

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Grit and Excitement

### Aledo ISD announces new Special Olympics team

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

Continuing with its emphasis of adding opportunities for student growth, the Aledo ISD announced at a press conference on Tuesday, Dec. 14, the formation of a Special Olympics delegation for the high school. The program will begin with track and field in January and then add cheer in the summer.

The athletic team will be known as Bearcat Grit and the cheer team will be Aledo Excite.

“As everyone knows, we’re always looking for more ways to help students find what they love to do — what makes them happy

about coming to school, so they’ll keep coming back,” Aledo ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn said at the press conference. “And we’re super excited about this announcement today.”

Rebecca Faulkner, Director of Special Programs, and Angela Tims, Aledo High School Principal, were at the announcement.

“I am very grateful to Rebecca Faulkner — she took this position as director of special services a couple of years ago. We had this conversation when she did, and she has since that time worked really hard to get this programming in place,” Bohn said.

Dustin Lloyd, who will be the coach of the athletic Special Olympics team, said Aledo is already scheduled to host a meet on March 25 at Bearcat Stadium.

“We’re going to start with softball throw, shot put; we’re looking into getting mini javelins for the athletes to throw as well doing long jump and sprint and relay races,” Lloyd said, adding that the district will be looking for volunteers to help coach. The Special Olympics protocol is one coach per four athletes.

“We are so excited to introduce Aledo Excite as a part of our cheer program,” coach Amber Birchmier said. “It is actually just a work of the heart. I have loved Special Olympics for a very long time and being a passionate cheerleader all through high school I was very, very excited for the opportunity to expand our approach.

“Our goal would be to see camp and practice at the end of May and  
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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Coach Dustin Lloyd (center) already has two participants lined up for the Special Olympics team at Aledo High School: seniors Travis Decker (left) and Colby Tiberg (right).

### POLITICS

## Kirk Martin announces run for County Court at Law

Special to The Community News

Longtime Parker County Attorney Kirk Martin has announced that he will run for judge in the County Court at Law, No. 1 race. The current judge, Jerry Buckner, will retire at the end of his term in 2022.

Martin has been a licensed attorney since 1993 and has served as Justice of the Peace of Precinct Four in Parker County since January 2016.



Martin

“I consider it an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to apply my years of experience as a small business owner, attorney, and prosecutor to serve the residents of Parker County as Judge if elected,” said Martin.

Before attending law school Kirk started and operated two small businesses in Parker County.

Martin graduated from Baylor School of Law in 1993 and he is licensed to practice in all courts of the State of Texas and admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

During his years as a practicing attorney Martin handled cases involving General Civil Litigation, Family Law, Criminal Law, Wills, Probate, Guardianships, and Real Estate. Martin also served as an Assistant District Attorney for Palo

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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Shaynne Story receives her Eagle neckerchief from fellow Troop 75 scouts Zeke Kerman and Evie Banis at her Court of Honor ceremony on Dec. 12. Story, a senior at Aledo High School, is the first female Eagle Scout in Parker County. Full coverage of the Court of Honor will be next week.

### ALEDO ISD

## First Bearcats of Character named

### New program recognizes good character in students

Special to The Community News

The Aledo ISD launched a new character education program called Positivity Project - or P2 - in late November. In tandem with this program launch, the district is recognizing the good character on display by the students across all of Aledo ISD, honoring these students as Bearcats of Character.

The Aledo ISD Board of Trustees recognized the first-ever Bearcats of Character students at the December regular board meeting for the character strengths of connectedness and belonging. Each campus in the district selected an individual who is skilled and versed at helping other students to feel connected and like they belong.

The students are:

#### Aledo High School: Miranda Tinoco, 10th grade

“Selfless is a term the embodies Miranda perfectly. She seeks opportunities to help anyone in any way. As a member of every service-oriented leadership program on campus, Miranda spends her time trying to make the world a better place. She isn’t waiting until adulthood to be the change she wants to see in the



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### POLITICS

## Suchocki announces bid for JP 4

Special to The Community News

Bernard R. Suchocki has filed to run for Parker County Justice of the Peace, Pct 4. He and his wife, Connie, former school teacher and Aledo School Board trustee, have been Parker County residents for more than 33 years. They have a son who is a fire fighter, a daughter who is a HR manager, and six grandchildren.

Bernard earned his JD degree from South Texas College of Law-Houston in 1981, and he has been Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law since 1989.

He has tried more than a hundred cases on both sides of the docket and in multiple counties across the state in Federal, District, County and Justice Courts. He was the managing partner of Suchocki, Bullard & Cummings P.C. for more than 20 years.

After earning an undergraduate degree in physics and math, Bernard became a NASA engineer at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. He trained Apollo astronauts in systems and mission training with primary responsibility in guidance and navigation. Bernard was selected to support the Flight Controllers in Houston for the Apollo 13 mission. As such, he is a participant in the “Presidential Medal of Freedom Award to the Apollo XIII Missions Operations Team.”

