

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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WILLOW PARK

Parks grab spotlight at council meeting

Memorial park may be moved

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Beautiful parks are a common and popular part of nice cities. They are an enjoyable part of living there for current residents and an attraction for would-be newcomers.

The City of Willow Park is on the verge of expanding its park amenities - and residents are being asked to be a part of that growth.

King's Gate Park

Willow Park city staff met with the design team of Dorothy Witmeyer and Glenda Arroyo to review first and second concept plan renderings for Kings Gate Park. The creation of these concepts considered the 2019 Parks and Trails Master Plan and its community feedback, along with the park's current uses, demographics, and topography for the near 30-acre park.

Westwood suggested a new community survey be conducted before adopting any design, as growth and demographics changes can affect interests for park amenities.

"The concept plans Westwood has given us show a wide variety for these spaces," Willow Park Director of Communications and Marketing Rose Hoffman said.

Possibilities for those spaces include a restroom, which is in great demand, along with multi-use courts, one or two small pavilions, a grand lawn, natural settings, and perhaps even a small disc golf course.

Public feedback will reveal more of what the majority wants.

"We have not sought public input on all parks since 2019, so the time is right for touching base about those priorities," Hoffman said.

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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Community residents turned out in force for the annual 'Meet the Band' night at Aledo High School on Aug. 9. The event is always followed by the popular Band Olympics. Turn to page 2.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

New Durant Hall has unique amenities

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

There are no community bathrooms down the hall, no bunk beds, and no shared closets. However, Weatherford College students lucky enough to get into the new Vickie and Jerry Durant Hall won't miss them.

Visitors familiar with such dorm living in the past were awed by spacious rooms and special amenities as they toured the newly completed facility at the southeast corner of East Park Avenue and College Park Drive. Weatherford College students and staff greeted guests inside after a brief dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting outdoors.

Jerry and Vickie Durant, owners of Jerry Durant

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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jerry and Vickie Durant welcome visitors at the grand opening of Durant Hall Aug. 7. The Durants were major financial supporters for the new dorm complex. The family also helped fund the fine arts auditorium at Weatherford High School, which also bears their name.

CRIME

Former JPS administrator loses appeal of murder conviction

Willow Park shooting occurred in 2017

Parker County District Attorney's Office

The capital murder conviction of a former John Peter Smith Hospital administrator who shot two Arlington women in a Willow Park bank parking lot in 2017 was affirmed in an appeals court decision handed down Friday.

Christopher Mark Wall, 40, of Weatherford, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for shooting 21-year-old Krista McClellan and 23-year-old Ashley Pohorenc on Nov. 4, 2017. According to trial testimony, he met the women at the bank because they were extorting him for trying to hire prostitutes.

"We believed that Mr. Wall killed Krista and Ashley to keep them quiet and keep them from coming back to him for more money," said Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain, who tried the case with Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Catania. "The defense contended that it was self-defense or that he was defending his daughter, who was at home 10 miles away."

On appeal, Wall claimed that the prosecution did not introduce sufficient evidence to disprove his defensive claims.

In an opinion that spent more than 50 pages reviewing facts and testimony from the trial, Justice Mike Wallach wrote for the Second Court of Appeals in Fort Worth, rejecting Wall's claim, saying that "there is ample evidence in the record to support his capital murder conviction and the jury's implicit rejection of his defenses."

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HONOR

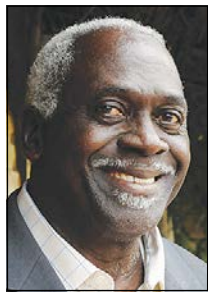
Curtis Jefferson honored with Earl King Award

Special to The Community News

Christian Men's Fellowship of Parker County and Senator Phil King honored Rev. Curtis Jefferson with the Earl King Award at CMF's monthly meeting on Monday, Aug. 5.

Jefferson is the founding pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, which he led for 35 years until his retirement in 2022.

The Earl King Award is named for CMF's founder. The award honors a Parker County man for exhibiting Christian leadership over a significant length of time.



Curtis Jefferson

Jefferson is the second recipient of the Earl King Award. CMF presented the first award to Sen. Phil King in 2021.

"Earl's vision when he started CMF many years ago was that it would be a local group of men in business whose sole purpose was to encourage each other to spiritually lead their families, share the Gospel, and make our community a loving, caring place," said CMF president Lin Bearden. "Curtis certainly exemplifies that ideal through his testimony in Weatherford and in the workplace."

Jefferson was a bi-vocational pastor, working two full-time jobs until he retired from Chevron Pipeline in 2007. He has also preached at several

other churches in Parker County and preached at The Potter's House in Dallas, home of Pastor T.D. Jakes.

He has been very involved in the community, serving on the boards of the Parker Baptist Association, the Weatherford College Foundation, and Center of Hope, as well as coaching youth and little league football and basketball as well as a women's softball team.

Rev. Jefferson was not able to attend Monday's meeting, so his son, Doug Jefferson, accepted the award on his behalf.



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Doug Jefferson, son of Rev. Curtis Jefferson, accepts the Earl King Award for his father from Senator Phil King at a recent meeting of the Christian Men's Fellowship of Parker County.



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WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

College receives second financial transparency star

One of only two in Texas

By Crystal Woerly
Weatherford College

Weatherford College has earned a Debt Obligations Transparency Star by the Texas Comptroller's Office, making it one of only two community colleges in the state to receive this distinction.

The Transparency Stars program acknowledges local governments for exceeding transparency standards.

In 2020, Weatherford College received the Traditional Finances Star, and this year, the college has been recognized for its outstanding commitment to transparency in debt obligations. The Texas Comptroller's Office annually reviews the college's website to ensure it continues to meet the criteria for the transparency star.

"Weatherford College is one of only two colleges or universities in the great state of Texas to earn two financial transparency stars," said WC President Tod Allen Farmer. "We are also

one of the few colleges to have no general obligation bond indebtedness, so we collect zero property taxes for our facilities. I am extremely proud of our fidelity to the taxpayer."

WC currently holds \$46.6 million in debt obligations, none of which are tax-supported. That has kept WC taxes significantly lower than the state average for community colleges (10.6087 cents vs. 16.05 cents per \$100, according to a Texas Association of Community Colleges survey). The college's last tax-supported bond occurred in 1996 for a \$9 million bond, which was approved by voters.

"Weatherford College strives to promote financial transparency to keep its taxpayers, students, and other constituents informed of the financial health of the institution," said Dr. Andra Cantrell, executive vice president of financial and administrative affairs. "We are committed to further expanding our financial transparency as it relates to debt obligations, as proven with this most recent Transparency Star."

Marching band premieres dramatic new show



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Jackson Sirolis conducting.

Christopher Amos
The Community News

The Bearcat Regiment premiered their upcoming halftime and UIL marching band competition performance in the Aledo High School gym to enthusiastic crowd responses, featuring a departure from typical marching music or show tunes to intense, dramatic and high energy selections.

The presentation on Aug. 9 included the melodies "Whisper of a Thrill" and "Meet Joe Black" also "Ominous With Building Intensity," a tune reflective of its title by American composer, Kimberly Archer.

