

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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ALEDO

City approves plat for Parks of Aledo south tract, 'The Lakes'

Increased water and wastewater fees adopted

By Brandi Addison
The Community News

The Aledo City Council unanimously approved the preliminary plat for Parks of Aledo's south tract — The Lakes — during its regular city council meeting on Thursday, Oct. 28.

The 107-acre development tract would include 267 lots and about 45 acres of open space, said Justin Welborn of James R. Harris Partners, LLC, a real estate developer.

This would equate to about 2.5 lots per acre.

"As you can see, over time, we have dialed up a percentage of open space and we dialed down the density from the first phase, because what's obvious to a lot of you is having home sites adjacent to open space — it's been a big selling points of this project," Welborn said. "And so, it gave us the confidence to go forward and do more of that."

He added that the quantity of open space and the bike trail has been "hugely popular" to residents, so the developers have continued to pursue more green space.

Once completed, the Parks of Aledo will be made up of 427 acres total — 1,028 lots and 160 acres of open space.

Mayor Kit Marshall thanked Welborn and his developing partners for "caring so much about having good product."

"It's an amazing development, and I think the best development in Parker County," said Marshall, who also works for the county. "Maybe I'm prejudiced — I don't think so. I think it has met many, many needs up to this point, and I believe it will well into the future."

With approval of the preliminary plat, Aledo will annex The Lakes into city boundaries.

"The staff and Planning and Zoning commission have reviewed the preliminary plat of Parks of Aledo — the south tract at The Lakes — and we have determined that it complies with the subdivision ordinance and would recommend approval," said planning consultant Betty Chew. "The vote of the Planning and Zoning Commission was unanimous of the members present."

Wastewater fees

City Council also voted to increase its water and wastewater fees.

To align with its shared contract with Fort Worth's water department, the city was required to adopt the same increase that Fort Worth had adopted earlier.

The new schedule is effective between Jan. 1, 2022 and Jan. 1, 2023.



Marching at State



LUKE BATHURST/SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The front ensemble (also known as the pit) play with the Bearcat Regiment marching in the background at the state UIL Marching Contest in San Antonio on Tuesday, Nov. 2. Out of 253 5A bands in the state, the Aledo band placed seventh. More details coming next week.

CARING FOR BRITTNEY

Special needs child is recipient of Thanksgiving Trot

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Love is patient and kind — two traits evident in Joe and Kelli McCoy as it pertains to their daughter, Brittney, who will be the recipient of the 2021 Thanksgiving Trot in Aledo.

Brittney, now 11, functions as a six-month-old. She can't walk, she is legally blind, and she experiences epilepsy.

And she also experiences the love and patience of her parents.

"She was probably born this way," explained Kelli. "We didn't know anything was wrong until she was six months old."

Joe said it was about that time they realized Brittney was not progressing.

"She couldn't lift her head," Joe said. "We'd go to church and drop her off and she wouldn't turn and 'oh, there's mom; there's dad.' So early on we knew something was going on with her development."

The family started looking for doctors, and Joe said they went to as many as 25 doctors trying to find out what was wrong.

There were "probably a dozen at least procedures — 'Okay, let's try this. Let's try this. Let's try this.' And we've done genetic testing and they just haven't found anything that caused the delay in the development or her not being able to use her hands or legs or her feet or anything like that," Joe said.



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The McCoy family (from left) Braxton, Joe, Brittney, Kelli, and Brevin

A complicating and aggravating factor is that Brittney remains undiagnosed to this day, which makes insurance an additional chore.

Families who experience major medical issues know the financial toll they can take.

"For the first five years, my whole salary went to her," Kelli said. "I was trying to find an answer for her. We got her first wheelchair. Well, we're talking \$10,000 for that."

During that time, the family was not receiving any help. Insurance companies want a diagnosis, and there are no

organizations for supporting "undiagnosed."

"That was always a big barrier to us being able to get any help — we didn't have anything we could say that was wrong with her. So for those five years until she went to kindergarten, we were pretty much on our own. I was working to pay her medical bills. At that point, we were finally able through a waiver program to get assistance from the government," Kelli said.

That was about the time their oldest son, Braxton, went off to college, so college bills were coming in as well.

THANKSGIVING TROT

10th annual Aledo Thanksgiving Trot
Thursday, Nov. 25
1-mile 8 a.m. | 5k 8:30 a.m.
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aledothanksgivingtrot.com/

But even with assistance, medical-costs aren't just from the treatment.

"Every time she's admitted we're off work," Kelli said. "On the 24th of May, she had surgery

