MARCH 5, 2021 · WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM · 75 CENTS

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Lifting mask mandate receives mixed reviews, questions

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's decision to lift all mask mandates in Texas, and increasing the capacity of all businesses and facilities to 100 percent, has brought both cheers of support and expressions of concern from around the state.

The governor's order is effective May 10 (Wednesday), leaving

other entities scrambling to decide if they should relax restrictions, or continue to follow masking and social distancing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and medical authorities.

"With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus,"

businesses, school districts, and Abbott said at an event in Lubbock on Tuesday. "We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent. Make no mistake, COVID-19 has not disappeared, but it is clear from the recoveries, vaccinations, reduced hospitalizations, and safe practices that Texans are using that state mandates are no longer needed. Today's announcement does

not abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year. Instead, it is a reminder that each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others. With this executive order, we are ensuring that all businesses and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny."

However, medical authorities across the state, noting new variants of the COVID-19 virus, have said they feel the lifting of restrictions is premature.

Texas Medical Association President Dr. Diana Fite, quoted in the Texas Tribune, said, "We are highly recommending that people

Turn to MASKS, page 3

ALEDO

Council votes to annex Parks of **Aledo Bluffs**

Approves fireworks contract for annual Aledo Summer Blast

By Brandi Addison The Community News

The Aledo City Council unanimously voted to annex and zone the Bluffs subdivision on Feb. 25, a major step in the development process that usually signals the go-ahead to begin the construction phase.

Coming 10 months after the final plats of the Parks of Aledo expansion were approved, the annexation of the property ensures the subdivision will receive City of Aledo first responder services and standard city services, including solid waste collection and maintenance of infrastructure.

The Bluffs subdivision has been developed to include 202 single-family residential lots with eight open tracts, which will be utilized for green space, a requirement for development. The largest tract of 36 acres will be used for a mountain biking and hiking trail.

Developer Jim Harris Partners, LLC, also served as the developer for the Point Vista subdivision, where it invested more than \$100,000 in mountain bike trails. The six-mile trail, located on 67 acres of the Point Vista subdivision, is free and open to the public.

"The open space and trails will be privately owned and maintained," city planner Betty Chew said in a virtual council meeting last April. "There will be a mandatory HOA established that will take care of those."

Development on the property began during the late spring. The same builders of the Point Vista subdivision are contracted to build homes in the Bluffs.

The council also approved a contract with the Pyro Shows of Texas, who has been the city's provider of all fireworks displays at past events.

The company raised its pricing by six percent, increasing the city's expense from \$15,000 to \$15,900.

The event is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on June 4.

Almost Spring



The weather was enough like spring on Wednesday for members of the Curious George class at Aledo United Methodist Church Children's enrichment Days to go kite flying. Eason Chapman (above) takes off to get his kite off the ground.

Fowler dedicated to law enforcement in the county

Editor's Note: This story originally appeared in the 2017 edition of Your Parker County, published by The Community News, and written by Rosealee Hoffman Kertok.

As sheriff of Parker County, Larry Fowler instituted a number of deliberate, well-planned law enforcement. But his career in law enforcement, by his own words, was an accident.

"I was working on a survey crew in 1963, and I was asked one day to consider joining the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office," Fowler said. "I thought

changes to advance the county's it sounded a whole lot warmer than being outside all the time, so I joined."

This was before the days of a police academy in Fort Worth, and after two years with the sheriff's office, he returned to his home in Parker County

Turn to CAREER, page 2



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

REMEMBERING LARRY FOWLER

By Randy Keck

Larry Fowler was, as much as anything, an icon for law enforcement in Parker County.

He built bridges between the Parker County Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies to better protect the residents of the county.

He had a commendable career in law enforcement. See our sidebar story for a look at his accomplishments.

In the wake of his passing, it is clear, both having known him and in speaking with people who did, that he was highly respected as a sheriff and lawman.

But in a world where it is difficult to balance one's personal and professional life, he was also respected as a person.

His daughter Dayna and his friend Penny Shelton, both Aledo area residents, shared glimpses of Fowler that the public rarely got

"He was literally 10 feet tall and bulletproof to me," Dayna said. "It was almost like he was on a mission to help as many children as possible because he had a rough upbringing. And there were people along the way that gave him a chance and directed him down the right path instead of the wrong path."

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Commentary

Fallout and more fallout from winter grid failure.

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Football All district feature.

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In the fog

Bearcats win on a low-visibility day.

PAGE 10



ABILENE ★ BAIRD ★ CLYDE ★ HASKELL ★ STAMFORD MUNDAY ★ GRAPEVINE ★ MID-CITIES/BEDFORD WEATHERFORD ★ HUDSON OAKS ★ WILLOW PARK (Coming Soon)

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CAREER

from page one

and took a job working with the Weatherford Police Department. During his time with Weatherford PD, he furthered his education, studying criminal justice at Tarrant County College, and he rose to the rank of Lieutenant within the department.

In 1971, Fowler took the step that would lay the groundwork for the rest of his career, and was accepted in the United States Marshals Service. He spent 24 years with the agency.

"A U.S. Marshal has the same authority as sheriff, but in 94 judicial areas," said Fowler. "It gave me a lot of opportunities I wouldn't have had otherwise."

Fowler worked everything from narcotics to high-profile white-collar crimes to federal custody escapes while spending seven years in the major crimes unit. He also worked with the Special Operations Unit, which led to several very memorable experiences.

"I was a supervisor at Wounded Knee," Fowler said, referring to a 71-day standoff that occurred in 1973, when members of the American Indian Movement occupied the town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota. "There was gunfire nearly every day. A lot of gunfire.

"We tried to keep a perimeter to keep people in and supplies out," he said. "It was very challenging and a learning experience for us all. When we finally negotiated a settlement, we ended up needing buses because people from all over the country were there."

Fowler also had an eye-opening experience in Guam, when he participated in a 30-day operation to return Vietnamese citizens back to their home country.

