

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Workers are shown installing a cutoff in the Fort Worth/Willow Park water line in March of 2021.

## WILLOW PARK

### City could have Fort Worth water by next week

Results of testing samples will determine

By Brandi Addison  
The Community News

Willow Park could have Fort Worth water coming into the city by early next week, depending on the results of testing samples from the pipeline that was laid in the late spring.

Crews officially began work in early March after the cities spent more than five years negotiating and planning.

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

The city of Willow Park is already connected to the Fort Worth water source and was expected to have received Fort Worth water sooner, but a series of problems came into play.

Preston Dillard of consulting firm Half Associates told the city council on Tuesday that contractors Mountain Cascade announced the delay on July 16 due to a delay in the delivery of a flow meter.

While the needed part has still not been delivered, Fort Worth is giving

Turn to **WATER**, page 3

## ALEDO

### Council calls for special election

Home rule charter to be on Nov. 2 ballot

By Brandi Addison  
The Community News

The Aledo City Council voted unanimously to call for a special election and place a home rule charter proposition on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Under Home Rule, the city would have more flexibility to adopt its own rules in

addition to state legislation, allowing citizens more control over local government.

The council appointed 14 individuals who met with consultant Don Edmonds six times since the spring to develop the home rule charter approved by the council.

“I think we accomplished the preparation of a guide of the city’s governance to guide the population changes, state requirements, and economic

and regional changes that are right around the corner — in fact, they’re already here in most cases,” commission chair Bill McLeroy said.

In general, home rule charters give citizens more control over their local governing body by allowing the charter to determine the governmental structure of their city. This includes the form of government — such

Turn to **CHARTER**, page 3

“I think what we accomplished was to provide a strong charter to guide the ethical operation of this city for and with the citizens of Aledo.”

Bill McLeroy, Chair  
Aledo Home Rule Charter Commission

## Sibling Assist



AMANDA LUNDGREN/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

With a boost from sister Lucy, Copeland Lundgren places an order at the Lonestar Sno Cone stand in Aledo.

## ALEDO ISD

### New members of the Bearcat Leadership Team announced

New Fine Arts position created

By Mercedes Mayer  
Aledo ISD

The Aledo ISD has named three new people to Bearcat Leadership Team: the district fine arts coordinator, an elementary instructional specialist, and the assistant principal at the Daniel Ninth Grade Campus.

“These three leaders will be wonderful additions to our Bearcat Leadership Team,” Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. “All three of them have had a professional focus on coaching and mentorship, and I cannot wait to see them thrive in these positions and help grow and support our staff and students.”

Missey Head will serve in Aledo’s first-ever districtwide fine arts leadership position, which will be part-time during the 2021-2022 school year as the district strategically grows fine arts leadership capacity and offerings for students. Head, who has broad experience leading different types of fine arts programs, will lead strategic planning, professional learning, and direct instructional support for the district’s fine arts programs Pre-K-12.

“We are so fortunate to have a growing fine arts program that included new offerings two years ago of elementary art and a dance program for the first time in Aledo ISD history — both wonderful additions to our other excellent fine arts programs,” Bohn said. “We are excited to have Mrs. Head’s tenured fine arts teaching and leadership experience and collaborative outlook to make sure that, as our student population grows, we are strategically supporting our fine arts programs so they can continue

Turn to **TEAM**, page 5



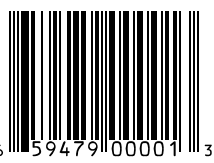
Head



Mathews



Williams



Volume 31, Number 31  
Published Weekly

### Slings & Arrows

Getting vaccinated is doing the right thing.

PAGE 6

### Meetings

Meet the principals, meet the Eagles, Meet the Bearcats... all kinds of stuff in events!

PAGE 4



### On the march

Bearcat Regiment begins drills.

PAGE 11

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## First Bank Texas



# In & Around Parker County

## CALL ON ATEX TRASH SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Give Atex a call and see how they can help you. You'll be glad you did!



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# CHARTER

from page one

as council-manager, mayor-manager, and mayor-council — the size of a council, and the fixed terms of office.

For Aledo, the proposal recommends a council-manager government, though it could be changed with a citywide vote to amend the charter. The elective council will be comprised of the mayor and five council members who will enact local legislation; adopt budgets; determine policies; and appoint the city attorney, judge of the municipal court, and the city manager.

If the charter is approved by voters, the current two-year terms will be staggered to three-year terms under a schedule approved by the commission.

While it was not part of the proposal, home rule charters could also impose requirements for council members and mayoral candidates — such as age, residency, and terms of office — through an election of an amended charter.

The Home Rule Charter as proposed will provide for recall, initiative, and referendum rights for citizens.

The proposed charter would allow the “people of the City (to) reserve the power to recall the mayor or any other member of the council” through a petition and a recall election. It also allows citizens, through a petition, to initiate legislation and to overturn ordinances passed by the city council through petition and election.

These powers are generally not permitted in General Law cities.

Home Rule cities can also extend city boundaries through annexation, unilaterally, while general law cities can generally only annex with permission of property owners or with the majority vote of residents in an annexed area.

“I think what we accomplished was to provide a strong charter to guide the ethical operation of this city for and with the citizens of Aledo,” McLeroy said.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Work continues on the turf replacement at Bearcat Stadium. The old turf has been removed and work on the base is under way.

# WATER

from page one

the city a flow meter for temporary use until the part arrives.

“So, the meter is in place now and ready to go,” Dillard told the council. “Once we solved that issue, more issues, in terms of delay, rose.”

One of the issues, he said, is a lengthy schedule for testing components that ensures the pipeline is physically and mechanically prepared to pass water safely from Fort Worth to Willow Park.

The city has already passed the pressure testing component, but just began the deep chlorinating process Monday and will be

required to send samples to Fort Worth.

The last issue of concern is the communication from the flow meter station in Willow Park to Fort Worth.

“So, once again, your friends in Fort Worth are working very diligently to get this thing going, so they’ve agreed to do a period of manual meter reading, so that if you pass the testing this week on the pipeline, to get things going, they’ll manually read that meter until we get this system up and running,” Dillard told the council.

“Hopefully this Friday, water is coming into the city,” he added.

The Fort Worth-to-Willow Park pipeline project is expected to be entirely completed on Aug. 27 — about a month-long delay from the original deadline.

