

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDUCATION

UTA plans new campus at Walsh

Local leaders express enthusiasm for new opportunities

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) announced a proposed plan to purchase 51 acres of property in west Fort Worth within the Walsh Ranch development for the purpose of building a new campus dubbed "UTA West."

While technically in the City of Fort Worth, the campus will be in Parker County, and local leaders are bullish on the plans.

"I'm personally excited, and Weatherford college is excited about the opportunities for our students — our shared students with UTA," said Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, president of Weatherford College. "We're going to have expanded educational opportunities in engineering programs, and we already have agreements in place for both master's and doctorate level programs."

Farmer said UTA President Jennifer Cowley will bring a leadership team to Weatherford College

on Oct. 18 to talk about further partnerships and transfer opportunities. "Weatherford College has been educating our citizens for over 150 years, and with the addition of UTA in Parker County, our students are now going to have access to more graduate level programs than ever before," Farmer added.

Economic Development

Parker County Judge Pat Deen sees the development as a plus toward the economic development of the county.

"I think the location that they picked out was really brilliant in going after a market, both to growth in Parker County, but also the massive growth happening on the western quadrant of Fort Worth," Deen said. "It's really a win-win for both of our counties."

With a goal of having higher-paying jobs in the county, Deen said the new UTA campus will help with that.

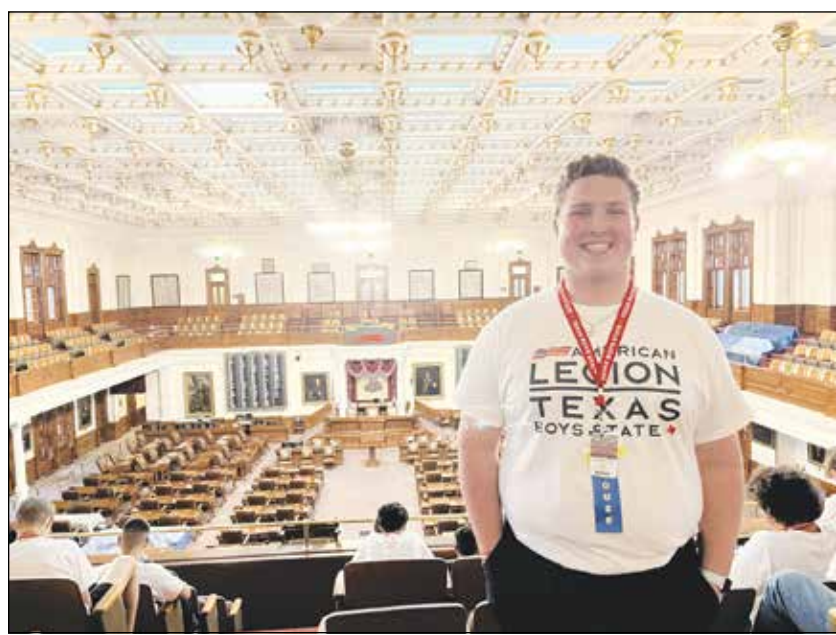
"Job training becomes a key issue in a trained workforce, and that's one of the programs that



BRIAN LOPEZ

Positioned at the intersection of I-30 and I-20 in Walsh Ranch, the new UTA West campus is expected to begin welcoming students as early as fall 2028. UTA West will be developed as part of a multiyear plan to serve more than 10,000 students.

Turn to UTA, page 2



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Logan Kasper (shown) and Jackson Hamner represented Aledo at the prestigious Texas Boys State program in which students study and participate in the operation of local, county and state governments.

Two Aledo students call Boys State event great experience

By John English
The Community News

Two students from Aledo High School were recently selected to participate in what has been described as "one of the most selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students."

Logan Kasper and Jackson Hamner were invited to the Texas Boys State, a program in which students participate in the operation of local, county, and

state governments. According to the organization, students "are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities, of a franchised citizen."

An experience beyond imagination

Kasper, 18, said he was not quite sure what to expect when he accepted the invitation to the program, but said it was an experience beyond anything he ever could have ever imagined.

"The program was so much better than I had thought it was going to be," Kasper said. "I had worried

Turn to STATE, page 3

WEATHERFORD ISD

Board recognizes FFA accomplishments

Jim Zimmermann
The Community News

In front of a standing room-only audience at its recent meeting, the Weatherford School Board recognized the district's Future Farmers of America program and their accomplishments at the 96th Annual FFA State Convention.

Charlotte LaGrone, Executive Director of Communications for the Weatherford ISD, introduced the recipients and their accomplishments (some of the members were unable to attend the ceremony).

"Weatherford FFA, the 10th largest FFA chapter in the state, was recently recognized on stage at the 96th Annual FFA State Convention for qualifying as a 3-Star Gold Ranked National Chapter," she said. "Weatherford is one of only 25 FFA chapters in Texas to achieve this accomplishment, and they will now advance to the national level for scoring."

There are 1,095 FFA chapters in Texas.

These students have also advanced to the national competition that will take place in Indiana in October.

Kaleb Heiermann – state champion in Extemporaneous Public Speaking.

- Avery Pearson - state champion in Agriscience Fair.
- Lincoln Ramirez – state champion in Agriscience Fair.
- Hayden Morrison – state champion in Agriscience Fair and Junior Quiz Bowl round 1 winner.



JIM ZIMMERMANN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Several students in the Weatherford School District's Future Farmers of America program excelled at the recent 96th Annual FFA State Convention.

- Landon Kennedy - state champion in Agriscience Fair and Junior Quiz Bowl round 1 winner.
 - Mason Delgado - state champion in Agriscience Fair and Junior Quiz Bowl round 1 winner.
 - Aidan Clardy – state champion in Agriscience Fair.
 - Kalan Landis – state runner-up in Agriscience Fair.
 - Layne Seal – third place in Agriscience Fair and Junior Quiz Bowl round 1 winner.
 - Maddox Tedford – Texas FFA Foundation Senior Ambassador and Team Leader; Lone Star Degree recipient.
 - Sam Hardwick – Texas FFA Foundation Senior Ambassador.
 - Landry Crickman – Texas FFA Association Lone Star Degree recipient.
 - Megan Collins – Texas FFA Association Lone Star Degree recipient.
 - Azia Hodges – Texas FFA Association Lone Star Degree recipient.
 - Kashileigh Kilker – Texas FFA Association Lone Star Degree recipient.
 - Riley Medlock – Texas FFA Association Lone Star Degree recipient.
- Less than 2% of FFA members receive Lone Star Degree. "In addition, three of our staff members were named Honorary Lone Star recipients," LaGrone noted. They are Dr. Kady Donaghey, DeAnn Seal, and Wacey Horton.
- Other FFA sponsors include Tara Smesny, Alicia Barrett Hanson, Justice Fitzgerald (National Ambassador), Jack Pritchard.



