

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

SANCTIFIED HOPE

Boudreaus shares inspiring story of redemption

Elvis appears at Sanctified Hope dinner

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

The 50s-themed Sanctified Hope fundraiser gala March 25 included food, fun, and Elvis. However, the star of the evening was one of the organization's graduates.

Sanctified Hope is a faith-based transitional service for formerly incarcerated women to develop job skills and self-sufficiency. Participants are partnered with a personal mentor, participate in small groups, and are guided through programs to encourage self awareness, community consciousness, acceptance, and forgiveness.

Tiffany Boudreaus' father could not deal with his own issues and left the family when Boudreaus was young. After several imprisonments, she lost custody of her own children which were being raised by her mother. After several failures,



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Car enthusiast John Gordon looks at the modified V8 engine of a 1956 Ford F100 displayed by Parker County Cruisers at the Sanctified Hope fundraising banquet on March 25 at Willow Park Baptist Church. Gordon said his own first vehicle was a 1958 Olds 98.

Turn to HOPE, page 3

ANNETTA

Council hears presentation from Mother Nature

Works to finalize drought contingency plan

By Jim Zimmermann
The Community News

In front of a standing room only audience, members of the Parker County Master Gardeners gave everyone in attendance an informative presentation on native and adaptive vegetation at the Annetta Town Council meeting on March 20.

Gay Larson, a.k.a. "Mother Nature," is a well-established gardening fixture in Parker County. Gay and several members of the Master Gardeners shared their knowledge in a PowerPoint presentation as part of the council's meeting.

"It takes some work to educate yourself on when and where to place the right foliage that works," Larson said after the meeting. "If you need help, we are a phone call away or you can send a question through email."

For more information regarding the best Texas plant recommendations, visit annettatx.org for the entire presentation.

Also, the Master Gardeners will have plant sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 12 at Heritage Park Pavilion in Weatherford. It was noted that they grow their own plants in their greenhouse and these are not resell plants.

Drought contingency plan

After several in-depth discussions and continuous revisions to the proposal, council members are in the final stages of finalizing the plan. This is a crucial issue that will affect those who constantly exceed the 20,000-gallon limit during the several stages of the plan.

Mayor Sandy Roberts explained their due diligence in this matter:

"When we have residents that follow the requirements during the stages of the plan, this will not affect them. The plan is for those that have a record of constantly, month after month, ignoring the restrictions and putting a strain on the wells and equipment."

"By our next meeting, we will have the service fees for each tier that residents will be required to pay when exceeding the limits" council member Jim Causey said.



MADISON COOK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Editors-in-chief of this year's Aledo High School yearbook display the Golden Crown award they received at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association convention in New York. Shown are (from left) Avery Faulkner, Corah Satterfield, and Ella Flowers.

ALEDO ISD

Student journalists win Gold Crown

Visit New York to claim award

By Madison Cook
The Community News

After being nominated for the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) crown award recognizing excellent student publications, the Aledo High School yearbook staff received the highest award given: A golden crown. Aledo became one of 16 schools in the nation to receive this award for

their 2023-2024 yearbook "It's Just What We Do."

Aledo's yearbook editorial board attended the 101st Annual Spring Convention at Columbia University in New York City on March 19-21, where there were 240 different speakers and sessions students could choose to attend.

"We did not think we were ever going to make it to New York and be qualified for a gold crown," senior design editor Corah Satterfield said. "It was a dream. I felt very proud,

it was very encouraging to see our staff get so excited and know that we're one out of 16 schools."

When she learned nominations were being announced, senior content editor Ella Flowers was the first to know.

"You have to go into this organization knowing that you won't get the feeling of satisfaction or gratification until a year after the work you put in," Flowers said. "This was the first book that I felt I put a lot of

work into. This year I understand the significance of what it means."

Although not part of the yearbook, CTE coordinator Tim Rogers helped coordinate the trip.

"I was honored to be able to go behind the curtain and see not only what it required to even be selected for that award but to win a gold," Rogers said. "It's like an Emmy, you literally are the best of the best."

Disclosure: Madison Cook is a member of the AHS yearbook staff that was honored in New York.

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Kid Scoop Together Cookie Combos

Work with a friend to draw a line to connect each pair of identical cookies. Can you find the one unique cookie?




Standards Link: Science: Observation: Identify similarities & differences in common objects.

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VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
OPINION

The noun **opinion** means what one thinks or believes about something or somebody.

In my **opinion**, broccoli is the very best vegetable of them all.

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



Cooking Up Facts and Opinions



Hey, Eli! Want a chocolate chip cookie? I just made them!

Thanks, Jeff!

YEEEEECK!!

How much salt did you put in these cookies?

Just a glob or two!

Cooking with a recipe that uses measurements everyone understands helps to recreate a food dish that tastes similar each time it is cooked.

Which of the following measurements are always the same factual amount? **Do the math.** Ones with even answers are **facts**. Odd answers are **opinions**.

Standards Link: Math: Identify standard measurements.

FACTS are pieces of information based upon things that can be measured, counted or seen by anyone.

OPINIONS describe how someone feels or thinks about a thing or event. They can vary from person to person.

How Much is a Glob?

Ask friends to tell you how big a glob is. Color one space for each person's answer to graph the results.

The size of a pea	The size of a golf ball	A few spoonfuls	About a handful

- 5 + 5 = Teaspoon

4 + 8 = Tablespoon

2 + 2 = Cup

7 + 7 = ¼ cup

3 + 2 = Glob

9 + 6 = Smidgeon

5 + 6 = Dollop
- 8 + 8 = Quart

1 + 2 = Pinch

7 + 6 = Dash

1 + 1 = Gallon

3 + 4 = Morsel

8 + 2 = Ounce

3 + 6 = Tad

Food Truck Facts

Heroes on the Go is a popular sandwich food truck. Read what each customer is saying. Circle the statements that are **FACTS** in **GREEN**. Circle the **OPINIONS** in **RED**.



I think they make the very best sandwiches in the world!

They use organic veggies on all their sandwiches.

The *Heroes on the Go* truck stops at this spot every Tuesday and Thursday.

They make a **great** grilled cheese sandwich that you'll love!

The owner has another food truck named *Cool Wheels* that sells smoothies.

The chili and soups they make are even better than the sandwiches!

There's a *Heroes on the Go* buy one/get one coupon in the newspaper each week.

The turkey sandwiches are \$9.95 each.

The prices at this food truck are not bad at all!

Extra! Extra!

Fun Facts

Look through today's newspaper for five facts. List the facts and circle any you think are fun to know. Whether or not the fact is fun would be your opinion.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use different genres to locate facts and opinions.


Standards Link: Language Arts: Differentiate between fact and opinion.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Look at the picture of the ice cream sundae. Write one **FACT** and one **OPINION** about the picture.

FACT:

OPINION:



Standards Link: Language Arts: Use different genres to locate facts and opinions.

Double Double Word Search

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

G	S	R	E	C	I	P	E	S	Q
T	L	A	S	C	Q	W	J	A	C
R	G	O	N	U	O	F	V	M	H
A	F	R	B	D	P	O	B	E	E
U	V	A	A	U	W	Q	K	M	E
Q	L	J	C	P	Z	I	M	I	S
L	E	R	Y	T	H	Q	C	T	E
D	L	R	O	W	S	N	Q	H	T
H	O	P	I	N	I	O	N	S	Y

Word List:

BALL
CHEESE
COOKIE
CUP
FACTS
GLOB
GRAPH
OPINIONS
QUART
RECIPE
SALT
SAME
SANDWICH
TIME
WORLD

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



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HOPE

from page one

Boudreaus realized she was not going to change on her own and sought out Sanctified Hope.

