

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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CORRECTION

In the April 26 issue of *The Community News*, the last name of Dr. Elizabeth Tinius was misspelled. We regret the error.

ALEDO ISD

New principal named for McAnally Middle School

Dr. Christopher White takes reins in 2024-25 school year

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

Aledo ISD has named Dr. Christopher White as principal at McAnally Middle School beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.



Christopher White

White has been a principal at Richard Allie Middle School in Crowley ISD for the last four years. Prior to that, he was the principal at Crowley 9th Grade Campus and an assistant principal at HF Stevens Middle School in Crowley ISD. He also worked as a teacher at Donna Shepard Intermediate School in the Mansfield ISD.

“Dr. White will make a great addition to our Bearcat Leadership Team, and we are so glad he’ll be leading McAnally Middle School,” Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. “His extensive, successful campus leadership experience and ability to build connections among students, staff, and parents will be great assets to the MMS community and Aledo ISD.”

White has a bachelor of science from the University of Texas at Austin, a master’s in educational administration from the University of North Texas and a doctorate in organizational leadership with strategy and systems focus from Abilene Christian University. He has previously held leadership roles as a mentor teacher and district professional development leader.

“It is an honor and privilege to serve the students, teachers and families at McAnally Middle School,” White said. “I am so excited and look forward to joining the Bearcat community for the upcoming school year!”



All Smiles



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Campbell Cayce and Evan Thompson pose for a photo by Campbell’s mother, Mary Katherine Cayce, during Aledo High School’s Promenade on May 4. More coverage of Promenade, Prom, and other spring senior class activities will be in our annual graduation section later this month.

HUDSON OAKS

Council discusses water/sewer ahead of possible rate increase

By Melissa Winn
The Community News

As the Hudson Oaks City Council gathered for its monthly meeting April 25, someone was missing. That didn’t stop his presence from still being in the room.

Longtime council member Brian Lixey passed away on April 18, but in his place was a lighted candle and a photo of him. Lixey served for nearly 13 years, and a moment of silence and prayer was observed in his honor, acknowledging his battle with pancreatic cancer that eventually took his life.

Shortly after, council members then got to the business at hand. A presentation by Assistant City Administrator Hayden Brodowsky outlined the partnership with NewGen Strategies, a management and economic consulting firm that focuses on several utility areas, including water and wastewater utilities. The city commissioned the organization for help in evaluating water and wastewater rates.

Chris Ekrut, CFO and director with NewGen, said that it is important for the council to remember that Hudson Oaks is running a business when it comes to utilities. He said the rules of revenue exceeding expenses, needing sufficient reserves and investing into the business all apply.

He then noted that the city has not raised water rates since



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF HUDSON OAKS

A candle and photo of former Hudson Oaks City Council member Brian Lixey sits in front of his spot in his absence. Lixey, 51, passed away April 18 from pancreatic cancer.

2018, nor wastewater rates since 2008.

Citing surrounding cities like Weatherford and Fort Worth, Ekrut showed how rates in those cities have increased yearly by about 3 to 4 percent. “Prices are very different [today as opposed to the last time rates were raised],” he noted, adding that “significant time” has elapsed and that small, frequent increases are easier to digest and maintain than larger increases at once. “The average annual increase in CPI for water, sewer and trash providers is approximately 4.38 percent.”

The rate review was triggered by the upcoming capital investment requirements of

approximately \$12 million and changes in the city’s wholesale water and wastewater providers.

Without an increase in 2025, Ekrut said, funding for the improvements would need to be found elsewhere.

The proposed rate changes, if adopted when the fiscal year 2025 budget is approved later this summer, would affect the average homeowner using 9,000 gallons of water and 6,000 gallons of wastewater by approximately \$30 per month in FY2025, but only about \$12 in FY2026 and even less in the following years.

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 3

ALEDO

Council closer to adding police department

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

As any community grows, so does its need for strong law enforcement.

Take the City of Aledo, for example. Over its history it has outgrown the sleepy, bedroom community aesthetic and has transformed into one of the Metroplex’s fastest-growing suburbs.

When Mayor Nick Stanley was elected, one of his staple policies was to implement a police force right here in Aledo. During the Thursday, May 2, city council meeting, Aledo took another step towards making a local police department a reality.

Resolution 2024-159 amends the agreement between the city and their public safety contractor, T2 Professional Consulting.

Mike Wilson, retired Keller police chief, has been working with the City of Aledo for more than a

Turn to **POLICE**, page 3

ALEDO

Thieves take mail

Investigation under way

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The outside mail boxes at the Aledo Post Office were recently robbed of the mail they contained.

Dates and other details of the theft are not known, although U.S. Postal Inspector Sean Smith did confirm the theft. He said other details could not be disclosed due to an ongoing investigation.

Turn to **MAIL**, page 3



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Out of commission – the outside mailboxes at the Aledo Post Office are out of commission for now. Thieves broke into the boxes recently and stole the mail there.

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In & Around Parker County

Aledo Athletic Club - Your Bridge to Health and Fitness

Americans struggle, year after year, around getting fit, eating better, and losing weight.

Those goals often seem elusive in our busy world, but Aledo Athletic Club can help you get there.

Owner Shane Davis wasn't always as fit as he is today. In fact, he once weighed about 400 pounds. Following college he put on weight, and struggled with yo-yo dieting.

"I needed to figure out how to get healthy and enter the gym," Davis said. "I got under 300 pounds, but never really stayed there."

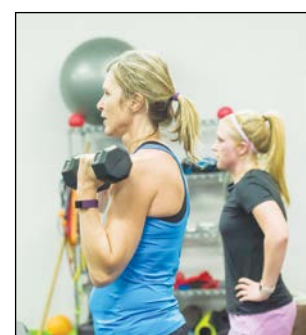
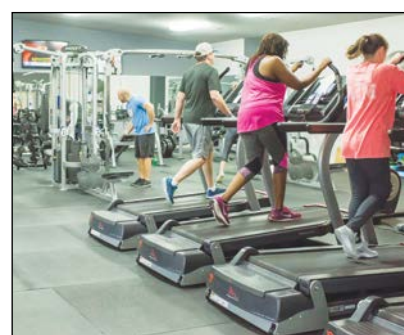
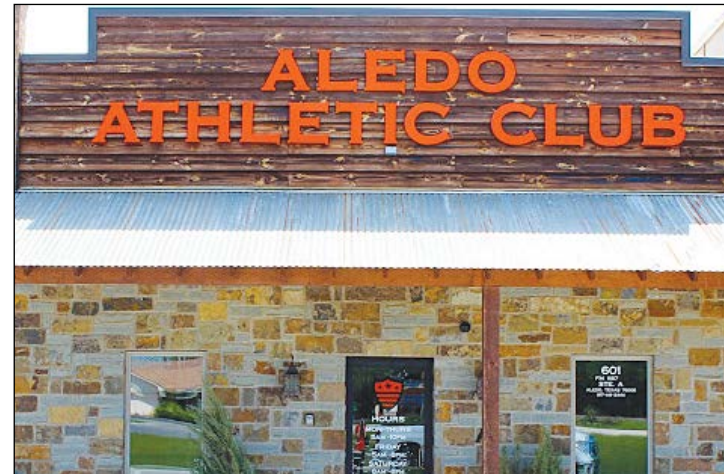
That changed in 2006 or 2007 when he came to Aledo and started working out with a trainer. He weighed 296 in January and competed at 178 pounds in December.

"It took discipline — there were a lot of things that I had to dispel from my mind of what constitutes a healthy meal," Davis said. The issue wasn't just losing the weight, it was keeping it off.

"I think that's where most diets today fail," Davis said. "They, can get you where you want to go, but they can't keep you there."

Shane has taken what he learned and now provides the coaching and support to help others reach their goals as well.

"I was the king of the late night drive thru — whatever is quickest, because my schedule was hectic. I made every excuse in the world," Davis said. You have to plan, you have to have a goal and, and then you have to have a plan B for when that when that goal doesn't work



out — you're sitting in a restaurant that you didn't plan on being in and what do I do now?"

"And that's, that's where I can help you. My phone's on 24/7. If I'm awake, I'm answering, if you know ahead of time, hey, I'm gonna go to this restaurant, we look at the menu together, I help you pick out the best meal for you. And I don't think you're gonna get that a lot of other places."

Aledo Athletic Club is celebrating its 10 year in business, and can

accommodate beginners up to fitness enthusiasts.