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Obituaries

Gus Tom Bates III

Gus Bates passed away peacefully Sunday evening, August 4th, 2024, surrounded by his beloved family. He was 81.

Gus was born on November 3, 1942 and raised in Fort Worth. He was a beacon of community spirit and leadership. A proud graduate of Paschal High School, class of 1961, Gus excelled as both a football player and Class President. His journey continued at Texas A&M, where he studied pre-med and played baseball, before graduating from TCU in 1966.

It was at TCU that he met the love of his life, Sheryl Stewart. They married on December 18, 1965, and built a beautiful family with their two cherished children, Gus Stewart Bates and Allana "Cherie" Bates Robinson.

Shortly after graduation, Gus embarked on a successful insurance career with John Hancock. His dedication and hard work quickly established him as one of John Hancock's top agents. As a result of his success with John Hancock, Gus founded The Gus Bates Company with his son, Gus Stewart. The company thrived, growing to over 60 employees and earning the title of Best Small Company in Fort Worth for two consecutive years.

Gus was passionate about sports, playing football at Paschal High and baseball at Texas A&M. His love for the game continued with many years of flag football, culminating in his induction into the Texas Flag Football Hall of Fame in 1984. More than a player, Gus was a dedicated coach, mentoring children in football, baseball, and basketball for over 30 years. Known affectionately as "Pops" and "Coach," he inspired countless young athletes with his commitment to teamwork and sportsmanship.

A pillar of the Fort Worth community, Gus generously volunteered his time to numerous organizations. He served as a Board Member for the Epilepsy Foundation, Boys & Girls Club, Cancer Society, and as President of the Youth Sports Council, which serves over eight thousand children. As Chairman of the Board for the Fort Worth Easter Seals Center, Gus played a pivotal role in merging the Dallas and Fort Worth offices, enhancing services for special needs children in North Texas. He and his son also helped establish The Gus



Gus Bates

Bates Center at Paschal High School, ensuring top-notch facilities for future athletes.

Gus was renowned for his wisdom and wit, often sharing his life philosophies through his "Gus-isms." Phrases like "Give, Give and Get," "You can't hit the ball with the bat on your shoulder," "Leave everything in life better than you found it" and "Don't tell me how much you know, show me how much you care" encapsulated his approach to life and endeared him to all who knew him.

Gus was preceded in death by his father, Gus Bates Jr.; his mother, Tommye Johnson Bates; and his daughter, Allana "Cherie" Bates Robinson.

In addition to his devoted wife, Sheryl, who lovingly cared for him during his illness, Gus is survived by his son, Gus Stewart Bates, and his wife, Sarah; grandchildren, Kali Purselley, Chloe Robinson Hodges, and husband, Rylan, Cassidy Bates Duwe, and her husband, Gibson, and Cooper Bates; great-grandson, Aries Gus Chrzanowski; sisters, Peggy Lewis, and her husband Gary, and Candi Proctor, and her husband, Ronnie; many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and his beloved caregivers, Rico Ferrell and Debra Norris.

A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, August 9, in the Sanctuary at Christ Chapel Bible Church, 3701 Birchman Avenue, officiated by Rev. Dr. Ted Kitchens. A reception will follow the service at the Legends Club at TCU. He will be laid to rest privately with his parents in Greenwood Memorial Park.

Bearers for the service are Drew Proctor, Dustin Proctor, Shane Proctor, Gary Joe Lewis, Bud Durden, Paul Knuckley, Paul S. Faidley Jr., Albert Archer, John Young, Mike Frederick, Odie Dollins, Ronnie Simpson, James Ford Sanders, and Honorary Bearer, Josh Hoover.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests expressions of sympathy be made to the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, or to the All Church Home.

The Community News
August 9, 2024



Dorothy Jane "Dotti" Smith Doss

Dorothy Jane Smith Doss died peacefully on July 27, 2024, at the age of 101.

Dotti was born in Weatherford on September 19, 1922 to John Edgar Smith and Lillie Bell Brown Smith. She attended Weatherford Public Schools, graduating from Weatherford High School in 1939 at the age of sixteen. She attended Weatherford College, the University of Texas, and Texas State College for Women (later Texas Woman's University) before her marriage to James Houston Doss on August 17, 1940. Their loving partnership lasted sixty years until his passing in 2000.

Dotti was a stay-at-home mom until her three children were independent, when she found time to earn a BA in Comparative Literature at Southern Methodist University in 1969 (making the Dean's List all semesters) and attending Graduate School at Texas Christian University in 1970. She and James then embarked on many trips together, making wonderful memories and bringing home tales from their adventures around the world.

Guided by her faith, Dotti's kindness and consideration brought out the best in people. Dotti is remembered by her family as a devoted wife, loving mother, and doting grandmother. She wrote a book about her husband James, filled with stories and photographs, that is treasured by the family. However, the most important gift she gave her family was her generous care and loving presence.

She was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. She also served on the boards of the Doss Heritage and Culture Center, Weatherford College Foundation, Texas Bank, Campbell Health System Foundation, and Civic Development. She received the Weatherford Outstanding Citizen Award in 2001.

Dotti was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her brothers, Jack P. Smith, and Percy Smith; and her son, John Doss.

Her survivors are her daughter, Nancy Knight (Bill); and son, Jim (Sharon Campbell); her grandchildren, Amy Knight Brown (Jason), Molly Knight, David Knight (April), and P.J. Doss (Sarah); great-grandchildren, Sam Brown, Alex Brown, William Knight, Charlotte Knight, and Ryllo Ellanor Doss. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 10, at Grace First Presbyterian Church.

Memorials: Grace-First Presbyterian Church, 606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford, Texas 76086 and Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400 Texas Drive, Weatherford, Texas 76086

The Community News
August 9, 2024



Dorothy Doss



BRIAN LOPEZ

The location of the new campus will be on the south side of I-30 where it meets Walsh Ranch Parkway.

UTA

from page one

they're going to be having," Deen said. In the process of recruiting businesses to the county, "one question we get a lot is, 'do you have a four year college facility?' And so that seems to limit us in getting that big ticket company or what we're trying to go after, and so this will help that as well."

Responding to comments that the proposed campus would add to an already-burdened conduit into Fort Worth, Deen pointed out that by providing quality jobs in Parker County, there might be less need for commutes.

In addition, he said there are resources coming that will help.

"We're going to continue down the path of securing the necessary funds, leveraging my position on the Regional Transportation Council and the Council of Governments to make this a very smooth transition in helping them from a transportation standpoint, and not bottle-necking up I-20," Deen said.

