

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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MUSIC

## Aledo's Gartner at home with music and selling homes

By John English  
The Community News

Cate Gartner recently embarked upon what could become a long and successful career in real estate.

But a little more than six months ago, it looked as though her life would take a much different path — a path to which she may eventually return one day.

The Aledo resident auditioned for *American Idol* in October and was one of 143 contestants from across the country to receive a coveted golden ticket, a passport to Hollywood where she could potentially achieve musical stardom.

"I actually was asked by a casting producer to audition through Instagram DM's, (direct messages)" Gartner said. "She had found my TikTok [video]."

With nerves on edge and baby in tow, Gartner performed her original song "The Place That I Call Home" as a veritable Who's Who of popular and country music stars listened on and eventually judged.

When Gartner finished, Luke Bryan, Katy Perry, and Lionel Richie were all in agreement.

"Receiving a unanimous 'yes' was such a crazy feeling," Gartner said. "I was so excited and in shock I didn't even realize it was happening."

**Made more special**

It was perhaps even more special for Gartner because she became pregnant with her son, Cooper, at the age of 17, and her life could have turned out much differently.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CATE GARTNER  
Cate Gartner, a 19-year-old in real estate from Aledo, recently competed on *American Idol* and hopes to someday have a career as a professional singer.

The song Gartner sang reflects some of the difficulties and uncertainties the Aledo teen has faced as she navigates here way through motherhood.

But, Gartner said, in spite of the challenges she has faced in her personal life, the only way people would know what she was up against is by actually listening

to her song, not by the contest itself.

"I think being a teen mom came with its own struggles, but to be honest, I don't think it made competition with the other contestants any harder," Gartner said. "We all had our different stories. Mine just happened to

be told in the song I auditioned with."

Gartner, 19, added that if it were not for the birth of Cooper, she likely would have never auditioned in the first place.

"What's funny is, the song the casting producer found on my TikTok was a recording of my

Turn to **IDOL**, page 2

ALEDO

## City hall project moving forward

By Ryan Wade  
The Community News

With Oncor working to relocate the electrical lines for the new Aledo City Hall project, the city council took steps during their meeting on Thursday, April 25, to ensure the project keeps moving forward.

The passage of Resolution 2024-161 grants City Manager Noah Simon the authority to enter into an agreement with Project Control of Texas for the onsite construction and project management.

Boasting the completion of such projects as the science building at University of Texas Dallas and the Whataburger headquarters in San Antonio, Project Control of Texas has a reputation for completing projects on time and under budget - two important factors in the current inflationary environment.

**Water billing audit**

Following several months of data collection, Brio Consulting has completed their audit of the water billing practices and returned their recommendations to the city council.

Resolution 2014-164 brought before the council on Thursday, authorized Simon to enter into a professional services agreement at a cost of \$50,000 to assist in the implementation of the recommendations from Brio Consulting to ensure efficient and accurate water billing processes.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
Workers are moving power lines so the old train depot can be moved and construction on the new Aledo City Hall can begin.

WEATHERFORD

## Historic log cabin park makes *Good Morning Texas* debut

**Cabins built by Parker County pioneers**

By Jolee Skinner  
Contributing Writer

The historic Pioneer Cabin Park in Weatherford was featured in a special live segment on *Good Morning Texas* with Grammy award-winning artist Michael Martin Murphey making a special appearance.

GMT featured a live tour of the original log cabins at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center hosted by Anchor Paige Smith on April 23.

Doss Heritage Director of Development Lorraine Crutcher spoke to Smith live from the Pioneer Cabin Park about the history of the log cabins and how the founders of Parker County built these log cabins.

Crutcher spoke about the four log cabins that are showcased at Pioneer Cabin Park.

"We are taking a step back in time and we have got four original log cabins to showcase," Crutcher said. "It's a testament to truly the grit that these pioneers had."

Smith asked Crutcher how the public has responded to this attraction.

"The public first of all has loved it and word of this has spread like wildfire," Crutcher said, referencing Murphey's hit song "Wildfire."

Murphey joined Smith during the live segment and had a few words to say about why he enjoys these log cabins.

"I lived in log cabins for a lot of years off and on," Murphy said. "There's something organic about this, you know, but there's something scientific about it too."

Murphey went on to explain how when someone lives in a wood-structure that's connected to the ground, there are electromagnetic waves that can feed the human body and make people feel better.

The log cabins were brought to the Doss through a series of fundraisers and donations. The original G.A. Holland cabins were combined and moved from Holland Lake Park through funding from the City of



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Visitors to the Log Cabin Park can explore historic structures such as this one at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center.

Weatherford and Jerry and Vickie Durant..

The Pioneer Log Cabin park located at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center is completely free to the public. For more information, visit <https://dosscenter.org/pioneercabinpark/>.



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## Obituaries

### Jared Chasteen

Jared Brandon Chasteen passed away on Monday, April 29, after fighting a short and courageous battle with appendix cancer.

Jared was born March 22, 1978, to Rhonda Goodman and Vince Chasteen. From his earliest days, Jared was a born entrepreneur; he could sell, negotiate, and turn a profit, so it's no surprise that he continued his business studies at Texas Tech University. In his sophomore year of college, he met Adeana Jones and would not let her run away. After dating throughout college, they relocated to Fort Worth and married in 2001.

Jared worked as an IT consultant for Aspen Information Management for a number of years before venturing out on his own to start Bluefin Consulting in 2011. Jared valued his clients' visions for their business needs and served them with loyalty and integrity, which led to close relationships that extended long after the work was complete.

While Jared found much fulfillment and success in his career, his heart was with his family. Jared prioritized his role as a loving husband and father above all else. Jared dedicated himself to building a life with Adeana that would nurture and strengthen their children. His role as father began in 2005 with

Andrew's birth, followed by Noah's in 2009.



Jared Chasteen

Jared was a hands-on dad. He coached their teams, hung out with their friends, and introduced them to deep sea fishing. Andrew and Noah always knew that they were the most important thing to their father.

Jared was preceded in death by his grandparents, Norman Richard and Betty and Otis Chasteen.

Jared is survived by his wife, Adeana Chasteen of Aledo; sons, Andrew and Noah Chasteen; father, Vincent Chasteen of Haslet; mother, Rhonda Goodman of Granbury; stepfather, Ken Goodman of Fort Worth; grandmother, Sondra Richard of Fort Worth; brother and sister-in-law, Sean and Lilli Cox and nephew, Walter, of Shepherd, Montana; sister and brother-in-law, Brianna and Jake Nelson and niece, Paisley, of Post, Texas; mother-in-law, Brenda Jones of Amarillo, Texas; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Jennifer and David Edwards and nieces, Carlee and Blythe, of Bastrop, Texas.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, at Aledo United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to support the Jared Chasteen Memorial Scholarship fund.

The Community News  
May 5, 2024

## WEATHERFORD

# DAR hosts Good Citizen Awards and Scholarship Reception

The Weatherford Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution hosted their annual event on Tuesday, April 23, at North Side Baptist Church in Weatherford.

The DAR Good Citizen Award recognizes a graduating senior from each of the seven high schools in Parker County for their outstanding character, leadership, service, and patriotism demonstrated in their homes, schools, and communities. Each student was selected by their high school to receive this honor.

This year's recipients were Grant Wiggins,

Aledo; McKenzie Duggin, Brock; Addison Abbott, Millsap; Christian Dunn, Peaster; Eli Lang, Poolville; Kate Mitchell, Springtown; Azia Hodges, Weatherford.