"There was a camp built with razor wire, and we had some issues," Fowler said. "People were throwing rocks and there was even some

rioting. We found out that some of the people didn't even want to go back.

"We separated them from the others and got those who wanted to return on a boat. The funny thing - well, it wasn't really funny, but it stuck with me - was that once they took off on the boat and got a ways out in the water, they ran up the Viet Cong flag.

"It was hard to look at after what we did for them."

After that, Fowler returned to his home district of Fort Worth and was promoted to Inspector in the mid 1980s. He worked with the Metro Fugitive Task Force, which included the Department of Public Safety, Fort Worth Police Department, and the marshal's service.

In 1992, when Los Angeles erupted into violence following the beating of Rodney King, Fowler was among the responders sent to California to assist.

"There were a lot of fires, it got pretty crazy out there," he said. "It was couple of weeks before it calmed

Fowler stayed with the task force until his retirement in 1995 at the required age, 57.

"I finished with the U.S. Marshals on Friday, and on Monday morning, I went back to work as the Executive Director of the Parker County Crime Commission."

Fowler spent the next decade working in various Parker County agencies, including serving as Chief Deputy of the Parker County Sheriff's Office and a criminal investigator with the Parker County District Attorney's Office.

In 2005, he ran for, and was elected, the Parker County Sheriff, bringing a new breed of law enforcement to the office - and setting the stage for himself to develop the department into the highly recognized agency it is today.

"There had never been a sheriff who had extensive outside experience," Fowler said. "And as luck would have it, I've had a county





judge and commissioners court members. They've been exceptional helping me build the sheriff's office into what we have today."

Fowler, who is the longest continuously serving sheriff in Parker County, has brought in a number

of changes that have significantly advanced the department. Together with then Weatherford Police Chief Jerry Blaisdell, Fowler put together the Special Crimes Unit, and he also put together a fugitive unit that's cross trained as United States Marshals.

"It's a huge force multiplier," Fowler said. "And it helps me know that they're well trained."

Fowler also oversaw the expansion of the Parker County Jail, which can house 448 inmates. The population in January 2017 was 377 prisoners, 50 of them federal. Fowler negotiated a contract to house the federal inmates, a program which brings more than half a million dollars a year for the county. So it is only fitting that in January, (then) County Judge Mark Riley and the Parker County Commissioners Court voted to name the justice center, including the jail, after Fowler. It's a culmination of 50 years of service by Fowler.

"I was taken completely by surprise and a little bit embarrassed," Fowler said. "I was so flabbergasted that I had trouble processing it. I'm just blown away by the honor."

Fowler brags on his department and will be the first to say he hasn't made this progress alone. But he also serves as a role model for a department, winning award after award. In 2008, he was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, and in 2010, was honored with the prestigious "Peacemaker" award by the Sheriff's Association of Texas.

"We preach and teach courtesy and respect," Fowler said. "I have a tremendous staff and I couldn't do what I do alone."

Fowler, who won reelection again in November 2016, said that he'll continue to push for progress in the department.

"I want to provide, and continue to provide, a top notch, modern, up to date law enforcement office," Fowler said. "We have several projects we're working on, like doing law enforcement communications for the entire county.

"Are we busy? Yes we are. But that's the way I like us to be.

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MASKS

need to follow the science, they need to follow what the CDC recommends at this point ... and those who are [in] the categories that can get vaccinated need to do that as soon as possible."

"Despite the impending removal of the state mask mandate, we must continue our vigilance with masking, distancing, and hand washing," said Dr. Mark Escott, Travis County Interim Health Authority, also quoted in the Tribune. "These remain critical in our ongoing fight against COVID-19."

At the local level, organizations scrambled to respond to the announcement.

Dr. Susan Bohn, Aledo ISD Superintendent, issued a statement to district parents and staff, saying the district does not yet have all the information it needs to examine COVID-19 protocols in the district.

"Over the course of the next several days, the Aledo ISD will consider any updated information or guidance from local and state health officials, the Texas Education Agency, and the CDC," Bohn's statement said. "This announcement leaves many unanswered questions, including what this means for quarantining guidelines, close contact for exposures, choosing instructional models and impact on staff, and we want you to know that we are diligently working through each question to update our current health and safety protocols as soon as possible.

"We are asking all staff and students to continue to follow our current COVID-19 safety protocols including social distancing and wearing face coverings. As we learn more, we will communicate with staff, students and families."

Larry Fowler

Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler passed away at the age of 82 on February 27, 2021, surrounded by his family and loving wife, Gail Fowler.

He was born June 5, 1938, to Mary Naomi Durrett-Evans, in Weatherford, Texas. He married Gail Williams-Fowler on June 23, 1990.

Larry is remembered and treasured as a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his devoted wife Gail, and his children, Larry Fowler Jr (wife Melody) of Arlington; Dayna Fowler, of Aledo; and Larren Park (husband Lou) of Sarasota, FL; grandchildren Shea, Cameron, Brennan, and Landyn; and great-grandson Wilder.

He is preceded in death by his mother Mary and sister, Corda Rae

Larry is also remembered as a true friend, a faithful servant, and an honored Texas lawman. However he was addressed, he was known of upstanding character and a true western gentlemen. He approached everyone with genuine hospitality, and every deed with integrity. He never resigned a task until it was completed to his satisfaction, and he never abandoned an opportunity to improve the life of another or his community.

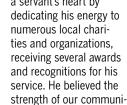
Larry proudly served in the United States Navy working on jet aircraft aboard the aircraft carrier, the USS Intrepid for four years and received an honorable discharge.

In 1963, Larry began a life-long career in law enforcement. His moral standards and commitment to excellence quickly became the path of every law enforcement officer who served under him. He served at Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Weatherford Police Department, the United States Marshals Service, the Parker County District Attorney's Office and was elected Parker County Sheriff in 2004, where he served until his untimely death.

