

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PARKER COUNTY

Deputies arrest Amber Alert subject

One suspect remains at large

Special to The Community News

Parker County Sheriff's deputies arrested the biological father of an infant who was the subject of an Amber Alert on July 2. The father was identified as Joey Lee Ramirez, 21.

Sheriff Russ Authier said it was upsetting to discover the father of the 7-month-old had an outstanding warrant for a family assaultive offense involving bodily injury issued out of Ellis County.

"As law enforcement officers, we could not ignore a family violence warrant," Authier said. "As much as we wanted the reunion to take place, we were satisfied to place the baby in the temporary custody of family members."

Ellis County authorities were contacted and confirmed the validity of the warrant.

Sheriff Authier said Ramirez' bond was set at \$2,500. He posted bond and was released later Friday evening.

Parker County Sheriff's Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (FAST) members arrested the child's biological mother, identified as Faith Joann Reid, 20, Friday afternoon in connection with the child abduction after law enforcement officials reported she and her boyfriend, identified as and Marcus Allhoff Nast, 25, forcefully took the infant from the Ramirez' by gunpoint believing the baby was in immediate danger.

Ennis Police issued warrants for Reid and Nast on felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon charges related to the kidnapping.

An anonymous tip was received by FAST members Friday afternoon that the white Ford F150 extended cab pickup belonging to the suspects was located on Old Dickey Road with Reid and the child inside truck. Nast was reported walking on

Turn to **AMBER**, page 3

Four on the 4th



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Tucker, Beckett, Emerson and Blakely enjoy ice cream at the Boomin' 4th, held in Hudson Oaks. Hudson Oaks City Administrator Sterling Naron said he felt the event turned out flawlessly following a virtual event in 2020. By moving the food court to the north of Inspiration Drive, organizers were able to provide more space in Gene Voyles Park for distancing. More photos can be found on page 10 and in our slideshow at <https://www.community-news.com/2021/07/boomin-4th-2021/>.

First set of YSML members graduate high school

Chapter founded in 2018

By **Sophia Cortez**
The Community News

The Young Men's Service League chapter in Aledo had their first set of high school seniors graduate.

YSML is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose members consist of mothers and teenage sons. From their son's eighth grade year to their senior year, the organization develops leadership among its members. It helps deepen relationships between mothers and sons—the YSML chapter in Aledo partners with 24 different philanthropies around Parker and Tarrant County.

The Aledo chapter was started in 2018 by Jennifer Herring. Wanting her family to be a part of and serve the community, she thought of YSML and how having a branch in Aledo would offer many mothers and sons great ways to serve their community.

"After talking to the people at nationals, I just decided 'You know



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Chelsea & Carson Tatarevich paint the fence serving at The Mission Continues.

what?' that this was worth putting my neck out there for, and kind of bringing that legacy to this town and trying do that for all the moms and boys out there. And

the philanthropies out here too," Herring said.

Including Herring's son, this year marks the first set of seniors who completed their four years

Turn to **YMSL**, page 3



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ballerina by Johnny Hogue Adult in Oil

Weatherford Art Association hosts Annual Peach Festival Art Competition at the Doss

As an introduction to the Peach Festival, the Weatherford Art Association holds an art competition each year. The galleries at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center are filled with beautiful paintings in all kinds of media from a metal sculpture to clay to watercolor, oil, pastel, and acrylic. In all there were 160 entries, an increase from 2020 with 40 of those entries by students.

The works are on display at the Doss, and patrons can vote for the People's Choice Award. Vote for your favorite student work as well as your favorite adult work. Awards will be presented at the awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 15 at the Doss.

See a slideshow of winning entries at <https://www.community-news.com/2021/07/weatherford-art-association-hosts-annual-peach-festival-art-competition-at-the-doss/>



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Texas Wheel of Color by Dorothy Sammons Adult



6 59479 0000 1 3
Volume 31, Number 28
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Peach Festival return

They're back: the peaches, the fun, the treats, and the entertainment.

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Wrestling

New wrestling program takes shape at Aledo ISD.

PAGE 7



Keeping Distance

Tailgating seems to be on the rise in this area. Slings & Arrows

PAGE 4

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In & Around Parker County

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AMBER

from page one

foot in the area. FAST members arrived on the scene within moments and detained Reid and took custody of the infant. FAST members reported the truck had run out of gas and was parked on the side of the road. Sheriff Russ Authier said authorities are currently searching for Nast.



Allhoff Nast is considered dangerous. A reward is being offered for information leading to his capture.

"If he is located, we urge the public not to approach him and contact their local law enforcement agency immediately," said Sheriff Authier. "He is considered armed and dangerous."

Nast is described as 5-feet, 11-inches tall, weighing approximately 168-pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes and was last seen wearing a red shirt with blue jeans. Nast has numerous tattoos including on his neck and face.

You can remain anonymous when contacting tip411. You can submit tips online to tip411 or by logging onto www.parkercountysheriff.net or by calling Parker County Crime Stoppers at (817) 599-5555.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to a \$1,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest of the suspect.

Reid was booked into the Parker County Jail on the felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon charge out of Ennis Police. As of Saturday morning, she remained in custody. Her bond was set at \$300,000.