Since 1924, the Weatherford Chapter has provided loans or scholarships annually to a deserving young man or woman to further their educational goals. This year, the chapter received applications from across the county from very deserving graduating seniors. The scholarship committee, after much deliberation, awarded scholarships to five Parker County high school seniors. Chosen were McKenzie Duggin of Brock High School; Addison Abbott of Millsap High School; Brooke Kingston and

Quinn Hogan of Peaster High School; and Grace Kechnie of Weatherford High School.

DAR is a women's service organization with chapters in every state of the union and in many foreign countries. For membership, any woman 18 years of age or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership. If you are interested in learning more about DAR, visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org). You can also email the Weatherford Chapter at [weatherfordnsdar@gmail.com](mailto:weatherfordnsdar@gmail.com).



WEATHERFORD DAR

The Weatherford Chapter of the DAR gave Good Citizen Awards to (from left) Grant Wiggins (Aledo High School), Eli Lang (Poolville High School), Addison Abbott (Millsap High School), McKenzie Duggin (Brock High School), Christian Dunn (Peaster High School), Azia Hodges (Weatherford High School), Kate Mitchell (Springtown High School), and Dru Starnes (DAR committee representative).



WEATHERFORD DAR

Weatherford DAR scholarship winners are (from left) Addison Abbott (Millsap High School), McKenzie Duggin (Brock High School), Brooke Kingston (Peaster High School), Grace Kechnie, (Weatherford High School), Quinn Hogan (Peaster High School), and Beth Holst (DAR committee chair).

## IDOL

from page one

song "The Place That I Call Home," and that ended up being the song I auditioned with for the judges," Gartner said. "So had I not had my son and written that song, I truly believe I wouldn't have even been on American Idol."

### Moving forward

The Aledo mother is continuing to play guitar, sing, and write songs and takes every opportunity that comes her way when it comes to her musical career.

And she could not be happier with the place she calls home.

"It has been great to have so many people from Aledo and the surrounding areas support me and

say hi to me when they see me out," Gartner said. "I have the best hometown, and it was an honor to get to represent Aledo."

Gartner just started working as a realtor at Charitable Realty, and said, while she is still digesting all that has happened to her over the last half of a year, a career in music is still something she would like to pursue.

"It was so surreal to have Katy, Luke and Lionel not only like my song, but all three give me a yes to go to Hollywood," Gartner said. "It was even crazier seeing them interact with my son Cooper. I'd love to get to continue to sing and write songs and have people understand and relate to them. So I'll go as far as this career will take me."



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#### Content Submission Policy

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

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

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

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

## Capital Highlights

# High-end electrical users could strain grid



**Gary Borders**

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

The growth of industrial-scale users of power could strain the Texas power grid, ERCOT's chief announced last week. *The Dallas Morning News* reported Pablo Vegas, the agency's CEO, said bitcoin miners and artificial intelligence data centers going in across the state, as well as industrial growth in the Permian Basin, could create the need for a massive buildup of power transmission lines in the future.

ERCOT is forecasting a 37% jump in power demand from industrial-sized users, even more than earlier predicted. It increased its forecast of electricity needed by new large-scale users from 111 gigawatts to 152 gigawatts. By comparison, the record for grid demand was set last August when 85.5 gigawatts were used.

ERCOT regulates 90% of the state's power grid.

### State battles acute ag worker shortage

In the 1950s, 10% of the state's adult population worked in agriculture, a number that has dropped to 1% today, according to the *Texas Standard*.

Diane Charlton, an associate professor at Montana State University who studies where farm workers come from, said the number of individuals from Mexico working in agriculture provides the most farm workers, has dropped an average of one percent per year from 1980 to 2010. That amounts to 250,000 fewer farm workers per year.

Mexico provides the most farm workers. Among the reasons for decreasing numbers of Mexican farm workers are growing industrialization and

increasing access to education in Mexico, and an aging group of immigrants who have traditionally worked on American farms.

Steve Hubbard of the American Immigration Council said more farmers are applying to hire temporary workers through an H-2A visa. Under its provisions, foreign workers are hired to do work on a specific farm for a given time before returning home.

Experts say hotter temperatures under climate change are also driving away potential farm workers.

"Workers are just going to suffer significantly if there are not some immediate protections put in place to address the work in these hotter temperatures," Amy Liebman, with the Migrant Clinicians Network, said. "We're experiencing these higher heat days, higher number of heat days."

### 75 Texas counties lost population from 2022 - 2023

The *Texas Standard* reported that 75 counties lost population from 2022 to 2023 in the Texas Panhandle, West Texas, parts of South Texas, and Deep East Texas.

The state's population center is increasingly concentrated in a triangle drawn from Dallas to San Antonio to Houston, then back to Dallas. Inside that triangle reside more than 30 million people — 68% of the state's population.

"These are also centers of economic development," said Helen You of the Texas Demographic Center. "This is also where you see universities and lots of educational opportunities there."

William Chittenden, president and CEO of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking, said the shrinking population of those rural counties will eventually pose serious challenges.

"At some point, some counties are going to get so small where it's going to be difficult for them to function," Chittenden said. "You have to have some critical mass just to support, for example, a

local grocery store, a local gas station, hopefully a bank."

### Inmate advocates sue over lack of AC

Ahead of a summer heat wave, advocates for Texas inmates last week filed a complaint against Bryan Collier, executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The complaint argues that not having air conditioning in most Texas prison cells amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, according to the *Texas Tribune*.

The plaintiffs have asked an Austin federal judge to declare the state's prison policy unconstitutional. It would also require that prisons be kept under 85 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the *Tribune*, Texas jails are already required to keep facilities cooler than 85 degrees, while federal prisons in Texas have a 76-degree maximum.

What is truly infuriating is the failure to acknowledge that everyone in the system — all 130,000 prisoners — are at direct risk of being impacted by something that has a simple solution that has been around since the 1930s, and that is air conditioning," attorney Jeff Edwards told reporters.

About two-thirds of the inmates in the Texas prison system do not have air-conditioned cells. A study conducted in 2022 found that 14 prison deaths per year were associated with heat.

### Work zone awareness urged by TxDOT

Highway road construction is amping up as summer approaches, and motorists are urged to exercise caution when driving through the state's more than 9,000 highway construction zones.

In 2023, 190 people were killed in construction work zones. Of those, 77% were either drivers or passengers, far outpacing the number of workers injured

or killed, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

"Keeping our Texas highway system functioning and safe requires constant effort from dedicated crews," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Drivers should anticipate work zones and changing road conditions and always be prepared to slow down, follow signs and pay attention."

The "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign, which seeks to end a daily string of highway fatalities that dates to 2000, has five tips for drivers to protect both those on the road and those working on those roads:

- Slow down and follow the posted speed limit.
- Pay attention and stay off your cell phone.
- Watch out for road crews.
- Don't tailgate. There are often sudden stops and starts during a work zone delay.
- Allow extra time to get to your destination.

### Texas still leading U.S. in job creation

Texas continues to lead the nation in job creation, with March unemployment numbers indicating the state has led in that category for the past 12 months. The state's total workforce has reached a record 15.189 million, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

Texas added 270,700 jobs from March 2023 to March 2024, the most in the nation.

"Texas continues to be a top place for growth and economic success with thousands of jobs added by employers in March," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "Our world class workforce of talented Texans attracts employers from many expanding industries."

*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)*



## State Representative Update

# A Proposition to Ban Propositions



**Dr. Glenn Rogers**

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Long lines outside the primary election day polling sites are common here in Texas. Everyone knows what is to blame — those confusing ballot propositions. Voters frequently stated as they left the polls, "That was a lot of reading, and I didn't understand half of it!" or "I wish someone would have warned me about those propositions!"

In the March primary, not only did the thirteen propositions slow down the process, but they also generated much confusion. Many voters thought they were constitutional amendments. The truth is, the propositions are nothing more than an opinion poll for the Republican Party, paid for by Texas taxpayers. In other words — it is a waste of your tax dollars.

