

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

## Swearings In



LAURA WEBER/CITY OF ALEDO

New Aledo Mayor Shane Davis was sworn in at a special Aledo City Council meeting on May 12.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mayor Paul Paschall takes the oath of office at the May 13 Weatherford City Council meeting.



CANDY MCMICHEN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Weatherford ISD school board members (from left) Dan Woods, Place 4; Adam Feriend, Place 3; Wally Wallace, Place 5; and Kindra Lucia, Place 6 were sworn in at the WISD May 11 meeting.



ALEX HOBEN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

New Mayor Teresa Palmer swearing into office at the May city council meeting.

### CORRECTION

In the May 9 issue of *The Community News*, we wrote that Teresa Palmer was “elected as the first woman mayor of the City of Willow Park.”

In the early 1990s Willow Park City Council member Sharon Suarez, who was Mayor Pro Tem, became mayor when her predecessor resigned. She went on to win the next contested election for mayor.

We regret the error.

### WILLOW PARK

## Palmer takes seat as new mayor

City looking for grants to help with bike lanes and pedestrian walkways

By Alex Hoben  
The Community News

A packed house saw the transition of mayors at the May Willow Park city council meeting on May 12.

Outgoing mayor Doyle Moss gave a farewell speech thanking his fellow council members and highlighting the infrastructure work done in his time as mayor, particularly related to the wastewater treatment facility plans.

“With the projects we have done in the past few years, together, we have made Willow Park a better place for our citizens and our neighboring communities,” Moss said. “My hope is you will continue the work you were elected to do. It has been my honor and privilege to serve with you.”

After her swearing in, new Mayor Teresa Palmer spoke about her commitment to the people of Willow Park and how she would prioritize transparency regarding the goings on in City Hall.

“We work for the people,” Palmer said. “Every decision and every dollar must reflect our accountability to the taxpayers who employ us.”

Palmer also introduced a proposal to the board to begin the process to change the government system of Willow Park from a Type A general law city to a home rule class city. This designation means the governing system is defined by its own municipal charter document rather than which the citizens vote on. Palmer also called for a

Turn to **COUNCIL**, page 3



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### WEATHERFORD

## McGratton Park gets needed makeover

By Christopher Amos  
The Community News

Family members hugged Paul Paschall as visitors in the council chambers applauded after Paschall took the oath of office for the position of mayor. After signing documents to formalize his re-election, Paschall held up a pen and explained the personal significance of the small, black implement.

“I have to tell you a quick story about this pen,” Paschall said, describing the gift from his parent-in-laws. “My wife’s parents were in London when I got elected for my first term for school board. I believe it was in 2004 or six. And now I have signed three oaths of office for the school board with this and three mayoral with this, and it means a lot to me.”

Economic Development Week was kicked off by presenting a proclamation to Ashley Seiler, director of economic development; Madison Reich, economic development coordinator; and Tammy Gozzola, president of Weatherford Chamber of Commerce for their groups’ efforts in helping Weatherford achieve a growth rate

## Paschall sworn in

of 5.74 percent and being recognized by the International Economic Development Council.

### McGratton Park makeover

The services of MHS Planning and Design were unanimously approved for a \$188,335 upgrade of McGratton Park, located at 645 N. Main, five blocks north of the Courthouse. Jaycob Kirkpatrick, Director of Parks and Recreation, explained the improvements for the park will include upgraded lighting, new restrooms, shaded seating, improved basketball courts, and a skateboard pump track. The walkways will be designed for strolling, biking, and skating.

While displaying photos of the current park amenities, Kirkpatrick drew chuckles from the crowd when he called the portable toilet, “Our state-of-the-art restroom facility. But don’t worry, help is on the way.”

“Our playground equipment there is about 20 years old, so we are planning newer and better play equipment,” Kirkpatrick added. “The skateboard pump track is something we believe we can fit into our plan as well.”



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Economic Development Week was kicked off by presenting a proclamation to Ashley Seiler, director of economic development; Madison Reich, economic development coordinator; and Tammy Gozzola, president of Weatherford Chamber of Commerce for their groups’ efforts in helping Weatherford achieve a growth rate of 5.74 percent and being recognized by the International Economic Development Council.

A pump track is designed with small, repeating slopes so a skater can use leg and body motion to propel around the track without putting a foot down.

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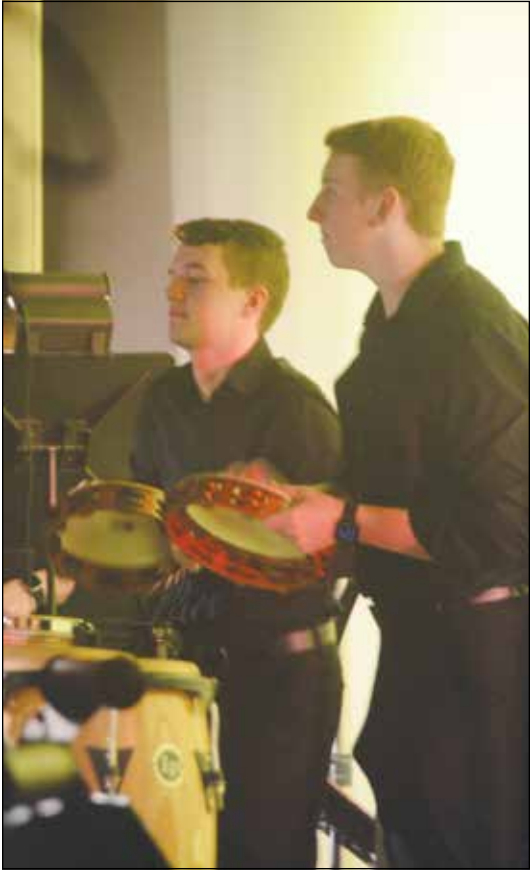
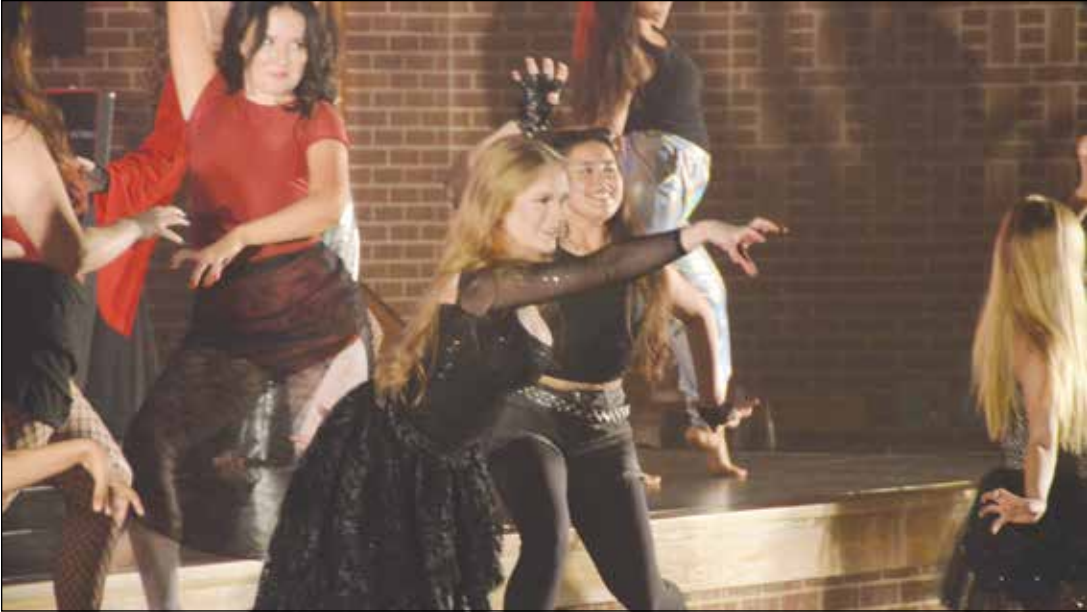




# Aledo fine arts wow crowds with Heroes and Icons

The Aledo fine arts department presented their annual spring extravaganza with the orchestra, drama, and dance groups combining for two evenings of Heroes and Icons. The events May 9 and 10 featured current pop music and movie hero themes as well as recognizing emergency first responders attending the show. The musical and theatrical presentation in the high school auditorium was augmented with newly installed laser lights and video projectors as dancers, singers and actors performed across the stage and throughout the auditorium.

Photos by Christopher Amos/The Community News



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Obituary

Tim Watts

Timothy “Tim” Keith Watts, 64, was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather of Cresson passed away on Friday morning, May 9, 2025, surrounded by family in his home after a brief struggle with cancer.

Tim was born on July 28, 1960 in Fort Worth to Jack and Jean Watts. On March 19, 1983, Tim married Julie Andrews and had two children, Tyler and Megan.

Tim co-owned and operated Watts Drilling Co. His commitment to the Aledo and surrounding communities was evident by his hours answering late night calls and making unplanned visits to service water wells, no matter the day or weather conditions.

He was a licensed pilot and enjoyed spontaneous trips with Julie, friends, and family ranging from Arizona to Florida. Most of all,



Tim Watts

Tim “Topa” cherished time spent with his five grandchildren, who loved his infectious laughter and ornery sense of humor. His strength, wisdom, and kindness left a lasting impact on everyone he knew.

Tim is survived by his wife, Julie; children, Megen (Patrick) Shortess, and Tyler (Tera) Watts; grandchildren, Brynn, Grady, Bailey, Lemon, and Millie; his mother, Jean Watts; brothers, Tad and Toby Watts; and his sister, Torre Holbrooks.

Tim was proceeded in death by his father.

A memorial service celebrating Tim’s life will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at the Church at the Crossing, 128 Elm Street, in Aledo, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Tim’s memory may be made to [aledothanksgivingtrot.com](mailto:aledothanksgivingtrot.com).

