

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

PARKER COUNTY

Lumber theft cases solved

Multiple arrests made

By Danie Huffman

Parker County Sheriff's Dept.

The Parker County Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division recovered more than \$40,000 worth of stolen lumber and building materials that had been taken from sites in Aledo and Weatherford in recent weeks.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier said five cases were solved with the arrests.

"Our Criminal Investigations Division was swift in tracking leads to identify the suspects in connection with numerous cases reported over the past few months," Authier said.

Sheriff's deputies responded to several theft reports in the Aledo and Weatherford areas, where thieves took dozens of new windows valued at more than \$5,000, dimensional lumber and hundreds of plywood Tech Shield Radiant Barrier (TSRB) sheets valued at more than \$40,000 from new residential construction sites. Victims reported several hundred sheets of TSRB were stolen in June from construction sites located in the 200-Block of Open Sky Lane and the 100-Block of Crimson Sky Lane in the Morningstar Development.

The investigation led the Sheriff's CID investigators to the suspects in Fort Worth, where the stolen materials were stored at various residences.

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ALEDO ISD

Board wins regional award

By Lori Burton

Region 11 Education Service Center

The Aledo ISD school board has been selected as the 2021 Region 11 (north central Texas) winner of the School Board Awards program, sponsored by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). This selection marks a district awards sweep for the district, whose superintendent (Dr. Susan Bohn) was recently named the regional Superintendent of the Year.

The Region 11 Education Service Center covers 10 counties and includes 76 public school districts, 16 public charter schools, 76 charter campuses, and 143 private schools ranging in size from small, rural districts up to the Fort Worth ISD.

A panel of local school superintendents selected Aledo ISD's board as the Region 11 representative for this prestigious awards program. The board's application has now been forwarded to TASA to be considered for the state-level award. The school board award, created by TASA in 1971, was designed to recognize those school boards that have demonstrated outstanding dedication and have rendered ethical service to the children of Texas. The criteria emphasizes evidence of support for the improvement of educational performance.



SHARON ELLMAN

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees received the 2021 Region 11 School Board Award. Shown are (seated) Julie Turner, Jennifer Loftin, and David Lear and (standing) Jessica Brown, Board President Hoyt Harris, Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn, Forrest Collins, and Jennifer Taylor.

The application process involves creating a digital booklet of information and documentation that address the following topics related to board activities:

- Functions as a policy-making body

- Adherence to adopted board policies
- Support for educational performance in accordance with state-established standards
- Support for educational improvement projects and school transformation initiatives

- Commitment to a code of ethics
- Provision of financial support for the school system
- Participation in workshops and other performance-improvement programs

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REMEMBERING FATHER JAY



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Jay Atwood, chaplain of the Aledo Volunteer Fire Department, talks to colleagues at a National Night Out event in 2012.

By Randy Keck
The Community News

As Rector at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Willow Park for more than 25 years, members and non-members alike came to know H. Jay Atwood as "Father Jay."

It is difficult to pin down a nutshell description of Father Jay. He was a pillar and foundation of the community for decades, pouring himself not only into his church, but into the community as well.

In all the years I knew him, I never heard him preach from the pulpit but I saw him preach every day as he lived his life in service to the community he loved.

Shortly after moving to east Parker County Father Jay became a chaplain for the Aledo Volunteer Fire Department after a tragic accident left firefighters looking for answers. One former volunteer said he provided needed support when first responders went to an accident scene where there was a fatality.

But don't think Father Jay was there at the accident scene in his robes just for the purpose of counseling. He was there with his sleeves rolled up, ready to man a hose or do whatever needed to be done on the scene. After the department became more professionalized, he remained as chaplain and served on the Parker County Honor Guard.

Fred Knopp worked on the Aledo Volunteer Fire Department with Father Jay.

"Father Jay and I became close friends when we met at the Aledo Fire Department. We hit it off as if we were brothers. We got to know each other through the years driving back and forth and rooming together at the A&M TEX Fire School."

Knopp said there was nothing he and Father Jay couldn't tell each other.

"Father Jay and I also shared many moments together as co-signers on the AVFD account, which

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Published Weekly

Why Canada Matters

Guest Column from Canadian official.

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Pro Coyotes

Two Weatherford College baseball players selected in the draft.

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Ego Trips?

Billionaires blast into space in this week's cartoon.

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In & Around Parker County

CALL ON ATEX TRASH SERVICE

Atex Trash Service is a locally owned, family owned business that prides itself on excellent service for an affordable price. After 11 years in business, Atex Trash Service is building an outstanding reputation as a company that is truly here to build something simply by helping others, and it is that hometown business model philosophy that has quickly made them one of the fastest growing businesses in the community.

"We work hard to take good care of our customers and we are committed to building our business with sound principles and ethics in mind," said Tim Green, one of the owners. "We strive to be a helpful and positive influence in the community, to be fair and honest in our business practices and to always make our decisions based on what is in the best interest of our customers, our employees and the community while maintaining a healthy company."

Many of us are cutting back, and being careful about what we spend in this economy. We want to save money on household necessities, but when it comes to services around our home, we don't want to sacrifice our peace of mind to save a few dollars. We want our service providers to be honest and dependable, worthy of our trust.

Billy Green is that kind of man, and he raised his son, Tim, to treat others with respect. He encouraged and developed Tim's heart of service. Watching his father, Tim had an example of great moral character and strong work ethic. Together they are a glowing example of honesty, reliability and self-sacrifice. When you have the opportunity to visit with them, you instantly feel at ease. Their positive attitudes are contagious, and you will leave with a smile.

