

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Community Notes

A word from the publisher

I'd like to take a small amount of space to let everyone know what's happening at *The Community News*.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have been working to keep office hours and people interaction to a minimum. On the horizon, we're looking forward to some sort of normalcy so we can have the open house at our new office we had planned for last July to celebrate our 25th anniversary!

After operating with a skeleton crew for a few months, you will begin to see some new names in the paper. You have already seen Aledo High School graduate **Nolan Ruth's** name — he has been reporting on Bearcats football, and is now working on our State Championship Celebration section. He will be around for some other sports coverage in the spring as well.

Brandi Addison has agreed to start covering City of Aledo and City of Willow Park. Her Aledo report will be in next week's issue.

Makenzie Plusnick also joins our contributing staff covering Aledo ISD.

Finally, anyone who spent much time around the Aledo ISD will recognize the name of **Barbara Russell**, who taught at The Learning Center, taught Spanish, and coached tennis for many years. She will be the smiling face you see when the time comes that you can visit our office!

We're excited to be able to add the work of these talented people to our pages and presence.

Stay healthy and stay safe!

- Randy Keck, Publisher

State Champ celebration planned

The Community Bearcats Championship Celebration will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1, at Bearcat Stadium. The event will celebrate the Bearcats' tenth state football championship, and will feature videos and the presentation of UIL gold medals to the players on the team.

All 10 state championship trophies will be on display. The celebration is free to attend and open to the public. The Aledo ISD asks families to socially distance from other families and wear face coverings. Both the home and visitor side of the stadium will be open for attendees.

Hands-On

AHS grad Lindsey Kangas on the COVID-19 front line

By Randy Keck
The Community News

As COVID-19 cases and fatalities have reached ever-growing numbers, there is at least one Aledo High School graduate who is battling the virus first-hand in Fort Worth.

Kangas, who graduated from AHS in 2014, said she always wanted to be a trauma nurse. That led her to the nursing program at TCU, where she graduated in 2018.

"After nursing school, I started my first job at Texas Health Harris downtown. And I was in the nurse residency program and began working in the trauma ICU," Kangas said. "I knew Harris downtown [Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital] had a really good trauma ICU. And so I lucked out, and I got the job that I wanted right out of college."

Entering into trauma care was a deliberate decision.

"It's a new experience every day," Kangas said. "I knew I didn't want a desk job. And I wanted to be challenged — have to think about what the problem is and how we can get to a solution on how to make this patient better, how we can patch them up and send them out and return them back to their lives."

When COVID-19 first hit, Kangas' unit at Harris was half-COVID

and half trauma. But as case numbers increased, her unit was the first to convert to 100 percent COVID patients.

As case numbers abated over the late summer, Kangas said her unit went back to half COVID for a period before the surge in cases in the fall sent it back to all COVID care.

By the time a patient reaches Kangas' unit the progression of the disease is severe.

"Once the patients get up to an ICU level, it can be very scary for them," Kangas said. "We try and prevent at all costs from having to intubate these patients. And so we have them on a lot of support, on oxygen, and it's very nerve racking and, unfortunately, when a patient is positive, they aren't allowed to have any visitors."

"It's hard being away from their family, not being able to see them, so we try and set up video chats. We have iPads on the unit that we do FaceTime or Microsoft team videos with the patients so they can talk to their families."

She said she has learned a lot about caring for these patients and about COVID-19.

"You just learn as you go and learn from the doctors, and you try and figure out the process of everything so you know what's going on and you can tell the patient what they can expect, and try and get them off as much oxygen as you can so you can downgrade them. So hopefully,

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Lindsey Kangas treats ICU COVID-19 patients in Fort Worth.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS



PARKER COUNTY

COVID cases continue climb

More vaccines on the way

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Parker County's total COVID-19 case count hit 10,336 cases (at press time) as the disease has continued to spread throughout the country and the world. Deaths associated with COVID-19 reached 129 in the county.

The state of Texas modified the way vaccines are distributed a couple of weeks ago, moving away from scattered distribution and toward a "hub" system where vaccines would be provided regionally.

Originally, Parker County was not included on the hub list,

meaning that residents had to seek vaccinations in larger counties (most likely Tarrant County).

That changed last week when State Rep. Phil King announced that Parker County was "selected by the Texas Department of State Health Services to serve as a Regional Rural Vaccine Hub for all House District 61 constituents as well as residents in the surrounding counties."

King told *The Community News* that this district is only the second non-urban district in Texas to be designated as a vaccine hub.

He said it was a collaborative effort between his office, the Parker County Hospital District,

and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"My Chief of Staff Ashley [Westenhover] did a magnificent job taking lead on that and [we] had some additional qualification. And the county worked really hard and close with us and the hospital district, and it just all came together," King said.

The initial designation will get Parker County 2,000 doses of the vaccine per week starting late this week.

"That will be ramping up proportionally as the vaccinations come in higher distribution," King said, although he added that he is hearing that the

Turn to **COVID**, page 3

ALEDO ISD

'Parenting University' equips parents to help students

Event scheduled Feb. 6

By Makenzie Plusnick
The Community News

Parents of Aledo ISD students are invited to attend virtual sessions on pressing issues in students' lives Feb. 6.

The sessions are part of the district's Parenting University, an initiative that started seven years ago in collaboration with the Parent Teacher Organization, according to Executive Director of Student Services Scott Kessel. It is normally held about three times a year but was put on hold last year due to the pandemic.

The goal of the program is to provide parents with resources to help their children, which is especially important this year because of the emotional strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kessel said. Two students have committed suicide since the pandemic began last March, which is as many as the district has had in the nine years Kessel has been with AISD.

"We want to [put on this program] to make sure that parents are aware of what those [students'] needs are, the tensions they may be facing and how to support them through those things," Kessel said.

The program starts with a general session focused on the mental health needs of children, led by psychology expert Scott Poland. Parents can choose between presentation focused on the impact of technology on relationships between adults and kids, substance abuse, vaping and e-cigarette use, and suicide during two breakout sessions following the keynote.

