.

Janice was an advent animal lover, and she is survived by her companions Sammie and Sandy who she spoiled very much. Janice was a lifetime member of the Advent Christian church,

Faith. Janice will be remembered by many for her fiercely independent nature, her love of family and animals, her kindness, her smile, her cheerful demeanor, and her willingness to help others. She has passed on, but she will forever be in the hearts of her loved ones.

The Community News  
April 26, 2024

## SCHOOL

from page one

of people are excited, and we always welcome new members into our community."

For more information about the academy, visit premieracademyntx.

com. Timius said she also welcomes emails (information@premier-academyntx.com) or phone calls 817-374-0205. They can also be connected with through Facebook.

"Or they can just drop by. We'd love to show them around and meet them," she said. "We're excited about being in Willow Park."

## PCHF

from page one

"A few of us suggested doing it differently this year," Shelton said.

The board agreed that it would be fun to deliver the checks in person.

First stop was the Children's Advocacy Center. CAC Executive Kathryn Thompson was visibly moved by the \$50,000 donation.

"You all work so hard for this money, I know you do," Thompson said. "You give and your friends give. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts — we couldn't raise this kind of money on our own."

It was a similar scent throughout the morning and early afternoon.

Shelton said the reason for the large donations was that "we had a great, great year. I think it's important for Parker County residents to know that the funds all stay in Parker County. The pink luncheon supports the Careity Foundation and what we make from the gala supports our other agency partners."

Parker County Committee on Aging Director of Operations Jennifer Bledsoe was happy on behalf of Meals on Wheels recipients in the county.

"That will definitely help with the cost of food and supplies," Bledsoe said. "That's (PCHF) such a great organization.

The donations from PCHF were based on presentations each constituent agency made to the board. This is the first year Sanctified Hope received funds.

Seeing the beaming smiling faces was a special experience for the givers.

"That's what shines so much light — just seeing their faces," Shelton said. "And I always say we do the easy part — we're raising the money. They're doing the hard work every day. They're dealing with women who've been abused and children who've been abused and people who are hungry — you name it, they're, they're dealing with it."

For more information about the Parker County Health Foundation, visit [www.parkercountyhealthfoundation.org/](http://www.parkercountyhealthfoundation.org/).



PKOTOS BY RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Parker County Health Foundation board members (from left) Sheri Hall, Whitney Harris, and Penny Shelton display the oversize check at the Children's Advocacy Center.



Parker County Health Foundation members are shown with representatives of the Children's Advocacy Center.



Parker County Health Foundation members are shown with representatives of the Center of Hope and Kingdom Smiles.

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## Taste of Parker County a scrumptious hit

### Annual event raises funds for Weatherford College Foundation

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

That delicious smell wafting throughout the area little more than a week ago was the smell of success - and a lot of of tasty treats.

From pizza to doughnuts to delicacies that would require some dressing up if you ate them in a restaurant, the taste buds were treated in a fashion that, well, can only happen once a year. You know, at a special event - an event like The Taste of Parker County, which was held at Heritage Park on April 18. The event, being held for the 15th year, benefits the Weatherford College Foundation.

It also featured more than 20 vendors, including local restaurants, caterers, bakeries, coffee shops, and breweries, offering sample-sized tastings of their most popular offerings in an "all-you-can-eat" format.

The day began with a strong forecast of rain. However, by the time the dining got underway the sun was shining bright.

"The event went great. Could not ask for better weather!" exclaimed Susan Sodek, the event's lead organizer and WC advancement specialist. "Attendance was strong. We sold over 500 tickets. The Weatherford College Jazz Orchestra kept the crowd entertained. Overall, it was a fun night."

The day also featured awards. Attendees were asked to vote for their favorites. The results are:



#### Best Entrée

- 1st Place: Tailgaters BBQ
- 2nd Place: Aaron's Catering
- 3rd Place: (tie) Flavor on 51/Seventy-One Bar & Grill and Yesterday's Sandwich Shop

#### Best Side Dish

- 1st Place: (tie) Flavor on 51/Seventy-One Bar & Grill and Firefly Grilling Co.
- 2nd Place: Aaron's Catering
- 3rd Place: Caitlyn's Catering

#### Best Dessert

- 1st Place: Back Home Bakery
- 2nd Place: DonutNV of Aledo
- 3rd Place: Dulce Panda Creamery

#### Most Hospitable Vendor

- 1st Place: Flavor on 51/Seventy-One Bar & Grill
- 2nd Place: Aaron's Catering
- 3rd Place: (tie) Beckoning Events and Piamonte Coffee

#### Best Appetizer

- 1st Place: Caitlyn's Catering
- 2nd Place: Aaron's Catering
- 3rd Place: The Perfect Pepper

#### Best Healthy Choice

- 1st Place: Caitlyn's Catering
- 2nd Place: Aaron's Catering
- 3rd Place: HTeaO Weatherford

#### Most Unique Dish

- 1st Place: Tailgaters BBQ
- 2nd Place: The Perfect Pepper
- 3rd Place: (tie) Aaron's Catering and Uncle Monty's Pizza

#### Best Beverage

- 1st Place: I Do Events - Bartending & Staffing
- 2nd Place: Beckoning Events
- 3rd Place: Edgewise Eight Brewing

#### Best Décor

- 1st Place: Aaron's Catering
- 2nd Place: Caitlyn's Catering
- 3rd Place: I Do Events - Bartending & Staffing

#### Best "Mom and Pop"

- 1st Place: Flavor on 51/Seventy-One Bar & Grill
- 2nd Place: (tie) Aaron's Catering and Yesterday's Sandwich Shop
- 3rd Place: (tie) Back Home Bakery, Caitlyn's Catering and Piamonte Coffee

#### Best Overall

- 1st Place: Aaron's Catering
- 2nd Place: Caitlyn's Catering
- 3rd Place: Flavor on 51/Seventy-One Bar & Grill

#### Judge's Favorite Entrée

- Tailgaters BBQ

#### Judge's Favorite Dessert

- DonutNV of Aledo



Chad Davis' shirt delivers his message.



Brooke Stanford, April Adams and Erin Davidson of Ben E. Keith Company



Barney Ellis (left) and his son Cliff Ellis of Edgewise Eight Brewing



Tashina Torbett, Roxann Hernandez and Hannah Cole from Aaron's Catering



Jodi Rudel, Jamie Bengford and Jojo Avanti of Rahr & Sons Brewing



Robyn Potts (left) and Jody Benningfield of Yesterday's Sandwich Shop



Mary Karen O'Neil, Jacey Mills and Tara Cook from Ironworks Coffee



Landace Ortiz (left) and Lauren Girouard of Back Home Bakery



Carley Sliger (left) and Monica Valdez of Nothing Bundt Cakes



Scott Tanner and Caitlyn's Catering

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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

# Early voting underway in local elections



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

Early voting began Monday, April 22 for municipal, school board, and various bond elections. It ends on April 30 with Saturday, May 4 being election day. What is on the ballot depends on where you live.

