## **Disc Golf** Growing in popularity, page 12

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# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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# Little Grad



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Sutton Jennings gets a hug from teacher Lindsay Richardson during the Vandagriff Elementary School Kindergarten Graduation on May 16. Check our upcoming Graduation section for more photos.

# **Buc built a dynasty** instead of buildings

Inducted into the **Texas High School** Football Hall of Fame

#### By Rick Mauch

The Community News

Had Tim Buchanan followed his original dream, some folks might be working and/or living in some buildings he designed.

Instead, he became a football coach and built the most successful football program in the state of Texas.

Buchanan, or Buc as those who know him call him, noted that when he first arrived in college his goal was to be an architect and to play college football. However, upon learning his playing days were over, it was suggested he become a football coach.

Buc responded that coaches don't make much money, to which he was told, "the good coaches



STEVE SLATE

Former Aledo Bearcats football coach Tim Buchanan addresses the crowd during his induction into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame on Saturday, May 18 in Waco.

make a heck of a lot more than a bad architect."

That comment drew a laugh from the crowd at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame as Buc was onstage delivering his acceptance speech as one of te 2024 inductees into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

Turn to DYNASTY, page 2

# WILLOW PARK **Residents address council with construction complaints**

Long-time Council Member Bruce Pinckard resigns

### **Kings Gate** Park programming discussed

By Rick Mauch The Community News

ANNETTA

The Community News

for 19 years.

By Jim Zimmermann

A group of residents from the Crown Road area addressed the Willow Park City Council with complaints related to the construction around them at its Tuesday,

of weeds in the bar ditches next to their yards to smaller driveways to speeders.

As evidence the council was listening, at the end of the evening's meeting Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young asked that the subject be put on an upcoming agenda in the near future. She suggested further discussions with departments such as engineering, police, and

beginning of the meeting.

"I used to enjoy mowing my vard. Now it makes me mad," said John Lightman.

"I'm 84 years old and I'm not gonna weed eat my bar ditch," said Ned Hannah.

Teresa Palmer, who organized the group who addressed the council, complained of now hav-

public comments section at the The Community News after the meeting, "We've absolutely communicated and improved that area."

> Grimes noted the difference in driveways might be connected to the new bar ditches. He explained that before, when a driveway had solid ground next to it, vehicles could easily pull in because there was no ditch for their wheels to

# ALEDO ISD New AHS/ Daniel principal named

**Michael Martinak** has spent career at

May 14, meeting,

The project is part of the city's street and drainage improvement plan. However, several of the residents are unhappy with the changes and voiced their concerns on topics ranging from the growth

bit somber with the resignation of

long-time member Bruce Pinckard.

He had severed the City of Annetta

served as a member of the city

council. From 2010-2021 he was

mayor, and then he returned to the

admiration shared by council mem-

bers and individuals in attendance.

There was nothing but positive

"Over his 19 years of public service, he helped guide the Town of

city council from 2021-2024.

From 2005-2010 Pinckard

communications.

"It's probably going to take four or five staff members to cover these," she said.

Prior to that, however, 16 residents in the area took the opportunity to speak during the ing a slimmer driveway.

"Our ambulances and police can't get into our driveway," she said.

City Manager Bryan Grimes, while not able to address the citizens during the comments section per council rules, told

fall into as opposed to now.

"We built them back to 12 foot driveways or better, depends on what they had before," he said, adding that even if a driveway wasn't 12 feet before the work, it

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 2

## Hurst-Euless-**Bedford ISD**

### By Mercedes Mayer

Aledo ISD has named Michael Martinak as principal at Aledo

High School-Daniel Ninth Grade Campus beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.





Michael Martinak - the last 22

years - in the

Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, most recently as the principal of Euless Trinity High School.

Martinak spent eight years as the principal of Bedford Junior High. He also served as an assistant principal at Harwood Junior High,

Turn to AHS, page 3



Annetta with hard work and putting the town first with no hidden agendas," said current Mayor Sandy The Annetta City Council meet-Roberts. ing on Thursday, May 16 was a

Council member Kent Stacey said about Pickard's dedication. "His legacy will be that he had a vision of what the Town of Annetta could grow into, and he kept on that path, always putting the town as the number 1 priority."

The city council, along with the master gardeners, planted a live oak tree in front of city hall in honor of Pinckard's service and dedication.

The town is accepting applications for anyone who is interested in

*Turn to* **ANNETTA,** *page 2* 



Bruce Pinckard is shown during a 2023 Annetta council meeting.



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### **ANNETTA** from page one

the Place 3 position that is now absent.

#### Other action

The meeting included the administering of the oaths of office to council members Shane Mudge for Place 1, Danny Coffman in Place 2, and Place 4 member Jim Causey for another term on the council.

Also, addendums to the interlocal agreement with Parker County and authorizing expenditures for chip sealing on Lakeview Drive, Rim Rock Road, Crosswind Court, Windrush Court Rock Court, and Hollow Drive were approved.

The next meeting will be June 21 at 7 p.m.

#### DYNASTY from page one

Also inducted on Saturday, May 18. were:

- Former Odessa Permian football coach John Wilkins, who led the Panthers to state titles in 1980 and 1984 (co-champs with Beaumont French) and two runner-up finishes.
- 1969 & Before Riley Odoms, Corpus Christi West Oso High School, who later played tight end for the Denver Broncos.
- 1980s Brent Duhon, Port Arthur Jefferson High School, who went on to play receiver for the University of Texas.
- 1990s Cory Redding, Houston North Shore High School. He later played for SMU, followed by a 13-season NFL career.
- 2000s The late Cedric Benson, Midland Lee High School, represented by his brother, DeOndrick Long. Benson led Midland Lee to three straight state championships from 1998-2000, followed by a standout career as a running back for the University of Texas and eight seasons in the NFL.
- Dave Campbell Contributor to the Game - Robert Lee Brown, Prairie View Interscholastic League Hall of Honor Chairman. A driving force in preserving the legacy of the PVIL, which paved the way for the current generation of African American players and coaches.

Also handed out Saturday night were the Tom Landy Award, which went to Highland Park head coach

#### Approves grant funding for radios By Melissa Winn

WEATHERFORD ISD

The Community News

The Weatherford Independent School District received more clarity on the budget, and while the news could be better it certainly is less bleak than what some other districts are facing.

At its regular monthly meeting May 13, trustees learned that due to the district's lower average daily attendance rate and a slight drop in enrollment of about 50 students, the 2024-25 projected budget will need to use approximately \$5.2 million in fund balance to keep up with expenditures.

Boswell, Lori Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, explained that estimated revenue is projected to be approximately \$94 million - an increase of about \$1.1 million from 2023-24 – and that expenses should be about \$96.9 million.

"It's a little early for concrete numbers on the expense side but this is a pretty good estimate," she said, adding that there really aren't many changes expected between now and when the budget is voted on in August. "Payroll, as it always is, is the biggest expenditure but we've been strategizing as a team to not cut positions, but absorb them when we could."

Where possible, department budgets were reduced by about 10 percent, Boswell said, but it wasn't an across-the-board cut. Technology, as an example, was not cut because too many items run on cycles that affect the district as a whole.



