

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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POLITICS

Mayoral Profiles

By Joanna Hardy
The Community News

Two incumbent mayors in east Parker County face challengers on the May 3 ballot.

City of Aledo

Incumbent Nick Stanley is challenged by Shane Davis.

Nick Stanley's primary focuses include protecting Aledo from sub-par, dense development; creating a more efficient city hall; and maintaining quality city services and public safety. He plans to continue working with other leaders to maintain growth policies according to the desires of Aledo families.

Shane Davis plans to reduce the property tax burden on Aledo homeowners by growing the commercial tax base. One proposed solution is to communicate with the owners of Dean Ranch so the land may remain in Aledo's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and potentially be developed.

City of Willow Park

Incumbent Doyle Moss is challenged by candidates Teresa Palmer and Catherine Davis.

Doyle Moss' campaign focuses on his record as Mayor, listing accomplishments such as addressed water supply concerns and improved parks. He plans to continue working with the City Council to fix streets and manage the coming growth.

Teresa Palmer's vision for Willow Park according to her website includes "sustainable growth, economic prosperity, and enhanced quality of life for all residents." She cites her experience in finance, business management, and project leadership as qualifications for the position.

Catherine Davis plans to support local businesses through clarifying the permitting process and incentivizing new businesses. She also intends to lower taxes by cutting unnecessary costs, but maintaining essential services and investing in improved city infrastructure.

Audio interviews with the candidates can be found at community-news.com.

Election Day is Saturday, May 3.

Races and Candidates

Aledo ISD, Place 4
Jeremiah Stoker
Forrest Collins

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

Weatherford ISD, Place 4
Samuel Stephens
Dan Woods
Devon Flowers

Aledo, Mayor
Shane Davis
Nick Stanley

Aledo, City Council, Place 2
Todd Covington
Christian Pearson

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WILLOW PARK

Practical Applications



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo High School students (from left) Matthew Dominick, Samuel Ghent, Amelia Buck, and Faith Bartlett presented their design for a restroom/picnic pavilion for King's Gate Park at the April 22 city council meeting.

AHS students design facility for King's Gate Park

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Within the next nine months or so there is likely to be a new restroom facility and picnic pavilion at King's Gate Park — and the design team will be four students from Aledo High School's architecture program.

Those four students — junior Faith Bartlett, senior Samuel Ghent, and juniors Amelia Buck and Matthew Dominich showed a model of their plan and provided details at the April 22 meeting of the Willow Park City Council.

Bartlett, designer and modeler, is a third-year architecture student, and she began the presentation. She said her role was to help find design inspiration and to build the model.

Dominick, a third-year architecture student, spoke next.

"My main role in this project was supporting costs, design elements, and developing ideas to the smallest details," Dominick said. "I also provided help constructing the model. I'm so proud to be a part of this wonderful city of Willow Park, having the opportunity to have real-world experience that paves the pathway for the future, and having an amazing team — these four people are amazing."

Buck, also a third-year student, said "this has been such an amazing experience, getting to work on the design process from start to finish with this whole team, and it gives a nice sneak peek at what industry and college architecture might look like."

Ghent is already planning to study architecture at Texas Tech. He designed the AutoCAD file and worked on the digital model.

"This project was a lot of help to help jump start my college career," Ghent said.



The students in turn walked through the design with the council. They said they looked at other structures in the area to come up with a design that would fit in with existing architecture.

"We went into this project looking for ideas to create a bathroom in the pavilion that was ADA compliant and accessible to everyone, serving balanced needs of park guests, with some aesthetically pleasing features that served to add on to the enjoyability of the park itself, we searched for ways to incorporate aesthetics and functionality, looking to provide space that can be used for events such as picnics, birthday parties, or even just a little get-together while children play at the park," Bartlett said.

"We noticed this very prominent blue white and kind of silvery gray color theme," Buck said. "To keep with that theme, we picked out two specific colors to set a baseline for the kind of tones we were thinking would look well. We picked celestial blue and commercial white and bringing forth the blue through the roof and the trim we give our bathroom and pavilion more of a personality and character, while keeping it in harmony with the rest of the park, especially the play set."

One design element was a mural on one side of the structure.

"The mural will hopefully be designed and painted by an art student at Aledo High School.

This was a really important aspect to our design, because it added a lot more detail, a lot more color, a lot more personality to our building, which we thought it was lacking," Ghent said. "It also allowed us to incorporate more of our community, which is a really big aspect of our project."

The genesis

Tim Rogers, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator at Aledo High School, told *The Community News* that the project was borne out of a field trip.

"I took the students to a field trip — my Architect II students — to go visit Randy Law, the code enforcement guy at the city and he did a presentation to them about code compliance, like what's the process if I want to build a house in Willow Park, Rogers said. "We talked about building costs and all that he said, 'yeah we may try to get a bathroom pavilion' and I said, 'well what if we designed it for you.'"

They took the idea to Mandy McCarley, director of Parks and Recreation for the city.

Rogers offered to provide ADA-compliant AutoCAD drawings and Revit design (a process of creating, editing, and reviewing 3D models of buildings and infrastructure using AutoDesk Revit).

McCarley provided a list of what was needed by law

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SOFTBALL

Ladycats advance in playoffs

Facing Burleson in second round

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats ran their winning streak to a dozen games and advanced to the second round of the Class 5A Division I playoffs with a bidistrict sweep of Colleyville Heritage, 3-0 and 12-1 on April 23-24.

The Ladycats (26-3), ranked No. 7 in the state and champions of District 5-5A, moved on to face No. 23 Burleson's Lady Elks (23-6), District 8-5A runners-up. Burleson defeated Fort Worth Paschal 13-3 in bidistrict.

The Ladycats and Elks were squaring off at press time on Thursday, May 1 at Chisholm Trail High School.

In the opening victory against Heritage, Aledo pitcher Taylor McKean struck out 14 Lady Panthers in seven innings. In the second game, Tempe Perry fanned eight in seven frames.

Kyleigh Pawlak led the Aledo offense with five hits in the two games, including four in the second game. She doubled three times and tripled once, driving in four runs and stealing three bases.

Delaney Rosser had a pair of doubles in the sweep, along with a walk, getting hit by a pitch and driving in a run. Kellyn Overturff had three hits in Game 2, including a triple and a stolen base.

Also getting extra-base hits for the Ladycats were Brooklyn Taloa (double, RBI), Kayleigh Martin (double), Breleigh Mayer (triple, RBI) and Jordyn Edington (double, two walks, two RBI).

Class 5A Division II Bidistrict

Best-of-three series

Aledo 3, Colleyville Heritage 0

Aledo hitting: Delaney Rosser double, walk; Kyleigh Pawlak double; Marina Taveras hit; Tempe Perry hit, RBI; Kayleigh Martin hit, walk; Brooklyn Taloa double, RBI; Jordyn Edington walk, stolen base; Austyn Marriage walk, RBI; Grace Heath 2 stolen bases.

Aledo pitching: Taylor McKean 7 innings, 5 hits, 0 earned runs, 14 strikeouts, 5 walks.