There are various ways to learn what is on the local ballot. One way is by going to the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/nhbyhnyu>. This takes you to the *Texas Tribune's* election center, where voters can type in their address to find out what is on their ballot.

In addition, most local newspapers and county election websites post notices of local elections.

### Book-banning law gutted by appeals court

The key provisions of a law signed by Gov. Greg Abbott requiring booksellers to rate books for sexual content were gutted after the full 17-member court 5th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to reconsider an earlier decision, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported. The vote was 9-8 to let the earlier decision stand.

A group of independent booksellers joined with book associations to challenge the law, passed in the 2023 regular legislative session. The booksellers contended the law violated the First Amendment and would cause considerable harm to their operations. One owner said the law already has caused a chilling effect and resulted in lost orders.

"The damage to us is mitigated by the fact we don't have to review every book and rate every book that we've sold to the school

library," Valerie Koehler, owner of Houston's Blue Willow Bookshop and a lead plaintiff, said of the court's decision. "But the damage has been done in terms of the libraries across the entire state have changed their policies in a way that makes it hard for new books to get in."

State Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, sponsored the bill and disagreed with the court's decision.

"It's incredibly disappointing that a majority of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with book vendors who push pornography on unsuspecting children in our public schools," he wrote in a statement posted on social media.

### Tax-free holiday for emergency supplies coming up

A wide range of emergency preparation supplies will be exempt from sales tax April 27-29, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. The total cost of the items must be less than \$75 for most items on the list, such as batteries, first aid kits, flashlights, tarps, and fire extinguishers. Higher amounts are allowed for portable generators (less than \$3,000) and emergency ladders and hurricane shutters (less than \$300).

Supplies that do not qualify for tax exemption include face masks, cleaning supplies, gloves, toilet paper, and tents.

For a complete list of what qualifies for tax exemption and what doesn't, go to the state comptroller's website: <https://tinyurl.com/2c6fn4kp>.

### \$100K daily fine for state temporarily halted

A \$100,000 daily fine levied against the state for failing to implement fixes to the state's foster care system ordered by a federal judge was temporarily halted by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, the *Statesman* reported.

U.S. District Judge Janis Jack levied the fines last Monday after finding the state Health and Human Services Commission repeatedly failed to fully investigate abuse allegations in the foster care system.

Jack issued a 427-page ruling that listed dozens of cases where mistakes or delays in investigations resulted in children going without treatment for physical and sexual abuse.

Houston attorney Paul Yetter, who has represented the plaintiffs since the case was filed in 2011, condemned the state's appeal.

"Rather than certify safe, timely investigations of reports of child abuse and neglect, the state seems determined to avoid responsibility," Yetter wrote to the *Statesman* in an email Tuesday. "This appeal sends a terrible message to Texas children that state leadership just doesn't care about their safety."

The stay means the fines will not be levied until the 5th Circuit Court considers the merits of the state's appeal.

### Biden administration awards Samsung \$6.4 billion for Texas chip factories

The Biden-Harris administration announced last week that it would grant \$6.4 billion in direct funding for Samsung Electronics to expand its computer chip manufacturing and research cluster in Texas, the *Associated Press* reported. The money comes from the CHIPS and Science Act signed by President Joe Biden into law in 2022.

"The proposed project will propel Texas into a state-of-the-art semiconductor ecosystem," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said on a call with reporters. She predicted the project in Taylor will create at least 17,000 construction jobs and more than 4,500 manufacturing jobs.

The funding will also expand an existing Samsung facility in Austin. The two factories being built in Taylor, about 45 miles northeast of Austin, are expected to become operational in 2026 and 2027.

Senator John Cornyn commended the measure in a statement Monday.

"By investing in leading-edge semiconductor manufacturing, we are helping secure this vulnerable supply chain, boosting our national security and global competitiveness, and creating new jobs for Texans," Cornyn said.

### Auto insurance continues to spike in Texas

Auto insurance rates in Texas rose an average 25.53% in 2023, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. It's largest annual increase in at least a decade and more than double average increases across the country, according to the *Express-News*.

Among the factors driving the increase are increased prices for new and used vehicles; increased costs of labor and parts; and the volume of accidents in Texas. The number of serious injury crashes in 2022 was up 18.5% from 2019, while the number of vehicle traffic fatalities increased 23.6%.

Ware Wendell, executive director of the consumer advocacy group Texas Watch, recommended that customers go to the Office of Public Insurance Counsel's website to compare policies from different companies. That website is [opic.texas.gov](https://www.opic.texas.gov).

*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

# Left-Handers and Aggies



**Dr. Don Newbury**  
newbury@speakerdoc.com

The Good Book's Chapter 6 of Matthew provides challenging specifics on living the good life, but verse three seems most daunting. It concerns the importance of maintaining a chasm between the works of the left and right hands, perhaps as far as the east is from the west.

In essence, God knows, and that's what counts. As my old mother would often say, "Don't go around 'showing out'."

Maybe I was drawn to that verse early on, what with my being left-handed. From time to time, I still gaze at a now frayed certificate I received at graduation in 1956 at Early High School. It decreed--by vote of my 25 fellow students--that I was "most likely to remain left-handed." Needless to say, all graduates were voted most likely to be something.

Anyways, in this space the other day, I wrote of the current paucity of Aggie jokes. Most of us lament this omission, and--down deep--I think most Aggies do.

One of 'em--a respected veterinarian who has practiced since 1965 and is still at it part time--called me with a new take on an old joke I've repeated hundreds of times over the past half century.

I've told it because it is a "can't miss" joke that invariably draws hearty laughter, even if some of it is muffled, perhaps even gratuitous. It's about an Aggie who allegedly studied both veterinary medicine and taxidermy at Texas A&M. Upon graduation, his business card read, "Either way, you get your dog back."

I have meant no ill by it. As old Foghorn Leghorn used to say in the movie cartoons, "It's a joke, son."

My friend wisely chooses anonymity. Probably he's not the only one who doesn't want others to know he reads my columns.

"I've heard that joke countless times, often from you," my friend began. "Most of my colleagues have heard it, too, and still laugh, even if out of courtesy."

His primary purpose for calling was to let me know that upon his classmate's completion of vet studies, he was indeed both a veterinarian AND a taxidermist. At first, I thought he was teasing. Or, maybe he was setting me up for another Aggie joke.

No sirree, he was hand-on-the-Bible serious. "He was an older student, and he brought

his taxidermy skills with him to vet school," my friend said. "What I most remember is that he slept through most sessions of a dairy course. Admittedly, it was a course that few of us were interested in, since most of us were more interested in small animal practices. His sleeping in class didn't set well with the prof, so he had to repeat his senior year."

His call set me to wondering. Reckon the doctor/taxidermist had a card advertising both services? Was he ever asked to turn a prized pet into a mounted den trophy? Finally, my mind flitted back to Matthew 6:30, about "each hand minding its own business."

On the matter of serving two masters, Dr. Kenneth Ashworth, former Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, could well have been kidded unmercifully if details of his part time teaching in retirement had been widely known.

