

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

WEATHERFORD

## Council designates James Hamilton Day

Former resident honored

By Jim Zimmermann  
The Community News

The latest meeting of the Weatherford City Council on Aug. 13 was a time of remembrance for James Milburn Hamilton, who passed away on June 25 in Lubbock. The day of a proclamation in his honor was designated as Aug. 14, which was also his birthday.



James Hamilton

Aug. 14 was also the day of his funeral as he is now buried next to his mother, father, and grandparents.

Mayor Paul Paschall said of the evening, "It is a special night here in the city chambers, we are recognizing a special man who we lost but the world truly enjoyed."

Hamilton was born in Weatherford in 1963 and was a long-time resident. He graduated from Weatherford High School and Weatherford College, returning to teach in the Weatherford School District.

In 2017 he accepted a teaching position in Gonzales, where he also served on the planning and zoning commission and economic development corporation.

Among his many accomplishments, Hamilton was the youngest president of the Weatherford Optimists Club. He also worked in Washington D.C. as an intern, later joining the staff for Democratic Representative Charles Stenholm of Texas.

While in Washington, Hamilton worked hard with Stenholm to preserve Social Security, along with working on veterans affairs and education issues.

Hamilton was a graduate of Howard Payne University with a degree in education. He was also student body president.

He loved being a student so much he decided to become a teacher. He received a full scholarship in choir from Howard Payne University where he received his bachelor's degree in education. He also served as president of the Student Body at Howard Payne.

He would go on to also earn two master's degrees.

Hamilton and his wife Kelly had a daughter, Ruby Jacqueline.



## Fabulous First Week



LAURA FINER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

It was all smiles walking into the first day at Vandergriff Elementary School on Wednesday, Aug. 14. Turn to Section B to read all about Back to School.

### CORRECTION

In The Community News' volleyball preview published in the Aug. 16 issue, the information about Trinity Christian Academy's volleyball program was entirely inaccurate. At press time we were unable to confirm the correct information.

ANNETTA

## Council provides security cameras for schools

Stuard, Annetta Elementary Schools to receive equipment

By Jim Zimmermann  
The Community News

With a constant emphasis on student safety in schools, the Annetta Town Council passed an item that will provide additional security and safety at two elementary schools at their most recent meeting on Aug. 15.

Stuard and Annetta Elementary Schools, both located in Annetta, will receive new security cameras installed by Flock Group Inc.

Annetta Mayor Sandy Roberts explained how the city was able to provide financing for the new security equipment.

"The money was provided by using CCPD funds. The Crime Control and Prevention District is funding, provided by a half-cent sales tax, to implement crime reduction strategies," Roberts said. "If the money was not allocated to this fund, then the state had the right to use this money at their discretion."

### In other business:

- The fiscal year 2024-25 budget was approved. It features a general fund of 485,400, an increase from last year's 346,000.
- Roberts was approved to execute a new electricity contract when market prices are favorable.

WILLOW PARK

## Ribbon cut for new trail and more

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

The leaders of Willow Park pride themselves on dreaming big. Chief among those dreams is the growth of King's Gate and numerous amenities designed to enhance life in the community.

Thursday morning, Aug. 15, Mayor Doyle Moss cut the ribbon to signify stepping into that dream, which could also include items such as a restroom - which many have called for - along with multi-use courts, some small pavilions, a grand lawn, natural settings and perhaps even a small disc golf course.

"This has been three years in the making. We're grateful to Kyle Wilks and Wilks Development,"

Turn to **PARK**, page A3



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mayor Doyle Moss cuts the ribbon at King's Gate Park while city officials and members of the Parker County Chamber of Commerce surround him.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

## Visit the old West in the Murphey Heritage wing

1,600 books in collection

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

Take a trip back in time to the old west and experience Native American culture, cattle drive cooking, Colt-toting town sheriffs, and early life on the prairie. Maybe experience cabin life or learn to tan a hide.

You can end your adventure wandering through exciting western fiction and folklore.

You won't need a time machine. All it takes is a book from the Murphey Western

Institute wing of the Weatherford College library.

Hitch your wagon in the north parking lot off East Park Avenue in Weatherford, mosey between the Doss Student Building and Administration Building, then past the historic plaza featuring the giant bell from Old Main and you will find the Speaker Jim Wright Library.

The decor and presentation of the Murphey wing was selected from Weatherford area antique galleries, so curling up on a couch with one of the 1,600 significant or historical books is cozy

Turn to **MURPHEY**, page A2



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Library Director Valorie Starr shows a case of Hopi Kachina Dolls in the Murphey Western Institute collection.

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## Obituaries

### Linda Barron

Linda Ann Rierison Barron, 85, of Hudson Oaks, Texas, passed peacefully on Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

Linda was a 1956 graduate of Warwick High School in Newport News, Virginia. She and her husband, James, spent their lives together serving churches in Kentucky, Mississippi, and Texas. They served as Baptist missionaries for



Linda Barron

26 years in Ghana and the Azores Islands off the coast of Portugal.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Mozelle Rierison; brothers, John and James Rierison; daughter, Carole Sue Barron; and beloved husband of 65 years, James Barron.

Linda is survived by her children, Angela (Bruce) Hennington, Stephen (Bernie) Barron; her grandchildren, Daniela (Ankush Saha) Barron, and Lennart Barron; her

brother-in-law, Frank Barron; and her nieces and nephews in Mississippi, Indiana, and Florida.

A celebration of Linda's life is scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2024 at the Church at The Crossing, 128 Elm St., Aledo, Texas, 76008. Visitation will be at 1 p.m., followed by a service at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations please be made to the International Mission Board's Lottie Moon Offering of Richmond, Virginia.

The Community News  
August 23, 2024

### John Allen Lemons II

John Allen Lemons II of Aledo passed away peacefully on Monday afternoon, August 5, 2024 at home in the arms of his wife of 56 years, Patsy Garner Lemons. He was 77.

Born and raised in Fort Worth, John accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior at the age of 11 and was a member of Temple Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir and was active in the youth group. He graduated from Trimble Tech High School in 1965 and joined the United States Air Force on August 5, 1966.

It was at Temple Baptist Church where he met the love of his life, Patsy Garner. They married on March 24, 1968, and built a beautiful life and family together with three cherished children, Kevin, Kim and Corey.

John served his country in the United States Air Force for three years six months, 27 days as a Sergeant. He was an aircraft instrument systems repairman for jets and all other aircraft and proudly served one tour in Vietnam at Phu Cat Air Base and Tan Son Nhut Air Base from February 27, 1969 - March 1, 1970. He was a



John Lemons II

hero and was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in combat. He continued to serve his country in the United States Air Force Reserves and retired as Master Sergeant in 1992. John worked from the time he was old enough to sweep a broom in his Dad's cabinet shop. He held many jobs over the years and retired from the Defense Contract Management Agency in March of 2007.

John enjoyed singing in the church choir, had a love for classic cars and fixing them up (sometimes out of necessity) taking vacations with his family of five all over the country, visiting almost all 50 states and then after his retirement, traveling to many countries all over the world with his favorite travel companion, Patsy. He also loved Patsy's cooking, Diet Coke, pancake syrup on cornbread, Blue Bell Homemade vanilla ice cream, cherry pie, chicken fried steak, and Kim's chocolate chip cookies.

Nothing brought John more joy than his family and taking care of them. He never missed an opportunity to be a husband, father, father-in-law, or grandfather. He would offer or even show up to help with whatever task before you even had an

opportunity to ask. He was known to his grandchildren as "Pops," and showed up for all the grandkids activities along with "Gigi" and was their biggest cheerleaders. He was known for telling stories, cracking all the jokes, and quoting the best movie lines, carrying a comb in his back pocket for most of his life, giving hugs freely, and being able to fix just about anything and everything. Anyone that knew him really enjoyed him.

In addition to his devoted wife, Patsy, who lovingly and beautifully cared for him, John is survived by his son, Kevin Lemon; his daughter, Kimberly Thompson and her husband Carey Thompson and son, Corey Lemons and his wife Katie Lemons; grandchildren, Riley, Victoria, Juliet and Henry Thompson and Kelsey Lemons; sister, Judy Harper of Granbury and many In-Laws, Nephews, Nieces and Cousins.

A Memorial Service celebrating his life was held on August 11 at First Baptist Church of Saginaw. He was laid to rest privately at the DFW National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that expressions of sympathy be made to your local church in pursuit of spreading the gospel message in your community.

The Community News  
August 23, 2024

## MURPHEY

from page A1

as scooting up to a night campfire. Library director Valorie Starr intended it that way. Decorations include western art, artifacts, and a display of wood Hopi kachina dolls. The Hopi tribe is a sovereign nation located in northeastern Arizona.

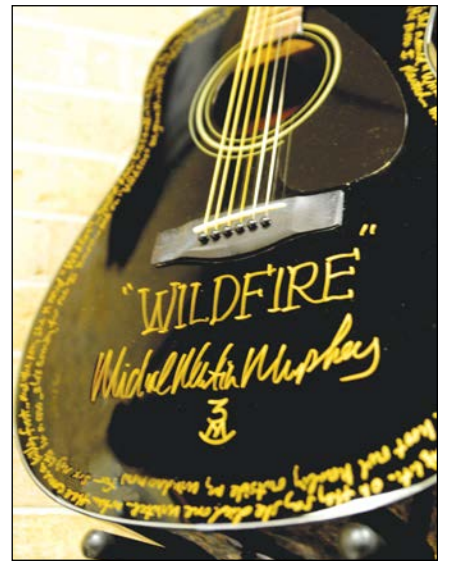
"Pioneer Trail, Oregon Trail, Santa Fe Trail, cattle ranching, these are all categorized in various genres," Starr explained. "Rodeo is its own genre, and gunfighters as well. This is all growing, so you see there is a lot of room for growth."