"What we are probably best at is being supportive of your goals, whether you're a beginner, or whether you're an experienced lifter, you can come into our gym, and you're gonna be welcomed with open arms. And if you need help, we're going to be here to help you; if you know what you're doing, you're welcome to go on your own."

Shane knows the struggles many people deal with in getting healthy because he has been there.

Aledo Athletic Club has both machines and free weights, cardio equipment, and personal training. You can go all the way from basic calisthenics to CrossFit all under one 4,000 square-foot roof.

Whatever your goals, Shane and Aledo Athletic Club can help you get there.

"I understand the motivation," Davis said. "And I also understand that sense of desperation when you feel like you're trying everything, and yet the scale isn't moving or it's barely moving. You've got to

find some reasons to continue on, whether that be for your own health or someone else's health, but you've got to keep going. As with anything in life, if you keep fighting, and you keep pushing, and you keep your head down, you will see success."

Aledo Athletic Club is located at 601 South FM 1187 in Aledo. Find out more by visiting <https://aledofitness.com/> or call 817-441-2444.

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DIME BOX TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A historical marker in front of Dime Box Trinity Lutheran Church indicates the town was one of Stephen F. Austin's early settlements.

NAMES

from page 4

Houston, but Podunk exists only as a spot on internet maps.

Bacon would be a tasty name for a town, especially with Beans. Named in 1910 after Wichita Falls' first mayor, Otis Bacon, the town of Bacon was where Sheppard Air Force Base is outside Wichita Falls. **Beans** is an unincorporated community in Jasper County.

TCU fans may like **Frog**, a community in Kaufman County. If you are not a TCU fan, then how about **Frognot**, northeast of Dallas.

Bigfoot, Texas, in Frio County is named for Texas Ranger William Alexander "Bigfoot" Wallace. Bigfoot, outside San Antonio, is west of **Kyote**, which is another cool town name.

Speaking of cool names, you will pass through **Cool** in west Parker County on HWY 180 while on your way to Mineral Wells State Park.

Cut and Shoot, meaning to run and shoot, is said by the townspeople to start from a dispute between, of all things, two factions of churches. Although no shots were fired, the story is church members in Montgomery County had a fiery dispute in July of 1912 over a public meeting hall where Methodist and Baptist leaders did not want Mormons and Apostolics to use the facility.

Ding Dong, Texas; if you don't believe me, you can find it on Google Map west of Salado. The story goes it started in the 1930s when community leader Zulis Bell and nephew Bert Bell had two bells painted on the outside of the country store they operated.

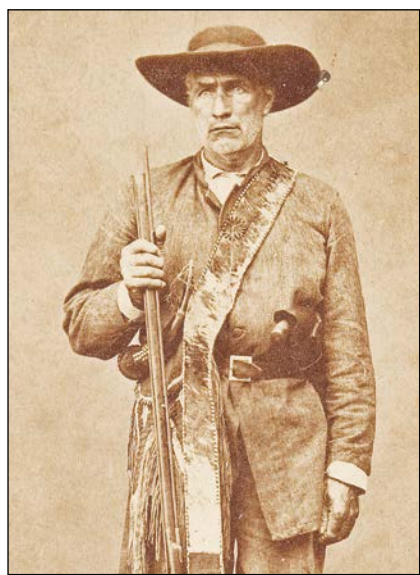
To some folks not familiar with Western history, **Goodnight** may sound like a good place to sleep, but many know the town in the Panhandle is named for famed Texas cattle rancher, Charles Goodnight.

Nada, Spanish for "nothing," actually began as Najda, Czech for "hope." The town is on HW 71 in south Texas.

Nameless is northwest of Austin, Uncertain near Caddo Lake, **Necessity** is southeast of Breckenridge, and **Oatmeal** and **Noodle** are east of Burnet.

Sadly, **Tarzan**, in Martin County, Texas is too small a community to have its own high school. If it did, cheers at a football game would be hilarious.

Finally, let's end with a few Texas towns named for places abroad, like **Paris, Italy, Liverpool, Naples, Germany, Newcastle, and France**, Texas.



TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ARCHIVE

There was a bigfoot sighted in Texas, but it was Texas Ranger William "Bigfoot" Wallace.

POLICE

from page one

year on public safety models. With the passage of Resolution 2024-159, Wilson's role working with the city will be greatly expanded. He will be responsible for everything from creating an organizational structure for the police department, applying for the city's Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) licensing, purchasing necessary equipment, hiring the department's inaugural police chief, and drafting operational policies for the department.

As part of the agreement, Wilson is required to provide the city council with regular updates as necessary, to ensure the project stays on track and on budget.

Once the police chief is hired, Wilson will continue to consult for the city, using his experience and expertise as a resource for the chief.

Money talk

Each year the city council is audited by a third-party to ensure fiscal responsibility and adherence to the budget. On Thursday, Kim Knox-Lewis with BMY presented the financial audit for 2023.

The audit came back clean with no issues to report.

Until we meet again

The city council will meet again at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 23 at the Aledo Community Center, for the second bi-monthly meeting. All city council meetings are open to the public.

MAIL

from page one

Mail theft has been a growing problem in the U.S., and not always just mail boxes.

Smith shared a press release stating that arrests for robbery of letter carriers are up 73% year over year.

The release said "the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) announced an update on Project Safe Delivery, a joint initiative to protect postal employees and secure the nation's mail and packages. The initiative was launched in May 2023 in direct response to rising crime across the nation that has led to increased threats and attacks on letter carriers and mail theft incidents."

Because of the increased enforcement, reported robberies of letter carriers have decreased by 19% and complaints received for mail theft are down 34% over the last five months.

Stolen mail often yields credit cards, checks, and personal information that can be utilized for identity theft.

In addition to beefing up enforcement against perpetrators, the USPS, in partnership with USPIS, has been installing hardened blue mail boxes that are more difficult to crack, as well as electronic locking mechanisms that are strategically deployed in high postal crime areas.

About 15,000 hardened blue boxes are being deployed across the U.S. with another 8,500 ordered to be installed, and

PROTECT YOUR MAIL

The United States Postal Inspection Service recommends the following steps to protect your mail:

- Don't let incoming or outgoing mail sit in your mailbox. You can significantly reduce the chance of being victimized by simply removing your mail from your mailbox every day.
- Deposit outgoing mail at secure locations, including inside your local post office or at your place of business, or hand it directly to a letter carrier.
- Sign up for Informed Delivery and get daily digest emails that preview your mail and packages scheduled to arrive soon.
- Become involved and engaged in your neighborhood via neighborhood watches and local social media groups to spread awareness and share information.
- Keep an eye out for your letter carrier. If you see something that looks suspicious, or you see someone following your carrier, call 911.

28,000 electronic locking mechanisms installed in mail receptacles.

There are no details available as to whether Aledo will be equipped with the hardened blue boxes.

Smith encouraged anyone who has been a victim of mail theft to visit <https://www.uspis.gov/report> or call the Fort Worth USPIS at 877-876-2455 (available 24 hours a day).

COUNCIL

from page one

A decision wasn't made as to what rate would be proposed or approved, and more discussion will follow in the coming months.

Additionally, council approved a resolution directing a notice of intent to issue combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation for a maximum of \$12 million for improvements to the city's water and sewer system and storm water utility system.

City Administrator Sterling Naron said the amount could be

closer to \$10 million, but that the maximum is being set now to allow funds to be in place when needed.

Also at the meeting, council:

- Reconsidered authorizing extended hours for the sale and consumption of alcohol for mixed beverage permit holders after City Attorney Rob Allibon told members that the approval given at a previous meeting was based on "bad information" since the hours published were incorrect.

- Due to that, and the fact that the original applicant requesting the later hours withdrew its application, staff now recommended denial and council agreed.

- Authorized Naron to extend the lease agreement with Emergency Services District No. 3 for the Public Safety Building on a month-to-month basis.
- Appointed Jennifer Liles to the unexpired term of Council Member Place 2.

Hudson Oaks City Council will meet next on May 23.

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

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

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

Capital Highlights

Spate of tornadoes far outpaces the average



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

April was a busy month for tornadoes across the United States with 373 recorded, bringing the total for the year to 549, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. That is nearly double the average at this point in the year, the National Weather Service says.

Texas, as usual, is a leader in tornadic activity, with 14 tornadoes reported within a 24-hour span in Central and East Texas during a spring storm in late April. Luckily, none resulted in injury or fatality. All of the tornadoes reported on April 26 fell within a 70-mile stretch along Interstate 35 and Texas Hwy. 31, around Corsicana, McGregor and Hillsboro.