Willow Park wells can currently produce up to 1.6 million gallons of water per day, leaving little room for emergencies during the summer months with city water usage averaging to about 1.2 million gallons daily.

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

The construction of the water pipeline between Willow Park to Hudson Oaks is expected to be

completed a day before, on Aug. 26. The testing part may not be completed then, Dillard said.

## City secretary

City Council accepted the resignation of City Secretary Alicia Smith and approved the related severance package drafted by the city attorney.

Upon the resignation of Smith, the council appointed Candy Scott as interim secretary.

Scott has been the longest-serving staff member at Willow Park City Hall with a tenure of 21 years. She previously served as the Chief Financial Officer and Human Resources Director.

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# Events

JULY 30, 2021

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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More events can be found at [www.tcn.news/events](http://www.tcn.news/events)



JULY 30

### The Rainbow Fish Musical

Theatre Off The Square in Weatherford will present its annual youth production, The Rainbow Fish Musical, two weekends beginning July 23.

Friday and Saturday performances will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances will be at 2 p.m. at Theatre off the Square, 114 North Denton Street in Weatherford.

Interpreter Services will be provided at the performance on Friday, July 30 through a partnership with the American Sign Language Interpreting Program of Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus.

With shiny, multi-colored scales, Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in all of the ocean, and the only one of his (or her!) kind. When Rainbow Fish refuses to share his vibrant, shimmering scales, the whole ocean seems to turn against the vain creature. Unhappy that no one adores him anymore, the Rainbow Fish seeks out the wise Octopus, who helps him learn that it's far better to be admired for being kind than for being beautiful.

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



JULY 31

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

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

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

This production is geared specifically for a young audience and has a short run time. Children will enjoy the classic Norwegian tale of three young goats in

search of a new food supply who come across a lonely troll and make a new friend.

"Once Upon a Time Theatre is one of three branches of our Summer Stage Program, and what it endeavors to do is bring quality children's theatre to Parker County, free of charge," said director James Brownlee. "As educators, we love introducing children to the magic of live storytelling and hope to give them an experience that will always stay with them."

AUGUST 2

### Fall Prevention Class

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Parker County and the North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging are offering a free program designed to reduce the risk of falls, increase physical activity, and sustain longer independent living among older adults. The classes run from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Aug. 2 at the Parker County Extension Office, 604 North Main Street in Weatherford.

"A Matter of Balance" is an evidence-based program that uses volunteer coaches to teach participants how to overcome their fear of falling, increase their strength and balance and improve their environment.

Each year, one in every three adults age 65 and older falls, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Falls can cause moderate to severe injuries such as hip fractures and head traumas,

and can increase the risk of early death. Surveys on "A Matter of Balance" have found that 97 percent of participants are encouraged to increase their physical activity upon completion of the program.

The classes are free, but space is limited. To register, visit <https://www.nctcog.org/aging-services/classes>, call Kathy Smith at 817-598-6168, or email [kl-smith@tamu.edu](mailto:kl-smith@tamu.edu).

AUGUST 5

**Rotary Club of Aledo**  
The Rotary Club of Aledo meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Sunny Street Cafe, 229 Shops Blvd. Suite 103 in Willow Park. For more information, visit [aledorotary.org](http://aledorotary.org).



AUGUST 5

### Popsicles with the Principals

Holly Elgin, principal of the new Annetta Elementary School, and assistant principal Alyssa Seay will be on hand from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, at Bearcat Park for Popsicles with the Principals. This is a come-and-go event.

AUGUST 5

**Republican Party Meeting**  
The Parker County Republican Party will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, in the Strain Community Room at Weatherford College.

For more information, call Parker County Republican Chair J Scott Utley at 817-304-0144 or email [ParkerCountyGOP@gmail.com](mailto:ParkerCountyGOP@gmail.com).



AUGUST 6

### Meet the Eagles

Trinity Christian Academy will host Meet the Eagles beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6 in the Barber Gym at 4954 E. I-20 Service Road S. in Willow Park. Free hamburgers and hot dogs will be served, and free souvenir/autograph shirts will be handed out to the first 200 elementary students who attend.

AUGUST 7

### Bearcat Nation 101

The annual Bearcat Nation 101 will run from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Aledo High School Cafeteria. Local non-profit organizations, department and campus officials, and



others will be there to provide information.

AUGUST 10

### Cancer Support Group

A support group to create a space for those who have battled or are battling cancer meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Aledo United Methodist Church, 100 Pecan Dr. in Aledo.

For more information, email Joan Ward at [bjckat1959@gmail.com](mailto:bjckat1959@gmail.com).

AUGUST 12

### 2021 Fashion Show

Arlene Gale will be the featured speaker when Sanctified Hope holds its 2021 Fashion Show at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at Trinity Bible Church, 4936 E Interstate 20 in Willow Park.

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

Sanctified Hope Home for Women provides a safe, learning environment for women who have recently been released from prison. Through a 12-18 month

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**AUGUST 13**

**Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club**

Laurie Chance Smith, author of "Around Veal's Station," will be the featured speaker at the August meeting of the The Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club, which meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Friday of every month at First United Methodist Family Life Center, 301 S. Main in Weatherford. The social hour, including Club Shop, begins at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting, including program, is at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is \$11. Please make lunch reservations by calling Shirley at 817-757-7379. For more information on the organization, visit pcwnc.org.



**AUGUST 14**

**Meet the Bearcats**

Meet the Bearcats will be held at noon on Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Aledo High School Indoor Practice Facility. Meet the Bearcats traditionally provides fans (young and old alike) an opportunity to meet fall athletes and cheerleaders.

**AUGUST 16**

**Rotary Club of Aledo**

The Rotary Club of Aledo meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Sunny Street Cafe, 229 Shops Blvd. Suite 103 in Willow Park. For more information, visit aledorotary.org.

**Obituary**

**Lucy Holt**

Lucy Southard Holt, 97, passed away on July 26, 2021.

Lucy was born on September 12, 1923, and spent most of her childhood in Big Spring. She was known as the best carhop in all of West Texas and that is where she met her husband, Jack Holt. She traveled across the U.S. following Jack, who was serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

They lived in New York, Chicago, and numerous other locations before finally making their home in Aledo.

