April 11, 2025 · www.community-news.com · 75 cents

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

# **News Briefs**

Autumn Adkins of Aledo was among the 2,971 students named to the dean's list at SUNY Cortland for the fall 2024 semester. Adkins is studying Conservation Biology.

The dean's list is the highest ranking for undergraduate students in their respective academic areas of the university. Students must earn a minimum 3.3 grade point average for the semester to make the list.

**Ava Elizabeth Tanner** earned a 3.5 GPA or higher in the fall 2024 semester, securing a reputable position on Southern Arkansas University's dean's list.

Tanner is a senior Financial Analysis major from Brock.

Ohio University College of Health Sciences and Professions student Sarah Rede of Weatherford has been named to Ohio's fall 2024 provost's list.

Mississippi State University congratulates 4,569 students who were named to the fall 2024 president's list, including Tatum Pettit of Aledo and Caleb Bowman of Brock.

**Abilene Christian University** awarded 540 degrees on Dec. 13 and 14 in two ceremonies taking place at Moody Coliseum.

**Avery Cottrell** of Weatherford graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Services.

Blake Hill of Weatherford graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Business **Administration in Financial** Management.

**Brittyn Wheeler** of Aledo was named to the University of Mississippi's fall 2024 dean's honor roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74. Wheeler is in the Allied Health Studies pro-

The University of Mississippi announced students named to the fall 2024 honor roll lists. The following local students were named to the Chancellor's Honor

Ashley Carlisle of Aledo in the B.A. in Biological Science pro-

Caidence Douglas of Weatherford in the B.S.W. in Social Work program.

**Addison Greenfield** of Weatherford in the B.A. in Allied Health Studies program.

**Sidney Lewis** of Willow Park in the B.S. in Communication Sciences & Disorders program.

Sydney McGuire of Aledo in the B.A. in Allied Health Studies pro-

Luke Slabbekoorn of Aledo in the B.Accy. in Accountancy pro-

Harper Smith of Weatherford in the B.S.L.S. in Law Studies pro-

Hadley Bruno of Aledo was named to the College of Charleston fall 2024 dean's list. Bruno is majoring in Integrated

Students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours to qualify for the dean's list.



# Freedom House rocks!

# **Parker County** nonprofit raises assault awareness

**By Christopher Amos** The Community News

Rocks are showing up around Parker County in some of the strangest places - in gardens, in windows, and on sidewalks.

Freedom House of Parker County is drawing attention in an artful way to Sexual Assault Awareness Month and crime victims' rights by placing hand-painted rocks - with the permission of the businesses near commercial entrances, window sills, and near walkways. The colorful and creative rocks are hand painted by crime victims who are clients of the non-profit aid organization.

If you find one of these rocks and would like to help spread the word, Freedom House encourages to take a picture of the rock, post it on your Facebook page, and tag Freedom House PC.

The organization provides crisis and advocacy services to adults and children who are victims of sexual assault or abuse through counseling, court accompaniment, legal advocacy, and compensation assistance. The group also uses several means to educate the public and remove the stigma of shame or guilt many victims experience.

Victim advocate Nishna Mendez said the rocks are a new idea to spread the word, but pamphlets, brochures, and seminars are the means the group often uses to inform the public of the group's mission.

"Our clients can visit us, and we also shelter clients that are in dangerous situations. We provide all kinds of services for adults and children," Mendez said



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Nishna Mendez of Freedom House of Parker County places painted rocks near the entrance of the Aledo Shell station and convenience store. Rock art is showing up around the county to draw attention to Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

the entrance of a Parker County business.

Mendez described how professionally conducted play therapy for children allows kids who are victims of abuse to heal and change in a comfortable, happy atmosphere.

Volunteer coordinator Erin Bush described the need for concerned, involved people to help in the office at 1149 Fort Worth Hwy in Weatherford.

"We are always looking for volunteers. Our main need is in the front office answering the phone and giving people information." Bush said. "We also have a need for bilingual people to help us."

The group also has a satelas she placed painted rocks near lite office in Springtown where

counseling and interviews are conducted by appointments.

Patti Wilson, who has been on the Freedom House board of directors for several years, is now the executive director of the organization.

"I have always had a heart for helping people, but when I got on the board and found out all the services we provide, I just thought it was wonderful," Wilson said.

The director explained the organization focuses on the victim and not on the crime. If a victim does not feel they want to go to the police or go to the courts, they don't have to. Freedom House wants to prevent, help, and heal.

not going to make you do any- assault, child abuse, and domestic thing you don't want to," Wilson violence is 817-596-8922.

explained. "If you don't want to report, you don't have to. But if you do want to report it, we will be there with you all the way to support you."

The Center for Disease Control estimates 433,000 incidents of sexual assault occur annually, with the vast majority of the victims being female. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey reports half of women and almost one in three men have experienced sexual violence during their lifetimes.

To volunteer or donate to Freedom House, visit www.freedomhousepc. org or call the office at 817-596-7543. "You can come here, and we're The 24 hour hotline to report sexual





Jerry Stockon of Willow Park converses with new Willow Park Police Chief Ray Lacy at a "Meet & Greet" before the April 8 city council meeting. Lacy was sworn in by Mayor Doyle Moss at the meeting. At the meeting the council approved a \$1.5 million tax note for continued street repairs and park improvements.









14 LOCATIONS PLUS 2 ATM LOCATIONS ACROSS TEXAS





**2** April 11, 2025 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

# A Glowing Success

The Aledo Children's AdvoCats held their annual Glow Run on March 29 to raise funds for their charitable work in the community. (*Photos by Kathy Chruscielski*)

















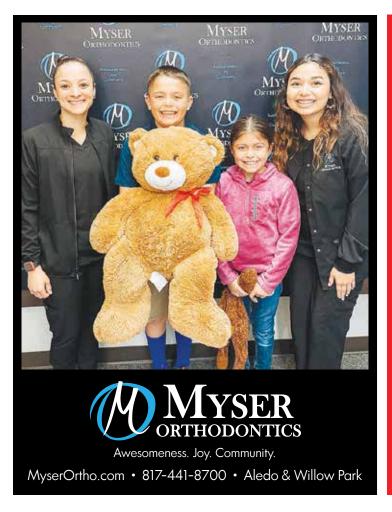




















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Hudson Oaks, TX 76087

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April 11, 2025 **3** THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**BUSINESS** 

# Impact announces expansion

# New facility focuses on cheer and tumbling

Addressing a demand high-quality cheer and tumbling programs, Impact Athletic Center has announced a new 14,000 square-foot facility dedicated entirely to those disciplines.

According to a release from the company, the new facility will be fully equipped with top-tier tumbling surfaces and specialized training areas. "

Designed to enhance the training experience for cheerleaders and tumblers of all levels, the facility aims to provide an unparalleled space for athletes to refine



Sydnie and Clayton Evans are the owners of Impact Athletic Training Center, which will soon open a second facility that will be dedicate to cheer and tumbling.

their skills and reach new heights," the release said.

Because the cheer and tumbling will be moved to the new location, the existing location will now be able

to provide enhanced gymnastics training.

Impact athletic Training Center has provided training for young athletes in east Parker County for 11 years, and has more than 1,000 active enrollments.

"The organization has established itself as a place where athletes build confidence, discipline, and lasting friendships. The addition of a second facility reflects Impact's ongoing commitment to its athletes and families, ensuring they have the best resources available to excel in their sport," according to the release.

The new facility will be located at 9909 E. Bankhead Hwy. The completion date and grand opening will be announced soon.

# **Obituaries**

# **Ashlee Long**

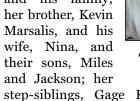
Ashlee Long, age 28, passed away on April 5, 2025. Born on June 3, 1996, in Houston, she lived in the Richmond-Katy area and worked as a realtor for Keller Williams, Magnolia Realty, and most recently, Century 21.

Ashlee graduated in 2019 from the University of Houston with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

She was a kind and loving person who lived life to the fullest.

