

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PEACH FESTIVAL

BIG

is key word for 2024 event

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Each summer the Parker County Peach Festival is a destination point for folks who love to travel - and, of course, for those who love peaches.

This year's event takes place on Saturday, July 13 in downtown Weatherford. And it will feature a special treat - the world's largest peach cobbler.

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce has been spearheading a project that will shatter the world record, which has been 2,251 pounds in Louisiana. This one is going to be in the neighborhood of 5,000 pounds.

That's a LOT of cobbler. And yes, it can be eaten at the event, Weatherford Chamber of Commerce Director Tammy Gazzola said.

Local non-profits will be working the cobbler booth to sell tastings of the huge cobbler and all the proceeds will go directly to local non-profits.

"Each year, we strive to enhance the festival experience with new attractions, entertainment, and of course, our world-class peach cobbler," Gazzola said. "This dedication to quality and innovation continues to attract growing numbers of attendees, making it a highlight of the summer for many."

Much more

The Festival began in 1984 and continues to bring visitors from throughout the state and beyond. Along with the giant cobbler, those in attendance can buy locally grown peaches to their heart's content.

In fact, the day will be filled with plenty of peach-themed delicacies, including peach juleps, peach pie, peach ice cream - and even peach ribs. There will also be over 200 art, craft, food and activity vendors.

The food competition is also a favorite - especially for those fortunate enough to be a judge.

And when it's time for a break, grab a seat and enjoy local talent on one of two entertainment stages.

For easy - and free - transportation to the festival, hop on one of the air-conditioned shuttles from the Weatherford ISD Ninth-Grade Center, Weatherford College or Heritage Park.

Tickets

Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 kids ages 5-12 and under age 5 are free. Tickets can be purchased at www.peachfestivaltx.com.

Also, visit facebook.com/parker-countypeachfestival for more details.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF HUDSON OAKS

Spectators marvel at the fireworks during the annual Boomin' 4th celebraion at Gene Voyles Park in Hudson Oaks. The day included family fun, food, games and live music by the Party Machine.

WEATHERFORD

Celebrating Progress

Weatherford celebrates grand opening of new roads after months of construction

By Jolee Skinner
The Community News

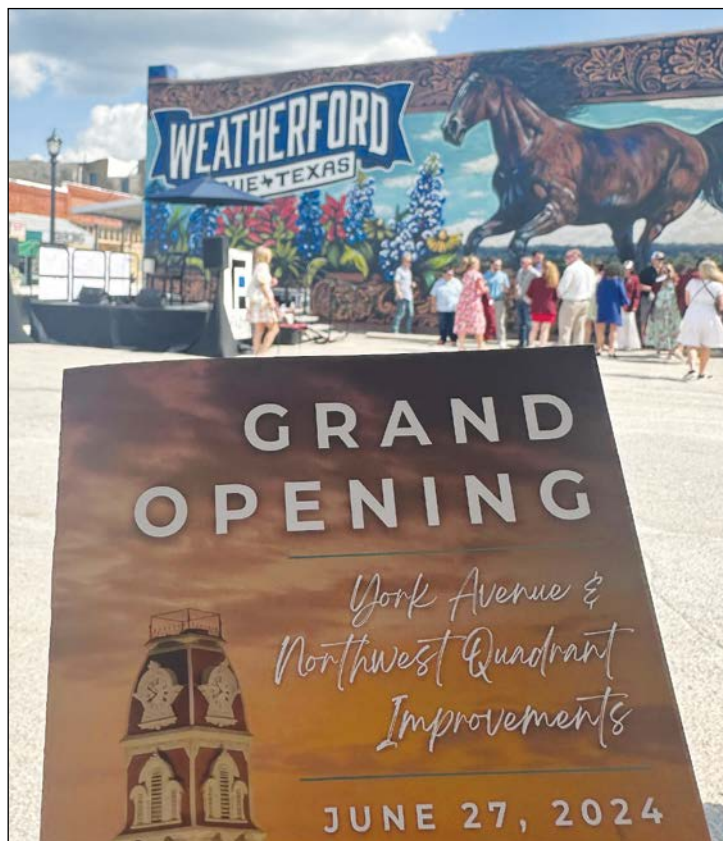
Residents of Weatherford and city officials gathered to celebrate the grand opening of York Avenue and recognize all the improvements that were made to the Northwest Quadrant on June 27. York Avenue is located in the northwest of downtown Weatherford. York Avenue is home to mainly clothing stores and antique shops.

Mayor Paul Paschall spoke to the crowd about how the reconstruction of York Avenue came to be.

"Today is a great celebration," Mayor Paschall said. "Four or five years ago, the city council and the city management executive team made a commitment to spend some dollars in your central business district. We didn't have time to wait on TxDOT to do their stuff on the major roads, we decided to go ahead and move forward with the things that we control."

Mayor Paschall went on to tell residents of Weatherford about the improvement made and pointed out

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JOLEE SKINNER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

York Avenue and the Northwest Quadrant of Downtown Weatherford was the site of a celebration on June 27 in honor of improvements to the area.

REMEMBERING

Aledo student dies in car crash

Staff Reports
The Community News

Kai Elliott, a 2024 Aledo High School graduate, died in an automobile accident on the evening of July 4. Aledo ISD Superintendent Susan Bohn released the following statement:

"I am heavy-hearted today in writing to you to share that one of our Class of 2024 Bearcat graduates Kai Elliott died on Thursday evening in a car accident. On behalf of our Bearcat family, I want to share my most sincere condolences with Kai's family and friends, classmates, and staff who have served Kai in Aledo ISD, including most recently at the Aledo Learning Center.

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WILLOW PARK PD

Department receives honor

By Rosalee Hoffman
City of Willow Park

For the second consecutive time, the Willow Park Police Department (WPPD) has been awarded Accredited Law Enforcement Agency from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Program.

The WPPD was originally accredited by the program in June of 2020. Police agencies accredited by the TPCA must undergo an onsite inspection every fourth year.

This is the first successful accreditation under Willow Park Chief of Police Daniel Franklin.

"Excellence at every opportunity," said Franklin, who has served as chief since 2023. "The Best Practices program shows how the men and women of the Willow Park Police Department are dedicated to the citizens of Willow Park and will strive for excellence in all that they do."

The voluntary process required the WPPD to conduct a critical self-review of the agency's policies, procedures, facilities and operations. Members of the department prepare proofs of compliance for more than 168 Best Business Practices for Texas Law Enforcement, including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations.

Upon completion of the internal review, an outside audit and

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HEROICS

Sheriff's deputies receive award

Staff Reports
The Community News

Three Parker County Sheriff's deputies were presented with the Life-Saving Award during the recent Parker County Commissioners Court session. The awards are in recognition for their actions in the line of duty where the deputies were serving a warrant earlier this year.

The Parker County Sheriff's Office citation read, "For exemplary courage in the face of danger and decisive action to preserve life while assigned to the Parker County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division: Corporal Luis Montanez, Deputy Joseph Evans, and Deputy Randy Lawson distinguished themselves on January 30, 2024, during an attempted warrant service in Parker County.

As the deputies approached the suspect, he opened fire at the deputies, striking a patrol unit and Deputy Evans' duty belt. The deputies returned fire, striking the suspect several times. Deputies then gave him emergency medical treatment at the scene, which resulted in saving the suspect's life.

Sheriff Russ Authier said the deputies displayed courage under fire while relying on their training, safety and protocol procedures.