"The western part of the metroplex has an ever-growing population, a plethora of student talent, and a wide breadth of

opportunity for explosive economic advancement. UTA has long been a top supplier of talent to companies across Fort Worth, and this expansion will allow UTA to broaden its impact across our region," said UTA President Jennifer Cowley.

"UTA West represents a transformative investment in our community's future," said Robert Allen, Fort Worth Economic Development Partnership president. "By aligning educational resources with the region's economic needs, UTA is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping a skilled workforce capable of meeting the demands of 21st-century industries."

Located in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, with an enrollment of about 41,000 students, UT Arlington is the second-largest institution in the UT System.

The University ranks No. 2 nationally for veterans ("Military Times" 2024), No. 3 in Texas for advancing social mobility ("U.S. News & World Report" 2024), and No. 5 in the United States for its undergraduate ethnic diversity ("U.S. News & World Report" 2024).

Turn to UTA, page 3

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UTA

from page two

UT Arlington's approximately 270,000 alumni occupy leadership positions at many of the 21 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in North Texas and contribute to the University's \$28.8 billion annual economic impact on Texas.

UT System.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved this plan and authorized the use of the Permanent University Fund (PUF) to purchase the property, paving the way for UTA West, saying the new campus is dedicated to fostering economic development and meeting the educational needs of one of the fastest-growing areas in the country.

"Anytime the UT System can expand greater educational opportunity, access, and affordability to Texans, we're going to do it," said Kevin Eltife, chairman of the UT System Board of Regents. "We've recently done it in east Texas and south Texas and now we're heading west. We're looking forward to planting a UT Arlington flag in west Fort Worth, currently the nation's fastest growing city."

"Years from now when we look back at major milestones in the life of the Fort Worth region and UT Arlington's history, this new campus will rise to be among the top," added J.B. Milliken, chancellor of the UT System. "As cities prepare for rapid growth, the presence of great universities contributes immensely to their vibrant transformation, and we applaud the very special relationship between UT Arlington and Fort Worth as they plan for the future in such an insightful and strategic way."

For more information, visit <https://www.uta.edu/west>.



STATE

from page one

that I would struggle to make friends or adjust to such a new environment, but the counselors made it so much more manageable, and my city really got along and became like a big friend group."

Aside from the social aspect, Kasper said the content of the program also exceeded his expectations.

"Once we got our feet on the ground, it became almost entirely student-run, with students organizing and running committees, meetings, elections, and the counselors simply monitoring," Kasper said. "It was really interesting to see how quickly we could adjust to the positions of power and be able to grab and hold the room's attention."

Strong competition

Students at Boys State are selected by schools and legion posts throughout the state of Texas, and, apparently, the competition is stiff.

Participants engage in civil discourse with an eye toward developing civic leadership and pride in American citizenship, along with an interest in government, an understanding of American traditions, and a commitment to protect and preserve the American form of government.

Kasper, who participates in a variety of activities at Aledo High School, including Aledo Players, HOSA, Student Council, National Honor Society, Young Men's Service League, UIL Academics, Aledo Young Life, and Aledo Wyldlife, said at Boys State most of the participants had similar resumes.

"One of the most important takeaways I got from the event was remembering that every single person there came from a place where they were highly involved and excelled, meaning that nobody was better than anybody else," Kasper said.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Jackson Hamner (shown) and Logan Kasper represented Aledo at the prestigious Texas Boys State program in which students study and participate in the operation of local, county and state governments.

Valuable in many ways

Though he does not plan to pursue a career in politics, Kasper said the program was valuable to him in other ways.

"We were all on the same playing field of like-minded individuals with similar ideals and goals, which made it a lot easier to work together instead of trying to compare ourselves or outdo one another," Kasper said. "It was also such a great preparation for college, living in the dorms, making new friends, exploring the campus, and coming into contact with varying beliefs."

Kasper is considering University of Texas in Austin, SMU, Belmont, and University of Oklahoma as possible college options, but has not yet decided where he will attend.

Humility and perseverance

For Hamner, 16, who participates in UIL mathematics and robotics, the aspect of the event that struck him the most was the reminder of the importance of humility and perseverance in the world of politics.

"The first thing I realized was that just because you fail at something on the first try, does not mean that you should not try again," Hamner said.

"I saw a lot of people coming to the same realization. They would run for a position, lose, get back on their feet, and keep trying.

"Another thing I learned was that, fundamentally, everyone wants to have the same opportunities and ability to live to their potential. In other words, most people want to have prosperity and there are just disagreements on how to get there."

Non-partisan

According to Texas Boys State, when students arrive, they are each assigned to one of two fictional political parties, which are the "Nationalists" and the "Federalists."

The entire program is non-partisan and the problems considered apply to any existing political party and are free from propaganda.

Hamner is still undecided about whether he plans to pursue a career in politics but said if he does, the conditions would have to be right.

"Entering the political scene is a very daunting task that is frightening and requires tons of effort," Hamner said. "For me, it would depend on several factors at the time I enter, if I enter politics. If I was going to enter, I would start at the state legislature and hopefully move on from there to the U.S. Congress."

Hamner said the program did affect his view of the current state of politics in the country, and said that based on what he heard and observed during the event, he has a feeling things may be headed in a certain direction.

"It may just be the subset of people I was interacting with, but I do believe that there is a coming political shift to the center-right," Hamner said. "A lot of people I talked with wanted a return to normalcy and moderation in politics. A lot of people were tired of the division and hatred that a lot of politicians on opposite sides seemed to have for each other."



WC launches department to meet demand for business leaders

In response to the increasing needs of businesses in Parker and Wise counties and the surrounding areas, Weatherford College is adding a Department of Business and Behavioral Science.

Dr. Philip Mathew will head the department while maintaining his duties as program director for the growing bachelor's degree in organizational leadership.

"It's true that the greatest danger is in standing still," Mathew said. "This innovative move captures the natural synergies within these disciplines to help WC deliver even more value."

"My hope is to build on the work of my colleagues and leverage the talents of our expert faculty to prepare well-educated and well-rounded students who are positioned for success."

When this happens, the businesses and other stakeholders in our community also benefit as they gain the talent they need to grow and thrive."

"Our new Department of Business and Behavioral Science will better serve both our student population and our thriving business community," said WC President Tod Allen Farmer. "Weatherford College is now positioned to prepare scores of exceptional business leaders and entrepreneurs for generations to come."



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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

Pattern of abuse at Texas juvenile facilities



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

A federal investigation into five state facilities concluded children in custody face excessive force, sexual abuse and a lack of vital services, The Dallas Morning News reported.

At a news conference last week, Kristen Clarke, assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's civil rights division, said children held in those facilities are not receiving the treatment and rehabilitation they are supposed to get.

