

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDUCATION

Schools attempt to work around COVID-19

TCA closes for the week

By Randy Keck
The Community News

COVID-19 has thrown a wrench into the beginning of the school year, already temporarily closing Trinity Christian Academy and keeping Aledo ISD officials on watch.

TCA made the decision to close the school for the week of Aug. 23 primarily because of cases among staff.

“Almost immediately upon beginning in-service activities, we began to see positive cases among our staff,” TCA Head of School Mike Skaggs said. “This was particularly prevalent on our middle and high school campus. While we were able to secure substitutes to cover classes during the first three days of school, it was apparent that we would not be able to do so this week, so our board and administration agreed it best to close operations on our secondary campus the week of Aug 23.”

Skaggs said they made the decision to “let things settle down a bit as well as in light of the fact that we knew we were unable to deliver the level of care and educational quality our students deserve.

“Our goal throughout our return to school has been twofold: providing in person school while protecting the health and well-being of our students and staff. We will continue in our pursuit of those goals throughout the coming year. Our school family has been incredibly supportive, and it has been heartwarming to see the showering of prayers and support over our staff, some of whom have been quite ill.”

Aledo ISD

The Aledo ISD is keeping close tabs on COVID-19 cases, as 31 lab-confirmed positive cases

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Charge!



KIRSTEN GALLON

Chase Spieker and Kailey Delorenzo lead Team Halo onto the field to start the Band Olympics on Aug. 13. The annual team-building exercise marks the end of summer band camp.

The Aledo Bearcat Regiment held its annual Band Olympics on Aug. 16, participating in a variety of fun, team-building activities.

Activities included games like Dizzy Bat, Hula Hoop Challenge,

and Noodle Relay.

“Band Olympics is a tradition here at Aledo High School,” said director Jake Albin. “We end the our summer band camp with team building activities that are both

fun and down right hysterical. We build new relationships, we meet new people, and it’s just a reminder to everyone that band is fun!”

Turn to page 10 for additional photos.

WILLOW PARK

Council approves increased tax rate

New rate will be effective Oct. 1

By Brandi Addison
The Community News

After a silent public hearing during the Aug. 24 council meeting, the Willow Park City Council unanimously approved a new tax rate of \$0.566654 per \$100 in property valuation.

Effective Oct. 1, the new tax rate is about three cents more per \$100 in valuation than the current rate of \$0.5367 per \$100 in property valuation — the city’s tax rate since 2016.

City Manager Bryan Grimes recommended the city move forward to propose the voter-approved tax rate — the maximum rate before requiring voter approval — on Aug. 10.

“You can always come off that in a couple weeks when you set the rate,” Grimes said during the early August meeting. “But once you set the rate, you cannot go higher than that. You can only go lower. The county did a similar measure.”

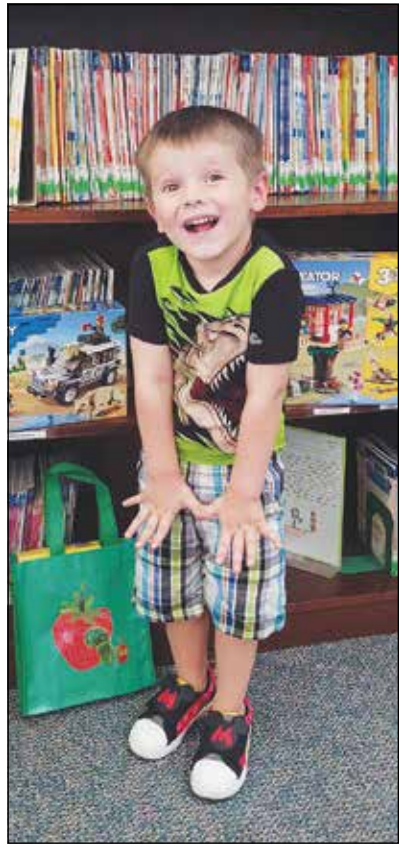
Councilwoman Lea Young noted during Tuesday’s meeting that the reason for the increased tax rates is the city’s desire to fully

the fire department, which would have otherwise waited until at least April 1.

Instead, the increased tax rate will allow Willow Park to staff three new firefighters on Oct. 1.

“I challenged our city manager to come up with a budget way of doing this that did not increase our total tax rate — that involves looking at both (maintenance and operations) and (interest and sinking) taxes,” Young said. “And the only other option that we looked at was lowering our I&S — or our debt — below what suggested

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SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Kyle D. was a reader raffle winner during the East Parker County Library’s summer reading program.

HUGE SUCCESS East Parker County Library concludes summer reading program

Just because school is out doesn’t mean you stop learning, as more than 600 local youth learned.

Local non-profit East Parker County Library recently concluded its “Tails and Tales” summer reading program. The early June kickoff featured the Creature Teacher education outreach program. In addition, EPCL hosted eight weeks of summer activities for children, adults, and families in East Parker County and surrounding towns.

After holding steady with a little more than 300 participants for each of the past two years, this summer’s animal-themed reading program had a 100% increase in participation with 606 registered readers.

Participants recorded the number of minutes they spent reading to reach milestones that include sweet treats offered by local businesses — Funky Munky, Frios Gourmet Pops, and Aledo Nutrition and Energy — as well as free books given out by the library and tickets for the popular end of the summer reading raffle for prizes that included STEM, Lego, Art kits, and an iPad.

While last year’s COVID restrictions had the library taking its reading program virtual, this summer EPCL was fortunate to host in-person programming with many of the events held outside at a local park.