Ashlee is survived by her parents, Michelle and

Henry Long; her stepmother, Holly Hartford King; her fiancé and high school sweetheart, Jacob Underwood, and his family: her brother, Kevin Marsalis, and his



Greyson King, and Georgia friends. King; her step-sister, Gillian King Kimber, and her husband, Alistair Kimber; her grandparents, Roy and Henrietta Long, and Karen and Larry Welborn; her

**EXCITING NEWS!** 

NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

This investment in the community brings the latest cu ng-edge techniques. Providing the best care possible for pa ents

in Parker County and the surrounding communi es.



**Ashlee Long** 

uncle and aunt. John and Kelly Long, and their children, Dylan and Conner; as well as aunts. Pat Schuette and Linda Wendt: and cousins, Melissa Wilson and Chase Wilson. She leaves behind many

step-siblings, Gage King, other family members and

A celebration of Ashlee's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, April 14, at River Pointe Church, in Richmond, Texas.

> The Community News April 11, 2025

# **CAPITAL** from page four

"This former TX Supreme Court Justice and TX Attorney General ignored the rule of law, the Constitution, and innocent until proven guilty while standing with the corrupt Biden DOJ cheering on the bogus witch hunts against both me and President Trump," Paxton wrote on X. "Care to comment now, John?"

Cornyn retorted that Paxton has agreed not to contest a civil suit filed by whistleblowers' suit, which seeks millions in damages.

"Is this the same person that had a \$6.6 million judgment entered in Travis County based on the whistleblower complaints, and he didn't contest any of the allegations? I'm confused," Cornyn wrote.

### **Measles outbreak** now at 481 cases

The outbreak of measles cases in the South Plains and Panhandle regions of Texas

has jumped to 481, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Fifty-six people have been hospitalized and one fatality recorded, in an unvaccinated school-age child. DSHS says more cases are likely given the highly contagious nature of measles. Most of the cases are in Gaines County, on the New Mexico border. That state has reported 54 cases as of Friday, while 10 have been reported in Oklahoma.

Texas has reported more measles cases in 2025 than in any full year since 1992, according to The News.

# **Bill enacts new** regulations on large electricity users

A bill passed unanimously in the Senate and now pending in the House would enact new regulations on data centers and other major electricity users, the Chronicle reported.

The bill's primary goal is to prevent a repeat of the deadly outages in February

2021 during Winter Storm Uri. It directs state regulators to figure out how to protect everyday residents and small businesses from huge rate hikes during weather emergencies, which is what happened to some users in 2021.

The growth of artificial intelligence is one factor in the boom in power demand. For example, Open AI's first Stargate project being built in Abilene would require 1.2 gigawatts of electricity enough to power a million homes for a year.

"It's not an oil boom. It's an economic boom led by big technology and their corresponding need for big electricity," state Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, said on the Senate floor.

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.

## NOTICE OF GENERAL/SPECIAL ELECTION FOR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND **MUNICIPALITIES**

### AVISO DE ELECCIÓN GENERAL/ESPECIAL PARA OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS Y MUNICIPIOS

To the registered voters of the County of Parker, Palo Pinto (Millsap ISD), & Wise (Azle ISD), Texas: (A los votantes registradoes del Condado de Parker, Palo Pinto (Millsap ISD), & Wise (Azle ISD), Texas):

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00am-7:00pm, May 3, 2025 for voting. (Notifíquese por la presente, que los sitios de votación citadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 3 de mayo de 2025 para votar.)

The following political subdivisions will be holding a General Election: (Las siguientes subdivisions politicas celebraran elecciones generals:)

Aledo Independent School District, Azle Independent School District, Millsap Independent School District, Springtown Independent School District, Weatherford Independent School District, City Aledo, City Fort Worth, City Springtown, City Weatherford, City Willow Park, Walnut Creek Special Utility District

The following political subdivisions will be holding a Special Election: (Las siguientes subdivisions politicas celebraran una eleccion especial:)

Springtown Independent School District & City of Reno

### **ELECTION DAY SITES: (SITIOS DEL DIA DE LAS ELECCIONES:)**

\*Parker County Election Building Springtown Courthouse Annex 801 Santa Fe Dr Weatherford, 76086

**Hudson Oaks Public Safety Bldg.** Training Room 150 N Oakridge Dr

Hudson Oaks, 76087 \*Millsap City Hall **Council Chambers** 208 Fannin St

Millsap, 76066 Peaster ISD Rock Gym Back Room of Gym 8512 FM RD 920

Peaster, 76088

Council Chambers 200 N Main St Springtown 76082

**Azle City Hall** Community Room 505 W Main St Azle, 76020

Training Room 101 Stagecoach Willow Park, TX 76087 \*Fire Station 43

Apparatus Bay 2200 Walsh Ranch Parkway Aledo, 76008

Aledo ISD Admin Bldg. Louden Room

1008 Bailey Ranch Rd Aledo, 76008

First Baptist Church - Brock Fellowship Hall 2111 FM 1189 Brock, 76087

**Reno City Hall** \*Willow Park Public Safety Bldg. Council Chamber 195 W Reno Rd

Azle, 76020

Early Voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at: La votacion anticipada en persona se llevara a cabo todos dias de la semana en:

\*Parker County Election Building Springtown Courthouse Annex

801 Santa Fe Dr

Weatherford, 76086 Aledo ISD Admin Bldg.

Louden Room

1008 Bailey Ranch Rd Aledo, 76008

Olive Branch Masonic Lodge #792 201 Grindstone Road

Brock, 76087

Council Chambers 200 N Main St Springtown 76082

**Hudson Oaks Public Safety Bldg.** Training Room

Hudson Oaks, 76087 \*Millsap City Hall

150 N Oakridge Dr

**Council Chambers** 208 Fannin St

Peaster ISD Rock Gym Back Room of Gvm 8512 FM RD 920

Peaster, 76088 **Azle City Hall** Community Room

505 W Main St Azle, 76020

\*Willow Park Public Safety Bldg. Training Room 101 Stagecoach

Willow Park, TX 76087

# Regular Early Voting Hours and Days (Horas y dias regulares de votacion anticipada)

Millsap, 76066

Monday, April 21, 2025 (Lunes 21 de abril de 2025)

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 (Martes 22 de abril de 2025) Wednesday, April 23, 2025 (Miercols 23 de abril de 2025) Thursday, April 24, 2025 (Jueves 24 de abril de 2025) Friday, April 25, 2025 (*Viernes 25 de abril de 2025*) Saturday, April 26, 2025 (Sabado 26 de abril de 2025) Sunday, April 27, 2025 (Domingo 27 de abril de 2025) Monday, April 28, 2025 (Lunes 28 de abril de 2025) Tuesday, April 29, 2025 (Martes 29 de abril de 2025)

State Holiday-No Voting (Dia feriado estatal: no se puede votar) 7:00AM-7:00PM

8:00AM-5:00PM 8:00AM-5:00PM 8:00AM-5:00PM 7:00AM-7:00PM 10:00AM-4:00PM 7:00AM-7:00PM 8:00AM-5:00PM

Applications for Ballot by Mail may be obtained by calling (817) 598-6185 Applications for ballots by mail must be received by the Early Voting Clerk NO later than the close of business day on Tuesday April 22, 2025 Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: **Early Voting Clerk** PO Box 639

Weatherford, TX 76086

Email: s.bryan@parkercountytx.com

Fax: (817) 598-6183

Las solicitudes de boletas por correo deben ser recibidas por el Secretario de Voatcion Anticipada No mas tarde que el cierre del dia habil el martes 22 de abril de 2025 Las solicitudes de bolete electoral por correo se enviaran por correo a

**Early Voting Clerk** PO Box 639 Weatherford, TX 76086

Email: s.bryan@parkercountytx.com

Fax: (817) 598-6183

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We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-386-1469 or email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information.

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements. achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper.

Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph.

The Community News does not charge for timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee.

# Your Views

# **Outstanding Leader**

Doyle Moss has been an outstanding leader during his time as our mayor here in Willow Park. His leadership has helped and propelled the community forward. Positive and organized meetings help to expedite getting things done in city council meetings. In my 19 years in our community, I've never seen a better city council, all of them are outstanding. I am thankful for Mayor Doyle Moss and our city council.

