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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

ALEDO

Council approves certificates for sewer line improvements

Seeking funds for FM 1187 expansion

By Randy Keck

While the word "growth" did not appear on the agenda for the Aledo City Council's meeting on Feb. 27, it was primarily growth that the council addressed.

The biggest-ticket item was the approval by the council to issue certificates of obligation of \$27,775,000 for the purpose of sewer line improvements.

City Manager Noah Simon said he expects annual payments to be about \$1,115 million, and that the funds will come from utility funds.

Somewhat related was the council's approval of an item on the consent agenda to seek \$3,164,100 from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) that would be used to cover the cost of relocating utilities along FM 1187.

Mayor Nick Stanley explained that TxDOT has already allocated funding to expand FM 1187 south of the Aledo Commons traffic circle. The project will require Aledo to move water and sewer lines.

"That burden is untenable for the City of Aledo," Stanley said, so the city is seeking TxDOT to pay for the relocation of the utilities through a special program it has for that purpose.

The council also approved a development agreement with Moncrief Properties, LLS, regarding property at 2 Dean Drive. The agreement outlines the responsibilities of the parties regarding the provision of water and sewer services to the property, which lies in Aledo's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

- In other actions, the council:
- discussed its budget priorities;canceled its March 6 and April 3 meetings



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brian Rutledge was named Firefighter of the Year at the Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1 awards dinner on Feb. 28.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

Firefighters celebrated, acknowledged at banquet

Recognizing the ESD's finest

By Christopher Amos

The front of the Parker County Emergency Services District 1 awards banquet Feb. 28 at Springhill Suites/Willow Park Event Center featured music, inspirational speakers, and recognition of the district's finest first responders, while the back of the room was filled with other kinds of special guests.

Clustered around five tables near the exit, 25 firefighters in uniform with radios on their hips were on-duty and ready to answer an emergency call from their respective departments.

Springtown Station 45 Capt. Jordan Sereika knows well what it is like to leave food on the table and dash to an emergency.

"Somebody has to be on duty. That is just the reality of it," Sereika said. "When you get a call, you go."

Lt. Frank Watson of Peaster Station 46 explained the practice of firefighters from outside one's area graciously staffing the stations so attendees can confidently attend the banquet. There is one perk for being among the attendees on duty. Everyone knows the on-duty guests go through the food line first.

Turn to **DISTRICT**, page 3





Yelverton

Brown

HUDSON OAKS

City readies for new wastewater line

New employees welcomed

Christopher Amos

Hudson Oaks has experienced tremendous growth in recent years, and an unseen problem with the increased population is increased sewage.

The city is proactive in preparing for population now and in the far future by installing a major waste water line from west Hudson Oaks to a new wastewater treatment plant in Willow Park. Moving the contents will take gravity and a pump station, the South Fork Lift Station, which will be built east of Center Point Road between Interstate 20 and Bankhead Highway.

Josh Kercho of Kimley-Horn Engineering Consultants, who is helping the city with analysis and plans, told the council the 5.5 miles of pipeline will run near Bankhead Highway on its way to Willow Park.

"We are about 90 percent complete," Kercho said of the designs and preparation for the pump station. "Plans are going along well and we will soon be finished."

City administrator Sterling Naron explained some permits, such as with the Texas Department of Transportation, are pending approval and when complete, the city will begin to accept bids for the project. The lift station and force

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CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Brandon and Austin Thompson pause from picking up litter in Annetta to make new friends off Old Annetta Road. A dozen volunteers fanned out across Annetta for the city's periodic litter pick-up day Saturday, March 1.

EDUCATION

Olcott files bill to protect educators from assault and harassment

Special to The Community News

(Austin, TX) – Texas House District 60 Rep. Mike Olcott filed a bill on Monday, March 3, that would mandate specific disciplinary action against students who harass or assault a school district employee.

Olcott's bill, HB 3657, would impose a mandatory 30-day placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) if a student engages in assault or harassment of a school district employee.

By requiring that students who engage in this type of conduct be removed from their classrooms, HB 3657 would deter further misbehavior

by demonstrating that their actions have consequences.

"Our children's education is one of the most important things we as lawmakers are responsible for protecting," Olcott said. "By extension, it is our duty to ensure the teachers and staff are safe at schools. This bill would ensure that caring and dedicated educators are not pushed out of the profession they love because of the out-of-control behavior of some students, and that well-behaved students continue to get the education they deserve."

Texas House District 60 includes Parker



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14 LOCATIONS PLUS 2 ATM LOCATIONS ACROSS TEXAS





Eggsquisite food and service is only minutes away

When you are looking for exquisite service and food, try Eggsquisite Cafe!

The new breakfast and lunch venue in Fort Worth offers quality food, friendly service, and the best coffee you'll find anywhere.

Owner Raymond McGaw said after opening in December, the cafe has already built a base of dedicated customers.

Whether you are looking for basics like pancakes, sausage, and eggs, or something a bit more exotic, Eggsquisite has what you are looking for.

Eqqsquisite has a wide variety of Eggs Benedict dishes, Salmon Toast, Avocado Toast, and Banana Split French Toast.

One of McGaw's favorite items on the lunch menu is the Reuben Sandwich, which is made in house. One of the specialties is the Biscuit and Gravy Omelet, which has biscuits inside, and is covered with sausage gravy.

"That's a big hit," McGaw said. "That's something we created years ago — when people try it, they're like, 'yeah, this is, this is an awesome dish.' They really like it."

And then there are the beignets. If you have never heard of them, you have to try them!

In addition to the Reuben, if you come in for lunch, there is a variety of gourmet salads, sandwiches, wraps, and, of course, chicken-fried steak.

Bill Braymen, an east Parker County resident and regular customer, said he keeps coming back for three reasons: the quality and consistency of the food, the friendly staff and the service they provide, and the coffee.

"It's the best coffee we ever had," Braymen said.

Eggsquisite is family- and locally owned.

"We started our first location in Carrollton, Texas, and then branched off," McGaw said. "We've opened 13 Eggsquisite Cafes in DFW, and our family now is still operating three of those after my uncle retired. So we have one in Mansfield, one in Sherman, and this [Fort Worth] is our newest one that we opened on December 18."

"We like to emphasize the customer experience; we focus on elevated customer experience, and we're thankful

for anybody who gives us a try" McGaw said. "You know, we feel like customer service is taking a step back this day and age, and it's something that we're very prideful on. It's something that my uncle always taught us — that we

need to make sure that everybody is well taken care of, and really just appreciate anybody who's willing to step through your doors and smiles on your faces when you greet people and have the employee culture that everybody's happy to

work and smiling. You know, that's really what we're about.

For a limited time, Eggsquisite Cafe is offering a half-price entrée with the purchase of another entrée of equal or greater value Monday-Friday.

Eggsquisite Cafe is located at 9316 Clifford Street and is open from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. For more information and a menu, visit

eggsquisitecafe.com.













DISTRICT

Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1 serves Aledo, Annettas, Silver Creek, Springtown, Poolville, La Junta, Morningstar, Peaster, and Willow Park.