Together, Billy and Tim started Atex Trash Service as a way for them to serve their community - their neighbors. Being able to make a living serving others is a dream come true for Tim. Atex Trash Service has been helping area residents save money on their residential trash pick-up since July 2010. Tim and Billy Green are the dynamic duo of father and son teams, proving that you can provide Superior Quality Service at the Lowest Price.

Atex provides weekly trash pick-up for a flat rate of \$35 a month for their standard service. "We realize however, not every family's needs are the same," said Tim, "We are able to customize plans for smaller and for larger families." They serve Parker, Tarrant, and Wise County areas outside of Azle, Springtown,

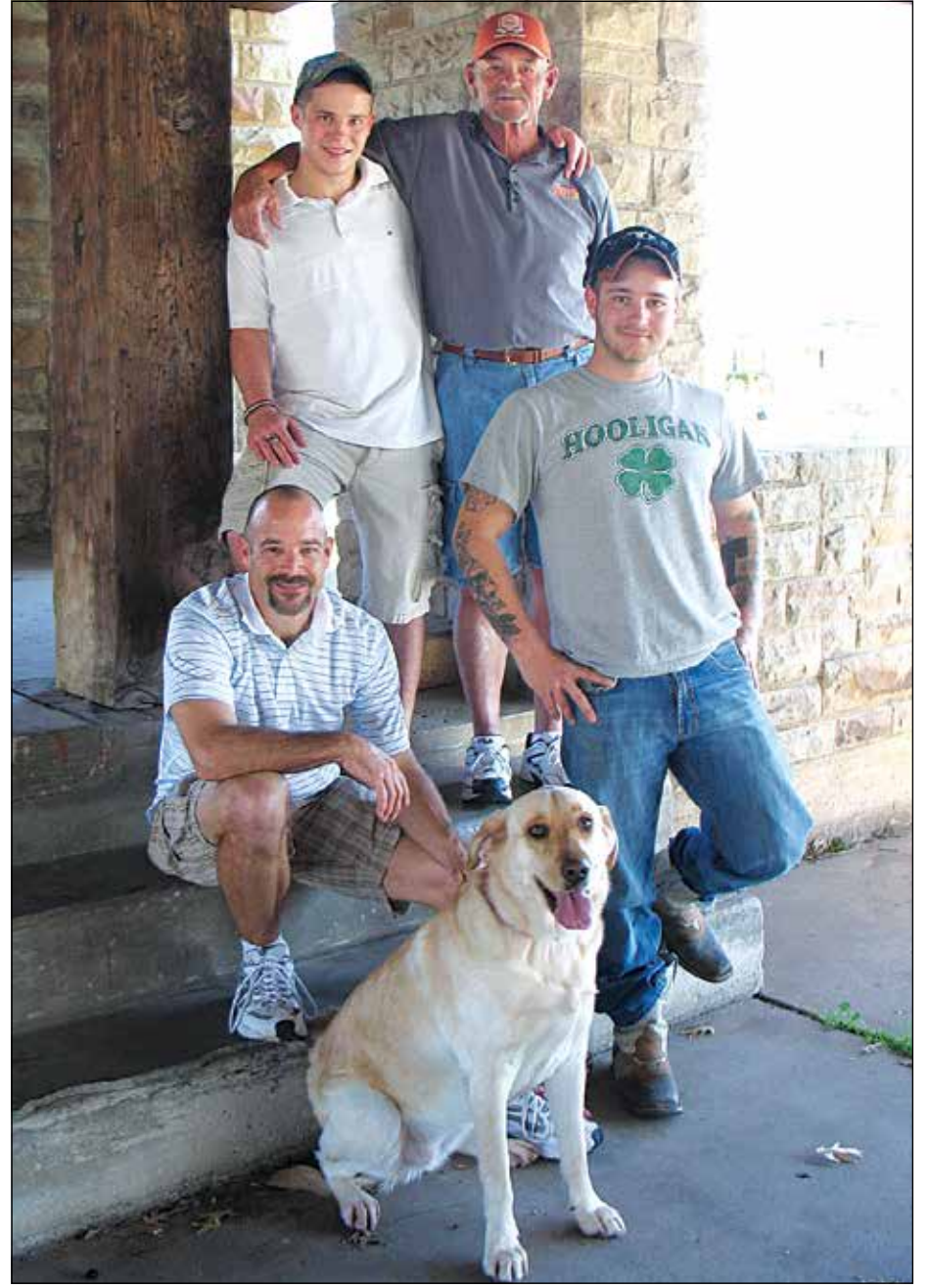
Weatherford, Poolville and Aledo, and the area continues to grow! Just call and see if they can help you. Since they are a local, family-owned company, you know who will answer the phone when you call. Tim and Billy are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and later if you need them. Just call 817-344-8464.

You can also contact Atex through their website 24 hours a day at www.atextrash.com. It's an easy-to-navigate website where you can contact Tim, sign up for new service, and even securely pay your bill online. You can also see what others have to say on their Testimonial Page or look them up on Facebook.

Operating this business means the whole family can work together! Tim's sons Laken and Gaige have grown up, and they're now the third generation with Atex helping to take care of the community.

"I'm happiest when I am doing for others," said Tim, "and to be able to build something positive with my family, well, I simply couldn't ask for anything more."

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BOARD

from page one

- Placement of the welfare of children served by the school system above personal or political motives
- Public relations efforts, including community awareness
- Maintenance of harmonious and supportive relationships among board members

To participate in this awards program, school superintendents must nominate their school board and submit the application to their regional education service center. The selection panel, which is comprised of area school district

superintendents, evaluates the applications received and rates how well each applicant addressed the ten areas of focus.