Aledo 12, Colleyville Heritage 1

Aledo hitting: Pawlak 4 hits, 2 doubles, triple, 4 RBI; Kellyn Overturff 3 hits, triple, stolen base; Taveras 2 hits, RBI, stolen base; Addie Perry hit, walk, 2 stolen bases; Rosser double, hit by pitch, RBI; Martin double; Breleigh Mayer triple, RBI; Edington double, walk, RBI, stolen base.

Aledo pitching: T. Perry 7 innings, 6 hits, 0 earned runs, 8 strikeouts, 3 walks.

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Honey is sweet stuff, but hard to produce

Bee business takes patience and luck

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

Bees are too busy trying to survive to care about stinging. They are normally not aggressive and their sting is relatively mild. A bee's sting is also usually its last, as it dies. According to the USDA Agricultural Research Service, less than one percent of the population will have an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to a bee sting.

James Vasich knows all this first hand. As owner and operator of Aledo Apiary, Vasich makes a living removing and rehoming swarms of bees. Being stung just comes with the business — even for a prepared, cautious professional.

Vasich encourages contacting a bee expert to extract and rehome bees rather than exterminating them. He notes killing not only hurts the bee population, but often compounds the problem, because dead bees and honey left behind after exterminating attract mites and other pests.

“If it is on someone's property, it is their choice, it's up to them,” Vasich said. “But when we remove bees, they will be incorporated into the aviary, and if the queen's good and the temperament of the bees is good, they will become part of the colony.”

There are a few feral hives Vasich encounters with an overly-aggressive disposition, but only three times in his career has he come across what he believes were actually Africanized bees.

Vasich has about 100 hives, but that number fluctuates depending on many factors.

Raising bees is not easy because bees can be moody. The science behind splitting hives, breeding queens, freezing honeycombs for future bee food, and collecting strays that have gone rogue are other challenges. Precautions also have to be taken to avoid deadly enemies of the bees like mites and moths.



James Vasich examines a bee colony using a bee suit and a bee hive smoker. The hand-held smoker alarms bees, causing them to cluster close to the hive and concentrate on eating.



James Vasich dons a bee suit.



An active beehive loaded with honey and bee bread.



Bee hives are frozen to keep pollen “bee bread” for when bees need more protein in dry seasons.



A busy bee on a turnip blossom in one of James Vasich's gardens.



Corks act as life rafts for thirsty bees in a large watering trough near James Vasich's 100 hives.

Bees can be used for agricultural exemptions and for hobby, but Vasich suggests not considering raising bees without the knowledge and effort it takes to sustain a colony. If you love the sweet stuff, remember that bees make honey for their own survival. It takes time

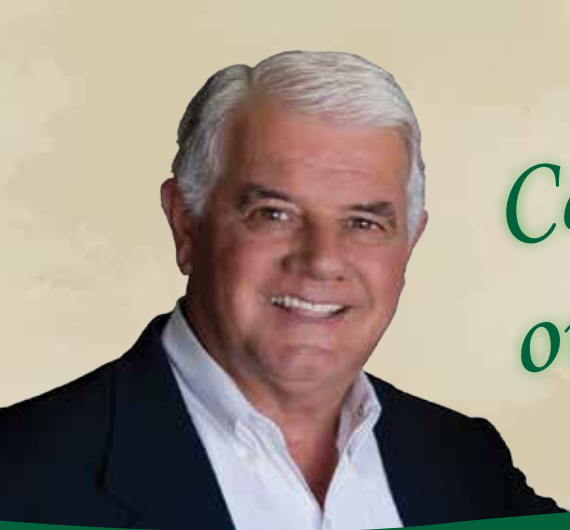
to produce an abundance they can part with.

Bees need pollen for protein to survive. They also produce and consume honey because they burn so much energy buzzing up to three miles from their hives to forage for pollen. Vasich has been raising bees long enough to harvest honey and

has plans in the future to market it, but it takes time, patience, and luck to mature colonies to the point they produce beyond what they need for themselves.

“This past year was OK, but the year before that was a severe drought,” Vasich recalled. “I think

Turn to HONEY, page 3



Campaigning on results!

Since being elected Mayor of the City of Willow Park, we have:

- Solved Willow Park’s water issues working with our neighbor Hudson Oaks to get Water from Fort Worth
- Solved our Waste Water problem with a new Waste Water plant to open in 2025
- Lowered our property tax rate
- Doubled our sales tax revenue

- Improved approximately 10 miles of needed road repair with plans to do more
- Annexed 321 acres of I-20 frontage road East of our city which will include Retail and Residential development
- We upgraded the Cross Timbers Park and are in the process of upgrading Kingsgate Park
- I have 100% support from our current City Council

• Election Day voting, Saturday May 3rd, 7AM to 7PM at Willow Park Public Safety Building

I’m asking for your vote
Doyle Moss

Political ad paid for by the Doyle Moss Campaign



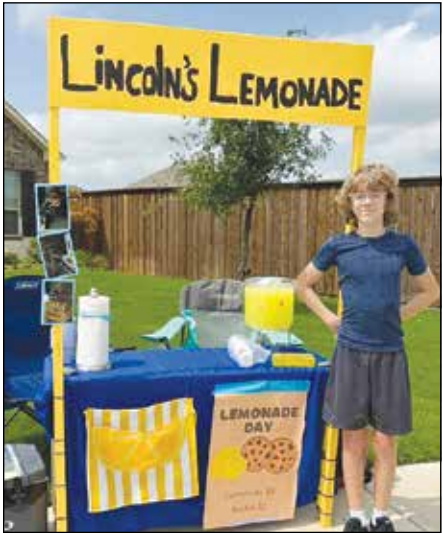


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A well-informed citizenry is essential to the functioning of a democracy



THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Lincoln's Lemonade - Lincoln Pierce, 12, sixth grader at Tison Middle School. Weatherford's first Lemonade Day was a smashing success, just ask more than 80 kids who manned 24 lemonade stands. The Parker County students spent weeks building their stands and business plans. The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce and Young Business Leaders Weatherford sponsored the event.

Dear Teachers and Staff,

As many times as I can thank you for all that you do, I know it will never be enough. What you do is incredible, and you do it every class, every day, every year. My wife was a special education teacher for 17 years, and through her, I have gained invaluable insight. I also make it a priority to regularly connect with teachers and staff to better understand how I can serve you. We share a lot of laughs, hugs, and sometimes tears.

I have seen firsthand what teachers and staff do for students. Growing up, my parents were not involved in my education. In high school, teachers would call to check in on me, buy me clothes, and help me find odd jobs so I could afford to eat. There were so many teachers who challenged me while giving me the confidence to be the best version of myself.

I often say, if you want to know how students are doing, don't ask a test. Ask the teacher, the bus driver, the cafeteria worker, the custodian, the paraprofessional—the people who care for our kids every day.

As a society, we must do more to support those shaping the next generation. Too often, schools are blamed for society's challenges, while also being asked to solve them. We must reverse the trend in our nation of teachers leaving the profession and fewer entering it. That starts with supporting the work you do, providing the tools you need, and ensuring competitive pay and benefits.

Make no mistake, you are doing the Lord's work. You teach, care for, and love on our children. You are molding the next generation of great Americans.

I will always fight for you, just as educators have always been there for me. It would be an honor to have your support and your vote to continue supporting you and the amazing work you do in Aledo ISD.

