

THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

ON THE SIDE

Area residents have no shortage of choices for fun and entertainment this weekend.

For lovers of musical theatre, Aledo High School is presenting *Mamma Mia!* on Saturday and Sunday.

The Creative Arts Department at Trinity Christian Academy is doing a unique dinner theatre Friday and Saturday, "Who Done Stole the Bride?"

Friday night also brings additional choices: the CoHoHo Christmas Corridor tree lighting Hudson Oaks and The Nutcracker in Fort Worth.

Saturday is a major entertainment day that begins with two area breakfasts with Santa. For fitness buffs, the Jingle Bell Run takes off in Fort Worth. Holidays at the Hearth will be held at the Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth.

In the realm of family festivals, the City of Aledo will host its annual "Christmas Time in Aledo," and the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Christmas on the Square and Weatherford Lights the Night parade, followed by the Jingle Ball in Weatherford.

We're still not done with Saturday, though, but you can read about all the upcoming events on pages 6-7!

Mamma Mia!



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Elizabeth Miller is shown in rehearsal for the Aledo High School production of *Mamma Mia!* The show is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 2, Saturday, Dec. 4, and Sunday, Dec. 5. See "sneak preview" shots on page 2. Ticket information is on page 6.

ALEDO ISD District among top five in metroplex for starting teacher salary

By Mercedes Mayer
Aledo ISD

Aledo ISD is in the top five among starting teacher salaries for the 2021-2022 school year according to a comparison of 49 Dallas/Fort Worth school districts completed by the United Educators Association.

With a starting teacher salary of \$58,100, Aledo ISD ranks No. 5 in the Metroplex, right behind No. 2 HEB ISD (\$58,500), No. 3 Arlington ISD (\$58,400) and No. 4 Mansfield ISD (\$58,300). Everman ISD ranks No. 1 at \$60,008. For 2020-2021, Aledo ISD had the 11th-highest starting teacher salary in the metroplex at \$56,000.

"In Aledo ISD, we consistently strive to have the premier teaching staff in the country, and we work very deliberately to attract and retain the best people to serve our children as part of our team," Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said. "Being more competitive with compensation in the local market is part of that work. Particularly at this time, our staff is very deserving of this increase as we have seen them work harder than ever before and continue to be dedicated to bringing high quality education to our students."

With a commitment from the Board of Trustees to improve teacher salaries over the past several years, the district has made great strides specifically in improving salaries for teachers with 20, 25, and 30 years of experience. Aledo ISD nearly ranks in the top one-third in the metroplex for all teacher salary comparison levels, and the district is in the top one-fourth for salaries for those in years 0, 5, 10, 15 and 20.

"Our team of Trustees has really put a point of emphasis on paying our employees well and doing what we can to help both retain our veteran staff and recruit new, top-notch employees," Board President Hoyt Harris said. "We have the best teachers and staff in north Texas, and we are so thankful for everything they do for our Bearcat students."

Aledo ISD is: No. 5 for 0 years (\$58,100); No. 9 for 5 years (\$59,700); No. 12 for 10 years (\$61,600); No. 12 for 15 years (\$63,400); No. 11 for 20 years (\$65,400); No. 15 for 25 years (\$66,900) and No. 18 for 30 years (\$69,625).

Just five years ago (2016-2017), Aledo ISD ranked in the bottom half of all salary categories among schools in the Western Metroplex, according to UEA.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Behind a Guitar



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Matt Tedder is shown playing at a recent private event in Aledo.

Matt Tedder finds success as a musician

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Matt Tedder was first on the radar of *The Community News* back in 2008 – when he was 12 years old, playing blues guitar and jamming with musicians far older.

At the time, he had recently met the legendary B.B. King for the second time – a 30-minute sit-down.

He continued playing and developing his skills through high school, and left home at age 17 to seek his fortune in Nashville.

Tedder now performs in the Fort Worth area, and has had an eventful career for someone not yet 30.

Although originally known for blues guitar, Tedder started out playing rock-and-roll.

He was about eight-years-old when he started playing guitar.

"Around nine is when I really started playing more," Tedder said. "But it took a second to get into blues guitar. The first band I really liked was AC/DC."

As a student of music, Tedder discovered that tracing steps backward, rock-and-roll took you to the blues.