**Board hears more info on budget** 

MELISSA WINN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

WISD board member Jeff Ford (left), Karen Allison, Charles Blackwell, Danny Golightly and WISD Superintendent Dr. Beau Rees at a reception on May 13 honoring Allison, Blackwell, Golightly and others (not pictured) who have retired from WISD this year.

The next steps in the budget process are for Boswell and her team to finalize proposed revenues and expenditures and have another board work session in June before adoption in August.

#### **Radio purchase**

Also at the meeting, the board approved the purchase of 150 handheld and 60 bus two-way radios, along with the infrastructure to support it, from American Communications at a cost of \$271,113.

The money for the purchase will come from the SAFE Grant Cycle 2 that was awarded by the 88th Texas Legislative Session to help schools meet adopted safety standards. WISD's grant allocation was around \$279,000, of which \$7,866 will be sent to repair and

upgrade exterior doors and the remainder of the funds will be used for the radios.

WISD is working with the City of Weatherford and the Weatherford Police Department to combine radio systems with the district to quickly get information to decision-makers in a crisis situation. James Saint, Director of Safety and Security, said the cost for that is about \$6,000 and that any excess money needed beyond the grant will be paid for by the Safety and Security budget.

"This stops the use of several methods of communication in an emergency and allows everyone [police, fire and school administrators] to talk in real-time," WISD Board President Mike Guest said. "Twenty or 30 seconds makes all the difference in the world."

For the buses, because of the expanded coverage area available, drivers will have radios that work while away at sporting events or field trips.

#### Additionally, the board:

- Approved using the competitive sealed proposal method for the proposed fencing project at Weatherford High School. The project will be paid for out of the SAFE Grant Cycle 1 funds and should cost about \$200,000.
- Held a brief reception to honor three of its 14 retirees this year. Karen Allison, Charles Blackwell and Danny Golightly have a combined 82 years in public education.
- The WISD Board will meet next on June 10.

Young also noted another benefit from Tuesday's approval.

"This allows us to apply for grants if it's in the master plan," she said.

#### **Election certification**

The council certified the recent re-election of incumbents Greg Runnebaum (Place 3), Young (Place 4) and Nathan Crummel (Place 5). All ran uncontested races.

### COUNCIL from page one

was actually now widened to that as a minimum standard.

"The question is how do you keep the integrity of the drainage and still allow accessibility?"

Grimes also said concerning the weeds that the city has added those areas to their mowing contract. However, he could not tell those who addressed the council because each speaker is allowed three minutes and he, the council and mayor are not allowed to interact with them. Grimes stressed that while the city paid for the construction and drainage work, some of the complaints, such as damage to mailboxes, etc. falls onto the contractors as "punch list" items. He said that the parts of the project that failed to meet the city's standards are being reworked at the cost of the contractor.

Not all who addressed the council did so angrily. Several were, in fact, downright friendly and even complimentary.

"The road on Sam Bass is awesome. My driveway is awesome. The ditch is unacceptable," said Clifford Voorhees.

"I apologize I didn't bring any plants for you guys," said Ray Ramos, referencing an earlier speaker who brought some weeds Funderburk told the council. she bagged up and plunked in the middle of the council chamber.

City of Willow Park in December 2023. This 30-acre park is largest in the city and hosts a playground, concrete walking trail, and parking lot.

Cost for the programming is \$32,400. These funds are currently available within the parks budget for professional services.

"We need a plan in place," Assistant City Manager Bill

There has been much discussion

As for the alleged speeding in the area, Ruth Taylor, one of the residents, told the council, "If I'd had a choice I would have chosen not to turn it into the Indy 500."

Concerning the speeding complaints, Willow Park Communications Director Rose Hoffman said it is likely a case of that area being a thoroughfare in and out of the city that is now a much smoother road on which to travel. Simply put, less potholes mean cars can go faster.

"It will certainly be a more desirable road for motorists," she said. "If I had a choice between driving down pot hole alley and a nicely done concrete road, I'm gonna take the concrete every time."

He did, however, state that he now has a "significantly narrower driveway."

Brad McCurley even extended a special invitation to the city leaders.

'We're thankful for how you serve. If you ever need a pool to come swim at, come on over," he said, adding. "We're just asking the city if they'll put back what we had previously."

Concerning the lack of communication, James Smith offered a contradiction to some of the other complaints, saying, "Gretchen (Vasquez, city engineer) has been awesome. I call Gretchen, she returns my calls."

Some others made note that Vasquez has visited the area and spoken with them.

#### Kings Gate Park programming

At the meeting the council approved hiring Dorothy Witneyer of Westwood Professional Services to program improvements to Kings Gate Park.

Kings Gate Park was conveyed from the Wilks Development to the Funderburk said.

about desired improvements to the popular park, including restrooms, additional parking, more playground equipment, and sporting areas. Also the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club is beginning construction of the first vision of the Willow Park Trail System this month with The Trinity Track, which will also include a beginner skills area in the future.

Before improvements are chosen, city officials decided it best to formally program the park, rather than choose random projects and placement. The goal of programming is to bring more people to the park and can include:

- Diversifying user profiles.
- Enhancing park experiences.
- Promoting affiliation and engagement.
- Encouraging users to interact.
- Changing the ways a park is perceived.
- Encouraging future visits.

Witmeyer designed and executed the Cross Timbers Park playground and restroom, which opened in April 2021. Since then, it has been populated by the community's families on a daily basis.

"That park is heavily used,"

Young was once again appointed mayor pro team Tuesday. Also, Crummel was re-appointed as alternate mayor pro tem.

#### Mayor pro tem appointed

Young was once again appointed mayor pro team Tuesday. Also, Crummel was re-appointed as alternate mayor pro tem.

#### **Remembering former** mayor

City leaders took a moment to remember and honor former Willow Park Mayor Marvin Glasgow, who passed away on May 6 at age 83. He served the city as chair for the planning and zoning committee before becoming mayor for two terms.

"Marvin was a great supporter of this city," current Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss said.

"He tried to be progressive when it wasn't cool to be progressive," Grimes added.

A memorial service for Glasgow was held May 18 at Cross Timbers Baptist Church in Willow Park, followed by a celebration of life in the fellowship hall.

Randy Allen, especially notable this year because, like the legendary former Dallas Cowboys coach, Allen is known for wearing a fedora. The Gordon Wood Award went to the Oglesby Tigers six-man football team for displaying good sportsmanship, overcoming challenges, and having the support of its community. The award is named after the coach who won nine state championships in his career at Stamford and Brownwood.

#### Thanking many

Buchanan joked that this was the first time since college he was asked to write a speech about something other than football and coaching.

"And I made a D on that speech," he said with a chuckle as the crowd joined in laughing.

He thanked his family, most notably his wife Rebecca, and their children Caleb and Madeline, along with Caleb's newlywed bride Allison.