“It is such a well-deserved honor for our school board to be recognized as the Region 11 school board of the year,” Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. “They are guided by a clear focus on our Bearcat students in their decision making and lead the ongoing success of the Aledo ISD. They are well-respected among school boards throughout the state and by the community they serve, and I am proud to work alongside these amazing public servants.”

Aledo ISD’s school board will now join 19 other boards

from across Texas that will be considered for the state award. The TASA selection committee will review all 20 regional entries and announce five finalists on August 11. These finalists, designated as “Honor Boards,” will then be interviewed by the state selection committee, and the state winner will be named the “Texas Outstanding School Board” for 2021. All five boards will be recognized at the TASA/TASB Convention in September.

Any Texas superintendent who is a member of TASA and has been serving as the district superintendent since July 1, 2019, may nominate their school board for this award.

Security video recordings capture LUMBER

from page one

turing the suspects entering the Morningstar addition and taking the items from the construction sites and loading it into their trucks, then fleeing the area. Sheriff’s investigators said the suspects reportedly took building materials from construction sites located in Parker, Tarrant, and Johnson Counties.

Investigators conducted surveillance at the addresses where the stolen materials had been stored, discovering pallets of plywood and dimensional lumber covered in tarps located in the back yards.

The suspects were identified as Ivan Dominguez, 19; Carlos

Mendoza, 45; Octavio Perez, 18; and Nathan Baez, 17; all of Fort Worth.

Medoza remains incarcerated on felony theft charges with a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer. His bond for the theft charge was set at \$7,500.

Dominguez was released on a \$15,000 bond for the felony theft charges.

Baez was arrested on felony theft charges June 25. He was released on a \$7,500 bond.

Perez has an active warrant for felony theft. Investigators are seeking Perez’ current location.

Sheriff Authier said he would like to thank Fort Worth, Haltom City and Burleson Police Departments for their assistance in the investigations, and to Teagum Lumber Fort Worth,

Fort Worth Lumber Company, Simms Lumber Weatherford, and Texas Door & Window Weatherford for their help throughout the investigation in identifying tracking numbers and generating the fair market value of stolen materials.

Authier said the case is ongoing and additional charges are pending the investigation.

“Once the cases are completed, they will be forwarded to the Parker County District Attorney’s Office for prosecutions,” Authier said. “Our investigators worked diligently to locate the suspects and recover the stolen building materials. All property was accounted for through proof of purchase with the assistance of the lumber companies. We are pleased to be able to return the stolen items to the victims.”



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Father Jay Atwood (center), chaplain of the Aledo Volunteer Fire Department, helps Jeff Bergt with final preparations for the Parker County Honor Guard’s appearance at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the re-opening of the Ranch House Road/I-20 intersection in 2006. Members of the honor guard are (from left) Ron Kolber (Central Community VFD), Bergt (Greenwood Rural VFD), and Ian Christiansen and Fred Knopp of the Aledo VFD.

FR JAY

from page one

required us to meet regularly to sign checks and share much time together. My wife and I had the privilege of Father Jay marrying our oldest daughter and I believe to this day he put extra effort into it because of our relationship — it was a wonderful evening. Father Jay and Kathy truly have servant hearts from God, they give and give and never expect anything in return. I will never really understand why Father Jay was taken from us so soon, but I believe that God has a very important position in heaven for him that needed to be filled.”

Scouts

Father Jay earned the rank of Eagle Scout in his youth. As an adult, he was an active supporter of Boy Scouts, working with Pack 1099 and Troop 2001.

“He had a unique connection to our boys through the years. I served as Pack 1099 Chaplain for two years, and I remember how Fr. Jay encouraged me to lead our opening prayer each Monday night at St Francis,” said Courtney Clayton. “He led the ‘God and Me’ and ‘God and Family’ programs so the boys could earn their BSA Religious Knots. My oldest son went on to earn ‘God and Church’ and ‘God and Life’ with the guidance of Fr Jay. We had to postpone his Eagle Court of Honor

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126 RANCH HOUSE ROAD

Capital Highlights

Legislature returns for special session



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Legislature convened in special session last Thursday and GOP legislators introduced a fresh set of voting bills after Democrats blocked an earlier attempt during the regular session by walking out in May, preventing a quorum.

HB3 and SB 1 don't include some of the more controversial measures that were in the previous bill, such as restricting voting on Sundays. KUT.org reported the new bills include new ID requirements for people voting by mail and banning local election officials from sending vote-by-mail applications that have not been requested by the applicant.

The measures, still largely opposed by Democrats and voting rights groups, also ban drive-through voting and extended hours during early voting. Those backing the new bills say those extended hours encourage voter fraud, though there is no evidence of widespread fraud during the 2020 election. Republican lawmakers are pushing for a full House floor vote this week.

Editor's Note: Since this was written, many Democratic legislators have walked out again in order to stymie Republican efforts in the legislature.

Gov. Greg Abbott announced the topics to be considered during the special session the day before it opened. Besides the voting bills, they include:

- Bail reform to "protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail;"
- Border security with increased funding to support law-enforcement agencies and counties;
- Social media censorship legislation to protect social-media users from being silenced by social media companies based on their viewpoints;
- Restoring funding to the Legislature and legislative agencies that was vetoed by Abbott after the walkout;
- Family violence prevention legislation to provide funding for education to middle school and high school students about dating violence, domestic violence, and child abuses. Parents would have the right to opt their children out of such programs;
- Youth sports measures to revive legislation passed by the Senate that bans transgender students from participating in UIL athletic competitions "designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth;"
- Abortion-inducing drugs legislation that would prohibit providing such drugs by mail or delivery service;
- Thirteenth Check legislation to allow a one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas;
- Bills targeting "critical race theory" and restricting how current events and the country's history of racism is taught in Texas public schools; and
- Appropriation bills targeting property-tax relief, protecting children in the state's foster-care system and safeguarding the state from potential cybersecurity threats;

PUC ordered to improve electric reliability

Abbott also last week directed the Public Utility Commission to make major changes "to ensure the reliability of the Texas power grid," the Houston Chronicle and other media outlets reported.

