

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving Aledo · the Annettas · Hudson Oaks · Willow Park, Texas

“Our prayers are with President Trump and those injured and impacted by today’s tragedy. Political violence is completely unacceptable, has no place in democracy, and we pray for justice, civility and peace.”

- State Representative Glenn Rogers regarding the attack on President Trump

ALEDO

Council signs off on transfer agreement

Library to officially become part of city

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo City Council officially signed off on becoming the new owner of the East Parker County Library at its meeting on June 27.

Three residents rose to speak in favor of the proposal in which the City of Aledo will acquire all library assets — its property at 201 FM 1187, all personal property, books, furniture, computers, and other equipment. The city will also receive all library funds on hand except for \$15,000, which will be used to start a non-profit library support organization.

Once construction is complete on Aledo’s new city hall, the library will be moved to that facility.

In Making their case for the transfer agreement, the local residents who rose to speak referred to the city’s motto: “Rich Heritage — Dynamic Future.”

“How fitting is it that 30 years ago to the month a group of Aledo citizens came to this very body and spoke about how our community needed a library,” said area resident Cameron Hanover. “And that body said yes and we got our wonderful little humble library right there. This body now has the opportunity to enhance the library for all generations to come.”

Pam Oetinger, a member of the library board, also rose to speak.

“On behalf of the board. I’m very happy to say that we voted unanimously to approve that agreement and we hope that all of you do the same tonight,” Oetinger said. “Having the library in the city hall will help build community relationships. It will bring people together, whether it’s our summer programs, the makerspace activities, reading

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RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Christian Smith and her daughter, first-time visitors from Fort Worth, prepare for a good time on the merry-go-round at the Parker County Peach Festival, Saturday, July 13.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Longtime board member resigns

School receives update from OTA, PTA programs

By Crystal Woerley
Weatherford College

The Weatherford College Board of Trustees announced the resignation of longtime board member Mac Smith at their meeting on Thursday, July 11.

“Mac served for many years and was chair during construction projects, the addition of bachelor’s degrees, and he was very supportive of the prolific increases in faculty and staff salaries,” said WC President Tod Allen Farmer. “He was a quiet but powerful force on this board for positive change. We deeply appreciate his service to this institution.”

Parker County residents interested in filling the open board seat are encouraged to send a letter of interest along with a minimum of three references to jedwards@wc.edu through July 31. The board will deliberate over the applicants in August and set up interviews to move toward filling the vacant seat.

“Mac and I have been friends all my adult life, and he was my law partner at one point in my career,” said Board Chairman Dan Carney. “I



Mac Smith

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LOOK AT IT THIS WAY

Lots to savor at Peach Festival



Rick Mauch
sports@community-news.com

For meeting folks from all walks of life and enjoying everything under the sun - a blistering sun, as always - it just doesn’t get any better than spending a day at the Parker County Peach Festival.

And that is exactly what we did, the lovely Mrs. Junell and myself, this past Saturday as the annual event was held on the northwest quadrant of the square in downtown Weatherford.

First-timers

As always, the event drew folks from all over, young and old. Some have been coming since the festival sold its first peach and some were making their original trek - with one consistent theme and repeated comment.

“Why didn’t I come sooner?”

Randy Smith is one of those first-timers. Despite living in nearby Springtown, he simply never made

it down the road to the popular event until now.

Expect to see him back, however.

“I don’t really know why, but I just never got to go,” he said. “But this is great. I see so many good things. I saw a lot of books and I love to read.”

Christian Smith (no relation), who was getting set to ride the merry-go-round with her young daughter Kira, came over from Fort Worth for the first time.

“This is great. We are having a wonderful time,” Christian said as Kira waited anxiously before smiling big as the merry-go-round started.

Mario Lopez, from Waxahachie, took a break from taking it all in during his first time at the festival. He smiled and responded that I wasn’t the first to compare him with the former “Saved By the Bell” Star.

“Yeah, I get that a lot, but I’m better looking,” he said with a laugh.

Then, he stood up, showing his T-shirt, which was one of the better ones at the festival. It depicted the movie “Godzilla Minus One,” the best in the Godzilla series and the only one to win an Academy Award, released last year.

“This is fantastic. We’ve been all over and we’re about to go to the



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Holly Glenn and her son Thomas show some of the art in her booth.

farmers market. I love peaches!” he said.

Returners

Lots of folks made their way back, including many vendors. For some, this means crossing several

states and a lot of territory to promote their wares.

Like Jauncy Howard and her tasty treats from her company Rumtastic - small Bundt cakes with

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EAST PARKER COUNTY

Beat the heat with library activities

Puzzles, LEGOS and more

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

Summer time can be fun time in the cool indoors of the East Parker County Library. The library hosts Play at the Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday with puzzles, LEGO, and activities. Also, students and adults can drop in any day and use the library's computer lab, work puzzles, and, of course, read.

Board member and volunteer Cathy Mason said Play at the Library is a time for parents and guardians to spend time with children utilizing fun library resources.

"LEGOs are really popular. We just roll out a cart full and let the kids have fun," Mason said. "We will continue this through the school year for little ones who are not yet in school."

The library also schedules story time with special guests readers and activity days with informative guest speakers.

The library has more than 26,000 titles including books and videos with an additional 8,000 items on audio books.

Stay informed and receive the library's monthly email newsletters by registering at epclibrary.com. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The library is located at 201 FM 1186 in Aledo. For more information, call the library at 817-441-6545.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Annetta Elementary School second-grader Amelia Goode enjoys an activity at the East Parker County Library with grandma Gail Botha, who is visiting her Parker County family from South Africa.

LIBRARY

from page one

groups, people will come together finding common purposes here in the city of Aledo."