Besides the Creature Teacher, the library welcomed the Fort

Turn to **LIBRARY**, page 4

TRAFFIC ALERT

Mikus Road north of the westbound I-20 frontage road will be closed beginning Monday, Aug. 30 for approximately one month for drainage work. The roadway will be open Sept. 3 – 6 for the Labor Day weekend. Traffic will follow the signed detour from Crown Road to Crown Pointe Boulevard to the I-20 frontage road.

ALEDO

Dollar General nears opening

By Brandi Addison
The Community News

The Dollar General in Aledo will soon open, a corporate employee confirmed with *The Community News*.

“We are tentatively set for the store to open within the coming

weeks, but the ability to do so on that timeline may be subject to final store preparations,” Angela Petkovic said in an email.

The announcement of the city’s new general merchandise store, located at 521 S. FM 1187, stirred some discourse among residents

— especially on social media.

Some expressed concerns of its curb appeal, while others were displeased with its proximity to the Aledo Middle School.

The closest Dollar General is located off Ranch House Road in

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Rate down, revenue up

Aledo ISD lowers tax rate, gives teachers a raise.

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Days gone By

Editor Randy Keck waxes nostalgic about a simpler era.

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Sports

Ladycats gain momentum.

PAGE 7



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In & Around Parker County

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Holland Outfitters & Co. is a family-owned business that has served happy customers for nearly 20 years.

Founder Robin Holland first launched her independent shop under a different name in the early 2000s, selling screen-printed and embroidery clothing items.

Nearly two decades later, the business has grown to offer services for sports and cheerleading uniforms, business promotional products, letterman jackets, holiday decorations, and one-of-a-kind tees.

Holland Outfitters & Co. can also produce specialty items for wedding showers, bridal parties, baby showers and more — some of the most unique gift items she offers.

Holland's commitment to the stellar quality of her products and happiness of her customers elevates Holland Outfitters & Co. as a distinct local business.

"We stand behind everything we do," Holland said. "Our work speaks for itself."



Holland Outfitters & Co. vows to create only high-quality products, while providing extra services, such as improvements, touch-ups, and repairs when needed.

Rooted in Burleson, Holland Outfitters & Co. supports customers from around the North Texas region.

The shop is located at 12222 Rendon Road in Burleson, Texas. Call 817-478-6377 or 817-602-1999, or email hollandoutfitter@gmail.com.



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STORE

from page one

Willow Park, approximately four miles from Downtown Aledo.

The new store will employ between six to 10 people and contain the same foods, beauty products, and household products that can be found at nearby stores.

It is not clear if the new location will also include an expanded party preparation selection and on-trend home decor, as some

of the newer locations offer.

“Our customers are at the center of all that we do, and meeting customer’s needs is Dollar General’s top priority when choosing store locations,” Petkovic said.

“In selecting store sites, we take a number of factors into consideration, carefully evaluating each potential new store location to ensure we continue to meet our customers’ price, value and selection needs,” she added.

RATE

from page one

at this point, which would essentially leave us no room to do any projects over the next year.

“So, after, I will say, a lot of discussions and typing in to spreadsheets, I do think that the best thing at this point is

to have our firefighters start on Oct. 1 and to adopt I&S tax rate that allows us to have some flexibility to do something for the citizens like a road project or something in the next year,” Young added.

The tax rate is set for the period between Oct. 1 and Sept. 30, 2022.

ALEDO ISD

Teachers, librarians receive raise

By Makenzie Plusnick
The Community News

The Aledo ISD school board approved the 2021-22 budget at its Aug. 23 special meeting.

“Property values increased, tax rates compress, it is shifting more money from the local to the state level,” Husfeld said.

The total budgeted funds for the new school year are \$91,600,991, a 6% increase from the prior school year’s budget. \$68.1 million is in the general fund, of which 78% of goes toward staff payroll. It also covers professional and contracted services, supplies and materials, and other operating expenses.

This budget considers the projected increase in student enrollment and attendance rates, according to Earl Husfeld, the district’s Chief Financial Advisor. The budget has increased funding for staffing, which is needed in part because of the new elementary school, Husfeld said.

The budget allows for returning teachers and librarians to receive at least a \$2,400 raise. This was

District lowers tax rate

important to the district to ensure that they stay competitive with surround districts, Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said.

The district also allocated \$3 million for the child nutrition fund. Though this fund saw a 9.84% increase, Husfeld said they also expect expenses to go up as more students return the cafeteria, therefore using more supplies.

“It will be interesting to see how that plays out. We’ve had good success [this school year], a lot of students using that,” he said.

An additional \$20.4 million are in the debt service fund, which covers payments and interests for bonds. The board also voted to pay off \$1.86 million in bonds early, which will save \$1.5 million in future interest.

The district also adopted a new, lower tax rate at the meeting. The new tax rate is \$1.3929, which is \$0.0868 less than the 2020 tax rate. \$0.9679 goes into the maintenance and operations fund and \$0.4250 goes toward interest and sinking fund tax rate. The lowered tax rate is because of higher property values, which brings the tax rate down, Husfeld said.

The board allocated \$500,000 to address potential COVID-19 needs, such as masks, hand sanitizer and additional custodial staff. This is a nearly \$400,000 decrease from the previous school year. Despite these funds, Bohn still had concerns over potential problems because of the virus. The past school year, the state offered waivers and other options for districts who struggled because of the virus. However, this year, funding for potential problems, such as schools closing or attendance rates falling, is still unclear.