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In & Around Parker County

CALL ON ATEX TRASH SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

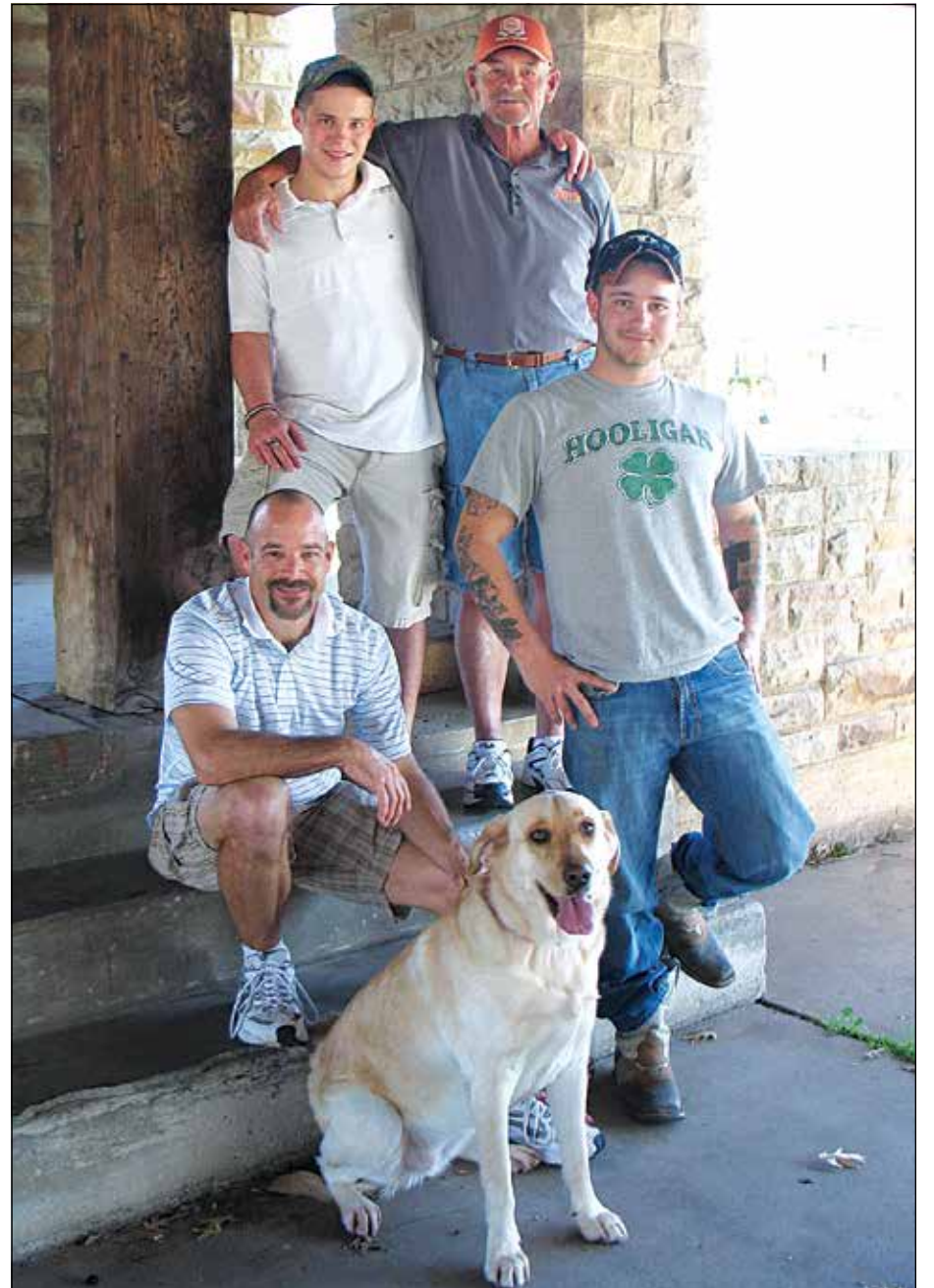
outside of Azle, Springtown, Weatherford, Poolville and Aledo, and the area continues to grow! Just call and see if they can help you. Since they are a local, family-owned company, you know who will answer the phone when you call. Tim and Billy are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.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

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

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

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

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



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Obituaries

Penny Ann Sneed

Penny Ann Sneed passed away Saturday, October 30, 2021.

She was born on June 19, 1955, in Furstenfeldbruck, Germany, where her dad was stationed in the U.S. Air Force.

After her dad retired the family settled in Weatherford, where Penny finished school.

Penny spent most of her working career as a secretary and office manager for several construction companies before retiring in 2020. God gave her a gift of organization.

She loved the western culture and rode horses with her husband Louis through most of their married life. She told stories of a little POA pony named Tough Nuggies that her dad bought the family and how he would go along the fence and drag her off.

Her pride and joy was her horse Rio.

When she quit riding, she let Louis turn him into a rope horse, but he was always her horse.

She loved her dog Newt and talked to him like he was a person. She believed he understood everything she told him. Maybe he did.

Penny and Louis had a great life together for thirty years. The best and most important thing that could be said about her life was that she was a true follower of Jesus.

She said who you are means more than what you are.

Penny is survived by her husband Louis, and her stepson Kirk. She is also survived by her mother, Elloys Purvis and her aunt, Joyce Elder; sisters Holly Sifford, Cherry Purvis, and brother Kelly Purvis along with nieces, nephews, cousins, and many wonderful friends.

In lieu of flowers, you may give to the building fund of Parker County Cowboy Church or to Sonny James Equine Ministry at P.O. Box 1571, Aledo, Texas 76008.



Penny Sneed

Robert G Hunt

Robert G. "Bob" Hunt - a stellar musician, loving parent and grandparent, and a gentle man who devoted his life to helping those in need - died Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021, in Pearland, Texas, of complications from COVID-19. He was 81.

Robert Gardner Hunt was born May 23, 1940, in Melrose, Massachusetts, and lived throughout the Boston area as his father moved within the Episcopal Church. He graduated from high school in Boston in 1957 and attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where he was a long-distance runner and competed in pole vaulting. There, he received the first of several degrees, a bachelor's in psychology, in 1962. He later moved to Austin, Texas, to attend the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, where he obtained a master's in divinity in 1967.

Music always played a role in his life. He met his first wife, Zonna, in the 1960s while attending seminary and playing bass for Oedipus and the Mothers, an acclaimed Austin band that recorded a hit single, "How It Used to Be," at the same Texas studio where The 13th Floor Elevators recorded. He also recorded as a studio musician in Texas with Trini Lopez.

He married Zonna in June 1967, a month after he graduated from seminary. Instead of following his father into the priesthood, however, he veered off into social work and worked for the state in East Texas. He took a break to obtain his master's in social work at the University of Texas at Arlington in 1975 before moving to Austin to continue his government work.

As a widower in the early 1980s, he met Sherry while playing with the band Sunrise at a Lake Travis resort where she was visiting. He moved to Denver and they married in October 1981. They owned a business providing job training, and relocated to the Washington, D.C. area before moving in 1995 to Aledo, where Sherry worked as a teacher and Bob taught guitar lessons on the side.



Bob Hunt

He was active with Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, and performed with a church band at a weekly service that featured contemporary music. He moved several years ago to the Houston area to be with his daughter, Rebecca, and her family. In addition to his music, he was an avid model railroader, remaining a long-distance member of the Nauset Model Railroad Club and participating with a group in Fort Worth.

At 8:35 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021, he died at peace and without distress with his daughter Rebecca holding his hand and his daughter Dianna just around the corner.

He leaves behind a legacy marked by good deeds, kindness to those who crossed his path and a mean touch with his electric bass, upright bass, and guitars.

Bob and his wife, Sherry, moved to Aledo in 1995, and their daughter, Rebecca, graduated from Aledo High School, as did his grandson, Evan Moore IV. Sherry, an Aledo teacher, died in 2010.

Bob had been hospitalized for more than two weeks at the time of his death. In his weakened condition, he couldn't fight off the virus, despite having received the vaccine in the first wave of inoculations.

Twice a widower, he is survived by his daughters, Rebecca Jung and her husband, Peter, of Pearland, and Dianna Hunt and her husband, Evan Moore III, of Tennessee; his sister, Judy Scherzo and husband Carmen, of Brewster, Massachusetts; step-daughters Mauri Elkins and her husband, Shawn, and Jodi Elland and her husband, Michael Clark, all of Virginia; grandchildren Griffin Jung, Evan Moore IV, and Jessica and Jillian Elkins; and other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Zonna Horton Hunt, in 1979, and second wife Sherry Hunt in 2010, and by his parents, The Rev. Warren G. Hunt and Bernice Hayes Hunt, of Massachusetts.