Library board member Cathy Mason recalled some of the financial struggles the private library has dealt with in the past. She acknowledged that there are some people in the community were not in favor of the city taking on the financial obligation of the library.

"I think that's fair," Mason said. "But again over the last 30-some

years, the city residents have been blessed with a pretty much free to them community resource that all the surrounding towns have donated money and time to.

City Manager Noah Simon told the council that the discussion with the library board have been going on "for quite some time."

Aledo City Council member Shawna Ford, who is also president of the library board, abstained from the council vote in order to avoid a conflict of interest. Otherwise, the vote was unanimous.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Watching the mixing of the world record peach cobbler was a festive event with volunteers helping fill five gallon buckets of batter and pouring the batter and canned peaches.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Musician Toby Hutchinson provided entertainment for the spectators watching the giant peach cobbler mixing. | RIGHT: Event watchers were encouraged to help on the assembly line, keeping five gallon buckets of batter and 300 gallons of milk moving to the mixer.



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

While it wasn't served to the public, the goal of creating the world's largest cobbler was reached with a batch that weighed 5,790 pounds.

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PEACH

from page one

a kick (or two if you get the 'extra choice'), thanks to the rum in them.

"We enjoy coming all the way from Marietta, Georgia," Howard said. "You know, we've got some tasty peaches there, also."

Holly Glenn brought her cool art from Liberty Hill near Austin and was helped in displaying it by her young son Thomas. While the art itself was certainly worth stopping for, who could resist saying hello and browsing with such a cute little spokesperson encouraging folks to stop?

We certainly couldn't.

"I come here every year and business is always great," Glenn said. "It always gets hot in the afternoon."

And indeed it did again this year. Though the high in the mid-90s was slightly less than the 100-plus it has been at other times.

"I'm happy with 90 degrees or a little more," Glenn said. "It has been scorching sometimes here, but it's still always a great time."

April Miske, with Texas Toffee, looks forward to the event every year. Rain, shine, no matter the temp, there's no place she'd rather be as July approaches its midpoint each year.

"I'm the one who got them coming down here. We've been coming 14 years," she said.

And, of course, a record

From snow cones at Casa Decor to the legendary ice cream at Cout's Methodist booth, if you want to taste something peachy, it only makes to go somewhere with peach in its name.

The festival once again had it all in that department.

This included a world-record peach cobbler that weighed in at 5,790 pounds. However, while it could be seen, it was fenced off and unable to be eaten.



April Mishke shows off some Texas Toffee.

PHOTOS BY RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
LEFT: Randy Smith of Springtown was one of several first-time visitors. | RIGHT: The northwest quadrant of downtown Weatherford was a popular place for the Parker County Peach Festival on Saturday, July 13.



LEFT: Jauncy Howard made the trek all the way from Marietta, Georgia to sell her miniature rumcakes in her Rumtastic booth. | RIGHT: Mario Lopez, from Waxahachie, is enjoying his first visit to the annual event.

"While we did choose to not serve the cobbler based on our lack of ability to maintain food safe temperatures across the entire thing for the length of the event, I am still so proud of all of the good that this experience did provide our community," Zach Smith, who coordinated the creation of the cobbler, posted on Facebook. "We donated all unused

product to a local food bank, donated some used product to animals, and donated the giant pan back to the school to use on future projects. Thanks again for everyone who had a hand in it."

I'm sure it was scrumptious, though I was not able to taste it. That record is pretty delicious to have, though.



The train was popular with kiddos.



This quilt honors several Peach Festivals from years past.

Spark in the Park

Weatherford hosts annual patriotic event

BY Jolee Skinner
The Community News

The City of Weatherford hosted their annual spark in the park event at Heritage Park. The event packed in around 11,000 people, despite soaring temperatures.

Citizens of Weatherford and families from all over the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex came to the patriotic event to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday.

The event hosted many top food trucks and vendors, such as BBQ DNA, which is located in Dallas, and dessert caterers Dosey Dough.

The big music headliners for this event were the Eli Young Band. Opening for them was Texas Clearwater Revival, a cover band formed in 2016 to honor Rock and Roll Hall of Famers John Fogerty and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

The Eli Young Band also threw out a couple of covers like "Shut Up and Dance" by Walk the Moon.

At about 9:30 p.m., the event was topped off with the 20-minute-long fireworks show while classic songs like "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood and "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus played.

Director of Communications and Marketing for the city of Weatherford, Amy Borders, said "Spark in the Park is an event created for everyone to enjoy. Spark in the Park was established in 2016 to provide a premiere fun-for-all-ages event to celebrate Independence Day while also holding one of the best and largest fireworks displays in the state of Texas."

Borders also said that the City of Weatherford is always looking to put on new events for the city and provide a great community for citizens to live in.



JOLEE SKINNER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Spectators enjoy the fireworks at Spark in the Park in Weatherford. The live entertainment for the event was the Eli Young Band.





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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

Abbott demands probe into power outages



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspres.com

More than 2 million Texans lost power when Hurricane Beryl hit the Texas coast, and Gov. Greg Abbott wants to know why. *The Austin American-Statesman* reported Abbott has ordered the Public Utility Commission to conduct an immediate study into why the Houston area has again been hit by widespread power outages.

"I want to find out, was there a structural flaw with regard to the electrical delivery system?" Abbott said. "Was that the cause of it? If so, what needs to be done to shore up, or was this a personnel issue of not having enough power personnel in all the right locations to get power back up?"

CenterPoint Energy is the primary electricity transmission company serving the Houston area. Its CEO, Jason Ryan, appeared before the PUC last week and was questioned about the outages.

"To our customers that not only have power out but have significant property damage from the trees we talked about coming up from the roots, our hearts go out to you and our hearts go out to our community," Ryan said.