The audience listened motionless as she described her journey from being helpless with no direction in life after five incarcerations to being a confident, responsible and caring individual.

“It took work, but it changed my life,” Boudreaus said. “The women were so welcoming and the staff was so helpful. It all just came to the point where I finally accepted me as me.”

Boudreaus lived and worked in a group of four formerly incarcerated clients and had a session with a mentor once a week. One by one, the other clients of her group dropped out.

“I might have been alone, but I knew the Lord was with me,” she told the audience. “The greatest thing I learned was to make peace with my past, to forgive myself. My dad left when I was very young and now he is my best friend. He had addictions and problems he had to deal with and I learned to forgive him.”

Fun and fundraising

The event at Willow Park Baptist Church started with a parking lot classic car show by the Parker County Cruisers. The auto group does multiple car shows in the county and donates the proceeds to the charity of various member's choice. The group has donated \$17,000 to Parker County charities this year and presented members of Sanctified Hope with a check for \$1,000, which was member Red Waller's charity of choice.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Jo Warren of Grace House Ministries and Sanctified Hope founder Janet Duval show off their 50s-style poodle skirts before the banquet.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Event emcee September James hugs Sanctified Hope graduate Tiffany Boudreaus after Boudreaus shared her journey of transformation and redemption with the audience.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Parker County Cruisers member Red Waller, center with cowboy hat, presents a check for \$1,000 to Sanctified Hope workers and volunteers. Parker County Cruisers president James Logan stands behind Waller for the presentation.

“We do this all over Parker County,” Waller said. “Members come up with charity suggestions and we all vote on where we will go next.”

James Logan, who has been president of Parker County Cruisers for six years, said the group has operated this way for more than 30 years.

A silent auction and banquet drew guests to the fundraiser and Elvis entertainer Harvey McFadden from Anson, Texas, entertained the mostly 50s dressed crowd.



To make donations or obtain information about Sanctified Hope, call 817-901-5446, email info@sanctifiedhope.org, or visit www.sanctifiedhope.org.

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Jessica Hals, DO, FACO
Medical Oncology

817-759-7000 npc@txcc.com thecentertx.com

920 Santa Fe Dr • Weatherford, Texas 76086

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Mail:
P.O. Box 1031, Aledo, TX 76008

Physical:
1015 Champions Drive, Aledo, TX

Phone:
817-441-7661

Web:
www.community-news.com

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com
Direct Line: 817-386-1469

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Loydale Schmid
lschmid@community-news.com
Direct Line: 817-386-1467

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Joanna Hardy
business@community-news.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Tate Shephard
business@community-news.com

B2B MARKETING

Jacie Rich
jrich@community-news.com

REPORTING

Christopher Amos
camos@community-news.com

Candy McMichen
cmcmichen@community-news.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Christopher Amos - Features/Photography
Kathy Chruscielski - Photography
John English - Features
Geoff Heppes - Sports
Laura Finer - Page Design
Rick Mauch - News and Sports
Breleigh Mayer - Photography
Kristin Morales - Photography
Ryan Wade - News and Sports
Jim Zimmermann - News and Sports

CONTACT POINTS

Billing
billing@community-news.com
Pay bills at community-news.com/billpay/

Ad Design Materials
production@community-news.com

Purchase Advertising
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Legal Notices
legal@community-news.com

Subscription Questions
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Announcements, News, Obituaries
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Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph.

The Community News does not charge for time-ly 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

Senate backs prayer time, Ten Commandments in classrooms



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Senate last week passed a bill to disperse TPWD's various duties but did not respond to requests for comment on what spurred filing the bill.

Under his proposal, the land office would take over parks, natural areas, wildlife management areas, fish hatcheries, historic sites, and other public land. The agriculture department would be in charge of conservation and management of native plants and wildlife, as well as hunting and fishing. DPS would manage all law enforcement duties, such as game wardens.

Employees of TPWD would be transferred to the agencies overseeing the new duties. TPWD sent an emailed statement, saying in part: "Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proud of the important role our agency plays in managing Texas land and waters in coordination with our partners and private landowners to provide for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation. Our 89 state parks welcome more than 9 million visitors each year."

State Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, questioned whether the bill violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

SB10 would require a copy of the Ten Commandments to be displayed in every classroom. A similar measure in Louisiana has been temporarily blocked by a federal judge.

Bill filed to abolish Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

A Waco lawmaker has filed a bill to abolish the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and

transfer its duties to the Texas General Land Office, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Public Safety, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

State Rep. Pat Curry, R-Waco, filed the bill to disperse TPWD's various duties but did not respond to requests for comment on what spurred filing the bill.

Under his proposal, the land office would take over parks, natural areas, wildlife management areas, fish hatcheries, historic sites, and other public land. The agriculture department would be in charge of conservation and management of native plants and wildlife, as well as hunting and fishing. DPS would manage all law enforcement duties, such as game wardens.

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Paxton mulling run against Cornyn in 2026

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is raising money for a possible primary challenge against U.S. Sen. John Cornyn next year, the *Chronicle* reported.

"I think I can win if I have \$20 million," Paxton, 62, told *Punchbowl News*.

Cornyn, 73, spent more than \$36 million on his 2020 successful reelection campaign and had \$4 million in his campaign account when the year began. He is completing his fourth six-year term as a U.S. senator.

While Cornyn has never won less than 75% in previous Senate primaries, Paxton says he's vulnerable.

"I think it's just time," Paxton said. "He's had his chance. He hasn't performed well and the

voters know it. You can go a long time without people paying attention, and they're paying attention now."

Bill seeks to improve state's wildfire response

A Panhandle legislator whose district and his own property were affected by last year's wildfire that burned more than 1 million acres has filed a bill to create a statewide system connecting all first responders and government agencies to the same network, The *Texas Tribune* reported.

State Rep. Ken King, R-Canadian, filed House Bill 13 earlier this month. It would create The Texas Interoperability Council, which would be charged with creating a statewide plan for the use of emergency equipment and infrastructure.

King led an investigative committee last year after the wildfires.

"The first responder community will tell you it takes three meetings in the middle of a disaster before everybody starts moving in the same direction," King said. "When that wildfire is moving 60 miles per hour, that's too long."

A similar measure has been filed in the Senate.

As of Sunday, the Texas A&M Forest Service was assisting with 3 active wildfires. The largest was the Pauline Road Fire in San Jacinto County, consuming 2,421 acres and 65% contained. Currently, 147 counties have burn bans in place.

Measles cases now top 300 in state

The number of confirmed measles cases in Texas now totals 309 as of Friday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, with 40 hospitalizations and one fatality.

Of that number, 211 have been in Gaines County, in West Texas. All but two of those contracting the disease were not vaccinated, according to DSHS.

Declining childhood vaccination rates have left parts of the state vulnerable to a measles outbreak, Dr. Peter Hotez told the *Chronicle* last week. Hotez is the co-director of the Center for Vaccine Development at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. He said he expects the outbreak will continue to grow due to an increase in non-medical vaccine exemptions among Texas children over the past decade.

"It's like a hurricane passing over warm Caribbean waters," Hotez said. "As long as there's warm Caribbean waters — in this case, large populations of unvaccinated kids — this epidemic is going to continue."

Two-thirds of the reported cases are in children under the age of 17.

Case against state immigration law dropped by DOJ, but others continue their suit

The U.S. Justice Department has dropped its lawsuit against a 2023 state law that allowed local and state law enforcement to arrest and deport undocumented migrants, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. However, El Paso County and two migrant advocacy groups are continuing their case, which is set for trial on July 8.

The law has been blocked from being enforced by multiple rulings until the trial is concluded.

Under former President Joe Biden, the Justice Department sued Texas, arguing the federal government is solely responsible for enforcing federal immigration laws.

