

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

WILLOW PARK

Fort Worth Water Project continues

City council approves water agreement with Weatherford

By Brandi Addison
The Community News

Progress continues on the Fort Worth Water Project, which is expected to bring millions of extra gallons to Willow Park each day.

With more than five years of negotiating and planning for the project, crews officially began work in early March.

The near \$20 million project — divided into a 52-48 cost split between Willow Park and Hudson Oaks, respectively — will include a 24-inch approach water main, wholesale water meter station, storage tank, and pump station that would help transport water to Hudson Oaks.

Preston Dillard of Half Associates told city council on Tuesday evening that two of the three projects are expected to be completed by late summer.

The pipeline, which connects Fort Worth to the delivery site at El Chico Trail is about halfway complete with laying pipeline and is scheduled for full completion in mid-July. The pipeline that supplies water from El Chico Trail westward to Hudson Oaks is expected to be completed about a month later.

“Fort Worth has agreed to provide a temporary meter station, so that once the line is in place, you can immediately get water from it,” Dillard said.

Water agreement

Out of an abundance of caution, council unanimously approved a water agreement that will allow Willow Park to receive water from Weatherford in emergency situations, as it has needed over the last several years.

Willow Park’s water is produced from 26 wells around the city which are supplied by the Trinity and Paluxy aquifers.

While the wells can produce up to 1.6 million gallons of water per day, the city water usage averages to 1.2 million gallons daily in the summer, leaving little for emergencies.

The new pipeline is expected to provide an additional 3.5 million gallons per day, on average, totaling about 5 million gallons per day.

Assuming the completion schedule is accurate, city officials believe it is unlikely that this agreement will be utilized.



CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Reece and Karen Taylor nab litter alongside FM 5 on Saturday, April 10. The outing brought Reece to 36 total volunteer hours with the Aledo Young Men’s Service League.

PARKER COUNTY

Early voting begins Monday for city, school board seats

Staff Reports
The Community News

Local voters can begin making selections on an unusually large number of contested seats on Monday, the first day of early voting for the May 1 election.

All three Aledo ISD board members up for re-election drew opponents this year.

Place 1 board member David Lear is being challenged by Trish Watson.

Place 2 board member Jennifer Loftin is challenged by Jennifer

Morrow, and Zachery Clark is challenging Place 3’s Jessica Brown.

Likewise, there are two contested spots for Aledo City Council.

Place 1 council member Spencer Perry is being challenged by Shane Davis, and Place 3 rep Clint Robinson is being challenged by Nick Stanley.

Annetta Mayor Bruce Pinckard has decided to leave that position after several years, but instead is running for the Place 3 seat against Al Gloer.

In addition, Parker County Emergency Services District No. 1 is asking voters to approve a one-cent sales tax in those areas that have not already reached the statutory maximum of 8.25%. The increase would mainly apply in the unincorporated areas of the district.

For a list of early voting sites and dates, see the notice on page 7. Watch for candidate profiles in next week’s issue of *The Community News*.



Mr. Bearcat surprised young softball players on the field during the Meet the Ladycats event at Aledo Athletics youth softball fields on Saturday, April 10.

CHRISTOPHER AMOS/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Racist incident roils area

Residents question response

By Randy Keck
The Community News

A social media “game” developed by three students at the Don Daniel Ninth Grade Campus has riled the community and brought unwanted national attention to the Aledo ISD.

In a screenshot of a group Snapchat post of the “game” obtained by *The Community News*, it is unclear the original name of the group. One person changed the name of the group to “Slave Trade” as students “bid” on their black classmates. The next name change was to “Ni**er Farm,” and another change was to “Ni**er Auction.”

Emoticons showed devils and guns pointed at black farmers.

One of the participants said he would bid \$100 on one of his black classmates. A second said he would bid \$1 on another student with the comment “Would be better if his hair wasn’t so bad.”

A letter written by Principal Carolyn Ansley was criticized for referring to the incident as “cyberbullying and harassment on our campus that has led to conversations about how inappropriate and hurtful language can have a profound and lasting impact on the students and classmates involved.”

Although the second paragraph of her letter referred to “racially charged language,” some felt the classification as “cyberbullying” was not sufficient to describe a racial incident.

Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn followed on April 12 with a statement on the Aledo ISD website, saying in part:

“There is no room for racism or hatred in the Aledo ISD, period. Using inappropriate, offensive and racially charged language and conduct is completely unacceptable and is prohibited by district policy.

“More than two weeks ago, the district learned of an incident that involved students from the Daniel Ninth Grade Campus bullying and harassing other students based on their race and launched an immediate and thorough investigation that involved law enforcement. We made a formal determination that racial harassment and cyberbullying had occurred and

Turn to **RACISM**, page 3



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Published Weekly

Iron Mike

Young Marine wins Iron Mike Award the first time out.

PAGE 2

Capital Campaign

Trinity Christian Academy shares needs, goals for future facilities.

PAGE 6



Clincher

Ladycats claim district crown; lull coming before playoffs.

PAGE 10

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Young Marine excels at physical training

Trevor Robinson receives Iron Mike Award

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Students in high school often look to military service once they graduate. Many have dreams of becoming a Marine.

Trevor Robinson, a fourth-grader at Vandagriff Elementary School, has taken an earlier start, and not only passed the physical fitness test at the Tarrant County Young Marine Recruit Training on March 20, but he also received the "Iron Mike Award."

The award is presented to the top finisher in the physical fitness test.

Trevor said his first interest in the program came when his dad was on the Internet, and they ran across the Young Marines.

"So I was like, 'click the video. And it's like, once you graduate, you can do all the fun stuff and I was like 'hmm, fun stuff - I can try that,' Trevor said.

For a fourth-grader to win the Iron Mike Award is quite an accomplishment, as there are other, older young people in the event, including teenagers.

Trevor said he runs and does pull-ups and pushups, among other activities to stay fit.

He also likes to play football and spend time with his friends.

Trevor's dad, Clint, works in law enforcement and has been involved with police exploring.

"I asked Trevor, 'why don't you get into something that's like Junior military,'" Clint said. "We don't have a Junior ROTC at our schools here in Aledo, so I reached out."

Clint said several young people in Aledo have been involved with the Young Marines. When he discovered that the minimum age requirement is 8, and Trevor is 10, they decided to look it up online.

"We saw what fun things that they get to do, not just to get screamed at all the time, but they actually get to go on trips," Clint said. "For instance, their Young Marine of the Year competes with a lot of the other Young Marine posts around Texas." Clint said that Young Marine now has the opportunity to go to Iwo Jima.

"That is the ultimate honor. for a young man to do," Clint said.

The boot camp Trevor attended was three days, held at the Kenneth Copeland facility in Tarrant County. He said he might want to consider the military when he graduates from high school.

The Young Marines is a national youth program for boys and girls, ages eight through high school graduation, focused on leadership, citizenship through community service, self-discipline, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Trevor Robinson is shown in his Young Marines gear.

The nearest Young Marine units are in Springtown and at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth. For more information, visit youngmarines.com.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Trevor Robinson does pull-ups at the Young Marines Recruit Training, where he received the Iron Mike Award.



Run Walk Crawl set for April 24 at Shops

New Venue, more activities

Staff Reports
The Community News

Aledo Children's AdvoCats will host their 16th Annual Run, Walk or Crawl 1K and 5K Color Run in conjunction with Willow Park Palooza on Saturday, April 24, at the Shops of Willow Park.

The race will kick off in the morning with the 1K beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the 5K at 9 a.m.

Entrants are encouraged to stay after the race and enjoy Willow Park Palooza. A car show will start at 12 p.m., and the festival that will include food trucks, live music, artists, face painting, and vendors will begin at 1 p.m. RWC registration is open until April 20 at www.aledoadvocats.com.