Throughout the recent legislative session and this past primary season, pundits, lobbyists, and politicians often referred to the Republican

Primary proposition results, especially in arguments for school vouchers. They think this "statistic" strengthens their argument. However, these questions are deceptively biased and designed to get a yes vote.

With only around 20% voter turnout and questions designed by the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) to confirm some of their radical views, the results are hardly a positive referendum for anything. Since the early 1990s, every ballot proposition has passed with flying colors, and all but one by a super majority.

In the world of research, it is extremely rare to obtain such resounding results that are truly representative of the entire population. Yet the Republican Primary propositions? In 2022 all ten of them resulted in 75%-95% of respondents selecting "Yes" and in 2024 all thirteen had at least 70% or higher selecting "Yes".

For example, take Proposition 9 (school vouchers) from 2022, which had 88% "Yes." Any expert researcher or professional surveyor would seriously question the accuracy of that high number. It is also unfair to attribute the results to all Republicans. Voter turnout

in primaries is typically much lower than the total voter population. This year, statewide turnout was up slightly, and the percentage that answered "Yes" for the question dropped.

The wording and structure of the voucher proposition is flawed. Professional surveyors suggest that to receive the most genuine responses, questions should be asked one-at-a-time. The proposition fails to follow this fundamental rule of questionnaires by asking two questions at once and only allowing for a single "Yes" or "No" response. It stated, "Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, and the funding should follow the student." The inclusion of "and" indicates that this prompt has two parts, yet there is no selection choice that allows for responding "Yes" to the first part and "No" to the second part. Quality questionnaires seek to eliminate any potential bias in their prompts. When words like "should" are exclusively used, a reader may feel as if that is the way they should feel. They may feel obligated or pressured to answer in a certain way.

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## Idle American

# A Queen Like None Other



**Dr. Don Newbury**

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Many tourist destinations claim to be "all things to all people," but compared to Branson, MO, the rest of them miss the mark by a country mile. Nestled in the Ozark Mountains, the laid-back community not only survived the pandemic, but has roared back with numerous new attractions to strengthen its vows to be "number one" in tourism.

Since 2008, the "Branson buzz" has centered on the 2,000-seat Sight and Sound Theatre, where sold-out crowds are common for live performances of Bible figures. Queen Esther is the current attraction; it plays through October 5.

The theatre dazzles, as does the work of some 400 people who have added production of

Turn to QUEEN, page 4





CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Canadian Goose are pleased to announce the births of their twins, Jewel and Tiago. The family lives at the pond of Split Rail Golf Club.

WILLOW PARK

# Byrd Mill seeks information on shoplifters

The Byrd Mill, a small business in Willow Park, was hit by shoplifters who left the store with thousands of dollars in merchandise on April 10. Three women dressed in scarves and long black skirts that contain pockets were caught on camera about 3 p.m. that day. Anyone with information as to the identity of the suspects is encouraged to contact the police.



Anyone with information as to the identity of the suspects is encouraged to contact the police.

## BAN

from page 3

An unbiased and more direct way to ask the proposition might have looked like this: "Texas parents should or should not be allowed to choose where their children attend school? Select 'Should' or 'Should Not.'" Then a separate question, "Taxpayer dollars should or should not follow a student to their parents' school of choice? Select 'Should' or 'Should Not.'"
   
An alternative biased question could have been, "Do you support providing taxpayer funding of private schools with no accountability." Same subject (vouchers) but likely an entirely opposite result.

The current Republican party leadership is deceptive, crafty, and knows how to effectively weaponize shoddy research against legislators who refuse to do the bidding of a few billionaires. In truth, that is all that the propositions are, tools to be used against independent

thinkers in the Texas House that actually represent their districts.

Voucher advocates from Corey DeAngelis (lobbyist for Betsy Devos) to Governor Greg Abbott have constantly used the misleading ballot proposition pseudo data from 2022 in their argument for an expensive voucher entitlement program that would raise taxes and defund public schools.

Perhaps the Texas GOP should start paying for their own surveys, or better yet, this voter harassment should be outlawed. Texas needs to stop wasting taxpayer dollars for political manipulation.

So, here is my proposition, as the Texas GOP would write it: "The State of Texas should stop the wasteful spending of your tax dollars on political opinion polls that create long wait lines at polling sites and only serve to bolster the views of the most extreme elements of the Republican Party."

*Glenn Rogers represents Texas House District 60 in the Texas Legislature. His term ends in January.*



## QUEEN

from page 3

movies, streaming and other types of electronic delivery, evidence that not everything associated with the pandemic is bad. "Thanks to these expanded efforts, we are making a far greater Christian impact than with live performances alone," a spokesman said.

Sight and Sound's 50th anniversary of its founding in Lancaster, PA, looms in 2026. At the home base there, more than 800 employees set highest professional standards, as do counterparts in Branson.

We've been privileged to see several productions, and still "ooh and ahh" on the lavish grounds leading to the magnificent venue.

The productions have the grandeur of Broadway's best, and with admission prices that are fractional by comparison. But wait, there's more.

Every Branson visit provides great memories. We expect "God and country" tributes at all the shows, and undergirding most of them are intentional emphasis to the importance of family.

A great example is Clay Cooper, who also serves as an elected city government official.

He has his own theater, where he is joined in song by his wife and two sons.

He loves his community, his work and his family, pointing with pride to his youngest son who set a record last year for the Branson HS basketball team. "He took more charges than any player in our school's history," Clay boasted. We also took in shows featuring the Dutton, Haygood and Petersen families. The Petersens, known for bluegrass music, are anchored by the four kids' mom, Karren, who plays the bass fiddle. Their rendition of "Sweet Beulah Land" is a treasure.

The Haygoods--five brothers and a sister, now in their 32nd year--are known for their variety show that has achieved more than 2,000 sold-out performances. And the ever-popular Duttons span three generations.

Another "must see" is Pierce Arrow, which features Michael Cole, an amazing vocalist who came to the fore on America's Got Talent. Their best joke? We learned that alphabet soup might be even better if the letters were in cursive!

Dean Z truly is the "ultimate Elvis" and illusionist Rick Thomas is world-class--carrying on brilliantly despite his being "under the weather" during our visit. Jay

Osmond, best known for years with the Osmond Brothers, is an outstanding soloist. Now 69 years of age, he's new at "going it alone." He claims memories that go way, way back.

"Even as a seven-year-old, I knew about ESP," he said. "Eat/Sleep/Practice."

Our memory chest runneth over. We learned that Branson now has a world-class aquarium, an attraction opening at the onset of COVID. It is remarkable.

As we wound up five days in Branson, we wished for more time to visit the more than 100 attractions, as well as The College of the Ozarks, aka, "Hard Work University." It has much to teach all of us.

It, too, is world class.

We marvel that so much has been invested in Branson, and there's no end in sight. Who could imagine, a couple of decades ago, that there would ever be a 482-room hotel in Branson? Well, there is, the Thousand Hills Resort Hotel. And there are more to come in this magical place where more than 10 million visitors showed up in 2023, with even more expected this year. The world needs more Bransons.

*Dr. Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who is Texas' longest-running columnist, now in 23rd year.*

The Community News welcomes letters from readers on topics of local interest. Letters should be signed and should be limited to approximately 300 words. Send letters to The Community News, P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008 or e-mail to news@community-news.com.

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## PC Chamber announces annual leadership awards

Gloria Gilbert Barron of First Bank Texas received the Athena International Leadership Award when the Parker County Chamber of Commerce (formerly East Parker County Chamber of Commerce) held its annual awards gala on April 11.