YMSL

from page one

in the organization. She says that YMSL showed many young men different philanthropies and service opportunities that showcase others' struggles and trials over these past four years. Herring also recalls seeing her son and many other young men develop throughout their four years.

"Seeing my son interact with the kids at special Olympics or seeing him feed the homeless and seeing him pick up trash on the side of 1187 on our adopted mile — it is heartwarming," Herring said. "Developing a heart for service, I know that he will continue after he goes off to college."

Herring is confident that YMSL helped develop her son and many other young men into established adults ready to serve their community in college. She explains that each young man will learn 28 different lessons throughout their four years. These lessons range from how to give a public speech to interview skills.

Will Moeller is one of the young men who graduated this past May from Aledo High School. He recalls his past four years being a part of



LEFT: Kim and William Moeller are shown serving at Center of Hope. | RIGHT: Jennifer and Kaden Herring sort lettuce serving at Tarrant Area Food Bank.

YMSL as a meaningful and positive experience.

"It offered me the ability to bond with my mom. It allowed me to give back to the community," Moeller said.

He says that being a part of this organization with his mom deepened their relationship and created memories that will last forever. By serving his community with his



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

mom, it helped him realize how much she did for him.

"It really allowed me to be like 'Hey my mom is a pretty incredible influence on my life,'" says Moeller.

He recalls one of his favorite memories being his first service opportunity at Beautiful Feet with YMSL. He says that he and his friend lead a bible study with their mothers and how their work was meaningful.

With only 25 spots per grade, YMSL is a sponsorship organization. Potential members need to be sponsored by current members. The organization is a four-year commitment that lasts from eighth grade to their senior year in high school. Members are to complete 20 hours annually of service at a variety of different local philanthropies.

Parker County Peach Festival returns



The 36th annual Parker County Peach Festival is returning with an expanded event area more than 200 arts/craft, food, and activity vendors. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 10, in downtown Weatherford.

Peachy treats are always featured, including homemade peach ice cream, peach

cobbler, peach pie, peach tea, peach smoothies, ice cream topped with fresh peaches, or just regular peaches.

In addition to the vendors, many antique and specialty stores will have specials throughout the day.

Two entertainment stages will feature local celebrities and entertainers.

For easy transportation to the festival, air-conditioned shuttles will run from Weatherford 9th Grade Center, Weatherford College, or Heritage Park.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for younger than 5.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit www.peachfestivaltx.com.

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Capital Highlights

Gas prices at highest level since 2014



Gary Borders
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As Texans hit the roads this summer with pandemic restrictions eased and vaccinations widespread, the national average price of gas is expected to top \$3 per gallon, though the average in Texas for regular is \$2.799, according to AAA. Drivers should expect prices to keep rising as demand rises, according to the Consumer Energy Alliance.

"With oil's continued push higher, fueled by continued strong demand globally and production only slowly answering, gasoline prices have had no choice but following oil's rise last week setting a new 2021 high," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "...It appears the only way forward is for gas prices to continue to rise as Americans' insatiable demand for gasoline continues to act as a catalyst. And with hurricane season soon coming into its prime, we have plenty more catalysts for a rise in price, and few that could restrain the situation. Motorists should prepare to dig deeper for the second half of the summer, unfortunately."

TEA releases test results; widespread decrease in performance

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) results for spring 2021 show that outcomes for in-person learners were appreciably higher than those who attended classes online during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of students not meeting grade level increased from 2019 across all subject areas and grade levels, with the exception of English, according to the Texas Education Agency.

"Thankfully, from early on, Texas prioritized the availability of in-person instruction during this tremendously difficult year," TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said. "When students come into Texas public schools, they are well-served by Texas educators — a fact that these scores confirm. But it is also painfully clear that the pandemic had a very negative impact on learning. I shudder to consider the long-term impact on children in states that restricted in-person instruction."

School districts that had a higher percentage of students learning virtually had higher declines in STAAR results in all grades and subjects, TEA reported. For example, districts in which fewer than one-fourth of students were learning remotely saw a 9-percentage point drop in math performance from 2019 to 2021. In districts where more than three-fourths of students were learning remotely, the decline was 32 percentage points.

Higher ed gets \$94.6 million in emergency relief

Federal pandemic funding continues to trickle down to Texas colleges and universities, with the latest round bringing nearly \$100 million in emergency relief. Last year the state allocated \$175 million in federal funds to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to support higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Investing in our higher education system is the single best way to bolster the workforce that Texas has become known for and accelerate our state's economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19," said House Speaker Dade Phelan.

About half the funding will go to expand capacity for high-demand and high-value educational opportunities, including work-based learning and apprenticeships. Other programs to be funded include financial aid; establishing a one-stop advising resource to help students connect with higher education opportunities; and expanding outreach to adult learners to meet workforce demands of state employers.

Vaccinations slowly increase in state

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 reached 11.937 million this week, or about 41% of the state's total population, according to Texas Health and Human Services. Hospitalizations in the past week of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases rose slightly to 1,502. New cases in Texas increased to 10,493 compared to the previous week, with 193 deaths recorded, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Putting manufacturing sector in perspective

A report from the state comptroller's office notes that Texas' manufacturing sector contributed \$241 billion to the state's gross domestic product in 2019, about 13% of its total economic output. That is larger than the manufacturing output in both Russia and Mexico. Before the pandemic, manufacturing employed about 909,000 Texans. As of February 2021, seasonally adjusted total manufacturing jobs were below pre-pandemic levels by 53,000, or nearly 6%.

