Softball Ladycat duo named to All-State Team, page 10

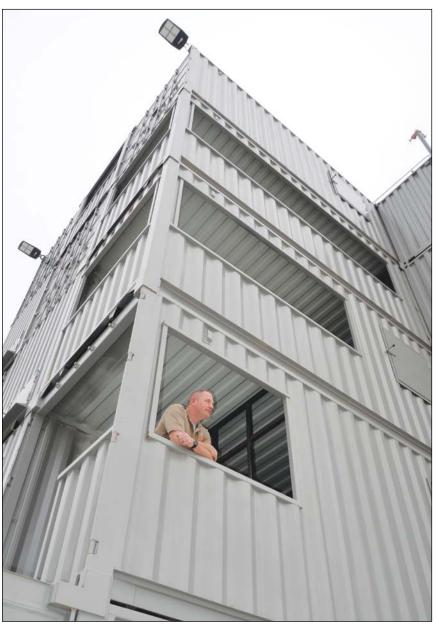
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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

Fire Training



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Parker County Emergency Services District Chief Stephen Watson peers out of the second floor of a five-story training facility three miles north of Interstate 20 on Farmer Road. The fireproof metal facility is designed like a hotel, apartments or dorm and is yet to be finished with metal interior walls, but firefighters are already using structures at the site to train in environments simulating a home, a garage, and a double-wide mobile home. Classrooms, offices and truck maintenance facilities will be built in the near future to serve professional training needs throughout the region.

Council approves adjustments in Crown Road area

By Rick Mauch The Community News

Following complaints from several residents in the Crown Road area at the past couple of meetings, the Willow Park City Council voted at its Tuesday, June 11 meeting to address some of the issues in that part of town.

The original 2022 street improvements project consisted of removing and replacing the existing asphalt pavement with concrete paving on Crown Road and Ranch House Road. The project also included roadside ditch grading, driveway replacement, and new bike lanes.

However, not everything has gone according to Hoyle, some residents have noted. For a third consecutive meeting, numerous folks from that area showed up to address the council, with their main complaint being about driveway widths following the construction.

And while that subject was put on hold, council did move forward with maintaining grass and mowing in the area, along with taking a major step to solve the speeding problems.

Mayor Doyle Moss offered a calming message to those from the area who attended the meeting, "I think the council made a statement tonight. This is not a dead issue."

Mowing

At a meeting on May 14, several residents stated that the roadside ditches are now too steep and cannot be maintained. Due to resident concerns regarding the side slope of the new roadside ditches, city staff requested I&E Services, Inc. to mow the rightsof-way on Crown Road and Ranch House Road.

The city actually began doing this work prior to the May 28 meeting, at which some residents offered their appreciation.

Now, going forward, council has approved the city being responsible for mowing all grass and otherwise reasonably maintaining the aesthetics of all land within the roadside ditch area on these roads. The city will mow the roadside ditch once a month, or as needed during the growing season.

The council also voted to put hydro-mulch in place on Crown Road, a revegetation tool to keep soil in place and help grass grow, along with watering the area.

Speed humps on Crown Road

After numerous complaints about speeding in the area, a speed survey was conducted on Crown Road. City officials determined the installment of speed humps is essential for traffic calming, specifically the 30 block to the 100 block of Crown.

The engineering firm of Jacob Martin completed a rendering to detail how the speed humps should be constructed and placed on the roadway, as well as details of advanced warning markings. They are also working on where the speed humps should be placed along the roadway.

When asked about emergency vehicles on the road after the installation of speed bumps, Nic Kirk of Jacob Martin noted that the speed humps will create about a three-second delay on each hump for an unburdened vehicle and about a 10-second delay for one with a patient inside.

Along with this, the Willow Park Police and Public Works Department deemed it necessary to establish a street hump installation policy.

Police Chief Daniel Franklin researched neighboring communities, including Weatherford, Azle, and Fort Worth, who have already established policies and created a policy for Willow Park that the council approved Tuesday.

"It's our recommendation speed humps be installed at the locations Jacob Martin

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 3

RODEO

Tindall leads WC contingent

WEATHERFORD ISD

Longtime community member to fill unexpired term

By Melissa Winn

The Community News

When Weatherford's Kindra Lucia was sworn in at the June

10 Weatherford Independent School District's monthly meeting, it was a bittersweet moment. Lucia, who

Kindra Lucia

will complete the unexpired term of Toby Taylor through May 2025. Taylor passed



away earlier this year and Lucia knew him well.

"When Toby passed, I was devastated and crushed. He was a good friend," Lucia said. "I am just honored to be able to finish out what he was so passionate about."

Lucia is a familiar face in the Weatherford community. She is a board member and ambassador for the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Weatherford Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and a volunteer for Downtown Weatherford Inc.

"With her extensive involvement in various community initiatives...Kindra brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective that will be invaluable to the board," said Mike Guest, WISD School Board president. "We are thrilled to welcome [her] to the school board."

While Lucia had previously thought about running for a seat *Turn to* **WISD**, *page 3*

at national finals

By Rick Mauch The Community News

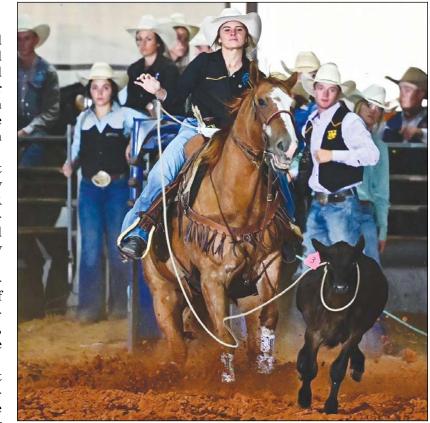
Kaydence Tindall started riding horses before she could even walk. Now, the Weatherford College student-athlete and her favorite horse are competing in Casper, Wyoming at the College National Finals Rodeo through Saturday, June 15.

Tindall is the Southwest Region champion in breakaway roping. She is joined at the CNFR by regional team roping-header champion Jett Stewart and breakaway roping qualifier Harley Meged, all representing WC.

Their qualifications continue a streak dating to 2005 of Weatherford College having competitors at the CNFR, except 2020, when the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is an honor to be a part of such a respected and successful team," said Tindall, a native of Felda, Florida. "I knew my freshman year of high school that I wanted to be a part of it and hopefully add to their success."