Upon meeting Rebecca when he worked in College Station for A&M Consolidated, he said, "She dropped me like a hot potato. I finally got her to go out with me and

Turn to BUC, page 3



## **Parker County Cowboy Church**



Parker County Cowboy Church members and guests enjoy 40 feet of food at the annual Men's and Women's Ironman Breakfast.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS First, prayer. Joe Ferraris pauses for thanks before breakfast.



a social studies teacher and coach

at L.D. Bell High School, and a social studies teacher and coach at Hurst Junior High. Martinak also has been an assistant director of summer school and director of summer school in the HEB ISD. "Mr. Martinak has experience leading two large campuses with successful systems and teamwork driving his approach, and we know this will serve the students and staff of Aledo High School/Daniel Ninth Grade well," Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "We are excited that he has chosen to become a Bearcat, and we want to welcome him to our Bearcat Leadership Team."

ty letterman in football. He has a master of education in leadership and policy studies from the University of Texas at Arlington. Martinak was named the 2023 Texas Association of Secondary School Principals Region 11 Principal of the Year and the 2020 Secondary Principal of the Year for HEB ISD.

where he was a four-year varsi-

# BUC from page 2

we have two great kids and been married 35 years."

Among others Buchanan thanked were former Dallas Morning News and Fort Worth Star-Telegram sports columnist Randy Galloway, who moved to Aledo several years ago and became friends with Buc. Galloway went into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the media a couple years ago.

"It's always good to have a media guy in your corner," Buchanan said, calling Galloway his "media advisor."

He also humbly credited much of his success to high school football players, parents, administration and, of course, great assistant coaches.

"Very little of this has to do with one person. It's a 'we' profession," Buchanan said, adding that being inducted into the hall is the "ultimate honor a football player and a football coach in the state of Texas can be a part of."

In the press conference prior to the ceremony, Buchanan said, "I sit back and say I can't believe I was a part of that."

#### **Building a dynasty**

While we will never know what kind of architect Buchan would have been, the football dynasty he built at Aledo is renowned. He arrived there in 1993 and five years later the Bearcats won the first of what is now a dozen state championships in 1998.

That was followed by state titles from 2009-11 with one of the greatest high school running backs in U.S. history, Jonathan Gray, himself a THSHOF inductee in 2018. In 2013, Buchanan coached the only team at any level to score more than 1,000 points in a season with an offense led by current Aledo head coach Robby Jones as its coordinator.

Jones, in his debut season of 2023, coached the Bearcats to a 16-0 season and another championship. He was on hand Saturday to receive a watch commemorating that accomplishment.

After leaving the sidelines for five seasons to focus on strictly being athletic director, Buchan returned to coach the Bearcats to three more state championships in 2019, 2020 and 2022 before retiring.



STEVE SLATE

Former Aledo Bearcats football coach Tim Buchanan (right), who was inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame on Saturday, May 18, with former Bearcat Jonathan Gray, who was inducted in 2018.



STEVE SLATE

The 2024 induction class into the Texas High School Football of Fame includes (from left) former Houston North Shore, University of Texas and NFL standout Cory Redding; the late former Midland Lee, UT and NFL star Cedric Benson (represented by his brother, DeOndrick Long); former Aledo Bearcats football coach Tim Buchanan; former Odessa Permian football coach John Wilkins; and Robert Lee Brown, Prairie View Interscholastic League Hall of Honor Chairman.

#### Group effort

Buchanan said the Aledo community is made up of overachievers, even Gray, who rushed for 10,889 yards and 205 touchdowns as a Bearcat.

"Jonathan was one of the most talented football players I've ever seen, but he wanted to be better," Buchanan said. "From one act play to band, in everything, they all want to be better."

And, as records show, more often than not they are.

Buchanan said in Aledo success is built on success.

"We put it on the senior class every year," he said. "They have to work harder than the year before. Everybody is gonna remember them from what they did their senior year."

#### The early years

Before coming to Aledo in 1993,

stay two years. No one had done that in quite a while.

"My goal was to make it a better school district, better in all sports."

#### Lots of memories

Of course, Buchanan was asked which of his state championship teams was his favorite.

"They're all unique in their own way," he said, noting that the 2013 squad has a special place in his heart because Caleb was a senior that season..

"But each team had something special," he said.

He did admit that, if pressed, the 1998 squad - the one that broke the proverbial championship ice as the first football state champion ever in Aledo and only the second state champion in school history (boys golf won in 1978) - might be his favorite. The team was not expected to even get out of district, having lost three coaches around 20 players, he noted.

Martinak has a bachelor of science from McMurry University,

"I am filled with gratitude and excitement to start my new role as principal of Aledo High School," Martinak said. "Having devoted more than 20 years to serving students in public education. I feel incredibly fortunate to now serve in Aledo ISD. I look forward to meeting the faculty, students and community, and am eager to build relationships and immerse myself in the traditions and culture of the Aledo Bearcat community."

And during his time as only being athletic director, the Bearcats won state titles in 2014, 2016 and 2018 under Steve Wood, who was 75-4 in that time.

Buchanan posted an overall record of 281-58-3. His teams excelled most in the postseason, where they were 81-14 and he is one of only three Texas high school football coaches to win state championships in four decades.

To this day, Aledo has won at least one playoff game every year since 1996.

Buchanan enjoyed great success as an assistant coach at several stops, including being part of a state championship at A&M Consolidated.

When he arrived in Aledo, Buchanan had never been a head coach before. He was the sixth coach in five years at the school.

His first season was the only losing season of his career as the Bearcats finished 2-8. From there, however, the seeds of a powerhouse began.

"Odds are I wasn't staying that long," he said. "I said I was gonna

It was also memorable for another reason, Buchanan said.

"It got my hair cut," he said with a smile, reminiscing about making a promise that if they won state they could cut his hair on the floor of the Astrodome.

"And they did!" he exclaimed.

These days Buc has a full head of hair, much like the Aledo trophy case is full of trophies.

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#### Copyright 2024, The Community News - Volume 33, Number 21 – Published Weekly

The Community News (USPS 005-341) is published each week by TCN Ventures Inc., at 1015 Champions Dr., Aledo, TX 76008. Periodical rate postage paid at Aledo, Texas 76008.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to : The Community News, P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, Texas 76008

# Commentary

May 24, 2024 THE COMMUNITY NEWS www.community-news.com

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P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008

**Physical:** 

1015 Champions Drive, Aledo, TX

#### Phone:

817-441-7661

#### Web:

www.community-news.com

#### **PUBLISHER/EDITOR**

Randy Keck

rkeck@community-news.com Direct Line: 817-386-1469

#### **DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS** DEVELOPMENT

Loydale Schmid lschmid@community-news.com Direct Line: 817-386-1467

#### CIRCULATION

**Reagan Tomlin** business@community-news.com

#### PAGE AND AD DESIGN

Laura Finer production@community-news.com

#### **AISD INTERN**

**Tate Shepherd** 

**EDITORIAL STAFF AND** CONTRIBUTORS





**Gary Borders** gborders@texaspress.com

Texas House Democrats are urging Gov. Greg Abbott to call a special session to increase public school funding, while Abbott is criticizing them for opposing legislation last year that tied increased funding to his pet project – school vouchers. The Austin American-Statesman reported the Democrats sent a letter, written by Rep. Jon Rosenthal, D-Houston, calling for a 30-day special session focused on both increasing per-student funding and invest-

ing more in school safety. "Our public schools are the bedrock of our communities, and it's imperative we provide them with the resources they need to thrive," Rosenthal said.