He was born to serve his commu-

nity and did so beyond the expecta-

tion of his constituents. He maintained an open door policy with the public and his employees. Larry truly possessed a servant's heart by



Larry Fowler

ty lies within the heart of its volunteers, and he practiced what he preached. He made certain his children and his employees followed suit, paving the way by example. His word was his oath, which reflected his ethic — tough yet compassionate. He directed others to the path less-traveled through his training. The results were always rewarding in knowing the correct path was taken, never jeopardizing integrity. He gave credit where it was due, and his compliments were

During his tenure as Parker County sheriff, Larry helped establish many units, divisions and neighboring agency collaborations to broaden the sheriff's office in new directions to improve law enforcement services to the citizens through multiple avenues.

always sincere and memorable.

To those who served under him, he leaves his legacy and traditions.

To his wife. Gail, his children and his family, he leaves a lifetime of unfailing love and cherished memo-

"... Well done thou good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21

Visitation will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, at North Side Baptist Church, 910 N. Main Street in Weatherford. Funeral Service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 5, 2021, at North Side Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County or the charity of your choice.

The Community News

Obituaries

Venton Aubrey Kocurek

Venton Aubrey Kocurek passed away in Fort Worth. Texas, on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at the age

Venton was was born on July 30, 1962, in Sealy, Texas, to Johnnie Edward Kocurek and Gladys Marie Gregory Kocurek. He has resided in Fort Worth since 2005.

Venton was a star athlete at Royal High School in Brookshire, Texas, playing

baseball, football, tennis, and participating in their band. Following high school graduation in 1980, he went to Blinn College for one year and then attended Texas A&M University where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in 1986.

Venton Kocurek

He was a highly intelligent man and had an intense interest for space, constellations, and NASA, and would even print the Space Station schedule and would go outside to watch. He was a design engineer for 17 years with Lockheed Martin and knew which aircraft was flying above by strictly the sound alone. His job took him all over the world where he found his love for traveling. Venton kept up his musical talent by playing the

guitar and piano nearly every day. In addition to keeping up with his musical talent, he also kept up with his athleticism as an avid runner, and helped to coach kids and his own sons. He was a patient teacher, always supportive, and was a loyal, dedicated family man, and a proud father to sons Andrew and Zach. . He also loved gardening; he could always be found with a smile on his face and stayed energetic and full of life.

Above all, he was a loving man who loved his family greatly and will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his sons, Andrew Kocurek of Fort Worth, Texas, and Zach Kocurek of Dallas, Texas; his fiancée, Shelley Bouck of Fort Worth, Texas; brothers and sisters-in-law, Vernon Kocurek and Gina of Victoria, Texas, and Johnny Kocurek and Barbara of New Braunfels, Texas; sister and brother-in-law, Miranda Hammerling and Roy of Beaumont, Texas: as well as other loving family members and friends.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway Chapel in Katy, Texas. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 7, 2021, at the Pattison Methodist Cemetery in Pattison, Texas, with Rev. Benjamin W. Lohmer officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org/donate; or to the American Heart Association at www.heart.org/donate.

Donna Young

Donna Marie Laird Young passed away on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at

the age of 61. Donna was born on December 17. 1959, in Fort Worth, to Van and Dolores Laird. She was an Aledo High School graduate of the class of 1978.



Donna Young

She married the love of her life, Rick Young, on May 21, 1982 and they were married for 38 wonderful

Together they raised their two amazing sons, Garrett and Wyatt Young. She loved her family more than anything in this world.

Donna was an Aledo icon and was very involved in every aspect of the Aledo community. She attended church and bible studies regularly at the Parker County Cowboy Church. She loved Aledo Bearcat sports, but especially Bearcat football! She attended every single game that her two sons played from pee-wee all the way to state championships.

Donna was known as "Aunt Donna" to so many people and she will always be remembered that way. She wore a big beautiful smile everywhere she went and always greeted you with a warm hug. Donna never met a stranger and she made everyone feel like a part of the family. Donna will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her parents, Van and Dolores Laird; sister, Drinda Beckham; husband, Rick Young; two sons, Garrett Laird Young and Wyatt Beck Young; daughter-inlaw, Shannon Klumpp; several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at the Aledo Bearcat Football Stadium, 1000 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo.

Flowers and donations may be sent to White's Funeral Home, 130 Houston Ave. Weatherford, Texas 76086. The burial will be at Aledo Cemetery following the service and is open to all family and friends.

The family asks that everyone wear bright, happy colors in remembrance of Donna.

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Bridge Class helps close gap between pre-K and kindergarten

By Melissa Winn

Imagine standing on one side of a body of water trying to get to the other side without a bridge.

Now imagine a 5-year old looking at that same problem but instead of water, the gap they are looking to get over is knowledge and maturity.

Realizing that sometimes pre-kindergarten classes aren't enough and that those children with summer birthdays may not be ready just yet for kindergarten, Trinity Christian Academy created a Bridge Program to help.

Started in the 2018-19 school year, it was borne out of a need from parents who enrolled their children in pre-K at TCA who wanted to continue at the school and not necessarily have to repeat a pre-K class.

"The challenge was to provide a way to keep those children in our program who just needed that time to mature and develop their skills to be able to continue to progress in our elementary program," Elementary Principal Dr. Steven Newby said. "Their only options until we offered the Bridge Program - was to move their child somewhere else, which they did not want to do or have them repeat [pre-K], which was not the best educationally for their child."

Julie Davis holds a master's in curriculum and instruction in early childhood education and teaches the class. She said programs like the one at TCA are becoming increasing

popular and are sometimes referred to as "transitional kindergarten," or TK for

"In these programs, there is a total merge between traditional pre-K objectives, curriculum and learning outcomes and kindergarten objectives," she said, adding that TCA's program is for students who have already attended a traditional pre-K program, at the school or elsewhere.

After touring different surrounding schools that offer a similar program, Davis said the idea began to develop a program that was made for 5-year olds.

"In the beginning, it was somewhat of a step of faith if we would have enough students to fill a full classroom but each year, we have had tremendous interest in the program," she said.

