

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

Mayor signs proposal to obtain Dean Ranch land on 1187

City approves Home Rule Charter Committee

By Brandi Addison
The Community News

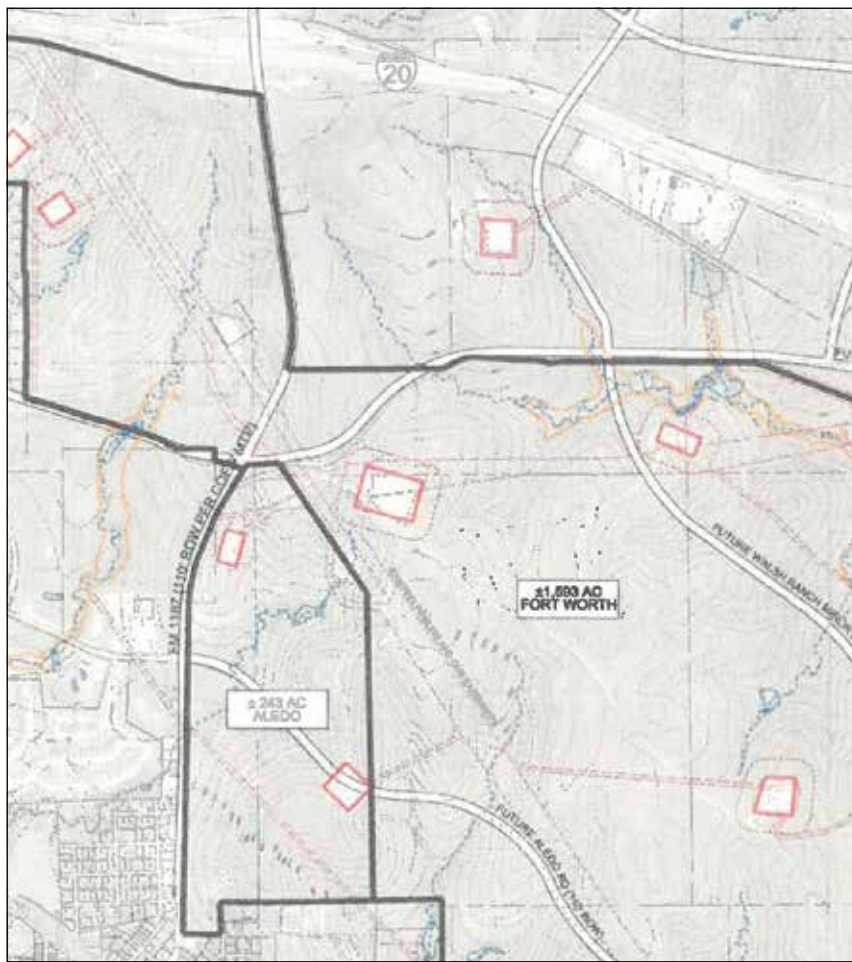
Aledo has entered the earliest phase in its attempt to add a portion of Dean Ranch into its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), a 243-acre property located along the east side of Farm-to-Market Road 1187, which is currently in Fort Worth's ETJ.

While there are still several steps remaining in the process, Mayor Kit Marshall has signed a non-binding proposal that will allow the city to begin the Extraterritorial jurisdiction agreement with Fort Worth.

Marshall told city council during the April 23 meeting the property area has been on her radar for years. When the land became available for purchase in January of last year, city council and staff began discussions on the property with the large neighboring city.

"(FM) 1187 is our gateway to Aledo," she said during the meeting. "(It) comes into the city of Aledo, and it matters very much to us what it looks like."

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The map shows Dean Ranch property that currently sits in the City of Fort Worth ETJ. The proposal being discussed by the Aledo City Council is the "rocket-shaped" portion.

ALEDO ISD

New principal named at Coder Elementary School

Tanner Holmes comes from Birdville ISD

By Makenzie Plusnick
The Community News

Tanner Holmes has been named principal of Coder Elementary School.

Holmes previously worked as the assistant principal of Cheney Elementary school in Birdville ISD, where he also had experience as a teacher and an English/language arts/reading interventionist. Teaching gave him experience vital to leading a school successfully, he said.

"Understanding how to build a community in the classroom... and just the importance of that community building, social-emotional piece was something that I learned was such an important part [of teaching], rather than just focusing on the curriculum all the time," he said.

His teaching background also allows for him to better support the teaching staff at his school, he added.

"Moving into the administrative piece, [I am] using my experience as a teacher to truly offer teachers ideas

and creative solutions to issues that come up in the classroom," Holmes said.

His time as an English/language arts/reading interventionist gave him a unique perspective on how all subjects rely on literacy.

"It helped me see the true connection of literacy and reading between math, writing, social stud-

ies, and how important it is in every single subject matter," he said. "I think that just understanding that importance, and then bringing that knowledge to the campus of how to help students improve their comprehension, and then also, how to help them truly love reading by finding ways to make it fun."

Holmes was drawn to Aledo because of the strong educational unity throughout the district, he said.

"Whenever you have kindergarteners using this specific process...

Turn to HOLMES, page 3



Holmes

PARKER COUNTY

Saturday's election to settle school board, city races

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Voters will go to the polls on Saturday, May 1, to select school board and city council representatives. In addition, voters in Emergency Services District No. 1 will decide whether 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.

On the contested races, *The Community News* reached out to all the candidates with a variation on five questions: why are you running; what do you think will be the biggest issues facing your entity in the short term and in the long term; if there was one specific thing you could accomplish in your term, what would it be; what are your qualifications for office; and is there anything you would like to add.

In order to give each candidate roughly equal space, we are presenting the profile for each candidate in article format. Some answers may have been edited down for space reasons, but we have made every effort to be true to the candidates' positions. In at least one instance, the brevity of responses made it impossible to be equitable in space given.

David Lear

Lear said the school board has made a lot of progress in the way it looks at academics since he was first elected three years ago.

"I'm most interested in having a chance to continue to build on those successes and make Aledo ISD even better," he said. "We have a lot of connection to the community and have been very involved and in Aledo ISD, and this is just another way that I like to serve the community and that my family likes to be involved Aledo ISD, and helping out all our kids."

In terms of long-term issues, Lear answered "growth."

"We're a destination school district — there are people coming here for our academics and athletics and our arts," he said. "And we have very successful programs, very successful kids. And there's no stopping the flow of people that want to come here



Lear

because of what Aledo has to offer. We need to continue engaging with the community, we need to continue being fiscally smart so that we have resources available to accommodate new buildings and new facilities and all the staffing that comes with accommodating the growth.

"Short term, we obviously have the issues that were in the news recently. We need to continue to make sure that schools are a safe place for our kids. Keep engaging the community to have these tough conversations and just make sure that we can, within our schools, keep our kids feeling safe and comfortable and ready to learn as possible."

One of the things Lear would most like to see over the coming three years is a continuation of something the district has already started.

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Trish Watson

Watson said she wants to be on the school board to serve.