Turn to TEDDER, page 5

PARKER COUNTY

Be on guard

Law enforcement officials caution about mail theft

Special to The Community NNews

This holiday season, many Parker County residents will order presents online, check their doorstep, and happily pick up their packages from the front door.

Unfortunately, some people will be disappointed because their presents will be gone.

"With Christmas rapidly approaching, many people will be taking advantage of the convenience of online shopping," said District Attorney Jeff Swain. "Unfortunately, thieves will also try to take advantage, stealing packages from people's homes and businesses."

Turn to GUARD, page 3



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A sneak peek at Mamma Mia!

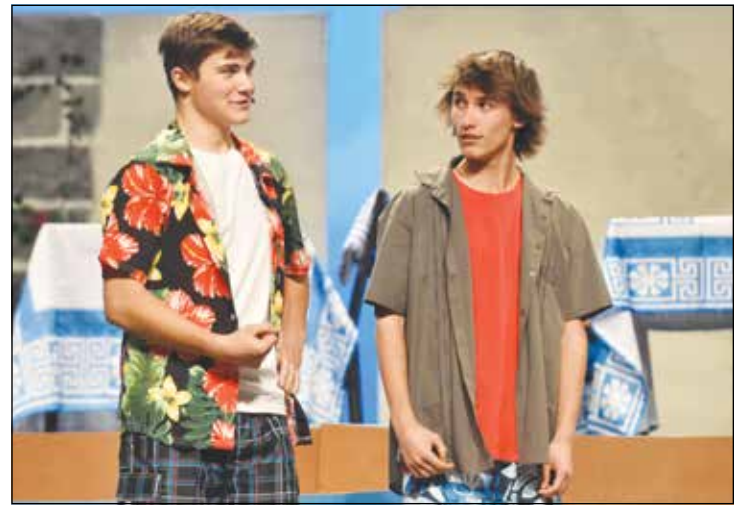
PHOTOS BY RANDY KECK
THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Emily Huber, Elizabeth Miller, Emma Brandenburg



Belle Burdine, Reece Warren, Maddie Hinckley



Mason Angerbauer, Jud Voight



Zane Martin and Belle Burdine



Brendan Rivers



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Obituaries

David Franklin Morris

David Franklin Morris, 71, passed away Thursday, November 25, 2021 in his home in Hudson Oaks. After a long fight with pancreatic cancer from September 2020, David moved from this world to his heavenly home on Thanksgiving Day. What a Thanksgiving gift the Lord gave to him!



David Morris

David was born on February 11, 1950, in Hope, Arkansas. David was the youngest of five children born to Annie Louise Russell Morris and Jessie Franklin Morris (both deceased). David graduated from Hope High School as an honor student. He earned a BS in Education from Henderson State University in Ouachita, Arkansas.

David married Judy Brooks Morris from Alto, Texas, in 1977, celebrating 44 years of marriage just a few days ago on November 19, 2021.

David taught English and History in public schools from 1968 - 1977. He retired from the US Postal Service after 35 years at the Fort Worth District main office 1977 - 2012.

David was a member of Christ Chapel Bible Church West Campus, located in Willow Park, Matt Lantz, campus pastor. He and Judy attended the traditional service under Pastor Ted Kitchens.

David is survived by his wife, Judy, and his two sons: Matt Morris and wife, Sarah, of Aledo, and Russ Morris and wife, Heather, also of Aledo. David was the best Dad to his sons, and boy did he love his girls, Sarah and Heather. However, his deep love as Pops to his six beautiful grandchildren topped all other [Lily and Hannah, Truett and Hattie (twins) and Brooks and Bryce (also twins)].

Additionally, David is survived by one sister, Reva Jo Morris Ferris and husband George, of New Braunfels, and nieces Kathy Ferris Bundt of New Braunfels and Rosemary Ferris Semotan of Everton, Missouri. There are numerous other family members whom he loved dearly on both his and Judy's side of the family.

David's hobbies were genealogy research and his wooden toy business "Toys to Keepsakes." If you live in the Aledo area you may have purchased from him at local craft shows. Additionally, he liked photography and music.

David was preceded in death by his parents listed above, and his twin sisters Pauline and Corene Morris, and a brother, Carl Franklin Morris.