“What we are doing and what we will continue to do is advocate for those opportunities for us to have a plan through the state if things aren’t working,” Bohn said.

The board voted unanimously to pass the budget.

According to a press release from the district, “the board voted to prepay \$1.86 million in outstanding bonds prior to maturity, saving \$1.58 million in future interest costs. The district has saved more than \$48.28 million since 2006 by refunding, refinancing and pre-paying bonds and taking advantage of lower interest rates.”

Character Strong

Aledo ISD canceled a new program meant to teach students about values after content was discovered that was not part of the district-program agreement, according to a district-wide email.

The program, Character Strong, was part of a state-mandated character education program, according to the email. However, when parents received a login link for the program Aug. 12, it included “a list of definitions that were never part of the intended character education curriculum to be implemented by the district and not part of the district’s agreement with the company.”

The district then decided to discontinue the program. However, the district still plans on instilling the values “courage, respect, perseverance, gratitude, honesty, kindness, empathy, responsibility, cooperation and creativity,” that the program was meant to teach throughout this school year.

Aledo ISD did not respond to requests for additional information.

COVID

from page one

were reported the first week of school. During the same period last year, zero cases had been reported.

At least two rural school districts in Texas have temporarily closed in order to contain the spread of the virus, according to The Texas Tribune.

In Iraan, which has no critical care facilities, three adults had to be airlifted to hospitals, and 23% of the district staff was out because they had

tested positive or had been exposed to COVID-19, the Tribune reported.

In Morgan Mill, about half the district’s staff was out sick, prompting temporary closures.

In a communication with Aledo ISD parents, Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn indicated she did not want that to happen at Aledo ISD.

“Our first concern is the health and safety of our students and our staff,” Bohn wrote. “We also want to keep our schools open, and I have some level of concern about being able to do so, especially given school closures

we have learned about in the past few days in and around our community.”

Bohn said that, while masking is not mandated in the district, “the district encourages students, staff, and any visitors to wear face coverings while they are inside district facilities given how difficult it is to maintain social distance in our schools.” She said the advice to wear face coverings is supported by members of the school district’s COVID-19 task force composed of parents and medical professionals in the community.

She added that “our local Parker County Medical Director, Cook

Children’s Healthcare System, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the CDC recommend wearing masks to slow the spread of COVID-19 in schools and keep schools open for kids.”

Besides encouraging face coverings, the district is moving all meetings that are 15 minutes or longer to a virtual format, postponing curriculum nights at the elementary school level, and working with principals to make adjustments in operations to facilitate social distancing on campuses.

The case count at Aledo showed signs of climbing from the original 31 active cases (27 students and four staff) reported on Monday. Tuesday’s number jumped to 47 (38 students, nine staff) and Wednesday, the active case count claimed to 59 (49 students, 10 staff).

A school district official said there was not a particular threshold that would prompt canceling classes in Aledo ISD, but that circumstances would be tracked and decisions made accordingly.

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LIBRARY

from page one

Worth Nature Center and Refuge; local veterinarian, Dr. Becky Burk; Norman, resident dog from the Weatherford Animal Shelter; the Alpacas of Aledo; Phoebe, the K-9 Comfort Dog; Arts on the Go; and the Upper Trinity River Groundwater Conservation District; as well as story times by all the Aledo ISD Elementary School principals.

Children and families also had access to virtual programming through the EPCL website and Facebook; make and take crafts; and the read and bead program. Local artist Diane Brown offered a four-part series "Drawing Animals" for adults.

During these eight weeks, the library issued 172 new library cards.

A VolunTEEN program assisted staff with the increase in circulation seen at the library this summer. Volunteers (teens and adults) provide essential services to help the library run smoothly.

East Parker County Library is in the Parker County Library Association with four other libraries to give the community access to more than 230,000 items.

Unlike municipal libraries owned by a city, EPCL is a non-profit library that depends on donations from the towns it serves and from citizens in the community.

While population numbers in communities in East Parker County continue to surge, donations have not matched the growth. The library and its four part-time staff remain committed to the 30-year mission to provide materials and resources that encourage a love of reading, promote lifelong learning, and broaden the cultural enrichment opportunities for our patrons, while also serving as an educational center for all residents in the community.



LEFT: The Kickoff Summer Event was a Creature Teacher at the Aledo Community Center. | RIGHT: Oscar Perez - Fort Worth Nature Center Outreach



LEFT: Eleanor J. was a reader raffle winner. | CENTER: Alpacas of Aledo Story Time | RIGHT: The Visit with a Vet special program featured Dr. Becky Burk.



LEFT: Canine Comfort Dog Outreach | CENTER: Annetta Elementary School Principal Holly Elgin reads at Story Time. | RIGHT: Happy readers display their free books milestone.

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Capital Highlights

Abbott tests negative four days after testing positive



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspess.com

Gov. Greg Abbott announced via Twitter Saturday that he is now testing negative for COVID-19, four days after testing positive though asymptomatic.

"I am told that my infection was brief and mild because of the vaccination I received. I will continue to quarantine as recommended by doctors," Abbott said. "And I will keep working on issues affecting Texas."

Meanwhile, the battle over masks continues, with growing numbers of school districts from Longview to San Antonio ignoring the governor's ban on mask mandates. The Texas Supreme Court last week temporarily cleared the way for districts to require masks, but only on a technicality. The court left in place a Travis County judge's temporary restraining order against the mandate ban, saying typically such cases have to go before an appellate court before ending up in the state's highest civil court. A number of other cases are before various district and appellate courts in Texas.