Lucy held many jobs in her lifetime including elevator operator, bookkeeper, and at 80 years old she began working making change for concessions at the Fort Worth Stock Show.

Lucy accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior in 1943. Gramma loved crossword puzzles, hot tea, the Dallas Cowboys, the Texas Rangers, the Texas Longhorns, and most of all the Aledo Bearcats. None of those compared however to the love she had for her children and grandchildren.



She will be remembered for the kindness and love she showed others and for being "Gramma" to all her kids' friends.

Lucy was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Holt; grandchildren Shane Holt, Tammy Boutwell, Shannon Holt, and her great-grandchild, Christopher Holt. Survivors include son Wendell Holt and friend Pamela Helm; daughter Chris Kubosh and husband David; daughter Carol Beard and friend Jay Pratt; four grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and multiple great-great-grandchildren.

There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 31, at Church at the Crossing in Aledo.

The Community News  
July 30, 2021

**Aledo ISD announces free breakfast, lunch**

The Aledo ISD has announced that school breakfasts and lunches will be free to all students due to a USDA COVID waiver.

A school lunch includes a protein, whole grain, fruit, vegetable, and milk.

Snacks, seconds, a la carte items or other additional items will cost extra. Parents may pay into a MySchool Bucks account or bring a check or cash to the cafeteria for their student's lunch account.

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- 1 Abilene Dyess base's mil. branch
- 5 Oldham County seat
- 6 it's taken at a wedding (2 wds.)
- 7 "\_\_\_ and mean"
- 8 this org. was the Alamo caretaker
- 9 May birthstone
- 16 TX Vikki Carr album: "\_\_\_ Homres"
- 18 Lone Star unit: "\_\_\_ National Guard"
- 21 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ spring chicken" (old)
- 22 chili is the Texas state
- 23 TXism: "is the Pope Catholic?"
- 24 TXism: "dull \_\_\_ week's news"
- 30 take a break in the action (2 wds.)
- 34 Cowboys first head coach, Tom (init.)
- 35 book: "Texas \_\_\_ War"
- 36 "The Tyler Rose," Campbell
- 37 Mexican "north"
- 39 TXism: "don't get \_\_\_ a knot" (calm down)
- 43 "don't cry over \_\_\_ milk"
- 44 TXism: "at the \_\_\_ \_\_\_ hat"
- 45 TX retired pro wrestler: "Stone Cold" (init.)
- 46 concept
- 47 snobbish attitude

**DOWN**

- 1 TX hometown of Matthew McConaughey
- 2 cuts off
- 3 TXism: "hungry as \_\_\_ concrete pasture"
- 4 baby deer
- 9 actress in 1956 TX epic "Giant" (init.)
- 10 TX Michael Johnson at 1996 Olympics, e.g.
- 11 egress
- 12 saddle sore?
- 13 TXism: "rare \_\_\_ teeth"
- 14 Cotulla is the seat of \_\_\_ Salle County
- 15 town where alcohol cannot be sold
- 17 TXism: "\_\_\_ judge in court"
- 19 qualities of fortitude oldest in Texas: "\_\_\_ Mission"
- 24 Ken Paxton's TX title (abbr.)
- 25 a TX crop: \_\_\_ beans
- 26 John Mac \_\_\_ was Mavericks head coach (1987-89)
- 27 "\_\_\_ thing" (no doubt about it)
- 28 TX Tanya hit: "San Antonio \_\_\_"
- 29 TXism: "mad enough \_\_\_ nails"
- 31 TXism: "smart as a bunkhouse \_\_\_"
- 32 trauma units at TX hospitas (abbr.)
- 33 TXism: "hard as \_\_\_ lightning bolt"
- 38 TX Duane Allen's group: "The Oak \_\_\_ Boys"
- 40 the jalapeno is less \_\_\_ than the serrano
- 41 "you don't know the half \_\_\_"
- 42 TXism: "he couldn't drive a \_\_\_ snow bank" (inept)
- 48 Astro or Ranger glove
- 50 Dallas pro BB team, for short
- 51 anger
- 56 "Ripley's Believe It \_\_\_" in Grand Prairie
- 57 positive investment results

**TEAM**

from page one

to provide exceptional experiences for our Bearcats."

Head, who retired as the assistant fine arts director for the Lewisville ISD after working there since 2012, now serves as a fine arts consultant for districts in the area. Head was previously a theatre and speech teacher at multiple schools where she coached numerous state-qualifying programs and several gold-medal winners, including Creekview High School in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD (2002 to 2012), Permian High School in the Ector County

ISD (1998-2001), Industrial High School in the Industrial ISD (1996-1998), Patti Welder Middle School in the Victoria ISD (1995-1996), Hopkins Fine Arts Academy (1994-1995), and Odessa High School in the Ector County ISD (1984-1994). Head is a past president of the Texas Educational Theatre Association, and she has worked advising and judging state UIL competitions throughout her career. She has a bachelor of fine arts in theatre arts from Texas State University.

Stefanie Mathews has been named the assistant principal at Daniel Ninth Grade Campus. Mathews has been an English teacher, PLC lead, and principal intern at

Haltom High School in the Birdville ISD since 2018. Before that, she taught English at Waxahachie High School in the Waxahachie ISD (2017-2018), at Chisholm Trail High School in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD (2014-2017), and at Castleberry High School in the Castleberry ISD (2012-2014). Mathews has a bachelor of arts in English/creative writing and a master of education in curriculum and instruction/literacy studies from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Barbara Williams has been named an elementary instructional specialist for the district. As an instructional specialist, Williams will support teachers at McCall Elementary School by building

teacher capacity through instructional coaching. Williams has been a second-grade teacher at Walsh Elementary School since 2017. Before that, she was a first-grade math and science and ESL teacher at Rogers Elementary in the Dallas ISD from 2015 to 2017. Williams taught fourth grade ELA and ESL at Handley Elementary in the Garland ISD from 2009 to 2013, taught fourth grade at Chatfield Elementary in the Mesa County Valley School District from 2008 to 2009, and taught fourth-grade bilingual at Davis Elementary School in the Garland ISD from 2006 to 2008. Williams has a bachelor of arts in modern languages (Spanish) from Texas State University.