A number of Texas school districts are facing funding shortages for the 2024-25 school year budgets after no additional school funding was approved during the last legislative session, when lawmakers blocked passage of a voucher bill tied to increased funding.

A Statesman analysis in January indicated that when adjusted for inflation, per-student funding from state and local sources is down by 12.9% since 2020.

#### **Rains sweep Texas** as hurricane season approaches

While Texans in the Houston ea and throughout East Texas continue to battle the effects of torrential rains - including storms last week that killed at

## **Capital Highlights**

# **House Democrats call for** education special session

least seven in the Houston area and left hundreds of thousands without power - the official start of hurricane season is just around the corner, on June 1.

As Dan Reilly, a Texas-based meteorologist, told the Texas Department of Insurance, "In most of the recent years, we've had many storms before June. So, in reality, I would say hurricane season probably starts in May."

Families are urged to protect their family and property by preparing now. Here are a few tips from TDI:

Make or update your home inventory: Take pictures or videos of each room in your home. For major items, write down the serial number, what you paid, and date you bought it. Don't forget to get a video of items inside closets and drawers. Having a home inventory is one of the best things you can do to make sure you get the value of your claim.

Have an emergency kit packed and ready to go: Set aside 3 gallons of water per person, enough to last three days. Also pack non-perishable food, a can opener and utensils, a battery-powered radio, a flashlight and extra batteries. See a full kit list at ready.gov. Put some water and food supplies in your car too, just in case.

Check your roof. Damaged shingles or leaks around chimneys or skylights will get worse in a storm. Have a professional secure loose shingles and check the metal flashing around openings or on roof valleys for leaks.

Get your yard ready. Remove dead tree limbs and branches that hang over your house. Check for loose items that can become wind borne such as yard furniture or trampolines. Tie them down.

#### **DEI dismantling cuts** hundreds of jobs

Leaders of the state's public universities told state senators last week that dismantling diversity, equity and inclusion programs at Texas universities led to the firing of several hundred staff members and resulted in millions of dollars in program cuts, The Dallas Morning News reported.

A ban on DEI programs was passed in 2023 by the Legislature, meaning programs that provide resources for specific races, ethnicities or gender identities are no longer allowed. Examining the extent of that compliance was the aim of last week's hearing.

The hearing also focused on pro-Palestine protests that have resulted in more than 140 arrests on state campuses.

#### **State leaders examine** the exploding hemp market

An explosion of legal hemp dispensaries across Texas is prompting increased scrutiny from Texas lawmakers, The Texas Tribune reported. Since hemp products were legalized in 2019, there has been a rapid proliferation of shops selling baked goods, gummies and smokable buds laced with cannabis derivatives that purportedly are under the legal limit for containing THC, the psychoactive ingredient.

The number of hemp retailer registrations has jumped from 1,948 in 2020 - the first year the Texas Department of State Health Services began registration - to 8,343 last year, with 7,700 active registrations received in the first four months of 2024.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last month ordered the Senate to

Turn to SESSION, page 6

look into possibly banning hemp

## Thistles&Roses





**Richard Henderson** richard@rahenderson.com

Most people know that metaphor means the government has you under surveillance, mostly without your knowing.

Many may not know where the term originated. It came from the 1949 George Orwell novel "1984."

When Orwell wrote it, the year 1984 was very much in the future. In the novel, posters were displayed in Oceania, the fictional country, that said "Big Brother is Watching You." People did not have freedom and the government was constantly spying on its people.

I read it in the 60s and it had a chilling effect on me.

Forty years after it was written, Orwell's premonition is becoming reality in ways that many people may not know.

Face recognition technology and license plate readers are some of the latest technology used by the government to "watch" you.

Last year, for the first time when I traveled on an international flight, there were notices posted in the hallways of immigration control that a modern technology was going to revolutionize and streamline the passport process.

Before I departed for London, my photo was taken. When I returned a couple of weeks later, I lined up with my passport, ready to show it as I have done many times before. The officer told me to stand on a spot and look at the camera. Then he asked "Richard?" I said that I was. Then he said, Welcome Back!" I never had to show the passport. I have made a few trips since then, and never had to show my passport. Very quick and very easy. But I am not sure how I feel about that. In preparing some of my criminal cases, I have learned some things that exist that I did not know. On the interstate highways, there are license plate readers installed on the highways, I think, every two and a half miles, recording every plate. Law enforcement can look out for vehicles subject to an investigation. But, they are also recording all of our movements. I think they can probably calculate your rate of speed by timing when you pass these readers. Many law enforcement vehicles have license plate readers in their patrol cars. It gives them a lot of information about you, including if your insurance is up to date. They know if you have insurance without having to ask for proof, although the law still requires that you carry proof of insurance. When a person is missing or a crime has been committed, pings from cellphone towers can pinpoint locations. Some criminals turn off their cellphones during a crime, but when they are turned back on, the pings still help investigations that often fit a timeline of a crime and its location. There is so much data on cellphones, they are a goldmine for law enforcement when a crime is investigated. Records of texts,

Chris Amos - Features/Photography Kathy Chruscielski - Photography John English - Features **Richard Henderson** - Commentary **Rick Mauch - News and Sports Breleigh Mayer** - Photography Kristin Morales - Photography Ryan Wade - News and Sports Melissa Winn - News and Sports

#### **CONTACT POINTS**

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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. 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.

## Idle American

Where Do We Go From Here?



Dr. Don Newbury newbury@speakerdoc.com

The old hymn declares that we are marching to higher ground. Our prevailing culture, however, suggests otherwise.

Consider a joke making the rounds at the turn of the century when the internet was beginning to take hold. A couple of 10-year-olds were chatting aimlessly during summer doldrums. Something about Washington, DC came up. "What does the 'DC' stand for?" one asked.

"I'm not sure," the other responded. "Maybe Dot Com?"

We chuckled, half-thinking that even 10-year-olds might "get it right" about the District of Columbia.

Now, let's fast-forward to the here and now. A new set of kids ponders the same question.

"I think I know," one responded, "Maybe Den of Confusion." The other chimed in, "It might be District of Conflict, District of Chaos, or even Dire Consequences." Perhaps we all need to search again for DC's original intent.

upside down. We are confounded by multiple challenges leading to much head-scratching.

Sometimes I find news accounts confounding and often trivial. For example, I read the other day that hundreds of species of fish are getting smaller. This is purportedly true; you can look it up.

Scientists claim that warming temperatures and loss of oxygen in the sea are inducing shrinkage of such fish as tunas, groupers and salmon, notably since 1960. It started near the Arctic Circle. Now, nearly three-fourths of marine fish populations sampled worldwide have seen substantial decrease in body weight, as much as 16% in 64 years.

Should such diminishment continue, some changes seem to be inevitable. Future fishing hooks and grills may be smaller. Game wardens may have to change the length of fish deemed legal to take home.

Tellers of fish tales - and there are many - may have to shorten the distance of outstretched hands used to describe the length of trophy catches. One day they may even brag about catching one "this short," with hands barely separated!