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Obituaries

Paula Jane Webb

Paula Jane Webb, 68, of Aledo, died at her home surrounded by her beloved family on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

Jane was born May 12, 1952 to George Edwin and Edna Nelson Webb. She grew up with her siblings, Kay and Brian, in Nevada, Texas, where she graduated from Community High School in 1970.

Jane left the farmlands of Nevada to move to Waco, where she earned a BA in Education from Baylor University in 1974. While in Waco, she began her long career in Special Education, started her family, and cultivated friendships that would span time and distance. After homeschooling elementary age Tim, Kyle, and Tricia, the family moved back to her hometown of Nevada where she cared for her aging parents and continued her special education teaching career at Community High School. After the passing of her parents, she returned to Waco and taught at La Vega ISD. She ultimately settled in Aledo to be near her children and grandchildren, and retired from Aledo ISD in 2016.

Jane's life was marked by connection and service. She maintained close friendships from all walks of life, particularly enjoyed her neighbors, and looked for opportunities to provide a meal to friends or family. She lived selflessly and enjoyed helping others, particularly by opening her home, providing meals, or editing the sub-par writing of her children. Jane was a gracious, humble woman who



Jane Webb

always believed the best in people, showing kindness and grace without reservation.

Her greatest joy was spending time with her children and grandchildren. Retirement allowed ample time to babysit, tutor, attend extracurricular activities, and host her growing family for meals. "G," as she was known by her grandkids and their friends, found joy in the daily lives of her family. G's home was the hub for all family activities, and she was the center of everything without ever drawing the focus to herself. Despite a full calendar of church, Perspectives, Bible Study Fellowship, retired teachers meetings, or serving friends, Jane always found time to play a game or help with schoolwork.

Jane is preceded in death by her parents, George and Edna Webb, and her nephew, Paul Campbell.

She is survived by her children, Tim Strickland and wife Leslie, Kyle Strickland, Tricia Durand and husband Jeff; her grandchildren Addi, Jackson, and Laura Durand, and Shepard and Shiloh Strickland; her brother Brian Webb and wife Margaret, sister Kay Campbell and husband Jim; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral was held at Trinity Bible Church in Willow Park on April 10.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to www.shepardnetwork.org/JaneWebb. Her family asks that you forgive any grammatical errors in this piece as they are lost without their best editor.

The Community News
April 16, 2021

RACISM

from page one

assigned disciplinary consequences in accordance with our policy and the Student Code of Conduct. This incident has caused tremendous pain for the victims, their families, and other students of color and their families, and for that, we are deeply saddened.

"After being notified of the incident, the Aledo ISD immediately engaged in conversations and communication with students and the student group that was involved, as well as their parents, and made it clear that statements and conduct that targets a student because of his or her race is not only prohibited but also has a profound impact on the victims. We also shared this message with staff and parents at the campus."

Some parents on social media stated that they pulled their children out of Aledo schools due to past racial incidents.

Some former students say they felt the effects of racism when they were in school.

AHS graduate Colin Maloney wrote, "I wouldn't suggest attending Aledo to anyone of color. This isn't a condemnation of any of the faculty at Aledo - I thought the faculty as a whole was filled with kind, good people."

"However," he added, "there's a lot of things the faculty doesn't see that can make attending Aledo miserable if you are a minority. Racism is not always obvious, but it's definitely very real in Aledo. Racism can be someone making fun of the way your mom talks. Racism can be getting called "stupid Asian" so often you start to think it's your name. It can be constant little jokes about atom bombs and Pearl Harbor."

Maloney indicated that the effects of that experience can be long-lasting.

"I've forgotten most things that happened in middle school, but those memories stick with me because they hurt. It hurts to feel ashamed of your race, or the way you look, or the way your family members look. I don't harbor resentment towards any of the people in Aledo, but I do resent my experience growing up in Aledo. I would not wish that upon any child."

"I have had former students tell me the same thing," said AISD Board Trustee Forrest Collins. "I've had former students tell me the names they've been called in the hallways and the situations they've been a part of. And I think we live in a society right now where everything's hyper-partisan, and we're often afraid to have conversations. And I think we're at that time where, as parents, we have to have those conversations with our children."

Collins also said the problem is not just in the school district, and the solution has to be found community-wide.

"We have to have those conversations as a community to address those issues," Collins said. "We do have a great community, we do have a tremendous amount of support for each other in our community. But I think at the end of the day, we have to begin those hard conversations and address some of those things."

When asked if he thought there would be any policy changes in the district, Collins said he felt there were policies already in place.

"There are so many times where an issue arises, and we address it at that time. And then we don't always follow through like we should until something else comes up," Collins said. "And I think the district already has policies in place - there's an inclusiveness plan in place that was passed a few years ago that the district can put more emphasis on."

There are very few people of color in the Aledo ISD teaching ranks. Collins was asked if he felt that more people of color might be considered for teaching and coaching positions in the district in the future.

"As our community grows, we'll become more diverse," he responded. "And we have to have hiring practices that address diversity. You know, we have to go recruit people - just like any other company we have to go recruit people, good people, to come to our school district. And diversity is something we really have to look at. It's important that kids of all colors have somebody that they can look at who looks like them. The same thing with women, you know, little girls need women that they can look at in positions of leadership and look up to those and be role models. And you know, our black students need that, our female students need that, that's what all of our students need."

"We are a small community that is growing, and it's more than just numbers. We're becoming more diverse, and that's a good thing. Yet, there are some things that as a society as a whole we have to address as our country becomes more diverse. What's happening in Aledo is happening everywhere. And some of these things are just now coming to our community and we're addressing them. And I think it's going to take our entire community, rallying around each other, like we always do, to create change, and make it a better community for all of us, for all of our children. And that's the point of all this is for all of us to come together and create a better world for our children."

Editor's note: This incident has aroused a great deal of anger and hurt in our community. In the weeks ahead we will further examine the causes and history of racial problems and their solutions. We welcome your input at news@community-news.com.

The Center is proud to welcome, Talha Riaz, MD

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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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It was all about tacos

Coder Elementary School student changes the menu

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Editor's note: we reprinted the emails in their entirety because they represent how a respectful request can turn into real change.

The next time someone says things can't be changed, tell them to talk to Ben Hungerford.

Ben, a fifth-grader at Coder Elementary School, felt something was missing, so he wrote an email on Feb 1 to Patty Willhite, Child Nutrition Director for the Aledo ISD.

Dear Ms. Willhite,

I am about to give you some information. I think Aledo has some of the best cafe food (I eat it every day). However I do think that there is one food that is missing, TACOS. Yes it is a food I think can be both delicious and healthy.

Every healthy meal has Dairy, Grains, Proteins, Fruits and Vegetables but, how do you make it taste good at the same time? Let's start with dairy. Every meal comes with milk but I also think cheese would be good on tacos. Now to grains. In a taco you see all the meat and other things, but what holds it all together? A hard shell. We can make 100% whole grain taco shells. Next,



Patty Willhite sets up the taste test at the Coder Elementary School cafeteria. | Benjamin Hungerford tests the grilled cheese sandwich.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

the protein will be the ground beef. Now the fruits, I think tomatoes are great in tacos, along with a side such as a fruit cup. Last but not least, the vegetables. For this, we can have lettuce that students can add to their tacos and a side of carrots.

I know what you're thinking,

what about the picky eaters? Much like the nacho meal, the cafeteria assistants could add the student's topping choice to the tacos. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, I do not think this can be put into place this current year. Due to the restrictions, it would be difficult to place the toppings in a cup

because there are around 500 5th graders alone, and this would be wasteful and bad for the environment.

However, when the next school year comes, and you are discussing what changes to make to the menus, please consider tacos.

Thank you,

Benjamin Hungerford
Ms. Young's Class
Coder Elementary School- 5th Grade

Willhite responded promptly on Feb 2:

Dear Benjamin

Thank you for your well written letter - I always love to hear from students!

