

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

## Two Tales of a City

If you're judging a city by a few of its teens . . .



DON SORENSEN

Will Reid, Kellie Lambertson and Sarah Tubbs paint new siding.

**By Geoff Mantooth**  
Special to The Community News

Joel Robbins is acutely aware there are people who don't live in Aledo, yet they "know all about it." Robbins is the Senior Pastor of Aledo United Methodist Church, a church that dates to the 1870s.

Those who don't live here know Aledo as the place where a few years ago a handful of high school kids delved too deep in historical reenactment by holding a fictitious online "slave" auction of their black classmates. That made national news.

Not long after, a former AISD teacher sat on a Fort Worth jury involving a man accused of shooting a gun across the street into a kitchen, narrowly missing a woman and child. During voir dire, the ex-teacher said she used to live in Aledo and another woman commented the whole of Aledo was racist. Joel Robbins winces every time he hears about this Aledo, because he knows better.

Those who don't live here know Aledo as the place where another high school student recently posted AI-generated nude pictures with real faces of fellow female students. The incident caused excruciating embarrassment for the women and made national news.

They also know Aledo as the place where, a few years ago, a parent from a neighboring town filed a bullying complaint after Aledo's football team recorded a lopsided win against their son's team. In what passes these days for investigative journalism, the national news debated the complaint with all its seriousness.

This is the first tale, of an Aledo full of undesirables, at least if you're  
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THEATER

## On The Road



PHOTO COURTESY PARKER COUNTY THEATRE COMPANY

An original production of 'Home on the Range' is one of several shows presented by the Parker County Theatre Company, started by Lori Coughlin in 2022. She also wrote the show.

## Mobile theater takes art form throughout county

**By John English**  
The Community News

A passion for the theater led Lori Coughlin to pursue a degree in Theatre Arts in 2021.

A desire to share her passion with those who have the least access to the art form led to the creation of the Parker County Theatre Company one year later.

As part of its mission statement, the mobile theater company expresses a desire to

"inspire creativity and make theater accessible to all communities within Parker County."

Coughlin said that, so far, her theater company has done just that.

"Parker County is huge," Coughlin said. "It is 900 square miles. We have two excellent theaters located in Weatherford, but that leaves a lot of area within the county that doesn't have a theater presence, so I wanted to create a mobile theater that would give

those outlying communities the opportunity to experience theater in a way that they might not be able to do so."

### Cultivating a passion

Coughlin grew up in musical theater beginning at the age of 8 when she auditioned for the Texas Girls Choir, performing for the next four years at such venues as TCU's Ed Landreth Hall, the  
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## Bonus Daughter

### Lucy Ibeh misses Olympic cut but makes the pros

**By Christopher Amos**  
The Community News

There are few basketball opportunities near the Nigerian village where Chinelo Lucy Ibeh grew up, so the talented athlete made the heavy decision to leave her home and pursue her dreams in the United States.

Lucy excelled in each school she attended and was a standout player on the teams she represented. Her path to being a professional basketball player is long and complex, made easier by host families like that of Will and Juliet Allanach in Aledo.

"We call her our bonus daughter. She is like part of our family," Juliet said, noting the family stays in contact with Lucy almost daily. "We happen to be among the fortunate to get to claim her."

### Coming to America, finding success

Lucy entered high school at Happy Hill Farm Christian boarding school in Granbury where she graduated as valedictorian. During that time she played on the Texas Express select team under coach Kenny Yates. In 2020, she played on the Texas Lonestar select team under coach Tracey Stellato with Allanach's daughter, Elizabeth, as a teammate.

Although not an AHS student, Lucy also worked at Ladycats summer basketball camps during her time here.

Her academics are as impressive as her athletics. After short stays at Alabama A&M University and

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIET ALLANACH

When Lucy Ibeh's mother, Lucy, visited Aledo in May on Mother's Day, it was the first time in three years she had seen her basketball star daughter.

### WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

## A&M-Corpus Christi added to transfer list

### Graduate transfer partners with Weatherford College

**Weatherford College**  
Special to The Community News

Weatherford College President Tod Allen Farmer and President Kelly Miller of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi signed a transfer agreement recently to align the institution's nursing programs to support student and faculty pathways for advanced degrees.

Graduates of WC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program will have access to TAMU-CC's Master of Science in Nursing and related graduate nursing programs and certificates.

The agreement was made possible through the leadership of Renee Smith, WC's director of nursing, and Kathy Boswell, WC's dean of health and human sciences.



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We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 or email [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com). Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information.

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

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

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

## Capital Highlights

# Expanded passenger rail again on the table



Gary Borders  
gborders@texaspress.com

A huge pot of federal rail funding and chronic highway congestion are prompting some Texas officials to again consider expanding passenger rail in Texas, according to *The Texas Standard*.

Congress set aside \$66 billion three years ago in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for rail projects across the country, sparking some interest in increasing passenger rail service between the state's major cities.

"It's like the perfect storm forming, because 20 years ago if we talked about passenger rail in Texas, it would fall on deaf ears," said Peter LeCody of the Texas Rail Advocates.

The state's population is projected to increase from 30 million now to 47 million by 2050, sparking concerns of increased dependence on cars and more road congestion.

A plan to build a high-speed rail between Dallas and Houston with speeds of more than 200 miles per hour is back on the drawing board after Amtrak shelved it due to difficulty acquiring land and leadership issues, *The Tribune* reported.

The Texas Central route has acquired about 30% of the land needed to build the

Dallas-Houston line, which is expected to require more than \$30 billion in financing from governmental and private sources. A number of private landowners remain steadfastly opposed to giving up their land for the proposed line.

### Uvalde school officer pleads not guilty

A former Uvalde school police officer pleaded not guilty last week to charges of failing to protect children killed and wounded in the 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.

Adrian Gonzales is one of two officers who have been indicted after the slow response to the shooter by nearly 400 law enforcement personnel, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

Gonzales and former Uvalde schools police Chief Pete Arredondo were indicted by a Uvalde grand jury in June. Arredondo pleaded not guilty on July 10.

"Mr. Gonzales' position is he did not violate school district policy or state law," said Nico LaHood, the former district attorney for Bexar County. LaHood is representing Gonzales.

The May 22, 2022, attack was one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history. Gonzales, one of the first officers to arrive, was indicted on 29 charges of not confronting the shooter, even after hearing gunshots while standing in a school hallway.

### Inmate phone fees to be slashed across state

Fees that Texas inmates pay to make phone calls will be cut

drastically under new federal regulations to take place next year, *The Tribune* reported.

The Federal Communications Commission voted last week to cap the price of inmate phone calls and video calls as low as 5 cents per minute. Right now, rates across Texas prisons and jails average 23 cents a minute.

Most of the revenue from these calls — 60% — goes to the contractor, with the rest going to the state.