Western novel fans can enjoy searching through hundreds of paperback novels from popular authors. Research encyclopedias and coffee table books are also available for study. Most books are available for checkout, with a few rare books intended for in-library enjoyment.

An 1860 Cherokee translated New Testament is displayed with other collectable books.

Starr explained patrons do not need to be Weatherford College students to access the Murphey Western Institute collection, but can obtain a library account if a resident of Parker, Palo Pinto, Wise, Jack or Hood Counties.

The majority of the titles come from the collection of music artist and history enthusiast Michael Martin Murphey, who has six gold albums, multiple Grammy Award nominations, TV and film honors,



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jamie and Michael Brinkley donated a guitar autographed by Michael Martin Murphey with the lyrics to Wildfire handwritten around the edges.

and induction into the Western Music Hall of Fame. According to his manager, Tim Payne, Murphey averages 75 shows a year.

Other book donations come from the collections of Dr. Stephen Brotherton, the Carl Steiger family, and John and Margaret Runion.

A guitar donated by Jamie and Michael Brinkley is on display in the library. The "Wildfire" guitar is signed by Murphey and has the handwritten lyrics to the song "Wildfire" around the edges. Purchase of the collectable guitars from Murphey go toward the building of the Murphey Western Institute in collaboration with the Doss Heritage and Culture Center west of Weatherford College.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Books on loan from the Murphey Western Institute are categorized and labeled with special inserts to not damage the integrity of the book.



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# PARK

from page A1

Moss said. "We're very excited about our parks."

The park was created in 2021 as part of the Willow Park north development. It is located on King's Gate Road between Meadow Place Drive and the Interstate 20 Service Road near The Shops at Willow Park.

In August of 2023 the Willow Park City Council voted to accept the dedication of the park from Wilks Development to the city and agreed to repay the cost of replating.

## Trinity Track

The Weatherford Mountain Bike Club is fundraising for around \$16,500 to construct a mountain bike skills area and trail called Trinity Track, which is partly underway. It is suitable for all ages, including children and beginners. When completed, the mountain bike trails in Willow Park will expand to encompass around 70 miles covering around 1,000 acres, said Weatherford Mountain Bike Club President Larry Colvin.

Colvin noted that the ultimate goal is to have a trail system that will include Willow Park, Weatherford, Aledo, Hudson Oaks, Annetta and Annetta North.

"I spent over a year riding around and looking at ariels, getting the topography of the land," he said. "I've met with those people (officials) and shared what we're trying to do, and they're listening."

As for the part of the track that already exists, Colvin told the crowd at the ribbon cutting, "I hope everybody enjoys it and it's the beginning of more things to come."

For those wishing to help with the cause, donations can be made at these locations:



RICK MAUCH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

With his mom, Kristen Czudak, encouraging him, 2-year-old Tobias Czudak takes his bike across a small bridge on the Trinity Track at King's Gate Park. While in its early stages, the mountain bike trail at King's Gate Park is planned to expand and encompass as many as 70 miles over 1,000 acres.

\*Willow Park Plains Capital Bank, 100 Crown Pointe Blvd., Suite 102.

\*Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Tr.

Checks should be made out to Weatherford Mountain Bike Club.

## Benefit to community

Shadow Johns, owner of Shadow Trail Designs, is working with Colvin to design the mountain bike trail. He said communities with amenities such as the trail and other possibilities such as those Willow Park is considering are a major plus when it comes to attracting newcomers - and it's great for those already living there.

"It gets the people out and not in front of the TV," he said. "Things such as meeting friends there, the camaraderie, doing something in nature, that's great."

He then gave an example of the attraction of such amenities, referencing another trail.

"I was riding with a guy at the Parks of Aledo. He bought a lot right on the trail. He bought it because he had a trail next door," Johns said.

## Wish list

Currently, King's Gate Park has a playground highlighted by a jungle gym and other play equipment, with benches next to the playground. On both sides are small sports fields.

There is also a walking trail - not to be confused with the mountain bike trail being built - that goes around the entire park, including lots of green space.

However, an upcoming public survey will help determine the park's growth. The city will be gathering input from the citizens concerning what they want most.

"This park is the biggest endeavor in the parks system for Willow Park," City Manager Bryan Grimes said. "I am out here daily and I can see the asset to the community. You can see it in the smiles of the kids."

"The mountain bike trail only adds to that. Families and kids utilize it, which only enhances the quality of life in Willow Park."

Both Grimes and Moss credited Mayor Pro Tem Lea Young for spearheading the effort to expand the park's amenities. Young was unable to be at the ribbon cutting due to illness.

"This is pretty much the vision of Lea from Day 1," Grimes said. "Lea led the charge. We would not be here without her tenacity and vision - and she didn't staff it out."

Moss, who travels the world, compared Young's vision to what he has seen in other parts of the world.

"I think London is about 50 percent green space," he said. "You can see in these other countries so much green space."

"I love walking. I'm so excited."

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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

### Heat-related deaths in Texas likely undercounted



**Gary Borders**

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As Texans endure the dog days of summer, experts say deaths related to heat in Texas and nationwide are likely undercounted, the *Texas Standard* reported.

With climate change causing warmer days and nights, last year was the hottest on record in Texas. Though this summer has not been quite as brutal, those working outside are still at considerable risk.

In 2023, 365 people in Texas died directly from heat, and heat was named a contributing factor in another 197 deaths. Accounting for heat's role in a death is challenging, however.

"The health impacts (of heat) are a little bit more subtle," said cardiologist Sameed Khatana, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. "They can be delayed. And trying to tease apart whether a death or an adverse health effect occurred due to the temperature is quite challenging."

Heat has been called "the most dangerous phenomenon that workers face," according to the *Texas Standard* story.

#### Overcrowding, understaffing force jails to move inmates

Jails both large and small are struggling to properly house incarcerated people, and millions in tax dollars are being spent to transport inmates to other jails,

sometimes in other states, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

The number of Texas inmates housed outside the county where they were arrested more than doubled from 2019 to 2024, from 2,078 to 4,358. In June 2024, 41% of Texas county jails housed inmates elsewhere, according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

"Counties are having to think outside the box," said Ricky Armstrong, assistant director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. "We know there are some counties housing people out of state. It's not something we recommend or encourage, but we see that as a necessary evil."

Among the factors increasing the number of inmates held elsewhere: a law limiting who can be released from jail while awaiting trial; an overburdened mental health system; and a difficulty in finding jailers.

While law enforcement officials advocate for increased jail space to ease the problem, civil rights advocates and defense attorneys say the state should invest more in mental health services and alternatives to jail.

"We are addicted to carceral solutions," Krish Gundu, co-founder of the Texas Jail Project, which advocates for people in Texas county jails, told *The Tribune*. "If we really cared about not having these people in jails, you'd look at why they are ending up in jail and solve the problem at the root."

#### Paxton threatens to sue over State Fair gun policy

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton says he will sue the City of Dallas if it does not change a new gun policy. The city plans to ban licensed gun holders from

bringing weapons to the State Fair of Texas unless they are active police officers or qualified retired officers. *The Dallas Morning News* reported the fair announced the change after a shooting last year wounded three people.

A letter from the AG's office to the city of Dallas said the new policy violates state law, which says cities and other entities cannot ban handguns on government property unless there is a legal exception, such as for schools.

More than 70 Texas lawmakers issued a letter last week urging the fair to rescind its new policy, saying "gun-free zones are a magnet for crime because they present less of a threat to those who seek to do evil," *The News* reported.

Meanwhile, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Paxton will work at a food bank as part of a plea deal he made in March with prosecutors to close the securities fraud case against him. He is required to complete 100 hours of community service and pay about \$300,000 in restitution to the victims.

#### A cooler and wetter July for most of the state

The drought situation in Texas continues to ease, thanks in part to a wetter and cooler July, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of July, 20% of the state was in drought, down five percentage points from the end of June. That is the lowest extent of drought since October 2021.

To continue reading visit: <http://www.community-news.com/stories/heat-related-deaths-in-texas-likely-undercounted,90124>

## Thistles&Roses

### Olympics past and future



**Richard Henderson**

[richard@rahenderson.com](mailto:richard@rahenderson.com)

Another Olympics has come and gone. More history was made. More drama. More obsession with medal counts. I do watch the medal counts, but I am not sure what they really mean. The United States had more medals than any country. Our current Olympics nemesis is China, who finished second.

Does that mean we are the biggest, baddest country in the world? The commercialization of the Olympics has reached an all time high. The Olympics used to emphasize amateur athletes. Now, professional athletes are prolific. There were 68 NBA players in men's basketball. 12 were on the U.S. team. Basketball has gone international.

The Soviet Union or Russia was our main competitor for years. Now Russia is banned for repeated violations of performance enhancing drugs. They can't seem to stop themselves.

The emphasis on amateurism used to be extreme. Jim Thorpe, a native American won gold medals at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. It was later discovered that Thorpe had played summer ball for a summer sports league for \$5 per game. He was stripped of his medals in an international scandal.