Bernard is active in public service. He provides public service presentations to schools and civic organization about astronaut training, the Apollo 13 rescue, and Career



Suchocki

Turn to SUCHOCKI, page 3



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

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

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

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




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RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Dr. Susan Bohn and Colby Tiberg share smiles describing the new Special Olympics opportunity at Aledo High School.**

## GRIT

from page one

the beginning of the summer so that we can start the beginning of the year ready To cheer for our various teams.”

“I think it’s going to be an amazing experience,” fellow cheer coach Debbie Fields added.

Birchmier said the Aledo Excite cheer will also look for volunteers based on interest shown. With two coaches they can begin with as many as eight cheerleaders.

“I’m very excited to be on the track team,” Aledo High School senior Colby Tiberg said, a sentiment echoed by fellow senior Travis Decker.

The coaches do not know what the participation level will be in the high school.

“We’ll take as many as we can and then we’ll figure out what to do volunteer-wise,” Lloyd said. He added that the athletes can compete long-term.

“They can compete well into their 20s,” Lloyd said. “When you go a Special Olympics event you’re going to see kids or adults as well along with high school athletes.”

Dr. Bohn indicated that the district plans to build this program after a foundation is in place.

“Our plan will be to increase the number of events and then also to move it down into middle school and maybe even elementary,” Bohn said.

Bohn also announced at the press conference that Aledo High School has been named a Unified Champion School. Principal Angela Tims explained the designation.

“They basically look at evidence within the high school of ways we are inclusive and supportive and providing opportunities for all of our students,” Tims said.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools aim to promote social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting school-wide change. A Unified Champion School has a school climate where students with and without intellectual disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities, opportunities and functions. More than 200 schools in Texas are currently participating in Special Olympics Champion Schools programming with more than 6,500 across the country.

For information on participating or volunteering in the new Special Olympics team, visit [aledoisd.org/specialolympics](http://aledoisd.org/specialolympics).

## MARTIN

from page one

Pinto County, participating in more than 100 felony level criminal jury trials.

During his years of practice, Martin was also often appointed as an Attorney Ad Litem by judges of the District, County Courts at Law and Probate Court of Parker County. As an Ad Litem, Martin represented and protected the physical, emotional and financial interests of children in Family Law, Child Protective Services and Probate cases.

Martin has resided in Parker County since 1979 and he and his wife Angie have one son, Chance Martin and wife, Abbigail, who also live in Parker County. Martin and his wife are involved in many civic and charitable organizations in Parker County and are members of Center Point Baptist Church.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Wyatt Jack and Ryan Newton brought announcements to Stuard Elementary at the start of the Dec. 9 school day. In addition to school announcements, they provided a weather report.**

## SUCHOCKI

from page one

Day. He has served as Tax Collector Assessor and as Councilman for the City of El Lago, Texas, and he has also served on the Planning & Zoning Commission and as a Councilman for the City of Willow Park.

Bernard believes that the Justice of Peace courts are uniquely important as the “people’s court.” People can represent themselves in JP court and obtain justice in a timely matter without undue expense.

Bernard said he will be a full time judge for the people, and that he is looking forward to becoming the Justice of the Peace, Pct 4, and he is confident that he has the education, experience, management skills and the temperament to serve as a fair and impartial judge.

## MEGA adoption event planned

The Fort Worth Animal Shelter and the Humane Society of North Texas are undertaking an ambitious goal of finding forever homes for nearly 1,000 pets this weekend during the MEGA Adoption Event.

For the fifth time in four years, the organizations are co-hosting the two-day adoption event from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 18 and 19, at the Will Rogers Memorial Center, Cattle Barn No. 1. Admission to the event is free. The adoption fee for all pets is only \$10.

All adoptable dogs and cats have been spayed or neutered, microchipped, and have received rabies and age-appropriate vaccinations. Every dog or cat

adopter will receive a free initial veterinary visit with a participating local vet and a 30-day trial of pet insurance.

“Once again, our animal shelter campuses are full,” said Dr. Tim Morton, Assistant Code Compliance director with oversight of the Fort Worth Animal Shelter. “We have some great animals that need to be adopted into their own loving family. Families can view all the pets at the same time, as well as have the opportunity to visit with them one on one.”

There will be numerous areas set up where families can spend time getting to know a particular dog or two – or three! Staff will be available to assist families.

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# CHARACTER

from page one

world, Miranda makes a difference each and every day with every person she sees!"

**Aledo Learning Center:  
Catherine Gartner, 11th grade**

"Cate always makes other students feel included in conversations and is careful not to leave any one out. Her focus on other people extends to her interactions with staff as well as other students. Cate really makes people feel valued and seen!"



**Daniel Ninth Grade:  
Marin McCarthy, 9th grade**

"Marin goes out of her way to connect students with each other and with the support they need. Once Marin noticed a student who was in distress in the restroom. She engaged the student in conversation and then walked with her to introduce her to the counselor. When they arrived to the office, they learned that Mrs. Fernihough was unavailable at that time, so Marin waited with the student in the counseling office. While waiting, Marin continued to talk to the student and provide encouragement. When Mrs. Fernihough arrived, Marin introduced the student and shared that they had just met in the restroom. Since this event, Marin has befriended the student. This is not an isolated incident, as Marin is always aware of those around her - especially those who are in need of a friendly smile or conversation. Even though Marin herself is new to AISD,



she has become one who looks for ways to include everyone and helps others find a sense of belonging."