Davis explained that in almost all cases, Bridge students are those who have a summer birthday and are usually the youngest students in their grade level. She said when the age limit was legislated so that kindergartners be 5 by September 1, it was when school didn't start until after Labor Dav. Now, school starts in August so those children with a late summer birthday, they are barely 5 or sometimes even still 4.

"When you compare this with other students in the same class who will start turning 6 in September or early fall, we find that these kiddos with summer birthdays are almost a full year younger than some of

their peers," Davis said. "The Bridge class allows Tthe younger children a full extra year of development... and allows them to then be the oldest in their grade."

The curriculum still covers the basics to ensure there is a strong foundation in fundamental skills but it moves much faster and incorporates a lot of kindergarten objectives.

"We have a much meatier academic focus," Davis said. "Students have the opportunity to learn more formal reading and writing skills."

In addition to learning letters and sounds, Davis said students begin sight words, word families and each week, they have a reader to take home in addition to book bags that are kept in class they are reading on a daily basis.

The math portion focuses more on numeracy skills with higher order thinking, she said, and centers on longer units, which allows more in-depth study on concepts and incorporates hands-on learning.

Even though the focus in on academics, Davis said the program also helps with social and emotional development as well.

"We don't neglect that many of these kids are very young and still need addition time to develop social and emotional skills," she said. "We do centers, small ground instruction and instructional practices that allow for more social growth."

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Denise Smalley, TCA's

Early Childhood Coordinator,

said the biggest benefit of the

are prepared for kindergarten

of teaching the class, for her,

is seeing kids start to put

Davis said the best part

upon leaving the class."

program is time.

concepts together and express themselves.

"Getting to see them make

defense prog

in Houston

those connections if the most "It helps each child disrewarding thing ever," she admitted. "This class is like a cover the joy of learning and helps to develop a strong puzzle – we give them all the belief in their own abilities, pieces they need and then we better preparing them to get to really watch them put it succeed," she said. "We have together." had nothing but wonderful Newby said the program feedback regarding students' experiences and how well they

fills up quickly. Enrollment begins for returning students in January and then open ups to the public in February. Aside from needing to have taken a pre-K class, there are no additional requirements to apply but he encourages parents to contact the school for a tour and interview.

"The best way to understand about our program is to see it in action," he said. "We are always delighted to have individuals and families come for a tour of our facilities with the opportunity to visit with the teacher and myself. Our integrated Christian curriculum, combined with a planned academic program, provides an environment where children can flourish."





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City of Willow Park Notice of Public Hearing

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

PUBLIC HEARING to consider a request to amend the City of Willow Park Zoning Ordinance Sec.14.06.014 (a) to permit Auto Body Repair - Fully Enclosed Shop Area as a permitted use in the "C" Commercial District Special Use Permit (SUP) required in accordance with Article 14.13.

Planning and Zoning: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 Time:

6:00 PM

City Council: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 Time:

7:00 PM

Location: City Hall, 516 Ranch House Rd

Willow Park, TX 76087

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

Posted: February 25, 2021

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FOWLER

from page one

Dayna said her father lived to do the same for other young offenders who cole be helped.

"I can't tell vou how many kids came through," Dayna said. "Maybe it was their first arrest, and he knew that they were going to have a record. From the time when he was a police officer, if there was a wayward kid that just got off the beaten path, he would bring him home, clean him, get my mom to help clean him up, give him a bath, get clothes for him, she would give him a haircut.

"And he (Fowler) would appear before a judge and vouch for him and take responsibility. And that would give him the second chance that he needed. He knew in his gut which ones would walk the straight and narrow. I think he put the fear of God in them too."

Both Dayna and Penny Shelton spoke of the work Fowler did "behind the scenes" to help the community.

Shelton, a former Aledo AdvoCats president, serves on the board of the Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County, and that's the link that led her to Larry Fowler. Fowler's wife, Gail, is also on that

Shelton said that Gail and Advocacy Center Executive Board member Dedra Vick made her feel welcome.

"They sort of took me under their wing. And I consider these ladies mother figures," Shelton said. "And then Larry was introduced into the mix. I got to meet him and just had a bond with him instantly. And I just looked to him as well as a father figure. So we all became very close."

Shelton said Fowler helped start the Children's Advocacy Center.

He came to one of our AdvoCats functions — a Christmas party about a year and a half ago, he popped in with Gail and he tried to get involved out here and he always supported the different events that happened in the community," Shelton said. "But really, we were more friends. We would go to lunch, I would go to their house visit with them. I just

this guy.

Dayna Fowler also spoke of his passion for the community.

"He did a lot of things behind the scenes, philanthropic things," Dayna said. "He didn't always want the credit for stuff, he just wanted to help people, and especially at Christmas time, he was big on needy

"There was one kid a few years ago that desperately wanted a bike. Dad took him to Walmart and he got him that bike for Christmas."

In addition to children, Fowler also loved animals.

"I think everybody in the county knows how he feels about animals," Dayna said. The cases that were the hardest for him, in my opinion, were abused children and abused animals. And he would go after those with a vengeance to try to bring whoever to justice."

Shelton said much the same thing:

"Whatever he said he was going to do he did it. He was unwavering in his love for children and animals. I mean, he was reliable, loyal, direct. He was a very get-it-done man, but also have the kindest heart, would do anything for anyone."

Work Ethic

Both ladies also respected Fowler's work ethic.

A few years ago, Fowler had a lung transplant, but that didn't stop him from working.

"He could run that department on his cell phone, even if he wasn't feeling good," Dayna said. "I want to say it's muscle memory because some of his deputies would come out to the house and get him up to speed on whatever case they were working on that kind of stuff. It didn't really matter how he felt, he was like 'what's going on with that case?' And he was working right up

"He did not let anything, keep him from going into the office," Shelton added. "He never rested. I mean, he had that radio on, he wanted to be in the loop of everything going on and, and help. Any still go to the office.