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

Idle American

The only constant is change



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

The ballyhoo about "no free lunches" was first bandied about in the 1880s and today, Southwest Airlines' "bags fly free" death bell is on the verge of gonging.

Long known for allowing passengers to check two pieces of luggage "free," SWA is altering its policy and there's more story-spinning underway than a 10-year-old pulling the string from a new top.

Policy changes confuse mere mortals, but a couple of truths are emerging: SWA stockholders expect stronger returns on their investments, and the uniqueness of the "airline that LUV built" will occur again only when pigs fly, if then.

Researching the "no free lunches" thing is mind-boggling, but really nothing new. One 1880 come-on offered "free" lunches with alcohol purchases — *if* enough of the devil's brew was ordered. Asterisks explaining

detailed restrictions have been with us forever.

Josephine Pollard's poem "Somebody Pays" — written more than a century ago — seems to "fit" today as well, reading: "Free lunches, free passes, they have at command, Rich gifts that to others are lost, And gaily they feast on the fat of the land, And travel regardless of cost. But for all the fine banquets, The wear and the tear, Of public or private displays, Though you may go free, 'tis as sure as can be, That somebody pays."

I commend SWA story-spinners for their efforts to help the medicine go down.

The two best-known figures in SWA history — co-founder Herb Kelleher and Colleen Barrett, first woman president of a major airline — might have fought to the death for the "bags fly free" policy, working into the night until their eyes either crossed and/or had bags under them. But, circumstances change. Sadly, the current "hubbub" is symbolic of our overall cultural funk: Instead of "something special in the air," we're gripped by "something dismal in despair." Oh, 'tis true, 'tis true.

SWA social media folks are churning out messages at warp speed for damage control. No doubt, they preferred bygone days when their aim was to keep

SWA in the news and off the front page. I still consider it the airline of choice, as long as my SWA credit card allows me to check one bag free. (It'll be packed to the last ounce.)

All this airline stuff lead me to aviation research once more. I've learned that the first motor-powered flight faced the prospect of splashing down rather than gliding in, since Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, is in fact on an island.

The Wright brothers' first "flight" spanned 120 feet and finished 12 seconds later, having attained an altitude of eight feet!

Taking turns in the pilot's seat, Wilbur and Orville completed a total of four flights on that December day in 1903, the final one climbing to 20 feet and measuring almost a thousand feet. Alas, the plane sustained damage each flight, winding up on the scrap heap at day's end.

Further, I learned about Brown County aviation history. I lived there for 40 years, remembering four flights daily by Trans Texas Airways, its DC-3 "blue goose" flying over our farm home in the 1950s.

Planes flew there as early as 1913. The postal department approved "Route Number 650.003, 'aeroplane' mail service between Brownwood and Comanche," 25 miles away, during the four-day "Brownwood

Free Fall Fair" in October, 1913. Katherine Stinson, then the world's youngest aviator, carried passengers "up into the clouds" for \$25. (Free Fall?)

Numerous airlines served Brownwood for some four decades, ending in the late 1980s when government subsidies helping remote airports to attract scheduled airline service dried up. For about 20 years, Trans Texas Airways' flight schedules included daily service from Brownwood to San Angelo and Dallas. Later, the company name changed to Texas International Airlines. Still, playful TTA monikers abounded, including "tree-top airlines, tinker toy airlines and trick-or-treat airlines" (a trick to get on and a treat to get off).

One last thing: Rumor has it that some Southwest Airlines flight attendants are claiming "at least we didn't fire Luka."

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



FLOTUS SOCIAL MEDIA

Elliston Berry is seated to the left of First Lady Melania Trump at the First Lady’s Round Table concerning Take It Down.

TAKE IT DOWN ACT

Aledo teen instrumental in premiere regulatory AI legislation

Deepfake porn victims empowered

By Candy McMichen
The Community News

Elliston Berry could never have imagined being in the gallery during President Donald Trump’s recent address to Congress.

In choosing to fight the cyberbully who posted pornographic AI images of her and eight friends, she was sitting on First Lady Melania Trump’s left.

“Incredible!” was how Elliston described the evening.

The Aledo High School sophomore was just 14 years old the morning of October 2, 2023, when she woke up to find her world had been turned upside down. Her mortification could not have been more swift or complete.

“I didn’t know how to tell my parents, what do I say?”

But her mother, Anna McAdams, said she knew Elliston’s heart, and knew the images were false.

“We were completely shattered,” her mother recalled.

It took a couple of days for Elliston to decide what to do.

Stay out of school for a while? Change schools?

She chose to stay in her high school and fight, with the complete support of family and friends.

“I could not let him win,” Elliston said of her abuser.

The male student responsible for the images is on probation and will have his record expunged when he turns 18.



FLOTUS SOCIAL MEDIA

Elliston Berry is seated to the left of First Lady Melania Trump and Texas Senator Ted Cruz at the First Lady’s Round Table concerning Take It Down. Berry met several national dignitaries during the process.

“We never had our day in court,” McAdams said, “it never even made it to the DA. He will simply walk away, while our girls will always live in fear that these images may reappear.”

After testifying before Congress in June, 2024, Elliston won the support of Senators Ted Cruz (R - Texas) and Amy Klobuchar (D - Minnesota).

Cruz introduced the S.146 “Take It Down” bill to Congress in January 2025. It recently passed both Houses of Congress.

Working closely with Cruz’s office, Elliston was instrumental in the legislation’s inception and completion.

The bipartisan bill criminalizes the malicious use of AI, while empowering deepfake revenge porn

victims. It requires AI pornographic images to be removed from the internet within 48 hours of being reported.

Attending the First Lady’s Round Table concerning Take It Down, Elliston met Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, Border Czar Mike Holman, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Klobuchar.

“Senator Klobuchar is who told the First Lady about me and our efforts,” Elliston said, “Because of Mrs. Trump’s “Be Best” campaign during her first term, Senator Klobuchar though she’d be interested in getting behind us.”

Be Best focuses on the well-being of youth and fighting cyberbullying, which includes revenge porn, and

has been restarted during Trump’s second tenure.

Always interested in becoming a therapist, Elliston says her experience has only caused to affirm her intention, but is also considering law school. When asked if politics were out of the question, she grinned with an emphatic, “No!”

Elliston’s abuser ultimately left school, so her days are a bit brighter than when he was still enrolled.

She is looking forward to returning to Washington DC to be in attendance when President Trump signs her Take It Down bill into legislation.



Screen capture
Aledo’s Elliston Berry is shown with First Lady Melania Trump at President Trump’s Joint Address to Congress.

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Looking Ahead



Master Gardeners Plant Sale

The Parker County Master Gardeners will hold their annual plant sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, at the Heritage Park Pavilion, 317 Santa Fe Drive in Weatherford.

Plants suitable for the local climate will be available for sale, and members of the Parker County Master Gardeners will be on site

to offer suggestions and advice. Proceeds are used to fund local projects and grants. Cash and checks only accepted.

Parker County Master Gardeners Association in a non-profit organization affiliated with the Texas Master Gardeners through Texas A&M AgriLife. Its mission is “to provide the best horticultures practices appropriate for our county.”