"The FCC's order is a massive victory for incarcerated people, their families, and their allies who have spent decades fighting the exploitative prison telecom industry," the Prison Policy Initiative wrote in a statement.

### CenterPoint CEO apologizes for Beryl outages

The head of CenterPoint Energy publicly apologized for failing to quickly respond to massive outages caused by Hurricane Beryl, *The News* reported.

Jason Wells told the Public Utility Commission last week that he took "personal accountability" for the outages, which affected hundreds of thousands of customers throughout the coastal region.

At least 36 people died because of the hurricane. Many of the deaths were attributed to heat.

"While we cannot erase the frustrations or difficulties so many of our customers endured, I, and my entire leadership team, will not make excuses," Wells added. "We will improve and act with a sense of urgency."

At its peak, about 2.26 million CenterPoint customers were without power. Damage from the storm is estimated at \$4.6 billion. The company is seeking permission to harden its wire system, with the costs to be passed along to its ratepayers.

### \$95 million in housing credits announced

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs has awarded more than \$95 million in housing tax credits to help finance the development or rehabilitation of more than 60 rental properties across the state. The awards will help developers build or repair more than 4,400 units offering affordable rents to qualified families.

"The Housing Tax Credit Program serves as a crucial factor in making affordable housing available to hard working families, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities," said TDHCA Executive Director Bobby Wilkinson.

A list of application awards can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/4jztsjp3>.

### Native bighorn sheep being released in West Texas

Desert bighorn sheep are being reintroduced in Franklin Mountains State Park this fall by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in hopes of restoring a population that was once extinct in Texas. *The Austin American-Statesman* reported repopulation

Turn to **CAPITAL**, page 3

## State Representative Update

# Supporting Local Conservative Government



Dr. Glenn Rogers  
glenn.rogers@house.texas.gov

For several years now, certain factions have been vocal in their call to "ban taxpayer-funded lobbying." Out-of-context and on a flashy political ad, this may sound like a good idea, but when analyzing the issue from various angles, it turns out that such a proposal would be detrimental to our representative form of government. To give a better understanding of the topic, several questions need to be answered.

### What is "lobbying"?

"Lobbying" has become a dirty verb. Many seem to see lobbying as an evil force influencing the Legislature to perform nefarious acts to harm society. In reality, lobbying simply means advocating. For example, the Texas Farm Bureau Agfund advocates (lobbies) for more than 500,000 farm and ranch member families. Very few of these rural citizens would have the time or financial resources to advocate for themselves.

### What is "taxpayer-funded lobbying"?

Essentially, taxpayer-funded lobbying is when one governmental agency seeks to influence another governmental body. Typically in Texas, this happens when smaller governments, that cannot afford full-time paid intergovernmental staff, use a lobbyist to advocate for their

needs with the Texas Legislature. School boards, cities, counties, and other types of local political subdivisions use lobbyists (primarily through associations) to bring specific local needs to the attention of legislators, to encourage the legislature to act in a way that improves the lives of local citizens, and to maintain meaningful professional relationships between the local and state governments. When a political subdivision enters a contract with a consultant, the political subdivision is required to disclose that they are engaging in lobbying activities, and these expenditures are reported to the Texas Ethics Commission.

### Who wants to ban "taxpayer-funded lobbying"?

Fringe, special interest lobbyists want to ban the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying. Groups connected to political mega-donors, Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks, have long advocated for this policy. The organizations pushing for this include Texans For Fiscal Responsibility, Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Texas Scorecard — all receiving funding from, influenced by, and beholden to, the Dunn-Wilks political machine.

### Why do they want to ban "taxpayer-funded lobbying"?

These groups want to ban taxpayer-funded lobbying to eliminate their competition and this source of independent information. Lobbying and political groups under the influence of Wilks and Dunn are strongly opposed to many beneficial practices that use tax dollars as a funding source, including pro-life

12-month maternal care, mental health services in public schools, and expanding broadband into rural Texas. A glaring example is how these radical groups have become aggressive antagonists to Texas public schools and have run a years-long smear campaign against organizations such as the Texas Association of School Boards.

Denying local ISDs the opportunity to lobby the legislature is just one step in their massive plan to privatize Texas public education. Ironically, these are the same groups that want to use hundreds of thousands of tax dollars each year to fund publicly unaccountable private education via school vouchers.

### Who benefits from banning "taxpayer-funded lobbying"?

The ordinary taxpayer certainly does not benefit from a ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying. Ultimately, when local political subdivisions lobby the legislature, they are attempting to ease the burden on struggling local citizens. They are asking the state to use available funds to assist their communities to keep local tax rates low while still meeting the needs of infrastructure, the criminal justice system, local schools, and many other vital societal needs. This is especially important for rural Texans whose individual voices would be overwhelmed by special interests without lobbying representation by public associations.

In small and rural communities there is great trust between citizens and the local leaders they elect each year. With that trust placed in them, they are doing the best job they can to fulfill their responsibilities with limited

budgets and staff. However, many times the cost-benefit of hiring a consultant is better than letting needs go without advocacy.

Undoubtedly, there are groups that lobby for positions contrary to our own. Nevertheless, which would be worse: to have hundreds of lobbying groups representing various interests or concentrating legislative influence to only a few radical billionaires?

Closed door, billionaire controlled, special interest lobbyists are the only ones who would benefit from a ban on taxpayer funded lobbyists. The voice of average citizens would be removed from the equation, as the only lobbyists meeting with legislators would be those whose goals are radical ideology and lining the pockets of their masters.

While large metropolitan communities would simply hire their own in-house staff to enhance their representation in Austin, small rural communities, who cannot afford to increase staff levels, would be severely limited in their ability to be a part of the political process.

Organizations which work to combine communities' resources to perform vital research and advocacy work would become irrelevant. With no way to combine resources or hire third-party advocates and given there are more State representatives from the Houston and Dallas metropolitan areas than in the rest of the state combined, the resultant political silencing of rural Texas becomes clear.

Rural Texas communities should retain every tool available, including paid political advocacy, to make sure their voices are not silenced in Austin.

*Glenn Rogers is the representative for Texas House District 60, which includes Parker County.*

## Aledo's Morris nominated for Texas Dentist of the Year™ Award

Sarah J. Morris, DDS, MAGD, of Fort Worth, Texas, has been nominated by the Fort Worth Academy of General Dentistry (Forth Worth AGD) for the Texas Academy of General Dentistry's (Texas AGD) Texas Dentist of the Year™ Award. This award is considered the most prestigious honor a Texas dentist can earn.



Sarah J. Morris

Mastership Award in General Dentistry in 2020. Dr. Morris has volunteered her time on the local, state, and national level with service to numerous professional organizations, including the Fort Worth AGD, Fort Worth District Dental Society, Texas AGD, Texas Dental Association, Academy of Laser Dentistry, and International College of Dentists, among many others. She's also volunteered her time and services in various local dental clinics and on mission trips to provide care to those in need.