The Community News  
May 16, 2025

WEATHERFORD ISD

WISD Board Honors retirees

Teachers, safety officers celebrated

By Candy McMichen  
The Community News

Retiring teachers and safety officers were honored Monday evening, May 12, with a reception during the school board meeting. In welcoming the retirees and their families, Board President Mike Guest told them that they had about 20 minutes to rescind their letters of retirement, but after that, it was too late. Hugs and laughter filled the boardroom as the gathering melted into the business side of the evening.

Celebrated teachers included Lorie Bratcher, Rex Boyse, Niki Comstock, Terry Ferguson, Paula Turnbow, Lisa Durant, Tabitha Hodges, Holly Loran, June Ahrens, and Leta Ratliff. School Resource Officers John Welborn and Dennis Whitford were also recognized for their years of service.

“We stand on the shoulders of some great educators,” Superintendent Dr. Beau Rees said, “You all have set the bar very high.”

“I never questioned that our kids weren’t safer than any other kids in Texas when I see these two here protecting them,” Guest said of Welborn and Whitford.

Board members who won their elections were sworn in by Lana Worthington. They are Adam Feriend, Place 3; Dan Woods, Place 4; Wally Wallace, Place 5; and Kindra Lucia, Place 6.

Curtis Elementary School Principal Lorie Bratcher introduced several of her staff members as she reported on her campus’ status for the last time. She reported that their focus areas were high quality instruction, meets and masters, and growth for teachers and students.

“It was an absolute pleasure to be on your campus,” board member Kindra Lucia said, “We are a big district, but you had that small town feeling when I arrived.”

Bratcher received a standing ovation when she finished her presentation.

Dr. Jessica Duenez, principal at the Ninth Grade Center, explained that their focus included professional learning, a campus cellphone policy, and increasing student attendance through an engaging learning environment.

“Thank you for your leadership. It’s not easy, combining two schools smoothly, and knowing everyone is safe,” board member Adam Fereind said.

The ROOTed in Excellence series addressed instructional coaching and defined the practice as a coach coming alongside a

teacher to focus on one important aspect of the teacher’s proficiency, creating a partnership to improve one skill at a time.

“Improving student outcomes is what we purpose, and as our teachers grow, so will our students,” Assistant Superintendent Dr. Marie Hernandez said. The coaching is a valuable tool for both new and veteran teachers, but not available at the high school level at this time.

“We’re getting better everyday,” Guest thanked the coaches for their mentorship.

Michael J. Jones, Director of Safety and Security, announced that — for the second year in a row — the district had a 100% success rate on each campus from the Texas Education Association in regards to their spot checks on doors and equipment.

In new business, the board voted unanimously to apply for the Optional Flexible School Day Program 2025-2026 in order to give high school students more choices for attending classes.

The repairs to the high school gym elevator were approved at the cost of \$88,455.

They chose to participate in the Connect Investment Trust (Texas Connect LGIP) and approved the Education Service Center Region II Contract Summary Report 2025-2026.

QUOTABLE

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

COUNCIL

from page one

charter commission with residents from Willow Park to be formed.

“Willow Park is operating under an outdated government concept, one that no longer reflects the size, complexity, and aspirations of our growing city,” she said.

Along with the mayor, two other council members were sworn in, Eric Contreras and Chawn Gilliland. They both were reelected to their council seats.

Applications approved for active transportation plan

Parks Director Mandy McCarley and city engineer Gretchen Vazquez presented applications to obtain federal funding through a Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant provided by TXDOT for transportation improvements including bike lanes and crosswalks.

“It’ll be a city-wide, all-inclusive, comprehensive plan,” Vazquez said.

According to the resolution briefing, the approval of these applications is needed to show the city’s “commitment to the project’s development, financing, management, adoption and implementation of completed planning documents.”

McCarley explained how one of the applications includes improvements to alternate travel including fixing broken sidewalks, getting

ADA compliant street corners and safe routes to the school.

“We’re trying to connect all active transportation elements, which include pedestrian, bicycle, micromobility,” Vazquez said.

The other application is regarding the intersection at Meadow Place Drive and Kings Gate Road. McCarley said that through multiple discussions it is an unsafe crossing with dead end sidewalks and high traffic.

“Our proposition to TxDOT was to add bike lanes on Meadow Place to connect that hopefully through as our subdivisions grow that way,” she said.

Along with the bike lanes, the plan also includes adding a crosswalk, ADA compliant corners and streetlights for the intersection.

If approved, the funding for these plans through TxDOT would be an 80/20 split with the city paying 20 percent of the estimated \$290,000 for the first application and \$384,000 for the second application. City Manager Bryan Grimes explained how the city would obligate the engineering funds for this project if approved knowing the city would be paid back by either TxDOT or federal funding.

“The engineering funds are reimbursable,” Grimes said. “Our match would be 80,000, 90,000, wherever that number ends up being, we can budget for that in the next fiscal year. We also have that in reserves.”

Contreras said it sounded like a good deal for the city if they were to get federal funding for the project.

“It seems like a great thing for such a little cost for us to have something where we can have the people with a disability to get onto the sidewalk to cross the road safely,” he said.

The deadline for the detailed applications to be sent in is June, with awards being announced in October.

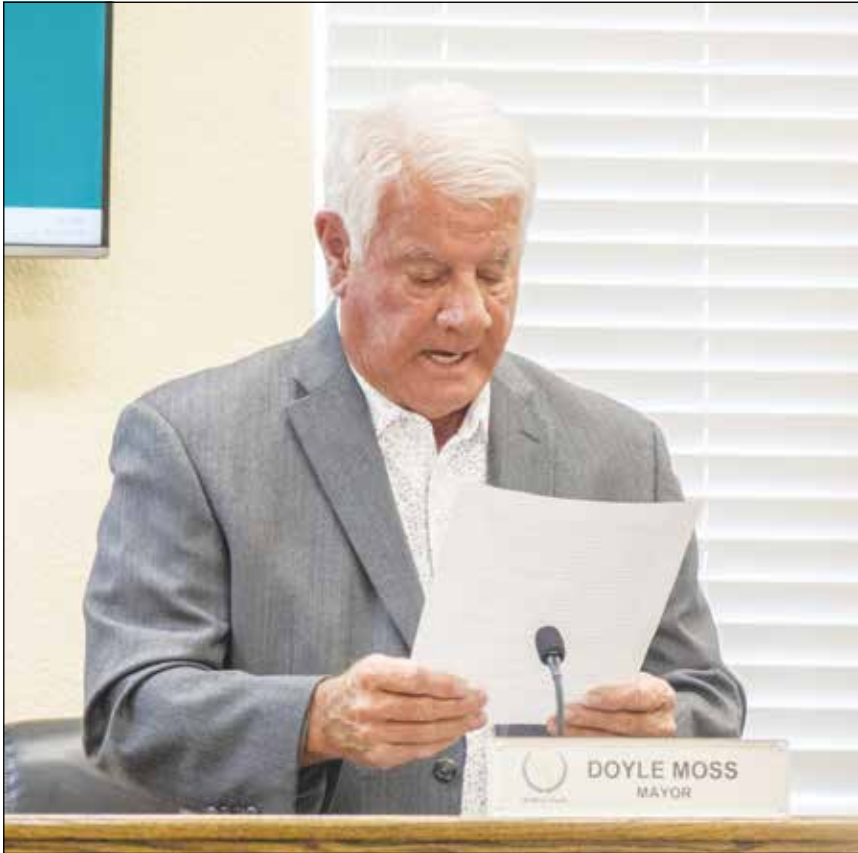
Financial report halfway through the fiscal year

CPA Jake Weber gave a presentation regarding the quarterly financial report, now halfway through the fiscal year.

He said that the city is on budget with general funds. But development, specifically in permits, is down \$213,000 from last year. The total budget is at 52% for the year at this halfway point.

Also in a deficit currently is the Water and Wastewater Funds but Weber said this was due to the timing of the budget with debt payments and with the coming summer months the revenue will increase and break even.

“I think you look good in all your major funds,” Weber said. “You got strong cash position, we looked at water, wastewater, the deficit. Trying to explain ‘Hey, we’re going to come back on that water.’ You have solid reserves, and the



ALEX HOBEN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Outgoing Willow Park Mayor Doyle Moss gives his farewell remarks during the May city council meeting.

general fund obviously is in very strong position. We’ve actually built up some reserves last few years on that.”

- In other business, the council:
- appointed Lea Young as mayor pro tem;
  - appointed Eric Contreras as alternate mayor pro tem;

- updated signatories for city bank accounts to Teresa Palmer, Lea Young, Bryan Grimes, Andrea Saylor, Michelle Guelker, and Eric Contreras;

- updated signatories for the Police Seizure Fund to Andi Saylor, Ray Lacy, and Brian Roberts.

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# Events

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 26

**Memorial Day Ceremony**  
The City of Aledo will host a Memorial Day Ceremony at 10 a.m. on May 26 at the Aledo Veterans Plaza (104 Maverick Street).  
The ceremony will pay tribute to the service men and women who have served the military.

MAY 30

**Movie on the Lawn at The District**  
An outdoor movie night will be held from 6 p.m.

to 9:30 p.m. on May 30 at The District in Willow Park (460 Shops Blvd).

The outdoor screening will begin after sunset and will have open-lawn seating for blankets and chairs.

MAY 30-JUNE 1

**First Monday Trade Days**  
Weatherford will be having their First Monday Trade Days event at 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Sunday and from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday in the historical district of Weatherford (317 Santa Fe Dr.)

The First Monday Trade Days event is open the weekend before the first Monday of each month. The event will feature an open air market with vendors selling various items from plants to crafts to collectibles.