As of Sunday morning, CenterPoint's website indicated 461,247 customers were still without power, nearly a week after Beryl made landfall.

To date, 67 counties have been approved for federal disaster assistance, while other counties may be included as damage assessments are concluded. Those counties in the initial list are: Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Austin, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Calhoun, Cameron, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Goliad, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hidalgo, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Matagorda, Milam, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Panola, Polk, Refugio, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Webb, Wharton, and Willacy.

Forest service assesses tree damage after Beryl

More than 400,000 acres of rural forestland was potentially affected by Hurricane Beryl, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service, which has closed W.G. Jones State Forest in Conroe until a damage assessment can be undertaken. In addition, hurricane force winds potentially affected as much as half of Houston's urbanized area tree coverage, the service reported.

"We used a combination of on-the-ground observation, remote sensing and Forest Inventory and Analysis data to conduct a tree damage assessment for rural forests in East Texas and the Houston metro area," said Aaron Stottlemeyer,

Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Analytics Department Head.

Workers and others are urged to use extreme caution when clearing tree debris.

Old pipes lead to billions in lost gallons of water

The state's most populous cities lost approximately 88 billion gallons of water last year because of aging pipes and extreme heat, *The Texas Tribune* reported. Unsurprisingly, the city that lost the most water, according to self-reported audits, was Houston, the state's largest, at 31.8 billion gallons. Coming in second was San Antonio, which reported losing 19.5 billion gallons.

The main factors for the losses are leaks and water main breaks, problems more often associated with smaller towns with fewer resources to maintain infrastructure, *The Tribune* reported.

"What we have right now is not sustainable [or] tenable," said Jennifer Walker, National Wildlife Federation's Texas Coast and Water Program director.

An Austin-based think tank, Texas 2036, predicts the state will need to spend more than \$150 billion over the next half-century on water infrastructure.

'Real ID' will be required by next May

Is your state-issued identification card, such as a driver's license, a Real ID? Texans have until May 2025 to find out and comply with a federal law passed in 2005 in response to 9/11, the Statesman reported. The state in response began issuing Real ID compliant cards in 2016.

These cards have a gold circle with an inset star located in the upper right-hand corner.

Right now, a Real ID card is not required to fly domestically, but that will change on May 7, 2025. After that, a Real ID or a passport will be required to board domestic flights. Anyone renewing their driver's license now will receive an idea that is Real ID-compliant.

Passports are still required to travel beyond U.S. borders.

Saltwater fish release nears 1 billion

Hurricane Beryl slowed the official release of the 1 billionth saltwater fish into Texas bays, but it should happen soon, according to the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*. The Texas Parks and Wildlife program has been releasing fish into Texas bays for the past four decades in order to replenish native fish populations.

The fingerlings are raised in local and state hatcheries. The billionth fish is slated to be a red drum fingerling — a highly popular game fish in Texas.

Paxton: House committee preparing to impeach him again

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said last week that a House investigating panel once again is attempting to impeach him, though its chairman said the panel is meeting for an unrelated matter.

The committee passed articles of impeachment in May 2023 that were passed overwhelmingly by the House. The Senate then

Turn to **POWER**, page 5

Idle American

Popcorn Tradition Crosses State Lines



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

A popcorn tradition was born 50 years ago this summer in the garage of our home in southwest Fort Worth.

That was some 26 tons of popcorn and four machines ago. It was sparked by the late Dr. Veda Hodge, who owned a string of movie theaters and multiple West Texas oil wells.

She heard that I was making snow cones for our pre-school daughters and neighborhood friends--albeit settling for "snow" with texture akin to road gravel. We used a near-antique machine purchased in a second-hand store. Dr. Hodge insisted on providing a used popcorn machine so we'd have treats more popular during cooler months.

We provided snow cones for all takers. After all, unit costs were held to about two cents each. Happily, neighbors helped out, freezing ice in gallon jugs.

Popcorn soon was consumed not only by neighborhood children, but also from speaking lecterns, where I appeared more than 100 times annually for more than fifty years. For two decades, Halloween has been a big deal, with between 500-700 youngsters showing up for treats.

Somewhere, Dr. Veda is smiling.

Popcorn probably best defines my presidency/chancellorship at Howard Payne University. The tradition--along with taking students and others parasailing at Lake Brownwood--provides fond memories. So does an introduction once made by a dear departed friend, George Dolan, whose daily front-page column in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram delighted readers for three decades.

He called me "the nation's 'unstuffed' college president."

It is a description I treasure. All of my popcorn machines have been, uh, experienced, with some nearing antique status. When I bought a large coffee-shaped popcorn machine from an old theater

22 years ago, I thought it would serve the rest of the way.

A kink in the acquisition loomed, however. Our garage would not accommodate two cars AND an oversized popcorn machine. Simple solution: Our modest Burleson, TX, retirement home--under construction at the time--was widened by just two feet, thus accommodating the machine.

I don't remember--and don't care to remember--how much this added to the cost, but it has been worth it, even though Brenda, my wife of almost 58 years, still frets a bit, referencing "that odor in the garage." I contend that it's an "aroma."

Fast forward to the here and now: David Williams (HPU, 2005) is a "do-everything" kind of guy. He reconstructed a popcorn machine that is virtually identical to the one Dr. Hodge gave me. He sent me a picture, and yep, the machine was for sale.

I purchased it sight unseen and soon he delivered it to our home. Uh oh. Now I had two machines--one bigger than now needed and the other a sentimental favorite--like the ones seen on sidewalks outside of small theaters for the convenience of popcorn-purchasing passers-by.

After 29 years of handing out presidential, then chancellor popcorn, it is time for me to shift gears. I'll settle for my smaller machine, and now hand out PEP-corn (aka, "president emeritus popcorn.")