The Paris school district, in Northeast Texas, took a novel approach to the issue. Its board voted to alter the district's dress code to include masks for all employees and students.

Delta variant continues to spur COVID-19 case rise

The number of new cases of COVID-19 in the state continues to rise steeply, with 125,033 reported in the past week, along with 937 deaths. New cases in Texas were up 27% compared to the previous week and up five-fold in the past month, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. In Texas, hospitals are nearing capacity, though in a number of cases a shortage of nurses and other health-care workers is forcing facilities to leave beds empty. Abbott has asked hospitals to delay elective surgeries during the recent surge of cases.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals reached 12,951 on Sunday with 373 intensive care unit beds available across the state, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations is up more than four-fold from a month ago and is approaching the all-time high set in mid-January.

The number of Texans fully vaccinated stands at 13.293 million, according to DSHS. That's 45.7% of the state's total population. As news of the delta variant spreads, the vaccination rate is increasing, up more than 20,000 doses daily, according to DSHS.

House establishes quorum; election bill advances

Enough House Democrats entered the floor Thursday evening for Speaker

Dade Phelan to announce a quorum was present for the first time in six weeks. Nearly 50 House Democrats decamped to Washington, D.C. in May to stop work in the House. As the Austin American-Statesman reported, bitterness remains after the walk-out and Phelan's attempt to have Democrats arrested and forcibly brought to the House floor. None were arrested.

In addition to the elections bill, which would ban drive-through voting and other provisions aimed at increasing turnout, Abbott placed bail reform, distribution of federal pandemic relief funds, border security and several other items on the agenda. This second special session ends Sept. 6.

TxDOT launches DUI prevention campaign

The Texas Department of Transportation has rolled out a campaign to share stories of Texans who must deal with the consequences of a drunk driving crash. The "Faces of Drunk Driving" will feature events around the state and includes testimonials on video from families dealing with those consequences.

In 2020, there were 963 alcohol related vehicle fatalities — one every nine hours.

"Drinking and driving can lead to tragic consequences that are 100% preventable," Marc William, TxDOT executive director said. "These consequences involve individuals who made the unfortunate decision to drink and drive along with many innocent victims of those decisions."

One of the "faces" of the campaign is Walter Tidwell, now 25. He hopped in his car after a long night of drinking and was pulled over driving the wrong way down a one-way street. Fortunately, he was stopped before causing a wreck. He recently concluded three years of court visits and still must take alcohol and drug offender courses, do community service and serve a stretch on probation. Tidwell is telling his story in hopes of convincing others of the dangers of driving drunk.

Court issues injunction in fight over Medicaid waiver

A federal district judge last week temporarily reinstated a 10-year extension of a Medicaid program worth billions of dollars to the state for health care for the uninsured. As the Texas Tribune and other media outlets reported, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services wanted the state to collect public input before negotiating a new extension to the agreement, in place since 2011.

The waiver provides nearly \$4 billion in annual funding for uninsured treated in Texas hospitals, as well as mental health services.

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@texaspess.com.

Slings&Arrows

Memories of T. G. & Y.



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

This week I'd like to take you back to a simpler time — a time when you could buy a hamburger and a milk shake at the drug store, buy a Hershey bar for a nickel, and get B B Batts for a penny. I spent much of the first 18 or so years of my life somewhere in the vicinity of a T. G. & Y. store.

Now I realize that if you are younger than about 35 you might not know what I'm talking about. Read on for a look at life from the early 1960s to mid 1980s.

My dad spent his life in retail. I think he started out with Piggly Wiggly before being hired by Perry Bros. (If you've never heard of T. G. & Y., you've surely never heard of Perry Bros.)

Perry Bros. and T. G. & Y. were known as "Five and dime" stores, although T. G. & Y.'s tagline eventually became "5¢ to \$1.00 Stores."

Anyway, dad was sent by Perry Bros. to work in a store in Littlefield, Texas. He found a boarding house where he took up residence. (If you haven't heard of T. G. & Y. or Perry Bros., you may not know what a boarding house is, either. Stay with me.) The boarding house is where he met my mother, as it was her parents who owned and rented out the rooms in the house.

I'm not sure how long dad was in Littlefield, but by the time he left he was married to my mother, he at the age of 22 and her at the ripe old age of 18. Perry Bros. sent dad to Tulia, Texas, and that is where I was born two years later.

Quite honestly, I don't remember much of that time. My earliest memories center around Lubbock, where we lived in a little two-bedroom frame house on 37th Street, and dad was an assistant manager at the T. G. & Y. store in the Town & Country Shopping Center, right across the street from Jones Stadium.

I remember a Furr's Cafeteria was there, and there was a free-standing Dunlap's Department Store.

T. G. & Y. was a magical place. For a not-very-big store by today's standards, you could get almost anything you needed there. Think Dollar General but with less food and more general merchandise, and less stuffed.



If I remember correctly, that Town & Country store had hardwood floors that had a distinct sound when you walked on them.

My memories become a little more focused as I recall first grade. We had moved to 46th street, and dad was promoted to be the manager of a brand-new store in Redbud Square, which was in what was then the western fringe of Lubbock.

Dad must have been good at managing a store, because it wasn't too long before he got transferred to a larger store, and then to what was at the time the largest store in town, Monterey Center.

Monterey Center was like a shopping mall without the roof. There was a J.C. Penney anchoring one end of the center, T. G. & Y. in the middle. Piggly Wiggly at another end, and the upscale Hemphill Wells Department Store anchoring another branch.

That store was amazing. They had candy by the pound, a good toy section, fabrics, goldfish, and sporting goods.