> - Clark Bosher Willow Park Baptist Church

# Man of ability

I'm Jan Lynch, and I have owned a business in East Parker County for over 50 years. Throughout my time here, I have seen many challenges that cities face—water availability, sewer capacity, high property taxes, budget constraints, and the need for road improvements. Strong leadership is required to address

these issues, and Doyle Moss has proven he is up to the task.

During his time as mayor, Doyle Moss has successfully tackled Willow Park's most pressing concerns. He secured a long-term solution to our water needs by partnering with the neighboring city of Hudson Oaks, ensuring a reliable water supply. His ability to collaborate with other cities is a true testament to his leadership.

Recognizing the city's rapid growth, Doyle worked alongside the city council to expand our sewer capacity, a project set for completion in 2025. He also took bold steps to reduce property taxes while achieving the remarkable feat of doubling the city's sales tax revenue-an accomplishment that benefits every resident. Additionally, under his leadership, Willow Park has seen 10 miles of road improvements, with more planned for the future.

Doyle Moss has demonstrated integrity, dedication, and a commitment to doing what is right for the citizens of Willow Park. I fully support his re-election

as Mayor in the upcoming May 2025 election.

- Jan Lynch

# Better than you found it

One of the most important things my dad taught me was to leave a place better than you

By virtually every measure, Mayor Doyle Moss has done that with our community.

Under his leadership, he's helped lower our tax rate by 25 percent, yet double our sales tax income. The total value of Willow Park has doubled under his mayorship.

He's pushed to solve our water supply and wastewater treatment issues.

Roads are improved and will continue to be.

Our city facilities are dramatically better, enhancing our ability to attract and retain quality professionals to serve us.

Through Doyle's leadership, we've partnered with neighboring municipalities, helping us to understand and stay ahead of the challenges ahead.

He has always understood Willow Park cannot bury its head in the sand and ignore the inevitable fact that we are geographically situated smack in the middle of explosive growth.

And we need him to complete the crucial projects already in the works, such as the Beall-Dean development that will continue to bring the right kind of commercial growth like sit-down restaurants that improves the quality of all our lives.

Doyle Moss has been a great mayor. We all need to keep him working for as long as he's willing.

Please vote for Doyle!

Greg Regian Willow Park resident for 25 years

The Community News welcomes letters from readers. To submit a letter for publication, please send an email to news@community-news. com with your letter and contact information.

# Idle American

# Roofers at the Ready



Dr. Don Newburv newbury@speakerdoc.com

They're as predictable as frantic taxpayers working until the hours are few on April 14 to meet income tax filing deadlines the following midnight. A nomadic bunch, they show up following hailstorms, cell phones in hand with promises to examine roofs. Yep, an unexpected call from an unknown number.

"We just happen to be in the neighborhood, and wonder if you'd like a free assessment," they say. Notice that they don't say your neighborhood; truth to tell, they may be in neighborhoods several time zones away, implying that they're about to ring your doorbell.

I'm just urging caution. TV ads blare of lawyers whose services are free if cases are not won, and government representatives who are "here to help us."

Some gift-bearers turn out to be of Greek origin.

Hailstones and dogs "woofing" bring roofs to mind, and a favorite story my Uncle Mort has repeated so many times that it has grown whiskers.

It's about a 1950s neighbor who tried fruitlessly to run his household, his hand clutching his pocketbook. He was said to be so frugal, he'd climb over gates to save the hinges. Typically, he could put aside

pleas from his wife and his children, but when they banded against him, he usually gave in, audibly groaning upon finally reaching for his wallet. Before television came along, there was the push to get a bat-

lead to something else." He'd give it his best shot, but soon the family was enjoying its very own radio.

tery-powered radio. "We ain't

doin' it," he'd fume, "It would just

Then, they came out with electrically-powered radios that had pull-out record players. Each time, the "head of the house" would trot out the same expression about purchases "leading to something else."

Mama and the kids, all on bended knees, later begged fervently to purchase a television set. "It could be a Christmas gift for all of us," they whined. Days became weeks, and the

old guy-in a weaker moment-

agreed to visit the store to get a first-hand look at TV sets. 'We're not buying one,

though," he assured. "It would just lead to something else." The salesman, warning that

Christmas shoppers were depleting their TV inventory, reinforced what appeared to be the winning team—Mama and the kids. "I'm thinking about buying it, since it will be a gift for all of us,"

said, his resistance as depleted as the current stock of TV sets. "But I know it'll just lead to something As they loaded the bulky 17-inch TV, the salesman added.

the prospective purchaser finally

antenna." Startled, the reluctant buyer responded, "Need a what?"

"Of course, you'll need a TV

Explaining that TV reception in fringe areas required tall antennas, the salesman recommended a 20-foot antenna for placement on the peak of the

"I knew it, I just knew it," the old man whimpered. "Now we've got to get us a roof."

Finally, though, the TV brought considerable enjoyment, particularly when weather conditions were right for the reception of both pictures and sound. Often as not, only the sound came through, so at such times, it was no better than radio.

The late Bob Murphey, who spoke "perfect East Texas and fair English," was a world-class storyteller, often speaking to the same audiences repeatedly.

And they always urged him to tell about his neighbor buying his family's first TV set.

Jerry Clower, late Mississippi comedian, was on par with Murphey in varn-spinning. He, too, was asked to relate favorite tales, even if audience members knew them by heart. One concerned his first visit to a "kaffay." (Even then, most patrons called them "restaurants.")

While paying his tab, Jerry extracted a toothpick from a small glass container, carefully attending to both 'uppers and lowers" while the cashier dispensed his change.

Placing the toothpick back in the holder, Jerry said, "I'll bet you thought I was going to steal that toothpick, didn't you?"

Dr. Newbury, a speaker in the Metroplex, may be reached at 817-447-3872, email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Audio version of column at www.speakerdoc.com.

# Capital Highlights

# Appeals court: TEA can release A-F school ratings



**Gary Borders** gborders@texaspress.com

A judge with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last week that the Texas Education Agency can release its 2023 A-F school accountability ratings, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The ruling overturned a district judge's injunction after more than 120 school districts sued to stop TEA from releasing the ratings. Those districts argued that the agency did not provide enough advance notice about changes to the formula used to calculate the rating.

The A-F ratings assigned to each district and campus are most significant difference that

formance, though the COVID-19 pandemic slowed the process. The appeals court ruled that TEA Commissioner Mike Morath had the authority to postpone their issuance or to change the standards after the 2022-2023 school year was over.

"We agree that after a race is over not everyone can be declared the winner," the court's opinion read. "But it is not our role as judges to decide whether the Commissioner's decisions were necessary or fair. The Districts' burden ... was to show the Commissioner acted 'without legal authority,' not that he should have exercised his discretion another way."

# **Dueling property tax** proposals compared

The Texas House and Senate have agreed to spend at least \$6 billion to cut property taxes but are taking different approaches, The Texas Tribune reported. The

based on standardized test per- must be reconciled is whether businesses or homeowners get the larger tax break.

The House measure gives more relief to businesses. It would exempt up to \$250,000 of business inventory from all property taxes, up from \$2,500. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, backs the bill.

"Raising the personal property tax exemption ... would be a monumental win for Texas businesses, freeing up funds for business owners to reinvest in the growth of their companies on top of the potential savings provided by buying down property tax rates for all property owners statewide," Burrows said in February.

The Senate version focuses on bigger tax breaks for homeowners, largely by raising the homestead exemption once again, this time from \$100,000 to \$140,000.

"I have made increasing the homestead exemption my mission because it is the best way to

deliver meaningful property tax reductions for homeowners," Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who leads the Senate, said in February. That bill passed unanimously in February. It contains an increase in personal property tax exemption from \$2,500 to \$25,000 - much lower than the House version.

# Paxton cleared by DOJ, attacks Cornyn

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is no longer being investigated by the U.S. Justice Department, which quietly declined to prosecute him in the final weeks of the Biden presidency, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Paxton took the opportunity to get a dig in at U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, whom he may challenge in next year's GOP primary. Cornyn, in an online exchange in 2024 while the investigation was ongoing, told Paxton it would be "hard to run from prison." Last week, Paxton replied.

Turn to CAPITAL, page 3

# EXTREME MAKEDVE

# First phase rolled out and underway

**By Rick Mauch** 

Theatre Off The Square, the quaint little venue which is just down the street from the Weatherford downtown square, is getting a makeover.