The high school and middle school marching bands combined for

the show, and head director, Joey Paul, announced there are 197 students in the 2024-25 band program.

"We are super excited about this year's show. It is going to be full of energy," Paul told the audience. "You are going to see some of the best production on the field that we have ever had."

After a break for costume changes, the band competed in the annual Band Olympics, traditionally consisting of makeshift relays, spontaneous antics and frolicking competition among band members on the east practice field of the campus.

More photos and coverage can be found at <https://www.community-news.com/stories/band-olympics-and-meet-the-band,89584>.

COUNCIL

from page one

The estimated cost for all improvements is estimated to be just more than \$7.8 million and separated into three phases, ranging from what is perceived to be most urgent and easiest to accomplish as Area 1, and progressing to more complex elements in Areas 2 and 3.

Details of the public survey and subsequent town hall meeting(s) have yet to be determined.

"We would like to encourage all citizens to participate in this process," City Manager Bryan Grimes said. "Willow Park never had an endeavor this big in our parks system and it's going to take the entire community to make it successful."

Memorial Park may move

As council moves forward with the renovation of the parking lot at Willow Park City Hall, that work could now include moving Memorial Park from its current location - which was next to the former city hall on Ranch House Road.

A conceptual design has not yet been requested, but a cost estimate for basic elements for such a project is \$610,000 with a 30% contingency. That would be added to the already estimated just more than \$1 million for the rest of the parking lot, which does not include a fee to create construction documents.

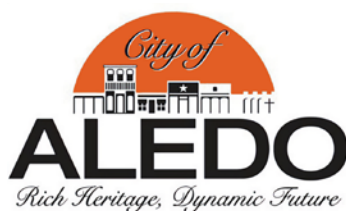
The concept design by Witmeyer and Arroyo of Westwood Professional Services, Inc. was approved at a meeting in late June.

The parking lot project was tabled at Tuesday's meeting, largely because

the work would take place during Christmas holiday celebrations. Also, it gives the council time to determine its approach for funding for the project.

"It's very important for us, as a city, to honor our veterans, both those that are living and those who have passed," Hoffman said. "By taking our time and weighing all our choices carefully, we can ensure that we pick the option that properly honors their service and for future generations."

The project is expected to increase the parking lot width from 31 feet to 76 feet, along with the box for payments to the city being relocated so folks don't have to drive around the building. Signage with individual highlighted letters spelling out Willow Park on a raised flower bed is also included.



Notice About 2024 Tax Rates

Property tax rates in Aledo.

This notice concerns the 2024 property tax rates for Aledo. This notice provides information about two tax rates used in adopting the current tax year's tax rate. The no-new-revenue tax rate would impose the same amount of taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. In most cases, the voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate a taxing unit can adopt without holding an election. In each case, these rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of taxes by the current taxable value with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

This year's no-new-revenue tax rate	\$0.357243/\$100
This year's voter-approval tax rate	\$0.390082/\$100

To see the full calculations, please visit www.aledotx.gov for a copy of the Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet.

Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the taxing unit's accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Fund	Balance
Fund Balance	88,095

Current Year Debt Service

The following amounts are for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from upcoming property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Series 2017,2020	760,000	334,721	0	1,094,721
Series 2012	205,000	0	0	205,000
Series 2022 CO	0	827,288	0	827,288

Total required for 2024 debt service	\$2,127,009
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in unencumbered funds	\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources	\$978,480
- Excess collections last year	\$27,868
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2024	\$1,120,661
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2024	\$0
= Total debt levy	\$1,120,661

This notice contains a summary of actual no-new-revenue and voter-approval calculations as certified by Jennifer Garrett, Finance Director on 08/12/2024.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The ALEDO ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:00 pm, August 26, 2024 in Aledo ISD Board Room, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas 76008. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.755200/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.450000/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	-1.17 % decrease
Debt Service	10.19 % increase
Total Expenditures	1.76 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$10,264,677,959	\$10,577,621,246
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$399,484,898	\$321,359,175
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$6,272,654,473	\$6,844,528,209
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$399,484,898	\$321,359,175

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$366,109,021

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.757500	\$0.450000	\$1.207500	\$9,157	\$3,523
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.818510	\$0.487210	\$1.305720	\$9,774	\$3,167
Proposed Rate	\$0.755200	\$0.450000	\$1.205200	\$9,743	\$3,229

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$588,371	\$562,909
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$361,060	\$401,471
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.207500	\$1.205200
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$4,359.80	\$4,838.53
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$478.73

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.245081. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.245081.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$15,209,390
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$5,589,393

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

A great way to start the day!

THE COMMUNITY NEWS



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Board proposes flat tax rate

By Crystal Woerly
Weatherford College

The Weatherford College Board of Trustees proposed the 2024 ad valorem tax rate of 10.6087 cents per \$100 valuation for Parker County property owners at their recent August meeting, the same as the current tax rate.

The average 2024 property tax state among community colleges was 16.0456 cents.

If approved, the board will have either lowered or kept the tax rate flat in seven out of the last eight years.

Board member G.B. Bailey commended President Tod Allen Farmer on the college's recent Debt Obligations Transparency Star from the Texas Comptroller's Office and promotion of that achievement.

"You did a great job of informing the general public of where the college is trying to be conservative in our taxation and the great things the college has performed in winning awards for our finances," Bailey said.

A public tax hearing will take place at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, in the Allene Strain Room in the Doss Student Center. Immediately following the hearing, the board will vote on the 2024-25 budget and the 2024 proposed tax rate.

Report from trainers

The board also received a report from WC's athletic trainers, Chris Nelson and Ryleigh Hyles, about their efforts to prevent and treat injuries on the college's athletic teams.

Nelson and Hyles provide comprehensive care to 150 to 200 athletes each year and have provided 8,536 individual treatments since 2022. They attend all home athletic events and travel with the teams to post-season tournaments.

In addition to caring for Coyote athletes, they teach kinesiology courses and prevention and care of athletic injury classes at WC. WC also serves as a clinical site for Tarleton University's athletic training graduate program.

In other business

- The board also:
- Approved the minutes of the July board meeting.
 - Approved the financial reports ending July 31.
 - Approved a local policy setting future board meeting dates and times for the next 12 months.
 - Approved a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science in Computer Science.

- Approved a request for the board to reaffirm the college's safety procedures related to firearms in student housing and on campus.
- Approved a contract quote from Dell Technologies and Dell Financial Services for a master lease agreement.
- Approved an interlocal cooperative purchasing agreement with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)'s Cooperative Purchasing Program, known as HGACBuy.
- Approved the prevailing wage on construction projects for the 2024-25 fiscal year as determined by the United States Department of Labor.
- Received written reports from the Wise County campus, office of academics, and student services.
- Received the annual safety and security audit report from WC Police Chief Anthony Bigongiari.

