

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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PARKER COUNTY

Contreras announces run for Pct. 4 seat

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Willow Park City Council member Eric Contreras announced his candidacy for Parker County Commissioner Pct. 4 on Sept. 13.

Contreras will run for the nomination in the 2022 Republican primary. The Republican nominee is typically the de facto winner of the race since Democrats seldom run for county offices.

"I'm truly blessed to live in a wonderful community and I want to continue to serve as I can for our community," Contreras told The Community News. "I've been on City Council. We've done lots of great things for the City of Willow Park, and I'm looking forward to being the next county commissioner representing Precinct Four, giving us a different viewpoint in the commissioners court."

"As a Parker County commissioner, I will be fighting everyday for the conservative values that make our county great," Contreras said in a press release. "I am a limited-government, constitutional conservative. I believe you know how to make decisions for you and your family better than the government. I am pro-freedom, pro-business, pro-life,

Turn to PCT. 4, page 6C



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Stacy Smith, founder of Team Defenders, leads a three-mile ruck at the end of the Patriots Day ceremony in Willow Park on Sept. 11. Additional coverage will be in next week's issue of The Community News.

WILLOW PARK

Council moves forward with Phase 1 of Street Improvement Plan

Construction of 14 roads scheduled to begin next summer.

By Brandi Addison
The Community News

Willow Park City Council unanimously voted Tuesday to move forward with the first phase of the Street Improvement Plan — a project of interest for almost half a decade.

The plan is made of several phrases, divided by location or types of streets.

City Manager Bryan Grimes described the plan as a "rework of the original plan" from 2017.

Construction of the first phase is expected to begin next summer.

It includes reconstruction at Old Ford Road, Crested Butte Court, Pleasant Court, Sam Bass Court, Trinity Court, Trinity Drive, Fox Hunt Trail, Woodbridge Road, Sam Bass Road and Aspenwood Drive.

It will also include concreting at Crown Road, Kings Gate Road, Ranch House Road and Sam Bass Road.

The total cost for the first phase is estimated between \$6.5 to \$7 million.

City Council unanimously approved the decision to enter the project with funding from a certificate of obligation — which city officials confirmed was the most cost-effective financial method.

Because the city's projected population growth by 2037 — when the debt should be paid off — has substantially increased from 1.5% to 4%, the increase in local revenue would cover the city's debt for the project.

"The goal is to structure so the new growth would cover the entire debt service," Communications and Marketing Manager Rosealee Hoffman said.

Grimes told City Council, this means by 2037 the city will owe less than a quarter million for the project.

Overall, the plan's estimated total is \$23 million and 23 miles of improvements and reconstruction.



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Fighting Parkinson's

Former AISD teacher makes a difference

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Members of Aledo United Methodist Church know Carey Durham for her beautiful soprano voice in the church choir and praise band.

Many remember her for her years as a teacher of special needs students in the Aledo ISD.

But almost 10 years ago she began a different mission — helping to raise money for the Parkinson's Foundation and battling the devastating disease.

It was in a classroom with special needs students in December, 2012 when she first experienced symptoms. "My right hand started shaking," she said. "I knew immediately, and David (her husband) knew immediately."

Carey knew what to look for because her father had Parkinson's.

"Because of my dad, if you can find any silver lining, we knew that I needed to get to a neurologist real quickly. We did

that, and I was diagnosed on Feb. 14, 2013. We had dinner with our very closest friends that we celebrate every Valentine's with, announced it to them and our family, and went from there," she said.

David did a lot of research when they received the diagnosis.

Having moved from Aledo to Lipan, they began looking for a trainer.

"He (David) knew that we needed very hard training; we needed some excessive exercise in my life. And he found a trainer for me who was in Brock, and I got started with him immediately. And that may or may not have changed the route that my Parkinson's went," Carey said. Her dad's disease progressed quickly, but Carey's trainer made a difference for her.

"That trainer understood Parkinson's and understood that I was 56 years old, and developed a perfect program for me that has, I believe, helped slow the progression of the movement part of Parkinson's," she said. "And then I got in yoga, and through both things have just

CAREY'S CLAN PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION FISH FRY

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met some wonderful people that have changed my life."

Carey also took up boxing with a boxing group in Granbury.

Carey looked on the bright side when asked how Parkinson's has changed her life.

"I've met some incredible people. I've been shown support old and new friends, My faith has just soared because God's my number-one hero — then my husband. You've got to have a hero."

Turn to CLAN, page 3

HOMECOMING PARADE SET FOR MONDAY

Aledo's homecoming parade has been scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20. While no parade route has been released, the parade traditionally runs south along the eastern edge of the AHS parking lot and then turns toward Bearcat Stadium. A community pep rally will follow at the stadium.

The Board of the Aledo Ex-Students Association has announced that, due to the COVID-19 virus, their homecoming banquet has been canceled this year. However, the Coming Home Queens from 1970 and 1971 will occur at halftime of the Aledo-Everman football game on Sept. 24.

"As we are not having the banquet or the silent auction which raises money for our scholarships, we would appreciate any donations you might want to make to help with that cause," said a notice from the Ex-Students. They are also requesting that all members submit their dues of \$3 to Aledo Ex-Students Association, P.O. Box 737, Aledo, TX 76008.

For more information, call Lillian Haile at 817-441-8862.