"Our investigation provides reasonable cause to believe that, far from achieving those objectives, TJJD engaged in a pattern of abuse, deprivation of essential services and disability-related discrimination that seriously harms children and undermines their rehabilitation, all in violation of their rights," Clarke said.

In response, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department said it had made "several significant improvements" in staffing, educational programs and mental health care. The Legislature appropriated more than \$1 billion last session to improve youth facilities.

The youth facilities are located in Gainesville, Edinburg, Brownwood, Giddings and Mart.

Investigators found evidence of physical and sexual abuse, according to the report.

TxDOT adopts long-range transportation plan

"Connecting Texas 2050" was adopted recently by the Texas Transportation Commission to help guide priorities in the next quarter-century. The plan establishes the vision, goals, objectives and strategic recommendations

for the state's transportation system.

"With a growing population and new technologies changing how we move, these goals will help us plan for decades to come and connect future generations of Texans," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said.

The agency held a series of public meetings to gather input from the state's citizens. Among the priorities listed were safety, alternative modes of travel, public transportation options and maintaining the state's existing transportation infrastructure.

To learn more about the plan, go to www.ConnectingTexas2050.com.

Court: Buoys can stay in Rio Grande until trial

A full panel of the U.S. Fifth Circuit of Appeals ruled last week that a 1,000-foot-long barrier of buoys can stay in the Rio Grande until a full trial is held. The buoys, meant to deter illegal migrants, were placed on orders by Gov. Greg Abbott. Their legality was challenged by the federal government, which argues their placement violates federal treaties between the United States and Mexico.

At issue is whether this stretch of river is navigable, according to a report in the Texas Standard. A trial over the legal merits was slated to start in an Austin federal court this week.

Flesh-eating bacteria on rise along coast

Authorities are warning of an outbreak of flesh-eating bacteria, with nearly a dozen people infected thus far, The News reported. Galveston County officials said 11 cases of vibrio infections have been reported this summer, compared to just two at this time last year.

The bacteria occur in coastal waters and are found in higher concentrations when water temperatures are warmer. It can be contracted when an open wound comes into contact with

coastal waters, or from eating raw or undercooked shellfish.

"There's no need to panic," Dr. Phillip Keiser, CEO of the Galveston County Health District, said in a statement. "Use common sense: avoid raw seafood, practice good hygiene, and stay informed to keep safe."

The Centers for Disease Control estimates 80,000 cases of vibrio occur in the U.S. each year.

PUC gets 72 applications for energy loan program

The Public Utility Commission received 72 applications for loans available through the Texas Energy Fund, which if all granted would provide \$24.41 billion to finance 38,379 megawatts of power generation projects in the region served by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

"Texans have made it clear that they expect reliable electricity today and well into the future, and I am pleased to see industry leaders responding to that call and planning for major investments in dispatchable power for the state," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said.

The program will provide low-interest loans to finance new construction or upgrades to existing power-generating facilities within the ERCOT region, which serves most of the state. Funding for the loan program was approved by Texas voters in a constitutional amendment election last November.

Nine Texas courthouses get historic grant funding

The Texas Historical Commission recently awarded more than \$46 million in preservation grants to historic courthouses in nine counties. Four grants for full restoration were awarded for courthouses in Comanche, Kimble, Van Zandt and Willacy counties.

Castro and Gonzales counties received planning grants that will

create planning road maps for future restoration work. Donley, Duval and Refugio counties received emergency grants to address critical issues endangering these courthouse buildings and affecting their use.

THC has awarded more than \$400 million since the program's inception to restore courthouses in Texas.

"As part of our mission to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas, we hope to work with even more counties in the future," Joseph Bell, THC executive director, said.

Water board details how it will spend \$1 billion

The Texas Water Development Board last week began detailing how it will divide \$1 billion in taxpayer approved funds for water infrastructure and supply projects throughout the state, The Tribune reported. Up to \$45 million will be reserved for towns with fewer than 1,000 residents, while about \$130 million will go to towns with 1,001 to 10,000 residents.

The board said it plans to spend up to \$450 million toward existing financial assistance programs, \$90 million on water loss and conservation programs, and \$15 million on awareness and educational programming.

"We have a whole lot more applications that are submitted than we have capacity in any given program year to provide financial assistance," said Kathleen Ligon, interim assistant executive administrator at the Water Development Board.

The board has already received 68 requests for funding from this pot of money.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

Idle American

Olympics and a Shrewd Frenchman



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

Critics swear that the French successfully smeared "lipstick on a pig" for a big chunk of the 2024 Olympic Games. The French, though, are used to sloughing off jokes and insults.

Someone said that if they can't find an argument to join, they'll start one. Further, on slow days, restaurant waitpersons resort to insulting each other. Even the French military is thrown under the bus. Another joke claims that when a hotel kitchen fire broke out, the French army surrendered.

Seriously, though, research reveals that many fists fiercely both pounded and shook when French notables realized that the proposed Eiffel Tower was no joke. My initial intent today was to focus on humor related to the Olympics, where TV people have done better jobs pronouncing French names than most Texas TV goldy-throats still stumbling on "Uvalde." (Sheepish admission: Until the current Olympics coverage, I'd thought the Seine

River--winding through Paris--to be pronounced "sane." TV people--correctly I'm sure--call it "sin.")

We've seen Paris from all angles, wondering if they've used all fireworks, strobe lights, baubles and beads. My "lipstick on pig" reference applies largely to the Seine River and its role in the city's sewer system. Defenders claim they'd drink from the Seine, but critics won't stick their big toes in it.

Truly, there's both humor and sadness in the TV coverage, much of which seems to be about the sizzle and not the steak. I'm reminded of the guy's first visit to a hockey game, where after several minutes of intense fighting, a game broke out.

TV moguls are pulling out all the stops, frustrated that interest in the Olympics continues to plummet. They're scrambling to enliven coverage, hoping to win back multi-millions of viewers who are no longer watching. While admitting that glitzy coverage has reached new heights in sight and sound, we lament the considerable evidence that it trivializes--and in some cases, tramples--traditional Christian values. Many Christians are swearing "enough already."