A service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, December 9, 2021, at Christ Bible Church West Campus in the HIVE building, 3910 E I-20 in Willow Park. Pallbearers will be Josh Glaze, Clint Glaze, Brandon Barron, Travis Jones, Justin Dyas, and Alfredo Melo. A time for greeting the family will be held immediately following the service.

David requested that remembrances go to one of the following:

The Judy and David Morris Scholarship fund at Dallas Baptist University - established to provide tuition assistance for students:

Advancement Department
Dallas Baptist University
3000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, TX 75211

Stella Hill Memorial Library - a place dear to his heart where he spent many hours as a volunteer:

Stella Hill Memorial Library
PO Box 98
Alto, Texas 75925

The Community News
December 3, 2021



KCSTUDIOS KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI

Vicki Contreras put leftover Halloween and Thanksgiving pumpkins to good use. She collected pumpkins from her neighbors in Remade Ranch Estates and Walsh Ranch, and took them to Second Chance Farms animal rescue.

GUARD

from page one

"Criminals need to know that mail theft is a serious offense that can land you in jail or prison. It doesn't matter if it's stealing a letter delivered by the postal service to your mailbox or a package delivered by UPS or Amazon to your doorstep, it's a crime you can be arrested for either way," Swain said.

"We investigate mail theft cases and arrest suspects on these offenses year round," said Sheriff Russ Authier. "We are especially concerned about them during the holidays because of the increase in delivery volume and package value."

"I would strongly encourage anyone who has had a package stolen to report it to the Sheriff's

Office or to your municipal police department. Even if your stolen package is not very valuable, please report it. You never know, your case may help us solve other thefts," Authier said.

"Whether it's a felony or a misdemeanor, Parker County prosecutors and our county's court system are ready and willing to handle mail theft cases," said County Attorney John Forrest. "Like all theft offenses, mail theft drives up the cost of goods for consumers and retailers alike. Discouraging and deterring this conduct can make shopping more economical and profitable for everyone. The more of these criminals we can catch and prosecute, the more of this kind of behavior we can deter."

"Sometimes, people's packages can contain one-of-a-kind or difficult to find gifts," Swain said.

"During a holiday season in which retailers are confronted by supply chain problems, it's even more likely than normal that mail thieves are stealing a Christmas present that is not easily replaceable. The closer we get to Christmas, the more likely this is to be the case."

"Stealing packages isn't just Grinch-like, it's criminal and will be treated accordingly," Swain said.

To report mail or package theft or if you have surveillance footage you believe shows someone stealing packages, call the Parker County Sheriff's Office at 817-594-8845 or call your municipal police department.

Tips about mail theft can be made anonymously by calling the Parker County Crime Stoppers hotline at 817-599-5555 or 1-800-942-STOP.

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- James M. Barrie

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Capital Highlights

Samsung taps Taylor for new plant



Gary Borders
gborders@texaspress.com

Electronic giant Samsung announced last week that it will build a new semiconductor manufacturing facility in the Central Texas town of Taylor, about 40 miles northeast of Austin. The \$17 billion investment will be the largest foreign direct investment in Texas to date and brings the company's total investment in the state to \$35 billion.

Samsung already operates a facility in Austin, its lone U.S. manufacturing plant. The deal was helped along with a \$27 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant, according to Gov. Greg Abbott's office. In addition, city, county and school district officials put together incentive packages worth of hundreds of millions of dollars, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

The project will create more than 2,000 high-tech jobs, thousands of indirect jobs and at least 6,500 construction jobs. Construction is slated to begin early next year with a target completion date in the second half of 2024.

"Samsung Austin Semiconductor has been proud to call Texas home for more than 25 years," said Dr. Sang Sup Jeong, president of Samsung Austin Semiconductor. "We are excited about our growth and future opportunities in Central Texas and appreciate the support from all Central Texas leaders."

Winter Storm Uri's impact on pine trees studied

The damage caused by Winter Storm Uri to the state's trees is still being assessed. While many hardwoods whose crowns turned brown after several days of bitter cold have recovered, pine trees in East Texas are now suffering from an invasion of beetles. The beetles attack both stressed and healthy pine trees, but can only successfully invade severely stressed pine trees, such as those recovering from Uri.

"Looking back at the past nine months, the fact that these beetles are now taking center stage in the decline and death of our pine trees is inevitable," said Allen Smith of the forest service. "Uri was a major stressor of trees, and the following extended droughty conditions throughout the pine regions of East Texas added additional stress."