You make a very convincing case for adding tacos to the menu and I have considered them. As a matter of fact, we used to have tacos on the menu several years ago but had to do away with them because our regulations changed. The issue with tacos is that the corn shells, (while whole grain and allowable on a school menu) do not have enough grain in them to count as a component. We would actually have to serve FOUR tacos per order to be in compliance with the regulations! The taco shells are thinner than other options - like nachos chips (which do count as a grain component). So I hope this makes sense - in order to count as a component, we have to consider the grams of credible grain in each product we serve. It would be difficult (and expensive) as well as very prep intensive to have four tacos as a serving

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for an Elementary lunch - plus really, too much for Elementary students! We also typically serve two ounces of protein - so that would mean just 1/2 ounce of meat in each taco, not really very much.

The only option I can think of might be a SOFT TACO because we can get a flour tortilla that will have enough grain to count as a component - but I'm not sure all the students would like that, what do you think? We typically try to do some student taste testing before we add a menu item because we want as many of our items as possible to be student approved so maybe that is an item we can try.

You present your argument so well and I appreciate that you considered all the components needed for a school meal - that is exactly how we plan menus! And I do like your suggestion so if you have any other ideas that could help us develop tacos or other menu ideas, please don't hesitate to email me. We always try to accommodate student requests if we can.

Thanks again for the great input - and thank you for being such a great customer, we really appreciate your patronage!

Patty Willhite

Director of Child Nutrition

Aledo ISD



TOP: Aubrey Martinez cautiously tests a sandwich. | BOTTOM: Michael Welch makes notes on one of the selections he tried.

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 ____ Davis County

5 out in the Gulf

6 dishonest scheme

7 trim off

8 computer graphics file format

9 TX biography: "H.L. Hunt - ____ of My Father" (1992)

16 in "Big Jake," Texas Rangers traveled in these cars, ruined by the kidnappers green chili peppers on nachos

18 TXism: "that's Greek to ____" (confusing)

22 TX George H.W. alma mater

23 "Santa ____ National Wildlife Refuge"

24 plant-covered alcoves

30 necessary items to drill oil wells

34 1970s TV series with TX Lynda Day George (abbr.)

35 Lindsay Wagner: "The ____ Woman"

36 TX Willie & Waylon sang "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow ____ Be Cowboys"

37 filmed in Houston: "____ Cowboy"

39 TX Gary Morris tune: "____ it Takes"

43 TXism: "____ the town" (celebrate)

44 city of Fort Hood

45 org. of states in Europe

46 gear wheels

47 TX Ginger's co-star, Francis, in 1935 film "Romance in Manhattan"

49 "I boot ____ a different drummer"

52 19th governor: ____ Ross

53 "without further ____"

54 TXism: "he'll kick you ____ funeral home" (mean horse)

55 radio no-no (2 wds.)

58 country duo of Loretta's daughters

59 TXism: "he can't ____ through a barbed wire fence"

60 TX Willie album to pay tax debt: "The ____ Tapes" (1992)

61 road curve

DOWN

1 TX city hit hard by Hurricane Rita in 2005

2 TXism: "jump bail"

3 frightening

4 Troy Aikman is in Pro Football Hall of ____

9 legendary TX car racer: ____ Foyt

10 these are danced around on May Day

11 this Jack was in "4 for Texas" in 1963

12 TX Strait was CMA ____ Vocalist of the Year" five times

13 Gov. Abbott began to ____ Texas in March of 2021

14 "that is" abbr.

15 a nucleic acid

17 like a rhinestone cowboy?

19 Chicano novel: "The House ____ Street"

20 pro team of TX QB Drew Brees

24 first two letters

25 ____ Grande

26 to hit someone

27 Jennifer of 1970 western "Rio Lobo"

28 Winchester, e.g.

29 injure with very hot liquid

31 delivery co.

32 TXism: "call ____ day" (knock off)

33 a John Deere, e.g.

38 animal and plant life of a region

40 noted TX actor Tommy ____ Jones

41 TX-born musician, Lynn

42 ability to think clearly

48 TXism: "ram ____" (boss)

50 TXism: "fits like ugly ____ ape"

51 ex-Rocket Thorpe

56 Borden cow mascot

57 Vivian, mother of TX Phylicia Rashad

Which brought Ben's response: Ms. Willhite, Thank you for the feedback. I think that we should make a sack lunch day when the students can try out the soft taco choice. They can then give us feedback about the soft taco choice.

If more votes are for yes, please consider adding soft tacos to the next year's school lunch menu. If more people vote no, than the students have spoken and there is no need wasting

time and money on tacos they will not enjoy. Thank you for your time. Benjamin Hungerford

Fast-forward to April 8, and Willhite set up a taste test at the Coder cafeteria for Benjamin and his classmates. Willhite served a number of dishes, and the students rated them as they tested them.

During the taste test, Benjamin told *The Community News* "I thought the school lunch would be better if it had tacos."

Taylor Tuel, after testing one dish, said "I think it was

very good. They should put it on the menu."

"The taste test went very well - popular items were the soft beef/cheese taco, shoestring french fry, new grilled cheese sandwich, pretzel-dog, and a cinnamon/sugar churro," Willhite said after the tasting. "Thanks to Ms. Young's class for their participation!"

So when students of the future enjoy a grilled cheese sandwich or a soft beef/cheese tao, they will have a Coder Elementary School fifth grader to thank.

Matt Morris

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Trinity Christian Academy shares needs

Launches capital campaign

By **Melissa Winn**
Special to Trinity Christian Academy

Having faith in an idea means having faith that God will provide.

That may not always be easy for some but for the students, parents, staff, and leadership at Trinity Christian Academy, it's second nature.

Throughout its 28 years of existence that began with just 10 students, being "grounded in faith" is exactly how the school has grown to more than 500 children.

At a special meeting to announce the "Grounded in Faith, Growing in Excellence" capital campaign, Head of School Mike Skaggs and board vice president Bert Thompson outlined the various phases of what's been done and what still needs to be completed.

"We spent a lot of time in prayer," Thompson said. "We discussed, we argued and at the end of the day, we decided the goal was to stay in step with God and it was time to move forward."

Attendees at the event were shown videos that highlighted the phases that have essentially been

completed and then given a glimpse of the vision that is happening.

The first item on the school's list of needs was to have a playground for the youngest Eagles. While there was an existing playground for the school, safety and functionality became an issue and the need for age-appropriate equipment took center stage.

Completed at the end of last year, the playground is located next to the preschool classrooms and has been well received.

Next on the list was the need for more classroom space. With increased student population, Skaggs recalled a time when there were portables scattered on the campus and that just wasn't going to work long-term.

"That secondary annex touches every single student," he said, adding that it gives sixth graders a place to call theirs but also provides them a safe place to transition into the higher grades.

Skaggs quipped that the day the portables were towed off was "a good day" but that at the time of need, its purpose was met.

The final need that TCA is taking the leap of faith and working on is for the athletic programs. It is one



of the largest in terms of size and scope, as well as financially.

Included will be a football field, an eight-lane track, room for 1,000 fans and a pressbox, a full-size practice field, cross-country trails and a

6,600 sq. foot fieldhouse, equivalent to the size of the Barber Gym.

"When I was an English teacher, athletics was one of the things I turned my nose up to," Skaggs

admitted. "But I now know how wrong I was."

Skaggs went on to say that he sees the lessons children are taught by participating in sports, something

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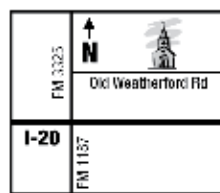


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he says he could never have taught in a classroom.

Adding to that, Skaggs said one of the biggest components of athletics is having a home field; a place for students and fans to gather that has the moniker "Eagles" on it.

"I would love for this project to be something that will be a benefit and blessing for the community of Willow Park," he said.