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

For more information, visit <https://theshopsatwillowpark.com/willow-park-palooza/>

2025 Aledo Summer

**Blast**  
The 2025 Aledo Summer Blast will run from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, in downtown Aledo.

There will be food, fireworks and a live concert featuring the Neon Prophets, a 90s country cover band.

Any questions can be directed to the City of Aledo Communications and Event Manager Laura Weber at 817-441-7016 or [lweber@aledotx.gov](mailto:lweber@aledotx.gov).

JUNE 10-14

**Sheriff's Posse Rodeo**  
The 78th annual Parker County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo will take place at 7 p.m. on June 10-14 at the Sheriff's Posse Grounds, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy in Weatherford. For tickets or more information, visit <https://parkercountysheriffsposse.com/>.

JUNE 12

**Alzheimer's Dementia Support Group**  
The Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group meets from 1-3 p.m. every second Thursday of the month at Aledo United Methodist Church. If you are a caregiver for someone and want to learn more about the daily tips, resources and advice, please come join us. We also have a separate activity for your loved one to attend that will be appropriate for them while you meet with our support team.

JUNE 19

**Fit4Mom Community Playgroup 2025**  
The Fit4Mom Parker County group will hold a community playgroup at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on June 19 at The District in Willow

ACROSS

1 young fellas

5 "Welcome to Stanton, Home of 3,000 Friendly People And \_\_\_\_ Old Soreheads"

6 cows (archaic)

7 with 30-down, TXism for "good"

8 TXism: "stirred up \_\_\_\_ (caused trouble)"

17 TX Paul who ran for president 3 times

18 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ duck in water" care giver at Dallas' Parkland (abbr.)

22 Texas \_\_\_\_ University

23 border patrolers

24 TXism: "all \_\_\_\_ watermelon" (fake)

29 \_\_\_\_ is life"

30 hairless

31 5th quarter for the Cowboys (abbr.)

32 Globetrotter Lemon

34 assistant

35 anger

36 TXism for "amateur"

37 TXism: "he's holding all the \_\_\_\_"

38 TXism: "he could out run \_\_\_\_-legged bobcat"

39 outside suds area at New Braunfels Wurstfest (2 wds.)

41 TXism: "wouldn't hurt \_\_\_\_" (gentle dog)

42 TXism: "take a \_\_\_\_ off" (sit)

43 \_\_\_\_ville in Tyler County

44 TXism: "knee high to \_\_\_\_ hopper" (short)

45 TXism: "it'll make your hair stand on \_\_\_\_ (scary)"

46 birth mo. of Texas-born Carol Burnett (abbr.)

47 "bye" south of the border one year old horse

50 TXism: "she could talk the legs off an iron \_\_\_\_"

51 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ sheared like a spring lamb" (swindled)

52 TX "Spanky" TV show: "\_\_\_\_ Gang"

53 actor Beatty

DOWN

1 State Park near Wichita Falls (2 wds.)

2 TXism: "jumped like \_\_\_\_ a hook"

3 city atop the "Golden Triangle"

4 Houston would not \_\_\_\_ allegiance to Confederacy

9 TXism: "he can stay neck \_\_\_\_ with a West Texas jackrabbit" (fast)

10 apiece

11 non MWF class at 22-across

12 TXism: "me casa es \_\_\_\_ casa"

13 Charlton Heston did these commercials (2 wds.)

14 \_\_\_\_ Pass, TX

15 snow slider

16 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ his hide" (spank)

19 Texas tales

20 TXism: "got a heart as big \_\_\_\_ (kind)"

22 shun (2 wds.)

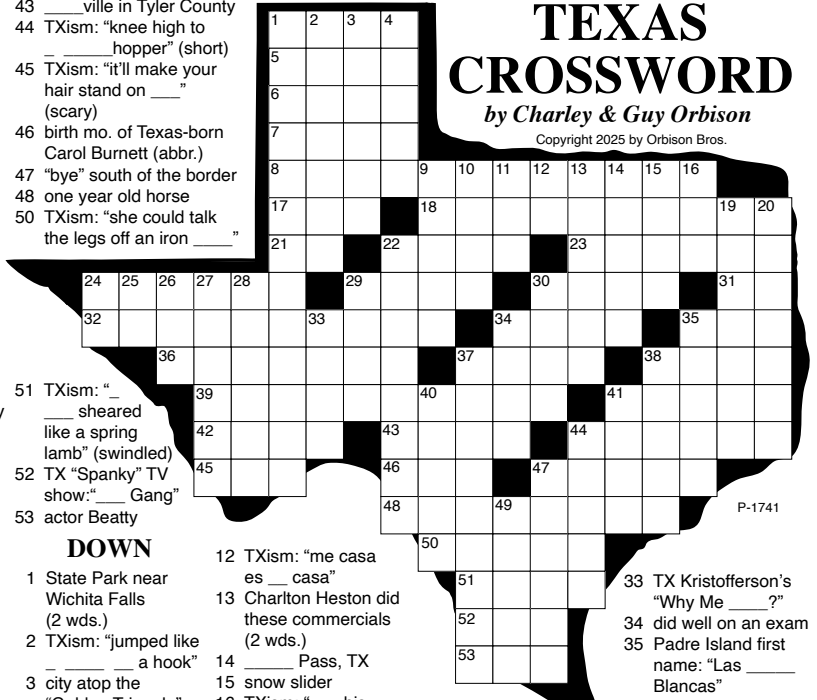
24 this Vic was in "Roots" with TX Lynda Day George (init.)

25 that is (abbr.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1741

33 TX Kristofferson's "Why Me \_\_\_\_?"

34 did well on an exam

35 Padre Island first name: "Las \_\_\_\_ Blancas"

37 worship or love

38 TXism: "nervous as \_\_\_\_ in a frying pan"

40 lassos

41 TXism for "against"

44 needed by obese Texans? (2 wds.)

47 in Wise County on U.S. 287

49 TXism: "rounder"

26 "Cat Ballou" singer \_\_\_\_ King Cole

27 fit to eat

28 TXism: "scarce as a honky tonk with \_\_\_\_"

29 drill instructor, family

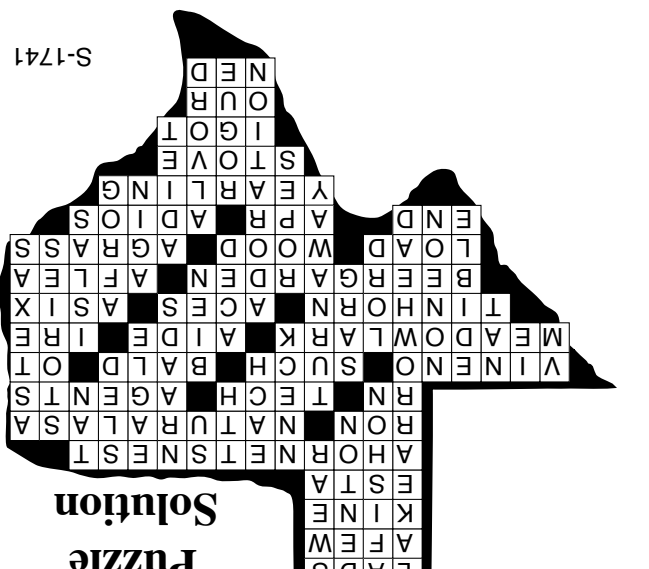
30 see 7-across

Park (460 Shops Blvd).  
The theme for this class is "Summer Fun."

JULY 4

**Spark in the Park**  
Casey Donahew will headline the annual Spark in the Park celebration at Weatherford's Heritage Park. The celebration gets under way when the gates open at 4 p.m. Western Rewind Band plays at 6 p.m., then Donahew takes the stage at 8 p.m. The National Anthem and fireworks begin at 9:30 p.m. Lots of family-friendly activities are in the mix. For more information, visit <https://www.experienceweatherford.com/events/2025/spark-in-the-park2025>.