One benefit of holding the event virtually is parents who are unable to attend the sessions live will be able to view the recordings later, Kessel said. This also allows parents to watch all four breakout sessions, he added.

Not only does Parenting University educate parents on helping their children, it also helps parents, Kessel said.

"We are supporting kids, but at the same time we are supporting parents and we are getting through these things together," Kessel said.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. Feb. 6. Event details will be posted to the district's website and emailed to parents closer to the event.



Volume 31, Number 5
Published Weekly

Coping

Aledo ISD deals with rises and falls in COVID case numbers.

PAGE 3

Pop-Up Shop

Women-owned businesses temporarily set up shop for special event.

PAGE 2



Hoops

Bearcats, Ladycats swap wins and losses with Brewer and Granbury.

PAGE 8

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Aledo Pop-Up Shop

Aledo was home to a “pop-up shop” on Wednesday in the city’s historic district.

Sarah Springer of Aledo, who organized the event, said she wanted to gather other local women-owned businesses for the shopping opportunity.

Springer said many people are tired of Zoom and staying in. “They want to get out and do it safely,” she said.

Springer said she wants to do the pop-up shop, or help organize one monthly. She also assists other small businesses in organizing pop-up shops.

“A lot of businesses don’t have time to set up a pop-up shop,” she said.

For more information, call Springer at 817-805-2531.

- RANDY KECK



Tai Tipton, owner of Farphanoogen's Flower Co., is shown with customers Lynna, Adam, and Mila Paine.



Toni Lopez (Images by Toni) displayed her photography.



Emily Schafer looked over hand-crafted leather earrings at Haley Kokel's booth.



Rebecca Burns (Chalk Couture) is shown with event organizer Sarah Springer, owner of Rilassarre Skin, Body, and Beauty.



Jamie McNeal, owner of Simply Celebrate, a party-planning service, visits with Amira Eisouki, co-owner of CBD American Shaman.

ALEDO ISD

District copes with COVID cases

Educators not prioritized for vaccine

By Melissa Winn
The Community News

With a COVID-19 vaccine in the early stages of a rollout, Aledo ISD students and staff are still feeling the effects of the virus as cases rise.

At two meetings this month, Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn and Scott Kessel, Executive Director of Student Services, briefed trustees on impacts to the district.

“We’ve seen an uptick in cases since the holidays,” Bohn said Jan. 11 at a special meeting. “A lot of employees and students reported [being exposed or having symptoms].”

As of that time, there were 64 people (14 employees and 50 students) with active COVID-19 positive cases — a high for AISD — and almost 300 in quarantine. The previous high positive case count was 40 overall.

Bohn said the district was still practicing safety protocols and monitoring the situation and added that educators were not currently on a priority list for vaccination, as defined by the Texas Department of State Health Services. The state is prioritizing vaccines to those in either Phase 1A or Phase 1B categories.

“Some staff do fall in [those distinctions] but school staff is not in a category by themselves,” she said, adding that

she hoped that would be a distinction in the future.

A little more than a week later at the Jan. 19 regular meeting, Kessel said the case count was down to 28 (10 employees and 18 students). He reiterated that cases were trending up throughout the county and the state and that Parker County had seen a gradual increase since Nov. 1 and was now at a total of 9,914 confirmed cases and 115 fatalities.

Also at the Jan. 11 meeting, the board approved a sealed bid by Satterfield and Pontikes Construction, Inc., for Middle School No. 2 (McAnally Middle School) at a cost of \$45.2 million.

The district received a total of 10 bids after hosting a pre-proposal meeting for interested parties on Dec. 1. Bids were due Dec. 17 and then reviewed by the district in consultation with Huckabee, the district’s architectural firm. Earl Husfield, AISD Chief Financial Officer, said the project was bid within budget and would be paid with 2019 bond funds.

Also at the meetings:

- Husfield and representatives from Templeton Demographics gave an update on current and future student growth trends in Aledo ISD. Similar to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, there was a

Turn to AISD, page 3

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KANGAS

from page one

they can get out of the hospital and be back with their families," she said.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Kangas said the treatment has adapted as new knowledge is gained.

"It's constantly changing," she said. "As more information comes out, our doctors are up to date on the research — they go out of their way to figure out what best treatments to do. For our patients, we use Remdesvir — an antiviral. If the patient's a candidate for it, we use steroids, called Decadron for 10 days, or longer if they need it. We use convalescent plasma. They get two doses of that." (Convalescent plasma is plasma from people who have tested positive in the past.)

As with anyone who treats COVID-19 patients in a setting like Kangas', there will be patients who can't be saved.

"Once they get up to an ICU level, they're requiring a lot of oxygen to maintain their oxygen levels. And unfortunately, what we see is if we have to get to the point where we have to intubate a patient, it's very hard to get them off the ventilator," Kangas said. "I've seen numerous patients die from COVID. We were unable to get them off the ventilator and unable to wean down their oxygen and get them out of ICU."

When asked how that affected her personally, Kangas said "It's very hard, very frustrating, seeing how sick these patients are and feeling like you're unable to make them better, even though we're doing everything we possibly can. It's just frustrating and exhausting, and everyone works together. And we have such a great team and we all support each other and we help each other but it's just devastating to see how sick these patients can get."

Responding to a question about whether she has all the support (physical and emotional) that she needs, Kangas said she has all of the necessary PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

"Some of our doctors at the hospital really advocated for us to get more supplies," she said. "So I always feel very safe when I'm taking care of a COVID patient when I have all the proper PPE on. We have a lot of equipment that we need. I've never felt like we didn't have that support."

"It's very hard, very frustrating, seeing how sick these patients are and feeling like you're unable to make them better, even though we're doing everything we possibly can."

- Lindsey Kangas

"Emotionally, our unit manager is amazing. She always checks in with us. The hospital's given us numerous resources if we need to reach out and talk to somebody. All the other nurses on our unit — we always try if we see someone having a bad day or someone that's really struggling — someone else is always there to talk them through and we really do support each other on our unit. It's I'm very thankful that I've started working there and even though this horrible thing has happened, that it's a great place to work."