Turn to **TINDALL,** page 4



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Breakaway roper Kaydence Tindall is one of three Weatherford College competitors at this week's College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. The Southwest Region champion is joined by regional team roping-header champion Jett Stewart and breakaway roping qualifier Harley Meged.



was approved at a special meeting in May, Kind

Commentary

June 14, 2024 THE COMMUNITY NEWS www.community-news.com

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Capital Highlights 35 Texas counties eligible for individual disaster aid

Gary Borders

gborders@texaspress.com

Residents in a total of 35 Texas counties now qualify for individual disaster assistance following a series of severe storms and flooding that began in late April, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"I thank our federal partners and emergency response personnel across our great state who are working tirelessly to protect and support their fellow Texans," Gov. Greg Abbott said Saturday. "Texas will continue to provide every necessary resource to regions across the state who are recovering from these storms."

Under the individual assistance program, funding can be provided for temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses, disaster legal services, disaster unemployment assistance, and medical, dental, and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, The News reported. The following counties qualify for the federal assistance:

Austin, Bell, Calhoun, Collin, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, Eastland, Ellis, Falls, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Henderson, Hockley, Jasper, Jones, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Montague, Montgomery, Navarro, Newton, Polk, San Jacinto, Smith, Terrell, Trinity, Tyler, Van Zandt, Walker and Waller.

Homeowners and renters can apply for the aid at disasterassistance.gov or by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hotline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

still struggling with algebra, with scores 17 percentage points below students' pre-pandemic scores in spring 2019. The Texas Tribune reported scores have remained essentially unchanged in Algebra 1, with 45% meeting grade levels.

"The data is clear; Texas students continue to struggle with math recovery," said Gabe Grantham, policy advisor at public policy think tank Texas 2036. "We run the risk of leaving students ill-equipped to enter the future workforce without the basic math skills needed to be successful."

On the bright side, the percentage of Texas students who met or mastered grade-level English has increased since 2017 from 45% to 57%, the Texas Education Agency reported.

Across the five subjects that are tested, low-income students graded lower than other students. For example, 35% of low-income students met grade level in Algebra I, compared to 61% of all other students.

PUC sees strong industry response to loan program

Public Utility The Commission has received 125 notices of intent to apply for loans through the Texas Energy Fund Loan Program intended to boost power generation throughout the state. The requests for loans total \$38.9 billion for nearly 56,000 megawatts of proposed power generation projects for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

"To ensure reliable, affordable electricity for the growing number of homes and businesses in Texas, we need more on-demand, dispatchable power generation," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said. "Seeing such a strong initial response from industry ... is an encourag- Commission is reminding Texans ing sign that the Texas Energy incentivize the investment needpower to the state."

new construction or upgrades to existing electric generating facilities and requires a minimum of 100 MW of new generation to the ERCOT grid.

Stock exchange possibly coming to Dallas

Efforts are underway to create a Texas-based stock exchange that backers believe could be a major boost to the Texas economy. The Texas Standard reported that financiers have raised \$120 million in capital to start a stock exchange in Dallas later this year. Backers include BlackRock, Citadel Securities and about two dozen other investors. The Texas Stock Exchange's backers are seeking registration with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to open later this year.

"Texas and the other states in the southeast quadrant have become economic powerhouses. Combined with the demand we are seeing from investors and corporations for expanded alternatives to trade and list equities, this is an opportune time to build a major, national stock exchange in Texas," said James Lee, founder and CEO of TXSE Group.

Stock exchanges allow stocks, bonds and other securities to

be traded. If TXSE is cleared to trade, it would be the first stock exchange to open in the country in recent years.

The Dallas area is second only to New York in number of financial indus-

try jobs, with about 400,000 employed – roughly half of the number working in finance in the Big Apple.

Consumer protection rules in place as summer arrives

The Public Utility state again faces a long, brutal summer.

"Anyone who has experienced a summer in Texas knows that having reliable power to cool your home or business is a matter of health and safety," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said. "Ensuring the power stays on for all consumers during extreme weather, regardless of their financial situation, is a top priority for the PUCT."

Gleeson added the PUC wants Texans to be aware of rules to protect them as temperatures begin to rise. Consumers are encouraged to first contact their electric provider to resolve any issues regarding ability to pay. If they are unable to reach a resolution, they can contact the **Consumer Protection Division of** the PUC at 888-782-8477 or by emailing consumer@puc.texas. gov.

State kills 249 deer after long court battle

After a three-year court battle, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has killed 249 white-tailed deer at a Kaufman County ranch that had been exposed to chronic wasting disease. The owner of the ranch,

> who raised the deer for trophy hunts, went to court in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the state from killing the herd under a policy intended to stop the neurological disease from spreading.

A report by kut.org indicates conservation biologists consider CWD as the biggest threat to the nation's deer herds. The state's first case was discovered in West Texas in 2012. Nearly 800 deer have been found to have the disease, primarily in deer-breeding facilities, according to TPWD.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journal-







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

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Content Submission Policy

We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 or email news@community-news.com. 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.

Math results still lagging, STAAR results indicate

Scores released from the state's standardized test indi-

of consumer protection rules that Fund will be an effective tool and prohibit disconnecting an individual's electric service during ed to bring more on-demand extreme weather. Providers are required to offer deferred The program will provide payment for bills incurred cate high school students are low-interest loans to finance during extreme weather as the press.com.

ist. 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@texas-

Guest Column Aledo meter and billing audit complete



Noah A. Simon citymanager@aledotx.gov

The City of Aledo's upgrade to new automated water meters last fall provides greater accuracy and transparency for our customers, yet we recognize the transition to the new systems was not as smooth as planned. To help us improve, the city council approved an independent audit - performed from late 2023 through March 2024 - to evaluate our water meter, billing, and customer payment processes. Results from the audit and recommendations were presented to city council and the customer-led Utility Billing Advisory Commission in April and May. Aledo water customers were updated in the April bill insert, and the full audit report and council presentation are posted online for review at

www.aledotx.gov under "Utility Billing." The independent evaluation

helped clarify issues within the

City's internal processes and • identify improvements needed. Key findings from the audit include:

- No systemic or chronic billing system issues observed; however, some unique billing issues were identified and corrected;
- Past process mistakes were identified (including during the transition to new meters) as primarily due to human error, lack of training, or lack of documentation;
- Field meter activities were accurately executed with Automated the Meter Infrastructure (AMI) almost fully completed; and
- Opportunities exist to modernize processes and improve customer engagement and education.