There was a photo studio in the store, they cut window shades to size, and they even had a small monkey for sale.

My brother and I spent many an hour in the stockrooms of dad's stores. He would make badges for us, and that gave each of us an inflated sense of importance.

T. G. & Y. was often said to mean "Toys, Guns, and Yoyos," but it was actually an acronym for the three founders of the company, Rawdon E. Tomlinson, Enoch L. Gosselin, and Raymond A. Young.

The three partners started out in 1935, and the company, headquartered in Oklahoma City, grew to more than 900 stores in 29 states.

About the time I finished seventh grade, dad got transferred to manage one of the new "Family Centers" in Wichita Falls. The Family Centers were more like today's Target or Wal-Mart stores, though not quite as large.

At 16, I got a job as a stockboy at another store in Wichita Falls. I did a little of

everything for the store that had everything: swept floors, stocked motor oil, checked in and re-stocked goldfish, cut keys, and unloaded trucks.

When I was in college, dad was transferred to Weatherford to open a Family Center there in the spot where Big Lots is now.

The mid 1980s were not a good time for T. G. & Y. It struggled with its identity.

I still run across stuff I have with a T. G. & Y. logo or price tag on it. I have a wooden ruler in my home office that was a T. G. & Y. giveaway, and that I must have used in school, as my name is inscribed on the reverse.

I was thrilled to find out there are a couple of T. G. & Y. groups on Facebook, and that stirs old memories.

I was surprised to find out in my research that T. G. & Y. and Wal-Mart both grew on parallel tracks, and as they grew they stayed out of each other's way. With T. G. & Y. gone in the mid-1980s — well, we can see what happened from there.

There are times I wish I could walk into a T. G. & Y. store just to feel the ambiance, but I can't.

That brings me to the point for all you young whipper-snappers who are still with me and are wondering. Perry Bros. is a distant memory, barely meriting a find on Google. Town & Country Shopping Center isn't there any longer. Dunlaps is gone. Hemphill Wells is gone. Monterey Center is gone. T. G. & Y. is gone.

And that's okay — nothing in this world is permanent.

The important thing is to enjoy what you have while you have it. Don't rush through and then come to a time that you wish you could go back because you didn't take the time to truly appreciate what you had.

And on the other hand, don't let a yearning for the past rob you of your future.

Randy Keck is owner and editor of The Community News.

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.

Events

AUGUST 27, 2021
THE COMMUNITY NEWS
WWW.COMMUNITY-NEWS.COM

More events can be found at www.community-news.com/events

SEPTEMBER 6

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.

SEPTEMBER 10

Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club

The Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club 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.



SEPTEMBER 11

Back to the 80's

Dust off your leg warmers, tease up your hair and mark your calendars to go 'Back to the 80's' beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Will Rogers Memorial Center Roundup Inn.

The event is a fundraising gala to benefit Project Celebration 2022, a parent-driven group at Aledo High School that raises money to host a drug-free, alcohol-free safe alternative after prom for seniors.

The Back to the 80's Gala will include entertainment by the band "Live 80." They'll perform 80s hits while guests enjoy dinner, cash bar, live-band karaoke, dancing, and more. There will be auction items and special activities throughout the night to help support Project Celebration 2022.

Tables are available for purchase for \$1,000 and individual tickets are \$100 each. Sponsorships are available with a variety of branding opportunities for local businesses and a few limited live-band karaoke spots are available.

Purchases are tax deductible since Project Celebration is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information, email AledoPC2022@gmail.com or visit www.aledopc2022.com.

SEPTEMBER 14

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 cjkat1959@gmail.com.



SEPTEMBER 18

Willow Bark

Before the dog days of summer come to an end, you can celebrate your furry friends at Willow Park's inaugural dog festival, Willow Bark. The event will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Paul Balint Jr. Memorial Park.

The event offers a dog costume contest and parade, as well as "weenie dog races," which will actually consist of two dog races, separated by small and large sizes.

Admission is free to the public, but the registration fee for competitions is \$5 per pet.

There will also be several food trucks and vendors. Juliebean's Ice Cream truck will bring ice cream treats for pups (though they are human-safe, too).

For humans, the Rocky Lott Band will perform live, and a play area for children will offer several kid-friendly activities.

All proceeds will benefit Parker Paws.

For more information, call Rosealee Hoffman Kertok at 817-441-7108 or 940-452-7099 or email rkertok@willowpark.org.

SEPTEMBER 20

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.

SEPTEMBER 28

Aledo Community Lions Club

The Aledo Community Lions Club meets from 12-1 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Aledo Community Center. The public is invited. For more information call Bob Carlson at 817-718-4902.

SEPTEMBER 30

Western Hills Class of '71 Reunion

The Western Hills High School Class of 1971 will hold its 50-year reunion beginning with a Brazos River Party at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, at a location to be named later.

The party will include a Fuzzy's Taco fajita buffet, two drink tickets, and complimentary wine.

The main event will be held from 6-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, at Ridglea Country Club in Fort Worth, and will include dinner and two drink tickets.

The cost for the icebreaker and main event is \$150 if paid by July 31, or \$170 if paid by Sept. 7 (the last purchase date).

Checks can be sent to Western Hills Class of 1971 50 Year Reunion, P.O. Box 1621, Fort Worth, TX 76097.

There is an optional golf scramble outing on Sept 30 at Ridglea Country Club. For more information on the outing, email Mark Dinkins at markdinkins@houseloan.com.