Services were held Sept. 19 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. He will make one final trip next summer to his beloved Cape Cod and the sand flats at Brewster, Massachusetts.

The Community News
November 5, 2021

TROT

from page one

on both hips. And it was a major surgery and we were in the hospital for 10 days. And then we got out and then we were readmitted two more times."

Kelli said expenses pile up — even things you wouldn't think about. When Brittney was three, they needed a special chair to feed her because she couldn't hold her head up. That chair was \$500.

"The car seat she can sit in because she has special needs is \$600 — the car seat you can buy at Sam's for \$60 doesn't work for her you know, it's just stuff like that," Kelli said.

Joe and Kelli have adjusted. Joe came to Aledo on the football coaching staff in 1993. He left four years later.

"I chased moving up the ladder as a football coach. And then in 2008 I was actually working at Brewer and resigned in January because things just weren't working out," Joe said. The road led him back to Aledo, where he took a middle school coaching job. He is now Aledo's head tennis coach.

Kelli started here in Aledo as well, and is now an Instructional Coach in White Settlement.

"We're lucky now we have nursing care," Kelli said. "That's the only way I'm able to keep working because they put her on the bus in the morning because I've already gone to work, and obviously he (Joe) is because he's coaching; and they get her off the bus in the afternoon.

I wouldn't be home for an hour and a half. So that's the only way that I can work is for us to have nursing care."

The nursing care is not available on weekends, which is why Joe got out of football coaching, because it's a seven-day commitment, and Brittney is getting heavier.

"She's 75 pounds and she's four foot nine," Kelli said.

"She's totally dependent on somebody getting her out of a wheelchair to the ground, getting her from the ground to a feeding chair, getting her from a feeding chair back to the ground; getting her from the ground to her bed," Joe said. "You have to lift 75 pounds and she doesn't help at all. It's dead weight. That's why I had to get out of football and spend a little more time helping her out."

Their younger son, Brevin, has stayed at home and helps at home as well.

Joe also pointed out a truth anyone who has medical procedures knows: one procedure isn't just one visit.

"One thing turns into four or five meetings with a doctor and they don't care if you work or not," Joe said. "They're going to schedule their appointments when they're working"

Finding support

Kelli recalls that she was working at Fine Arts Academy in White Settlement when they first started finding the issues with Brittney.

Candace Summerhill, now the Aledo ISD

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Events

NOVEMBER 5, 2021
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More events can be found at www.community-news.com/events



NOVEMBER 5

Bearcat Alley
The Aledo Education Foundation will present its annual Bearcat Alley from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5, just outside Bearcat Stadium. The family-friendly event will feature inflatable games, a game truck, sports games, Bearcat tattoos, and cheerleaders.

Boutique, Bloom Where You Are Planted, Sandee's Homemade Mixes, and many others. The Gift Market will also host nonprofit vendors such as Sanctified Hope, which empowers and guides formerly incarcerated women through a Christ-based ministry to inspire life-long changes and become successful citizens of the community. They earn extra money through the creations they offer. The Gift Market serves as a way for Trinity Christian Academy to reach out to our area communities and invite them in. Admission is free.



NOVEMBER 6

TCA Gift Market
The 10th Annual Trinity Christian Academy Gift Market will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 4954 E. I-20 Service Road in Willow Park. More than 60 vendors will be featured, with more than 80% of the vendors being local to Parker County. Vendors include community favorites such as The Paisley Heart, Hope



NOVEMBER 7

Shop for the Trot
The Aledo Thanksgiving Trot will host "Shop for the Trot" from 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, at Aledo Crossroads, 701 Bear Cat Road Suite F in Aledo. The shopping give back will feature Byrd Mill, 76008 Candles, The Wandering Turquoise, The FortTX, Kirk + Ves, C + B Furs, and Que Chula. Casual Friday's Winery will offer wine by the glass or bottle to be purchased. A

food truck and children's activities will also be provided.

NOVEMBER 9

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.

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 jcjkat1959@gmail.com.



NOVEMBER 10

Home for the Holidays
The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service will host its 20th "Home for the Holidays" from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at Cousts United Methodist Church, 802 N. Elm in Weatherford.

The event will feature presentations and entertainment. Admission is \$12, which includes a chicken and dressing lunch, programs, and recipes. Lunch is from 12-1 p.m. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call 817-598-6168. Tickets will also be available at the door.



NOVEMBER 12

Aledo Ladycat Charity Golf Tournament
The inaugural Aledo Ladycat Charity Golf Tournament begins at 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 12, at Squaw Creek Golf Course, 1605 Ranch House Road in Willow Park. Registration fee is \$500 per team or \$150 per player. In addition to first and third place prizes, additional prizes include closest to the hole, women's and men's longest drive, raffle items, and a silent auction. Sponsorships are also available ranging from \$750 to \$3,000. Proceeds benefit the Aledo High School softball program, and will primarily go toward the Senior Class Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Chris Smith at 817-829-6005 or email

AledoLadycatSoftball@gmail.com.

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.



NOVEMBER 13

Bears Dance Team Mini Dance Clinic
The Aledo ISD dance program will host a mini dance clinic from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Aledo High School cafeteria. The mini dancers will perform with the Bears Dance Team at its fall show at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16. Fee for the camp is \$50. Checks made out to AHS Dance can be mailed to Aledo High School

Dance Team, ATTN: Emily Robison, 1000 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008.

Payment can also be made by visiting <https://tx-aledo.intouchrecepting.com/signin>. For more information, visit <https://forms.gle/VcdVbrTHabb8LF7A9>.

NOVEMBER 15

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.

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@tcaeagles.org.




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 Rose Hoffman
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 Joe King
 Shelly Knox
 Mike LeNoir, WPFD Chief
 Chris McQuatters
 Kelly Mooney
 Doyle Moss, Willow Park Mayor
 Patti Oaks



Sheila Page
 Gina Sawyer
 Brian Shelton
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 Regena & Rudy Taylor, Community Food Bank
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 Holly Vanecek
 Carrie West, WPPD Police Chief
 Julie Wiley
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 Lea Young

Shout out to all of our volunteers and auction donors who helped make the tournament a success!