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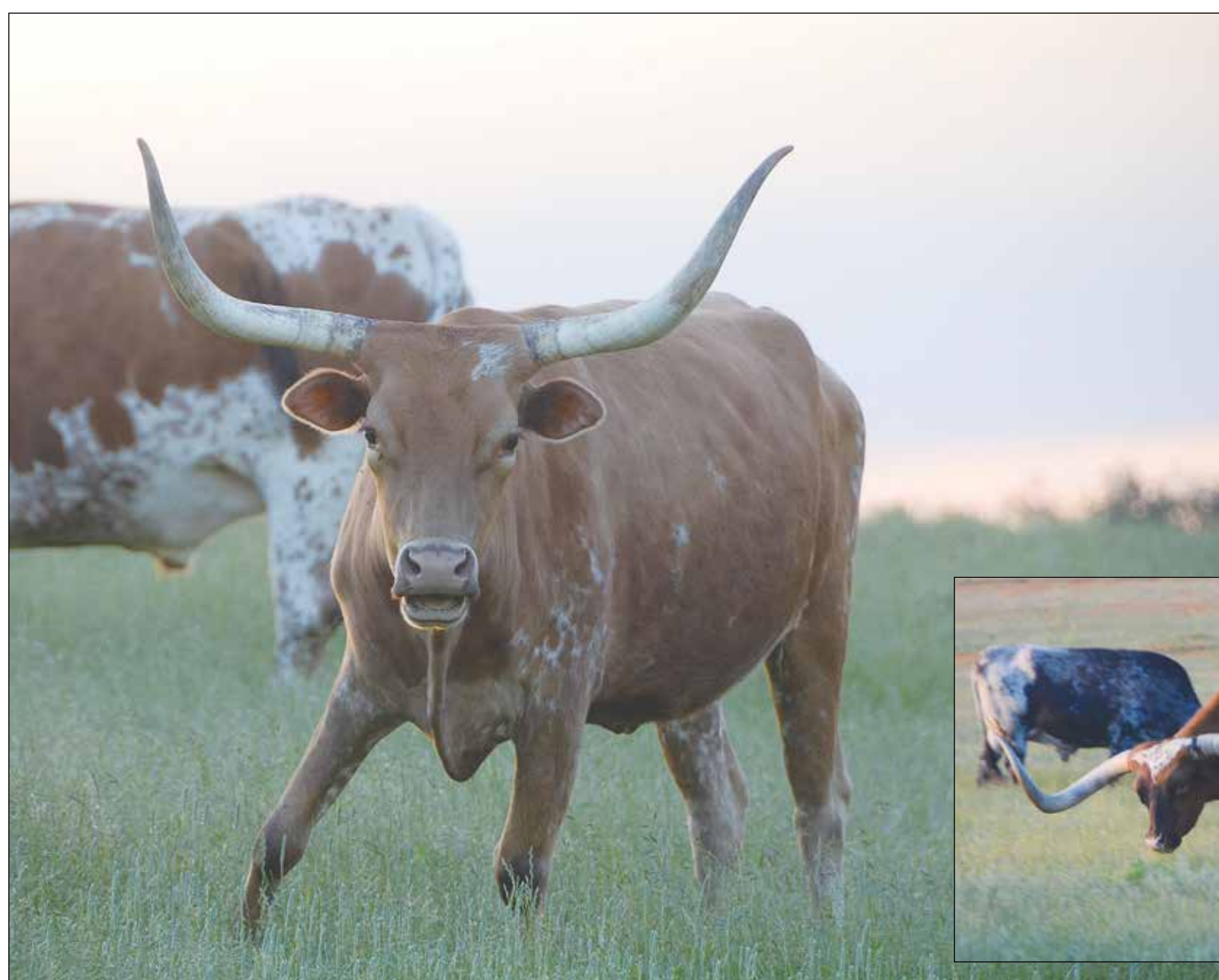
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## In the wild outdoors

Parker County is popping with wildflowers on the backroads and highways. Colorful Indian Blankets (*Gaillardia pulchella*) and yellow Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) are more plentiful at this time of year. Texas Bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*) are expected soon, and the wistful white Snow on the Prairie (*Euphorbia marginata*) appear at the end of summer. You might also spot a rare Albino Bluebonnet.



### The horn section

Three properties on Old Annetta Road in Aledo now have Longhorn herds, making the scenic drive in East Parker County feel more Texas-like for motorists and cyclists.

Photos by Christopher Amos/  
The Community News



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

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

## Slings & Arrows

# Delayed gratification and why we haven't had a party



**Randy Keck**  
rkeck@community-news.com

We have been wanting to have a party for a long time and it just hasn't happened, and I want to explain why.

But before I do, let me tell you it's not as bad as it sounds.

I would say it started on Sept. 28 of last year, but in reality it was before then.

It started five years ago.

May 25, 2020, was the 25th anniversary of my ownership of *The Community News*. We thought it would be cool to have a party. We even planned for one.

As you may remember, world events in 2020 did not allow that plan to come to fruition.

That's okay, we thought, we'll do the 30th anniversary on May 25, 2025.

We're patient.

In the mean time my left knee was becoming quite decrepit, so

we planned a knee replacement surgery somewhere, I think, in 2023.

The first scheduled date was in February, but I caught COVID before the surgery, so we moved it back to late June, I wanted to make sure I could attend the Texas Press Association in June of that year before the surgery. I had not missed a TPA convention since I started going in 1995!

Well, I got bronchitis and not only had to miss the convention, but also had to once again postpone the knee replacement.

Well, in October I had a minor procedure done, and it was discovered there were cancer cells in my prostate. We would not know for three months, until the procedure healed, what the extent or prognosis was, so we postponed the knee replacement once again.

Once 2024 arrived, we found out that the cancer was not of major concern (except for the fact that it was there). It just needed to be monitored year to year.

First one thing, and then another, various circumstances kept pushing back the knee replacement.

Last summer arrived, and at that point, we didn't want to schedule the surgery before I was to attend the National Newspaper

Association Foundation convention in late September, so we scheduled the knee replacement in October.

At that convention, I was honored to be elected president of the organization, and we thought "we ought to have a party."

A couple of weeks later, the long-awaited and often-postponed knee replacement arrived. By then, the knee was in such bad shape that the recovery was pretty brutal, involving an additional procedure and about 10 weeks of pain killers.

I missed way more work than I had anticipated, but was fortunate to have a great staff that kept the wheels turning, and was wisely counseled not to write anything for the paper while I was under the influence.

But the national presidency party had to wait.

As the recovery lumbered along, we began to look to May 25 of this year — my 30th anniversary as owner of *The Community News*.

We thought, "we ought to have a party."

As the physical therapy on my left knee was finally coming to a successful conclusion, my right hip started bothering me.

Since then, quite frankly, I have been in a lot of pain, so we now have a hip replacement scheduled for May 20. We won't have an anniversary party on the 25th for obvious reasons.

I inherited my mother's joints. I would have much preferred to inherit money, but oh, well.

I had a shoulder replacement in 2018, the knee replacement in October of 2024, and now the right hip. I have commented that I am on the "new joint every six months plan," hoping to get one free after four.

At this point, metal detectors run screaming when they see me coming.

And, with all the titanium in my body, I have seriously considered not donating my body to science when my time comes, but to donate it to Gillette instead.

But seriously, we're going to plow forward, and the people here are going to do a great job in my absence.

As for the party, it looks like May 25, 2030. We'll keep you posted.

*Randy Keck has been owner and publisher of The Community News for just a few days shy of 30 years.*

## Look at it This Way

# Bigfoot is everywhere, so you'd better start believing



**Rick Mauch**  
original\_6@msn.net

He's everywhere.

Bigfoot, I mean, or Bigfeet if we're into accurate plural labeling.

Lest you think Bigfoot/feet, however you choose to address him/her, only live in mountainous areas, you might be surprised to find they are literally just about everywhere. And they are quite likely watching — perhaps even as you are reading this very column.

As a T-shirt I once saw on the rack at Goodwill says — and, of course I bought it — Bigfoot knows where you are camping. A song written and performed by a lady named Loren Coleman in connection with the Hanobia, Oklahoma Bigfoot Festival reminds us "If you hunt Bigfoot, Bigfoot may hunt you."

That's not why I don't go camping, mind you. If I wanted to sleep on something hard I'd check into a \$20 motel — and I know this because, well, I have at certain junctures in my life.

And I'm not so much of a hunter — nothing against those who do. But as for me, deer and other animals would probably take bets with each other concerning which of my own feet I'd shoot first.

But back to my original point, Bigfoot is all around us. Even right here in Parker County.

In fact, sightings have taken place in 49 of the 50 states — with Hawaii actually having a short creature that otherwise has Bigfoot qualities.

And yes, there have been many sightings in Texas. There have been plenty in North Texas, according to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (I have their app on my phone — no, it's not nerdy).

Among those are some notable sightings that were reported on Highway 5 south of Aledo in 2011. BFRO Investigator Gary Christensen took the report.

"I work in the oil field industry hauling salt water, and at one site, we have something big walking around. I have seen it for myself, as have a few others," the anonymous report began (many reporting choose to remain anonymous to as not to be ridiculed).

The report, which noted the sighting was around 2 a.m., also indicated that whatever it was, presumably a Bigfoot, was looking back — most likely with curiosity, but perhaps in self defense.

"But on the night of Aug. 26, 2011, I seen its eyes on the other side of the fence that is at least 9-10 feet high," the reporter continued. "After I seen the eyes, it moved out of view, then started to throw rocks at the tank (a Bigfoot defense tactic).

"The first thing that caught my attention was the lack of wildlife sounds and the smell of a skunk (another Bigfoot quality), and the sound of something that sounded like a low growl. Another person had put a game camera up, and it got a picture of something blocking the camera 30 minutes before I had got there.

"I have seen other things in my time as a truck driver, but this is a little too close to home."

Earlier, in June, another worker had a similar report.

"I had two lights on my tractor trailer and one on my hard hat so I can read gauges. I start to grab my stuff and am almost to the steps. I seen eyes light up from my hard hat light. They were about 20 feet from the compressor steps, on the other side of the fence by the creek," the report began.

"Now I am a hog hunter, so I am used to seeing eyes until I was looking up at it. So I knew it was not a hog or a deer, or horse or cow.

"As it looked at me, and I stood there looking at it, it stepped out from behind a tree toward the fence. It looked at me, then turned so I could not see its eyes anymore, and it walked like a human into the creek. So I ran to my truck and called my boss. Now I am not scared of a man, but that was not a man."



The BFRO has reports from Parker County dating to the mid-1970s. Here's a list of incidents so far:

- October 1975 — A woman remembers an encounter not far from Brazos River.
- November 1976 — A man recalls strange occurrences as a youngster in Weatherford.
- December 1982 — While parking near Sunshine Lake, teens have a late night encounter.
- November 2010 — A Hunter flushes out a large creature when retrieving rabbit.
- June 2011 — A worker has late night encounter at gas well near Aledo.
- August 2011 — A gas field trucker has encounter at a wellhead near Aledo.
- July 2019 — Night time road crossing sighting four miles south of Weatherford.
- October 2020 — Daylight sighting on the Brazos River west of Weatherford.
- In all, there have been 259 sightings in Texas, according to the BFRO. The most (16) have been reported in Montgomery with Liberty (11) next.

In these parts, Parker has the most sightings with eight, followed by Palo Pinto and Denton County each with four.