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# Commentary

JULY 30, 2021  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

## Capital Highlights

### Workforce commission announces job surge



**Gary Borders**  
gborders@texaspress.com

The Texas Workforce Commission released June employment figures that showed Texas employers added nearly 56,000 jobs in June, while the unemployment rate dropped to 6.5%.

"The Texas economy is booming," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement. "Businesses are investing in the Lone Star State at a record pace because we've built a framework that allows free enterprise to flourish and hard working Texans to prosper."

TWC's latest statistics show that the leisure and hospitality industry led all others in job growth, adding more than 19,000 jobs. Education and health services employment ranked second, adding 9,500 jobs in June.

#### Texas Democrats still holed up in D.C.

More than 50 Texas Democratic legislators remain holed up in a Washington, D.C. hotel, blocking an effort by Republicans to pass more restrictive voting laws during the present special session since state law requires at least 100 reps to have a quorum.

The legislators have been meeting with national Democratic leaders, such as Vice President Kamala Harris, but also dealing with an outbreak of COVID-19 among its members, according to KUT. At least a half dozen legislators, who say they were already vaccinated, have tested positive for the virus while in the nation's capital.

The legislators are pushing for federal voting legislation, called the For the People Act, which has already passed the U.S. House but remains bottled up in the Senate. Without changes to the Senate filibuster rule, passage seems unlikely. The special session in Austin ends Aug. 7, but Abbott has vowed to call another one if the Democrats remain absent, effectively stopping any legislation from passing.

#### PUC, ERCOT update consumers on grid reliability

In a joint press conference last Thursday, the chairman of the Public Utility Commission and the interim CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas outlined steps their organizations are taking to improve electric grid reliability during the dog days of summer.

The PUC oversees ERCOT, which is responsible for maintaining the electric grid. ERCOT has drawn heat after the widespread blackouts during

the February winter storm, and subsequently pleading for less energy consumption during an early summer heat wave.

"We expect there is sufficient generation to meet summer 2021 electric demand; however, there may be times when we will call on customers to conserve just as other grid operators across the country and around the world do. It's just another tool in the toolbox," Brad Jones, ERCOT interim CEO, said. "In response to a conservation notice, Texans may need to take some simple steps for a limited duration - such as doing laundry in the morning or running the pool pump at night instead of the afternoon - to ensure grid reliability."

Abbott recently issued executive orders directing the PUC and ERCOT to improve grid reliability. Critics say the measures passed in the last regular session to address the issue fall short of what is needed to ensure another grid failure doesn't occur.

#### As cases rise, new pop-up vaccine sites announced

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise again in Texas, largely spurred by the highly contagious delta variant. The Texas Department of State Health Services is again hitting the road to encourage folks to get vaccinated.

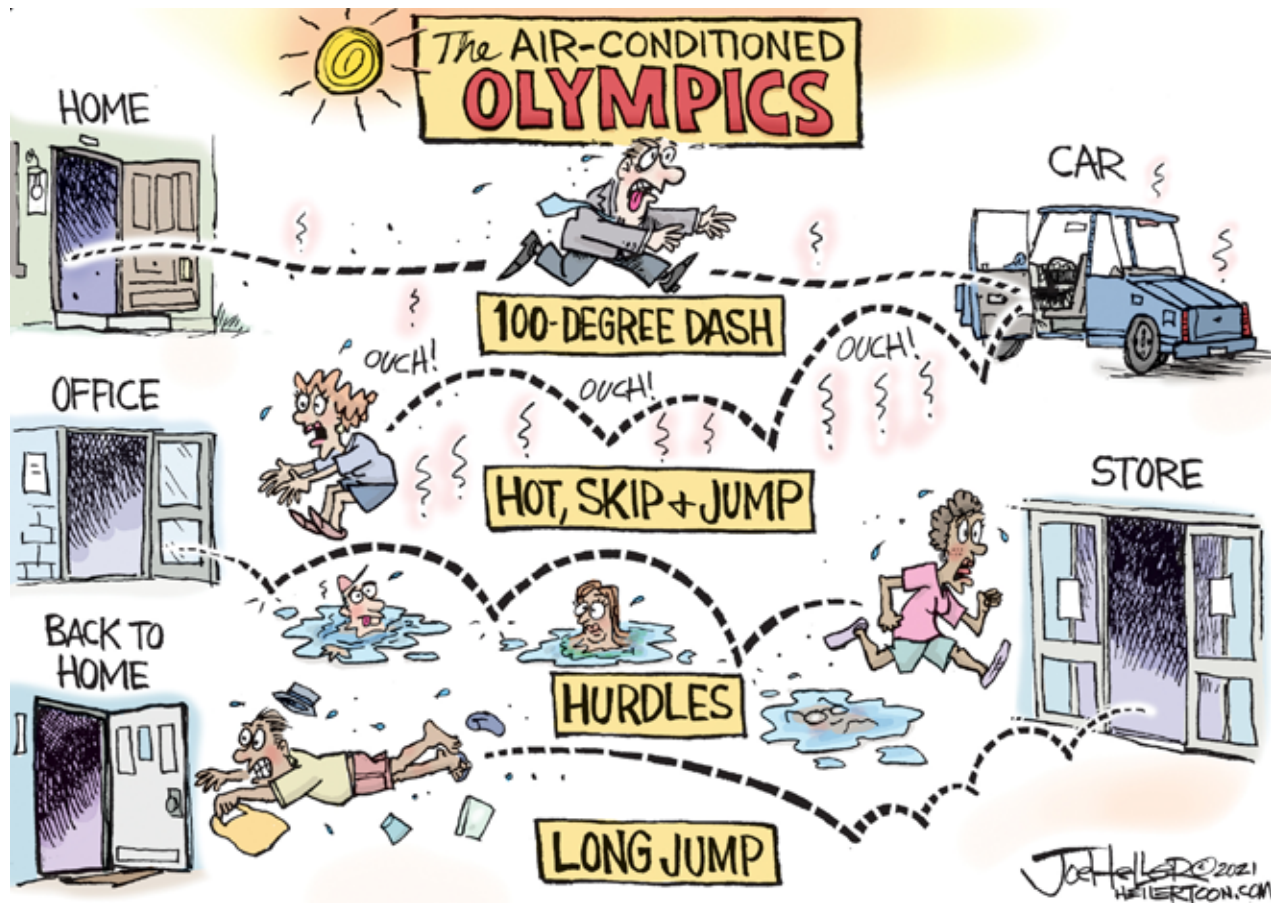
Rates of those who are fully inoculated continue to lag, particularly in younger populations. DSHS will hold 18 pop-up events at Walmart locations across the state to talk with parents and families about the importance of vaccination for younger Texans as they prepare for next school year and as the Delta variant spreads more widely in Texas.