One wag, learning that break-dancing is now a recognized sport, said that when his granddaddy's hound dogs squirmed like that, he gave 'em worm medicine. He

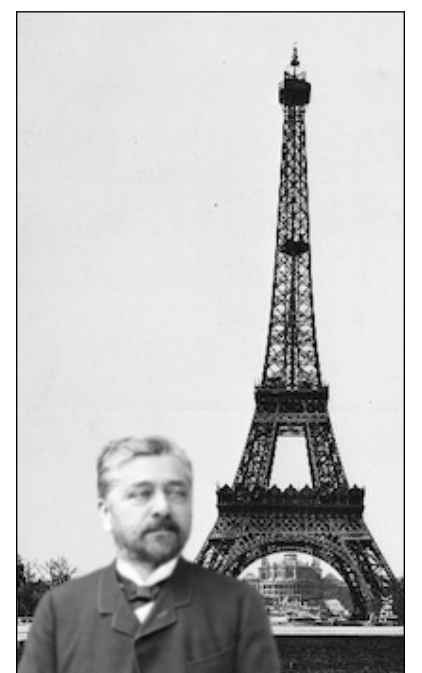
further predicted that before long, there may be additional obscure sports, perhaps pickleball, as well as synchronized eye-rolling and underwater ice-skating.

OK, enough rambling. Let's switch to Gustave Eiffel. His battle to make "his" tower a reality is so riveting that I printed 26 computer pages for later perusal. Don't go there unless you really want to know more about this tourist destination that attracts some six million visitors annually. My cursory observations short-change you greatly, but here goes!

In the 1880s, the French wanted a signature structure befitting the World Fair. Dozens of proposals were considered, but finally, Eiffel's project was chosen, despite vehement objections voiced by numerous financiers, artists, architects and even other engineers. They claimed his "scheme" was impractical at best and cockamamie at worst.

He proved them wrong, over-seeing the construction of what was--for 40 years--the tallest, free-standing, guy-wireless man-made structure in the world. At 1,083 feet, it was finally topped by New York City's Chrysler Building built in 1939.

When the tower opened, its elevators were not yet operative. Yet, in the first two weeks, 30,000 visitors ascended the 1,710 stair steps to the top. The Eiffel Tower immediately "wowed" the world.



The late Gustave Eiffel and the tower he made famous.

The biggest initial winner was Eiffel himself, an opportunist as well as an engineer. His contract called for him to pocket 100% of all admission income for the first 20 years! No doubt, he spent lots of time counting his money in his apartment at the tower's top, where he entertained such luminaries as Thomas Edison.

Famous author Guy de Maupassant hated the tower. Yet, he is said to have eaten lunch daily in its restaurant, complaining that it was the only place in Paris where the structure was NOT visible.

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak at write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is Texas' longest-running syndicated column. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

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



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



Aledo ISD
August 14
First Day of School!
2024

SEPTEMBER 12

Alzheimer's Group
The East Parker County Alzheimer's Group meets from 1-3 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan. Drive. For more information, call 817-441-8329.

AUGUST 13

Dementia Support Group
Join the Dementia Support Group from 4-5 p.m. 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

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:
- 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

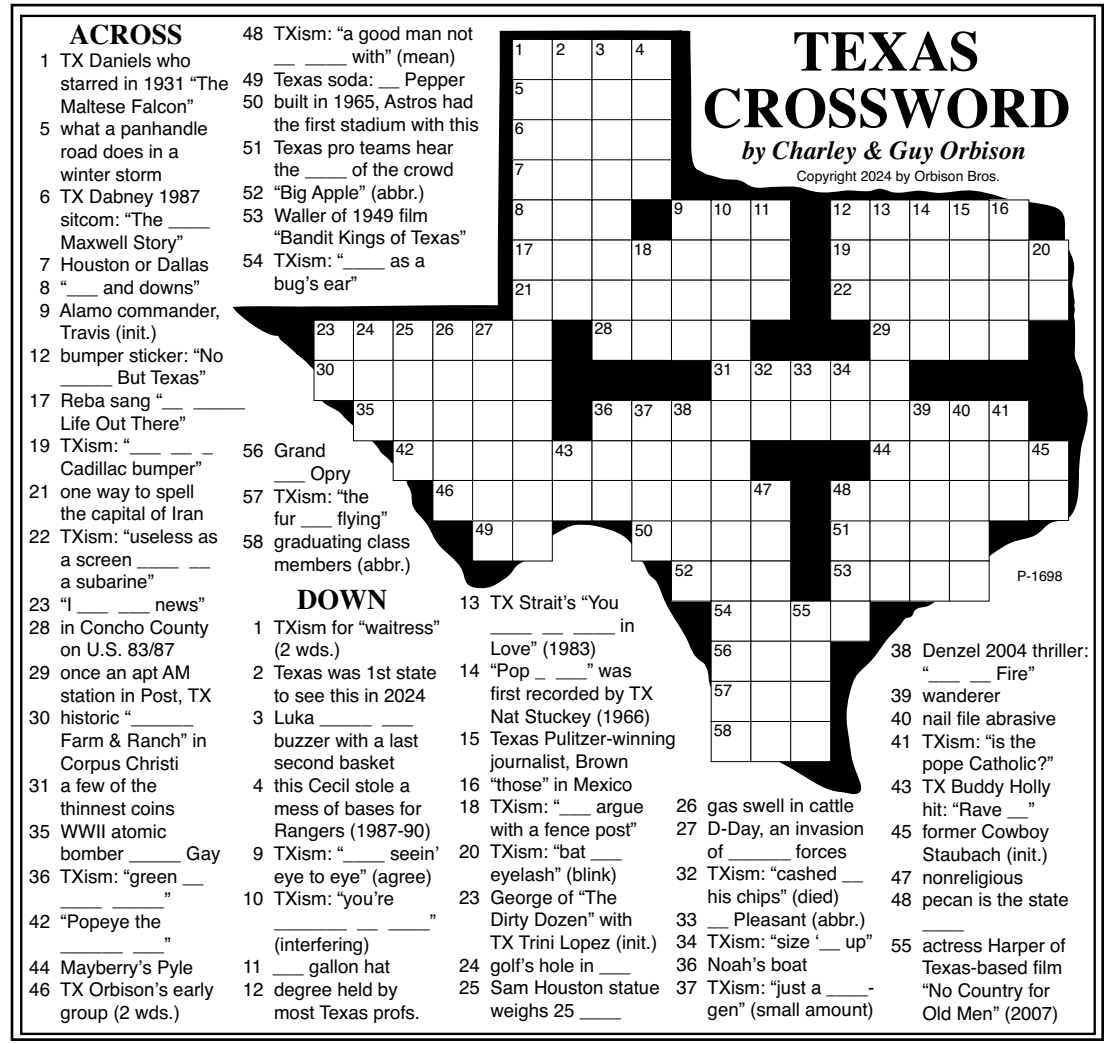
chair and feel free to come pick a team (maybe even the one your kid is on!) to root for!

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.