When not contributing to organized dentistry, Dr. Morris is active in Christ Chapel Bible Church, a founding board member of the National Charity League, and the Aledo Volleyball Club, as well as the owner of Athletic Performance Volleyball.

The Texas Academy of General Dentistry's mission is to help general dentists succeed. It is the only association that exclusively represents the needs and interests of general dentists who are the primary care providers for patients of all ages and are responsible for the diagnosis, treatment, management, and overall coordination of services related to patients' oral health needs. Its nearly 3,000 members partner together to help guide the journey of Fellowship, Mastership, and Lifelong Learning in order to provide quality dental care in general practice. For more information about the Texas Academy of General Dentistry, visit [www.TAGD.org](http://www.TAGD.org).

Dr. Morris is one of only 11 dentists nominated for this year's award. She and the other nominees will be honored at the Texas Academy Awards on Friday, Sept. 20. Each nominee will be recognized and will receive an engraved plaque. The Texas Academy Awards will conclude with the announcement of the 2024 Texas Dentist of the Year™.

"A nomination for the Texas AGD Dentist of the Year™ is a true testament to a dentist's commitment to excellence. Dr. Morris and all the nominees deserve our congratulations for their dedication and professionalism," said Texas AGD President, Dr. Alex Gonzalez.

Dr. Morris received her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio in 2006. She distinguished herself professionally by achieving the AGD's

## CAPITAL

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of the herd at the park will begin in October.

There are 11 free-ranging herds with approximately 1,500 desert bighorn sheep across Far West Texas, from Big Bend to El Paso. Overhunting and disease led to the sheep's decline in the 1960s. Competition from the aoudad, an African species introduced in Texas in the 1950s by private ranchers, also contributed to the bighorn sheep's decimation.

## Texas still leads nation in job creation

Texas continues to outpace the nation and lead all states for jobs

added over the past 12 months, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state's civilian workforce reached a new high of 15.311 million in June.

"Our civilian labor force of 15.3 million people in Texas continues to prosper and break records each month," said TWC Commissioner Alberto Treviño III.

Construction jobs grew by 4.4% last year, far outpacing the national growth rate and leading the state's job growth.

*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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com)*



## ACHIEVEMENTS

## Aledo native awarded NSF grant

### Samuel Wilhelm studies at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville

By Maggie Palmer  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Aledo native Samuel Wilhelm has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Wilhelm is a Ph.D. student studying ecology and evolutionary biology at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His research focuses on documenting the diversity of wild bees in Tennessee and the ecological factors that are important for their conservation.

Wilhelm is one of seven students at the university chosen for the honor.

"I am honored to receive the NSF-GRFP, an award that will allow me to comfortably expand

my research agenda as a graduate student," Wilhelm said. "This award will be foundational for my career as a scientist studying the ecology and conservation of wild bees. I am thrilled that through this award I can take on new projects and further contribute to investigating the many unknowns that pervade our understanding of wild bee biology."

Wilhelm said he is thankful for his mentor, Laura Russo, assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

The oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program ensures the quality, vitality and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States. The five-year fellowship provides three years of financial support, including an annual stipend of \$37,000 along with a \$16,000 allowance for tuition and fees paid to the institution.



UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE; KNOXVILLE

Aledo native Samuel Wilhelm has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

## ROAD

from page one

Tandy Center, Scarborough Fair, and the State Fair of Texas.

Coughlin continued her singing throughout middle school and high school and was a member of the concert choir for one semester at the University of North Texas.

She also sang under the direction of Jing Ling Tam in the Fort Worth Opera's first production of "La Boheme" at Bass Hall.

### Mobile productions

The mobile theater has performed such works as "Twelfth Night," "It's a Wonderful Life," an adaptation of Edgar Lee Master's "Spoon River Anthology" and a Coughlin original called "Home on the Range," which is a musical.

"We actually partnered with a Will Rogers Medallion Cowboy poet for 'Home on the Range,'" Coughlin

said. "That is someone who has been recognized by Will Rogers for their contributions to cowboy poetry. His name is John Pelham, and he let us use his body of work to create an original musical, and we performed it at the Tabernacle at Springtown last year."

Coughlin, 50, said determining where her company will perform hinges on a couple of variables.

"It really depends on where I can find space," Coughlin said. "The cost is also a consideration. Some seasons we have more money than others and we're able to afford better spaces. Some seasons we have less money and have to use free spaces, like the park or community spaces where neighborhoods have permitted us to do performances. "So we've performed everywhere from the Aledo Community Center to the Tabernacle at Springtown. It's just a real variety of spaces to put our shows on."

The Aledo resident said the Parker County Theatre Company has two shows planned for the end of 2024.

"One of those is 'Hamlet,' which will be the first weekend of November," Coughlin said. "We're still working on the performance space for that one. We're trying to get the Amphitheater in Heritage Park. I had also been trying to get it at the Lucchese Amphitheater in Willow Park. So if neither one of those places happens, that production will be at one of the parks in Parker County. The other one is just a staged dramatic reading of something spooky."

Last year, that happened to be Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart," which was performed at the Walsh Makerspace.

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is the dramatic reading this year

For more information, visit [www.parkercountytheatre.com](http://www.parkercountytheatre.com).

and will be performed on the evening of Nov. 1 at the Pavilion in Walsh Ranch.

"This will be the second year we have brought a spooky story to the community during Halloween," Coughlin said. "It's a fun way for us to introduce classic works to a new generation and give back during the holiday weekend."

### Finding talent and funding

The company does not have a regular cast, which allows Coughlin to tap into local talent.

"We hold auditions for each performance that we do," Coughlin said. "Regardless of the production, we'll have open auditions. And I have to say that we have been very blessed by the churches in Parker County for letting us use their spaces for rehearsals."

The most challenging aspect of Coughlin's job is finding the funding to rent spaces for her performances.

One venue last year charged the company \$2,500 for a performance.

Coughlin said the most important thing for her is that her company accomplishes what she finds most important about her work.

"It's seeing what the actors and crew bring to the show, and seeing how the audience responds to it," Coughlin said. "There are all these gold nuggets in every production we do, and seeing how an actor grows from the initial read-through of a script to what is actually given to the audience on stage is just one of the most rewarding things."



PHOTO COURTESY PARKER COUNTY THEATRE COMPANY  
Lori Coughlin created Parker County Theatre Company in 2022 to share her passion for theatre with people in outlying communities.

## LETTERS POLICY

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

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## Obituaries

### Peggy Brown

Peggy June Brown, 85, of Odessa, passed away on Sunday, July 21, 2024, peacefully at her home.