My first memories of the Olympics occurred when I was 16. It was the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Being in the same time zone, there was much TV coverage. I will never forget Tommie Smith and John Carlos raising their black gloved fists as the U.S. flag was raised and the Star-Spangled banner was played.

I did not know the significance of that "black power" salute. They faced repercussions. But it happened at a time when there was much racial discrimination.

The 1968 Olympics was the first to have drug testing and gender verification. It was more of the same in 2024.

Now, it is all about the money. NBC has paid more than \$7 billion with a "b" to broadcast the Olympics through 2032.

I like to watch the Olympics. The opening and closing ceremonies are big drama.

The idea of having the athletes float down the Seine in Paris was creative. I enjoyed their opening ceremonies very much. The controversy regarding the Last Supper parody went over my head. I didn't realize there was an issue until the next day when I saw news reports.

When you get to be of a certain age, you wonder how many more Olympics you will see. But as long as I am able, I will tune in every four years to watch the excitement.

#### LETTERS POLICY

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

## Idle American

### Not a Creature Was Stirring



**Dr. Don Newbury**

[newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com)

It was the slowest of hot, muggy days in the thicket. Mercury in the thermometer bulged and lodged in three-digit territory. Someone said he saw a dog chasing a rabbit, and both creatures were walking.

The general store cash register had broken the silence twice before two geezers wandered in, and they weren't there to buy anything. Their quest was to find a domino game.

Realizing that commencing with just two players meant that the odds of winning were 50/50, they resorted to one of their old-fashioned pastimes.

One of 'em grabbed the syrup pitcher, carefully pouring a single droplet on the tattered oil cloth table covering. Then came all kinds of silly wagers, such as which fly would discover the sugary treat first, which would become stuck and which would escape and return to flight. It's a "made-up game" closely paralleling the children's book, *What to Do When There's Nothing to Do*.

The unlikely pastime provides credible evidence that the maxim "fits" when life's shadows grow long. In at least two scriptures we are said to be "once an adult and twice a child."

The old pair soon abandoned the "fly game," since even the pesky flies thought it too hot to aimlessly fly.

They spoke of words they abhor, but grudgingly tolerate. You won't hear "no problem" or "right quick" cross their lips. "No problem" is a catch-all response that no longer means anything, and "right quick" is an expression for the younger crowd, one opined. The geezers "gruffed" about politics, cringing at the thought of broaching a subject that surely would darken their day.

Almost simultaneously, they extracted their wallets. This meant there soon would be multiple pictures of grandchildren, with verbal descriptions--often to the point of excess--for each photo.

Sure enough, one of the old-timers unfurled a packet of photos. So many were unleashed that they almost reached the floor. The other guy--without any grandchildren nor prospect of any--was reminded of childhood days, when perfect attendance at Vacation Bible School warranted pin-on medals. Over the years, he had so many medals hanging from his chest that they--like the string of his buddy's photos--could easily have been tripped over.

"Before you show me pictures of your grandchildren, I want to show you one of my pride and joy," he said, knowing the joke to be so old that describing it merely as rancid would be complimentary.

The old-timer produced a single photo showing his "Pride" (furniture polish) and "Joy" (dishwashing detergent).

There was polite laughter--borderline gratuitous--before the "grandchildless" guy admitted, "No

grandkids, but we do have 'grandcats'."

Watching the vignette unfold, the general store owner said, "Men, I don't think I've shown you a picture of my new grandbaby."

In unison, the two buddies answered, "No, and we really appreciate it."

Oh, me. How often have we "faked it"--reaching for superlatives to thrill parents or grandparents--when we really want to say, "Yep, that's a baby."

The man who has only "grandcats" tells about a friend who has pedaled Science Diet dog food for decades.

He poses an unlikely question upon meeting new friends, asking them if they have dogs. If they do, he unerringly offers a sobering observation.

"I hope you're feeding them Science Diet; if you don't, they will die."

Such reminds of the pet lover who provided a major distinction between dogs and cats. I thought of several, but remained silent, wanting to "hear her out."

"When you ask a dog to 'stay,' it 'stays,'" she said. "When you ask a cat to 'stay,' it purrs, 'I'll get back with you later.'"

Hard to argue with that. Aren't we fortunate to be able to select the pets we like? A final truth for most: We don't have pets; pets have us.

*Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is one of the nation's longest-running syndicated humor columns. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Website: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com).*



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



**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 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.



**OCTOBER 12**  
**Aledo UMC Lord's Acre Fall Festival**  
Gather the family for a fall bucket list event y'all won't want to miss from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 12th AUMC will host its annual community fall fest with kid's activities, food, vendors, silent and live auctions, live music performances, and community fun. The money raised helps support AUMC's mission efforts in Aledo, surrounding areas, state-wide and around the world. Forward this event to all

your friends and follow us on our page to stay in the loop on all the fun things we have planned!

**OCTOBER 19**  
**2024 Aledo Fest**  
Aledo fest will be from 10 .m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 19 in downtown Aledo. It will feature live music and activities for kids of all ages. Meet your local businesses at vendor booths, do some gift shopping, and get a little something for yourself! Come hungry for a variety of food trucks on-site for good eats & autumn treats! Vendor and sponsorship applications are available now - please visit our website. <https://www.aledotx.gov/AledoFest>

**EVENT SUBMISSIONS**

Send event submissions to [events@community-news.com](mailto: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**

- book by TX game hunter Buck: "Bring 'em \_\_\_ Alive"
- TXism: "liquid \_\_\_" (perfume)
- on the Gulf
- Fort Worth's Cullen was found not guilty in death of this Farr
- Heisman winner Brown from Dallas
- Kelvin Martin left Cowboys in 1993 for this Seattle team
- hair cutting action
- racetracks have to pay \_\_\_ fees
- popular "emergency" TV show
- this actor Busey was TX Buddy Holly
- TXism: "couldn't find hide \_\_\_ hair of him"
- TX Charlie Dunn was first to put \_\_\_ roses on boots
- publication: Texas Farm & \_\_\_
- Green Bay Packers' home state (abbr.)
- TX Armstrong was stripped of his \_\_\_ France titles
- TX outlaw booty
- TXism: "counts his money with \_\_\_ measure" (rich)
- TXism: " \_\_\_ as a coyote with a rubber chicken"
- cheerleader cries
- former U.S. Congressman, Ortiz

**DOWN**

- bomb explosions
- state capital
- Texas-based Blue Bell products are richer & \_\_\_
- Abilene FM radio
- Oliver Hardy's "pardner" (init.)
- San Jacinto battle lasted \_\_\_ min.
- TXism: "fits like sardines in \_\_\_"
- TXism: "skeeedaddle out of \_\_\_"
- TXism: "let '\_\_\_ rip!"
- Valley \_\_\_ vera plant
- neither's sidekick
- football rally
- TX O'Connor: "Land does \_\_\_ away, dollars do"
- Bevo's school (abbr.)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ broke I couldn't change my mind"
- TX Willie's "Turn Out the Lights the \_\_\_ Over"
- a thing without equal
- TX Orbison's "That \_\_\_ You Feelin' Again"
- "red as a \_\_\_"
- April 15 agcy.
- pos. of Rangers' Corey Seager
- " \_\_\_ you can"
- TX-born jockey Shoemaker (init.)
- TXism for relatives
- road equipment not seen in South Texas (2 wds.)
- flavor of 3-down: \_\_\_ cream
- past winning Miami QB Bob
- TXism: "keep \_\_\_ under your hat"
- approving head bob
- former Astro outfielder, Gonzalez (1990-95)
- fire crime
- Goddess of Liberty atop Texas Capitol is aluminum \_\_\_
- after lunch (abbr.)
- TX V.T. Hamlin's comic: Alley \_\_\_
- TXism: "got the \_\_\_" (clumsy)
- "cement pond"
- sarcastic insult
- an "Achy Breaky" Cyrus (init.)
- noted 1960s UT linebacker, Tommy
- Denton's historic hardware store (now closed)

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Program Comment for Positive Train Control and Infrastructure. Union Pacific Railroad proposes to construct a 60' monopole (65' in overall height) communications pole with associated equipment at the following approximate location in Parker County, Texas within the existing railroad right-of-way:

- Coordinates: 32.680902, -97.554608; Mile Post #260.55, Benbrook;
- Coordinates: 32.681313, -97.584503; Mile Post #262.57, Benbrook;
- Coordinates: 32.70155552, -97.62024912; Mile Post #265.09, Aledo.

We respectfully request that parties interested in providing comment on the proposed undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties should contact GSS, Inc., 3311 109th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322; Ph. (515) 331-2103, within 30 days of the date of this publication (GSS# W24239-TX-8/9/11)

**City of Willow Park  
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.

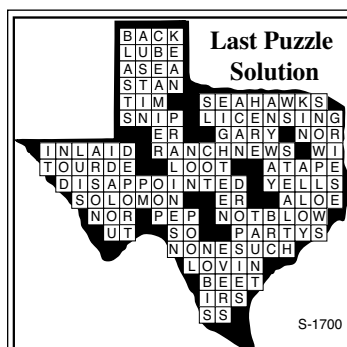
Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Location: Willow Park City Hall  
120 El Chico Trail, Ste A  
Willow Park, TX 76087

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 16, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.