Recognizing the ESD's finest

ESD 1 Chief Stephen Watson emceed the event and humbly acknowledged a standing ovation at the opening ceremony. Keynote speaker Capt. Trevor Stokes of Travis County ESD 2 in Pflugerville delivered an inspirational, encouraging address. Board of Commissioners president Mark Jack also thanked and addressed the firefighters.

Lieutenant Jared Junker received the Board of Commissioner's Award.

Reserve Firefighter of the Year was Brandon Harer chosen among fellow nominees Ruben Gomez, Kevin Bradley, Hagen Dannhaus, and Presleigh Thornburg.

Brian Rutledge earned Firefighter of the Year among fellow nominees Tommy Bond, Seth Wells, Logan Bushong, and Keith Obert.

Engineer of the Year was Mike Kelly among nominees Nathan Swaim, Dustin Rowe, Spencer Urbanowski, and Brandon Lafler.

Officer of the Year Lt. Dusty Hallman was chosen among nominees Lt. Derrick Self, Lt. Jason Hinton, Lt. Tyler Ramsey, and Capt. Alex Collins.

Brotherhood Excellence Service Teamwork Award (B.E.S.T.) went to Lt. Rob Stone.

Citations were awarded to firefighters who saved lives last year through CPR.



ESD 1 Chief Stephen Watson emceed the event and received a standing ovation at the opening of the firefighters' annual awards banquet.



Uniformed firefighters ate at the back of the banquet, ready to dash if an emergency call was received.



Reserve Firefighter of the Year **Brandon Harer**



Engineer of the Year Mike Kelly

By the numbers

Chief Watson highlighted numerous statistics and accomplishments of the firefighters for 2024.

The busiest companies in the district were Engine 46 of Springtown (1,854 calls) and Engine 51 of La Junta (1,310 calls). The busiest companies in particular categories were: Structure fires, Engine 51 of La Junta (37 fires); vehicle accidents, Truck 35 of Willow Park (145



Brotherhood Excellence Service Teamwork Award recipient Lt. Rob

calls), and grass fires, Brush 51 of La Junta (20 fires).

The fastest average "turnout time" in the district was Station 47 of Poolville with 46 seconds to be on the road after calls.

Totals for District 1 include 134 structure fires, 97 grass fires, 586 vehicle accidents, 33 rescues, and 3,155 medical calls for a total of 6,629 runs.



Lieutenant Jared Junker, center, received the Board of Commissioner's Award. With Junker are commissioners Mark Jack, Saxon Bailey, Shawn Scott, Brandon Tatarevich, and Asst. Chief David Pruitt, Ben Overholt, Deputy Chief Jason Ingram, and Chief Stephen Watson.



Officer of the Year Lt. Dusty Hallman

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER **AMOS**

THE **COMMUNITY NEWS**

WEATHERFORD ISD

District forms new facility planning committee

FACTS Committee to consist of residents, teachers, students

By Charlotte LaGrone

The Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees has established the Facility Advisory of Citizens, Teachers, and Students (FACTS) Committee as part of its long-term planning for district facilities, including consideration of a potential bond election in November 2025. The committee includes a diverse cross-section of the community, with parents and non-parents, young adults and senior citizens, as well as teachers, business owners, and community leaders.

"The FACTS Committee plays a crucial role in shaping the future of Weatherford ISD," said Dr. Beau Rees, Weatherford ISD superintendent. "By bringing together voices from across our community, we ensure that our long-term facility plans reflect the needs and priorities of our students, teachers, and families. Through this process, we will evaluate data, explore options, and create a well-informed, strategic plan that positions our district for success in the years to come."

The committee, comprised of approximately 50 members, will study district financial data, results from a community-wide survey, a districtwide facilities assessment, demographic trends, and cost analyses of potential projects. Members will also tour existing facilities to assess current conditions firsthand.

The charge of the WISD FACTS Committee is to review and consider information related to:

- Needs of students
- Demographic trends
- Existing condition of facilities
- Support for Quality Educational Programs
- Comprehensive District Goals
- Impact on Weatherford ISD taxpayers

The Committee will develop and recommend a potential bond program that will help Weatherford ISD meet the challenges of the future as well as support prospective growth and change. Meetings will be held through July and will take place at district campuses and facilities.

"This is a forward-thinking process that will allow us to make informed decisions about how to best serve our students and staff, not just today but for the future," said Dr. Rees. "We appreciate the commitment of our FACTS Committee members and the community's engagement in this important effort."

All information presented to the FACTS Committee, including meeting agendas and minutes, is available at www.weatherfordisd.com/ facts/. The site is updated after each committee meeting and provides an opportunity for community members to submit questions.

STAFF

from page one

main pump are estimated to cost \$9,600,000.

New employees, old power issues

Mayor Tom Fitzpatrick welcomed new employees Elizabeth Yelverton and Lara Brown on behalf of the council. Yelverton is the new city attorney replacing attorney Robert Allibon, and Brown is the new director of operations.

Mayor Fitzpatrick also addressed electrical outages some residents experienced during the last freeze, saving the city has spoken with Oncor Electric. "We'll continue to talk with District No. 3 fire station location.

Oncor to get significant things fixed so this doesn't continue to happen," the mayor said.

With the deadline now passed for filing to run for positions and offices, Fitzpatrick said the city will not have names on the May 3 ballot because council members Jennifer Liles, Sean Cannon, and Daniel Cross are running for places 2, 4 and 5 unopposed and all have agreed to serve another

The council also approved releasing a ten foot-wide easement on city-owned property at Hudson Oaks Dr. near Inspiration Dr. The strip was set aside for a future utilities easement but is now released to make more room for a possible Parker County Emergency Services



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Josh Kercho of Kimley-Horn Engineering Consultants and city administrator Sterling Naron describe progress on a new wastewater plan with council members while pointing out locations on a projected map.

GOVERNMENT

Local city, school board elections set

Early voting begins April 22

Staff Reports The Community News

Ballot positions are set for municipal and school district elections on May 3 in Parker County. There are a number of contested races in the county.

In Aledo ISD, board president Forrest Collins is challenged by Jeremiah Stoker. Four people have filed to run for the AISD Board of Trustees Place 4 seat. Member Jennifer Taylor is not seeking re-election. Looking to replace her are Lynn Morgan, Miles D. Lewis, Leia Brown, and Kelli Stahl.

Likewise in Weatherford ISD, Place 4 member Greg Shaw is not running again. Seeking that seat are Samuel Stephens, Dan Woods, and Devon Flowers.

Three local mayors are being challenged: in Aledo, city council member Shane Davis has filed to run against incumbent mayor Nick Stanley. In Willow Park, Mayor Doyle Moss has two challengers: Teresa Palmer and Catherine Davis, and Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschall faces challenger Will Montgomery.

For Parker County residents wishing the city limits of Fort Worth, Mayor Mattie Parker has numerous opponents.

There are no elections scheduled in the Annettas,

Brock, or Hudson Oaks due to Millsap ISD, Special one year lack of contested positions.