Personally, I would love to see the big fella — from a distance, of course. I actually have a friend who runs the Sasquatch Outpost in Bailey, Colorado who takes folks out late at night to knock on trees — a way of communicating for Bigfoot. He's asked me to come along and it is certainly on my bucket list.

My wife, the lovely Mrs. Junell, has said if I do ever see a Bigfoot I'll be scared half to death. I tell her perhaps, but the half that stays alive will have a heck of a story to tell.

Which always makes me ask, if we're scared half to death twice in the same lifetime do we die on the spot? If so, guess I'd better be happy with a single sighting.

By the way, the reports from the Aledo area also noted that two others saw it while pulling salt water out of the wells. It was reported one of the coworkers was so visibly shaken that he quit and moved to another state.

Unless it was Hawaii, there's a chance Bigfoot is watching him there also.



Idle American

A Day Gone Wrong



Dr. Don Newbury  
newbury@speakerdoc.com

When I introduced this weekly column more than 22 years ago, my stated goal was to provide amusement — even if corny and outdated — largely for readers dealing with bodily wrinkles, waistlines, aches, breaks, bends and assorted other groans associated with later life. Sometimes I’ve tried to make lemonade when negative topics tempted.

Last week, I shared negative thoughts, promising additional details later. Here they are, my ire modified, even if not fully mollified.

Upon reflection, I choose to “throttle back” on a negative oil

change/inspection experience, re-focusing instead on company policy.

That said, upon arrival, we were forewarned by a pleasant young lady — perhaps a trainee — that there might be a 30-40 minute wait. I could have driven away then, but her engaging smile and warm greeting attracted my wife and me. Farthest from my mind was that the projected wait time to enter the service bay would be missed greatly; more than an hour passed. To her credit, she provided bottled water at “mid-visit.” We were trapped in line. I don’t know how long the guy in front had been waiting, but, upon entering the bay, he never stopped, exiting without service and yelling scornful words, none to be confused with “adieu.”

I requested an oil change and vehicle inspection. About 25 minutes later, after declining other services, I received my bill. I reminded the attendant that I’d appreciate the 25% discount offered *for oil changes only*. He re-figured the bill.

After more than 100 minutes, we were on our way rejoicing, our rescue dog Archie particularly eager to get home, and me smoldering. I couldn’t believe that the attendant’s final words concerned his deep appreciation of our completion of an email requesting an evaluation of service that we’d receive soon. I told him I couldn’t wait. I know, I know. More customers than expected probably showed up, and maybe they were short-handed. All seemed to be working hard.

Now, let’s turn to suggestions for corporate consideration:

1) Seek ways for unsatisfied customers to easily reach a *real* person. The current customer service sham isn’t working. I completed a “zeroes-in-every-category” email response. Finally reaching a telephone call center, I was directed to a number that triggered the old “mailbox-is-full-call-back-later” message.

2) Stop with the printed windshield stickers inviting customers back 3,000 miles later. “Just a reminder,” an attendant said.

3) Urge technicians to remain pleasant — particularly to us senile customers — and when the veteran discount is requested, If technicians check license plates, they should *never* return with a snide “your-license-plate-doesn’t-say-veteran” remark if the license doesn’t confirm. (I already had my driver’s license designation in hand.) He sheepishly accepted.

4) It is understandable that additional products/services are available, and that each location probably has quotas. However, when lines are long, tempers on edge and the 10-minute oil change assurance blown to smithereens, please forego unsought examinations of wiper blades/various filters/other services unless customers request. Even if business is slow, how about seeking permission to provide additional services? Asking “May I?” up front is strongly recommended. (“May I” was big in childhood games, right?)

5) As to veteran discounts, get on or get off. Offering 25% discounts for oil changes *only* invites

misunderstanding and/or misgivings. Are you really trying to honor men and women who have served our country? How about this? Offer whatever discount you choose, but for *all* products and services, even if it halves the current “25% off oil changes only” offer.

I truly do commend the workers toiling away in these places. Their work is hard.

Further, I cut some slack for the top brass, figuring profit margins may sometimes be slim, and fierce competition likely ever present.

If my complaints ever reach the top, I hope they’ll be considered by real people, but even if by “AI” (artificial intelligence), it would be better than nothing. We “geezers” appeal in the interest of all ages. Bottled water ain’t enough.

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

Capital Highlights

Abbott signs voucher bill into law



Gary Borders  
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Gov. Greg Abbott last week signed a \$1 billion private school voucher bill into law in front of a large crowd at the Governor’s Mansion, the *San Antonio Express-News* and other media outlets reported. Abbott called the new law the biggest legislative win of his time in the governor’s office and touted the new program as the largest in the nation.

“Today is the culmination of a movement that has swept across our state and across our country,” Abbott said. “It’s time we put our children on a pathway to have the number one-ranked education system in the United States of America.”

The new voucher law will give Texas students \$10,000 a year that can be used toward private school tuition, tutoring, textbooks, and other educational expenses.

Abbott was joined on stage by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dustin Burrows, and several private school leaders. Meanwhile, across the street from the mansion, Democratic legislators, union officials, and public

educators gathered to express their opposition to vouchers.

“Today, big money won and the students of Texas lost,” said state Rep. James Talarico, D-Austin. “Remember this day next time a school closes in your neighborhood. Remember this day next time a beloved teacher quits because they can’t support their family on their salary.”

Bail crackdown bill struggling in the House

Another of Abbott’s priorities is facing stiff opposition in the House from enough Democratic members to jeopardize its passage, according to the *Houston Chronicle*. The bail crackdown bill would prohibit pretrial release of defendants accused of certain violent offenses. In addition, voters would have to approve it as a constitutional amendment.

As of late last week, not enough Democrats support the bill, which requires passage by a supermajority. At least 12 Democrats would have to side with Republican legislators in order for the bail bills to pass. Senate Joint Resolution 5 would allow judges to deny bail to anyone accused of a violent crime or sexual offense, while Senate Joint Resolution 1 would prevent judges from granting bail for undocumented immigrants charged with a felony.

“This is not a right or left issue,” Abbott said. “This is not and should not be a Republican or a Democrat issue. This is a public safety issue, plain and simple.”

Both measures easily passed the Senate in February.

House Democrats assail the proposals as unconstitutional and have offered alternative bail reform proposals.

“Dan Patrick and Greg Abbott don’t actually want to fix crime — they want to run on it next year,” state Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston and chair of the House Democratic Caucus, said in a statement.

State may restrain new large energy users

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas predicts the state’s energy needs will nearly double in six years, *The Texas Tribune* reported, prompting one West Texas legislator to sponsor Senate Bill 6. That measure, sponsored by state Sen. Phil King, R-Weatherford, would put guardrails on the state’s energy market meant to help ERCOT better forecast future electricity needs.

“We do not have accurate load forecasting. No one knows if the forecast is real,” King said. Large companies, he added, are requiring ERCOT to plan “for load growth at dramatically higher levels than experienced ever in the history of Texas, and frankly, ever in the history of the United States.”

King said that without credible data the state runs the risk of either overbuilding, leading to higher rates for consumers in order to finance the expansions, or underbuilding and risking grid failure. His bill has already passed the Senate and is now before a House committee.

King’s bill would require new large businesses needing more than 75 megawatts to disclose whether they have similar requests elsewhere in Texas or out of state, what their backup generator capacity will be, and to pay at least \$100,000 to examine the transmission work needed to get electricity to their facilities.

Parasite could pose risk to Texas cattle

A flesh-eating parasite found in an infected cow in Mexico has prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to warn states along the southern border to monitor livestock and pets for signs of the New World Screwworm, a fly that was eradicated in this country in 1966 through use of sterile male flies to stop propagation.

However, confirmed cases of cows infected with the screwworms are being found spreading northward from Central and South America. The *Austin American-Statesman* reported imports of Mexican livestock into the United States were halted last November for three months. Imports restarted in February after increased sterile fly deliveries and surveillance increased.

In April, Mexican authorities began curtailing flights of USDA planes dispersing sterile flies and imposing import duties on “critical aviation parts, dispersal equipment, and sterile fly shipments,” according to a letter from U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins to Mexico’s ambassador to the United States. A

new ban was averted when Mexican authorities relented and allowed additional flights and waived custom duties.

Bill would create parental advisory councils for school libraries

A Senate bill already passed that would require all Texas school boards to establish library advisory councils to vet books in school libraries drew criticism at a House committee hearing, the *Statesman* reported. Critics say the councils would make it nearly impossible for districts to buy new library books and would give too much power to small groups of parents.

The councils would identify books with “indecent” or “profane” content and could also nix materials they deem “harmful” or “inconsistent with local community values.” Several people testifying at the House hearing called SB 13 an “overreach that would pave the way for discriminatory book removals.”

However, supporters of the measure say a 2023 law designed to remove objectionable books has not been effective. Two court rulings have made that measure largely unenforceable.

*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.*

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TENNIS

## Racquet Cat Satterfield qualifies for state

One of eight to compete at regionals

By Rick Mauch  
The Community News

This past week (May 7-8), Lila Satterfield fulfilled a promise she made to Aledo tennis coach Joe McCoy at the start of the spring season.

"Lila had set this goal of making it to state early in the spring and told me weekly she was going to achieve it," McCoy said. "She worked very hard this spring during the week and on the weekends preparing to make that come true."

And now it has as Satterfield will compete in girls singles Thursday and Friday, May 15-16, at the Class 5A State Tournament at the Northside Tennis Center in San Antonio. She qualified by finishing third at the 5A Region I Tournament at Texas Tech University in Lubbock May 7-8.

She is the first tennis player from Aledo to advance to the state tournament since the boys doubles team of Ryan Howell and Erik Meendsen qualified in 2014. They won their first match at state before falling in the semifinals to eventual state champions Connor LaFavre/Hunter Holman from Dallas Highland Park, and finished third.