"I want to be on the school board so that I can serve our community," she said. "I've been interested in what's going on. I truly want to help the kids and help everybody involved to be represented so that all of our voices are heard."

Watson said what she felt the biggest short- and long-term issues are facing the district.

"Short term right now, the racism, I think, is the biggest issue that they're facing, and I think I could help with that," Watson said. "I'm a counselor, and just listening to people I'm hearing their pain and how to come up with solutions. And I think that I could be an asset to that. And long-term, growth in the school district. There's just going to be continuous growth. And I'm



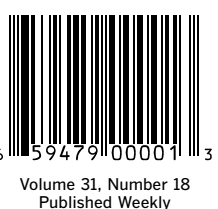
Watson

interested in investigating it all because the taxes are really high in our community. And I think there are some potential cost reductions there."

On her campaign page, Watson gave another reason for running: "I would like to keep a more conservative influence on what might be taught in our schools. There is an extremely liberal and aggressive government now in office that would like to indoctrinate our children with their values and beliefs. We try hard as parents to teach our values to our children, but we get them for a lot less time than school does; so we need to know what to counter at home. There are also some who don't have a lot of time to invest in this area, so we need to keep education more neutral."

If there is one thing Watson would like to see accomplished

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Commentary

The Turrialba Connection - what does a village in Costa Rica have to do with major league baseball?
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Missives

Final letters of the political campaign
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Signing day

12 AHS athletes ink letters.
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All That JAZZ

AHS grad looking for doctorate in Jazz Studies

By **Randy Keck**
The Community News

Jazz.
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Ian Henderson takes his jazz seriously. So seriously, in fact, that the Aledo High School graduate has been accepted into the Jazz Studies doctoral program at the University of Miami.

We caught up with Henderson just as he completed, and passed, his oral examination for his master's degree in Jazz Studies with an emphasis on performance at the University of Texas on Monday, April 26.

Henderson started on the alto saxophone that his grandfather had given to his father, at McAnally Intermediate School under Jake Albin. He moved to the tenor sax in middle school, "and I've played it pretty much ever since," Henderson said. "And since I got into college, I started playing clarinet and flute as well. And I also play some piano, and I compose."

"I didn't really take it seriously until high school," Henderson said. "And at one point in middle school, I almost quit to play football. I actually stayed in band after my eighth-grade year because there was a girl I liked in band, and she convinced me to stay. Otherwise, I would have quit just to play football."

Henderson did play football at Aledo in his freshman year and marched in the band.

"I was overwhelmed doing both and I wasn't good enough, really, to play football at Aledo," Henderson said. "So I quit football and just took up band. And then my sophomore year, Jake Albin said, 'You're playing the classical saxophone really, really well. But that's only about half of the saxophone world. Here are some other things you need to explore.'"

The Albin Connection

Albin steered Henderson toward jazz.

"He set me up with Tim Ishii, who was a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. And he's a saxophone player who graduated from North Texas back in the early 90s" Henderson said. "He played in [a] lab band in North Texas, and he is the one that set me down the right path when it comes to jazz, and got me listening to the right saxophone players and all that good stuff."

"But if it weren't for Jake Albin, I don't think I really would have gone down the path and tried to pursue it because I think as a saxophone player in high school, in middle school,

I wasn't even the best one. At Aledo, there were a few saxophone players that were more talented than I was. But I started going down that path, like, sophomore year at Aledo, and it was definitely through Jake Albin."

Albin and Henderson say in touch.

"We've gone fishing together and just hung out and talked about music and jazz and all the things he's been doing in life while he was abroad," Albin said. He certainly has a wealth of talent. And he certainly was good."

But in art, as in life, it's not always a smooth road.

"But there were many times that Ian and I sat down, and he would explain why he thought it was good. A, and I would explain why I thought it needed a lot more work," Albin said. "And I think at one point, maybe his junior or senior year, we had a real sit down where I was just like, 'look, if you want to go off and do this, you have got to take it to the next level; you have great preparation and great practice. But great is not good enough when we're talking about going to these major colleges, and you have to separate yourself



Turn to next page

Henry Perez

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NICK STANLEY

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~Nick Stanley

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NickForAledo.com

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from the other musicians that are around you and be a harder worker, you have to have more talent, you have to do the work way more than everybody does, to the left and to your right. And you just have to be so far ahead of them if you want to succeed.”

Albin said Henderson responded with renewed effort.

“You just need to be coachable,” Albin said. “You’ve got to be an approachable person and not let your ego or let your ideas get in the way, especially when it comes to team efforts. He [Ian] just took off after that. I’ll be honest, once we had that conversation, it was nothing but all-area awards, all-state awards, regional awards, he just really put in the work. That was the thing. More than any other kid.”

To know that a student is moving toward the height of his profession and looks back to say thank you has to be moving to a teacher.

“It’s an honor,” Albin said. “I was lucky; I got to see Ian as a sixth-grader. And I had him from sixth grade all the way through high school. That’s a really neat thing to do. Typically speaking as a teacher, you may teach a kid one or two years, and then they move on and do something, but I think I got to teach Ian all four years that he was in high school, and I may not have been with him full time at the middle school, but I still got to go down to the middle school and help out and do some things. And so I get to see him from very young through his senior year and just kind of grow with him.

“He just devoured music. That was the cool thing with Ian is he saw music and he just ate it up.

MASTER RECITAL CONCERT

Ian Henderson’s Master’s Recital Concert will be live-streamed at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2. For more information, visit <https://www.monksjazz.com/events-calendar/2021/5/2/ian-henderson-quartet-live-streaming-concert>, or simply check the calendar at monksjazz.com.

There was no fear, like when you put down something in front of him that was really hard or challenging. Even as a sixth-grader, he just did it.”

Albin recounted a particular experience he had with Ian in high school.

“He was very close to making the all-state jazz band. And then he made the all-state concert band, and they were playing a particular song by David Maslanka that was very emotional, very powerful,” Albin said. “And right after we saw his concert, we went down to meet him down below and congratulate him and take pictures of parents and things like that. I just remember him being absolutely awestruck by being around some of the best players in the state at his level. And the music that he had to play was extraordinary. And I just remember Ian saying, ‘thank you. This is the most impactful musical experience that I may ever do. This may be the actual best thing that ever comes across my palette of musical experiences.’ And I remember him saying thank you. And I remember just thinking,

‘well, that was a real mature thing for an 18-year-old kid to realize.’”

Albin said it was an unusual experience for a high school senior.

“You know, kids, they’re seniors, and I’m not trying to be rude or anything, but they blow it off. They’re like, it was fun. And they don’t realize how cool it is until maybe, five or six years later, and they go ‘Wow, that was, that was a pretty cool experience.’ But he [Ian] realized in real-time, he was very emotional about it and very thankful.

“He was very thankful for the opportunity, which we didn’t even do, he won it. We just kind of kicked him in the butt all along the way and said, ‘hey, go practice



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ian Henderson began his band career at McAnally Intermediate School.

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ALEDO

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Marshall said there are still several details to discuss with developers and Fort Worth before the property can be annexed.