OCTOBER 01

Pink Luncheon

Pat Smith will be the keynote speaker at the annual Pink Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, at Willow Park Baptist Church, 129 S. Ranch House Road in Willow Park.

A project of the Parker County Health Foundation, the Pink Luncheon raises funds for mammography screenings for Parker County residents.

Sponsorships and tickets are now available on a mail-in only basis. Sponsorships range from \$1,200 to \$10,000. To download a sponsorship form, visit https://www.pinkluncheon.com/images/pink_luncheon/2021/2021_Pink%20Luncheon-sponsorship-form_04212021.pdf.

Individual tickets are \$125. To download a ticket form, visit https://www.pinkluncheon.com/images/pink_luncheon/2021/2021_Pink_Luncheon_indiv_ticket_form_04212021.pdf.

FEBRUARY 26, 2022

TCA Legacy Dinner

Colt McCoy, former University of Texas quarterback and current NFL quarterback, will be the keynote speaker at Trinity Christian Academy's Legacy Dinner and Auction at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022. The Legacy Dinner is a biennial event that raises funds for special projects at TCA.

The event will include dinner, silent auction, and a live auction led by a TCA



MODEL TRAIN SHOW

All aboard! Clark Gardens' fall opening will be celebrated with their annual model train show. The trains are coming to town from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 4, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5.

Clark Gardens is located at 567 Maddux Road in Weatherford. For more information, visit www.clarkgardens.org.

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Sports

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ON THE SIDE

Fall Sports

Please note sports schedules are subject to change.

AUGUST 27

AHS Football - Varsity vs. Weatherford, 7:30 p.m., Bearcat Stadium

TCA Football - Varsity vs. Peaster, 7:30 p.m., Away

AUGUST 28

AHS Cross Country at Southlake Carroll Invitational, 7 a.m., Bob Jones Park

AUGUST 31

AHS Volleyball - Fresh, JV, Varsity vs. Weatherford; Fresh - 5 p.m., JV - 5 p.m., Varsity - 6 p.m., Away

AHS Tennis - Varsity vs. Nolan Catholic, 4 p.m., Aledo HS

SEPTEMBER 1

AHS Football - Fresh Black vs. Lone Star, 5:30 p.m., Away

AHS Football - Fresh Orange vs. Lone Star, 7 p.m., Away

AHS Football - JV Black vs. Lone Star, 5:30 p.m., Bearcat Stadium

AHS Football - JV Orange vs. Lone Star, 7 p.m., Bearcat Stadium

SEPTEMBER 2

AHS Football - Varsity vs. Lone Star, 7 p.m., Away

TCA Football - Varsity vs. Westlake Academy, 7:30 p.m., Godley High School

AHS Tennis - JV vs. Nolan Catholic, 4 p.m., Aledo HS

SEPTEMBER 3

AHS Volleyball - Fresh, JV, Varsity vs. Highland Park; Fresh - 5 p.m., JV - 5 p.m., Varsity - 6 p.m., Away

SEPTEMBER 4

AHS Volleyball - JV at Lamar Tournament; JV - TBA

AHS Cross Country at Weatherford Invitational, TBD, Weatherford Disc Golf Course

SEPTEMBER 7

AHS Volleyball - Fresh, JV, Varsity vs. Burseson Centennial; Fresh - 5:30 p.m., JV - 5:30 p.m., Varsity - 6:30 p.m., HOME

AHS Tennis - Varsity vs. Rider, 4 p.m., Aledo HS

More listings on Page 9

VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats gaining momentum

Latest win over Joshua at home

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

After a bumpy start to the season, the Aledo Ladycats volleyball team went into the past week with a chip on their shoulder and something to prove. The Ladycats rode their momentum from a win over Paschal into another tournament last weekend up the road at the Northwest Classic.

The girls played three times each on Thursday, Aug. 19, and Friday, Aug. 20. All three games on Thursday ended in straight sets. The girls fell to Justin Northwest and Lucas Lovejoy with a win against Austin Vandegrift in between. A notable difference in the tournament opposed to normal matches is that each match was a best-of-three instead of a best-of-five.

After going 1-2 on Thursday, Aledo rebounded with back-to-back wins on Friday over Frisco Liberty and Arlington Lamar. The match against Lamar went into a deciding third set that the Ladycats won decisively. Unfortunately, Aledo could not sweep the day, falling to Decatur in straight sets to end day two.

It was on Saturday, Aug. 21, that the Ladycats made their bounce-back statement by defeating Denton High and Rockwall-Heath to bring their record to 7-7 and even out the early season.

After the tournament, Aledo turned around and started preparing for the Lady Owls of Joshua to come to town for a non-district match.

The Ladycats won the first two sets 25-14 and 25-17 to take a stranglehold on the match. However, being one set away from getting swept, Joshua pushed back and challenged Aledo, taking the third set 21-25. They did not stop there. The Lady Owls kept pushing back and almost took the fourth set, but the Ladycats held firm and took the fourth set 26-24 to defeat Joshua and move their record to 8-7 on the season.

This weekend, the team will travel to Leander for the Volleypalooza tournament before coming back to Parker County to head down the road to Weatherford to face the Lady Roos at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL: Vivian Parker prepares to serve during Tuesday's match against Joshua. Parker recorded five aces on the night.