Standing beetle-killed trees should be removed and burned or otherwise disposed of to stop the emergence of beetles. Smith said the best-case scenario for pine trees is for a wet winter in East Texas so that trees have ample soil moisture when they start growing again in the spring.

State to get \$400 million for charging stations

Texas is slated to receive \$408 million for electric car charging stations under the recently passed federal infrastructure plan and could apply for additional grants, according to *The Dallas Morning News*. The money comes under a Biden administration

plan to shift half of passenger vehicle sales in the U.S. to electric vehicles by 2030.

The state needs more than 14,000 charging stations to support the number of electric vehicles projected to be traveling on Texas roadways by 2030, according to a 2018 report from Environment Texas. The state had just over 52,000 registered electric vehicles as of last June, according to the *Morning News* story.

COVID-19 cases drop, as do deaths

While new cases of COVID-19 are spiking again in the Upper Midwest and Northeast, the number in Texas dropped during the past week to 14,745 — down 36% from the previous week. The number of new deaths reported in Texas by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in the past week totaled 254, down 57% from the previous week.

However, the number of hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in the state was virtually unchanged at 2,681, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texas who are fully vaccinated continues to inch upward, with 15.838 million reported by DSHS as of Sunday. That is 54.3% of the state's total population.

Still, while noting hospitalizations are at their lowest levels in many months, officials are still cautious. "We're certainly in a better place right now than we have been in quite a while," Chris Van Deusen, spokesperson for the Texas Department of State Health Services, told the *Texas Tribune*. "But we are sort of starting to see things change again. And you know, if there's one thing we know about this pandemic, it's that it's going to keep changing."

Meanwhile, another variant of COVID-19 named "Omicron" has been discovered in South Africa and several other countries. Experts are concerned that the new variant may spread more aggressively than previous versions and could prove to be resistant to current vaccines.

Experts urge Texans to get flu shots

A resurgence of influenza this winter is overdue, and Texans are urged to get vaccinated.

"Flu is overdue right now," Dr. Donald Murphey, an Austin pediatric infectious disease specialist and chair of the Texas Medical Association Council on Science and Public Health, told the Texas Newsroom.

"We should be concerned about flu returning. Flu is here every year consistently and last year, with mitigation for COVID, we didn't have a flu season at all," he said.

Murphey added that this year's flu season could be even worse as the decline in COVID-19 cases leads to an increase in public gatherings with fewer people wearing masks. The Texas Medical Association encourages flu shots for everyone 6 months of age and older. TMA says Texans can safely get vaccinated for the flu and COVID-19 at the same time.

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



Slings&Arrows

Stop the madness!



Randy Keck
rkeck@community-news.com

I work very hard not to make judgements about people based on whatever "group" they may be a part of — whether it be a religion, a political party, an ethnicity, or an alma mater — even people who went to the University of Texas at Austin.

But I have to admit there is a group of people I have come to intensely dislike. They do not belong to a formal group. I do not know any of them personally. Yet I harbor a deep ill-will toward them all the same.

There are people and companies who make thousands of unsolicited phone calls every day. I would venture to say that about 60 percent of the calls we receive at our office are unwanted, automated SPAM calls.

I do not know how much productivity we and other businesses lose in the course of a day due to unwanted phone calls. According to a 2015 article in the *Washington Post*, "Interruptions at work can be maddening. Researchers at the University of California, Irvine, found after careful observation that the typical office worker is interrupted or switches tasks, on average, every three minutes and five seconds. And it can take 23 minutes and 15 seconds just to get back to where they left off."

The same is true on a personal level. Several months ago, someone (I guess) entered their phone number incorrectly on a form

somewhere. All of a sudden I started getting phone calls for "Frankie." Most of them had to do with products and services for senior citizens, particularly Medicare.

Then the texts started coming. "Hey Frankie, have you ordered your special incense yet?"

The calls and texts came literally by the hundreds over the course of months.

Every time I would get such a call or text, I would block the number.

On my iPhone now I have hundreds and hundreds of blocked contacts. I will say the volume has slowed down, although the crowning moment a couple of weeks ago was when I received a piece of mail addressed to Frankie.