**Aledo Middle School:  
Aiden Dobbs, 8th grade**

"Aiden creates a culture of belonging at AMS by proactively acknowledging every student as they leave campus every day. He stands at the door and fist bumps every single child and tells them to have a good day. This has become something that kids look forward to and have begun to expect. Aiden has even gone as far as getting a substitute fist bumper when he is not at school or when he has to leave early."



**McAnally Intermediate School:  
Asher Moore, 6th grade**

"Asher noticed that students were spending a lot of time on their phones and computers and not talking to each other while in the gym after school waiting for their buses. He had bought a few candy bars from the choir fundraiser and gave them to students sitting around him. He immediately noticed that doing this made them smile and they started interacting with each other instead of just playing games on their devices. He then decided to use \$70 dollars of his own money (that he earned by doing chores at home and in the neighborhood) to buy more candy bars to pass out. Over a few days, he passed out all of the candy bars to students he noticed were sitting alone or not talking to anyone. Passing out the candy bars gave him a chance to talk and interact with students who he did not know



and create a feeling of happiness and camaraderie amongst the students who were waiting for their buses. The staff at McAnally is so proud of Asher for his awareness of how technology was hindering interaction amongst students and his initiative in going above and beyond to make connections with others."

**Annetta Elementary:  
Tyson Harvey, Kindergarten**

"Tyson always includes others, helps them out when needed, and is always respectful. Tyson has the kindest heart and it shows by how he treats all his classmates. He is loved by everyone because he is a great friend to ALL!"



**Coder Elementary:  
Cana Keen, 5th grade**

"Cana is always kind to other students and willing to work with anyone in class. She regularly sits by different students in the cafeteria and is described by others as helpful, kind, inclusive, and respectful."



**McCall Elementary: Weston Hogan, 4th grade**

"Weston always goes out of his way to include other students who may not always be included by others. Recently, he was caught calling out to a student across the cafeteria at breakfast to invite the student to sit with him - which was a huge win for the child he invited!"



Way to be aware of the needs of others and do your part to make them all feel like they belong!"

**Stuard Elementary:  
Mary-Kate Parmenter, 4th grade**

"Mary-Kate includes others at recess to play with she and her friends. She goes out of her way to include other students during class in group work as well as partner groups. Mary-Kate has a kind heart and wants others to feel as if they belong. Mary-Kate was new last year to Stuard. She says she goes out of her way to be kind to others because she knows how it feels to be a new student."



**Vandagriff Elementary:  
Axel Melo, 4th grade**

"Axel always comes into school in the morning with a great attitude and a smile on his face. He is keenly observant and always eager to offer help to others without being asked."



**Walsh Elementary:  
Charles Hughes, 3rd grade**

"Charles is always looking out for any students who may need a little extra encouragement or support. When he sees a fellow student struggling, he is the first to jump up and lend a hand. He will always make sure that every voice is heard."



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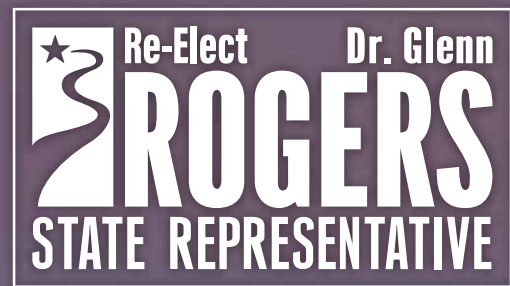
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As President Biden and Democrats in Congress continue to fail at protecting our border, conservative Republican Representative Glenn Rogers stepped up and helped lead the effort to increase border security funding by \$2.8 billion- the largest amount in Texas history. Representative Rogers also supported the deployment of more troopers and technology and provided more funds to finish the border wall, where President Trump left off. We can't wait on Washington, D.C. to keep our families safe, so Dr. Rogers is working hard to protect Texas.

As state representative, one of my top priorities is securing our border. The Biden Administration's disastrous policies have put all of Texas in danger. The lack of a secure border puts all our communities at risk, not just those on the border. Crime rates are rising as drug cartels, gangs, and human traffickers come across an open border into our local communities. Taxpayers are forced to pick up the tab for these reckless policies, and we must put a stop to it. I am proud of the historic strides made during the session, but more work remains. Texans demand and deserve a secure border. Stand with me, and let's continue the fight to secure our border and hold the Biden Administration accountable.