Peggy was born on December 27, 1938, in Oklahoma City. Peggy married Charles Brown on May 9, 1959, in Odessa. Peggy made a career as an AT&T telephone operator and after retirement she worked at the Best Cleaners in Odessa. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, reading, and visiting any and all casinos.

Peggy is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Brown; daughter, Charla Young; parents, Glen C and Louise Mitchell; sister, Helen Harper; and brother, John Virgil Mitchell.

She is survived by daughter Dana Pittman and husband Dwaine of Aledo; son, Coy Brown and wife Nicole of



Peggy Brown

Trophy Club; son-in-law, Mike Young of Lubbock; grandchildren, Starla Sanders and husband Greg of Jacksboro, McKaylee Ladd and husband Matthew of Jacksboro, Taryn Flota and husband Trevor of Branson, Korbin Pittman and wife Kristen of Godley, Lindsey Young of Lubbock, Taylor and Tate Brown of Trophy Club, and Haley Dominguez of Sealy; great-grandchildren, Stockton and Kelton Sanders, Kayzlee Ladd, Peighton Pittman, Truett Flota and Daymien Navarro; and several nieces and nephews

There will be a visitation from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2024, at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home in Odessa.

Funeral Services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, August 2, 2024, at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

The Community News August 2, 2024

## CITY

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one of those who judge an entire community by a few of its teens and the overwrought behavior of a parent.

Then there is the Aledo where a group of high school teens recently took an out-of-town summer trip and tore up people's homes. Even Robbins winced. Bet you haven't heard the second tale of Aledo.

### The other Aledo

The group drove to the upper Texas Panhandle, stopping in Perryton. Located on a wide spur of flat land, Perryton is surrounded by circular irrigated fields, grain storage bins, and grasslands further out where the range breaks into ravines.

According to Mayor Kerry Symonds, the tornado that swept through town last year hit the residents who could afford it the least. Most lacked insurance. Frustrated by FEMA rules (Perryton is too small to qualify for federal disaster aid), Symonds was thrilled to see the teens of Aledo descend on his town. A year later, housing continues to be in short supply and people are living in places most of us would shun. The teens of Aledo set to work tearing, prying, ripping, cutting, hacking concrete, and sawing. To rebuild, the old drywall and siding needed to be removed.

Shannon Reynolds organized the venture, found overnight lodging, arranging for meals — high schoolers tearing off things are ravenously hungry. David Sides planned the work, even hauling materials and tools from Aledo. Most of the other adults working side-by-side with the teens were parents of the kids. JoDee Lantz was a notable exception, who participated to better connect with her community.

Inexperienced in construction, teens from Aledo United Methodist having been trekking to storm-struck places like Perryton for decades, well before Aledo made the national negative news. Reynolds is one in a long line of exceptional youth leaders. Robbins, who wore his enthusiasm for the work on his dirt-stained work clothes, defies the trend of shrinking Methodist churches; his is one of the fastest growing in the country.

Wincing under the unrelenting sunshine, Robbins and the other



GEOFF MANTOOTH

Clockwise from left- Kellie Lambertson, Sarah Tubbs, Will Reid, Ed Byrd, Brennan Rogers and Brendan Sides discuss next steps in hanging new siding.

adults worried about the kids collapsing in the hundred degree temps. They made the kids drink plenty of water, take breaks in the scant shade. Everybody worried about the clock. They were there to rebuild, and they only had a few days to do it.

Aiden Breaux, Will Byrd, Noah Chasteen, Ava Massacci, Marion Robbins, and Zach Tubbs shook off the ancient gypsum dust covering their clothes and hung new drywall and installed new flooring. Luke Brown, Sydney Byrd, Jillian Gibson, Jace Gustin, Claire O'Donald and Paxton Psencik pulled, pried, and jimmied old siding from the sides of a 1950s kit house and nailed new Hardieboard in its place.

The family living there lost more than their home in the tornado. They lost a child. Perryton rallied and installed a storm shelter in the backyard of their new residence. Brendan Sides, Will Reid, and Sarah Tubbs cut and fit sheet siding to one house and painstakingly unbolted old metal siding from a 1970s mobile home before nailing on new boards. The kids worked alongside exposed, and frequently moldy, fiberglass insulation. Some of the studs were too rotten for a nail and the kids searched for better holds.

The inside kids stuck it out in the un-air-conditioned rooms, the outside kids stole a moment here and there in the ever-shifting shade of the house or a tree. Working together, they moved and climbed ladders to reach high places, they steadied ladders for one another, they operated power saws to cut the work pieces to shape, nailers to secure the new to the old.

The kids cut and fitted siding and drywall around doors and windows. They trimmed to accommodate off-kilter walls. They caulked and painted. And they worked, not banker's hours, but full days. After three sweltering days, everyone was exhausted. Remarkably, amazingly, they did it without complaint.

They didn't quit because they hadn't finished. They went back for a frenzied final day to wrap it up. They worked so hard they barely had the strength to pack and load the ladders on the overhead racks.

A rare disappointment — the kids like to meet and learn about the people who live in the houses they work on. In one case, this didn't happen, as the family justifiably stayed inside to avoid the intense heat. On the scorching days, the teens of Aledo worked in the oven-like exhaust of the window air conditioners.

In the first tale of Aledo, its teens wouldn't travel to places like Perryton. They wouldn't step away from their computers and out of their comfort zone, sweating buckets, getting grungy, repairing homes of people not their skin color. They wouldn't care about others in need.

The teens of Aledo's second tale, they're a different story altogether. Just ask Mayor Symonds as he surveys Perryton's houses which are better off than before.

Joel Robbins hears the teens of Aledo telling about their hard-won skills in building houses and lives. Just as with previous generations, he knows most will repeat next summer.

An edited version of this story appears in the Substack newsletter <https://trialsbywriting.substack.com>.

### Gregory Allen Lee

Gregory Allen Lee left his earthly home July 22, 2024, as the result of a car accident in Gainesville, Texas.

Greg was born on March 4, 1963, in Anniston, Alabama, to Floyd Ottis Lee, Jr. and Mary Ethel Lee, but spent most of his life as a Texan. Greg graduated from Aledo High School in 1981.

Greg's heart was warm and tender. He was generous and the biggest personality in any room. He was witty and fun and never met a stranger. Greg had a servant's heart and was incredibly gifted in his craft.



Gregory Lee

Greg was an avid fisherman, Alabama football fanatic, and a wonderful husband, father, and son.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ottis, and survived by his mother, Mary; wife, Taylor; siblings, Ottis (wife Lana), Jeff (wife Diane), and Apryle (husband John); children, Chris, Tristan, and Lacie; stepchildren, Watson and Harper; and numerous nieces and nephews, and many great friends.