Abbott asked the PUC, which oversees the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, to improve maintenance on power plants and speed development of some transmission projects.

"The objective of these directives is to ensure that all Texans have access to reliable, safe, and affordable power," Abbott wrote in a letter released last Tuesday.

In response, PUC chairman Peter Lake in a letter to Abbott expressed "wholehearted agreement with its contents." Besides the widespread blackout during the mid-February storm, a heat wave in June prompted ERCOT, which maintains the state's electric grid, to urge Texans to conserve electricity as usage approached peak capacity.

\$4.1 billion more in school stimulus funds

Texas will receive another \$4.1 billion in federal stimulus funding for its public schools, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The U.S. Department of Education announced last week that it had approved the state's plans for spending \$12.4 billion that was allocated to the state. According to the Express-News, the top priority for the Texas Education Agency is bolstering the mental and emotional health needs of Texas students by expanding tutoring and other methods.

TEA estimates Texas students lost 5.7 months of learning during the pandemic school year.

"The approval of these plans enables states to receive vital, additional American Rescue Plan funds to quickly and safely reopen schools for full-time, in-person learning; meet students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs; and address disparities in access to educational opportunity that were exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic," Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said in a news release.

Number of COVID-19 cases in state rises

At 12,426, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas increased 18% in the past week when compared to the previous week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The number of new deaths in the past week dropped slightly to 151. Hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in the state were on the rise, with 1,927 currently in Texas hospitals as of Sunday, according to Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texans fully vaccinated crossed the 12 million mark this week, DSHS reported. The rate of vaccinations in the state has slowed significantly in recent weeks, despite troubling reports of the spread of the delta variant of COVID-19.

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



Guest Column

Why Canada Matters



Rachel McCormick

America's neighbor to the North is good for the economy, good for Texas.

For over 150 years, Canada has been more than just a great neighbor – we are your best customer, closest security partner, and largest supplier of energy. Texas is an important part of all these mutual benefits.

Texans may think of other countries first when they consider international trade and cooperation. We understand that, but we think we should go against type and brag a bit about Canada's contributions to the Texas economy.

Canada is often thought of in terms such as friendly, polite, and snowy. We own them all, but we also have a compelling economic and trade story to tell in Texas – we are Texas' second-largest export market after Mexico. Texas exported \$27.8 billion in goods and services to Canada in 2020, and nearly 700 Canadian-owned companies operate right here in Texas. These companies account for almost 57,000 jobs throughout the state.

Beyond our common North American geography, we share values and interests, and multi-layered economic ties. Here are the adjectives I would use to describe our bilateral relationship and why Canada matters:

Prosperous. Canada and the United States share the largest trade relationship in the world. Our trade is balanced, fair, and supports growth and innovation in both our countries. Every day nearly US\$2 billion worth of goods and services cross the Canada-U.S. border. This prosperous economic partnership supports good paying jobs in both countries. More than 5,500 Canadian-owned businesses in the U.S. support nearly 900,000 jobs. We buy more goods from the U.S. than China, Japan, and the U.K. combined.

Integrated. Canada and the United States not only sell to each other, we make things together. Since the beginning of the

pandemic, our countries have worked hard to maintain the two-way flow of goods, particularly medical supplies and critical inputs across our borders, while protecting our communities from COVID-19. On average, over 25% of a finished product we sell to you is American content. Just like most imports from Canada are used in production that puts Americans to work. These long-standing, binational supply chains have not only kept us safe, they have kept us competitive globally.

Reliable. Energy from Canada – more than from any other country – contributes directly to U.S. economic prosperity, security, and environmental objectives. We are your largest and most secure supplier of all forms of energy, carried by 71 oil and gas pipelines and 35 transmission lines across our shared border. We are also investing in new technologies and infrastructure to be a global leader in clean energy and innovation. Canada is developing our energy resources in a way that creates prosperity and engages communities, while reducing emissions and preserving the environment.

Steadfast. Canada has fought alongside the U.S. in defense of our common values through World Wars I and II, the Cold War, Korea, Balkans, the Middle East, and Afghanistan. In fact, Canadian Army, Navy, and Air Force officers are embedded throughout the U.S. military, and at the bi-national North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at all levels – protecting and defending our shared continent in search and rescue operations, interdiction of illegal narcotics, interception of non-allied military aircraft, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

Canadian tourists contribute millions to the Texas economy every year. Canadian snowbirds, who feel welcomed when their Texas neighbors call them "Winter Texans," contribute substantially through real estate investments, business sales, and tax revenue.

On July 1 we celebrated the first anniversary under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), under which Texas businesses have continued access to duty free supply chains from Canada. Previously known as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the updated agreement preserves key elements of NAFTA, modernizes provisions to address 21st century trade challenges, reduces red tape at

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The Community News

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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.

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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.

SCOUTS

from page 3

due to Covid and the Pandemic, but Fr. Jay graciously accepted our request to present my son with his last two achievements. Unfortunately, this never happened. It was an honor to have known Fr. Jay. I am so sad at our loss on Earth, but Heaven welcomed an amazing man."

His service to scouting was not just local.

"Fr. Jay was passionate about the scouting movement and helped numerous scouts earn merit badges," said Debbie Kerrigan. "He loved Philmont Scout Ranch and made two trips over the past few years participating and staffing Wood Badge (leadership training for adults). He was a man full of wisdom and yet so down to earth. He did not know the word 'no' and was a true servant leader. He touched so many hearts and will be deeply missed. Troop 2001 loved him dearly and we are better for knowing him."