More importantly, however, is the added component of safety for the TCA athletes. Right now, athletes are having to travel for "home" games and some are even practicing in parking lots because there isn't a place for them to do it otherwise.

"This is happening; we are doing it," Thompson said. "We will be moving dirt this month."

Overall, the athletics project is estimated to cost \$6.9 million and a second phase is in the planning stages that will include softball, baseball, tennis and an indoor training facility but raising money for the first phase is top of mind at the moment.

As of the end of March, a total of \$4.3 million has been raised, short of the overall \$7.6 million cost of the playground, annex and first phase of the athletic needs.

"Many people are afraid of growth but not us, we embrace it," Skaggs said. "God gave us our purpose and we believe this stays true to who we are."

While pledge forms were handed out at the meeting, Skaggs actually requested that people wait to turn it in until they had more time to pray about it and decide what they were led to give.

"We need you to get 100 percent behind the project and not feel guilty into anything," he said. "I want you to pray over it and pray over it and give what God is telling you to give."

Trinity Christian Academy is now enrolling for fall classes with limited space remaining in many grades. For more information regarding admissions or the Grounded in Faith, Growing in Excellence capital campaign, visit tcaeagles.org.



Volunteers donned yellow vests and took advantage of beautiful weather to participate in the Town of Annetta's annual cleanup on Saturday, March 10. After a morning of labor, the volunteers gathered for hamburgers and conversation.

LEFT: Kent Stasey cleaned up along Thunderhead. | ABOVE: Karen Gloer (left) and Melinda Dixon were among the volunteers who spruced up Annetta on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY RANDY KECK
THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF WILLOW PARK**

HUDSON OAKS AND WILLOW PARK WATER FACILITIES AND WHOLESAL METER

Separate sealed bids for the HUDSON OAKS AND WILLOW PARK WATER FACILITIES AND WHOLESAL METER project will be received by the CITY OF WILLOW PARK, TEXAS until **May 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM** at City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud.

The project generally includes the construction of approximately 455 feet of 14-inch to 20-inch water line, along El Chico Trail and Ranch Oak Drive, three motor operated valve vaults, two meter stations, pump station, 0.75 MG ground storage tank and appurtenances.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and Compliance Provisions may be examined at the following locations:

Half Associates, Inc.
4000 Fossil Creek Blvd.
Fort Worth, Texas 76137

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans and specifications from Half Associates, Inc. The cost for Contract Documents is \$50.00 per half size set. The cost of Contract Documents is not refunded. Submit check, cashier check or money order for payment. Cash will not be accepted.

A non-mandatory prebid meeting for the project will be held at the City of Willow Park, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087 at **10:00 AM, CST, Tuesday, May 4, 2021.**

Direct questions regarding distribution of Contract Documents, and the design of Approach Main to Hudson Oaks and Willow Park to Leah Hodge, P.E., Half Associates, Inc., at (817) 764-7459.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they consider most advantageous to the Owner. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract. Award of the contract will be made as a whole to one Bidder. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Small and minority firms are encouraged to submit bids for this project.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of **CITY OF WILLOW PARK**, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

This contract is to be funded through a loan obtained from the Texas Water Development Board as part of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). There are a number of special provisions for this funding that bidders, by submitting a bid, acknowledge understanding, including the following: Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for bid (IFB) are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the TWDB. Neither the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State of Texas, nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees, are or will be a party to this IFB, or any resulting contract.

Any contract(s) awarded under this Invitation for Bids is/are subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of federal law, including federal appropriation acts and Section 1452 (a)(4) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. §300j-12(a)(4)), as applicable.

This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, which includes EPA-approved fair share goals toward procurement of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) businesses. EPA rules require that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to M/WBEs through demonstration of the six affirmative steps. For more details on the DBE Program and the current, applicable fair share goals, please visit www.twdb.texas.gov/dbe.

The party to whom the contract is awarded shall be required to furnish performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety.

Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified Applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Department of Labor regulations at 41 CFR Part 60-4, relating to Construction Contractors--Affirmative Action Requirements, which include the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 and Executive Order No. 13672, in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the Contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.

All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall be paid wages as described in the section, Mandatory Davis-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements apply to the construction, alteration or repair of treatment works carried out, in whole or in part, with assistance made available by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or a construction project financed, in whole or in part, from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Any contracts in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration or repair (including painting and decorating) and funded under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs shall include the mandatory Davis-Bacon Act Contract Conditions.

Any contracts or subcontracts in excess of \$2000 must include the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Requirements found in TWDB Guidance No. DB-0156.

For prime contracts in excess of \$100,000, Contractors and Subcontractors must also, under the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, as amended, pay laborers and mechanics, including guards and watchmen, at least one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek. The Fair Labor Standards Act may also apply to Davis-Bacon covered contracts.

CITY OF WILLOW PARK

Dates: April 16 and 23, 2021

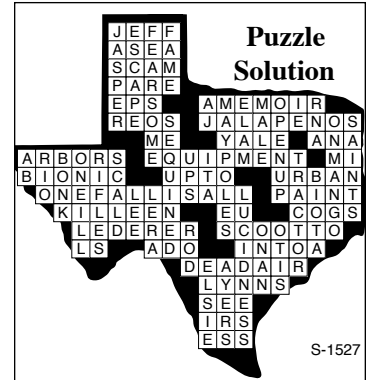
By: (s) Doyle Moss, Mayor

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a PACKAGE STORE PERMIT

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**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT
TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL
PERMIT NO. WQ0013834001**

APPLICATION. City of Willow Park, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0013834001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0099732) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 500,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 30 Crown Road, Willow Park, in Parker County, Texas 76087. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Clear Fork Trinity River Below Lake Weatherford. TCEQ received this application on February 2, 2021. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afb-c468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-97.665277%2C32.751388&level=12>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

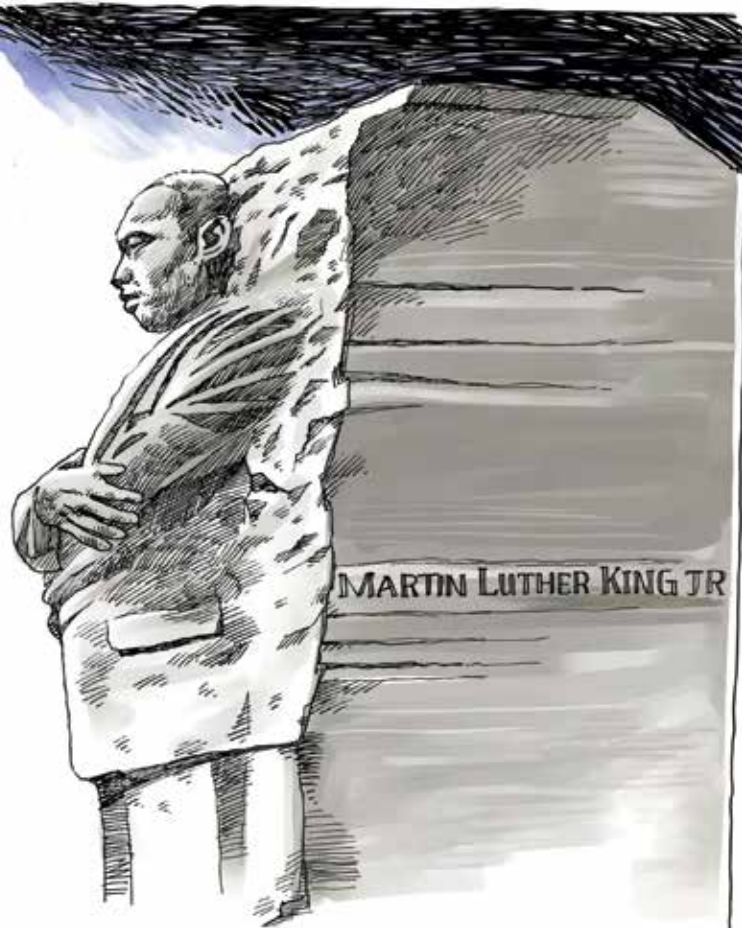
AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Willow Park at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Michelle Guelker at 817-441-7108.