There will be no service or interment. The family appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

The Community News August 2, 2024

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More events can be found at [www.community-news.com/calendar](http://www.community-news.com/calendar)



**AUGUST 2**

**Lucchese Stage Kickoff**

Kicking off live music and events on the Lucchese Stage with a big ol' party on Friday, August 2nd, from 6-10 p.m. in Willow Park.

Enjoy FREE live performances, food trucks, Bubble Bus Co, Rooted. A Flower Company, Kid Korn Kettle Corn, Maleah & Co. Permanent Jewelry and Custom Hat Bar, a photo booth, and more!  
Music from Straight Tequila Night (8:30-10

p.m.), Rob Brooks Band (7:15-8:15 p.m.), and DJ VidaReal (6-7 p.m.)

This event is FREE all ages. Food and cocktails available for purchase from Magdalena's, Smackin Mac, Kid Korn Kettle Corn, and Bubble Bus Co (no outside alcohol)  
Chairs and blankets encouraged.

**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 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 Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan. Drive. For more information, call 817-441-8329.



**AUGUST 9**

**Meet the Band**  
Join us in cheering for our 6-12th grade bands at this FREE annual community event starting at 7 p.m. on August 9, at the AMS Main Gym! Come and:

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**

- this Guthrie played at eight of TX Willie's "Farm Aids"
- "ten" in Mexico
- Eden newspaper
- "your keep"
- TXism: "lonely as a \_\_\_\_\_ day"
- Texas voted for this pres. four times
- Texas flag being flown upside down (2 wds.)
- "Oh, Pretty Woman" singer, TX Roy (init.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ burnett, TX in Wichita County
- Texas Rangers were first paid \$1.25 \_\_\_\_\_
- pecan pie is \_\_\_\_\_ dessert
- Texans must get this registration renewed each year
- Texas-filmed "Two \_\_\_\_\_ Together"
- hosp. nurse
- Mexico's 9th month
- TXism: "ramrod"
- 24-across is even better \_\_\_\_\_ mode
- brother of Lee Harvey Oswald's killer (2 wds.)
- Venetian blind part
- con game: \_\_\_\_\_ flam
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ shorts in a knot" (calm down)
- city where Pizza Hut is headquartered
- Texan born between July 23 and August 22
- TXism: "big enough to \_\_\_\_\_ an elephant"
- TXism: "a \_\_\_\_\_ Jesse" (works good)
- TX Willard Robertson was in "Along Came Jones" with this Loretta (init.)
- Astro pitcher stat.
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as a jaybird"
- non game deer in West Texas
- this Texan ran for president in 1992 and 1996 (init.)
- before it was the "St. Regis Houston" it was "The Remington \_\_\_\_\_ Oak Park"
- TXism: "I need that like a hog \_\_\_\_\_ a packing plant"
- "\_\_\_\_\_ David's Deer" can be found at Valkyrie Ranch in Bastrop County
- TX Tanya hit: "San Antonio \_\_\_\_\_"
- this Bill was mayor of El Paso in 1990s
- French abbots
- lion's sound
- large coffee cup
- Texas-made "Bell" ice cream
- USA: "\_\_\_\_\_ of opportunity"
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ can't find the nose on your face"
- pilot
- lawns
- TXism: "bought a pig in a \_\_\_\_\_"
- fence opening
- Las Vegas state
- medicinal tablets

**DOWN**

- you don't need \_\_\_\_\_ fry chicken
- Lucy's Ricky
- TX Jim who was a news anchor on PBS NewsHour
- seat of Crockett County
- rodeo bull riders come out of this
- TX Audie Murphy in WWII, e.g.

- Meet other band parents  
- Join Aledo Band Boosters  
- Buy some cool Aledo/ Band merchandise  
- Get a yard sign for your kiddo, and  
- Enjoy listening to various combinations of our collective Bearcats bands.  
After the performance, Aledo High School Regiment kiddos will head off to the turf field on the East side of the Daniel Ninth Grade Center for a fun filled evening of Band Olympics! Bring a lawn chair and feel free to come pick a team (maybe even the one your kid is on!) to root for!

**AUGUST 12**

**Aledo ISD Meet the Teacher**  
Meet the Teacher will be the evening of August 12. See your school's website or Facebook page for more information.

**AUGUST 13**

**Dementia Support Group**  
Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. at Harvest of Aledo 1043 Bailey Ranch Rd. 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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RODEO

## Weatherford's Mitchell wins national bull riding title

### Clemens sixth in his event

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

A late surge lifted Weatherford's Jack Mitchell to a national championship in bull riding at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Rock Springs, Wyoming recently. The Texas champion posted a three-round aggregate score of 230.5 points to win by a single point in an exciting finish.

Mitchell was ninth in his opening go-round with a score of 75. He was 14th in the second round after scoring 69, but it was still enough to advance him to the finals among the top 20 in the standings.

In the finals, Mitchell had his best ride of the week. He posted a score of 86.5, which vaulted him to the top of the field of 55 total contestants in the final standings.

Mitchell entered the National High School Finals Rodeo on the strength of winning the Texas High School Rodeo Association championship in June with a similar performance.

In Abilene, Mitchell had an aggregate score of 229.5. He was fourth in the opening draw with a score of 79.5, followed by another fourth-place performance in the second round with a score of 71, finishing with a 79.

Narrowly missing a national championship was another Parker County competitor. Preslee Green of Perrin placed second in girls cutting with a three-round score of 443. She won the first round with a 151 score and was 10th in the second round with a 145. Her score of 147 was fourth in the final go-round, pulling her to within eight points of the top spot.

Mitchell is one of two competitors from Weatherford to advance to finish in the top 10 of their event. Brodey Clemens was sixth in tie-down roping with three-round composite time of 29.66 seconds.

SAM MONARCH

Jack Mitchell of Weatherford won the bull riding championship recently at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Rock Springs, Wyoming. It came on the heels of him winning the Texas state championship.



BASEBALL

## Former Bearcat joins UT staff

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Former Aledo Bearcat Gehrig

Mosiello has joined the staff of the University of Texas baseball team as director of player development.

Mosiello brings experience as an assistant and head coach. He served two seasons on the collegiate summer league staff of the Anchorage Glacier Pilots in the Alaska Baseball League as the team won back-to-back championships.

Mosiello was an assistant coach in 2022 and in 2023 he was



Gehrig Mosiello

promoted and became the youngest manager in league history to win a championship in 2023.

In press release posted on the UT website, new Longhorns baseball coach Jim Schlossnagle said, "We are so excited to add Gehrig to the Longhorn baseball family. Gehrig is intelligent, baseball savvy, hard-working and selfless. He has grown up in college baseball and has been a part of success on every stop in his short career, including a CWS (College World Series) trip with TCU. I have no doubt that our players and program will benefit from Gehrig's work and knowledge on a daily basis."