ACROSS

- TX Daniels who starred in 1931 "The Maltese Falcon"
- what a panhandle road does in a winter storm
- TX Dabney 1987 sitcom: "The Maxwell Story"
- Houston or Dallas "___ and downs"
- Alamo commander, Travis (init.)
- bumper sticker: "No ___ But Texas"
- Reba sang "___ Life Out There"
- TXism: "___ Cadillac bumper"
- one way to spell the capital of Iran
- TXism: "useless as a screen ___ a submarine"
- "I ___ news"
- in Concho County on U.S. 83/87
- once an apt AM station in Post, TX
- historic "Farm & Ranch" in Corpus Christi
- a few of the thinnest coins
- WWII atomic bomber ___ Gay
- TXism: "green ___"
- "Popeye the ___"
- Mayberry's Pyle
- TX Orbison's early group (2 wds.)
- TXism: "a good man not ___ with" (mean)
- Texas soda: ___ Pepper
- built in 1965, Astros had the first stadium with this
- Texas pro teams hear the ___ of the crowd
- "Big Apple" (abbr.)
- Waller of 1949 film "Bandit Kings of Texas"
- TXism: "___ as a bug's ear"
- Grand Opry
- TXism: "the fur ___ flying"
- graduating class members (abbr.)
- TX Strait's "You ___ in Love" (1983)
- "Pop ___" was first recorded by TX Nat Stuckey (1966)
- Texas Pulitzer-winning journalist, Brown
- "those" in Mexico
- TXism: "___ argue with a fence post"
- TXism: "bat ___ eyelash" (blink)
- George of "The Dirty Dozen" with TX Trini Lopez (init.)
- golf's hole in ___
- Sam Houston statue weighs 25 ___
- Denzel 2004 thriller: "___ Fire"
- wanderer
- nail file abrasive
- TXism: "is the pope Catholic?"
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Rave ___"
- former Cowboy Staubach (init.)
- nonreligious
- pecan is the state
- actress Harper of Texas-based film "No Country for Old Men" (2007)



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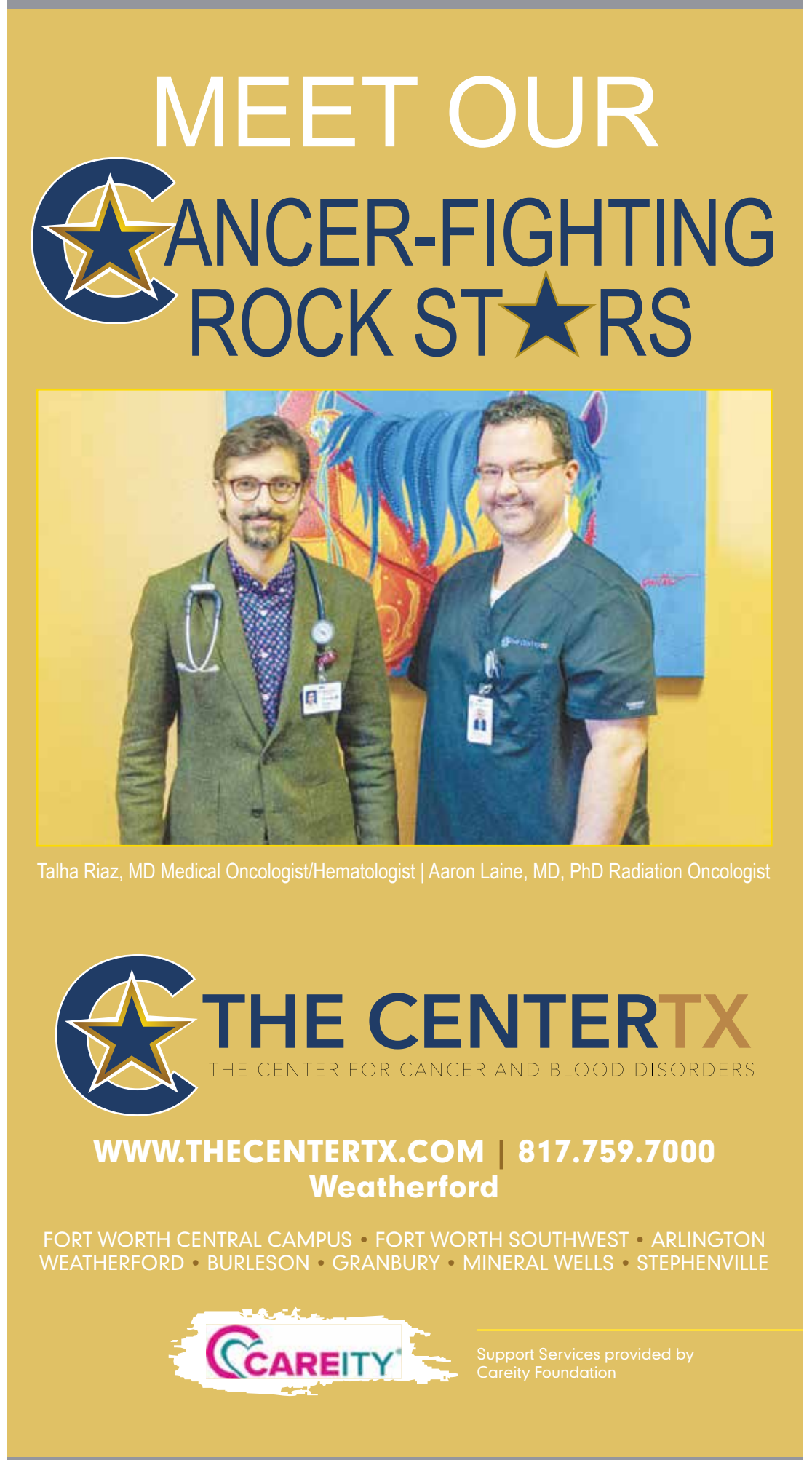
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MACH I TRACK CLUB

Josh Fink successfully defended his national champion in the Boys 13-14 3,000-meter race/walk at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics.



MACH I TRACK CLUB

Jack Fink won the 3,000-meter run in the Boys 17-18 age group at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics.

TRACK AND FIELD

Finks make history with national titles

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

It's not uncommon for folks to do some running around with excitement as they celebrate.

For the Fink family, they have a lot to celebrate — because of their running.

Competing for Weatherford's Mach I Track Club at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Greensboro, North Carolina, recently, they made team history as Jack and his younger brother Josh became the first brothers to win national championships at the event.

Competing in the Boys 13-14 age group, Josh successfully defended his national championship in the

3,000-meter race/walk. He clocked a time of 15 minutes, 43.92 seconds.

Then, Jack, competing in the Boys 17-18 division, posted a personal-best time of 8:56 to win the 3,000 run. He also finished fourth in the 1,500, clocking a club-record time of 4:07.59, breaking the previous record of 4:07.91 by 2023 national runner-up (and 2022 national champion) Gannon Dolan.