"I've just continued to be amazed by him because he didn't let that any kind of pain that he may have been going through stop him."

Dayna said he loved Parker

"He was born here and raised here and so this was such a big deal and honor for him to be sheriff in his hometown."

Fowler was something of an enigma in that he had a somewhat gruff voice, and was no-nonsense when it came to business.

He wanted justice to be served. And he was compassionate, yet strong," Shelton said. "You knew where you stood with him. He didn't just pretend to like you, but he really didn't show that if he didn't. You knew he didn't mince words. I mean, you knew what he said was what he meant. And there was no guessing game with him."

"Dad is the most bad-ass person I've I've ever known in my life," Dayna said. "But the big thing that I think most people don't know about him — he was a marshmallow. Because he really was."

That humanity came through in Dayna's life as a daughter.

"He was just he was dad to us," Dayna said. "And there was never a time that I called him for counsel or for whatever, that he didn't pick up that phone. It didn't matter if he was in a meeting. He would pick up that phone and my nickname was always

"He said, 'what's up Clyde, what's going on?' And I'm going to miss that. This is the first time in my entire life I have not been able to pick up the phone and call my

Although a public figure, Dayna said Fowler worked to keep family life private.

"We all kept a low profile because that was dad's domain. He was a family man, he loved us. And that's the thing that I think has gotten kind of lost in a lot of this. He was a great public servant. And I'm so proud of him, everything he accomplished.

can't say enough great things about time of the day or night, he would But man, he was just dad to us, and Moving forward Paw to his grandkids.

> "He always very supportive of whatever me and [brother] Larry wanted to do. But he was for me personally. And his granddaughter, my niece, Shea, our music. That's the thing that the three of us bonded so much over. And he loved to come to hear us sing.

> "He wasn't always there growing up. I didn't understand that growing up, but when I got older, I understood what motivated him and what drove him - he was all about keeping the citizens of Parker county safe, which was so important to him. It was almost like he wanted to save as many people as possible, he wanted to get the criminals off the street. But then he also took notice, if there was somebody that just needed some support."

> As a parent, Fowler wanted to provide for his children but also teach them self-sufficiency.

> "He said, 'you know, Clyde, I can crack a door open for you. But you got to kick it down," Dayna said. He wanted to give us the opportunities he didn't have growing up. But he was very firm in that he can make introductions or network but we have to prove ourselves. There was nothing given to us on a silver platter other than an opportunity."

One funny story involved chickens.

"That man loved chickens," Dayna said. "I hated them because they would get in the rafters of the barn above my horses' stalls. They would poop on my horse's back and on the boards of the stall. And who do you think had to scrape it off? I would be so mad. 'I hate your chicken.' He's like, 'Yeah, but you loved the eggs."

"I'm proud of his career," Dayna continued. I'm proud of all he's accomplished. But I'm more proud that he started out so rough in life and look at what he turned into. I'm here to tell you, Larry Fowler — he gets five gold stars. It's five badges on his chest. He wasn't big for accolades, but he truly tried to save as many people as he could.

Doing what's right for the county is a theme that was emphasized by County Judge Pat Deen.

"The day I won the election, he called me the next day. And we talked about strategy," Deen said. "And we talked about working together and met on a regular basis before I got sworn in, and the day I got sworn in, we met and talked about various things and, and got a good working relationship.

'We didn't always agree, but we certainly had a great deal of respect for each other and worked very well together. And we had some very good projects we were working on trying to continue increasing pay to stop the turnover of training officers going to other departments and felt very successful in doing that with him."

Deen said they were also successful in redeploying officers within the department to get response times

"And he was very committed to that," Deen said. "I can't say enough about him from genuinely doing what was right for Parker County. At the end of the day, his heart bled Parker County. It was a joy working with him. He had the respect of everybody around him and other departments and other public safety entities. And I grew professionally because of the work and relationships that we've had. And I'll take that with me for the time that I'm with the county."

Deen said an interim sheriff will be appointed by Parker County Commissioners Court, but a timeline is not set.

"It's just depending on what the direction of the commissioner's court wants to go, whether we appoint immediately or whether we conduct interviews," Deen said. "I think that we're in a good position right now with the leadership that we have in hand. The focus and priority of public safety in Parker County will continue. And the legacies and leadership that he has left here will continue long, long after this."

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION

This is to give notice of intent to introduce in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, a bill to be entitled an Act relating to the creation of the Parker County Municipal Management District No. 2, a special district operating under Sections 52 and 52-a, Article III, and Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution; Chapters 49 and 54, Texas Water Code; and Chapters 372 and 375, Texas Local Government Code, providing authority for the District to issue bonds, to impose assessments, fees, and taxes, affecting lands within the P.B. Jones Survey, Abstract No. 764, the J.W. Jones Survey, Abstract No. 2394, the W.A. Grady Survey, Abstract No. 537, the J.W. Jones Survey, Abstract No. 2010, the P.E. Houston Survey, Abstract No. 572, the L.A. McAfee Survey, Abstract No. 2028, the E. Nowland Survey, Abstract No. 1005, the B.B.B. & C. Railway Survey, Abstract No. 136, the W.B. Glenn Survey, Abstract No. 529, the B.B.B. & C. Railway Survey, Abstract No. 135, the B.B.B. & C. Railway Survey, Abstract No. 146, the Peter B. Holder Survey, Abstract No. 614, the L.A. McAfee Survey, Abstract No. 2400 and the R. Matthews Survey, Abstract No. 2566, all in Parker County, Texas. The costs for the publication of this notice were paid by Ross Martin, Winstead PC.

ORDINANCE NO. 826-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY BY AMENDING CHAPTER 13 UTILITIES TO ADD ARTICLE 13.13 TO ESTABLISH A MUNICIPAL DRAINAGE UTILITY SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR DRAINAGE SERVICE, BILLING, EXEMPTIONS, DRAINAGE **CHARGES AND APPEALS; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE;** PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVING FOR A PENALITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF \$2,000.00; AND PROVIDING FOR AN **EFFECTIVE DATE**

Sec. 13.13.009 - Penalties; enforcement.