For folks usually seeing fish only in grocery store meat

For the masses, things seem sections, this "news" may seem trivial. For true fishermen, however, most "fishy" topics can find their way into stories worthy of hearing.

> One such sportsman was the late David Gilley. His was a well-ordered life. He and Marijane, his wife of some 54 years, raised two sons, Lance and Blake, who became the center of

1 I 🗆

their parents' universe. David, a Cleburne High School graduate who aimed for the stars early on, not only excelled in football, but also was winner of the Kiwanis

Club's Sportsmanship Award in 1966.

Each season of life brought new blessings for the Gilleys, who jointly majored in doing "all things family." He coached his sons in both YMCA football and Little League baseball, and was a board member for years of Western Little League. Later, he and Marijane supported both sons in junior high school and at San Angelo Central High School, both on and off the playing fields.

And did they ever value summers, immersed in water sports. He taught his sons (and numerous others) how to water ski and was a proud member of the Concho Bass Club. In 1998, David caught a Lake Nasworthy

Turn to IDLE page 6

Turn to **BROTHER,** page 6

# Community Life

# Aledo High School Arts Department Night at the Pops



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo High School Arts Department Night at the Pops. The event included show tunes performed with choir, dance, and the symphonic band conducted by Joey Paul, on May 10.









#### RODEOS & PBR BULL RIDING ACTION

PBR Teams Combine Finals on Thursday at 7:30PM. Championship Rodeos on Friday at 7:30PM, Saturday at 1:30PM and 7:30PM and Sunday at 1:30PM.







#### JOHN WAYNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION & MOVIE PREMIERE

Join the Wayne Family for a weekend of fun, games, photos, movies, Duke Spirits and Gold Handle Coffee tastings, and the unveiling of the exhibit's new expansion. Plus, don't miss the JOHN WAYNE Texas film premier of "Legrand" AMERICAN featuring Ethan Wayne.





### LIVE AT TANNAHILL'S MUSIC HALL

Disco Cowgirl featuring music by Danni and Kris on Friday and Turnpike Tributedours on Saturday. Shows start at 9PM.

TANNAHILL'S

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#### SHOTGUN START 8:00 AM, SQUAW CREEK GOLF CLUB



Gathering Hope is a movement to empower women to grieve and celebrate the lives they lost, together with other mothers.

1 in 10

25,000

44

women will lose a baby in their lifetime

stillbirths the U.S.

miscarriages occur annually in occur every minute across the globe

"...there are definite unique features of grief and mourning after a miscarriage. Lack of community support is one of them."

- Dr. Elisabeth Herz, MD

"Getting to share my story with other women who had also experienced loss was exactly what I needed to help propel me through my healing." -Stefani H.

**PROVIDING RESOURCES & COMMUNITY FOR BABY LOSS SURVIVORS** 

#### By Christopher Amos The Community News

Perfect restorations, custom modifications, and flat-out jalopies rolled into the Parker County Cowboy Church parking lot Saturday, May 4, as the church and arena on FM 5 in Aledo hosted their third annual car show. The event drew car enthusiasts from the Metroplex, like Rick Spence of Arlington.

"I used to show cars a lot but nowadays I just enjoy seeing them," Spence said while taking photos. Spence was among a half-dozen members of the Fort Worth Shifters Car Club that attended the event. Some auto admirers like the looks of a perfectly restored antique family car of the 1950s or a Model T of the 1920s, while others prefer souped-up modified muscle cars of the '80s. Some folks, like Ronnie Vaughn, march to the beat of a different brake drum.

Vaughn's 1949 Ford F1 is an ever-evolving work in progress he is often adding to and changing. The front axle has been extended two feet beyond the front grill to make room for massive side tail pipes where the fenders once were and the interior is unfinished rough wood with a flat tractor seat mounted on an upside-down oil pan. The F1 drives, but Vaughn prefers hauling it on an equally odd 1964 Ford F500 tow truck with fenders so rusted you can put your hand into them in places.

"You see those welds right there," Vaughn says pointing at long scars on both fenders. "I put a different engine in it the other day and it was so big it wouldn't fit, so I cut the fenders off and welded them back."

The tow truck is equipped with an antique super-8 movie camera mounted to the metal dash he calls his "dash cam."

> PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/ THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Lee Randal entered his meticulously restored 1959 Chevrolet Apache truck in the third annual Parker County Cowboy Church Car Show.



The eagle on a water spigot hood ornament was an embellishment to Ronnie Vaughn's 1949 Ford F1 jalopy.



A 1964 Ford F500 tow truck turns heads without a fancy paint job.



Ronnie Vaughn's pride and joy is a 1949 Ford F1 jalopy featuring a rusted body, flag pole eagle on a water spigot hood ornament, and a two foot extension of the front axle.

#### SESSION from page 4

products that contain THC and toughen regulations for retailers.

#### New 'Click It or Ticket' campaign launched in Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation has launched a new "Click It or Ticket" campaign in hopes of improving traffic safety, the *Statesman* reported. Motorists are encouraged to wear their seatbelts or face fines up to \$200.

The campaign runs through June 2. Buckling up can reduce the risk of dying in a vehicle crash by up to 60%, according to TxDOT.

Nearly 1,200 people died in crashes on Texas roads last year because they were not wearing their seatbelts, TxDOT said.

#### Water treaty dispute could mean aid withheld from Mexico

A bipartisan group of Texas lawmakers is demanding aid funding to Mexico be withheld unless that country lives up to an 80-year-old treaty requiring it send 1.75 million acre-feet of water to the U.S. every five years, *The Tribune* reported.

Inconsistent water delivery from Mexico has exacerbated water shortages that affect South Texas farmers.

"Farmers and ranchers across South Texas remain under continued financial strain and could suffer a similar fate as the sugar industry, should Mexico continue withholding water," the lawmakers wrote in a Friday letter to House and Senate appropriators.

Mexico blames drought conditions on its side of the border for not being able to deliver water as required by the treaty. It also claims the use of floating buoys in the river by the Abbott administration to deter migrants violates the treaty. *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.* 

### BROHER from page 4

social media postings, and photos contain a lot of private information that some people thought could not be obtained. There are some privacy rights for cellphones, but warrants are easily obtained. Even the most encrypted information can be found with the right technician.

CCCTV and surveillance cameras are ubiquitous. Many crimes are recorded on doorbell cameras.

The city of Fort Worth has installed video cameras on many of their city streets. Police can track the movements of suspects quite easily.

There seems no end to what information can be obtained on computers.

Really, we don't have much privacy today. I don't think that there is much we can do about it.

Big Brother and his siblings are constantly watching us.

## **IDLE**

from page 4

bass that weighed in at 12.43 pounds, a record catch.

All this to say that this Christian gentleman, with a 41-year Santa Fe Railroad career, learned early on what was important, always treading the trail of giving back. That's what he did for his wife and family, including five grandchildren and legions of others he guided and befriended.

A true sportsman, he shared the story of his prized fish catch many times, gesturing it to be "this long!" Now, here's ironclad proof of his love for both family and fishing. He bragged that his record fish was bigger than his first grandbaby who was born three months later!