The weather service reported that tornadoes have nearly reached half the annual average recorded over the past decade, with April alone accounting for more than one-fourth of the annual average.

Flooding prompts disaster declarations

A total of 59 counties thus far are under state disaster declaration after severe weather and flooding swept much of Central and East Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott announced. More counties could be added as conditions warrant.

The counties added to the disaster declaration include: Anderson, Angelina, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Cherokee, Colorado, Comal, Coryell, DeWitt, Falls, Fayette, Gillespie, Gonzales, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hardin, Hays, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Llano, Mason, Medina, Milam, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Travis, Van Zandt, Waller, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson counties.

Texans from the Panhandle to the Piney Woods are not out of the woods yet when it comes to severe weather, the Texas Standard reported. Of particular concern is the area north of Houston, with evacuation

orders in place in Polk County. The Trinity River overflowed following as much as 23 inches of rain in parts of the Lake Livingston watershed.

It's official: Power lines caused Panhandle wildfires

A House committee investigating the deadly Panhandle wildfires concluded the most destructive blazes were caused by power lines that "had not been effectively maintained or replaced by a utility provider and an oil and gas operator," *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

The findings were released in an interim report last week. The Smokehouse Creek fire started Feb. 26 in Hutchinson County and rapidly became the largest wildfire in state history.

The fire scorched more than a million acres. It killed at least two people and more than 15,000 head of cattle and destroyed an estimated 138 homes and businesses.

The committee's findings included ineffective monitoring of utility, oil and gas providers in the area; a lack of funding for volunteer fire departments; and lack of coordination among

Turn to **CAPITAL**, page 6

GuestColumn

Odd town names carry history, humor



Christopher Amos
news@community-news.com

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet," Juliet, in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The phrase first stated four centuries ago reflects that it matters not what your name is, but rather what you are.

What's in a name? With Texas towns, often a lot of history and sometimes a little humor.

We should start with the nearest odd name to us, **Whiskey Flats**. It is said in the 1940s the community of Wheatland was the closest stop for alcohol south of then dry Parker County, and patrons began calling the small cluster of businesses Whiskey Flats. For a period of time it had a city limit sign, which has been absent for years. Google Maps show it as a dot at HWY 1187 and HWY 377 south of Benbrook.

Old Dime Box on Farm Road 141 began as a settlement in 1869 after settler Joseph Brown built a sawmill near what is now State Highway 121. The community of mostly immigrants changed the name from Brown's Mill to Dime Box to avoid being confused with Brownsville. When a post office opened in 1877, townsfolk deposited mail with a dime in a small box inside Brown's office. Old Dime Box currently has a population of about 300.

Even smaller than Old Dime Box is **Podunk**, Texas. The fabled name didn't exist until school kids painted it on the water tower of Denver Harbor subdivision in the 1930s during the Great Depression and the name spread, referring to any tiny settlement of the time. The community of Denver Harbor is still near

Turn to **NAMES**, page 3

Slings&Arrows

Numbers don't lie — but they sure can cheat



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

Public education is an important facet of life in Parker County. Good schools are one of the major engines of the economic growth of our county.

And while we might all feel "sticker shock" when we receive our property tax statements each

year, it is important to put those numbers in context and to have them understood accurately.

Last year we ran a guest column from a local official advocating for "school choice" which made the statement that it was possible now that public education is "fully funded" in Texas.

Again, a look at your property tax statement will yield another impression entirely.

The Texas Constitution invests the State of Texas with the responsibility of educating children. Yet decade after decade the State Legislature, to one degree or another, has

foisted the financial burden of paying for education onto local taxpayers.

The result is two-fold: legislators can pat themselves on their backs that they didn't raise taxes, while at the local level property taxes have escalated.

Many of those same politicians then run for office railing about high property taxes.

This week I received a message from our state senator, Phil King, "setting the record straight," saying "In 2023, the Texas Legislature demonstrated an unprecedented commitment

Turn to **NUMBERS**, page 6

Idle American

Postal Service Rescued?



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

With news of incivility, protests and disruption gobbling up radio and television air time and dominating front-page newspaper articles, many of us are in a state of perpetual tension. What will tomorrow bring?

It's tough to find even a sprig of a smile, but heaven knows my ancient Uncle Mort is trying his best to hack his way through an underbrush of chaotic unrest to find that sprig.

"About the only thing positive coming out of all of this is that the U.S. Postal Service may be able to back off on its request for a second increase this year," Mort said, noting stamps may cost 73 cents each come July.

I couldn't immediately comprehend any connection between the cost of postage stamps and turmoil that has erupted on a hundred or so college and university campuses throughout the country.

I felt sure, though, that my uncle would 'splain it to me, and sure enough, he did.

"I figure that hundreds of thousands of prospective college graduates already have sent out invitations to their commencement exercises," he opined. "Now, many of them will be sending out second mailings, indicating that they are canceled. Surely this unexpected postal income will take at least a small bite from the \$6 billion shortfall."

My uncle's cut-to-the-chase pronouncement is trivial, of course. Legions of Americans are stunned that outcries of a distinct minority are disrupting daily lives of a vast majority.

During my undergraduate days in the 1950s, my late

Turn to **POSTAL**, page 6

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Christian Nationalism vs Christianity

Tim Dunn's recent op-ed in the *Midland Times* denouncing his label as a Christian Nationalist was an amusing piece of gaslighting.

There is no man in the State of Texas who has financed more lies, deceit, and unwarranted character assassination than Tim Dunn. Yet here he is, feigning hurt feelings over a "label."

I, too, object to ill-defined labels. To that end, "Christian Nationalist," much like "RINO," "liberal," and many other more caustic labels spewed out by his highly paid puppets, needs to be defined. "Christian Nationalism" must be clearly contrasted with "Christianity" so the two are never confused.

A preferred one-sentence description of the difference between Christianity and Christian Nationalism is quite simple. Christianity is about love while Christian Nationalism is about power.

Don't be fooled by Dunn's claim that he is a "sometimes activist." According to the Texas Ethics Commission, just since July of last year, he has spent

\$1.9 million on political contributions. For the last decade or so, he has funneled tens of millions of dollars into races across our entire state.

Dunn and the PACs he funds have consistently been willing to support morally repugnant candidates as long as they are willing to "kiss the ring." This includes an individual who once said, "rape is nonexistent in marriage," a representative expelled from the House for supplying alcohol to and having sexual relations with his 19-year-old female staffer, and someone who dressed up like a flamboyant Hitler for Halloween — that is just to name a few. Apparently, to achieve the power desired by Christian Nationalism, the end justifies the means.

Dunn has said "the Bible is mainly about politics." Last I checked, the Bible is mainly about the love and forgiveness offered to humanity by Jesus Christ! The Jesus I believe in does not use politicians, partisan politics, intimidation, or personal destruction tactics to subjugate citizens to God's authority. Rather, Jesus' disciples sought people in need and showed them love.

Christians are called to build the Church through love, not by political power.

- State Rep. Glenn Rogers

Sykes brothers push through adversity

Attitude, faith drive brothers through injuries

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

To say the Sykes brothers have had a rollercoaster senior year is an understatement. The Willow Park Trinity Christian Academy twins have a setback-to-comeback story that is a lesson in positive perseverance.

Athletic, energetic, and with always-present smiles, Matthew and Jackson Sykes don't show disappointment when describing their football injuries two months apart that kept them off the field of play their last year of high school.

Jackson tore his ACL the day before the TCA Eagles' first game. Matthew broke his leg in the second-to-last game of the season while making a touchdown.

"I'm not scared," Matthew said calmly just a couple days before his surgery. "I know everything is going to be alright. It will."

The brothers proved they were on the road to a comeback at a track meet March 29 hosted at Eagle Stadium. Jackson placed third in the high jump even with a full brace on his left knee.

Matthew, after weeks in a brace and just days before surgery, was recruited for the shot put team.

Assistant athletic director Perry Myers called around and received a

"Their commitment to each other and their commitment to the Lord shows in everything they do."

- Perry Myers



CHRISTOPHER AMOS|THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brothers Jackson (left) and Matthew Sykes overcame major injuries to compete for the Willow Park Trinity Christian track team this season.

doctor's permission for the student to compete without pivoting his leg or shuffling his feet. Matthew placed fourth without the typical techniques of throwing the shot even without competing in the event before.

"He checked with the doctor and he asked me if I wanted to do it," Matthew said of his coach. "I said 'Yeah.' I thought it'd be fun and I'd always want to do it."