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 The Sinclair, An Autograph Hotel
 Squaw Creek Golf Staff & Maintenance Crew
 Western Heritage Furniture & Design Center,
 Tammy McBee
 Brant Whetstone
 Becky White-Zala
 Randy White, Dallas Cowboys
 Rayfield & Di Wright

Capital Highlights

Rare human case of rabies under investigation



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

A Medina County child is being treated for rabies in a Texas hospital, the Department of State Health Services reported last week. It is the first case of rabies in a human reported in the state since 2009. The child was bitten by a bat, according to DSHS.

Public health officials have identified all the places where someone could have come into contact with either the bat or the child. Experts are assessing the risk to those people and whether they should receive post-exposure vaccinations to prevent them from contracting rabies.

The department noted that rabies is almost always fatal once contracted, but is preventable if the vaccine and immune globulin are administered before symptoms begin. In Texas, according to DSHS, skunks and bats account for most animal rabies cases. Nearly 600 animals in Texas tested positive for rabies last year, about half of them bats.

10-digit dialing mandatory in several new areas

The days of being able to just dial seven digits in seven Texas area codes are behind us. In July 2020 the Federal Communications Commission approved 988 as the abbreviated dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Several Texas area codes (254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915 and 940) have numbers with a 988 prefix, and had to transition to 10-digit local dialing after the FCC order.

The Texas Public Utility Commission announced effective Oct. 25 that all local calls dialed in those area codes with just seven digits will reach a recording that prompts the caller to redial using all 10 digits. The change does not affect price, coverage area or other rates and services, according to the PUC.

Another look at impact of Winter Storm Uri

More than eight months after an unprecedented snow and ice storm led to widespread power blackouts in Texas, the Texas Comptroller's office took an in-depth look at the state's response and the legislative actions that followed.

Texas is the only state in the continental United States with its own electric power grid, which serves 90% of its population. Parts of East Texas, the Panhandle and El Paso are outside the area managed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and didn't experience widespread outages.

Winter Storm Uri knocked out power and disrupted water utilities for nearly 70% of the state's residents for extended periods. Financial loss estimates range

from \$80 billion to \$130 billion, according to Comptroller Glenn Hegar.

The comptroller's report explains the economic toll of the storm and the legislative changes to the electric market structure passed in the 87th Legislature. Critics have said the changes do not go far enough to make power companies weatherize their plants to insure against further outages due to extreme weather.

Drought expands throughout state

Texas is drying up. Warmer and drier conditions are being reported throughout much of the state, reports the Texas Water Development Board. Approximately one-fifth of the state is now experiencing drought conditions, mainly in Northeast Texas, the Panhandle, Far West Texas and South Texas.

The National Weather Service expects drought to expand across the state through the end of January due to La Niña conditions that are expected to bring Texas a warmer and drier winter than normal.

COVID-19 vaccines for kids coming to state

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years. In Texas that could mean nearly three million children are now eligible for the vaccine.

The FDA reported immune responses in children in that age range were comparable to those of persons 16 to 25 years old. The vaccine was found to be 90.7% effective in preventing the virus in children 5 through 11. The ongoing study of approximately 3,100 children found no serious side effects.

More than a million doses targeting children in that age group are being sent to providers in nearly half of the state's counties, according to DSHS. As of Sunday, 15.44 million Texans have been fully vaccinated, which is right at 53% of the state's population.

COVID-19 cases, deaths continue to drop

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week dropped to 28,840, and new deaths dipped to 937—the first time below 1,000 since summer, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The total number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations continues to decrease, with 3,571 reported throughout the state, down nearly 19% from the previous week, according to DSHS.

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

Public facts about the card room

KJ Hannah

Neighbor Gould, thank you for your Guest Column in last week's *The Community News*, titled "Another view of the card room." That is what your neighbors who spoke about the card room to the city council were doing, speaking their views.

And that is the point. City leaders have not publicly shared any facts about The Fort Card Room that was about to open in Willow Park, a city that until July 2021 — just three months earlier — would not have allowed a private card room. So, all we have is our views.

Let's look at the facts we do have (dry as they are) about the The Fort Card Room and the new Willow Park Commercial Amusement Ordinance.

According to a direct quote in the Oct. 1 edition of *The Community News* from Burt Parnell, one of the owners of the card room, "... and so I came back and started the process here in the county. And then with the city, with law enforcement, with city council, mayors, whomever, to see if they would allow it in Willow Park, and they said yes," Parnell said. "And we then tried to find a building, found it, and we got a lease."

"The owners of the club signed their lease in June," according to the same article. A lease was signed June 2021 for a private card room that could not have legally opened in the City of Willow Park at that time, since there was no ordinance for commercial amusement until 13 July.

The agenda for June 15 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting indicated, "Public Hearing to consider and act on text amendments to the City of Willow Park Zoning Ordinance to provide definitions for Commercial Amusement..."

In the proposed Commercial Amusement Ordinance was one page of information, which had the following definitions: "Commercial Amusement — Indoor: An operation which is conducted within an enclosed building, including bowling alleys, video arcades, dance hall or theater, auditoriums, and recreational facilities with or without fixed seating. Commercial Amusement — Outdoor: An operation including miniature golf courses, driving ranges, swimming pools, skateboard parks, water parks and associated facilities."

As a factual aside, a city employee "designated as staff liaison by the city administrator" is responsible for managing the agenda and agenda information packet and for providing expert advice to the P&Z members. P&Z meetings are recorded by the city employee, and although these recordings are not posted for the public, I attended that P&Z Commission meeting and recorded it and will be glad to share.

During the June 15 P&Z meeting, one of the commissioners asked what precipitated this agenda item that had not been on any previous agenda; the commissioners were told a movie theatre had approached Willow Park for a location "over by the [Parker County] Ice House" but lost interest when they found Willow Park had no ordinance to allow amusement in commercial or light industrial zoned districts.

What followed was a robust 20-minute discussion, including other examples of commercial amusements; assurances that indoor adult amusement was covered under another ordinance; using specific use permits to manage commercial amusement; creating a more detailed definition of what was to be considered appropriate commercial

amusement, to eliminate loopholes that might be used by businesses not appropriate to an area close to residential zoning; and buffering commercial amusement from residential zoning.

Based on the facts presented to them, the P&Z voted unanimously to approve the Commercial Amusement Ordinance. Please note, I am in no way suggesting or implying any questionable actions or wrong doings by the city employee who assists the P&Z Commission; she was sharing information as she knew it, information provided by the city administration and elected officials.