Satterfield, a sophomore, entered regionals on the heels of winning the District 5-5A Tournament in which she went 3-0. She began regional play by easily disposing of Olivia Guzman of El Paso High School, 6-1, 6-0.

Satterfield then took on No. 6 seed Telyn Hardy of Abilene Cooper. After taking the first set in solid 6-1 fashion, she held off Hardy



COURTESY OF JOE MCCOY

Eight members of the Aledo Racquet Cats competed at the Class 5A Region I Tennis Tournament at Texas Tech University in Lubbock May 7-8, with Lila Satterfield qualifying for state in girls singles. Pictured are (front row, from left) Sydney Byrd, Patrice Loftin, Satterfield, McKinley Hayes, and Natalie Nawrocki, and (back row) Jacob Heckathorn, Ben Kurth, and Francois Britz.

for a 7-5 win in the second set to finish the sweep and advance to the semifinals.

There she met No. 2 seed Sara Shelhamer of Amarillo High, falling 6-3, 6-4. She rebounded, however, to down fourth-seeded Khloe Valdez of Lubbock High, 7-5, 6-1 to garner a berth at state.

"She had a rocky beginning in the third-place match, going down 1-4 in the first set before she gained her form and poured it on," McCoy said.

While Satterfield is the only member of the team still playing, Aledo players collected six wins in all at regionals.

Boys doubles: Jacob Heckathorn/Francois Britz defeated Elijah Effinger/Dylan Blackshire, Burleson Centennial, 6-1, 6-2; lost to No. 2 seed Nicola Guevara/Max Martin, El Paso High, 6-1, 6-2.

Girls doubles: Natalie Nawrocki/Sydney Byrd defeated Sarienah Gutierrez/Natalie Nararetta, Del Valle, 6-1, 6-1; lost to No. 2 seed Emma Hail/Kalina Trinitade, Lubbock High, 6-1, 6-0.

Mixed doubles: Ben Kurth/Patrice Loftin defeated Chance Dearman/Mady Rose, Cleburne, 7-6, 6-2; lost to No. 1 seed Caden Everett/Julia Lightman, Argyle, 6-1, 6-1.

Girls singles: McKinley Hayes lost to No. 5 seed Kennedy Tovar, El Paso High, 6-1, 6-1.

"We had a very good showing. I am so proud of the entire team, as they represented Aledo well," McCoy said. "It was nice to see all of them playing some of their best tennis at the end of the season."



### BEARCAT OF THE WEEK

Landon Barnes • Baseball

The junior had four hits in two games as the Bearcats swept Fort Worth Arlington Heights in their second-round playoff series, 12-2 and 5-1. His hits included a pair of doubles. He also drew a walk, stole a base, and drove in four runs.

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### LADYCAT OF THE WEEK

Tempe Perry • Softball

The freshman was an offensive force in the Ladycats' 11-0 third-round playoff win over Amarillo. Her three hits included a home run and double as she also drove in three runs.

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BASEBALL

# Coyotes enter super regional Thursday

## WC ramps up for another post season matchup

**Courtesy Weatherford College**  
It's down to the final four baseball teams in Region V to see who makes the NJCAA Division I World Series. Weatherford College has qualified for the super regional after sweeping El Paso Community College last week in the first round of the postseason. Now, the four winners of their respective first-round series will convene at Odessa College for the Southwest District Championship May 15-18. The tournament winner will advance to the World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado. There are no at-large bids.

WC is seeking a second bid in three seasons. The Coyotes (46-11) will face New Mexico Junior College (39-18) Thursday, May 15, at 11 a.m. in the first game of the double-elimination tournament. Odessa (40-15) will host McLennan Community College (42-16) in the other first-round game. Weatherford defeated New Mexico twice in February and beat Odessa twice in non-conference play as well. McLennan and WC split their four-game conference series 2-2. Weatherford is ranked No. 3 in the latest NJCAA national poll released May 5. McLennan is No. 17. All Southwest District Championship games will be livestreamed at [www.tsbnsports.com](http://www.tsbnsports.com).

# 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](http://rangers.com/schools). The Rangers will take on the St. Louis Cardinals.

## Bearcats, Eagles in respective top 10

In this week's Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association state rankings, Aledo and Brock are once again among the top 10. The Bearcats (27-7) are No. 6 in Class 5A and the Eagles (27-3) are No. 5 in Class 4A. Aledo will face Amarillo (24-11-1) in the third round of the playoffs in a best-of-three series in Iowa Park. Game 1 is Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. Game 2 is Friday at 1 p.m. and Game 3 will follow, if necessary. Brock will face Clint (19-11-1) in a best-of-three series at Midland College. The first game is Thursday at 5 p.m., with Game 2 Friday at 11 a.m. and a third game to follow, if necessary.

## Mazon among seven Coyotes named all-conference

Brandt named Pitcher of the Year, Lightfoot Co-Coach of the Year The No. 3 nationally ranked Weatherford College Coyotes (44-11) had seven athletes named as part of the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference All-Conference Team for the 2025 season. Coach Jeff Lightfoot was named Co-Coach of the Year alongside Cal Hernandez from Grayson College. The Coyotes and the Vikings tied for the conference championship with 24-8 league records. Sophomore right-handed pitcher Evan Brandt was chosen as the NTJCCAC Pitcher of the Year, as well

as All-Region V North and first team all-conference. Sophomore infielders Manuel Salas and Aledo's Trace Mazon were also selected to be part of the All-Region V North team and first team all-conference, with Salas at first base and Mazon at third. Sophomore Caden Mitchell was chosen as the utility player and freshman right-hander Rodney Pena was selected as one of two relief pitchers for the all-conference first team. Freshman right-handed pitcher Cooper Strawn and freshman left-handed pitcher Trent Collier were both selected for the second team.

## WC's Rennhack named Conference Coach of the Year

Aledo's Mahanay among player honors The Weatherford College women's and men's golf teams had several athletes earn honors from the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference. Three athletes from the women's team earned a spot on the all-conference first team. Freshman Corrina Haros was not only named a member of the first team, but was also awarded the NTJCCAC's sole spot on the All-Region V team. Alongside Haros, Coyote freshman Emily Gutierrez and sophomore Catherine Haas-Black also earned first team honors, as WC took three of the four spots. The WC men's golf team had four athletes honored as well. Freshman Abdo Fakori was selected as part of the all-conference first team. Fellow freshmen Dawson Langan, Braylon Mahanay of Aledo and Nathan Anderson were selected for the second team. Coach Dave Rennhack, who became the WC head coach for men's and women's golf in 2024, received the Conference Coach of the Year award on the men's side.

# Ladycats bury Sandies for regional semifinal crown

## No. 4 Aledo run-rules Amarillo in 11-0, will face Birdville next

**By Geoff Heppes**  
The Community News  
IOWA PARK – The No. 4 Aledo Ladycats softball team moved one step closer to its ultimate goal in dominant fashion in a winner-take-all regional semifinal against the Amarillo Lady Sandies. While senior pitcher Taylor McKean limited Amarillo to only one hit as a team, the Ladycats' burning bats exploded for 11 runs as the Ladycats punched their ticket to

the regional final with an 11-0 win in five innings. Following an RBI double from freshman Tempe Perry in the bottom of the second inning, senior shortstop Marina Taveras blasted a three-run homer to center that increased the lead to 4-0. Poetically, Perry followed with another RBI double to make it 5-0 and Riley Marx's RBI double pushed the advantage to 6-0. Then, Aledo used a five-run fourth inning to extend the lead to 11-0 and push Amarillo to the brink. McKean provided a picture-perfect ending to the regional semifinal bout by striking out the side for the last three outs of the game. McKean tossed all five innings with 10 strikeouts against only one hit while Perry went 3-for-3 with two runs and three RBI. All three of Tempe's hits (two doubles and one home run) were scoring hits. Junior third baseman Kyleigh Pawlak also went deep and finished the game 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBI. Marx went 2-for-3 with a run and two RBI while Taveras added her three-run homer. The Ladycats (28-3, 12-0) will begin a best-of-three series against Birdville for the Region I crown at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 15, at Aledo High School. Game 2 will be played at 7 p.m. Friday at Birdville High School, and Game 3 will occur at noon Saturday at Kennedale High School if necessary.

TENNIS

# WC women ninth in national tournament

## Highest finish since 2022

**Weatherford College**  
Special to The Community News  
The Weatherford College women's tennis team finished ninth at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I National Tournament in Tyler last week. It is WC's highest finish since advancing to eighth place in 2022. "We had some opportunities to win even more matches, but things didn't swing our way," said Steph Wooten, WC head

tennis coach. "We got a little nervous and lost some matches against players we had beaten earlier in the season." WC's top two doubles teams each advanced to the quarterfinals: Hoziane Kitambala/Claire Mahere (Flight 1) and Juliana Jurado/Rosmary Pena (Flight 2). On the final day of competition, Wednesday, Kitambala won the Flight 2 singles consolation final, and Pena won the Flight 3 consolation final. Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida, won the national championship, their second title in three years. Cowley College (Kansas) was second and Tyler Junior College, the host team, was third. "I think the season went well overall," said Wooten, who is in her first year at WC. "We started the fall with just two girls and then took six to compete at the highest level at nationals. We have good momentum going into next year." The WC men's tennis team is competing in their national tournament May 12-16 in Florence, South Carolina.