Kangas was asked if, "from a medical standpoint, are there things that people could do so that you would not have as many COVID patients to have to treat?"

"Yeah, follow CDC guidelines — it doesn't have to be political. Just wear a mask, protect the people around you. If you don't care about yourself, that's fine, but care about the people around you. Stay six feet apart, wash your hands, stayHome if you're sick, you know, it may not be COVID that you're sick with but you never know unless you go get tested. If you feel sick, if you feel like you have those symptoms, it doesn't hurt to go get a test. Quarantine yourself."

"Don't put your loved ones at risk. Because I've seen families torn apart from this. They'll have a mom in the ICU, a dad on another unit, a son in another hospital, all with COVID. So just really think about your loved ones — you don't want to do cause any harm to them by passing around COVID."

COVID

from page one

website portal (<https://www.pchdtx.org>) is full or not accessible. At press time, the site was directing visitors to check back for open appointment times.

"I believe that's because they've had so many people put their name on the reservation list," King said. "I think before we got the hub, they had 4,000 [on the wait list]. The good news is it means that we'll be getting higher volumes of the vaccines being a hub county."

"We're just delighted that it all fell into place. I think the reason people are running into a block right now is because this only went into effect a week ago."

King said the district had been vaccinating about 200 people per week, but that the number should rise to 500 per day as a hub.

"This takes us from being in the position of just holding our hand out and saying, 'please' to being a distribution center."

Testing kits available for small businesses

The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) to provide COVID-19 Rapid Testing Kits for businesses in the area.

"This program will help small business owners provide rapid testing to their employees on-site," according to an announcement from the chamber.

AISD

from page one

decline in the "younger grades" and the more than double year-over-year unemployment numbers because of COVID-19 caused an overall 3-to-4 percent decline in projections. The greatest decline was in other districts that did not start in-person classes.

- Staff and students recognized school board members as part of School Board Appreciation Month. Artwork from students were displayed over the dais and

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott implemented the COVID-19 Small Business Rapid Testing Program as a pilot program in December, and on Jan. 22 announced that it was expanding the program for front-line workers at small businesses in Texas, and opened the program through chambers of commerce.

Weatherford Chamber members can visit <https://form.jotform.com/210254480490046> to request testing kits.



WC receives an additional \$5.9 million in COVID-19 relief funding

(from Weatherford College)

The federal government has awarded Weatherford College with an additional \$5.9 million in COVID-19 relief funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act approved in December.

"These federal funds will not only help Weatherford College recover COVID-19 related expenses, they will also help our recently unemployed students to retool and acquire the skill sets necessary to return to tax-paying jobs," said Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, WC president.

A minimum of \$1.27 million of the funds will be dedicated to direct student aid.

College administrators are working on how to distribute these funds to WC students. Those details will be posted to the college's website, www.wc.edu.

staff shared reports of success from projects previously approved by trustees.

- Trustee Forrest Collins shared a brief update on the 87th Legislative Session, which began Jan. 12 and runs through the end of May. He said it was too early to have much news but that he was encouraged by the district's relationships with State Senator Drew Springer and State Representative Phil King. He added that in-person testimony in Austin would be allowed under strict guidelines including masks, testing and/or proof of vaccinations. He said AISD was "ready to go down when the time is right."

Sundays Bible Study 8:30 AM Service 10:00 AM

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Obituaries

Rose Barton

Hilda Rose Seely Barton, 95, died January 20, 2021, in Loving, Texas.

Rose was born on October 27, 1925, to Bertha Beatrice and Frank Lafayette Seely, Sr., in Emhouse, Texas where they lived along with her brother, Frank, Jr. She went to high school in Emhouse and received her degree from Mary Hardin Baylor.

Rose met Grady, her future husband, while they were teaching in Burnett, Texas. Rose was an English teacher. She loved teaching and all things writing, poetry, and literature. Once she became a mother in 1954, she left teaching and stayed at home, raising her family. In 1971, she and Grady founded Aledo Christian Center. After Grady's death in 2013, Rose wrote a book telling many stories about their faith journey and the incredible miracles that they witnessed and were directly impacted by during their 61 years together.

Rose was a living testament to the power of prayer and the importance of discipleship. Her teaching "career" didn't end when she left the school in 1954, for she taught countless people, of all ages, the importance of prayer and how to pray effectively. Rose, known as a powerful prayer warrior, believed that everything should be prayed about and that the prayer shouldn't end until there was a breakthrough. She also disciplined many people in prayer, teaching them how to listen for and to hear the voice of God. She knew the importance of forgiveness and taught those around her how to walk through that battle. Rose always had a

song in her heart and on her lips, and those who knew her can attest that either a hymn, song, or prayer was always heard when she was around. She was a spiritual mother and grandmother to many, and her legacy lives on in the thousands of lives who were touched by her love, prayers, and the Godly example she exhibited each day of her life.

Rose is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Grady Barton. She is survived by her son, David Barton and his wife, Cheryl; daughter, Rose Ann Gingles and her husband, Harris; daughter, Nancy Dunlap and her husband, Terry; grandchildren, Joni and Jarid Yankus, Damaris and Cain Schuler, Nathan and Mary Gingles, Timothy and Gabi Barton, Dustin and Tessara Dunlap, Stephen and Kelli Barton, and Derek and Riley Jo Dunlap; great-grandchildren, Trinity Dunlap, Tate Dunlap, Wyatt Dunlap, Barrett Schuler, Gunner Dunlap, Rocco Yankus, Ellery Schuler, Charlotte Dunlap, Fiona Yankus, Daisy Yankus, Jethro Schuler, Caroline Dunlap, Indigo Yankus, Jacob Dunlap, and Finley Barton; sister-in-law, Lola Seely; other nieces, nephews and cousins; and countless spiritual children and grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Jan. 22 at Aledo Christian School.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Beyond Faith Hospice of Graham, <http://www.beyondfaithhospice.com/hospice-care-graham> or WallBuilders, www.wallbuilders.com.