He taught graduate classes in higher education at two locations--in the same semester. One was at Texas A&M University in College Station, the other at The University of Texas in Austin. His business card was printed in maroon on one side and orange on the other.

The 92-year-old educator has written numerous books. Two of my friend's titles are *Horns of a Dilemma: Coping with Politics at the University of Texas* and *Caught Between the Dog and the Fireplug*. Bright and witty, Dr. Ashworth served Texas boldly and masterfully. No doubt his "fireplug" book helped him to decompress after dealing adroitly with both governmental and educational politics.

*Dr. Newbury is a long-time university president, author and speaker whose column, begun in 2003, is Texas' longest-running syndication. Contact: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Phone: 817-447-3872.*



### LETTERS POLICY

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

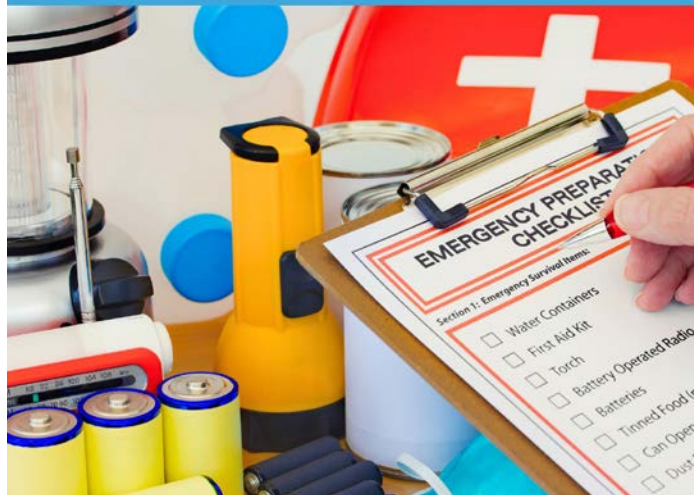


More events can be found at [www.community-news.com/calendar](http://www.community-news.com/calendar)



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

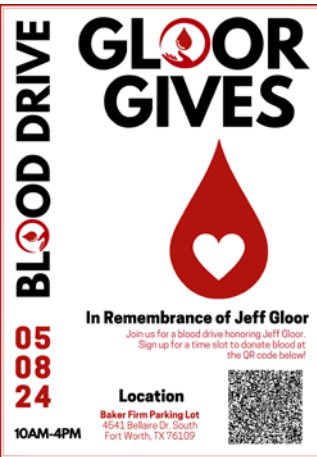
**EMERGENCY PREPARATION SUPPLIES SALES TAX HOLIDAY**  
**APRIL 27 - 29, 2024**



a beef taco dinner, rice, beans, dessert and your choice of tea and/or water. Following dinner we will play Loteria (BINGO) for your chance to win locally donated prizes.

**Summer Activities for the Children. Cash/Check only. Clothing, toys, books, home decor, holiday decor, furniture, and more.**

**MAY 8**  
**Blood Drive**  
There will be a Blood Drive on May 8 in the parking



**MAY 2**  
**Taco 'Bout a Fundraiser**  
Let's Taco 'Bout a Fundraiser benefiting Meals on Wheels and the Senior Center from 5:30 - 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 2 at 1225 Holland Lake Dr. Weatherford, TX 76086. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 which includes



**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

**ACROSS**

- Texas amateur radio operator (2 wds.)
- TXism: "a sheep in wolves clothes"
- this Texas Speaker was a great center fielder
- seat of Jackson County
- TXism: "that \_\_\_ won't drill" (differ)
- who TX Jeannie C. Riley "socked it to"
- TX Tommy Lee Jones won one for "The Fugitive"
- in Andrews County on U.S. 385
- TXism: "couldn't fight his way out of \_\_\_ bag"
- Zagreb is this country's capital
- the \_\_\_ Bend Reservoir is near Hemphill
- TX Vernon Dalhart tune: "Can't \_\_\_ Me Callin' Caroline?"
- TX Orbison's "\_\_\_ Woman Blues"
- car washing aids
- soil is hard to farm
- how a Texan says "can't?"
- historical "Texas Gazette" was published by this Cotten (init.)
- eastern Houston suburb
- TXism: "bellered \_\_\_ bull"
- TXism: "no files \_\_\_" (pretty)
- TXism: "he's a frisky fiddler"
- rich layer cake
- George W. to George H.W.
- close a person's eyes
- TXism: "she's \_\_\_ best when her lips ain't moving"
- TXism: "scarce \_\_\_ wildcatter with a bank balance"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ it or lose it"
- coldly ignores
- actress Adams in "Racquet" with TX Lynda Day George
- TXism: "head rug" 58 dejected
- TXism: "attacked like grandma \_\_\_ snake"
- Gov. \_\_\_ or two" Runnels (1857-59)
- TX Judith McNaught novel: "\_\_\_ of Dreams" (1989)
- Fort Bliss site: Lanoria
- Quannah Parker's father, Nocona
- TXism: "got knocked down \_\_\_ or two"
- Cincinnati MLB team
- "Petticoat" actor, TX Meredith Mac \_\_\_
- singer in 28-across (init.)
- TXism: "dance with who brung \_\_\_"
- "good \_\_\_ boy"
- former newspaper in Munday (3 wds.)
- TXism: "limp \_\_\_ dish rag"
- horse morsel
- Texas-based Hagggar products, e.g. (2 wds.)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ booze" (jail)
- TXism: "got knocked down \_\_\_ or two"
- Cincinnati MLB team
- "Petticoat" actor, TX Snyder has \_\_\_ buffalo statue
- TXism: "he's \_\_\_ ornery old cuss"
- TXism: "dab \_\_\_ on"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ dice"
- big Brahman ranch in Texas
- TX Don Henley's rock group
- Snyder has \_\_\_
- buffalo statue
- TXism: "he's \_\_\_ ornery old cuss"
- TXism: "dab \_\_\_ on"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ dice"
- TX Tracey Needham military TV series
- king toppers in poker
- TXism: "\_\_\_ a bug's ear"
- TX Autry's "Back \_\_\_ Saddle Again"
- TXism: "suits me to a fare-\_\_\_-well"
- 2024, e.g.
- TXism: "let \_\_\_ rip!"
- actor Ulrich (init.)
- Alta Taylor Johnson (Lady Bird) in Milam County on U.S. 79/190
- Dallas (2 wds.)

**DOWN**

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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lot of the Baker Firm Fort Worth office on Bellaire Drive South to honor of Jeff Gloor. There will be two buses from Carter BloodCare here. Sign up using the QR code on the flyer. There are only 60 spots available between the two buses.

**MAY 14**  
**EPCL Summer Reading**  
Patrons of all ages are invited to begin signing up for our summer program on May 14, 2024 (registration is open throughout

the summer). We are excited to kick off-summer reading with an Adventure with Magic on Friday, May 31st featuring secret agent James Wand. Visit <https://www.epclibrary.com> for more information.



**MAY 17**  
**TCA High School Graduation**  
TCA graduation from 7 -8:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17 at Willow Park Baptist.