"The deputies' actions protected nearby civilians inside their homes while providing coverage for each other, and further provided first aid to the suspect," Authier said. "Their actions resulted in saving the life of the suspect as well as preventing further harm."



PHOTO COURTESY PARKER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Parker County Sheriff's Deputies (from left) Joseph Evans, Randy Lawson and Corporal Luis Montanez were recently awarded with the Life-Saving Award during a Parker County Commissioners Court session. They received the honor after saving the life of a suspect following a shootout.

CRASH

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"Kai had the biggest smile and never met a stranger. He was a happy-go-lucky young man who had many friends. Please pray for all who loved Kai; we will miss him very much.

"I would also ask for you to join me in praying for a full and swift recovery for three other former Bearcats who were involved in this accident and sustained injuries.

"We will share funeral information for Kai as it becomes available. Even though it is summer break for our staff, our AHS lead counselor Lindsay Fuller is available via email at lfuller@aledoisd.org if you have questions on how to talk to your children about death or to offer additional resources or support, as needed.

Again, our prayers are with Kai's family, teachers, friends and classmates.

Truly, Susan"

HONOR

from page one

review was conducted by trained police chiefs from other areas of the state. The process was completed in May 2024 and the results were then sent to the Texas Police Chiefs Association Accreditation Committee for final analysis, where the decision was made to award the accredited status.

"This award just confirms something we already experience every day in the city," said Mayor Doyle Moss. "We are protected and served by a dedicated group of law enforcement professionals who hold themselves accountable to the highest standards. I congratulate them on this recognition."

More information and a description of the program may be viewed on the Texas Police Chiefs Association website at <http://www.texaspolicechiefs.org>.

Red, White & Blue



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF HUDSON OAKS

Children were all smiles on the carousel and a mother daughter duo dressed for the occasion at the annual Boom'n' 4th celebraion at Gene Voyles Park in Hudson Oaks.

PROGRESS

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the new art mural that was added to York Avenue.

"The walkability is much better, the traffic flow is better than it's ever been as you can see," Paschall said. "And behind me is the best piece, the best mural and community art in the state of Texas."

Back in May of this year, the city commissioned mural artist Calina Mishay to create a mural that reflects Weatherford's Texas roots. Mishay also painted the Peach festival mural that is also located in downtown Weatherford. Mishay also has a new television series called "Cal's Hometown Revival" that airs on Destination America by Discovery, where Mishay travels to various towns across to create murals that capture the city's essence. After Mayor Paschall and other council members spoke, all city officials walked over to the newly renovated York Avenue for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Teresa Wagner, the owner of Something Special Boutique located on York Avenue, said the construction was impacting sales but the new parking spots should help.

"We were here prior to the construction," Wagner said. "It was a rough two months though with customers."

The event culminated with live music.

For more information on upcoming Weatherford events, visit www.weatherfordtx.gov.



JOLEE SKINNER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschall and city officials and residents joined for a ribbon cutting for the new improvements to the north-west quadrant of the square on June 27.



JOLEE SKINNER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The "True Texas" mural that Calina Mishay created for the city of Weatherford. is a focal point for the new road construction and improvements.

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CHARITY

Organization helping veterans grow stronger

By John English
The Community News

When Bobby and Peggy Crutsinger donated a RV to a homeless Vietnam veteran in April, it made 185 total donations since the Weatherford couple started Operation Texas Strong in 2021.

Now that number is up to 191 RV's donated. But the Crutsingers do much more than provide living quarters for homeless veterans.

Peggy Crutsinger, 43, said she and her husband own a resale shop to help offset costs associated with running their 501(c)3 nonprofit, and said the ultimate objective for their organization is much loftier.

"Our goal is to finish up with an RV park of our own," Peggy said. "Everything can be on site. We'll be able to help them with the things they will need to learn to live their best lives and have people come in for things like suicide prevention and employment.

"We'd like to help them get more of their benefits and make more of a little community. And everything would be self-sustainable — the

food would be grown on the land. We'd have our own water wells and produce our own electricity. We'd like to do that because we don't want to burden anybody. We're just wanting to help."

How it works

The Crutsingers were inspired to start their charity because both have relatives who served, and the donation process includes other assistance.

"All of the RVs go into parks for six months," Bobby Crutsinger, 45, said. "They have to pay the RV spot, the veteran does, so we make sure they are affordable spots. The Lone Star 23 is the best one we use. They are a very good park and they work with us, and they make it affordable for the veterans. We want them to have money so that not all of their income is going to rent.

"The RV's are free to the veterans after six months when we give them the titles. We do this to help them get their benefits in order, make sure they have food, make

sure they have clean clothes and make sure we do the whole works and not just say, 'Okay, here you go, bye-bye.'"

The Crutsingers also help stock the Warrior Food Pantry and Little Free Farm Stand in Weatherford, which serve roughly 400 people weekly.

Critical need

Peggy said Operation Texas Strong addresses a critical need among homeless veterans.

"If you are a homeless veteran or just a homeless person, the one thing people need is a place to lay their head," Peggy said. "They need a good night's sleep. You cannot do that if you're sleeping on the streets, because you are constantly worried if the cops are going to come and move you out or the city will move you out, or if other homeless people are going to come and take your stuff.

"Once we can get that problem taken care of, it takes care of a lot of other things. It lets them know they have a place to lay their head and get air conditioning and it builds them back up. Now they can go get a job and do what they need to be to be a productive part of the community."

Peggy's father served in Vietnam, and she said she had a first-hand account of the effects of combat.

"For me, I learned and watched my dad," Peggy said. "The way that I was raised, we didn't go out to eat a lot. When we did, we sat in the back of the restaurant facing the door. We didn't go to the movies much because my dad couldn't



PHOTOS COURTESY OPERATION TEXAS STRONG
Peggy and Bobby Crutsinger began Operation Texas Strong in 2021 to help homeless veterans by renovating old RVs and providing them for homes.

handle loud noises. I lived that life because I watched my father, and I said I didn't want that."

Not without challenges

The charitable work, which Peggy calls "God's work," however, is not without its difficulties.

"The most challenging thing is that we need more RVs because we don't have funds to buy them,"

Bobby said. "People donate what they can. The RVs need to be ready to go, but a lot of them are not. Because more and more people know what we are doing, more and more people are reaching out, but we have requirements because the last three years we have learned what works and what doesn't work." And it can be expensive.

"One day we went and got tires, and were not able to get used tires," Peggy said. "It cost me almost two grand for six tires. We were like, 'Whoa!' But it had to be done. It had to be moved. So it gets expensive after a while, and we are trying to prove that you can help people and make a big impact without putting strain on the taxpayers money."

You can help

Operation Texas Strong is in need of donations and will actually host a Turkey and Dressing cook-off just in time for Thanksgiving on Nov. 16 where trophies will be awarded.

"We love it when our donors reach out to us so we can talk to them," Peggy said. "They have good stories, too. A lot of our people who donate are veterans. It is such a help."

HOW TO HELP

Contact Operation Texas Strong at 1-682-415-2067 or peggycrutsinger@rock-etmail.com for more information.


"Our goal is to finish up with an RV park of our own ... we'll be able to help them with the things they will need to learn to live their best lives."

- Peggy Crutsinger



PHOTOS COURTESY OPERATION TEXAS STRONG

By taking old RVs and turning them into nice ones, Operation Texas Strong provides homeless veterans with a place to live.