Other award winners were: Debbie Dunn of BeyondFaith Hospice (Businessperson of the Year), Mark Lusk, Pure Funding Mortgage (Pappy Thompson Public Service Award), Children's

Advocacy Center of Parker County (Nonprofit of the Year), Ross Pest & Lawn (Business of the Year with 1-10 employees), Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel (Business of the Year with 11-20 employees), Tri-County Electric Cooperative (Business of the Year with 51-plus employees), Rachael and Bret Watson, Major Perk (Entrepreneur of the Year), and Karina Pappas, C&K Designs (Ambassador of the Year).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PC CHAMBER



Entrepreneur of the Year Bret & Rachael Watson



Business of the Year 11-20 employees Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel



Pappy Thompson Public Service Award Mark Lusk



Businessperson of the Year Debbie Dunn



Athena International Leadership Award recipient Gloria Gilbert Barron



Ambassador of the Year Karina Pappas



Business of the Year 1-10 employees Ross Pest & Lawn



Business of the Year 51-plus employees Tri County Electric Cooperative



Nonprofit of the Year Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County

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# Kid Scoop

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## Kid Scoop Together: Busy Beavers!

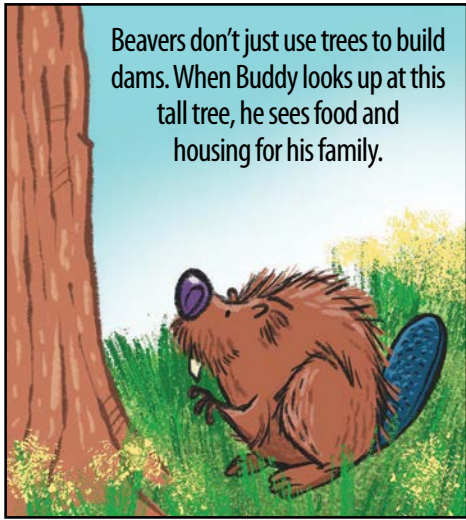
Busy beavers chewed some words from this list of fun beaver facts. Replace the words to find out some amazing things about beavers.



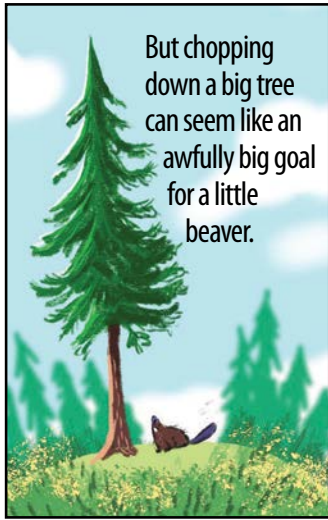
- Using their broad, scaly \_\_\_\_\_, beavers will forcefully slap the water as an \_\_\_\_\_ signal to other beavers in the area that a predator is approaching.
- Beavers are \_\_\_\_\_ on land but using their webbed feet, they are very good swimmers. A beaver can stay under water for up to 15 minutes.
- Beavers are **herbivores**. They like to eat the \_\_\_\_\_ and wood of \_\_\_\_\_. They also eat pondweed and water lilies.
- Adult beavers are around three feet long and have been known to \_\_\_\_\_ over 55 lb (25 kg). Females are as large or larger than males of the same \_\_\_\_\_.
- Beavers can live up to 24 \_\_\_\_\_ in the wild.
- The beaver is the national animal of Canada, and is on the Canadian five-cent \_\_\_\_\_.

# Buddy B. Beaver's Goals

Buddy shows us how to reach a big goal by breaking it down into smaller steps.



Beavers don't just use trees to build dams. When Buddy looks up at this tall tree, he sees food and housing for his family.



But chopping down a big tree can seem like an awfully big goal for a little beaver.



Buddy sees the **big job** as a series of **small jobs**.

Jobs that start as taking small bites of the tree, one at a time.



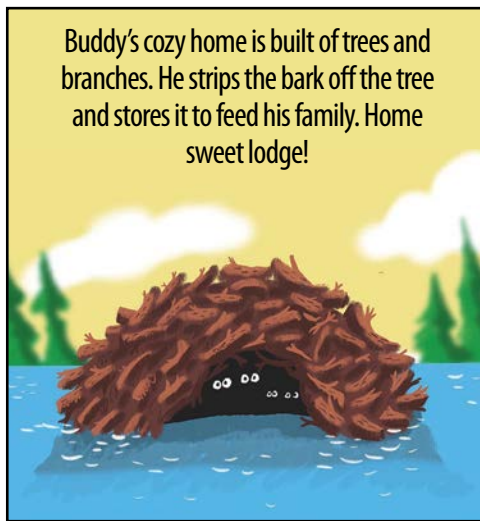
Buddy gnaws at the trunk of a tree, taking lots of tiny bites.



He chews and chews away at the tree trunk, until finally ...



... the tree topples over! Buddy takes the tree to a nearby stream and builds a home for his family.



Buddy's cozy home is built of trees and branches. He strips the bark off the tree and stores it to feed his family. Home sweet lodge!

## Be Like Buddy: How to Reach a Goal

Sometimes there are things you want in life that are not possible right now. For example, maybe you want to buy something that is expensive. If you are serious about that purchase, make buying it a **goal**.

In order to reach that goal, be like Buddy. Make a list of small steps or small goals that would help you reach your big goal.

**EXAMPLE:** Angie wants to buy a new coat. The coat costs \$50.

Angie decides that instead of trying to earn \$50 all at once, she will make ten goals that will help her reach her big goal. She makes a goal of earning \$5. If she earns \$5 ten times, she will reach her big goal of \$50!



### Extra! Extra! Busy Builders

Beavers are builders. Look through the newspaper for examples of things people build. What are the kinds of jobs people do to build things?

**Standards Link:** Use the newspaper to locate information.

**ANGIE'S GOAL:** Earn \$50 for a new coat!

- Mowed the lawn: \$3.00
- Made my bed: \$0 (Mom expects me to do this every morning!)
- Walked the dog: \$2.00
- Took out the trash: \$1.00
- Did the dishes: \$2.00

How can Angie earn \$5? Put a check in the box next to each of Angie's jobs. If you checked the right boxes, they add up to exactly \$5.

**If Angie can earn \$5 per week and save the money, how long until she will have enough money to buy the coat?**

**MY GOAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**JOBS I CAN DO TO EARN THE MONEY:**

**HOW MUCH I CAN EARN:**

JOBS I CAN DO TO EARN THE MONEY:	HOW MUCH I CAN EARN:
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

**HOW LONG UNTIL I REACH MY GOAL?** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Kid Scoop Puzzler

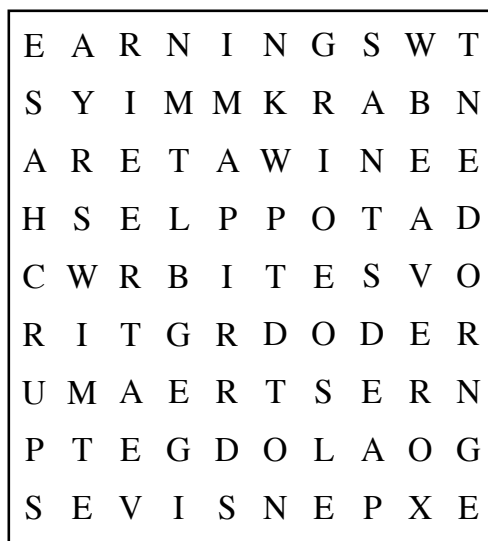
Can you put these mixed-up beaver facts in the correct order?