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**ORDINANCE NO. 907-24**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS, ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF NOT EXCEEDING \$500 GENERALLY OR NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000 FOR VIOLATIONS RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY, ZONING OR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION OR NOT EXCEEDING \$4,000 FOR VIOLATIONS RELATING TO DUMPING OF REFUSE; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF SUCH CODE; AND PROVIDING WHEN SUCH CODE AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS DAY 13TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

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**City of Aledo  
Fiscal Year 2024-2025  
Budget Cover Page  
September 5, 2024**

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$425,422, which is a 14.71 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$178,497.

**Property Tax Rate Comparison**

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Property Tax Rate:	\$0.390082/100	\$0.383113/100
No-New-Revenue Tax Rate:	\$0.357243/100	\$0.318911/100
No-New-Revenue Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate:	\$0.249548/100	\$0.242829/100
Voter-Approval Tax Rate:	\$0.390082/100	\$0.383113/100
Debt Rate:	\$0.131800/100	\$0.131785/100
Total debt obligation for Aledo secured by property taxes: \$1,148,529		

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FOOTBALL

## Practices going well as season approaches



Aledo head football coach Robby Jones addresses players during an intrasquad scrimmage on Aug. 17.

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

With the start of the regular season a week away, the Aledo Bearcats are well into preparation to begin defense of their 2023 state championship — the most recent in their state-record history of 12 state titles.

In each of the past two seasons the Bearcats have won the Class 5A Division I championship. They won three straight in 5A Division II from 2018-20. Their list of titles includes overall 5A titles, as well as 4A and 3A championships.

Practices began on Aug. 5 with 91 freshmen eager to put their imprint on the legendary program. A week later sophomores through seniors turned out.

“Practice has gone well. The kids have retained a lot of stuff that we worked on in the spring and summer workouts,” head coach Robby Jones said. “I think the kids are ready to be finished with the UIL acclimation period and get back to normal practices without limitations.”

With school beginning earlier this season, only the freshmen were able to get in extended workouts before having to start classes. And during that week, coaches also had teacher in-service meetings from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., so practices began at 5:15 a.m.

Turn to FOOTBALL, page A8

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/COMMUNITY NEWS

TENNIS

## Racquet Cats win three in a week

### District now begins

By Kelly Dishman  
Special to The Community News

The Aledo varsity tennis team concluded its fall pre-district schedule with a 7-3 record and a three-match winning streak.

The team faced Midlothian on Aug. 9 and came away with an 11-8 win. On Aug. 12, they won against Haslet Eaton with a 12-7 score, and on Aug. 13 posted a 12-7 victory against Wichita Falls Memorial.

Midlothian proved to be a challenging competitor with many matches going to tie-breakers. Boys doubles Line 1 Jacob Heckathorn/Francois Britz (4-6, 7-5, 1-0) and

Line 3 Noah Nottingham/Tom Ruminsky (6-3, 6-1) won. In girls doubles, Line 2 McKinley Hayes/Lila Satterfield (8-6, 6-2) and Line 3 Eleanor Jack/Patrice Loftin (6-2, 6-3) were victorious. Paxton Pscenk and Natalie Nawrocki also won a challenging mixed doubles line (6-2, 7-5).

Boys' singles with wins were Line 1 Heckathorn (6-2, 6-1), line 4 Britz (6-2, 6-3) and Line 6 Pscenk (6-3, 6-3). Posting wins for the girls' singles were Line 3 Elli Kate Bussmeir (6-1, 6-1), Line 5 Sydney Byrd (1-6, 6-0, 1-0) and Line 6 Jack (7-5, 6-1).

The team started their back-to-school week with a victory against Eaton High School. Two

lines in boys doubles were wins, Heckathorn/Britz (6-2, 2-6, 1-0) and Line 2 Ben Kurth/Casen Freeland (6-3, 6-3). All double lines were won by the girls teams with Line 1 Bussmeir/Bryanna Orr (6-3, 6-4), Line 2 McKinley Hayes/Lila Satterfield (6-1, 6-1) and Line 3 Jack/Nawrocki (6-2, 6-3).

Britz won his singles in a tough tie-breaker match, posting 2-6, 6-2, 1-0. All six lines were wins for the girls, Line 1 Lila Satterfield (6-0, 6-1), Line 2 Orr (6-3, 7-5), Line 3 Bussmeir (6-2, 6-1), Line 4 McKinley Hayes (6-4, 4-6, 1-0), Line 5 Byrd (6-1, 6-2) and Line 6 Gracie Heydman (6-2, 6-2).

Turn to TENNIS, page A8

CROSS COUNTRY

## Ladycats win elite meet

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

With their entire team back from last season, the Aledo Ladycats sent a message that they are once again a program to be reckoned with as they won the championship of the prestigious Waxahachie Wood house Invitational at Maypearl on Saturday, Aug. 17.

It was the first 5K meet of the season for Aledo, which ran in the Brock Six-Mile Relay the week before.

The Ladycats, who finished second in the state in 2023, won the Elite Girls division, scoring 69 points to outdistance runner-up Dallas Highland Park with 83.

“This was a great meet for competition, with the likes of Highland Park, Colleyville Heritage, Coppell,

and Allen in attendance,” Aledo coach Mike Pinkerton said. “There were many pleasant surprises today, and everyone did a fantastic job.”

The Bearcats placed fifth among the Elite Boys with 196 points.

The Ladycats had three runners place in the top 15, led by Molly Garrison, who was seventh with a time of 18 minutes, 23.80 seconds. Micah Neal was ninth in 18:33.80 and Mykel Murry placed 11th in 18:37.20.

The Bearcats, who also qualified for state as a team last season, were led by Jack Fink, who was 15th with a clocking of 15:53.50. Tyler Connelly was 17th in 15:58.70.

For complete results visit: <https://www.community-news.com/stories/ladycats-win-elite-meet,90251>

VOLLEYBALL

## Ladycats shine in Katy Tournament

### Aledo finishes in third, Elms named to all-tourney team

By Geoff Heppes  
The Community News

Following their impressive home-opening win over Legacy Christian to start the season, the Aledo Ladycats volleyball team traveled south to Katy to compete in the Katy ISD-Cy Fair Volleyball Tournament this past weekend.

Among the crowded field of strong teams, the Ladycats (7-2 overall) won six of eight matches in the tournament.

Aledo captured third place by defeating The Woodlands College Park in three sets (23-25, 25-23 and 25-19). In that

match, junior outside hitter Alyssa Todd led the way with 16 kills while senior middle Kinley Elms, who was named to the all-tournament team, had 15 kills.

Todd also had a team-high 19 digs, while senior setter Ava Reding registered 23 assists and 17 digs. Senior middle Hailey Lowe led the frontline defense with five blocks while Elms, Todd and Lily Lufkin recorded two blocks apiece.

In pool play, the Ladycats finished with a 3-0 overall record notching wins over Houston Cypress Creek (25-22 and 25-7), Magnolia (25-13 and 25-17) and Cedar Park (25-19 and 25-15). Aledo went 2-1 on the second day of the tournament, earning wins over Katy (25-20 and 25-19) and Houston Langham Creek (25-19 and 25-18) before falling to

Houston Cypress Ranch in straight sets (23-25 and 18-25). The Ladycats then fell to Cypress Bridgeland (14-25 and 21-25) before taking down College Park.

In eight total tournament games, Elms led the way with 62 kills, 10 digs and 13 blocks while Todd tallied 70 kills, 73 digs and nine aces. Lowe finished the tournament with 26 kills, 11 digs and 14 total blocks while Tatum Kosse recorded 30 kills and 21 digs. Senior libero Kenrie Pruitt led the backline defense with 83 total digs over the tournament, along with 15 assists and four aces. Ella Meador contributed with 64 digs, while Reding racked up 106 assists and 56 digs.

The Ladycats are playing in the Northwest ISD Volleyball Classic this weekend.



Junior Lily Lufkin serves during volleyball action on Aug. 12.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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VOLLEYBALL

# Lady Roos cruise in home opener

## Hammett coaching debut a success in Weatherford sweep

By Geoff Heppes

The Community News  
The Weatherford Lady Kangaroos volleyball program saw changes both in its roster and leadership during the offseason, but came out of the tunnel red hot in its home opener Tuesday night, Aug. 13.

The new-look Lady Roos used a speedy offense with precise serving and energetic defense to dominate their first game of the season against the Abilene Lady Eagles in straight sets by a final score of 25-6, 25-12 and 25-18.

"We are a very tiny 6A varsity - our tallest girl is only 6-foot - and we only have one player that tall on the roster," Lady Roos head coach Courtney Hammett said. "We have to utilize our speed and athleticism, and our pen hitters can jump out of the gym. We just have to move the ball quickly from pen to pen to spread out bigger blocks because, if we run a slow offense, we're just going to get blocked left and right. I told the girls coming in that the first things I'm going to implement are a faster offense and a more disciplined defense. They have

grasped and bought into both. They've been super coachable on both sides of the ball - they've made it easy on me."

Weatherford's up-tempo offense was on full display in the opening set, racing out to an early 7-0 lead that forced Abilene to call a timeout. The Lady Roos, behind quality serves from junior setter Carly Cienega and big kills from senior outside hitter Emma Thornton, stretched the lead to 12-0 before Abilene scored a point. The Lady Eagles burned another timeout after Weatherford's lead grew to 16-2.

Service aces from senior libero Reagan Rees and junior setter Keegan Hull, coupled with nice plays on the front line by junior middle Kennedy Robert, increased the advantage to 23-5. The first set concluded on a push shot to the corner from Thornton.