It is also still subject to approval by the Fort Worth City Council and contingent on developer D.R. Horton closing the property purchase.

“There are a lot of layers to this becoming a reality,” Marshall told city council. “And while the transaction would not immediately put the land in our city limits, it would make a bit available for Aledo to annex in the future.”

If both city councils approve the release of the property to Aledo, she expects the land will be annexed as the property is developed and infrastructure is needed.

“The bottom line: There’s a miracle in the making,” Marshall told city council. “The City of Aledo unbelievably has the opportunity to have 240-ish acres come back into our city limits and we can actually define what our gateway looks like into our city on the east side.”

Home Rule Charter Commission

The city council unanimously approved the appointment of a 14-person Home Rule Charter Commission, which will be chaired by Bill McLeroy, former council member and mayor pro tem.

The ordinance for the Home Rule Charter Commission was approved during the city council’s January meeting.

A Home Rule Charter Commission allows municipalities more flexibility to adopt their own rules, in addition to state legislation.

HOLMES

from page one

and then you go to a middle school and they’re using those same tools, and then you go to watch a senior level English class and they’re still using those same tools... that’s something that’s difficult to do, but Aledo has been able to pull it off,” he said.

The experiences students can have, such as football championships, also spoke to Holmes.

“If you think about where [the football championship] manifests itself from, that comes from the unity and the alignment in the community,” he said. “And it starts with the academic piece, because that alignment and unity manifests itself in those types of experiences.”

Going into his new position, his first task is getting to know the community, the district, and his school, he said.

“I’m a big believer in connection, community and communication,” he said. “And so, I think learning what the talents of the teachers and staff are and then using those talents to benefit the students, that’s ultimately my priority.”

“Mr. Holmes is a wonderful student advocate, relationship builder and collaborator, all important traits in a great educational leader,” Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said in a press release. “We are excited to have him in our Bearcat family, and I know the Coder Cats will welcome him to their campus.”

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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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LEAR

from page one

"The thing that I'd like to see the most that we have accomplished in the last three years is the number of programs that we've added for kids that are focused on getting them career-ready, getting them college-ready, giving them experiences that allow them to find their passions, and then dig deep when they find them. And given that, making sure that they're getting more than just the core education, but they're able to actually figure out what they want to focus on when they leave Aledo ISD."

"AI would like to see that continue. I'd like to expand the CTE program where possible, I'd like to continue to challenge our kids with more advanced academics and have them either career-ready or college-ready and be successful and competitive when they leave Aledo ISD."

Lear said he has a strong finance background.

"I run my own business, so I see all the ins and outs of managing people, managing workload, trying to be efficient with resources. I think personally, I'm a very measured person. I don't get too caught up in the emotions of the moment or too caught up in all the noises, but I like to sort of dig in and be very thoughtful and be very, very pragmatic in my decision-making. And I think that helps sometimes when things can get a little noisy."

I think when I first joined the school district we were a little bit upside down if you will; we were having some challenges with trust and having some challenges with growth. And I think we've done a lot to mitigate those and I think we're headed in the right direction and on the right track."

WATSON

from page one

in her term, it would be added transparency.

"I don't think it's transparent to communicate three days prior to a meeting an agenda form that's really vague," she said. "They do post more items in detail in the attachments, but I think sending those out to parents letting them know, instead of people having to search on the website the details of what's coming up on the board — I think, once that communication starts to happen, more people will be willing to get involved. I also wanted to do surveys on big important issues so that more people in the community will be heard."

As for qualifications, "I have a master's in Business Administration, I was a budget and cost schedule analyst at Lockheed, I did some human resources like as an op, I helped on that team at Elbit Systems of America," she said. "I've done pricing and demand planning at Radio Shack Corporation. I've just done a lot on the business administrative side and also, then getting my master's in Counseling. I feel like I've got the people side. I'm very sensitive to that, and aware of how we might be affecting people and how we respond to them."

"I'm just ready to put in the work and ready to get to know the community. I really love being around people and loved meeting people these past few weeks, knocking on their doors and talking. I have enjoyed that. I guess I'm looking forward to that part of the job. And also, I'm honest, and I like to look into things. So I guess those are additional characteristics."



Loftin

Jennifer Loftin

Loftin said she is running for another term on the school board because experience is needed.

"I have served two terms on the school board already. It's important as we come out of this pandemic to have experience on the board and feel like this was a really important year for our board. And so going forward, I'd like to remain," she said.

As for the biggest issue facing the district, Loftin named "growth."

"Our biggest issue is definitely growth - that impacts everything that we do," she said. "We are adding around 600 new homes every year. That means a lot more students every year. So it impacts our budget and impacts our staffing and impacts our buildings; how we schedule opportunities we can give our students. And so that is a big part of our issues. I think. In the short term, it's going to be coming out of the pandemic and getting the new school opened at another elementary and getting everyone back in school in the fall."

Aledo ISD Place 2

As for what she would like to accomplish in the term, Loftin said, "my first reaction is that, you know, we work as a team of eight, the seven board members and the superintendent. So the hope would be that working as a team, we would accomplish it. I would say that I would want to feel like we have been able to continue our focus on instruction and that we've been able to put in place additional measures for growth. And I think that would look like having land in place for building schools, having a good understanding of where we're going as we grow."

As for qualifications aside from service on the board, Loftin said, "Well, I've lived in Aledo since 2006. I have four kids who all attend the Aledo schools and are currently on four different campuses. I've gotten involved in a lot of different aspects of our community, whether that through my kids' sports or in church, or the PTO, or AdvoCats, or the Aledo Education Foundation. I served as the chair for Bearcats and Boots and have been very involved in the community. I have a double major in math and history and I have worked in finance, and I have a willingness to serve."

She has worked in Washington D.C. on the National Student Leadership Forum.

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Morrow

Laura Morrow

Morrow said there is more than one reason she wants to be on the school board.

"First of all, I think it's a great opportunity to give back to the community and to serve our kids in the district," Morrow said. "Secondly, I have learned over the past year that the elementary kids in the district are quite under-represented on the Board of Trustees. So 49% of the kids in our district attend elementary school, but only one of the seven trustees has a child in elementary school. I'm passionate about getting on the board so I can advocate for the younger children in our district. And third, I think I'd like to make a difference and bring a new person with fresh ideas and a new perspective. And just lots of questions to the board and the administration and the way things are done."

Morrow said the biggest short-term issue facing the district is getting back to normal.

"I believe that the pandemic Return to Learn plan has served

its purpose and most of the restrictions that were put in place last summer should be removed immediately," Morrow said. "One of those the board voted for two weeks ago to change the mask rules. Additionally, I feel like parents should be allowed in the schools. And that it would be nice for school parties to be happening for kids to be able to sing in music class, for kids to be able to play with balls at recess, to socialize normally at lunchtime, and other items that have been changed this year because of COVID."

Morrow said a long-term issue facing the district is growth.