*Always,
Forrest Collins*

Results-driven leader

Mayor Doyle Moss is a results-driven leader whose vision and dedication have transformed Willow Park, TX, for the better. From securing affordable, long-term water solutions to improving infrastructure and reducing the city's tax rate by 25%, Mayor Moss has fostered economic growth and positioned Willow Park on a clear path to prosperity.

Mayor Moss has set the standard for what true service to a community looks like. His

leadership reflects a commitment to excellence that every elected official should strive to emulate. Through his work securing critical infrastructure, driving economic development, and delivering consistently for Willow Park residents, Mayor Moss has demonstrated the core values of integrity, foresight, and responsibility. His proactive approach to solving challenges, combined with a deep commitment to fiscal stewardship, serves as a benchmark for all those in public office.

The Republican Mayors Association is proud to endorse Mayor Doyle Moss for his unwavering dedication to the people of Willow Park and the values that strengthen our communities.

*Mike Demkiv
Republican Mayors Association*

HONEY

from page two

I fed them probably 4,000 pounds of sugar all summer and through the winter just to keep them alive because there was nothing blooming. People think you can plop some bees on a property and you get honey, but it is not that easy."

To augment meadows of wild-flowers around his property, Vasich plants large gardens of flowering buckwheat, sunflowers, turnips, garlic, and clover so he has flowering foliage through most of the year to nourish his bees.

Because words like "pure honey" and "Texas honey" are sometimes vacillating terms used for products that are blended with glucose sugar or honey shipped into Texas for distribution, Vasich is part of the non-profit Real Texas Honey (www.realtexashoney.com) which promotes the production of 100 percent pure Texas honey.

You can read current bee reports and watch videos of James Vasich doing bee removals on the Aledo Apiary Facebook page or call him at 817-781-4345.

DESIGN

from page one

and what the city wanted in the structure.

"Then I just I just let the kids go on their own. They kind of sequestered for about six weeks up in the library," Rogers said. "They worked every day by themselves and they did it — I mean, they knocked it out the park — it was amazing."

Rogers said the Aledo High School architecture program is in its second year, and by next year there will be students who will be doing practicums at architecture firms.

He said his group is already working on another project — an ADA-compliant wheelchair bridge for Cross Timbers Park.

"Our engineering students are going to do a fabrication build up and do a stress test on it and then we're going to come back with materials so we're going to have two different groups working on the bridge. If the (City of Willow Park) decide they like it then they can use it. If not, it's just a good

project for students to do for the resume for sure.

Construction plans

Willow Park City Manager Bryan Grimes said that it is not only possible, but likely that the students' work will be used.

"We do have a civil engineer on staff, Gretchen Vasquez, so if anything needed to be stamped or signed or reviewed, we do have that internal that we can use," Grimes said. "For the kids, I guess it would probably give them a starting portfolio for if they decided to do this in college."

"I really did like the design, and I like what the students produced."

Other business

In other business, the council:

- approved a tax not to finance continued street repairs in the city;
- approved an interlock agreement with Parker County Precinct 4 to provide those street repairs; and
- awarded a bid to JRJ Construction for the Beall-Dean Ranch sewer lift station.

ELECTION

from page one

City of Weatherford, Mayor
Paul Steven Paschall
Will Montgomery

City of Willow Park, Mayor
Doyle Moss
Teresa Palmer
Catherine Davis

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

Millsap ISD, Vote none, one or two
Heidi Ritthaler
Ryan Shands
Sunny Bates

Millsap ISD, Special one year of three-year term
Shelby Humphrey
Whittney Gilbert

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

Springtown ISD, Place 2
Damon Liles

Matthew Jones


Springtown ISD, Place 3
Wendy Kennedy
Teresa Kelley


Springtown ISD, Special Vote For or Against
School bond election for \$98 million

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

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

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





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Content Submission Policy

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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 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

TEA releases 2023 A-F accountability ratings



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

After a prolonged delay because of a lawsuit filed by about 100 school districts, the Texas Education Agency has released the 2023 A-F accountability ratings, indicating the share of campuses that received a passing ranking dropped by 14% from 2022.

“For far too long, families, educators, and communities have been denied access to information about the performance of their schools, thanks to frivolous lawsuits paid for by tax dollars filed by those who disagreed with the statutory goal of raising career readiness expectations to help students,” said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

A separate, ongoing lawsuit has delayed the release of more recent ratings from the 2023-2024 school year. School performance ratings from the 2024-2025 school year are set to be issued in August.

For the 2023 school year, about half of Texas schools earned an A or B, while roughly 14% scored a D, and 7% received Fs, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

To view 2023 A-F ratings for all Texas public school districts or campuses, go to Txschools.gov.

State insurance crisis is now hitting public schools

Severe weather from hurricanes and other weather events has not spared the state's public schools, resulting in skyrocketing property insurance costs, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. Insurance costs for districts have

increased by 44% statewide in the past five years, according to TEA.

The problem is particularly acute in coastal areas hit by hurricanes and severe storms. Part of the major school finance package passed by the House in April would reimburse school districts in 14 coastal counties for insurance increases above the state average.

Another bill, filed by state Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, would give districts in coastal counties a credit against recapture payments for wind and hail coverage.

“You don't want education to suffer because you're worried about getting money to cover buildings for the kids,” Hunter said.

Abbott signs Texas version of DOGE into law

The Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office is now set to become law after Gov. Greg Abbott signed the measure into law last week. The state office aims to eliminate waste, fraud and corruption in state government and is patterned after the federal Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

The office will launch in 2026 with a \$10-million, two-year operating budget.

“We in Texas will now have our own DOGE, known as the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office,” Abbott said. “This law will slash regulations, put stricter standards on new regulations that could be costly to businesses, and put a check on the growth of the administrative state.”

The new office will also work to reduce state regulations that it considers outdated or unnecessary.

SBA assistance granted for Northeast Texas counties hit by twisters

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved Abbott's request for a disaster

declaration for Northeast Texas communities hit by tornadoes and severe weather earlier this month. The declaration includes Bowie, Camp, Cass, Marion, Morris, Red River, Titus, and Upshur counties.

The approval gives homeowners, renters and businesses access to a number of low-interest loans in affected communities.

Applicants can apply online at sba.gov/disaster or by calling 800-659-2955. A Disaster Loan Outreach Center has opened in Daingerfield to assist with completing applications and answering questions.

Bill clarifying abortion laws clears Senate panel

A bill to clarify the state's abortion laws has passed out of a Senate committee, the *Texas Standard* reported. Some amendments have been added to address criticism from the left and right, the report said. Senate Bill 31 is intended to clarify when doctors can legally intervene and “aligns language” between the state's three bans on abortion. It would also remove the requirement that a medical crisis be imminent before a doctor can act.

The bill, which now goes to the Senate floor for debate, specifically says a woman who has an abortion can't be criminalized “as a party, principal, perpetrator, or accomplice” to the prohibited abortion.

A companion bill in the House is still in committee.

Texas Republicans try to rein in housing costs

A poll last year indicates 90% of Texans view the state's high housing costs as a problem, one that GOP leaders hope to fix, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

“Young people have been boxed out of the housing market,” Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said earlier this month.