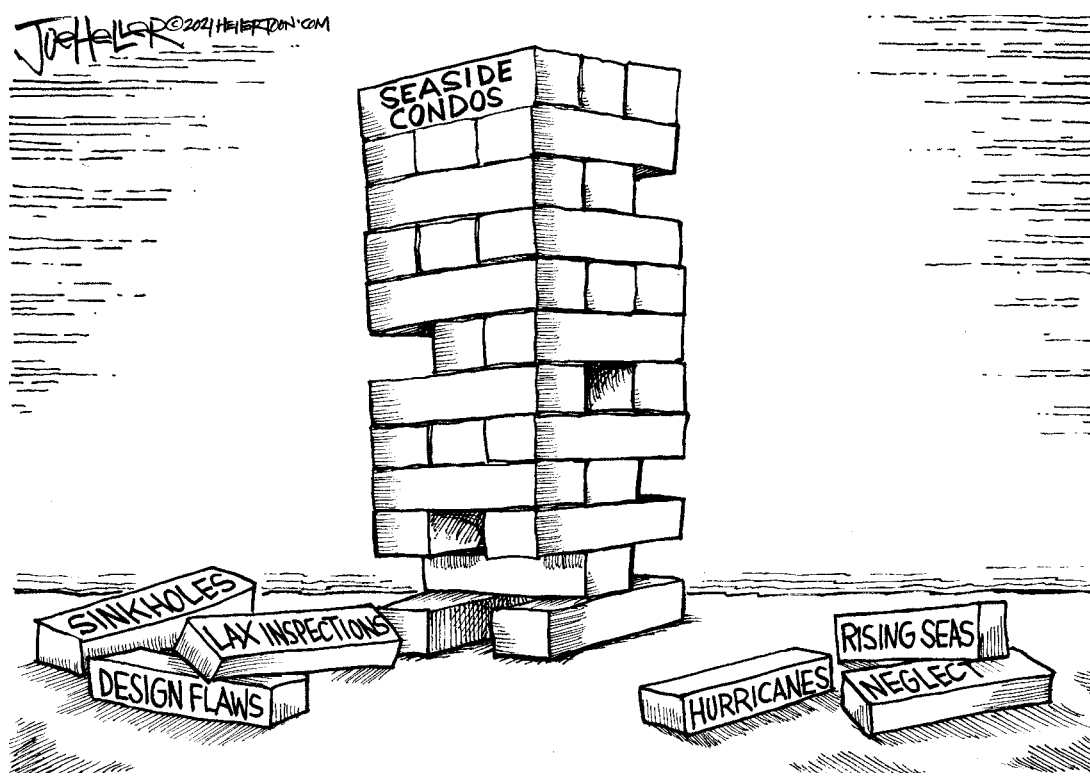
Many of the job losses were in industries tied to the oil and gas sector — fabricated metal products and machinery manufacturing. Those two industries accounted for nearly two-thirds of the manufacturing job losses since the pandemic began in March 2020.

Most funding ever for transit operations

The Texas Transportation Commission approved \$89 million last week for transit operations across the state, the most ever allocated at one time. About 60% of the funding comes from federal pandemic funds, with the rest provided by the state. The funding includes more than \$10 million from the feds to help transit agencies manage the impact of COVID-19. Nearly 20 million transit rides were recorded statewide, even during the pandemic.

"When most services shut down during the pandemic, these transit agencies continued serving thousands of Texans across the state," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "In a time when they were needed most, these agencies helped people get to jobs, groceries or the medical care they needed. This additional funding will continue to improve access for Texans."

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 and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.



TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TX-born sportscaster Oliver, et al.
- TXism: "blind as _____"
- racehorse's father in Wood County on U.S. 69
- portable computers made by a TX-based company (2 wds.)
- dir. to Abilene from Andrews
- it's not Permian High, but in the same city (2 wds.)
- dir. to Weatherford from Junction
- Brownfield company is large supplier of _____ gum powder
- "Cinco de Mayo" celebrates Mexican victory at this city
- TXism: "_____ wet hen"
- tapered piece of wood for levelling
- news/talk AM in Dallas (1080 kHz)
- trauma area at Baylor hosp.
- former afternoon newspaper in Amarillo (2 wds.)
- Houston Oiler hall-of-fame defensive end, Elvin Be _____
- TXism: "hopping _____" (angry)
- it's under a plate on the table (2 wds.)
- a hunted animal
- Dyess Air Force _____
- singer of 1948 hit "Deck of Cards" (3 wds.)
- a giver to charity
- agcy. that helps economically distressed areas
- flexible water tubes
- TXism: "if it ain't true, there ain't a _____ Texas"
- Dallas Cowboy hall-of-fame RB, Emmitt (init.)
- "_____ Rim State Park"
- smooth, lustrous fabric
- TXism: "his bark _____ than his bite"
- lines where fabrics are joined
- paternity evidence
- former governor, Richards (1991-95)
- "you can _____ that again!"
- old Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth made the V-22 _____
- TX Prentiss of 1965 "In Harm's Way"
- storage building
- this Irving wrote the songs for TX Ginger Rogers' "Follow the Fleet" (init.)
- actor Jackie of TX-based "Smokey and the Bandit II" (1980)
- more difficult
- slum areas in cities
- this Mickey owned the honky tonk in 1-down film
- high mountain
- TX Jack Earle was "Tallest the World"
- TXism: "_____ punch" (happy)
- Boston is the seat of this county
- "Fiesta Diez _____" celebration in Beeville
- "I" toppers
- they're made at Arlington GM plant
- TXism: "_____ you couldn't stir 'em with a stick"
- "want to," lazily