Pink Luncheon.com

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In & Around Parker County

Clear Fork Veterinary Clinic is committed to compassionate, quality care

Since May 2018, Clear Fork Vet has committed to providing quality care to all animals that enter their doors.

Born and raised in Aledo, Dr. Darryl McEndree brings 21 years of veterinary expertise to his hometown, serving his entire career in Parker County. Dr. McEndree received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M University in College Station.

The Clear Fork Veterinary team has expanded over the last 18 months to include experienced veterinarians Dr. Kimberly Wise and Dr. Clare Williamson, who most recently joined the clinic in June.

It also has a full staff of veterinary technicians, customer service representatives and a clinic manager to ensure customer satisfaction for all.

The clinic provides comprehensive full-life-stage care to dogs and cats, offering wellness exams, vaccinations, hospital care, end-of-life care, pain management, dental care, surgery, radiology and imaging, internal medicine, pharmacy service, emergency care, micro-chipping, heartworm and flea treatment products and prescription food products.

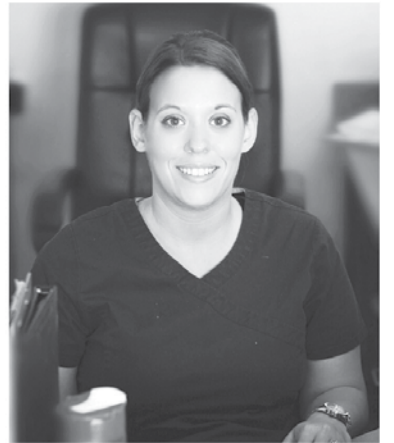
“We take the care of all pets very seriously,” Dr. McEndree said. “We always try to remain very understanding and compassionate. We try to stay on the front edge of their care, while also providing high-quality treatment and medicine.”

In addition to the pristine care it provides to its animal patients, Dr. McEndree said the practice maintains clear and open communication with their owners, and every visit will be one of compassion.

Dr. McEndree said they work to ensure all animals feel comfortable and safe when they are in their care.

“If anything is our niche, it’s the time we spend with the owner and the pet,” Dr. McEndree said. “We want to be able to make a difference in the lives of animals.”

Clear Fork Veterinary Clinic is located at 8400 E. I-20. Call 817-678-5190 or visit cfvetclinic.com.



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PCT. 4

from page one

pro-2nd Amendment, pro-Texas and pro-America. And I will never forget that I work for you, the people of Parker County.”

Contreras said he wants to work with the local cities in Pct. 4 to address the growth the area is experiencing.

“One of the things that I’m looking forward to doing is working with the cities within the county, really talking with them, understanding their needs. And then we can also have the dialogue as far as they can understand the county’s needs. Then we can look at what we can do together that would be best for not only the county, but also all the cities and see what kind of long-term strategies we can do that are going to be best for the folks of our community,” Contreras said. “If the county’s planning one thing, and each individual city’s planning another thing, we’re not working together, and really we need to work together because at the end the day if we all work together on a lot of these long-term goals that we all have — infrastructure, transportation — we can solve these problems and we can build a great future for all of us.”

According to the press release, Contreras’ platform includes:



Contreras

- Saving the taxpayers’ money by making local government more efficient and more effective;
- Reimagining infrastructure plans to adequately support our growing area, while maintaining a sense of local community;
- Creating and promoting a safe, healthy and vibrant community;
- Working with neighboring cities and counties on long term strategies which benefit everyone;
- Having an open-door policy and always listening to the citizens of Parker County.

Contreras has worked for the last 15 years in the railroad industry as the sales and marketing team leader. He is a 2004 graduate of Texas Christian University. His wife, Jaclyn Williams Contreras, is the Managing Partner at Roger Williams Chrysler Dodge Jeep in Weatherford. They live in Parker County with their young daughter, Clara. For more information, visit texansforeric.com.

CLAN

from page one

Carey also recommended having an advocate when facing a disease like Parkinson’s. The advocate should go to the doctor with you if at all possible.

“It’s a hard disease. There’s no easy disease, but this is a disease that is so misunderstood because of the movement part of it and non-movement part of it, because so many people think that it’s just the tremor and the shuffle. And there’s so much more,” Carey said.

Carey said the movement part of Parkinson’s is easy to see by others — it can manifest itself in “freezing,” as when someone stands up but cannot start walking, and a prompt is needed.

Then there is facial masking, in which the patient basically lacks facial expressions.

Perhaps the best-known symptom is dyskinesia — the jerky physical movements.

Carey experienced some dyskinesia because of a change in medications, but it stopped when medication was adjusted, although she said she uses her hands more than she ever did before.

Non-movement symptoms

Carey mainly experiences non-movement symptoms, which can include cognitive changes, problems in attention and planning, and language.

“I might go off on these tangents that are just crazy, or just talk talk, talk, talk, talk about absolutely



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Former Aledo ISD teacher Carey Durham is a leading voice in area efforts to fight Parkinson’s Disease.

nothing,” Carey said. It also affects her memory and her appetite.

Among the most troubling symptoms are hallucinations and delusions.

“You think things that you would never dream in your life that you would think about somebody: [you imagine] your best friend talking about you, your best friend saying stuff about you, all these strange delusions that could never happen in a million years,” Carey said. “I wake up sometimes and I’ll think ‘who am I — I don’t know who I am’ some days, and it’s not by choice.”