Younger sister Jenna, competing in the Girls 9-10 division, posted a pair of personal records. She had a time of 3:03 in the 800 and 5:58 in the 1,500.

"The Finks are hard-working athletes, can't stress that enough," Mach I coach Lupe Torres said. "They do what

they are asked to do, no questions asked. They are also very loyal and trust the process of Mach I.

"Jack's winning nationals was nine years in the making."

Concerning the season as a whole, Torres added, "This has been another record-breaking season."

USATF

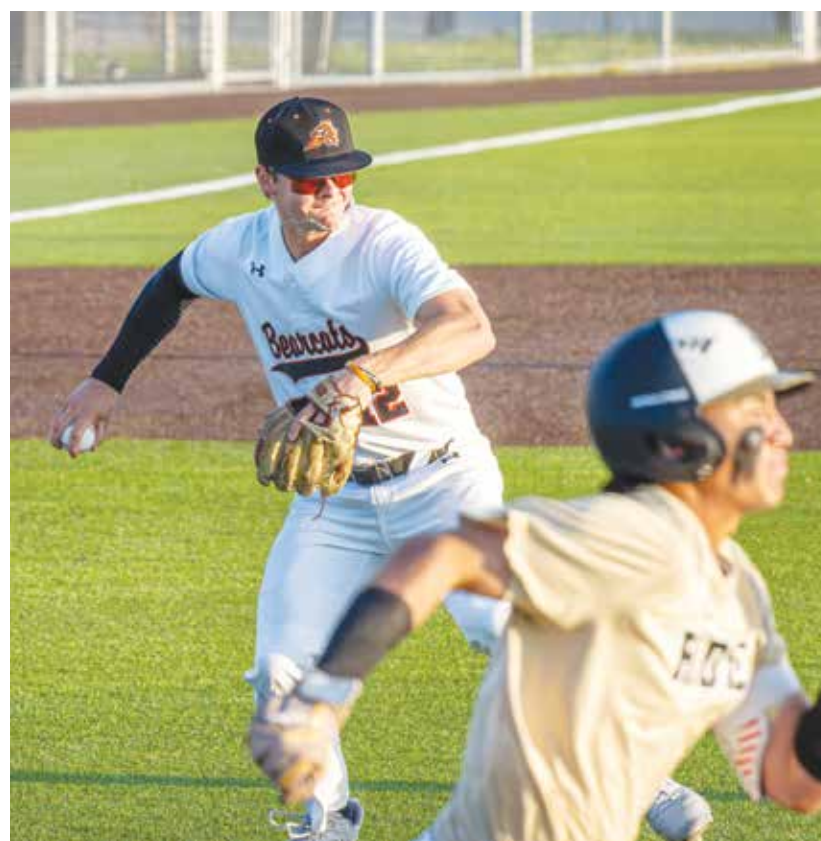
Mach I also had two competitors at the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics in College Station. Each posted personal-record times in their respective events.

Tryg Meshell ran a 5:02 in the Boys 11-12 1,500 and Malachi Dolan clocked a 5:28.36 in the Boys 9-10 1,500.



BASEBALL

Bearcats' Jones named TSWA All-State



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Third baseman, Ryan Jones fields a bunt and makes the throw over to first as a Rider baserunner scrambles down the line in Bearcat action in April of 2024.

Staff Reports

The Community News

Ryan Jones, a recent graduate of Aledo High School, has been named Class 5A honorable mention all-state by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

Jones, a third baseman, has committed to play in college at Texas Tech.

Jones was also named first-team all-state by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association, as was short-stop Boyd Thompson, who has committed to play at Seminole State College.

The Bearcats won District 5-5A and

advanced to the third round of the playoffs.

Weatherford

Two Kangaroos were honored by the TSWA on the Class 6A All-State Team. Recently graduated outfielder J.T. Cienega was named to the first team and incoming junior catcher Jett Vindiola is an honorable mention.

Both were also selected by the THSBCA.

Cienega has committed to play for Grayson College next season.

The Kangaroos finished as runners-up in District 3-6A and advanced to the playoffs.

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ORDINANCE NO. 235

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ANNETTA, TEXAS, BY APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF AN ACCESSORY DWELLING ON A 8.17 ACRE PARCEL AT 1200 CLEARBRUSH LANE; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REFLECT SUCH CHANGE; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

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

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 20th day of June, 2024.

(s) Sandy Roberts
Mayor

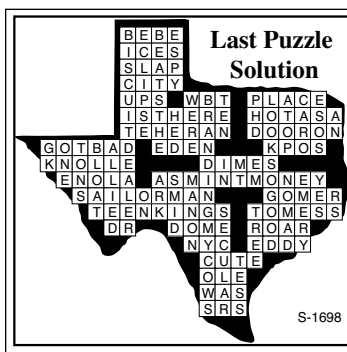
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(s) Jamee Long
Town Secretary

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The good Lord made us all out of iron. Then he turns up the heat to forge some of us into steel.

Marie Osmond

Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Willow Park City Council will hold a public hearing on the matter listed below:

PUBLIC HEARING to consider a request for Special Use Permit regarding the placement of a temporary free-standing off-premise sign on Lot S PT 1, Block 1; Trinity Meadows Subdivision, in the City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas.

Planning & Zoning Commission: Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Willow Park City Hall
120 El Chico Trail, Ste A
Willow Park, TX 76087

Any member of the public has the right to appear at the Public Hearing. Please contact the Development Department at 817-441-7108 x100 or tfisher@willowpark.org with any questions.

The above notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City of Willow Park City Hall, Willow Park, Texas on/before August 9, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.



TexSCAN Week of Aug. 4-10, 2024

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TENNIS

Racquet Cats off to strong start

By Kelly Dishman
Special to The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team started their season with a 17-2 win against Arlington Martin on Aug. 1. They continued a winning streak with a doubleheader sweep the following day, defeating Boswell 16-2 and Peaster 14-5.

There are seven returning boys and eight returning seniors from last season, inspiring high optimism for a successful year.

Aledo had a strong lead after doubles play against Martin. Boys line 1 Will Beyer and Francois Britz won 9-7, line 2 Noah Nottingham and Tom Ruminsky won 8-3 and line 3 Ben Kurth and Casen Freeland won 8-0.

Girls line 1 Bryanna Orr and Lila Satterfield won 8-2, line 2 Gracie Heydman and Eleanor Jack won 8-5 and line 3 McKinley Hayes and Patrice Loftin won 9-7.

Mixed doubles players Jacob Heckathorn and Elli Kate Bussmeir won their match 8-0.