Errrrrr. So you may think, based on the opening paragraphs of this rant, that the group of people I intensely dislike are the ones behind the flood of SPAM calls to my business and personal phones, and to a degree you are right.

However, there is another group at whom my wrath is directed. You see, the reason all these nameless, faceless people and machines go to the expense of making all of these SPAM calls is because it evidently must work. I don't think the calls would keep coming if no one was buying whatever they are selling.

So, to the customers of those people, I admit I don't like you, and I'm telling you to "STOP IT!" Your gullibility or lack of critical judgement is making life miserable for others, and costing American business, I would wager, millions, if not billions of dollars.

So all of that said, I have a few tips for you if, like me, you are weary of SPAM calls.

The first clue is on our caller ID at work. Typically a SPAM

call shows as "Unavailable" on Caller ID. On a rare occasion it is a customer, but usually SPAM.

If "Unavailable" shows up on a call at work, I answer, silently count to five, and then hang up if no one on the other end of the line says anything. Sometimes I hang up before five if I hear a tell-tale "bloop" sound that indicates it is a mechanized call.

If I answer and a recorded voice says "Please do not hang up," I hang up.

In fact, if any recorded voice starts when I answer, I hang up.

On the personal level, there are addition tools, at least on my iPhone.

In addition to the ability to block specific numbers — which I admit is akin to spitting in the ocean to a degree — you have another significant tool available.

On your iPhone, go to Settings, then select "Phone." The first setting on the fourth block (at least on my phone) is "Silence Unknown Callers."

This option will keep your phone silent if anyone calls whose number is not in your address book. It will still show up as a missed call, but the call will not interrupt you.

Yay! The silenced callers can still leave a message, but in my experience the SPAM'ers rarely, if ever, leave a message.

I take the additional step of blocking the numbers of silenced callers who do not leave a message.

Yes, I know. Spitting in the ocean.

The option under "Silence Unknown Callers" in the iPhone settings is "Call Blocking and Identification."

This may be carrier specific, but my carrier (Verizon) will not let calls go through

Turn to **SLINGS**, page 5

The Community News

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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.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot raised a record \$93,000 on Nov. 25. Follow-up stories and photos will appear next week.

Harlem stride piano lecture/recital to feature WCIPC finalist

Chengcheng Ma will host a free piano lecture/recital on Friday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. in Weatherford College's Alkek Fine Arts Center. The lecture's theme is Thomas "Fats" Waller: A Giant of Harlem Stride Piano.

Ma, a doctoral student at Boston University, was a finalist in the 2021 Weatherford College International Piano Competition. He will perform with special guests Dr. Hyeyoung Song on piano and WC student Elijah Thomas on drums.

Harlem stride, or simply "stride," is a style of jazz piano that was developed in large cities of the East Coast in the 1920s and 1930s as an extension of ragtime. The lecture will include historical and biographical information on Fats Waller and the stride style, followed by a scholarly analysis of several compositions by Waller.

"Taking time as a classically trained pianist to investigate and appreciate the creations and techniques that came out of Harlem stride piano in the 1920s-40s is

both interesting and enlightening," Ma said. "There is a great deal of worthy information and approaches we can explore and can gain much by studying the transcriptions and recordings of the time period. Pianists of any genre will be inspired by the great pieces and performances by Fats Waller and other stride giants."

Following the lecture, Ma will perform some of Waller's most notable original and arranged solo and duet pieces, including "Honeysuckle Rose" (1929), "Viper's Drag" (1934, arr. Chris Conz), "Georgia On My Mind" (Hoagy Carmichael/arr. Fats Waller, 1941) and "Carolina Shout" by James P. Johnson (1921).

"In the past years, we musicians realized that music is much more powerful when it's shared in person," Ma said. "I especially want to express my thankfulness to Dr. Hyeyoung Song for making it happen. I very much looking forward and hope to see you there in early December!"

TEDDER

from page one

"I liked rock-and-roll first. And then I figured out where it came from. It comes from the blues — all the greatest rock-and-roll bands will tell you that; the Rolling Stones, The Beatles, they all started out playing blues. So I kind of figured I'd better get a pretty good hold on that. I love listening and playing the blues ever since I was that young age."

Like most successful musicians, the road at the beginning of the career is not usually well lit. Tedder started playing regularly at about 13 or 14.