The DSHS pop-ups last four hours each day and will travel around the state through the first week of August. The events feature a 16-foot video wall, a "Take the Shot" basketball game, and free frozen treats.

COVID-19 cases the past week in Texas continue to rise sharply, up 60% from the previous week, when cases nearly doubled. A total of 36,451 cases were reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University along with 190 deaths, flat compared to the previous week. However, hospitalizations continue to spike, with DSHS reporting 4,137 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas, up more than 30 percent from the previous week.

The number of Texans fully vaccinated rose slightly to 12.51 million, about 43 percent of the state's population. As the delta variant spreads, the state's positivity rate has exceeded 10% for the first time since February.

*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.*



## Slings&Arrows

### Doing the right thing



**Randy Keck**  
rkeck@community-news.com

There is an old adage that the American people will always do the right thing — once all other options have been exhausted.

This has never been more true than during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, when a large segment of the population seemingly had a death wish in the way they responded.

At the beginning of the pandemic I wrote a column that I believe stands the test of time. In that column I recommended that we listen to the doctors and the medical professionals, and not the politicians, to guide our actions.

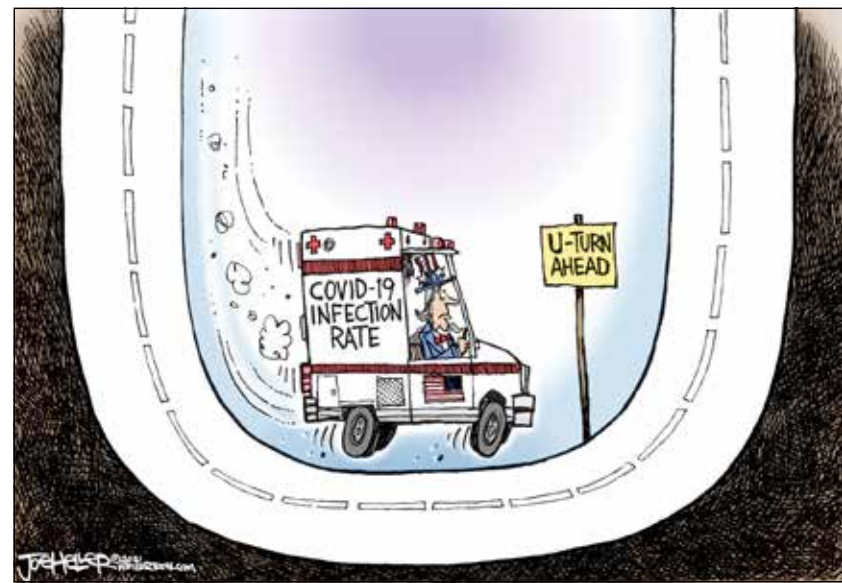
Unfortunately, a large segment of the population opted for politics over medicine.

Doctors said it was worse than the flu. Politicians told us it was no worse than the flu. It turns out that the doctors were right and the politicians were wrong.

Doctors said it was real — politicians said it was a hoax. It turns out that the doctors were right and the politicians were wrong.

Doctors told us to mask and social distance. Politicians said it wasn't a big deal. It turns out that the doctors were right and the politicians were wrong.

Some of the medical professionals made some erroneous calls at the beginning of the pandemic because of the unknown nature of the disease, but couldn't hold a candle to the disinformation/propaganda machine spitting out alternate realities that too many people were willing to buy into,



the result being a lot more death and sickness than there needed to be.

Now the medical community is urging people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, and again, about half the population of the country is saying "no."

I do not understand why.

But the consequences are severe and the consequences are deadly.

The longer we wait, the more opportunities there are for variants and mutations to develop.

Our failure to contain the outbreak at the beginning allowed it to spread unchecked. COVID-19 has killed more than four million people across the globe, including more than 620,000 Americans.

Our country has gone to war over a lot less.

So while I'm not particularly hopeful, if something written here can save one life, then I'll deal with the fallout and put it out there.

Unless you have medical guidance to the contrary, you should go get vaccinated. It's as simple as that.

Do it for yourself.

Do it for your family.

But do it.

If you don't believe me, ask your doctor.

If you don't believe that doctor, ask another one. I can guarantee you, with very minute exceptions, the advice you will receive is to get vaccinated.

There are people who spend their lives studying infectious diseases. Their advice: get vaccinated.

There are medical personnel working in COVID wards who have seen more death over the past 16 months than anyone ought to have to experience. Their advice: get vaccinated.

This is not political — it is medical. Please believe me on this. It is science.

Getting vaccinated is not a political act - it is a medical act.

For me, I will make my personal medical decisions based on the advice of people who study these things — not political and television hucksters who get paid a lot of money to say outrageous things.

But even some of them are starting to get the message.

Please — the only way we are ever going to be able to put this pandemic in the rear view mirror is to do the right thing and — you guessed it — get vaccinated.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:news@community-news.com).

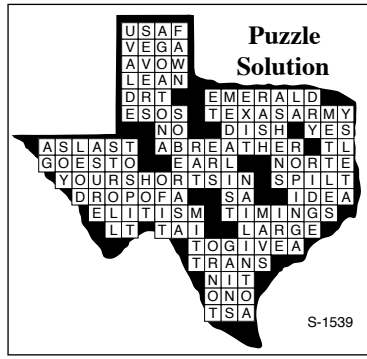
Photos submitted should include names of the people in the photograph. For ease in submitting photographs electronically, visit our contact form at [community-news.com/contacts](http://community-news.com/contacts).

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.

# Classifieds

JULY 30, 2021  
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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit, a Food and Beverage Permit and a Brewpub Permit by the Bourbon n Branch Brewing Co., LLC to be located at 900 Cinema Dr. Suite 6114, Hudson Oaks, Parker County, Texas. Owners of the corporation are Mr. Brian Lixey as Managing Member & Dr. Joshua Tarbay as Managing Member.