Taste of Parker County

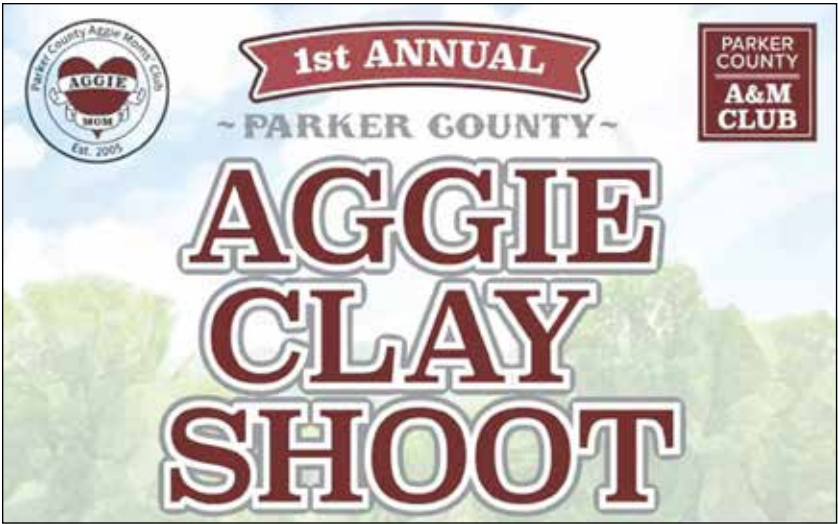
Weatherford College will host the annual Taste of Parker County from 4:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, at Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Drive in Weatherford.

Food vendors from around Parker County will provide samples of their food and beverages

and will compete for awards based on community feedback.

Tickets are \$40 through April 14 and \$45 on April 15. Proceeds benefit the Weatherford College Foundation. Rain date is April 22.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit <https://wc.edu/about/foundation/taste.php>.



Parker County Aggie Clay Shoot

The inaugural Parker County Aggie Clay Shoot will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at Defender Outdoors Clay Sports Ranch, 8270 Aledo Road in Fort Worth.

Sponsored by the Parker County Aggie Moms’ Club, sponsorships ranging from \$300 to Title Sponsorship for \$5,000.

Proceeds benefit Parker County Aggie sponsorships. For sponsorship information, visit parkercomoms.membershiptool-kit.com/ClayShoot.

Mayfest returns to Fort Worth

FORT WORTH, TX — Mayfest, the city’s largest community celebration, will return to Trinity Park for its 53rd year, bringing four days of art, entertainment, food, and family-friendly activities. The festival will run from Thursday, May 1, through Sunday, May 4, 2025.

Mayfest is an annual event featuring seven stages of entertainment, carnival rides, performing arts, and more than 135 art and gift market vendors. The festival is expected to attract more than 125,000 attendees. The festival will offer more than 20 free children’s activities and special attractions, making it a favorite among families.

Mayfest will kick off on Thursday, May 1, from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with free admission for all. On Friday, May 2, the event will offer free admission

for seniors 65+ from 3:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Military personnel and three family members can enjoy free admission every day of the festival. The festival will also offer free admission for all during the first hour each day.

WHY: To celebrate the Trinity River and give the community a central location to get out in nature, make memories, celebrate the arts, learn about community programs and raise awareness and funds for great causes.

Festival Schedule

- Thursday, May 1 3:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. (Free Admission for All)
- Friday, May 2 3:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. (Free Admission for Seniors 65+)
- Saturday, May 3 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Sunday, May 4 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mary Grace King drew the winning entry for the grand prize — a choice of a golf car or \$10,000, at the Aledo Community Lions CLub Charity Dinner on March 25. More coverage of the dinner will be in next week’s issue.

WERE YOU THERE DURING THE BIG HAIL STORM OF 1995?

Monday, May 5, will be the 30th anniversary of what the National Weather Service called at the time, “The costliest hailstorm in the history of the U.S.” It caused more than \$2 billion in damage.

North Texas endured the assault on that day, and The Community News will recap some of the local details from the storm to commemorate the event. If you have personal photos of damage or a story to share, please send them to news@community-news.com by April 11 and include a phone number where we may contact you.



Local students named to ACU fall ‘24 dean’s honor roll

Abilene Christian University announced dean’s honor roll students for the fall 2024 semester. Students earn dean’s honor roll recognition by achieving a 3.6 or higher GPA while enrolled in at least 12 credit hours.

Local honorees include:

Lane Voskamp, a junior Art major from Aledo.

Kasey Newsome, a senior Communication major from Willow Park.

Corbin Moses, a sophomore Music-Teaching (Instrumental) major from Aledo.

Rachael Shields, a junior Music-Teaching (Instrumental) major from Weatherford.

Katie Hall, a sophomore Criminal Justice major from Weatherford.

Amanda White, a sophomore Criminal Justice major from Weatherford.

Erin Abels, a sophomore Middle School Education major from Aledo.

Austin Pope, a sophomore Finance major from Aledo.

Elijah Cockerill, a sophomore Finance major from Weatherford.

Carson Finney, a sophomore Finance major from Millsap.

Luke Harrison, a junior Finance major from Weatherford.

Abbi Mathis, a junior Finance major from Weatherford.

Jack Sawyer, a sophomore Finance major from Aledo.

Avery Cottrell, a senior Child and Family Services major from Weatherford.

Lindy Suss, a sophomore Communication Disorders major from Aledo.

Meghan Young, a sophomore Communication Disorders major from Aledo.

Emma Bundy, a junior Kinesiology major from Aledo.

Margaret Cowley, a junior Kinesiology major from Aledo.

Vincent Luffey, a sophomore Kinesiology major from Aledo.

Abigail Shields, a senior Nutrition major from Weatherford.

Alyssa Puga, a freshman Nursing major from Springtown.

Claire Turner, a sophomore Nursing major from Aledo.

Hayven Drinnon, a senior Communication Disorders major from Weatherford.

Amanda Herrera, a senior Psychology major from Springtown.

Autumn McMinn, a sophomore Psychology major from Weatherford.

Ashley Pepper, a junior Psychology major from Springtown.

Lemuel Robbins, a senior Psychology major from Aledo.

Azucena Ibarra, a senior Criminal Justice major from Weatherford.

Taylor Prestage, a freshman Biology major from Aledo.

Will Snead, a junior Biochemistry major from Aledo.

Tyler Reyes, a sophomore Electrical Engineering major from Weatherford.

Jayden Smith, a senior Electrical Engineering major from Weatherford.



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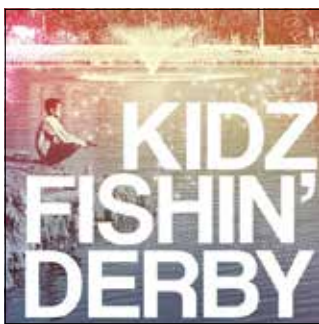
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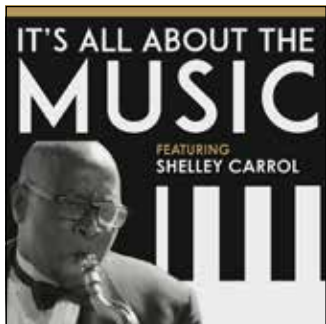
MARCH 29
Aledo Spring Fling Craft Fair and Market Expo
The Aledo Spring Fling will be from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on March 29 at the Aledo High School.
Come and shop creative quality craft vendors and market vendors who have everything to share with you from wood crafts and paper goods to beauty, floral, and boutique products! Proceeds benefit the Junior Class at Aledo High School every year.



19th Annual Glow Run
Get ready to GLOW! Join us for the Aledo AdvoCats Glow Run, Walk and Crawl—a night full of fun, fitness, and flashing lights! 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/advocats-rwc2025>



Kids Fishin' Derby 2025
Weatherford will host the Kids Fishin' Derby 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 29 at 1419 Holland Lake Road in Weatherford. Open to those aged 15 and younger, the free event promises a morning of fishing, friendly competition, awesome prizes, and expert tips from the pros. Just bring your fishing poles. For more information, visit <https://www.experienceweatherford.com/events/2025/>



APRIL 3
It's All About the Music
Weatherford College will host "It's All About the Music" featuring Shelley Carroll from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, at the Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building. For more information, email Duane Durrett at ddurrett@wc.edu or call 817-598-6222.