Mosiello spent the 2024 season as an assistant, working with the hitters at Johnson University.

During his time at TCU, Mosiello also served as an undergraduate assistant for two seasons and helped lead the horned frogs to a Big 12 regular season championship in 2022. They reached the College World Series in 2024.

As a player, Mosiello spent two seasons at Walters State Community College and was part of a team that advanced to the JUCO World Series before transferring to TCU.

At Aledo he was twice named all-district for the Bearcats.

Mosiello's father, Bill, is the associate head coach at TCU after leading the Ohio State baseball program for two seasons. He previously served on the Horned Frogs staff from 2014-22.

GOLF

## Locals compete in NTPGA events

Staff Reports  
The Community News

Four golfers from Aledo each won their age groups for boys and girls in recent tournaments at Squaw Creek on the Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Medalist and Prep Tours.

Ford Hill won the Boys 15-18 division on the Medalist Tour, shooting 78 over 18 holes.

Korbyn McBride, competing in the Girls 15-18 Prep Tour division, took the top spot by shooting a 56 over nine holes. She also placed second in a tournament at Grapevine Golf Course, posting a 61 over nine holes.

Cannon Cole posted an 84 over 18 holes to win the Boys 11-12 Prep Tour division and Ainsley Henze shot

83 over 18 to capture the Girls 11-12 category on the Prep Tour.

Other top area results include:  
Prep Tour

Grapevine Golf Course - Miller DeFord, Aledo, second, Boys 9-10, 44 over nine holes.

Timberlakes, Denton - Grayson Wright, Aledo, third, Boys 11-12, 59 over nine holes; Kyle Wisdom, Aledo, fourth, Boys 11-12, 60.

Medalist Tour

Pecan Valley, Fort Worth - Liam Kuperman, Aledo, fifth, Boys 13-14, 89.

Texas 9, Fort Worth - Christian Ziegler, Aledo, third, Boys 9-10, 36 (nine holes).

Squaw Creek - Logan Lund, Aledo, fifth, Boys 15-18, 82.

Girls 15-18, 86; Kylie Kirkland, Willow Park, third, Girls 15-18, 90; Harper Price, Aledo, fourth, Girls 15-18, 96.

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# Kid Scoop

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Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

© 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 40, No. 35

## Kid Scoop Together:

### Olympic Quiz

Read these questions to a family member. How many did they get right?

- What do the five rings of the Olympics mean?
  - Five Cities
  - Five Countries
  - Five Continents
- What does the Olympic Motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" mean?
  - Smarter, Stronger, Faster
  - Swifter, Higher, Stronger
  - Better, Bigger, Bolder
- According to the Olympic Creed, the most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but ...
  - to play fair.
  - to win big.
  - to take part.
- Where is the Olympic torch first lit?
  - Athens
  - Greece
  - Olympia
- Women were first allowed to compete in the Olympics in what year?
  - 1800
  - 1900
  - 2000
- The 2026 Winter Olympic Games will be held in:
  - Italy
  - Germany
  - Norway
- Which of the following is NOT a color of one of the Olympic rings?
  - Blue
  - Purple
  - Black
- All the participating countries sent female athletes for the first time in which Olympics?
  - 1976 Montreal
  - 1984 Los Angeles
  - 2012 London

1. Five continents  
2. Swifter, Higher, Stronger  
3. Purple  
4. Olympia  
5. 1900  
6. Italy  
7. Black  
8. 2012 London

# The Summer Olympic Games Are Back!

This summer, the world turns its eyes to Paris, France. Why? That's where the Summer Olympics will be held starting on Friday, July 26 through Sunday, August 11, 2024.



## Who's there?

Take a look at the logo for the Paris Summer Olympic Games. At first, you'll see the Olympic flame and the Olympic rings. But take a closer look.

Do you see a face and hair? This is the face of a goddess that is seen as the symbol for liberty and wisdom in France.

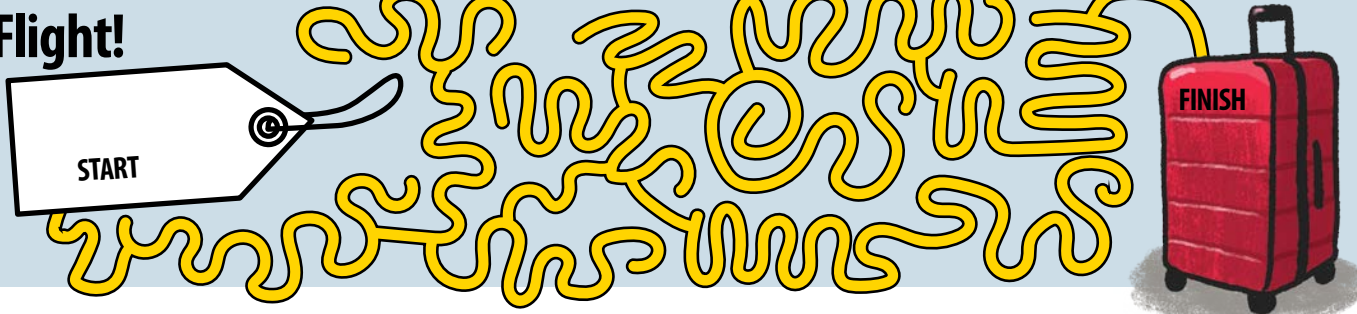
Use this code to reveal her name.

- = A
- = I
- = N
- = E
- = M
- = R



## Don't Miss Your Flight!

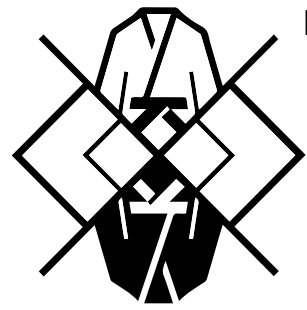
Imagine you're flying to Paris, but you forgot to attach your nametag to your suitcase. Write your name on the tag, then follow the maze to find your suitcase.



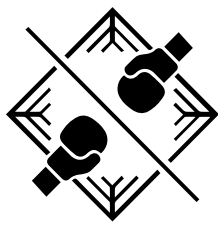
## Pictograms

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. At the Olympic Games, a picture is worth a thousand words in hundreds of languages.

Pictograms are simplified pictures or symbols. There is one for each sport to help people from all over the world understand what is happening. For example, this pictogram represents the Olympic sport of judo.



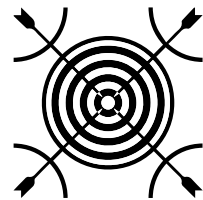
Do the math to match each pictogram to the name of the Summer Olympic event that it represents.