This spring my wife and I had lunch with Dr. and Mrs. Brad Johnson at College of the Ozarks near Branson, MO., where he has been president for about two years. In his earliest years of college administration, we served together at HPU, where his wife,



DR. DON NEWBURY
Dr. Don Newbury, a 50-year popcorn tradition, shown with fourth machine and rescue dog Archie.

Laura, received her baccalaureate degree.

During lunch, they both mentioned their hope to find a tradition like ours at HPU. "What about sharing the tradition into the next 50 years?" I asked. Did I ever have a deal for them!

Recently, they had a big "whoop-de-do" with a program to celebrate the passing of the scoop. Featured were printed programs, balloons, and a sumptuous luncheon. I stumbled a time or two when emotions got in the way, sometimes saying, "Um," thus unknowingly creating a new acronym that's a perfect fit for both HPU and CofO. "U MATTER" is conveyed with each bag. May the tradition live on!

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues a regimen of speaking and writing. Texas' longest-running syndicated columnist, he began writing weekly in 2003. Contact: 817-447-3832. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.



POWER

from page 5

voted by a large margin to acquit Paxton.

“Their bitter obsession with taking me down knows no bounds, and they will stop at nothing to remove me from office,” Paxton wrote last week.

Committee chair Rep. Andrew Murr, R-Junction, said Paxton was mistaken.

“There is absolutely no truth to Mr. Paxton’s far-fetched fantasy that the House General Investigating Committee is meeting to talk about him,” Murr said in a statement.

Whataburger app serves as outage tracker

While CenterPoint Energy’s outage tracker was down, some Houston residents figured out that an app used by Whataburger, the iconic Texas burger chain, could be used to figure out what areas had power and what didn’t.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported the app allowed folks to look at the Houston area and determine what areas had power. If the Whataburger “W” normally orange logo was gray on the app’s map, that area likely had no power.

After a social media user posted the discovery on X, formerly Twitter, on Monday night after the storm, more than a million people had viewed the post. It is unknown how many used the information to head out for a burger or a taquito.

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

ALEDO

Wylie bench dedicated at athletic field

Christopher Amos
The Community News

Hugs and laughter were plentiful during a dedication ceremony at Aledo Athletics sports complex on Bankhead Highway. The Lynch family gathered with about 30 friends and family to dedicate a bench outside one of the ball fields in honor of JT and Paula Wylie and the effort they put into helping establish the sports organization.

Sammie Lynch shared how intertwined the Wylie and Lynch families were and told stories of

the beginning of the park and of kids growing up playing ball at the facility. She read scripture from the gospel of John 34 about sowing and reaping the benefits.

“I think we see the harvest that this family planted,” Lynch said of JT and Paula Wylie. “This bench is a way to say ‘thank you’ as a family and show what they mean to us.”

The bench is inscribed, “If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I’d walk right up to heaven and bring you home again. In honor, JT & Paula Wylie from Roy Lynch Family.”



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Sammie Lynch speaks at a gathering of family and friends at the Aledo Athletics fields where the Wylie family were instrumental in the inception of the sports complex. A small bench near the west parking lot was dedicated in honor of JT and Paula Wylie. **ABOVE:** The Lynch and Wylie families are connected with marriage and friendship. Members told humorous stories of the beginnings of the Aledo Athletics ball field, saying JT and Paula Wylie would be pleased how the program has thrived before ending the gathering with prayer.

BOARD

from page one

can’t tell you what an impact he’s had on my life, personally. I want to voice again how grateful we all are to you, Mac, for your service to this institution.”

OTA, PTA

The board also heard an update from the Occupational Therapy Assistant and Physical Therapist Assistant programs.

Both programs started with a Title III grant at the college’s former Mineral Wells campus and were moved to Weatherford in 2019. The move has proved beneficial, as the programs have been able to cross-train and share equipment and skills with other health science programs on campus.

The OTA program continuously exceeds the national average in graduation and certification exam

pass rates. The PTA and OTA programs both boast a 100 percent job placement rate. New PTA graduates earn around \$60,000 annually and top earners with experience earn more than \$94,000.

Both programs have actively engaged students who participate in service activities and learning with Rocky Hills Farm, the Parker County Senior Center, Tarrant Area Food Bank, local skilled nursing facilities, Stars and Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, The AUsome Allen Foundation and many more.

“Since 2019, we’ve been very involved in interprofessional education activities with the second-year students, and we are now training the first-year students on mobility and transfers,” said PTA program director Cindy Lavine. “Then, at the end of the year, nursing and respiratory care students set up a lab and teach the PTA students the skills for use in the ICU.”

They’ve also partnered with the University of North Texas Health Science Center for team-building activities with their doctoral PT students. They are working on more interprofessional training opportunities for the fall semester.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the minutes of the June 6 board meetings.
- Approved the financial reports ending June 30.
- Approved the intercollegiate athletic insurance renewal proposal from Dissinger Reed.
- Approved the renewal of the commercial charter bus services contract.
- Approved the renewal of the electrical and mechanical services contract.
- Approved the purchase of Canyon West lots 19 and 19R, located adjacent to the pool and

pool house at Canyon West Golf Course.

- Received written reports from Wise County, student services, the office of academics, and an update on the progress of the 2024-25 budget.

President’s Report

Dr. Tod Farmer:

- Congratulated WC student-athlete Robert Fortenberry on this recent recognition as the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association DI Baseball Pitcher of the Year.
- Recognized the work by the City of Weatherford on a new crosswalk completed on College Park Drive near the residence halls.
- Announced the WC women’s tennis team recently finished tied for 12th place in the NJCAA Division I Tournament. This is the third consecutive year of

national top-15 finishes for WC women’s tennis.