- are powerful swimmers that can swim
- the second largest in the world. Beavers
- shut to keep water out. Transparent inner eyelids
- underwater for up to 15 minutes.
- When a beaver swims underwater, its nose and ears
- built-in swimming goggles!
- Beavers are the largest rodent in North America and
- close over each eye to help the beaver see like

## Double Double Word Search

EXPENSIVE  
PURCHASE  
EARNING  
EYELIDS  
TOPPLES  
RODENT  
BEAVER  
STREAM  
LODGE  
WATER  
BITES  
BARK  
SWIM  
GOAL  
TREE

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



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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Build a Sentence

Select a headline from today's newspaper. Expand the headline into a longer, complete sentence by adding adjectives and other words. Diagram your sentence to show all of the parts of speech.

**Standards Link:** Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



Do beavers ever get tired of chewing on trees?

ANSWER: GNAW

## Write On!

A penny saved is ...

Finish this story.



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



**MAY 3**

**Texas Pythian Home Garage Sale**

Texas Pythian Home, Inc is holding the Annual Garage Sale from 8a.m. - 3p.m., on Friday May 3, and Saturday May 4, at 1825 E Bankhead Dr, Weatherford, Texas. Come shop and see what all we have in our sale. All proceeds go towards Summer Activities for the Children. Cash/Check only. Clothing, toys, books, home decor, holiday decor, furniture, and more.

**MAY 8**

**Blood Drive**

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

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**GLOOR GIVES**  
In Remembrance of Jeff Gloor  
05 08 24  
10AM-4PM  
Location  
Baker Firm Parking Lot  
4542 Bellaire Dr, Suite 200  
Fort Worth, TX 76109

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.



**Dementia Support Group**

Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14 at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. We are honored and privileged to care for those affected by dementia. Even more so, we value the efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents. This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

**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

**JUNE 11**

**Dementia Support Group**

Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11 at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. We are honored and privileged to care for those affected by dementia. Even more so, we value the efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents. This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

**JULY 13**

**Parker County Peach Festival**

Mark your calendar to come celebrate the 39th Annual Parker County Peach Festival in #WeatherfordTX on Saturday, July 13, 2024! Come enjoy and shop the more than 200 art/craft/

**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" was published by this Cotten (init.)
- eastern Houston suburb
- TXism: "bellered \_\_\_ bull"
- TXism: "no flies \_\_\_ (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"
- dejected
- TXism: "attacked like grandma \_\_\_ snake"
- Gov. \_\_\_ 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)
- 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.)

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
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and more! For ages 4 years to 6th grade. Children must be 4 years old by July 1st, 2024 and fully potty trained. Nursery is available for Volunteer's children. For more information or to volunteer to help contact Teresa Chisum: [Teresa@aledoumc.org](mailto:Teresa@aledoumc.org)

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SOFTBALL

## Aledo advances to area with win over Everman

Ladycats score 29 runs in two games

By Ryan Wade  
 The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats will advance to the area round of the Class 5A playoffs after making short work of Everman's Lady Bulldogs in the bi-district round on Thursday, April 25. Aledo won the best-of-three series with back-to-back wins by scores of 15-0 and 14-0.

The Ladycats (29-3), who won District 5-5A with a 12-0 record, were playing Birdville (24-8, 10-4 and third in 7-5A) at Boswell High School on Thursday, May 2 in a one-game area-round series.

Aledo ended up being the visiting team in the series opener. From the start of the game, the Ladycats imposed their will as the superior team. The District 5-5A champs sent 10 batters to the plate and scored nine runs before the Lady Bulldogs recorded their first

Turn to **ALEDO**, page 9



Jordan Edgington celebrates with her teammates as she crosses the plate following her solo home run in the second innings of the bi-district game against Everman on Thursday, April 25.

RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

FOOTBALL

## McClellan has chance for history

Drafted by Falcons in sixth round

By Rick Mauch  
 The Community News

Jase McClellan has excited fans for years running and catching the football, first as an Aledo Bearcat and then as a member of the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Now, he has a chance to continue to do so at the highest level.

The standout running back was taken in the sixth round of the National Football League Draft this past Saturday, April 27, by the Atlanta Falcons. He is believed to be only the second Bearcat ever drafted.

"Very happy for Jase to get the opportunity to play in the NFL. There is always a sense of community and program pride when you see one of the young men from Aledo play at the college level, and now the whole town of Aledo will get an opportunity to follow one of our own at the highest level of football in the NFL," Bearcats coach Robby Jones said. "I'm going to get a Jase McClellan Falcons jersey, and I bet there will be a few more running around the town of Aledo."

Jones was the offensive coordinator when McClellan became one of the nation's premier high school players for Aledo. During his career, he had 6,468 rushing yards and 122 touchdowns, helping the Bearcats to state championships in 2016, 2018 and 2019.

He was also selected to play in the 2020 Under Armour All-American Game.

Rare company

The only other Bearcat believed to have been drafted into the NFL was offensive tackle Kirk Johnson. After a career at Howard Payne, he was also taken in the sixth round by the Philadelphia Eagles. However, a

Turn to **FOOTBALL**, page 11

TENNIS

## Racquet Cats win 5-5A titles

Qualify nine for regional tournament

By Cathy Mason  
 The Community News

On April 29-30, the Varsity tennis team competed in the 5-5A District Tournament at TCU and earned 10 medals, as well as first-place trophies for both the boys and girls varsity teams.

Three rounds of matches were held on Day 1 of the tournament, and at the conclusion of the day Aledo found itself with team members in four finals matches and several matches for third place.

Kenley Germany and Lila Satterfield defeated Azle (6-4, 6-1) to earn the Girls Doubles district championship. Craig Mason and Benjamin Farmer fell to

Turn to **TENNIS**, page 9



The Aledo Racquet Cats won the boys and girls team championships at the District 5-5A Tournament at TCU April 29-30, along with qualifying nine players for the Region I Tournament in Lubbock May 8-9.

CATHY MASON/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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FOOTBALL

# Turnout big for Bearcats spring drills

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

To the surprise of, well, no one, turnout was once again big for the Aledo Bearcats spring football workouts, which began on Thursday, April 18 at 6:45 a.m.

But then, when each season brings the anticipation of another state championship - the program has 12 in all, most in Texas history - who doesn't want to be a part.

Robby Jones, who is set to begin his second season as Bearcats head coach, said 180 athletes turned out in all, 46 juniors (seniors to be), 54 sophomores and 80 freshmen.

"We have a lot of kids, which makes for some good competition for jobs," Jones said.

Jones led the Bearcats to a 16-0 record and the Class 5A Division I state championship in his first season at the helm in 2023. He was also the offensive coordinator for 10 of their 11 previous championships (the exception being the first in 1998).

Practices are at 6:45 a.m. with the following schedule going forward: April 29, May 1-2, May 6-9, May 13-16, with the annual Spring Game being played at 7 a.m. on Friday, May 17.

"We plan on having baseball and softball playoff games to attend this time of year, so we plan our spring game not conflicting with their playoff games," Jones said.

Sure enough, the Ladycats and Bearcats are entering the postseason. Softball began the postseason at press time and baseball will get underway the weekend of May 2-4.

### 2024 schedule

The Bearcats' lone scrimmage will be against Mansfield Timber view at Newsom Stadium in Mansfield on Aug. 22, time to be announced.

They follow that by putting their 30-game win streak dating to 2022 on the line with a trip to open the regular season against perennial 6A power Denton Guyer on Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at C.H. Collins Stadium in Denton.

The first home game of the season will be the second game. The Lancaster Tigers, a 5A Region I semifinalist last season moving up to 6A in 2024, will come to Buchanan Stadium for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff.

Those are the only two pre-district contests for the Bearcats as they play in the nine-team District 3-5A Division I. All district games begin at 7 p.m. with the following schedule.

Sept. 13, Brewer Bears at Brewer Stadium.

Sept. 20, Birdville Hawks at Buchanan Stadium (homecoming).