She said sometimes David this she is mad, but it’s the disease. Parkinson’s can lead to personality challenges,

fatigue, loss of taste and smell, and depression.

“I’ve never in my life had depression. I know what depression is now. It’s a very physical thing for me and I have to literally say ‘stop — you’re not coming today. I’m not gonna deal with you today,’ and I’m one of the lucky ones. I truly am because I recognize this stuff.”

Anxiety is also common with Parkinson’s, as well as apathy and irritability.

Carey has also experienced sleep disorders with Parkinson’s. The disease can affect REM sleep.

During normal REM sleep, you can’t control major muscles. You

Turn to **SYMPTOMS**, page 4



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SYMPTOMS

from page three

are in effect paralyzed during that period of sleep.

“There’s a percentage of us with Parkinson’s that when we go into REM sleep, we don’t experience that paralysis. I was having nightmares that I was acting out — fighting, fighting, fighting and a lot of my nightmares were the same: there was a big guy in a black jacket in a hoodie trying to pull me out of a car or a window or something and. And I was fighting and kicking literally as hard as I could. I had fallen out of bed three times because of the dreams.”

Fortunately, a new medication has helped correct that movement.

“Those are things that people with more non-motor things suffer with,” she said.

Because of her lack of the movement-type symptoms, people often don’t believe she has Parkinson’s.

“I’m blessed because you can’t tell when you look at me that I have it, but I do,” Carey said. “It’s some hard things to deal with, but not as hard as those sweet people that have all the physical issues to and are not able to get up and do all the things that I get to do. It’s just a very misunderstood disease and I think a lot of people are not being diagnosed correctly.”

Carey’s Clan

Carey has been active since her diagnosis raising funds to combat the disease, and her circle of friends, dubbed “Carey’s Clan,” helps.

She started with Moving Day DFW.

Moving Day is a major Parkinson’s fundraiser, but there was no such event here in Texas when she was diagnosed.

There is now. “I was part of the getting it started because I would write letters and say, ‘Where is our Moving Day Texas — I see it happening in all these different states.’”

Moving Day Texas began in 2016 at the Ballpark in Arlington. It was



Carey’s Clan has a collection of awards for Parkinson’s fund raising. Her group has led the way since Moving Day DFW originated in 2016.

SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

doubly special to Carey because she was one of the speakers.

“My friends and family have been the most wonderful support group — they’re my teams and they have donated and come to walk at all the walks every year and they’ve shown me so much support, and God’s been right there with me and protected all of us and helped us raise a lot of money for Parkinson’s — a lot of money for a small group, but Carey’s Clan has won top team and biggest fundraiser since the beginning Moving Day up until this point.”

One of Carey’s motivations is that there are many Parkinson’s patients

who simply can’t afford the extremely expensive medications.

“It breaks my heart every time I’m able to pay for that with insurance for all the people that can’t have it. You wonder why people progress so quickly — it is because they don’t get the right medication; they don’t get to have a doctor that will fight to get them the most aggressive medication that will help slow their progression. There’s no cure, but there are lots of people out there that don’t get any help,” Carey said.

Last year during COVID lockdowns the Moving Day event went virtual, and Carey and David began to ask what they could do to raise

“It’s a hard disease. There’s no easy disease, but this is a disease that is so misunderstood because of the movement part of it and non-movement part of it, because so many people think that it’s just the tremor and the shuffle. And there’s so much more.”

- Carey Durham

more money for the Parkinson’s Foundation.

“What if we did a dance? What if we did this or that? And what if we did a fish fry?”

Coincidentally, Carey’s daughter-in-law’s new stepdad is part of a fishing team from Marble Falls that does fundraisers. Carey asked if his team would do a fish fry, and they agreed.

“So these wonderful men caught all the fish and brought it and cooked it. And we had a drive-by fish fry. It was COVID friendly — everybody had their mask on and we stayed our six to 12 feet apart; they cooked the fish, we boxed it up. We had a sponsor, wonderful Dale Mares provided us with the boxes and all the paper products and then we had the donated fish. Everything

we did, the proceeds from it went to Parkinson’s Foundation, and the people would just drive through and put their donation in a basket.

It didn’t just happen. In fact, Carey and David concluded they would not be able to do it.

“I’ve only heard God’s voice a couple times in my life,” Carey said, “but one morning last year when we had decided this thing’s falling apart, we’re not going to be able to do this, I got a knock on my headboard or whatever, and God’s voice said to me, ‘you can do this, use your land.’ And we have quite a bit of land. And so we did. I just said ‘you got it,’ I woke David up, and I said ‘we’re doing this — He said we can do this.’ And the people drove in and come past the barn and picked up their boxes. Hopefully they RSVP’d — the boxes were ready for them with a delicious dinner of fried fish and french fries and coleslaw and beans and water. So that was it — last year it was just the drive by.”

Carey said she believes God wants her to do it again because the fishermen have been fishing for Carey’s Clan.

“They’ve caught the fish. They’re ready to cook it. We’ve had the same donations as we’ve had before,” she said.

But wait, there’s more!

This year’s event will have a western swing band and a dance floor, so folks have three options: they can drive through and keep on going and go home with their dinner; they can drive through and park in the pasture and listen to the band and enjoy their dinner; or they can drive through, pick up their dinner, and dance all night.