President's Report

- Recognized Dr. Andra Cantrell and her team on their recent Debt Obligations Transparency Star from the Texas Comptroller's Office.
- Announced the recent transfer agreement with Texas A&M Corpus Christi for graduates of WC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.
- Announced the launch of the new Department of Business and Behavioral Science with Dr. Philip Mathew serving as chair.
- Announced the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's recent approval of WC's fifth bachelor's degree.
- Announced the resignations of Jennifer Miller, administrative assistant for ADN/LVN; Elizabeth Stone, ADN instructor; Dr. Tasha Brown, Department Chair of Behavioral Science (she will transition to an adjunct instructor position); Amanda Wood, ADN instructor; Gina Serrano, ADN instructor; and the retirement of Diann Ainsworth, English instructor.
- Provided an enrollment update. As of July 29, the year-to-date enrollment for the fall semester was 4,589 students compared to 3,924 students at the same time last year. Registration for the fall is ongoing and the administration expects an overall enrollment increase for the fall.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The 116-resident Durant Hall on the southeast corner of East Park Avenue and College Park Drive offers residents convenient campus living with amenities not found at many colleges.

COLLEGE

from page one

Chevrolet Buick GMC, have been generous to the community in the area of education in the past, helping to finance Durant Auditorium at Weatherford High School in 2003.

"We always want to give back to the community that has been so good to us," Vickie said in her greeting. "We are blown away with how the community has grown over the years and God has knocked our socks off along the way. When you go inside this dorm you are going to see just how God has knocked our socks off."

"You all have put us in a position where we can bless Parker County," Jerry added.

Visitors first enter a grand lobby with lounge seating and a massive fireplace under antler chandeliers. A kitchenette, full weight room, and dorm rooms are on the first floor. Most dorms are four-room suites with two full baths, a common study lounge, kitchenette, and private bedrooms.

Other floors have more dorm rooms and a large cardio workout room with an East Park Avenue view.

College president Dr. Tod Farmer explained the building was paid for with a donation from the Durant family and with college funds.

"Not one tax dollar was used in the construction," Dr. Farmer emphasized. "This building will be full to capacity on the day it opens."



Weatherford College president Tod Farmer.



Each four-student suite has a kitchenette, study table, lounge, two full baths, and individual private bedrooms with full-size beds.

With input from the building committee and college board of trustees, Huckabee Architects was tasked with making comfortable and convenient living a priority so students can study and develop.

"Dr. Farmer was not concerned with how many beds can be crammed into a space," Mark Huckabee said. "This, for sure, is not your average college dorm. It is definitely unique."

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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

Pandemic relief funds for schools about to end



Gary Borders

gborders@texaspess.com

Texas public schools received more than \$19 billion in pandemic relief funds over the last four years, but that pipeline of cash will largely end on Sept. 30, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

That means many Texas schools already struggling with budget deficits will begin the school year with even more serious deficits, especially since the Texas Legislature has not increased base per-student pay since 2019 — a year before the pandemic began.

Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief package in 2020 to help schools deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused enrollment declines, teachers exiting the profession and falling test scores. That funding is about to end, with essentially nothing to take its place for many school districts already at the maximum allowed property tax rate.

"It's not about making up ESSER, because we all knew that was one-time funding," said La Joya ISD Superintendent Marcey Sorensen. "I just would ask, without getting political whatsoever, that everybody just look in the mirror and say, OK, if we really haven't provided additional funding since 2019, maybe it's time that we just give school districts a little bit more of what they need, knowing that kids have different needs now."

A recent survey conducted by the Texas Association of School Business Officials concluded that out of 313 school districts across the state, nearly 80% reported deficit budgets or a lack of resources as one of their top challenges.

Abbott orders hospitals to report immigrant care data

All Texas hospitals enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's

Health Insurance Program have been ordered by Gov. Greg Abbott to report costs incurred by treating undocumented immigrants, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. In a news release outlining his executive order, Abbott blamed the Biden administration's border security policies for health care costs related to those immigrants.

"Texans should not have to shoulder the burden of financially supporting medical care for illegal immigrants," Abbott said.

Some Democratic lawmakers criticized the order.

State Rep. Gene Wu, D-Austin, posted on X: "Texas has the HIGHEST uninsured healthcare in the nation. Texas has the WORST mental health care in the nation. Texas has one of the worst (mortality) and infant mortality rates in America. But these are the Republicans priorities."

Five more counties added to disaster list

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, five more Texas counties have been added to the federal disaster list, the governor's office announced.

The counties of Austin, Bowie, Shelby, Trinity and Waller have been added to the list, which already included Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Walker and Wharton counties.

Texans can apply for FEMA disaster assistance online at disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362.

Carbon monoxide poisonings spike in wake of storm

Carbon monoxide poisonings rose dramatically in the wake of Hurricane Beryl, with about 400 people ending up in Texas emergency rooms since the storm struck on July 8, the Texas Standard reported. That is the highest number reported since the 2021 winter storm, the Texas Standard reported. Two people died of CO poisoning in Harris County.

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Look at it This Way

The squirrel round



Rick Mauch

sports@community-news.com

Nothing comes between a man and his golf game.

My best friend and longtime golfing buddy Mark and I have played in pretty much any condition imaginable - and we both have vivid imaginations. The most memorable times we simply label as the "(fill in the blank) Round."

There was the Snow Round, which we played about 12 years ago. While, in all transparency, it wasn't really snowing, it was frigid cold, mid-30s at best. However, as time passes and legend grows, we now remember it as being below zero with snow so deep we had to wear snowshoes.

Then, there was the Heat Round. No real exaggeration needed here, as we walked a par-3 course in 109-degree weather with a heat index of 117.

Come to think of it, perhaps our level of sanity was exaggerated a bit as I reflect.

Ironically, we both played very well in both of those rounds. I don't remember the scores, but I do know that we weren't deterred from hitting the course again in freezing or sizzling conditions - still aren't, though most hot days now we opt for a cart and most cold days it depends on whether we've done enough laundry to sufficiently layer ourselves.

The Squirrel Round

By now you are probably wondering what in the world the Squirrel Round could be, right?

You're probably familiar with the Ray Stevens song with the lyrics about "The day the squirrel went berserk in the First Self Righteous Church." Well, on this day suffice to say I went berserk on a squirrel.

Sort of.

I feel I must explain that it was purely accidental. Mark and I were playing a round at a course in Arlington, and I was having a pretty decent game. Why can't I have a good round when circumstances are normal?

Anyway, we're on the last hole and I hit my tee shot under a tree. Errant though it was, I still had a decent chance to make the green if I could hit a low shot, which I did.

The shot left my club just fine. Then, I hear a thwack and suddenly the ball is flying in a completely different direction to the side.

Then, I see the poor little thing lying there on the ground not far from where my shot had initially gone. "I just killed a squirrel," I said to Mark.

We wondered aloud whether we should try picking it up and rushing it to the vet. Of course, in reminiscing neither of us is sure what we would have done had the squirrel awakened en route and wondered what in the heck was going on? After all, he was simply heading home to his family after a day of whatever it is squirrels do, only to be side-tracked by a fool with a five iron.

I poked on it, no response. Mark poked on it, no response.

After deciding to continue to play - we were, after all, on the final hole - I go to my ball and proceed to hit my third shot. At that moment, the squirrel springs back to life - perhaps it was playing possum until we left, finally giving up because we took so long - and runs right back in my path.

No, I did not hit him again. However, my ball did give him a shave the folks at Gillette would envy.