Kiwanians recognized this true sportsman nearly 60 years ago. Thousands of others he taught along the way fully agree. Dr. Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who is Texas' longest-running syndicated columnist, now in his 23rd year.



Pediatric & Adolescent Dentistry Robert Casey Stroud, D.D.S., P.C.

Lasey Stroud, D.D.S., P.C.



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# Events

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



#### MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

more! The night will end

with a fantastic fireworks

show that you won't want

**EPCL Summer Reading** 

invited to begin signing up

for our summer program

tion is open throughout

the summer).

mation

**JUNE 11** 

on May 14, 2024 (registra-

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.epcli-

brary.com for more infor-

**Dementia Support Group** 

Support Group from 4-5

p.m. on Tuesday, June 11

We are honored and privi-

affected by dementia. Even

Join the Dementia

at Harvest of Aledo

1043 Bailey Ranch Rd.

leged to care for those

Patrons of all ages are

to miss!

<u>MAY 31</u>



#### MAY 31 - JUNE 2

Shrek The Musical JR Mark your calendars! WC's teen summer musical is back with "Shrek The Musical JR" in the Alkek Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$10. https://www.simpletix. com/e/shrek-jr-tickets-167574



#### JUNE 1

Summer Blast The City of Aledo is gearing up for the annual Summer Blast event! This FREE community event is scheduled from 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 so, we value the effortsof the caregivers, especiallythe families of our residents. This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643



#### <u>JULY 4</u>

Join Weatherford Parks and Recreation for Spark in the Park 2023, 6 - 10:30 pm on Thursday July 4 at Heritage park. Come enjoy music, food, waterslides and fireworks.

The Eli Young Band is headlining at the amphi-theater.

Following artist concerts fireworks will begin after dark, approximately 9:30 PM.

The event is FREE TO ATTEND!

Checkout the webpage for Facebook for event/ parking maps: https:// www.facebook.com/ events/1448007752777165



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!

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

#### <u>JULY 14-18</u>

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 Method 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



<complex-block>



Talha Riaz, MD Medical Oncologist/Hematologist | Aaron Laine, MD, PhD Radiation Oncologist



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Let's Get Real!

# Sports

#### SOFTBALL

# Ladycats sweep regional semifinal series



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS Addie Perry goes first-to-third on a sacrifice bunt by Delaney Rosser in the first inning of the Ladycats' 15-1 rout over Brewer on Friday, April 12.

#### Eye matchup with **Burleson Centennial**

#### By Ryan Wade The Community News

A week after having to play small ball to walk off against Joshua in the Class 5A Region I quarterfinals, the Aledo Ladycats brought the big bats with them to Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls on Friday, May 17

and Saturday, May 18. A home run by Marina Taveras and a pair by Brenlee Gonzales helped Aledo sweep Lubbock Monterey by scores of 7-1 and 5-4, respectively, as they advanced to the Region 1 Final.

The Ladvcats will face Burleson Centennial in a best-of-three series with a trip to State on the line. The series kicked off on Wednesday, May 22, when the Ladycats hosted Centennial for Game 1. Game 2 moved to Burleson Centennial High School on Thursday. If necessary. Game 3 will start at 10 a.m. Friday, May 24 at Cleburne High School.

The Ladycats dominated Game 1 in every way imaginable. Texas Tech-commit, Gonzales was electric in the pitching circle for Aledo. Gonzales pitched a complete game, holding a stacked Lubbock Monterey lineup to just two hits while striking out nine. The lone run of the contest for Monterey came in the top of the seventh inning due to an error, and was therefore recorded as unearned.

Inversely, Aledo had no issues when it came to putting runs on the board. Addie Perry led off the bottom of the first with a double to left, immediately putting the home team in an advantageous position. Delaney Rosser singled to right to drive in Perry from second. Aledo took a 1-0 lead after just two batters stepped in the box.

Following a quick double-play, Taveras blasted the 0-2 offering over the wall in left for a solo homer that put the Ladycats up 2-0.

Not content to just keep runs off the board while toeing the rubber, Gonzales accounted for three

Turn to LADYCATS, page 9

# **GIRLS BASKETBALL Ott named** new Ladycats coach

www.community-news.com

By Mercedes Meyer

Donny Ott has been named the head varsity girls basketball coach

at Aledo High School. Ott has been the head girls basketball coach at Summer Creek High School in the Humble ISD - a 2023-2024



UIL Class 6A state semifinalist - for the past

Donny Ott

year. Prior to that, he was the head girls basketball coach and athletic academic coordinator at Cedar Park High School in the Leander ISD for six years.

The Timberwolves were backto-back Class 5A state champions in 2021 and 2022 with a perfect 37-0 season in 2021-2022 with Ott at the helm. Cedar Park had a 63-game win streak in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, at the time, the nation's second-longest active public school win streak.

'We are so excited for coach Ott to join us as head girls basketball coach at Aledo High School," Aledo ISD Athletic Director Brandy Belk said. "He is all about excellence and growth for student-athletes. His players will feel supported, safe and encouraged but also pushed to do their best on the court and in the classroom."

Ott was an associate head boys basketball coach (2009-2013) and then the head girls basketball coach (2014-2017) at North Crowley High School. He was also the head boys basketball coach, head golf coach and an assistant football coach at Cuero High School (2008-2009), the head boys basketball coach and head cross country and track coach at Walnut Springs

# Bearcats' postseason run concludes against Argyle

#### Aledo struggles offensively in hard fought series

#### By Geoff Heppes The Community News

BASEBALL

SOUTHLAKE - Following victories over South Hills and Colleyville Heritage in the first two rounds of Class 5A postseason play, the Aledo Bearcats baseball team squared off against a strong Argyle Eagles squad in the Region I quarterfinals May 17-18 at Southlake Carroll High School.

The Bearcats (26-13-1) had strong pitching and defense on dis- year and has done that a lot – Colton Roquemore smashed a twoplay throughout the best-of-three some of his losses were 2-1 or 1-0," run homer over the right-center series against the Eagles (20-17), but could not generate a run. After said. "He always does a great job would not relinquish.

crossing home plate 43 times in of keeping us in the game with their previous two series (five a good three-pitch sequence that games) combined, Aledo suffered a pair of shutout losses, 2-0 in eight innings in the opening game, followed by a 5-0 defeat in the decisive second game.

#### Game 1

Junior right hander Devin Miller took the mound for Aledo and threw seven scoreless innings with seven strikeouts, matching zeroes with Argyle senior Alex D'Angelo.

"He's been really consistent all

keeps opponents off-balance. They hit some balls on him but we made some plays behind him. I'm disappointed for him that we couldn't come away with a win after how well he pitched against that lineup."

Aledo got its first batter on with no outs in four of the eight innings, but three of those ensuing at-bats resulted in double plays to keep the Bearcats off the board. In the eighth inning, Miller was relieved from the mound due to his pitch count of 102, and Eagles senior

"We got the leadoff guy on base with no outs, but for whatever reason, we could not manufacture a run," Barry said. "We just couldn't get hits or put bunts down when we needed them. The offense is a lot better than what they showed, but you can't have performances like that at this point of the year."