"How do we manage growth? And how do we deal with it in a fiscally responsible way?" she asked. "I think it's important to plan 10 years ahead, at least. And think about how and when and where we want to build new schools. And how do we do it in a fiscally conservative way. I believe that I would support modest bond proposals that meet the needs of our kids while at the same time keeping the tax rate flat or trying to decrease it."

Morrow also said she thinks the board and administration can be more transparent with information and data.

"I would like to get more feedback from employees and parents, in addition to students — all

Turn to **MORROW**, page 8

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Aledo ISD Place 3

Zachery Clark

Clark said several issues led him to run for the school board.

"I've got involved because I see a total lack of transparency, lack of adhering to the constitutional oath," Clark said. "And too much spending. It just a lot of stripping of parental rights and not adhering to constitutional guidelines, and giving the state too much control over the education of our children. And so I'm trying to get involved to bring them more conservative, constitutionally and Christian mindset to it."

Clark agreed that growth is one of the biggest issues facing the district.

"That's going to affect the spending quite a bit. And I think right now we're spending too much," Clark said. "I don't believe throwing more money at a problem that's not giving real solutions is the answer. Spending is fine, but it needs to be done fiscally responsible, and you still need to meet the growth of the community as a whole. And also, I see a lot of issues coming up with all the agendas and things that are being brought into the school systems, things along the lines of the LGBTQ stuff, and the critical race theory and things along those lines. That deal, that's going to be a major issue."

Clark said if there was just one thing he could accomplish, it would be "to be more transparent, actually be a representative for the people. Instead of pushing my own agendas."

In terms of qualifications, Clark said, "I have qualifications as far as business and budgeting and being fiscally responsible because I've been a subcontractor and in construction my entire life for over 20 years now. And that I stand fully on the Constitution and adhering to my oath of office."



Clark

Jessica Brown

Brown said that after serving in other capacities, serving on the school board seemed to be the next step when she first ran three years ago.

"I wanted to see a trustee that was fully engaged, diving deep into issues, participating in as many community events as possible, trying to establish strong relationships throughout the community," Brown said. "I didn't want somebody who sits up at the front and makes decisions in a vacuum. The way you do that is to establish relationships, and I worked hard over the past three years to expand that."

Like others, Brown said the big issue facing the district is growth.

"If you look at the next 10 years, it's going to roughly double over that time. So that's a little intimidating at first. I want to see us look out longer-term into that 10-year time period because we start to see some bigger-dollar items coming up as we start approaching High School capacity. The middle school and high school capacity are significant investments. What are some different options, maybe be creative on some of those as we look at that, and look at how can we do that in a way that's fiscally responsible?"

Brown said staff retention and recruitment are also big issues.

"We need to be able to reach out further," she said. "There are some other more recent issues that have pointed to the need to be more proactive in our recruiting. We've done that in our own company, where we're looking outside of just the traditional schools that we've always gone to, we've looked at expanding that to HBCUs and community colleges to expand our pool, but we want to also want to make sure we're taking care of our staff that we have."



Brown

ACROSS

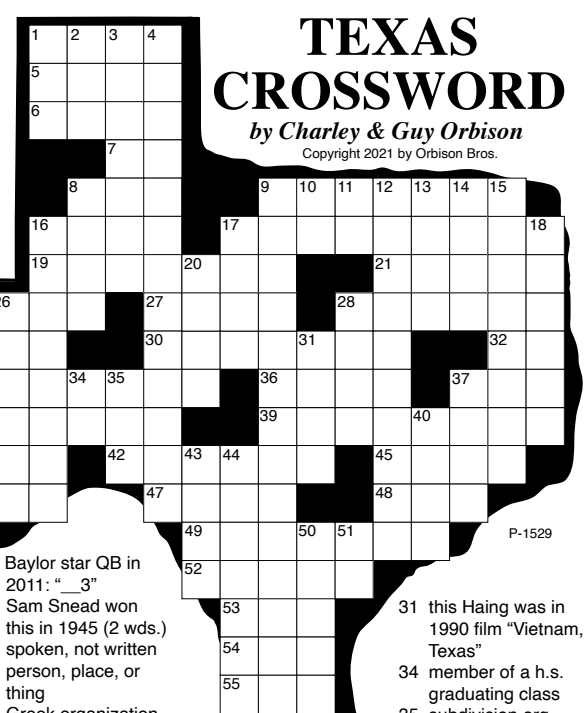
- 1 Lone ___ State
- 6 TX Tanya's "Texas When ___"
- 7 jeans creator Strauss (init.)
- 8 TXism: "sling it on the wall and ___ if it sticks" (try)
- 9 TX George W. gave 189 of these this TX Garrison was a former top 5 pro tennis player
- 17 Killen High mascot
- 19 TXism: "he's wound tighter than ___-day clock"
- 21 George W.'s wife this tea is thought to be medicinal
- 27 "One ___ one Ranger"
- 28 LBJ near quote: "If nominated, ___ run."
- 29 historic "___ Farm & Ranch" in South Texas
- 30 "___ Ranch" near Bandera is a hunters' destination
- 32 Texas is about 251 times bigger than this state (abbr.)
- 33 rock shooter
- 36 self-images
- 37 TXism: "he's ___ to a rattler" (mean)
- 38 reflecting item (2 wds.)
- 39 warm by the fire (2 wds.)

DOWN

- 11 Baylor star QB in 2011: "___ 3"
- 12 Sam Snead won this in 1945 (2 wds.)
- 13 spoken, not written person, place, or thing
- 15 Greek organization for women at UT
- 16 author of 1915 book "The Lone Star Ranger" (2 wds.)
- 17 Laredo FM
- 18 smooth, shiny
- 20 cover thinly with gold leaf
- 22 a TX Lois Chiles co-star in "Creepshow 2," Kennedy (init.)
- 31 This Haing was in 1990 film "Vietnam, Texas"
- 34 member of a h.s. graduating class
- 35 subdivision org.
- 37 apt Seminole FM
- 40 TXism: "mad as ___-eyed cow"
- 43 this Lukas was in 1992 TX-filmed "Leap of Faith"
- 44 behind in paying
- 50 Santa Anna laid changes (2 wds.)
- 51 TXism: "bat ___ eyelash" (blink)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1529

"We were a little concerned with the state budget shortfall this time; luckily, that turned out not to come to fruition," Brown said. "However, we are still concerned about what happens in 2023, what happens in 2025."

"Another one would be that we continue to shift away from the STAAR as being the accountability that we look at. We really want to move toward more of a community-based accountability. So how does our community define success in our school district, so that's going to be more than just this one test that happens over that."

"And I think the last one is dealing with some of the challenges that we have with the racism incident. Developing a plan of how we address that, how we better support our students that maybe don't feel as supported, I think that's, that's gonna be important also."

In terms of qualifications, Brown said "the first answer would be experience over the past three years. I put a lot of effort in training. In terms of trying to broaden my experience as a trustee, I try to bring in some of my outside experience."

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Capital Highlights

Health-care expansion defeated in House



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

A bid to expand health coverage for low-income Texans failed in the Texas House last week, 80-68.