DOWN

- city of TX-based 1980 film "Urban Cowboy" (2 wds.)
- Taylor County seat
- _____ Falls, TX
- what cattle rustlers do, e.g.
- first French settlement in Texas: "Fort St. _____"
- Eve's mate
- "P" of MPH
- TXism: "dot the i's and cross the _____"

Slings&Arrows

Keeping your distance



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

In recent years, as we have seen more and more cars on local roads, bad habits are starting to crop up. Several years ago we talked about the "Aledo Way."

The Aledo Way was driving courteously, allowing cars in, and generally looking out for each other.

Unfortunately, I think some drivers are bringing their urban driving habits to the community. I have

recently seen a huge increase in tailgating.

I can understand when you are in a hurry to get somewhere that you might want that car ahead of you to speed up.

But when you are on roads like Bankhead or Ranch House Road in Willow Park, and the car ahead of you is driving the speed limit, you should give them some room.

I think newcomers may not be aware of the number of deaths that have occurred on Bankhead. It can get very dangerous if you are driving too fast.

Tailgating decreases the time you have to stop if the car in front of you has to stop suddenly.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration (NHTSA), rear-end collisions account for about 23% of all motor vehicle crashes, resulting in about 2,000 deaths and 950,000 injuries.

If you are being tailgated, the American Automobile Association (AAA) recommends that you stay calm, be extra cautious when you break, drive at a comfortable speed, and try to get safely out of the way.

Hand gestures were not mentioned, but the recommendation was to avoid confrontation, so that probably leaves out non-verbal forms of communication.

Moving out of the way is impossible on Bankhead and many other roads here, so my advice is to slow down until the tailgater passes you.

The Community News

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We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-441-7661, ext. 207 or email news@community-news.com. Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

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 necessarily 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. Send submissions to news@community-news.com.

Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph. For ease in submitting photographs electronically, visit our contact form at community-news.com/contacts.

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

Obituaries

Karen Loraine Hernandez

Karen Loraine Hernandez, age 77, passed away Thursday, July 1, 2021.

Karen was born in Fort Worth on September 17, 1943, to the late Bryson Cutler and Beatrice Petteway. She was a lifelong resident of Aledo, where she attended Aledo High School, then moved to Arlington Heights High School, where she graduated.

Karen went on to nursing school where she received her degree. She also owned a craft store which she loved very much.

Karen enjoyed needle point, crocheting, arts, crafts, going to craft shows, and making and giving homemade gifts. Once a year, Karen looked forward to visiting with her classmates and friends that she grew up with at the Westland Kids Reunion.

Karen also loved the outdoors. She enjoyed fishing, watching football, and going to the Aledo football games.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Karen had her life-long friend,

Julian Hernandez, that she loved dearly. She was loyal to her family and spending time with her children and grandchildren, was her greatest joy.



Karen Hernandez

Karen was preceded in death by her parents.

The Family would like to give a special thank you to Beyond Faith Hospice, for the care they gave Karen during the time she shared with them.

Karen is survived by her son, Greg Jackson and wife, Melinda; her life-long friend, Julian Hernandez and his daughter, Angela Hernandez; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, and one on the way; two sisters, Mary Cutler and Rebecca Hancock; one brother, Bryson Cutler; and her dog, Harley.

The funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 10, in Biggers Funeral Chapel, 6100 Azle Ave, Fort Worth. Interment will be at Annetta Cemetery, Annetta, Texas. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, July 9, at Biggers Funeral Home.

The Community News July 9, 2021

Juanita Faye Hudson

Juanita (Nita) Faye Hudson, age 83, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, in Fort Worth.



Nita Hudson

Nita was born on March 23, 1938, in Odessa, Texas to Leonard Alva and Era Irma Tibbets. She attended and graduated from Midland High School in 1956. She married Donald Henry Hudson on February 14, 1959, and was happily married for 62 years except on those rare occasions when Don played too much golf or took those business trips to Mexico.

They raised two daughters, Donna Louise and Holly Kathleen. Nita was the perfect help mate to her husband, from supporting the family while he finished his degree to supporting Don's "harebrained" ideas and entrepreneurial endeavors. She worked at several oil companies in West Texas, but her true talent was helping people. She found her niche in city government. She worked several different roles at the City of Bedford for 19 years, City of Smyrna, Georgia for two years, and City of Granbury for six years. Her helpful attitude and organizational skills made her an invaluable asset to her employers and city citizens.