**MAY 24**  
**Aledo High School Graduation**  
AHS graduation will be from 8 - 11 p.m. on May 24 at Tim Buchanan Stadium. Each graduate will receive 15 tickets. Rainout Dates: May 25 & 26

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GOLF

## Stokes seeking home run at state

### Keeps Aledo golf tradition going

By Rick Mauch  
Community News

For a baseball player, Braden Stokes turned out to be a pretty good golfer.

Less than three years ago his dream was to follow his dad, Jason Stokes, into major league baseball. However, he chose the path of his grandfather and took up the game of golf.

And now the sophomore is competing for a state championship as he qualified for the Class 5A State Tournament April 29-30 at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown. He qualified after posting rounds of 75 and 76 at Lubbock's Hillcrest in the Region I Tournament April 15-16.

It's the third consecutive season in which the Bearcats will be represented at state. Two years ago they qualified as a team and last season Braylon Mahanay, now playing at Weatherford College, qualified individually.

"I played baseball ever since I was very young. All the guys on the Aledo baseball team I played with," said Stokes.

And while he still loves baseball — he played catcher — he fell in love with golf while joining his grandfather on some outings.

"I'd go with him every few months, then he invited me to play some charity tournaments with him. That led to some junior tournaments and I just loved it," Stokes said. "I gave up baseball and started playing a lot more golf."

That was just less than three years ago, but when you love something you learn in a hurry.

### Pro pedigree

Stokes' father, Jason, still holds the Texas high school record for home runs in a season. As a senior at Coppell he hit 25 on his way to being named the Gatorade High School Baseball Player of the Year in 2000.

Turn to GOLF, page 7



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sophomore Braden Stokes of the Aledo Bearcats lines up a putt during a practice before heading to Georgetown for the Class 5A State Tournament April 29-30.

TRACK AND FIELD

## Ladycats win regional championships

### Sending four to state

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Pardon the pun, but the Aledo Ladycats track team is on quite a run.

And now, a trio of Ladycats will continue on to state, along with a member of the Bearcats. The quartet will compete in the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet at the University of Texas in Austin May 3. They qualified with top-two finishes in their respective events at the Class 5A Region I Meet at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

As a team, the Ladycats won the regional championship, scoring 55 points to runner-up Burleson Centennial's 52. The top five teams, which included Mansfield Timberview (48), Amarillo (46), and Denton Ryan (45) were within 10 points of each other.

Making the trip to Austin for the Ladycats will be regional champions Taylor Hindman (senior) in the pole and Lauren St. Peters (seniors) in the shot put — along with a runner-up finish in the discus — as well as 800-meter runner-up Sofia Brandenburg (sophomore). All three competed at state last season and this will be a third straight year for Hindman and St. Peters to compete on the big stage.

St. Peters' shot put throw of 49 feet at regionals is also a new school record.

Braylon Brown, a junior, qualified by winning the pole vault for the Bearcats. It will be his debut appearance at state.

Narrowly missing a berth at state was Brad Campbell in the pole vault. He placed third and missed out on a wild-card bid by a slim margin.

Last season Hindman finished second in the state, while St. Peters was third in the shot put. As sophomores, St. Peters was fourth in both the shot and discus and Hindman tied teammate and junior (then freshman) Maggie Kilburn for seventh.

Brandenburg finished fifth at state last season in the 800.

"The girls competed very well. The weather was not favorable, especially Saturday, but these girls did not let that get in their way," Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said.

Due to heavy weather moving in overnight, all field events were moved to Friday. The Ladycats capitalized by scoring 38 points that day.

"Going into Saturday, we had the 800, 100, 1600, and 4x400 to try and score more points. These girls really performed," Pinkerton said.

Going into the final event of the meet, the Ladycats trailed by one point in the team standings, with the title up for grabs. However, the leading team did not qualify a 4x400 relay for the finals.

Aledo's relay, consisting of Mykel Murry, Mayden Mitchell, Brandenburg, and Addison Smith, fought through the wind and rain, finishing fifth, and giving the Ladycats the regional championship.

The regional championship comes on the heels of the Area 5/6-5A championship a week earlier in Fort Worth. Prior to that they were second in the District 5-5A Meet by a single point to Northwest.

"These girls have worked hard, and competed even harder all season. I do not have the words to express how proud of them I am," Pinkerton said, also praising his assistant coaches.

"I believe that all three of our state qualifiers will do a fantastic job. There are none that work harder, or prepare better," he continued. "All three have been to state before, and all three have also competed at the state facility this year (Texas Relays). I am looking for them to do great things in Austin."

For full results visit: <https://www.community-news.com/stories/ladycats-win-regional-championships,79213>

TENNIS

## Aledo faces upcoming league, regional foes

By Cathy Mason  
The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team competed at the Northwest ISD Tournament on Friday, April 19 against some upcoming District 5-5A and Regional I competitors.

Bryanna Orr went 4-0 for the day and earned first place in Girls Singles A. Orr beat district rival Wichita Falls Rider 6-1, 6-2 in the finals to clinch the win.

In Boys Singles B, Ben Kurth also went 4-0 to earn first place, while Casen Freeland finished second with a 3-1 record.

In Boys Doubles A, Benjamin Farmer and Craig Mason went 3-1, earning their way to the finals with marathon tie-breakers with Plano East. Farmer and Mason won the semi-final match 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (6-8).

Turn to TENNIS, page 7



CATHY MASON

Ben Kurth and Casen Freeland finished 1-2 in Boys Singles B in the Northwest ISD Tournament.

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## SOCCER

## Bearcats pace district honors

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

Led by a quartet of superlative honors, the Aledo Bearcats received plenty of accolades from the league's coaches on the All-District 5-5A Boys Soccer Team.

Sophomore Trapper Davis was named the Utility Player of the Year and sophomore Brody Gill was selected as Offensive Newcomer of the Year. The Offensive MVP is junior midfielder Austin Randriamehefa.

Derek Vierling of the Bearcats shared Coach of the Year honors with Brewer's Rafael Franco.

Named to the first team from Aledo were junior forward Cole Crawford and sophomore midfielder Robby Sloan. Second-team picks went to defenders Hunter Waugh (sophomore) and Trent Newton (freshman).

Honorable mentions are senior goalkeeper Deagan Dietz and senior defender Harrison Hobbs, along with junior defender Elliott Smith and freshman midfielder Evan Randriamehefa.

The Bearcats finished fourth in district with a 5-3-4 record and were 14-4-6 overall. They advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

## SOCCER

## Dozen Ladycats honored by coaches

**Staff Reports**  
The Community News

Freshman midfielder Ally Wiemer's selection as Offensive Newcomer of the Year paced a dozen Ladycats who were among the All-District 5-5A honors handed out by the district coaches.

First-team choices went to senior midfielder Emaree Gibson, junior midfielders Emery Thompson and Katie Cox and junior defender Reagan Tomlin.

On the second team are senior midfielders Hailey Vandiver and Georgia Zirbser, senior defender Payton Weaver and sophomore defender Addison Clark.