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

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

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

Capital Highlights

Proposed fed rule would protect workers from extreme heat



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

A year after a new state law ended mandatory water breaks in Texas, a proposed federal rule would protect millions of workers from the risks caused by extreme heat, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

The rule would require employers to create plans to prevent heat injuries and illnesses and ensure workers get access to drinking water, rest breaks and control of indoor heat. It would apply to all employers whose businesses are under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Last year, Texas legislators passed House Bill 2127, which barred cities and counties from passing ordinances that go farther than state law in a number of areas, including labor regulations. That measure eliminated ordinances in Austin and Dallas that mandated water breaks for construction workers, *The Tribune* reported.

"Greg Abbott tried to take rest breaks away from everyday Texans, but now we're one step closer to securing heat protections for all Americans on the job," U.S. Rep. Greg Casar, D-Austin, said last week. "Employers can adopt OSHA's proposed rule and protect their workers today."

The proposed rule still has to go through the regulatory approval process. It likely will face opposition from industry groups.

AG's office must collect fines from its boss

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton owes the state of Texas more than \$11,000 in fines for filing late campaign finance reports, and the office he heads

is now charged with collecting the money, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

The Texas Ethics Commission referred Paxton's unpaid fines to the attorney general's office in April, according to public records. Paxton is not the only elected official who owes the state for campaign violation fines. Hundreds of candidates and elected officials together owe the state more than \$700,000. His office has declined to sue to collect the unpaid fines, according to the *Chronicle*.

The executive director of Common Cause, a watchdog group, called the situation a clear conflict of interest.

"If I didn't pay a parking ticket and incurred a fine as a penalty, most Texans would find it absurd if I also got to review my fine and have a role in deciding whether any action should be taken to collect that fine," Anthony Gutierrez said.

The office has only filed one lawsuit against a public official who owes ethics fines since September 2023.

Abbott's border wall decades away from completion

The state-funded border wall announced by Gov. Greg Abbott three years ago is proceeding at about a half mile a week, *The Tribune* reported. At that rate, completion of the wall along the state's 1,254-mile border will take about 30 years and cost around \$20 billion to complete. Thus far, 34 miles of wall have been completed at a price tag of about \$25 million per mile.

State lawmakers thus far have approved more than \$3 billion for the wall, out of the \$11 billion allocated for the border crackdown known as Operation Lone Star. The remainder of the money has gone to sending state troopers and National Guard soldiers to the border, as well as transporting migrants to Democrat-controlled cities outside of Texas.

Some Republicans are expressing concern about the rising costs of the wall.

"I am, too, concerned that we're spending a whole lot of money to give the appearance of doing something rather than taking the problem on to actually solve it, and until we do that, I don't expect to see much happen," state Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood.

Abbott's office did not respond to a request for comment.

TxDOT asks for feedback on 10-year plan

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking input on a proposed 10-year plan that proposes spending a record \$104.2 billion for transportation to improve safety, address congestion and improve roadways.

The plan also addresses public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight and international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, according to TxDOT.

The Unified Transportation Program is updated annually and serves as the agency's 10-year blueprint for statewide projects.

"Collaborating with our transportation partners and communities ensures that we continue connecting you with Texas while prioritizing safety, delivery, innovation and stewardship," said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director.

The comment period is underway and ends on Aug. 5. To learn about different ways to comment, go to: <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/planning/utp/utp-public-involvement.html>.

Report: Weed is essentially legal in Texas

A *Texas Monthly* investigation into eight hemp dispensaries across the state found that all were selling cannabis with potent levels of THC, the psychoactive compound still considered illegal in Texas beyond low levels.

In 2018, the Farm Bill passed by Congress said cannabis plants with less than 0.3 percent delta-9 THC is considered hemp and not restricted under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. Texas adopted these standards the following year, making hemp legal in the state. That resulted in hemp dispensaries sprouting across the state.

Russell Gold with *Texas Monthly* told the *Texas Standard* that samples purchased at dispensaries across the state were sent off for testing.

"The lowest amount of THC we found was nine times the legal limit, but we actually purchased some that was 40 times the legal limit," Gold said. "And what that means is that this isn't hemp. It is marijuana by any definition."

Gold said he was unaware of any dispensary in the state being shut down for selling what is essentially cannabis.

"I mean, there are penalties because they're not supposed to, but nobody's paying attention," he said.

Shark attack injures 4 on the Fourth at South Padre

Four people were injured after a shark attack on South Padre Island, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. A news release from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said two people were bitten and two slightly injured when encountering the shark.

Authorities believe a single shark was behind all four incidents, occurring over two hours. Such attacks are rare, with 36 reported last year in the United States, according to the University of Florida's Shark Attack File.

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

Idle American

A Holiday Afterglow



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

Afterglows are wonderful, but are waning of late. Many folks forfeit times of warm reflection, too busy in endless pursuits of whatever comes next.

Oh, afterglows are still around for important life events such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, promotions, holidays and such, but not like in yesteryear, when few roses went unsmelled.

Uncle Mort and his gang down in the thicket ignore the calendar, determined to enjoy afterglows after such trivial triumphs as finding quarters under sofa cushions, sometimes even dimes.

Yes, afterglows are alive and well in the thicket, and Mort says July 4th this year was perhaps the best one yet.

From the standpoint of noise and skies ablaze with brilliant colors, not much was different.

What was different was the raucous laughter heard throughout

the swamp. Sometimes the squeals and howls competed with the booming sounds of heavy-duty "ka-boomers." During lulls, they were unmistakable, seeming to originate from an old house bought recently by a couple from the city. Appearance wise, they seemed to fit right in, what with their two-digit Social Security numbers, furrowed brows and hair that has seen the snow of many winters.

Ever bold, Mort decided to arise early on July 5th, steer his golf cart to the new neighbor's place, get the lowdown on the laughter and then proceed to his gang's afterglow at the general store.

Following introductions, Mort asked about the raucous laughter. The couple looked at each other and laughed again, clearly understanding why there'd be such an inquiry. After all, only hours earlier, they were on their porch swing sharing jokes, not knowing that their piercing laughter was wafting well beyond their picket fence. Instead, was racing across their little stretch of America, all the way to the fruited plain.

"We still find the old jokes to be funny," the newcomer said. His wife nodded in agreement. They also think that if they simply numbered their jokes, they

could laugh just as heartily upon remembering what each number stands for! Mort asked them to repeat the joke that had elicited greatest laughter, sound of which exceeded that of cherry bombs exploding round about.

They told of another older couple; they, too, were on their porch swing, but on an ordinary evening.

"Honey, if I won the lottery, what would you do?" the hubby asked. "I'd take my half and leave you high and dry," his wife answered. "You're in luck," he fired back. "I won \$20 yesterday. Here's your \$10, and let's stay in touch."

Mort joined them in hearty laughter, then headed for the general store.

Upon arrival, Mort soon "ruled the conversational roost," ready to share the story that had created so much laughter the night before. He requested silence, hopeful to keep his "train of thought on track."

"Train of thought? You don't even have a caboose of thought," one of his cronies cackled.

Again, this gaggle of "yesteryear" holdovers yakked and "dominoed" until the sun drooped westward. A good time was had by all.

A funny thing happened to me last week as I walked down a church hallway.

I heard someone yell, "Hey, Shorty!" Since this was my nickname 75 years ago before my height shot upward, I naturally reacted. "How did you know my old nickname?"