The Lady Roos stormed ahead 11-1 to open the second set, and big kills from senior middle Berkley Austin-Roark, Thornton and star junior Claire Conner helped Weatherford nurse its large lead, which grew as large as 19-4. The visitors pulled to within 23-11 late but the home team scored the next two points to go ahead 2-0 in sets.

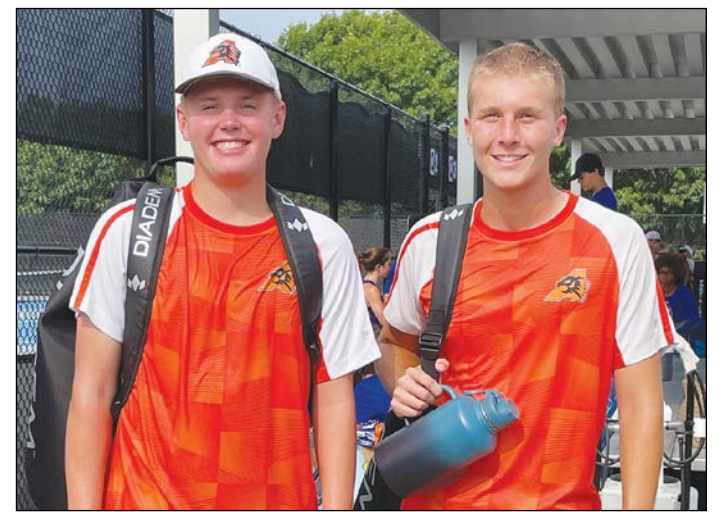
Hammett had the chance to play several reserves in the

third set but sent in her starters late to turn a 19-16 lead into a 25-18 decisive victory. The Lady Roos' first-year coach, who previously led Godley's volleyball program for the last four seasons, soaked in the moment and was excited to return to her roots with her family on hand.

"I'm super excited being back in my hometown with my whole family watching, and they haven't always been able to do that, so it's a huge blessing," Hammett said. "The way it all came about, it was totally meant to be. After meeting all these girls and their families and administration just confirmed that everything happened how it should."

The Lady Roos are eager to continue building momentum throughout the season with a winning mindset.

"We're excited to prove a lot of people wrong," Hammett said. "I think we're very misunderstood by a lot of other programs because of our height, but we can beat those teams we may face in the regular season and the postseason. I think a lot of people have lost faith in not being able to get out of the first round the last couple of years, but we hope to get to that point to prove people wrong - do the unthinkable and beat the unbeatable."



KELLY DISHMAN

LEFT: Coach Joe McCoy escapes the heat during a recent match. | RIGHT: Jacob Heckathorn and Francois Britz helped the Aledo Racquet Cats to three wins in one week.

## TENNIS

from page A7

The following day Aledo prevailed against Wichita Falls Memorial. Kurth/Freeland won 9-8 (4) in boys doubles. Girls' Doubles teams won all their lines with

Bussmeir/Orr (8-6), Hayes/Satterfield (8-1), and Jack/Patrice Loftin (8-2). Mixed doubles Psencik/Nawrocki also won their match at 8-5.

Boys singles secured two wins, Britz won 8-5 and Freeland won 8-2. Girls' singles won five of their lines, Satterfield, 8-4; Orr, 8-0;

Bussmeir, 8-2; Byrd, 8-1; and Hayes won by default.

Aledo was playing its District 5-5A match at home against Brewer High School at press time. The Racquet Cats are defending district champions. On Tuesday, Aug. 27, varsity tennis will travel to Granbury at 4 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

from page A7

On Aug. 12, practice began at 5 a.m. for the first day of sophomores through seniors.

The program held an intra-squad scrimmage on Aug. 17. On Aug. 22 they played in their lone preseason scrimmage at Mansfield Timberview, which is coming off a 9-2 season in Class 5A Division II and returns six offensive and six defensive starters.

But then, it should come as no surprise the Bearcats

scheduled a tough scrimmage opponent. They open the regular season with two very tough opponents, 6A perennially power Guyer in Denton on Aug. 30 before hosting 6A newcomer Lancaster on Sept. 6, a program that reached the 5A Division I Region II final in 2023.

On top of that, Aledo will be playing in arguably the toughest 5A district in the state this coming season, 3-5A Division I. The Bearcats, who return three offensive and four defensive starters, are preseason ranked No. 1 in the state, with Denton Ryan (8-3, second

round of playoffs) preseason No. 2 and Richland (12-1, third round) No. 7.

Both Ryan and Richland are well-equipped for another strong run as the Raiders return eight offensive and seven starters, with the Royals returning eight on both sides of the ball.

The Bearcats will take a 30-game win streak into their season opener, one shy of the school record of 31 set in 2016-17. Their last loss was 44-14 to Guyer at home in the second game of the 2022 season. Aledo won last season's contest 48-45 in Denton.

# Grand Opening

## Lynn McKinney Elementary School



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# THE COMMUNITY NEWS



## BACK TO SCHOOL 2024



### McKinney Elementary to be 'home away from home'



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Lynn McKinney humbly and humorously thanked the school board and administration for the honor of being the namesake of the new elementary school at 14748 Lynn McKinney Way in the Morningstar addition.

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

The Aug. 8 dedication ceremony of McKinney Elementary School was a time for memories, laughter, and anxious new students to see their future school.

After beginning her career in Houston ISD, McKinney moved to Aledo and taught first grade at what was then the only elementary campus in the school district. Since then, she taught multiple grades, became elementary school vice-principal, vice-principal, and then Aledo High School principal, where she was voted Region 11 Outstanding Secondary Principal of the Year. She was later assistant superintendent of curriculum and served her last 12 years as deputy superintendent before retiring in 2023.

In introducing the person of honor, husband Randal McKinney, who is also a retired AISD educator, told the crowd in attendance of the fateful day when the two met at a Jack in the Box on Highway 80.

"I just walked over there and introduced myself, and the rest is history," he recalled.

Aledo ISD Board of Trustees president Forrest Collins was among the administrators and staff honoring Lynn McKinney and thanking the community for the new building.

"I know this took a lot of hard work and many conversations, but this is a place we can be proud of," Collins said. "We hope this school serves the community and is a home away from home for all the students."

Lynn McKinney recognized some of the many people she worked with, telling anecdotes and amusing stories and expressed her gratitude for being the namesake of the 107,000 square foot campus. The school can accommodate 889 students grades K-5.

"What a humbling experience it is to have such a beautiful building named after me," she said. "And when you tour the building in a few minutes, be sure to notice the most fun colors throughout the building."

Every day was an opportunity to brighten students' days, according to McKinney. In spite of occasional difficult times, urgent decisions, and long hours, she tried to look for the positive in each situation and

Turn to HOME, page B2

#### ALEDO ISD

### School bond funds at work

#### New elementary school, improvements on display throughout district

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

The fruits of the school bond passed in May 2023 are being revealed in the new school year. AISD school board president Forrest Collins pointed out the \$123.8 means so much more than education to the community.

"Our buildings are more than schools," Collins explained. "They are places where families and kids will meet and make lifelong friends. They are the social center of many of our neighbors and where our communities often gather."

Nearly one-half of the bond has gone to the new Lynn McKinney Elementary School, the school district's seventh elementary school campus. The rest of the bond is

invested in repurposing and remodeling space in the high school, upgrading and expanding security and safety, maintenance and technology, school busses, and securing land for future growth.

Collins said emphasis has also been put on accessibility and ease of mobility for disabled and physically challenged students.

The new elementary school is at 14748 Lynn McKinney Way and serves residents of the northern reaches of Aledo ISD. The campus is one mile north on Farmer Road, one mile east on Old Weatherford Road, then north on Exceptional Lane before passing McAnally Middle School.

Named for Lynn McKinney, who served the school district since 1986 in the capacities of elementary teacher, elementary vice principal, high school vice principal, principal, assistant superintendent and deputy superintendent. She retired in 2023.



Sidewalks are poured past one of McKinney Elementary School's two playgrounds.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS





Lynn McKinney Elementary School

# HOME

from page B1

make the job a joy for those around her.

"I never really knew what each day was going to bring," she recalled. "And really, you can't get more fun than that."

McKinney said her most joyous memory is handing the diplomas to her students as they cross the stage during graduations.

The two-story campus is laid out in suites, with a common area for each grade accessing separate classrooms. Older grades are upstairs and younger on the first floor. Bathrooms and a teachers' resource room are in each suite.

New fourth-grader Eesa Nawabi toured the building with his family. His interest with the building was more about accommodation than education.

"I am really excited about the common rooms because each grade is going to have their own bathrooms," Eesa said. "We can have our own area and our own space."

Second-grader Jameson Wortsman found it easy to articulate his excitement as he climbed the soft and colorful seating in his common area.

"This is great!" he smiled. "This is really great!"



AISD superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn



Library shelves are low for easy access and so students can see across the room.



True to form, Lynn McKinney lets a student help during the ribbon cutting ceremony.



The road in front of the school is Lynn McKinney Way. Randal and Lynn McKinney learn for the first time with a map on AISD information officer Mercedes Mayer's phone that the road behind McKinney Elementary School is Boger Road, honoring Lynn McKinney's maiden name.

## 2024-2025 ALEDO ISD INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

2024

JULY 2024						
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SEPTEMBER 2024						
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MARCH 2025						
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2025						
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29	30	31				

**Grading Cycles:**  
 1st ..... 38 Days  
 2nd ..... 40 Days  
 3rd ..... 40 Days  
 4th ..... 46 Days  
 Total School Days: 164

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 Total School Days: 164

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TEACHING

# Aledo's Woodson honored by Education Service Center

## Named Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

Elisha Woodson understands the value of a well-rounded career — a career that has now seen her receive recognition as the best at her craft.