It's still going to have that homey feel for patrons, but now it'll be a bit of a new atmosphere mixed in.

The planned big ticket work items include:

- 1. Insulation and ceiling remodel, which is in progress.
- 2. Replacing the pews with aluminum risers and chairs that will allow for raking the seating as well as for easily moving the seating into new configurations.
- 3. Replacing the flooring (remove carpet and go with completely wood floors).

Raked seating is seating which is positioned on an upwards slope away from the stage, in order to give those in the audience at the back a better view than if the seats were all on the same level.

Additional or improved signage outside in front of the theatre is being considered.

"We've started a slow rollout of renovations on the theatre to update the space. We have a vision that we're heading toward, and we're taking it one project at a time as we try to raise the money to do it," said TOTS President Jaclyn Justice. "Our first one is mid-progress. We had spray-in insulation installed to help with temperature in the building so that patrons are more comfortable and to help with utility

"Then, we removed the drop Long overdue ceiling in the house to gain a little height and so that we see the wood supports instead. Eventually, we'll paint it all out black (the insulation is already painted black). It gives it a more open feel and will look a little more industrial instead of, you know, a drop ceiling."

# Working with a budget

TOTS board member Clara Moltz said they are approaching the renovations as they are able. For each project they have projected budgets and are taking it one at a time.

"It would be nice to have them all done within specific time frames, but we have to approach each project within the time frames of shows that are scheduled through the year," she said. "Our current project, the drop down ceiling removal, has had to have pause points where we could still put the show on, but we have our next work day planned to continue the project after the run of our current production. Once that is complete, we will approach the next project."

Justice added that since TOTS is funded entirely through ticket sales and donations from patrons, the timing of the other projects will largely depend on fundraising to complete each phase.

"We always want to be responsible financial stewards of our organization, so our intent is to communicate funding needs and find ways to raise the funds we need before embarking on the projects so that our theatre is always in a good place, financially, to remain independent and in operation," she said. "I would love to have them completed over the course of this season, but it largely depends on funding. But we'll keep chipping away until we're able to update the space as needed."

## No show interruptions

The pattern of TOTS' season has multiple off weeks between shows. It is due to these breaks they are able to step back into projects and establish those pause points if

'We're running the calendar of our season as we normally do and are able to work around our schedule without interrupting our programming," Justice said.

Justice said TOTS purchased the building just over 20 years ago. The only work she remembers being done prior to this was rebricking and repairing the outside of the building after someone ran into the side of it with their vehicle several summers ago.

"That's why the building currently has two different brick styles on the outside," she said.

While not part of the renovations, Moltz noted that TOTS was able to recently purchase additional sound equipment to improve functionality of the microphones that are used during a musical production.

They have also been able to obtain she said. systems to aid in communication

theatre is still holding performances while renovations are happening.

"This has helped shows run smoothly as we started our season this year and was made possible through donations made during

between the front of house and back

of house tech teams.

North Texas Giving Day in 2024,"

The current project at Theatre Off The Square (TOTS) is removing the drop ceiling and spraying insulation. The



Moltz said some other future projects she'd like to see but that do not currently have solid plans to implement are:

- Renovating the bathrooms to be three individual bathrooms. Currently, there are three stalls in the women's restroom, but only one men's restroom available.
- Researching updates to the accessibility to the theatre.

"We're definitely a work in progress and probably will be for a long time, but we're dedicated to making our space the best it can be for our patrons and for the artists that create theatre in our space," Justice said. "In a time when several theatre companies in DFW have had to move or, worse, to shutter because they've lost access to their space, we're thankful that we own our building. It has its challenges, but it's ours — even if we have to work little by little to adapt it to what we want it to be."

"For the audience, they'll feel more comfortable with the changes in insulation and updated seating. Their overall experience will also be better because views will be better, and it'll open up the variety of things we can do, making for a more varied experience."

"For the theatricians, opening up what we can produce and being able to be bold with how we present shows is refreshing as an artist. It allows us to do things that are new and different instead of feeling stagnated by doing all the same things."

# You can help

Justice noted that TOTS is exploring more options of fundraising. Anyone who'd like to help can do so, from large donations to simply putting a dollar or two in the building fund tip jar at concessions during a performance.

"We're run entirely by volunteers who are giving their time," she said. "We don't have any paid staff, so this is a labor of love for everyone who runs our theatre."



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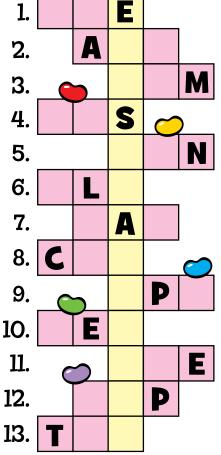


THE COMMUNITY NEWS **6** April 11, 2025



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# Events



# **APRIL 11**

#### The 39 Steps

Weatherford College Fine Arts will present The 39 Steps, a film noir/mystery comed, 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 more information, call James Brownlee at 817-598-8922 or email jbrownlee@wc.edu.

#### **Philosophy of Religion** and War

Weatherford College will host its seventh annual Philosophy of Religion and War Conference on April 11-12. Myles Werntz. Director of Baptist Studies at Abilene **Christian University will** be the keynote speaker. For more information, visit https://adobe.ly/43xgKGn.

# **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.

#### **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.

**Special Presentation** Chris Parks, president

and founder of the Texas Outlaws of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, will speak at the Annetta Town Council meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at Annetta Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane in Annetta.

#### **APRIL 26**

#### **Weatherford Lemonade** Dav

Lemonade Day is coming to Weatherford! This nationwide program is more than iust selling lemonade—it's a hands-on entrepreneurial experience designed to empower our youth with skills like goal-setting, business planning, budgeting, and customer service. On April 26, kids across Weatherford will set up their very own lemonade stands, turning their sweet dreams into reality! Whether you're a parent, mentor, sponsor, or com-

# **ACROSS**

Waylon & Willie's "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow

46 past tense of "tread"

47 past Maverick star,

49 TXism: "jumped like

53 TX Forrest of TV's

"S.W.A.T" (init.)

55 horse hoof craftsman

59 a TCU BB coach, "Moe"

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**DOWN** 

Matthew McCon-

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restaurant:

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3 popular Fort Worth

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"Oatmeal Festival"

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11 car renter

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a hook'

- 5 Oldham County seat 6 "I smell (sense foul play)
- 7 Italian currency before the Euro 8 dentist and gun-
- fighter, Holliday
- of Commerce 16 prepare a final draft 18 home theater?
- 21 TX Bob Wills: "\_\_ ha, take it away Leon"
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27 Texas-born Tracy

28 title: "Champion

Lawrence tune:

Texas<sup>3</sup>

down

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50 TX Jim Reeves hit:

named for one

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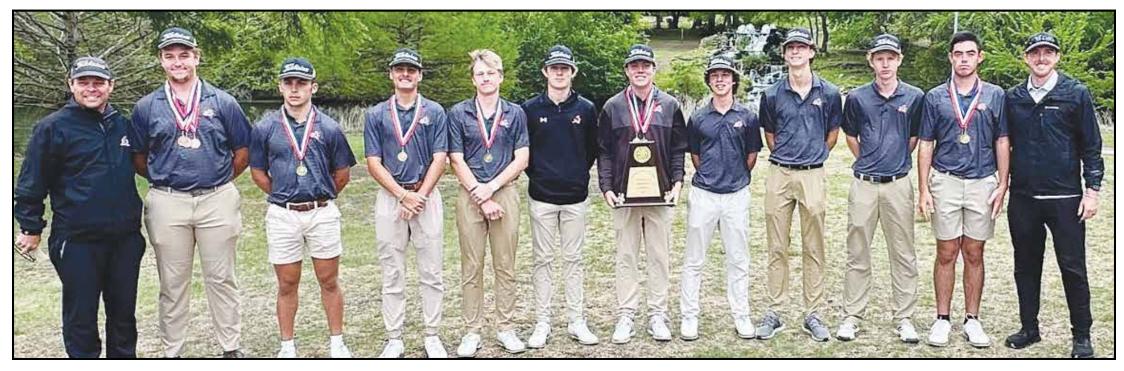
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The Aledo Bearcats Black team won the District 5-5A championship, while the Orange team finished third. The Black team advances to the Class 5A Region I Tournament in Lubbock on April 16-17. Pictured are (from left) head coach Brian Mourning, Logan Lund, Ryland Haley, Will Kirkman, Maddox Jessup, Grayson Freeman, Ethan Elmore, Evan Boukadoum, Brian Yarbrough, Tyler Anderson, Braden Stokes, and assistant coach Brendan Adams.