The Carey’s Clan Fish Fry will run from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at 8725 Star Hollow Road in Lipan.

Moving Day DFW

Saturday, Oct 16 8:30 a.m. (the walk will begin at 10 a.m.)

Lone Star Park
1000 Lone Star Pkwy, Grand Prairie

<https://www.parkinson.org/events/2021/Moving-Day-DFW>

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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 5-6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays 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 1

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.

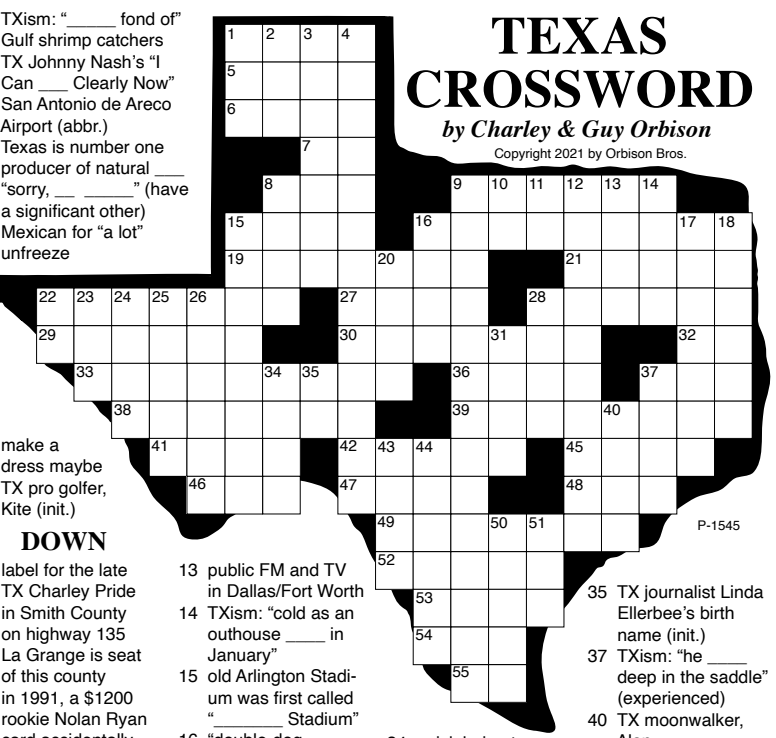
A project of the Parker County Health Foundation, the Pink Luncheon raises funds for mammography screenings for Parker County residents.

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.

ACROSS

- 1 Guadalupe River floater
- 5 TXism: "that sticks in my ___"
- 6 former SMU pres., ___ Kenneth
- 7 TX-based ___ Chico
- 8 large TX conglomerate (1961-2000)
- 9 Falfurrias is seat of this county
- 15 TXism for "carry"
- 16 TXism: "I need that like a ___ umbrella"
- 19 preowned vehicle (2 wds.)
- 21 characteristic
- 22 tiny film role (2 wds.)
- 27 TX Patrick Swayze was ___ Main in "North and South"
- 28 in Columbus, TX: "Preston Kyle ___ Wildlife Museum"
- 29 TX-filmed "The Andromeda ___"
- 30 this Bruce won the Byron Nelson twice
- 32 Cloris of TX-based "The Last Picture Show" (init.)
- 33 Gulf contaminations (2 wds.)
- 36 inheritor
- 37 TX George Jones' "___ Thinks I Still Care" (1962)
- 38 TX-born "Supergirl," Benoit
- 39 TXism for "good" (2 wds.)
- 41 astronaut Slayton
- 42 TXism: "___ fond of"
- 45 Gulf shrimp catchers
- 46 TX Johnny Nash's "I Can ___ Clearly Now"
- 47 San Antonio de Areco Airport (abbr.)
- 48 Texas is number one producer of natural ___
- 49 "sorry, ___" (have a significant other)
- 52 Mexican for "a lot"
- 53 unfreeze



- DOWN**
- 1 label for the late TX Charley Pride
 - 2 in Smith County on highway 135
 - 3 La Grange is seat of this county
 - 4 in 1991, a \$1200 rookie Nolan Ryan card accidentally sold for this (2 wds.)
 - 8 "___ Pines Forest" near Bastrop
 - 9 TXism for "make peace" (3 wds.)
 - 10 ___ Cola
 - 11 TXism: "mighty fine"
 - 12 classic song "Home ___ ___"
 - 13 public FM and TV in Dallas/Fort Worth
 - 14 TXism: "cold as an outhouse ___ in January"
 - 15 old Arlington Stadium was first called "___ Stadium"
 - 16 "double-dog ___ you"
 - 17 TXism: "keep your wagon between the ___"
 - 18 purloined
 - 20 former Oiler CB, Dishman (1988-96)
 - 22 A&M degree, e.g.
 - 23 OJ's judge
 - 35 TX Journalist Linda Ellerbee's birth name (init.)
 - 37 TXism: "he ___ deep in the saddle" (experienced)
 - 40 TX moonwalker, Alan
 - 43 TXism: "___ ___ to" (intend)
 - 44 spectrums
 - 50 TXism: "attracted like ___ to a prairie dog"
 - 51 once a popular Mansfield event: "___ Bell Rodeo"

OCTOBER 7

WC Foundation Golf Tournament

The Weatherford College Foundation's 21st annual golf tournament is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 7, at Canyon West Golf Club.