Based on the audit recommendations, the city has begun implementing these improvements:

- governing Establishing policies and documenting operating procedures;
- Enhancing staffing resources and training;
- Developing performance metrics and processes to consistently track/trend work; and

Improving customer communications and education.

We greatly appreciate our customers' patience and

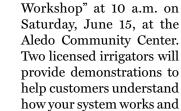
support as we continue our work to modernize and improve our systems and processes.

Water monitoring and conservation tools available

The city has a new Water Conservation page on our website with a list of resources and tools to help customers save water and monitor usage year-round: www.AledoTX.gov/ WaterSaving.

In January, we launched a free My Water Advisor 2.0 online portal giving customers the ability to view their monthly, daily, and hourly water usage. Features include setting alerts for potential leaks and when on vacation. Watch a brief demonstration video on the city's website to help you register and get started.

While we've had plenty of rain in recent weeks, the hot, dry days will return. Please follow the city's outdoor watering schedule also posted on our website. In addition to offering a limited number of free sprinkler system evaluations, the city invites customers to attend a free "DIY Sprinkler



tips to program your controller.

Watch for more updates, tips and events on our website, social media, and in bill inserts. We wish you and your family a safe and fun summer!

Noah Simon is the Aledo City Manager.

LETTERS POLICY

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

COUNCIL from page one

recommended," Franklin told the council.

The policy establishes who can request speed humps, provides a procedure for requesting and notification of the neighbors, specifying time periods and cost sharing between the city and the neighborhood.

The first step in the speed hump installation process is to determine whether a specific street is eligible. Streets meeting all of the following conditions shall be eligible for street hump installation:

- The street is constructed on a dedicated right-of-way. Street humps will not be installed on private roads or drives.
- The street must be either a concrete street constructed as a residential roadway, or an asphalt street constructed as a residential roadway.
- The property adjacent to the street is either wholly or primarily residential if developed or, if undeveloped, the adjacent property is either wholly or primarily zoned for residential uses. Public parks, public schools, churches, and drainage easements are considered residential uses for the purposes of this policy.
- The street has no more than one moving lane of traffic in each direction.
- The traffic volume on the street is less than 5,000 vehicles per day.
- The street has a speed limit of 30 miles per hour.
- The street is not a primary route for emergency vehicles. Both the fire department and the police department shall have veto authority on any street they consider critical for emergency response.

Driveway expansion put on hold

Likewise, several residents have stated that the new drive approaches are too narrow. However, the city did not approve any more work in this area for the time being.

The city's subdivision ordinance states that residential driveways shall be not less than 11 feet wide, measured at the property line. The radius of all driveway returns shall be a minimum of 5 feet.

The city recently did work on some driveways to make sure they are now at least 12 feet in width with the exception of one, which is about six inches short.

City officials determined the driveways reconstructed on Crown Road and Ranch House Road met or exceeded the city's design criteria. After an engineering analysis, city staff recommended not widen-

ing the drive approaches, but instead implementing traffic calming measures and re-evaluating the drive approaches at a later time.

Grimes agreed with staff recommendation, noting

that it will take about 90 days for the speed humps to get installed and then another 30 to 60 days to allow for traffic speed adjustments in the area. In short, when folks aren't going as fast when they approach their driveway it will be easier and more accessible for entry.

Grimes said he believes the issue is more with "aprons" than the actual driveways. These are approach areas extending out that have now been taking away because of the roadside drainage ditches.

"You've been cutting corners to get in there. When we made that deeper that took that away," Grimes said, adding, "We can certainly come back and look at approaches. Let's get the speed under control first."

When someone from the audience called this into question,

Grimes responded, "I did, in fact, turn into your driveway in a half-ton pickup."

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young, council voted to ask city staff to prepare a set of standards for driveway approaches.

"We cannot go out and look at every driveway and add something," she said. "Otherwise, we're arbitrarily saying this doesn't look right and this doesn't look right."

Annexation

Council approved the annexation of two tracts of land totaling approximately 232 acres, one tract being approximately 3.208 acres and the tract being approximately 228.4 acres. The properties, owned by Brothers In Christ Properties, LLC are proposed for future development and the owners requested annexation into the city.

> The property owners have requested water and sewer service, which the City of Willow Park can provide once the properties are within its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

In order to complete the annexation, the city will also annex approximately 11 acres of East Bankhead Highway, which borders the property.

Also, per state law, the city will schedule public hearings to take place before a final decision on the annexation is made.

Certificates of obligation

Council authorized publication and posting of notice of intent to issue certificates of obligation to pay for upsizing the water and wastewater lift station and rerouting a sewer line to provide service to some properties.

The COOs will be in the amount not to exceed \$5,135,000.

Obituaries

Paula Nita Wylie

Paula Nita Wylie, 80, peacefully departed on this life, Friday, May 31, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones.

Paula Wylie was born October 27, 1943, in Fort Worth, Texas to parents, Arthur and Anita Bloore. She married her soulmate and the love of her life, J.T.,

on March 23, 1962. They started their family soon after and had five daughters who loved them both dearly. They moved to Aledo in 1977, where they lived and raised their family.

Paula was the most amazing wife, momma, MawMaw, Ninny, aunt, cousin, and friend. She loved spending time with her family and friends. Paula enjoyed traveling, the outdoors, camping, going to the beach, adventure, and living life to the fullest everyday.

WISD

from page one

on the board, she said the timing just wasn't right and that she didn't want to run against anyone currently serving because of how well they are doing. But

when a current member asked her to consider joining, she jumped at the chance.

"I have always wanted to do this," she said. "I have been in this community for a long time and I am invested in the future of our children."

Lucia said she feels that her perspective as a female and mother of a child currently in school in the district will be an asset to

eyes, the biggest heart, the sweetest smile, a contagious laugh, loved her family and friends fiercely and never met a stranger.

She was preceded by her loving husband of 48

Her beautiful life will forever be cherished in

She had the most beautiful blue

the lives of her daughters, Tammy (Kelli), Terri (Pat), Trena (Mike), TyAnn (James) and Tish (Ronny); her seven grandchildren who adored her, Ryan, Megan, Rylee, Taylor, Hunter, Morgan and Macey; and her numerous great-grandchildren that loved her enormously.

The funeral was Friday, June 7, 2024, in Live Oak Chapel at Greenwood.

> The Community News June 14, 2024

a board she already has "tremendous" respect for.