Nita had a passion for shopping, clothes, and jewelry. She loved bright colors and large matching earrings. Did we mention the shoes and handbags? They matched too. She loved to read; Don remarked that he would find multiple books hidden throughout their house.

She also loved Frank Sinatra, playing the slots, and bridge. However, her biggest joy was spending time with family and friends, some she had known since grade school. Nita truly found the most joy in being with and helping people.

Nita was preceded in death by her parents and younger brother, Leonard Anthony Tibbets. She is survived by her husband, Don; her daughter Donna Smith and husband Steven Harlow of Benbrook; her daughter Holly Hudson and husband Robert Bivens of Dallas; granddaughter Kacie Smith and partner Clifford Helm of Chicago Illinois; grandson Nils Smith and wife Courtney of Euless; two great granddaughters, Presley and Emmalyn Smith of Euless, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Celebrations include family visitation from 6-8 p.m. on July 18 at River Bend Villas club house located at 3128 River Bend Blvd. in Fort Worth. A celebration of life is planned for 10 a.m. July 20 at Lucas Funeral Home Chapel, 1321 Precinct Line Road in Hurst. The family encourages "Nita approved" attire be worn including your brightest colors, boldest patterns, and of course those over-the-top earrings, as these events are indeed a celebration of her life.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to James L West center for dementia care, jameswest.org or the Alzheimer Association, alz.org; or the charity of your choice.

The Community News July 9, 2021

Peter John Prokell

Peter John Prokell of Aledo, Texas passed away on Saturday, July 3, 2021, at the age of 77.



Pete Prokell

Pete was born on November 30, 1943, in Bentleyville, Pennsylvania. In 1962, Pete joined the Air Force and was stationed at Kingsley Field in Oregon and served for six years. While enlisted, Pete met and married Carrol Stephens. After serving, Pete and Carrol moved to Burleson, Texas where Pete was employed by Western Electric, later acquired by AT&T, where Pete retired after 34 years.

Pete enjoyed protecting and serving the public and was a reserve officer for the Fort Worth Police Department and a reserve deputy for the Johnson County Sheriff's Department. He was initiated as a Free Mason in 1962 and was also an NRA Life Member. Pete was one of the first Texans to be certified as a Concealed Handgun Instructor.

His favorite Holiday was July 4th. He loved America, freedom, and all the traditions and opportunities they provide. His favorite role in life was husband, father, and grandfather. Pete was a supportive husband who

encouraged his wife to get her nursing degree. Later in life, Pete faced many health challenges. No matter how bumpy the road became, he was thankful for the journey, smiling and having a great time. His faith in God was unwavering. He touched many souls and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Pete is preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Judith Prokell, and sisters, Dee Johnston and Donna McVay. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Carrol; daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Michael Hall of Fairview, Texas; son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Joe and Suzi Prokell of Aledo, Texas; and grandchildren, Jordan, Erin and Ryan Prokell of Aledo, Texas and Jacob Prokell of Washington, D.C.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 10, at Greenwood Funeral Home in Fort Worth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Pete's memory to The Myositis Association at www.myositis.org/donate.

The Community News July 9, 2021

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THE COMMUNITY NEWS
WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

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

JULY 9

Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club

The Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Friday of every month at First United Methodist Family Life Center, 301 S. Main in Weatherford. The social hour, including Club Shop, begins at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting, including program, is at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is \$11. Please make lunch reservations by calling Shirley at 817-757-7379. For more information on the organization, visit pcwnc.org.



JULY 10

Peach Pedal Bike Ride

The annual Peach Pedal Bike Ride will begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, July 10, at Weatherford High School, 2121 Bethel Road.

Routes of eight, 28, 39, and 61 miles are available.

The 61-mile ride starts at 7:30 a.m.

The 39-mile ride starts at 7:45 a.m.

The 28-mile and 8-mile rides start at 8 a.m.

The event benefits Parker County United Way and the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, visit www.peachpedal.com.



Parker County Peach Festival

The 36th annual Parker County Peach Festival is returning with an expanded event area more than 200 arts/craft, food, and activity vendors. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 10, in downtown Weatherford.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for younger than 5.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit www.peachfestivaltx.com.

JULY 13

Cancer Support Group

A support group to create a space for those who have battled or are battling cancer meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Aleo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aleo.

For more information, email Joan Ward at jjckat1959@gmail.com.



JULY 14

Membership Luncheon

State Rep. Phil King will be the featured speaker at the next monthly luncheon of the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 14, at New River Fellowship in Hudson Oaks.

As State Representative for the 61st District, Phil King represents the people of Parker and Wise Counties in the Texas Legislature.

King serves on the National

Board of Directors for the American Legislative Exchange Council and was the 2015 National Chair. King also serves as Vice-Chairman on the Board of Directors of the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute.

In the Texas House, King serves on the State Affairs and Higher Education committees.

For more information, visit <http://business.eastparkerchamber.com/events/details/epccc-membership-luncheon-07-14-2021-14743>.

JULY 19

Rotary Club of Aleo

The Rotary Club of Aleo meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Sunny Street Cafe, 229 Shops Blvd. Suite 103 in Willow Park. For more information, visit aledorotary.org.