Aledo ISD, Place 4 Jeremiah Stoker Forrest Collins

Aledo ISD, Place 5 Lynn Morgan Miles D. Lewis Leia Brown Kelli Stahl

Weatherford ISD, Place 4 Samuel Stephens Dan Woods

Devon Flowers

City of Aledo, Mayor Shane Davis Nick Stanley

City of Aledo, City Council, Todd Covington

Christian Pearson City of Weatherford, Mayor Paul Steven Paschall

Will Montgomery City of Willow Park, Mayor Doyle Moss Teresa Palmer

Catherine Davis

Eric Contreras

City of Willow Park, City Council, Place 1 David Allen

Millsap ISD, Vote none, one or two

Heidi Ritthaler Ryan Shands **Sunny Bates**

of three-year term Shelby Humphrey Whittney Gilbert

Springtown ISD, Place 1 Derek Miles Elizabeth "Tootie" Hall

Springtown ISD, Place 2 Damon Liles **Matthew Jones**

Springtown ISD, Place 3 Wendy Kennedy Teresa Kelley

Springtown ISD, Special Vote For or Against

School bond election for \$98 million

City of Fort Worth, Mayor Mattie Parker Josh Lucas Alyson Kennedy Lawrence E. Walker, II Millennium Anton C. Woods, Jr Chris Wood

City of Fort Worth, City **Council, District 3** Jason Ballmann Michael D. Crain

City of Reno, Special

Jeremy F. Labelle

Dannell Ballard

Vote For or Against Proposition A: Reducing the tax rate in the City of Reno for the current year from 0.556319 [adopted tax rate] to 0.340111 [voter-approval tax rate]

City of Reno

Vote For or Against Proposition B: Abolishing the corporate existence of the City of Reno.

Proposición B: Abolir la existencia corporativa de la Ciudad de Reno.

City of Springtown, Mayor Richelle Pruitt Mike Kelley

Important dates and securing ballots:

Thursday, April 3: Last day to register to vote

Tuesday, April 22: First day of early voting by personal appearance

Tuesday, April 22: Last

day to apply for ballot by mail (received, not postmarked) Tuesday, April 29: Last

day of early voting by personal appearance Saturday, May 3 (7 p.m.):

Last day to receive ballot by mail if carrier envelope is not postmarked

Sunday, May 4 (5 p.m.): Last day to receive ballot by mail if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7 p.m.

To apply for a ballot by mail, call 817-598-6185

If you are not sure if you are registered to vote, visit: https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas. gov/MVP/languageChange.do

To register to vote, visit https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/ index.asp.

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Bid the Sound Band Auction

Bid the Sound is the major fundraiser for all Aledo bands from middle school through high school. Parents get to see their students' progress with music, bid on silent auction items, and bid to have their student put a cream pie in the face of their favorite instructor.

Photos by Christopher Amos/The Community News



Adam Nichell creams middle school instructor Joey Qualls with a pie.



Musicians Julia Alvin and Ladein Utley promote tickets for the "heads or tails" event.



Amy and Bryan Sloan meander through silent auction items.



Hannah Harford readies desserts for sale.



Middle school musician Raine Pinkston



pie.



Stuard Elementary student Rachel Eastburn imagines how it would feel to win the raffle for a deluxe cart.







A Fresh New Coat of Pink!

The Malt Shop celebrates new life

By Candy McMichen

he phone was ringing inside the Malt Shop Monday, even though it was closed.

When Janie Harrison announced she was selling one of Parker County's favorite burger joints, more than 1,000 inquiries were made.

"I couldn't believe it," she said, "the response was overwhelming."

The community has rallied around Janie and her 67-year-old Malt Shop, as recent crowds have proven.

Two local businessmen, David Hart and Shawn Allen, stepped up to claim the Malt Shop as theirs, and are busy with remodeling and rejuvenating plans.

Janie will stay on as general manager, ensuring the restaurant's flavor and traditions.

Reassuring their customers that their favorite dishes will not be changed, Hart explains that it is not a fast food place, but that all ingredients are fresh and made to order.

"We'd rather take eater time to serve quality, freshly made burgers and hand-spun shakes than cut corners with frozen food," Hart said.

With that in mind, there may be some wait times involved, coupled with their new crew learning the

The number of employees has increased from five to 15 in order to better serve customers and meet the demands of extended shop hours.

"We may tweak a few recipes and add a few new things, but we really want to retain the Shop's charm and reputation," Hart explained.

The Malt Shop was built by two bothers in 1958 for their wives before the men went to war, the story goes.

With malts being the Shop's classic calling card, their burgers, handmade ice cream, and sides widen the menu and bring customers back.

The two men are providing a safe, fun space for families to enjoy as land



CANDY MCMICHEN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Malt Shop's signature pink is being revitalized as workmen give the finishing touches outside.

We may tweak a few recipes and add a few new things, but we really want to retain the Shop's charm and reputation.

David Hart

behind the Shop has been graded in preparation for the installation of grass, games, and picnic tables away from the busy parking lot.

The lot west of the Shop will be used for parking.

Car shows, lawn games, music, and sock hops are in the plans, as well as a grand celebration party when all the "moving parts" are in alignment.

Open to all suggestions, Hart and Allen are committed to continuing the historical significance of the Shop, in passing along patronage to the younger generation.

Calls have gone out to local businesses that might be interested in sponsoring some of the Malt Shop's needs including painters, asphalt crews, electricians, tree donations, and table sponsors.

Benefactors' branding will be displayed for the next two years.

Janie was hoping to retain her handwritten paper checks for customers, but the guys are, "Dragging her into the 21st century with digital technology," Hart laughed, as she smiled and said that she'd just have to learn.

"Stay tuned!"

Located at 2028 Fort Worth Highway, the Malt Shop's new hours are 9:30am-9pm, Tuesday-Saturday; Sunday 11:30am-7pm; closed Monday.



CANDY MCMICHEN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS The Malt Shop has been a staple of Parker County's burger scene since 1958.



CANDY MCMICHEN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The lot behind the Malt Shop is being readied for installation of grass, games, and picnic







"Serving every family as part of our own for over 60 years"

March 7, 2025 THE COMMUNITY NEWS www.community-news.com

The Community News



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Weatherford Chamber of Commerce



North and East

Texas Press

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East Parker County Chamber of Commerce

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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

Voucher bill has backing of House majority



Gary Borders gborders@texaspress.com

A slim majority of Texas House members have indicated they will back House Bill 3, which creates education savings accounts that allow families to use taxpayer money for private school education. The Dallas Morning *News* reported that 75 Republican legislators have signed on with the bill's author, state Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, to support the measure.

"For the first time in our great state's history, the Texas House has the votes to pass a universal school choice program," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement.

The Texas Senate has already passed a voucher bill, though it contains different provisions. The two measures will have to be reconciled before a bill reaches Abbott's desk.

The House bill has more stringent requirements based on income and whether a child has a disability. Both bills carry a \$1 billion price tag.

House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said his chamber welcomed public input.

"We want to continue to make the bill better and improve it," he said. "If there's room for improvement or to make the bill better, that's part of the process."

First measles fatality recorded in West Texas as cases rise

A measles outbreak in West Texas has resulted in the death of a school-aged child, and 146 cases have been identified as of Friday, according to the Texas cases are likely to occur, given the Abbott said in a statement.

highly contagious nature of the

An additional case was reported in an adult living in Rockwall County, in North Texas. An adult male tested positive after traveling out of the country. State officials say he was not vaccinated. The man spent about a week in a hospital but is now recovering at home.