It was probably my imagination, but I could swear at this point he stopped and gave me a look as if to say, "Really dude?" And, I must admit, I felt even more embarrassed than when I actually hit him.

Now he could go home and tell his family about this idiot golfer who couldn't control his shots if his life - or that of a wild animal - depended on it. I'm sure that, after being relieved that he was okay and it wasn't a run-in with an inattentive automobile that delayed his arrival, they had a big laugh.

I've since played that same course a couple times. And yes, I look for the squirrel when we reach the final hole. I've not seen him again, or perhaps he's seen me and decided it best to wait before making his way home.

Oh, and if you're wondering, I bogeyed the hole.

State Representative Update

Vouchers Are Woke: Go Woke, Go Broke



Dr. Glenn Rogers

glenn.rogers@house.texas.gov

Concerned parents across Texas and across our nation have taken great interest in the threats social media platforms pose to our children's developing minds. We have watched billionaire social media CEOs get grilled on Capitol Hill in congressional hearings as Americans demand action to protect our kids. We know platforms like TikTok use algorithms to target young people, sending them content that is not age appropriate, we know it spews radical gender ideology to millions of our kids, and we know how it over-sexualizes young women; TikTok, Instagram, Facebook have all been busted

for these outrageous acts. Dents in profits have followed for these and many other woke corporations. As they say, "Go woke, go broke."

Concerned citizens paying attention have noticed the elite donor class manipulate election after election in this country; they leverage their immense wealth to sway votes by manipulating media platforms. The majority of voters would likely agree that the globalist billionaires that spend millions of dollars on political campaigns do not share the same values, concerns, or ideals with the majority of Americans.

Billionaire oligarchs are always in the market for a political puppet. Unfortunately, in Texas there is no limit on how much money an individual can donate to a candidate for state office. This election cycle, Governor Greg Abbott announced that he received the largest single campaign contribution in Texas history — \$6 million from Jeff Yass. Yass gave Abbott an additional \$4 million a few

months later, gave Lt. Governor Dan Patrick \$400,000, and gave the AFC (deceivably called the American Federation for Children) Victory Fund's Texas committee \$5.7 million. So, who is Yass?

Yass is a Pennsylvanian billionaire who owns around a 30% stake of ByteDance, the TikTok parent company. He also is a big financier of charter/private schools. As an education vendor, he can profit off voucher programs in several states. It appears his campaign contributions in Texas, and future potential business interests, are correlated with the push by Abbott for school vouchers.

After Arizona passed their voucher program in 2022, the AFC, largely funded by Yass and the Devos family, began to market vouchers to undocumented immigrants. In their Spanish ad, they explained that citizenship status would not be a barrier to enroll for vouchers. Luring illegal immigrants across the border is a

typical globalist tactic, and school vouchers is Yass's way of playing the globalist game in an attempt to line his own pockets. The State of Arizona is now facing a deficit budget as the cost of their school voucher program is millions of more dollars than was projected. The official estimate for fiscal year 2024 was \$65 million while the true cost was \$332 million. Their legislature is now struggling to resolve a major budget crisis. "Go woke, go broke."

Costly, unnecessary welfare programs are always a burden on the taxpayers. School vouchers across the country have largely been granted to parents who already could afford to, and did, send their children to private schools, thus making vouchers a subsidy for the wealthy. As Republicans, we believe in limited government and fiscal sensibility. We do not believe in unnecessary welfare programs that result in increased government spending. "Go woke, go broke."

Turn to **VOUCHER**, page 5

CAPITAL

from page 4

CO poisonings caused by widespread power outages are growing more common as climate change causes more extreme weather events, according to scientists.

“Whether you want to blame it on this, that or the other, I don’t care. The world is changing. The climate is changing,” said Dr. David Persse, Houston’s chief medical officer.

School about to start; watch for the kiddoes

With school about to start, drivers are urged to stay alert and exercise caution in school zones, the Texas Department of Public Transportation advised. School zones can be chaotic, and 748 crashes were reported inside them last year. In addition, 2,523 collisions involving school buses occurred in Texas last year, killing 11 people and injuring 63.

TxDOT has launched its “Be Safe. Drive Smart Back-to-School” campaign in hopes of reducing crashes. The most common causes of crashes are preventable, such as speeding, distracted driving and failure to yield the right of way. Among the tips offered by TxDOT:

- Be aware. Traffic patterns around schools may have changed since last school year.
- Stay alert and put your phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.
- Stop and yield the right of way to a pedestrian, bicyclist, or other vulnerable road user in a crosswalk. The Lisa Torry Smith Act of 2021 enhanced the penalties for failing to

follow the law and protect people in crosswalks. Seriously injuring someone who is lawfully in a crosswalk is now a state jail felony.

- Obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines increase in school zones.
- Know where to go. Drop off and pick up your kids in your school’s designated areas, not the middle of the street.
- Be on the lookout. Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.
- Watch for children who might dart across the street or between vehicles.

Yup, it’s hot in Texas

Exactly how hot is it in the Lone Star State as a heat dome covers much of Texas during these dog days of August? According to the *Statesman*, our state has the fourth-highest average temperature so far this year, coming in at 65.8 degrees. That might not seem all that hot, but keep in mind it includes temps recorded in January averaged in with that summer heat.

Topping the list of hottest states is Florida, followed by Hawaii and Louisiana, according to data compiled by The Blogler. After Texas comes Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama. Surprisingly, Arizona — even with triple-digit temperatures recorded regularly around Phoenix — is tied for ninth place.

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.

MURDER

from page one

Contradictory testimony

According to trial testimony, the day before the murders, Wall used a website notorious for illicit activities like prostitution, to solicit two women to come to his office at JPS to have sex with him. Instead, testimony stated that if he didn’t pay them a large sum of money, they would tell his supervisor and his wife that he was trying to hire prostitutes, so he took the two women to three different Fort Worth banks and withdrew \$6,600, which he gave to them.

The next day, according to the testimony, Wall was approached again with a demand that he pay them more money for their silence. Wall met them in the bank parking lot and, after a brief meeting in his car, shot McClellan and Pohorence in the head between his car and Pohorence’s car. Sierra McMahan, who was in a different car, saw the shooting and fled the scene. Wall fled shortly thereafter, running over McClellan’s body on the way.

In Wall’s testimony, he said that the women threatened to kill him that day and that McClellan had shown him a gun in her purse the day before. He said that McClellan tried to drag him out of his car and believed she was going to kidnap him. Wall said that he got out of his car with his gun, McClellan reached into her purse, and he shot her. He said he then shot Pohorence when she charged him.

When Wall was interviewed by Texas Ranger Tony Bradford the day after the shooting, he initially told him that the women were extorting him but denied killing them. Several minutes into the interview, Wall said that they had threatened to sexually traffick his 14-year-old daughter. In an interview lasting around 90 minutes, he said nothing about the women having a gun, trying to kidnap him, or charging at him.

Missing evidence

Willow Park Police Department and Parker County Sheriff’s Office investigators found no gun or other weapon on scene. They also located McClellan’s purse in her car, not near her body, and that it had no blood on

it. Wall shot both women in the head causing the presence of large amounts of blood on the ground at the scene.