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WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

# Sonography program ranked best in Texas

By Crystal Woerly  
Weatherford College

Nursing Process has named Weatherford College's diagnostic medical sonography program as the best ultrasound technology school in Texas.

"Our faculty has worked extremely hard to provide students with the knowledge and experience needed to excel in this field," said Kelly Staub, program director. "Under the current faculty, 58 out of 62 students have passed three national registries (abdomen, OB/GYN, and vascular), an accomplishment that sets them apart from the majority of sonographers and helps them land jobs prior to, or quickly after, graduation."

WC's Associate of Applied Science Degree in Sonography is a 65-credit hour program that starts each August and takes five semesters, or just under two years, to complete.

Nursing Process considered each program's acceptance rate, graduation rate, faculty credentials, school reputation, affordability and other factors in their rankings.

WC's Ultrasound Program has garnered high marks from the community thanks to free OB sonograms and low-cost 3D/4D sonograms offered during student lab time.

"Proving OB ultrasounds to the public is a way for our program to give back to the community while allowing our students to become

familiar with protocols they will use to care for patients in the future," Staub said.

Following completion of their AAS, students also have the opportunity to complete an adult echocardiography certificate. This 24-credit, one-year program provides students hands-on experience in the classroom and at local hospitals and cardiology centers.

"The last couple of years, adult cardiac sonography has been experiencing an ever-growing demand for skilled sonographers," said Dr. Peter Klimo, sonography professor. "With the support of the college, we are in the process of expanding our applicant pool, offering this program to radiology imaging professionals next year."

For sonographers who could not learn vascular ultrasound in school, WC also offers a vascular certificate through summer courses. These courses combine online classes and in-person labs that walk students through vascular protocols and teach them information relevant to preparing for a career in vascular ultrasound.

Nursing Process is an online educational resource with content created by educators and healthcare professionals to help prospective nursing students make informed decisions.

To learn more about Weatherford College's Ultrasound Program, visit [wc.edu/sonography](http://wc.edu/sonography).

## Parker County man arrested in child pornography case

The Parker County Sheriff's Department has reported that a Millsap man has been arrested in connection with a child pornography case.

Sheriff Russ Authier said the case originated from a Crime Stoppers tip, identifying the man who was suspected of obtaining numerous images of child pornography on his iPad and iPhone.

Sheriff's Crimes Against Children investigators obtained a search warrant for the suspect's iCloud account, where they located approximately 1,000 images of child erotica and child pornography depicting children in suggestive poses and nude sexual positions.

Sheriff's investigators estimate the images of children depicted in the photos

were between the ages of 6 and 12.

The suspect was identified as Walker Watt Lawrence, 46, of Willow Park. He was arrested July 21 on six warrants of third-degree felony charges of possession of child pornography and was booked into the Tarrant County Jail. He was released Friday, July 23, on a \$60,000 bond.

Authier said Crimes Against Children investigators worked for several months during the investigation to gather evidence prior to Lawrence's arrest due to the large amount of images.

The case will be forwarded to the Parker County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

### QUOTABLE

Every truth passes through three stages before it is recognized. In the first, it is ridiculed. In the second, it is opposed. In the third, it is regarded as self evident.

Arthur Schopenhauer

## Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



### NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010847001

**APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION.** City of Aledo, P.O. Box 1, Aledo, Texas 76008, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010847001 which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 600,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on February 9, 2021.

The facility is located at 600 Barnwell Road, Aledo, in Parker County, Texas 76008. The treated effluent is discharged to an unnamed tributary, thence to Clear Fork Trinity River Below Lake Weatherford in Segment No. 0831 of the Trinity River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is minimal aquatic life use for unnamed tributary. The designated uses for Segment No. 0831 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is 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=db5bac44afbc468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-97.61%2C32.686111&level=12>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Aledo City Hall, 200 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, Texas.

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds 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 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 a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a 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.**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION.** The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

**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.

**All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/) within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.**

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://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 [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/](http://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. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. 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](http://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: July 14, 2021



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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

PROPOSED PERMIT NO. WQ0015987001

**APPLICATION.** City of Willow Park, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for proposed Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0015987001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0141259) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 995,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility will be located approximately 1,150 feet south and 500 feet east of the intersection of Crown Road and Trinity Meadows Lane, in Parker County, Texas 76087. The discharge route will be from the plant site via Outfall 001 directly to Clear Fork Trinity River Below Lake Weatherford; via Outfall 002 to Squaw Creek Reservoir; thence to Squaw Creek; thence to Clear Fork Trinity River Below Lake Weatherford. TCEQ received this application on May 10, 2021. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Willow Creek 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=db5bac44afbc468bbddd36of8168250f&marker=-97.66194%2C32.749389&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.**

**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](http://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](http://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: July 19, 2021



## IRS Criminal Investigation warns taxpayers about Child Tax Credit scams

The Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division is warning taxpayers about Child Tax Credit-related scams, which criminals may use to steal money and personal information.

While millions of American families started receiving the advance Child Tax Credit payments last week, criminals were already looking for innovative tactics to take advantage of unwitting victims. Taxpayers should be on the lookout for a variety of phone, e-mail, text message, and social media scams targeting families eligible for the credit. Any communication offering assistance to sign up for the Child Tax Credit or to speed up the monthly payments is likely a scam. When receiving unsolicited calls or messages, taxpayers should not provide personal information, click on links, or open attachments as this may lead to money loss, tax-related fraud, and identity theft.

"Taxpayers should continue to be vigilant against any potential scammer's unsolicited request for information, offer of assistance, or any other schemes," said Special Agent in Charge Christopher J. Altemus Jr., Dallas Field Office.

Although scammers constantly come up with new schemes to try and catch taxpayers off-guard, there

are simple ways to identify if it is truly the IRS reaching out.

- The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers via e-mail, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information, even information related to the Child Tax Credit.
- The IRS does not leave pre-recorded, urgent, or threatening messages. Aggressive calls warning taxpayers about a lawsuit or arrest are fake.
- The IRS will not call taxpayers asking them to provide or verify financial information so they can obtain the monthly Child Tax Credit payments.
- The IRS will not ask for payment via a gift card, wire transfer or cryptocurrency.