Dr. Peter Hotez, co-director of the Center for Vaccine Development at Texas Children's Hospital, told the Houston Chronicle he also believes the outbreak, the state's largest in 30 years, will continue to increase because of a growing number of children who are not being vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control estimates nine in 10 people who are not vaccinated will become infected if exposed to measles.

"I think these numbers will continue to accelerate for a while," Hotez said. "So this is going to be a very large, very dangerous measles epidemic."

Senate votes to ban **lottery brokers**

The state Senate voted unanimously last week to outlaw third-party brokers who buy mass numbers of Texas lottery tickets online, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The bill is similar to one passed in the Senate two years ago that died in the House, but the issue has gained momentum after a ticket broker, called a "lottery courier company" bought all possible combinations for a single entity and won a \$95 million Lotto Texas jackpot last April.

Abbott last week ordered the Texas Rangers to investigate that incident and another last week in which a player won \$83.5 million with tickets purchased through an online courier company, the *Chronicle* reported.

"Texans must be able to trust in our state's lottery system and Department of State Health know that the lottery is conduct-Services. DSHS predicts more ed with integrity and lawfully,"

Smith, appointed by Abbott in 2023, resigned abruptly last

Wildfire risk growing in western half of state

State officials are gearing up for an increased wildfire danger across the western half of Texas, including the Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, and parts of the Hill Country. The Texas A&M Forest Service is reporting one active wildfire in Kimble County. It has consumed 722 acres and was 70% contained as of Sunday

"It's important for Texans to prepare for wildfires, work to prevent them, and heed warnings of local officials" Jared Karns, forest service fire chief, said.

The Texas comptroller's office recently released a report concluding that Texas communities face elevated wildfire threats as subdivisions spread into previously undeveloped areas with easy-to-ignite vegetation. Since 2005, more than 243,000 separate Texas wildfires have burned 13.9 million acres.

Last year, the Smokehouse Creek Fire near Canadian burned more than 1 million acres, the largest wildfire in state history.

As of Sunday, 100 Texas counties had burn bans in place.

'Floodgate' of uncertified teachers causing concern

More than half of new teachers hired last year lacked state certification, according to *The News*, and Education Commissioner Mike Morath expressed concern at a recent House committee hearing. Morath said it was impossible to know what type of training uncertified teachers received.

"We are setting these folks up for a very rough ride," Education Commissioner Mike Morath told lawmakers during a recent House committee hearing.

The Legislature a decade ago loosened hiring requirements for

Lottery Commissioner Clark school districts to hire teachers because of a shortage of certified applicants.

> "We need to take responsibility for some of that because we've made it easier to get into a classroom without certification," state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, told her colleagues. "That is a policy decision that we have made."

> The Texas Education Agency reports that schools with higher shares of uncertified teachers have worse outcomes on annual standardized tests. Legislation has been proposed to rein in the system that allows districts to hire uncertified teachers.

Growing number of leaking oil wells causing concern

State regulators are struggling with a growing number of leaking oil wells that threaten to contaminate aquifers, according to an investigative report in the Chronicle. The latest known leak is from an orphaned well in Pecos County, from which black, salty water is flowing along the sandy surface. Orphaned wells were previously owned by companies that went bankrupt or out of business.

"The number one concern is groundwater contamination," Schuyler Wight, a neighboring rancher, said. "Also, this well is adjacent to the Imperial Reservoir, which impacts downstream."

Texas Railroad Commission plans to send a rig to plug the Pecos well. It has requested \$100 million in new funding from the Legislature to address the issue.

Gary Borders is a veteran awardwinning 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.

Idle American

Skyward with LUV



Dr. Don Newbury

Odds of brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright constructing, then flying, the world's first powered aircraft in 1903 - and Southwest Airlines' founding what would become one of the world's leading airlines 64 years later — were about the same.

Most figured the odds to be slim and none.

And most were wrong

While the Wrights' contraption was aloft for only 59 seconds with a flight measuring just 852 feet, it was a beginning, as was SWA's startup with leased aircraft, stiff competition, borrowed money, and unfettered dreams.

Perhaps the chief of dreamers was SWA co-founder Herb Kelleher, as was eventual SWA President Colleen Barrett, first woman president of a major airline. Both pioneers — gone, but by no means forgotten came to mind recently on the front and back ends of my first major airline flight in five years. Advancing years (think back." He then wheeled me for numbers on a piano keyboard), health issues, and a limited speaking schedule have kept me grounded, but the recent Dallas-to-Tampa, Florida, flight on the "airline that LUV built" lingers on my memory ladder's top rung.

A friend claims that heaven has a glass bottom. I'll join right in, hopeful that Herb and Colleen flashed big smiles

For starters, I'd never negotiated Love Field's great new parking lot. While securing the car, I made a mental check of items I'd lug to the terminal. Yep, keys, wallet, two rolling pieces of luggage, a briefcase, cane, and my dratted CPAP machine weighted me down.

I re-defined trudging. Winded and eager to find a chair upon reaching the terminal, I saw a skycap literally running toward me, offering a wheelchair with its tires still smoking.

Rarely has any offer been so readily accepted. Michael wheeled me to check-in, then to the security gate, where pockets were emptied and explanations offered for wires and batteries implanted for heart back-ups

But wait! Where was my phone? "Probably left in the car," Michael said. "Let's go

several hundred yards back to my car, grabbed my phone from the front seat, shot a photo of my parking space and pushed the wheelchair to my boarding gate. (To be sure, Michael earned a generous tip.) Thirty minutes had passed, but early boarding assured my choice of any row of seats. Remember, it was Saturday night, and most people were already where they were going.

In Tampa, I addressed a church senior adult luncheon, sold a few books, and was hosted by two couples whose paths I hadn't crossed for 60 and 30 years, respectively. Mike and Jeanie Compton were Sul Ross students during my faculty tenure there in the 1960s. Mike was in my PR class, and I awarded Steve Biles his baccalaureate degree at Howard Payne University

I was treated royally by the Comptons — as well as by Steve and his wife, Cricket — and his parents, Tom and Nanel Biles, HPU classmates more than 65 years ago.

After five days, I boarded an early-morning SWA flight, this one packed. I was "wheelchaired" to the gate for early boarding, sitting near a college-age woman named Katie.

We talked about columns/ writing/reporting, etc., and she seemed interested.

I told her I'd like to autograph a book, thinking I'd fish one out of my briefcase placed on the plane's only unoccupied center seat. Alas, no book was found, but I assured her that I'd find one at baggage claim. She said she might be delayed. At no time during our twohour visit did she mention that she had leg protheses

A flight attendant — call him Gil - overheard our conversation, mentioning that he has written the first chapter of his book. He shared it with me; I quickly recognized his considerable talent. He, too, would get a book.

After luggage was gathered, Gil — completing his trip — insisted on pushing the wheelchair to my car. I asked him how many times he'd wheeled passengers from plane seats to car seats. "Counting today, once," he smiled.

Angels abound; sometimes they're easily spotted

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, appears weekly in newspapers throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

Audio version at www.speakerdoc.com.