While buying or renting a home in Texas is still cheaper

than California and New York, rising costs could affect the state's competitive advantage. In addition, the state needs about 320,000 more homes than it has, according to an estimate from one housing advocacy group.

One approach GOP legislators are trying is to force cities to reduce lot sizes and allow homes to be built in more places, though the proposals would only apply to the state's 18 largest cities.

“The bottom line is there's no new land coming online,” state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, who is behind some of the Senate's efforts, said during floor debate on one of the bills. “It's supply and demand. If there's land ripe for development, for homes, for families, no government should stand in the way.”

Nuclear power in midst of a resurgence

A research lab at Abilene Christian University is building the nation's first nuclear research reactor in more than four decades, *The News* reported. The goal is to prove that small modular reactors can be a clean, reliable source of energy.

“Our goal is to take this technology and bless the world with it,” said Rusty Towell, an engineering professor at ACU who leads the university's effort to build a small nuclear reactor.

The state has signed off on supporting nuclear technology with a \$5 billion development fund. Nuclear power is seen as a way to provide stable energy while slowing climate change. Texas now has nuclear reactors at Comanche Peak, southwest of Fort Worth, and the South Texas Project, about 100 miles northeast of Corpus Christi.

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

A Pullman Pushed and Pulled



Dr. Don Newbury
newbury@speakerdoc.com

It's got to be a borderline miracle when Eastland — a town with fewer than 5,000 people — can lay claim to not one, but TWO “facts” worthy of the *Guinness Book of Records* recognition.

“Facts” has quotation marks for a reason. It's not certain that a horned toad named Ol' Rip actually hibernated for 31 years in the Eastland County Courthouse cornerstone and found alive — sharing space with the Holy Bible and a bottle of whiskey — when the current courthouse construction began. Google for a trainload of stories, most alleging that this creature was featured in an around-the-world tour, and much else. They claim he had a noiseless “stare down” with then president Calvin Coolidge, whose nickname was “Silent Cal.”

Houston V. O'Brien, beloved editor/publisher of area newspapers for more than 60 years, is “H. V.” to many, maybe because he's not a “Houston” kind of guy. I usually call him “High Voltage” or “High Volume.” Anyway, he was preschool age when Ol' Rip was first encased. Honored by the Texas Press Association and many other

groups, he's spent his life beating the drums for “America's best hometown” and perpetuating the story of Ol' Rip. At age 93, he's still drum-beating in his weekly newspaper, *Eastland County Today*. His zeal — coupled with substantiated claims of ongoing community progress by the Eastland Chamber of Commerce — make their assertions hard to argue!

Guinness editors may require more proof. The chamber claims, however, can be “nailed down” as the Gospel, even though Ol' Rip stories and how a train car arrived in town aboard two trucks stretch credulity limits.

Many of us arrive on the backs of turnip trucks. The Pullman didn't, but if you guessed trucks were involved, you're on track. Fact is, the rail car — built in the 1930s and in service for some 30 years — made the 60-mile journey from Abilene to Eastland atop two 18-wheelers! (With today's regulations, there would have been “zilch” chances for the move.)

Don't get ahead of me. The 80-foot-long rail car was placed aboard BOTH trucks, with one backed against the other — reverse-gear — for the entire

distance. Surely this is some kind of record!

Originally, the plan was for what is now Bank One Abilene to use the Pullman as an advertising tool. This didn't work out, so the late Don Pierson, an Eastland community leader, bought it for his daughter's 16th birthday some 60 years ago, moving it to Eastland.

For several years, the iconic rail car was the scene of parties and celebrations, visited by celebrities and ordinary folks alike.

Come 2021, Brandon and Crickett Abbott purchased property that includes both the Piersons' former residence, with “The Train” — a new AirBnb attraction — 100 yards out back. It's on West Plummer, near the South Hillcrest intersection. Spending \$70,000 and thousands of hours of “elbow grease,” the Abbotts are ready for their May 1 Grand Opening!

Craig Murphy, a busy vocalist, maintains a frenetic schedule that makes the Energizer Bunny's pace look best fit for runner-up finishes in turtle races.

Making more than 500 appearances annually since 2011

— largely at care centers and often thrice daily — he's a former “spring chicken” morphed into mid-autumn. His “busyness” didn't faze the traffic officer who flagged him down on I-20.

There was no talking his way out of this citation. “I've been waiting for you all day,” the officer wise-cracked. “I got here as fast as I could,” Murphy cracked back. (He also jokes about a friend addicted to brake fluid “who can stop when he gets ready.”)

Uncle Mort lives in a tiny community where most motorists are lost, confounded when “beats me” shows up on their GPS. Many law enforcement officials may not know it exists.

Mort laughs when asked if there's even a map dot.

“Heavens no! There's little between the two highway signs that read ‘Litter Barrel Ahead’ and ‘Resume Speed.’”

Dr. Newbury, a longtime speaker in the Metroplex, may be contacted at 817-447-3872 or newbury@speakerdoc.com. His column may be accessed on his website, www.speakerdoc.com, where he reads it aloud, sometimes without stum-bling.

McKean’s story is simple, but not to opposing batters

Ladycat pitcher among program’s best

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

There’s nothing special or unique about how Taylor McKean began playing softball. She tried out for a team at the age five, loved the sport, and kept playing.

Of course, it’s not been so easy for opposing batters — and the majority are most likely wishing she’d chosen another sport for her passion.

But she didn’t, and now she’ll leave the Aledo program after this season as one of the best pitchers ever to don a Ladycats uniform. That’s saying a lot, given the program has established itself annually as one of the best in the

state, even winning a national championship several years ago.

“Tee ball was super fun for me, and I was relatively good at it,” McKean, a senior, said. “Even when there was no real pitcher in tee ball or coach pitch, I was always drawn to the circle, so when I was about eight, I decided to try it out for real.”

She also had her sights set on playing for the Ladycats almost from the day she was born.

“I moved here from Fort Worth when I was about one, so I have basically been here my entire life. I went to all the summer camps and every game I could,” she said. “I always knew I was going to be a Ladycat.”

Joining varsity

McKean has been on the varsity for three full seasons, but she was called up for a playoff run in her freshman season that included a state runner-up finish. She also often practiced with the varsity as well during the regular season as a freshman.

“With there being four pitchers on varsity at the time, I knew it would be tough to fully make varsity as a freshman, but I feel I still proved I could compete at that level and earned a spot later in the season,” she said.

The Ladycats reached the state semifinals last season with McKean playing a much larger role. This season, behind her skills in the circle, the goal is to bring home the state championship that has eluded them despite three appearances at state since 2021.

“I am super excited about this season and the potential that we have. Our team dynamic is special, something that we all value and we all know is important to success,” she said. “This season, we all have the same thought process, we all want to win more than we ever have before.”

“It was hard fighting all throughout the playoffs, only for us to barely fall short. With most of the team returning, we all have a collective goal. It’s hard to put into words how difficult the results of last year were, but I think it made us all closer and it made us want to work harder to get farther.”

Major accomplishments

Among her accomplishments as a Ladycat, McKean recently reached 350 career strikeouts. Given the team is never one to rely on a single pitcher for all games throughout the season, that’s extremely impressive, said Ladycats coach Heather Myers.

“Who knows how many she’d have if she didn’t have to share time with other pitchers,” Myers said. “She’s a special pitcher.”