APRIL 8
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.



Food Park Lounge Night
Get ready to spice up your evening with the ultimate blend of flavors, tunes, and good vibes at the Food Park Lounge Night from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8 at the Heritage Park Food Park in Weatherford. Indulge in a culinary adventure as carefully-curated food vendors serve up their delicious food, while live bands set the soundtrack for a great night. Admission is free.

APRIL 10
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.

ACROSS

1 TX "Babe" helped found this female pro golf org. (abbr.)

5 shootin' or brandin'

6 Garza County seat

7 TXism: "he's ___ tight he squeaks when he walks"

8 sun baked

9 Alamo book: "13 ___ Glory"

15 TX Mary Kay Ash's white poodle

16 TX Benton directed "___ Kramer"

18 "Grand ___ jumps

22 TXism: "___ in your pipe and smoke it"

27 Branch Davidians of 1993, e.g.

28 as a boy, Troy Aikman carried buckets ___ for pigs on the farm

29 an Aikman throw

30 TXism: "he's an ___ at it" (experienced)

32 "Burn" Phillips

33 TXism: "if it ain't true there ain't ___ in Texas"

36 Gen. Robert ___

37 TXism: "___ pilot" (preacher)

38 TX Tigua Indian Reservation event: dance

39 TXism: "never in all my ___" (never seen it)

41 what TX Phil Gramm gave up (2 wds.)

44 ___ Park, TX

45 ___ Leon, TX

46 7-11's "Big ___"

47 Gov. Richards and TX actress Harding

48 avoidable

51 TXism: "___ pen" (hospital)

52 Abilene univ. (abbr.)

53 TX-sized cell phone co.

54 dir. to Livingston from Grapeland

DOWN

1 TXism: "couldn't lick his upper ___" (weak)

2 28-across as a QB

3 ex-Ranger hurler "Goose"

4 community school in "Alamo City": San ___

8 a TX Janis Joplin group: "Full-___ Boogie Band"

9 TXism: "so ___ are sprinkling"

10 Marlin High class

11 Yvette who starred with TX Tommy Lee in "Jackson County Jail" (init.)

12 sacrifice desires (hyph.)

13 TX ZZ Top album: "___ Hombres"

14 Texas Motor Speedway track shape

15 what Cowboys didn't cross often in 2024 (2 wds.)

16 Dallas news AM

17 TXism: "___ a mother-in-law on a long visit"

19 TXism: "___ yourself up by the bootstraps"

21 "fixes" a female dog

22 40th governor, Preston (init.)

23 TXism: "run ___ white flag"

24 classic western "The ___ Star" with TX Mary Webster

25 horse gaits

26 TX Gene Autry's "That Silver-___ Daddy of Mine"

28 classic car plate: "1 ___"

31 TXism: "got ___ of corn to shuck"

34 intl. boxing org.

35 TXism: "put on the feed bag"

37 cut lumber

40 TXism: "now you've gone and ___ it"

42 popular family vehicle (abbr.)

43 5th governor, Pease

49 severe situation

50 TX-born Kowalski, director of the 2nd "Columbo" (init.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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more information, call James Brownlee at 817-598-8922 or email jbrownlee@wc.edu.

Texas A&M AgriLife.

APRIL 15
Taste of Parker County
Prepare your taste buds for the 2025 Taste of Parker County hosted by the Weatherford College Foundation from 4:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15 at Heritage Park 317 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, TX. Buy tickets at the gate or online at <https://wc.edu/about/foundation/taste.php>

APRIL 17
Medicare Class
A Benefits Advisor explains Medicare Services at the Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles Street. Class begins at 10 a.m.



APRIL 11
The 39 Steps
Weatherford College Fine Arts will present The 39 Steps, a film noir/mystery comedy, from 7-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, at the Alkek Fine Arts Center, 239 College Park Drive in Weatherford. For

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Find Kid Scoop on Page 11!

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Food Advertisements

Find one or more ads in the newspaper that advertise food or a restaurant or a business that sells food. Circle any facts in the ads in green. Circle any opinions in the ads in red. Are there more facts or opinions?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify facts and opinions.

What is a ghost's favorite treat?

ANSWER: Ghoul Scout cookies.

Write On!

Classroom News

Write a paragraph telling about something that happened in your classroom.

SOCCER

Aledo teams stunned in bi-district playoffs

Birdville, Richland stymie 'Cats advancement

By Ryan Wade
The Community News

FORT WORTH - After winning their respective districts, both the Bearcat and Ladycat soccer clubs seemed poised to make a deep run in the playoffs. Unfortunately, it was not to be as both teams were upset in the bi-district round on Thursday, March 20, at Farrington Field.

The Ladycats had a tough matchup as they entered the post-season by drawing a physical Birdville team. The Lady Hawks dominated Aledo in terms of physicality, time of possession, and shots on goal. But with every attempt to make Aledo lose their will to fight, the Ladycats responded.

"I give credit to [the Lady Hawks]," Ladycats head coach Bryan Johnson said after the match. "They were good tonight. We stood up to it and did what we could. I was very impressed. May have been one of the best games we've played this season defensively, and just the grit, the performance, and the fight. As hard as [the Ladycats] went, they were playing for each other."

Despite struggling to maintain possession of the ball, Aledo managed to get on the scoreboard first. Ainsley Elmore raced down the field



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Dismayed, Emery Thompson walks off the pitch as Birdville celebrates in the background after edging out the Ladycats in a shootout, 3-2.

along with a pair of Birdville center backs after a loose ball. The Lady Hawks keeper came out from her station to kick the ball back towards midfield, but misplayed it whiffing at the ball. As the ball trickled behind her, Elmore took out after

the open goal. With a hand full of Elmore's jersey, the Lady Hawks defenders tried with all their might to hold her back preventing the easy score. Sheer iron will and an unwavering determination allowed Elmore to reach the ball first as she

got just enough on it to send it into the net with 8:24 left in the first half.

Aledo went into the half leading 1-0 despite being overrun by a bigger and more physical Birdville squad. That changed in the early

moments of the second half as the Lady Hawks tied up the match 1-1 with a goal less than four minutes after play resumed.

Birdville played tough around the ball, but also took a number of

Turn to **SOCCER**, page 9

POWERLIFTING

Area lifters compete at state

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Five area boys powerlifters ended their season advancing as far as a competitor can go as they were among the participants at the Texas High School Powerlifting Association Boys State Meet at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene on Saturday, March 22.

Weatherford's Talan Tart posted the top finish among area lifters. He placed sixth in the 275-pound weight class, lifting a total of 1,725 pounds.

Fellow Kangaroo Ryan Ekberg finished 20th in the 148 class, lifting 1,270 pounds.

Leading Aledo lifters was Kruger Summers, who was 22nd in the 275 division. He lifted 1,625 pounds.

Chase Wilburn of the Bearcats placed 25th in the 220 weight class with 1,505 pounds lifted. Also, Anthony Flowers' 1,505 pounds lifted placed him 33rd in the 242 division.

"Great meet. All lifters had their highest total weight of year at an extremely difficult meet," Aledo coach Brad McCone said. "Extremely proud of these athletes."

LADYCAT OF THE WEEK



Audrey Obana
Soccer

In a yeoman effort, the freshman goalkeeper turned away 16 shots during regulation and overtime, along with two in a shootout as the Ladycats' season ended with a shootout loss to Birdville after the teams ended regulation tied at 1.