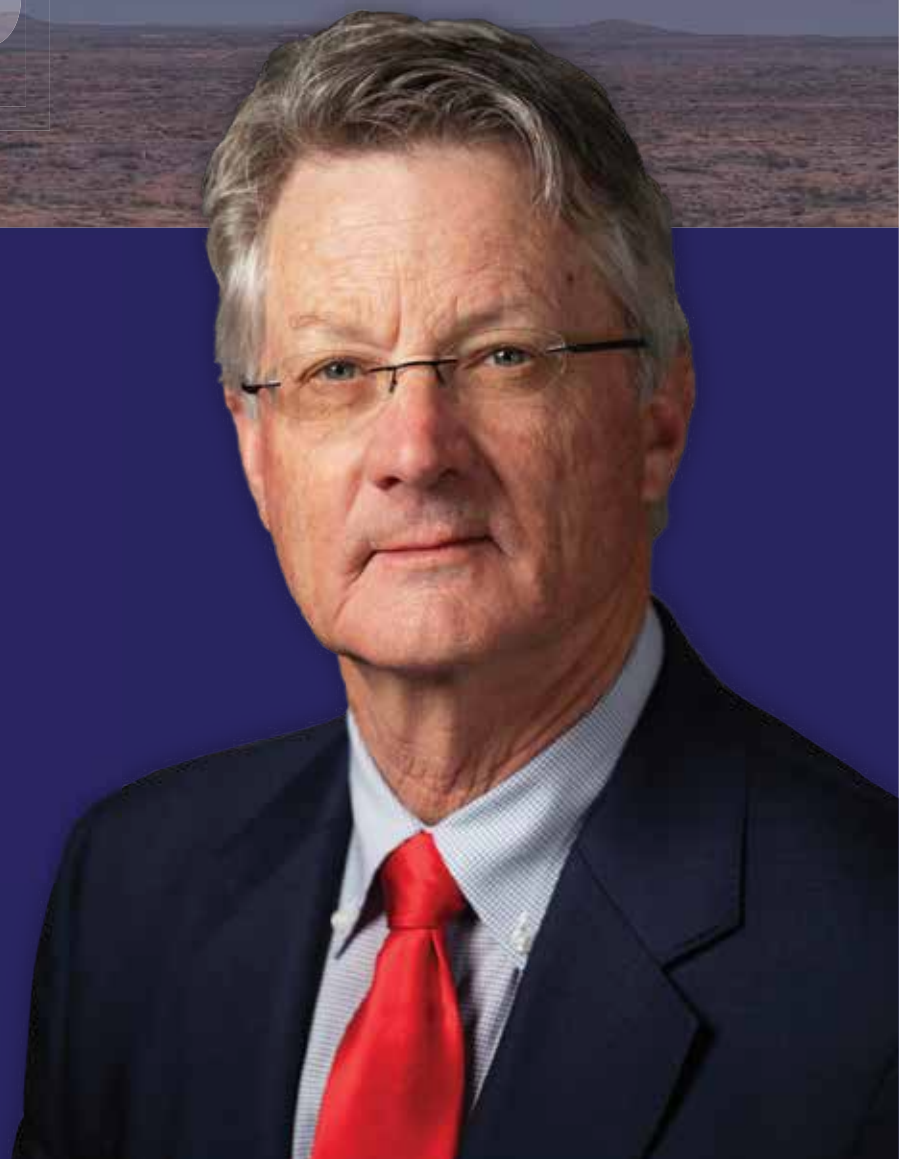


## DR. ROGERS' EFFORTS TO SECURE THE BORDER

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## Capital Highlights

# Drier, warmer weather than in November



**Gary Borders**  
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### Blame it on La Niña.

By the end of November, nearly half the state was experiencing drought conditions, up 25 percentage points from the end of October, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. La Niña conditions are "defined as below-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific," Wentzel wrote. This results are warmer and drier weather than normal for much of Texas.

In the next few months, drought conditions are expected to both expand and intensify throughout the state.

### COVID-19's impact on state workers' comp

The Texas Department of Insurance recently issued a fact sheet outlining the effects COVID-19 has had on the state's workers' compensation system. As of Nov. 7, insurance carriers reported more than 61,000 COVID-19 workers' comp claims and 371 fatalities. Nearly half the claims and fatalities involved first responders and correctional officers.

Sixty percent of the claims involved injured workers who tested positive or were diagnosed with COVID-19. About half of the COVID-19 claims were accepted. Benefits include employees with successful claims continuing to be paid.

### Forensic election audit enters second phase

The Texas Secretary of State's office last week issued an "exhaustive document request" of election material from Collin, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant counties as part of its full forensic audit of the November 2020 general election. The office said the document request covers more election materials than any other election audit in the country to date.

"Texas is leading in election integrity. As we embark on Phase 2 of our agency's Full Forensic Audit of the 2020 Election, we want to ensure every single eligible Texas voter knows that ballots in Texas are being properly processed, tabulated, and reported by county election officials in accordance with state and federal law," Secretary John Scott said.

Scott was recently appointed to the office by Gov. Greg Abbott. He briefly served as one of former President Donald Trump's attorneys during his attempt to challenge the results of the Pennsylvania election. While Joe Biden won that state, Trump took Texas by more than 600,000 votes.