State leaders have long opposed expanding the Medicaid program, which is largely funded by the federal government. The measure that failed last week would have allowed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to negotiate a funding agreement with the feds, called a 1115 demonstration waiver, that would cover more uninsured Texans without technically expanding Medicaid, according to various media sources, including the Texas Tribune.

Just over a week ago, the Biden administration rescinded a federal 1115 waiver approved in the final days of the Trump administration, which would have provided the state billions of dollars over the next decade to cover emergency care for uninsured Texans. The state was exempted from the normal public notice process, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Gov. Greg Abbott blasted that decision, saying it "obstructed healthcare access for vulnerable Texans."

Backers of health-care expansion are pinning their waning hopes on House Bill 3871, sponsored by Rep. Julie Johnson, D-Carrollton. Her bill also uses an 1115 waiver to attract federal funding to expand Medicaid eligibility as well as increased in Medicaid reimbursements to doctors, according to the Tribune. But time is running out with the bill still stuck in committee.

If that bill fails to pass, Texas officials will have to begin renegotiating with the Biden administration to restore the funding. More than 650,000 Texans lost their employer-sponsored insurance during the pandemic. Texas has the highest number and highest percentage of uninsured residents in the nation, according to the Texas Comptroller's Office.

Mass transit loses even more ridership during pandemic

Mass transit in Texas has been experiencing a decline in ridership the last few years, according to a Fiscal Notes report by the comptroller's office. The outlook has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, with steep drops in ridership, revenue, and service.

According to census data, "in terms of population share, Blacks and Hispanics are overrepresented among public transit riders, as are those with relatively low incomes. Comparatively large shares of those with jobs in education, health care, recreation, and food services — the workers most affected by the pandemic — use public transit to get to work," the report noted.

However, the pandemic has taken its toll on mass service, particularly in urban areas. Houston Metro reported its total ridership in December 2020 was 53.6 percent

lower than in December 2019. Research scientists, such as Michael Walk with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, say the use of multiple modes of transportation can make mass transit more appealing to riders.

With the state experiencing explosive population growth, transportation officials hope to keep public transit a viable option both in urban and rural areas, according to the comptroller's report.

Media ad campaign to boost vaccines begins

A \$1.5 million television and radio ad campaign was launched last week by the Texas Department of State Health Services to encourage Texans to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The ads, in both English and Spanish, feature several doctors urging folks to get the vaccine, as the pace of shot administered has slowed.

"Our research shows that individual health care professionals are the most trusted voices for people deciding whether to get vaccinated," said DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt. "Over the coming weeks we will continue to share messages encouraging various communities to get vaccinated. We are also relying on trusted voices within those communities to speak up and let their neighbors know that the available COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to end the pandemic and restore normalcy."

Vaccine doses now over 10 million mark; COVID-19 cases steady

The number of Texans who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine reached 10.56 million as of Sunday, according to DSHS. The number of folks who are fully vaccinated hit 7.11 million, which is about 24% of the state's population.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose slightly last week compared to the previous week, to 23,684, with new deaths dropping slightly at 359, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Similarly, lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals was at 2,793 for the same period, down slightly from the previous week, according to DSHS.

Texas lifts pause on J&J vaccine

Vaccine providers in Texas can resume using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, DSHS announced.

The Centers for Disease Control paused use of the one-dose vaccine in mid-April after 15 cases of blood clots were identified, primarily in women between 18 and 49. That's out of more than 7 million shots administered nationally.

Boosters of the vaccine point to the simplicity of a single-dose vaccine and the ease of storage, according to Hellerstedt, the DSHS commissioner.

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

Your Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support current board members

I went to the candidate forum hosted by the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce to listen to Aledo School Board candidates, and I was impressed with the current Board members. I wish I could say the same about the challengers.

Current board members Jennifer Loftin, David Lear, and Jessica Brown answered questions with efficiency and knowledge. They were informed because they have served in these tough times. Challengers were often short and lacked quick and thoughtful responses to questions about the curriculum, growth, and HB 3. Serving on the board requires a depth of knowledge; candidates have to be informed about multiple issues. The challengers are running based on the emotions of one issue; an issue that has been analyzed and addressed.

I have attended many board meetings in person and have witnessed our current board tackling tough issues.

First, it doesn't get any tougher than ensuring kids are educated during a pandemic. Through late spring and summer of 2020 our board and administration developed a plan to keep our kids in school. They created choices for kids and parents, unlike much of the United States. Although not perfect, the plan has hopefully allowed our students to maintain their grade level knowledge and progress. They made these tough decisions, launching the plan early. It has been a success.

In the fall of 2019 the bond package was approved and new schools and classrooms are online to open on time and currently under budget. As a member of the Bearcat Growth Committee, I can tell you that the board initiated a community plan that was sensitive to all issues and very transparent.

Current board members running for re-election deserve your vote. I have witnessed this board deal with tough problems in a measured, logical, and constructive fashion. They are not reactive, but careful in gathering information and feedback from students, parents, and citizens. Current challengers haven't done their homework on all the factors facing education today and it showed in the videos from the candidate forum. Please consider voting for Jennifer Loftin, Jessica Brown, and David Lear.

- ROBERT COX
ALEDO

Supporting Clint Robinson

I would like to endorse my good friend, Clint Robinson, who is running for re-election to the Aledo City Council in Place 3. He is running as the incumbent for a second term in place 3. I believe he has done a good job during his first term representing the people of Aledo and deserves a second term. He is always available when you need him and is always available to help. He is committed to doing what is best for the citizens of Aledo.

I respectfully ask that when you go to the polls on May 1 you cast your vote for Clint.

- LILLIAN HAILE
ALEDO

To our great community,

Schools and churches are two pillars of most communities since the beginning of time. School board elections, however, are often talked about by many but voted for by few. I'm hoping this note helps to change that and encourages the great people in this community to get out and VOTE this Saturday!

I want to share my sincere appreciation for the "heart & sacrifice" I've seen evident at every turn from three great individuals running for re-election to our AISD school board.

I have known Jennifer Loftin, Jessica Brown, and David Lear for 10-plus years. I've worked side by side with them serving our kids and this community on several teams, including the Aledo Education Foundation, Bearcat Growth Committee, Bond Progress Committee, and more. Their sacrifices, listening approach, question asking, and sincere "heart" for what's best for our district are evident to me at every turn. These three have served our district well through some of the hardest leadership decisions ever in 2020 and 2021. When duty calls they've rolled their sleeves up more and dug deep, never wavering from "whatever it takes" to tackle the task at hand with community input, making the calls so many of us will never have to make, often times without so much as a "thank you."

Are they perfect? No. None of us are. But their hearts are laser focused on our children and entire district, and their actions echo that. I simply want those that don't know them to rest assured their work ethic, dedication, and genuine hearts for this district are encouraging and much appreciated. We need them on this board.