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

MARCH 9

REMINDER: Daylight Saving Time

Clocks spring ahead at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9.

MARCH 11

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.

MARCH 13

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.

MARCH 29

Aledo Spring Fling Craft Fair and Market Expo Craft Fair & Market Expo March 29, 2025 10am-4pm

The Aledo Spring Fling will be from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on March 29 at the Aledo High School.

Come and shop creative quality craft vendors and market vendors who have everything to share with you from wood crafts and paper goods to beauty, floral, and boutique products! Proceeds benefit the Junior Class at Aledo High School every year.

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Gate open at 6:30 p.m. at Bearcat Stadium on Saturday, March 29. Choose the 1K (7:45 p.m.), 5K (8:15 p.m.), or both, and race under the stars. Glow gear, food, entertainment, and all the fun included! Best part? It all benefits Aledo ISD students. Let's light up the night! Register at http://

go.rallyup.com/advocatsr-



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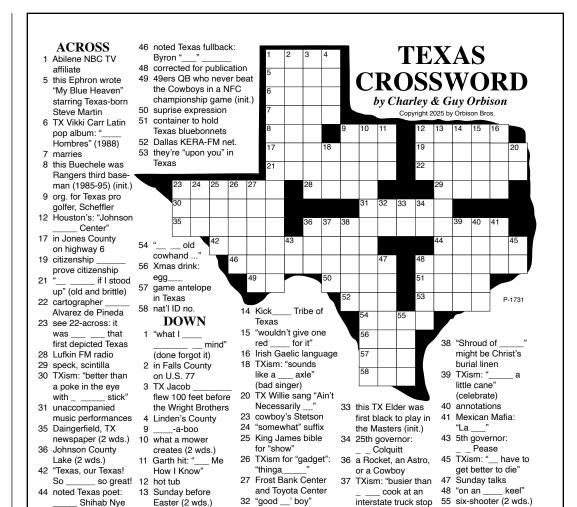
APRIL 12

Annual Plant Sale

Join Parker County Master Gardeners from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 12 at 311 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, for the annual plant sale!

We will have plants specialized for our local climate and members will be on site to offer suggestions and advice. Proceeds are used to fund local projects and grants.

Parker County Master Gardeners Association in a non-profit organization affiliated with the Texas Master Gardeners through Texas A&M AgriLife.



Solution on Page 10



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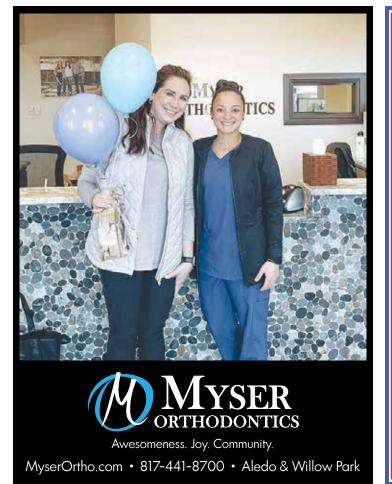
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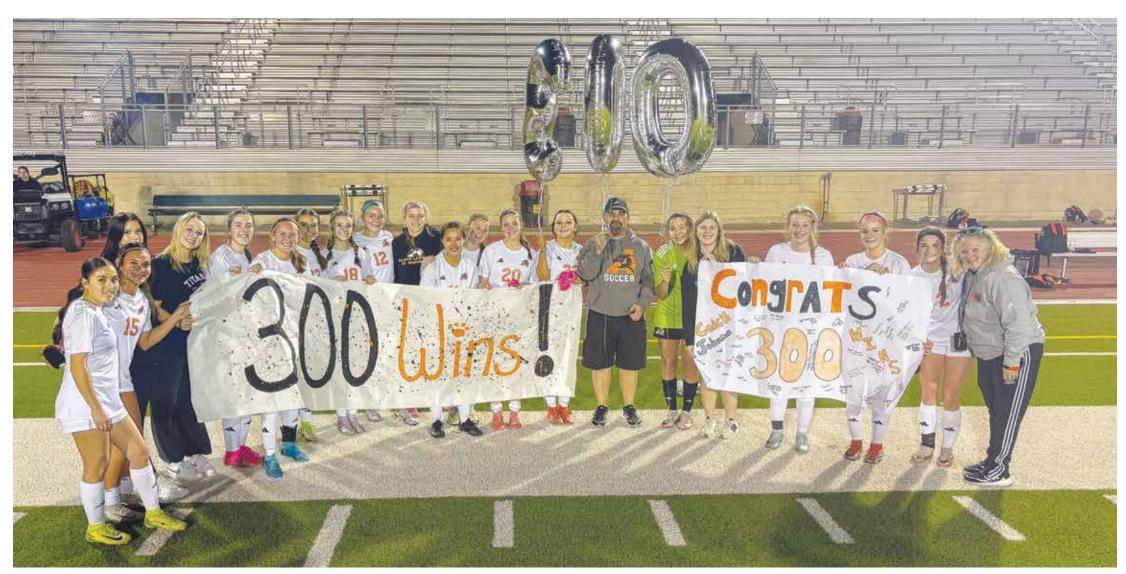


THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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March 7, 2025 THE COMMUNITY NEWS www.community-news.com



The Ladycat soccer team celebrates Coach Bryan Johnson's 300th career win and 200th win as the Ladycats head coach following their 9-0 victory over Saginaw on Friday, Feb. 28. **SOCCER**

Johnson's 300th win caps big week Bearcats, Ladycats lead league

By Ryan Wade

SAGINAW - Good things come to those who wait. For Aledo Ladycats soccer head coach Bryan Johnson it was worth the wait as the Ladycats mercy ruled the Saginaw Lady Rough Riders, 9-0, on Friday, Feb. 28, to hand Johnson win No. 200 as the Ladycats gaffer and No. 300 for his career.

"This morning was no indication that was happening anywhere, anytime," Johnson said as he reveled

in his team's performance. "We just kind of went through the motions. We put in a couple of new corners, but we only got the one opportunity. I guess when you put nine in the back of the net you don't really need

"There's always things to work on, but I'm so proud of them. They came out with a purpose and knocked it out of the park. Hopefully we can continue to drive that through into the playoffs, because that's the team that I think

Heading into the final week of the regular season the Ladycats (13-4 overall, 8-2 in District 5-5A)

have secured a playoff berth along with the top seed in district as the playoff picture continues to take shape. Following his team's performance in Saginaw, Johnson has high hopes for their playoff run.

"I was really impressed with these girls tonight," Johnson added. "The sky is the limit. I told them this morning when I was talking to them about my end, I said we've got 320 minutes of soccer. That's all we've got left. That's all that we're promised, because we've made the playoffs. We have that one more game [in bi-district], so we're guaranteed 320 minutes. Anything after that is gonna be cake. And I'd like to be celebrating in April."

From the opening whistle Aledo was clearly the more dominant futbol club. The Ladycats dominated possession of the ball, regained possession quickly in the instances it was lost, and bullied the Lady Rough Riders while defending and advancing.