#### Game 2

Argyle got off to a fast start, scoring four of their five runs in the first two innings. Aledo junior first baseman Drew Weckel, senior infielder Weston Nance and sophomore designated hitter Lucas Nawrocki each scattered a single during the game that accounted Turn to BASEBALL, page 9

May 24, 2024 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bearcats head coach Chad Barry wall to give Argyle a 2-0 lead they

High School (2004-2008), and the head boys basketball coach and

Turn to COACH, page 9



for Aledo's three hits, while the Bearcats put forth a collective effort from the mound.

Aledo was the champion of District 5-5A and reached the regional quarterfinals after falling in the area round a season ago. The Bearcats will graduate 14 seniors from this year's roster.

#### Class 5A Region I quarterfinals At Southlake Carroll High School

Argyle 2, Aledo 0 - May 17 RHE

000 000 00- 050 Aledo Argyle 000 000 02 - 260 Aledo hitting: Boyd Thompson 1-for-3, Ryan Jones 1-for-3, Brennon Evans 1-for-3, Lucas Nawrocki 1-for-3, Luke Trager 1-for-3.

Aledo pitching: D Miller 7 IP, 5 H, 8 K, 1 BB; Ethan Hodo 0.1 IP, 1 H, 2 ER, 1 K, 2 BB; J Bumgardner 0.2 IP, 1 K.

#### Argyle 5, Aledo 0 - May 18

RHE

000 000 0-031 Aledo 130 100 x-570 Argyle Aledo hitting: Drew Weckel 1-for-2, BB; Weston Nance 1-for-3; Nawrocki 1-for-3. Aledo pitching: Jake Bumgardner 1.1 IP, 1 BB, 1 HP; Jenson Huffman 1 IP, 1 K; Luke Sandefur 2 IP, 3 H, 1 ER, 1 K, 1 BB; Luke Saunders 1.2 IP, 3 H, 4 R (3 ER), 1 BB.

#### DISC from page 12

drive truck. There were probably 50 or 60 of us that did show, but the whole course was just a sheet of ice, and it was just a fun day. Those are the memorable days.

#### Good for everybody

Noggle said one of the best things about the sport of disc golf is that almost anyone can do it, and it can be played under almost any circumstances, even during a global pandemic.

"Since COVID, the sport has exploded, because people were looking for something to do, and this is a sport you can play on your own or you can play in a group," Noggle said. "We even had minis during COVID. And there are just so many factors that people enjoy, like the love of the flight of a disc.

"There's also such a range of people that play from all walks of life. I'm 60, and I'm not even the oldest guy that plays. We have some that are in their late 60s, and some as young as 12, and there are so many nice people that you meet while you are competing and the friendships you make. It's just a great sport."

Visit https://weatherfordtx. gov/181/Disc-Golf-Course for more information.

#### COACH from page 8

assistant varsity football and track coach at Grapeland High School (2002 - 2004).

Ott, who has 405 career wins, was named the 2020-2021 Texas High School Girls Coach of the Year, Texas Girls Coaches Association Coach of the Year, and National Sectional Coach of the Year; the 2012-2013 Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Assistant Coach of the Year; and the 2009-2010 North Crowley High School Teacher of the Year.

"I'm truly honored and excited to become the next head girls basketball coach at Aledo High School," Ott said. "I am looking forward to continuing the successes of the Aledo tradition that coach Hyles has worked hard to establish. We are extremely excited about raising our family in the Aledo community and school district and growing as members of the Ladycat family!"

Ott has a bachelors degree from Angelo State University. Ott's wife Carissa will also be joining the Bearcat family as a special educator for Aledo ISD.

#### the early 1-0 lead in the top of the second inning.

Leading 2-1 to start the fourth inning, Monterey quickly earned a pair of outs with a walk to Gonzales being the only thing Aledo had to show for their trip to the plate to that point. However, that just ended up being the start of a two-out rally that secured the game for the Ladycats.

As the lineup turned over, Perry singled on a ground ball that found a way through the infield and into center. Perry rounded first bound for second when she got tangled up in a rundown. She ended up being tagged out attempting to retreat to first to end the inning, but not before both runners ahead of her scored, as Aledo took a 5-1 lead.

ing inside the circle, the Lady Plainsmen scored a run to make it 5-4 in favor of the Ladycats. With two outs in the inning and the bases loaded, Gonzales showed her NCAA Division I talent to get a swinging strike on the payoff pitch in a situation where her team needed her to come up big and close out the game.

**Class 5A Region I quar-**

Aledo vs. Lubbock Monterey -

**At Midwestern State** 

**University, Wichita Falls** 

terfinals

Fri, May 17

# **Trio of former Bearcats receive honors**

#### Making their marks on the diamond Staff Reports The Community News

Former Aledo Bearcat Trace Mazon was selected as the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference Position Player of the Week, Weatherford College announced on Friday, May 3.

The freshman third baseman finished the week with a batting average of .600 with three doubles, a home run and 12 RBI. He also drew a walk and stole two bases while scoring seven runs.

At the time of his honor, Mazon

The Coyotes are seeking a second consecutive trip to the NJCAA Division I World Series.

Hunter Rosson was named Co-Big-10 Player of the Week on April 29. The senior from Aledo played outfield for two games against Wright State and first base in two games against Michigan State. He batted .545 with six hits, scored six runs and drove in a dozen

best day at the plate as a Buckeye, shy of hitting for the cycle.

For the season, Rosson was leading the Buckeyes with a .355 batting average at the time of his honor, along with driving in 18 runs.

Prior to coming to Ohio State, Rosson began his college career at Weatherford College. He batted .305 with 14 home runs and 52 RBI.



PLAYER OF THE WEEK



#### Creed Willems

home runs, 21 RBI, a .642 slugging percentage and 43 total bases.

Willems was drafted by the Orioles in 2021. This is his second stint with Aberdeen as he spent 75 games there last season, hitting nine home runs and driving in 47 runs. He also spent 30 games in his second stint with Low-A Delmarva (Maryland) last season (he was also there for 68 games in 2022), batting .302 with eight home runs and 28 RBI.

Overall, his professional statistics include a .218 batting average, 27 home runs and 120 RBI. He also has 68 walks and 31 doubles.

#### RHE

Monterey 000 000 1 - 124 Ladycats 213 010 x - 793 Aledo hitting: Addie Perry 1-for-4, 2B, SB, R; Delaney Rosser 2-for-2, BB, RBI; Ana Flores 1-for-1, BB, 2 R; Marina Taveras 1-for-2, HR, RBI, R, BB; Kyleigh Pawlak 1-for-3, R, 2B; Brenlee Gonzales 2-for-3, HR, 3 RBI, R; Rylee Marx 1-for-3, R; Jordyn Edington SB.

Aledo pitching: Gonzales 7 IP, 2 H, R (0 earned),

BASEBALL

had played in 49 games and was leading the Coyotes in doubles (21) and RBI (61). He was also batting .353 with a .541 slugging percentage, a .443 on-base percentage and three home runs.

#### **Rosson accolade**

runs.