"I didn't know it was your old nickname," my friend responded. "I was referencing shortness of breath."

Don't we run short on laughter? Maybe it's because we're not looking for it much anymore. Still, it remains an important elixir for happy lives.

Recently, I heard a new response to the old "how-are-you-doing?" query. We smile, of course, even at responses we've heard thousands of times--such as, "not bad for an old man," "on the top side of the grass" or "better'n I deserve."

For the new response, my smile broadened, and I filed it away to plagiarize later: "I'm still vertical and ventilating."

Dr. Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who is Texas' longest-running syndicated columnist, writing weekly since 2003. Contact: 817-447-3872. newbury@speakerdoc.com. Web: www.speakerdoc.com.

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Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com

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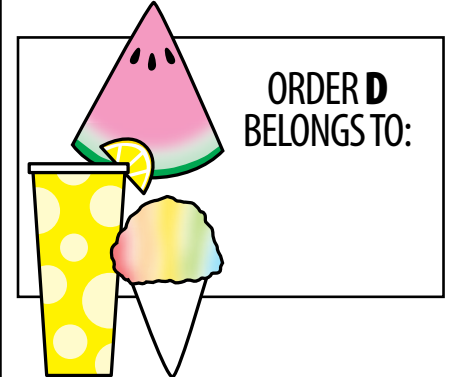
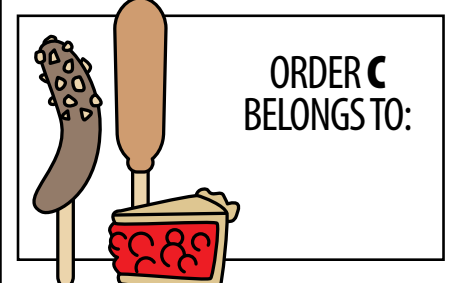
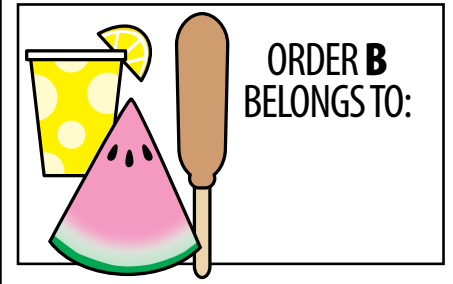
Kid Scoop Together

CRUNCH THE NUMBERS

Look over the Snack Shack menu. Add up the total price of all the items in each group below and figure out which order belongs to which person. Have a family member check your answers.

SNACK SHACK	
JUMBO CORN DOG	\$5.50
CHICKEN NUGGETS	\$4.25
WATERMELON	\$2.00
FROZEN BANANA	\$3.00
CHERRY PIE	\$4.75
SNOW CONE	\$3.50
LEMONADE	small \$2.25 large \$3.25

Kevin spent \$9.75 on snacks. Madison spent \$8.75. Emily spent \$11.00 and Ethan spent \$13.25.



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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: AMUSEMENT
The noun **amusement** means something entertaining or fun.
Just for my own **amusement**, I read the newspaper comics every morning.

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

AMUSEMENT PARK MYSTERY

Mystery News Story

Historians Discover Early Roller Coaster

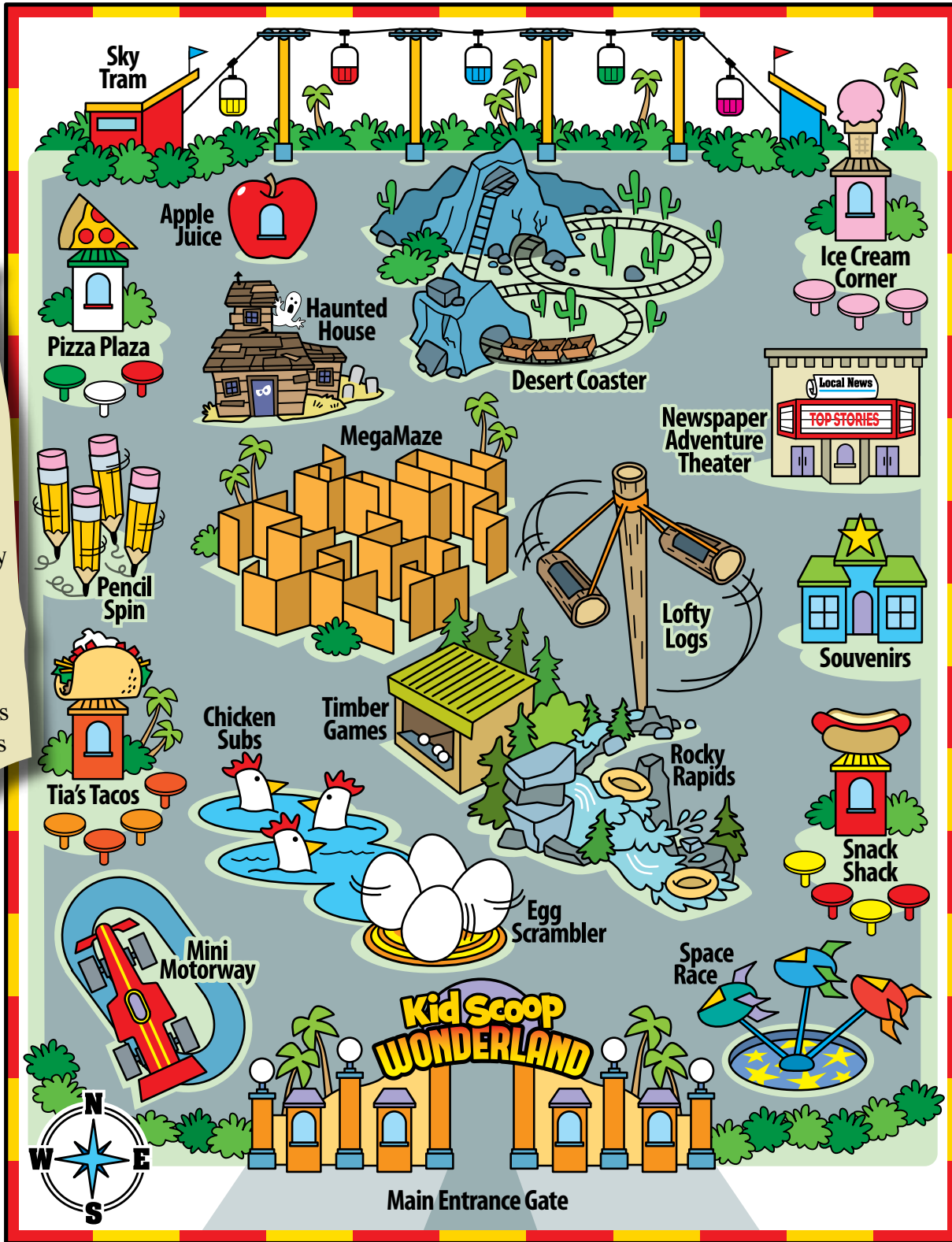
Historians know that people found ways to have thrilling, high-speed rides long before the invention of the roller coaster. But the thing that people rode was not originally designed for playing around. It was designed to help people do hard, dangerous work.

One of these early thrill rides was "Gravity Road" in the mountains of Pennsylvania. It was really

Oh no! The end of this article has been torn off!

Use the Kid Scoop Wonderland Amusement Park map to find the letters for each of the code numbers to complete the mystery news story.

How? Just follow the Decoder Directions below for clues.