- Announced the resignations of Ryan Matheny, student support services specialist; Karen Talbott, veterinary technology instructor; Ryan Heckart, executive assistant to the president’s office; Jesse Speirs, head golf coach; Marvella Starlin, associate degree nursing program director; and Kathleen McKenzie, health professions subject matter expert for Workforce Education.
- Provided an enrollment update for the summer and fall semesters. Summer enrollment stands at 2,211 compared to 2,134 this time last year. Fall enrollment is ongoing, with 3,228 compared with 2,658 this time last year, an increase of 21.4 percent.

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VOLLEYBALL

Hammett to lead Lady Roos program

Former Godley coach returns to Parker County roots

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

Before entering the athletic fray as a varsity volleyball coach, Courtney Hammett was a varsity player for a very strong Peaster program before she graduated in 2009. Now, after coaching for Millsap and Godley for the last several years, Hammett will return to Parker County as the head volleyball coach of Weatherford High School.

“Coming back to Parker County has always been the end goal as far as location for my career,” Hammett said. “My husband and I have always wanted to raise our two boys out here and be closer to family and now we are able to do that. I just never dreamed it would happen this soon but I am very thankful that it did.”

Beyond the familiarity and the scenery, Hammett was stunned and appreciative of Weatherford’s interest, even though she had no plans to leave Godley, where she was the head coach for four years.

Bittersweet choice

“I was not looking to leave Godley. I signed my contract back in May with every intention of continuing what I have built the last four years,” Hammett said. “So, when I woke up to a random email from Weatherford a week and a half into summer asking if I was interested in taking over here, I was absolutely shocked. I had to read it about five times

before I fully understood what was happening. But after meeting the athletic director Aubrey Sims, learning more about Weatherford ISD as a whole, doing my research, and a lot of prayer, God answered very clearly in more ways than one and I accepted the job. I am beyond excited to start this journey and I look forward to being a Roo.”

At Godley, Hammett coached a strong group through four successful seasons. During her time leading the Ladycats, Hammett guided the team to two second-place finishes in her first two years followed by two undefeated district championship campaigns in her final two years. Overall, Hammett amassed 109 total wins with 45 district victories and four bi-district playoff victories. Now, she takes over a Lady Roo squad who’s previous head coach, Karli Morrison, accepted the head job at Randall High School.

Although Hammett has only recently been introduced to the varsity program in Weatherford, she has noticed the quality attendance and skill on display during summer workouts, along with the family atmosphere she experienced at Godley.

“I don’t think there are enough words or thoughts to express how thankful I am to my family in Godley for my four years there,” Hammett said. “They were not just my athletes or assistant coaches or co-workers, they were my family away from home. They took my entire family in, especially when I had my youngest son my second year there, and made us feel at home. The parents and fans were



PHOTO COURTESY COURTNEY HAMMETT

Courtney Hammett is entering her first season as head coach of Weatherford Lady Roos volleyball. Pictured with her are her oldest son Easton Hammett, her husband Austin Hammett and youngest son Hank Hammett.

beyond supportive from day one, and my athletes bought in immediately back in 2020.

“To say it was hard to leave would be a huge understatement. However, I am a firm believer that everything happens for a reason and God put this opportunity in my lap as a huge answer to many prayers. Although it was hard to say goodbye to Godley, it was even harder to turn down this amazing opportunity.”

Building relationships

In terms of creating a culture, Hammett is eager to forge relationships among the girls and with them. In order to achieve this, she

will emphasize balance and togetherness for the busy schedules of her student athletes.

“My philosophy is relationships first. Therefore, I hope to build a culture of a family who fights for one another on and off the court and understands that championship teams don’t become championship teams just because they are talented and athletic,” Hammett said. “It starts off the court with relationships, academics, commitment to one another, myself, and the entire program, integrity, grit, work ethic, and selflessness. Once those things are understood and bought into, then the rest begins to fall into place.”

BASEBALL

Two Bearcats honored by THSBCA

Staff Reports
The Community News

Two recent graduates and former members of the Aledo Bearcats baseball team have been named first-team Class 5A All-State by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Ryan Jones was chosen at third base. Also, Boyd Thompson was selected at shortstop.

Jones has committed to play collegiately at Texas Tech and Thompson has committed to Seminole State College in Seminole, Oklahoma.

The two were instrumental cogs in yet another fine season by the Bearcats. They won district with a 10-2 league mark, finished with a 26-13-1 overall record, and advanced to the third round of the playoffs. They swept Fort Worth South Hills in bidistrict and defeated Colleyville Heritage in three games before falling to Argyle in two games.

Two Roos receive baseball accolades

Staff Reports
The Community News

Former Weatherford Kangaroos outfielder J.T. Cienaga has been a Class 6A Elite All-Star by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association. Also, incoming junior catcher Jett Vindiola was named third-team Class 6A All-State.

Cienaga, a recent graduate, led the team in batting with a .429 average, along with driving in 27 runs. Vindiola posted a .360 average.

Cienaga has committed to play for Grayson College next season.

The duo helped the Kangaroos to a 25-8-1 record and a runner-up finish in District 3-6A. They were upset in a pair of one-run losses by Keller in bidistrict, 2-1 and 4-3 in nine innings.

SOFTBALL

Pair of Ladycats TSWA All-State

Staff Reports
The Community News

After leading their team to a third state tournament in four seasons, two pitchers for the Aledo Ladycats softball squad have been named Class 5A All-State by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

Brenlee Gonzales, a recent graduate, was named to the second team. Incoming senior Taylor McKean is an honorable mention.

Gonzales has committed to play for Texas Tech next season. McKean has verbally committed to play for Tarleton State University.