During the July 13 regular city council meeting, Agenda Item 5 indicated a public hearing, discussion, and action on Ordinance 834-21 to consider amending the city zoning ordinance to include definitions for Commercial Amusement. A city employee introduced the new ordinance with the examples of a theater and batting cages, and one council member asked for clarification about outdoor amusement activities. Discussion on this agenda item took less than five minutes and the council voted unanimously to approve the new Commercial Amusement Ordinance.

By mid-July, the city council had not publicly shared any information about The Fort Card Room or about how the new Commercial Amusement Ordinance would specifically allow — according to The Fort Card Room website — an adult only, seven day a week, sixteen table, private card room, rumored to be open until 4 a.m. or 7/24 hours. (Sorry, but rumor always fills the vacuum left by a dearth of information.)

Turn to **HANNAH**, page 7

The Community News

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TROT

from page three

Director of Assessment & Accountability, was the principal of the school and had a special needs son who was taught by Kelli.

"She [Summerhill] had just come through this journey," Kelli said. "And she walked me through. I really feel like that's why I was in that position — to be with her. I started with that and then I have a lot of support at work anyway. You know, just through friendships and with my co-workers."

Kelli also said their Christian faith has been essential through the journey.

Being named as the recipients of the proceeds from this year's Thanksgiving Trot was uncomfortable at first for the family. Kelli said in the beginning they weren't telling people about Brittany's condition.

"We never made some big announcement where we were telling people what was going on because we didn't really know what was going on," Kelli said. "And a few years ago, one of my friends that I worked with when I was working here, said, 'Kelli, we've just watched y'all go through all this and the community watches y'all and we always want to help. But nobody knows what to do, so accept our help.'"

"We don't like to ask anybody for help. She said 'but we've stood by and helplessly watched y'all. Please, just let us do something.'"

Anyone who has dealt with the Thanksgiving Trot committee knows it is a group of people who are difficult to say "no" to.

The first person from the committee who reached out was Whitney (Pack) Harris.

"I coached her as a seventh and eighth grader, and the girl has been contacting

me about t-shirts," Kelli said. And [committee member Marsha] Ancona, I coached her daughter. These are the people that have watched us through it I guess; so it's humbling and it's hard, but it's a blessing."

Joe said some modifications need to be made to their home to accommodate caring for Brittany as she grows.

"We're just so honored to be chosen by the community and to be part of the community," Joe said. "I've heard many coaches say we have the best kids, we have the best school system; I've been in seven other schools district so I know that it's not that way in every other place. It's just amazing how the community gets behind something and really backs it."

For more information, visit aledothanksgivingtrot.com.

ACROSS

- 1 slightly wet
- 5 "Tower" was original name of Dallas skyscraper "Energy Plaza"
- 6 TXism: "she could talk the ___ off an iron stove"
- 7 TXism: "liquid ___" (perfume)
- 8 King Kong, e.g.
- 9 Texans mostly do this on a lake
- 12 minor fight
- 17 "... Texas, our Texas! So wonderful! ..."
- 19 "itchy" Texas plant: ___ ivy
- 21 ceremonially rubs with oil
- 22 used to moor a vessel in the Gulf
- 23 TXism: "want it ___ could spit"
- 28 type of IRA
- 29 actress in TX-filmed "Silkwood" (1983)
- 30 UH athlete
- 31 album: "Lyle Lovett & His ___ Band"
- 35 TXism: "working between ___"
- 36 scenic Corpus Christi's "Bayfront"
- 42 TXism: "riding a ___" (arrogant)
- 44 "Texas ___ saw Massacre" (1974)
- 46 reasons for layoffs (2 wds.)

- 48 this Jack was an 8-term U.S. congressman from Houston
- 49 chop with an axe
- 50 Fort Worth's "___ Museum of Transportation"
- 51 student
- 52 TX-born Debbie Reynolds film "The Singing ___"
- 53 TXism: "just two whoops ___ holler away"
- 54 "One ___ one Ranger"

- ## DOWN
- 1 "Wings Over ___" (WWII themed)
 - 2 "The eyes of Texas ___ you ..."
 - 3 in McLennan County on U.S. 84
 - 4 selfie posture
 - 9 mailed
 - 10 she starred with TX-born Steve Martin in "The Man with Two Brains" (2 wds.)
 - 11 TX Dan Jenkins' "Life ___ Ownself"
 - 12 pamper place
 - 13 very old mission in San Antonio
 - 14 TXism: "sitting in high cotton"
 - 15 this Arthur won "Dallas WCT Finals" in 1975 (tennis)
 - 16 TXism: "couldn't buy hay for a nightmare"
 - 18 Del ____, TX
 - 20 legendary Texas pitcher, Ryan (init.)
 - 23 B-western star, TX Sunset (init.)
 - 24 James Bond first two numbers
 - 25 TX George W.
 - 26 malaria, e.g.
 - 27 hang down
 - 32 TXism: "frisky as ___ unsaddled horse"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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HANNAH

from page six

On Sept. 23, a small group of citizens discovered The Fort Card Room had signed a lease in June to operate in the mall across from the Parker County Ice House. And we shared that information as widely as we could because that is what good neighbors do. And we made sure our neighbors knew one of the most effective ways to communicate to our elected officials was to speak in person at a council meeting.

At the Sept. 28 regular city council meeting, The Fort Card Room and the new Commercial Amusement Ordinance were not on the agenda. While fifteen people stood at the podium and spoke on the card room during general public comments, there were over fifty people at the meeting. And those citizens represented many more who could not attend the evening

council meeting, especially on such short notice.

My neighborhood alone had six people present and four spoke. At the end of the meeting, one council member thanked those who spoke, and another council member requested the issue of The Fort Card Room and the Commercial Amusement Ordinance be put on the council agenda. And directly after the council meeting and for a few days afterwards, several of the council communicated with several of the citizens assuring them the issue would be addressed.

In the Oct. 2 edition of *The Community News*, there was an excellent front page article that covered both sides of The Fort Card Room issue and promised to continue the investigation.

As promised, a front page article in the Oct. 8 *The Community News* continued to pursue facts about the card room and how it related to the new Commercial Amusement

Ordinance. However, after several attempts to obtain further information from the city, at the last minute before publication, the newspaper was given only a terse statement from a city representative that no additional information would be forthcoming because of a potential lawsuit. As the article so aptly and succinctly concluded, "When optics are bad, it is incumbent on a government body to explain. So far, no one at the City of Willow Park has found it necessary to do so."