Myers, who is also the Eagles' strength training coach, schooled Matthew on throwing using only his torso and upper body minutes before the competition.

"The Sykes brothers are so special," Myers said. "Being twins, they feed off each other's energy. They even went to physical therapy together. Their commitment to each other and their commitment to the Lord shows in everything they do."

Few people could be more anxious about the boys' injuries than their mother, Kelley Sykes.

"Jackson was just released to start jumping not even seven months after having ACL surgery," the mother commented. "He went to state last year in high jump and after tearing his ACL he didn't think he would be able to jump again, so this was a big boost for him mentally."

After graduation the brothers intend to go to Oklahoma State University, joining some classmates who also plan to go there.

Bearcats, Ladycats sign with respective schools

PHOTOS BY MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD



Ellis Johnson, Northwestern State, cheerleading, pictured with Courtney and Claudia Johnson.



Rags Walker will pole vault at Texas Wesleyan University. She is shown with Ethan, Bill, Cheri, and Noi Walker and Jerrie Goforth.



Porter Lane will swim at the University of Indianapolis. He is shown with Todd Lane, Jennifer Lane, and Charlotte Lane.

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At Chappell Hearing Care Center, we wish to thank our customers and suppliers who have donated used hearing aids for our annual mission trips abroad.

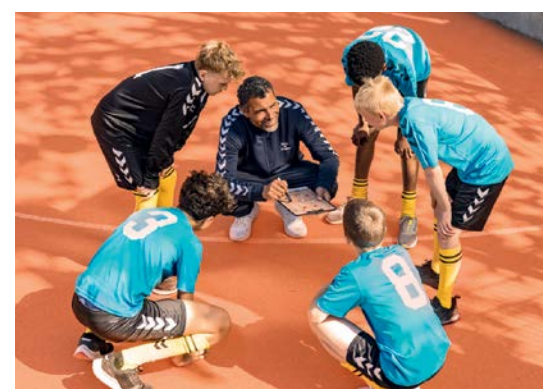
Thanks to their generosity, we have been able to help provide the gift of hearing to others, including our most recent trip to Columbia, through Operation Go Quickly.

The mission of Operation Go Quickly is to fulfill the mandate of Christ found in Luke 14:21 by mobilizing the body of Christ to serve people with disabilities in the less economically developed countries worldwide.

Miguel is 9 and received two super power aids. Hearing better calmed this hyperactive, Asperger spectrum young boy.

With her newfound hearing, little Ceila is more than one miracle. At four she is a cancer survivor with radiation and chemo taking 50% of her hearing. When we turned on the hearing aid her face lit up, from a quiet, even dull demeanor she began to speak happily, wanting to walk around and hug me. Totally changed life. Her aid is a super advanced, automatic that simulates normal hearing. Thank you for our patients who donated this one!

Silvia at 29 has a wonderful life ahead. But jobs were impossible with a severe loss of hearing. Her new aids will bring employment opportunities, and with her infectious attitude who would disagree?



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CAPITAL

from page 4

first responders and government agencies.

“Volunteer fire departments, which the Panhandle region largely depends on, are grossly underfunded, making it virtually impossible for them to obtain the equipment and resources needed to fight wildfires of this magnitude safely and effectively,” the report stated.

Both the Smokehouse Creek and the smaller Reamer Creek fires were caused by downed Xcel Energy power poles, while the Windy Deuce Fire was caused by tree limbs rubbing against power lines on a pole.

Paxton sues to block closing ‘gun show loophole’

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing to stop the Biden administration’s bid to close what is known as the ‘gun show loophole.’

“We will not let Biden continue this tyrannical abuse of power,” kut.org quoted Paxton as saying. “His war on Second Amendment rights must be stopped.”

Paxton was joined by Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach in suing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to attempt to block a new rule requiring all gun sellers to be federally licensed and to conduct background checks of purchases – including weapons sold at gun shows or in private transactions.

Steven Dettelback, ATF director, said requiring firearms dealers to have federal licenses to sell guns and conducting background checks on buyers closes a loophole, since licensed gun sellers are already required to keep records of sales.

“We can clearly see that a whole group of folks are openly flouting that law,” Dettelback said. “That leads to not just unfair but, in this case, dangerous consequences.”

Abbott orders TEA to ignore new Title IX guidelines

Abbott last week ordered the Texas Education Agency to ignore new Biden administration guidelines that add new categories of protection within Title IX to include LGBTQ students, the *Texas Standard* reported. The new rules also spurred yet

another lawsuit against the Biden Administration by Paxton. The state’s AG office says, “the Biden administration misinterpreted the intent of Title IX.”

However, Joanna Grossman, a law professor at Southern Methodist University who specializes in women and the law, said the Department of Education is charged with interpreting and implementing Title IX, and the governor is exceeding his powers.

“To be clear, a governor of a state does not have the authority to order his people to ignore federal law. A federal law is supreme. So, the idea that he can just sort of pick and choose and decide that Texas isn’t going to follow federal law is not one of his options,” she said.

Refineries can get tax credit for cleaning jet fuel

Texas Gulf Coast refineries stand to pick up lucrative tax credits if they choose to make jet fuel from ethanol, cooking oil and other renewable substances under new Biden administration rules aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported that the U.S. Treasury Department has rolled out new guidelines for jet fuel producers who use crude oil alternatives. They can claim tax credits worth between \$1.25 and \$1.75 per gallon.

“People say aviation is a ‘hard to decarbonize’ sector. And while it is difficult, it is a sector we must decarbonize if we’re going to address climate change,” said John Podesta, Biden’s senior adviser for international climate policy.

Refineries operators are taking note. Valero is overhauling its biodiesel plant in Port Arthur to produce up to 235 million gallons of sustainable aviation fuel annually, the *Chronicle* reported.

“Refiners are making the investments necessary to be part of the solution,” the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers trade group noted last year.

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: gborder@texapress.com



POSTAL

from page one

president, a beloved Christian patriot named Dr. Guy D. Newman, reminded us regularly during chapel programs about the fragility of a democracy.

An ongoing warning was to protect the Declaration of Independence, emphasizing that democracies depend on the consent of the governed. (Benjamin Franklin once observed that a democracy has to be more than two wolves and one lamb deciding on what to have for lunch.

Dr. Newman often quoted Hiram Mann’s short poem, this version paraphrased:

“No one escapes when freedom fails. The best folks rot in filthy jails. And those who’ve screamed, ‘appease, appease,’ are hanged by those they tried to please.”

Oh, ‘tis true, ‘tis true. To end many sermons, Dr. Newman would quote Psalm 121:1-2, “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.” (KJV)

Let us who claim to be Christians make this central to our prayers. The prophet Isaiah offered still more advice in Chapter I, verse 18: “Come now, let us reason together.”

It is never too late to be reasonable, but rules established by the will of the people must never be tossed aside. When they are, consequences are in order.

Let us be prayerful that all graduates who cross stages to accept diplomas and degrees remember that each document includes both rights and responsibilities.

Let us seek joyous graduation moments for the honorees and give thanks for loved ones who made their educational pilgrimages possible. And for the few Americans who received graduation invitations for whom commencement exercises have been canceled, let ‘em keep the presents, even if addressed to “occupant.”...

Finally, may the late Dr. Theodore Geisel, better known to the world as “Dr. Seuss,” again be acknowledged for what is believed to be the shortest commencement address ever. He called it, “My Uncle Terwilliger on the Art of Eating Popovers.”

My uncle ordered popovers from the restaurant’s bill of fare.

When they were served he regarded them with a penetrating stare. Then he spoke great words of wisdom as he sat there on his chair: “To eat these things,” said my uncle, “You must exercise great care. You may swallow down what’s solid.

But you must spit out the air!... And as you partake of the world’s bill of fare, that’s good advice to follow. Do a lot of spitting out of hot air. And be careful what you swallow.”

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

NUMBERS

from page 4

to support our 5.4 million public school students.”

To Sen. King I will say “numbers don’t lie, but they sure can cheat.”

King’s post lauded the state government for its commitment to education while lumping in money paid by local taxpayers to support his claim.

According to Sen. King, “the data is indisputable. According to the most recent Texas Education Agency annual report (linked here*), per student annual funding is up 42% since 2011.”

Let’s take a look at those numbers, shall we?

In the report cited by Sen. King (yes, I looked it up), the percentage of that per-pupil spending by the state in 2020-2011 was 42.3 percent, and local taxpayers covered 45.6 percent. (Those numbers don’t add up to 100 because federal funds and “recapture” also contributed to the cost of education.)