Registration and breakfast begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The tournament is limited to the first 30 paid foursomes.

The tournament is a four-person scramble with trophies for the first, second, and third place teams along with awards for longest drive and closest to the pin on multiple holes.

The cost to enter the tournament is \$125 per person and \$500 per foursome. The cost includes breakfast, lunch, a long-sleeve WC pullover, green fees, and golf cart. Mulligan packages are available for \$25 per golfer and include two mulligans and two raffle tickets. Registration is available online at wc.edu/golf-tournament.

Sponsorships are also available.

FEBRUARY 26

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 crowd favorite, auctioneer Dean McCurry. The dress is western attire and TCA invites the community to join in this fun and inspirational evening. To secure an individual sponsorship before individual tickets go on sale, call Kim Quarles at 817-441-5897 or email quarles@tca eagles.org.

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Capital Highlights

Abbott calls third special session for Sept. 20



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Gov. Greg Abbott has called a third special legislative session to deal with redistricting, to decide how to spend billions of dollars in pandemic funding from the federal government, and to determine whether state or local governments can mandate COVID-19 vaccines, as well as some pet issues of the governor that failed to pass recent sessions.

The third session begins Sept. 20 and by law can last no longer than 30 days. The second special session resulted in passage of hotly contested voting restrictions and what are considered the most restrictive abortion laws in the country, both of which are under legal attack. In the case of the latter, the U.S. Justice Department is suing the state, saying the abortion law banning the procedure at roughly six weeks of pregnancy is unconstitutional.

"The (Texas) act is clearly unconstitutional under long-standing Supreme Court precedent," Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday, as reported widely by media outlets.

Several groups have filed suit against the elections bill signed by Abbott last week, including Voto Latino, LULAC Texas, the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans, and the Texas American Federation of Teachers.

The law limits early voting hours, ends drive-in voting, and restricts mail-in voting. GOP leaders maintain that other provisions in the measure make it easier to cast a vote than before.

August cooler, wetter than normal for most of Texas

August is in the books and the first day of autumn beckons. Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, reports the month was cooler than normal for most of the state, and wetter than normal for about half of Texas. The U.S. Drought Monitor map for Texas shows just 1% of the state in drought.

"Over the last 22 years, we've averaged about 40% of the state in drought by the end of August, Wentzel wrote in his monthly report. "Since 2000, we've only had two other Augusts that ended with less drought area: 2004 and 2007."

Emergency SNAP benefits extended again

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is extending emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits once more in September, meaning SNAP recipients will again get an additional \$95 in emergency allotments. The funding comes from the United States Department of Agriculture.

"As we continue to navigate through the pandemic, we are pleased to provide this additional support to ensure Texans

will be able to keep food on their table for themselves and their families," said Wayne Salter of the HHSC.

Duck hunters can expect another good season

The early teal hunting season began Saturday, and officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department say habitat conditions point to another productive season for hunters.

"Teal numbers are already impressive in many areas of Texas, especially the rice prairies of the Texas Gulf Coast and the playa wetlands of the Panhandle," Kevin Kraai of TPWD said.

The 16-day statewide early teal season runs through Sept. 26, with a daily bag limit of six. Blue-winged teal are by far the most prevalent duck found in Texas this time of year, according to TPWD.

Tuition program open enrollment underway

Open enrollment in the state's Texas Tuition Promise Fund began Sept. 1 and runs through the end of February. The plan allows parents and others to lock in today's tuition and fees at state public colleges and universities. The accumulated funds can also be transferred to private colleges and other institutions such as vocational schools, though the tuition is not locked in.

The TTPF program offers webinars throughout the enrollment period. More information can be found at TuitionPromise.org or by calling Monday through Friday at 800-445-GRAD (4723). Press Option 5.

COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations drop slightly

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas decreased slightly in the past week, with the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reporting 120,494 new cases, down 4.6% from the previous week. Total deaths statewide increased slightly to 1,789.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-10 hospitalizations dropped slightly, with 13,285 reported in Texas, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Available intensive-care unit beds remain scarce, with just 330 open in the entire state, the least since the pandemic began early last year. Even more concerning are the few pediatric ICU beds open, with just 80 available, according to DSHS.

At least 45 school districts across the state have shut down in-person classes because of COVID-19 outbreaks affecting more than 40,000 students, according to the Texas Tribune.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated crossed the 14-million mark, which is 48.5% of the total population, DSHS reported.

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.

Guest Column

Consider happy endings for North Texas Giving Day

By Aura Whitcomb

What is more satisfying than a happy ending?

The East Parker County Library (EPCL) holds many books with many happy endings within its walls. Perhaps the most compelling story yet to be widely known is the story of the library itself; how it came to be and how we need your support through the North Texas Giving Day to help keep this gem of a community resource alive and shining.

Over 50 years ago, near the very spot the EPCL stands today, Carrie Jo Kelly and Jean Koldin dispensed books to people on horseback from the trunk of their car. Their desire to share their love of books and the power found within books formed the foundation for what exists today.

Thanks to the generosity of community members over time

like Chattel, a local store that once operated on Aledo's Main Street who cleared off space on its shelves for donated books, and the Hattie May Lesley Foundation that donated the funding necessary to pay off the mortgage of the current location, the East Parker County Library has served Aledo, the Annettas, Hudson Oaks, Willow Park, and all of the linking countryside in between as a non-profit library.