BASEBALL

# No. 4 Bearcats continue dominant district stretch

# Aledo remains productive offensively, stalwart on defense

**By Geoff Heppes** 

Following two narrow 3-2 wins against Brewer to open district play, the No. 4 Aledo Bearcats have seen their bats become engulfed in flames, and those redhot bats continued to burn brightly Tuesday night, April 8. As winners of seven of their last eight games coming in, the Bearcats hosted district foe Saginaw. They continued their surge with a quality performance in all phases, winning the contest by a final score of 9-0.

"It's just been continuing the process, picking up the tools, and getting after it," Bearcats head coach Chad Barry said. "I think they're starting to see the fruits of their labor, and I think consistent work produces consistent results over time, and I think they are starting to see and believe in it. When they do things like that, believe in each other, believe in themselves, know their pitchers are going to give them a chance to win, it helps everyone relax and just try to play good baseball."

Good baseball was prevalent for the orange-and-black as they raced out to an early 5-0 lead in the first inning. Noah Graham belted an RBI double for the first two runs while Dylan Duran's RBI single a few batters later propelled Aledo to four of its first-inning runs. The early juice at the plate allowed

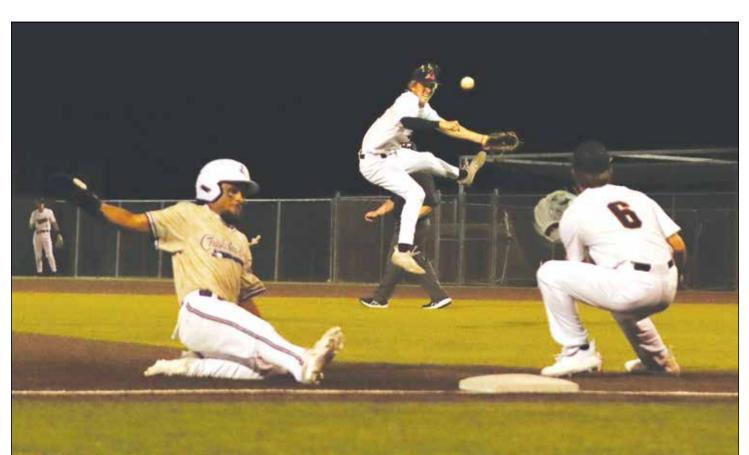
starting pitcher Grayson McKelvey to work efficiently from the mound while the stingy Aledo defense operated effectively behind him.

"When we can put up five runs in the first, it takes teams out of being able to play the short game some, and they know what they're up against with our pitching staff, so they know four runs is going to be hard to come by most nights," Barry said. "I think it puts more pressure on them to swing their way into an inning, which plays right into the hands of our defense. That's what we do, we play defense. If we can get teams out of their rhythm and game plan early, then that really benefits us — and the advantage grows as the game goes on."

Aledo was able to score four more times throughout the contest, with the exclamation point coming off the bat of Brooks Burdine in the bottom of the fourth inning. Burdine barreled the ball comfortably over the right field wall after he unleashed a booming swing on a full-count pitch. The run was Aledo's seventh of the night and provided plenty of momentum for the Bearcats to take care of business. McKelvey, who went six innings strong with 15 strikeouts while allowing just one hit. Luke Sandefur impressively secured the final three outs with three consecutive strikeouts.

Aledo collected 10 hits as a team with eight singles, one double, one home run, and seven RBI. Burdine led the charge, going 3-for-4 with one RBI and three runs scored. Duran performed

Turn to BASEBALL, page 9



MADISON COOK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Nick Foster throws to third baseman Blake Burdine after fielding a short hopper in recent AHS baseball action.

# **BEARCAT** OF THE WEEK



**Logan Lund** 

Golf

The junior, playing for Aledo Orange. finished third individually in the District 5-5A Tournament with a two-day score of 156. His opening round of 74 was the lowest round of any Aledo player in the tourna-

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# LADYCAT **OF THE WEEK**



**Addie Perry** 

Softball The senior had a pair of hits, including a triple, and drove in five runs in the Ladycats' 17-0 victory against Saginaw Chisholm Trail on April 4. She also drew a walk and stole a

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TRACK AND FIELD

# Qualify 36 individuals for area

By Rick Mauch The Community News

If anyone had any question about which is the best track program in District 5-5A, Aledo left little to question following their performance on April 2-3 in Saginaw.

Aledo swept all four divisions, varsity boys and girls, along with junior varsity boys and girls. The varsity qualified 19 boys and 17 girls for the Area 5/6-5A Meet being held at press time on Friday, April 11 at Tim Buchanan Stadium. From there, the top four finishers in each event will advance to the Region I 5A Meet on April 18-19 in Lubbock.

For the Bearcats, this was their sixth consecutive district championship dating to 2019 - with the exception of 2020, when there was no meet because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ladycats captured

# Aledo teams sweep district titles

ing by a single point to Justin Northwest in 2024.

"The team ran and competed well. They're starting to peak at a good time in the season," Bearcats coach Andy Clark said. "The 4x400 has the best chance to advance the farthest. Vaulters always have a chance to go far."

Both the Bearcats and Ladycats won their respective 4x400-meter events, along with sweeping the top three places in the pole vault, including 2024 state bronze medalist Braylon Brown taking the first step to getting back to Austin by winning. Maggie Kilburn, who narrowly missed reaching state last season, won among the girl vaulters.

Adam Averett led all Bearcat area qualifiers, advancing in five events, four individual, and as part of the 4x400 relay (with Trey Warner, Jace Lay, and Lincoln Tubbs). Averett also won the discus and Warner the 400 individually. Tyler Connelly

their fourth title in five years, los- won the Bearcats' other gold medal, capturing the 3200.

Addison Smith (100, 200) and Molly Garrison (1600, 3200) each won a pair of gold medals for the Ladycats. Smith also ran a leg of the winning 4x400 relay (with Mykel Murry, Sofia Brandenburg, and Mayden Mitchell). Brandenburg also took the top spot in the 800.

"All girls, varsity and JV, performed great. So proud of all of the girls," Ladycats coach Mike Pinkerton said. "I think we are in a really good place right now. We should see some really good results at area, and we are supposed to see much better weather conditions. District was a little rough, with the rain, wind, and lower temps.

"Area is going to be very tough. District 6 is comprised of extremely good teams across the board, in all events. We are going to have to be ready to compete."

Clark added that, "Competing at home is always a big advantage.

It looks like good weather, so I'm hoping for some fast times. The other district has some good times coming into the meet, so it should be competitive."

# **District 5-5A Track and** Field Championships at Saginaw High School, April 2-3

Running events in meters, field events in feet

**Aledo Varsity Girls** 

Team score: 202, first place. Area qualifiers

Top finishers (top four in each event qualify for area)

High Jump: 3. Sawyer Voight, 4-10. Pole Vault: 1. Maggie Kilburn, 11-6; 2. Claire Campbell, 11-0 (tiebreaker); 3. Emma Ralph, 11-0.

Triple Jump: 4. Savannah Thompson, 34-8.

100: 1. Addison Smith, 11.89. 200: 1. Smith, 24.46; 4. Alexa Plantz, 26.03.

400: 2. Mykel Murry, 1:00.49; 4. Emery Thompson, 1:01.21.

800: 1. Sofia Brandenburg, 2:19.17; 3. Murry, 2:22.11; 4. Mayden Mitchell, 2:22.75.

1600: 1. Molly Garrison, 5:06.46; 2. Micah Neal, 5:14.88; 3. Brandenburg, 5:29.14.

3200: 1. Garrison, 11:04.87; 2. Neal, 11:15.75: 3. Madison Larsen.