The folks at Tarleton State University agreed. She received a scholarship to pitch for the TexAnns next season.

“I am super excited to compete at Tarleton and play at the next level. This has been a dream of mine for a very very long time, and seeing it come true, especially at a school that felt like home the moment I stepped on campus, is just amazing to me,” McKean said. “Aledo has really put me in a position to succeed in college. Every season provides me with an opportunity to push myself and get better facing amazing competition.”

Something else McKean takes great pride in is having not lost a district game during her high school career. The Ladycats have not lost a league game since falling 5-4 at home to Granbury on March 12, 2001 — when McKean was in the eighth grade.

“That streak is pretty special to me. Not only is it a show of my progress and just how far I’ve come in these four years, but it also keeps me motivated to keep winning and keep producing for my team,” she said.

McKean also plays club ball for Texas Glory. Her accomplishments there include the team reaching the Alliance Nationals in California and placing third in the Tier 2 division.

“Although moving up to 18u was pretty tough with such a young team, we have still managed to do well through the seasons after that, but that was my proudest moment with them,” she said.

For the Ladycats, her top individual accomplishments have included being honorable

mention all-district as a sophomore, District 5-5A Co-Pitcher of the Year as a junior, and being a part of the Texas Girls Coaches Class 5A All-Star Team.

“I got to participate in an all-star game with a bunch of other talented players over the summer,” she said.

College

McKean is about to achieve another first. While both of her parents are athletic, neither of them pursued sports past high school.

“Actually, in my entire family, all twenty-something of us, there really hasn’t been anyone who has pursued sports past high school,” she said. “I am essentially the first one to play a sport in college and take it to the next level.”

McKean plans to study biomedical sciences with the intent to someday become a physician’s assistant.

“My goal has always been to go into the medical field after my mom, and I am very lucky that I get to play the sport I love while being able to pursue the career I want,” she said.

Memories

And to create enough memories to last her the rest of her life, she noted: “My favorite memories of being a Ladycat are both of the state runs I was able to be a part of. As a freshman, it was so cool to start off my high school career getting to experience the playoff environment and seeing up close how much talent was on this team. It really showed me the ways of being a Ladycat and set my expectations for future years,” she said.

Last year was even more special, she continued.

“Getting to pitch in a playoff game is so exciting. The energy is different and everything is just intensified,” she said. “Getting to pitch in the state semifinals was even more exciting, and it is something I will never forget. It was like a full circle moment watching all my teammates getting to play in the 2022 state semis and then getting to do it myself two years later.”

“I am very grateful to have been able to be a part of this program. These four years have meant the world to me and I can only hope that I can leave a lasting effect on this program for the future Ladycats.”



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AHS Jazz band bops, grooves, swings

By Christopher Amos
The Community News

Music fans were treated to jazz, tropical music and jump-blues as Aledo High School Jazz Band entertained at the Island Breeze fundraiser in the school cafeteria.

Multiple musicians took solos and students bopped and twirled on the dance floor as guests enjoyed cake and refreshments. Led by Jake Albin, AHS Associate Director of Bands, parents and students enjoyed great authors and conductors such as Henry Mancini, Buddy Johnson, Herbie Hancock, and Gordan Goodwin.

The event opened with guest artists The Jags, a trio composed of former AHS jazz band students. Members of The Jags are Jerry Olazaran, sax, now at TCU; August Lambert, bass, now at Texas Tech; and Gavin Haddox, drums, now at UTA.

The Aledo band will perform May 6 at the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts in Richardson.



Students swing to the music.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Gavin Haddox



August Lambert



The Jags trio, Gavin Haddox, drums, Jerry Alazaran, sax, and August Lambert, bass.



Director Jake Albin

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Guaranteed to be a night of laughter, magic, and community, Circle Theatre in Fort Worth presents The Hatmaker's Wife Thursdays-Saturdays until May 10.

Thursday performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday performances are at 8 p.m. Saturday performances are at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$40-\$45.



MAY 2
Front Street Fridays
Shop, sip, eat and socialize in downtown Aledo while stores and restaurants are open from 5-8 p.m. There will be childrens' activities as well.



MAY 4
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 parkercommoms.membershiptoolkit.com/ClayShoot.



MAY 13
Wyldlife Parent Night
Class of 2031 parents are invited to meet the local Young Life staff and other involved parents at 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 13, at Serve Coffee, 328 Old Annetta Road in Aledo.

MAY 16
Fort Worth Cultural District walking tour
Robert Kelleman will lead a free guided walking tour of the Fort Worth Cultural District beginning at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, May 16. The meeting point will be the front of the Kimbell Art Museum, Kahn Building, west entrance - 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth.

Among the venues on the tour are the Kimbell Art Museum, Modern Art



Museum of Fort Worth, Casa Manana Theatre, Will Rogers Memorial Center, National Cowgirl Museum & Hall of Fame, Fort Worth Museum of Science & History, and the Amon Carter Museum of American Art.

Socializing and icebreakers from 5:45 - 6 p.m. The walking tour gets under way about 6 p.m.

MAY 21
Baccalaureate Service
The Baccalaureate service for the Aledo High School Class of 2025 will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, at Aledo United Methodist Church.

MAY 31
All-Class Reunion
SAVE THE DATE: An all-class reunion for Weatherford High School will be held on May 31 at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center. For more info, call 817-894-1822.

JUNE 7
Willow Park Palooza
The sixth annual Willow Park Palooza will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, at The Shops at Willow Park (210 Shops Blvd).

ACROSS

1 TX Tanya's "_____" Cowboy Lovin' Night"

5 TXism: "fast as small _____ gossip"

6 TXism: "_____ a yarn" (tell a lie)

7 dir. from Vega to Canyon

8 Dale Evans wrote "____! San Antonio"

9 TX Buddy Holly was in _____ plane crash in 1959

15 TXism: "best I _____ laid eyes on"

16 TX Zellweger was on the _____ of winners in 2020

19 TXism: "wiggles like a _____ hook"

21 TXism: "I _____" (intend)

22 TX Byron Nelson was a caddy at "_____ Gardens"

27 "_____ out of it!"

28 toward the rear of a ship

29 what happens after a Texas hail storm?

30 TX Jensen Ackles was in film "_____ Hero" (2007)

32 he was "Mingo" when TX Fess was Daniel Boone (init.)

33 cowhands who keep cattle from straying type of blue jeans

37 Mr. Houston

38 TX "Big-un" Bradley was the first cowboy "_____ Man"

39 first in Texas: "_____ State Forest"

41 mechanic's _____ secures payment for work done

42 stockings material

45 where some Texans ski in New Mexico

46 first woman to serve in U.S. Congress, Thomas

47 "_____off" (shirk a duty)

48 current time for TX Rollins, U.S. Sec. of Ag.

9 TXism: "dark _____ cats"

10 this Couples won the Shell Houston Open in 2003 (init.)

11 Coleman h.s. class

12 landfills? (2 wds.)