Receiving honorable mention were senior Dakota Jackson, junior goalkeeper Ava Fennell, and sophomore defender Haley Mourer.

The Ladycats were second in district with a 6-4-2 record and were 11-9-3 overall. They advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

## TENNIS

from page 6

17-15, but fell to Argyle in the finals to earn second place overall.

On April 12, the team competed in the Kowbell Classic tournament in Mansfield, earning five medals.

Jacob Heckathorn and Patrice Loftin won first place in the Mixed Doubles Consolation bracket with a 3-1 record for the day.

Finishing second in the tournament was Orr in Girls Singles

A (3-1), and Kenley Germany/Lila Satterfield in Girls Doubles A (3-1). Kurth placed third in Boys Singles B, and Scott Mason/Elli Kate Bussmeir also finished third with a 3-1 record.

The team will compete in the District 5-5A Tournament at TCU on April 29-30. The top two finishers in each event will advance to the Region I Tournament in Lubbock May 8-9. From there, the top two finishers in each event move on to state in San Antonio May 16-17.

## BASEBALL

from page 10

line drive through the right side of the infield for a base hit.

With one out in the inning, runners on first and second, and Drew Weckel stepping into the box, Burdine took his lead from second. As the pitcher started towards the plate, Burdine took off for third base. The pitch missed the zone taking the Raiders backstop out of position as he forced the throw down the line to third. The throw missed its mark as Burdine slid into third, allowing him

to sprint for home plate to put the Bearcats on the board.

In all the commotion, Thompson moved into scoring position taking up residence at second base. Weckel hit a grounder to the third baseman for what should've been a routine out. However, the Raiders committed their second error of the inning allowing Weckel to reach first safely while Thompson moved over to third.

Weston Nance laid down a sacrifice bunt on the 0-1 offering and was thrown out by the pitcher on the routine 1-to-3 play. The bunt allowed Thompson to score from

## GOLF

## Ladycats fall short of returning to state

**By Rick Mauch**  
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats golf team fell short of their bid for a fourth consecutive trip to the state tournament, finishing fourth in the Class 5A Region I Tournament at Lake Ridge Country Club in Lubbock on April 17-18.

The Ladycats shot a two-day total of 677 (334-343), 28 strokes behind third-place Colleyville Heritage's 649 (316-333). Amarillo Black won with a 609 (300-309) and Argyle was second with a 638 (309-329).

The top three teams and the three individuals with the lowest scores not on those teams qualified for the state tournament May 6-7 at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown/Sun City.

"We knew going in it was going to be tough," Aledo coach Brian Mourning said. "The region we're in is so incredible. Amarillo, Argyle, and Colleyville Heritage, all three have kids who can shoot in the 60s. Heritage had a girl shoot 69 on the

first day. That just puts the rest of the team at ease.

"But I'm proud of the girls. Sure, we're disappointed not to be going to state, but all the kids worked hard and I think they're stunned their season ended this week."

The Ladycats were led by sophomore Emily Crick (75-87) and senior Kyla Morales (80-82). They tied for 12th individually.

Also for the Ladycats, senior Kennedy Parker finished her career with a 178 (92-86), junior Reagan Gilliland posted a 181 (87-94) and sophomore Karlee Shaw shot 182 (94-88).

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

Sophomore Harper Price, playing as a medalist, shot 183 (95-88). She's the second consecutive performance by a medalist-only player Mourning had high praise for, along with senior Johnnie Reed, who shot 178 (77-101) for the Bearcats earlier in the week.

"I'm happy to see them playing as medalists and doing so well," Mourning said. "They had some solid performances."

"We lost our 1 through 3 players last year, but these girls who came out are pretty good," Mourning continued. "Losing Kyla's gonna hurt, and Kennedy's been playing four years, so we're losing a lot of experience there, and they contributed so much to this program."

"Emily and Harper have come a long way, all of the girls coming back are just getting better and better."

The Ladycats won the District 5-5A championship, as did the Bearcats, who will have a representative at state. Sophomore Braden Stokes qualified as a medalist and will compete at Legacy Hills April 29-30.

It's the 19th time Aledo will have a competitor at state in the past 20 official tournaments. The COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 tournament.

## GOLF

from page 6

Jason Stokes, a first baseman, was selected in the second round of the 2000 Major League Baseball draft by the Florida Marlins. His best season in the minor leagues was in 2002 with the Kane County Cougars, where he compiled a .341 batting average with 27 home runs and 75 runs batted in, earning him both The Sporting News Minor League Player of the Year Award and the Topps Minor League Player of the Year Award.

Injuries plagued his career. Despite his immense talent, his career was cut short in 2010.

## Ready for state

The younger Stokes said he's proud to keep the tradition of Aledo golf going. It's the 19th time Aledo will have a competitor at state in the past 20 official tournaments.

The COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 tournament.

"It feels great to keep it alive," he said. "They have such a great tradition here and I'm happy to be a part of it. I want to get back next year with my teammates — but I'm focusing on this season first."

"I've been working on my short game. I put in about 30 hours of putting and chipping last week."

While he won't likely be facing the same elements — namely the legendary West Texas winds — that he saw in Lubbock, he did note that playing in those conditions does help prepare a golfer for virtually anything.

"Playing in windy conditions makes you be more precise and focus on small things like aim spots," he said.

## State course

Aledo coach Brian Mourning said the course at Legacy as "not super tough. It's a retirement community in Sun City."

However, that said, it can be deceptive, he added.

"There aren't a lot of elevated greens. You can hit irons off the tee, which are more controllable," he said. "You can hit a driver off the tee, but be careful not to run through the fairway."

Stokes said he's never played the course, but said his friend Mahanay told him, "Braylon said the main thing is to hit the fairways."

And yes, he admitted to being a little nervous, but he calms himself with a simple message to himself — one he delivers before each time he plays.

"It's another round of golf. You're playing yourself."

So far, he's done a good job of winning that battle — along with besting most other golfers he faces.

"He is a great kid with a great attitude," Mourning said. "I think he's ready."

"And I'm glad I've got him for another couple years."

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**Town of Annetta**

The Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council of the Town of Annetta will hold separate public hearings on separate dates to consider a Specific Use Permit application for the following property:

1. Property located at 99 Viannah Drive on 5.350 acres not platted as Abst. 1994, Survey: I & G N R R CO, TR.; BLK.; SURV: I & G N R R CO, Town of Annetta, Parker County, Texas. Zoning change from R-1 Residential to R-1 Residential with a Special Use Permit to allow an accessory dwelling unit to be constructed on the same lot as the main dwelling unit. The accessory dwelling unit is to be used by a person or persons related to occupants of the main dwelling unit.

Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Date: May 9, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

City Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Date: May 16, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Annetta Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the hearings.