Within minutes of the start of play Aledo had their first score of the match as Ally Weimer put a through ball between the Saginaw back line. Ainsley Elmore did what she does so beautifully as she dropped her shoulder to get by her marker before kicking it into high

gear to win the foot race to the ball. Once she reached the ball it was a one-on-one situation with the keeper with Elmore taking the advantage for the opening score.

Once the opening goal hit the net subsequent goals came flooding in like a tidal wave that overwhelmed the hosting Lady Rough Riders. Weimer and Baylee Velarde scored a pair of goals each. Avery Sands put one in during the first half. Conley Hamilton rounded out the scoring onslaught to make it 9-0 with the newly minted mercy rule being invoked for the first time this

Turn to SOCCER, page 9

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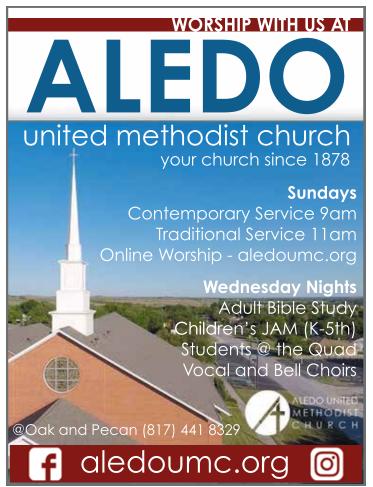
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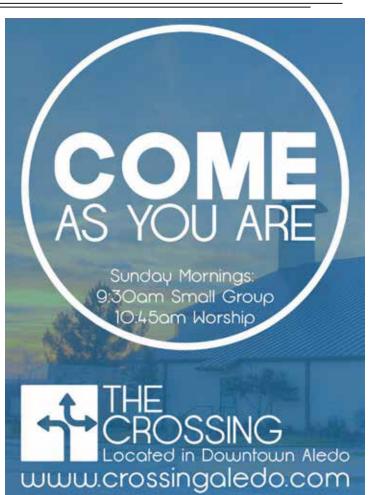
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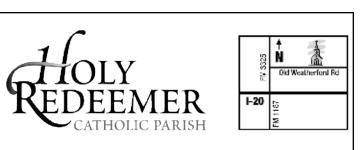


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SOCCER

from page eight

season midway through the second half.

The Lady Rough Riders didn't threaten Aledo's defense often, but the few times they managed to, the Ladycats remained resilient. Freshman goalkeeper, Audrey Obana made a couple spectacular saves in the net for the Ladycats to earn a clean sheet.

"The way they played tonight, it was like the biggest hug or the biggest 'thank you' you could ever get," Johnson said reflecting on the milestone. "They showed a lot of

love. And then to tell me at halftime they want to get to eight [goals] so we can go home, I was like whatever. But they just kept pouring it on knowing they can score as many as they can before that 20-minute mark. This will be one I'll always remember."

"Two hundred here with these girls. It's been a pretty amazing 18 years here at Aledo High School. It's been special doing this with these parents and these kids in this community. When I started this thing 18 years ago most of these kids weren't even born. My career's been a fairytale. I tell people all the time that I'm very blessed,' he added.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ladycat head coach, Bryan Johnson looks on during the first half of Aledo's 9-0 rout of Saginaw.



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Baylee Velarde scores her second goal of the night with the Saginaw keeper out of position as the Ladycats cruise to a 9-0 victory on Friday, Feb. 28.

Kings of the mountain

Friday's home match against Saginaw was always going to be a tough outing for the Bearcats (12-3-2 overall, 8-1-1 in district). The Rough Riders' loss to Brewer coupled with Aledo's win over Fossil Ridge just days earlier allowed the Bearcats to knock Saginaw out of the top spot in the District 5-5A standings.

The Rough Riders entered Tim Buchanan Stadium looking to reclaim the top spot by any means necessary.

A tightly contested match throughout, both teams managed to notch a goal on their side of the scoreboard in the first half. Aledo took an early 2-1 advantage in the second half, but an injury to starting goalkeeper Pierce Ling opened the door for Saginaw to close the gap.

That's exactly what they did in short order moments after Ling left the match. The goal not only tied the game up 2-2 with time ticking down, but it also swung the momentum into the Rough Riders favor.

Not wanting to end up in a shootout with their best keeper on the sidelines, Aledo did what they do best: They went to work. Their hard work and hustle paid off just in the nick of time as a late goal for the Bearcats led them to victory and secured their top spot in the district standings heading into the final week of the regular season.

The final countdown

Aledo's regular season schedule comes to an end on Friday, March 7 with only Azle left. The Bearcats will welcome the Hornets to Tim Buchanan Stadium for their final match of the season.

Meanwhile, the Ladycats will travel to Azle as they look to close out their 2025 campaign with one last win before the playoffs get underway. Both of those matches are set to kickoff at 7:45 pm.

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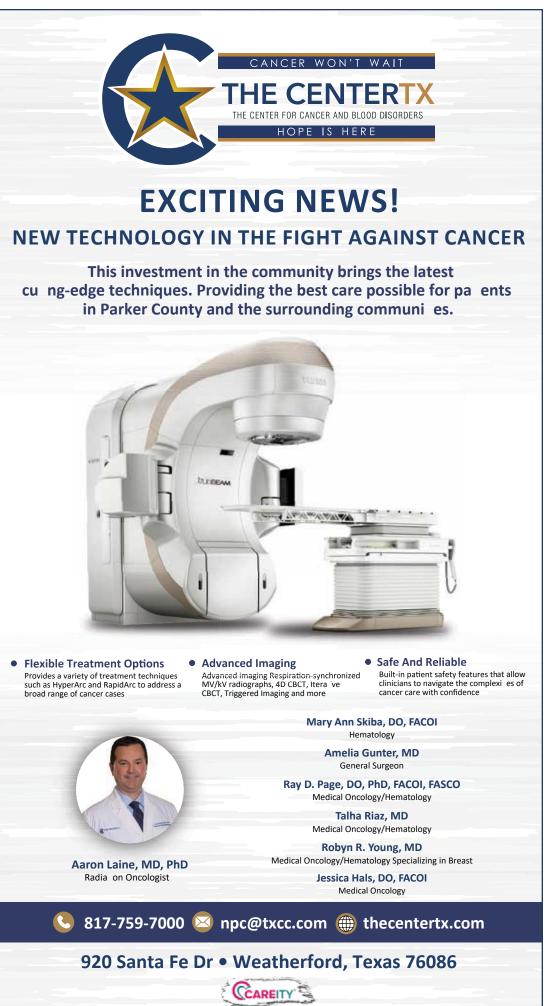
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March 7, 2025 THE COMMUNITY NEWS www.community-news.com

PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Kelly Ranch Estates, LLC on Behalf of Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for the construction of Rio Vista Phase 2 Grading and Bear Creek Road Storm Drain Improvements to serve Kelly Ranch, Parker County, Texas will be received at the office of Harold Sandel, CPM, 9843 Bankhead Highway, Aledo, Texas, 76008 until

12:00 Noon, Wednesday, March 12, 2025

and publicly opened. Bids must be mailed or delivered to the place of opening prior to the time stated above. Any bidder desiring an electronic copy of the proposal form and bid documents should email their request to Ottis Lee at olee@bhbinc.com.