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BEARCAT OF THE WEEK



Braden Stokes
Golf

The junior posted a career low for tournament play as he shot a 7-under-par 65 at Squaw Valley Golf Course in the Glen Rose Invitational. He won the individual championship and the Bearcats Black team placed second.

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TENNIS

Racquet Cats open season strong

Compete at two tough tourneys

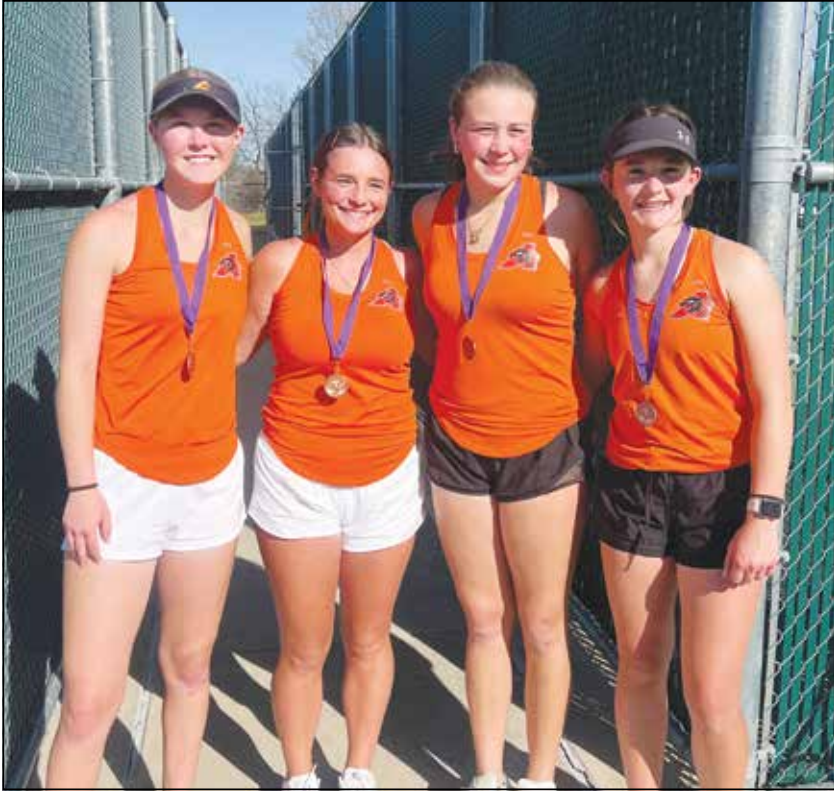
By Kelly Dishman
The Community News

It was another strong day of competition for the Aledo varsity tennis team at the Denton Bronco Varsity tournament held on Friday, March 21. The tournament is an invitational with more than 15 high schools.

Facing fierce competition, Aledo earned medals in seven divisions.

Lila Satterfield competed in Girls Singles A and finished third by sweeping Irving MacArthur (6-0, 6-0), fell in a hard-fought tie-break set against Argyle (6-1, 4-6, 0-1) in the semifinals, and finished with a strong win against Abilene Cooper (6-3, 6-3).

Eleanor Jack and Gracie Heydman earned another third-place finish in Girls Doubles A by defeating Longview (7-6, 6-4), lost in another hard-fought tie-break to Flower Mound (6-3, 1-6, 0-1) but bounced back to defeat Argyle in an additional tie-break set (7-5, 5-6, 1-0).



KELLY DISHMAN

(From left) Eleanor Jack and Gracie Heydman finished third among Girls A Doubles at a tournament in Denton, while Bailey Martin and Vivian Beeby placed third among Girls C Doubles.

Another third-place win was earned by Bailey Martin and Vivian Beeby in Girls Doubles C

Turn to **TENNIS**, page 11

Sports

Online Exclusives



Get this week's baseball and softball coverage exclusively at community-news.com/sports



The Community News

SPORTS BRIEFS

By: Rick Mauch
The Community News

BASEBALL
Parker County teams state-ranked

The Aledo Bearcats and Brock Eagles are once again ranked in the top 10 in their respective classifications by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association as the week began. Aledo (12-4 at the start of the week) is No. 7 in Class 5A and Brock (11-1) is No. 3 in Class 4A

TCA off to .500 start

Through their first eight games of the 2025 season, the Trinity Christian Academy Eagles are 4-4 overall and 1-2 in TAPPS Division

III District 1. They were hosting district leader Lake Country Christian at press time and visit public school Class 6A Grand Prairie Saturday, March 29 at 2 p.m.

BASKETBALL

WC teams advance to regionals The Weatherford College Coyotes and Lady Coyotes each qualified for the NJCAA Region V Tournament in Waco recently. The Coyotes won their opening game in the tourney, defeating No. 18 nationally ranked Midland College 58-56 on a buzzer beating basket before falling 72-57 to No. 8 South Plains to end the season at 19-12.

More at community-news.com/sports

SOCCER

from page eight

liberties with Ladycats away from the ball throughout the contest. After numerous warnings by the officiating crew, the yellow cards finally came out of the pocket in the second half. The Lady Hawks picked up a pair of yellow cards along the way as Aledo continued to battle through all Birdville dished out.

With time winding down in regulation the Ladycats suffered two critical injuries. The first was a calf injury to Aledo's leading scorer, Ally Weimer. She was unable to return during the two extra periods, but did make a goal during the shootout.

Minutes later Elmore also went down with a leg cramp, temporarily sidelining the Ladycats' other major scoring threat. She battled the injury the rest of the match, including the two overtime periods. She also made a shot in the shootout to keep the Ladycats' hopes alive.

Birdville took 22 shots throughout the contest with freshman Ladycat keeper Audrey "Stonewall" Obana stopping 16-of-17 shots on goal. The only one that managed to make through Obana's defense ended up being the goal the Lady Hawks needed to push the match to extra time.

"We played 100 minutes of soccer and probably had one of the best keeper performances since, I don't know when," said Johnson of Obana's performance. "I thought we were gonna win that one just with what she was doing. That was impressive! She did everything but score a goal for us. That would've

easily been three or four to one if it wasn't for the job she did."

After two overtime periods and 100 total minutes of soccer, it came down to a shootout. Obana made a pair of stops to give the Ladycats a chance to stay in it with their final kick. Unfortunately, the ball ricocheted off the far post as the Lady Hawks advanced to the Area Finals.

"The girls played lights out," Johnson said with a crack in his voice as the emotions began to seep in. "It just wasn't meant to be. I really felt like coming in, we matched up so well. One, one was a great scoreline."

Hanging it up

With the conclusion of the 2025 playoff run, Johnson announced his retirement effective at the end of the school year.

"I'm done," he said overcome with emotions. "That was it. It's tough, but the retirement is in. I'm gonna do it. It's the time to go. These girls need another voice. They need somebody that can take them to that next level. I'm not saying I can't, but things are changing. Schools are changing. It's time. I'm lucky to have been here as long as I have. It's been an incredible run. But here we are, at the end."

Johnson's career at Aledo has been nothing short of exemplary. Beyond earning the first district championship in program history this season, he led the Ladycats all the way to the state championship game in 2017. Recently, he collected win No. 200 as the Ladycat head coach and No. 300 on his career back on Feb. 28, when the Ladycats decimated Saginaw on the road, 9-0.

As for his beloved Ladycats, Johnson believes their best days are



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Brody Gill is tripped up and loses possession of the ball near the Richland goal during the first half of the Bearcats' bi-district matchup at Farrington Field on Thursday, March 20.

still on the horizon. The only advice he has for his successor was short and sweet.

"With this team, just don't wreck the Ferrari."

Richland bankrupts Bearcats

Much like the girls match, the boys bi-district match was decided by a single goal.