### Vaccine mandate battle continues in Texas

Following the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandates for companies with more than 100 employees, the

Texas Workforce Commission has issued a reminder to employers that Abbott has banned such mandates.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals last month temporarily blocked the national vaccine mandate. The mandate would apply to about 84 million workers nationwide and was to go into effect Jan. 4. The case is expected to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Since day one, the state of Texas has taken a stand against the federal government's unconstitutional COVID-19 vaccine mandates in the workplace, three of which have since been deemed illegal by federal courts," Abbott said. He added that he encourages Texans to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

### Texas abortion ban in place while lawsuits continue

The U.S. Supreme Court decided last week to leave the state's new abortion ban in place but will allow legal challenges to the law to continue. The ban was passed during the last legislative session and prohibits abortions once cardiac activity can be detected by ultrasound, generally about six weeks into a pregnancy.

The ban relies on citizens to file lawsuits against doctors and clinics suspected of performing abortions on women who are more than six weeks pregnant. As a result, most of the remaining abortion clinics in the state are not performing the procedure until the legal battle is resolved.

"While the Court did not put a complete end to our legal challenge, its failure to stop Texas's deliberate nullification of the constitutional right to abortion within its borders makes the court complicit in widespread chaos and harm to Texans," Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, told the Texas Tribune.

### COVID-19 cases on rise in state

Though patients infected with the omicron variant of COVID-19 are popping up across the state, the delta variant is still the driving factor behind the increase in new cases in the past week, with a total of 37,558 reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, along with 409 deaths. That is an increase of more than 50% in new cases in Texas in the past month, although the number of deaths dropped considerably in the same time period.

Lab-confirmed hospitalizations as of Sunday stood at 3,155, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. That's up 9% from the previous week.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated stood at 16.25 million as of Sunday, according to DSHS. That is 55.7% of the state's total population and 70% of all Texans who are eligible for vaccines. Children under the age of 5 are not eligible.

*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

# All at Once



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

I have heard it said that time is nature's way of keeping everything from happening at once.

It's not working.

Hectic, hustle-and-bustle describe this time of year. There is so much going on at the same time it is often difficult to sort out where to go and when.

Many moons ago I worked in a men's clothing store in Ridgmar Mall, the now defunct Jas K. Wilson. This time of year things got crazy where I worked. Extra help was brought into the store to help make sure all the customers found just the right gifts.

Piles of ties, cashmere sweaters, and other mens' accessories were on display.

Back in those days, when someone bought something the sales person (like me) would write out a ticket listing the customer's name, address, and the items they purchased so the cashier could ring up the sale on the cash register.

One customer bought some things at an especially busy time and I was writing out the ticket. I asked for his address and he gave it to me. I looked up and out at the store and I said, "it's a madhouse, isn't it?"

He looked back kind of puzzled and said, "no, it's just a regular home address."

Okay, that didn't really happen, but I needed a way to work that joke in because it was on my mind. But one thing that really did happen was when I

was writing up a ticket for a customer. I guess I was kind of frazzled (when am I not) and she said "I bet you'll be glad when Christmas is over!"

Without thinking, I looked at her and said, "I'll be glad when it gets herre."

I think we get so wrapped up in the "busyness" of the Christmas season that we sometimes forget — Christmas is not a buying season.

I look forward to Christmas. Just remember, it's not here yet.

.....

Speaking of everything happening at once, I will tell you that more things have been happening lately than we can fit in the paper. But we've been there, and have a lot of material we haven't published yet.

So while you are enjoying some slow-down time between Christmas and New Year's Day, we'll have plenty of news saved up for the newspaper that arrives in your mailbox on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

In fact, New Year's Eve is our annual Good News issue, and we are working on some great stories for that issue.

If you are leaning toward Grinch-hood this year, you won't be after you read the Good News issue.

Among the events I've been to but haven't yet shared coverage of was a reception on Monday honoring the Aledo ISD school board on its honor of being named the best school board in Texas.

Many former school board members attended, and it was good for me personally, as I got to see people I haven't seen in many years.

It is a great honor, and as a news story I want to do it justice space-wise.

Another fun thing this past week for me was making the rounds at all the elementary schools in our coverage area, Aledo ISD and Trinity Christian Academy, to prepare our popular feature next week, "All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth."

I had a really heavy week, but when I got to Stuard Elementary School about 7:45 on Friday morning and started taking photos of those smiling, front-teeth-missing kids, I started smiling, too.

There was a time when I spoke to the Texas Press Association about "What I learned from magic." For those who don't know, I have a magician since I was about 15.

The talk describes the hectic, stress-filled life of a small newspaper publisher, and along the way I work in the reasons why it is such a worthwhile endeavor by sharing some things I learned in my life as a magician.

The bottom line of the talk was that David Copperfield could make the Statue of Liberty appear in downtown Aledo, but it would not compare to some of the things I have seen happen in this community that have been truly miraculous.

My point was that, as a small newspaper publisher, I have had a front row seat to real magic.

One of those real magic moments happened in the life of a local family several years ago. I used the event in my talk.

Well, we're going to revisit that family in the Good News Edition. If the story doesn't warm your heart, well, it may not be able to be warmed.