Issuance Date: March 24, 2021

"There comes a time
when silence is betrayal."

- Martin Luther King Jr.



Guest Column

My First Lesson On Racism— Summer, 1982



Jack Hunt
hello@thewellaledo.com

The t-shirt was white, and in black, all caps, iron-on letters it said "JEWEM JACK." It was given to my dad in a church fellowship hall. He smiled but didn't laugh, and though rarely out of words just said "gee thanks...I think," and he proceeded to go on with the meeting. The meeting was for an upcoming church retreat and my dad had gotten a great deal on hotel rooms—hence the reason for the shirt.

I'm the youngest of three—almost ten years old at the time this happened. Significant to note because I think the youngest can pick up when there's tension in the family. We "babies" in the family know when to speak, say something funny, or divert the family's attention to something else less tense. On the short ride home from church, he leaned over to my mother and said "I will never wear that shirt." In the back of that 1978 Buick Park Avenue with baby-blue velour seats, I sat quietly and wondered, why?

Getting ready for bed, I asked dad what was wrong with the shirt—why he said that he would never wear it. Slowing down the nightly get-to-bed ritual, he said, "I'm almost 50 years old son—I don't wear t-shirts, especially medium ones," he grinned. The best dad grin of all grins—confident, reassuring, poised, and often the introduction for a life lesson to come. He said, "but the main reason I will never wear it and have already

...here in the Aledo that I love, the proud Bearcat that I am, I am stirred again.

thrown it away, is that I don't like what it says."

Pops went on to explain to me that what it said would offend a Jewish person. He then told me that his best friend, Jesus, was Jewish—and he for sure didn't want to offend Him. I said, "Do we know any other Jewish people?" "It doesn't matter—it's not funny, and I won't do, say, or wear anything that would keep me from making a possible great friend like the one I found in Jesus."

He died on April 13, 1995. He was Jack Sr., I am Jack Jr. This year I'll turn 49—his age when I received this first lesson on racism. I've never been a victim of racism. I'm white and have lived my whole life in the south—South Carolina, and now Texas. I'm married to the love of my life, also white. We have two sons—our oldest is white and our youngest is black. Though our youngest would say that we are 'cream' and he's just a little 'browner.' He already knows that he's different than us. 2021 and we're still dividing ourselves based on color, at age 5. My heart hurts knowing that he already gets this.

The recent behavior of some children in our Aledo ISD stirs up so much in me: disappointment, disgust, shame, and disbelief. And for the children involved in these racist acts and hate crimes: sadness and compassion that they missed a life lesson along the way from someone

refusing to offend a Jewish person, or anyone different from them.

My wife and I are raising two sons. We love them dearly, and equally.

One son will understand racism, how ugly and sinful it is.

The other son will understand racism, how ugly and sinful it is.

We are raising them on the same foundation of faith, hope, and love—but they will have vastly different experiences of racism growing up because of the color of their skin.

Long, long ago, one day while being questioned, Jesus said that those who would receive eternal life would be those who love God with everything and who love their neighbors as they love themselves. The follow-up question was, "then who are my neighbors?" And Jesus proceeded to tell a parable full of religious, social, and racial tension known as the Parable of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10)

In today's context, depending on the audience questioning Jesus, He might replace the good Samaritan with.....anyone different than the one asking the question. Perhaps Jesus was showing that love is difficult to give and receive if you start from the outside in, and not the other way around.

I know, I know...I'm preaching. But ever since the murder of George Floyd, I've been stirred. And here in the Aledo that I love, the proud Bearcat that I am, I am stirred again.

It is all right to declare #growinggreatness while at the same time declaring #racialjustice.

It is all right to be pro-police and pro-police reform at the same time.

It is all right to say Black Lives Matter even if you don't know or agree with the entire BLM movement.

Turn to **HUNT**, page 9

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting David Lear

I would like to express my support for David Lear for the Aledo ISD School Board - Place 1. David and I were colleagues for approximately eight years and have since worked together on several other projects.

I have enjoyed working with David because he is intelligent, trustworthy, dedicated, practical, hard-working, and takes a hands-on approach to problem solving. Our respective families moved to Aledo a number of years ago in order to provide our children with excellent educational opportunities.

Over that past three years I have seen David serve as a qualified, prepared and committed member of the school board because he cares deeply about the educational needs of this growing community.

For all these reasons, I believe David is an excellent candidate for re-election to the Aledo ISD School Board - Place 1 and I encourage everyone to consider supporting him with their vote. Thank you.

- JEFF TURNER

Supporting David Lear

Please join us in continuing to support David Lear for AISD School Board Place 1. Dave is a long time friend of over 20 years and we consider him and his family to be a part of ours. He is transparent, honest, and approachable. We

can attest to his character and his genuine desire to serve our kids and our community.

Dave has demonstrated that he has the time and energy to dedicate to this demanding position. Since being elected to the Aledo ISD School Board in 2018 he has served on the Legislative and Bond Oversight committees as well as performing the numerous everyday duties of a Trustee. He has helped guide our great school district through a unique and challenging year while beginning several new and renovation construction projects. Dave continues to volunteer throughout the district and in various other community activities.

Dave has two children in the district and has tied to AISD through his wife, Candice, and his mother-in-law, Chris, who have both been teachers in the district. He is a small business owner and CPA. His professional experience supports a skill set important for a board member: strategic thinking, working within a budget, listening & advising, and working with others. He's confident in that he knows his strengths and how to use them to add value.

We can see the passion that Dave has for our kids and our community and feel he is the right choice for AISD School Board Place 1.

- JEFF AND LAURA WADE

Capital Highlights

Abbott: No government mandated vaccine passports



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order last week banning state agencies, cities or counties from creating a "vaccine passport" requirement.

In addition, organizations that receive public funds are prohibited from requiring consumers to prove they have received the COVID-19 vaccine. That includes businesses that receive money from the state in return for providing goods and services.

However, nursing homes and other long-term care facilities can still require that their residents are vaccinated under his order.

"Every day, Texans are returning to normal life as more people get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. But, as I've said all along, these vaccines are always voluntary and never forced," Abbott said.

Vaccines continue steady rise across state

As of Sunday, just more than 9 million Texans have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 5.46 million are fully vaccinated, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. DSHS urges those who have not been vaccinated to go to the state's Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler, which can be found at getthevaccine.dshs.texas.gov.

Meanwhile, the state's weekly shipment of COVID-19 vaccines dropped this week after a manufacturing error in a Baltimore plant ruined a 15-million batch of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Last week, the state received 2.5 million doses from the three manufacturers, an amount that dropped to 1.9 million this week.

COVID-19 cases rise, but deaths drop

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose to 24,333 last week, up more than 2,500 from the previous week, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

Turn to **CAPITAL**, page 9

The Community News

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SUBMIT STORIES, PHOTOS OR IDEAS

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.