If you are eligible for advance payments of the Child Tax Credit, the IRS will use information from your 2020 or 2019 tax return to automatically enroll you for advance payments. Taxpayers do not have to take any additional action. Taxpayers who are not required to file a tax return or who have not provided the IRS their information, may visit [IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021](http://IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021) to provide basic information for the Child Tax Credit.

To report suspicious IRS-related phishing and online scams, visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).

## WC board holds July meeting

The Weatherford College Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting Thursday, July 8, in the Allene Strain Community Room.

Rodeo Coach Johnny Emmons provided an update on the rodeo team, which competes in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association comprised of 130 colleges and universities with 3,500 student athletes. He was asked specifically about the local economic impact the individuals on the team have on the local community.

"The average cost of their horses is \$25,000," Emmons said. "These families have a \$100,000 to \$150,000 invested in their kids. It costs about \$200 a month to take care of a horse and we had 125 horses on our team. So, you're looking at students spending \$25,000 a month in our local feed stores and vet clinics before including trailer maintenance and everything else."

The board congratulated Emmons and his team for another successful season, which included the college's first regional team championship for the women's team.

The board also approved the transfer of several items to the Parker County Emergency Services District Number 1 for the continued operation of the WC Fire Academy. The college and ESD No. 1 are in discussions regarding the relocation of the fire academy to ESD-owned property in the short term and possibly long term. The transfer is pending approval of the ESD No. 1 Board of Commissioners.

"We are extremely proud of not only our Fire Science Academy, but of our entire First Responder Community," WC President Tod Allen Farmer said. "They are true heroes. We are excited to have the opportunity to further enhance our program while simultaneously making it financially sustainable."



PANORAMIC PHOTO BY RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bearcat Stadium looked almost like a desert this week after crews had stripped the old turf in preparation for a new surface for this fall's football season.

## Llewellyn reacts to Oklahoma football news

SEC now in the picture

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

Football is an ever-changing game, especially in the state of Texas. No matter what level it is, anything is possible. Within the last week, the college football landscape was turned on its head. Rumors had spread all last week, and it became official on Monday that the University of Texas and the University of Oklahoma will leave the Big 12 Conference bound for the Southeastern Conference. The move has already created ripples throughout the country.

The news came as a shock for Aledo tight end and OU commit Jason Llewellyn.

"I don't think anybody had a clue," Llewellyn said about receiving no indication or idea that the move would happen. "I remember seeing it on Instagram and Twitter about leaks that they were going to leave the Big 12, and then it just blew up like wildfire."

The news shook most, if not all football fans around the country and left many pundits speculating the fallout. Mostly, whether or not both schools could compete in what is regarded as the best conference in college football.

"It's interesting," Llewellyn gave his own thoughts on the situation. "Obviously, Oklahoma has just dominated the Big 12 for the last six-plus years. They've won the Big 12 Championship six straight times, so it's interesting."

However, as Llewellyn pointed out, it could be looked at from different perspectives.

"I see it a couple of different ways," he broke down his views. "OU has dominated so much and now they're looking for bigger and better competition facing teams like Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, but it's also exciting to be a part of that and to go be in the SEC."

The move is not expected to be completed until 2025 when the Big 12 television deal expires; however, either school or the SEC can pay a \$7 million buyout per school to complete the move in time for the 2022 football season.

"The SEC has a lot of NFL potential," Llewellyn said. "They produce a lot of NFL draft picks and obviously, I want to go to the league. I think going into the SEC and hopefully playing a couple of years in the SEC as well will create a really good resume and some film out there against some teams like Alabama."

Another ripple that the move creates is in recruiting, but when asked if the move affects his decision to go to Oklahoma, Llewellyn only had two words: "No chance."

Despite Llewellyn's commitment to Oklahoma, the realignment will no doubt cause a massive change in the way players from all sports are recruited. That rings especially true in a place so full of athletic talent like Aledo.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Gantt verbally commits to UTEP



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Mattie Gantt (6) defends the net with teammate Audrey Pearce (3) during the 2020 volleyball season.

## Incoming senior expected to be leader for Ladycats

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

Not for the first time, and not for the last time. That's what comes to mind every time an Aledo athlete makes a commitment to play their respective sport in college. It happened again last week when volleyball star Mattie Gantt made her commitment to UTEP (University of Texas at El Paso).

"I am so blessed to announce that I verbally committed to play D1 volleyball at the University of Texas at El Paso," Gantt said on a social media post. "I want to thank all of my friends, family, teammates, and coaches for making me the

person and player I am today. Can not wait to be a Miner!"

Gantt, a senior at Aledo, is the obvious leader for the Ladycats volleyball this season. Last season she led the team in sets played with 79. In comparison, the closest to that number from a returning player is sophomore Vivian Parker at 62.

In those 79 sets, Gantt led the team with 681 assists, and of her 356 serves, 40 resulted in aces. All three stats were a team best. On top of that, she added 77 kills and 276 digs. Despite all of that, her eyes are looking ahead to the upcoming season.

"I just want to create that family environment that Aledo sports have," Gantt said. "We're just going to keep going, and hopefully go far. Getting to the

state tournament would be great, that's a dream for all of us."

When asked about the decision, Gantt recalled how much she enjoyed the UTEP coaches.

"The coaches reached out and said they really liked me, and think I could grow there. So I said 'Let's go to El Paso!' I really enjoyed the players and coaches. It was just a good competitive environment. I can't thank those coaches enough for giving me this opportunity to play for them."

Before Gantt heads to the western corner of Texas, she has one more volleyball season to go with the Ladycats, and will no doubt be looking to bring home the school's first volleyball state title.