Jamee Long, TRMC  
City Secretary/Administrator

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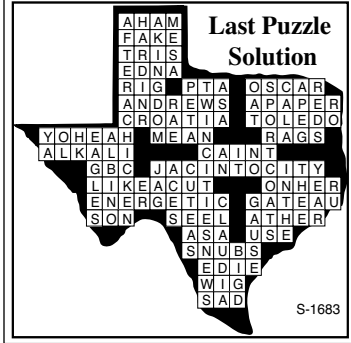
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**ORDINANCE NO. 902-24**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR A 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, CITY OF WILLOW PARK, PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS DAY 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

CRYSTAL R. DOZIER, TRMC, CMC  
CITY SECRETARY  
CITY OF WILLOW PARK

**ORDINANCE NO. 903-24**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS REPEALING THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK'S CURRENT WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN; AMENDING THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING ARTICLE 13.11 TO ESTABLISH A NEW WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.00; PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS DAY 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

CRYSTAL R. DOZIER, TRMC, CMC  
CITY SECRETARY  
CITY OF WILLOW PARK

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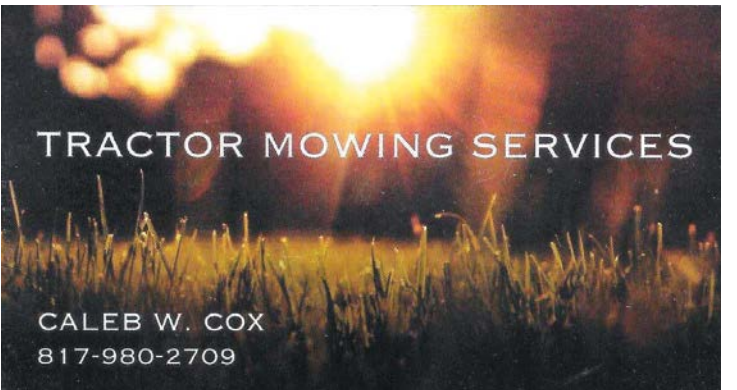
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**Kid Scoop Together**

## How to Draw a Gnu

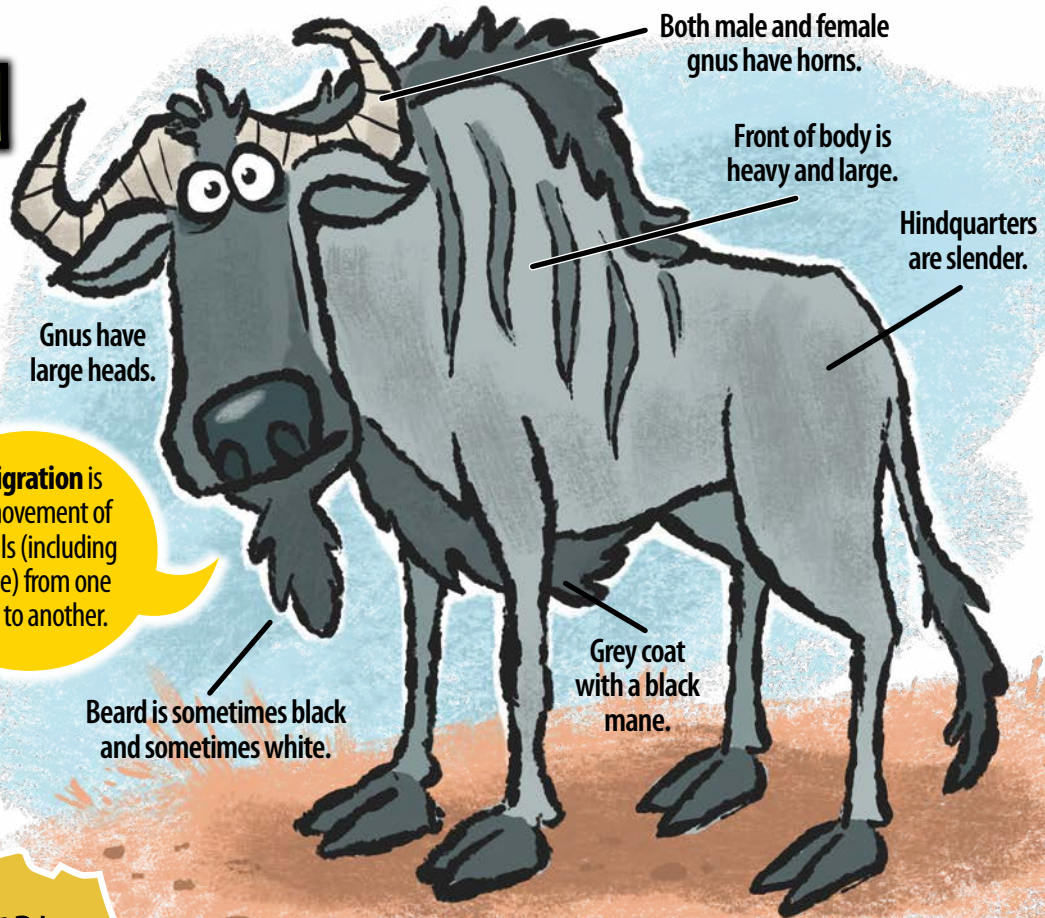
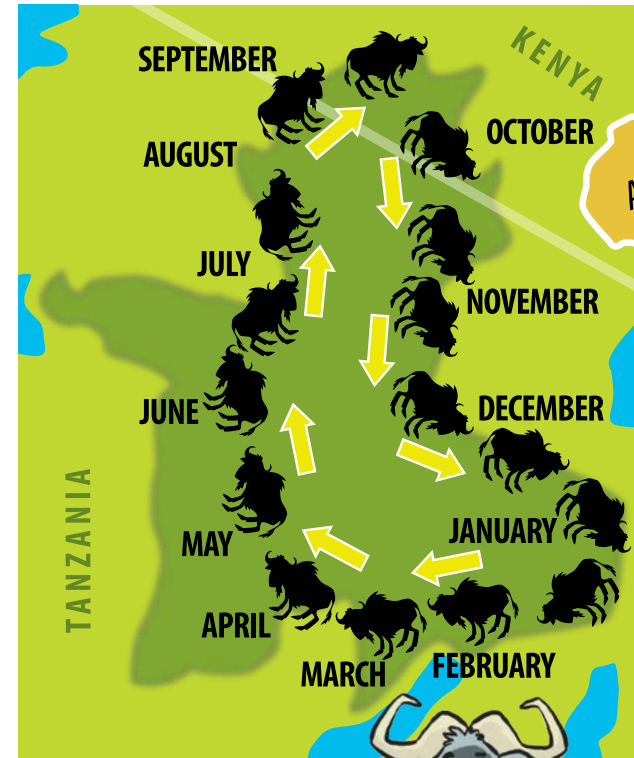


# The Great Gnu Migration

There is an African animal that travels about 1,000 miles every year in what is known as the world's largest animal migration.

This migrating animal is called a **gnu**. They travel in one large herd that has a million gnus! They travel to find food and water. Some people call this enormous migration one of the "Seven Wonders of the Natural World!"

**Standards Link:** Animals move from place to place for survival.



A migration is the movement of animals (including people) from one place to another.

Beard is sometimes black and sometimes white.

Grey coat with a black mane.