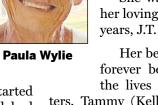
"This board is and has been doing a great job. They care about the future of WISD and all love children and it shows," she said. "But as a woman, mother and an

active community member with a child in the district, I know what challenges students and teachers are facing and can bring that to the forefront when necessary."

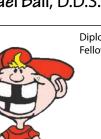
That said, Lucia emphasized that she has no "personal agenda."

"I am happy with where the board and district are headed," she said. "I am blessed and excited to get started."

"Serving every family as part of our own for over 60 years" Pediatric & Adolescent Dentistry Robert Casey Stroud, D.D.S., P.C. Michael Ball, D.D.S., P.L.L.C. Professional Lawn Service at an Affordable Price Diplomate of American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Fellow of American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Tree & Shrub Trimming Currently Servicing & General Clean Up **Taking on New HOAs** 913 N. Elm St., Weatherford, TX 76086 134 El Chico Trail, Suite 101 • All Types of Lawn Care • PayPay & Zelle & P2P 817-594-2747 | 800-593-2747 Aledo/Willow Park, TX 76087 Commercial & Residential Payments Accepted









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Wooten named WC coach

Courtesy Weatherford College

Weatherford

announced Stephanie Wooten as its new head tennis coach. She will coach both and women's men's tennis at WC.

а



Wooten, **Stephanie Wooten** native of

Crandall, comes to WC with head coaching experience from the University of New Mexico, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Stephen F. Austin State University, Lee College, and, most recently, Butler University in Indianapolis.

coaching experience, Wooten served as a tennis coach at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas, working with nationally and internationally ranked players in their junior tennis academv.

"It is such a blessing to get to come back home so close to my family and to where I fell in love with the game of tennis," she said. "I'm very thankful to the hiring committee for giving me this opportunity to lead the Weatherford College tennis programs and continue to build on a strong tennis tradition and develop a family environment."

In her single season at UTRGV (2015-16), she led the program to the Western Athletic Conference Tournament title, the university's

In addition to her collegiate first WAC championship in any sport.

> In her two seasons at SFA (2011-13), beginning as an assistant before becoming head coach, the Lumberjacks won the first conference championship in program history and earned their highest national ranking (No. 35).

> Wooten began her coaching career as interim head coach at Lee College in 2010-11. Her team finished runners-up at the NJCAA National Tournament. She moved on to the University of Houston, where, as an assistant, she helped her team to a runner-up finish at the American Athletic Conference Tournament.

> "We are very excited to welcome Coach Wooten to WC," said Jeff Lightfoot, who is serving as WC's

acting athletic director while Bob McKinley is on temporary leave. "She brings a wealth of experience and a recruiting network that will allow her to impact our tennis program immediately."

At Crandall High School, Wooten was a four-time state champion in Class 3A and went undefeated all four years of high school. She moved on to play Division I tennis at Purdue University for five years, earning team captain and Team MVP status as a junior and senior. 'Weatherford College is investing heavily into tennis and putting our programs into a great position to recruit world-class student-athletes and compete for championships," Wooten said. "I'm excited for the challenge and thrilled to be here. It's an exciting time to be a Coyote!"

TINDALL from page one

Tindall first tried roping in the summer after eighth grade. She immediately fell in love with the sport.

"I was given a ranch horse to try out from a friend back home. She had been in a handful of ranch rodeos and been in the box once or twice," Tindall recalled. "I fell in love with the horse and the sport and was able to buy her.

"My first rodeo roping on her was also her first rodeo, my freshman vear high school rodeo. She has taken me all through high school and my first year of college. Without her, none of this would have been possible, and I am glad the Lord gave me the opportunity to have her."

Tindall comes from a rodeo family. Her father rode broncs and advanced to the Professional Rodeo **Cowboys Association Circuit Finals** a few times. Her mother was also a barrel racer.

"My sister did high school rodeo but then went on to play college softball instead. All my aunts, uncles, cousins are involved in the sport one way or another," she said.

Tindall qualified for the National High School Finals Rodeo all four years of high school. Her freshman year, she competed in goat tying, and her sophomore through senior years, she qualified in goat tying and breakaway.

She was the Florida state champion in goat tying and breakaway her junior year.

And yes, she does plan to compete professionally. She bought her Women's Professional Rodeo Association permit



this past year and competed in several pro rodeos.

"After I graduate nursing school, I am going to try to pro rodeo a lot more," she said.

She will graduate from WC with her associate of science degree in December and then enter the nursing program, she said. Her sister is a nurse practitioner.

"She has always been my biggest role model. Following in her footsteps, I also plan to become a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant," Tindall said. "I plan to stay at WC for as long as they will let me. If all goes as planned, Coach [Johnny] Emmons will be stuck with me for at least two more years."

Idle American Graduates in the Real World



Dr. Don Newbury newburv@speakerdoc.com

For the most part, handshakes, backslaps, hugs and teardrops-some joyously wept from grateful souls who achieved much, and some from others who barely sneaked by to graduate--now are part of history.

In bygone years, school superintendents and university presidents considered graduation events to be successful if everyone left venues in the same state of health and well-being as when they entered. (Nowadays, with some commencement exercises canceled or altered greatly because of safety concerns, most leaders would settle for the "mild stuff"--even squirrels running amok on stages in the berserk manner described in the novelty song about the First Self-Righteous Church of Pascagoula.)

It should be noted that there

for graduation, it being from elementary to high school. Nowadays, youngsters graduate from kindergarten to first grade, then elementary to junior high or middle school, then to high school and the "biggie" at senior year's end. I wouldn't be surprised, up the way, if ceremonies mark progression from diapers to underwear, and/ or nursery school to kindergarten.

One superintendent of my acquaintance says he hopes his commencement-induced "tummy knots" will loosen soon. I understand, but like most other folks, wonder what lies ahead. Civility seems threatened.

I asked him if anything at this year's graduation program caused him to smile on the way home.

"As a matter of fact, there was," he answered, seemingly eager to share remarks by one of his school's brightest graduates. (I am choosing not to reveal his name, nor his school's, nor the graduate's.)

By way of background, much seemed to be predictable. Some 800 seniors "pomped and circumstanced" their way into the stadium, and several thousand relatives and friends showed up, hoping the graduates would take seriously both the "rights and ried, responsibilities" printed on their eye-contact with the throng to crediplomas.

It was a long ceremony, of and spirit of thanksgiving. I wish I course--what with all graduates receiving a dozen seconds each in the spotlight crossing the stage. There were many speeches, of course.