Sept. 26, Keller Fossil Ridge Panthers at Keller ISD Stadium.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Colby Smith goes through passing drills for the Aledo Bearcats during spring practice.

Oct. 4, Denton Ryan Raiders at Buchanan Stadium (Band/Dance Parent Night)

Oct. 11, Granbury Pirates at Pirate Stadium.

Oct. 18, open date.

Oct. 25, Richland Royals at Buchanan Stadium.

Nov. 1, Azle Hornets at Azle Stadium.

Nov. 8, Denton Broncos at Buchanan Stadium (Football Senior Parent Night).

TRACK AND FIELD

# TCA, Weatherford Christian compete at regionals

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy and Weatherford Christian competed in their respective Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Northern Region on April 25 at the University of Texas Arlington. TCA was competing in Class 4A and WC in Class 3A.

Highlights for TCA included a 1-2-3-4 finish in the boys 300-meter hurdles and a 1-2-3 finish in the 110 hurdles. WC's Landry Perkins won a pair of gold medals among the girls.

### TAPPS Class 4A North Regional Meet April 25, University of Texas Arlington

#### Willow Park Trinity Results

Boys  
Team score: 95, second place (Trinity Christian Lubbock 172).

Top finishers  
Shot put: 3. Kadin James, 45-5.5.  
Discus: 2. James, 145-9.

110 hurdles: 1. Braxton Smith, 15.28;  
2. Landry Crumpler, 15.36; 3. Owen Coates, 15.41.

300 hurdles: 1. Crumpler, 41.42; 2. Smith, 42.51; 3. Jake Nicholson, 42.95; 4. Coates, 43.54.

4x400 relay: 2nd, 3:31.99.

Girls  
Team score: 104, second place (Pantego Christian 121).

Top finishers  
Shot put: 2. Addison Shoppach, 33-11.5; 3. Ella Cockrum, 33-5.25.

Discus: 2. Cockrum, 133-6.  
3200: 1. Emma Saadeh, 12:51.37.  
100 hurdles: 2. McKenna Kelley, 16.64.

300 hurdles: 2. Kelley, 49.32.  
100: 4. Olivia Quinn, 13.54.

400: 1. Grace Whiteaker, 58.25.  
200: 2. Whiteaker, 26.56.

1600: 4. Saadeh, 5:52.19.  
4x400 relay: 2nd, 4:18.68.

### Class 3A Weatherford Christian results

Boys  
Team score: 82, third place.

Top finishers  
Pole vault: 1. Jack Hughes, 11-0.

Discus: 1. Jake Tanner, 141-10.  
Shot put: 2. Tanner, 40-8.

3200: 1. Nate Cupp, 10:26.89.  
1600: 3. Cupp, 4:47.48.

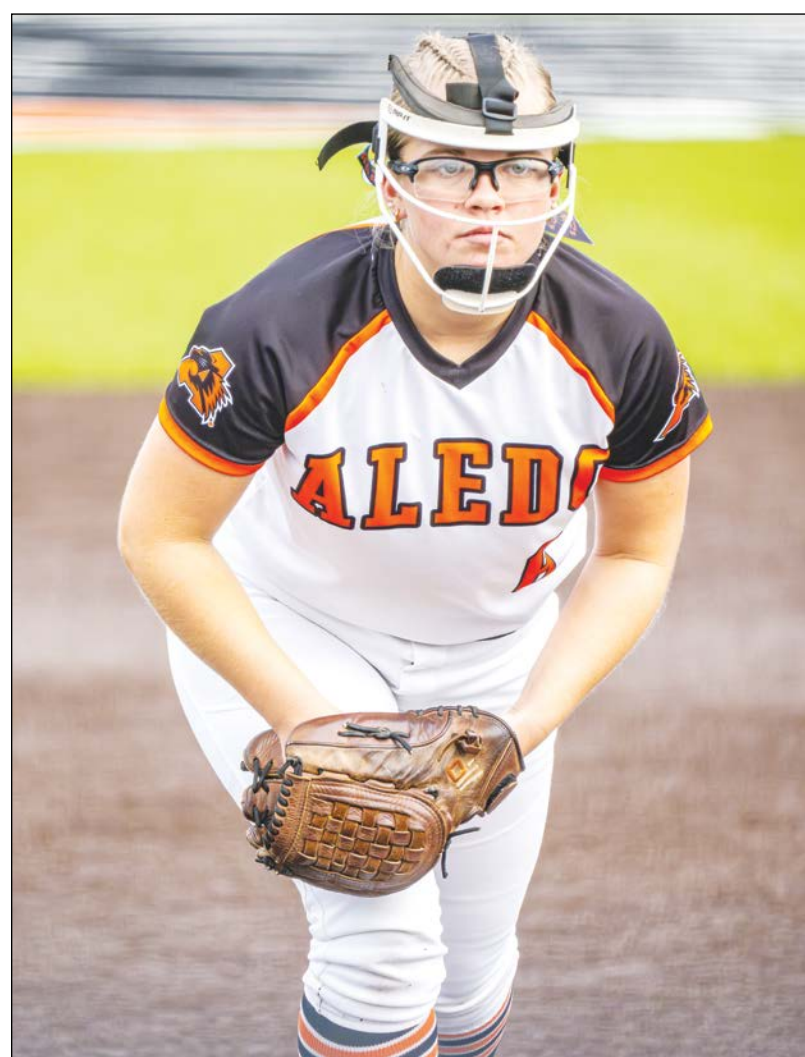
4x400 relay: 3rd, 3:39.68.  
High jump: 2. Haven McCright, 5-10.

Girls  
Team score: 46, tied for sixth.

Top finishers  
Discus: 3. Mallory Smith, 82-8.

800: 1. Landry Perkins, 2:22.39.  
1600: 1. Perkins, 5:37.49.

4x400 relay: 3rd, 4:31.94.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Taylor McKean leans in to get the sign before delivering a pitch against Everman in the bi-district matchup on Thursday, April 25.

## ALEDO

from page 8

out. The Ladycats put five more runs across the plate to make it a 14-0 ballgame before Everman was able to get out of the inning.

The reprieve was short-lived for the Lady Bulldogs in the home half of the first inning. Pitcher Taylor McKean was dialed in for Aledo as she struck out all three batters she faced to make it a three-up, three down first inning for the weary Lady Bulldogs.

Jordan Edington led off the top of the second with a solo shot down the line in left field that cleared the wall for a round tripper to put Aledo up 15-0.

With the game well in hand, the Ladycats began bunting and intentionally leaving base early in an attempt to move the game along.

In the bottom of the second, McKean once again did her part, as she mowed down the four, five, and six-hole hitters for Everman. She struck out all six batters she faced before she was replaced on the mound the following inning.

Lilly Heckathorn came on to pitch for the Ladycats in the bottom of the third. The slender righty picked up where McKean left off, striking out the first two batters she faced.

Only one batter for Everman managed to put the ball in play in the first game. The nine-hole hitter managed to hit a soft fly ball to short right-center, where Edington quickly gathered it up to record the final out of the game.

### More of the same

Aledo's domination continued in Game 2 as Ladycat ace and Texas Tech-commit Brenlee Gonzales went to the mound. Gonzales shut down the Lady Bulldogs in her two innings of work. She threw 30 total pitches, faced seven batters, struck out five and issued one free pass before being replaced by Rylee Marx in the third inning.

In the home half of the first, Addie Perry hit a lead-off triple to get the Ladycat offensive onslaught underway. Aledo played five runs in the opening frame, capped off by a base hit by Breleigh Mayer that led to a three-base fielding error, allowing her to motor all the way around the bases to score. At the end of the first inning the Ladycats held a 5-0 lead.