JULY 27

Aleo Community Lions Club

The Aleo Community Lions Club meets from 12-1 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Aleo Community Center. The public is invited. For more information call Bob Carlson at 817-718-4902.

AUGUST 2

Fall Prevention Class

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Parker County and the North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging are offering a free program designed to reduce the risk of falls, increase physical activity, and sustain longer independent living among older adults. The classes run from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Aug. 2 at the Parker County Extension Office, 604 North Main Street in Weatherford.

The classes are free, but space is limited. To register, visit <https://www.nctcog.org/aging-services/classes>, call Kathy Smith at 817-598-6168, or email kl-smith@tamu.edu.

Rotary Club of Aleo

The Rotary Club of Aleo meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Sunny Street Cafe, 229 Shops Blvd. Suite 103 in Willow Park. For more information, visit aledorotary.org.

AUGUST 12

2021 Fashion Show

Arlene Gale will be the featured speaker when Sanctified Hope holds its 2021 Fashion Show at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at Trinity Bible Church, 4936

E Interstate 20 in Willow Park.

For more information, call 817-901-5446 or email sharon@sanctifiedhope.org.

SEPTEMBER 30

Western Hills Class of '71 Reunion

The Western Hills High School Class of 1971 will hold its 50-year reunion beginning with a Brazos River Party at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, at a location to be named later. The party will include a Fuzzy's Taco fajita buffet, two drink tickets, and complimentary wine.

The main event will be held from 6-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, at Ridglea Country Club and will include dinner and two drink tickets.

The cost for the icebreaker and main event is \$150 if paid by July 31, or \$170 if paid by Sept. 7 (the last purchase date).

Checks can be sent to Western Hills Class of 1971 50 Year Reunion, P.O. Box 1621, Fort Worth, TX 76097.

There is an optional golf scramble outing on Sept 30 at Ridglea Country Club. For more information on the outing, email Mark Dinkins at markdinkins@houseloan.com.



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WRESTLING

Stockon named Aledo High School's first head wrestling coach

AHS graduate comes back home to establish program

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

Aledo ISD has named Austin Stockon as Aledo High School's first head wrestling coach as the program is new for the 2021-2022 school year.



Austin Stockon



NOLAN RUTH/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Texas Elite recently held a wrestling camp at Aledo Community Center for young wrestlers.

Stockon is returning to Aledo ISD after four years in Weatherford ISD at Tison Middle School (2017-2019) as a social studies teacher and the boys athletics coordinator and at Weatherford High School (2019-2021) as a psychology and sociology teacher and assistant wrestling and assistant football coach. Prior to that, Stockon was a special education paraprofessional at Vandagriff Elementary in the Aledo ISD from 2015 to 2017.

In addition to coaching wrestling for Aledo High School, Stockon will teach AP human geography as well as sociology and psychology at Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.

"Coach Stockon has a clear focus on students as a coach and also as a highly skilled teacher who teaches advanced classes," Aledo ISD Athletics Director Steve Wood said. "He's committed to starting our wrestling program out strong and turning it into another exceptional opportunity for our Bearcat student-athletes."

As the assistant wrestling coach at Weatherford, Stockon coached five state wrestling qualifiers and a girls individual state wrestling champion.

"I am honored to be chosen to lead this program at Aledo High School," Stockon said. "I hope to instill my love for wrestling in my student-athletes and to see them perform at the highest levels. Knowing the hard-working culture at Aledo, I see wrestling thriving with growing support from the community."

Austin Stockon - The Interview

The Community News' Nolan Ruth interviewed Coach Stockon to find out his plans for the wrestling program

NR: You played football for Aledo and for a lot of these coaches that you'll now be working alongside. What can you tell me about that time and how that led to this?

AS: I grew up here, I was born and raised here, my parents were born and raised here. So my family has been in Aledo forever. I grew up here, elementary all the way through middle and high school, and played football. Growing up, combative sports was kind of our deal. My dad grew up boxing, boxed at Aledo and then he did judo too. That's what got me into the grappling side of it. I did judo growing up as a kid and then boxed Golden Gloves, so that's where that side of it comes. Then I played football from early elementary. My first two varsity years we went to the semifinals and got stopped by Robert Griffin III both times. But the football program here has been fun to watch.

NR: What all transpired to have you end up coaching?

AS: My mom was a teacher here in Aledo, and I never really thought I would teach. I got my major in criminology and

sociology, I was going to go into law enforcement. But I got out of college and thought "I'm not really sure that's what I want to do." So I did a couple of other jobs for a while, I worked in an oil field, sold real estate, and then I finally got my certificate and that's when [Billy] Mathis got hired at Weatherford. He invited me to come on his staff, so I headed up one of the middle schools for a couple of years. That was a different beast, and I realized that middle school is where the fundamentals start with any sport. So I had fun watching those kids build and grow so much in those two years, and then went to be head coach at the freshman campus for two years and then became varsity assistant for his last year.

NR: After Mathis left for Brock, there was quite a bit of turnover with Weatherford coaches. Right about that time, rumors start about a wrestling program at Aledo. How did all of this get started?