The boys singles were all wins with line 1 Jacob Heckathorn, 9-7; line 2 Ben Kurth, 8-1; line 4 Will Beyer, 8-4; line 5 Francois Britz, 8-0 and line 6 Casen Freeland, 8-3.

Winning singles for the girls side were line 1 Lila Satterfield, 8-0; line 2 Bryanna Orr, 8-1; line 3 Elli Kate Bussmeir, 8-0; line 4 McKinley Hayes, 8-4; and line 5 Eleanor Jack, 8-5.

On Friday Aug. 2, varsity Raquet Cats started the day with a 16-2 win over Boswell and, in their first home match in the afternoon, beat the heat and Peaster with a 14-5 victory.



KELLY DISHMAN/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo tennis team has started the season with three straight victories.

Against Boswell, Kurth and Freeland won 8-2. All girls doubles lines were victorious (Orr/Satterfield at 8-3, Heydman/Jack at 9-7 and Hayes/Loftin at 8-4).

Mixed doubles Beyers and Bussmeir won 8-5.

In boys singles, Kurth, 8-6; Ruminsky, 8-3; Beyer, 8-1; Britz, 8-2 and Freeland, 8-5.

Girls won all their lines in singles, Satterfield, 8-1; Orr, 8-4; Bussmeir, 8-0; Hayes, 8-5; Jack, 8-3 and Heydman, 8-0.

After a lunch break and brief cooling off period, the team faced Peaster at home and walked away with their third win.

The team faced tough competition in doubles and came away with four wins. Boys doubles Kurth and Freeland won 8-3.

Girls won two lines (Orr/Satterfield, 8-6 and Hayes/Loftin, 8-4).

Beyers and Bussmeir won their mixed doubles match, 8-3.

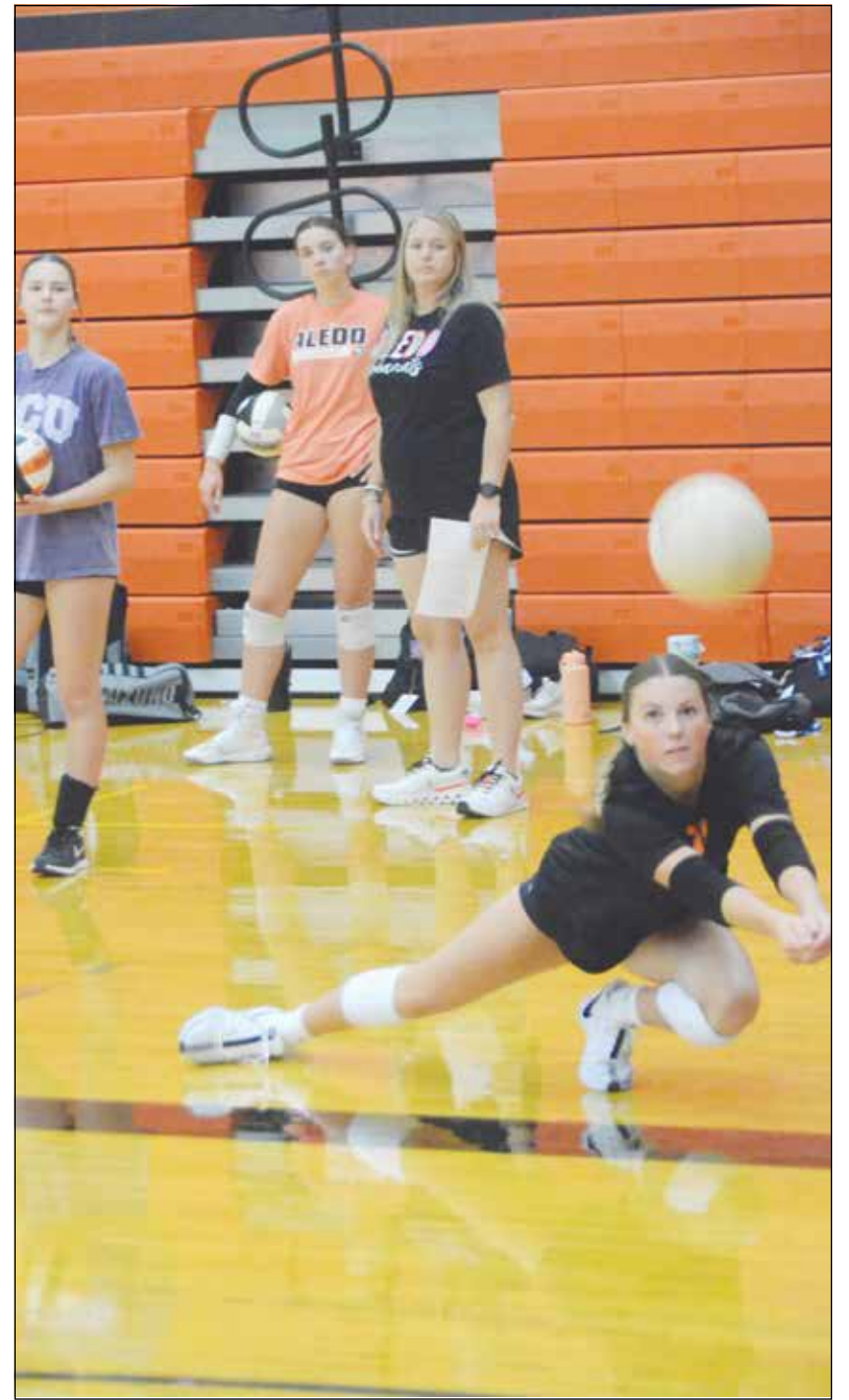
The team went into singles competition at 4-3 and won the majority of their single matches.

In boys singles, Heckathorn won 8-6; Kurth, 9-8; Britz, 8-2; Freeland, 8-0; and Noah Nottingham, 8-6.

In girls singles, Satterfield, 8-1; Orr, 8-1; Bussmeir, 8-0; Jack, 8-0; and Heydman, 8-3.

With 15 returning players and five talented players added to the roster, the team is set for success and to be very competitive in district play once again.

The team was playing doubleheaders against Wakeland and Lubbock Cooper, followed by Argyle and Colleyville Heritage at press time. The team's schedule includes eight more matches prior to their district season opener on Aug. 20 against Brewer High at Aledo's home court.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Tryouts were held earlier this week for the Aledo Ladycats as pre-season practices got underway. The Ladycats scrimmage at Burleson Centennial on Friday, Aug. 9 and host a scrimmage at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 10 against Brock, Joshua, Weatherford, and Wylie.

Congratulations

National Champions



Josh Fink (left) successfully defended his national champion in the Boys 13-14 3,000-meter race/walk at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics, while Jack Fink won the 3,000-meter run in the Boys 17-18 age group.

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