In 2022-2023, the state’s percentage of funding had dropped to 31 percent, while local taxpayers were picking up 47 percent, with federal funds increasing to pick up the gap.

But that’s not the only problem with King’s statement quoted above.

One dollar in 2010-11 is about \$1.30 now, so there goes 30 of the 42 percent increase in per-pupil spending.

Only a politician could claim the legislature has made an “unprecedented commitment” to supporting students while its percentage of the funding has dropped from 42 percent to 31 percent.

The accompanying chart shows the trends of public education spending in Texas in per-pupil spending from 2010-11 to 2022-23. To be fair, the state’s portion ticked up slightly the last year reported. But to also be fair, the chart does not include “recapture,” which consists of funds paid by local taxpayers that the state takes and distributes to other school districts.

The danger to future planning is that the federal government has been kicking in an increasing percentage, but that’s subject to change based on the politics of any given year.

But let’s get down to why Sen. King’s claims were sent to voters in the first place.

There is a bug push from within and without the State of Texas to implement a voucher entitlement program — taking money from Texas taxpayers to pay for private school education.

Multiple millions of dollars were spent during the recent Republican primary to defeat

representatives who supported public schools and opposed vouchers.

Unfortunately, they were successful.

With the Texas Senate already firmly in the pockets of very wealthy voucher proponents, the House now appears headed that way as well.

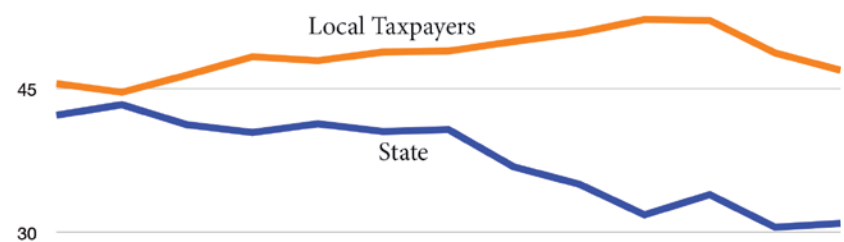
King’s email also incorrectly placed blame on the anti-voucher representatives for the fact that \$7 billion additional dollars were not allocated to public education.

Here’s what actually happened.

The bill that went to the House floor contained a voucher provision. The representatives voted to strip the voucher provision from the bill, sending it back to the Public Education Committee. The bill then died in committee. The

Texas Public Education

Percentage of cost borne by the state vs. local taxpayers 2010-11 to 2022-23



Source: <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/brochures/pocket-edition>

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

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 18

Aledo Music Academy Block Party
The Aledo Music Academy

is celebrating 3 years with a big block party at 12 p.m. on Saturday, May 18th at 118 Marble Ct. Aledo, TX. There will be a STAGE with LIVE music from students and bands, face paint, food truck, free music lessons, free hair tinsel and braiding, fun giveaways, snowcones, and bounce houses. Bring lawn chairs & coolers out and enjoy the sunshine & live music.



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.



JUNE 1

Summer Blast
The City of Aledo is gearing up for the annual Summer Blast event! This FREE community event is scheduled from 6-10 PM. for Saturday, June 1 in Downtown Aledo. Come celebrate the fun, festive, family atmosphere

of Aledo with live music, delicious food, great shopping, interactive games, and more! The night will end with a fantastic fireworks show that you won't want to miss!

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/food & activity booths as well as the amazing shops, restaurants & boutiques in historic downtown Weatherford. The expanded festival area makes it easy to spread out and enjoy the day!

ACROSS

1 to Houston in 1969: "That's one small step for _ _"

5 " _ _ qua non" (totally necessary)

6 Santa _ _ _ , Texas

7 France village

8 route for TX Farrah Fawcett's "Cannonball Run" race (3 wds.)

17 "... our Texas, _ _ hail the mighty state"

18 Texas bluebonnet is a lupine, known as this (2 wds.)

21 Texas-born Martin 1991 film " _ _ Story"

22 one of a deck

23 actress raised in Dallas, Dorothy

24 cow gave birth

29 this Lindsey won 2010 downhill Gold

30 eat dinner

31 once most popular music storage

32 RVing?

34 Monahans _ _ hills State Park

35 not shining bright

36 TXism: "black as the _ _ _ a coffin"

37 UT has the manuscripts of Stanley Gardner

38 holder of Texas Blue Bell scoops

39 this dentist moved to Dallas after TB diagnosis (2 wds.)

41 Ruth of 1950 film "Dallas"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

1 TXism: "naked" _ _

2 in Wood County on U.S. 69 & U.S. 80

3 yearly

4 approaches closely

9 "Texas" (manner of talking)

10 Texas Actor, Rip

11 TXism: "he's no spring chicken"

12 Gold Glove center field, TX Curt (init.)

13 TX Autry's "That Silver Haired Daddy _ _ _"

14 TXism: "does _ _ office business" (sells a lot)

15 boot bottom

16 TXism: "happy as a dog with _ _ tails"

19 in La Salle County on I-35

20 Waco is headquarters of "Improved Order of _ _ _"

22 junction of 2 rivers

24 TX George H.W. appointment to the Supreme Court, Clarence (init.)

25 TX George W. press secretary, Fleischer

26 East _ _ _ , Texas

27 cap brim

28 evoke a response

29 Davis of 2011 film "The Help" with TX Sissy Spacek

30 TX Crystal Bernard "Wings" co-star, Tim

33 _ _ _ Speedwagon

34 TX Lee Trevino won _ _ _ Hickok Award in 1971

35 Astrodome was first _ _ _ stadium

37 newspaper opinion

38 witches group

40 TXism: "dimwit" one way to order a Texas steak

41 TXism: " _ _ up the ghost" (died)

47 aide- _ _ _ military assistant

49 TX Gene Autry's "Here Comes _ _ _ Claus"

Save the date for this "peachy" family fun-filled event!
Tickets will be available online in June 2024!!
\$10.00 for adults
\$5.00 children 5-12
Under 5 are free
For more information on www.peachfestivaltx.com

JULY 14-18

AUMC VBS 2024
This year's Vacation Bible School theme is "Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God!"
Each evening from 5:30 -

8:40 p.m. at Aledo United Methodist Church will include a snack supper, music, games, Bible Stories, crafts 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

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Send event submissions to events@community-news.com. Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.

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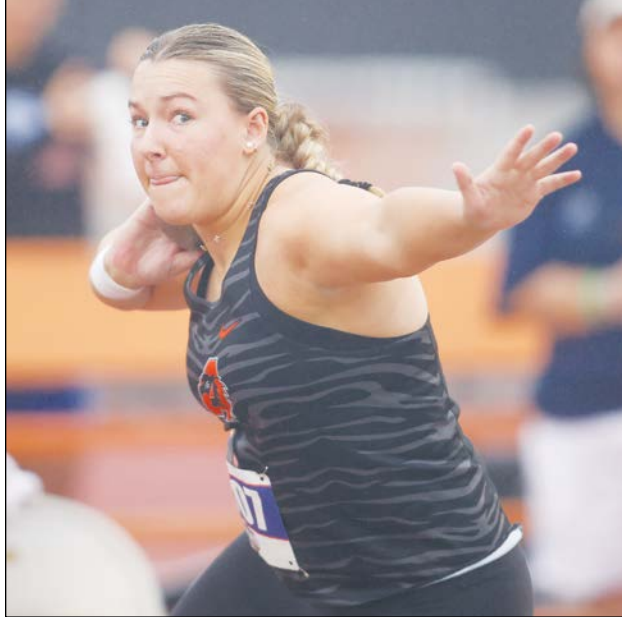
Hindman, Brown capture bronze

By Rick Mauch
 The Community News

Lauren St. Peters, no stranger to Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas at Austin, reached the pinnacle of her high school throwing career Friday, May 3.

Competing for a third straight year at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet, St. Peters won a gold medal in the shot put. She is one of three from Alameda to bring home a medal as Taylor Hindman and Braylon Brown each finished third in girls and boys pole vaulting, respectively.

Also from Alameda, sophomore Sofia Brandenburg finished ninth in
 Turn to **STATE**, page 12



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Lauren St. Peters of the Alameda Ladycats won the Class 5A state championship in girls shot put.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Taylor Hindman of Alameda competes in the Class 5A girls pole vault event.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

In his first trip to state, Alameda junior pole vaulter Braylon Brown brought home a bronze medal.