11:35.21. 100 Hurdles: 3. S Thompson, 16.11. 300 Hurdles: 2. Victoria Crews,

4x100 Relay: 4. Plantz, Macie Laidley, Voight, E. Thompson,

47.96: 3. Voight, 48.87.

4x200 Relay: 4. Crews, S. Thompson, Jordan Wright, Laidley, 1:51.48.

4x400 Relay: 1. Murry, Mitchell, Brandenburg, Smith, 4:06.17.

**Aledo Varsity Boys** 

Turn to TRACK, page 11

# **GOLF**

# Follow girls crowning

By Rick Mauch

The Community News

The Aledo golf teams and district championships go handin-hand. This season, the Bearcats Black team once again won the District 5-5A championship April 2-3 at Cross Timbers Golf Course in Azle. It came on the heels of the Ladycats having also repeated as district champs March 31-April 1 on the same course.

The Bearcats had a two-day score of 651 (312-339) to edge runner-up Granbury Purple with a 658. Aledo Orange was third with a 674.

# Bearcats win district title again

The Bearcats Black and Granbury Purple qualified to advance to the Class 5A Region I Tournament April 16-17 at Lake Ridge Country Club in Lubbock. The Ladycats Black team will be competing April 14-15 on the same course.

"We've been going back and forth with Granbury all year long," Aledo coach Brian Mourning said. "It's great to beat them to win this, but they're going to be a force to reckon with at regionals."

While the top two teams and top two individuals not on those teams advance from district, from regionals the top three teams and top three individuals not on those

teams qualify for state. The Girls State Tournament is April 28-29 and the Boys State Tournament is May 5-6, both at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown.

Logan Lund of Aledo Orange led all Bearcat scorers with a 156 (74-82), third overall individually. Braden Stokes led Aledo Black with a 157 (76-81).

"I'm going to take Logan on the Black team to Lubbock," Mourning said. "A 74 at the district tournament, I can't turn a blind eye on that. He earned his spot."

Also for Aledo Black, Ethan Elmore tied for fifth individually with a 159 (76-83) and Ryland Haley posted a 160 (80-80) to tie for seventh. Will Kirkman came in with a 175 (80-95) and Maddox Jessup shot 179 (83-96).

Rounding out the Aledo Orange scores were Evan Boukadoum, 170 (84-86); Tyler Anderson, 172 (84-88); Brian Yarbrough, 176 (88-88); and Grayson Freeman, 188 (96-92).

The four lowest individual scores comprise the team scores for each round.

Henry Ballew of Granbury won the individual medalist title with a 153 (73-80), followed by Ethan Bartlett of Azle at 155 (78-77).

The second day of the tournament featured inclement weather to start the day, delaying the start.

Once the rain ended, there was still wind and cold to deal with.

"We dodged the rain, but the wind kicked up," Mourning said. "You get out on that back nine and it's pretty open."

The Bearcats could very well face similar winds in Lubbock. As for teams to beat, along with his own and Granbury, Mourning noted Argyle, Grapevine, Amarillo Tascosa, Burlington Centennial, and Fort Worth Paschal, which dropped down from Class 6A this season.

"Regionals is going to be a challenge," Mourning said. "There's going to be a lot of talent out there, but if we play like I know we can, we can be right there in the mix."

# **BASEBALL**

from page eight

well with a pair of singles, two RBI, and one run scored while Graham finished 2-for-2 with three RBI. Luke Gladchuk also had an RBI single while Luke Trager scored one run and hit a double. Landon Barnes added a single and a run to the winning cause.

Moving forward, the Bearcats' aim is to continue their rise with an emphasis on the details as the team remains tied with Granbury atop the district standings.

"We could work on our approach and just know what we're looking for in certain counts," Barry said. "For me, your at bat starts well before you hit the on deck circle. You need to pay attention to how their pitcher is pitching against guys - what his slider looks like, what his curveball looks like, and what his fastball is doing - you need to gather all that information before you hit the box. I think you can pick a lot of that up by talking

to guys who hit before you and just paying attention to what their pitch sequences look like — know what they are trying to do, what the situation is, what they're probably trying to induce — things like that. We just need to continually sharpen ourselves."

# **Trager goes deep as** Aledo plates 14 in 5-inning win over **Fossil Ridge**

A combination of productive offense, strong pitching, and quality defense has continued to carry the No. 4 Aledo Bearcats as of late, and the trend continued in the Bearcats' most recent district outing Friday night, April 4. Aledo finished off its series against the Fossil Ridge Panthers in dominant fashion, following up a 14-0 road win with a 14-0 victory at home.

"Games like this gives us looks at guys coming off the bench to see how they come into a game, which helps us look for some missing pieces along the way," Bearcats

head coach Chad Barry said. "We will need a guy to come in off the bench as a pinch hitter or as a defensive replacement if one of our position players goes into relief. It's important to add to our depth, keep everyone engaged and everyone is more invested in the program as a whole when we can get opportunities like this."

tions from some younger faces such as Kyle Poindexter, Jackson Loos, and Will Casey — among others en route to its second consecutive 14-0 win, as the Bearcats seemed to crack open the pavement that has resulted in a flowing, productive offense as of late.

"We didn't really make any changes, but sometimes teams will have ups and downs with the struggles with the bat, and we've kind of come out of those struggles during the first two weeks a little bit," Barry said. "Sometimes, hits are contagious, we're all scoring some runs and everyone is relaxing at the plate after getting a couple of hits. That pays dividends for us up and

down the lineup, and we have a lot of talent on our roster — we could almost have two sets of starters."

The Bearcats nabbed three early runs aided by a pair of Fossil Ridge errors, and Blake Burdine followed with an RBI double that scored two more for a 5-0 advantage. After that, Noah Graham drove in another run with an RBI groundout to Aledo got plenty of contribu- make it 6-0 in the first inning. The Bearcats added two more runs in the second inning with a standup RBI double by Lucas Nawrocki and an RBI single from Burdine.

"Last couple of games, we haven't been hitting the ball that well, so we decided to come out, have fun, swing the bat at good pitches, and see what happens," Bearcats outfielder Luke Trager said. "We've had a couple 10-plus run games the last two, so it's exciting for us and good for our confidence with our bats going forward."

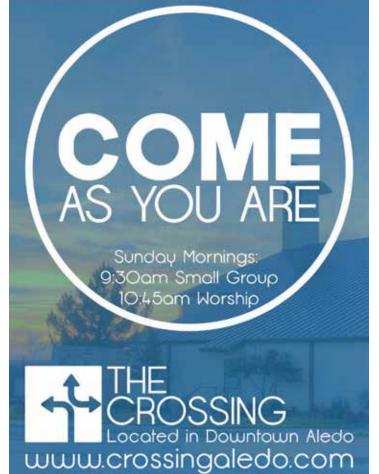
In the third inning, Trager belted a double to the left-center gap that increased the tally to 9-0 and Nawrocki made it 11-0 with a tworun RBI single. In the bottom of the fourth, Poindexter scored on a passed ball while Loos remained on the base paths. Then, Trager put an exclamation mark on the victory by blasting a two-run homer to left center for the final margin of 14-0.

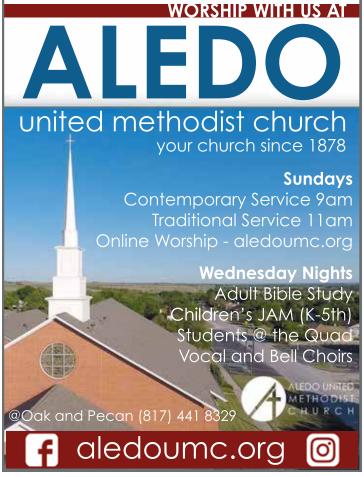
"It's awesome making plays like that. Whenever you catch a barrel, it's the best feeling ever," Trager said. "I've been in a slump over the last couple of games, so getting out of that on Tuesday felt amazing. I'm getting my confidence back up and it feels good having the team behind you — I love playing with those guys."