I hope you'll consider voting for all of them as this election unfolds Saturday. Thank you

Jennifer, Jessica, and David for the countless hours and intentional dedication you continue to provide, always keeping what's best for our district, kids, faculty and staff in the center of every tough decision you all make. I appreciate your service very much and pray those reading this will go vote on Saturday!

- MATT MORRIS
ALEDO CLASS OF 1998 AND LONG TIME PARKER COUNTY RESIDENT.

Supporting David Lear

It is clear that change is needed in the Aledo ISD. It is also clear that the board of trustee incumbent, David Lear, has shown his dedication to his role as trustee. Before he was even elected, he attended school board meetings and participated in committees that helped guide how the AISD grew.

As a trustee, his experience in finances and his work with the board has taken him to Austin to advocate for our kids on the next level which cannot be overlooked. His willingness to think about the bigger picture is vital for our schools and our students to meet the challenges of the future.

The world is changing more quickly than we realize. Creating chaos for the sake of chaos seems to be in fashion and frankly, I would like to keep the unnecessary frenzy out of our classrooms where our teachers and students have enough to deal with just trying to navigate the natural disasters that have found their way into our lives.

How do you deal with natural disasters? You assess the damage after it's been done. You look for ways to stabilize what is still standing. You get resources to those who have been harmed by the unconscious forces. Then you rebuild. You learn from the mistakes from previous constructs and you start again from a place of integrity and even-footing. You cannot rebuild in a day because nothing will last. It takes time, patience, and persistence.

This time is unique for our trustee members. I feel the right people will be in place to rebuild Aledo as it needs to be as it unfurls from its present chrysalis. I feel David Lear is one of the incumbents that has exhibited his willingness to invest his time, his talents, and his continued commitment to defend his position and carry out the hard work that he knows lies ahead. Please consider voting for David Lear.

- AURA WHITCOMB

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.

LOFTIN

from page four

Loftin is proud of the way Aledo ISD has weathered the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think that this year has been a very unique year in Aledo ISD. I think it's been one of our best and one of

our hardest. And I'm proud that we were able to have our students in school. I'm proud that we were able to succeed in a lot of different areas and different competitions. I'm proud of our staff. I think they've done an amazing job, and I'd like to continue to serve."

MORROW

from page four

the stakeholders involved. Just listen and see what's what's on their mind," she said.

"I attended the Aledo ISD from first grade through my senior year, and I was salutatorian of the class of 2000," Morrow said. She received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from TCU and then an MBA. She has a CPA license.

"Since 2004, I've worked at a large, multi-billion dollar company in the area, mostly in the accounting and finance organizations. My extensive knowledge of financial statements, budgeting, data analysis, and financial analysis would benefit me if I were elected," she said. "I love questioning things and learning. And I think I would be an asset to the district and to the parents and kids of the community."

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CITY OF WILLOW PARK NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Willow Park City Council at a meeting on June 8, 2021. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas in the City Council Chambers of the Willow Park City Hall.

The Willow Park City Council will conduct a public hearing considering the update of the City's Land Use Assumptions (future land use plan) and Capital Improvements Plan regarding the implementation of any impact fees to fund stormwater drainage infrastructure.

All interested persons are encouraged to participate in the deliberations on this hearing.

Alicia Smith, City Secretary

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010847001

APPLICATION. City of Aledo, P.O. Box 1, Aledo, Texas 76008, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010847001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0027120) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 600,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 600 Barnwell Road, Aledo, in Parker County, Texas 76008. The discharge route is from the plant site to an unnamed tributary; thence to Clear Fork Trinity River Below Lake Weatherford. TCEQ received this application on February 9, 2021. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Aledo City Hall, 200 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, 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=db5bac44afbc468bddd360f8168250f&marker=-97.61%2C32.686111&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 Aledo at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Gretchen Vazquez, P.E., at 817-441-7016.

Issuance Date: April 14, 2021

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DAVIS

from page six

department, I think we've got to step that up just to protect ourselves, protect our property and give us all peace of mind."

In terms of qualifications, Davis said "I've been a leader not just in my own business, I've been a leader in several organizations. From as far back as high school, I was in government there, I was president of my junior and my senior class. Same in college, president of my fraternity. I'm a leader and I'm also a good follower. So with the city council, if I need to lead a team of people or a group, great; if I need to be the best follower; whatever the team needs me to be, that's what I'll be. As long as we're all focused on the same goal, I feel like we'll be successful.

"We realize that the change is here. The days of saying that Aledo is never gonna change? Well, we've seen it. We've seen it happen tenfold in the time we've been here."

PERRY

from page six

In terms of qualifications, "my entire career has been in real estate development, investment, and brokerage" Perry said. Ever since I was a kid going to town hall and city council meetings with my father, who was a developer, to doing my own projects and projects when I worked with my family's business, I have been involved with municipalities from a development standpoint, and you learn those inner workings of the city.

"I've been on the other side of the aisle going through P and Z, you go through council, getting approvals, talking to different staff members. So I really have a good

understanding of the workings of the city. And I have a good understanding from the private side how that interacts. So I think it's a good match just with knowing where people are coming from when they're seeking to do business in our town, and also understanding the processes that they have to go through.

"I'm committed to the city and we plan on living here for a long time. I just want to stay involved to ensure that it remains the great place it is and that it's a good legacy for my kids, and maybe they want to move back here someday."

STANLEY

from page six

"I want to see a better police presence in Aledo," Stanley said. "I want people to feel safe. I want them to know that they have a counselor who's down there advocating for them. And then that goes down to even just people who are speeding through residential communities, and not the other types of crime like petty theft and other things that we're dealing with here. There's nothing more important for a body of government to do to serve the people than to provide public safety."

As for qualifications, "I do have a background in business. I've got a background, also in government working for the U.S. House of Representatives under Congresswoman Granger," Stanley said. "During that time, I've interfaced with a lot of different folks, stakeholders, elected officials, people in the community; I understand how government works at every level. Just like in anything, serving at the city council level, it's about relationships. I think that relationships will be what will allow us to make a lot of progress in areas that we need to make progress."

ROBINSON

from page six

"I have tons of experience with being in the military," he said. "I've done some civil affairs, and we helped the Iraqis. When I was in Iraq, trying to work on some of their policing, we helped train those guys to work on police, policing, and build police departments. So I have expertise in that we were also overseeing some of their infrastructure, as well. So training experience through the Army."

Robinson said he is blessed either way the election turns out.

"As you know, I'm a Christian. And like I said the other night, if God wants me there, He'll keep me there; if not, I'm blessed either way. I'm not going to start crying if I lose. That's just how I look at it. You know, if it's meant to be, it's meant to be. If not, you know what, let somebody else take the torch and see what they can do with it."

GLOER

from page six

As for qualifications, Gloer said, "I'm a citizen, and I and I care. I have never held a political office. I have never run for political office. I am simply doing this because I believe that I can maybe make a difference.

"I'm just another one of your neighbors who simply wants to make sure that all the people who make up the town of Annetta have a good voice in our government because I think, well, I'm a veteran and I strongly believe that the people are what make us great. Government doesn't make us great. It's the people."