### What's a gnu?

It is a member of the antelope family which includes hooved animals with horns that graze. There are about 135 different kinds of animals in the antelope family.

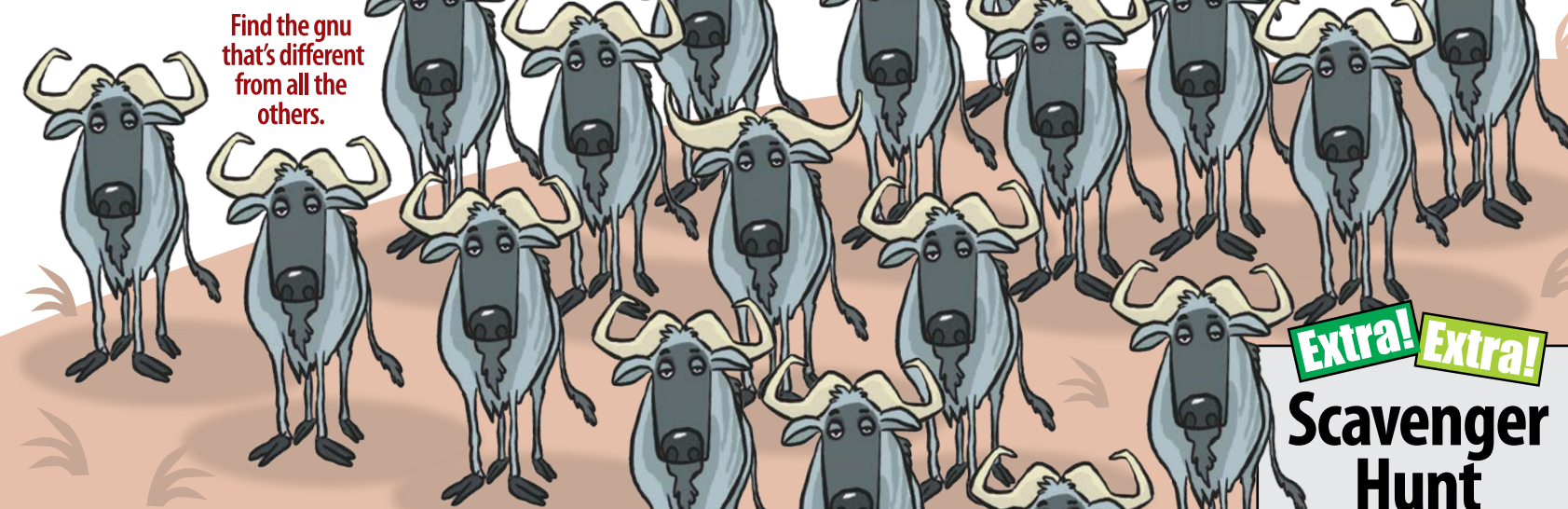
Unscramble the letters to reveal other members of the antelope family.

PHESE

TELACT

TSGAO

The G is silent in the word gnu. It's pronounced like "new."



### Extra! Extra! Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find:

- A word with a silent letter
- A word that describes a gnu
- An example of the way people travel today

**Standards Link:** Follow simple written directions.

### Gnu name?

Use the code to discover another name for gnu.

- = B
- = E
- = L
- = T
- = D
- = I
- = S
- = W

W

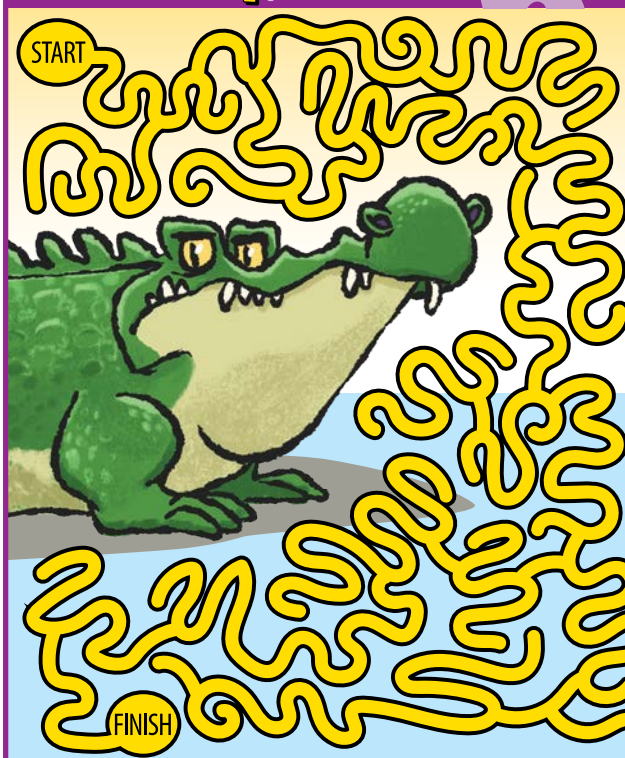


### Baby Gnus

Since gnus travel nearly every day, baby gnus must get up and walk right away. The babies, called calves, start walking within minutes after they are born.

**Standards Link:** Young animals have features that aid in survival.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler



### Travel Troubles

Gnus face many dangers as they travel. In the grassy plains, they are hunted by predators like lions, cheetahs and hyenas.

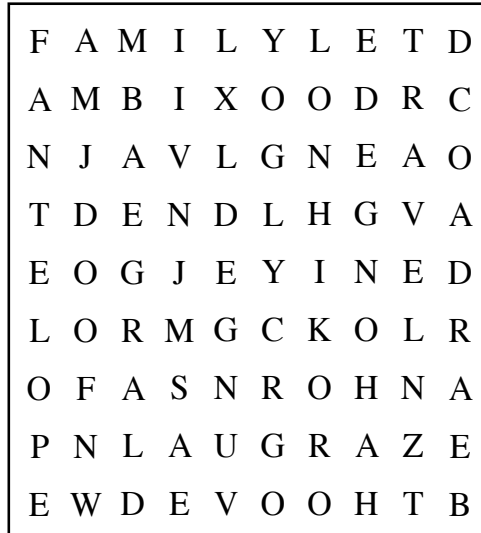
Along their migration loop, they cross large rivers filled with crocodiles.

Follow the maze to avoid this hungry crocodile!

### Double Double Word Search

- ANTELOPE
- BEARD
- COAT
- FAMILY
- FOOD
- GRAZE
- GNU
- HERD
- HOOVED
- HORNS
- LARGE
- MANE
- MILLION
- NAME
- TRAVEL

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: **MIGRATION**

The noun **migration** means a long journey from one place to another.

The gnu **migration** happens as these animals search for fresh, green grasses.