On the mound, Devin Miller secured the win and kept the Panther bats quiet. He nearly reached a double-digit strikeout total across five innings with only one hit surrendered. Nawrocki also had a big impact at the plate with

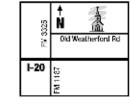
Aledo (16-5, 5-0) will return to the field for another district game at 7 p.m. Friday, April 11 at Saginaw for the second half of the teams' home-and-home series.

# Churches









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#### **NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The City of Hudson Oaks is requesting proposals for the construction of **SOUTH FORK LIFT STATION**. Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Hudson Oaks at 210 Hudson Oaks Drive, Hudson Oaks, TX 76087 until 11:00 am CDT, Tuesday, April 22, 2025 and proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud in person only. The major work will consist of 0.9 MGD lift station expandable to 1.2 MGD and approximately 200 linear feet of 12-inch inlet gravity sewer line. Bidding and contract documents may be examined at the Kimley-Horn office 801 Cherry Street Suite 1300, Fort Worth Texas, 76102. Copies of such instruments will be available at CivCast at https:/www.civcastusa.com/.

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#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of PATRICIA JUNG WILLIAMS, Deceased, were given to the undersigned Independent Executor on the 31st day of March, 2025, in the proceeding indicated below my signature hereto, which proceeding is still pending, and that I now hold such Letters Testamentary as Independent Executor. All persons having claims against said estate. which is being administered in the county below named, are hereby required to present the same to me at 777 Main Street, Suite 2700, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, before suit upon same is barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such estate is closed, and within the time prescribed by law.

> (s) J. ROGER WILLIAMS. Independent Executor of the Estate of PATRICIA JUNG WILLIAMS, Deceased, No. 25P084, in County Court of Parker County, Texas

Dated this 31st day of March, 2025

#### **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 Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Drainage 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, Thursday, April 17, 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 Water, Sanitary Sewer, Storm Drainage and Paving 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.

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April 04, 2025 Publication: April 11, 2025



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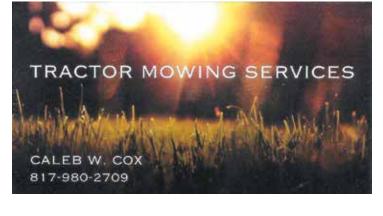
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> Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# FOOTBALL

# Practices begin Monday

By Rick Mauch

Spring has sprung, and so has football. And, with all due respect to the UFL down the road in Arlington, in Aledo that means practices are about to get underway for the 2025 season and the pursuit of a baker's dozen of state championships.

With 12 state championships, the most of any high school in Texas, Aledo has bragging rights. Each championship

# Bearcats set for spring workouts

workouts

Practices begin Monday, April 14. They conclude with the spring game at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14.

All practices begin at 6:40

includes:

- Monday-Wednesday, April
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, April 22, 23 and 25.
- Monday-Thursday, May 5-8.
- overall The schedule
- Monday-Thursday, April 28-30 and May 1.
- began with a solid spring of · Monday and Tuesday, May
  - The Bearcats are coming off a 12-2 season that saw them reach the Class 5A Division I state quarterfinals.

Of their 12 state titles, 11 have been won since 2009 with head coaches Tim Buchanan, Steve Wood, and current head coach Robby Jones. Their first title was won in 1998 under Ruchanan

The Bearcats will carry a 127game national-record district winning streak into the 2025 season. They have won district every season since 2009.

# **ALEDO BEARCATS 2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

All home games played at Tim Buchanan Stadium

Scrimmage, Aug. 21, Mansfield Timberview, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 29, Denton Guyer, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 5, at Lancaster, 7:30 p.m. **District 3-5A Division I** 

Sept. 12, Brewer, 7 p.m.

Sept. 19, at Birdville, 7 p.m.

Sept. 26, Keller Fossil Ridge, 7 p.m. (homecoming)

Oct. 3. at Denton Rvan. 7 p.m.

Oct. 10, Granbury, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17, Open

Oct. 24, at Richland, 7 p.m. Oct. 31, Azle, 7 p.m. (Football Senior Parent Night)

Nov. 6, at Denton, 7 p.m.

April 11, 2025 **11** 

# TRACK

Team score: 195, first place. Area qualifiers

High Jump: 4. Caden Cunningham, 6-0.

Pole Vault: 1. Braylon Brown, 15-0; 2. Adam Averett, 14-6; 3. Kantyn Kasich, 14-0.

Discus Throw: 1. Averett, 158-1; 2. Jake Lancaster, 152-2; 3. Christian Sandoval, 145-8.

Shot Put: 2. Carson Dempsey, 47-8.

200: 2. Adrian Fuller, 21.61.

400: 1. Trey Warner, 50.59. 800: 2. Jace Lay, 2:00.03; 4. Luke

Schabel, 2:03.30. 1600: 2. Tyler Connelly, 4:29.36; 4.

Noah Lay, 4:37.68. 3200: 1. Connelly, 9:36.01; 2. Jack

Fink, 9:41.26; 4. Lay, 10:08.73. 110 Hurdles: 2. Avarett, 14.70; 4.

Isaac Brooks, 15.16. 300 Hurdles: 3. Avarett, 39.07; 4. Lincoln Tubbs, 40.38.

4x100 Relay: 4. Fuller, Kai Taylor, Alex Patton, Tubbs, 43.04.

4x200 Relay: 2. Fuller, Taylor, Patton, Gavin Richardson,

1:29.70.

4x400 Relay: 1. Warner, Lay, Tubbs, Averett, 3:23.18.

#### Aledo JV Girls

Team score: 163, first place.

Top individuals

High Jump: 4. Kimber Perkins, 4-4. Pole Vault: 1. Kara Overstreet, 10-0; 2. Addie Fields, 9-6; 5. Elizabeth Gamez, 7-0.

Long Jump: 5. Tiara Butler, 14-9.5. 200: 2. Hannah Hubley, 27.97; 4. Ashton Teague, 29.04; 6. McKenna Smith, 29.61.

400: 1. Butler, 1:04.53.

800: 1. Kjersten Lov, 2:34.66; 2. Carley Couch, 2:41.65.

1600: 1. Hadleigh Walton, 5:39.39: 2. Loy, 5:39.76; 3. Carley Couch, 6:00.47.

3200: 1. Walton, 12:28.85; 2. Lov. 12:46.84; 3. Paula Redondo, 12:55.06.

100 Hurdles: 2. Braylin Wiggins,

300 Hurdles: 2. Wiggins, 52.74.

4x200 Relay: 4. Brooklyn Clark, Hubley, Smith, Evie Revard, 1:55.55.

4x400 Relay: 1. Jenessa Valadez, Fields, Butler, Walton, 4:28.02.

### Aledo JV Boys

Team score: 197, first place.

Top individuals

High jump: 1. Cooper Hull, 5-10. Pole Vault: 1. Lukas Green, 11-6; 2. Jace Schull, 11-0; 3. Landon Kusich, 10-6.

Long Jump: 5. James Gebhardt, 18-7. Discus: 1. Casen Evans, 126-7; 2.

Guliian Lara, 124-6. Shot Put: 2. Omari Din-Mbuh,

43-3.5; 3. Tymon Meeks, 41-2. 400: 6. Caden Nussbaum, 55.83.

800: 2. Reed Murray, 2:10.04; 4. Shane Noveski, 2:10.35. 1600: 1. lan Robbins, 4:49.22;

2. Thatcher Pettit. 4:57.04: 5. Noveski, 5:02.19. 3200: 1. Robbins, 10:25.54; 2. Pettit,

10:29.90: 4. Andrew Walsh. 11:31.98. 110 Hurdles: 1. Rudy Moya, 16.13; 2.

Briley Perkins, 16.53; 3. Vander Newton, 16.97.

300 Hurdles: 1. Moya, 42.67; 2. Sky Bradford, 42.77. 4x200 Relay: 3. Hull, Cason

Cartwright, Cooper Cheak, Nolan Walker, 1:35.05. 4x400 Relay: 2. Blake Fischer, Hull,

Kusich, Nussbaum, 3:43.39.

Weatherford qualifies dozen for area

The Weatherford Kangaroos (8) and Lady Roos (4) combined to qualify a dozen athletes for area from the District 3-6A Meet on April 2-3 in Fort Worth.