PINCKARD

from page six

"We'll have a brand new mayor, and she deserves the support of an entire city council and citizens," he said. "I have the experience to be able to ease that transition and make it a healthy one for the citizens in the city as well as the city council members. And I think that that's an important goal.

"I never wanted to run to be a career politician — I have served longer than I probably ever thought I would. I gained a lot of experience

along the way and built a lot of relationships along the way, which has helped me gain skills that are necessary to doing the job, at least doing it at a high level. And we've been able to do that with limited staff and no tax for years and years. And in spite of those limitations. We've moved from an inferior water system to a superior water system. We have a small but efficient clean Town Hall. We have money in the bank, we have reserves and no tax. I don't know that even exists anywhere outside of Annetta. We are somewhat of a unicorn, but I'm proud of those accomplishments.

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450 Thunder Head Ln
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Garner ISD Ryan Gymnasium

Choir Room
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Signing Day

12 AHS athletes signed letters of intent on Wednesday at the AISD Indoor Athletic Facility.



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Tristan Thurman, Ranger College, Baseball
Mendi, Taylor and Clint Thurman



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Ford Maberry, University of Mississippi, Track and Field
Kandy, Izzy and Matt Maberry



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Rocco O'Keefe, Butler Community College, Football
Shane and Kayla O'Keefe



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Paige Crippes, St. Ambrose University, Track and Field
Tom and Kori Crippes



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Jenna Barouh, McMurry University, Soccer
Anne Barouh



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Allie (left) and Maddie Farmer, Weatherford College, Tennis
Benjamin, Kathleen and Tod Farmer



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Colton Campbell, Missouri Valley College, Baseball
Alana, Jansi, Avery, Anna and David Campbell



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Ryland Yates, Austin College, Soccer
Stan and Kim Yates



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Elijah Valencia, Tarleton State University, Football
Mia, Aaron, Sparkle and Tysley Valencia



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Ethan McBrayner, Texas Tech University, Football
Mike and Fay McBrayner



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Bridger Wilson, Ranger College, Baseball
John, April, Callihan and McKinley Wilson



MERCEDES MAYER/ALEDO ISD

Sam Sisk, East Central College, Baseball
Jeff and Christine Sisk

SOFTBALL Scheduling bi-district turns out not to be as easy as it looks

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Ever since the district season came to a close, the Aledo Ladycats have had a tough time getting a clear schedule together.

After a game with Flower Mound Marcus, coach Heather Myers was able to schedule another non-district game at Denton Guyer. Despite excellent pitching from Kayleigh Smith (6 IP, 4 H, 4 K, 1 BB) the Ladycats were unable to get on the scoreboard. Guyer scored one run in the fifth inning, and two in the sixth to defeat Aledo 3-0.

After falling to Guyer on Saturday, the first round playoff matchup with Lake Dallas changed dates and times on multiple occasions. Fearing the weather forecast may have created some sloppy conditions, both schools agreed to move the double-header from Wednesday to Tuesday.

Then, late Monday evening, the series was moved again.

The double-header will now be played Friday at Aledo with the first game starting at ten a.m.. The second game will immediately follow.

If a game three is needed, it will be played Saturday at Lake Dallas at 1 p.m.

BASEBALL

Bearcats clinch district title

Team celebrates Barry's 250th win

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats baseball team accomplished two major feats in the past week. Saturday the Bearcats faced off with Wichita Falls Rider for at least a share of the district title. The game came with a lot of drama as the Bearcats trailed for the majority of the game.

Rider took an early lead in the first inning. A bases-loaded balk scored the first run, followed by a fielder's choice out at first base that allowed a second run to score. Aledo responded with one run in the bottom of the inning. Max Belyeu led off the inning by doubling on the first pitch he saw. Nolan Garcia came up to the plate later in the inning and hit a ball that deflected off the third baseman's glove and into the outfield to allow Belyeu to score.

Things went quiet from that point as the pitchers and defenses settled in. The third inning saw, arguably, the play of the game when a ground ball went into center field right at Belyeu. He fielded the ball and immediately threw home to Creed Willems. The ball landed perfectly in Willems' glove and he applied the tag for the out, preventing a run that would have made the Rider lead two runs.

"As soon as I released the ball I knew he was out," Belyeu said about the play. "I saw it go right

over the cutoff and I knew Creed was going to drop the hammer on him. It felt amazing, it was such a rush."

However, Rider did get the added run in the fifth inning on a double off the left field wall. In the bottom of the inning, the Bearcats found their spark. Kevin Taylor walked to start the inning and David Jones came in to pinch run. Sam Sisk moved him over with a single into left. With two runners on and only one out, Belyeu lit the flame. He watched the first pitch go by for a strike and then smacked a long fly ball that hit the wall, driving in Jones and Sisk to tie the game.

Parker Stegall delivered the deciding hit in the next at bat, singling home Belyeu to make the score 4-3.

Willems came on as the closing pitcher and earned the save, retiring every batter he faced.

"It has come miles from where we started," head coach Chad Barry commented on the fielding. "It still has a long way to go, but I do like the direction we're headed. We're playing with confidence, and we went out today and made plays. We didn't make errors, [Rider] booted a couple and that's probably the difference in the ballgame."

The title was not yet clinched outright. The Bearcats had to win one of their next two against Wichita Falls High. After a two

hour bus ride, they had no problem with the Coyotes.

Every starter crossed the plate at least once in the blowout win. Aledo scored seven runs in the second inning, three in the third, and one each in the fourth and fifth inning. Carter Shands and Luke Paulsen were the two pitchers in the shortened game. Neither one allowed a run and only three hits were given up.

The Bearcats clinched the outright district title with a 12-0 win over the Coyotes, their first since 2013. However, it was special for another reason. Monday's victory was Barry's 250th win as a head coach.

"It's a testament to the kids' hard work," Barry said after the historic game. "It speaks to how much time and effort they put in to be good, prepare each and every game, and the practice time they put in. It makes my job a lot easier. I couldn't have done it without any of them."

The Bearcats have one more game against Wichita Falls before the playoffs start. The details for the first round series are yet to be decided.

Regional Track Meet Results

Mens Results
400 Meters
Clay Murador - 2 - 48.67aPR

300m Hurdles - 36"
Luke White - 8 - 41.77

High Jump
Tristan Thurman - 2 - 6-05.00
Jack Mitchell - 8 - 5-10.00

Pole Vault
Ford Maberry - 2 - 14-06.00
Matthew Hickerson - 7 - 13-06.00

Triple Jump
Taylon Kessler - 7 - 42-08.00 (.5)

Womens Results
800 Meters
Sidney Tillotson - 7 - 2:23:18

Shot Put - 4kg
Lauren St Peters - 4 - 38-10.50 PR
Madysen Boutwell - 9 - 37-00.00 PR

Discus - 1kg
Lauren St Peters - 3 - 132-03 PR

High Jump
Ashley Canady - 15 - 4-10.00

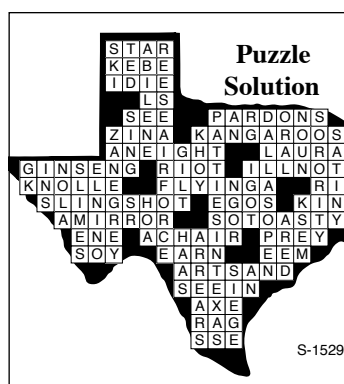
Triple Jump
Madison Frank - 11 - 35-04.50 PR



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JAZZ

from page three

some more. That's good. But that's not good enough."