During the next regular city council meeting on Oct. 12, the card room and the new ordinance were not on the agenda. There was one citizen speaker who asked why. As an interesting aside, Agenda Item 4 was "to consider and act on designating the official newspaper of the City of Willow Park for the fiscal year 2021 - 2022." Although *The Community News* has been designated as the official newspaper for the

City of Willow Park for over twenty five years, the council voted unanimously and without discussion to table the issue. Why?

During the Oct. 19 special council meeting, The Fort Card Room appeared on the agenda as "Executive Session, A. 551.071 (consultation with attorney): Chapter 380 and Fort Card Room." (Private Executive Sessions during a council meeting are allowed by Texas Open Meeting Act.) There was one citizen speaker who asked for clarification about the relationship between the Chapter 380 economic development agreement and The Fort Card Room; the council explained there was no connection between the two issues.

The Oct. 29 edition of *The Community News* printed a 1,500 word, Guest Column by Willow Park neighbor Steve Gould. And it is to this Guest Column, I would like to add my view.

The citizen criticisms during the Sept. 28 council meeting were from frustration and disappointment by the lack of candid facts from our elected officials. Most of the speakers were respectful. I agree attacking neighbors as individuals is ugly politics, but criticizing the actions and policies of elected officials, made during the execution of their official duties, is essential civics.

Questioning, directing, criticizing, and praising our elected officials is not only the right but the civic responsibility of every citizen.

In addition, many of the article's criticisms against Willow Park neighbor's comments were taken out of context, in my opinion. Fortunately, the video of the Sept. 29 council meeting (link below) allows all citizens to develop their own views about the intent of our neighbors who spoke.

Finally, Mr. Gould, you made several statements

concerning city finances, and the potential sales tax generated by The Fort Card Room, and the card room owners discontinuing the pursuit of a location in Willow Park due to actions of city leaders. These "facts" have not been shared with the public. What is your source?

Again, Mr. Gould, I appreciate the open discussion. This is the kind of discussion the city needs before it makes decisions that have major impact on our city and neighborhoods. And although I disagree with many of your "views," I will invoke the view of Evelyn Beatrice Hall, in summarizing the works of Voltaire, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Or as my father used to say, tongue in cheek, "Everyone is entitled to his own rotten opinion."

KJ Hannah is a resident of Willow Park. References to documents and videos are available on request.

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Sports

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FOOTBALL

Bearcats defeat Seguin

One remaining district game

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

The Aledo Bearcats moved one step closer to another perfect regular season when they traveled to east Arlington to take on the Cougars from Juan Seguin High School. The Bearcats took control of the game early and never looked back, cruising to a 55-21 victory and solidifying a district championship.

"Well the biggest thing is that when you're a district champion, you get your first playoff game at home," head coach Tim Buchanan said behind a chuckle. "It used to not mean anything. So now the big benefit is that they have to come play at our place."

Seguin tried to eat up the clock early and prevent Aledo from getting the ball. But the Bearcat defense held on the first drive and took possession almost half-way through the first quarter. The offense quickly drove down the field, setting up a 12-yard touchdown pass from Brayden-Fowler Nicolosi to a wide open Jalen Pope in the back of the end zone. Then the floodgates opened.

While the defense continued to dominate and do its job, Ryan Williams started his big day with a pair of touchdown runs from six and two yards respectively, making the score 21-0 at the end of the first quarter.

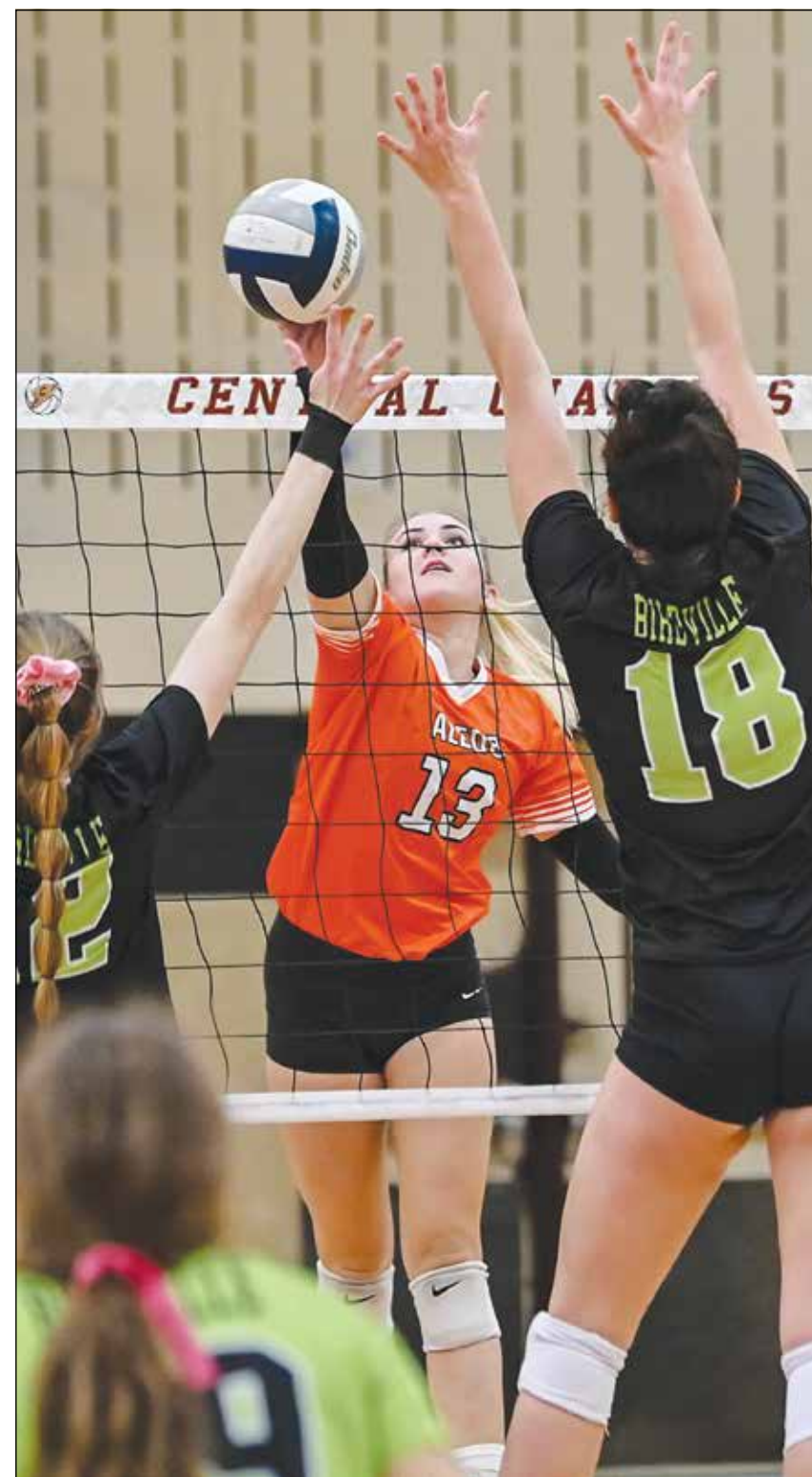
Once the second quarter started, Sammy Steffe began his big day. He took his first carry 59 yards to paydirt, extending the Aledo lead



RAMON MORALES

Senior Sammy Steffe took his first carry in the second quarter 59 yards for a touchdown.