The Community News
January 29, 2021



Rose Barton

Buford Gill

Buford Don Gill, rancher and lifelong resident of Parker County, died at his home in Brock, surrounded by family at the age of 86, on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

Don was born January 5, 1935, in Weatherford, son of Buford and Muncie Williams Gill. He served in the National Guard, was a lifelong Rancher, member of the Parker County Sheriff's Posse, served as President and superintendent of the Parker County Livestock Association, and was a Deacon of the First Baptist Church of Dennis.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Buford and Munsie Gill; wife of 63 years, Norma Bell Gill; two children, Cecil Don and Debbie Renea; five sisters, Marie Phillips, Ella Murphy, Fay Malone, Vaudine

Cooper, and Patsy Beaty; along with two brothers, Blake Gill and Sherrod Gill.



Buford Gill

He is survived by his three daughters, Donna Felton, Terri Hurlbert and husband, Steve, and Brenda Gill Strickland and Marty Strickland; grandchildren, Brooklyn McIntosh and husband, Dan, Briley Worthington and wife, Casey, Brittney Farmer and husband, Josh, Mason Strickland, and Stetson Hurlbert; great-grandchildren, Kallen O'Neal, Lyla McIntosh, Leddy McIntosh, and Hayes Worthington; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Memorials are suggested to the Parker County Livestock Improvement Association, P. O. Box 1744, Weatherford, Texas 76086.

The Community News
January 29, 2021

Thomas Rizzo

Thomas Joel Rizzo, 84, died on Thursday, December 17, 2020, after a very brief illness.

Tom served in the United States Army during the Korean conflict and had more than a fifty-year career in the Life, Health, and Securities Business. This offered him many wonderful client relationships that have lasted over these many years.

He was regularly active in his church, Faith Presbyterian Church of Aledo, and had served as a deacon in previous churches. Tom volunteered many years with the local Center of Hope, Weatherford, as an adviser.

Preceding him were his mother and father, Madelaine DeFrancisco and Emilio Rizzo.



Tom Rizzo

Tom leaves behind one brother, David Rizzo and his wife, Patricia Karnes of Winter Park, FL; a friend and life partner of 42 years, Julia A. Rizzo; one daughter, Teryl F. Wilson and husband, John Tracy Wilson; and one son, Anthony B. Rizzo and his wife, Melinda Rizzo; and four unbelievable grandchildren, Lauren M. Wilson of San Francisco, CA, Alexa A. Wilson of Seattle, WA, Samantha E. and Ryan A. Rizzo of Geneva, FL; and one nephew, Michael D. Rizzo of Orlando, FL.

Memorials are requested to be given to the Center of Hope, 1318 Clear Lake Road, Weatherford, TX 76086, in Tom's name.

The Community News
January 29, 2021

Parker County Extension Office to offer several classes in February.

Love your Heart Education Series
Taking care of your heart is important, to help reduce the risks of heart attacks and strokes. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer "Love Your Heart" online series. Steps to take to keep your heart healthy. The classes will meet on Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, and 24. The classes are on Zoom and will take place from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. The cost to participate in the entire series is \$10 and you may sign up for the series at <https://tinyurl.com/LoveYourHeart21>, by calling 817-598-6168, or email parker-tx@tamu.edu.

Step Up Scale Down

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is offering its Step Up & Scale Down program online. The class will begin on Monday, Feb. 8, and will meet each Monday through April 26 via Zoom at 12:15 p.m. for 12 weeks. The classes will last about 30 to 45 minutes each. Classes will be recorded for play back. The cost will be \$20.

To register, call the Parker County AgriLife Extension Office at 817-598-6168, or email parker-tx@tamu.edu.

Tools for Parenting Class

Texas AgriLife Extension of Parker County will conduct Tools for Parenting classes Thursdays, Feb. 11, 18, 25 and March 1. The classes will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and lunch will be provided. The cost for lunch is \$10 per person. The classes will be held at the Parker County Agricultural Services Center located at 604 North Main Street in Weatherford.

Tools for Parenting are lessons that will help you to become a better parents, grandparents, or caregivers. The classes are free. The classes will cover the following topics. Child Growth and Development and Age Appropriate Activities, Communication, Disciplines, Dealing with Anger, Child Health

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Talha Riaz, MD
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Medical Oncologist and Hematologist

Dr. Riaz is excited to be in North Texas where he will be close to his family and looks forward to helping and providing its community members with exceptional care. Dr. Riaz and his wife Dr. Bismah Siddiqui are parents to one daughter and are thrilled to be starting their new chapter in life here. In his spare time, Dr. Riaz loves to travel with family and friends, enjoys music, and is also a huge soccer fan (Fan of Liverpool FC).

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CLASS

from page four

and Food Safety, Growing Healthy, Happy Children with MyPlate, and Shopping Strategies to Stretch your Food Dollars.

Participants completing the parenting class will receive eight hours in parenting. For more information and/or to register call the Parker County Extension office at 817-598-6168 or email

parker-tx@tam.u.edu .