As a non-profit library, we treasure the funds we receive from the cities of Aledo and Annetta North and from Parker County. These funds do not cover our day-to-day expenses or the needed repairs and maintenance we currently have.

What is more satisfying than a happy ending?

Creating happy endings for others by taking part in the North Texas Giving Day. Please

consider a Shop, Dine and Donate day on Thursday, Sept. 23. We highly value the donations we receive from the North Texas Giving Day because they help keep the lights on, our community resources available, and our successful kids programs running. Your donations will provide the much-appreciated support that we need to keep Kelly and Koldin's desire alive.

Your generosity will be acknowledged by signs and/or banners bearing your logo in and around the library. Our location is an asset and at train-crossing time, many people will have the opportunity to see how grateful we are to have your support.

Aura Whitcomb is a member of the East Parker County Library Board of Directors.



Slings&Arrows

Time to come clean about a habit



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

There are often things about ourselves that we don't necessarily share with others.

For me, after much thought, I have decided that I need to share something that I've never really talked about publicly.

I am a lucubator.

I think my lucubrating habit probably started about seventh grade. I had a paper route,

and in those days the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* had morning and afternoon editions.

There were things many of my classmates were able to do before or after school, but I was delivering newspapers during those times, so I found myself lucubrating, sometimes late into the night.

By the time I was in high school we had moved to the small town of Iowa Park. I was involved in a ton of extra-curricular activities, so again, after-school hours were often filled with basketball practice, one-act-play rehearsal, preparing for an extemporaneous speaking competition, or a choir concert.

I again found myself doing it at night, as it was the only time available.

Things didn't get any better in college. Working a couple of jobs to pay tuition, I found myself lucubrating, often after midnight.

For me, lucubrating was a big help, especially on nights before big tests.

As it is, it has turned into a life-long habit. I have had people tell me it's not healthy, but I have also learned that many highly-creative people are lucubrators.

I would simply ask you not to judge — at least not until you look up "lucubrate."

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.

ON THE SIDE

Fall Sports

SEPTEMBER 17

AHS Football - Varsity vs. Burleson*, 7 p.m., Away

TCA Football - Varsity vs. Lake Country, 7:30 p.m., Godley High School

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

AHS Tennis - Varsity vs. Birdville, 4 p.m., Birdville HS

AHS Golf at Granbury Fall Classic, 8 a.m., Harbor Lakes, Granbury

AHS Golf at Bart Granger, TBA, Pecan Valley, Fort Worth, TX

SEPTEMBER 18

AHS Volleyball - JV at Arlington High Tournament; JV - TBA, Away

AHS Volleyball - Fresh at Fossil Ridge Tournament; Fresh - TBA, Away

AHS Cross Country at Paschal Invitational, TBD, Athletic Performance Ranch

SEPTEMBER 21

AHS Volleyball - Fresh, JV, Varsity vs. Keller Timbercreek; Fresh - 5 p.m., JV - 5 p.m., Varsity - 6 p.m., HOME

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

SEPTEMBER 23

AHS Football - Fresh Black vs. Midlothian Heritage, 5 p.m., Bearcat Stadium

AHS Football - Fresh Orange vs. Everman, 6:30 p.m., Bearcat Stadium

AHS Football - JV Black vs. Azle, 5:30 p.m., Threere

AHS Football - JV Orange vs. Everman, 6 p.m., Away

AHS Tennis - JV vs. Brewer, 4 p.m., Brewer HS

AHS Cross Country at Flyin' Hawks Invitational XVI, 8 a.m., The Buff

FOOTBALL

Bearcats shut out Arlington Heights



Wide Receiver Brian Fleming is upended at the end of a play.

KRISTIN MORALES



Cornerback Sammy Steffe races to the end zone as Dahvon Keys leaps over an Arlington Heights player after Steffe intercepted a Heights pass. The TD run was 74 yards. Photo by Kristin Morales.

KRISTIN MORALES

End pre-district play

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Coming into their final non-district matchup against the Arlington Heights Yellowjackets on Friday, Sept. 10, the Aledo Bearcats had already collected two impressive wins to start their title defense with a 2-0 record. That record improved by the end of the game as Aledo shut out Arlington Heights 64-0 in front of a hometown crowd at Bearcat Stadium.

"Other than a couple turnovers that we didn't want to see, it was pretty much a flawless night," head coach Tim Buchanan said after the game. "A bunch of kids got to play and make plays that we don't usually see. That's always good to see."

The game got off to a great start for the Bearcats as they forced the Yellowjackets to punt on the first drive, setting up a 44-yard touchdown pass from Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi (14-17, 293 yards, 4 TDs passing) to Hauss Hejny (4 catches, 144 yards, 1 TD receiving, 1-1, 12 yards, 1 TD passing).

After getting another stop, running back Ryan Williams (7 carries, 53 yards, 2 TDs) found his way in from four yards out to make it a 14-0 score. Nicolosi added another score on the next drive to tight end Jason Llewellyn (2 catches, 25 yards, 1 TD) to bring the score to 21-0 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, it was the Bearcat defense that got in the end zone as senior cornerback Sammy Steffe intercepted a pass and raced 74 yards to the house.