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 9



KIRSTEN GALLON

Senior Sam Smith goes for a kill against Birdville in bi-district action. Smith had nine kills in the match, which the Ladycats lost 3-2 (see next page).

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VOLLEYBALL

Ladycats fall at bi-district

Staff Reports
The Community News

The Aledo Ladycats' volleyball season ended relatively early this season with a bi-district loss on Tuesday against Birdville at Keller Central High School.

Birdville took the first set 15-25, but the Ladycats came roaring back and won the second set handily, 25-12.

The see-saw continued with Birdville taking the third, 21-25. The Ladycats again fought back, taking the fourth set 25-17 before falling in a heartbreaking fifth set, 13-15.

Seniors who played their last game as Ladycats include Mattie Gantt, who has committed to the University of Texas-El Paso, Skylar Ellison, Sam Smith, and Averie Riser.

Aces: Maddie Frank 2, Mattie Gantt 1, Sam Smith 1

Kills: Vivian Parker 22, Mattie Gantt 10, Sam Smith 9, Maddie Frank 8, Skylar Ellison 4, Payton Hilmer 2, Mia Little 1

Blocks: Mattie Gantt 2.0, Maddie Frank 2.0, Vivian Parker 1.0, Skylar Ellison 1.0, Payton Hilmer 1.0

Assists: Mattie Gantt 37, Mia Little 5, Vivian Parker 2, Averie Riser 2, Maddie Frank 1, Skylar Ellison 1, Sam Smith 1

Digs: Mia Little 31, Vivian Parker 28, Mattie Gantt 17, Averie Riser 16, Sam Smith 16, Skylar Ellison 8, Maddie Frank 5, Payton Hilmer 2

AMS

The Aledo Middle School volleyball team swept Brewer Middle School on Oct. 26 to secure first place in district:

7th Grade:

- A: 25-5, 25-4
- B: 25-10, 25-13
- C: 25-8, 25-6

8th Grade:

- A: 25-16, 25-6
- B: 25-8, 25-6
- C: 25-7, 25-6

FOOTBALL

JV Bearcats come from behind to defeat South Oak Cliff

The JV Orange hosted South Oak Cliff in a non-district contest at Bearcat Stadium on Thursday, Oct. 29, and came from behind late in the fourth quarter to defeat South Oak Cliff 17-14.

The Bears dominated the first quarter scoring on their first two drives of the game. The Bearcats offense successfully moved the ball in the first half but couldn't convert on multiple fourth downs.

The Bears were leading 14-0 when the Bearcats finally got things going on offense. The Bearcats got favorable field position on two straight drives because of Ky Howington's fourth down tackle and Nathan Wood's fumble recovery on defense.

The Bearcats capitalized on two straight drives, with Ryan Jones converting a 6-yard touchdown run and Austin Keith kicking a 35-yard field goal with time expiring to end the half. The Bearcats trailed at the half for the first time of the year, 10-14.

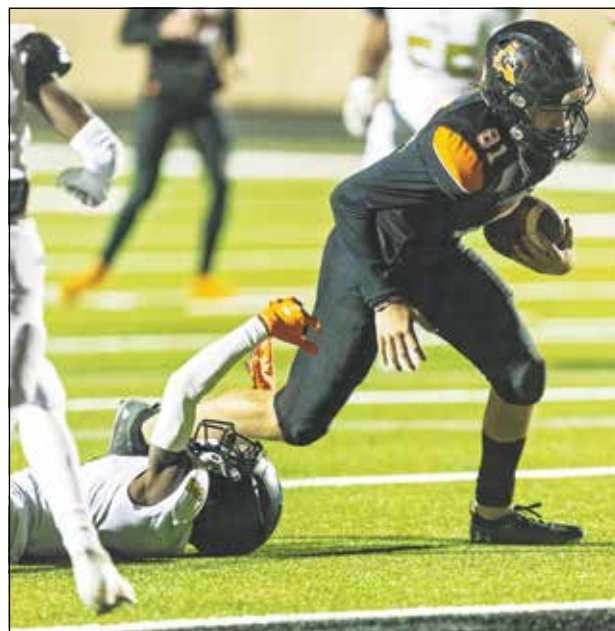
The third quarter proved to be a defensive fight, with both teams dominating the line of scrimmage.

In the fourth quarter, the Bearcats trailed 10-14 with just under a minute to play. The Bearcats had the ball close to midfield. Ryan Jones scrambled to the left and found Tyson Timms on a long pass to get the ball to the 12-yard line. The Bearcats called a timeout with 34 seconds left. Out of the time out, Ryan Jones connected with Tyson Timms on a 12-yard touchdown pass to go ahead for the first time of the night. Austin Keith kicked the extra point to make it, 17-14.

The Bearcats defense stepped up and stopped the Bears offense once again to ensure the victory.

The Bearcats moved their record to 9-0 on the year and were scheduled to play Cleburne week to close out the season.

Key Offensive Players:



KRISTIN MORALES

Tyson Timms crashes the goal line for the game-winning touchdown against South Oak Cliff on Thursday, Oct. 28.

Ryan Jones, Tyson Timms, Trace Clarkson, Caleb Pope, Ryan Cox, and Alex Arana

Key Defensive Players:

Nathan Wood, Caden Boukadoum, Ky Howington, and Caden Atwood

AMS

The Aledo Middle School football teams went 4-2 against Brewer to close out their season.

- 7A 0-30; 7B 6-0; 7C 0-6
- 8A 18-6; 8B 12-0; 8C 14-6



RAMON MORALES

An interception by Taylor Kessler set up a touchdown drive in the third quarter.