Community Service

As a former police officer, he provided support to the Willow Park Police Department (see letter).

He helped Aledo students in their UIL and other activities.

"Father Jay was always there for our kids at Aledo High School," said former principal Dan Peterson. "He was a huge supporter of the Shattered Dreams program every two years when it was created by the kids and counselors. Baccalaureate was another point of pride for him each year to support our seniors as they moved on to their next phase of life after graduation. He embodied all that made Aledo such a special place. I will miss his huge smile and caring heart."

School board member Forrest Collins echoed the sentiment: "Father Jay was a great man who had an incredible heart for kids. He was a huge supporter of our school district and will be greatly missed."

Just as his service to scouting wasn't just local, so his religious service was not limited to members of his parish.

Several members of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church commented on his help to their congregation.

"He was so kind and generous in helping our Holy Redeemer Catholic Church get up and running 20-plus years ago," said Sheila Hill. "He

graciously allowed us to have weekly Mass there until we outgrew the church and had to find another location. He allowed us to rent some classroom space for our offices until we found land and built our own building. I remember that he would often come in and check on me late on Wednesday nights when I was working alone late into the evenings doing the book-keeping as a volunteer, after my real day job. Such a great man of God."

Jack Hunt, pastor at The Well, also has fond memories of Fr. Jay's example.

"It was a lunch with our mayor and community pastors that I first met Father Jay," Hunt said. "As a newbie pastor to the community and the ministerial alliance, I sat quietly and listened. Jay, as I called him at first, referring to him as Father Jay later, I quickly knew that I wanted to be in his wake of wisdom, experience, and love of God and this community. To be honest, I was personally 'hung up' on the title of 'Father' to another man. But Father Jay Atwood loved his family, his family of God, this community, its first responders the way a good father would—devoted, serving, complete. I'll never forget the way he concluded the prayer at that lunch when I first met him. Father Jay said '...and give us grace to continue your work in our community, because our churches are not full, so we need to do a better job.' Body of Christ, let us champion this legacy of faith, hope and love left in the



THOMAS PEIPERT/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Rev. Jay Atwood prepares to taste some of his chili during an intense chili cookoff in 2004.

absence of this great man of God. We are all in the wake left by Father Jay's life."

Ron Johns, pastor at Oak Ridge Church of Christ, explained his relationship with Atwood this way:

"Many stories will be told of the tireless service, positive community influence, and attentive heart of this man of God. Father Jay's life and legacy improves the reputation of clergy in our community.

"From a personal perspective, when this Church of Christ preacher wanted to expand my experience and understanding of life with Jesus, Father Jay became a gentle and generous

Turn to **CHURCH**, page 10

Just saying a few nice things about Father Jay will not work. The newspaper does not have enough room for Father Jay's heart. In my many years with the Willow Park Police Department, I have never known Father Jay to deny someone his time, compassion, or laughter. He was always there for us first responders and made sure we knew how to find him, especially if we ever needed him. Father Jay was one of us, so he understood us very well. He knew and experienced the stressors of our profession and never stopped offering his compassion and brotherhood.

The Willow Park Police Department started its first CAPA program this year (Clergy and Police Alliance). Six clergy members from several churches joined and of course, Father Jay was front and center. He told me without hesitation he would find the time to help us with the program, along with becoming one of the founding members. Father Jay assisted us with various aspects of the program to ensure its success, since he had prior experience with CAPA programs. His latest project was creating location maps for the other members, which would assist them during times of crisis call-outs. The five-remaining founding clergy members will surely make Father Jay proud and keep the program moving forward in his memory.

It is going to be very hard to not hear Father Jay's laughter, listen to his voice speak to us without hesitation and judgment, joking with us, his love, and his complete understanding. It will be very difficult to see his empty seat during CAPA meetings, to not see him walk into our Police Department lobby, and to look at the gifts he has given us over the years. Father Jay helped me through some very hard times of loss in my life and I am forever grateful. He was currently helping me with some projects he and I were discussing, and I know I must continue his work. Although my heart is broken and I cannot write this without tears, I know that Father Jay must continue his journey. Father Jay was an honest and good man and us officers were very proud of him.

God bless you Father Jay, we love you, and thank you for everything. You are forever in our hearts.

- Sergeant Jaclin Ramirez
Willow Park Police Dept.
Support Services

SERVICE INFORMATION

H. Jay Atwood was born on October 11, 1954. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, July 26, at Church of the Holy Apostles, 3900 Longvue in Fort Worth. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to local police and fire departments.

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Events

JULY 16, 2021

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JULY 19

Rotary Club of Aledo

The Rotary Club of Aledo 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 23

The Rainbow Fish Musical

Theatre Off The Square in Weatherford will present its annual youth production, The Rainbow Fish Musical, two weekends beginning July 23. Friday and Saturday performances will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances will be at 2 p.m. at Theatre off the Square, 114 North Denton Street in Weatherford.

Tickets for children 12 and under are \$10 for all performances (seating has returned to normal, pre-pandemic setup; full capacity, reserved seating). Masks are optional. To purchase tickets for in-person performances, visit https://buy.ticketstotheatry.com/purchase.php?event_id=9544. For streaming access, visit <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/54839>

JULY 24

'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' takes the stage for young audience

Weatherford College Summer Stage presents "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" the last two weekends in July in the Alkek Fine Arts Center.



Shows are 10 a.m. on Saturdays, July 24 and 31, and at 1 p.m. on Sundays, July 25 and Aug. 1. Admission is free and doors open 30 minutes before showtime.