BASEBALL

Bearcats squash Scorpions to win bi-district title

By Ryan Wade
 The Community News

CROWLEY - Only the weather could prolong South Hills' season as the Alameda Bearcats made quick work of their Class 5A bi-district matchup.

An 11-run sixth inning in the series opener on Thursday, May 2, led to a 17-0 rout for the Bearcats. Lightning in the area forced a weather delay on Friday, May 3, with the Bearcats leading 6-0 in Game 2, allowing the Scorpions to survive the night before Alameda took the title with a 14-3 win on Saturday morning.

The series was kind to the Bearcats. In two games they had more hits than the Rolling Stones (27) and did more plating than a Michelin chef during the dinner rush.

Alameda's pitching was virtually unhittable. The Bearcat battery surrendered just three hits in 11 innings of work. Of the 33 total outs Alameda pitchers were responsible for, they struck out 60.6-percent of batters (20 strikeouts).

Game 1

Big innings at the plate defined the wins for the Bearcats. In Game 1, after spraying six runs over the first five innings, Alameda's offense exploded for 11 runs in the top of the sixth inning. With one away, Boyd Thompson made his way aboard with an infield single to start the inning. Ryan Jones and Drew Weckel earned back-to-back free passes to load the bases for the Bearcat backstop, Brennon Evans.

Evans watched a couple of balls go by following the back-to-back walks issued to Jones and Weckel. In danger of walking a third straight batter, the 2-0 offering to Evans was right where he wanted it, as he singled through the infield to left. Thompson and Jones scored on the play to make it an 8-0 affair at that point.

Alameda was in no hurry to halt the rally as Weston Nance came up with an infield single of his own to load the bases again for the Bearcats.

Turn to **BASEBALL**, page 9



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Devin Miller winds and fires during a home game for the Bearcats earlier this season. Miller pitched four shutout innings against South Hills in Game 2 of the bi-district championship game on Friday, May 3.

BASEBALL

Kangaroos upset in bidistrict

Staff Reports
 The Community News

In an upset, the Weatherford Kangaroos' baseball season came to an end in their Class 6A bi-district best-of-3 series against Keller on May 2-3. Keller won the first game at home 2-1 and came to Weatherford to defeat the Kangaroos 4-3 the next day.

Weatherford ended the season with a 26-8-1 overall record, while Keller (21-11-1) advances on to face District 2-6A champion Frenship (21-7-1) in the area round. The Kangaroos were the runners-up in 3-6A and Keller was third in 4-6A.

In the series clincher, Keller scored to tie the game in the top of the seventh. Then, after each team scored in the eighth, they scored the winning run in the top of the ninth.

In the opening game, three different Weatherford pitchers combined to pitch a three-hitter.

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SOFTBALL

from page 12

third-round matchup with Joshua (28-8), which swept Granbury in their best-of-3 area series. The single game was being played at Chisholm Trail High School at press time.

Pitching and defense wins championships

The Ladycats had both in spades on Thursday. Taylor McKean started in the circle for Aledo, throwing a post-season gem. McKean gave up one run off five hits while striking out seven in her five innings of work before being replaced by Brenlee Gonzales to start the bottom of the sixth inning.

With the Ladycats leading 2-1, Gonzales went right to work, sitting down the Lady Hawks in order in the bottom of the sixth.

Kyleigh Pawlak led off the top of the seventh with a single up the middle for just the fourth hit of the game for Aledo. Unfortunately, the Ladycats were unable to capitalize on the early baserunner as Birdville got out of the inning without any damage done.

Three outs from victory, Gonzales and the defense took the field looking to close out the game. However, a lead-off single followed by a two-base fielding error put the tying run just 60 feet from the plate. A line drive to left dropped in to put the tying run across for Birdville.

With a runner on first and no outs, the Lady Hawks laid down a sacrifice bunt to move the runner into scoring position with one out.

Gonzales collected herself and sat down the next two batters to strand the winning run at second as the game headed for extra innings.

Working extra

Baserunners came at a premium for both teams in the next three innings as neither club managed to gain an advantage. That changed in the top of the 11th as Rosser hit the 1-1 offering to short. An error on the play not only allowed Rosser to reach base

safely, but allowed her to advance to second, as well.

With the go-ahead run in scoring position, Ana Flores dropped a bunt down to sacrifice herself as Rosser made her way safely into third with just one out in the inning.

With their best opportunity to put a run across the plate since the fourth inning, Marina Taveras hit the 1-1 offering on the ground to third. The routine play fell apart for the Lady Hawks as a second error in the inning allowed Rosser to score.

In the bottom of the 11th, Birdville started off the inning reaching base on a defensive error by the Ladycats. The next batter Gonzales faced singled to left to put the tying and go-ahead runs on base with no outs.

Pressure makes diamonds and it bursts pipes, as they say. With game on the line and no outs the Ladycats faced plenty of pressure as Gonzales toed the rubber once again. The next batter grounded to Flores at short. Flores threw over to Pawlak at third to get the lead runner on the fielder's choice for the first out.

With runners still at first and second, Gonzales earned her 10th strikeout of the game for out No. 2.

Just one out from securing the area title, Gonzales was able to produce a ground ball to short. Flores fielded the ball cleanly, made the on-target throw over to Taveras at first in time to complete the routine 6-to-3 play as the Lady Hawks' season came to an end.

Class 5A area playoff Aledo vs. Birdville – Thurs, May 2

	R	H	E
Ladycats	000	200	000
Birdville	100	000	100

Aledo hitting: Addie Perry HBP; Delaney Rosser 1-for-5, 2 R, 3B; Ana Flores 1-for-3, 3B, R, RBI; Marina Taveras 2 RBI; Kyleigh Pawlak 1-for-4, BB; Brenlee Gonzales 1-for-4; Taylor McKean BB; Jordan Edington 1-for-4, SB. Aledo pitching: Taylor McKean 5 IP, 2 H, R (earned), 2 BB, 7 K; Brenlee Gonzales (W) 6 IP, 4 H, R (0 earned), BB, 10 K.

BASEBALL

from page 8

With the bases juiced and one out, Zeke Garcia displayed tremendous plate discipline, letting the payoff pitch sail wide of the zone to walk in a run for the Bearcats.

Up 9-0, Luke Trager hit a bases-loaded line drive to center that fell in for an RBI base hit as Evans scored to put the Bearcats up 10-0.

Blake Burdine earned an RBI of his own as he drew a four-pitch walk to make the score 11-0 in favor of Aledo with the lineup turning over.

Brooks Burdine had enough of the station-to-station baseball the Bearcats were employing to that point in the inning. After a pitching change for the Scorpions, Burdine drove a pitch on the outer half of the plate to right field for a base-clearing triple. Garcia, Trager, and Blake Burdine all scored on the three-bagger to make it 14-0 in favor of the visiting team.

Not to be outdone by Burdine's triple, Thompson knocked one of his own with a deep fly ball to center to pick up his second hit of the inning. Burdine scored with ease to make it a 15-0 game.

With Thompson taking up residence at third, Jones hit a grounder to the right side of the infield. Thompson crossed the dish with the only play for South Hills being the routine 4-to-3 for the second out of the inning, as Jones picked up the RBI.

With the bases empty for the first time since Thompson's single to start the inning, Weckel walked on five pitches for his second free pass of the inning to keep the rally going for Aledo. Evans followed up his RBI single earlier in the inning with an RBI double to deep left field in his second trip to the plate.

Up 17-0, the Bearcat rally ran out of steam with the Bearcats just three outs from their first win of the series.

Jake Bumgardner entered the game in relief in the bottom of the sixth after Luke Saunders pitched a one-hit gem in the first five innings. Bumgardner clearly wasn't being paid by the hour, as he used just 11 pitches to strike out the side in order as Aledo won by run rule.

Game 2

Getting the starting nod for Game 2 of the best-of-three series on Friday was Devin Miller. With the weather potentially becoming a factor in the game, Miller worked fast, hammering the strike zone. Of the 40 pitches he threw, 29 went for strikes as he struck out six batters while surrendering a lone hit.

While the Bearcat defense worked efficiently to get the game in before storms made their way to the area, the same cannot be said for Aledo's offense. A lengthy bottom of the second saw the Bearcats put six runs across the plate as the weather began to turn for the worst.

Since aluminum baseball bats and lightning remain an unsavory combination, the umpires were forced to postpone the conclusion of the game in the middle of the fourth inning until Saturday morning.