BEARCATS

from page eight

to 28-0. This time, Seguin had an answer when Naszae Otieno broke free and went 56 yards himself. Penalties stalled the Bearcats for the rest of the half, but Clay Murador did add a 33-yard field goal to make it a 31-7 score at the break.

Both running backs continued the domination into the second half. Steffe got the first score on a 25-yard scoring run. Then an interception by Taylor Kessler set up a drive that was capped off by a 4-yard score by Williams. Aledo led 45-7 going into the final frame of play.

The Cougars battled back in the fourth quarter, scoring twice. However, Steffe was not finished yet, and he took a kickoff 76 yards to the house to keep the game in Bearcat control. Jace Sims added the final tally late with a 30-yard field goal, bringing the final score to 55-21.

"We lost a player defensively that hurt," Buchanan said about his team's performance. "It really hurt us in the inside gaps but we're going to get better. They will all get better at defending the run and I don't think it's going to be a problem."

The Bearcats improve to 9-0(6-0) on the year and will face the Cleburne Yellowjackets(4-5) for senior night at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5 at Bearcat Stadium to hopefully polish off a perfect regular season.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Eagles, Lady Eagles compete

The Trinity Christian Academy Varsity Volleyball competed in their annual Pink Out Match on Tuesday, Oct. 19, against Cornerstone Christian Academy. The Lady Eagles dropped the fifth set to the Lady Crusaders in a tough matchup.

Junior Faith Rodgers led the Lady Eagles with 9 kills and 3 blocks. Junior Margaret Cowley had 6 kills, sophomore Giuliana Marcantonio had 5 kills,

15 digs, and 1 ace, and sophomore Faith Brooks had 5 aces, 16 assists, and 4 kills.

The Trinity Christian Academy football team lost to Lubbock Christian 61-21 on Friday, Oct. 22.

TCA was down 28-21 at the half, then allowed 33 unanswered points. Kennan Dowling led the Trinity offense with 104 all purpose yards and 3 TD's. Reece Hargrove led the defense with 12 tackles at the corner position.

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AUCTION

Real Estate & Public Auction • On-Site & Online Bidding Fri., Nov. 12, starts at 9:42 a.m. Real Estate: 6½ acres located just outside of Eufaula, OK on Hwy 9 with a 75x50 shop, 75x20 lean-to and 75x18 lean-to, concrete floors throughout. Open Houses: Mon., Nov. 1st & 8th, 3-5 p.m. Dozers, semi trucks, dump trucks, trailers, pickups, 4-wheelers, telehandler, skid steer loader, tractors, mowers, tools, equipment, guns and ammo. Two auction rings. Auctioneer's Note: Company FOS is liquidating equipment & assets. Items are in good condition. Lots of items not listed. For more info & pics visit ChuppsAuction.com. Chupps Auction & Real Estate, 918-630-0495.

Timberline Ranch Dispersal Auction - 30 Horse Drawn Carriages, Western Memorabilia, Estate Furnishings, Equipment. Bid through Nov. 10th at CapAuctions.com. Lic 13489, 15% BP, 888-300-0005.

EVENTS

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VOLLEYBALL

Frank looks toward senior year, then UNT

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

Not for the first time, and not for the last time, another Aledo athlete has committed to play sports at the college level. Ladycat volleyball player Maddie Frank, junior middle hitter, has verbally committed to play volleyball at the University of North Texas.

Frank made the announcement in early September on her Instagram page right before the district schedule started for the Ladycats. However the process has gone back quite a ways.

In 2019, Frank was going into her freshman year at Aledo and wanted to get involved in a college camp before the upcoming volleyball season. It was very last-minute but she got into the volleyball camp at North Texas.

"I loved the camp," Frank said in an interview. "I felt like I got a lot of reps and good work in. Some camps you'll go to and they'll just sit there watching everything, but it was hands-on and interactive and I really liked it."

Frank grew up in Aledo and started playing volleyball in third grade. Despite having a love for soccer, she found a love for volleyball quickly.

"My parents wanted me to try everything. I was really into soccer but they wanted me to try volleyball because I was tall. I realized that I really liked it and wanted to go deeper into it."

In sixth grade, she joined the club team Fort Worth Fire, then

moved to Club Texas a year later. At Club Texas, she started learning under coach Christy Stewart. It was under Stewart that the development continued to get better and better. Then in 2020, there was another shift in her playing.

"I feel like the COVID year, that's when everything changed. You go so long without playing and now all of the sudden you're back in the thick of it so quickly. That's when a lot of changes happened in my play."

"It means a lot to me. I'm an only child, my parents and I are really close and I've always been here. So only an hour away is pretty nice."

The 2020 Ladycats team finished second in district behind Wichita Falls Rider before falling to Colleyville Heritage in the first round of the playoffs. Frank, just a sophomore, had not yet fully started the recruitment process. However, North Texas coach Andrew Palileo had already seen what he needed.

"Before I was even allowed to talk to them, I had a list of colleges that I would email weekly. [Palileo] was



Junior Maddie Frank is shown in the bi-district game against Birdville. Frank has committed to play for the University of North Texas.

KIRSTEN GALLON

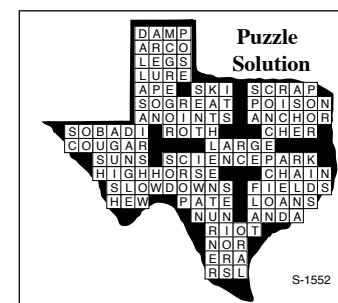
talking to my coaches before I could talk to him, and then June 15 came this year and he called me, he watched me at nationals, he watched me practice and then the camp in the summer. I had talked to the assistant coach a couple of times, they have just been with me the whole time."


Frank also acknowledged that it would be nice to stay close to home.

"It means a lot to me. I'm an only child, my parents and I are really close and I've always been here. So only an hour away is pretty nice."

The 2021 volleyball season has ended for the Ladycats, but Frank and the other returners are already looking ahead to the 2022 season and one last ride.

"I'm excited to be a senior, and get to be a leader. I've played with my best friend all three years so far and leading the team together is something I look forward to. And we want to go far."





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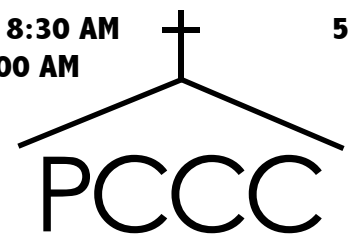
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