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
AVISO DE ELECCION**

An election has been ordered to be held on May 1, 2021 from 7:00AM-7:00PM; in Parker County, Texas
Se ha ordenado que se celebren elecciones el 1 de mayo de 2021 de 7:00AM-7:00PM; en el condado de Parker, Texas

The following political subdivisions will be holding a General Election:

Las siguientes subdivisiones políticas celebrarán elecciones generales:

City of Aledo, Aledo Independent School District, Town of Annetta, City of Azle, City of Fort Worth, Peaster Independent School District, City of Reno, City of Weatherford

The following political subdivisions will be holding a Special Election:

Las siguientes subdivisiones políticas celebrarán una elección especial:

City of Azle, Azle Independent School District, Town of Brock, Emergency Services District No. 1, Garner Independent School District, Peaster Independent School District, Springtown Independent School District

Early Voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at:

La votación anticipada en persona se llevará a cabo todos los días de la semana en:

Main Voting Site

Sitio principal de votación

Parker County Courthouse Annex
1112 Santa Fe Dr
Weatherford, 76086
Annex Kitchen

Branch Voting Sites

Sitios de votación de sucursales

Springtown Senior Center
Community Room
1070 N Main St
Springtown, 76082

Peaster ISD Rock Gym
Back Room of Gym
8512 FM RD 920
Peaster, 76088

Aledo ISD Admin Building
Louden Room
1008 Bailey Ranch Rd
Aledo, 76008

Hudson Oaks City Hall
Council Chambers
210 Hudson Oaks Dr
Hudson Oaks, 76087

Azle City Hall
Community Room
505 W Main St
Azle, 76020

PCT 3 County Barn
Break Room
1111 FM RD 1189
Brock, 76087

Regular Early Voting Hours and Days

Horas y días regulares de votación anticipada

Monday April 19, 2021 <i>Lunes 19 de abril de 2021</i>	8:00AM-5:00PM <i>8:00AM-5:00PM</i>
Tuesday April 20, 2021 <i>Martes 20 de abril de 2021</i>	7:00AM-7:00PM <i>7:00AM-7:00PM</i>
Wednesday April 21, 2021 <i>Miércoles 21 de abril de 2021</i>	8:00AM-5:00PM <i>8:00AM-5:00PM</i>
Thursday April 22, 2021 <i>Jueves 22 de abril de 2021</i>	7:00AM-7:00PM <i>7:00AM-7:00PM</i>
Friday April 23, 2021 <i>Viernes 23 de abril de 2021</i>	8:00AM-5:00PM <i>8:00AM-5:00PM</i>
Saturday April 24, 2021 <i>Sábado 24 de abril de 2021</i>	CLOSED <i>CERRADO</i>
Sunday April 25, 2021 <i>Domingo 25 de abril de 2021</i>	CLOSED <i>CERRADO</i>
Monday April 26, 2021 <i>Lunes 26 de abril de 2021</i>	8:00AM-5:00PM <i>8:00AM-5:00PM</i>
Tuesday April 27, 2021 <i>Martes 27 de abril de 2021</i>	8:00AM-5:00PM <i>8:00AM-5:00PM</i>

ELECTION DAY SITES:

SITIOS DEL DIA DE LAS ELECCIONES:

Main Voting Site

Parker County Courthouse Annex
1112 Santa Fe Dr
Weatherford, 76086
Annex Kitchen

Branch Voting Sites

Springtown Senior Center
Community Room
1070 N Main St
Springtown, 76082

Peaster ISD Rock Gym
Back Room of Gym
8512 FM RD 920
Peaster, 76088

Aledo ISD Admin Building
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1008 Bailey Ranch Rd
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Hudson Oaks City Hall
Council Chambers
210 Hudson Oaks Dr
Hudson Oaks, 76087

Azle City Hall
Community Room
505 W Main St
Azle, 76020

PCT 3 County Barn
Break Room
1111 FM RD 1189
Brock, 76087

Reno City Hall
Council Chambers
195 W Reno Rd
Reno, 76020

Garner ISD Ryan Gymnasium
Choir Room
2222 Garner School Rd
Garner, 76088

Annetta Town Hall
Meeting Room
450 Thunder Head Ln
Annetta, 76008

Applications for Ballot by Mail may be obtained by calling (817) 598-6185
Applications for ballots by mail must be received by the Early Voting Clerk
NO later than the close of business day on Tuesday April 20, 2021
Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

**Early Voting Clerk
1112 Santa Fe Dr.
Weatherford 76086**

Email: elections@parkercountytx.com

Fax: (817) 598-6183

Las solicitudes de boletas por correo deben ser recibidas por el Secretario de Voatcion Anticipada
No mas tarde que el cierre del día habil el jueves 20 de abril de 2021
Las solicitudes de bolete electoral por correo se envarian por correo a

**Early Voting Clerk
1112 Santa Fe Dr.
Weatherford 76088**

Email: elections@parkercountytx.com

Fax: (817) 598-6183

Thistles & Roses

ERCOT — Again?!



Richard Henderson
richard@rahenderson.com

Just in case you missed it, the electricity grid in Texas, overseen by Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) declared an emergency on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The temperature was a moderate 78 degrees here in Parker County. According to ERCOT, the supply and demand reached critical levels and we were asked to turn up thermostats two degrees, not use major appliances, etc. until the emergency passed.

So if you are like me, you were thinking “WHAAAAAT?!”

And the announcement came from Bill Magness, the ERCOT CEO who resigned after the February calamity in which people froze to death and billions in property was damaged. Again “WHAAAAAT?!”

ERCOT’s explanation was that many systems were down for maintenance but the weather turned out to be warmer than predicted, so demand for A/C was higher than expected. Seems like we have been here before when weather turned out to be different than expected and ERCOT was not ready.

I watched NBC Channel 5’s report with Brian Curtis about this latest problem. Curtis was especially critical of ERCOT during the February freeze. He was equally indignant

during his April 13 report. ERCOT just does not seem to have its act together. Curtis wondered, as did I, what is going to happen when it gets hot this summer. Curtis stated that A/C can be a matter of life and death in a major heat wave.

As to why Magness is still there, he was supposedly asked to stay on 60 extra days until a successor could be found. Supposedly, he has expertise needed in the meantime. Maybe he has great expertise and maybe he kept the system from failing entirely, but pardon me if I am uneasy about the situation.

Certainly we must hope a competent successor is found soon.

Just a little background here. I did a little research a few years ago as to why it is so hot here in Texas and why it can get so dry. The natural population of the world did not settle in Texas until the 1800s and big growth started in the 1900s. It was just too hot and dry. With the advent of capturing surface water in reservoirs and electricity for A/C, Texas was able to grow.

Texas is on the latitudes between the North Pole and the Equator. These are the same latitudes of the great deserts of North Africa. These zones are the hottest and driest in the world. Humans avoided these areas naturally until modern technology came along.

Without electricity and captured surface water, the DFW area just would not exist.

So we are dependent on electricity to survive Texas weather, both hot and cold.

We have to demand accountability of the agencies charged with making sure we have the electric power we need.

The question is, is ERCOT ready for the next electricity crisis?

HUNT

from page eight

It is NOT all right to be stirred while at the same time believing that this is not your struggle.

I’m still the youngest of three. But I know that now is not time to be silent, say something funny, or divert the (church) family’s attention to something else.

Racism is an issue of the church because we are told to love our neighbors like ourselves. The church should be first in line to lead the way to racial reconciliation...that is, if we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Racism is an issue of our community because we’re all Texans together, all

wanting the opportunity to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Racism is an issue for me because my closest neighbors live just a couple of walls over. Tonight, we had another lesson on racism. I don’t quite have Pop’s grin, but he began the lesson, and it is mine to continue teaching.

To my brothers and sister in Christ, believers of Jesus, sons, and daughters of God, we are to lead the way because our best friend, who chose to show up Jewish, declares that to be like Him, we are to love as He loves.

God help me.

God help us all.

May grace abound for us all.

Jack Hunt is the pastor at The Well in Aledo.

CAPITAL

from page eight

The number of deaths decreased to 512, down nearly 20 percent from the previous week.

At its peak in January, the state recorded more than four-fold the number of deaths with 2,311 recorded in a single week. At this point, nearly 50,000 Texans have died from COVID-19.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized stayed steady at 2,804, according to DSHS.

Contempt order against salon owner tossed out

The Texas State Supreme Court on Friday threw out a contempt order against a Dallas salon owner who refused to close last year when all non-essential businesses were ordered.