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# Bearcat Regiment on the march

The Aledo Bearcat regiment was drilling on footwork this week in the AHS parking lot. Photos by Randy Keck



Charles Harris, Austin Hall, Sarah Miller



Raymond Polexi



Elizabeth McCarly



Sharon De La Garza



Meredith Boykin

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# New WC scholarship added in honor of late rodeo cowboy, actor

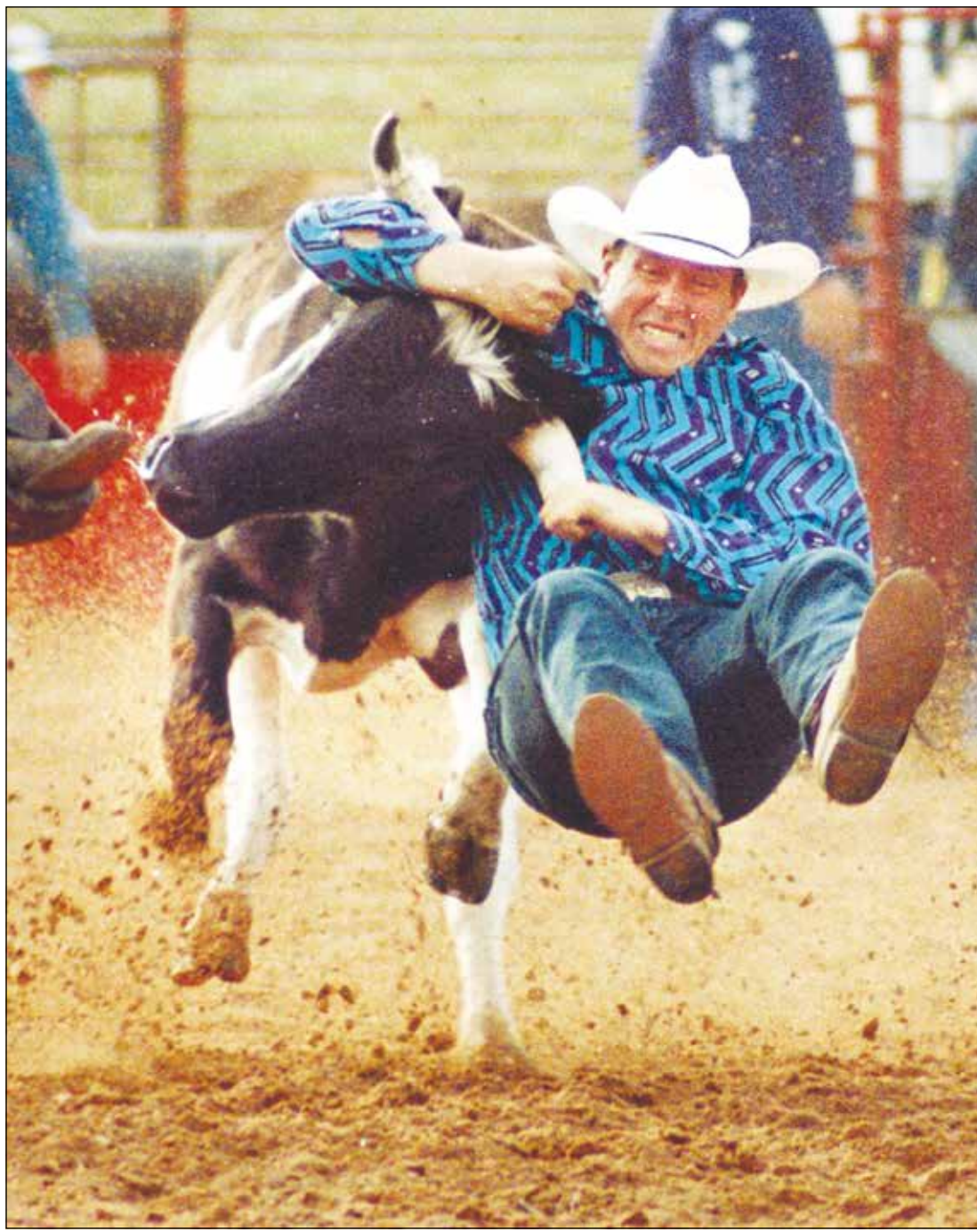
**By Rick Mauch**  
Special to The Community News

As a nine-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier, the late Marty Melvin knew a lot about winning and how to appreciate a winner.

Now, to help keep the longstanding winning tradition of the Weatherford College rodeo program going strong, his widow, Judy Melvin of Paradise, has given the Weatherford College Foundation a \$10,000 gift to create a new permanent scholarship endowment in his honor. The Marty Melvin Scholarship is earmarked for steer wrestlers on WC's rodeo team.

The award is especially close to the heart of Weatherford College rodeo coach Johnny Emmons, who is approaching the end of his first decade at the helm. For years, Emmons was an assistant to the late Mike Brown. Together they have guided WC rodeo athletes to 16 consecutive appearances at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming, with this year's women's team finishing fifth in the nation—the highest finish ever for a WC team.

"I've known Marty nearly my entire pro rodeo career dating back to 1988," Emmons said. "Marty was an awesome guy and outstanding cowboy. One of the nicest



COURTESY PRCA

guys you would ever meet, always positive with a great attitude. Not only was he one of the best steer wrestlers during his career, but he could win money in the rough stock events as well."

Melvin, who passed away in 2019 at the age of 59, qualified for the NFR in 1983-89, 1991 and 1996, finished a career-best second in the PRCA world standings in 1985, and was third in 1988. In 1989, he won the average at the National Finals Rodeo with a time of 57.7 seconds on 10 head and placed fifth in the world standings.

Melvin won the Linderman Award in 1983-84. Named after Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame cowboy Bill Linderman, the award recognizes cowboys who perform at both ends of the arena (rough stock and timed events).

Melvin earned \$762,108 in his PRCA career.

But his success extended far beyond the rodeo arena. In the 1980s, he was hired as the "Marlboro Man" for cigarette ads, although he never smoked. He also worked as an actor on TV and in music videos, and he loved horse racing.

In 1991 he married Judy Painter. They ranched near Keller before moving to Wise County.

He was inducted into the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Hall of Fame in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, in 1992.

Melvin lived his life as a Christian who put his faith before his rodeoing. In recent years, he played the part of a Roman soldier in "The Chosen," a TV film series about the life of Jesus. He also acted in other Christian films.

"Marty was a good Christian man, and I have always been proud to call him a friend," Emmons said.

"We are so happy and appreciative of the Melvin family for their awesome gift to the college foundation. Two of Marty's kids, Paul and Marilyn, both competed for our rodeo program a few years ago, and it means a lot to me for the family to choose WC for their gift."

Emmons said the Marty Melvin name will bring additional credibility to the program.

"More scholarship money can always help the rodeo team by being able to sign more students. But this one, with its namesake, should help us recruit a top steer wrestler," Emmons said. "The Melvin name is very well known throughout the steer wrestling world, and that should be a good advantage for our program."

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