During Wall’s testimony, he admitted that he hid the gun he shot the women with in a pile of rubble near his home. However, he said he did not do so to hide evidence, as the prosecution suggested. He said he hid it because he could not stand to be near the gun anymore since he had used it to kill two people.

Wall also admitted that he washed his car at a car wash shortly after the shooting. He said he did not do so to wash off blood or other evidence, but rather to give himself time to think while he the car was being washed.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE TO CONTINUE READING VISIT



VOUCHER

from page 4

Conservatives believe in originalism, that is to value the Constitution and its authors’ original intentions. The Texas Constitution, every version since 1836 in fact, has required the legislature to ensure a system of public education. The billionaire globalist agenda wants to replace public schools with a completely privatized system of education; vouchers are the first step in the larger scheme. This would require a major progressive amendment to the Texas Constitution, erasing a fundamental and original clause

of the sacred document. Altering the original meaning and intent of the Constitution is woke and would open the door for leftists trying to upend other core sections of the document. “Go woke, go broke.”

We don’t trust Yass’s TikTok on our children’s phones, so why should we trust him with our children’s education? If he lets woke ideology infect our children via social media, why wouldn’t he let woke indoctrination into private education? Quite frankly, Texans should be offended that Governor Abbott would openly brag about receiving the single largest campaign contribution from an out-of-state

globalist who is pushing values contrary to the ideals of Texans.

Texans held the line against the globalist voucher scheme during the last legislative session. It is vital that every Texas parent stands up for their children to protect them from the leftist agenda that is secretly attached to “school choice.” If Texas adopts school vouchers, our children will be in trouble, our border crisis will worsen, and our budget will be ruined. Texas should take heed of the clear warning: “Go woke, go broke.”

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.390082 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Aledo.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.390082 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.357243 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.390082 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Aledo from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Aledo may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Aledo is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 5, 2024 AT 06:00 pm AT Aledo City Hall.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Aledo is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the City Council of Aledo at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Mayor Pro Tem - Nelson Rowls Councilmember - Shawna Ford Councilmember - Summer Jones Councilmember - Shane Davis Councilmember - Christian Pearson

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Mayor Nick Stanley

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Aledo last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Aledo this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.383113	\$0.390082	increase of 0.006969 per \$100, or 1.82%
Average homestead taxable value	\$400,207	\$401,950	increase of 0.44%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,533.25	\$1,567.93	increase of 34.68, or 2.26%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,891,329	\$3,316,751	increase of 425,422, or 14.71%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Aledo at 817-441-7016 or citysecretary@aledotx.gov, or visit www.aledotx.gov for more information.

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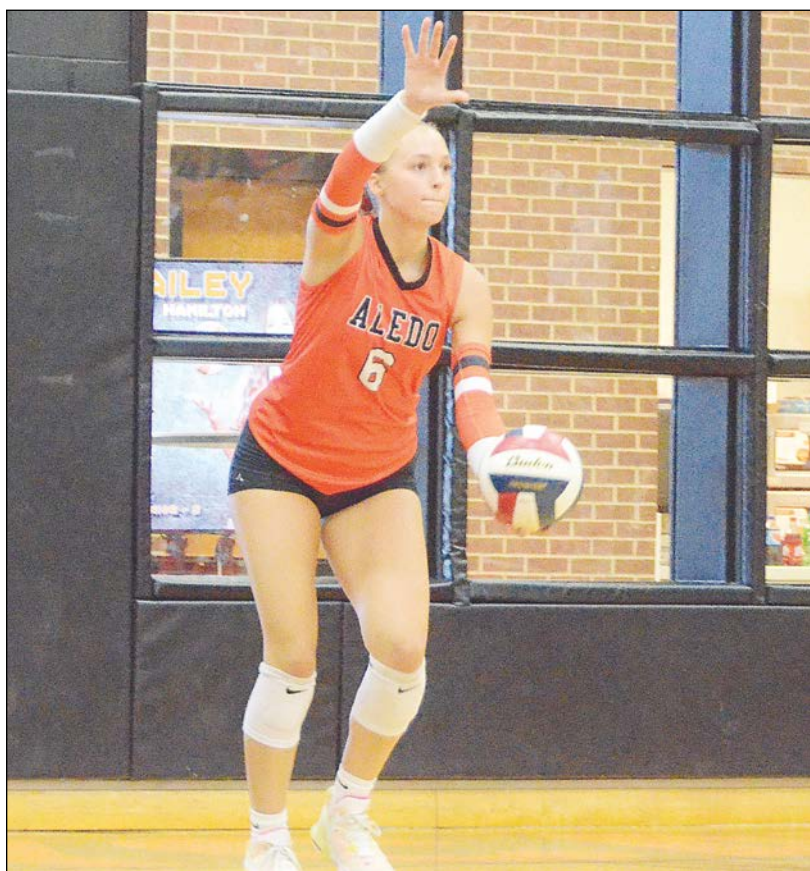
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VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats sweep season opener



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ava Reding and the Aledo Ladycats began the season with a sweep of defending TAPPS 5A state champion Argyle Liberty Christian.

Top defending TAPPS 5A champs

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats volleyball team started the season strong against a formidable foe in front of their home crowd Monday night, Aug. 12. Aledo boasted a high-quality defense, dominant stretches of play on the front line, and a bevy of backend gems en route to a sweep over the Argyle Liberty Christian Lady Warriors, the defending state champions of TAPPS in 5A, by a final score of 25-22, 25-19 and 25-20.

"Overall, we've got some veterans who have been playing a long time, and I didn't give them an easy start to the season, playing the defending state champions of TAPPS in 5A," Ladycats head coach Claire Gay said. "They've got great outside hitters and good lefties up front, but I thought our girls executed their roles well."

Liberty Christian trimmed the deficit to a single point on numerous occasions in the opening set. Each time the visitors drew within a point,

though, Aledo saw one of its own step up to create breathing room.

An emphatic kill and block on back-to-back possessions from senior middle Haley Lowe gave Aledo a 17-15 margin. Later in the set, senior Kinley Elms recorded a block and kill, followed by a kill from junior Tatum Kosse, that extended the advantage to 23-20. A service error by Liberty Christian and another Aledo kill ended the victorious first set.

Ella Isbel, Elms, and Todd peppered the court with a myriad of big kills in the second set, but not without help from their back line defenders. Seniors Logyn Denbow, Ella Meador, Kenrie Pruitt, and Ava Reding dug up several high-level attacks from Liberty Christian's front line players that energized both the team and the crowd.

"It's a big momentum mover and helps the team get more excited about everything we do," Pruitt said. "It helps us move forward in the match and succeed. Getting a big dig feels amazing and having your hitter put the ball away is why I play volleyball - I love that thrill."

The hustle, effort and accurate passing from the Ladycats' back line set up plenty of attacking opportunities that Aledo's hitters took full advantage of in the second set and kept the attacking hands of Aledo sizzling.

"My teammates help me keep the confidence and consistency in place," Todd said. "I think we really communicate well on the court and it helps us get through runs the opposition may have."

Todd and Elms combined for a late flurry of kills while Meador and Reding produced a pair of defensive gems to close out the second set.