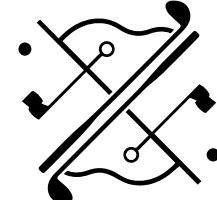
18 - 3 =  
**BOXING**



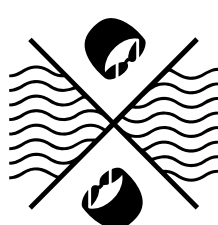
11 + 11 + 11 =



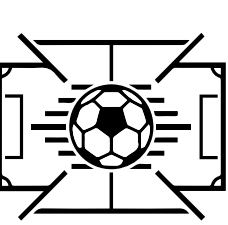
24 + 6 =



41 - 9 =



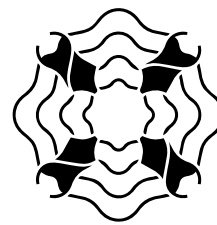
14 + 14 =



3 + 6 + 2 =



9 + 9 + 9 =

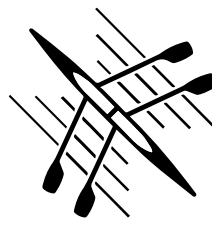


5 + 2 =

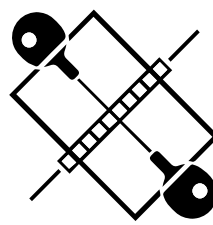
- 12 = Rowing
- 11 = Football (Soccer)
- 13 = Table Tennis
- 18 = Breaking
- 7 = Artistic Swimming
- 33 = Badminton
- 28 = Marathon Swimming
- 30 = Archery
- 27 = Basketball
- 10 = Weightlifting
- 32 = Golf
- 15 = Boxing



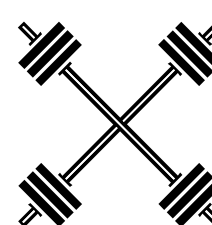
8 + 9 + 1 =



3 + 3 + 6 =



17 - 4 =



22 - 12 =

Explore more at [olympics.com](http://olympics.com)

**Extra! Extra!**  
**The Great Symbol Search**  
Look for five symbols in today's newspaper. Show them to a friend to see if they can tell what the symbol represents.  
Standards Link: Connect artistic representations to meaning.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

### The 2024 Paralympic Games

This is the logo of the 2024 Paralympic Games.

Athletes with physical disabilities from around the world compete in the Paralympic Games every four years alongside the Olympics. In fact, Paralympics means "alongside the Olympics."

The Paralympics began 64 years ago. What year was that?

1 9 \_\_\_\_\_

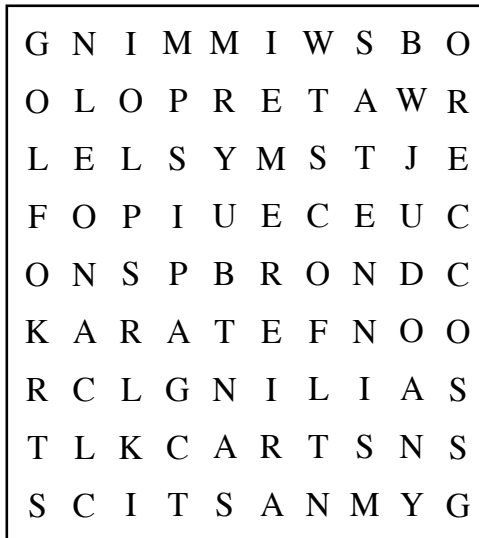
Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences to 100.



## ATHLETIC WORD SEARCH

- GYMNASTICS
- WATER POLO
- BASEBALL
- SWIMMING
- SURFING
- SAILING
- KARATE
- TENNIS
- SOCCER
- TRACK
- CANOE
- GOLF
- JUDO

Find the words in the puzzle by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.



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: **ETERNITY**

The noun **eternity** means a period of time that seems to be endless, often used when exaggerating.

It took an **eternity** to reach the front of the line.

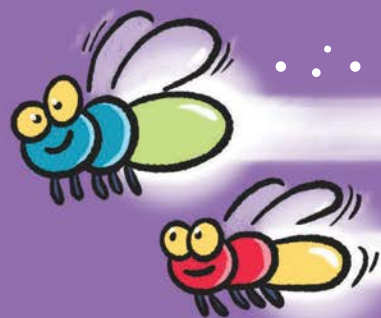
Try to use the word **eternity** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Sports Team Mascots

Sports team mascots (often an animal or object) give personality to their teams. Look through today's sports section. Select one team and make a list of characteristics you think that team wants to convey. Create a new mascot for that team.

Standards Link: Display meaning through a variety of artistic representations.



## How do fireflies begin a race?

ANSWER: "On your mark, Get set, GLOW!"

## Write On!

### Sports Story

Write a sports story about something that happened in a game you played or watched.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

# Coyotes/Lady Coyotes have honored as NJCAA All-Academic

**Weatherford College**  
Special to The Community News

The National Junior College Athletic Association has announced its 2023-24 All-Academic Teams, recognizing student-athletes across the country for their dedication in the classroom.

Weatherford College topped the all-academic list in the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference and is the fourth highest ranked among the 23 institutions in NJCAA Region V with 47 students on the list.

Student-athletes earn NJCAA All-Academic honors by achieving a grade point average of 3.60 or higher for the 2023-24 academic year. Those with a 3.60 to 3.79

GPA are NJCAA All-Academic Third Team, 3.8 to 3.99 are NJCAA All-Academic Second Team, and perfect 4.0 GPAs earn NJCAA All-Academic First Team.

The Coyotes and Lady Coyotes honorees are:

**First Team**

Baseball: Carson Lightfoot, Trey Maples, Luke Robertson, Jalen Rogers, Dylan Russo.

Women's basketball: Diana Mozer.

Men's golf: Emil Lovstrup, Charlie Townsend.

Softball: Tori Thompson.

Men's tennis: Emmanuel Jebutu.

Volleyball: Lorena Gomez, Meagen Ledbetter.

**Second Team:**

Baseball: Evan Brandt, Kevin Duran.

Men's golf: Louis Vallis, Samuel Wolfe.

Softball: Lilly Bean.

Women's tennis: Carmine Becoude.

Men's tennis: Bruno Britz, Alexis Leguizamon, Christian Lopez.

Volleyball: Sara Maksimovic, Alexis Pruitt, Dru Witherspoon.

**Third Team:**

Baseball: Noah Bentley, Jack Caginello, Cade Crossland, Louka Daoust, Charlie Giese, Blake Martinez, Cody Morse, Logan Simmons, Cooper Strawn.

Men's gasketball: Melvin Quennecart.

Women's golf: Grace Burland.

Softball: Jillian Franco, Presley Humphrey, Makaanalei Lapera, Ava Mccracken, Alexah Reyes.

Women's tennis: Hoziane Kitambala, Tsitsi Mahere.

Volleyball: Evelyn Benson, Aislyn Cox, Abigail Folsom, Abigail Hellman, Stella Scott.