The duo combined for a 34-3 record this past season as Gonzales was 19-1 and McKean posted a 15-2 Mark. In the state semifinals, McKean pitched a one-hitter and struck out 14 in a yeoman effort as the Ladycats dropped a 1-0 contest to Harlingen South.

The Ladycats (35-4) were nothing short of dominant in winning another district championship with a 12-0 record, outsourcing their opponents 136-8. At one point during the season the team had a 23-game winning streak.

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Kid Scoop Together

THE NICE LIST

Work with a family member to make a list of nice things you do to help others over the next week. If you run out of lines to fill in, that's awesome!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Introducing the STAR of today's Kid Scoop page... YOU!

This week's *Kid Scoop* page stars the one and only YOU! Complete the page and then hang it in your room so that you can remind yourself every day of how wonderful you are!

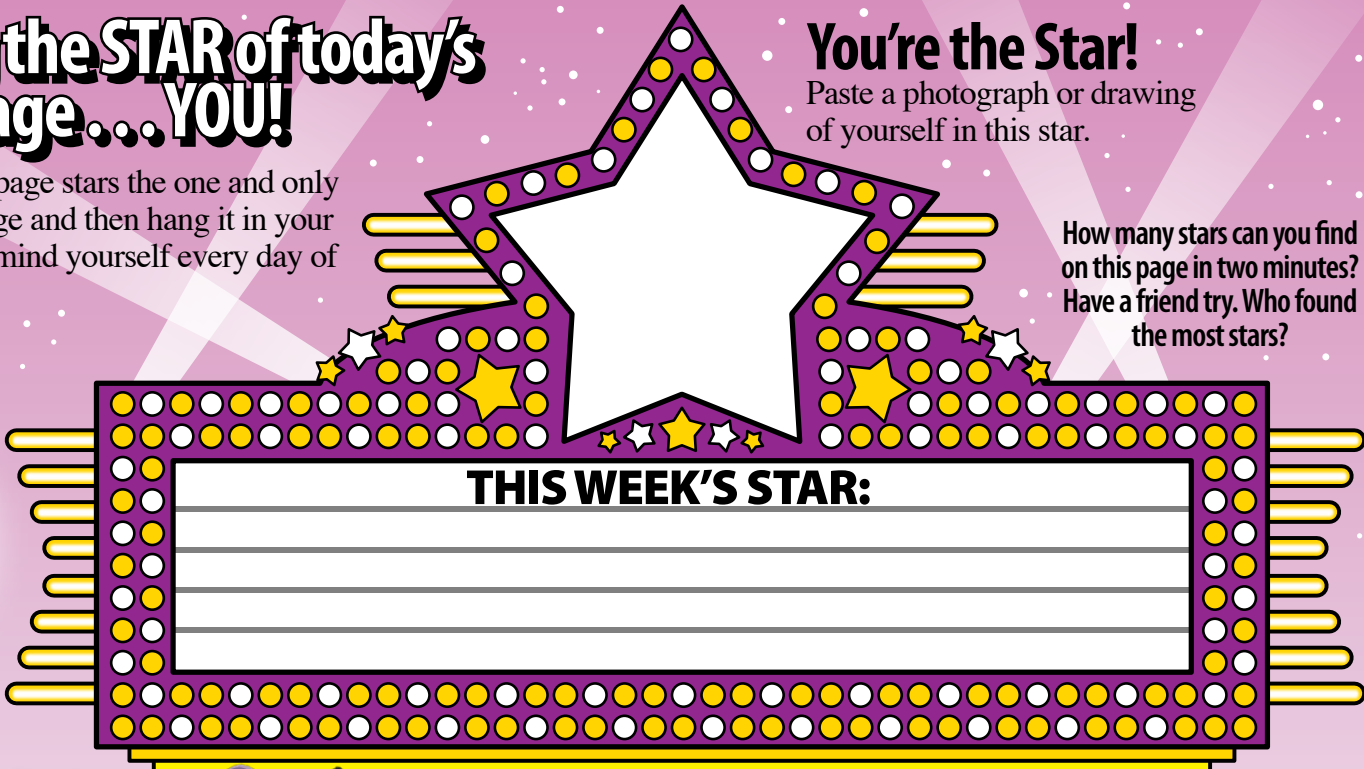
You're the Star!

Paste a photograph or drawing of yourself in this star.

How many stars can you find on this page in two minutes? Have a friend try. Who found the most stars?

Your Name in Lights!

Cut out letters from today's newspaper to spell your name on the theater sign.



Step Into Stardom

For many decades, famous movie stars have put their handprints and footprints in wet cement in front of Hollywood's Chinese Theater in California. After the cement dries, the prints are left for visitors to see.

Wait! Who got in the wet cement? Match these prints to the silly star wannabes.

Standards Link: Students recognize similarities and differences.

The Amazing ME!

Look through the newspaper for adjectives that describe you. Paste them under your name on the sign.

Give Yourself a Hand!

Trace one of your hands on a piece of paper. Cut it out and ask friends and family to write something on the hand that says what's special about YOU! Paste it on this page.

Standards Link: Health: Recognize personal characteristics that contribute to self-esteem.

When You Depend Upon a Star

Wishes made on stars may not always come true. But when you look at what you do every day, you'll find that you are a star who can be depended upon.

Fill in this calendar to show your weekly responsibilities. The idea stars at right can help.



Extra! Extra!

Before and After

Look through the newspaper for words that start with each letter in your name. Use the words to write a poem about YOU! Start each line of the poem with a letter in your name.