Aledo and Liberty Christian competed closely in the opening stages of the third set just as the teams did in the previous two, but the Ladycats surged ahead 20-13 on a 5-0 run that forced the Lady Warriors to burn a timeout. Then, the visitors put together a 4-0 spurt of their own to get back into the set, trailing by just three at 20-17, which forced Aledo to use its first timeout of the match.

Turn to **LADYCATS**, page 9

GOLF

Area golfers continue solid summer

Aledo, Weatherford golfers in North Texas PGA Junior Golf circuit

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Led by young Christian Ziegler, several golfers from the Aledo and Weatherford area continued their summer of success on the North Texas PGA Junior Golf circuit.

Ziegler, competing in the boys 9-10 age group on the Prep Tour, won the championship at Texas 9 golf course in Fort Worth. He posted a nine-hole score of 3-over-par 30.

In that same tournament, Weatherford's Samuel Langeunier tied for third, shooting a 35.

Also at Texas 9, Korbyn McBride of Aledo placed second in the Girls 15-18 division, shooting 50 over nine holes.

At the Waterchase course in Fort Worth, Reagan Gilliland of Willow Park finished third. She had a pair of nine-hole scores of 44 and 45 for a two-round total of 89.

And, at Irving Golf Club, Evan Boukadoum of Aledo shot an 83 over 18 holes to tie for ninth in the Boys 15-18 category.

TRACK AND FIELD

St. Peters honored with name on champions bench

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Lauren St. Peters is, quite simply, one of the greatest track and field athletes to come through the Aledo athletic program. With three appearances at the University Interscholastic League Class 5A State Meet, she garnered two medals in the shot put, including a gold medal in 2024 and a bronze medal the season before.



Lauren St. Peters

And, as a sophomore she narrowly missed medaling in both the shot put and discus, placing fourth in each event. She was also fourth in the discus as a senior.

Now she has been given her rightful place alongside other state track and field champions in Aledo with her name and accomplishment inscribed on what is commonly known as the Girls Bench of Track and Field Champions (the boys have their own bench), located in Tim Buchanan Stadium.

"I am honored to leave a legacy behind at Aledo. The school

is filled with talented athletes, and to be recognized as one is something I am very proud of," St. Peters said. "My hope is that my legacy would be an encouragement to young girls, that they'd know anything is possible when you put your heart and mind into something."

St. Peters is only the seventh Ladycat to have her name placed individually on the bench and the first since Gracie Morris won the 800-meter run in 2017.

Ladycats throwing coach Nikki Hyles, a state champion herself in the high jump in 1988 as Nikki Walker, said coaching St. Peters has been one of the great pleasures of her career.

"She exemplifies what it means to be a state champion both on and off the field. As a natural leader, she is a role model to her peers," Hyles said. "She has a strong Christian faith and embodies hard work and positivity in everything she does."

"I wish her all the best as she begins her college career. She will be greatly missed at AHS, but she is leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire future Ladycats. I'm so proud of Lauren and blessed to be a small part of her journey."

Summer success

St. Peters competed in two prestigious meets this summer in the shot put. She was fourth in the Nike Outdoor Nationals and placed ninth in the Under 20 World Trials Championships.

"Coming off of my performance at the UIL competition in May, I knew I would really have to dig deep to be able to compete so much later in the summer," she said. "Proud of the perseverance."

Next up, Nebraska

St. Peters now moves on to compete for the University of Nebraska track and field program, where she received a scholarship.

"I am looking forward to learning from the talented athletes and my incredible coaches there. The team and coaches at Aledo have really shown me the importance of having people who support and push you," she said. "I truly could not have had the legacy I've had without Coach (Mike) Pinkerton, Coach (Nikki) Hyles, Coach (Stephen) Reeves, Coach (Michael) Corley, and so many more."

Turn to **BENCH**, page 9

SWIMMING

Wild has strong showing at TAAF state

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Weatherford Wild wrapped up their summer swim season with a strong showing at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas in Brownsville July 26-28.

"We did well! Got between 30-40 medals and ribbons overall, including relays," Wild coach Matt Williams said. "We competed against a lot of teams that get to swim year-round and held our own with only 33 kids."

Williams won the lone gold medal for the Wild, taking first place in the Males 35-39 100-yard individual medley. He clocked a time of 1 minute, 8.72 seconds for the gold medal.

Two other male swimmers placed second in their respective age groups. Bowen Judd captured a silver medal with a time of 34.87 in the 11-12 50 backstroke, while Enson Griffith posted a 2:04.58 for silver in the 18-24 200 freestyle.

Leading the female competitors for the Wild was the third-place Girls 11-12 200 freestyle relay. The quartet of Charlotte Borme, Brinley Richey, Madison Balaban and Blair Mezger finished in 2:09.41 for a bronze medal.

In all, the Wild had 11 top-five finishes.

Turn to **SWIMMING**, page 9

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



AUGUST 22

Aledo City Council Meeting
The Aledo City council will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 22 at the Aledo Community Center.

AUGUST 27

Willow Park City Council Meeting
The Willow Park City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in Willow Park City Hall 120 El Chico Trl, Ste A, Willow Park, TX 76087.

SEPTEMBER 3

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

SEPTEMBER 5

Notice of Public Hearing
The City of Aledo will hold a public hearing on at 6 p.m.

on Thursday, Sept. 5 at the Aledo Community Center, to discuss the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed budget.

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.

EVENT SUBMISSIONS

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

Please include time, date, and place of the event, a short description, and phone/email for obtaining further information, along with photos, graphics, or flyers.

ACROSS

- TXism: "if ___ rooster, he'll crow" (inevitable)
- gorillas
- TX Freddy Fender's "Wasted ___ and Wasted Nights"
- TX Bob Wills' "Take ___ Back to Tulsa"
- San Angelo is seat of ___ Green County
- TXism: "got as much ___ a hibernating bear" (idle)
- "Ben ___ Hospital" in Houston
- TX Audie Murphy 1955 film about his war exploits: "___ Back"
- TX Paula Prentiss film: "The ___ Henry Orient"
- TXism: "that's a fine how ___ do"
- people with no skin or hair pigment
- TXism: "beller"
- these are blue on the state flower
- TXism: "___ a doornail"
- "Las ___ Wild-life Management"
- actress Taylor of Texas "Giant" (init.)
- Galveston got 15 inches in the "___ Snow" of 1895
- TXism: "___ got a prayer" (hopeless)
- TX Young Netflix series: "Cobra ___"