This production is geared specifically for a young audience and has a short run time. Children will enjoy the classic Norwegian tale of three young goats in search of a new food supply who come across a lonely troll and make a new friend.

JULY 27

Aledo Community Lions Club

The Aledo Community Lions Club meets from 12-1 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Aledo 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. "A Matter of Balance" is an evidence-based program that uses volunteer coaches to teach participants how to overcome their fear of falling, increase their strength and balance and improve their environment.

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 Aledo

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AUGUST 10

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 Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aledo.

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

AUGUST 12

2021 Fashion Show

Arlene Gale will be the featured speaker when Sanctified Hope holds its 2021 Fashion Show at 11:30

ACROSS

1 TXism: "tight as a cinch on ___ horse"

5 TXism: "he sneezes through silk"

6 pecan is the Texas state ___

7 SMU Raymond who was a great receiver for Baltimore (init.)

8 TXism: "I'll ___ monkey's uncle"

9 TXism: "useless as panty hose ___"

15 "___ in the neck"

16 dangerous Texas funnels

19 Texans rely on local television for weather ___

21 Texans know how to ___ tale

22 Russian cavalry prepare to publish

28 Texas troopers use ___ gun

29 use a key

30 this Matt lost his seat in the Texas House in 2018

32 Gov. "___" Ferguson

33 Texas pronghorn, e.g.

36 TX Joe Don was in "Cape Fear" with Robert de ___

37 this Mary Kay was TX cosmetics queen

38 fancy way to say woman's bedroom

39 periods between sunrise and sunset

41 TXism: "I'll ___ teeth!" (threat)

44 "Beware the ___ of March!"

45 TXism: "got ___ of corn to shuck" (big job)

46 "___ of the tongue"

47 bro's sib

48 what lies under Grand Saline, TX (2 wds.)

51 TXism: "I ___" (declare)

52 take on

53 TX Poetry Day mo.

54 actor Studi of 2003 TV film "The Lone Ranger"

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P-1537

DOWN

1 ex-Astro manager Howe

2 cone-bearing evergreen tree

3 "Cowpokes" artist (2 wds.)

4 Columbus, TX newspaper (3 wds.)

8 TX Bonnie & Clyde target

9 TXism: "she'd have ___"

10 shadow (skinny)

11 TX B.J. Thomas' "New Looks From ___ Old Lover"

12 love of country

13 TXism "neon light ___" (inspiration)

14 TX Hayley Orrantia TV show: "The ___ bergs"

15 TXism: "___ the rafters" (crowded)

16 two San Jacinto battle cannon: "The ___ Sisters"

17 slips away

18 "Roe v. Wade" Weddington, et al.

20 this Adams starred with TX Lynda Day George in "Racquet"

22 a Boulder, CO univ.

23 TXism: "fits like hide ___ a horse"

24 big piece of bacon

25 Sutton County seat

26 really exists

28 TXism: "sounds like ___ axle" (bad singer)

31 TXism: "he speaks with forked tongue"

34 in Falls Church on U.S. 77

35 "Texas Tea" Joe ___ Familia"

37 TXism: "___ of" (a lot)

40 TX Tanya Tucker song: "Texas When ___"

42 tejano band: "Little Joe ___ Familia"

43 "Permian Basin International ___" (Odessa)

49 pub missiles

50 TXism: "six of ___ half a dozen of the other" (same)

a.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at Trinity Bible Church, 4936 E Interstate 20 in Willow Park.

Available sponsorships include Title Sponsor (\$7,500); Gold Level (\$2,000); Silver Level (\$1,500); Bronze Level (\$1,000); or an individual ticket for \$50.

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

AUGUST 13

Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club

Laurie Chance Smith, author of "Around Veal's Station," will be the featured speaker at the

August meeting of the The Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club, which 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.



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BASEBALL

Willems drafted by Orioles

AHS star player to forego college and sign

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Former Aledo Bearcats catcher Creed Willems made Aledo history this week when he was selected in the eighth round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Baltimore Orioles. The draft spanned from Sunday night to Tuesday with 20 rounds as a part of All-Star Weekend festivities.

The selection is the highest an Aledo baseball player has ever gone in the draft out of the gate (Lee Gwaltney was drafted in the sixth round on his fourth draft). Officially, Willems was the 227th pick of the draft, a pick that did not come until mid-afternoon on Monday.

"I was called and was told to get ready," Willems said about the selection. "I just thought 'Man this is awesome.' But until you actually hear your name called and they start talking about you, you know your dreams have come true. As soon as it happened I gave my parents a big hug and was out the door to go celebrate with some friends. It still feels so surreal."

The process started a month ago after the Bearcats fell to Amarillo in the regional final. The week after, Willems traveled to Baltimore for a workout with the Orioles. That was followed up with workouts with the New York Mets and the St. Louis Cardinals.

"I was mainly focused on working out," Willems said. "Getting stronger, faster, and I did a lot of hitting. I went up to Baltimore and had a blast. Camden Yards is one of the best ballparks in America and I could see myself playing there. I got to take some batting practice and hit one onto Eutaw Street and one-hop the warehouse in right field, and that was awesome."

Willems, who was a TCU commit, made it official on Twitter early Wednesday morning that he will be forgoing college and will sign immediately with the Orioles organization.

"After praying and talking with my family," the tweet read, "I have decided that I am going to forgo TCU and sign with the Baltimore Orioles. Thank you to TCU baseball for extending me the offer and



KIRSTEN GALLON PHOTOGRAPHY

Creed Willems celebrates after hitting a triple in recent baseball playoff action.

all they have done for me. But I'm happy to say, Go O's!"

Willems finished his senior season with a .419 batting average, .539 on-base percentage, 10 home runs, 5 triples, 44 RBIs, and 248.2 innings caught defensively. Aside from himself, teammates were just as excited for Creed.