On the next Aledo drive, Williams got his second touchdown of the night from four yards out. The Bearcats weren't done yet, though. As time expired in the first half, Nicolosi found BJ Fleming (4 catches, 82 yards, 2 TDs) on the short crossing pattern, and Fleming weaved his way through defenders and found himself in the end zone to bring the halftime score to 42-0.

The starters stayed in the game for the third quarter, and Nicolosi added one more tally to his statline, passing to Fleming in the end zone. Aledo led 49-0 after three quarters.

The next scoring play came on the second play of the fourth quarter, as a bad snap on an Arlington Heights punt went out the back of the end zone for a safety. When the Bearcats got the ball back, Hejny capped off

Turn to **FOOTBALL**, page 9

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FOOTBALL

JV Bearcats dominate Arlington Heights

Come away with 61-0 victory

The JV Orange team traveled to Arlington Heights Thursday night, Sept. 9, for a non-district contest.

The Yellowjackets elected to receive the opening kickoff, which proved to be a mistake on the game's first drive. Jackson Parker set the tone early for the Bearcats' defense when he intercepted a Yellowjacket's pass on third down and took 25 yards for the Bearcats' first touchdown. The Bearcats' defense had a quick turnaround but forced a three-and-out on the second series.

On the Bearcats' first offensive possession, Ryan Jones ran for a 25-yard touchdown around the left edge for a touchdown. Colton McCoy added the extra point to give the Bearcats a 13-0 lead.

The Bearcats continued to dominate the first half on both sides of the ball. Jackson Parker had a stellar night with two interceptions, and Turner Koonsman also added a turnover with a 48-yard pick-six to give the Bearcats a 42-0 lead at the half.

The second half was consistent with the first half, with both sides of the ball dominating. The Bearcats finished the game with a 61-0 victory.

The standout offensive players for the Bearcats were Ryan Jones, Trace Clarkson, Brett Turner, and Dre Albert.

The defensive standouts were Nathan Wood, Turner Koonsman, and Jackson Parker.

The JV Orange were scheduled to host the Burleson Elks Thursday, Sept. 16, to begin district play.

FOOTBALL

from page eight

a career day by passing to Zach Reynolds in the corner of the end zone, and Reynolds was able to haul it in for the score.

"I left Aledo in third grade," Hejny talked about how special his performance was for him. "To come back and play with all my best friends I made at a very young age, it's just been great to come back and compete alongside them. I've always

wanted to be an Aledo Bearcat and now I'm actually an Aledo Bearcat. It's just a dream come true"

On the final Bearcat drive, senior running back Connor Smith finished the scoring with a 4-yard plunge to pay dirt, bringing the final tally to 64-0.

The Bearcats improve to 3-0 and will start district play next week against the Burleson Elks (2-1) at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17 at Burleson ISD Stadium.

TENNIS

Racquetcats face tough Wichita Falls teams

Lose district opener to Rider

By Andrea Garnett
Special to The Community News

The RacquetCats played their first district tournament against Wichita Falls Rider on Tuesday, Sept. 7 in Aledo. The team only lost by one match in a heartbreaking upset. Aledo defeated Rider last year 10-9 but couldn't duplicate it this year.

Boys' doubles came out strong winning all three matches beginning with line 1 Jax Joiner/Hogan Posey (6-4)(6-4), line 2 Ian Leslie/Scott Mason (6-1)(6-0) and line 3 Ben Farmer/Craig Mason (6-6)4, (6-4).

Girls' doubles struggled against strong Rider girls, only winning line 2 in a super tiebreaker with team Cambell Charrier/Bryanna Orr (7-5)(6-7)5 (10-7).

Going into singles play both teams were tied at 5-5. Boy's singles line 1 senior Jax Joiner dominated with a (6-1)(6-1) victory, followed by his doubles partner line 3 junior Hogan Posey winning (6-3)(6-3) and line 6 sophomore Craig Mason easily beating his opponent (6-3)(6-1).

Girl' singles playing simultaneously with the boy's only posted two wins with line 3



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS
Will Byers serves during action at Aledo earlier in the season.

senior Georgia Posey (6-6)4 (6-0) and line 5 senior Payton Bierle (6-0)(6-2).

Going into the last three matches played the score was tied at 8-8. Unfortunately two were lost in nail biting super tiebreakers. The RacquetCats gave it all they had but couldn't close it out with a victory.

On Sept. 14 the 'Cats traveled to Wichita Falls to face pre-season favorite Wichita Falls High School.

Aledo lost to Old High 4-15.

This was a very competitive tournament against a strong Coyotes team. Aledo only posted wins from Boys Doubles Line 2 Ian Leslie/Scott Mason (1-6)(6-3)10-7, Boy's Singles Hogan Posey 8-3 and in Girl's Singles Payton Bierle 8-3 and Paige Federman 8-6.

Final scores do not show all the games that come down to deuce or sets that come down to tiebreakers. The RacquetCats fought hard and had five super tiebreaker points that came up short for wins. The RacquetCats are now 0-2 in District. Aledo will travel to play Birdville on Friday, Sept. 17 in a practice tournament before they face Brewer at home at 4 p.m. on Sept. 21.