Decoder Directions

Figure out what mystery letter each number stands for by following the clues in order using the Kid Scoop Wonderland map.

- From the Main Entrance Gate, go to the first ride just north of the entrance. This mystery letter is the sixth letter of the second word of the ride's name.
- Head to the southwest corner of the park. The mystery letter is the one that's first in both words of this ride's name.
- From that ride, head north to Tia's Tacos. This mystery letter is the last letter of the ride's name located just east of Tia's.
- From there, head east to Timber Games. This mystery letter is the third letter of the attraction north of Timber Games.
- Now, head west. The mystery letter is the fifth letter in that spinning ride's name.
- Head north to Pizza Plaza. Then, head northeast to have a refreshing drink. The mystery letter is the first letter of this stand's name.
- Go northwest and take the Sky Tram to the northeast corner of the park. Get a scoop at the spot just south of the tram station. The next mystery letter is the first letter of the second word in this stand's name.

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

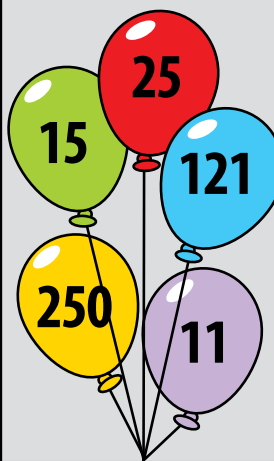
- Next, go west of that stand and ride this coaster. The mystery letter is the last letter of the first word in its name.
- Head southeast to the theater. The next mystery letter is the first letter in the theater's name.
- Go south to the shop. The mystery letter is the first letter of both words in the name of the ride to the west of the shop.
- The last mystery letter is the first letter of both words in the name of the ride just to the south.

Now, use the code to reveal the solution to the mystery!

It was really $\frac{2}{7} \frac{5}{6} \frac{9}{8} \frac{5}{10} \frac{9}{6} \frac{4}{10}$ designed to deliver $\frac{0}{7} \frac{0}{6} \frac{10}{10}$ from the $\frac{2}{7} \frac{5}{6} \frac{9}{8} \frac{E}{3}$ down a steep mountainside to $\frac{0}{7} \frac{0}{6} \frac{8}{8} \frac{3}{10}$ waiting in a $\frac{7}{6} \frac{6}{9} \frac{6}{6} \frac{10}{10}$.

Extra! Extra! Before and After

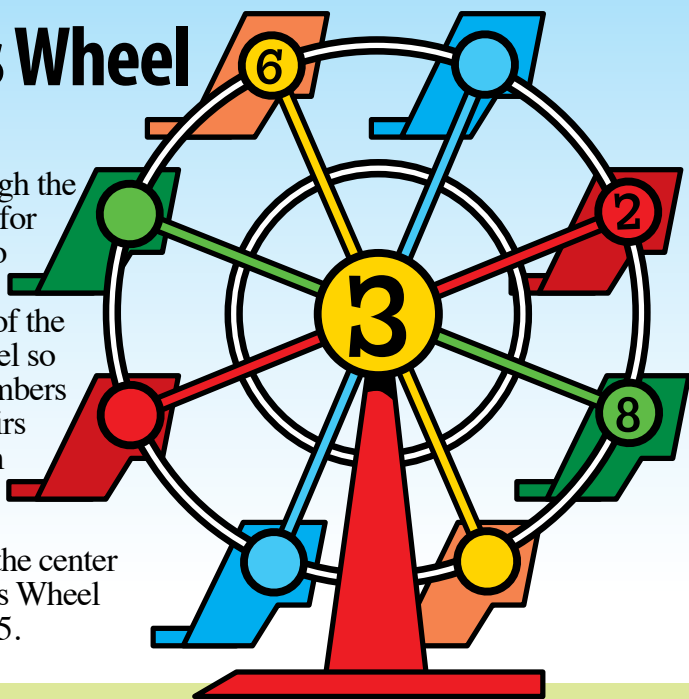
Cut out a number from the newspaper that comes before and after each number on these balloons:



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Ferris Wheel Fun!

Look through the newspaper for a number to place on each chair of the Ferris Wheel so that the numbers on two chairs across from each other and the number in the center of the Ferris Wheel add up to 15.



Standards Link: Use main idea and supporting details in writing.

Double Double Word Search

- AMUSEMENT
CLUES
EGG
GRAVITY
LOFTY
MAP
MYSTERY
PARK
ROCKY
RODE
SKY
SPACE
STORY
TORN
WORK

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



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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Number News

Cut out five numbers from today's newspaper. Rewrite each number in a different way. If the number is all digits, rewrite in word format. If the number is written as a word, write using digits.

Standards Link: Math: Number sense.



Write On!

It was so big that ...

Exercise your powers of exaggeration! Write a sentence starting with "It was so big that..." or "It was so small that..." or whatever exaggeration you like!

Standards Link: Write descriptively using main idea and supporting details.

TRACK AND FIELD

Mach I sending six to Junior Olympics

Staff Reports
The Community News

Continuing the club's long-standing tradition, the Mach I Track Club has qualified six of its members for the upcoming Amateur Athletic Union and USA Track and Field Junior Olympics.

The list includes three members of the Fink family who advanced from the regional meet at Chisholm Trail High School.

Josh Fink will return to defend his national championship in the 3000-meter race walk in the Boys 13-14 division. He won regionals with a time of 17 minutes, 45.86 seconds.

Emmy Strathmeyer leads all Mach I qualifiers, advancing in three events from the AAU regional meet. Competing in the Girls 15-16 division, she won the 2000 steeplechase with a time of 8:04.50, took third in the 3000 in 11:40 and fourth in the 1500 clocking 5:26.

Josh's older brother Jack and younger sister Jenna qualified in two events for AAU. Jack won the Boys 17-18 3000 in 9:03 and was second in the 1500 in 4:17.

Jenna took second in the 1500 and third in the 800 at the regional meet. She clocked a time of 6:35 in the former and 3:18.52 in the latter.

At the USATF regional meet in Seguin, Malachi Dolan advanced in the Boys 9-10 age group and Tryg Meshell joined him in the Boys 11-12. Dolan placed second in the 1500 with a time of 5:27.84, while Meshell finished fourth in 5:04.32.

Meshell also narrowly missed a berth in the 3000, placing sixth with a clocking of 11:52. The same for Bodee Cato, who took sixth in the Boys 17-18 3000 in Seguin with a 10:05.

Also competing at Chisholm Trail was Malachi Wilson. Competing in the Boys 17-18 division, he placed eighth in the 3000 with a time of 10:59.

Also in Seguin was Cole Bettger in the Boys 15-16 category. He was 12th in the 3000 with a 10:15.

From those regional meets, the top five in each event qualified to move on. USATF will hold its Junior Olympics in Bryan-College Station July 22-28 and AAU will be at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina July 29-Aug. 3.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MACH I TRACK CLUB
Emmy Strathmeyer (left) qualified in three events and Jenna Fink advanced in two for the upcoming Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Greensboro, North Carolina July 29-Aug. 3. In all, Mach I Track Club qualified four for the AAU meet, along with two for the USATF Junior Olympics in Bryan-College Station July 22-28.

JUNIOR GOLF

Aledo duo second in tourneys

North Texas PGA Junior Tour

Staff Reports
The Community News

Ainsley Henze and Harper Price of Aledo placed second in a pair of tournaments on the North Texas PGA Junior Tour recently.