Stay tuned, and have a safe and happy holiday season.

# The Community News

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**SUBMIT STORIES, PHOTOS OR IDEAS**  
We're always on the lookout for story ideas. To share one, call Randy Keck at 817-441-7661, ext. 207 or email [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com). Please provide the basic story information as well as contact information in case we have questions.

We welcome letters, articles and guest opinions from our readers. Opinions expressed in this newspaper will be labeled as opinions, editorials or letters, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ownership. Letters should be signed, and limited to approximately 300 words. All submissions to the newspaper should

include a telephone number in case we have questions. Letters are due by Monday at noon for that week's paper. Community announcements, achievements and obituaries are due by noon Friday for the following week's paper. Send submissions to [news@community-news.com](mailto:news@community-news.com).

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

The Community News does not charge for timely wedding, engagement and birth announcements provided they are of reasonable length. Lengthy announcements will either be edited to a reasonable length or, at the discretion of the person submitting the announcement, be charged a fee. The deadline for submitting announcements is noon Friday for the following week's paper.

# Warm hearts on a cold day

Thanksgiving Trot raises record dollars to assist local family

By Randy Keck  
The Community News

It was a cold and blustery day to be sure, but countless local and not-so-local warm-hearted people spent Thanksgiving morning running for a good cause.

The 10th Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot returned like so many events after skipping 2020, and it returned in a big way, raising a record \$93,000 to benefit Brittney McCoy and her family.

Brittney has had medical issues all her life, including loss of sight and the inability to walk. The funds from the race will help the family make modifications to their home to help care for a growing Brittney.

The family expressed its thanks to the community after the race with the following statement:

“We are so blessed and overwhelmed with the show of support by our community! We have never met a group of people so intent on the mission of just pouring love on someone else. Watching all the people on the race committee serve has changed us forever! And of course, the money raised will change Brittney’s circumstances in a tremendous way! We are so grateful to the entire community. We hope to stay in touch and help in some way for future trots!”

With the 2021 Thanksgiving Trot on the books, the local charity has now given away more than \$500,000 in its 10 years.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER AMOS  
THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Participants line up for the start of the one mile race.



LEFT: A family gathering from Grand Prairie, Willow Park, and Cedar Hill arrived for the trot including Vickie Oka, Effie Agbotui, Nyasia Muchaya, Tina Smillie, Tana Manyande, Edem Agbotui, and Star Matuelela. | RIGHT: The 5k is off and running.



LEFT: Eric Vidal and his dog, Blaze, await the start of the race. | CENTER: Aledo High School junior Zach Taylor was the first runner to pick up a t-shirt. | RIGHT TOP: Lauren and Rory Thomas from Wichita Falls participated in their first Thanksgiving Trot. | RIGHT BOTTOM: Brynlee Torres attended with her parents, Josh and Becca.



LEFT: Aubrey Cashion, Brylee Coomer and John Coomer wore themed attire at the race. | CENTER: Monica, Logan, and Liana Tara made it a family outing. | RIGHT: Arnold McCoy, grandfather of Brittney, gave an opening prayer before each race.



A Texas-Sized

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to the runners and sponsors who made the 2021 Marcia Walters Memorial Thanksgiving Trot a success!

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# Christmas on the Square

Weatherford's annual Christmas on the Square brought out numerous vendors, shoppers, and treats. Photos by Randy Keck



Benjamin Hale from Move Mountains Together modeled his reindeer costume.



FROM LEFT: Corbin Campbell met Sundance, a dog from the Weatherford/Parker County Animal Shelter. | Misty Triem showed goods from Mindy's Boutique. | Weatherford police, including Tiffany Vanzant, Keegan Dement, and Jessica Richard assisted with the event.

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 Camry, e.g. (2 wds.)  
5 San \_\_\_\_\_ TX  
6 TX Vikki Carr Latin hit: "Cosas del \_\_\_\_"  
7 Apollo 13 transmission: "Houston, \_\_\_\_\_ had a problem"  
8 TXism: "the bigger they \_\_\_\_\_, the harder they fall"  
9 when a prosecutor dismisses a case before trial: "\_\_\_\_ pros." (abbr.)  
12 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ as an outhouse on a cold morning" (long distance)  
17 a fried tortilla dish that properly ends with an "a"  
19 TXism: "Sunday go to \_\_\_\_\_"  
21 opposing soldiers  
22 1966 film: "Texas \_\_\_\_\_ the River"  
23 mascot of Lamar State College Orange (2 wds.)  
28 TXism: "there's more than one way to skin \_\_\_\_\_"  
29 TX Mac Davis hit: "Baby, Don't Get Hooked \_\_\_\_\_"  
30 bomb used in the Vietnam War  
31 pungent bulb  
35 India currency  
36 TXism: "fat \_\_\_\_\_ house cat"  
42 groove-\_\_\_\_\_ is a south Texas bird

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "slick \_\_\_\_\_ seed"  
2 Milam County seat  
3 Amarillo: 3,605 feet \_\_\_\_\_ level  
4 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as hen's teeth"  
9 Texas Wesleyan athletics assn.  
10 TX-born Robby Benson starred in a film made from this 1967 song (4 wds.)  
11 \_\_\_\_\_ Fresno, TX doctors' org.