AS: I think the thing that started it off was the buzz in the community. A couple of people had come to coach Wood, and I think prior to that some people had brought it up to coach Buchanan. I think there were a few people who moved in from different states or came from other programs where there was wrestling or the parents

Turn to **STOCKON**, page 9

In My Eyes

The path to a dream job



Nolan Ruth

Writer's Note: Ever since early December you have been seeing my name on the byline for this sports section, but for the most part I have been behind the scenes. I have been fortunate enough thus far to get to know a great number of you, mainly from the baseball and softball seasons. With that in mind, as I prepare to take on a bigger role and cover more sports for Aledo, I thought it would be best to tell my story and introduce myself. This one is for Tony.

As I look back on what transpired to allow me to have what is (for lack of a better term) my dream job, I realize how blessed I have been in just 22 years of life to allow me to be in this position. Being raised in Aledo, I have seen everything this town has to offer. I remember early mornings at Vandagriff Elementary. I remember waking up early on Saturdays to go play football at Old Bearcat Stadium, playing baseball at AAI, and all the post game meals at Railhead, Mr. Jims, and what used to be Jorge's. I can still smell the Bryant Grain mill on a cold winter morning and I can still hear the train passing by every morning before school. The more I think of all of those memories, the more I know that I grew up in the perfect place for this career, and it wasn't an accident.

My mother's parents came to Aledo in 1994. Up until that point they had lived in Arlington, and found their favorite form of entertainment was high school football. They would tell me often how they would find the nearest game on a Friday night and go watch it, whether they had rooting interest or not. When they came to Aledo, they found their rooting interest.

On the other side, my dad had moved around quite a bit. He eventually found himself in Greenville, Texas where he played

football and baseball for the Lions before moving and graduating from South Garland. After he had met and eventually married my mom, he also had found a rooting interest in Aledo.

On December 12, 1998, my entire family was at the Astrodome watching the Bearcats defeat Cuero for the school's first state championship. Ten days later, I entered the world. You could say I was practically born to be a Bearcat. As I got older, I started to play more sports and really get involved in the town and community. Bearcat football was all I looked forward to, even in the spring.

During that time, I started learning more about Texas high school football as a whole. My grandfather and I would travel just about anywhere to see a game. We once drove to Abilene to watch Wolforth Frenship take on Wichita Falls Rider, just because we could. Another time, we went to Decatur to watch the Eagles play Abilene Wylie. As he tells it, I was already talking about defensive strategy at five years old.

That love followed me all the way to middle school. While the Bearcats were winning state titles with Johnathan Gray, my grandfather would pick me up to watch the game before, and then stay for the games after. It was about that time I realized that I wanted to stay close to sports in whatever job I have.

When I got to high school, I had less opportunities to go watch other football games due to playing for the Bearcats myself. Though I never cracked the varsity roster, I was dedicated to being an Aledo Bearcat. My freshman year, Aledo won state in football, softball, and baseball. I had been in the stands in 2008 when Whitney Canion and the Ladycats won, but 2014 was really my first exposure to Aledo softball and baseball. At that point, it was no longer just about Bearcat football. I realized that I have a love for my alma mater and where I come from.

I spent the next two years following and supporting the Aledo sports teams. Unfortunately, my

Turn to **DREAM**, page 9

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S-1536

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit, a Food and Beverage Permit and a Brewpub Permit by the Bourbon n Branch Brewing Co., LLC to be located at 900 Cinema Dr. Suite 6114, Hudson Oaks, Parker County, Texas. Owners of the corporation are Mr. Brian Lixey as Managing Member & Dr. Joshua Tarbay as Managing Member.

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
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RFP 21-070221

The Aledo Independent School District (the District) is requesting proposals for Special Education Services. Proposal specifications may be printed from the Business Department Purchasing page of the District's website, www.aledoisd.org. Questions regarding proposal specifications should be directed in writing via email to Cindy Poole at cpoole@aledoisd.org. Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM (CST), Thursday, July 22, 2021, in the District's Business Department, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008. 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.

City of Willow Park
Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Willow Park City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on the matter listed below;

PUBLIC HEARING to consider a request to rezone from R-1 Single Family District to R-5 Medium Density District, 20.31 acres situated in the A. McCarver Survey, Abstract No. 910, and the M.M. Edwards Survey, Abstract No. 1955, City of Willow Park, Parker County Texas, being a portion of that certain tract of land described in deed to Bulwark Asset Management, Ltd., recorded in Instrument Number 201732162, Official Public Records, Parker County, Texas, located between Yucca Road and Royal View Drive.

Planning and Zoning: Tuesday, July 20, 2021
Time: 6:00 PM

City Council: Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Time: 7:00 PM

Location: City Hall, 516 Ranch House Rd
Willow Park, TX 76087

Any member of the public has the right to appear at the Public Hearing. Please contact the Development Department at 817-441-7108 or bchew@willowpark.org with any questions.

Posted: July 6, 2021

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DREAM

from page seven

own athletic career was cut short after my junior year. Since I was no longer competing, I needed something to fill the void that had been left. It was about that time I had a teacher tell me I should try my hand at sports writing. I had a family member that had been writing for this same sports section, but I had never pictured myself doing that. After graduation, I was informed about an entry level position covering all Texas high school football for the 2017 season.