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You are invited to attend the Circle Court Superfund Site Proposed Plan Virtual Public Meeting September 28, 2021

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), will hold a virtual meeting on the Proposed Plan for the Circle Court Superfund site (Site). As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities we serve is our top priority. As a result, EPA and its Superfund Site teams are conducting virtual meetings in lieu of in-person public meeting events to reflect current COVID-19 guidance from federal, state, tribal, and local officials discouraging gatherings of more than ten people at a time.

At the virtual public meeting, EPA staff will provide information and answer questions on the Proposed Plan and EPA's preferred alternative that will be used to clean up the Site. The virtual meeting will be held online and/or over the phone via Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conferencing on:

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

There are **two** ways to attend the virtual meeting:

- Visit EPA's Circle Court Superfund site website: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/circle-court> to access virtual meeting information and web link.

Click on this link that says "Click here to join the meeting" When the Teams page launches, select "Use Teams" on current browser or "Go to Teams App" and follow the instructions. Browsers may vary by computer. Microsoft Teams currently supports the following browsers: Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Ensure you're running the latest browser version on your device to avoid any limitations in terms of features. Alternatively, you can download the Microsoft Teams app to your desktop computer or mobile device prior to the meeting.

- Call in using this phone number and Conference ID (Audio only):
 - Phone number: (844) 608-7693, toll free
 - Conference ID: 202 160 374#

If you have any problems joining by phone or online on the day of the meeting, please contact Heather Davis at (713) 985-6672 for immediate assistance.

The Proposed Plan provides the results of the Remedial Investigation, describes the remedial alternatives that were evaluated in the Feasibility Study Report, solicits public review and comment on the remedial alternative, and provides information on how the public can be involved in the remedial selection process. The Proposed Plan is available electronically at: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/circle-court>.

The Proposed Plan and the Administrative Record are available for public review at the following information repository:

East Parker County Library 201 FM 1187 North Aledo, TX (817) 441-6545	Weatherford Public Library 1014 Charles Street Weatherford, TX (817) 598-4150	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Records Management Center 12100 Park 35 Circle Building E 1 st Floor Austin, TX 78753
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Public comments can be offered at the virtual public meeting or can be submitted during the 30-day comment period from September 20, 2021 through October 19, 2021. All written comments should be addressed to: Hope Schroeder, EPA Remedial Project Manager, U.S. EPA Region 6, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75270, or emailed to schroeder.hope@epa.gov.

Should you have any specific needs or questions about the online virtual meeting, please contact: Ed Mekeel, Senior Community Involvement Coordinator, at (214) 665-2252 or email to mekeel.edward@epa.gov.

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WALSH COMMUNITY GARAGE Sale - FIRST-TIME EVER community wide garage sale with 70+ households participating on Saturday, Sept. 18 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.! Furniture, clothing, housewares, toys, baby items and more! Walsh HOA, 13809 Walsh Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76008. Maps will be provided.

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TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Cross country teams finish 5-6

The Trinity Christian Academy varsity cross country team ran in Willow Park at the Parker County XC Championship on Sept. 11, with the Lady Eagles notching a fifth-place finish (99 points), while the Eagles earned a sixth-place finish (185 points).

TCA's individual results from Saturday are:

- Varsity Girls' 3200
 • Sophomore Gracee Whiteaker, 2nd - 13:27
 • Freshman Jayde Scull, 15th - 15:16
 • Sophomore McKenna Kelley, 38th - 16:57
 • Junior Madison Hooper, 52nd - 18:44
 • Freshman Ella Cockrum, 58th - 18:58

- Varsity Boys' 5000M
 • Senior Mason Brunson, 22nd - 19:16
 • Junior Thomas Eaton, 29th - 20:00
 • Sophomore Wilson Winchester, 46th - 20:50



TCA boys jockey for position at the beginning of a cross country race.

COURTESY TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

- Junior Micah Chesney, 50th - 21:02
- Senior Jack Mendoza, 86th - 23:13
- Senior George Brenner, 93rd - 24:05
- Freshman Dylan Kelly, 106th - 25:20
- Junior Shane Houston, 107th - 25:30

TCA returns to action at the Palo Pinto County XC Championship, Monday Sept. 20.

Football team defeats Temple Christian

TCA defeated Temple Christian in their first district matchup, 22-6 on Friday, Sept. 10. The offense was backed by the offensive line, rushing for 260 yards. Kennan Dowling had 237 total yards and 2 TD's. The TCA defense held Temple to 188 total yards. Asa Dowling led the defense with 15 tackles. Trinity's next match-up is at Lake Country at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17.

Volleyball drops two matches

Trinity Christian Academy varsity volleyball competed in non-district matches against Victory Baptist Academy and Trinity Valley School on Sept. 7 and Sept. 9, respectively. The Lady Eagles lost to VBA in four games and TVS in four games.

Sophomore Caroline Thompson had 19 digs and four aces and sophomore Giuliana Marcantonio had six kills against VBA. Sophomore Caroline Thompson picked up 29 digs, junior Margaret Cowley had three aces and three kills, and junior Faith Rodgers had six kills against TVS. The Lady Eagles will begin district play against Covenant Christian-Colleyville on Tuesday, Sept. 14.



COURTESY TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

TCA Lady Eagles Jayde Scull, Madison Hooper, Gracee Whiteaker, McKenna Kelley, and Ella Cockrum



COURTESY TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Senior Kennan Dowling

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