44 in Smith and Cherokee counties on highway 110 this Teddy stayed at San Antonio's Menger Hotel  
46 annual Texas event in Washington: "Black \_\_\_\_\_ Boots Ball"  
49 Neil to George H.W.  
50 honorary Texas Ranger: \_\_\_\_\_ Stanley Gardner \_\_\_\_\_ Dallas Hotel  
51 \_\_\_\_\_ Dallas Hotel  
52 loud racket

13 TX Steve Forrest 1961 comedy film "The \_\_\_\_\_ Around"  
14 flowerless plant  
15 nuclear energy source  
16 TXism: "Lord willing and the creek don't \_\_\_\_\_" (determined)  
18 pay TV network  
20 TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)  
23 TXism: "bend \_\_\_\_\_ elbow" (drink)  
24 a freshwater fish  
25 England's version of a bar (2 wds.)  
26 zoo animals similar to pigs

38 dweeb (2 wds.)  
39 Dunne of epic 1931 western "Cimarron"  
40 "sorry, you're on your on" (2 wds.)  
41 TXism: "scatter \_\_\_\_\_" (shotgun)  
43 RB star Emmitt (init.)  
45 this TX Phyllis was on "Vegas" TV show  
47 Victoria of film "All of Me" starring TX-born Steve Martin  
48 "bull" in Mexico  
55 Jody Mc \_\_\_\_\_ 1962 film: "Young Guns of Texas"

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# Sports

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## COMING UP

### DEC. 21

Basketball - AHS Boys - Nolan Catholic  
9A: 1 p.m.; JV: 2:15 p.m.; V: 3:30 p.m.

Basketball - AHS Girls - at Parish Episcopal  
V: 6:30 p.m.

### DEC. 26

Basketball - AHS Girls - at Disney World Tourney  
V: TBD

### DEC. 27

Basketball - AHS Boys - Kennedale Tournament  
9B, 9A, JV: TBA

### DEC. 29

Basketball - AHS Boys - Caprock Classic  
V: TBA

### DEC. 30

Soccer - AHS Boys - Alumni Scrimmage  
V: 5 p.m.

### JAN. 4

Basketball - AHS Boys - Fort Worth Christian  
9A: 1 p.m.; JV: 2:15 p.m.; V: 3:30 p.m.

### JAN. 3

Basketball - AHS Girls - at Glen Rose  
9: 3 p.m.; JV: 3 p.m.; V: 4:30 p.m.

### JAN. 6

Soccer - AHS Boys - at Colleyville heritage tournament  
JV II: TBA; JV: TBA; V: TBA

## AHS hosts first wrestling meet

Aledo High School's new wrestling program hosted a meet for the first time on Wednesday, Dec. 15. The meet was in progress at press time. Full results will be reported next week. Photos by Randy Keck.



Madison Mares



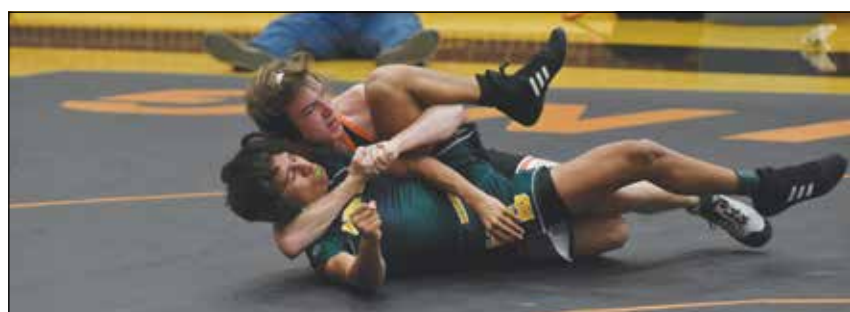
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Caroline Gardener



Logan Mitchell



Jackson Rudnick

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### City of Willow Park Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Willow Park Board of Adjustment will hold public hearing on the matters listed below:

- I. PUBLIC HEARING to consider a request for a variance to Sec.14.03.007 of the Zoning Ordinance for detached accessory building rebuilt on the same site as original detached accessory building to encroach within the 25' side yard setback in the R-1 Single-Family District on 3.300 acres BBB&C RR Co. Abst. No. 147, City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas, located at 1717 Ranch House Road.
- II. PUBLIC HEARING to consider a request for a variance to Sec.14.09.001(f) of the Zoning Ordinance to allow an eight-foot board-on-board panel fence to be attached to the existing five-foot pipe fence in the front yard setback (Crown Rd.) in the R-1 Single-Family District on 12.242 acres, McKinney & Williams Survey, Abst. No. 954, City of Willow Park, Parker County, Texas, located at 6 Crown Rd.