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SECTION 6. That any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the provisions or terms of this Ordinance shall be subject to a penalty and punished by a fine not to exceed the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense, and each and every day such violation shall continue shall be deemed and constitute a separate offense. Compliance with this ordinance may also be sought through injunctive relief in district court.



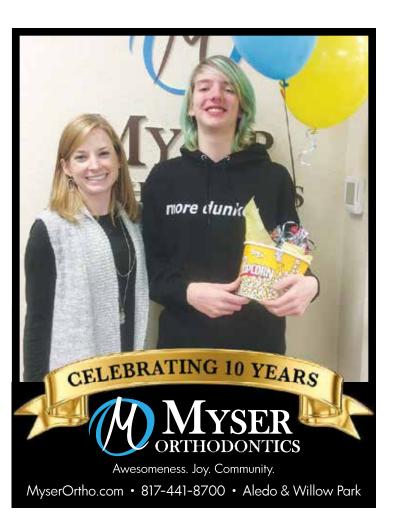
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Capital Highlights

Political fallout from winter storm continues



Gary Borders

As Texans across the state continue to deal with the damage from the mid-February winter storm, so does the polit-

ical fallout in Austin. So far, seven of the 16 board members of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas have resigned. CEO Bill Magness defended ERCOT's decision to order widespread blackouts while testifying before a joint hearing of two state House committees last week.

Meanwhile, the Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, says it has opened an investigation into retail electric providers whose flexible pricing plans inflicted electric bills in the thousands of dollars on some Texas customers in the wake of the storm. In a televised address on Wednesday, Gov. Greg Abbott said he had ordered that Texans will not have their power shut off because of unpaid bills until the Legislature has had time to act. He acknowledged that power generation from all sources failed under the harsh weather, including natural gas, coal, nuclear, wind, and solar. Abbott has made it a legislative priority to mandate and fund winterizing the Texas power infrastructure.

However, the head of Irving-based Vistra energy testified at last week's committee hearing that winterizing power plants could backfire in summer months. According to the Texas Standard, Curt Morgan said, "We don't put structures around our equipment down here. Why? Because in the summer when it's 105 degrees you'd bake inside there; the equipment would fail."

Additional hearings are scheduled this week in the Texas Senate.

More counties added to major disaster declaration

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has added 31 Texas counties to the federal disaster declaration, making a total of 108 counties covered. Abbott originally asked that all 254 Texas counties be included. Texans across the state are urged to fill out a form to help the state identify damages that occurred during the storm, which can says vaccines are limited to the be accessed at: https://tdem. texas.gov/warming-center/.

Free legal assistance available for low-income persons affected by storm

The State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association, and legal aid providers remind Texans that free legal assistance is available through a toll-free hotline to help folks pursue government benefits, insurance claims, home repairs, and other issues. The hotline -800-504-7030 — is available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. It connects low-income callers with local legal aid providers.

Push to expand broadband continues

The latest issue of Fiscal Notes from the state comptroller's office provides a comprehensive look at the issue of expanding broadband, which Abbott made an emergency legislative priority item in early February. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated demand for broadband Internet service as schools went virtual and telemedicine became more common. As of January, educators had paid for more than 4.5 million broadband devices and Wi-Fi hotspots, using funds from the Texas Education Agency, local school districts, businesses, and federal funding.

A bipartisan group of 88 Texas legislators in November recommended that the state create a comprehensive broadband plan and establish a state broadband office. Jennifer Harris is state program director of Connected Nation Texas, which partners with private and public entities to push for the expansion of broadband. She noted, "The pandemic has shown everyone how important broadband is. Ten years ago, we had to tell people why broadband would be good for the community. We don't need to tell anyone that anymore."

After storm, COVID-19 vaccines ramp up again

Nearly 700,000 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are coming to Texas this week, with 429,600 second doses arriving as well, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Providers quickly resumed vaccinations after power and water service were restored across the state. The state continues to provide shots for healthcare workers, longterm facility residents, people over 65, and those with existing medical conditions. TDSHS capacity of vaccine manufacturers to produce them, and there is not enough vaccine to supply every provider every week.

The Centers for Disease Control this week is shipping doses to 522 providers in 199 counties. As of Sunday, 3.4 million Texans had received the first dose and 1.728 million were fully vaccinated, according to TDSHS. More than 40% of adults 65 years and older have received the first dose, and nearly 20% in that age group are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 cases, deaths up from previous week

The winter storm likemuddied last week's reporting, but new cases of COVID-19 in Texas totaled 55,547 in the last week, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. A total of 1,478 deaths were reported. Both figures are considerably higher than what was reported the previous week, but that could be a result of delayed data due to the storm. A better comparison can be made next week, with two weeks of relatively normal weather conditions. Regardless, health officials across the state are still urging Texans to wear masks in public, practice social distancing and wash their hands frequently.

Plumes of smoke in a forest not always a sign of wildfire

When you see smoke rising from a forest, particularly in rural areas, it's not always wildfire. It could be a prescribed burn, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. That has become one of the most effective tools for land management, according to TFS, as it eliminates fuel for actual wildfires.

Landowners interested in learning how to safely conduct a prescribed burn can get technical guidance from TFS. Grants are also available to help pay for the burns. This website provides more information: https://tfsweb.tamu. edu/PrescribedBurns/.

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

Thistles & Roses

.and more fallout



Richard Henderson

The political fallout and investigations regarding the epic failure of the Texas power grid have begun.

What we need to know are facts and specific measures to be taken on how to remedy the situation so that it does not happen again.

Texas Governor Greg Abbot's first response, including an interview with Sean Hannity of Fox News, was to falsely state on Feb. 15 and 16 that the failure was due to the failure of wind and solar power and the so-called, "Green New Deal," which has not been implemented into government policy. The Green New Deal is an idea that fossil fuel consumption could be reduced. The idea had nothing to do with what happened Feb. 15. Wind and solar account for less than 10% of Texas' electricity.