SOFTBALL

# WC season ends at regional tournament

## No. 20 Coyotes finish season with 33-15 record

**Weatherford College**  
Special to The Community News  
The Western Texas College softball team defeated Weatherford College 3-2 in a regional tournament elimination game Thursday, May 8 in Odessa, eliminating the Coyotes from the postseason and ending their 2020 campaign. The Coyotes, ranked No. 20 in the country, ended their season with a 33-15 overall record. They dropped their first-round game in the regional tournament to Odessa College, 5-1, a day earlier. In the loss against Western Texas, the game was tied 1-1 until the bottom of the fourth inning when WTC put up two runs. WC answered with a run in the top of the sixth, but the Westerners held on for the win. Alexah Reyes went 3-for-3 with one RBI for the Coyotes. Janae Trojacek was 3-for-4 with an RBI. Isabella Alosi had a 2-for-3 performance. WC pitcher Sarah Hanf gave up six hits, one earned run and

two walks while striking out four. Lindsey Oliver allowed no hits and no runs with one walk and two strikeouts over two and one third innings in relief. Against Odessa, after the game was scoreless for the first couple of innings, WC dropped the tie on a grand slam from Mason Barclay, giving Odessa the 4-0 lead. Despite a sacrifice fly from Hannah Bartles in the top of the fifth, the Coyotes couldn't bridge the 5-1 gap that ultimately sealed the game for the Wranglers.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Aledo has applied for the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) under DR-4781 April 2024 Severe Storms and DR-4798 Hurricane Beryl. Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified engineering firm to conduct an engineering study if applicable, determine scope of work, prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and conduct all necessary interim and final inspections. These services are being solicited to assist the City in its pre-award and post-award engineering services of its proposed HMGP project(s).

Please submit 1 hard copy and email a digital copy of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications to: Travis Askins, Director of Public Works, 104 Maverick St. (physical), P.O. Box 1 (mailing), Aledo, TX 76008, [taskins@aledotx.gov](mailto:taskins@aledotx.gov). Proposals must be received by 3:00pm on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 to be considered.

The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Minority Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Aledo is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

Public Hearing  
Town of Annetta

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

1. Property located at 1228 Redbud Lane on 2.5 acres not platted as Abst: 2038, Survey: NEWBY J H, Town of Annetta, Parker County, Texas. Zoning change from R-1 Residential to R-1 Residential with a Special Use Permit to allow an accessory dwelling unit to be constructed on the same lot as the main dwelling unit. The accessory dwelling unit is to be used by a person or persons related to occupants of the main dwelling unit.

Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Date: June 12, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Date: June 19, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

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

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the hearings.

Jamee Long, TRMC  
City Secretary/Administrator

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Hudson Oaks is requesting proposals for two **EMERGENCY STAND-BY GENERATORS**. Proposals will be received at Hudson Oaks City Hall, 210 Hudson Oaks Drive, Hudson Oaks, TX 76087 until **11:00 am CDT, Wednesday, June 25, 2025** and proposals will be opened publicly. Bidding documents may be examined at the Hudson Oaks City Hall, 210 Hudson Oaks Drive, Hudson Oaks Texas, 76087. Copies of such instruments are available at on the city's website at <https://www.hudsonoaks.com/Business/Bidding-Opportunities>.

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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 Tuesday, the 27th day of May, 2025. at the hour of 9:00 a.m. to consider, discuss, and/or act on the replat 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 BEAR CREEK NORTH**

Consider/discuss/and, or act on a replat with lots 9 & 10 being 7.52 acres in a subdivision known as Bear Creek North, located off of Bear Creek Road in Precinct #4.

The Aledo Independent School District (the District) is requesting competitive sealed proposals for RFP 2505-02 (Delivered Pizza for Child Nutrition Operations). Specifications for this project may be obtained on the District's electronic procurement system at <https://aledoisd.ionwave.net/>. Proposals will be received until 3 PM CT on May 23, 2025. Proposals will be electronically unsealed and opened shortly after the specified time of closing. Public attendance is not required. Late bids will be rejected as non-responsive. Accommodations and modifications for people with disabilities are available upon request. Submit requests to Kim Whitley at [kwhitley@aledoisd.org](mailto:kwhitley@aledoisd.org). The District reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to accept the proposal(s) that provide(s) the best value to the District, and to waive all formalities with respect thereto.

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE  
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## Kid Scoop Together: Funny Filler

Have a friend give you each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then read the story aloud!

Pierre's ship sank after someone put a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ inside one of the cannons.

Pierre swam to the shore of a very strange island. It was covered with \_\_\_\_\_, so he knew he'd have plenty to eat.

Instead of coconuts, \_\_\_\_\_ grew on the trees. And to catch fish, he used \_\_\_\_\_ for bait!

He built a little hut out of \_\_\_\_\_ that he found on the \_\_\_\_\_. It protected him when rain began to \_\_\_\_\_ from the sky.

Pierre was eager to \_\_\_\_\_ home. He made a tall tower of \_\_\_\_\_ to catch the attention of passing ships. It worked! The captain of a \_\_\_\_\_ saw the tower and Pierre was rescued!

Standards Link: Grammar: Understand and use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly.

## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **SURVIVE**  
The verb **survive** means to be able to remain alive.

The food delivery helped the family to **survive** the flood.

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

## Do you know the difference? WANTS AND NEEDS

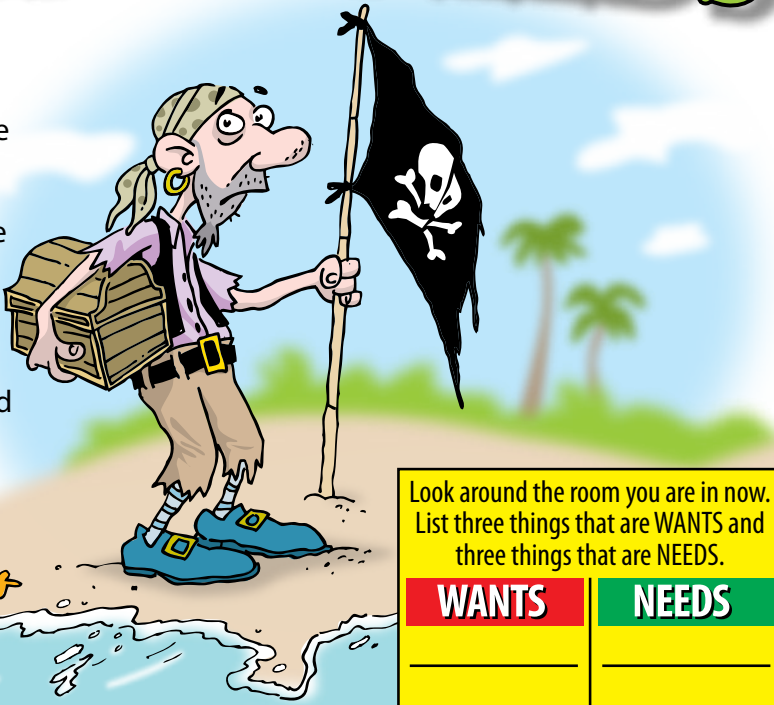
Meet Pirate Pierre. He'll be stuck on this island for the next few months until another ship arrives to rescue him. It's a great time to know the difference between **WANTS** and **NEEDS**.

### Which is which?

A **NEED** is something you *must have* in order to survive. You need water, food, shelter, clothing and sometimes medicines.

A **WANT** is something you would *like to have*, but can live without. A computer, cellphone, television and a bike are wants, not needs.

Standards Link: Economics: Understand the difference between basic survival and nonessential items.



Look around the room you are in now. List three things that are WANTS and three things that are NEEDS.

WANTS	NEEDS

### True Treasure Map

It's going to be six months until the next pirate ship visits Pierre's island. He made a map of the island.

Circle the places on Pierre's map that will provide **NEEDS**. Cross out places that provide **WANTS**.

Standards Link: Economics: Differentiate between wants and needs.

Help Pierre catch a crab for dinner!

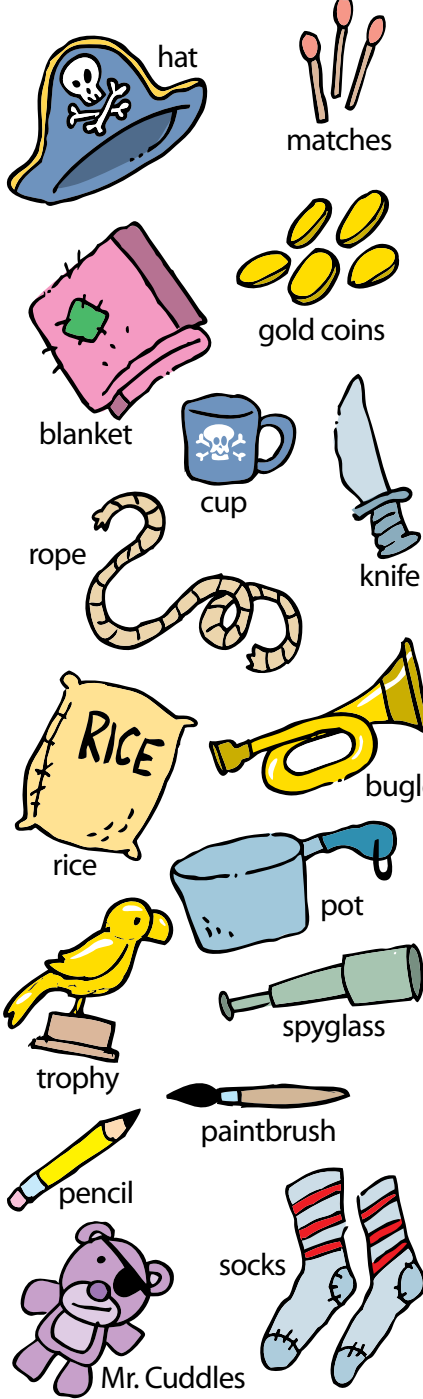


Pierre needs fish! How many can you find on this page?

## SURVIVAL SUPPLIES

When his ship began to sink, Pirate Pierre had to act quickly to grab things he would **NEED** on the island rather than things he might **WANT**.