Woodson was recently named the Education Service Center (ESC) Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year. This comes on the heels of her being named the Aledo ISD Teacher of the Year.

"In May, I received the remarkable honor of being named Teacher of the Year for Aledo ISD. I was surprised and humbled by the recognition. I am grateful for the acknowledgement and recognize the hard work of my colleagues, the admin team, my students and their parents in making teaching such a rewarding experience," Woodson said.

"The overwhelming feeling I have after being named ESC 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year is a mixture of excitement, pride, and total fear! I cannot say enough how important my team, students, parents, and admin have been to any success I have shown. My team has already worked all summer to ensure we continue our growth."

Woodson's 15-year career in education began as an administrative

secretary. She moved into the classroom 11 years ago.

Woodson came to Aledo in 2018 and has taught freshman biology and pre-advancement-placement biology at Aledo High School ever since. She has been praised for her use of hands-on activities, creating an atmosphere in which all students, regardless of their background or ability, can connect with and understand the material.

In honoring her, judges praised her Positive Impact Project, which fosters a classroom culture of support. They also noted her sponsorship of the Speak Up, Speak Out program, which empowers students to engage in civic issues.

In addition, they were impressed with her proactive approach in addressing campus-wide failure concerns, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

"Ms. Woodson strives to make meaningful connections between the curriculum and the interests of her students. By allowing them to have autonomy in the problems they choose to research, they have a personal stake in the learning process and possible solutions. This is integral in maintaining scholarly curiosity in a world where everything is literally at one's fingertips," said Lisa Day, judge, former winner of this award and a current teacher in the Northwest ISD.

"Along with Ms. Woodson's impressive passion for creating

strong connections between her students, her content, and her community, what really made us smile was her essay entitled, 'Teaching is Like Making Tacos: A Recipe for Success.' Her ability to break down the elements of teaching into simple terms to understand the impact of the school environment, colleague relationships, and student diversity to name a few. It was wonderful! Besides, who doesn't love a great taco?"

Through it all, Woodson has built a bridge from classroom learning to real-world issues. This helps to enable students to develop a strong connection and become active members of the community.

"We are so incredibly proud of Ms. Woodson being named the Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year," Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "She is so kid-focused in all that she does — in how she teaches her students to mastery, how she empowers them to help other students, and how she's committed to her students having authentic experiences.

"Ms. Woodson doesn't hesitate to provide extra time, support and intervention to make sure her students really learn the material she's teaching. We are fortunate that she's helping us grow greatness in Aledo ISD each and every day!"

Prior to coming to Aledo, Woodson taught in Maypearl and Lake Worth.



Elisha Woodson, biology teacher at Aledo High School, was named Region 11 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Science from Western Governors University in 2013, where she also received her Master of Science in Instructional Technology in 2019.

Woodson's award advances her to compete for Texas Teacher of the Year from the Texas Association of School Administrators. Six semi-finalists (three elementary, three secondary) will be announced on Sept. 4.

They will then participate in an interview with the selection committee on Oct. 24, with the elementary and secondary state winners announced on Oct. 25.

### Weatherford duo recognized

Two instructors from the Weatherford School District were among 10 essay finalist award winners by the ESC.

In the Defining Lesson/Unit Essay category, Weatherford High School instructor Tiel Jenkins received the secondary schools award.

In the National Teacher of the Year Platform Essay division, Tonya Martin won at the elementary schools level.



Linley Marra is excited to start her first day of Kindergarten.



Lynn McKinney and Shannon Elliott were among the greeters at McKinney's namesake school.



Marshall Benavides began a new first-day adventure with parents Mia and Taylor and siblings Luke and Ella.



Titan and Kimora Macon were ready for classes on the first day of school.



It was all smiles for the kids in the Vandergriff carpool line.



Students and parents swarm Walsh Elementary School for the first day of school.



Aledo ISD Chief Financial Officer, Earl Husfeld, talks with a young Walsh Elementary student



Saisha Jain was excited about her first day of school at McKinney Elementary School, while younger brother, Shaurya and parents Rishabh and Tanvi Kotie Jain accompanied her.

# WELCOME BACK BEARCATS!



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# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



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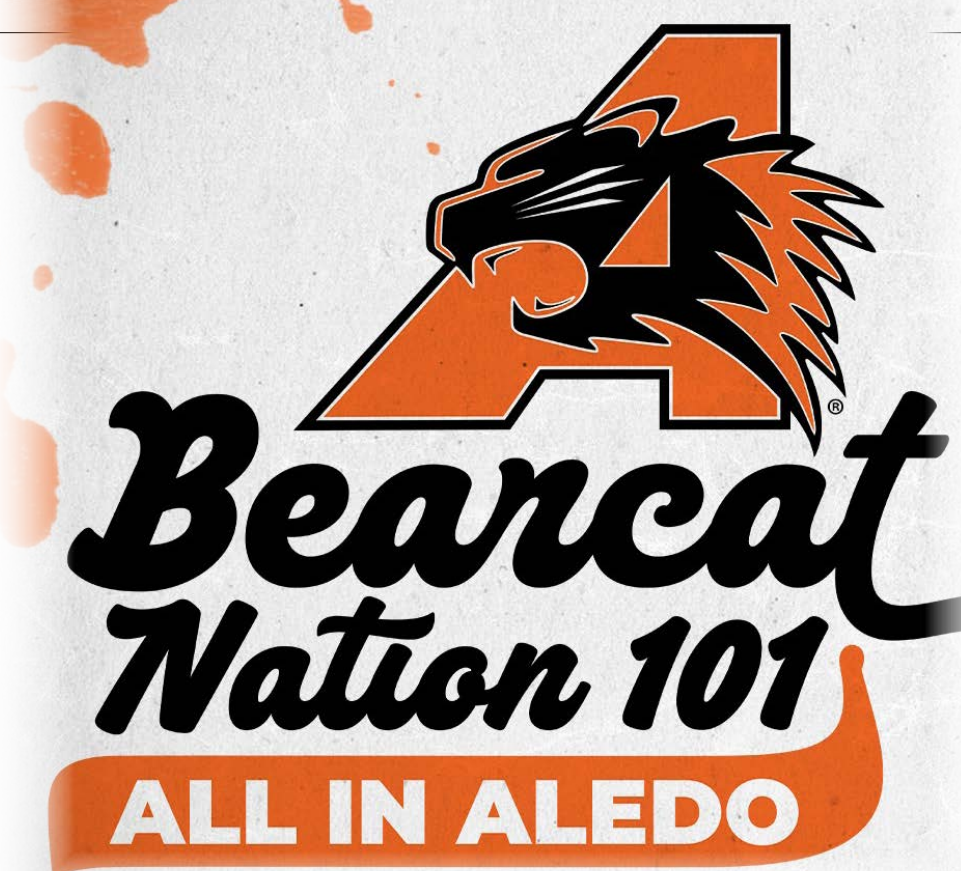
# Bearcat Nation 101 brings crowds to new location



Margaret Bloodworth and Keshia Chaney



Coder 5th graders Addison Bashen and Brady Smith



Shelby Morrison and Karen Kirkland handed out fruit.



Miranda Castiglione, Kate Overstreet, Caroline Howard and Lyla Cook



Dr. Susan K. Bohn greeted everyone.



Robotics team showed their skills

The annual Bearcat Nation 101 event had a new location but the same enthusiastic group of organizations that provided much needed information to new and veteran residents in the Aleido ISD. The tradition location at Aleido High School gave way to McAnally Middle School due to construction at AHS. Cities, campuses, and school organizations provided handouts, samples, and lots of sweets to participants.

PHOTOS BY LAURA FINER/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



The Bearcat mascot



Eleanor Rogers, Emmaline Rogers, and Abigail Rogers with cheerleaders.



Shopping for Aleido merchandise.



Cheerleaders Jenna Smith, Elena Bracero, Stella Towns, and Tryniti Chiles



Jeff Fink handed out smores.



People gathered to talk about different school activities.