The truth was, and Abbot sort-of acknowledged that the fossil fuel plants using coal is used for cooling tubes

50% failure caused by a lack of winterization and preparation. He has yet to apologize for his first incorrect statements.

To understand what failed, an understanding of just how electric generating plants work in Texas is necessary. I learned these basics on a Cub Scout field trip to the then called Texas Electric Plant in Handley, Texas adjacent to Lake Arlington when I was ten.

One of the physical laws of nature is that when a magnet rotates, it generates surplus electrons which we call electricity. Large magnets are installed in turbines with blades. Water is then boiled using natural gas, coal, or nuclear rods, and the turbines spin, generating electricity. After a session in which the water boils out of tanks, the water is then distilled and cooled by the lake water until it condenses and can be boiled again.

I was surprised to learn that the electric plants do not boil the lake water. The water used to spin the turbines is a highly distilled water which is constantly measured by technicians to make it as pure and free of minerals as possible so that the minerals to not clog the turbines, The lake water

and natural gas had a to cool down the distilled water. The distilled water is used over and over again.

> Many of these systems failed Feb. 15. The intakes for the cooling water from the lakes froze. The gas transmission lines also froze up and the fossil fuel could not get to the turbines in the plants. Also there was incredible demand for natural gas to heat homes.

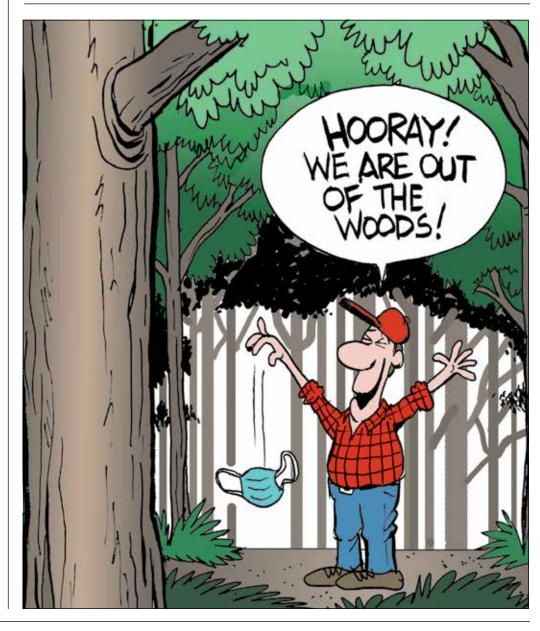
The wind turbines were frozen and there was not much sun, so those sources also stopped.

So it was a combination of virtually all sources of electric power that failed.

Winterization, or protective measures, are the jobs of engineers. What we who were thrown under the bus on Feb. 15 need to know is, how can this winterization take place? We pay our electric bills and taxes — we are willing to pay what is reasonably necessary to get the job done.

Then someone somewhere must be given the responsibility to make it so. And yeah, that is probably a government agency staffed by professionals paid for by us taxpayers. Those private enterprise plant owners sure did not

Just how would you get the job done otherwise?



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PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Randy Keck

rkeck@community-news.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Barbara Russell

NEWS/PHOTOGRAPHY

Brandi Addison

Christopher Amos

Makenzie Plusnick

CONTRIBUTORS

Photography

Cynthia Llewellyn

Sports

Nolan Ruth

Commentary

Richard Henderson

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

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper. Send submissions to news@community-news.com.

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

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

Sports

All-District Football



Aledo placed 21 players on the 5-5A DII All-District Football Team, including senior Jojo Earle, who received MVP honors.

Eleven Bearcats, in addition to Earle, were on the first team list, and nine additional Bearcats were second team.

Mansfield Timberview took the other district superlatives, with senior quarterback Simeon Evans receiving Offensive Player of the Year, senior defensive lineman Terrell Tilmon receiving Defensive Player of the Year honors, and junior Todrick Dixon being named Newcomer of the Year.

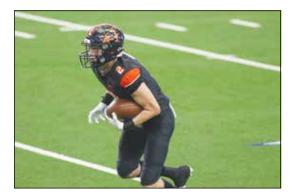
Timberview matched Aledo with 21 players on the All-District roster.

Arlington Seguin placed 15 players on the roster, Burleson had 13, Cleburne had eight, and Joshua and Everman each had five.

MVP		Jojo Earle	SR
1st Team	Wide Receiver	Jaedon Pellegrino	JR
1st Team	Running Back	DeMarco Roberts	SR
1st Team	Safety	BJ Allen	JR
2nd Team	Defensive End	Chris Wright	SR
2nd Team	Wide Receiver	BJ Fleming	SR
2nd Team	Punter	Clay Murador	so
1st Team	Inside Linebacker	Sam Forman	SR
1st Team	Fullback	Gatlin Johnson	SR
2nd Team	Safety	Eli Valencia	SR
2nd Team	Cornerback	Sammy Steffe	JR
1st Team	Defensive End	Caden Anderson	JR
1st Team	Outside Linebacker	Keenan Hess	SR
1st Team	Defensive Tackle	Kyle Thompson	JR
2nd Team	Tackle	Rocco O'Keefe	SR
2nd Team	Center	Brady Wood	SR
2nd Team	Tackle	Maddox Epperson	JR
1st Team	Guard	Gunnar Allen	JR
1st Team	Guard	Grant Jefferis	SR
1st Team	Tight End	Jason Llewellyn	JR
2nd Team	Defensive Tackle	Matthew Bell	JR

MVP Jojo Earle

Photos by Cynthia Llewellyn from the state championship game



Jaedon Pellegrino - 1st Team Wide Receiver



DeMarco Roberts - 1st Team Running Back



BJ Allen - 1st Team Safety



Chris Wright - 2nd Team Defensive End



BJ Fleming - 2nd Team Wide Receiver (12)



Clay Murador - 2nd Team Punter



Sam Forman - 1st Team Inside Linebacker





Eli Valencia - 2nd Team Safety



Sammy Steffe - 2nd Team Cornerback



Caden Anderson - 1st Team Defensive End



Keenan Hess - 1st Team Outside Linebacker



Kyle Thompson - 1st Team Defensive Tackle



Rocco O'Keefe - 2nd Team Tackle



Brady Wood - 2nd Team Center



Maddox Epperson - 2nd Team Tackle



Gunnar Allen - 1st Team Guard



Grant Jefferis - 1st Team Guard



Jason Llewellyn - 1st Team Tight End



Matthew Bell - 2nd Team Defensive Tackle



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8 March 5, 2021 THE COMMUNITY NEWS



The mixed doubles team of Jax Joiner/Maddie Farmer brought a silver medal home from the Grapevine/Colleyville Tournament.