Participating in the Metro Tour, Henze was second at Bear Creek in Dallas in the Girls 11-12 division. She shot an 89 over 18 holes to finish two strokes back.

At Cleburne Golf Links, Price was second among Girls 15-18, posting an 83.

Also in Cleburne, in the Boys 13-14 category, the Aledo pair of Christian Moll and Liam Kuperman placed eighth and 10th, respectively. Moll shot 90 and Kuperman 93 over 18 holes.

Nine holes

Beckett Saint, competing in the Boys 7-8 division, tied for second at the Stewart Peninsula course in The Colony, posting a 49, followed by a score of 57 for fourth at Coyote Ridge in Carrollton.

Brayden Goodlett tied for third at Meadowbrook in Arlington, shooting 47 in the Boys 11-12 age group. He was eighth at Bridges at Firewheel in Garland with a 52.

On that same course, Moll placed fifth in the Boys 13-14 division, shooting 42.

Also at the Bridges at Firewheel, Miller DeFord had a score of 43 to tie for fourth in the Boys 9-10 division. At Coyote Ridge, he tied for 10th with a 46.

At Timberlinks in Denton, among Boys 11-12, Kyle Wisdom was seventh with a 62 and Grayson Wright eighth with a 64.

In the Boys 9-10 age group at Stewart Peninsula, Hunter Hamman shot 46 to tie for ninth.

SWIMMING

Wild hosts second meet, regionals next

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Weatherford Wild Swim Team hosted its second meet of the summer recently at the Cherry Park Pool as they began final preparations for regional competition.

The Wild will compete in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 4 Meet in Southlake Saturday and Sunday, July 13-14. From there, qualifiers will advance to the TAAF Summer Games of Texas July 25-28 in Brownsville.

"We are performing well coming into regionals," Wild coach Matt Williams said. "Everyone is dropping times and working hard at practice. Swimmers usually have to be in the top three to five to qualify for state."

Turn to **SWIMMING**, page 7



Samuel Walker takes a breath during a freestyle stroke.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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SWIMMING

from page 6

The Wild have competed in three meets this summer, including one in Flower Mound sandwiched in between their two home meets.

Weatherford top finishers at their recent meet are (distances in yards):

Mixed

15-17 200 Medley Relay: 1. Jane Sorah, Hali Hughes, John Sorah, Kayley Brekel, 2:11.06; 2. Bailey Mezger, Zach Edwards, Kate Kentner, Michael Spillers, 2:15.25 34; 3. Kristen Thomas, Olive Sonderer, Saphira Buchfink, Kade Burlison, 2:26.26.

18-Over 100 Freestyle Relay: 1. Jeni Toudouze, Tiffany Sharp, Katie Edwards, Matt Williams, 1:02.43; 2. Brookelyn Nowakowski, Rea Davis, Shannon Bursey, Melissa Davis, 1:03.12.

Females

8-Under 50 Freestyle: 2. Miriam Tumulty, 52.23; 3. Charli Bursey, 55.89.

8-Under 100 IM: 1. Tumulty, 2:23.79.

9-10 100 IM: 2. Chloe Brumfield, 1:48.19; 3. Virginia Sonderer, 1:53.73.

9-10 50 Freestyle: 3. Sonderer, 43.09.

9-10 100 Medley Relay: 1. Andi Bursey, Brumfield, Sonderer, Claire Bevard, 1:31.82; 2. Ryah Edwards, Aora Schell, Reagan Richey, Chandler, Hord, 1:34.93.

9-10 25 Backstroke: 1. Brumfield, 20.45; 2. Jimma Vanzant, 22.90; 3. Bursey, 24.47.

9-10 25 Breaststroke: 1. Sonderer, 24.97; 3. Richey, 27.57.

9-10 25 Butterfly: 2. Richey, 24.14.

9-10 25 Freestyle: 2. Bursey, 18.81; 3. Hord, 19.06.

9-10 100 Freestyle Relay: 1. Brumfield, Bursey, Hord, Bevard, 1:19.67; 2. Vanzant, Adelaide Artho, Richey, Edwards, 1:23.64.

11-12 200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Blair Mezger, Charlotte Borme, Madison Balaban, Brinley Richey, 2:13.66; 2. Karmyn Chaires, Grace Phillips, Lyla Sharp, Eleanor Sonderer, 3:05.81.

11-12 50 Freestyle: 1. Borme, 33.48; 2. Balaban, 36.35; 3. Richey, 36.43.

11-12 50 Butterfly: 1. Borme, 36.61; 2. Mezger, 40.28; 3. Savannah Israel, 41.59.

11-12 50 Backstroke: 1. Balaban, 44.67; 2. Richey, 44.70; 3. Israel, 48.59.

11-12 200 Medley Relay: 1. Balaban, Mezger, Borme, Richey, 2:33.34.

11-12 100 Freestyle: 1. Balaban, 1:19.75; 2. Sonderer, 1:24.45; 3. Chaires, 1:27.20.

11-12 100 IM: 1. Mezger, 1:24.59; 2. Borme, 1:29.71; 3. Sonderer, 1:43.51.

13-14 100 IM: 1. Mackenzie Oligschlaeger, 1:15.06; 3. Lynleigh Bruno, 1:27.33.

13-14 100 Freestyle: 2. Bruno, 1:14.87; 3. Campbell Hord, 1:19.86.



Nicholas Enriquez

13-14 200 Medley Relay: 1. Avery Meek, Sydney Vidal, Oligschlaeger, Hord, 2:25.01; 3. Jael Mira, Elizabeth Walter, Ivy Scott, Emma Kechnie, 3:02.57.

13-14 50 Backstroke: 1. Oligschlaeger, 33.53; 2. Meek, 36.86; 3. Bruno, 39.48.

13-14 50 Breaststroke: 1. Meek, 40.16; 2. Vidal, 44.33; 3. Scott, 47.91.

13-14 50 Freestyle: 2. Meek, 30.86.

13-14 200 Freestyle: 1. Oligschlaeger, 2:17.37.

15-17 200 Freestyle: 1. Kate Kentner, 2:51.59.

15-17 50- Freestyle: 1. Kentner, 32.10.

15-17 50 Breaststroke: 1. Bailey Mezger, 37.97; 2. Olive Sonderer, 39.48; 3. Jane Sorah, 39.50.

15-17 50 Backstroke: 1. Mezger, 38.25; 2. Kristen Thomas, 39.34.

15-17 200 Medley Relay: 1. Sorah, Hali Hughes, Saphira Buchfink, Kentner, 2:27.13.

15-17 100 IM: 1. Sorah, 1:17.87; 2. Sonderer, 1:19.13; 3. Hughes, 1:19.62.

18-24 100 IM: 1. Brookelyn Nowakowski, 1:15.53.

18-24 50 Backstroke: 1. Nowakowski, 33.04.

18-24 50 Breaststroke: 1. Nowakowski, 37.26.

18-Over 200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Nowakowski, Jeni Toudouze, Shannon Bursey, Katie Edwards, 2:09.14; 2. Tiffany Sharp, Melissa Davis, Chelsea Hord, Katherin Blankenship, 2:42.62.

25-39 50 Breaststroke: 2. Shannon Bursey, 42.59.

25-39 50 Backstroke: 1. Melissa Davis, 57.33.

25-39 50 Freestyle: 2. Bursey, 36.08; 3. Davis, 39.92.