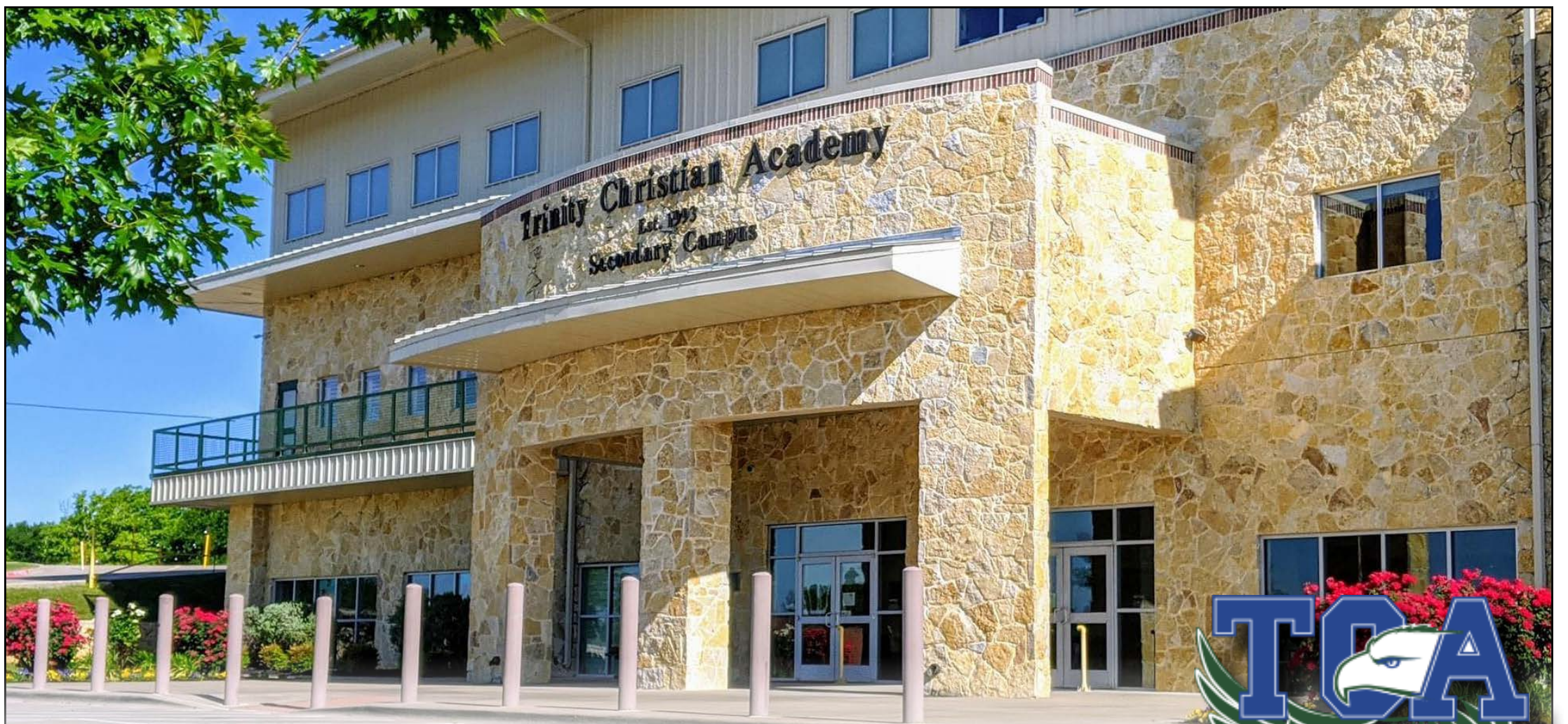
# Welcome Back Bearcats!

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# New year brings new leader to TCA

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

For only the fourth time in its history, Trinity Christian Academy will enter a school year with a new Head of School. Craig Smith took the helm following the retirement of Dr. Steve Newby, concluding a nationwide search.

"Craig Smith is a long-time Christian administrator in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who brings his considerable leadership experience to TCA. I could not ask for a better person to take over as Head of School than Craig," Newby said. "His strong faith, business acumen, and love of Christian education will enable TCA to continue growing and contributing to the Parker County community."

Smith brings 24 years of leadership experience in administration in the Christian school environment in Taylor and Tarrant Counties. He most recently served as Associate Head of School for Southwest Christian School in Fort Worth before starting his own consulting firm in July of 2023.

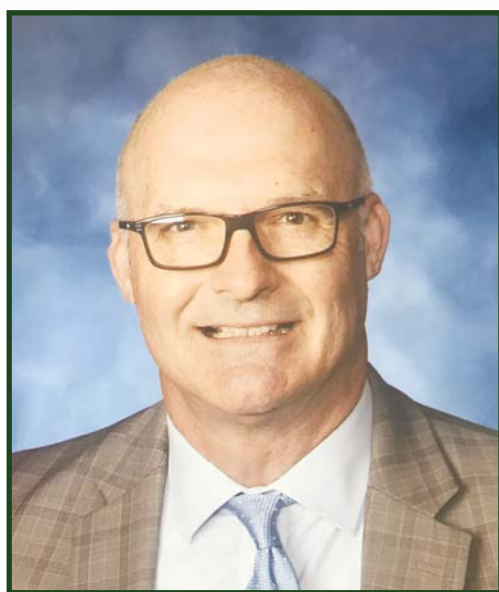
Smith attended Abilene Christian University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications. He later earned a certification in Leading School Strategy and Innovation from the Harvard Graduate School of Education/Harvard Business School.

"I've been blessed to be a part of God's work at multiple schools and, along the way, learn something about best practices," Smith said. "I'm a life-long learner and that's part of the perspective I will bring."

Smith said he was attracted to TCA because of the school's rich history.

"I'm excited to help build on that success. Our location in Parker County is unbeatable," he said.

TCA School Board President Bert Thompson said Smith's extensive experience, commitment to excellence, and visionary leadership make him the ideal choice to lead the school into an exciting future of growth and success.



"The Board is confident that God's will, purpose, and plan were evident for this process, for TCA, and for Craig. We are incredibly excited about the promising days ahead," Thompson said.

Smith stressed that at the top of his mission and goals list is "students first."

"We will continue to partner with families to train students in a Christ-centered environment," he said. "Our land next to our new stadium and track gives us lots of options for expansion. We will do our best to follow God's direction for our school and never grow complacent."

He and his wife Jan have been married for 39 years. She is a first-grade teacher, most recently at Birdville Elementary School in North Richland Hills. They have three adult children, two sons, and one daughter, all of whom are married.

They also have two granddaughters, whom they love to talk about with anyone who will listen.

In his off time, Smith loves the outdoors - walking, biking, kayaking, and rafting - and being still in creation. He and Jan love to travel, see their children and grandchildren, and explore new places.

COURTESY OF TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - WILLOW PARK/FACEBOOK

# TCA

## 2024/2025

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

<span style="color: orange;">■</span> HOLIDAYS	<span style="color: purple;">■</span> EARLY DISMISSAL 11:30AM
<span style="color: teal;">■</span> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> KEY DATES (GRADING PERIOD)
<span style="color: teal;">■</span> STUDENT HOLIDAY	
<span style="color: teal;">■</span> STUDENT TESTING	

AUGUST 2024							SEPTEMBER 2024							OCTOBER 2024							NOVEMBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30												24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
8/1-8/2...New Staff In-Service 8/5-8/14...Faculty/Staff In-service 8/12...Parent Night - Evening 8/13...Student Day - Morning 8/15...First Day of Class							9/2...Labor Day 9/13...Grandparents' Day - Early Dismissal							10/10-10/11...Faculty Inservice Fall Break 10/14...Columbus Day 10/16...PSAT Grades 10&11							11/1...Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences, no school for Elementary students 11/21...Turkey in the Ground 11/22...Family Feast/Early Dismissal 11/25-11/29...Thanksgiving Holiday						
DECEMBER 2024							JANUARY 2025							FEBRUARY 2025							MARCH 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
29	30	31					12/19-12/20...Grades 6-12 Exams & Early Dismissal (12/20...Elementary Early Dismissal) 12/23-12/31...Christmas/New Year Holiday	1/1-1/3...Christmas/New Year Holiday 1/6...Staff Professional Development 1/20...Martin Luther King Jr Holiday 1/30-1/31...Faculty In-Service	2/17...Presidents' Day	3/4-3/7...Term/Care week 3/7...Early Dismissal - Elementary 3/10-3/14...Spring Break 3/17-3/18...Faculty In-Service																	
APRIL 2025							MAY 2025							GRADING PERIODS													
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Q1: AUG 15 - OCT 09 - 37 DAYS	Q2: OCT 15 - DEC 20 - 44 DAYS	Q3: JAN 07 - MAR 07 - 40 DAYS	Q4: MAR 19 - MAY 22 - 45 DAYS	SEMESTER 1: 81 DAYS	SEMESTER 2: 85 DAYS	TOTAL SCHOOL DAYS: 166							
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS & SPRING HOLIDAYS (EXCLUDING SPRING BREAK) MAY BE RECLAIMED & USED TO MAKE UP FOR BAD WEATHER DAYS IF NEEDED**													
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17														
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24														
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31														
4/18...Good Friday 4/21...Easter Holiday							5/16...Senior Graduation 5/20-5/22...Grades 6-12 Exams & Early Dismissal 5/22...Last Day of School 5/23...Teacher Work Day																				

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## Welcome Back to School

## Aledo ISD and Trinity Christian Academy!

Have a great year!



**WEATHERFORD ISD**



# Food science teacher hungry new school year

**By John English**  
The Community News

With classes starting for the Weatherford ISD, Tiel Jenkins is gearing up for what promises to be an exciting and engaging school year.

The Weatherford High School Science & PALs teacher said objectives for the coming semester are to expose students to a variety of fruits and vegetables, engage them in creative hands-on learning opportunities and encourage her pupils to explore and experiment.

"When students decide to take my food science course, I give a disclaimer the first day that while food science falls under our hospitality and tourism career pathway, it is different from culinary, as we do not cook every day," Jenkins said. "We create."

In Jenkins' class, students can expect to learn the four P's of food science: production (growing food in the school's garden or inside via microgreens or our hydroponics system), processing (canning, freezing and dehydrating food), packaging (different design types and required information) and preparation (creating recipes).

Her classes are mainly upper-level students and count for a fourth-year science credit.

"If students take and pass the food science and safety certification exam they will be able to apply for careers in food safety and quality assurance as well as management positions," Jenkins said.

**Education through determination**

Jenkins, 43, grew up in Fort Worth and graduated from Everman High School.

She received her bachelor's of applied arts and science degree from the University of North Texas with a concentration in human service and nonprofit management and a master's degree in family studies from Texas Woman's University.