Example:

M magical
I intelligent
A awesome

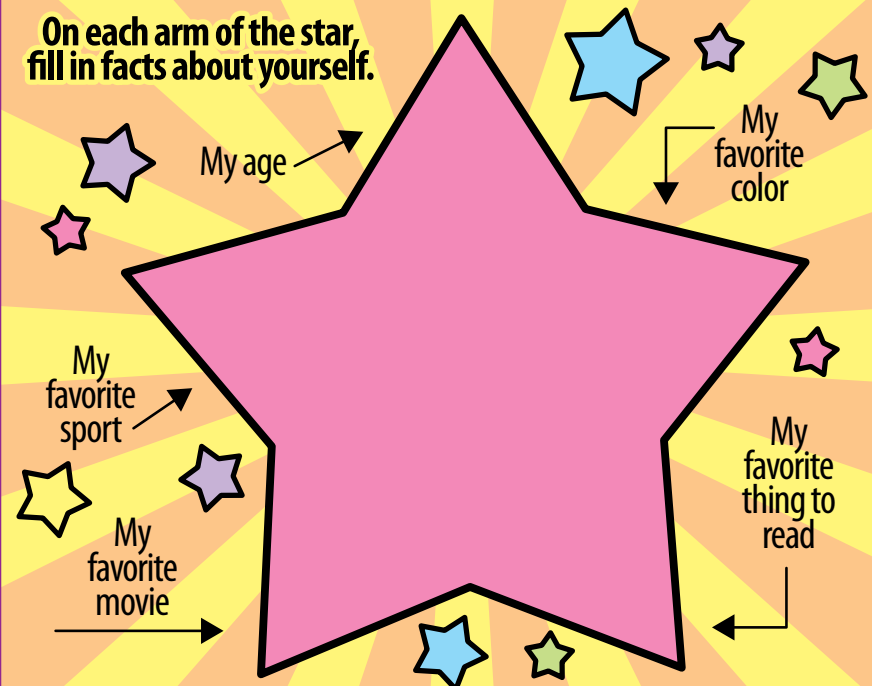
Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

The Star Facts

On each arm of the star, fill in facts about yourself.



Standards Link: Health: Recognize personal characteristics that contribute to self-esteem.

Double Double Word Search

- CALENDAR
- CEMENT
- HAND
- HELP
- HOLLYWOOD
- IDEA
- MOVIE
- POEM
- PRINT
- SIGN
- SPELL
- STAR
- THEATER
- WAIT
- WISHES

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

```

J D O O W Y L L O H
P W R A D N E L A C
K O N Y W S T A R E
P M E G Z E I V O M
S R L M I H D B T E
P T I J A S E I P N
E M U N H I A L G T
L H D Y T W O I P N
L Y T H E A T E R Q
    
```

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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **FAMOUS**

The adjective **famous** means something or someone who is very well-known.

Walt Disney became famous after the creation of Mickey Mouse.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

The STAR Story

Look through the newspaper for pictures and words that tell about you and your life. Use the words and pictures to make a book all about YOU!

Standards Link: Health: Students participate in activities that promote self-confidence and self-esteem.



What kind of stars wear sunglasses?

ANSWER: MOVIE STARS

Write On! Celebrity Close-Up

You're a celebrity! You are writing your autobiography for *Celebrity* magazine. Tell all about how you became famous.

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

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

AUGUST 3
Bearcat Nation 101
Attention, Bearcat Nation! Aleo ISD will be hosting its annual Bearcat Nation 101, a free event that brings the Aleo 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 fellow Bearcats and learn

more about our schools, programs and community resources.

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 Aleo 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 Aleo 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

ACROSS

- TXism: "from womb to _____" (lifetime)
- _____ vera
- singer Horne
- TXism: "keep _____ under your hat"
- TX-born Stephen Stills tune: "For What _____ Worth"
- Daniel Defoe novel "Robinson _____"
- Ozona High class (2 wds.)
- TXism: "down _____ bones" (lost weight)
- TXism: "_____ frazzle" (tired)
- Odessa is seat of this county
- TXism: "a _____ the pan"
- high-pitched barks
- TXism: "you can _____ hog, but you can't take him anywhere"
- Turkish officials
- harness racer
- Pat of Texas-filmed "State Fair" (init.)
- TXism: "you can take _____ bank" (sure thing)
- lavish Texas party
- pronounce Lamesa: "luh-____-suh"
- TX B.J. Thomas gospel album "Home _____ Belong"
- TXism: "_____ without a paddle"
- Texas pitcher Ryan (init.)
- Texas legal specialty "oil _____"
- hog fat
- intl. distress signal
- this Teri starred with TX Dabney in "Tootsie"
- public school sports and academic org.
- TX Barbara Mandrell tune: "Sleeping Single _____ Bed"

DOWN

- Astros GM in the 1980's, Smith
- Grand _____ Opry
- Wood County newspaper
- TXism: "_____ ever saw" (unusual)
- what George W. finally could say on 12/13/2000?
- guys who enforce marine law (2 wds.)
- Roger the Dodger" (init.)
- Great Britain & No. Ireland
- Texas has a chapter of this environmental organization (2 wds.)
- TXism: "went to the well _____ too often"
- TXism: "_____ high on the hog" (rich)
- tornados
- Pampa's "_____ Texas Rodeo"
- something never said about 41-across? (2 wds.)
- ex-Astro hurler Doug
- pickup rubber
- TX Fess who was Davy & Daniel (init.)
- TX Wayne Tippit had a part in this 1981 military film
- TXism: "don't give a hoot _____ a holler"
- Texans like it iced singer Haggard
- TXism: "skinny as a _____"
- this TX Blocker was Bonanza's "Hoss"
- TXism: "necessary as _____ wine"
- TX Benton directed this Jess in "Kramer vs. Kramer"
- Austin univer.

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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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SWIMMING

Wild has strong regional showing

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Weatherford Wild swim team placed fourth out of 14 teams at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 4 Swim Meet at the Southlake Natatorium on July 13-14.