"It's not shocking at all," teammate Max Belyeu said. "We knew it was going to happen. It's just crazy to see that it's actually someone from your high school team. He's a great leader and he puts in the work every day. Without him, I don't think we would have made it as far as we did. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to play with him."

When the news broke, comments from around the community

Turn to **CREED**, page 9

Aledo High School in the Majors

Aledo High School graduates who have made it to the majors

Name	Year	Round	Team	Drafted from
Lee Gwaltney	1998	28	New York Yankees	Aledo HS
	1999	29	Seattle Mariners	McLennan Community College
	2001	27	St. Louis Cardinals	Louisiana Tech
	2002	6	Philadelphia Phillies	Louisiana Tech
Sean Henn	1999	30	New York Yankees	Aledo HS
	2000	26	New York Yankees	McLennan Community College
Brent Allar	2005	11	Milwaukee Brewers	Weatherford College
Kane Holbrooks	2009	21	Minnesota Twins	Texas State University
Ryan Talley	2014	Anaheim Angels (free agent after senior year at University of Texas at San Antonio)		
Griffin Benson	2016	23	Atlanta Braves	Aledo HS



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CANADA

from page four

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RachelMcCormick is the Consul General of Canada to the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. She was head of the Energy and Environment Section at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC from 2014 to 2019.

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2 Day Farm Auction - Chouteau, OK - Thurs., July 22, starts at 8:46 a.m.; Fri., July 23, starts at 10:36 a.m. Thurs.: farm equipment, shop & woodworking tools, welders, antiques & collectibles, generators, storage tanks, concrete tools & mixers, power tools and more. Fri.: 15+ John Deere tractors, Classic tractors, dozer, telehandler, skidsteer, hay equipment, bale wrapper, 30+ flatbed & enclosed trailers, no-till drill, power washer, gravity wagon, wagons, buggies & carts and more. 5884 W. 620 Rd., Chouteau, OK 74337. For full terms, photos and updates visit chuppsauction.com. Chupps Auction & Real Estate, Dale & Maria Chupp, Coldwell Banker Neokla Select, 918-630-0495.

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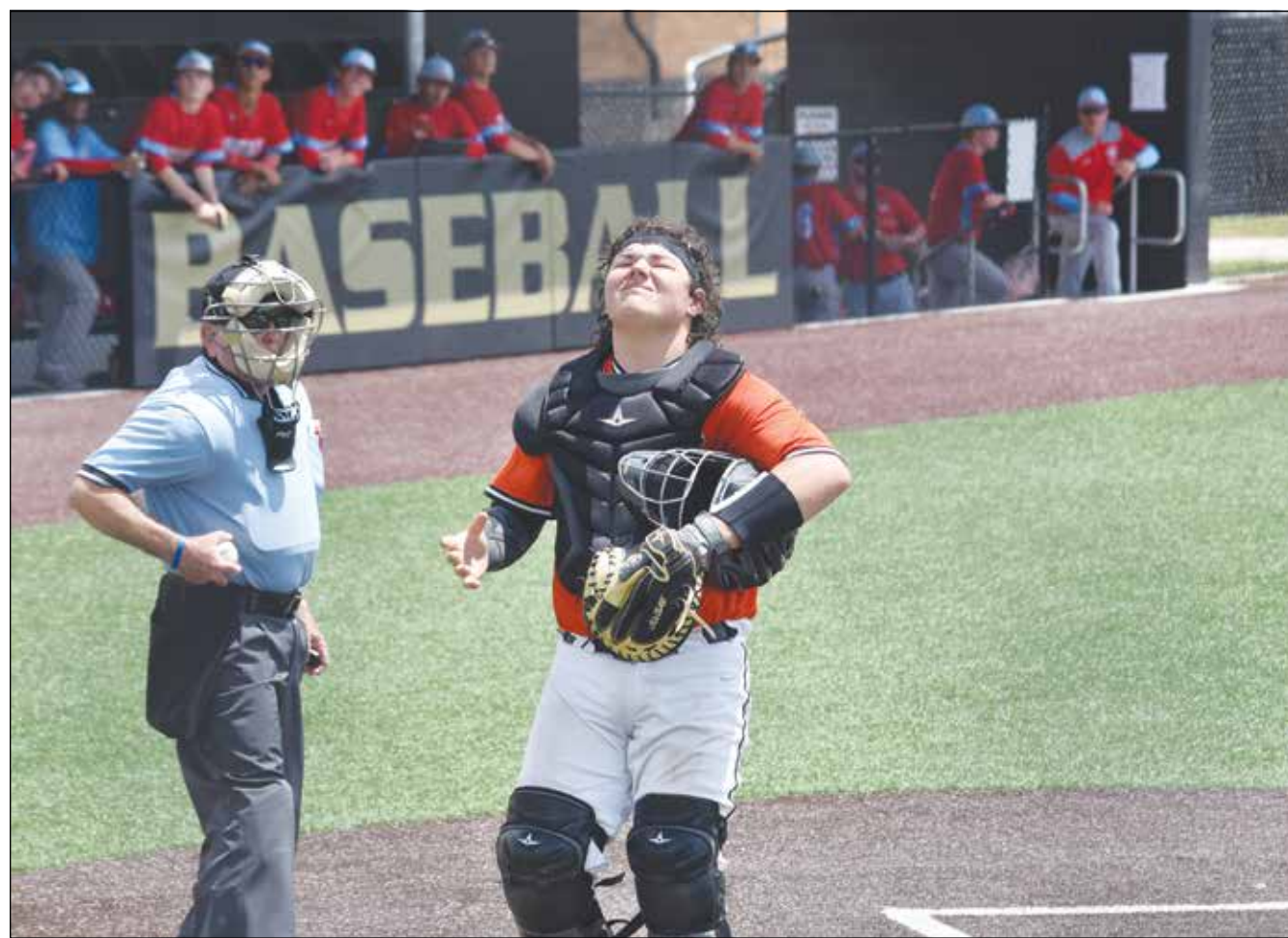
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TONY EIERDAM/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

In his sophomore year Creed Willems was voted as District 4-5A's Defensive Player of the Year in a unanimous vote. Willems did not record an error in district play and never allowed a runner to steal a base.