Were there ever speeches! Students who achieved greatly academically--as well as heads of student organizations--were granted a few minutes each to share their thoughts, most of which centered on gratitude to teachers, coaches, band directors, counselors, and, of course, parents and other relatives. Most, my friend said, were well-chosen words. (I cautioned that I've been congratulated for a few "well-chosen words," both words in print and expressed verbally. Sadly, though, there were addendums, something about the few "well-chosen words" interspersed randomly with several hundred that weren't!)

I hasten on, because my friend's face brightened as he described the young man whose remarks "took the cake," earning the evening's most thunderous applause.

"He had 'Paul Harvey kind' of timing, obviously spending hours deciding precisely what he wanted to convey," the superintendent said.

"The graduate was unhur-

could remember his exact words, but generally, here's what the lad said."

"I would like to begin my remarks this evening by especially thanking my mother, even though she's no longer with us."

Swiveling to survey the crowd, the graduate seemed to "drink in" the audible sighs from the audience, all seeming to share the tender moment.

Several seconds passed before he loosed the bombshell retort that immediately turned a moment of sadness into laughter that bordered on side-splitting.

"Yeah, she left several minutes ago, probably out of sheer boredom."

I congratulate him for his creativity. I'll throw in a bouquet to his mom, too, if she knew what he intended to do, and went along.

Okay, I'll extend the gift to all the graduates of our land, prayerful that they'll strive to make our world a better place.

My generation fell short of what we'd hoped. Maybe we all should re-read the words on our diplomas.

Dr. Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university pres establishing ident who is Texas' longest-running syndicated columnist, writing weekly since 2003.

are far more places for exercises to go wrong now. Long ago, most schools had just one "warm-up"

quickly ate an appearance of serious intent



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Events

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



JULY 4

Boomin' 4th

Enjoy a great evening of familly fun, food and amazing fireworks from 5 - 10 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, at Gene Voyles Park, 210 Hudson Oaks Drive, Hudson Oaks, TX. The entertainment will be the Party Machine which brings the same high energy, interactive performance.

Choose from a variety of delicious eats and treats from local vendors! The Kid Zone is FUN for ALL brought to you by local community partners! Fireworks start at approximately 9:30 p.m. and are choreographed to music on 92.1 Hank FM. Lawn chairs and coolers are welcome. No canopies,

fireworks, grills, tents or glass.

For more information and shuttle bus parking maps visit https://www. hudsonoaks.com/Visitors/ eventscoho/July-4th-Event

Spark in the Park

Join Weatherford Parks and Recreation for Spark in the Park 2024, 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 amphitheater. Following artist concerts fireworks will begin after dark, approximately 9:30 p.m. The event is FREE TO ATTEND! https://www. facebook.com/ events/1448007752777165

JULY 9

Dementia Support Group

Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9 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 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

JULY 11

Alzheimer's Group The East Parker County Alzheimer's Group meets

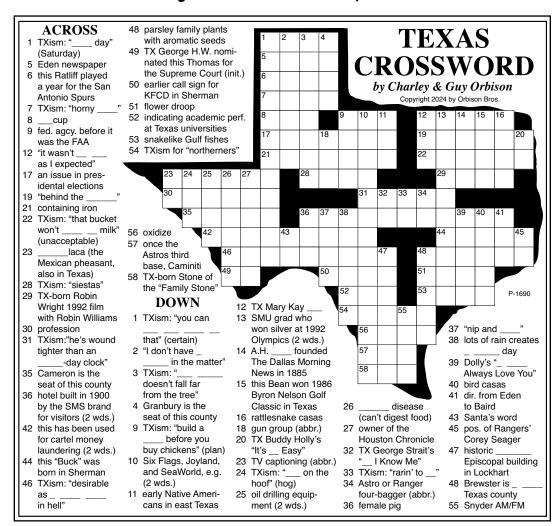
from 1-3 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan. Drive. For more information, call 817-441-8329.



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



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 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.

For more information or to volunteer to help contact Teresa Chisum: Teresa@ aledoumc.org

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Send event submissions to events@community-news.com.





Sports

SOFTBALL

Ladycats surge into state tournament

Aledo's bounce-back season punches third ticket to Austin in four years

By Geoff Heppes The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats softball team recently wrapped up a strong 2024 campaign that saw the Ladycats march into the state tournament for the third time in the past four seasons. Last year, a loaded Ladycat squad was stunned by Richland in the area round, but it was a business mentality that carried this year's squad through 2024, which resulted in an overall record of 35-4.

"I think our mindset approaching this season was more serious," Aledo head coach Heather Myers said. "We knew no matter how talented we may be, that doesn't guarantee a win or advancement in the playoffs. The desire was there and so was the focused work ethic."

Tough schedule

Aledo worked hard through a difficult schedule of foes, including wins over the likes of Keller (twice), Lone Star, Mansfield Legacy, Waco Midway and Whitehouse. Furthermore, Aledo's dominance against opponents of every caliber featured a staggering run differential of 258 with 321 runs scored against 63 total runs allowed.

"It's important to face competitive teams," Myers said. "I've always wanted to play teams that are tough to beat. Exposing our



Aledo senior Kennis Marx (15) at bat during the Class 5A state softball semifinal between Aledo and Harlingen South, on May 31, 2024 in Georgetown. Harlingen South won, 1-0.

weaknesses early on is necessary in the growth process and ultimately fuels the strong mental toughness that's needed when heading into playoffs."

District dominance

After a strong showing in their pre-district slate of games, Aledo

moved on to district play where their dominance continued. The Ladycats came out on top in each of their 12 district contests and, minus a 4-3 victory late in the regular season against Azle, won each of their district games by six or more runs – 10 of their 12 district victories came by double-digit runs.

Playoff run

Then, the postseason arrived and a chance for redemption after an early exit in 2023. Aledo had a tough road back to Austin, but the Ladycats persevered nonetheless.

"They definitely fought hard for everything this playoff season *Turn to* **STATE**, *page 10*

BASEBALL

Coyotes post second best record in program history

www.community-news.com

One year after program's greatest season

By Rick Mauch The Community News

While they did not return to the glory land of the NJCAA Division I World Series, the Weatherford College Coyotes baseball team nonetheless had one of the best seasons in program history.

In fact, in terms of victories, they posted the second most in team history, finishing 45-15. Only the 53-11 team of 2023 that finished third in the nation did better.