His hits included three home runs, with a grand slam. He had his going 3-for-4 against Michigan State with six RBI. He was a triple

## Ironbirds, a High-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles, posted a .299 average with league bests of six of the seventh. With Gonzales deal-



RBI and a run of her own as part of a two-run blast over the right-field fence in the bottom of the third as the Ladycats cruised to a Game 1 win.

Game 2 was much more competitive. A three-run top of the fourth for the Ladycats ended up being the difference maker in the 5-4 victory, handing Aledo their ticket to the Region 1 championship series.



hamstring injury and the outbreak

of COVID in his first two collegiate

Creed Willems, a 2021 Aledo

graduate, has been named the Player

of the Month for April in the South

Atlantic League. The catcher, play-

ing for the Aberdeen (Maryland)

Willems Player of the

Hunter Rosson Rosson is a 2018 graduate of Aledo. The former Bearcat battled a

seasons.

Month

#### Game 2

Gonzales stayed red hot at the plate on Saturday, homering in her first plate appearance to give Aledo

With Gonzales all but stranded at second, Ladycat hurler Taylor McKean singled to center, bringing Gonzales around to score, giving Aledo a 3-1 advantage. Jordyn Edington drew a four-pitch walk to put Ladycats at first and second.

Lubbock Monterey rebounded with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to cut the lead to 5-3, as McKean's day in the circle came to an end after another solid performance. She struck out 11 batters, gave up three hits and allowed two runs across 4.2 innings of work.

Monterey refused to go quietly, as the bats came alive in the bottom Aledo vs. Lubbock Monterey – Sat, May 18 RHE

Ladycats 011 300 0 - 564 Monterey 001 020 1-450 Aledo hitting: Perry 1-for-3, BB, 2 RBI, R; Rosser HBP; Flores 1-for-4, RBI; Pawlak 1-for-3; Gonzales 1-for-2, HR, BB, RBI, 2 R; Taylor McKean 1-for-3, RBI; Edington 1-for-1, BB, HBP; 3 SB; R.

Aledo pitching: McKean 4.2 IP. 3 H. 3 R (2 earned). 3 BB, 11 K; Gonzales 2.1 IP, 2 H, R (earned), 0 BB, 3 K.



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#### Legal Notice

The Aledo Independent School District (the District) is requesting proposals for RFP #2404-06 Coder Elementary Serving Line and Kitchen Equipment Replacement. Specifications for this project may be obtained on the District's electronic procurement system at https://aledoisd.ionwave.net/. Proposals will be received until 3 PM CT on June 10, 2024. Proposals will be electronically unsealed and opened shortly after the specified time of closing. Late bids will be rejected as non-responsive. Accommodations and modifications for people with disabilities are available upon request; submit requests to Kim Whitley at kwhitley@aledoisd.org. The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal(s) that provide(s) the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

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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 each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

The Town Secretary is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance in compliance with state law.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by state law and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 16th day of May, 2024.

(s) Sandy Roberts Mayor

Attest: (s) Jamee Long Town Secretary



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- Joseph Campbell

#### **DISC GOLF**

# Weatherford course growing in popularity and length

#### By John English The Community News

It takes a community effort to maintain the Weatherford Disc Golf Course, and it would seem that everyone interested is on board.

Located at 115 E Lake Dr. near Lake Weatherford, the course provides locals with an opportunity to pursue a rapidly growing sport, socialize with friends and fellow citizens and get a much-needed break from the hustle and bustle of their daily lives.

Originally designed as a ninehole park more than 20 years ago, the Weatherford Disc Golf Course has grown into an 18-hole facility that features scheduled "minis" - or tournaments - each week and provides people of all ages and skill levels with affordable entertainment.

#### Maintenance

Barry Noggle, a volunteer who helps run the course and has been playing there for more than two decades, said that he and other volunteers willfully accept their roles as stewards and love to promote the sport to anyone interested.

"There have got to be a hundred disc golf courses in the Metro area," Noggle said. "Basically, whoever lives close to them, you essentially adopt that park. You try to get the city on board, and you have to explain it. Some cities are really good about it, and some are not. Some just don't care about it or they don't want it.

"But you have to have a group of people who are willing to do the up-keep because the city just kind of gives you the okay. People will come in to improve their par, but they don't really want to help you too much...this is just our love of the sport, and being appreciative of having a place to do it."

Noggle, 60, has been coming to the course since 2003 and said a lot of hard work went into making it what it is today.

"I started playing the course over 20 years ago," Noggle said. "There was a small group of us that tried to get that park turned around, because back in the day, there was an old dirt parking lot, and there would be condoms and needles. It was a place for people to hang out late at night and do whatever.

"We started kind of cleaning up the park and kind of adopted it and made it our mission to keep it clean. I think the community overall has been pretty happy with what we've done with it. It's a well-used park now."

#### Local growth

The club now has almost 100 members, and Noggle said once the park moved from nine holes to 18 holes in 2007, it really started to blossom.

"Then we really started running the minis," Noggle said. "We run the minis for a two-fold reason. It gets people out there to play, but also we run it to help pay for things.

"It's like a dollar of your entry goes into the ace pot. Somebody gets a hole in one, they get paid a big ace pot. We're also playing for cash, so say it's a \$10 entry, part of



COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD DISC GOLF CLUB The Weatherford Disc Golf Course can be played at night.

it goes to the payout, part of it goes to an ace pot, but also a dollar or two, for a lot of these courses, goes toward your course fund. We use that money to basically put in all of the concrete for the tee pads."

Noggle said that the pads are what really make the course playable.

"You want a concrete pad to tee off from," Noggle said. "You want to be on a stable, flat surface. so we put in all of the concrete pads and actually upgraded the baskets three or four years ago. So everything down there, basically the club has paid for it. The city comes in and mows and does a beautiful job. It is absolutely gorgeous, but that's basically what they do is mow it. I came down there with a chainsaw and trimmed the trees and cleaned them up."



COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD DISC GOLF CLUB The Weatherford Disc Golf Course in the spring with bluebonnets in bloom is a beautiful sight.

#### **Popularity explosion**

Noggle said during his 20 years of involvement, he has watched the sport grow exponentially.

"It's exploded," Noggle said. "There was a time when you could go to that course at almost any time and pretty much have it to yourself. It gradually got to be more and more, and if you go out there on the weekends now, there's a pretty good crowd. I run the mini on Saturday and we generally get 20 to 30 people at each mini. A mini is like a league night."

And there have been some memorable experiences along the way.

"We used to host a thing that is called the Ice Bowl," Noggle said. "We sponsor something that is like a food drive, charity event. A guy started it up in Michigan I think 30 years ago or more. The idea is that you have a tournament, but you do it in January or February when it's freezing cold, just to get the true experience.

"We had one for eight or 10 years, and we would give the money to Pythian House. We would raise money and food for them for a few years and then a different charity for a few years, but one year, we had a true Ice Bowl. It was a sheet of ice."

The Willow Park man said it was 2016 and an ice storm had hit North Texas.

"Everybody that was there still talks about it," Noggle said. "I couldn't even get there from where I live because it's so hilly. A guy came and picked me up in his four-wheel

Turn to **DISC,** page 9



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