13 got off the horse

14 most common rock in Texas: _____ stone

15 once an event in Texas: "Kid 'n' _____ Festival"

16 TXism: "fits like ugly _____ ape"

17 _____ of lightning (flashes)

26 country singer, Morgan

28 first ever pro bridge team: "Dallas _____"

31 honky tonk light

34 Drake of "Down Laredo Way" (1953)

35 TXism: "let '_____ rip!"

37 "got off _____ free"

40 Piney Woods area is in _____ Texas

43 "downward dog" discipline

44 TXism: "_____ log" (park bench)

50 raid, incursion

51 "King of Rock" (init.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1739

WILLOW PARK PALOOZA

Activities include face painting, balloon artists, food trucks, vendors, and more.

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

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Top Ten Percent Banquet: May 5
Senior Breakfast: May 19
Senior Clapout: May 19
Senior Sunset: May 20
Baccalaureate: May 21
-Aledo United Methodist Church
Graduation: May 23
-Rainout dates: May 24 & 25

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BASKETBALL

Drew Baker named new boys coach

By Mercedes Mayer

Aledo ISD

Drew Baker has been named the head varsity boys basketball coach at Aledo High School.

Baker has been the first varsity assistant boys basketball coach at Class 6A Mesquite High School since 2022. He has previously been a head coach for 12 years at various schools, recording more than 200 wins. Prior to Mesquite, Baker was a head coach at Lincoln Christian School in Oklahoma, Johnson City (Texas) High School, Cornerstone Christian School (Texas) and Metro Christian Academy in Oklahoma, where he was also a varsity assistant coach.



Baker

“I’m incredibly honored to be named the head basketball coach for the Aledo Bearcats,” Baker said. “I look forward to building strong relationships throughout the community, mentoring young men in our basketball program, and continuing to build on the success the program has already achieved. Aledo is a wonderful community, and my family and I are excited to be a part of everything it represents!”

Baker has made 14 playoff appearances in his career and four state tournament appearances. He was a Coach of the Year nominee for 5A TAPPS in 2018, coach of the SAAABC All-Star game in

2017, and coach for the Jim Thorpe All-Star Game in 2009. He has a bachelor’s from Howard Payne University where he was also a member of the mens’ basketball team.

“We are thrilled to have Coach Baker joining us as our Bearcat basketball head coach,” Aledo ISD Athletic Director Brandy Belk said. “His experience and knowledge will be a gift to our students and this program, and I know he’ll be able to jump right in and build on the success we had last season.”

Baker succeeds Brian Blackburn, who led the Bearcats to their first district championship this season. Blackburn was hired as the head coach of the Florida College Falcons.

“We weren’t looking to leave, and love Aledo. but sometimes God’s timing is not our timing,” Blackburn said.

Sports Briefs for May 2

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

BASEBALL

Bearcat Day set with Rangers

Aledo ISD Day with the Texas Rangers is scheduled for June 1 at 12:05 p.m. It’s also Aledo alum/Rangers pitcher Cody Bradford Jersey Day. For tickets, visit rangers.com/schools. The Rangers will be taking on the St. Louis Cardinals.

Bearcats, Eagles move up in state polls

The Aledo Bearcats and Brock Eagles each moved up one spot in their respective state rankings this week in the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association polls. Aledo (23-6) moved up from No. 6 to No. 5 in Class 5A and Brock (22-2) moved up from No. 6 to No. 5 in Class 4A. The Bearcats won District 5-5A with a 12-0 record and will face Birdville in a best-of-three bidistrict series this weekend. The Eagles won District 6-4A with a 9-1 record and will play Levelland in a best-of-three bidistrict series, also this weekend.

Roos advance to postseason

The Weatherford Kangaroos (13-16-1 overall) finished fourth in District 3-6A with a 6-6 record. They will meet Southlake Carroll, No. 4 in the state in Class 6A, in a best-of-three bidistrict series this weekend.

RODEO

WC rodeo claims three regional titles, sets new record

Weatherford College competitors won three Southwest Region Rodeo championships recently, sending two athletes headed to the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming June 15-21 and another to the to the National Finals Steer Roping Championship at Clarendon College on May 26. Cashton Weidenbener won for team roping-heeler, Jacee Graff for goat tying and Catcher Gasperson in steer roping. Following a second-place finish this past weekend at the Tarleton State University Stampede with a 12.5 on two goats, Jacee Graff set a new Weatherford College record for goat tying. She accumulated 1,057 points this season. This surpasses the previous WC record of 665 points set by Kody Engle in 2008. Graff is now third on WC’s all-time high point winner list behind Lane Livingston’s 1,405 points in 2016 for tie-down roping and Leighton Berry’s 1,070 points in 2019 for bareback riding and calf roping. Zane Rampey’s 19.4 on two was good for second in tie-down roping. In breakaway roping, Cassidy Weber placed fourth with a 5.4 on two. Kyle Karin (Texas Tech) and WC’s Brice Beene took fourth in team roping. In bull riding, Mecate Trammell tied for fourth overall with a 78 on one. This marks the 21st consecutive year that Weatherford College has qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo. Historically, five individual athletes from WC have won national championship titles, and the women’s team claimed the 2022 national team title.

SOFTBALL

TCA’s season ends in bidistrict

The Willow Park Trinity Christian Lady Eagles’ season came to an end with an 8-6 bidistrict loss to Carrollton Prince of Peace on Friday, April 25. They finished with a 14-12 record. Leading the TCA offense were Christina Kuschel with two hits, including a double, along with two walks. Breeley Chapman had a double. Also collecting hits were Molly Speaks (with a walk and RBI), Claire Chaffey (with an RBI), Alex Ickert (with a walk) and Ashlyn Chaffey.

Brock advances in playoffs

The Brock Lady Eagles (28-0-2), the No. 1 team in the state in Class 4A, swept Levelland in two games, 7-6 and 2-1, to advance to the second round of the 4A Division II playoffs. They will meet Burkburnett (17-16) in the second round, a best-of-three series Friday and Saturday.

VOLLEYBALL

WHS to host Grass Bash tourney

The Weatherford Lady Roos will host the Grass Bash Volleyball Tournament on May 10. Games start at 9 a.m. at the Hall Middle School football field. The tourney features teams with four to six players and can be co-ed. Deadline to enter is April 17 and entry fee is \$25 per team. For more information, email chammett@weatherfordisd.com or kbrannon@weatherfordisd.com.

GOLF

Crick finishes strong at state



ALEDO ISD

Emily Crick of the Aledo Ladycats competed in the state tournament for a second time in three years.

Makes second appearance in three years

By Rick Mauch
The Community News

Continuing a tradition that spans more than two decades - before she was even born - Aledo’s Emily Crick competed at the Class 5A State Tournament at Legacy Hills Golf Club in Georgetown Monday and Tuesday, April 28-29.

Crick, a junior, finished with a two-day total of 158, opening the tournament with a 77 and finishing with an 81. She tied for 28th place individually.

It was an 18-stroke improvement from her performance two seasons ago when she was part of the entire Ladycats team that qualified.

“In two years how much she’s grown and matured, and how her golf game has just gotten so much better is amazing,” Aledo coach Brian Mourning said. “She was our No. 1 girl this year and will probably be No. 1 next year.”

Crick’s growth has included winning a District 5-5A individual championship this season after finishing fourth as a freshman

and second as a sophomore. She improved from 12th at regionals last season to fifth this season.

Also, the Ladycats have won district all three years she has been on the varsity.