DOWN

- TXism: "if a hog ___ wings he'd be an eagle"
- agcy. that watches over the environ.
- Baylor County seat here in New Mexico
- some Texans ski here in New Mexico
- TXism: "strong enough ___" (coffee)
- TXism: "___ lap dog"
- most delicious
- cut off a branch
- Texas legal specialty: "oil ___"
- LBJ took ___ of office on Air Force One
- TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)
- TX Roy Orbison early group: "___ Kings"
- TX Roy Orbison's "___, Pretty Woman"
- ___ Kalb, TX is in Bowie County
- Nacogdoches is "The ___ in Texas"
- Dionne1967 hit: "I ___ Little Prayer"
- TXism: "the ___ to his own beat" (independent)
- a road Texans have to pay to drive on if your dog has ___
- if your dog has ___ you're liable enough ___
- clean a bookshelf (2 wds.)
- ___ Smith County
- anno Domini abbr.
- TXism: "crooked as a dog's hind ___"
- ABC's Bret and ___ Maverick
- best possible
- father of TX singer Lefty Frizzell
- pots and ___
- unaccounted for soldiers (abbr.)
- TX-born singer Autry (init.)
- Texas' country noncommercial FM in Commerce
- "last year I kudn't spel engineer, now ___ won."
- TXism: "pushing up bluebonnets"
- TXism: "the real McCoy"
- rods and ___
- former Cowboy star, Emmitt (init.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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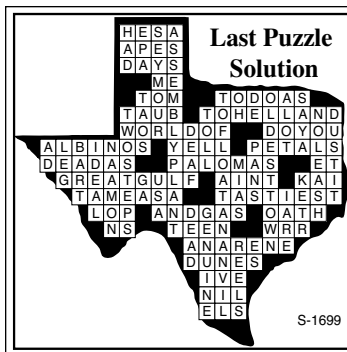
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Helen Keller

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Aledo, Texas will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Aledo Community Center, Aledo, Texas for discussion on the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed budget.
This public hearing is open to the public and citizens are invited to participate in this public hearing.
This is to certify this notice of meeting for posted on the official city hall bulletin board located to the left of the front doors of City Hall.
Deana McMullen, City Secretary Date Posted: 8/16/2024

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LADYCATS

from page 6

"We just need to be a little bit more consistent up front and work on our serve-receive passing," Gay said. "Overall, our setters did a good job, but we just need to work on certain spots in our rotation, get back in the gym and get after it."

Although Aledo's serve-receive and front line attacks were not consistently perfect throughout, the Ladycats had more than enough left in the tank to finish the job. Isbell pounded the ball into the court on one possession and followed that up with a suffocating block on the next point that gave Aledo breathing room at 23-17. Liberty Christian managed to claw back to within 23-20, but Meador's ace on the decisive 25th point clinched the match for the home team.

Elms and Todd led the charge for Aledo with nine kills apiece. Todd added 14 digs and three blocks while Elms poured in a pair of blocks. Lowe was a defensive stalwart with six blocks to go with six kills while Isbell was impactful up front with seven kills.

Reding shined for the Ladycats with 10 digs and 16 assists while Kailey Hamilton registered 11 assists of her own. Pruitt and Meador finished the match with 14 and six digs, respectively, while the latter added two service aces.

Tournament season is up next for Aledo and a chance to begin finding their identity as a collective unit.

"We are working together and doing so staying together and unified as a team," Gay said. "This weekend, we are really going to hone in and establish what we want our image to be this season."

The Ladycats are competing in the Katy Tournament this weekend.

BENCH

from page 6

Reflecting

"As I think about the four years I, athletically, had at Aledo. I can't help but praise the Lord and give Him thanks. Without Him I would not have gotten through the devastations that come with Track and Field. He is the thing that quieted my mind and calmed my heart as i was able to completed at such a high level," she said.

St. Peters overcame an injury to her planting leg that required surgery between her sophomore and junior seasons. Nonetheless, she returned to state in 2023 and medaled.

"My prayer for all the young athletes at Aledo is that they would walk with confidence knowing that their sport does not define them," she said. "And rest assured that they can have hope in something that is forever, Jesus Christ."

Ladycats Bench of State Track and Field Champions

- 1981 - Belvia Moody, 400-meterdash.
- 1981 - Kelly Reid, 800-meter run.
- 1988 - Nikki Walker, high jump.
- 1991, 1993, 1994 - Laura Bailey, 800.
- 1999 - Angie Waters, 800.
- 2017 - Gracie Morris, 800.
- 2024 - Lauren St. Peters, shot put.

Relays

- 1981, 1982 - Lisa Herring, Sharon Copeland, Kelly Reid, Belvia Moody, 1600.
- 1983 - Herring, Copeland, Stephanie Reid, Moody, 1600.
- 1993 - Crystal Scott, Chari Pennington, Ingia Stark, Laura Bailey, 1600.
- 2002 - Jessica Dorrell, Ashley Reed, Kaley Coffield, Jenna Coffield, 1600.



ALEDO TRACK AND FIELD BOOSTER CLUB

Former Aledo Ladycat Lauren St. Peters has taken her place on the Ladycats Bench of State Track and Field Champions.

Bearcats Bench of State Track and Field Champions

Individual champions

- 2014 - Carl Williams, high jump.
- 2018, 2019 - Zach Davis, pole vault.

- 2018, 2019 - Graydon Morris, 1600.
- 2018 - Morris, 3200.

The benches are sponsored by Vaultcats, Luke's Locker, Americana Roofing, Aledo Athletic Club, Railhead BBQ, and Davy Vestal Memorials.

SWIMMING

from page 6

Weatherford Wild results Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas

July 25-28, Brownsville (Distances in yards)

Females

- 9-10
- 25 Backstroke: 11. Chloe Brumfield, 20.75; 21. Jimma Vanzant, 22.21.
- 25 Breaststroke: 9. Brumfield, 21.67.
- 100 IM: 11. Brumfield, 1:37.77.
- 11-12
- 200 Medley Relay: 5. Brinley Richey, Blair Mezger, Charlotte Borme, Madison Balaban, 2:31.56.
- 50 Backstroke: 6. Borme, 36.41; 10. Metzger, 37.47.

- 50 Butterfly: 4. Borme, 33.94.
- 50 Freestyle: 6. Borme, 30.14; 13. Mezger, 31.13.
- 200 Freestyle Relay: 3. Borme, Richey, Balaban, Mezger, 2:09.41.
- 13-14
- 50 Backstroke: 20. Lynleigh Bruno, 38.52.
- 50 Breaststroke: 15. Emiliana Circelli, 42.71.
- 50 Butterfly: 16. Bruno, 35.89.
- 100 IM: 19. Circelli, 1:25.17.
- 15-17
- 200 Medley Relay: 5. Kate Kentner, Bailey Mezger, Jane Sorah, Karla Rodriguez, 2:11.37.
- 100 Freestyle: 13. Rodriguez, 1:03.64; 16. Sorah, 1:04.01.
- 50 Backstroke: 9. Sorah, 33.61.
- 50 Breaststroke: 11. Mezger, 37.96.
- 50 Butterfly: 7. Sorah, 30.15; 19. Kentner, 33.02.
- 50 Freestyle: 9. Sorah, 28.16; 18. Rodriguez, 29.71; 19. Kentner, 29.85.

- 200 Freestyle Relay: 5. Rodriguez, Kentner, Mezger, Sorah, 1:56.91.
- Males
- 9-10
- 50 Freestyle: 19. Max Borme, 37.54; 21. Beau Mezger, 38.44.
- 25 Breaststroke: 4. Harrison Gentry, 20.02; 6. Mezger, 21.75.
- 25 Butterfly: 11. Gentry, 18.82.
- 25 Freestyle: 24. Mezger, 17.61.
- 100 Freestyle Relay: 5. Mezger, Wesley Judd, Vincent Circelli, Harrison, 1:07.78.
- 11-12
- 100 Freestyle: 5. Bowen Judd, 1:04.60.
- 50 Backstroke: 2. Judd, 34.87.
- 100 IM: 11. Judd, 1:21.86.
- 13-14
- 200 Medley Relay: 6. Rafe Haugen, Blake Mezger, Maxwell Gentry, Ethan Kilbourne, 2:13.14.
- 100 Freestyle: 7. Eli Vanzant, 58.97; 16. Corbin Lane, 1:03.67.
- 50 Backstroke: 8. Lane, 33.03; 12.