## GOLF

from page 10

"Over the summer I'd have one good day, one bad day. I just focused and put together four good days," Stokes said in summarizing his play on the week. "This feels great to win."

On the playoff hole, Stokes placed his approach shot from 146 yards out and into the wind to within six inches of the hole, which he then tapped in for a birdie and the win.

"I hit it and it was going right towards the hole. Everybody put their hands up, showing me how close it was," he said.

The great shot, his best in the tournament, came after he let a one-stroke lead slip away on the final hole of regulation.

"After 18 I just told myself I need two good shots," he said.

Bearcats coach Brian Mourning said this performance sets Stokes

- who advanced to the Class 5A State Tournament in May - and the rest of the team up for an exciting 2024-25 season. He especially liked seeing several of Stokes' teammates stick around and watch him play after they'd finished in the tournament, and even some former Bearcats, including Mahanay.

"That gets momentum going, seeing one of their teammates succeed like that," Mourning said. "Braden played very well. That's a tough tournament and he deserved to win. I'm proud of him."

Stokes said he was excited to see his friends there to support him.

"We take a lot of pride in this tournament. It's great being there and supporting each other," he said.

**Other Aledo success**

Stokes wasn't the only Aledo golfer to win a championship. In the 11-13 age group, Cannon Cole

took the crown in the first flight, shooting nine-hole rounds of 31 and 33 for a 64 total at Benbrook Par-3 and Texas 9.

Also, in the 10-Under division second flight, Hunter Hamman won with rounds of 37 and 47 for an 84 total at those same courses.

Also competing in 14-18 group second flight, Ethan Elmore tied for eighth with a 313 (78-80-79-76) and Tyler Anderson was 14th with a 322 (82-79-79-82).

In the third flight, Cade Moore tied for fourth with a 323 (81-86-78-78). Also in that flight, William Kirkman tied for eighth at 326 (82-80-82-82) and Brian Yarbrough was 11th with a 330 (88-78-82-82).

In the 14-18 Division II, Christian Moll was ninth in the seventh flight, shooting 198 (97-101), while Ryder Kelly was 13th in the fourth flight with a 169 (82-87).

## LUCY

from page one

Collin College in Plano, she transferred to the University of Central Arkansas, where she started in 49 games and led the team in both scoring and rebounds. After graduating summa cum laude from UCA, she entered Texas Christian University, where she played for the Lady Frogs and earned a Master of Business Administration.

**Olympic dreams**

Lucy finally got the opportunity to play on the Nigerian National Team and be considered to represent her home country at the 2024 Olympics. In France, she took the court earlier this month against Germany hoping for more chances to make the cut during games against Australia and France.

She describes her experience in France as "surreal."

"I realize what an amazing opportunity it is and I'm grateful just being on the bench," she added.

But on July 20 Juliet woke to a sad text from her bonus daughter. "I didn't make the team and I'm heading back to the states."

When one door closes...

**Playing professionally**

Elizabeth went on to play for Saint Louis College of Pharmacy while finishing her education and remembers Lucy as a standout player.

"She was the one you wanted on your team. She is tough and dedicated," Elizabeth recalled.

"At first I was really bummed when she didn't make the Olympic team,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TCU

Lucy Ibeh drapes herself in the Nigerian flag while posing in her TCU uniform. Ibeh earned a master's degree from TCU.

but then I learned she was offered to go to a pro team in France. She actually just signed the other day, I think."

After missing her chance on the Nigerian Olympic Team, a French professional women's basketball team recognized her ability and began negotiations with Lucy and her agent.

**"She was the one you wanted on your team. She is tough and dedicated."**

- Elizabeth

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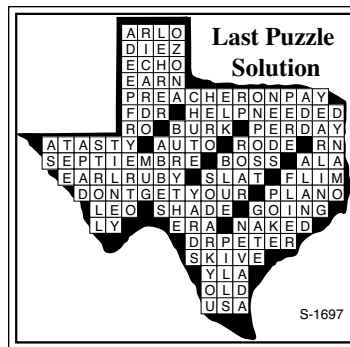
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GOLF

# Stokes wins FW Boys Junior

## Continues Aledo tradition of success

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The Fort Worth Junior Golf Boys Championship is back in Aledo.

For the second time in three years a Bearcats golfer captured the title as Braden Stokes hit his best shot of the tournament on the first playoff hole on Thursday, July 25. It happened after he finished in a three-way tie atop

the championship flight at Fort Worth's Shady Oaks Country Club.

Braylon Mahanay won the title in 2022, followed by a runner-up finish last summer. Mahanay now plays for Weatherford College.

Stokes posted a 292 total over four rounds in the tournament played at a variety of courses in and around Fort Worth. He shot 70 at Rockwood, 75 at Ridglea, and 71 at Bursleson's Hidden Creek before finishing with a 76.

Turn to GOLF, page 8



COURTESY OF BRADEN STOKES

Aledo's Braden Stokes won the championship of the Fort Worth Junior Golf Association Junior Boys tournament this past week, the second Aledo Bearcat to do so in three years.

TENNIS

# WC's Britez All-American

Weatherford College  
Special to The Community News

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) has named Weatherford College's Bruno Britez to its NJCAA Men's All-America Team for the 2023-24 season.

The ITA recognizes the top 10 players in its final National Singles Rankings as All-Americans. Britez finished with the No. 4 ranking.

The native of San Lorenzo, Paraguay, was a semifinalist at the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in the spring. He won his first three matches and lost in the semifinals to the eventual national champion.

Britez is the second ITA All-American in WC history. Anastasiia Khrustaleva was a women's ITA All-American in 2022.

Britez is returning for his second season at WC in the fall.



COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Weatherford College's Bruno Britez was named to the NJCAA Men's All-America Team for the 2023-24 season.

BASEBALL

# Rangers sign former WC standout

Weatherford College  
Special to The Community News

Former Weatherford College catcher Cal Stark has signed a free agent contract with the Texas Rangers.

Stark was the University of Tennessee's starting catcher this past season as the Volunteers won the College World Series championship. He hit 11 home runs and 30 RBI along with a .993 fielding percentage in his senior campaign.

The 6-1-Farragut (Tennessee) High School graduate was an all-region and all-conference honoree for the Coyotes in 2022, hitting .380 with 42 runs scored, 16 doubles, nine home runs, and 42 RBI. Although he attended high



Cal Stark

school in Tennessee, Stark spent most of his childhood in Arlington.

Stark is the fifth player with WC ties to enter professional baseball this year. The Los Angeles Dodgers drafted 2024 Coyote Cody Morse and the San Diego Padres selected teammate Kasen Wells; WC alumnus Owen Woodward was drafted by the New York Mets out of the University of Houston and Austin Green of Texas Tech went to the New York Yankees.

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