Aledo scored four runs in the second, four more in the third, and one in the bottom of the fourth, putting the game out of reach for the Lady Bulldogs as their season came to an end.

## TENNIS

from page 8

Northwest in two close sets, (5-7, 5-7) earning second place in the Boys Doubles category.

The final match in Mixed Doubles was an Aledo vs. Aledo battle as Scott Mason and Elli Kate Bussmeir took on Jacob Heckathorn and Patrice Loftin. Mason and Bussmeir earned first place in a close match, (6-4, 7-5), while Heckathorn and Loftin took second place.

Bryanna Orr fell to Rider (2-6, 1-6) and earned 2nd place in Girls Singles. Freshman Ben Kurth won his match for third place (6-3, 6-4) and earned a playback match with Rider (1-6, 0-6). He retained his third-place finish and will serve as an alternate regional qualifier.

Contributing to the team award were several fourth-place finishes. Will Beyer and Francois Britz fell to Azle (4-6, 2-6). Gracie Heydman and Natalie Nawrocki battled Northwest (1-6, 4-6) and Sydney Byrd fell to Rider (4-6, 4-6).

Germany, Satterfield, C. Mason, Farmer, S. Mason, Bussmeir, Heckathorn, Loftin and Orr will all compete in the Region I Tournament in Lubbock on May 8-9.

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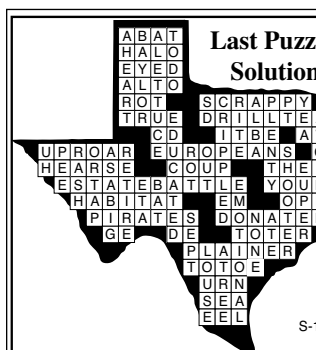
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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALEDO, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-107 BY REPLACING THE CITY'S DROUGHT CONTINGENCY AND EMERGENCY WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE WATER CONSERVATION PLAN; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

#### SECTION 4

Any person, firm, or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for all violations involving zoning, fire safety, or public health and sanitation, including dumping or refuse, and shall be fined Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for all other violations of this Ordinance. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

#### SECTION 7

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON FIRST READING ON THIS 25th DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

Nick Stanley, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Secretary Deana McMullen

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:  
City Attorney Alicia Kreh

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GOLF

# Stokes wraps up strong season at state

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Continuing Aledo's strong tradition in the sport, sophomore Braden Stokes of the Bearcats completed his season by competing in this season's Class 5A State Tournament on Tuesday, April 30.

Stokes, a sophomore, posted a two-round total of 150 on the course at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown. He opened with a 2-over-par 74 and followed with a 4-over-par 76 to finish tied for 22nd in the field of 72.

"He played well and I'm happy he got to experience golf at a high level," Aledo coach Brian Mourning said. "Day 1 he hit the ball really well and never got in trouble. He missed several birdie putts that burned the edges or came up half a ball short."

Luke Colton of Frisco Wakeland won the individual championship, shooting a 136 (66-70), followed by Ryan Griff of Comal Smithson Valley at 140 (67-73). Smithson Valley captured the team title with a 572 (278-294) and Wakeland was second with a 586 (289-297).

Stokes and the entire field were also facing some weather conditions. Following weekend rains, the course was wet and slow on the opening day, Monday, April 29. Day 2 was windy, forcing scores throughout the tournament to increase.

"As a sophomore, I thought he handled everything about the tournament really well," Mourning said. "At the state tournament you have to make birdies to get in the medal. He had some great runs at some but they just wouldn't fall for him."



PHOTO COURTESY OF STOKES FAMILY

Sophomore Braden Stokes of the Aledo Bearcats competed at the Class 5A State Golf Tournament this week.

"Overall, I think it's a great experience for him to carry forward with him."

"Hopefully we can get the rest of the team down next year. I'm glad we have him back for the next couple years so he can help get our team back down there."

This is the third consecutive season the Bearcats have been represented at the state tournament and the 15th time since 2005. The

last time the entire team qualified was 2022.

Last season Braylon Mahanay competed at state individually. He is now a member of the Weatherford College Coyotes.

Stokes qualified for state by shooting a 151 (75-76) at the 5A Region I Tournament in Lubbock. He also helped the Bearcats to another district championship, winning the 5-5A title at Sugar Tree Golf Club.

## TRACK

from page 12

Bearcats coach Andrew Clark praised Rhodes' vaulting program and Brown's rise during the season.

"Braylon has just as good of a chance as anyone in the competition to win it all, that fact that he has vaulted with very talented vaulters everyday for the last three years is a huge advantage for him," Bearcats coach Andrew Clark said. "He wasn't even the top performing vaulter in our program until about three or four weeks ago, and that title went back and forth for a few weeks between him and Brad."

"He shows up to practice, and there is always a teammate there, who is also someone he has to compete against every week, just as good as him. It requires him not

to just perform at meets, but also at practice. Every vault he takes, be it practice or competition, has huge implications.

"That's the program coach Rhodes has built here in Aledo. I could argue that the vault program here is just as dominant year-in and year-out as the football program. You better come ready to compete when they show up!"

### Brandenburg

While Brandenburg comes in seeded ninth with her regional time of 2 minutes, 16.75 seconds, that's a bit deceiving. First, it was posted in legendary West Texas weather in Lubbock.

Also, her career-best time of 2:13.32 was posted at state last season when she finished fifth.

Isabel Conde De Frankenburg of Cedar Park has the top-seeded time of 2:09.32. She's followed by three-time defending state champion Kailey Littlefield of Lucas Lovejoy at 2:09.56 and Boerne Champion's Elizabeth Leachman at 2:09.90.

De Frankenburg finished second at state in 2021 and 2022, but did not compete at district or beyond in 2023. This is the first season for Leachman, a sophomore, to compete in the 800.

"State is where she ran her best time last year. I have no doubt she will do that again to place well," Pinkerton said.



## FOOTBALL

from page 8

search online indicates Johnson never officially made the Eagles' roster.

Jones noted that in his 24 years at Aledo, several other players have signed with teams as free agents, but none made the roster. They include Kyle Hix, who was with the New England Patriots for a couple of training camps, but injuries kept him off the field.

Record-setting running back Johnathan Gray went to rookie camp with the New York Giants. However, he didn't get the chance to make a comeback from his college injuries at the University of Texas.

Offensive lineman Chuck Filiaga was in training camp this past year

with the Green Bay Packers and then the New Orleans Saints but didn't make the roster. He is currently playing with the San Antonio Brahmas in the United Football League.

### McClellan comments

After being selected, McClellan held an online press conference through the Falcons.

With Atlanta already loaded at the running back position with the likes of Bijan Robinson and Tyler Allgeier, McClellan's best opportunity to play may be on special teams. He said he has no problem with that as long as he is given a chance to show his capabilities.

"That's something I've worked on since being a freshman at Alabama," he said.

As for joining the already plentiful running back crew, McClellan added, "I think it's a great opportunity to learn and work with some great running backs and get better."

McClellan is no stranger to waiting. While at Alabama he patiently played behind the likes of Najee Harris, Brian Robinson and Jahmyr Gibbs before becoming the premier back himself as a senior.

"They're getting an all-around good player," McClellan said. "Somebody coming in ready to work."

### College career recap

With McClellan on the roster, Alabama posted a 49-6 record in four seasons, which included a 13-0 record and national championship in 2020.

BASEBALL

# Bearcats prep for postseason

Staff reports  
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats ended District 5-5A play with a 2-1 loss at Wichita Falls Rider on Friday, April 29. Despite the loss, their second to the Raiders of the week, Aledo won the district championship with a 10-2 record.

The Bearcats (22-10-1 overall) finished one game ahead of Rider in the final standings. They are playing Fort Worth South Hills in a best-of-3 bidistrict series in Crowley. The first game was Thursday, May 2, with Game 2 Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m. A third game, if necessary, will be played at noon Saturday, May 4.