Marriage Education Workshop

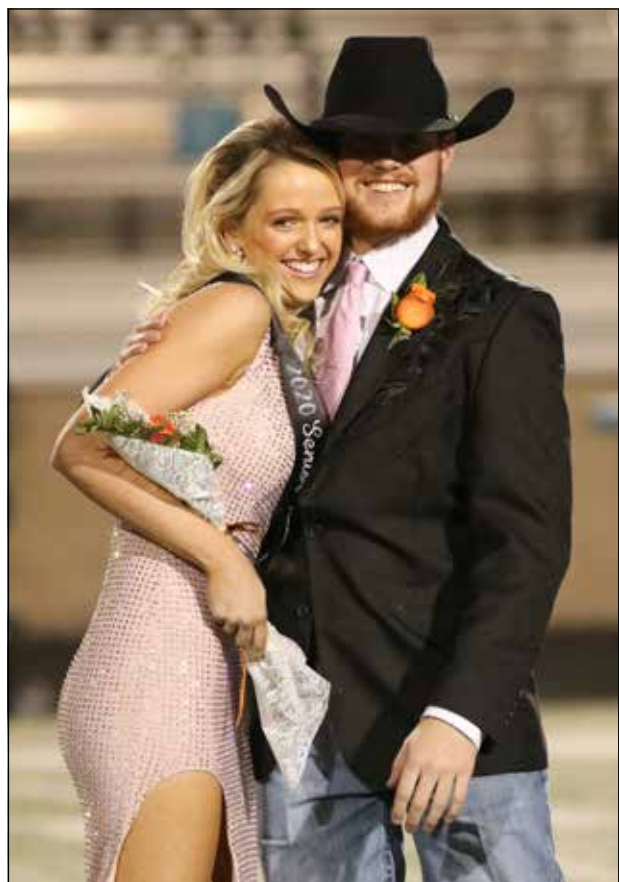
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will host a Together in Texas – Marriage Workshop Friday, Feb. 19, 2021. The class will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Parker County Extension Office, located at 604 North Main Street. The cost for the class is \$20 per couple.

The class is for engaged couples, married couples, and seriously dating couples.

Learn about marriage expectations, communication, conflict resolution, money management and goal setting. Engaged Couples will receive a certificate for a \$60 waiver upon applying for a marriage license. Pre-registration is required by calling 817-598-6168 or emailing parker-tx@tam.u.edu

Year in review 2020

Continued from the Jan. 22 issue.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ashley Campbell was named the 2020 Aledo High School Homecoming Queen. She is shown with her escort, Logan Childs.

OCTOBER 23

A ransomware attack leaves much of the computer system for Parker County compromised, bringing county business to a halt in many departments. Elections administrators assure the public that election results are on a separate system and are not affected.

Ashley Campbell is named the Aledo High School 2020 Homecoming Queen.

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees made changes to

the year's instructional calendar that created three additional staff work days to allow for more planning for COVID-19 changes.

Trinity Christian Academy senior Jack Sims is named a Commended Scholar through the National Merit Scholar program.

Union Pacific Railroad approved a silent crossing for an area of the tracks near Underwood Road, just west of Aledo.



CYNTHIA LLEWELLYN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Leah Novak (foreground) and Kaitlyn Furstenberg performed as part of the Aledo High School Color Guard during halftime at the Aledo football game in Everman on Oct. 23.

OCTOBER 30

The Aledo City Council canceled Christmas Tyme in Aledo amid continuing COVID concerns. The council approved changes to some planning and zoning ordinances that would require signage on property proposed for rezoning, among other changes.

Parker Given and Avery Price are named Mr. and Mrs. TCA during Trinity Christian Academy's Homecoming ceremonies.

The city of Aledo sought public input on plans for Aledo Commons and Pine Street Plaza.

The Town of Annetta approved a new technology package that would allow residents greatly improved

access to town information online, including engineering plans, official reports, and recordings of council meetings.

NOVEMBER 6

Donald Trump carried Parker County by a large margin in the 2020 Presidential Election. Former Vice President Joe Biden ended up winning the race nationally after the votes are all counted.

Incumbent Kit Marshall defeated challenger Shane Davis to continue as mayor of Aledo.

Aledo ISD Director of Student Services Scott Kessell continued to work on plans to develop further mental health resources for AISD student and staff.

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees authorized district staff to sell 80 acres of property near the site of the second middle school in exchange for \$35,000 per acre and the donation of a new elementary school site.

NOVEMBER 13

Almost 100 families turned out for a fundraiser to support Aiden Yielding, an Aledo ISD student battling leukemia.

The Willow Park City Council took action to make up for a \$6.5 million shortfall on funding for the Fort Worth Water Line Project. Representatives from Half and Associates took responsibility for the miscalculation and helped the council explore the next steps going forward.

NOVEMBER 20

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees heard complaints from a vocal handful of parents who believed the district needed to loosen their mask policy for students.

Twelve Aledo Middle School students are honored by the Duke University Talent Identification Program for their strong performance on the SAT/ACT tests.

McCall Elementary School student council director Shannon Reynolds was named to the Board of Directors for the Texas Association of Student Councils; the Student Council itself was also honored with a top award.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Willow Park, Texas will hold a Public Hearing during its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Willow Park City Hall located at 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas, to hear public opinion regarding the proposed rates and charges to be charged by the City's Municipal Drainage Utility System.

This notice is being published in accordance with the public notice requirements set forth in Subchapter C of Chapter 552, Local Government Code, V.T.C.A. for public hearings. As required by the aforementioned statute, this public notice is being published in a newspaper of general circulation to the residents of the City of Willow Park thirty (30) days or more prior to the date of the public hearing and will be published a total of three times before the scheduled hearing.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing and express their opinions on the proposed rates and charges to be charged by the City's Municipal Drainage Utility System. Council may vote on the proposed rates and charges to be charged by the City's Municipal Drainage Utility System at the same meeting or at a later meeting.

The proposed Resolution to adopt the rates and charges to be charged by the City's Municipal Drainage Utility System is set forth below, in accordance with requirements set forth in Subchapter C, Chapter 552, Local Government Code, V.T.C.A.:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE MUNICIPAL DRAINAGE UTILITY SYSTEM SCHEDULE OF CHARGES; ESTABLISHING CHARGES FOR MUNICIPAL DRAINAGE UTILITY SYSTEM SERVICES; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted the Municipal Drainage Utility System Act, Subchapter C of Chapter 552 of the Texas Local Government Code (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, Article 13.13 of the City of Willow Park Code of Ordinances authorizes the City Council to adopt a schedule of charges for municipal drainage utility services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to adopt the Drainage Utility System Schedule of Charges and establish the drainage charges for the City drainage utility services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has conducted a public hearing on the adoption of Drainage Utility System Schedule of Charges after notice as required by the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council hereby finds that the Drainage Utility System Schedule of Charges is related to the drainage and the terms of the levy and any classification of the benefitted properties in the City and are nondiscriminatory, equitable and reasonable; the schedule of charges is based on an inventory of the lots and tracts within the proposed service area which is the entire City; the schedule of charges gives consideration to the land use made of the benefitted properties, the size in area, the number of water meters, and topography of a parcel of benefitted property in assessing the drainage charges to property.