The Wild had a combined team score of 1,932.5 points. Of these, male swimmers accumulated 984.5 and females scored 916.

The team also had a combined total of 47 medals, including 12 gold, 16 silver and 19 bronze.

Among the male swimmers, Bowen Judd and Harrison Gentry each won a pair of gold medals swimming in the 11-12 and 9-10 age groups, respectively. The females were led by two gold medals each won by Charlotte Borme and Mackenzie Oligschlaeger in the 11-12 and 13-14 divisions.

For ages 14 and under, swimmers who finished in the top five qualified for the TAAF Summer Games of Texas July 25-28 in Brownsville. For swimmers ages 15 and up, if they swam at regionals they are qualified to swim at state.

Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 4 Meet At Southlake Natatorium, July 13-14

Weatherford Wild results

(Distances in yards)

Males

- 6-Under
- 25 Freestyle: 3. Frankie Galvan, 26.81.
- 25 Backstroke: 1. Galvan, 27.58.
- 8-Under
- 25 Backstroke: 4. Riggins Davis, 25.98.
- 9-10
- 25 Breaststroke: 1. Harrison Gentry, 21.83; 2.

- Beau Mezger, 21.85.
- 25 Butterfly: 5. Gentry, 20.13.
- 100 IM: 3. Gentry, 1:34.43.
- 100 Freestyle Relay: 1. Max Borme, Mezger, Gentry, Wesley Judd, 1:10.91; 2. Samuel Balaban, Nicholas Enriquez, Vincent Circelli, Blake Garcia, 1:14.53.
- 11-12
- 100 Freestyle: 1. Bowen Judd, 1:06.97.
- 50 Backstroke: 1. Judd, 34.92; 5. Tyson Sonderer, 38.86.
- 50 Breaststroke: 3. Sonderer, 43.15.
- 11-12 100 IM: 4. Judd, 1:21.93.
- 13-14
- 200 Medley Relay: 2. Max Gentry, Rafe Haugen, Blake Mezger, Ethan Kilbourne, 2:17.49.
- 100 Freestyle: 3. Eli Vanzant, 57.67.
- 50 Backstroke: 3. Corbin Lane, 32.87; 5. Gentry, 34.57.
- 50 Breaststroke: 1. Cullen Costello, 33.26; 4. Mezger, 36.34.
- 50 Butterfly: 5. Costello, 30.56.
- 50 Freestyle: 2. Vanzant, 25.89; 4. Costello, 27.63.
- 200 Freestyle Relay: 2. Gentry, Haugen, Mezger, Kilbourne, 1:57.69.
- 15-17
- 50 Backstroke: 1. John Sorah, 28.63.
- 50 Butterfly: 2. Sorah, 27.16.
- 50 Freestyle: 4. Sorah, 25.88.
- 100 IM: 3. Sorah, 1:07.98; 5. Ryan Roberts, 1:24.48.
- 200 Freestyle: 3. Michael Spillers, 2:18.52.
- 18-24
- 100 Freestyle: 2. Enson Griffith, 55.87; 4. Michael Goff, 1:05.91.
- 50 Butterfly: 4. Goff, 31.02.
- 100 IM: 3. Griffith, 1:09.87.
- 200 Freestyle: 1. Griffith, 2:20.30.
- 25-39
- 100 Freestyle: 3. Matt Williams, 1:01.55.
- 100 IM: 3. Williams, 1:09.74.

Females

- 9-10
- 25 Backstroke: 3. Chloe Brumfield, 20.30.

- 25 Breaststroke: 5. Brumfield, 23.51.
- 25 Butterfly: 5. Reagan Richey, 23.65.
- 11-12
- 200 Medley Relay: 3. Blair Mezger, Brinley Ritchey, Charlotte Borme, Madison Balaban, 2:33.70.
- 50 Backstroke: 2. Borme, 36.46; 3. Mezger, 36.48.
- 50 Butterfly: 3. Borme, 35.02.
- 50 Freestyle: 1. Borme, 30.12; 2. Mezger, 30.37.
- 200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Mezger, Ritchey, Borme, Balaban, 2:11.74.
- 13-14
- 100 Freestyle: 1. Mackenzie Oligschlaeger, 1:01.42.
- 50 Backstroke: 5. Avery Meek, 37.17.
- 50 Breaststroke: 2. Meek, 40.17.
- 50 Butterfly: 3. Oligschlaeger, 32.05.
- 50 Freestyle: 3. Oligschlaeger, 27.79.
- 100 IM: 4. Meek, 1:21.87.
- 200 Freestyle: 1. Oligschlaeger, 2:17.66.
- 15-17
- 200 Medley Relay: 2. Karla Rodriguez, Bailey Mezger, Jane Sorah, Kristen Thomas, 2:16.42.
- 100 Freestyle: 2. Jane Sorah, 1:04.11; 4. Karla Rodriguez, 1:05.43.
- 50 Backstroke: 4. Sorah, 35.11; 5. Kristen Thomas, 40.47.
- 50 Butterfly: 3. Sorah, 31.23.
- 50 Freestyle: 3. Sorah, 29.53.
- 200 Freestyle Relay: 2. Karla Rodriguez, Bailey Mezger, Jane Sorah, Hali Hughes, 2:02.09.
- 18-24
- 50 Backstroke: 2. Brooke Nowakowski, 32.98.
- 50 Breaststroke: 2. Nowakowski, 38.35.
- 100 IM: 2. Nowakowski, 1:15.83.
- 40-Over
- 50 Freestyle: 5. Jeni Toudouze, 32.59.

Mixed

- 18-Over
- 100 Freestyle Relay: 3. Brooke Nowakowski, Jeni Toudouze, Enson Griffin, Matt Williams, 55.10.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford Wild swimmer Addie Walker practices her backstroke.

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