The Proposal (s) shall be for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for performing all work required for the construction of Rio Vista Phase 2 Grading and Bear Creek Road Storm Drain Improvements.

Acceptable bidder's bond, payment without recourse to Owner in an amount of not less than two percent (2%) of total bid submitted, must accompany bid. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities and technicalities. No bid may be withdrawn until the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date bids are opened.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Town of Annetta will con-

duct a public hearing on March 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall,

1. A Special Exception to Section 8.10.B.10 of the Town of Annetta Zoning Ordinance 215 for 375 Briarwood Lane, a

Evans J R, Tr:, Blk:, Surv: JR Evans), to allow garage doors on any size accessory structure to face the rightof-way with additional landscaping, exterior materials or colors and ornamental features to ensure compatibility

2. A Special Exception to Ordinance 215, Section 8.10.A, to

side yard instead of the rear of the lot.

allow for an accessory building placed in a portion of the

property containing 2.31 acres of land (Abst. 445, Survey:

450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, and will act upon the following

with the neighborhood.

All interested persons are urged to attend.

TO BE PUBLISHED: Friday, March 7, 2025

Baird, Hampton & Brown, Inc.

Publication:

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February 28, 2025 March 7, 2025

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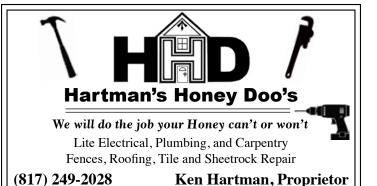
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By winning the 148-pound division, Ari Mathias of the Aledo Ladycats qualified for the Class 5A State Powerlifting Meet.

POWERLIFTING



COURTESY OF MERCEDES MAYER

Aledo's Bryanna Orr won the 132pound weight class at regionals to advance to the Class 5A State Powerlifting Meet.

Two Ladycats headed to state

Team has abundance at regionals

By Rick Mauch

There were Ladycats everywhere at this past Thursday's (Feb. 27) Class 5A Region VI Powerlifting Meet at Sherman High School.

And two Ladycats stood taller than all, winning their respective weight classes and advancing to the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association State Meet in Edinburg March 15.

Bryanna Orr lifted 765 pounds to capture the 132-pound division and Ari Mathias lifted 865 pounds to win the 148 weight class.

As a team, the Ladycats were fourth. They brought 22 lifters to the meet with 18 finishing in the top 10 of their weight class.

Orr won her weight class by 20 pounds. She lifted 295 in the squat, 180 in the bench press and 290 in the deadlift.

posted 350 pounds in the squat, 185 in the bench and deadlifted 330.

Also finishing in the top five of their respective weight classes were Breleigh Mayer, fourth in 148, 710 pounds; Mallory Morgan, fourth in 198, 675 lifted; Kaylin Miller, fourth in 242-plus, 610 pounds; Lilly Caruthers, fifth in 105, 500 pounds; and Charlee Soward, fifth in 123, 615 pounds.

Narrowly missing a top-five finish were Kyla Pierce, sixth in 132, 625 pounds; and Jayden Staggs, sixth in 181, 675 lifted.

Other competitors for Aledo and their respective weight classes were:

105: 9. Kylie Dernovich, 370.

123: 10. Ashlynn /durnill, 430. 132: 10. Avery Jeter, 560.

148: 9. Ella Childress, 620; 10. Allie Faulker, 600.

165: 8. Kendra Potts, 620; 9. Claire Moseley, 610.

181. 8. Lily Morris, 605; 9.

Liberty Pelfrey, 500.

Also, Tina LaPraim (132), Hadley Mathias won by 65 pounds. She Baird (165), Charlotte Gartner (165) and Adrianna Lambert (220) scratched.

TRACK AND FIELD

Aledo teams compete at tough Northwest meet

TCA season under way

By Rick Mauch

In what is annually one of the toughest meets around, the Aledo Bearcats and Ladvcats competed in the Northwest Texan Invitational on Friday, Feb. 28.

As a team, the Aledo boys placed third with 93 points, just two points behind runner-up Forney. Northwest Nelson won the meet with 140.

The Ladycats were fourth among the girls, scoring 86 points. Northwest Eaton was first with 129, Northwest was second with 116 and Nelson was third with 108.

Winning gold medals for the Bearcats were Trey Warner in the 400-meter dash, Braylon Brown in the pole vault, and the 4x400 relay.

Adam Averett took second in three events, the 110 and 300 hurdles, along with the pole vault. He set school records in both hurdles events, clocking a 14.72 in the 110 and 38.86 in the 300, and his vault of 15 feet was a personal record.

"He had a pretty incredible day," Bearcats coach Andrew Clark said.

The Bearcats posted three topfive finishes in the pole vault with Kantyn Kasich placing fourth.

Addison Smith captured the lone gold medal for the Ladycats, winning the 100. She was also second in the 200.

Micah Neal was runner-up in the 1600 and 3200, and Emma Ralph was second in the pole vault, which had a 2-3-4 Aledo finish with Maggie Kilburn and Claire Campbell, respectively.

"We were battling injury and some illness," Clark said. "We ran well, all things considered. The 4x400 relay put down a really good time (3;22.89) for this point in the season, and it wasn't even at full strength."

The Bearcats and Ladycats were hosting the Bearcat Relays at press time.

"This week we should be stronger than we have been all year. Getting some kids back off of injury and illness, and we should have a good showing at our home

be a marquee event this week with Adam and the phenom from Northwest High School both running in the event."

Northwest Texan Invitational

(Running distances in meters, field events in feet and inches)

Aledo Varsity Boys

Team score, 93, third place (NW Nelson 140, Forney 95) High Jump: 5. Isaac Brooks, 5-10. 400: 1. Trey Warner, 48.88. 800: 5. Jace Lay, 2:01.56. 1600: 5. Tyler Connelly, 4:32.81. 3200: 4. Connelly, 9:52.70; 5. Jack Fink, 9:56.84.

Brooks, 15.27.

300 Hurdles: 2. Averett. 38.86. 4x100 Relay: 5. Adrian Fuller, Kai Taylor, Lamel Swanson, Lincoln Tubbs, 43.45. 4x400 Relay: 1. Warner, Lay, Fuller, Tubbs, 3:22.89.

Pole Vault: 1. Braylon Brown, 16-6; 2. Averett, 15-0; 4. Kantyn Kasich, 13-6. Long Jump: 5. Brooks, 20-7.50.

Shot Put: 3. Carson Dempsey, 46-5.75.

Aledo Varsity Girls

Team score, 86, fourth place (NW Eaton 129, Northwest 116, NW Nelson 108) 100: 1. Addison Smith, 12.41. 200: 2. Smith, 25.55; 5. Alexa Plantz, 26.48.

400: 5. Sofia Brandenburg, 1:00.14. 100 Hurdles: 5. Savannah Thompson,

16.97. 800: 3. Brandenburg, 2:17.13; 4. Mykel Murry, 2:21.00.

1600: 2. Micah Neal, 5:19.58. 3200: 2. Neal, 11:33.37; 5. Madison Larsen, 12:06.57.