CREED

from page 7

poured in on social media. It was an outpouring that Willems said was very special to him.

"I saw all these parents of kids I would talk to, and they were congratulating me and putting it everywhere. It made me feel like maybe I was a role model and an inspiration to those kids. It just shows how great of a community Aledo is. I've heard from basketball guys, football guys, even kids who

aren't in athletics. The people here support you no matter what sport you play or what extracurricular you're in, no matter what they'll always have your back."

He may be moving on to greater things, but it won't be completely unfamiliar for him. Going to the Baltimore Orioles, Creed will be trading the orange and black for...orange and black!



Creed Willems

"It's too fitting," he said with a chuckle. "I'll always bleed orange and black. There will still be a little purple in there, I'll still be a Horned Frog at heart for what they have done for me. But I'll also be a Bearcat at heart."

Willems will sign a contract in the upcoming days and will start in the Orioles' minor league system. *The Community News* will continue to track his career and provide occasional updates.

Baseball

Two Coyotes chosen in MLB draft

Orioles, Pirates tap former, recent WC players

By Crystal Woerly
Weatherford College

Two Weatherford Coyotes were selected in the recent Major League Baseball draft.

The Baltimore Orioles selected former Weatherford College pitcher Carlos Tavera in the fifth round of the MLB Draft Monday.

Tavera is a Keller Fossil Ridge High School graduate who transferred to the University of Texas at Arlington after two years at WC.

In the 2021 season, Tavera started every series opening game for the Mavericks, finishing with a 3.04 ERA and setting a UTA record for strikeouts with 117 while only walking 33.

As a WC sophomore in 2019, he finished with a 7-4 record and a 1.78 ERA, registering 100 strikeouts.

He is the fourth former Coyote pitcher chosen by the Orioles organization (Brent Allar, TCU, 2006; Jake Arrieta, TCU, 2007; Jake Lyons, Oklahoma State, 2019).

The Pittsburgh Pirates selected Weatherford College baseball player Brenden Dixon in the 20th round of the Major League Baseball Draft on Tuesday.



Carlos Tavera



Brenden Dixon

Dixon is an Argyle High School graduate who transferred to WC after playing one season at the University of Texas at Austin. Following his sophomore year for the Coyotes, he signed a national letter of intent to play at the University of Arkansas next season.

The infielder hit .335 for WC in 2021 with 53 hits, 13 doubles, two triples, and 10 home runs. He scored 56 runs and stole seven bases. He was the starting shortstop for the 37-20 Coyotes.

He was Conference Co-Position Player of the Week Jan. 31 to Feb. 6 after hitting three home runs, two doubles, seven RBI, four walks and seven runs over a seven-day span.

If he elects to sign a contract with the Pirates rather than move on to Arkansas, Dixon will become the 34th former Coyote to play professional baseball.

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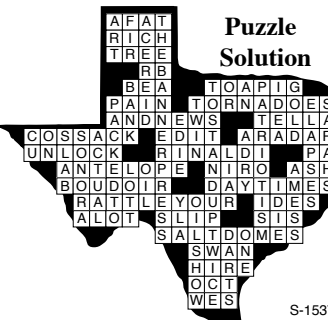


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CHURCH

from page 5

guide. I will never forget his kindness, his positive feedback after listening to my sermons, his insights into loving the people of God. I already mourn his absence from this community. But I celebrate his ongoing contributions to our work. Rest peacefully my mentor."

Ride for Heroes

Back in the days when we were doing the Ride for Heroes, we depended on Father Jay's connections to insure good weather on the day of the ride. Up at the crack of dawn, Jay gained the title of "Cone Man" because he put down the safety cones along the 100-mile route, and then went back and picked them up after the ride.

Bobby Rigues, one of the founders of the ride, expressed his feelings about Father Jay.

"Looking back to 2001 when I moved to East Parker County, I can't think of a more influential person to the communities we share than



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Father Jay Atwood of Aledo Fire Department puts out a burning hay bail at a grass fire near Center Point Road in 2002.

Father Jay Atwood" Rigues said. "His support, wisdom, and efforts touch every community endeavor I've ever been associated with. His influence is found in the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce early years, the Ride For Heroes events, the Aledo Volunteer Fire Department, the Aledo ISD and countless of other organizations and committees he participated in. I can't think of a better person to be considered a cornerstone to the foundation of community involvement. Father Jay's passion for a better community is an example for all to share and his sincere friendship for us to cherish."

In my years of covering events for this newspaper, it was difficult to go anywhere without seeing Father Jay there. He served on boards and commissions in addition to all of the

"I'll miss that smile and chuckle! A life well lived!"

Sherry McKenzie

above, and somehow he also found time to the the chaplain at Texas Motor Speedway.

I never saw him without a smile.

Father Jay will leave shoes too big to fill. But I take comfort in the fact that every time I see him in my mind's eye, he is smiling or laughing. Sherry McKenzie summed that up: "I'll miss that smile and chuckle! A life well lived!"



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

About 40,000 people descended on Weatherford for the annual Peach Festival on July 10. More photos are planned for next week's edition.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Creed Willems
Good luck with the Orioles!

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