She began teaching in the Weatherford ISD in 2021 and said it really was a case of love at first sight.

"Once I stepped into the school and was genuinely greeted by everyone I met, I knew that this was where I could work if offered the position," Jenkins said.

The CTE teacher said she was drawn to education from an early age.

"I always wanted to be a teacher and a nurse and anytime I could, I volunteered with my church and other community groups teaching children and adults," Jenkins said. "So when COVID happened, I knew it was time to go into public education as healthcare and the nonprofit sector was changed."

Jenkins was working for a hospice company at the time and has a background in non-profit and healthcare work.

"After high school, I went to college and life happened, so I dropped out and went to medical assistant school," Jenkins said. "I worked as a dialysis technician and then a patient care technician at the hospital before going back to



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIEL JENKINS

Tiel Jenkins teaches food science in the Weatherford ISD, instructing students on all things fruits and vegetables.

school to become a nurse. Well, life happened again and I couldn't progress in the nursing program.

"So I switched majors and focused on human service and nonprofit management, graduating from UNT with my bachelor's degree while working in a variety of nonprofits."

These included such places as a night shelter, a senior citizen center and an agency where she helped families with bills and daily needs.

"I then continued school and received my master's degree in family studies from TWU as much of the work I did centered around families," Jenkins said.

**Career influence**

The Weatherford ISD teacher said her former positions have definitely influenced her current profession as an educator.

"The various careers I have had taught me resilience and I try to instill that in my students," Jenkins said. "In food science, there is always an opportunity to try something new or look at something in a different way. This is one of those classes where mistakes are the lesson. My class is about the process not the end result and that's a hard concept for students to grasp when they have me."

Jenkins' teaching motto is to "learn something new every day," and she hopes her students take away a few important lessons, both academically and socially, from her classes.

"I hope that students leave my class knowing that there are many opportunities available to them," Jenkins said. "And there truly is something that can be learned every day and that doesn't always mean academically — it means learning about yourself and others."



**Weatherford ISD**  
2024-2025 School Calendar

Updated 6-10-2024

July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 H 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 4 PD PD WD PD PD 10 11 WD WD 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 H 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 PD 21 22 WD 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 PTC H 12 13 H 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025
S M T W T F S 3 WD 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 H H H H H 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 ER WD 21 22 H H H H H 28 29 H H	S M T W T F S 5 WD PD 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 H 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 PD 15 16 WD 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025
S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 H H H H H 22 23 PD WD 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 H 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 ER WD 24 25 H EXPD 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

**IMPORTANT DATES: FALL SEMESTER**

- July 4 - Holiday
- August 1 - New Professional Orientation
- August 1-13 Staff Professional Development/Work Days
- August 14 - First Day of School
- September 2 - Holiday
- September 20 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- September 23 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- October 10 - Parent/Teacher Conference Day - Student Holiday
- October 11 & 14 - Holidays
- November 1 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- November 4 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 19 - Early Release Day for Students
- December 20 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- December 23-January 3 - Winter Break

**LEGEND**

- ER Early Release Day
- EXPD Exchange Day / Professional Development Day for Staff
- H Holiday
- NP New Professionals Training
- PD Professional Development Day for Staff
- PTC Parent/Teacher Conference Day
- WD Work Day for Staff

**IMPORTANT DATES: SPRING SEMESTER**

- January 6 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- January 7 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- January 20 - Holiday
- February 14 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- February 17 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- March 17-21 - Spring Break
- March 24 - Professional Development Day - Student Holiday
- March 25 - Work Day for Staff - Student Holiday
- April 18 - Holiday
- May 22 - Last Day of School/Early Release for All Students
- May 22 - WHS Graduation for the Class of 2025
- May 23 - Work Day for Staff
- May 26 - Holiday

**GRADING PERIODS**

- 1st Six Weeks: August 14 - September 19
- 2nd Six Weeks: September 24 - October 31
- 3rd Six Weeks: November 5 - December 19
- 4th Six Weeks: January 8 - February 13
- 5th Six Weeks: February 18 - April 11
- 6th Six Weeks: April 14 - May 22



PlainsCapital Bank salutes all of the hard working teachers and administrators across Aledo ISD. Your unwavering commitment to excellence and achievement continues to make a positive impact on our community and Aledo youth. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.





# New staff welcomed to local schools

Growing communities mean growing schools. Aledo ISD and Trinity Christian Academy added several new staff members for the beginning of this school year.

## Aledo ISD

### Aledo High School

- Brian Blackburn, credit recovery teacher/coach
- Grace Brown, English/RLA teacher
- Ashley Harris, English/RLA teacher
- Megan Beard, English/RLA teacher
- Corey Whitehead, history teacher
- Michael Martinak, principal
- Cortney Wood, journalism teacher
- Brendan Adams, math teacher
- Benjamin Shaw, math teacher/athletics coach
- Travis Jones, math teacher/athletics coach
- Cassie Hanson, RLA/English teacher
- Phillip Nowlin, science/CTE health science teacher
- Morgan Willmer, science teacher/athletics coach
- Jamie Whitehead, science teacher/athletics coach
- Abril Hahn, social studies teacher
- Blake Burns, social studies teacher
- Rhonda Psencik, special education coach/teacher, science/athletics
- Bambi Flores, special education coach/teacher, RLA or SS
- Brian Maloney, special education coach/teacher, RLA
- Steven Rivera, special education coach/teacher, RLA/athletics
- Marissa Sugg, special education/FA teacher

### Aledo Middle School

- Taygen Fromme, CTE ag science teacher
- Arnold, Kelley, CTE computer science
- Donald Ott, health teacher/athletics coach
- Geena Powell, science teacher/athletics coach
- Ashley Moore, social studies teacher

- Lindsey Fry, social studies teacher/athletics coach
- Samantha Martinez, special education/FA teacher
- Gretchen Turdo, special education coach/teacher, RLA

### McAnally Middle School

- Christopher White, principal
- Ryan Rothermel, special education coach/teacher, RLA
- Terry Alexander, special education coach/teacher, RLA

### Annetta Elementary

- Amy Egesdal, third-grade teacher
- Lauren Drew, fourth-grade teacher

### Coder Elementary

- Kaleb Curnow, special education/PRIDE teacher

### Lynn McKinney Elementary

- Nora Hawkins, first-grade teacher
- Marissa Anzelmo, second-grade teacher
- Honor Ridings, third-grade teacher
- Callie Clyde, third-grade teacher
- Sara Baeza, fourth-grade teacher
- Blair Nix, fifth-grade teacher
- Chelsea Rhoads, art teacher
- Olivia Jean Ramirez, music teacher
- Andrea Reyher, PE teacher
- Kate Grimmell, special education coach/teacher

### McCall Elementary

- Sheri Griswold, third-grade teacher
- Giselle Vento Noack, music teacher

### Stuard Elementary

- Bianca Swart, second-grade teacher
- Madison Gilbert, special education coach/teach
- Kelsey Smith, special education coach/teach
- Kimberly Willems, special education FA teacher



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Aledo ISD hosted training for new teachers in the district at the end of July.

- Richele A. Walker, special education FA teacher

### Vandagriff Elementary

- Sarah Mooney, fifth-grade teacher
- Anne Navarrette, special education coach/teacher

### Walsh Elementary

- Melanie Atkins, first-grade teacher
- Allison Dale, second-grade teacher
- Jennifer Campbell, third-grade teacher
- Katelynn Newman, digital learning professional/library
- Lori Vinson Cain, principal
- Erin Westendorff, special education FA teacher

### Aledo Learning Center

- Anita Masaniai Robert, RLA teacher

### Daniel Ninth-Grade Center

- Scottee Brower, science teacher
- Shay Garcia, special education coach/teacher, math

### Administration

- Hannah Garner, intervention counselor

### Curriculum

- Maria Rossi, ESL lead teacher

### Special programs

- Kelly Dyson, dyslexia teacher

### Trinity Christian Academy Elementary

- Shami Ayala, Spanish teacher
- Wendy Baker, teacher aide
- Alison Baker, elementary art teacher
- Terri Bales, first-grade teacher
- Meagan Bixler, second-grade teacher
- Jessica Blackburn, teacher aide
- Lori Bratcher, PK4 Bridge teacher aide
- Brenda DeLaCruz, pre-K teacher
- Jessica Estes, lunchroom coordinator
- Kelly Hajj, kindergarten teacher aide
- Elizabeth Jacobs, first-grade teacher
- Becca Low, lunchroom assistant
- Elizabeth Motes, teacher aide
- Valerie Perkins, PK4 Bridge teacher
- Elizabeth Saadeh, full-time substitute teacher
- Valerie Shelman, lunchroom assistant

- Lyricia Squyres, second-grade teacher
- LaDonna Stoker, kindergarten teacher

### Junior High

- Andrea Franklin, cheer coach
- Becca Perales, Academic Learning Center teacher

### Secondary

- Matthew Hahn, science teacher and track/cross country coach
- Katherine Mullen, PE teacher and varsity volleyball coach
- Josh Phillips, math teacher
- Kendall Smith, academica learning teacher assistant

### Administration

- Craig Smith, TCA Head of School
- Ashley Turne, Early Bird worker
- Tressa Trumbula, Eagles Nest assistant
- Tammy Ward, director of technology
- Katy Bishop, Eagles Nest coordinator
- Dr. Marilyn Dardenne, Director of Academic Innovation
- Jana and Lyle Bremmeyer, Eagles Nest workers

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