The Coyotes also captured a second consecutive championship in the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference, a first for the program. In the Region V Tournament, they were 2-2, defeating New Mexico 9-1 and Grayson 5-4 before falling 5-0 to McLennan - which advanced to the World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado - and 8-6 to Midland.

"Conference champs and 45 wins is certainly a very good year. We tripped up in the regional and there is not much room for error in that tournament," Coyotes coach Jeff Lightfoot said. "Ninety eight wins in two seasons is playing the game at a very high level. We have some momentum and expect for that to continue into next season."

The Coyotes won regardless of the site of their game. They were 30-8 at *Turn to* **BAEBALL**, *page* 8



June 14, 2024 THE COMMUNITY NEWS





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



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Kid Scoop Together

Race against a family member to see who can get to the newspaper first!



Summer Fun With the Newspaper!

What is black and white and FUN all over? The newspaper! Summer fun begins with your local newspaper! It can be used to play games, to say "Happy Father's Day" and even to take a nap.

Make a Newspaper Hammock!

- 1. Starting at the narrow end, tightly roll about 50 pages of newspaper into a rigid tube. Tape it so that it stays rolled. Make about 10-15 of these tubes.
- 2. Connect the tubes, using extra-strength clothesline. When the hammock is as long as your body, bring the rope ends together to form loops for hanging.



3. Hang the hammock indoors or outdoors. Tie the two ends to sturdy supports at each end. Two trees make good supports.

> The newspaper hammock idea is from 'The Invention Book" by Steven Caney. Read it for more inventive projects!

How many differences can you find betwee the two hammock pictures on this page?

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com © 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 40, No. 28

First Father's Day

Replace the

in this story.

SUNDAY

MET

CHURCH

BROTHERS

CARE

SPECIAL

STARTED

The first Father's Day was celebrated in 1910 in Spokane, WA. It was _____ by Sonora Dodd.

She and her five brothers were raised by missing words their father after their mother died.

> After listening to a Mother's Day sermon in one Sunday, she thought of her father's love and the many sacrifices he had had made to raise her and her And of the many ways fathers everywhere took ______ of their families.

Her idea of a Father's Day celebration in her community _____ with strong support.

Newspapers across the country told the story of the _____ day for fathers in Spokane. However, it was not until 1972

that Father's Day was set as a national celebration on the third in June.

How many years after the first Father's Day was it made into a national celebration?

Standards Link: Animals have structures that aid in survival.

ocal News



What Is a Coat of Arms?



WRESTLING Shaw named head coach at Aledo

By Mercedes Mayer

L.D. Bell High School wrestling coach Ben Shaw has been tapped to head the program at Aledo High School.

Before serving at Bell High School in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, he was an assistant wrestling and softball coach at Coppell High School Ninth-Grade Campus in Coppell ISD, and an assistant wrestling, football, and baseball coach at Centennial High School in Burleson ISD. Shaw was also a math teacher at each of those schools.

"Coach Shaw will be a great addition to our coaching staff at Aledo High School with nearly a decade of experience coaching wrestling with great success," Aledo ISD Athletic Director Brandy Belk said. "His technical knowledge and ability to develop wrestlers will help our still-young program to grow exponentially."

In two years at L.D. Bell, Shaw has coached 17 regional-qualifying wrestlers and one state qualifier. L.D. Bell also had its first girls regional finalist in more than a next head wrestling coach for decade under Shaw. As the varsity assistant coach at Coppell, Shaw helped coach more than 20 ISD for trusting me to grow and



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

New Aledo High School wrestling coach Ben Shaw is shown with his wife Kirby, son Bodie and daughter Sadie.

state qualifiers, with more than 10 placing at the Class 6A State Meet. Shaw started the wrestling program at Centennial in 2015 and coached the school's first state wrestling medalist during his tenure at Centennial.

"I'm honored to become the Aledo High School," Shaw said. "I want to say thank you to Aledo

continue the success of Aledo Bearcat wrestling. I'm excited to cultivate a culture of hard work, toughness and grit through a competitive environment."

Shaw has a bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons University. His teams are consistently participating in community service projects like canned food and coat drives as well as Toys for Tots collections and donations.

Area youth fare well **NTPGA Junior tourneys**

Several crowned champs at Squaw Creek By Rick Mauch

Community News

GOLF

The North Texas Professional Golfers Association Junior Tour summer schedule is underway and a host of competitors from the Aledo/ Weatherford area are off to a good start. Highlighting the results so far this summer is a tournament at Squaw Creek Golf Course in Willow Park on June 4.

Three locals won their age groups in the Prep Tour event, respectively.

In the Girls 15-18 category, Weatherford's Alyssa Lane shot a 3-over-par 74 to take the top spot. It was the lone 18-hole competition, with all others in which locals competed being nine holes with a par of 35.

Andy Hass of Weatherford captured first place among Girls 11-12, shooting a 63. Also, Pierce Russom of Aledo tied for first in the Boys 13-14 division, shooting 45, with Christian Moll of Aledo taking fourth with a 48.

Beckett Saint of Aledo finished second among Boys 7-8, shooting 56. In the Boys 11-12 category, two Aledo vouths placed tied for fifth and seventh, respectively, as Grayson Wright posted a 54 and Kyle Wisdom shot 60.

Other results involving locals so far include:

Medalist Tour

Rockwood, Fort Worth

- Girls 15-18 (18 holes): 7. Kylie Kirkland, Willow Park, 94; 12. (tie) Addison Russ, Aledo, 99.
- Boys 13-14 (18 holes): 9. (tie) Moll, 91; 20. Liam Kupaman, Aledo, 102.

Boys 15-18 (18 holes): 9. (tie) Wyatt Deary, Weatherford, 86; 23. Ryder Kelly, Aledo, 99.

Mansfield National

Boys 13-14 (18 holes): 9. (tie) Moll, 92. Hidden Creek, Burleson Girls 15-18 (18 holes): 2. Morales, 85; 7. Harper Price, Aledo, 94. Prep Tour Fields Ranch-The Swing, Frisco Boys 7-8 (nine holes): 8. Beckett Saint, Aledo, 49. Prairie Lakes, Grand Prairie Boys 9-10 (nine holes): 9. Miller DeFord,

SOFTBALL

Ladycats rake in numerous all-district honors

Aledo nabs five superlatives in dominant season

By Geoff Heppes The Community New

For the third time in four years, the Aledo Ladycats softball team punched its ticket to Austin for the state tournament. As a result, Aledo (35-4, 12-0) received significant recognition on the 2024 All-District 5-5A Team.