Shelley Luther tore up a cease-and-desist order from Dallas County and was fined \$7,000 and sentenced to a week in jail. The high court ruled unanimously that the restraining order was too vague, and that the contempt of court decree issued by a district judge should be voided as well.

Luther’s defiance sparked national coverage, prompting Abbott to reverse part of his order that called for jail time for business owners who did not shut down last year after the pandemic outbreak.

Luther ran as a Republican for state Senate last year, losing in a December runoff to Drew Springer, R-Muenster.

Paxton drawing potential high-profile opponents

Two candidates with famous surnames are planning to run against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in 2022, according to several media outlets.

Paxton, under indictment since 2015 on securities fraud charges, is also battling a whistleblower lawsuit filed by former employees accusing him of bribery and improper dealings with an Austin investor. He denies wrongdoing in both cases.

Democrat Joe Jaworski, a former Galveston mayor and a grandson of Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski, announced his plans to run last summer.

And last week, George P. Bush, state land commissioner and grandson of President George H.W. Bush, told a talk-radio host that he is considering challenging Paxton next year in the Republican primary.

Paxton has indicated he will run for a third term.

Abbott demands shutdown of San Antonio minor facility

The governor’s latest salvo against the federally run unaccompanied minor facilities included a letter to Vice President Kamala Harris, who has been tapped to head the effort dealing with a large influx of unaccompanied minors seeking entrance into the United States.

Abbott’s letter demanded the Biden administration shut down a facility in San Antonio under investigation by the state for allegations of child abuse and neglect.

“The Biden administration opened the borders and failed to plan for the influx of unaccompanied children crossing the border, and now we are faced with our worst fears—allegations of child abuse and neglect,” Abbott said.

To date, there has been no direct response from Harris.

Soon, more Texans will have to dial 10 digits to make local calls

Folks living in the Panhandle, El Paso area, South Texas, and Deep East Texas will soon have to join the majority of Texans and use all 10 digits when making local calls.

Last summer, the Federal Communications Commission approved “988” as the abbreviated dialing number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In Texas, the 254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915 and 940 area codes all contain the 988 prefix.

A “permissive dialing period” begins April 24, during which seven-digit calls will still go through. But after Oct. 24, in those area codes, only calls dialed with 10 digits will be connected.

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: gbborders@texaspress.com.

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SOFTBALL

Ladycats Clinch District Title

Beat Azle 15-5,
Rider 13-1

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Playing sports in Aledo, there's an expectation to win at whatever you do. Softball players understand that as much as anyone. Besides the football team, the softball team has more state championships than any other sport at Aledo High.

They reached another goal on their quest back to Austin in the past week with two key wins to lock in the district title.

Last Friday, the Azle Lady Hornets came into town to try to stop the Ladycat win streak. Things got off to a fast start for Aledo as Macy Graf hit a lead-off home run to get the early 1-0 lead. Marissa Powell followed up with an RBI single to right field that drove in Claire Byars. Texas Ray then drove in Powell before the inning ended to make it a 3-0 lead at the end of the first.

With ace-pitcher Kayleigh Smith on the mound, things went quiet until the third inning when Madysen Boutwell drove in Powell on a double to left field. Three batters later, Boutwell scored on a groundout by Presley Hull that allowed her to cross the plate.

Azle closed the gap in the fourth by pushing two runs across the plate to make it 5-2, but Powell was able to drive in Graf to keep a four run lead in the bottom of the inning.

Again, Azle did not make it easy on the Ladycats, scoring three more in the fifth inning. However, the Aledo bats got hot and created a four run inning and a five run inning. In the fifth Hull smacked a two run home run to score Hannah Pack. Audrey Pearce scored on an error two plays later, and Graf scored on a bunt by Byars two pitchers later.

In the sixth, the Ladycats had the opportunity to win the game by run-rule if they could score five in the sixth inning. They had no problem accomplishing that task, as Hull started the inning with a line drive to centerfield to score Reagan Davis. Three batters later, Byars reached first on a throwing error that scored Hull, Pearce and Graf. Two batters later, Ray singled to third and Byars scored to seal the win.

"We have a 'murderer's row' from one through nine" head coach Heather Myers said after the win. "At any time, any of them can get hot. We work on the basics and the fundamentals and I tell them to have fun at the plate, not dwell on anything that happened in previous at bats, and to just get the job done at that moment."

That set the stage for Tuesday night's matchup against Wichita Falls Rider for the district title. If Aledo won the game, it would mark another milestone for an already stellar team.

Rider was able to push a run across in the second inning but that was all the Lady Raiders would be able to muster. The Ladycats responded with a run of their own in the bottom of the inning to tie



Marissa Powell slides safely into third base against Azle.

JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

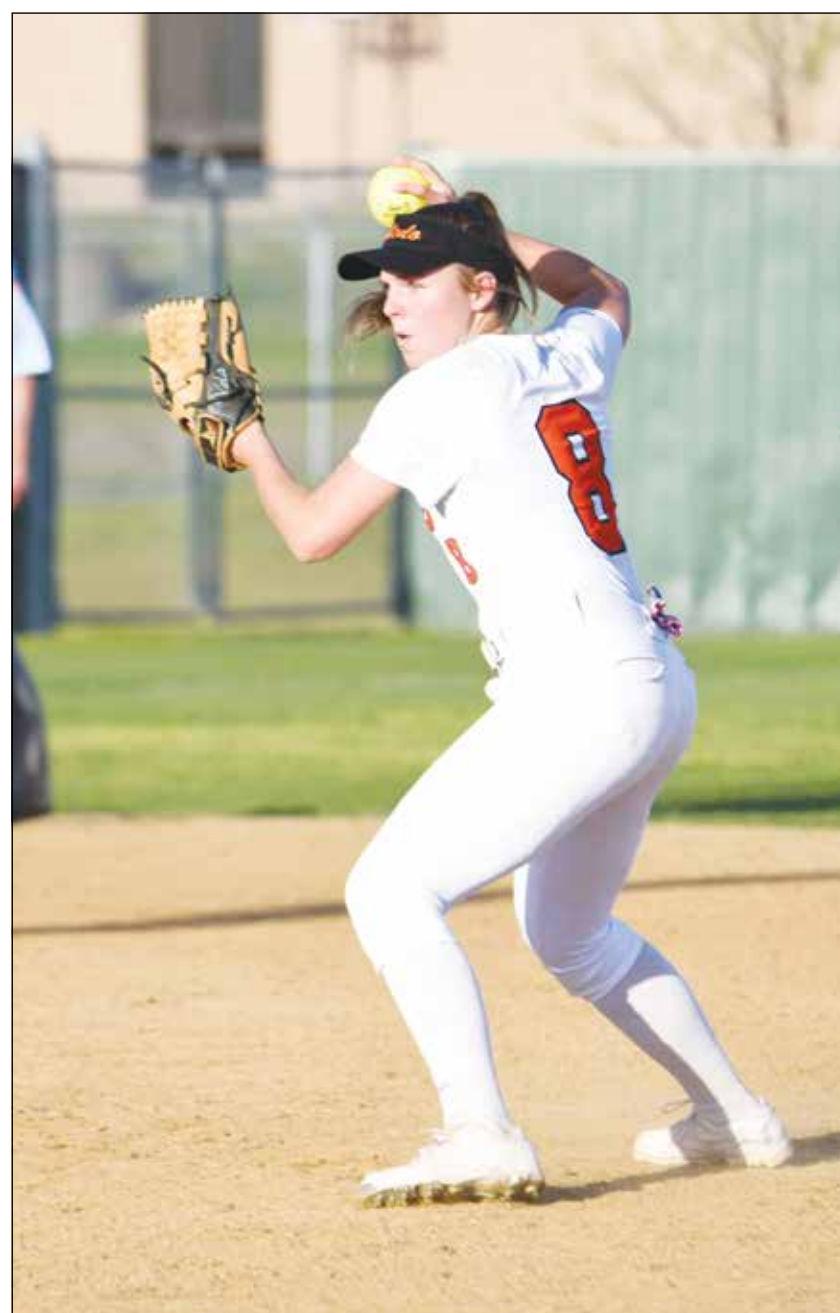
the game at one a piece. In the third inning, the Aledo bats woke up.