SECTION 2. That the City Council hereby adopts the Drainage Utility System Schedule of Charges attached as Exhibit "A" hereto.

SECTION 3. That all provisions of the resolutions of the City of Willow Park, Texas in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and all other provisions not in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage, provided; however, the drainage charges established herein shall take effect on _____, 2021.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ OF _____, 2021.

Doyle Moss, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alicia Smith, City Secretary
City of Willow Park

**Exhibit "A"
Drainage Charge Schedule**

The following drainage charges shall apply to all benefitted property as deemed by the Municipal Drainage Utility Systems Act, as amended, (the "Act") according to property type within the City, unless exempt from such charges pursuant to the Act or as set forth herein.

Residential Property

Single Family Home:

\$5.50 per Single Family Unit* ("SFU") per month, with a minimum monthly charge of \$5.50, calculated as follows:

of SFU = Living Area ("LVAR")/1500

All other residential:

\$5.50 per SFU per month, with a minimum monthly charge of \$5.50, calculated as follows:

of SFU = Gross Building Square Footage ("GBSF") X 1.5/1500

Institutional Property (Churches and Schools)

\$5.50 per SFU per month, with a minimum monthly charge of \$5.50, calculated as follows:

of SFU = GBSF/1500

Commercial Property (including Industrial)

\$0.0055 per square foot of impervious area (e.g. \$5.50 per 1,000 square foot of impervious area) per month calculated as follows:

Amount Billed = Square feet of Impervious Area ("IA") X 0.0055

*One SFU = 1,500 square feet of living area

Exemptions

Mandatory exemptions: Entities to which a mandatory exemption under Texas Local Gov't Code Section 580.003(a), as may be amended, applies and any property to which a mandatory exemption under Section 552.053 of the Act, as may be amended, applies shall be exempt from payment of the drainage charges set forth herein.

Permissible exemptions: Property owned by the City of Willow Park, including, without limitation, City rights-of-way, streets, sidewalks, and alleys shall be exempt from payment of the drainage charges set forth herein.

Proof of exemption: If a person or entity asserts that a parcel of property is exempt pursuant to this resolution, the Act or any other applicable law, such person or entity has the burden to assert such exemption by filing written notice of eligibility for such exemption and sufficient evidence of entitlement to such exemption with the director of finance pursuant to the appeals process set forth in Section 13.13.007 of the City of Willow Park Code of Ordinances, as may be amended.

[End of Proposed Resolution]

All persons interested in the proposed rates and charges to be charged by the City's Municipal Drainage Utility System as set forth herein are invited to attend the public hearing and to provide comments at that time. Written comments on this proposed rates and charges to be charged by the City's Municipal Drainage Utility System may also be delivered to the City Council prior to 3:00 p.m. on the day of the public hearing at the following address:

Alicia Smith
City Secretary
City of Willow Park
516 Ranch House Road
Willow Park, TX 76087
Or by email at asmith@willowpark.org

Thistles & Roses

Finding a way toward peace



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

*to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

Amen.

- Peace Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

When the United States Capitol was attacked, vandalized, and people were killed on Jan. 6, it was and still is difficult to comprehend it and to find some way to approach it as a columnist.

Randy Keck put a simple post on the front page of the Jan. 7, 2021 issue of The Community News saying he felt the same as he felt on 9-11 when the New York Twin Towers and the Pentagon were attacked by suicidal extremists. I felt much the same.

I had to think about it for a couple of weeks and finally decided that the best way to begin such a column was the prayer above.

The grieving process often starts with anger and we usually end up feeling extreme sadness. That has been my process dealing with this latest in what seems like a never

ending list of violent crises my baby boomer generation has experienced.

How could so many people think it was a good idea to launch such an attack on our democracy? How could people say out loud it was a good idea to hang the vice-president?

But this country has always had a strong resolve not to give into such violence and we are not going to this time.

Those of us born in the 50s have seen a lot. My first major trauma was when I was in the fourth grade and my elementary school principal was shot one night giving a stranger a ride home. The announcement came over the speaker system. Mr. Rhoten survived and came back to the school.

Then there was the 1962 Cuban Missile crisis and we had duck-and-cover drills. Fort Worth was considered a target of the Soviet Union because of the Carswell Air Force Base and Lockheed. We lived in genuine fear of dying in a nuclear holocaust. Hard for a 10-year-old to take.

Then in 1963 John F. Kennedy was assassinated. That seemed to start a never-ending number of tragic assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy. There followed assassination attempts on Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. Then there were the two Space Shuttle disasters in which astronauts died before our very eyes.

Then we had the COVID-19 virus and racial tensions over George Floyd's killing in 2020.

It seems simplistic, but we have to find a better way and have our better selves step forward.

There is a YouTube recording with a wonderful video by the Catholic musician John Michael Talbot singing the St. Francis Peace Prayer. It features many peaceful and some poignant images, including Mother Teresa. You will sense peace if you watch it.

If people are angry and thinking of committing violence or are in despair over the same, watching and listening to this recording I think would cause them to think again and find a better way. Find it here:

John Michael Talbot — Peace Prayer of St. Francis — YouTube

And may the Lord's peace be with you all.....

Capital Highlights

Lawmakers start \$7 billion away from target



Cris Cobler
ccobler@texaspress.com

Texas House and Senate leaders appear to agree on their proposed budgets. Next, they just have to figure out how to cut \$7.2 billion.

Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, worked with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to propose a state budget of \$119.7 billion in general funds. House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, proposed the same budget figure, indicating a collaborative spirit at the start of the 87th session.

That spirit will be tested as legislators try to meet Comptroller Glen Hegar's budgeted revenue forecast of \$112.5 billion.

"We have many tools available to balance this budget, which will require us to re-establish our priorities, stretch every dollar and find more efficient ways to deliver services," Nelson said in a statement.

Among the priorities she set:

- Maintaining the education funding increases and teacher pay raises established in 2019, including \$3.1 billion to fund enrollment growth for public education and \$1 billion in additional state aid related to property tax compression in the 2022-23 biennium.
- \$5 billion for payroll growth and continued reforms to the Teacher Retirement System passed last session.
- \$8.1 billion to fund higher education institution formulas.
- Combined projected funding of \$8 billion for mental health across 24 state agencies, including an increase of \$19.5 million to maintain operations for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium; more than \$1 million in new funding to create a peer-to-peer counseling network and increase access to licensed mental health providers for Texas Law Enforcement Officers; and \$145 million to continue community mental health grant programs.
- \$352.6 million for women's health programs, including the continuation of the Healthy Texas Women program's enhanced postpartum care services implemented by the Legislature last session.
- \$57.6 million to continue fighting human trafficking through prevention, detection, victim services and the justice system.
- \$1.3 million to perform necessary maintenance on the Texas Election Administration Management System, which manages voter registration in Texas.
- \$39.1 million in new appropriations to fortify security at the Texas Capitol, including additional troopers and enhanced safety measures.
- \$30.4 billion to the Texas Department of Transportation to address the state's transportation needs, including \$26.4 billion dedicated for highway planning, design, construction and maintenance.

Phelan's statement indicated the same support for public education and also included an appropriation of \$74.2 billion for the Texas Medicaid program, including \$27.4 billion in general revenue. The House version includes an additional \$920

Turn to **CAPITAL**, page 7

Sports

JANUARY 29, 2021

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Schedules

JANUARY 30

Softball Scrimmage vs. Eaton
Home, Varsity - 11: AM, 2:30 PM

Softball Scrimmage vs. Eaton
Away, JV - 11:00, 1:00 PM Varsity

FEBRUARY 2

Boys' Soccer vs. Azle
Away, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Girls' Soccer vs. Azle
Home, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Softball Scrimmage vs. Joshua
Away, JV - 5:00 PM Varsity - 6 PM

Girls' Basketball vs. WF Rider
Away, F- 5:00 PM JV - 5:00 PM Varsity - 6 PM

Boys' Basketball vs. WF Rider
Home, F- 5:00 PM JV - 6:15 PM Varsity - 7 PM

FEBRUARY 5

Boys' Soccer vs. WF Rider
Home, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Girls' Soccer vs. WF Rider
Away, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Softball Scrimmage vs. Ennis
Home, JV - 4:30 PM Varsity - 6 PM

Boys' Basketball vs. WF HS
Away, F- 5:00 PM JV - 6:15 PM Varsity - 7 PM

FEBRUARY 8

Var Boys' Golf vs. Pringle Opwn
Away, Varsity

February 9

Boys' Soccer vs. WF HS-Field E
Away, JV - 7:00 PM Varsity

February 9

Boys' Soccer vs. WF HS Memorial
Away, Varsity - 5 PM

Girls' Soccer vs. WF HS
Home, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Softball Scrimmage vs. W'Ford
Away, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Girls' Basketball vs. TBD Var, Varsity

Boys' Basketball vs. Brewer
Home, F- 5:00 PM JV - 6:15 PM Varsity - 7 PM

FEBRUARY 10

JV Boys' Golf vs. 18 Hole
Away, JV - 9:00 AM Varsity

FEBRUARY 12

Boys' Soccer vs. Brewer
Home, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Girls' Soccer vs. Brewer
Away, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Varsity Tennis vs. S Hills Tour
Away, Varsity

Softball Scrimmage vs. Mansfield
Home, JV - 4:30, 7:30 PM Varsity - 12:45, 2:30 PM

FEBRUARY 13

Softball Scrimmage vs. Mansfield
Away, Varsity

FEBRUARY 16

Softball vs. Centennial
Home, JV - 5:00 PM Varsity - 7 PM

FEBRUARY 17

JV Girls' Golf vs. Burleson Cen Tour
Away, JV - 8:00 AM Varsity

Track & Field vs. Weatherford JV
Home, Varsity

FEBRUARY 18

JV Tennis vs. Timbercreek Tour
Away, Varsity

Track & Field vs. Weatherford Var
Away, Varsity

MARCH 5

Girls' Soccer vs. WF Rider
Home, JV - 5:30 PM Varsity - 7 PM

Basketball

Ladycats, Bearcat split games

First district loss for Bearcats

By Randy Keck
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats defeated Granbury at home on Tuesday, but suffered their first district loss on Friday, Jan 22, at Brewer.

The Bearcats had a 30-18 lead at the half, but could only muster 12 points in the second half, while Brewer came back to score 39.

Daniel Sohn led scorers with 15, Landry Simmons added 13, and Jason Llewellyn, in his first appearance after joining the team from football, scored 8.

At home against Granbury on Tuesday, the Bearcats beat up on Granbury, 46-34. Sohn scored 16 and Simmons added 11.

The Ladycats had a tough outing at Granbury, falling 54-36.

Audrey Pearce led scorers with 11.

Ladycats vs Brewer

The Ladycats beat Brewer at home on Friday, Jan. 22, at home.

Junior guard Addyson Hebel started the scoring with a drive to the basket followed by a fast break off a steal.

Brewer didn't get on the scoreboard until about halfway through the first quarter, but sophomore forward Claire Byars was fouled shooting after an offensive rebound. She sunk one free throw and then scored when she was wide open under the basket. Sophomore

Turn to **HOOPS**, page 9



Sophomore forward Reagan Davis (12) runs into a crowd under the basket in action against Brewer on Jan. 22.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

SOCCER

Sweep against Brewer

The Aledo soccer teams each had a win against Brewer this week.