"Once I started playing guitar and performing, my parents would take me everywhere because I couldn't drive," Tedder said. "And as long as they were with me, I was getting into the bars as a performer. The bartender would say 'Hey, y'all better watch that kid!' And my parents would say 'don't worry about it, give him a Coke!'"

The first place he played was The Point near Lake Worth. Tedder got a band together about that time and his band played at Johnny Mac's Blues Bar.

We should point it out that the Matt Tedder Band was not made up of like-aged members. The young Tedder played with more experienced musicians.

Of the locations, Tedder laughed, "these are not glamorous places, you know. They're kind of rough. Just dive bar rooms."

"I remember playing at Johnny Mac's Blues Bar. There were only



Tedder (age 12) was featured in the Feb. 15, 2008 issue of The Community News.

two or three people in there, and two of those people were my parents. And there was one drunk lady that kept on wanting to dance with my dad and I'm just thinking, 'Man, this is this is one weird world.'"

And even at a younger age, Tedder got into the local blues circuit with legends such as Bugs Henderson and John Nitzinger.

"I was playing with those guys, and I remember sitting in with one of them at J&J's Blues Bar," Tedder said. "It was off of Jacksboro Highway. When you say 'blues bar' I mean this place really kind of had that juke joint feel about it. It was smoky and it had rafters for the roof. And on all the rafters there was women's lingerie — old, dusty, like over the years, women taking their clothes off and throwing them up on the rafters. I've seen all this stuff at like 12!"



Jan. 20, 2013 feature

After he graduated from Aledo High School in 2013, Tedder headed for Music City.

"I was interested in forwarding my career with music and I had some friends living in Nashville. I moved to Nashville and just tried to find my way with guitar playing and songwriting, and found myself in different bands," Tedder said. "And I would play on the streets out there in Nashville just to make a little bit more money. And I started making friends out there and that began more of an education for me, as far as music goes."

In forwarding his career, Tedder had a couple of YouTube videos out, and those caught the attention of the people from "The Voice."

"They had just sent me an email. At first, I kind of thought it was spam," Tedder said. "I didn't audition for the show. Their casting emailed me and asked if I would have any interest."

The invitation piqued his curiosity.

"I never really pictured myself being on a show like that," Tedder said. "But at that time, that was like two and a half years of me living in Nashville, and nothing really was quite ticking up, and I was open to a new opportunity like that."

"All they said was, 'send a video of you describing yourself and a song that you would like to sing on the Blind Audition.'"

After expressing his interest, there was a slew of paperwork and then found himself on a flight to Los Angeles.

The initial episodes of The Voice are recorded for later broadcast.

"I had done my taping and knew that I was going to be on the show," Tedder said. "And I thought, 'okay, life's gonna get kind of weird here pretty soon in about a month and a half when they air it.' So I figured I'm gonna go home and spend some time at home and just be with my family for a little bit because I was anticipating a career take-off in a little bit."

Tedder got some gigs in Fort Worth, and as a 20-year-old about to turn 21, he decided to return to Fort Worth.

"There's so many people in Nashville doing music," Tedder said. "So I came back home for a little while, and I thought, 'Man, I'm making a bit more money here. My family's here.' And to be honest, I just kind of missed home and I didn't feel like I was going anywhere quickly in Nashville."

While Tedder did get more work at the time "The Voice" aired, he does not see the experience as a career-forwarding move.

"It did help me get more of a reputation and things around town, but I'm still having to work just as hard as if I was not on that TV show, because all that stuff fades rather quickly," he said. "Unless you just want to label yourself as 'Mr. So and so from The Voice,' you can do that and make a pretty good living at it. But I didn't want to do that."

Tedder said he has been "pretty hush-hush" about the experience.

"If someone asks me or someone talks to me about it, I'll talk to them. But I'm not going to tell somebody I'm working with that I was on 'The Voice' or anything like that. I don't feel shamed by it or anything like that. But it just feels like it has a weird connotation in the music world as far as serious musicians go. It's been a mix of emotions with that whole experience."

Fast-forward to now, and Tedder is making a comfortable living doing what he has loved since he was eight — making music and making his way on his own terms.

To find out more about Matt Tedder, visit [facebook.com/matteddermusic](https://www.facebook.com/matteddermusic).

SLINGS

from page four

from known SPAM'ers if this option is checked.