The Scorpions (9-15) are the fourth-place team from District 6-5A.

Prior to beginning the postseason, the Bearcats won a pair of warmup games.

They defeated Mansfield Legacy 3-2 at home on Saturday, April 27, followed by a 15-4 win at Mansfield Lake Ridge on Monday, April 29.



### Raiders 2, Bearcats 1 - April 26

	R	H	E
Bearcats	001	000	0-120
WF Rider	001	001	x-232

Aledo hitting: Luke Trager 1-for-3, 2B; Johnny Ruffin 1-for-2, BB; Boyd Thompson RBI.

Aledo pitching: Devin Miller 6 IP, 3 H, 2 ER, 6 K, 4 BB.

### Bearcats 3, Broncos 2 - April 27

	R	H	E
Mansfield Legacy	020	000	0-241
Bearcats	300	000	x-340

Aledo hitting: Trager 1-for-2; Thompson BB, R; Ryan Jones 2-for-2, RBI, R; Weston Nance 1-for-2, RBI.

Aledo pitching: Jones 1 IP, 1 H, 0 R, 0 K, 2 BB; Lucas Nawrocki 3 IP, 2 H, 2 R (1 ER); 3 K, 1 BB; Luke Sandefur 2 IP, 1 H, 0 R, 3 K, 2 BB; Ethan Hodo 1 IP, 2 K.

### Bearcats 15, Eagles 4 - April 29

	R	H	E
Bearcats	320	145x	-1515 2
Mansfield Lake Ridge	102	010x	-4 5 1

Aledo hitting: leaders: Burdine 4-for-5, 2 RBI, 2 R, 2 SB; Jones 3-for-5, HR, 3 RBI, 3 R; Drew Weckel 3-for-4, 2-2B, BB, 2 RBI, 3 R; Zeke Garcia 2-for-4, RBI, R; Thompson 1-for-3, 2B, BB, 2 RBI, 3 R; Trager 1-for-2, 2 BB, R.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

# Kangaroos look for another postseason run

### Lady Roos' season ends in bidistrict

Staff Reports  
The Community News

The Weatherford Kangaroos are hoping to follow up one of the most successful seasons in school history with another run starting this week against Keller in their Class 6A bidistrict series.

Game 1 was being played Thursday, May 2 in Keller at press time, with Game 2 in Weatherford at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 3. A third game, if necessary, will be played at noon Saturday, May 4 in Keller.

The Kangaroos (25-6-1) finished as the runners-up in District 3-6A. Keller (19-11-1) was third in 4-6A with a 7-5 league record.

In 2023 Weatherford reached the 6A Region I semifinals before falling in three games to state champion Lewisville Flower Mound. Along the



way, the Kangaroos defeated Keller two games to one in the regional quarterfinals.

### Timber Creek ends Lady Roos' season

The Weatherford Lady Roos ended the season with a 16-11 overall record after being ousted in their bidistrict contest against Keller Timber Creek (20-13-2) in three games.

Timber Creek won the opener at home 1-0 on Thursday, April 25. Weatherford won Game 2 at home on Friday, April 26, 10-7 and Timber Creek won the third game 6-2 at Northwest High School on Saturday, April 27.

The first game was a pitchers' dual with Weatherford giving up only three hits but getting only two. The Lady Roos then won the second game despite getting out-hit 10-8.

Weatherford was the runner-up in District 3-6A with a 9-3 league mark and Timber Creek was third in 4-6A with a 6-6 district record.

He returned as a sophomore to rush for 655 yards and a team-high seven touchdowns.

As a senior, helped Alabama reach the College Football Playoff again this season.

In the 27-20 overtime loss to Michigan in the semifinals at the Rose Bowl, McClellan led all rushers. He gained 87 yards on 14 carries and scored both of Alabama's touchdowns.

McClellan solidified his starting position as a senior at Alabama this season. He led the team in rushing with 180 carries for 890 yards and eight touchdowns. He also caught 15 passes for 137 yards with a long reception of 42 yards.



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TRACK AND FIELD

# Aledo athletes seeking medals and more

**By Rick Mauch**  
The Community News

A year ago Taylor Hindman and Lauren St. Peters, both seniors, realized a dream of medaling at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet. Now, they are back in Austin with dreams of an even shinier medal.

Hindman brought home silver, finishing second in the pole vault at state. St. Peters captured a bronze in the shot put.

This will be the third consecutive season for them to compete in those events when they enter Mike A. Myers Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas. In fact, for St. Peters it will be the second time she's competing two events, as she was fourth in both the shot put and discus as a sophomore.

Hindman tied for seventh as a sophomore.

The two will be joined by fellow returner Sofia Brandenburg, a sophomore, who is back in the 800.

"I believe that all of these girls will do great things at state. They have all worked very hard and battled all season long, and the best is yet to come for all of them," Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said. "All of them are peaking at the right time."

Also, junior Braylon Brown of the Bearcats will be making his state debut in the pole vault.

**St. Peters**

St. Peters enters as the No. 1 seed in the shot put with her school-record of 49 feet at the Class 5A Region I Meet in Lubbock on



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lauren St. Michaels is making a third consecutive trip to the state track meet and will compete in the shot put and discus.

April 19. It's almost farther than No. 2 seed Madaleine Fey of Killeen Chaparral, 45-11.75 feet.

Fey placed second last season, throwing 47-10 to 46-4 for St. Peters.

St. Peters comes in seeded third in the discus with a throw of 154-11 at regionals. Defending state champion Fey has the top-seeded throw of 160-01 and Denton Ryan's Olamide Ayeni is next at 158-09.

However, all have longer throws to their credit. Fey threw 175-08 to win state last season at Midlothian and had a career-best of 182-04 at regionals in 2023. Ayeni has a top throw of 165-06 and St. Peters



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pole vaulter Braylon Brown is making his first trip to the state track meet. Brown has a career-best vault of 15-06 earlier this season.

recorded 172-04 in a meet at Northwest High School this season.

"There is the possibility she could walk away with 2 titles this year. She is putting up some of her best throws at the end of the season," Pinkerton said.

**Vaulters**

Hindman comes in as the No. 3 seed with a top vault of 12-06, matching the height she cleared at state in 2023. She cleared a career-best and school-record 12-07 in a meet at Weatherford earlier this season.

Ella Pickron of Smithson Valley and Gregory-Portland's Madison Snody share the top seed with a



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE PINKERTON

Pole vaulter Taylor Hindman will be competing at state for a third straight season. She was runner-up last season.

regional vault of 13-0. It's a career best for Pickron, while Snody cleared 13-07.5 at her district meet this season.

Pickron was fifth in the state last season, while Snody was fifth at state in 2022 but did not reach Austin in 2023.

"I believe she is primed to set a new school record at the state meet," Pinkerton said of Hindman. "That will put her in the mix for a state championship."

Brown is, likewise, in a crowded field. His vault of 15-03 is tied for the No. 3 seed. Sharing the top seed are Caden O'Hara of Leander Rouse and Ryder Harrison of Gregory-Portland, each at 15-06.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE PINKERTON

Sofia Brandenburg is returning to state in the 800-meter run. She posted the best time of her career at state last season.

Right behind are three other vaulters at 15-0.

Brown had a career-best vault of 15-06 at the Joshua Owl Relays earlier this season.

For Brown, this season has been a triumphant return after missing most of 2023 with an injury, prompting Aledo pole vaulting coach John Rhodes to say, "He is walking on Cloud 9 now."

"Both kids are super excited about winning regionals and qualifying for state. I feel they both have an excellent chance to bring home a medal and that's our goal," Rhodes added.

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