The Aledo Ladycats hit five home runs and scored a 7-0 win over Mansfield Legacy at the Mansfield Tournament on Friday. Shown are (from left) Morgan Brown (SR), Madysen Boutwell (JR), Marissa Powell (JR), and Caitlyn Beaty (JR). Not pictured is winning pitcher Kayleigh Smith (JR), who pitched a three-hit shutout.

TENNIS

Mixed doubles team brings home silver

By Andrea Garnett

The Aledo varsity tennis team traveled to Grapevine Friday, Feb. 26, to compete in the Grapevine/ Colleyville Tournament.

The tournament included Grapevine, Colleyville, Frisco Wakeland, Denton Guyer, Arlington

Martin, Flower Mound, and Mansfield. Aledo had not faced several of these teams this season and the competition was fierce, but this did give the RacquetCats the practice they needed to prepare for district which is in mid April.

The mixed doubles team of Jax Joiner/Maddie Farmer were the only

Aledo netters to bring home a medal. They beat three teams before falling in the finals to a strong Frisco Wakeland duo and taking second

The RacquetCats play in the Chisholm Trail Tournament on Friday, March 5.

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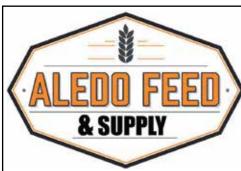
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Ladycats shut out Granbury



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Junior Ashlyn Laughley scores Aledo's second goal against Granbury.

The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats shut out Granbury 8-0 at Bearcat Stadium Tuesday night.

Sophomore McKenna Vela started the scoring for the Ladycats with a goal about 10 minutes into the game.

About five minutes later, Vela passed to junior Ashlyn Laughey, who kicked the ball past Granbury's goalkeeper.

Laughley scored again before the half. She and Vela each had hat tricks in the contest. Additional goals were kicked by junior Maitlynn Mitchell and sophomore Harper Smith.

Assists were recorded for Laughley (2), Smith, sophomore Reese Mourer, senior Caroline Miller, Vela, and sophomore Ella Bertram.

The Ladycats have a record of 10-4, 5-2 in district.

The Bearcats defeated Granbury on the road, 2-1.

Tyler Oetinger scored, assisted by Clay Murador; and Rylan Shaffer scored, assisted by Oetinger.

Ryland Yates in the goal had three saves.

Defense was led by Chad Petro. The Bearcats' record is 9-4-3, 3-3-2 in district.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Sophomore McKenna Vela charged downfield and kicked the first goal in Aledo's 8-0 win over Granbury on Tuesday at Bearcat Stadium. Vela had three goals and an assist in the match.

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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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10 March 5, 2021 THE COMMUNITY NEWS

BASEBALL

Bearcats topple Midland Christian

Staff Reports

Junior Adrian Guzman singled and drove in a run in the bottom of the sixth inning to push the Aledo Bearcats over Midland Christian 9-8 in a foggy game on Saturday, Feb. 27, in Weatherford.

The Bearcats jumped out early, scoring three runs in the bottom of the first.

Senior catcher Creed Willems batted in the first run, hitting a line drive to center field that scored junior Max Belyeu. Later, senior Nolan Garcia crossed the plate when Guzman singled to left field.

Junior Hunter Rudel scored on a balk by the Midland pitcher.

Midland put a run on the board in the top of the second, but Belue scored again on a single by senior Zach Harrison. Harrison and senior Parker Stegall scored when Rudel blasted a double to right field to put Aledo up 6-1 at the end of the

Midland added two runs in the top of the third, and then tied up the score by scoring five runs in the top of the fourth.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Nolan Garcia heads for third base in the first inning of Saturday's

Willems hit a home run in the bottom of the fourth, knocking in

Midland knotted up the game in the top of the fifth inning, 8-8 before Guzman batted in Garcia for the

Senior Ethan McBrayer picked up the win in relief for the Bearcats.



Aledo senior pitcher Eliot Flaherty is shown in the surreal foggy scene at Raymond Curtis Field in Weatherford on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Aledo, TX 76008

Spring Sports

MARCH 5

Boys' Soccer vs. WF Rider, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m.

Girls' Soccer vs. WF Rider, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV -5:30 p.m. (SENIOR NIGHT)

Varsity Tennis at Chisholm Tr Tournament, Away

Var Girls' Golf at Lady Pirate Tournament, Away, VAR - 8 AM

MARCH 6

Softball vs. JV Hillsboro Tournament, Away

Track & Field at Brewer Var,

Away

JV Girls' Golf at Burleson Centennial Tournament, Away, JV - 8 AM

MARCH 9

MARCH 8

Boys' Soccer vs. Wichita Falls, Home, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m. (SENIOR NIGHT)

Girls' Soccer vs. Wichita Falls, Away, VAR - 5:30 p.m.

Softball vs. Brewer, Away, VAR - 7 p.m., JV - 5 p.m.

MARCH 10

JV Boys' Golf at Chick-Fil-A Tournament, Away, JV - 8

Track & Field at Bearcat Relays JV

MARCH 11

Varsity Tennis at Timbercreek Tournament,

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