25-39 100 IM: 2. Bursey, 1:36.20.

40-Over 50 Freestyle: 1. Katie Edwards, 30.88; 2. Jeni Toudouze, 32.56; 3. Katherin Blankenship, 38.40.

40-Over 100 Freestyle: 1. Toudouze,

1:15.90.
40-Over 50 Breaststroke: 1. Toudouze, 44.23; 2. Blankenship, 50.00.
40-Over 50 Butterfly: 1. Edwards, 35.94.

Males

6-Under 25 Freestyle: 2. Frankie Galvan, 30.89; 3. Wyatt Kilgore, 34.22.

6-Under 25 Backstroke: 2. Galvan, 28.63; 3. Kilgore, 44.26.

8-Under 25 Backstroke: 1. Riggins Davis, 27.22.

8-Under 50 Freestyle: 1. Davis, 47.12.

8-Under 100 Freestyle Relay: 1. Davis, Galvan, Griffin Blankenship, Wyatt Kilgore, 1:35.93.

9-10 100 Freestyle Relay: 1. Harrison Gentry, Samuel Balaban, Beau Mezger, Blake Garcia, 1:15.42. 3. Max Borme, Nicholas Enriquez, Timothy Stillwell, Wesley Judd, 1:18.66.

9-10 50 Freestyle: 2. Borme, 39.89.

9-10 100 Medley Relay: 1. Balaban, Gentry, Borme, Mezger, 1:27.25; 3. Stillwell, Enriquez, Garcia, Judd, 1:40.53.

9-10 25 Backstroke: 2. Borme, 22.98; 3. Balaban, 23.00.

9-10 25- Breaststroke: 1. Gentry, 21.05; 2. Mezger, 21.72.

9-10 25 Butterfly: 2. Gentry, 20.22.

9-10 25 Freestyle: 1. Gentry, 16.55; 2. Mezger, 16.58; 3. Balaban, 18.73.

9-10 100 IM: 1. Gentry, 1:38.28.

11-12 100 IM: 1. Bowen Judd, 1:22.98; 2. Tyson Sonderer, 1:25.75.

11-12 50 Freestyle: 2. Colt Spillers, 40.09.

11-12 50 Breaststroke: 1. Blair Mezger, 42.05. 2. Brinley Richey, 48.81.

11-12 50 Backstroke: 2. Sonderer, 41.53.

11-12 50 Freestyle: 1. Judd, 36.09; 2. Spillers, 44.62.

11-12 100 Freestyle: 2. Judd, 1:05.67.

11-12 200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Judd, Spillers, Korbin Oberlin, Sonderer, 2:12.45.



Jimma Vanzant

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Kayah Williamson

13-14 200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Ethan Kilbourne, Blake Mezger, Corbin Lane, Cullen Costello, 1:59.55.

13-14 100 Freestyle: 1. Costello, 1:02.18; 2. Lane, 1:05.56; 3. Rafe Haugen, 1:08.14.

13-14 200 Medley Relay: 1. Lane, Costello, Mezger, Kilbourne, 2:06.72; 2. Max Gentry, Kody Burlison, Samuel Warden, Haugen, 2:28.45.

13-14 50 Breaststroke: 1. Costello, 33.48; 2. Mezger, 35.64; 3. Burlison, 37.17.

13-14 50 Backstroke: 1. Lane, 33.28; 2. Mezger, 33.98.

13-14 50 Butterfly: 1. Costello, 29.47; 2. Burlison, 36.97.

13-14 50 Freestyle: 2. Kilbourne, 28.21; 3. Haugen, 28.73.

13-14 100 IM: 1. Kilbourne, 1:18.94; 2. Mezger, 1:23.00.

13-14 200 Freestyle: 1. Kilbourne, 2:29.31; 2. Lane, 2:29.83.

15-17 200 Freestyle: 1. Michael Spillers, 2:17.14; 2. Zach Edwards, 2:17.19.

15-17 50 Freestyle: 1. Edwards, 26.62.

15-17 50 Backstroke: 1. John Sorah, 28.15.

15-17 50 Breaststroke: 1. Spillers, 34.26; 2. Sorah, 35.50; 3. Edwards, 35.90.

15-17 200 Medley Relay: 1. Spillers, Edwards, Kade Burlison, Sorah, 2:06.90.

15-17 100 Freestyle: 1. Burlison, 56.12; 2. Spillers, 59.62.

18-24 100 Freestyle: 1. Enson Griffith, 57.95.

18-24 50 Butterfly: 1. Griffith, 30.46.

18-24 50 Freestyle: 1. Griffith, 26.99.

25-39 50 Freestyle: 2. Rea Davis, 28.66.

25-39 100 Butterfly: 2. Matt Williams, 1:01.15.

25-39 50 Breaststroke: 1. Davis, 37.87.

25-39 100 IM: 1. Williams, 1:09.32.

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For more information contact the Parish Office at 817-441-3500

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

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 efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents. This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

JULY 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! \$10.00 for adults \$5.00 children 5-12 Under 5 are free For more information on www.peachfestivaltx.com



JULY 14

After Peach Party
Join us for our 2nd annual After Peach Party from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 14 at the Historic Downtown Weatherford. Shop the local shops & vendors and enjoy some peachy treats & deals. Listen to live music! Enjoy great food & more!



AUGUST 3

Bearcat Nation 101
Attention, Bearcat Nation! Aledo ISD will be hosting its annual Bearcat Nation 101, a free event that brings the Aledo community from 9a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2024, in the McAnally Middle School cafeteria at 14700 Old Weatherford Road. This fantastic opportunity is designed to help you build connections with your community by bringing district administrators and employees across multiple departments as well as community partners together in one convenient place! Get plugged in to Bearcat Nation and find ways to help your child thrive by connecting with

ACROSS

- TX Tommy Lee film: "Eyes of Laura"
- TXism: "chew ___ awhile" (ponder)
- San Antonio "Road-runners" univ.
- classic western: "High ___" (1952)
- basic cable net.
- "it don't ___ up" (makes no sense)
- seat of Callahan County on I-20
- position of Texas legend Nolan Ryan
- TXism: "got as much chance as ___ in a packing plant"
- TXism: "___ a goose"
- apprehended
- popular TV dog
- Monahans ___ hills State Park
- TX Joe Don Baker film: "Cape ___"
- one name for the earliest country in Texas
- Cowboys won ___ Bowl five times
- TX-born Keyes book "Scarlett O'___ Younger Sister"
- TXism: "three ___ wind" (drunk)
- large hairy spider
- Karmann ___ (old Volkswagens)
- melons grown in the Rio Grande Valley
- Cowboys hated foe

DOWN

- seat of Titus County (2 wds.)
- San ___, TX
- Italian rice dishes
- Marsh, creator of the "Cadillac Ranch," for short
- TXism: "active as a fox in ___ house"
- TXism: "he was around when the ___ sick" (old)
- physicians (abbr.)
- legally prohibit
- TXism: "nervous ___"
- expectorated
- T. Hughes swore in LBJ on Air Force One in 1963
- TXism: "get your ducks ___"
- Austin univ.
- singer McEntire from Texas' northern neighbor
- ___ Park, Texas
- southern states gov. in Civil War ave. or st., e.g.
- Chris ___Doux is in the "Texas Trail Hall of Fame"
- Texas cosmetics founder Mary Kay
- expectorated
- T. Hughes swore in LBJ on Air Force One in 1963
- TXism: "get your ducks ___"
- Austin univ.
- Xbox competitor (abbr.)
- martian? (abbr.)
- pippen
- Paul Newman 1963 film about Texas
- 7-___ (Texas convenience store)
- TXism: "___ the unvarnished truth"
- Texas Southern sprinter Jim who won 1968 Gold
- TXism: "___ high on the hog" (rich)
- Rangers drafted this Robb in 1987
- Jeremy Pena pos. with the Astros
- this promotes the growth of muscles
- TXism: "boring as a fishing trip with a ___ warden"
- TX ZZ Top breakthrough album: "___Hombres"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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fellow Bearcats and learn more about our schools, programs and community resources. You'll see firsthand what being ALL IN is all about. Come out in style wearing your orange and black at this free event!