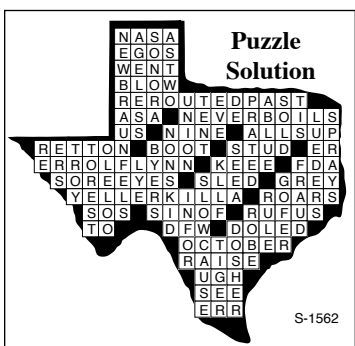
But ultimately, short of legislation, the only way to stop and discourage the SPAM callers is not to do business with them.

Here is a good rule of thumb: if you receive a call, and you can't verify that it is from a local business and a real person, hang up.

If someone is not proud enough of their business that they can't bring themselves to identify their business, hang up.

If you ask who is calling and they hem and haw, hang up.

If enough of us band together and raise awareness, maybe the madness will stop.



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ACROSS

- Houston space org.
- some Texans have big ones
- TX Barry Corbin film: "The Night the Lights _____ Out in Georgia"
- gusher (____out)
- GPS accident avoidance? (2 wds.)
- TXism: "confused" _____ goat on astroturf"
- TXism: "a watched pot _____"
- country of Texas (abbr.)
- TX Drew Brees' number as a Saint
- leading male star of 1945 "San Antonio"
- Nacogdoches' FM KJCS started with this call sign
- this agcy. approved 3 COVID vaccines
- TXism: "a sight for _____ (pleasing)"
- snow glider
- TX-based bus company: _____hound

DOWN

- "red touch _____ feller" (coral snake)
- lion exhibit sounds at the Abilene Zoo
- world distress signal 43 " _____ omission"
- this Burlison was first president of Baylor
- TXism: "up _____ snuff"
- Metroplex airport
- be given out
- "Red River Rivalry" month
- increase the bet in poker
- express disgust
- TXism: "take a look _____ (investigate)"
- "to _____ is human"
- talked tediously
- TXism: "talked _____ streak" (TXism for 13 down)
- TXism: " _____ me a bill of goods" (lied)
- " _____ the season"
- part of Abilene metro area
- atomizers
- mats to prevent slippage (2 wds.)
- TX Ely who was a TV Tarzan (init.)
- plural of 31-across
- former Cowboy quarterback, Aikman
- "laid _____ (buried)"
- employees/shareholders lost billions in Enron _____
- TXism: "write _____ he can't read fast"
- TXism for "errand boy"
- Chief " _____ teka gave Houston his Indian name
- part of Wichita Falls metro area
- "can _____ country mile" (good eyes)
- soap ingredient
- Wichita Falls AM before KWFS
- 40 " _____ a penny, in for a pound"
- 41 in Haskell County on U.S. 380
- 44 donned after a bath
- 47 this TX James won the Medal of Honor
- 49 66 TX high schools have this mascot

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1562

In My Eyes

Thank you football seniors



Nolan Ruth

For the past week I have thought a lot about the Bearcats football season that came to an end on Black Friday. It was a bittersweet ending that I never could have imagined. However this might have been the most fun and memorable football season I have had since my playing days.

When I took this job just a year ago I had no idea how the community, especially the students, would react to me. Of course, this is Aledo and I am a local so it wasn't much of a surprise when I was welcomed warmly.

However, the group of seniors on this football team was different. A lot of them I had known well before this job. Some of them I hadn't but they treated me as if I were a teammate anyway. This was a special group for me because it was the first that I got to cover for a full season. Though I hate how it ended, I am grateful to all of the seniors that made it a season to remember.

This is my farewell note to seniors Terry Lewis, Ryan Williams, BJ Allen, Dalton Rapp, BJ Fleming, Jack Mitchell, Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi, Jacob DeLeon, Sammy Steffe, Taylon Kessler, Mason McElroy, Garrett Key, Connor Smith, Kyle "Boogie" Thompson, Stanton Smith, Elias Brandon, Matthew Wells, Maddox Epperson, Austin Conner, Jurrien Loftin, Caleb Tisdale, Gunnar Allen, Kaden Amstein, Damian Spinelli, Juan Baca, Jack Tregellas, Dylan Ward, Jason Llewellyn, Jace Sims, Matthew Bell, and Jack Johnson:

Gentlemen, congratulations on the season. Despite how it came to an end, what you accomplished this season was definitely impressive and something not a lot of people can say has happened to them. Playing high school football in the state of Texas is one of the greatest experiences you will have in your life, but it won't be the last great experience you have.