Even though the storms moved out of the area overnight, Aledo's bats were electric when play resumed in the bottom of the fourth early on Saturday morning. Ryan Jones and Drew Weckel started off the inning with back-to-back walks with Lucas Nawrocki coming to the plate for Evans. Nawrocki took a look at the first pitch of the at bat for strike one. The second pitch he saw he got an even better look at, as he watched it sail over the right-field fence for a three-run home run that put Aledo up 9-0 to that point.

Nance singled, and Blake Burdine got on base the hard way after he was hit by a pitch. With a pair of runners on base and no outs, Trager singled to right field as Nance scored to make it 10-0.

Reese Hetherington kept the rally going with an RBI single of his own as Blake Burdine scored on the hit.

Following a stellar pitching performance the day before, Bumgardner got to take his first hacks of the series when he replaced Brooks Burdine at the top of the order for the Bearcats. Bumgardner hit the 2-2 offering right back where it came from. The South Hills hurler was unable to field the ball cleanly, allowing Bumgardner to reach base safely on the error as Trager scored from third.

Leading 12-0, an RBI single by Thompson and a wild pitch that allowed Bumgardner to scamper home from third put the Bearcats

in position to close out the game early heading into the top of the fifth inning.

Jenson Huffman came on in relief, picking up in the top of the fifth, where Miller left off the night before. Huffman struggled with his control early, walking the first three batters he faced and allowing a run to score on a passed ball in the process.

South Hills managed to string together a three-run rally of their own in a last-ditch effort to avoid the inevitable. However, Huffman was able to produce back-to-back ground balls to close out the frame.

Up 14-3, the 10-after-five run rule was implemented as the Bearcats took the bidistrict title to advance to the area round of the playoffs.

Waiting for the Bearcats in the area championship Series at Chisholm Trail High School stands Colleyville Heritage. The best-of-three series started on Thursday, May 9, at 7 pm. Game 2 is slated for 7 pm on Friday. If needed, Game 3 will be Saturday at 2 pm.

Aledo vs. South Hills – Thurs, May

	R	H	E
Bearcats	003	2011	x - 17 15 1
S. Hills	000	000	x - 0 1 0

Aledo hitting: Brooks Burdine 2-for-4, 2B, 3B, 3 R, 3 RBI, BB; Boyd Thompson 5-for-5, 2B, 3B, SB, 3 R, 4 RBI; Ryan Jones 1-for-4, 2 SB; BB, R, 2 RBI; Drew Weckel 1-for-3, 2 BB, 2 R; Brennon Evans 2-for-2, 2B, 2 SB, 3 BB, 2 R, 3 RBI; Weston Nance 1-for-4, BB, R; Zeke Garcia 2 BB, 2 R, RBI; Luke Trager 2-for-4, 2B, R, 2 RBI; Blake Burdine 1-for-3, 2 R, RBI, BB. Aledo pitching: Luke Saunders (W) 5 IP, H, 0 R, 2 BB, 10 K; Jake Bumgardner 1 IP, 0 H, 0 R, 0 BB, 3 K.

Aledo vs. South Hills – Fri, May 3

	R	H	E
S. Hills	000	03x	x - 3 2 4
Bearcats	060	8xx	x - 14 12 1

Aledo hitting: Br. Burdine 1-for-3, RBI, R; Thompson 2-for-4, SB, R, 2 RBI; Jones SB, BB, 2 R, RBI; Weckel 1-for-1, 3 BB, 2 R; Evans RBI; Lucas Nawrocki 1-for-1, HR, 3 RBI, R; Nance 2-for-3, RBI, R; Bl. Burdine 1-for-2, 2 R; Trager 2-for-2, R, RBI; Reese Hetherington 2-for-3, RBI; Bumgardner R; J. Parker R. Aledo pitching: Devin Miller 4 IP, H, 0 R, 0 BB, 6 K; Jenson Huffman IP, H, 3 R (1 earned), 3 BB, K.

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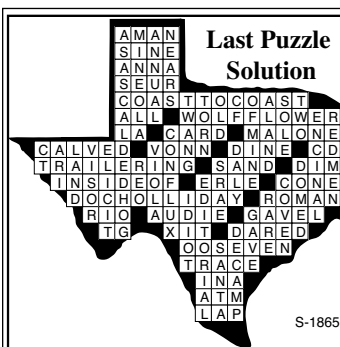
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Crystal R. Dozier, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary
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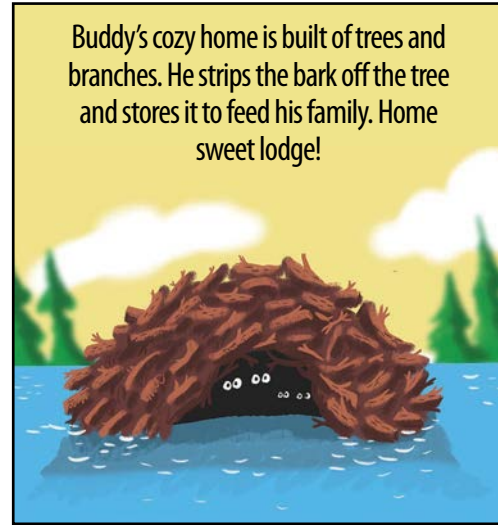
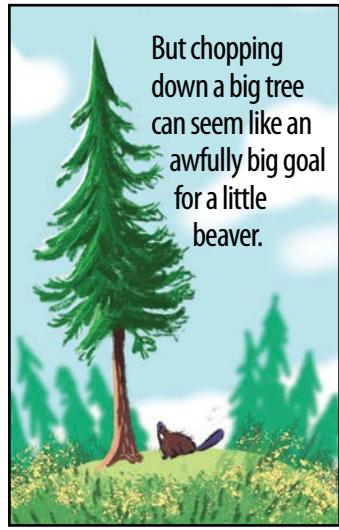
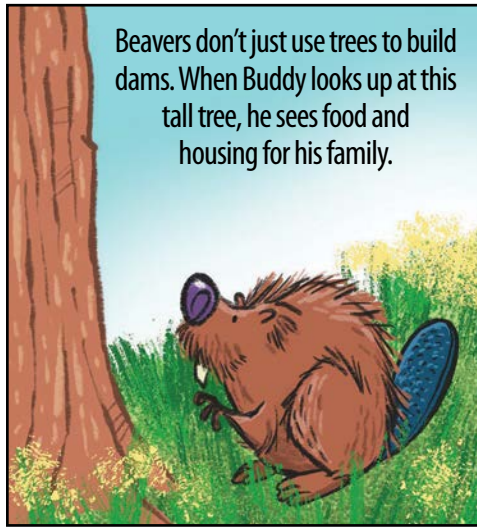
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- Beavers are **herbivores**. They like to eat the _____ and wood of _____. They also eat pondweed and water lilies.
- Adult beavers are around three feet long and have been known to _____ over 55 lb (25 kg). Females are as large or larger than males 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 _____.

Be Like Buddy: How to Reach a Goal

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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:
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

HOW LONG UNTIL I REACH MY GOAL? _____



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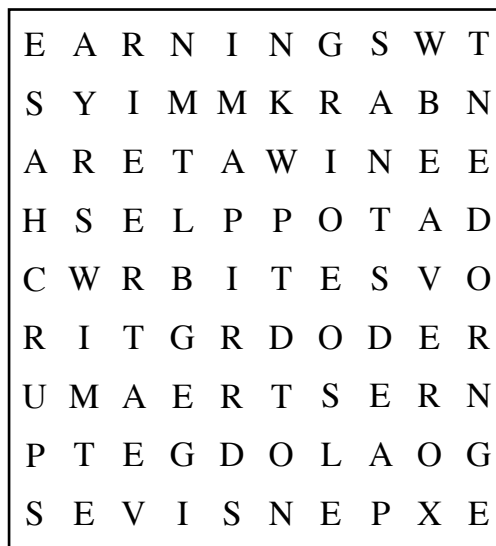
Can you put these mixed-up beaver facts in the correct order?

- 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

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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?