The Ladycats, ranked 13th in the most recent Texas Girls Coaches Association poll, won 3-0 over Brewer in their first district game.

McKenna Vela had two scores and Caroline Miller added another. Assist were chalked up by Vela, Madison Bilbia, and Maitlynn Mitchell.

The Ladycats' record is 6-2 and 1-0 in District 5-5A

The Bearcats tied Brewer 1-1, but prevailed in the shootout 3-2.

In the match, Clay Murador scored assisted by Tyler Oettinger. Ryland Yates in the goal had six saves. Chad Petro led the defense, and Dylan Dobransky was player of the game.

In the shootout, Murador, Oettinger, and Rylan Shaffer kicked goals. Yates had three saves on five shots The Bearcats' record is 6-1-2, and 0-0-1 in district.

The Bearcats host Granbury at home on Friday and travel to Azle on Tuesday.

The Ladycats are vice-versa, traveling to Granbury on Friday and hosting Azle on Tuesday.



Logan Reiter (13) looks for an opening at the South Hills goal during the Moritz Kia tournament.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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HOOPS

from page eight

guard Kenzie Grau scored on a full-court fast break at the buzzer to put the Ladycats up 9-2 at the end of the first quarter.

Byars scored in the paint to begin the second quarter, but Brewer came back with six unanswered points to pull within three at 11-8. Junior guard Kylie Anderson sunk a three-pointer for the Ladycats and Hebel scored driving to the basket, and the Ladycats were back up, 16-8.

Brewer scored one more bucket to put the score at 16-10 at the half.

Byars posted up and scored to open the third quarter, Anderson sunk one free throw, and later Byars added another free throw to put Aledo up 20-10. Brewer added a couple of free throws, but the Ladycats came back with Byars scoring off a feed from sophomore guard Presley Hull. Brewer added another score, but junior guard Sophie Smith, fouled while shooting, sunk both free throws to give the Ladycats a 24-17 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Brewer remained persistent, opening the fourth quarter with a basket, but Hull responded with a basket from the free throw line and Aledo maintained a seven-point lead, 26-19. Turnovers and fouls brought Brewer back in the game, first on a basket and foul, making the score 26-22, and then getting the ball back when the Ladycats were called for a backcourt violation.

But the Ladycats were also persistent as Hull sunk two free throws with about 3:30 remaining in the game. When Aledo got the ball with 3:15 it was a game of keep-away until Hebel was intentionally fouled. She was the wrong person to foul, sinking both free throws to put Aledo up 30-22. Brewer got another basket, but had to keep fouling to attempt any kind of comeback.

Byars was fouled with 1:11 on the clock, and she solidified Aledo's lead by sinking both shots. Brewer responded, sinking two free throws on their end of the court. Smith



Daniel Sohn drives against Azle in a recent game.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

added another free throw for Aledo, and Brewer almost made a game of it, sinking two baskets to pull within three three points with about nine seconds remaining.

Still having to resort to fouling, Anderson was fouled and sunk two free throws with a time out sandwiched in between to finish the game.

COLLEGIATE SPORTS

Third-year sophomores set to make impact on WC baseball, softball

AHS grad Hunter Rosson among baseball players to return

by Rick Mauch
Special to The Community News

Sure, they didn't get to finish their sophomore seasons playing for Weatherford College last spring. But thanks to a waiver in the rules by the NJCAA, they'll get another season this year.

Five baseball players and one softball player are back for their second sophomore season.

When COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the remainder of their season in 2020, the NJCAA granted a waiver to allow sophomores to return for a third season to their respective community college teams if they chose.

For the Coyote baseball team, shortstop Hunter Rosson, third baseman Brett Brown, left-handed pitcher Cade Farr, right-handed pitcher Hayden Alexander, and right-handed pitcher Matthew Hickey made that decision. So did Stephanie Jimenez, who plays third base for the Coyote softball squad.

"We are thrilled to have Steph back for another season," Coyotes softball coach Haylee Williams said. "She brings experience and leadership in addition to her skill set. I think she had a vision on how her career at WC was going to go, and having her sophomore season cut short in 2020 did not fit that vision. So she is back to try and go out with a championship attached to her name."

Jimenez was selected to the All-Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference Team in 2019. No team was selected for either

sport in 2020 as a complete conference slate was not completed.

Rosson and Brown were each consistent hitters for the Coyotes last season, with over a third of the base hits for both going for extra bases.

Rosson, an Aledo High School graduate, had 32 hits, of which eight were doubles, one was a triple and four were home runs. He drove in 17 runs, had a .348 batting average, a .587 slugging percentage and a .445 on-base percentage.

Brown (Godley High School) had 30 hits, including six doubles, two triples and three homers. He drove in 22 runs, posted a .316 batting average, a .516 slugging percentage and a .426 on-base percentage.

In addition, each has a keen eye collecting 33 walks between them (19 for Brown, 14 for Rosson). And, once on base, they were among the top base stealers in the nation, with Rosson stealing 19 in 21 attempts and Brown being 15-for-16.

The pitching trio of Farr (All Saints), Alexander (Burlison) and Hickey (Granbury) combined to make 22 appearances (Farr 9, Hickey 8, Alexander 5), post a 2-1 record (Farr 1-0, Hickey 1-1) and register three saves (Hickey 2, Farr 1). In all, they combined to pitch 32.2 innings (Hickey 13, Farr 12, Alexander 7.2) with 48 strikeouts (Farr 19, Hickey 17, Alexander 12) and just 18 walks (Farr 9, Alexander 5, Hickey 4).

In addition, Farr had one of the lowest earned run averages in the conference at 0.75. Alexander had an ERA of 3.52, and Hickey's was 4.85.

WC's baseball season begins Jan. 30, and softball begins Feb. 3.

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Soccer Scenes

Sights from the Moritz Kia Tournament of Champions in Aledo

PHOTOS BY RANDY KECK



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