After Aledo

After high school, Henderson went to the University of North Texas.

"They have one of the most prestigious jazz programs in the country," he said. "And it was really convenient."

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Henderson took a three-year hiatus in Costa Rica.

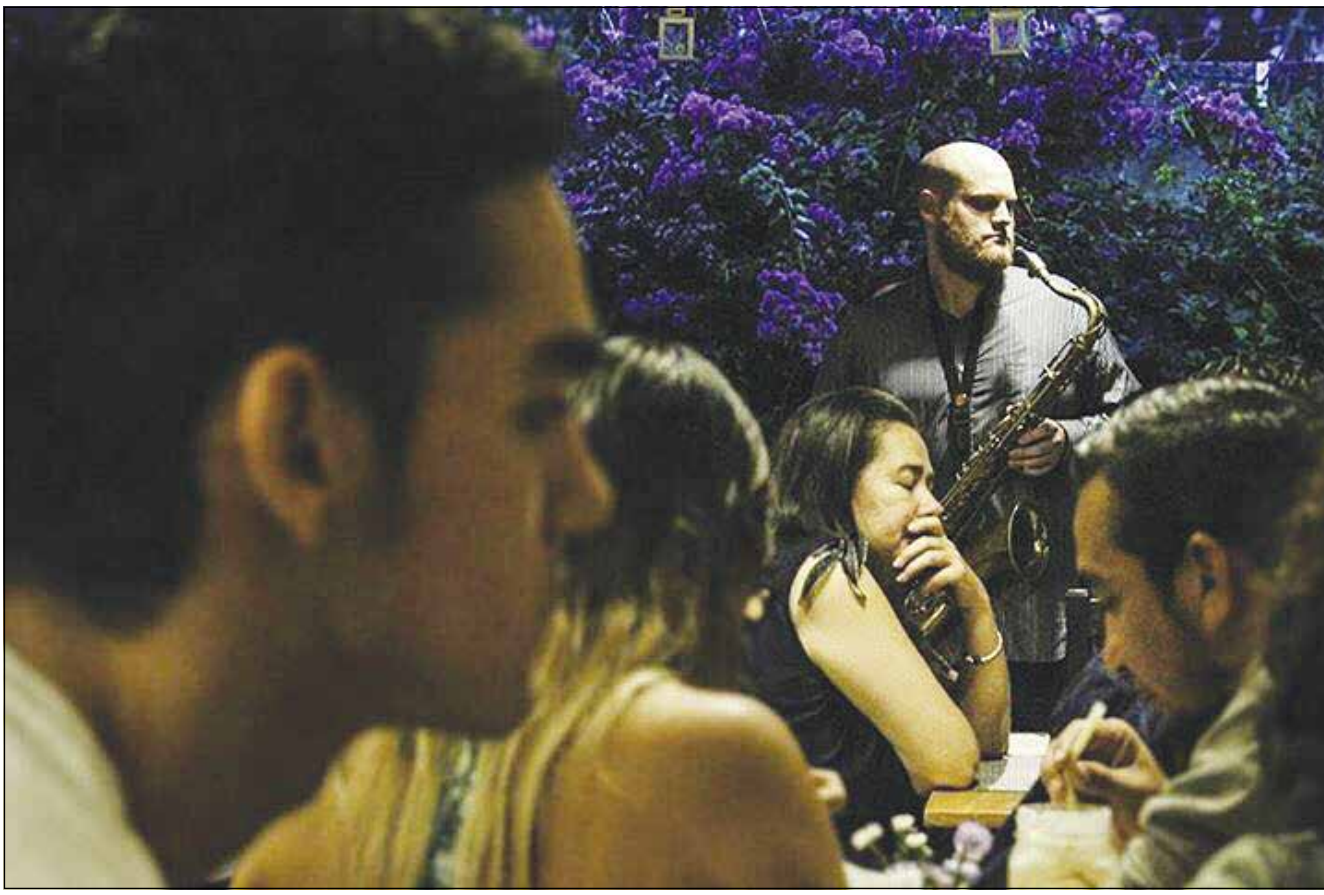
"I went down there to learn Spanish for about three months. But I ended up really enjoying the jazz scene and just enjoying the people, and of course, then my wife."

Henderson met his wife, Maria Andrea, in Costa Rica.

"So I ended up staying for a few more years. There was a jazz club in Costa Rica called El Sotano, and that's where I played the majority of the time in Costa Rica. That's where I met a lot of the jazz musicians in Costa Rica because they all went to this jam session that would take place every Tuesday night. And there I met my friend, Josh Quinlan, who is a really interesting guy as well. He quit his job at UC Boulder, where he was an associate professor in Jazz Saxophone, just because he liked Costa Rica so much."

Henderson and Quinlan became good friends.

"He's a saxophone player, but he also played bass," Henderson said of Quinlan. "And so he was my bass player at this place called the Riverside Marketplace and Pizzeria



Ian Henderson playing concerts in Costa Rica.

in Costa Rica. And that's when I played every single Wednesday for almost two years until the point that I moved back to Texas to pursue my master's degree"

Returning to Texas, Henderson went into the master's program at the University of Texas in Austin, completing his studies with the above-mentioned oral exam.

Henderson said completing a doctoral degree will open a lot of doors for him.

"The main point of getting a doctorate in music is that you can



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

teach at a university level someday," he said. "It opens up so many professional opportunities, and that's the reason that I wanted to go back and get these advanced degrees, such as a master's degree."

The doctorate is called a Doctorate in Musical Arts (DMA).

"The reason I wanted to go back and get these degrees was because my friend Josh Quinlan, when he quit his job at UC Boulder, in Colorado, will be employed in Costa Rica by La UNA, which is short for La Universidad Nacional, which is in Heredia, Costa Rica, and he was able to get employed there," Henderson said. "But without that DMA, you can't really get hired anywhere in the U.S. And it's the same way outside of the country as well. So my wife is from Colombia. She has roots in Costa Rica, that's where we met. And so this DMA will allow me to be employed by a university, and give me a day job in Costa Rica, Colombia, pretty much any city in the U.S., Europe. And so it opens things up professionally at the educational level. So that's really what I'm looking to do with my DMA is to get employed by some university somewhere in the world, so that I can pass down the musical gifts, the musical skills, that I've learned from all my educators."

Henderson offered a word of encouragement to today's students in the Aledo band program.

"I would encourage all the kids in the Aledo Band program, if they want to keep on playing music after high school, there's plenty of opportunities out there, but really start exploring other types of music."

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