Winning varsity gold medals were Braelee Gilbert (discus) for the Lady Roos, along with

Brigham Harmer (pole vault) and Liam Riley (shot put) for the Kangaroos.

District 3-6A Track and Field Meet April 2-3

### **Weatherford Varsity Girls**

Team score: 50.17, fifth place. Area qualifiers

300 Hurdles: 4. Ivy Knox, 48.64. 1600: 3. Remington Boone, 5:17.95. Discus: 1. Braelee Gilbert, 118-6. High Jump: 3. Claire Connor, 4-10. 3200: 3. Boone. 11:22.73.

### **Weatherford Varsity Boys**

Team score: 56.5, sixth place. Area qualifiers

4x100 Relay: 4. Cory Pantoja, Jaiden Parker, Dayton Kreipe, Kaden Axel, 43.12.

100: 3. Pantoja, 10.87. 300 Hurdles: 4. Xavier Craven, 40.74.

High Jump: 4. Robert Taylor, 6-0. Pole Vault: 1. Brigham Harmer, 13-6. Shot Put: 1. Liam Riley, 47-3.

## **Weatherford JV Girls**

Team score: 135, second place. Top individuals 3200: 2. Navelli Ordonez, 12:34.24; 3. lvy Scott, 12:40.06.

800: 1. Macaiah Franklin, 2:23.05.

100 Hurdles: 4. Hayden Davis, 17.80. 4x200 Relay: 2. Kyra Billingsy,

Sophia Knowles, Delilah Rivas, Trinity Strunk, 1:49.88.

400: 4. Franklin, 1:03.65.

300 Hurdles: 3. Davis, 51.15; 4. Maddison Baruch, 51.60.

200: 4. Anissa Dearman, 27.72. 1600: 2. Scott, 5:56.38; 4. Ordonez,

6:00.32. 4x400 Relay: 2. Franklin, Strunk,

Kinzley Eakman, Ordonez, 4:26.04.

Discus: 4. Kayle Fuller, 82-11.5.

High Jump: 1. Kiya Payne, 4-8.

Long Jump: 3. Baruch, 15-6.25; 4. Dearman, 15-5.5.

Triple Jump: 1. Anaylah Smith, 33-8.

### Weatherford JV Boys

Team score: 46, sixth place.

Top finishers 100: 4. Jakob Hemphill, 11.35.

Discus: 4. Justin Fiddler, 109-11. High Jump: 3. Cody Glaszczak, 5-2.

Long Jump: 3. Junior Valdez, 21-2.5.

Pole Vault: 4. Lennan Anglin, 9-6. Triple Jump: 4. Jakob Hemphill,

40-5.

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**12** April 11, 2025 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

SOFTBALL

# Ladycats cruise past Panthers 14-0

# No. 4 Aledo remains unbeaten in district play

By Geoff Heppes

As their impressive season continues on through their continued dominance of district foes, the No. 4 Aledo Ladycats showcased another masterclass performance in front of their home fans Tuesday night, April 8, against the second-place Fossil Ridge Lady Panthers. The Ladycats' familiar formula was on full display with another performance of quality, complementary softball as Aledo rolled to a 14-0 win in five innings.

Senior shortstop Marina Taveras got the home team on the board early after her basesclearing RBI triple gave Aledo a 3-0 lead. The Ladycats scored four more runs — the last two coming on an RBI single from Jordyn Edington — to balloon the lead to 7-0 as the initial inning concluded.

After a scoreless second inning, Aledo plated four more runs in the third inning via RBIs from Delaney Rosser, Kyleigh Pawlak, and Taveras. year that she [McKean] came more in the following frame as Kellen Overturff's two-out Heath and Rosser.

McKean provided a fitting end final three batters she faced. McKean, who also produced an RBI double at the plate, freshman year — it's incredible.

surrendered two hits and one She's so good and so talented, run to go with her two-run RBI walk while striking out 13 Fossil Ridge batters on just 73 total pitches.

In their previous district outing, a four-inning, 17-0 win at Chisholm Trail, the Ladycats secured their 50th consecutive district victory, which dates back four years, and saw McKean record her 350th career strikeout.

"We take it one game at a time, so it doesn't seem as monumental as it is until you get there, and then you're like. 'Holy smokes," Ladycats head coach Heather Myers said of her team's recent achievements. "It takes a lot of discipline, and we talk about discipline all the time, but it really shows when you start seeing feats like 50 straight district wins and 350 strikeouts."

McKean, who currently sports a 1.42 ERA and 113 strikeouts through 54.1 innings this year, has been a key component to her team's success this year, and her previous experiences in the program have benefitted in her impressive career to date.

"Last year was really the first

The home team scored three in and started really pitching every other game," Myers said. "She's always had really good infield single paved the way pitching in front of her, who from RBI hits from Grace she's gotten to work with and receiving mentoring from, and Star senior pitcher Taylor I know that has helped her out a lot. I was talking with one of to the game by retiring the my coaches just imagining how many strikeouts she'd have if she'd been pitching since her

and that's just a credit to her and her work ethic. Again, it's an incredible feat, but we take it one game at a time until you realize it. It takes a lot of discipline and a lot of just not paying attention."

The Ladycat defense currently has an astounding 0.967 fielding percentage this season. An 0.994 fielding percentage against district foes has provided great synergy between those in the field and those who find their softball niche in the circle.

"No matter what, they are always coming to play their best game for whoever is on the mound," Myers said. "I think that speaks a lot to their camaraderie and their respect for the pitching staff. The defense comes for the pitchers and the pitchers have a lot of trust knowing they can relax and miss a pitch and know that their defense is going to work behind them, which is a big deal. Knowing that they've got each others' backs, knowing that they love each other - we're around each other a lot — so there will be little tiffs here and there, but they overcome it pretty well. They know how to overcome as a team because when it's game time, we aren't bringing anything from the outside — it's the maturity that I like to see."

Taveras led the offense going 2-for-3 with a triple, four RBI and one run scored. Rosser produced one hit, one run, and three RBI while Addie Perry added a team-high three runs and one hit. Edington added a single while Pawlak and Heath combined for three runs and two RBI. Freshmen Brooklyn Taloa and Tempe Perry each scored a run while Overturff had a hit and a run.

### **Historic win over Chisholm Trail**

As their strong season continues to roll along, the No. 4 Aledo Ladycats celebrated a historic win at Chisholm Trail on Friday, April 4. The win saw the team's senior ace earn an impressive individual milestone in the program's 50th consecutive district victory, which dates back to 2021. All of this was made possible in Aledo's overwhelming 17-0 run-rule shortened victory.

Star senior Taylor McKean threw all three innings from the mound with eight strikeouts to reach her milestone of 350 career strikeouts. On offense, she hit an RBI double that scored two runs. This season, McKean has thrown more than 50 innings and has eclipsed 100 strikeouts with an ERA of 1.56.

Senior outfielder and leadoff hitter Addie Perry led the charge from the plate with five RBI and a run scored off her scoring hits — a triple and a double. Additionally, Kyleigh Pawlak, Rylee Marx, and Gracie Jones each contributed with RBI doubles.

The Ladycats (20-3, 9-0) will compete inside the diamond again at 7 p.m. Friday, April 11, at Saginaw.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Emily Ickert** 

BASKETBALL

# TCA players honored All-district, all-state selections

Staff Reports

Junior Emily Ickert of the Willow Park Trinity Christian Lady Eagles was named the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools District 1-4A Co-Offensive MVP and first team alldistrict in a vote by the league's coaches. Her sister, freshman Alex Ickert, was named Newcomer of the Year and second team all-district.

Emily was also named second team TAPPS Class 4A All-State.

Second team all-district honors also went to seniors Ella Cockrum and Avery Tiwater. Sophomore Raegan Smith is an honorable mention.

From the TCA boys, seniors Sam Carson, John Chrane and Cole Massey were selected first team all-district. Senior Jonathan Overholt and Reed Robbins were named to the second team, while honorable mentions went to seniors Bo Blauser and Scott Wesley Smith.

Chrane and Massey are all-state honorable mentions.

Academic all-state honors were earned by:

Girls — Tiwater, Cockrum, and E. Ickert. Boys — Carson, Massey, and Overholt.

Good luck in your run to state!





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