Ladycats vs Joshua

Aces: Vivian Parker 5, Mattie Gantt 3, Payton Hilmer 2, Sam Smith 2, Lexi Littlefield 1, Mia Little 1

Kills: Vivian Parker 14, Maddie Frank 9, Sam Smith 8, Payton Hilmer 7, Skylar Ellison 7, Mattie Gantt 4, Lexi Littlefield 4

Assists: Mattie Gantt 39, Mia Little

2, Averie Riser 2, Sam Smith 1, Rylee Metts 1

Digs: Mia Little 14, Mattie Gantt 10, Sam Smith 8, Lexi Littlefield 7, Averie Riser 5, Vivian Parker 5, Maddy Jarvis 3, Rylee Metts 2, Natalie Anderson 2, Payton Hilmer 2, Maddie Frank 2, Skylar Ellison 1

FOOTBALL

Big matchup brews against Lone Star

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

When the new football season started, there were a number of games circled around the state as marquee matchups. Most were scheduled to be played during Week One while Aledo was playing Weatherford. This set up the perfect circumstance for the Bearcats' Week Two game against Frisco Lone Star to be among the most anticipated games in Texas.

The hometown Rangers started the season ranked ninth in 5A Division I after a somewhat disappointing 7-4 season in 2020. Despite a rough regular season that included a loss to Aledo at Bearcat Stadium, Lone Star managed to make it to the regional semifinals before falling to Highland Park.

Three-star, Oklahoma State commit Garret Rangel is back leading the offense for the Rangers and is hungry to finish business after falling short the past two seasons. His weapon, Ashton Jeanty, returns as well after a 2020 in which he amassed 383 yards and 8 TDs rushing, and 816 yards and 7 TDs receiving.

The big concern for Lone Star is the defensive line, which was gutted by graduation. That youth in the trenches may haunt the Rangers against the Bearcats' offensive line.

What the fans can look for in this game, is how Aledo handles its first top ten opponent. It can always be expected that these tough games can show where the holes will be within the Bearcats.

Thursday night will be a big test for the Bearcats and should show where they stand compared to the rest of the state. Be prepared for a true battle.

*Aledo at Frisco Lone Star
Thursday, Sept. 2 • 7 p.m.*



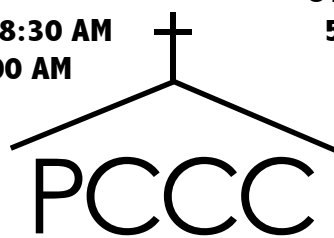
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It is the policy of Aledo ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Aledo ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Aledo ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, at 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008, 817-441-8327 and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, at 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008, 817-441-8327.

Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional

Aledo ISD ofrece programas de educación técnica y vocacional en Agricultura, Alimentación y Recursos Naturales, Administración y Administración de Empresas, Mantenimiento de Computadoras e Informática, Ciencias en Computadoras, Educación y Capacitación, Ciencias de la Salud, Derecho y seguridad pública, Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas (STEM) y Transporte, Distribución y Logística. La admisión a estos programas se basa en intereses, edad, nivel de grado, y requerimientos de prerrequisitos.

Es norma de Aledo ISD no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

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Aledo ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX, en 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008, 817-441-8327, y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504, 1008 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008, 817-441-8327.

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TENNIS RacquetCats beat Boswell

Andrea Garnett
Special to The Community News

The Aledo tennis team came away with another win on Friday, Aug. 13, beating Boswell High 15-14 at home.

Aledo swept all boys' and girls' doubles and their mixed doubles match taking a strong lead 7-0 going into the singles play. All of the doubles were played in an 8-game pro set.

Boys' doubles scores were Line 1 Jax Joiner/Hogan Posey (8-6), Line 2 Ian Leslie/Scott Mason (8-3) and Line 3 Craig Mason/Ben Farmer (8-4).

Girls' doubles wins were Line 1 Katie Siddons/Georgia Posey (8-0), Line 2 Cambell Charrier/Bryanna Orr (8-2) and Line 3 Zoe Whitcomb/Payton Bierle (8-1). The mixed doubles win came from the team of Zane Martin/Kenley Germany (8-5).

Singles matches were then switched to regular competition of best two out of three sets. The girl's singles dominated the ladder by winning all six with Line 1 Katie Siddons (6-1)(6-0), Line 2 Cambell Charrier (6-1)(6-7)3 (12-10), Line 3 Georgia Posey (6-0) (6-1), Line 4 Bryanna Orr (6-3) (6-3), Line 5 Payton Bierle (6-2) (6-3) and Line 6 Paige Federman (6-0)(6-0).

Boy's singles posted two wins with Line 2 Ian Leslie (6-3) (1-6)10-7 and Line 6 Craig Mason (6-3)(6-3). Line 1 Jax Joiner, Line 3 Hogan Posey, and Line 4 Scott Mason all lost in super tie-breakers.

Aledo was set to play Tuesday, Aug. 17 against Midlothian but the match was canceled due to the inclement weather.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Cross Country, Volleyball begin seasons

Special to The Community News

The Trinity Christin Academy varsity cross country team traveled to Fort Worth over the Aug. 21 weekend for the SCSI Invitational. The Lady Eagles notched a fourth-place finish (104 points), while the Eagles earned a ninth-place finish (219 points).

Varsity Girls' 3200

- Sophomore Gracee Whiteaker, 6th with a time of 13:23.36
- Freshman Jayde Scull, 19th with a time of 15:07.21
- Sophomore Mckenna Kelley, 31st with a time of 16:09.98
- Junior Madison Hooper, 42nd with a time of 18:51.22
- Freshman Ella Cockrum, 44th with a time of 19:35.49

Varsity Boys' 5000M

- Junior Thomas Eaton, 22nd with a time of 19:55.30
- Senior Mason Brunson, 45th with a time of 21:42.80
- Junior Micah Chesney, 69th with a time of 23:55.90
- Senior Jack Mendoza, 75th with a time of 24:16.00
- Senior George Brenner, 78th with a time of 25:04.90
- Junior Shane Houston, 82nd with a time of 26:26.2

TCA returns to action at the Parker County XC Championship, Saturday, Sept. 11.