Byars got on base early in the inning and scored on a passed ball. Ray then doubled to centerfield to score Powell. Ray and Boutwell then scored when Davis singled in the infield and reached third on an errant throw to make the score 6-1. Graf drove in Pearce at the end of the inning to bring the tally to 7-1 going into the fourth inning.

Nathalie Touchet shut down the Lady Raiders in the fourth inning, and set up the Ladycats to pass the run rule mark in the bottom of the inning.

Powell started things off with a triple, and scored when the throw from the outfield ended up in the dugout for a free base. Morgan Brown followed up with a fly ball that scored Boutwell. Hull then made the big play that scored Brown and Davis to make it a ten run lead.

Even though the ten run threshold had already been reached, the Ladycats added two more runs on



Presley Hull fields a ground ball.

JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

a bunt single from Pearce that scored Hull, and a triple from Kaylee Lucas that drove in Pearce.

Smith came in for the bottom of the inning and shut down Rider to end the game by run rule and clinch the district title.

"It feels so good," Myers said. "I'm very proud of these girls. They've come out and work hard all season long for each other and they got the win."

The Ladycats(17-3) will face Wichita Falls High on the road Friday night before taking a long break until the playoffs start in May.

Celebrating 100

The Ladycats celebrated Coach Heather Myers' 100th win after Tuesday's Rider game, although the milestone came the previous Friday against Azle.

ON THE SIDE

Spring Sports

APRIL 16

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

Baseball vs Azle - Home - 7 p.m.

Baseball vs. Azle - Away - JV - 4:30 p.m.; FROSH 7 p.m.

APRIL 19

MS Track & Field 7th Grade Zone, Home

Baseball vs. WF Rider - Home - JV - 4:30 p.m.; FROSH 7 p.m.

APRIL 19-20

Girls Golf Regional Tournament at Rawls Golf Course in Lubbock

APRIL 20

MS Track & Field 8th Grade Zone, Home

Baseball vs Rider - Away (Hoskins) - VAR - 4:30 p.m.

APRIL 21-22

Boys Golf Regional Tournament at Rawls Golf Course in Lubbock

APRIL 23

Baseball vs. Rider - Home - 7 p.m.

Baseball vs. WF Rider - Away - JV - 4:30 p.m.; FROSH 7 p.m.

APRIL 26

Baseball vs. Wichita Falls High School - Home - JV - 4:30 p.m.; FROSH 7 p.m.

APRIL 27

Baseball vs. Wichita Falls - Away (Hoskins) - 4 p.m.

APRIL 30

Baseball vs Wichita Falls - Home - 7 p.m.

Baseball vs. Wichita Falls High School - Away - JV - 4:30 p.m.; FROSH 7 p.m.



JACKIE HAYSLIP/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Ladycats celebrate after Macy Graf's lead-off home run against Azle.

BASEBALL

Bearcats pick up where they left off

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

On Good Friday, the Bearcats baseball team had gotten revenge on Granbury after a 3-1 defeat. After the 6-2 win, the Bearcats were faced with a long week off that saw numerous intrasquad scrimmages.

The Bearcats did not play again until Saturday at Euless Trinity. The non-district matchup saw the everyday starters get rotated out after the third inning, as Chad Barry wanted

to use the game to get more playing time for everyone.

Aledo held the lead for most of the game but a late rally in the sixth inning gave the Trojans a 9-7 lead, and the win.

However, when the Bearcats returned to the district schedule to play Azle, they immediately picked up where they had left off.

Back to back singles by Max Belyeu and Parker Stegall led off the game, setting up a Creed Willems

double that scored both runners. Gabe Baker came on as a courtesy runner for Willems, and scored when Hunter Rudel ripped a single to right field.

Tristan Thurman started on the rubber and held Azle at bay. The Bearcats scored two more runs in the fourth inning when a wild pitch allowed Nolan Garcia to cross the plate, and two pitches later when Adrian Guzman raced home on a groundout to short.

The fifth inning started the same way as the first. Belyeu and Stegall got safely on base, and Willems was able to drive in Belyeu. Stegall then scored on a sacrifice fly by Rudel.

Thurman was able to get one out in the fifth, but Barry decided to make a change and put in Kevin Taylor to finish the job. He walked in Azle's only run of the game but successfully got out of the jam.

In the top of the seventh inning, the Bearcats added three more runs

for good measure. Rudel knocked in Stegall with a single to right, Garcia drove in Baker, and Bridger Wilson singled in Rudel to bring the final tally to 10-1 after Taylor shut down the Hornets in the bottom half of the inning.

The Bearcats now hold a record of 15-7-2 and will face Azle again at home on Friday at 7 p.m. to try and complete the sweep.



Hogan Posey and Jax Joiner placed first in Boys Doubles.

TENNIS

AHS net squad bring home several medals at the Abilene quad tournament

By Andrea Garnett
Special to The Community News

The Aledo RacquetCats traveled to Abilene last Friday, April 9, to compete against three other high schools, Abilene Cooper, Wills Point, and Hereford High School.

In boys' doubles the team of Jax Joiner and Hogan Posey took first place after a super tiebreaker win in the finals over Wills Point. The girls' doubles team of Maddie Farmer and Georgia Posey came in third in their bracket while Ian Leslie and Katie Siddons also brought home a third place metal in mixed doubles. Aledo's other mixed doubles team of Lyla Edwards and Craig Mason won the consolation bracket. Girl's singles competitor Cambell Charrier took third place and Allie Farmer fourth place. In boy's singles Ben Farmer won consolation.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

First Shoot

Trinity Christian Academy held its inaugural clay shoot on March 27 with almost 100 participants.

Proceeds from the event will benefit athletic programs at TCA. PHOTOS BY RANDY KECK THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Cash Hicks



Zeke Miller



Riley Taylor




Ryan Towson



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Meet the Bearcats/Ladycats

Aledo baseball and softball holds meet-and-greet

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

The baseball/softball season is in full swing with the Ladycats putting a bow on another district championship on Tuesday night, and the Bearcats continuing to fight for the top in their own district standings.

On Saturday, both teams got a break from their playoff races and got together at the AAI fields in Willow Park bright and early for Meet the Bearcats/Ladycats.

The event started at 8 a.m. when the first set of games got started at the fields. All through the morning the teams took pictures with the young kids, signed balls and posters, and even took in some of the games themselves.

The kids took to the players quickly and often, wanting to meet their positional counterparts and talking to the players they watch on the diamond every week.

"I think it's big," baseball head coach Chad Barry said about the event. "I remember when I was a little kid — I looked up to my older brothers and their teammates, and I looked at the guys and said 'These kids look up to you. They want to be you one day.' So I think it's a good way to get involved in the community, and I think our guys had as much, if not more, fun than the little kids. I think they really enjoyed it."

Both teams will see their regular seasons come to an end in April with the playoffs starting in the first two weeks of May. As always, both teams encourage the community to continue to come to the games and support the student-athletes.



Tristan Thurman, Bridger Wilson, Zach Harrison, and Sam Sisk join fellow Bearcats signing team posters Saturday at the Aledo Athletics youth fields for Meet the Bearcats.



Young athletes Cole Roberts and Boston Smith pose with Mr. Bearcat and Bearcat baseball players Carter Shands and Hunter Rudel.



Maddy Jarvis



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS
THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Ladycat Jenna Austin gives a signed softball to young athlete Coco Blackburn with mother Christi Blackburn.

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