My first ever coverage came from Bearcat Stadium between Aledo and Colleyville Heritage. That night was the first time I met Tony Eierdam. I spent most of that game talking to him about Aledo sports and my odd road into journalism. He was impressed, but towards the end of the season he started to question why I didn't keep my own stats. I didn't answer his questions, but instead went home and built my own stat sheet on my computer. When I brought it to him during the first round of the playoffs, all he could do was laugh.

The company I had worked for that first year had gone bankrupt, and it seemed like my time in journalism was over. However, all the contacts I had made over the 2017 football season encouraged me to stay in the game. So that next spring, I got together with a few friends that also wanted to start covering sports, and we started our own blog. The next two seasons were spent with my own blog or freelancing for papers around Texas, and I spent more time networking and practicing my craft.

The entire time, I would always come back to Aledo at least once a season. Every time, Tony and I would talk and trade stories. Occasionally, we would talk on the phone at the end of Friday nights and break down the games we had seen.

He started telling me how if he was ever replaced, he would want me to be the one to do it. He was vocal about that point to more people than I even imagined.

In the summer of 2020, Tony and I met for lunch and talked about our expectations for the upcoming football season. Tony had also mentioned the softball team, and the players he referred to as "The Fab Four." I had no idea what that conversation would come to mean to me. A month later, Tony passed away.

The beginning of the 2020 football season, while odd due to the pandemic, started like any other year for me. I traveled the state covering many teams. I was able to catch two Aledo games at the beginning of the season, but I spent most of the time in other parts of the state.

In December, it all changed with a single phone call. When I was first asked to cover the playoffs for the football team, I did not think I was the right choice but I accepted it. Those five weeks allowed me to reconnect with the people of my hometown. It was a connection I didn't know I missed. The Bearcats finished up with the record-setting tenth state championship.

Two months later, I found myself with the baseball team, and with the softball team another month later. It was during that season that I truly experienced the amazing support and friendships that this town has to offer.

I now know why Tony loved this job so much. While I might not completely fill his shoes, I want to do my best to make sure the stories and athletes of this town are done justice. I don't know what the future holds, but I know that this is home. I am a Bearcat; I always have been, and I always will be.

All that being said, I look forward to seeing where these teams and students go, and I look forward to meeting each and every person in town. Thank you all for your support and kindness. Go Bearcats!

STOCKON

from page seven

had wrestled for, and I think there's always been a push for it. Coach Wood and I talked one night and he asked me how I like it and how we made it work with football, made sure we worked with the girls' sports and I kind of told him how we did it at Weatherford and had success. When I got into Weatherford, there were zero kids playing football and wrestling; when I left there were about 20. So it definitely blew up and I was able to bridge that gap between football and wrestling and other sports in general.

NR: You've now gotten the ball rolling, you had Texas Elite come up and do a camp and they're building a new complex up the road, how are things progressing in your eyes?

AS: I think the building blocks are there. I think the buzz is there, I think people want it, and now it's just getting it established. With Texas Elite and some of these other clubs in the area, that's huge. These kids can get in there as young as five and six and get started wrestling. Then that foundation is there by middle school when they're really kicking, and then when they get to me they have everything. From there it's all honing in on the specific techniques and making them better athletes.

NR: You are spearheading this new program for a school that craves and expects greatness.

I have loved Weatherford to death, the kids there, the administration, everybody was so good to me. But it hasn't been home. So I'm super excited to come back home where my roots are and be back in the community that I love.

Austin Stockon

What are the steps for you to get this program to that point?

AS: I think it goes back to building the foundation at the younger age, and what we're starting to see is some of these metroplex schools like Arlington or Keller, they're all having middle school programs. I think that's essential like every other sport. That way when they get to me as a freshman, I'm not teaching stuff on day one. We're going into it and building off of

what they learned early in middle school. Can we do that the first year? I don't know. It just matters that the interest is there and we have the numbers there, that's the biggest thing and then three or four, maybe five years down the road we can definitely have a good program.

NR: You really believe the importance of the middle school program. With the addition of another middle school coming to Aledo, and your experience from working in Weatherford where two middle schools feed into one high school, does that boost your confidence? That you are the one who is able to handle spearheading this?

AS: I do. I feel we did a good job of it at Weatherford. I do know, if we're talking middle school alone it can be tough. We had half our kids another place versus how Aledo is now when it's all together. But being around that and seeing the logistics of it I think gives me an advantage.

NR: Finally, it's been a long journey for you, how happy are you to be home and to be coaching for the Aledo Bearcats?

AS: I am super excited. That's one thing I went into my interview with. I have loved Weatherford to death, the kids there, the administration, everybody was so good to me. But it hasn't been home. So I'm super excited to come back home where my roots are and be back in the community that I love.



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Blakleigh (age 7) enjoys a patriotic-themed snow cone.

Boomin' 4th

Photos by Kathy Chruscielski
The Community News



Emilie (age 7) has fireworks painted on her cheek.



Nathan, Jace and Grady of Willow Park wear light up necklaces given freely during the event.



Matt Boggs of "Prophets and Outlaws" band greets a fan during the concert: son Campbell (age 3)



Theia and Casidy wait for their turn to play "Connect 4"

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