Board of Adjustment Thursday, January 20, 2022  
Time: 6:00 P.M.  
Location: Willow Park City Hall, 516 Ranch House Rd, Willow Park, Texas 76087

Any member of the public has the right to appear at the Public Hearing. Please contact the Development Department at 817-441-7108 or [tfisher@willowpark.org](mailto:tfisher@willowpark.org) with any questions.

Posted: December 14, 2021

### Bob's BASEBALL Tours

**Field of Dreams Tour** ▶ Home games for Chicago (Cubs/White Sox), Brewers and Twins. Also a visit to the Field of Dreams movie site. Tour begins/ends in Minnesota.  
Aug. 15-21, 2022

**New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour** ▶ Home games for New York (Yankees/Mets) and Red Sox. Guided Tour of NYC, free time in Boston, Trolley Tour in Maine, travel through White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire & scenic train ride in Vermont. Tour begins/ends in Newark, NJ.  
Sept. 26-Oct. 2, 2022

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#### EVENTS

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**Ryan Williams, Stephen F. Austin State University**  
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**Jason Llewellyn, University of Oklahoma**  
Family: Paul and Cynthia Llewellyn

PHOTOS BY MERCEDES MAYER



**Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi, Colorado State University**  
Family: Rich, Tracy, Lily and Violet Nicolosi and Kinley Fowler-Nicolosi



**Brian Fleming, Northern Arizona University**  
Parents: Taryn and Brian Fleming



**Bryan "BJ" Allen, University of Texas**  
Family: Tiffany, Bryan Sr. and Jaden

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FOOTBALL

# Aledo tight ends reaffirms decision

## Llewellyn opts to stay with Oklahoma

By Nolan Ruth  
The Community News

Another signing day has come, and with the nation in a frenzy over their favorite colleges landing big players, one Aledo Bearcat almost had to make a last minute change.

Jason Llewellyn made his commitment to the University of Oklahoma in February of 2021 and stayed vocal about his decision throughout the summer and football season. After the season came to an unfortunate close in the third round of the play-offs, the four-star tight end was all set to sign his letter of intent, and even enroll early to join the squad for spring football.

However, on Sunday, Nov. 28, the football world was rocked when it was revealed that Oklahoma head coach Lincoln Riley would leave to take the head coaching job at the University of Southern California. With him went most of the Sooners coaching staff and multiple players that had entered the transfer portal.

On top of that, many recruits started to de-commit from Oklahoma and commit to different colleges. Many pundits questioned whether Llewellyn would de-commit as well.

"It was definitely a crazy time," Llewellyn said in an interview. "It was so out of the blue for everybody. Players, coaches, recruits, we had to take a step back. After the news broke I had a lot of different schools reach out to me. They still wanted me and told me they had a spot for me if OU wasn't a great fit."

Llewellyn grew up playing football in Aledo. He along with friend Sammy Steffe went through the youth program, winning every super bowl they played in. When they got to middle school, they continued their run as they finished district champions in both seventh and eighth grade.

It was when Llewellyn got to high school that the recruiting process started, and Llewellyn continued to win with the Bearcats. Growing up a TCU fan, Llewellyn never imagined playing for Oklahoma, until one phone call changed everything.

"Coach Finley texted me and we started talking, and then a couple days later he got me on the phone with coach Riley. From there, they were talking to me every day and recruiting me hard. I was able to do a virtual visit over Zoom, got to see the facilities, and then six days later I committed. Everything they had to offer and their background with tight ends, I just loved it so much."

It seemed everything was locked in for Llewellyn until that fateful November day that flipped the script. For almost two weeks, the Sooners searched for a head coach while trying to hold on to whatever was left of their recruiting class.

Former head coach and college football Hall of Famer Bob Stoops was named the interim head coach for Oklahoma's upcoming bowl game against Oregon. Almost immediately, Stoops went on recruiting trips, including one to Aledo to visit Llewellyn.

"All I was thinking was that I could not wait to see who they would get as their head coach and offensive



RAMON MORALES

Jason Llewellyn makes a fingertip catch for a touchdown in the Timberview game on Oct. 15.

coordinator, too. I just waited, and waited, and waited."

After a week and half, the Sooners announced the hiring of Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables. It was a move that excited Sooner fans, and Llewellyn was the first recruit called by the new coach.

"They hired him on a Sunday and then Monday morning I was his first call. He was great to just get on the phone with me to talk about his plan and what he is going to do, he

still wants me and wants to use me. I thought it was a great hire and he kept coach Finley, which was huge. He was a big part of why I committed. Seeing all of those pieces fall into place was just the reassurance that I needed."

After a brief visit to Texas Tech with their new head coach Joey McGuire, Llewellyn was ready to make his final decision. On Monday, Dec. 6, he made his announcement over Twitter.

"After a lot of prayer and taking everything in, there is no school I'd rather play for than the University of Oklahoma!!! The fans, the culture and the family that is OU is something special and something I want to be a part of for the rest of my life. BOOMER SOONER!"

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, Llewellyn made it official by signing his letter of intent and will join the Sooners immediately under a new regime and a bright future.

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