AUGUST 8

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.

AUGUST 13

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 efforts of the caregivers, especially the families of our residents.

This meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information call 682-209-0643

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EVENT

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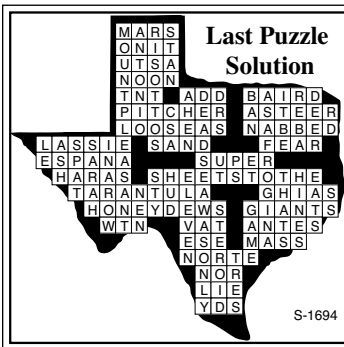
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The Aledo Independent School District (the District) is requesting competitive sealed proposals for the following RFPs:

RFP 2408-07 : Products and Services for Facilities, Grounds, and Transportation

RFP 2408-08: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Supplies, Materials, Equipment, Software, Repair Services, and Student Services

RFP 2408-09: Signs, Flags, Banners, and Monuments

RFP 2408-10: Apparel, Awards, Promotional Products, and Spirit Wear

RFP 2408-11: Student Competitions, Field Trips, Retreats, Special Events, Memberships, Other Student Services, and Related Incidental Products

RFP 2408-12: Professional Learning Services, Memberships, Conferences, Training Aids, Publications, and Research

RFP 2408-13: Instructional Supplies, Materials, Equipment, Software, Repair Services, and Student Services

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 August 9, 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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FOOTBALL

Bearcats No. 1 in magazine predictions

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Being ranked No. 1 in the state is not surprising for those connected to or familiar with the Aledo Bearcats football team.

And, sure enough, that's exactly where the team sits as they prepare to defend their back-to-back Class 5A Division I state championships.

"Dave Campbell's Texas Football," the premier magazine concerning football at all levels in Texas, has the Bearcats picked as the top team in the state in their preseason rankings. As they noted, "When in doubt, go with the most decorated program in Texas High School history. The Bearcats are just that dominant."

The Bearcats have amassed a dozen state championships since 1998, including 11 since 2009. This includes going 16-0 in 2023, the first under head coach Robby Jones, who was offensive coordinator for 13 seasons previously.

Top ranking

Jones, who is also 'Dave Campbell's' preseason choice as coach of the year in Class 5A, admitted to a little surprise that his team is ranked No. 1 heading into the season. While they are expected to return three offensive and four defensive starters, including preseason District 3-5A MVP junior running back Ray Guillory, the Bearcats will have to fill some gaps for the coming season.

"Denton Ryan, sitting there with all the returners they have and the lack we have, I thought they'd be ahead of us," Jones said.

Fact is, the Raiders, also a perennial power, are ranked second in the state preseason. They return eight offensive and seven defensive starters from a team that finished 8-3 and reached the second round of the playoffs.

The Raiders also came perilously close - for Aledo, that is - to ending what is now a 119-game district winning streak last season. They led 19-17 in the closing moments before Bearcats quarterback Hauss Hejny - now at TCU - broke free for a long run in a 25-19 Aledo victory.

The teams will meet Oct. 4 at Tim Buchanan Stadium.

Tough district

The Bearcats might well be playing in the toughest Class 5A league in the state. Not only does it feature themselves and Ryan, there's Richland.

The Royals return eight offensive and eight defensive starters from a team that finished 12-1 and advanced to the third round of the playoffs before losing to Forney. The Jackrabbits (13-2) were ousted by the Bearcats in the state semifinals.

Brewer (3-7 last season) is the district's fourth pick for the playoffs.

Keller Fossil Ridge (4-6) is dropping down from Class 6A and expected to challenge for a playoff berth after being in a district with powerhouse Southlake Carroll,

Keller and Trophy Club Nelson. Also looking to make a move up from their prediction are Birdville (4-6), Denton (4-7, bidistrict), Azle (3-7) and Granbury (3-7).

"We knew this district was going to be really tough and it's going to be a real challenge," Jones said.

Along with having Ryan at home, the Bearcats will host Richland Oct. 25. They travel to Brewer on Sept. 13 to open league play.

Other district games are at Birdville at home on Sept. 20, Fossil Ridge on Sept. 26, at Granbury on Oct. 11, at Azle on Nov. 1 and hosting Denton on Nov. 8.

Challenging pre-district

The Bearcats will open the season at 6A power Denton Guyer on Aug. 30. Last season Aledo won 48-45 on a last-second field goal - ironically, only the second highest scoring game between as Guyer won 60-57 in 2019.

That will be followed by the season's first home game on Sept. 6 against Lancaster, new to 6A after reaching the 5A Division I Region I final last season before falling in double overtime to Forney.

"We have a hard time finding people to play," Jones said. "You've got to take whoever will play you."

Jones said Dallas South Oak Cliff, which won 5A Division II state championships in 2021 and 2022, along with finishing second last season, was originally slated for a third pre-district game. However, with the Bearcats being placed in

a nine-team district, there was no room on the schedule for the contest.

Weatherford

The Kangaroos are coming off a 5-5 season that saw them narrowly miss the Class 6A playoffs. They return three offensive and five defensive starters.

"Dave Campbell's" has the challenge to reach the postseason a bit more bit more difficult for the Roos this coming season. They are picked sixth in the seven-team District 3-6A.

The league also includes, with predicted order of finish, North Crowley (14-1, Division I state semifinals), Crowley (7-4, bidistrict), Saginaw Boswell (6-4, bidistrict), Mansfield (6-4), Mansfield Legacy (3-7), with Mansfield Lake Ridge (0-10) picked seventh.

Willow Park Trinity Christian

With eight offensive and eight defensive starters expected to return, the Eagles are hoping to improve from a 1-9 season and return to the playoffs. They are picked fourth in Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools District 1 Division 3.

Lubbock Christian (11-3, Division 4 state finals) is predicted to win district, followed by Fort Worth Lake Country (4-7, bidistrict) and Arlington Pantego (6-3).



Weatherford Christian

The Lions are picked fourth in TAPPS Six-Man District 1 Division 2 on the heels of a 6-5 season that saw them reach the playoffs. They are planning on having four starters back on each side of the ball.

Fort Worth Covenant Classical (10-2, second round), Abilene Christian (11-3, state final) and Crowley Nazarene Christian (10-3, Division 3 state semifinals) are the top three picks.

Weatherford Grace Christian

The Colts have optimism for more in 2024 as the return four offensive and four defensive starters from a team that went 1-8. The Colts play a private school six-man independent schedule.

Local Heroes

Parker County Sheriff's Life Saving Award



Parker County Sheriff's Deputies (from left) Joseph Evans, Randy Lawson and Corporal Luis Montanez received the honor after saving the life of a suspect following a shootout.

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