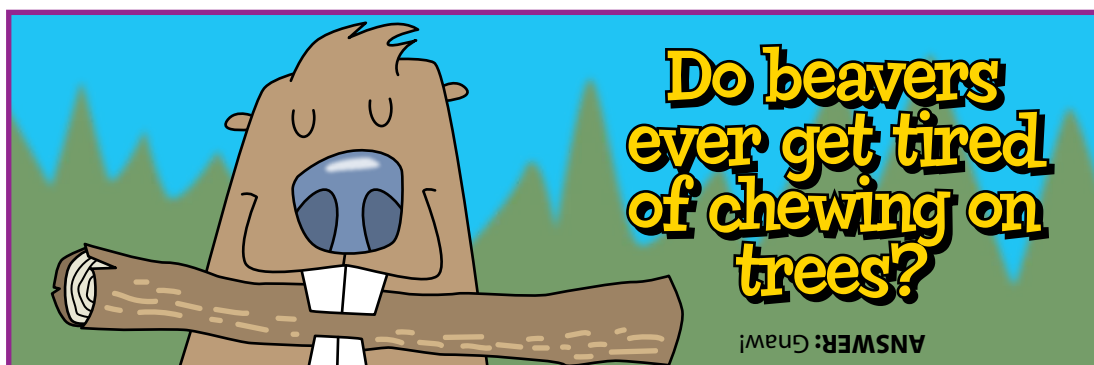
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Build a Sentence

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.



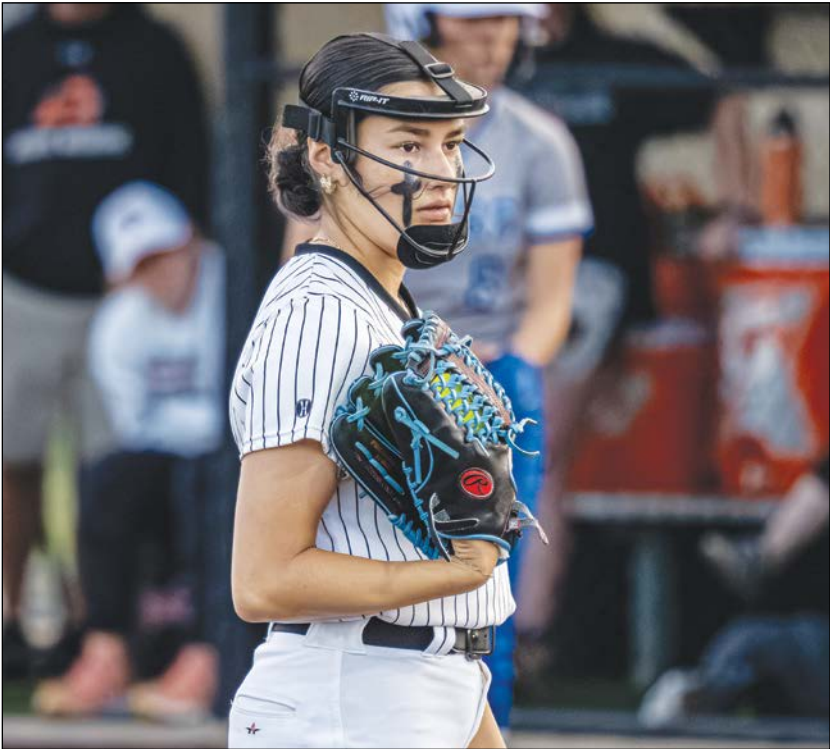
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A penny saved is ...

Finish this story.

SOFTBALL

Ladycats outlast Birdville to capture area title in 11 innings



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brenlee Gonzales watches a Brewer hitter move from the on deck circle to the batters box during a recent home game. Gonzales threw six innings to pick up the win for the Ladycats in the Area round against Birdville on Thursday, May 2.

Next stop: Joshua

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

BOSWELL - A pair of defensive errors by Birdville in the top of the 11th inning allowed Delaney Rosser to cross the plate for the go-ahead run as the Aledo Ladycats pulled off the 3-2 win on Thursday, May 2, in their Class 5A area-round playoff game at Boswell High School.

The one-and-done affair lasted longer time-wise than the entire best-of-three series against Everman in the bi-district round a week ago when the Ladycats swept a doubleheader 15-0 and 14-0 on April 25. The Ladycats were able to polish off the Lady Bulldogs in a combined eight innings in that series.

The win over Birdville (24-9) advances Aledo (30-3) into a

Turn to **SOFTBALL**, page 9

STATE

from page 8

the girls 800-meter run, clocking a time of 2 minutes, 21.20 seconds. It was her second consecutive year to compete in the event in Austin.

"Incredible season! We went from losing the district track meet by one point to winning area and regionals!" said an ecstatic Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton. "Then we sent three girls to state and two of them medaled — with a champion. I am so happy for and proud of all the girls.

"It was a different kind of season, with the state meet moving dates — which moved our entire schedule. The girls took it in stride and continued to work hard and improve all season long. I'm extremely proud of Lauren, Taylor and Sofia."

The state track meet has historically been held closer to the middle of May.

Shooting to gold

St. Peters, a senior, came close to matching the best throw of her career Friday when she hurled the metal ball 48 feet, 9.75 inches. Only one other time has she thrown farther, her school record of 49 feet at the 5A Region I Meet in Lubbock a couple weeks earlier.

The top-seeded St. Peters bested runner-up Madeleine Fey of Killeen Chaparral by almost three inches. Fey had a throw of 45-11.25.

This is the second year in a row for St. Peters to medal in the shot put. She placed third as a junior.

"Lauren has been on the podium at state before, but never state champion until this year. I had never seen her more prepared for a meet than at state (this season)," Pinkerton said. "It didn't matter

what the weather did, or what her competition did — she was ready.

"Each one of her six throws would have won the meet. She came to the shot put with one goal in mind, and she wasn't going to let anything get in her way. Great way to finish off her high school career."

St. Peters narrowly missed bringing home a second medal. She placed fourth in the discus with a throw of 147-6. Fey repeated as state champion, throwing 164-6.

St. Peters was also fourth in the discus as a sophomore.

St. Peters has committed to throw for the University of Nebraska next season.

Vaulting to bronze

Hindman, like St. Peters, was making her third consecutive trip to state. The senior matched her regional-winning vault of 12-6 to place third. Ella Pickerson of Comal Smithson Valley won with a vault of 13-0.

Hindman also brought home a medal for a second straight season, having finished second in 2023 after clearing 12-6. She tied for seventh as a sophomore.

"Taylor did an incredible job in the pole vault all season long. She took home the bronze medal from State and set the new Aledo school record in the vault this season (12-7 earlier in the season). She also has her sights set on beginning her college career."

Hindman has committed to vault for the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado next season.

Brown, a junior, was competing at state for the first time. He finished among five vaulters who cleared 15-0, but was second in the tiebreaker. Cantrell Brooks of New Caney won with a vault of 15-6.

Both Brown and Hindman came into state seeded third.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Sophomore Sofia Brandenburg of the Aledo Ladycats competed in the 800-meter run at state for a second straight season.

"I was pleased with how they handled the conditions (foggy, rainy weather) and both finished with bronze medals," Aledo vaulting coach John Rhodes. "Two great kids who put it together when it counted."

Brandenburg looking to come back

While she didn't match the fifth-place finish of her freshman season, Pinkerton stressed that Brandenburg's season was a great success — and he believes the best is yet to come in her final two seasons with the Ladycats. He also alluded to her cross country success, which includes back-to-back state appearances with the Ladycats.

"Sofia is an incredibly strong runner and has been all year — to include cross country," he said. "Although she didn't have the race she was hoping for at state, she is just completing her sophomore season. She will be back!"

Great at State

Class 5A Track & Field



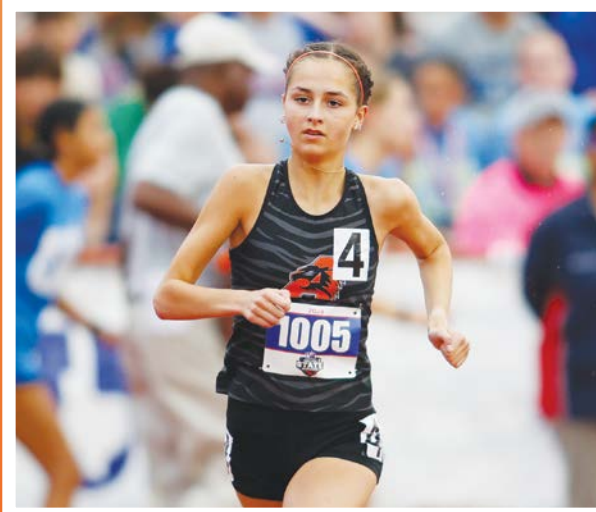
Lauren St. Peters won gold in girls shot put



Taylor Hindman won bronze in girls pole vault



Braylon Brown won bronze in boys pole vault



Sofia Brandenburg competed in the 800-meter

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