How did he do? Circle the things he will **NEED** on the island. Cross out the things he might **WANT** that won't really help him.



### Extra! Extra!

#### Wants and Needs in the Newspaper

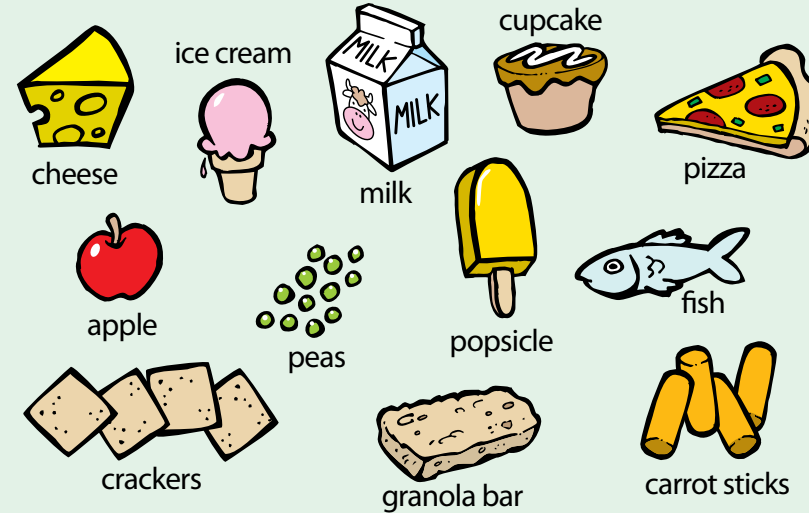
Look through today's newspaper for five examples of things you **need** to survive. Then find five things you **want**.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Sometimes it's hard to decide if something is a **need** or a **want**. For example, cake is a food, but is it a want or a need?

Circle the foods here that you think are a need. Show your choices to a family member. Do they agree?



## Double Double Word Search

CELLPHONE  
TREASURE  
COMPUTER  
RESCUE  
ISLAND  
PIRATE  
TROPHY  
OYSTER  
WANTS  
NEEDS  
KNIFE  
SINK  
CRAB  
ROCK  
ROPE

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



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

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BASEBALL

# Gem from Miller, late offensive surge clinch area title for Aledo

No. 5 Bearcats use complete game on mound, three late runs to finish Heights

By Geoff Heppes  
The Community News

FORT WORTH – The Aledo Bearcats last laid claim to the state title in 2014 with the program's latest appearance coming a year later in 2015. During the current season, the No. 5 Aledo Bearcats are continuing to achieve the goals they set for themselves ahead of the new year on the diamond. The Bearcats reached their latest milestone in finishing off a series sweep in the area round over the Arlington Heights Yellowjackets. Following a 12-2 home victory via run-rule in Game 1, the Bearcats completed the series sweep with a gritty 5-1 win behind quality pitching from junior Devin Miller and a late surge from the Bearcats' bats at the plate.

"It says a lot about starting strong and finishing stronger, and I think that was a perfect book-end to tonight," Bearcats head coach Chad Barry said. "In the first inning, we started strong (scoring the game's first two runs), we kind of had a lull in there and I tip my hat to their pitcher (Morgan Garrett, Cisco Junior College commit). He's an incredible competitor and a good quality pitcher who is going to pitch at the next level. We got his pitch count up, got him a little labored there at the end and we were able to get good barrels on the bats late with two outs. That's what impressed me the most – we were able to put up three more runs with two outs against us. That's a

sign of things moving in the right direction."

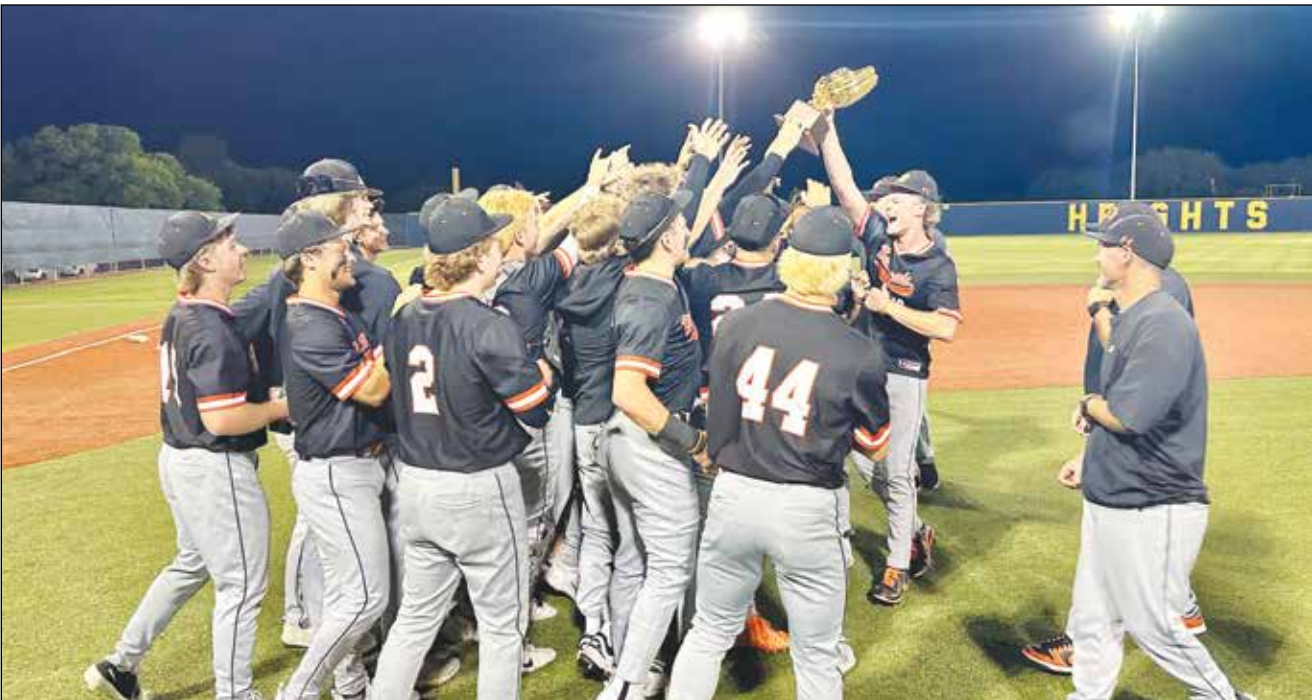
Impressively, all five of the Bearcats' runs came with two outs. Aledo drew first blood on the scoreboard in the top of the first inning. Aledo right fielder Luke Trager smashed a two-out RBI double that scored Landon Barnes and Lucas Nawrocki that gave Aledo its first two runs.

In the bottom of the frame, Miller took the mound for Aledo, who was trying to advance to the regional semifinals for the second consecutive season. Although he saw a comebacker hit off his gloved left hand during his first at bat for an infield single that eventually resulted in a rundown between third and home, which favored Aledo in a masterfully executed pickle drill and preserved the 2-0 lead.

Heights eventually got on the board with an RBI groundout in the bottom of the third, but Miller settled in and shut down the opposing batting order the rest of the way, allowing only one hit in the remaining four innings.

"It feels amazing and you've got to give it to the guys," Miller said. "It's not just a one-man game, it's a team game. They came out hot with the bats in that last inning and gave me the confidence to go out in that last inning and shut them out."

The game remained deadlocked at 2-1 all the way into the seventh inning, with impressive catches on the run made in the outfield by Trager and Luke Gladchuk complementing quality infield play along the way. Through the waning stretch of the game, Miller used his devastating breaking ball pitches to quickly usher Arlington Heights



GEOFF HEPPES/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Aledo Bearcats celebrate after eliminating Arlington Heights in the area round of the UIL baseball playoffs.

batters to the dugout. Impressively, Miller collected seven of his nine strikeouts after the third inning.

"You can't just use the fastball, you have to use all your pitches equally," Miller said. "I was throwing strikes with everything, everything was on today and I was able to get a lot of swings and misses. The balls that went into play went right to my guys and they did the rest."

After Aledo's first two batters were retired in order to open the seventh inning, Blake Burdine hit a double to the right-center gap and Barnes followed that with his own double to the same spot on the field to score Burdine for a 3-1 lead. After that, Nawrocki added an RBI single to right that made it 4-1 and, after a single by Trager, Nic Foster thumped an RBI single to push the lead to 5-1, which held up as

the final score following two Miller strikeouts and a popout to second base in the bottom of the frame.

Miller threw all seven innings for Aledo with nine strikeouts against four hits, one walk and one earned run. Offensively, Barnes, Foster and Trager had two hits apiece for Aledo and combined for four RBI. Barnes also stole a base while Trager accounted for two of those four RBI. Burdine and Nawrocki each recorded one hit and one run for the Bearcats with the latter producing an RBI. Gladchuk also contributed with one hit and one stolen base.

Now, the Bearcats will march on to regionals with an upcoming bout in the regional semifinals.

"At this time of year, every time you move on is a blessing," Barry said. "It's a blessing that you get to play another week, and every week

the field gets cut in half, so you have to take advantage of the opportunity. We aren't going to change up our preparation working on the same things we've worked on all year long. If we see something in a game, we will address it. But, at this point in the year, we can either hit and field or we can't. Now, it's just about trying to stay sharp at the plate, on defense, keeping the pitchers in a rhythm and routine and just moving forward with what we've got."

Aledo (25-7, 10-0) will begin their best-of-three series against the Amarillo Sandies in the regional semifinals with the first pitch of Game 1 scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, May 15, at Iowa Park High School. Game 2 will begin at 1 p.m. Friday at the same location with a decisive Game 3 to follow at 4 p.m. if necessary.

# Congratulations!

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