Aledo's selections were headlined by MVP Brenlee Gonzales, a senior and Texas Tech commit, who was a force on the mound with a 0.81 ERA and 173 strikeouts across 112.2 innings pitched. Standout junior Taylor McKean was selected as the Co-Pitcher of the Year with 168 strikeouts across 92.2 innings while underclassman Jordyn Edington was selected as Newcomer of the Year. Kennis Marx was named as the district's Offensive Player of the Year while head coach Heather

Myers and her staff were recognized as the top coaching staff.

Ana Flores led the first team selections for Aledo after she led the team with a .427 batting average, 10 home runs and 50 RBI. Addie Perry and Delaney Rosser joined Flores with first-team honors, with Perry leading the team with 47 runs scored.

Marina Taveras, who was named an all-state alternate, led Aledo's second-team selections while Kyleigh Pawlak and Austyn Marriage also earned the same level of recognition. Maddy Flora and Gracie Jones rounded out Aledo's all-district recipients as honorable mention selections.

BASEBALL

from page 6

home and 15-7 on the road and neutral sites. The 30 wins are the most ever at home.

They had win streaks of 11, 10 and nine games. At no point in the season did they lose more than two straight games, something even last season's team couldn't say.

The offense was explosive, topping 10 runs on 16 occasions, and the defense/pitching registered 10 shutouts, including three consecutive at one point of the season.

The season included a 30-0 win over Lamar Community College in a series in which they outscored Lamar 46-2 in two games. The 30 runs is the largest margin of victory in team history and an accomplishment few teams have managed in baseball at any level.

Also, while lopsided, the 30-0 win matched the team record for most runs by both teams in a game.

it's easy to see why anticipation is high for continued success in 2025.

"We will have some key pieces back offensively in (Trace) Mazon, (Uriah) Walters and a few other role players," Lightfoot said. "The rotation will be fairly new with (Evan) Brandt being the only returner, but we have an outstanding class coming and will add some high level transfers.

"We will start the road to Junction again in August."

Coyotes baseball recap Record: 45-15.

Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference record: 25-7, first place. Home record: 30-8. Road/neutral record: 15-7. Postseason record: 2-2. Longest win streak: 11. Longest loss streak: 2. Scored 10 or more runs: 16 times. Shutouts: 10. Times shut out: 2. Record in 1-run games: 6-4. Team batting average: .305. Home runs: 30.

Walters. .486.

Aledo, 52.

Slugging percentage (minimum 100 at-bats): Wells, .602; Dayton Tockey, soph., .594; Daoust, .581. Runs scored: Wells, 68; Trace Mazon, fr., 51; Daoust, 48; Tockey, 48. Hits: Wells, 77; Daoust, 68; Amazon, 64. Doubles: Mazon, 21; Wells, 15; Daoust, 13. Triples: Wells, 7; Tockey, 4; Daoust, 2. Home runs: Tockey, 9; Daoust, 5; Wells, RBI: Mason, 65; Daoust, 54; Wells, 53. Walks: Tockey, 46; Wells, 41; Kevin Duran, soph., 36. Stolen bases: Wells, 33; Walters, 14; Daoust, 12. Total bases: Wells, 121; Daoust, 100; Amazon, 96. Extra-base hits: Wells, 27; Amazon, 25; Daoust, 20. Sacrifice flies: Miguel Luevano, fr., 4; Amazon, 4; Daoust, 3; Tyler Moody, fr., 3; Kanon Sundgren, soph., 3; Wells, 3. Hit by pitch: Duran, 9; Amazon, 8; Luevano, 7; Wells, 7. Pitching Wins: Robert Fortenberry, soph., 13-0 (school record); Cade Crossland, fr., 9-2; Evan Brandt, fr., 8-2. Saves: Tanner Wiggins, fr., 8 (school record); Jack Cagianello, fr., 3; Brayden Timmins, soph., 3. Complete games: Brandt, 2; Crossland, 2; Fortenberry, 1; Ibrahim Gonzalez, fr., 1. Innings: Brandt, 74.2; Fortenberry, 74; Crossland, 68.1.

Impressively, Aledo had 17 players named academic all-district for excellence in the classroom. Those players were Edington, Flora, Flores, Gonzales, Lily Heckathorn, Marriage, Kennis Marx, Rylee Marx, Breleigh Mayer, Taylor McKenzie, McKean, Pawlak, Rosser and Taveras.

Individually, sophomore pitcher Robert Fortenberry posted a 13-0, the best in WC history, and led the nation in victories throughout the regular season. Freshman reliever Tanner Wiggins posted a team-record eight saves.

And with a roster that featured 32 freshmen and 13 sophomores,

Team on-base percentage: .444. Team slugging percentage: .441. Earned run average: 3.15. Individual leaders

Hitting

Batting average (minimum 100 at-bats): Louka Daoust, soph., .395; Kasen Wells, soph., .383; Uriah Walters, fr., .363. On-base percentage (minimum 100 at-bats): Wells, .496; Daoust, .493;

Strikeouts: Crossland, 100; Fortenberry, 75; Brandt, 64. ERA (minimum 25 innings): Wiggins,

1.40; Fortenberry, 2.19; Crossland, 2.37.



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EVENTS

Bluegrass on Ballard –Wylie, TX, Sat. June 29. Arts & Crafts, Car Show, Music, Food & Fun in Historic Downtown Wylie on Ballard Ave. For more info or to pre-register for car show, visit DiscoverWylie.com.

ICA's 50th Annual Convention & Trade Show, July 1-3, San Marcos, TX. Cattle producers don't want to miss this! Top industry speakers, BQA certification, 4-5 CEU credits for pesticide applicator license, live cattle handling, 50+ vendors, golf tournament, and more. 512-620-0162, ICATexas.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Town of Annetta will conduct a public hearing on July 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, and will act upon the following request:

- 1. A Special Exception for 1515 Wallis Road, a property containing 4.880 acres of land (TR:, BLK:, SURV: ADALINE S WORRALL) to allow for a 1,200 square foot accessory structure that exceeds the allowed square footage as set forth in Section 8.10.B.2.c of the Town of Annetta Zoning Ordinance 215.
- 2. A Special Exception to Section 8.10.B.10 of the Town of Annetta Zoning Ordinance 215 for 1515 Wallis Road, a property containing 4.880 acres of land (TR:, BLK:, SURV: ADALINE S WORRALL), to allow garage doors on any size accessory structure to face the right-of-way with additional landscaping, exterior materials or colors and ornamental features to ensure compatibility with the neighborhood.
- 3. A Special Exception to Ordinance 215, Section 8.10.A, regarding maximum height of an accessory building not to exceed the height of the primary structure.
- 4. A Special Exception to Ordinance 215, Section 8.10.A, to allow for an accessory building placed in a portion of the side yard instead of the rear of the lot.