4x200 Relay: 6.Victoria Crews, Thompson, Edwards, Alexa Plantz,

4x400 Relay: 4.Mykel Murry, Mayden Mitchell, Brandenburg, Smith, 4:01.24. Pole Vault: 2. Emma Ralph, 11-6; 3. Maggie Kilburn, 11-6; 4. Claire Campbell,

Long Jump: 4. Sawyer Voight, 17-0.50. Triple Jump: 4. Victoria Crews, 33-9.25; 6. Savannah Thompson, 33-0.25.

Aledo JV Boys

Team score 107, second place (Eaton

200: 6. Gavin Richardson, 24.12. 800: 2. Dominick Barrera, 2:07.35; 5. Reed Murray, 2:09.38. 1600: 3. Ian Robbins, 4:50.91. 3200: 2. Robbins, 10:31.57; 6. Thatcher Pettit. 11:10.78.

110 Hurdles: 2. Briley Perkins, 16.61. meet," Clark said. "The 400 will 300 Hurdles: 5. Sky Bradford, 43.45; 6. Long Jump: 3. Huffman, 15-1.25.

Perkins, 43.88. 4x200 Relay: 1:35.71, fifth. 4x400 Relay: 3:43.17, fourth. High Jump: 2. Cooper Hull, 6-0.

Discus: 1. Jake Lancaster, 126-10; 2. Guliian Lara, 119-7. Shot Put: 1. Omari Din-Mbuh, 42-6.25; 2. Decker Sanders, 41-9.75; 4. Guliian Lara, 39-1.

Aledo JV Girls

Team score 38, seventh place. 1600: 2. Hadleigh Walton, 5:43.73. 3200: 1. Lilla Kovacs, 12:25.19; 5. Paula Redondo, 13:02.70.

Pole Vault: 1. Addie Fields, 10-0; 2. Kara Overstreet, 9-6.

110 Hurdles: 2. Adam Averett, 14.72; 6. TCA competes at **Oakridge**

The Trinity Christian Academy Eagles and Lady Eagles got the 2025 season going by competing in the Oakridge Opener on Thursday, Feb. 27. Their first two meets of the season at Temple Christian and Mineral Wells, were canceled because of cold weather.

Varsity Boys

400: 6. Jonas O'Dell, 58.33. 800: 5. O'Dell, 2:13.96.

1600: 3. Bo Merrill, 5:03.89. 3200: 1. Merrill, 10:55.38; 5. Harrison

Brown, 11:55.20; 6. Layne Parker, 12:43.18. 110 Hurdles: 1. Owen Coates, 15.49. 4x100 Relay: 2. William Saadeh, Teegan Thomas, Garrett Gough, Coates, 44.38. 4x200 Relay: 2. Saadeh, Coates,

Thomas, Gough, 1:34.61. 4x400 Relay: 2. Saadeh, Thomas, O'Dell, Gough, 3:41.14. Shot Put: 3. Kadin James, 42-3.25. Discus: 1. James, 154-8.

Long Jump: 3. Coates, 20-11. Triple Jump: 1. Gough, 42-1.75.

Varsity Girls

100: 5. Natalie O'Neal, 13.92. 400: 6. Emma Saadeh, 1:11.52. 800: 2. Saadeh, 2:41.20. 1600: 1. Saadeh, 6:10.95; 4. Ellery Wright, 7:05.35.

3200: 3. Wright, 14:39.06. 100 Hurdles: 3. Kami James, 19.61. 4x100 Relay: 3.Kaydee Hobbs, James, Avery Huffman, Natalie O'Neal, 55.55.

4x200 Relay: 3. Hobbs, O'Neal, James, Huffman, 2:01.25. Shot Put: 1. Addison Shoppach, 33-3.25. Discus: 1. Ella Cockrum, 133-1; 3.

Shoppach, 89-10; 5. Anna Nelson, 78-10. Pole Vault: 2. Paisley James, 7-10; 3. James, 7-10.

LADYCAT OF THE WEEK

Taylor McKean

Softball

In a week in which the Ladycats went 4-1, the senior pitcher began with a no-hitter in an 11-0 victory against Mesquite Horn, striking out a dozen and walking two in five innings. She ended the week pitching 16.1 innings, surrendering seven hits, two earned runs, striking out 31 and walking eight.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Lucas Nawrocki

Baseball

In seven games this past week, the junior collected six hits, including three doubles. He also walked five times and was hit by a pitch twice, along with driving in four runs. In addition he collected a pitching victory, tossing four innings, giving up a hit, one earned run with three walks and six strikeouts.

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THE COMMUNITY NEWS





BASKETBALL

Bearcats' Pacheco district MVP

Leads host of Aledo honors

By Rick Mauch

After leading his team to history, Aledo senior Joaquin Pacheco has been named the Most Valuable Player in District 5-5A by the league's coaches. He was a key element in the Bearcats winning the first district championship in the program's history.

Junior Townes VanHuysen was selected as the Newcomer of the Year.

The Aledo coaches, led by first-year head coach Brian Blackburn, were named the Coaching Staff of the Year.

The Bearcats finished 27-7 overall and 11-1 in district, advancing to bidistrict.

Enrique Pacheco, a junior and younger brother of Joaquin, was named to the first team. Second team accolades went to sophomore Caden Cunningham and senior Brett Barclay.

Receiving honorable mention were juniors Kaiden Clayborn, Dylan **Pipkins** and Carter Kinchen.

Academic all-district honors were earned by Cunningham, Barclay, Pipkins, along with managers Peyton Pritchard and Corbin Richwine, both juniors.



RYAN WADE PHOTOGRAPHY



Joaquin Pacheco

RYAN WADE PHOTOGRAPHY

Townes Vanhuysen

BASKETBALL

Ladycats garner all-district honors

Trio named first team

By Rick Mauch The Community News

Following another successful season with a deep postseason run, the Aledo Ladycats were once again well-represented in honors from the league's coaches on the All-District 5-5A Team.

And from the looks of things, there's plenty of reason to smile when looking ahead to next season as many of the players are returning.

First team selections were juniors Elizabeth Griffin and Tiara Butler, along with sophomore Brooklyn Dempsey.

In all, eight Ladycats were honored, including second team picks Kinley Elms and Ella Isbell, both seniors. Honorable mentions went to senior August Carlone. junior Brenna Clock and sophomore Kate Jackson.

The Ladvcats finished second in district with a 10-2 record. Overall, they were 23-12 and advanced to the Region I semifinals (third round) of the playoffs before being eliminated by Amarillo Tascosa.

Earning academic alldistrict accolades from Aledo were Carlone, Isbell, Elms, Butler, Griffin, Dempsey, Clock, Jackson senior Rebekah Jarrell, senior Peyton Flores, senior McKenna Sweatt, junior Jaylee Owens and junior Mesoma Emeka-Okoye.



RYAN WADE PHOTOGRAPHY **Brooklyn Dempsey**



Elizabeth Griffin



RYAN WADE PHOTOGRAPHY

Tiara Butler

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LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Marina Taveras

Softball

The senior led the Ladycats' offensive attack as they went 4-1 in the Forney Tournament this past weekend. She had seven hits, including a home run and three triples, and drove in five runs.

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