“She had three holes today that got her,” Mourning said. “But she finished strong. I always tell the kids it’s not where you start, it’s where you finish.”

Crick parred the final three holes after running into some trouble on the 15th hole.

“She’s a fighter. She’s not gonna quit,” Mourning said. “A key is learning from your mistakes and I saw a lot of that from her down there.”

With two trips to state in three seasons, Mourning said he believes the best is yet to come from Crick as she prepares for her senior season.

“Everybody down there’s good. You’re going to hit bad shots, but you react says a lot, and I am impressed with how she responded,” Mourning said. “Having that experience and playing with these kids at this high level is only going to help her going forward.

“I’m very much looking forward to seeing what she does next season.”

SOCCER

May named head girls coach

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

Taylor May has been named the head varsity girls soccer coach at Aledo High School.

May has been the head girls soccer coach at Keller Timber Creek High School for the last five years, leading her team to the playoffs twice. Prior to that, she was a varsity assistant soccer coach and teacher at Timber Creek for six years. May has also been a junior varsity soccer coach, freshman volleyball coach and strength and conditioning program coach in her career.

“I’m honored to join Aledo and lead the charge in taking the girls’ soccer program to new heights,” May said. “Together, we’ll build a culture of excellence, commitment and unity - on and off the field. Our

journey starts now, and the best is yet to come!”

May is a member of the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches, and she has previously been a professional development presenter in Keller ISD. May has a bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University, where she was a student athlete and played women’s soccer for three years (NCAA one year, Club two years).

“I am excited to have Coach May join the Bearcat family as our girls soccer head coach,” Aledo ISD Athletics Director Brandy Belk said. “I am looking forward to introducing her and her family to our athletes, school and community and to see the impact her energy, passion, and expertise will have on the program.”



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TexasSCAN Week of April 27-May 3, 2025

HOME IMPROVEMENT
ACREAGE
Waterfront Land Sale — June 7th only, off of Matagorda Bay, Texas' Newest Waterfront Community featuring 1-3 acre properties starting at \$49,900. By appointment on June 7th: 830-310-6195.

AUCTION
Land Auction May 22 — 410 ± acres commercial, home site acreages, and recreational land offered in 13 parcels located 8 minutes northeast of Mount Pleasant along Interstate 30. 918-550-8118, CJ-Auctions.com.

Coyote Hills Ranch Production Sale — Sat., May 3, 1 p.m., Chattanooga, OK. Selling 75 lots of pairs with 15 bulls. Bid live online at www.LiveAuctions.tv. For more information, call 580-704-6739 or view catalog online at www.coyotehillssok.com.

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Lake City Area Medical Center is hiring a Mid-Level Provider. Benefit package, retirement, PTO, conference/CE allowance, HSA. \$95,000-\$110,000/yr. EOE Send CVs to lcmecenter@lcamc.net or request job descriptions.

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PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Kelly Ranch Estates, LLC on Behalf of Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for the construction of **1 PWS Trinity Water Well & 1 PWS Paluxy Water Well 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, Monday, May 19, 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 1 PWS Trinity Water Well & 1 PWS Paluxy Water Well.

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.

Baird, Hampton & Brown, Inc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Town of Annetta will conduct a public hearing on May 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta, and will act upon the following request:

1. A Special Exception for 112 Ridgecrest Drive, a property containing .828 acres of land (Lot 6, Block 2, Subdivision: Deer Creek Phase 1) to allow for a 768 square foot accessory structure that exceeds the allowed square footage as set forth in Section 8.10.B.2.c of the Town of Annetta Zoning Ordinance 215.

All interested persons are urged to attend.

TO BE PUBLISHED: Friday, May 2, 2025

(s) Jamee Long, City Secretary/Administrator
Town of Annetta, Texas

PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Kelly Ranch Estates, LLC on Behalf of Cresson Crossroads MUD No. 2 for the construction of **Water Treatment Plant #2 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, Monday, May 19, 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 Water Treatment Plant #2.

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.

Baird, Hampton & Brown, Inc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A RE-PLAT OF A SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN PRECINCT #4

THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS' COURT of Parker County, Texas, will conduct a Public Hearing on the First Floor of the Main Courthouse, located at One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, Parker County, Texas, on Monday, the 12th day of May, 2025, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. to consider, discuss, and/or act on the re-plat of a subdivision located in Precinct 4, Parker County, Texas:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE PARKER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT TO APPROVE THE REPLAT OF THE FOLLOWING SUBDIVISION:

REVISION DU CHANE CHATEAUX

Consider/discuss/and, or act on a replat of lot 5R & 6R in a subdivision known as Du Chane Chateaux located off of Brandon Drive in Precinct #4.

Puzzle Solution

NEED EXTRA CASH !!! ???
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410+ acres commercial, home site acreages, and recreational land offered in 13 parcels located 8-minutes northeast of Mount Pleasant along Interstate 30.
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- Home Sites: 4 beautiful parcels of 14 to 26 acres.
- Rec/Hunting Land: 2 parcels of 81 and 151 acres.
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VENUS FLYTRAP

THE JAWS OF DOOM

YIKES!

Quick! Help this fly escape the Venus flytrap's grip!

START

FINISH

Beautiful but Hungry

The Venus flytrap is a meat-eating, or **carnivorous**, plant. It is also quite lovely. That is why its name includes Venus. That is the name of the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

But don't worry – a Venus flytrap won't eat you. Mostly they eat bugs. They especially love mosquitoes and flies.

Jaws of Doom True or False Quiz

Make a guess about which of these statements are true and which are false. Then read the scientist's notes about the Venus flytrap to check your answers.


1. Venus flytraps have teeth.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

2. Venus flytraps only need bugs to survive.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

3. Venus flytraps eat anything that falls into their mouth-like leaves.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

4. Venus flytraps help keep bugs out of your house.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

5. Its "mouth" shuts in under one second.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE



Kid Scoop Together:

Cause and Effect

When something happens, there is usually something that caused it to happen. The **cause** comes first, the **effect** second. Here are some examples:

When the hairs on the inside of a Venus flytrap's leaves are touched, the plant snaps shut.

Cause: touch the hairs
Effect: plant snaps leaves closed

If a little rock is put inside the mouth-like leaves of a Venus flytrap, the leaves will snap shut. After about 12 hours, the leaves will open so the rock can drop out because it is something the plant can't eat.

Which part of the above is the "cause?"

Which part is the "effect?"

Look through the newspaper for an article that interests you. Can you find one effect and what caused it?

Cause:

Effect:

Kid Scoop Vocabulary Builders

This week's word: **EDIBLE**

The adjective **edible** means safe to be eaten.

Kevin and his grandpa looked through the bushes for **edible** berries to eat.

Use the word **edible** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

Dangers?

Venus flytraps aren't dangerous to people, but people are endangering them. Venus flytraps are only found growing wild in one small area of the planet – in the grassy wetlands, or bogs, around Cape Fear, North Carolina. This area has just the right climate, amount of water and soil conditions.

Today the plant is threatened in the wild. The draining of bogs for farming and the building of shopping centers and houses has reduced the plant's habitat and numbers. **Less than 5% of the plants are left.**

Venus flytraps have little spikes around the leaves. But they are not teeth. They don't chew. The plant uses digestive juices, much like those in your stomach, to eat insects.