The two teams jockeyed for possession with both teams hoping to launch a pass over the top of the opposing defense where their speedsters up front could take advantage of an easy goal opportunity. Both

defenses held up through the first 20 minutes of play until Aledo's Brody Gill put a ball in the back of the net with little more than 19 minutes left in the first half.

However, following an official review the goal was waved off for goalkeeper interference. The call simultaneously saved Richland from an early deficit and stole the momentum from Aledo.

"It was a totally different game if that goal counted in the first half," Aledo head coach Derek Vierling commented after the match. "I think if that one counts, we win the thing three or four to nothing."

Things continued on the same clip until Richland managed to

score a goal with less than a minute left until halftime to lift Richland to a 1-0 lead.

The two teams managed to nullify each other with their halftime adjustments like a pair of expert chess players. As time wound down the desperation became palpable in a match that saw more yellow cards than goals. Time simply ran out on Aledo in the match, bringing the Bearcats' 2025 campaign to an unexpected and abrupt end.

"[The Bearcats] left it on the field," Vierling said of his squad. "They gave it everything they had. There was no lack of effort. We just couldn't overcome it."

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**Public Hearing
Town of Annetta**

The Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council of the Town of Annetta will hold separate public hearings on separate dates to consider a Specific Use Permit application for the following property:

- Property located at 1595 Crouse Lane on 13.5 acres not platted as Abst: 1814, Survey: I & G N RR CO BLK 8 SUR 3, Town of Annetta, Parker County, Texas. Zoning change from R-1 Residential to R-1 Residential with a Special Use Permit to allow an accessory dwelling unit to be constructed on the same lot as the main dwelling unit. The accessory dwelling unit is to be used by a person or persons related to occupants of the main dwelling unit.

Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Date: April 10, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

City Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Date: April 17, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Annetta Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, Texas 76008

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the hearings.

Jamee Long, TRMC
City Secretary/Administrator

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Separate sealed bids for the construction of **East Bankhead Water & Sewer Extension - Lift Station** will be received by the **City of Willow Park, Texas**, until **3:00 PM**, on **April 10th, 2025**, at **Willow Park City Hall, 120 El Chico Trail, Willow Park, TX 76087**, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of the installation of a triplex submersible sewer lift station, emergency bypass pump, and associated appurtenances.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, and Specifications, may be examined at the following location:

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The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 120 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to award of the contract.

Contractors must obtain a set of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS online at www.jacobmartin.com by digital download or hard copy to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project. Cost for digital download of CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$0.00. Hard copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be \$100.00. All Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS must be ordered online and are available for pick up, mail out or digital download via www.jacobmartin.com. Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 1925 Fort Worth Highway, Weatherford, Texas 76086.

Bid Bond: A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the **City of Willow Park**, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

City of Willow Park Doyle Moss, Mayor March 21st & 28th, 2025

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

TRACK AND FIELD

Aledo vaulters win at Springtown

TCA competes in Santo

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

While it was technically a bye week competition-wise for the rest of the Aledo track program, a host of pole vaulters made their way up the road to Springtown to compete in the Pojo Relays on March 20. They returned with a bag full of medals, including four gold.

Braylon Brown once again cleared 16 feet with his vault of 16-0, winning by two feet over runner-up and teammate Adam Averett, with another teammate, Kantyn Kasich, taking third at 13-6.

Ladycat Emma Ralph cleared 11 feet to win the girls competition, and teammate Maggie Kilburn placed second with a 10-6 vault. Claire Campbell of Aledo was fourth at 10-0.

The Aledo junior varsity also had a pair of gold medal vaulters. Jace Schull cleared 11-6 to win among the boys and Kara Overstreet's vault of 10-0 won among the girls, with Elizabeth Gamez taking third at 7-6.

Weatherford had one athlete place in the meet as well. Braelee Gilbert had a throw of 118-6 for the runner-up spot in the varsity girls discus throw.

The Bearcats and Ladycats were back in action as an entire team at press time at Saginaw Chisholm Trail. They will compete in the District 5-5A Meet on Wednesday, April 2 at Saginaw High School.

Weatherford teams will compete in the District 3-6A Meet at Saginaw Boswell High School on April 2-3.

Santo Relays

The Trinity Christian Academy Eagles and Lady Eagles competed in the Wildcat Relays in Santo on March 20.

Kadin James (shot put, discus) and Owen Coates (110-meter hurdles, long jump) each won two gold medals to pace the Eagles. Avery Huffman (long jump) and Ella Cockrum (discus) each won a gold medal for the Lady Eagles.

TCA Top Results

Varsity Boys

800: 4 Jonas O'Dell, 2:13.93.

3200: 3. Bo Merrill, 10:56.75.

110 Hurdles: 1. Owen Coates, 15.27.

4x100 Relay: 44.40, second.

Long Jump: 1. Coates, 25-4.75.

Shot Put: 1. Kadin James, 43-8.75.

Discus: 1. James, 137-0.5.

Varsity Girls

100: 4. Natalie O'Neal, 13.50.

800: 2. Emma Saadeh, 2:38.43.

3200: 3. Ellery Wright, 15:01.84.

Long Jump: 1. Avery Huffman, 16-3.

Shot Put: 3. Ella Cockrum, 32-10; 4. Addison Shoppach, 32-3.

Discus: 1. Cockrum, 128-4; 5. Shoppach, 82-11.5.

Pole Vault: 3. Kami James, 8-0; 4. Paisley James, 8-0.

GOLF

Aledo's Stokes sizzles at Glen Rose

Bearcats, Ladycats second in tourney

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Braden Stokes was, to put it simply, on fire when the Aledo Bearcats played in the Glen Rose Invitational tournament March 20 at Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose.

Stokes posted a score of 7-under-par 65 to win the individual championship as the Aledo Black team finished second with a score of 301. The Ladycats Black team also finished second, shooting 323 and was led by individual top medalist Emily Crick with a 75.

The Bearcats Orange placed fifth, shooting 319 and the Ladycats Orange was fourth at 379.

The 65 by Stokes was his lowest score in tournament play. His all-time low is 63.

"He had everything working through a big stretch of the course and I am happy he was able to take advantage of it," Aledo coach Brian Mourning said. "He has potential to shoot below par every round and he has worked hard to be able to do that. I'm happy to see him playing well right now as we head into district."

Stokes won by four shots over individual runner-up Joseph Wolfe of Fort Worth Christian Life Prep.

Also for the Bearcats Black, Ryland Haley shot 78, Ethan Elmore and Logan Lund each posted a 79 and Tyler Anderson came in with an 80. All five Aledo golfers were in the top 25 individually.

The four lowest individual scores comprise the team score.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Braden Stokes of the Aledo Bearcats shot a career-low (for tournament play) 65 to win the Glen Rose Invitational.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Aledo Ladycat Emily Crick won the individual title as her team finished second in the Glen Rose Invitational.

Argyle won the team title, shooting 286. Glen Rose claimed the girls championship, firing a 316 team score.

The Ladycats Black had three players in the top 10 individually. Joining Crick were Sydney Purdon with a 78, No. 4 medalist, and No. 8 medalist Addison Russ with an 83. Also, Harper Price posted an 87 and Reagan Gilliland had an 89.

For both Orange teams, all individual scores had to be included as each team only had four players. The Bearcats Orange was led by William Kirkman with a 76, 11th overall among medalists, while Brian Yarbrough and Evan Boukadoum each shot 80 and Maddox Jessup had an 83.

The Ladycats Orange were led by Layna Suttrefield and McKenzie

Holman, each with a 91, while Sydney Russell shot 98 and Abigila Gray shot 99.

"Squaw Valley allows for some misses, and that can take a little pressure off of you. I know some kids feel like they could've scored better," Mourning said. "Some kids took advantage of the course, and I am proud of them for that. Glad to see some of those scores come down some from previous tournaments."