Some of you are going on to play at the next level, some of you aren't. Either way you have a lot to look forward to. This is just the beginning for you. You can go make whatever you want out of yourselves, and I know you will be successful because you are good men and that's the Aledo way.

Personally, I want to thank you all for the impact you had on me this season. Some of you I have known for a while, others not so long. However, I really enjoyed watching you out there every Friday night (and one Thursday) play Bearcat football. Not just that, but how friendly and professional you were with a small town reporter just trying to make it in the business, really spoke volumes about the great men you are.

Wherever you go, do not ever lose those values, and remember where you came from. Aledo is a special place that will support you for the rest of your life. You men are going on to bigger and better things, and this community could not be any more proud of you. But most of all, just enjoy the ride. Not knowing what's going to happen next is part of what makes life enjoyable. But the memories you have and will continue to make, that's what makes you who you are.

Finally, I want to give you all a challenge that I think will be pretty easy and it's how I'll end this message. Every autumn Friday night, wherever you may be at that particular time, remember that you still are and always will be an Aledo Bearcat.



RAMON MORALES

Senior Sammy Steffe picks up yardage against South Oak Cliff. Also shown are Maddox Epperson (60) and Isaac Knott (66).

FOOTBALL

Bearcats fall in heartbreaker

By Nolan Ruth
The Community News

It was a game that was fought long and hard all throughout. The Aledo Bearcats battled from start to finish, but just came up short in the final minutes as the season came to an end at the hands of the Dallas South Oak Cliff Golden Bears, 33-28.

"Coach [Jason] Todd did a great job taking away our passing game early," head coach Tim Buchanan said after suffering Aledo's first playoff loss since 2017. "There were some things that we gave them early. You can't give a good football team a two touchdown lead at the half."

The Bearcats received the opening kickoff and immediately drove down field to score on a 27-yard run by Sammy Steffe. South Oak Cliff responded on the next drive with a touchdown run by Ke'Undra Hollywood. The Bearcats stalled on the next drive, and the quarter ended with the game tied at seven.

On the first play of the second quarter, the Golden Bears took the lead on a quick pass from Kevin Henry-Jennings to Jamyri Cauley. But



KRISTIN MORALES

The crowd cheers on the Bearcats during the South Oak Cliff game.

Steffe went back to work and scored on a five-yard run to tie the game again, at 14.

However, the remaining three minutes of the first half became a nightmare for Aledo. In just four plays, South Oak Cliff took the lead back on a

Turn to **BEARCATS**, page 9

Matt Morris

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KRISTIN MORALES

#83 Jack Tregellas and #43 Boogie Thompson reaction to the loss #38 in back ground #28 Taylon Kessler in background.

BEARCATS

from page eight

keeper by Henry-Jennings. Two plays later, Brayden-Fowler Nicolosi's pass attempt was intercepted and returned for a touchdown, giving the Golden Bears a 27-14 halftime lead.

Aledo came out of the locker room fired up. After forcing a quick three-and-out, the Bearcats went into clock-control mode. A 14-play

drive kept Aledo in control and they capped off the drive with a touchdown pass from Nicolosi to BJ Allen. Again, the defense forced a three-and-out. Early in the fourth quarter, Allen ran out of the wildcat formation and scored from the six to give the Bearcats a 28-27 lead.

However, South Oak Cliff didn't back down and drove down the field bit by bit and scored the go-ahead touchdown on an 18-yard pass from Henry-Jennings to Randy Reece. Aledo started a big drive of its own, but on fourth and one deep in SOC

territory, the snap was fumbled and the Golden Bears came up with it. They knelt down two times and the game was over.

"They didn't do anything we weren't expecting," Buchanan said post-game. "It just took us a while to get used to that speed. It's hard to simulate speed like that in practice."

For the first time since 2012, the Bearcats will not play in the regional final round, or play a game in the month of December. The season comes to an end with a record of 12-1, and an area champions title.

Aledo Spirit

A Bearcat football game is more than what happens between the sidelines and the goal lines. Hundreds of students support the team and perform on the field. On this page and the next we'll take a last look at this season's Spirit Pages. Photos by Ramon and Kristin Morales.



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