All interested persons are urged to attend.

TO BE PUBLISHED: Friday, June 14, 2024

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

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE **CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION**

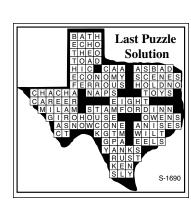
TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas, shall convene at 6:00 p.m. on August 13, 2024, at the City Municipal Complex located at City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Suite A, Willow Park, Texas 76087, and, during such meeting, the City Council will consider the passage of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of certificates of obligation, in one or more series, in an amount not to exceed FIVE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,135,000) for the purpose of paying contractual obligations to be incurred for (i) constructing, acquiring, purchasing, renovating, enlarging, equipping, and improving water and wastewater system properties or facilities, including the acquisition of land and rights-of-way therefor, and (ii) professional services rendered in connection with such projects and the financing thereof; such certificates to be payable from ad valorem taxes and a pledge of the surplus net revenues of the City's Waterworks and Sewer System. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 271.049, (i) the current principal amount of all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$17,577,724 (ii) the current combined principal and interest required to pay all of the City's outstanding public securities secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$27,297,609; (iii) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the certificates of obligation to be authorized on time and in full is \$9,335,553 ; (iv) the maximum interest rate for the certificates may not exceed the maximum legal interest rate; and (v) the maximum maturity date of the certificates to be authorized is February 15, 2055. The above information excludes \$42,191,411 in principal amount of outstanding debt obligations the City has designated as self-supporting which the City reasonably expects to pay from revenue sources other than ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that in the event such self-supporting revenue sources are insufficient to pay debt service, the City is obligated to levy ad valorem taxes to pay such debt obligations. The certificates are to be issued, and this notice is given, under and pursuant to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 271, Subchapter C, as amended.

Crystal Dozier City Secretary City of Willow Park, Texas

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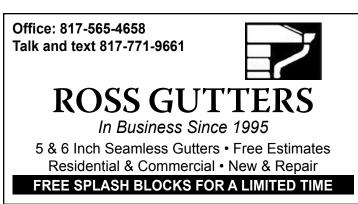
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HIGH SCHOOL RODEO Locals among THSRA finalists

By Rick Mauch

Led by Will Bushaw of Weatherford, who is seeking a third consecutive trip to nationals, several participants from Weatherford are, likewise seeking a berth alongside him as they compete in the Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals in Abilene.

The competition wraps up Saturday, June 15. The top four finishers in each event qualify to advance to the National High School Finals Rodeo July 14-20 in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Jesus Villa had the highest regular season ranking among local competitors. He was first in bull riding in Region 3.

Bushaw, who competes in boys cutting, finished the regular season

ranked third in Region 3 of the THSRA. Two years ago he finished second in the nation. In 2023, despite competing with a sick horse, he placed 10th.

Also ranked third from Weatherford are Kynzington Muth in barrel racing in Region 3 and Clayton Praytor in calf roping in Region 10.

Beldon Cox ranked fifth in Region 3 team roping. Addison Allen and Kate Allen finished sixth and seventh, respectively, in girls cutting in Region 3.

Jack Smith qualified for state finals with a seventh-place regular-season finish in bull riding. Also, Hayden Smith ended the regular season ranked eighth in Region 10 calf roping.

SOFTBALL Ladycats duo named to All-State Tournament Team Staff Reports The Community News

Junior Marina Taveras and sophomore Jordyn Edington have been named to the University Interscholastic League Class 5A All-State Tournament Softball Team at first base and in the outfield, respectively.

Eddington went 1-for-3 against Harlingen South with a double. Taveras was also 1-for-3.

The Ladycats finished 35-4, falling 1-0 in the state semifinals to Harlingen South, which finished as state runner-up after losing to Melissa in the title game. It was Aledo's third state tournament appearance in four years.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Aledo junior Marina Taveras (3) reacts after an out during the Class 5A state softball semifinal between Aledo and Harlingen South, on May 31, 2024.

STATE from page 6

where nothing was easy or guaranteed – they played for each other," Myers said. "There were no self-seeking mentalities or toxic agendas. They simply showed up to practice every day with the intent to get better together, and they took that fierce work ethic into every game. In the end, they learned how to compete in some of the most stressful situations. Once your athletes realize they not only can compete, but win at that level, they're about to have some big goals realized."

A mature and unified mindset blended seamlessly with the players' high levels of talent and execution on the field. Aledo's postseason journey began with a dominant bi-district series win over Everman (15-0 and 14-0). After that, Aledo exorcized its area-round demons with a gutsy 3-2 win over a solid Birdville squad in 11 grueling innings. After that, Aledo edged a strong Joshua squad 2-1 in a winner-take-all regional quarterfinal and followed that victory with a sweep over Monterey in the regional semifinals (7-1 and 5-4).

Aledo's last roadblock on the way to Austin was a strong, senior-laden Burleson Centennial squad, which the Ladycats swept in the regional final (2-0 and 12-7).

With that, the Region I crown belonged to the District 5-5A champs once again.

"I can't speak more highly of these young ladies and their fight this season," Myers said. "They are without a doubt the most coachable athletes I've ever had, as a whole. It's not bad to finish in the top four in the state. A state title will come when it's time, until then we will continue to focus on a team first mentality and the fundamentals of this incredible game."

Aledo played against a historic Harlingen South squad in the state semifinals at East View High School and lost a heartbreaker 1-0.

Aledo will graduate five seniors from this year's team while the remaining 13 players will return next year.

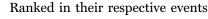
PRO RODEO

Area competitors among PRCA leaders

Staff Reports

The latest Professional Rodeo Cowboys

Association (PRCA) standings includes a handful of competitors from Weatherford.



and their money winnings so far this season are:

¹ Bareback

Leighton Berry, \$933,334.
 Rocker Steiner, \$71,489.
 Kade Berry, \$24,751.

Steer wrestling

20. Clayton Hass, \$27,598.Team roping-heelers42. Ryan Motes, \$19,017.





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