The Bearcats and Ladycats were playing in the District 5-5A Preview at Cross Timbers in Azle at press time. They'll return there next week, with the girls district tournament being March 31-April 1 and the boys district tournament being April 2-3 on the same course.

TENNIS

from page nine

bracket. Martin/Beeby won their first match against Keller (5-7, 6-4, 1-0), lost to Denton Braswell (7-5, 4-6, 0-1) and won yet another tie-break set against Denton Guyer (6-2, 4-6, 1-0).

There were four consolation medals earned by the team. In Boys Singles C bracket, Alex Vozeh lost his first match to teammate Casen Freeland (4-6, 2-6),

following up with wins in tie-breaks in semifinals and finals against Longview (6-2, 3-6, 1-0) and Willis 4-6, 6-2, 1-0).

Noah Nottingham and Tom Ruminsky were consolation winners of the Boys Doubles D bracket with wins against Willis (6-3, 6-2) and Azle (6-3, 6-2) and one loss against Sherman (6-3, 2-6, 0-1).

Kjersten Loy competed in Girls Singles D bracket, losing in the first first round to Flower Mound (4-6, 3-6), persevering in a tie-break in Round 2

against Wichita Falls (6-3, 0-6, 1-0) and vanquishing Denton (6-4, 6-4) for the bracket win.

In Mixed Doubles B bracket, Paxton Psencik and Kieren Christensen fell to Keller in a tie-break (7-5, 1-6, 0-1) and rebounded to win against rival Abilene Cooper (4-6, 6-1, 1-0) then finished strong with a 6-3, 6-3 win against Wichita Falls Legacy.

Next up for Aledo is a tournament hosted by Waxahachie High School on Friday, March 28.



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- Doubled our sales tax revenue
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BROTHER ACT

Siblings share first Bearcat district title since 2018

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The last time the Aledo Bearcats hoisted a district soccer championship trophy, Austin Randriamahefa and his younger brother Evan had just moved to Aledo from Fort Worth. It was 2018 and that Bearcats squad advanced to the state final.

Now, as Austin prepares to say farewell to his Bearcats career, he and his teammates have recaptured the trophy that eluded the program ever since that historic season.

And sharing it with one teammate in particular makes it even more memorable. Evan is a sophomore.

“It feels great playing together with my brother. It makes winning district more special in our household,” Austin said.

Starting young

Austin and Evan began playing soccer at a very young age. They inherited their love for the sport from their dad, who grew up playing in Africa before his family moved to Minnesota when he was 12.

“I was always dribbling around the house,” Austin said with a chuckle.

He and Evan played some pee-pee soccer on the same team, but not much. They are also both in the same club system with Solar out of Allen. They practice in Plano, with Austin on the U-19 team and Evan on the U-17 squad.

But their greatest joy is playing together as Bearcats.

“I think it’s an honor and privilege playing with someone as good as him,” Evan said. “If anyone deserves a good ending, it’s him.”

Leaving a legacy

Austin, who plays attacking midfielder, will leave Aledo as one of the best scorers the program has ever had. He ended the regular season with 45 career goals in four varsity seasons, placing him seventh all-time, and his 52 assists are second all-time.

It’s not only his ability to score, but his very presence that also makes Austin an offensive asset, Bearcats head coach Derek Vierling said of Austin.

“Everybody’s keying on him and it helps the other players,” he said.

Vierling noted one game in which Austin was moved to the forward position, which allowed a teammate to move to center mid-fielder and score.

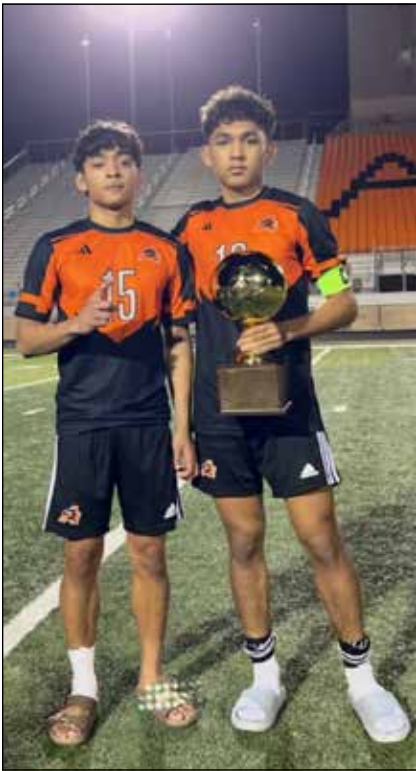
Evan, who plays outside and center back and is in his second varsity season, said he learned more than being a good player from his older brother.

“On the field, I learned to be more technical with the ball. Off the field, I learned to be more uplifting. He’s a great captain and lifts up everyone around him,” Evan said.

“They push each other,” Vierling said. “A lot of what Austin brings is leading by example. Evan looks up to his brother and tries to emulate him.”

Last season ends

Austin said he’d like to keep playing at the college level and has had some offers from some smaller colleges, such as Hardin-Simmons in Abilene and East Texas Baptist in Marshall.



DEREK VIERLING

The Randriamahefa brothers, Evan (left), a sophomore, and his senior brother Austin, were key components in the Aledo Bearcats winning a district soccer championship for the first time since 2018.

“My grandma used to be a professor at Wiley (University) in Marshall,” Austin said.

Austin said he is planning to go into pre-med studies with an emphasis on biology because “I’ve always been interested in how medicine works, the science behind it.”

And though they both know Austin is approached his final days as a Bearcat, they decided it was something they would face when it became a reality, they said.

“I’m just trying to make the most of what we have. I know it’s coming,



RYAN WADE/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Austin Randriamahefa dribbles the ball down the field during the bi-district match against Richland on Thursday, March 20.

but it’s been so great playing with him,” Evan said.

“It’ll be a little weird saying I was a Bearcat instead of I am a Bearcat,” Austin said.

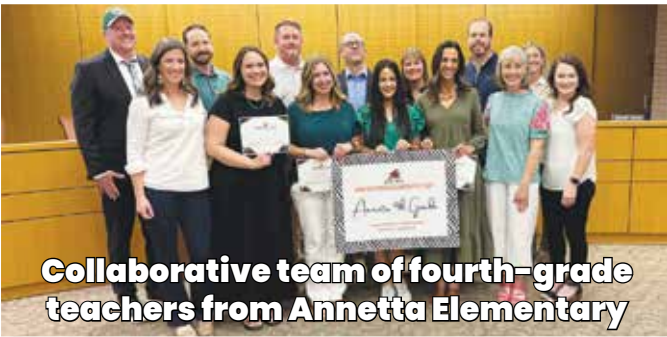
“It’ll be a sad day when Austin is gone,” Vierling said. “But we’re going to have Evan another couple of years, and that’s a good thing.”

Commendable!

Aledo ISD Commendations from March 17 meeting



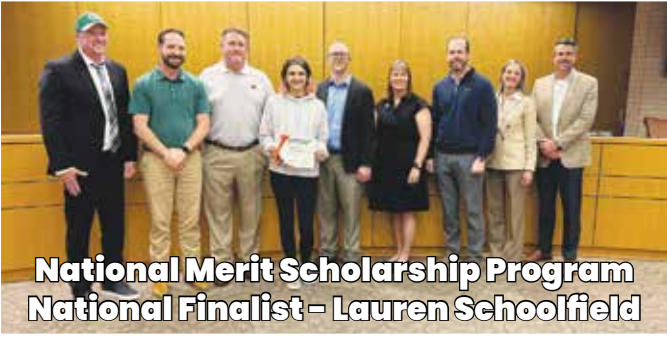
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