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Trinity Christin Academy Varsity Volleyball competed in their first home match against Covenant Christian Academy. The Lady Eagles went up the first game with a score of 25-23. They dropped the next three games with scores of 10-25, 24-26, and 18-25. Junior Maddie Bayles dominated the net with 11 blocks, and junior Bella Sigala and sophomore Faith Brooks picked up 14 digs each. The Lady Eagles will resume play on Tuesday,



Gracee Whiteaker was the top finisher for the TCA girls.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 9

AHS Football - Fresh Black vs. Arlington Heights, 5:30 p.m., Bearcat Stadium

AHS Football - Fresh Orange vs. Arlington Heights, 5:30 p.m., Bearcat Stadium

AHS Football - JV Black vs. Midlothian High, 6:30 p.m., Away

AHS Football - JV Orange vs. Arlington Heights, 7 p.m., Away

AHS Tennis - JV vs. Brock, 4 p.m., Aledo HS

SEPTEMBER 10

AHS Football - Varsity vs. Arlington Heights, 7 p.m., Bearcat Stadium

TCA Football - Varsity vs. Temple Christian, 7:30 p.m., Temple Christian School

AHS Volleyball - Fresh, JV, Varsity vs. Abilene Wylie; Fresh - 6:30 p.m., JV - 6:30 p.m., Varsity - 5 p.m., Away

AHS Cross Country at Cowtown Invitational, TBD, TBD

SEPTEMBER 11

AHS Volleyball - JV at Martin Tournament; JV - TBA, Away

AHS Volleyball - Fresh vs. FR @ Bridgeport Tournament; Fresh - TBA, JV - , Varsity - , Away

SEPTEMBER 13

AHS Golf at Mansfield Invitational, 8 a.m. Shotgun, Meadowbrook Golf Club

SEPTEMBER 14

AHS Volleyball - Fresh, JV, Varsity vs. Springtown (Middle School Night); Fresh - 5 p.m., JV - 5 p.m., Varsity - 6 p.m., HOME

AHS Tennis - Varsity vs. Old High, 4 p.m., Wichita Falls HS

SEPTEMBER 15

AHS Golf at Brock Scramble, 8 a.m., Canyon West Golf Club, Weatherford

SEPTEMBER 16

AHS Football - Fresh Black vs. Burleson, 5:30 p.m., Away

AHS Football - Fresh Orange vs. Burleson, 7 p.m., Away

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Tyler O'Brien takes aim at another band member.



Marshall Anderson (second from left) shows off his skills of moving the hula hoop from one person to the next. Also shown are Austin Hall, Corbin Moses, and Luke Shelton.



Band members had varying degrees of success, but a lot of fun, in the run, jump, hop challenge, singing the school song as they go. Shown are Alina Garwacki, Nick Brandt, Georgia McQuade, Austin Hall, and Luke Shelton.



Braydn Arft leads the charge as his team takes the field.

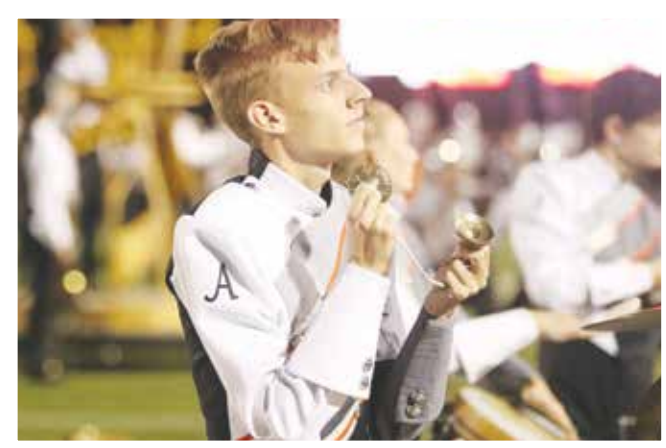
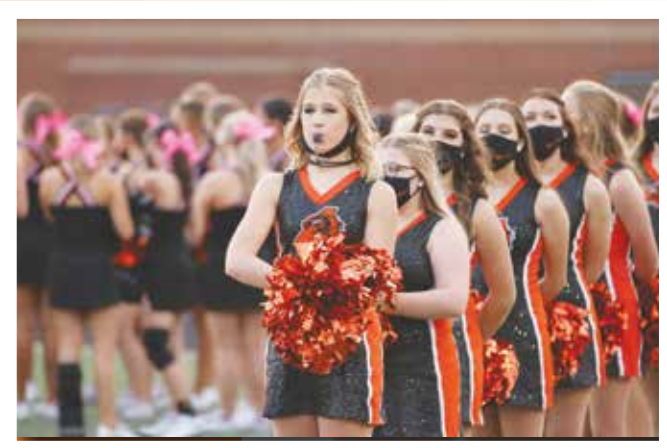


Jaliyah Rawls has fun twirling the bat as she waits for the dizzy bat challenge to begin.



Teams run in pairs with a pool noodle between their legs and they try to get from end to another without dropping the noodle. It is harder than it looks. Shown are Tayton Crutsinger, Gus Paul, and Max Moeller.

It's all coming back!



Have a great season!

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