- Gentry, 34.29.
- 50 Breaststroke: 11. Mezger, 37.53.
- 50 Freestyle: 8. Vanzant, 25.72; 16. Kilbourne, 28.13; 17. Haugen, 28.89.
- 100 IM: 13. Haugen, 1:17.80; 16. Gentry, 1:21.98.
- 200 Freestyle Relay: 8. Gentry, Mezger, Haugen, Kilbourne, 1:55.75.
- 15-17
- 100 Freestyle: 49. Ryan Roberts, 1:08.91.
- 50 Backstroke: 10. John Sorah, 29.65; 18. Roberts, 36.57.
- 50 Butterfly: 12. Sorah, 26.68.
- 50 Freestyle: 62. Roberts, 31.11.
- 100 IM: 33. Roberts, 1:18.07.
- 18-24
- 200 Freestyle: 2. Enson Griffith, 2:04.58.
- 35-39
- 100 IM: 1. Matt Williams, 1:08.72.
- Mixed
- 200 Freestyle Relay: 6. Karla Rodriguez, John Sorah, Jane Sorah, Bailey Mezger, 2:06.39.

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VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats, TCA and Weatherford gear up for season



RANDY CUTSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

Weatherford outside hitter Claire Conner leaps for a ball during a game.

By Geoff Heppes
The Community News

The reigning District 5-5A champion Aledo Ladycats are set to defend that title this season.

Last season, the Ladycats (34-9, 11-1) swept through the district competition after dropping their first league contest at home to Northwest in straight sets. Aledo's impressive 11-game winning streak saw the Ladycats drop only four total sets in that duration and the momentum carried over into the postseason.

Aledo rolled past Fort Worth North Side 25-2, 25-9 and 25-10 before running into a strong, experienced Birdville squad. In that area round matchup, Aledo emerged victorious in five sets (21-25, 25-15, 25-17, 23-25 and 15-9).

Aledo's strong 2023 season came to a close against the then-defending champion Colleyville Heritage Lady Panthers in a four-set slugfest (22-25, 25-19, 24-26 and 18-25).

Aledo lost star outside hitter Vivian Parker to graduation in May as she begins her next chapter as a collegiate athlete, playing volleyball for the Missouri Lady Tigers. However, Aledo will boast tremendous frontline experience with returning seniors Kinley Elms, Haley Lowe, Ella Isbell, and junior outside hitter Alyssa Todd.

The Ladycats will have upperclassmen leadership on the

back end as well, led by senior setter Ava Reding, along with junior setter Sophia Frank, senior defensive specialist Logyn Denbow, junior libero Ella Meador, and senior defensive specialist Morgan Estevez.

The Ladycats will open up their season at 6 p.m. Monday at home against Liberty Christian.

Weatherford

The Lady Kangaroos will be led by new head coach Courtney Gammitt. She replaces Karli Morrison, who took a position at powerhouse Canyon Randall. Gammitt is a 2010 Peaster High School graduate who spent the past four seasons coaching at Godley High School.

Last year, the Lady Roos (20-24, 9-5) finished in third place in District 3-6A and reached the bi-district round of postseason play, where they bowed out to Byron Nelson in straight sets (17-25, 14-25 and 10-25).

Weatherford lost 6-foot-3 senior Jordan Northcutt to graduation, as she now plays collegiate volleyball for NCAA Division I Montana State. However, they return several experienced players, starting with star junior outside hitter Claire Conner.

The Lady Roos will also bring back impactful players such as Roisen Owen, Maris Boop, Carley Cienega, Reagan Rees and Berkley Austin-Roark.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kinley Elms blocks a Weatherford kill attempt and Ella Isbell plays aggressive defense at the net in a scrimmage against Weatherford last season. Both Ladycats return to the 2024 team.

Trinity Christian Academy

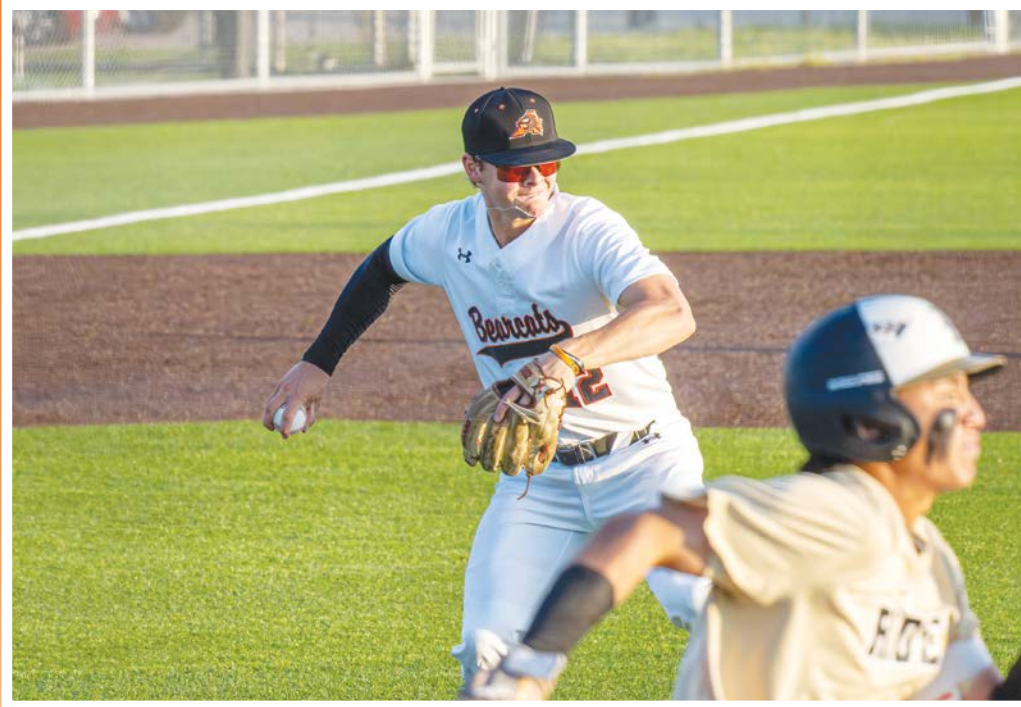
The Lady Eagles are looking to bounce back this year after finishing 2-11 overall in 2023. The Lady Eagles will be led by head coach Jessica Sims and junior setter Sadie Gough, senior defensive specialists JulieAnne

Hart and Rylie Reeder, and senior middle blocker Micah Breisch.

Trinity is also aiming to increase its district record from a 1-7 campaign last year that saw the Lady Eagles finish in fifth place out of six schools in TAPPS 4A District I.

Congratulations

Ryan Jones



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



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