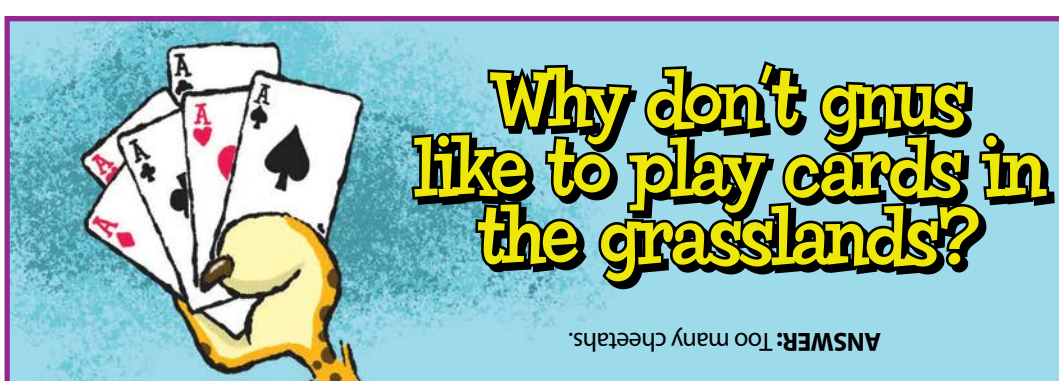
Try to use the word **migration** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Migration in the News

Look through the newspaper for restaurants, foods, businesses and names that show that some of your neighbors moved from far away to live in your community.

**Standards Link:** Social Science: Understand day-to-day activities in your community.



ANSWER: Too many cheetahs.

### Write On! My Amazing Life

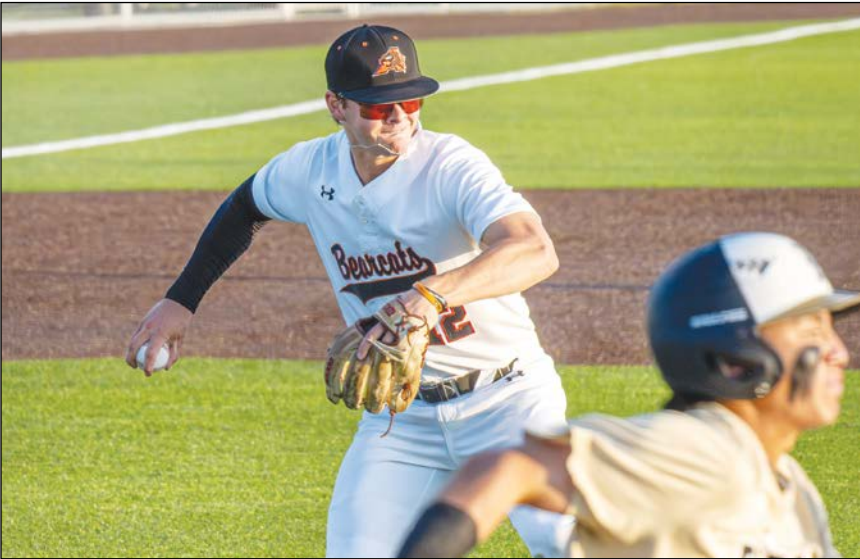
Write about the most amazing thing about your life.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Write descriptively using a main idea and supporting details.



BASEBALL

# Bearcats win district title, fall to Rider



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Third baseman Ryan Jones fields a bunt and makes the throw over to first as the Rider baserunner scrambles down the line during Aledo's season finale against Wichita Falls Rider on Tuesday, April 23.

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

After defeating Azle 5-1 on Friday, April 19, to secure the District 5-5A title for the fifth season in a row - not counting 2020 due to the pandemic - the Aledo Bearcats had the opportunity to finish off their district schedule unbeaten when they faced Wichita Falls Rider in the season finale on Tuesday, April 23.

A late two-run rally in the top of the seventh inning brought an end to Aledo's undefeated district run, as the Raiders went on to win 4-2. However, the loss was of little consequence heading into the playoffs, with seeding for both teams already determined regardless of outcome.

Jake Huffman got the start on the hill for the Bearcats against Rider. Huffman found a rhythm early, surrendering just a lone walk in the top of the first before getting out of the inning with no harm done.

As the Bearcats came up to bat in the bottom half of the first, they put the pressure on the Raiders' lanky left-hander early. Brooks Burdine worked himself into a deep count before eventually drawing a leadoff walk when the 3-2 payoff pitch missed the zone.

Boyd Thompson stepped into the box looking to put the ball in play. He fouled off the first offering from the Rider hurler. He got a lot more of the second pitch, as he smoked a

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 7

SOFTBALL

# Ladycats end regular season undefeated in district play

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats ran away with the District 5-5A title once again as they closed out the 2024 season unblemished in District 5-5A play.

A combination of stalwart pitching and discipline at the plate has been the recipe for success all season. The district finale on Friday, April 19, against Granbury was no different, as the Ladycats dropped the Lady Pirates, 10-0.

After mowing down Brewer the week before, Texas Tech commit Brenlee Gonzales picked up where she left off against Granbury. The southpaw hurler pitched a complete-game shutout. The Lady Pirates managed just one hit against her.

Gonzales pounded the zone, challenging hitter after hitter, who came up empty. She retired 15 of the 18 outs she was responsible for by way of strikeout in the last district outing of her high school career.

Not satisfied to just dominate in the circle, Gonzales brought the same energy to the plate. Her 2-for-3 night at the plate was capped off by a solo home run to right field in the bottom of the fourth inning that lifted the Ladycats to a 3-0 lead to that point in the game.

Gonzales' homer in the home half of the fourth spurred the scoring rally that led the Ladycats to the early finish. Two batters later, Kennis Marx singled up the middle to give Aledo a two-out baserunner.

Austyn Marriage came on as the pinch runner with Jordan



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Kennis Marx (15) embraces her teammate during senior ceremonies after the last home game. Seniors traditions include congratulations from teammates on the baseline before crossing the plate one last time.

Edington striding to the plate. Edington earned a trip to first the hard way as she was hit by the 3-2 offering to put runners at first and second.

Addie Perry came up to bat with two outs as the lineup turned over. She hit a fly ball to left field for what routinely would've been the final out of the inning. However, a fielding error not only put Perry on base, but allowed Marriage to score from second.

With two outs and her team leading 4-0, Delaney Rosser picked up her second base hit of the game as Edington came around to score.

Aledo scored three runs on four hits in the bottom of the fifth, as Marina Taveras, Kyleigh Pawlak, and Grace Heath all plated runs in the inning. An inning later, the Ladycats were able to close out the contest as Rosser and Flores scored on a hard hit double to right field.

## Forney finale

In the regular-season finale, the Ladycats dropped an extra-inning affair to Forney 1-0 on Monday, April 22. Gonzales pitched 7.2 innings for Aledo, giving up five hits and just one run in the top of the eighth before being replaced by Taylor McKean.

The District 14-5A champion Lady Jackrabbits got the better of the pitching duel, surrendering no runs on just three hits in eight innings.

While the Ladycats only managed three hits against Forney, all three went for extra bases. Gonzales and Taveras each hit a double. Flores hit a two-out triple in the bottom of the first inning to give the home team an early opportunity to score. Unfortunately, it ended up being their best opportunity to score.

To continue reading visit <https://www.community-news.com/stories/ladycats-end-regular-season-undefeated-in-district-play,79215>

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