Venus flytraps get much of their nutrition from the bugs they eat, but they also need water, sun and soil to survive.

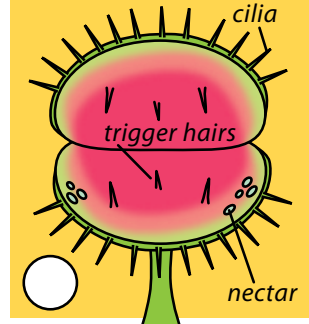

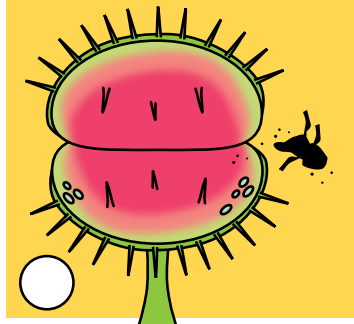
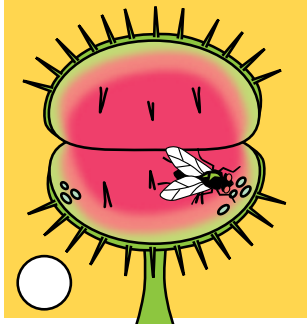
Digestion of real food takes five to 12 days, after which the trap reopens. The insect's exoskeleton blows away in the wind or is washed away by rain.

If something not edible falls into a Venus flytrap, it will close up and try to digest it. But after about 12 hours, it will open its leaves and let the fake food fall out.

Snapping Up a Meal

Number the pictures in order.

Sweet nectar around the edges of the Venus flytrap's open leaves attract insects. As a bug moves across the surface drinking up this treat, it touches small, sensitive bristles on the Venus flytrap. These trigger hairs tell the plant when a possible meal has arrived. Then the plant's "jaws" close very quickly, trapping the insect inside. The long *cilia*, hairs along the leaf edges, act like prison bars, preventing the insect from escaping. Several days later, after the insect has been digested, the leaves open and what's left of the insect body blows away.




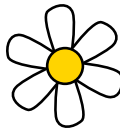


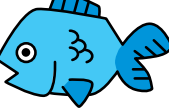
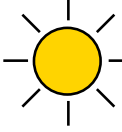






Before & After

Look at a photograph in the newspaper. What do you think happened before the photo was taken? What do you think happened afterwards?

Standards Link: Research: Students predict likely outcomes.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Flytrap is a **compound word**, made by combining two smaller words: **fly** and **trap**. Look at the pictures below. Draw a line between two pictures to make a compound word. Then write the word.



ARMCHAIR

Double Double Word Search

FLYTRAP
CLIMATE
STOMACH
SURVIVE
BEAUTY
SPIKES
EDIBLE
DIGEST
JUICES
VENUS
LOVE
BOGS
FEAR
WILD

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

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

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



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WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Aledo grad’s simple approach brings big results

Mazon leads Coyotes’ offense

Weatherford College
Special to The Community News

Ask Trace Mazon what it is he loves so much about baseball, and he'll give you a simple answer.

“My backstory is pretty similar to most other guys, I had a bat in my hands since I could walk,” he said. “The game has always been a big part of my life, and I wouldn’t change it for the world.”

However, what he’s doing for the Weatherford College Coyotes is anything but simple. After posting a freshman campaign that saw him bat .339 and lead the team in runs batted in with 65 and doubles with 21, he’s back with an even more impressive sophomore campaign.

As of this article, Mazon was leading the Coyotes in batting average (.402), slugging percentage (.774), home runs (15), hits (66), extra-base hits (30), RBI (55) as well as being tied for the lead walks (31) and was second in on-base percentage (.495) and doubles (14).

He was also a perfect 11-for-11 stealing bases, second on the squad.

But, again, mention this to him and he’ll humbly reply, “I’ve tried my best not to get caught up in the season and what the numbers look like. As great as it is to have individual success, that’s not on my mind right now.”

What he will talk about, however, is team success, something he knows plenty about. After leading his Aledo Bearcats to several deep playoff runs in high school, he helped the Coyotes to a 45-15

record last season, winning a conference championship and finishing within a hair’s width of a return to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I World Series, where they finished third in 2023.

Of course, that was a year before Mazon came on board. But he was watching as his future team was close to capturing a national championship, posting a 53-11 record, the best in team history.

Last season was the second best, but this season’s team appears ready to supplant them - and perhaps even the 2023 squad. As of this article, they were 37-8 and ranked No. 3 in the nation, after spending several weeks ranked No. 1.

They also gave coach Jeff Lightfoot his 900th career victory.

“We have a super-talented team and a real shot to win the World Series,” Mazon said. “The main goal I set this year was to leave it all out on the field every single day. If I do that, that’s all I can ask of myself, and everything else will fall into place.”

Mazon said he is proud to be in a position to be a part of something that has never happened before with the program. He noted the winning tradition was one of the main reasons why he chose to come to WC.

“Our team has unlimited potential and has a real chance to do something special. We have had a lot of success this season and have won a lot of games,” he said. “Our pitching staff gets stronger and stronger each week. I don’t think that our offense has completely clicked yet. But it is very close, and once we do click, it will be tough to stop our lineup.”



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Former Bearcat Trace Mazon has a hot bat this season for the Weatherford College Coyotes.

Lightfoot said he has enjoyed watching Mazon develop into a top-notch college player.

“It’s been fun to watch Trace’s progress. He has turned himself into a big-time player who can beat you in multiple ways,” Lightfoot said. “Trace has a great work ethic, and it shows on and off the field. I think Trace is going to get to play for a long time.”

Like many college athletes, Mazon played select ball growing up. It was a challenge that he said is paying off in a big way today.

“Playing travel ball growing up was interesting for me. I had been undersized the majority of my life, so I had to compete at a higher level growing up to be able to keep up with everyone else,” he said. “Now that the playing field is level for me physically,

I feel like I have the upper hand since I have always had to play harder to keep up with everyone else.”

He also said his experience playing for Aledo and long-time Bearcats coach Chad Barry helped prepare him for college ball.

“He was a kid who had to work at being great. He wasn’t blessed with great size or anything that gave him an advantage. Everything he has achieved has come through hours of work when other people weren’t watching,” Barry said. “He helped set a blue-collar example of how to win, how to be successful with his work ethic.

“His impact on our program is really an extension of others that came before him, like Creed Williams, Max Belyeu and Logan Hewitt. He watched those guys that came before him and followed the blueprint.”

Barry compared Mazon’s impact to the Aledo program to that of a famous alum who is now pitching for the Texas Rangers.

“His impact is one that is similar to Cody Bradford,” Barry said. “He wasn’t always the most talented or skilled player on the field, but his senior year, nobody questioned who the hardest working player on the field was.”

Mazon has committed to play for Coastal Carolina University next season and to turn professional when the time is right.

Of course, given Lightfoot’s long history of sending Coyotes to the pros, that could come a lot sooner than later.

“Playing for a winning program and town in high school helped me to learn to play to the standard day in and day out,” Mazon said. “The expectation was always to win, no matter who the opponent was. That expectation and tradition is very similar to the one we have here at WC.”

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